



North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

Southern California Chapter

So Cal Chapter News

May 2011

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The May training day seemed to come quickly this month as our third Sunday of the month fell on the fifteenth. The weather forecast was for light drizzle which at times turned into downright rain. Our field work was a bit hampered with training birds hard to come by, but handlers took advantage of a great day to work on drags and tracking. Some handlers took advantage of the new water level in the large pond. It is slowly receding and leaving a nice bank for water entries and blind steadiness work.

The "Springer Hill" area we have been using for field work has been great just so long as you keep your work in the harvested crop portion of the field. The sides and unplanted areas of this hill top contain large growths of the dreaded "Foxtail" plants. This menacing plant quickly struck Tim Cooper's young puppy soon after he had arrived for the training day. Please take the time to acquaint yourself with this plant by reading the "Foxtail" article in this Newsletter.



TRAINING DAY PHOTOS



New member Clint Cleland & *Trigger*



Jon Auer & *Marcus*



Greg & *Sadie-Claude & Fletcher*



New member Kathie Richter & *Klaus*



Jon Auer with Sheila & Tim Cooper's
new GSP pup

The 6th. SoCal NAVHDA FUN HUNT

Report by:
Claude Trincale

Once a year our NAVHDA chapter puts on a fundraiser. This year was the 6th time we did this and it was very successful from a “having fun” and “fund raising” perspective. We had great volunteers, a great location and a perfect weather situation.

The breeds competing:
Pudelpointers, German shorthaired pointers, German Wirehair pointers, Bracco Italianos, Deutsche Drahthaar, Kurzhaars, Black Lab, Small Musterlander and Braque du Bourbonnais.

Who was competing:
All but 2 dogs were NAVHDA tested with NA and UT prize 1, 2, 3 or Evaluation. There was One NAVHDA Versatile Champions and several dogs that attended the Invitational and where trained at that high of a level. Two dogs were multiple time BDC field trial Champions. The 2 dogs that had not been NAVHDA tested: one, Abby, was a National NAGDA champion and runner up on several occasions and the other, Scout, just took a 2nd place in the Youth Division and a 5th place in the Amateur Division at the NAGDA Nationals in April 2011.

Obviously, this was not a group of dogs to be taken lightly, very serious hunting and competitive dogs all around.

The handlers (including women) ranged in experience from very experienced professional or semi-professional trainers, tournament hunters and wild bird hunters. Many of the runs were won or lost due to how the dogs were handled, or how accurate the hunter’s shots were.

The event was comprised of 3 trials, the top five competitors from each event are listed below:

1. Field trial, 15 minutes, 3 quails, point, shoot and retrieve, highest points wins

1st Rufnit Fletcher – Claude Trincale, 2X BDC champion, NAVHDA UT Prize 2, du Bourbonnais

2nd Archer – David Hinebaugh, NAVHDA UT Prize 1, NAVHDA Invitational, German Wirehair pointer

3rd Gracie – Chris Gentner, NAVHDA Versatile Champion, NAVHDA UT prize1, Pudelpointer

4th Dino –John Tsarouhas, Drahthaar

5th Alba – Guido Dei, NAVHDA NA Prize 1, Kurzhaar



1st. Prize Rufnit Fletcher– Claude Trincale

Field Blind Retrieve, 2 dead birds 50 yards from the starting gate, one at 10 O'clock and one at 2 O'clock, retrieve to hand, fastest time wins.

1st Gracie – Chris Gentner, NAVHDA Versatile Champion , NAVHDA UT Prize 1, Pudelpointer

2nd, Rufnit Fletcher – Claude Trincale, 2X BDC Champion, NAVHDA UT Prize 2, Braque du Bourbonnais

3rd Cody du Pech du Cayroll – Claude Trincale, NA Evaluation Pass, Braque du Bourbonnais

4th Simon - Esteban Woodard, NAVHDA Prize 1, Small Munsterlander

5th Archer - David Hinebaugh, NAVHDA Prize 1, NAVHDA Invitational, GWP



Chris Gentner & *Gracie* 1st Prize Field Retrieve

3. Water Retrieve, a small pond (20 yards across), a pigeon in an auto-launcher on the far side of the pond, the dog and hunter on the other side of the pond the bird is launched at the hunter's request, the hunter shoots the bird, the dog goes across the pond to retrieve the bird back to hand.

1st Cody du Pech du Cayroll – Claude Trincale, NA Evaluation Pass, Braque du Bourbonnais

2nd Archer – David Hinebaugh, NAVHDA UT Prize 1, NAVHDA Invitational, German Wirehair Pointer

3rd Aristide – Guido Dei, NAVHDA NA Prize 1, Kurzhaar

4th Abby – Nick Alexander, BDC Champion, NAGDA National Champion, Labrador Retriever

5th Meg - Greg Weiss, NAVHDA NA Prize 1, Pudelpointer

I want to thank all of you who have participated and helped make this event a great success. So Cal. NAVHDA has raised a substantial amount of funds which will help us in everything we do from buying equipment to putting on Tests. For those of you that could not attend, you missed a really fun day and I hope to see you at the next event or training day.

I also want to thank my friends that came down from Fresno, Nick and Jonathan, to support our chapter and provided entertainment to most of us (LOL). These guys and their dogs are great competitors and a lot of fun to be around.

And lastly I want to thank Diane from Canidae who set up her tent and gave us so many wonderful gifts. She told me in an email that this was a great group of people and dogs and that she enjoyed the events, the dogs and the people.

FUN HUNT COMMENTS

This 6th So.Cal.NAVHDA Fun Hunt has been a memorable event! We have beaten all the previous Fun Hunts in terms of number of entries and total net income for the Chapter: a whopping \$1,670.74!!

Thanks Claude, but I really didn't do anything but have a very good time.

Thanks to all for making the fun hunt "A Real Fun Day".....Jorge

... and let's not forget Guido Dei who worked tirelessly setting up camp on Saturday along side with Steven and Annamaria, ran dogs, cooked and collected money fast as possible on Sunday!!

Here, here....we had a wonderful time and we didn't even shoot or handle a dog! It was great being with everyone and hearing all the bantering back and forth! Thanks for a wonderful weekend!

PS If anyone needs any grape seed oil, please let us know. Or, you'll probably have a chance to win it at our next fund raiser!! (smile)

Kudos to Kristen on selling raffle tickets!

Irene



Scott Burns & Carson visit Canidae rep
Diane Matsuura

**FUN HUNT
PHOTOS LINK**

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/37931783@N02/
sets/72157626805403882/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/37931783@N02/sets/72157626805403882/)

CHAPTER MEMBERS MAKE TRIP TO WASHINGTON STATE FOR GERMAN TEST



Reported by:
Scott Burns

Brian Fraser with *Chase, Carson, Apalo* & Scott Burns

Last May, SoCal Chapter member Brian Fraser and I were fortunate enough to each get a Deutsch Kurzhaar (“DK”) pup out of Steve Waters’ vom Speidel “C” litter. As you know, the Germans use a performance-based breeding system which Bodo Winterhelt used as the model for the NAVHDA test system when he formed NAVHDA along with Ed Bailey.

DKs, like Drahthaars and other German registered dogs are required to take a natural ability test in their first spring. So, on May 7, we found ourselves on an Alaska Airlines flight to Seattle and then on a puddle jumper to Walla Walla Washington to test our pups.

The first breed test, known as the Derby, seeks to assess the pups’ natural abilities before too much training or experience occurs, much as the NAVHDA Natural Ability test seeks to do. Typically, Derby pups will range in age from about 6 to 14 months. Our pups celebrated their 1st birthdays a couple days after the test. The Derby focuses on field work and an evaluation of the pup’s temperament and some aspects of conformation such as bite, testes, etc. The field por-

tion of the test evaluates search, desire, nose and pointing of a 4-point scale. Judges are also looking at obedience.

My workload exploded a couple months before the test and I had been having some trouble with Carson's pointing – the trouble being he had stopped doing it. Things were looking grim as I worried about how I was going to find enough training time to work through the issue. Brian was having similar work and family pressures and six weeks before the test he called to say he was going to have to send Chase to Bob Worrell to meet the deadline. I knew I had to do that too and Brian's call had just made it easier. The vom Speidel brothers were going to camp! Bob had a pretty tight schedule to get the dogs ready, but we were confident he would have them in fine form.

Getting to Walla Walla was an adventure. Our day began at John Wayne Airport at about 5 am in preparation for a 7am departure. Alaska Airlines is very good about assuring you that the dogs got on the airplane, OK, etc., and letting you visit and walk and water the dogs on layovers. Good thing because we had about a 3 hour layover in Seattle both ways.

We got into Walla Walla about 2:30, picked up our rental car and got settled in our room. Then it was time to let the pups stretch out, so off we went in search of a suitable field. Before long, we spotted two pheasants, a rooster and hen, in a large open field and pulled over and let the pups out. We did not see the large feral cat in the same field, but the pups did and made him their first priority, making a beeline for him at top speed. Having sent Mr. Cat into the trees, they wheeled around into the wind and headed towards the now hunkered down pheasants. We were hoping for a point, but the wily birds flushed wild and we had to settle for knowing they made game and tried to close in.

Walla Walla is a fair sized farming town in south central Washington that has become a wine-making center and appellation. The town caters to foodies and wine nuts, so there was no shortage of decent restaurants and pubs.

Test day started off with a pre-test meeting over a hearty breakfast followed by a short drive to the test grounds which included rolling hills of wheat and alfalfa fields plus CRP, mainly bunch grass. Carson and his brother Chase were the first two dogs to run.

I was a little nervous about Carson because, although I had seen a pretty big run in him, he had inexplicably shut down in the couple weeks leading up to the test. Sometimes he ran other times he just wanted to return and noodle around Bob, who was doing everything he could think of to reignite Carson's desire to search for birds.

At the test I was paired with an apprentice judge and cued up Carson in a wheat field. When I released him, he took off like a rocket on a long sweeping cast. He needed virtually no handling and I thought he looked great through the whole search as the apprentice judge directed me which way to go. Bob's efforts had clearly worked, so, I was real concerned when they said they wanted me to run him a second time. Chase ran next and looked gorgeous with a big fluid search. An easy 4 points in the bag for Chase.

The second run was in CRP and another judge went with me. It was then I learned that the judges thought we had moved to fast and pushed Carson in the first run leaving gaps in the search. I learned later that they liked him the first time. Carson already had his 4 points, but the judges wanted to see a cleaner run to assess his thoroughness.

Next up was pointing. We went to a tall shallow bank with nice patchy low brushy cover above a small canal near a winery where apparently quail are often seen in the morning. They wanted to give Carson a shot at pointing wild birds. I released him and he had scent immediately, giving a thorough, objective driven search. I lost sight of him, but heard some chuckles among the onlookers. Apparently Carson decided to cool off with a brief swim, but was soon back to work. His search was really getting a workout. It seems the quail had been there but moved on. Plan B, they planted a couple chukars in the same field and a nice breeze had come up. Carson was still first up, so I brought him back and released him again. Carson had searched the bushes they planted the birds in and had come up empty, so he was a little tentative about the scent the second time, but eventually decided that there was indeed a bird in there this time and locked up in a nice point. At the judges' command, I moved in and leashed him up.

Next up was Chase and that was his moment. He quickly located a chukar and threw a staunch point. But the bird was on the move and Chase, without command, relocated and threw up another nice point. For that, he was awarded 4 points plus an "h" which denotes excellence beyond what is expected.

That left only the Wesen test and a brief check of the dogs for bite, testes, missing teeth etc. The Wesen test is unique to the DK breed tests. Essentially the dogs are lined up about 10 meters apart and they need to stay there quietly for 10 minutes or so without any fuss, whining, barking or attempts to leave. It is intended as another test of temperament and cooperation. In the Derby, they are staked on their leashes and can stand or sit. In the second bred test, the Solms, they are untethered and must remain quietly in a down-stay for at least 20 minutes, usually through lunch. No commands or handler interaction are permitted in either test. Carson and Chase were fine, although I was a little nervous about Chase.

After lunch, there was a Zuchtschau or conformation test for both pups and older dogs. For dogs under 18 months, it's a provisional rating and they cannot get better than SG (Sehr Gut or very good). I entered Carson and he got his SG rating with some nice comments by the form-

verrichter (conformation judge) and was noted as SG-1 or the best of the SG-rated dogs in the puppy class.

At the end of the day, both pups earned a Prize 1 with perfect scores – all 4s plus Chase picked up a 4h in pointing. After a nice dinner with all the handlers and judges that evening, where the scores and certificates were given out, we headed home with our pups the next day. They say the dog you bring home is the same dog you took, but it's a lot easier when they do well.

I really have to give Bob Worrell a lot of credit for getting Chase and Carson in top form on short notice. We gave him some quality pups to work with, this has turned out to be a very talented litter, but we are fortunate to have a trainer of his caliber out here, much less one that is so generous with his time and knowledge in our NAVHDA chapter.

DOG OWNERS' GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA FOXTAILS

By:

Curtis Clark
Professor of Biological Science
Cal Poly Pomona

A serious hazard for field dogs, or any dogs in the field, are the hard seed-bearing structures of some kinds of grasses, often called "foxtails". These structures have sharp points at one end, and microscopic barbs, so that they easily move in the direction of the point, but not the other way. They "work in", but they don't "work out". They can become imbedded in the hair, especially the paws and ears, and in nostrils and even eyes. As



they work their way in, they cause infection, and if not treated can sometimes be fatal. Southern California has a number of different grasses with this nasty feature, most of them originally from Mediterranean Europe, and most of them common. The most troublesome grass is the actual "foxtail" or "wild barley" (*Hordeum murinum*). The individual reproductive structures are small and easy to overlook. This grass is common in weedy areas around roads, paths, and other disturbances. It is an annual, and is soft

and green from January through March or April. As the seed heads dry in the late spring, they become dangerous, and they stay that way throughout the summer and early fall.



The rachis segment, sometimes called a "callus", is hardened, and covered with retrorse barbs



The "seed head" breaks apart into these, which imbed themselves in fur.



Several other grasses can cause problems, too (like foxtail, they are all annuals, and worst in the late spring and summer). The one with the nastiest name is ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*, left); it actually perforates the guts of cattle when they eat it, and can easily kill a dog, but it is much larger than foxtail and easier to see in the coat. Ripgut grass is common on grassy hillsides, but not common in disturbed areas.



The Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*, not shown) is similar to ripgut, but smaller, and is common on grassy hillsides in desert areas such as Palmdale or Victorville. Red brome (*Bromus madritensis*, right), like foxtail, is common along paths and roads. It is often confused with foxtail and is almost as much of a problem.

HUNTER'S CORNER

Story by;
Guido Dei

Last Day of Duck Season

This year duck hunting has been at times frustrating and at times decent. I had great hopes for an outstanding season after my September hunting in Montana. In Montana this year there were lots of new potholes almost lake size that I've never seen in previous seasons and every one was filled with ducks. As matter of fact, the first point of one of my dogs was on a beautiful pair of Mallards that were in a field where usually I find Sharptail.

For this duck season, I think that the production of ducks was excellent. But the heavy rain produced a lot of new ponds all over Southern California causing the ducks to spread out everywhere. From November to January I hunted ducks twice a week bagging an average of two to four birds and made a bag limit twice in the whole season! I always brought two of my four dogs with me on these hunts., Most of the time it was my two young ones to give them some duck retrieving experience and to learn to be calm in the blind. Both puppies did real well, and I didn't lose any dead or wounded birds in the whole season.



Reni with a hen Mallard



Alba with hen pintail



Reni and Aristide with a pintail and two mallard

The last two days of my duck season I went to Tamarack one of the Wilderness Unlimited properties near El Centro. Steven Loeffler with his dog *Stella* and my *Reni* and *Aristide* were with me in the blind. The day started with a few ducks flying into our decoys before shooting time. As soon as shooting time started duck flying disappeared and then picked up again. Most ducks were Cinnamon Teal and they were coming in flocks. We missed badly on one flock over our heads, but we ended with almost a limit.

It was later in the morning approximately 10 am when a flock of Cinnamon Teal flew over and landed far away in the middle of a large spread of cattails. All other duck hunters were gone so I decided to take *Reni* and *Aristide* with me to try and flush them from the cattails. I sent *Reni* with a duck search command and she went swimming into the thick cattail cover. Soon the flock of Cinnamon Teal flew out and came my way, one of them was close enough and I shot it. Normally *Reni* comes back when she hears a shot, not this time. I had *Aristide* close by so I sent him for the retrieve. *Reni* is a “Coot maniac”. She likes to grab them alive, her record is five live Coots in a day. I waited patiently for about 20 minutes thinking that she was after Coots, but *Reni* had disappeared in that ocean of cattails. I started to get worried because I didn’t hear any sound from her swimming across the cattails, so I started blowing my whistle to command her back, nothing! Then I started using the E-collar with low stimulation, nothing! I increased the stimulation to # 2 level on her Try-tronics E-collar, nothing. At level #3 she normally whines, still nothing. I started to panicking because I could not hear or see anything that indicated to me where she was. I was not sure if I was mad because she was not coming back, or worried that she might be in trouble. I decided to push the shock button on the E-collar at just the same time she came out from the cattails with a nice Drake Mallard over 150 yards away. She yelped and let the Mallard fly away. The Mallard flew about 40 yards away and dropped in a spot of open water. *Reni* looked at me still shocked at what I had done to her. I commanded her to fetch again and off she went after that duck as it now re-entered the cattails. She was in the water for over 1-1/2 hours before she came back to me without the Mallard.

I found myself apologizing to her for what I had done when she was doing such a good job.

The next day after our morning duck shooting, I told Steven that I was going back with *Reni* to the same place where we lost that apparently wounded Mallard and that I was not going home without that damn duck! I went to the opposite bank closer to where I saw the duck swimming the day before. I sent *Reni* with a fetch command and this time she came back with the same wounded duck in about 15 minutes. I had promised myself that if *Reni* found that duck I would take it to a taxidermist to remember a story close to a miracle!

The duck is now sitting in my study.



Good-bye to Beretta



This month we had to say good-bye to Raffi Barbarian's German Wirehaired Pointer Beretta.

She was 13 ½ years old.

Beretta was bought from the Three Devils Kennel in Idaho and was Raffi's first hunting dog. I met Raffi at Prado and we started training together.

I have so many fond memories of Beretta! She did her N.A. test with my dog Geedee at the San Diego Chapter Test in 1999 earning a Prize I, 112 points.

I remember the Senior Judge defining her as a "bird finding machine" I think that she pointed 7 chukar in a huge alpha-alpha field.

Raffi, Beretta, Shaggy, I and Geedee took a trip together to South Dakota.

We had a lot of fun and the dogs performed exceptionally well.

She used to be skittish with people, but she was very attached to me and Raffi would say that I was the only stranger that she loved. Beretta has a special place in my heart.

I know that she's happy now remembering all the birds and the good life that she had.

Guido Dei

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Cattails planting experiment by Guido's gang Ty and Steven is taking root. Remember our work day for this project **JUNE 26th.**



<http://www.southeuclidpolice.com/K-9Presentation.html>

TRUST

By W.G. Wigginton Jr.



Canine Cocktails

Hotel Indigo San Diego Gaslamp Quarter's regular Yappy Hour event. Once a month, from 5 P.M to 8 P.M at the Level 9 Rooftop Bar, which provides an unobstructed view of Petco Park. On

June 9, the hotel will host a special Padres-themed event (San Diego plays the Washington Nationals) with complimentary dog bones, snacks, and water bowls for all four-legged best friends.

hotelsandiegodowntown.com

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER OF NAVHDA**

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Visit NAVHDA International at:
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Training Days Guidelines & Procedures

(1) Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly when he/she is not working on a drill.

(2) Everyone in the field must wear blaze orange hat, t-shirt or vest and have completed a hunter safety class or have a hunting license.

(3) Children are to be supervised and



Please support all of the NAVHDA