

SOCAL NAVHDA



ON POINT



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER - 2014

Things to Bring to Train your Bird Dog

- ◇ Leash
- ◇ Checkcord
- ◇ Stakeout
- ◇ Electrical tape
- ◇ Orange survey tape
- ◇ Birds -if possible
- ◇ Orange hat
- ◇ Orange vest or shirt
- ◇ Water for dog
- ◇ Water & snacks for you
- ◇ Waders
- ◇ Bird bag

- ◇ Tip ups
- ◇ String-drag/birds
- ◇ Cordlocks
- ◇ First aid kit for dog
- ◇ Bug spray
- ◇ Break action shotgun
- ◇ Shells
- ◇ Starter pistol
- ◇ Boots
- ◇ Gloves
- ◇ Hat
- ◇ Sunblock
- ◇ Patience
- ◇ Bumpers



FRENCH SPANIEL
PHEASANT SEASON

Back Chaining Training —going the wrong direction to get the right results!

Like many others I have been having some training difficulties . . . specifically with Mojo, my German Shorthair strong

willed female. I recently stumbled upon a training method called “backchaining” . You train the end of the be-

◇ **Sense of Humor**

- ◇ Chair
- ◇ Whistle
- ◇ E-collar
- ◇ Garbage bag
- ◇ If you can't find any of the above bring you and the dog . . We will help you with the rest!

havior first, reward, and work your way back to the beginning. Let me explain. (continued)

Inside this issue:

Training day items - Backchaining training	1
Back chaining	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PAT BEAVER	3
FEATURED MEMBER GUIDO DEI HISTORY	4
CONTINUED GUIDO DEI & POSSE	5
Training day guidelines Officers information	6
September Training Day Prado Dog Park	7

Retrieve to Hand—Back Chained

Every retrieve has the same 10 elements in the behavior chain. The trick to problem solving is to work them backwards. Rather than start at the beginning and finding failure along the way we start at the end and always “end” with success and possibly a reward!!!

1. Give - deliver to hand
2. Hold at front (side, wherever)
3. Move into delivery position (bird)
4. Come to you with bird
5. Come from distance with bird
6. Turn with bird in mouth
7. Pickup bird
8. Run to bird
9. Go on command
10. Wait for command

Backchaining looks like this

- 1
- 2,1
- 3,2,1
- 4,3,2,1 etc. until you go 10-1

- 1) deliver to hand—can you have dog sit/stand in the delivery position, present the bird in front of her mouth and have her grab it on command without moving the bird around?? That tells you whether the dog really understands “get it in your mouth”. If your dog needs you to “move it” you are not there.
- 2) Hold—Can she sit/stand in delivery position and hold the bird for as long as it would take to bring it back from 100 yards? If not, work on that next
- 3) Moving into delivery position—for some this means sit in front, for some sit or stand at heel, can she move into a sit without dropping it, can she move 1ft, 2ft, 3 ft, 5 ft, 10 ft into delivery position and sit . . .if not work on this . . .checkcord is helpful
- 4) Once she has the previous 3 down take her place bird in mouth walk 20 feet away and call her. Then repeat and go 30 feet. Then 40 feet. If you reward her for perfect performance (treat, love, praise) she will move quicker and with more confidence each time
- 5) Proceed to doing #5—#10 in sequence

(Continued below)

SO WHAT IF MY DOG DROPS IT? NO DO-OVERS!!!

What do we mean? Instead of using the e-collar, ear pinch, etc. When you set the dog and bird out 20-30 steps; call the dog and when she drops the bird. Make a loud AHAHAH sound and voice your displeasure (avoid “no”). Then pick the bird up, bring the dog all the way back to where she was, put it in her mouth, tell her to stay, go back to your place, and have her do it again. If she sets it down or drops it, back to the beginning. **NO DO OVERS.** They will understand . . . Quickly. Same with a shot bird. If the dog runs out and picks up the bird and then sets it down . . . AHAHA or NANNANA run out take the bird away from the dog bring them both back to where the bird fell, put the bird in the dog’s mouth, tell her to stay, go back to where you were when you shot it, call her in again. . . . “Fetch”. **You will see big improvement. After she has all of the above mastered**—particularly holding and waiting while you walk back 130 yds and delivering it all the way to your hand, you can place the bird on the ground directly on the line between you and her maybe 10 yards from her while you are back 130 yards call “fetch” she should pick it up on way and deliver to you, then progressively move bird closer to you. **This should improve the retrieval ability of your dog.** Now where is Mojo?? It’s time to get to work.

Inside this issue:

September Training Day Prado Dog Park	8
BREED FOCUS— VIZSLA	9
Training Day Photos How many breeds in NAVHDA	10
Tools for Training SOCAL TEST UT/NA	11
New Member Tim Shepard & Beau	12
New Member Tim Shepard & Beau	13
Training Day photos Versatile breeds? 28	14
Invitational Results Past photos	15



President's Message

This has been a busy month for me and you. Many of you are out training, trying to get ready for the fall test. It is amazing that it is here already. I can't wait to see how all those cute puppies are doing.

I was reminded of a valuable lesson I learned from Chris Gentner when I first started training Walter. That is the value of teaching a recall. It is not important what word you use "HERE" , "COME" or whatever word you like. It is only important that you teach recall. This command in my opinion is the most valuable command that a dog should be taught. It truly could be a matter of life and death for your dog.

I watched a dog this weekend running from her owner. The more the owner yelled, the more the dog ran. She ran back and forth across a field several times and finally took off running towards a road that is rarely used. As she approached the road there was a truck coming very fast. The dog and the truck were on a definite collision course. The owner yelled at her in a tone that was very serious. She turned and looked at him for just a moment, which fortunately was enough for the truck to get past before she continued with her antics. I know how scared I was, so I can only imagine how scared the owner must have been. I went immediately to my car and made a note to make this topic into a Presidents Message.

If you don't know how to teach recall please ask us for help. It really could be your dog's life. There are enough things that happen with hunting dogs accidentally. Don't allow them to get hurt from something you could have prevented.

Pat Beaver

FEATURED MEMBER OF THE MONTH

GUIDO DEI

I was born in La Spezia (Italy) a medium size city in the North West of Italy. Dad was an Italian government employee, mom a house wife and one brother three years older than I.

I was born with the outdoors in my blood and since a little boy of five I started hunting birds with a sling in the public gardens and fishing with a line wrapped around my hand. Since my dad and brother were not at all in the outdoors, I got very much attached to Aristide, my uncle. He had two daughters and spent all of his free time hunting, fishing, and mushroom and truffle hunting. I started going with him at the very young age of six. He was a very rude and hard mentor, every mistake that I made cost me a lot. He was also very competitive, I remember one time when I caught one more fish than him, he threw the fish away, saying "the maximum you can do is get even with me!" As hunter he was a very productive one, meat was the first priority, then everything else followed. As a dog handler was very demanding from his dog, he trained the dog to break point after he approached him to flush the bird. **In Italy you could start hunting by yourself at 16 years of age with the permission of your father. My father was very reluctant to have his son holding a firearm; I had to blackmail him that if he didn't let me hunt, I would pull out from school. I started working summers to collect money to buy a shotgun when I was 12. At fifteen I got my first hunting dog Stella an Italian hound. At sixteen I bought my first shotgun and my first hunting license. My 15 months old Stella was ready to go after hare, fox and wild pigs.** She was a great dog as all of them which I have owned in my life. I'm not sure if I'm a lucky dog owner, but all of the dogs I have owned have been very good dogs which my friends always envied me. *Maybe I'm a good dog trainer!* Stella was followed by Flash an English pointer. In Italy at that time we hunted Hungarian Partridges, which are Italian native bird (Starne), woodcock, and quail. Lella an English cocker spaniel followed Flash. Astrid a German shorthaired pointer followed Lella. Oliva a very beautiful Irish setter followed Astrid.

While hunting and hunting dogs have been my first priority, I managed to make my dad happy with a graduation in Marine Engineering. This degree was not a good choice. I started working in Italy for an American oil company that owned foreign flag ships (Tankers). My duty was to follow ships maintenance, repairs and new vessel construction. Unfortunately those repairs and new construction were tak-



ing me out of my first life priority, hunting and dogs, for months. So for about 20 years I was traveling all over the world following ships repair and new construction. Then when Iran and Libya kicked out all the foreign oil companies from their countries, my company was forced to sell all the foreign flag ships. I was practically out of a job, when they called me to supervise a new seismic vessel construction in Norway. After that job was completed they offered me a move to the US. I came to the US very often for meetings, conferences and other business related matters. My company was located near the Philadelphia airport, and I used a lot of off time to hunt with friends mostly in the Chesapeake for ducks. They offered a move to the US, however, my company had relocated from Philadelphia to Long Beach, California. In November 1982 I moved with Oliva and my guns to the US. Totally new in this part of the country I start looking for places to hunt. The first year was a miserable one as far as hunting, then I started meeting hunters and found places to hunt. I joined NAVHDA and the American Sportsman Club which leased property for hunters. Next I found my paradise in Mexico. In Mexico I hunt pheasant, quail, dove, duck and geese. **By early 1983 I bought a house and called my wife and my son still in Italy to join me.** After Oliva came Baffo a Springer Spaniel. Another amazing dog. After Baffo, another German shorthaired pointer: Geedee. Geedee's nose was incredible, I've seen hundreds of hunting dogs, but his nose was a miracle, *I could write a book on that nose.* **Unfortunately, I'd start looking at other dogs and their handlers and saw a lot of problems lying in front of my eyes. American dogs and American registries had no breeding rules, and American dogs were unrecognizable, no tattoo no nothing to tell a judge that the dog they were judging was the right dog. Even my Irish setter born in 1978 from Italy had a tattoo!**

So I looked back to Europe and I started investigating breeds. I checked the Drahthaar first, but because of the hot weather in California and Mexico, I settled for the Kurzhaar. I was looking for a puppy from Yogurt vom Hege-Haus. By 2005 I was lucky to get one: Reni Erdmannshausen from a litter sired by Yougurt and Nora Erdmannshausen. Training René was very easy and successful. I trained and handled her in all NAVHDA tests and NADKC tests. She had all Prize I max scores plus a Versatile Champion title and a silver medal for the second highest score in the VGP in US and Canada. With such a dog I had to become a breeder. René was bred to Bellevue vom Hege-Haus; I kept two puppies: Alba : and Aristide: All three are Versatile Champions. **My last dog Blake is a six month old puppy from Alba and Miracle Mio vom Beaver Creek.** I look forward to training Blake to achieve the same scores as his relatives.



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 remain in the designated parking area at all times.
- (4) No alcohol on premises.
- (5) "Boat Safety", persons under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket when in the boat.

SOCAL NAVHDA OFFICERS

President

Pat Beaver

951 781 4267

Pabeaver2@aol.com

Vice President

Kim Gentner

714 356 1083

thedogmother@earthlink.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Guido Dei

562 481 6897

g.deil@verizon.net

Director of Publications

Gary Johnson

760 559 3173

gary_johnson@busdk12.com

Training Day Coordinator

Ty Mitchel

951 736 2015

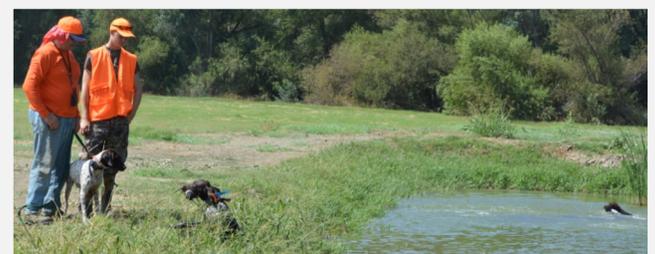
tylermitchel@sbcglobal.net

Director of Promotions

Jon Vesely

562 335 3053

jonat4kix@verizon.net





September Training Day – Sep. 21 – Prado

Approximately 40 people attended with many people getting ready for the upcoming SOCAL Test. The tests will be at Prado the first 2 weekends of October. NAVHDA has regulations as to how many dogs can be judged effectively in a day. We had far too many dogs testing to complete the test in one weekend. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and it takes volunteers to run a NAVHDA Test. **If you can help out either weekend or any day please contact Pat Beavers.** They will try and place you in an area of need that you are comfortable with.

A practice Utility Test was held with Ty Mitchel in charge. Several people with experience running the UT test or judging assisted, Kim and Chris Gentner, Pat Beavers, Jon Veasely and many others. People with young dogs in the Natural Ability Test were assisted by Guido Dei in tracking, water entry and retrieval (hopefully) and some fieldwork.. Some of us received our “duck socks” from Sylvia Hansen. Apparently this protects the duck and allows you many weeks of training with the same duck. Many birds were available for training, quail, pigeons, chukar and ducks. Hot links, chips, salad and soda were served for lunch. The weather was about 80 degrees and sunny.

Some discovered that their dogs seemed quite ready for the test, whereas others discovered that there was still lots to work on. It was a great day as individually you cannot simulate a test day without all of the extra dogs, birds, activity and energy that typically occur on the day of the test.

Lunch provided by

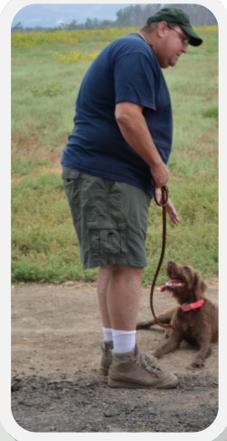
Linda Mitchel



September 21
Training photos



**New Training
Coordinator
Ty Mitchel**



HUNGARIAN VIZSLA

HISTORY -The ancestors of the Vizsla are assumed to have been hunters and companions of the Magyar hordes which swarmed over Central Europe more than a thousand years ago and settled into what is now Hungary. The Vizsla was already known in early Hungarian history. The ancestors of the present Vizsla were the trusted and favorite hunting dogs of the Magyar tribes who lived in the Carpathian Basin in the 10th century. Primitive stone etchings over a thousand years old show the Magyar hunter with his falcon and his Vizsla. The breed is depicted in various etchings that date back to the 10th century and manuscripts tracing to the 14th century. Apparently, the breed was a who, either deliberately or by accident,

The breed's innate hunting instinct was which was almost entirely agricultural and suited to the climatic conditions and cautious dog of superior nose and generating the best assets of pointer and retrieved normal breed progress, a small ued the breed's growth. Importation into breed was admitted to the AKC registry dogs and are extremely smart but gener-will most likely end up with a puppy until **are not your "walk around the neighbor-great outdoors and exercising, a Vizsla** Vizsla is often called the Velcro dog as They want to go everywhere their owner Be prepared to give this dog lots of off **walk with your dog is not EXERCISE,** f You may think that a shorthair breed like shed. It is just not nearly as obvious as if Many owners consider this a "soft breed" keep this in mind when training, some breed that usually lives 12-14 years. Vari-

las, and Vizslas are often mistaken for other breeds. Redbone Coonhounds, Weimaraners and Rhodesian Ridgebacks are some of the most commonly confused breeds. The body structure of a Vizsla is very similar in appearance to a Weimaraner and a Redbone Coonhound, though the Vizsla is typically leaner with a more defined musculature. Weimaraners and Rhodesian Ridgebacks are larger than Vizslas. **The nose of the Vizsla will always have a reddish color that blends with the coat color.** Black, brown, light pink, or another color nose is an indication of another breed. **Vizslas are very high energy, gentle-mannered, loyal,^g caring, and highly affectionate. They quickly form close bonds with their owners, children and even strangers.** Often they are referred to as "velcro" dogs because of their loyalty and affection. Vizslas will cry or whine when they feel neglected or are otherwise unhappy. Some will bark at strangers if they feel that they are invading the "pack" space. They are very good guard dogs when trained.

They are natural hunters with an excellent ability to take training. Not only are they great pointers, but they are excellent retrievers as well. They will retrieve on land and in the water, making the most of their natural instincts. However, they must be trained gently and without harsh commands or strong physical correction, as they have sensitive temperaments and can be easily damaged if trained too harshly.^g However **the owner must show quiet authority in training, otherwise the dog is likely to take over the training session.**

Vizslas are excellent swimmers. Some may need a little motivation to get in the water but as they get used to it they will love it. Often the best motivation for your dog to get in the water is to see you in the water having fun. Like all hunting dogs, Vizslas require a great deal of exercise to remain healthy and happy. **The Vizsla thrives on attention, exercise, and interaction.** With proper socialization and training, Vizslas are very gentle dogs that are great around children. **The Vizsla wants to be close to its owner as much as possible.** Many Vizslas will sleep in bed with their owners and, if allowed, burrow under the covers. Vizslas have been compared to horses in their tendency to "trot" rather than run and some "wiggle" their backsides as they walk.

SOCAL NAVHDA VIZSLA OWNERS

Gary Willhite, Sylvia Hansen,

BREED OF THE MONTH



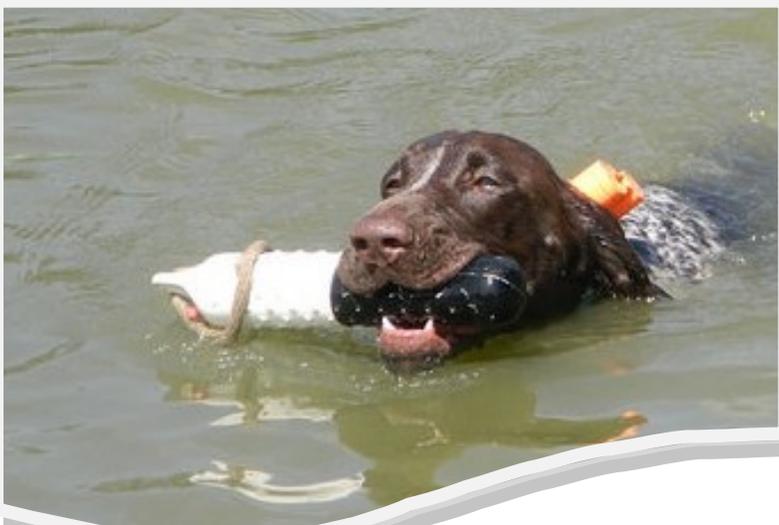
fostered by the terrain of Hungary, pastoral. The breed evolved into one available game, resulting in a swift and ally high-class hunting ability, combin-er. Although the Great Wars interrupt-amount of Vizslas existed that contin-the US began in the 1950s, and the in 1960. Vizslas are very high-energy ally slower to mature. This means you they're closer to 4 years old. **Vizslas hood" kind of a dog. If you enjoy the might be the right match for you.** The they stick very close to their owners. goes , including the **BATHROOM!** leash exercise in wide open spaces. **A** this is true for many Versatile dogs. this does not shed. They certainly you had a Lab or a Border Collie. with a gentle spirit. It's important to are sensitive. They are a healthy ous breeds are often mistaken for Vizs-



Birds?

September 21
Training photos

Sitting is OK But,
where are the birds????



Communicating with your Dog in the Field

- Checkcord
- Whistle
- Hand signals
- E-collar

Checkcord—great when teaching - keeps dog close and manageable, limits range, hard to shoot with a checkcord in hand

Whistle -light, convenient, allows you to communicate at distance—turn, stop, heel, etc.—sometimes wind or terrain makes it difficult for dog to hear, can't see you doesn't matter

Hand signals - dog needs to see you to be effective, limits range, nice alternative if they cannot hear you, watch the retriever clubs they do a lot of this, dog can become somewhat dependent on handler

E-collar— can use beeper function similar to whistle commands, can vary amount of stimulation/correction, gives you great control at distance, frequently overcomes terrain and wind issues, also can be used as a backup to the other methods and or to enforce them

Verbal—have verbal cues for all commands , sometimes you forget your whistle, checkcord, or e-collar runs out of power

Overlaying—after a dog learns a command using a certain “trigger” or tool you begin using another at the same time to teach the dog more than one way to do the same thing. Example: After teaching a dog to sit using treats or other methods and commanding”sit” you then start pointing at ground while you say “sit” . . . at some point you don't have to say the command , the hand signal will work



FRENCH SPANIEL

SOCAL NAVHDA TEST OCTOBER 3,4,5,11,12

Natural Ability

is designed to evaluate the inherent abilities of young dogs.

- ♦ FIELD SEARCH
- ♦ PHEASANT TRACK
- ♦ WATER RETRIEVE—MUST SWIM
- ♦ ALSO JUDGED: COOPERATION, NOSE, GUNSHY, DESIRE, POINTING

Utility Preparatory

measures the dogs' development midway through their training toward the Utility Test. Very similar to Utility Test.

Prize I, II or III. Prize I being the highest classification on all tests.

Utility Test

- ♦ **FIELD SEARCH** – 30 minutes—pointing,steadiness,retrieve
- ♦ **DUCK DRAG** –track and retrieve
- ♦ **WATER GROUP:** steadiness by blind,heeling, duck retrieve
- ♦ **DUCK SEARCH**
- ♦ **ALSO JUDGED:** cooperation, nose, desire, obedience, stamina, physical attributes

Prizes are awarded on the basis of numerical scores achieved in the test. Each dog that meets or exceeds minimum standards in all areas of work is placed in one of three categories:

NAVHDA TESTS

- ♦ **NATURAL ABILITY**
- ♦ **UTILITY PREP**
- ♦ **UTILITY**

VOLUNTEERS

wanted

CALL PAT 951-662-1934

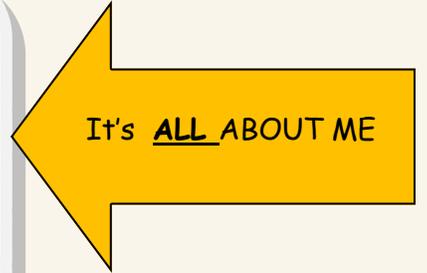
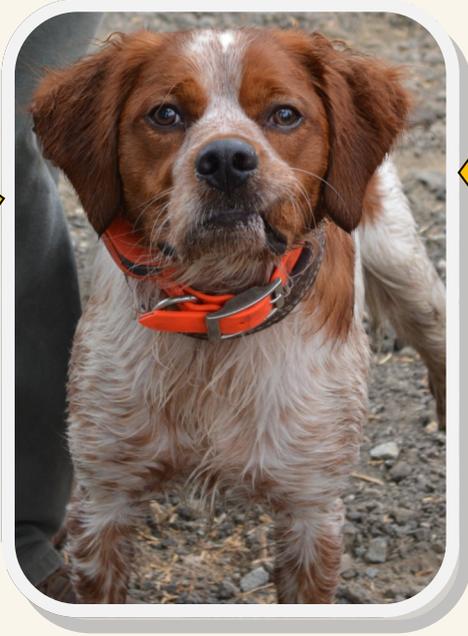
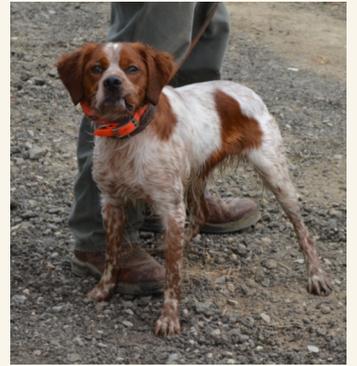


BRITTANY SPANIEL



FEATURED
NEW MEMBER

Timothy Shepard
“Beau” - French Brittany



I was 15 when a friend invited me to spend the weekend with his Grandparents in Hesperia. Hesperia in those days seemed like the Wild Wild West to me. It was on that trip I fired my first shotgun, a 12 ga. Side by side. It scared the hell out of me and hurt when I fired it but I loved it. I enrolled myself and my older brother in a Hunter Safety Class as soon as I returned home. Paper route and lawn mowing in the neighborhood provided the funds to purchase my first shotgun. My Brother and I would take many trips together for the next few years, both of us exposed many of our friends to shooting and hunting then. I do not ever remember a trip where the conversation did not come up on how Hunting with a dog would be so much more productive and easier on us. It was then my desire to have a dog one day began.

For the last two Hunting seasons I have had the pleasure to hunt alongside two buddies who have dogs. David has a 9 year old German Shorthair Pointer and John has a 4 year old Brittany Spaniel. Hunting with them and their dogs is so much fun I really don't want to go out without a dog anymore. So, in order to hunt with a dog when they are not around, I decided it was time to get my own. The decision was what kind of dog do I get?

It was a warm afternoon after hiking the steep mountainside in Lucerne Valley hunting Chuckar, David and I were taking a rest by his truck when a couple of hunters came walking by. I noticed they had a dog and not any breed of hunting dog that I was aware of. I inquired what kind of a dog it was. The owner replied ...French Brittany, named Lucy. I became real interested. I asked many questions. The wheels started to turn after I returned home. This particular breed seemed to fit my current living arrangement. I felt a bigger dog would not be too happy living in a Condo. Owners of this Breed boasted of their abilities. I had made up my mind ----- a search for a French Brittany or Epagneul Breton was ON!

Finding an Epagneul Breton was more difficult than I had thought but after contacting just about every reputable breeder in the U.S. I found one after about 2 months of searching. Wyngold kennels in Bend, Oregon had a pup available and in a week or two Ivan de Wyngold aka." Beau "was on his way! I forgot how much work a new Puppy was. I quickly realized how little I knew about the preparation and training of a bird dog. I picked up a couple books on gun dog training. As a new handler, and doing this for my first time it would be so nice if Beau could read. I really was not prepared at home or ready to start training when the time came so we floundered around for a few months. As soon as he was square with all his vaccinations a search was on for a training field. Time was passing by and I knew I needed help but was not sure where to go. I was not excited about leaving him with a trainer that I did not know for 3 or 4 months. I am not sure what I clicked on but one day I stumbled on the NAVHDA Site, BAM. That is what I am looking for, experienced people to help me and training fields to use. Applications to NAVHDA and two local chapters were sent out immediately. Beau and I are members of the So. Cal and Inland Empire Chapters of NAVHDA. Joining these chapters and participating since June has been nothing short of amazing. I have received so much help and direction. Through continuous involvement and reaching out I believe that in time Beau will be a serviceable hunting partner. I thank all of those who have helped from both Chapters and look forward to be a part of and contribute to both Chapters of NAVHDA.

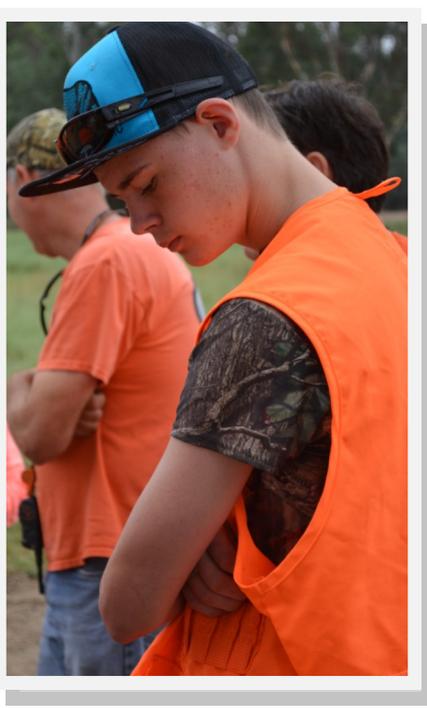
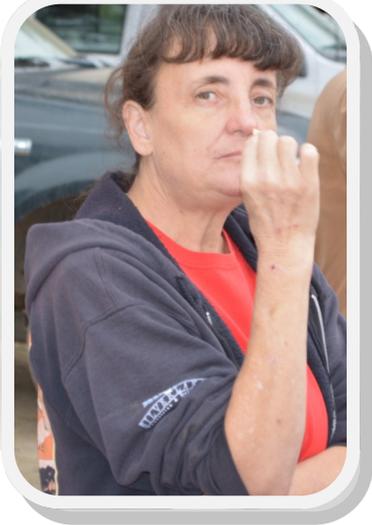
*Your dog can learn with
NAVHDA*



*"I don't regard
nature as a
spectator sport."*

Ed Zern



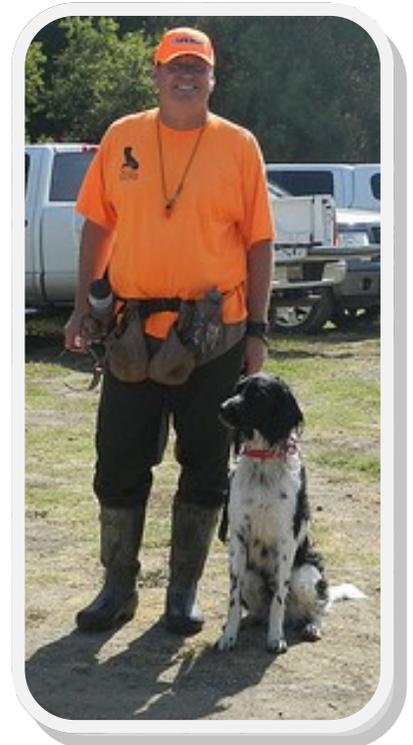


2014 INVITATIONAL RESULTS

Congratulations Juan and Jim!! They represented SOCAL NAVHDA splendidly at the NAVHDA Invitational. Juan's dog Vida received a perfect score of 200 and won the coveted VC prize. Very few dogs received perfect scores. Jim's dog Ryder was also perfect in every event . . . except one, unfortunately this one event prevented Vida from prizing. Look for a list of all VC Champions in a future edition.



**JUAN HERNANDEZ
AND VIDA
JIM MCDONALD
AND RYDER**



Some Training Day Photos May to August



SOCAL NAVHDA



**WHERE MEMBERS
TEACH OTHERS
HOW TO TRAIN
THEIR BIRDDOG**

SOCAL NAVHDA MEMBER BENEFITS

1. Receive Monthly newsletter from February to October.
2. Have your unlimited webpage site within the www.Socalnavhda.com website for 10.00\$/year.
3. Access to the Members Forum in the Chapter Website Password: "best dogs" with a space between the two words.
4. Choose a trainer mentor out of a list of professional and very experienced trainers.
5. Participate in a monthly training day.
6. Be first in line to enroll your dog in the Chapter's NAVHDA Tests before all other NAVHDA national members.
7. Have access to the So.Cal. NAVHDA Trailer packed with versatile hunting dog training supplies for \$20.00 key deposit, refundable if you'll leave the chapter.
8. So.Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

NAVHDA SPONSORS

