

SOCAL NAVHDA

ON POINT

NEWSLETTER

January 2017



kbillyphoto

Westminster or Bust
Halsey

Puppy Pointers
Bird dog Stress

PUPPY POINTERS

Republished from October issue— Many new pups thought the info could be used again. From the NAVHDA GREEN BOOK

- 1. Preventing bad habits is much easier than fixing bad habits**
- 2. Never correct or reward a dog if they do not understand why**
- 3. Never give a command more than once . . . otherwise you are training them not to listen to your first command**
- 4. Dogs learn by association. Positive associations and negative associations. Structure your training so that there is a positive or a negative association. Your puppy will enjoy the positive rewards more.**
- 5. Cause and effect CAN be established in as few as one repetition.**
- 6. Your puppy cannot read your mind . . .get the behavior to occur and quickly reward the pup . . .do 2 or 3 more times the pup will quickly understand what you want**
- 7. Be consistent with your reinforcement. Variable reinforcement confuses your dog. This frequently occurs in families where family members and spouses reward and or punish the same behavior differently. The more consistent your family can be the quicker and better your dog will learn..**

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Kevin Billy and his wife **Staci** have been enjoying new puppies in their house thanks to their **Vizsla Mika**. Kevin and Staci have been very active in SOCAL NAVHDA since joining and are also active in the Southern California Vizsla Club. Since joining Kevin and I have done a lot of dog training together and collaborating on this publication. He is one of several people that regularly submit photos. We are fortunate to have so many excellent photos to use monthly. You are encouraged to submit any photos you take while training or hunting. Send them to garyjohnson0515@gmail.com or text them to me at 760 -559-3173. Prior to getting Mika Kevin's hobby was photography. Now he combines his love of photography with his new passion of training hunting dogs. Please do not feel like your photos need to be of "professional quality". Every month we use several photos that are taken from cell phones/go pros etc. . Most of your fellow members like to see other members dogs doing what they do best. Remember the dog is the star not the photo.

Kevin has been kind enough to send some photos of the pups about every other week and I am going to use several of those in this month and next months issue. Spring is coming and it is the season of new pups. **Don't forget to get all of your vaccinations before taking your new pups out in public! Do not expose them to gunfire.** If you come to a training day try and park at least a couple hundred yards away from where there is gunfire. After being exposed to birds a few times and becoming "bird crazy" bird pups it is now time to train them safely about gunfire. Do not minimize this step. If the pup becomes scared of the sound of guns it will be very difficult to overcome. Past issues of this publication has several articles on this topic. If you don't have time to look them up go to gundogsupply.com they have a nice video.



Birddog Stress

by Gary Johnson

Many of us were not raised with "birddogs". My wife and I have each had dogs most of our life since being young children. However, stepping up and getting a bonafide 100% "birddog" makes you look at the dog world with a whole new level of seriousness. Their enthusiasm for living life at full speed and exploring every place completely sometimes puts them at risk. Also at risk may be anything sitting on the kitchen counter, the bathroom sink or yes even what is in your families white porcelain toilet bowl!! Versatile dogs do not discriminate. Anything is possible. Generally our dogs quickly and calmly walk through our house . . . But once in awhile they think they are at Santa Anita Racetrack and just left the starting gates at full gallop and their goal is to become the first dog to beat a thoroughbred horse in the Preakness Stakes. As a NAVHDA member you probably relate to these situations. Quickly as an owner you realize that if you are unable to get some "control" of your dog it quite possibly could injure itself. Having consistent and quick recall is highly important. Having a backup plan to your "regular plan" may also be important. If your dog disappears from your sight can you get them back within a minute or so? If not, how far could your dog run in 2-3 minutes? Most of our bird dogs can run a mile in about 3 minutes. We rarely can see that far. Also if you are using verbal commands can your dog hear them from a mile away? How about if the wind is blowing? Many variables. Many potential problems. Many solutions.

We have 3 German Shorthair Pointers, Griffin, Mojo and Boogie. Each one of them has a very distinct personality with different levels of energy, cooperation, athleticism and predictability. As we live in the desert, I try to get them out for a good run several nights per week.

So you bought a new pup and somehow found SOCAL NAVHDA. Welcome! We are glad you found us. Many will ask/encourage you to test and this was probably not a part of your plan. It may feel like ego on the part of members. However, that has little to do with it. **The members know that you have a "hunting dog" and training for the test will teach him to hunt AND most importantly your dog will LOVE IT!** Your skills as a handler will improve as you prep your pup for a test. *Your dog will become more disciplined and your bond will grow stronger.* Your dogs favorite day of the week will be **training day at Prado.** By the end of year two you should have a pretty disciplined dog. Training days will probably now shift to hunting days. You don't hunt?? No problem. Get a license and a gun and your dog will now show YOU where the birds are. **It can be a very exciting journey if you are open to making some adjustments** for the sake of your new best friend. Please be patient. Learning the discipline to being an outstanding hunting dog is a step by step process. Try and remember learning to read. First the ABC"s. Then we learned to put a few letters together and eventually learned a word or two. Once we got to word eight or ten it was off to the races and no looking back. Your dogs progress will be similar. The basic simple stuff will probably take longer than you think it should. Once your dog gets the hang of you teaching and them learning they will seem eager for you to teach them new "lessons". If they look confused or frustrated you are going too fast. Try and make the task shorter or easier. Suddenly your dog will start to connect the dots and make progress very quickly. This will probably happen somewhere between ages one and a half and three. You probably will forget how long it took you to teach them something basic like the correct way to carry a bumper. . Happy training!



Whelping Items to Have Ready for birth of Pups

- Whelping Box
- Towels
- Paper/Pencil
- Scissors
- Stop Watch/Clock
- Hot Water Bottle
- Several Plastic Bags (Large)
- Phone Number of Vet
- Scale - weigh each pup
- Artery forceps
- Reflector shade/light bulb like they use to warm baby chicks

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. **Members holding a gun in the field must 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.

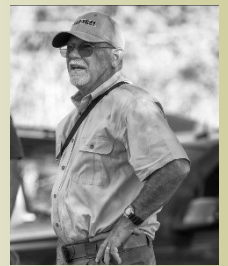
SOCAL NAVHDA OFFICERS

President Jim McDonald
 jimmymac555@sbcglobal.net
 Vice President Rodge Fradella
 delta@tstonramp.com
 Secretary Irene Fradella
 delta@tstonramp.com
 Treasurer Linda Mitchel

 Director of Publications Gary Johnson
 760 559 3173 gary_johnson@busdk12.com

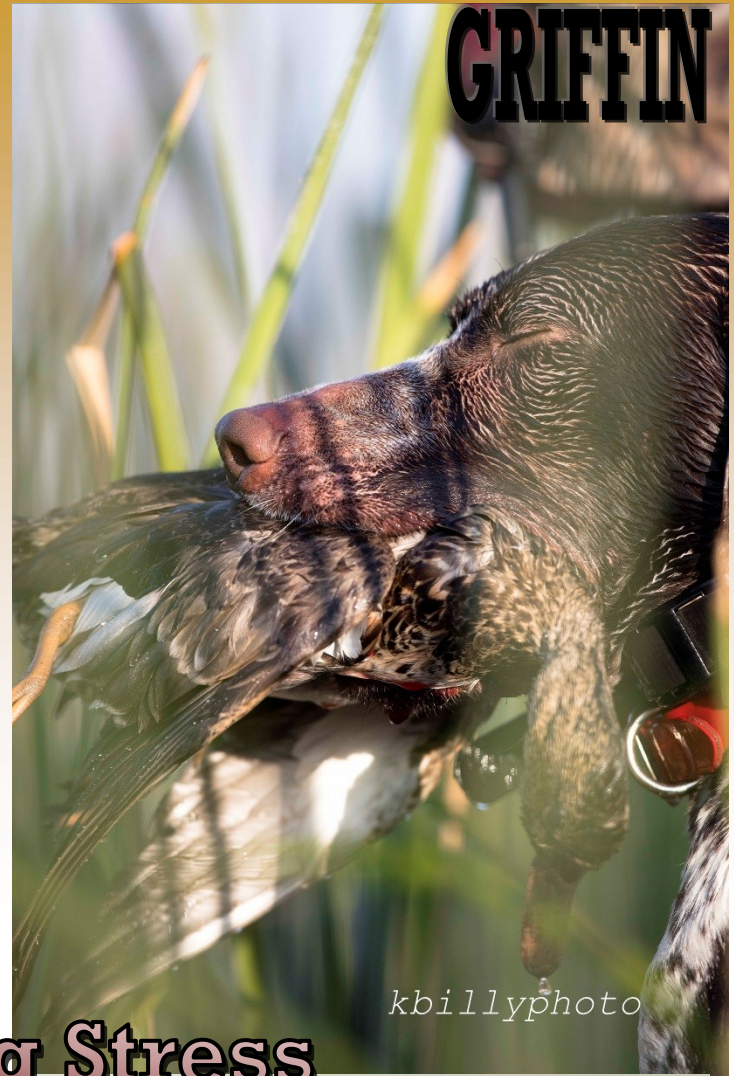
 Training Coordinator Tim Shepherd

 Training Coordinator Jon Vesely
 562335 3053 jonat4kix@verizon.net
 Training Coordinator Jon Auer





Hard to believe that the pups above will be retrieving ducks like the SOCAL NAVHDA dog at the right within two years. Our NAVHDA dogs love upland hunting *and* getting in the water. **VERSATILE DOGS!**

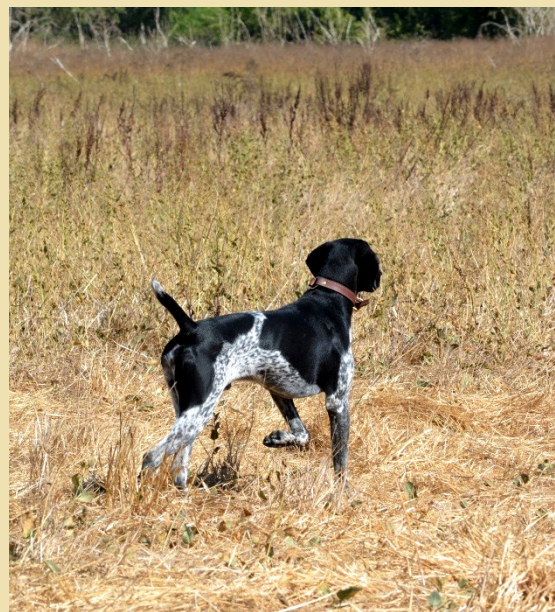


Birddog Stress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I almost lost Griffin for good last night. I stood at the truck pondering how I was going to break the news to my wife. How long into the night should I wait by the truck hoping he returns? Maybe he is injured and needs help. How will I find him? It is now dark and my small headlamp is no match for the rolling hills and darkness of the Mojave Desert. Did I make a mistake in not watching him closer? Why did I not put a GPS collar on him as I did Boogie? It crossed my mind. But as I said earlier each dog has its tendencies. Mojo runs 75-100 yards in front of me quartering left to right like a reliable set of windshield wipers. Griffin is fairly similar although he usually is at 150-300 yards with an occasional quick run behind me to see if he missed anything. He always comes back every 3 minutes or so and "checks in on me" to make sure I am moving in a direction he approves of. Tonight on the other hand I had not seen Griffin since I let him out of his crate. I kept waiting for him to "check in" but it never happened. Our Boogie on the other hand is a whole different story. She wears a GPS collar for a reason. Never have I picked a more appropriate name for a dog. "Electricblues HighTailyn Boogie". She is "electric" non stop energy generally running full speed bounding over creosote bushes looking for the elusive but rarely found Mojave Desert Chukar.

Continued Page 9



Two of our new members bring their young dogs to their first training day. It was wet at San Jacinto but the dogs really seemed to enjoy their first day out. The puppies in this issue were from Kevin and Staci Billy's Mika SH. They are only imagining their first NAVHDA training day. Rest easy though Kevin has already exposed them to some pigeons to get them ready. They are eager to start their real bird dog training. George Hickox and Kevin Billy training bird dogs!!





continued from Page 7 **Bird dog Stress** *kbillyphoto*

Her tail is always held high and wags happily as she charges from hilltop to hilltop. She "Boogie's " everywhere she goes. Nonstop kinetic energy until she gets back to her crate where she collapses for a long peaceful nap. Boogie typically is running in the 200-400 yard range but nightly has a couple charges to where she is 500-900 yards away. Without the GPS I would have no idea if she were running in a safe direction and if she didn't return where to look for her. "Electricblues Hightailyn Boogie" causes me anxiety every night. Now back to my Griffin problem. Having a GPS collar and not using it because the dog is so "reliable" is probably not a good decision. When Griffin did not "check in" within 5 minutes of getting released . . . I probably should have went looking for him. Twenty five minutes later I was finished trying to recall with the whistle and was now beeping the e-collar to recall. When that didn't work I followed it up with regular low level stimulation to "get him moving" towards me. Eventually I realized this wasn't working and thinking he might be injured turned the e-collar up real high . . . This seems not to be a good idea but I was hoping I could hear a "yelp" or a "bark" so I would know where to look to find or help him. Eventually realizing this strategy was hopeless I just walked back to the truck. Crated Boogie and Mojo and decided to wait. Every so often I would climb up in the pickup bed and blow the recall whistle loudly hoping he would hear. Twenty minutes later or so he walked out of the shadows and jumped into his crate. I got him out to check for injuries. Other than one cactus quill in his shoulder all else appeared normal. Internally I was ecstatic. Externally melancholic. I had faced the possible loss of my most loyal companion and realized in some way I was probably at fault. We need to evaluate our methods to protect our energetic hunting dogs from their own natural instincts. They love to hunt, run and track game with some play mixed in. **Know your dog. Know your environment. Be ready for the unexpected.**



Develop Bold Independent Pups

kbillyphoto

Developing a Bold, Independent dog should be your goal as a new puppy owner. A dog needs to be *balanced*. A dog that follows their owner around step by step might be a good pet but is NOT a good hunting dog. As a new puppy owner you need to *create situations* where the dog can “explore” on its own. You should NOT interact with your dog during this time. *Make sure to always monitor them so they don’t get into an unsafe situation.* You may want to leave a check cord on them so you can eventually bring them in and not get into a game of keep away. It’s a good idea to give them a little treat or piece of hot dog before you release them. I usually give them a little when I leash them at the crate and then a little more after I walk them briefly just prior to releasing them. Many new owners are concerned their dog will not come back to them. This is usually not a problem. Make sure when you release them you are in a safe area free of cars, adult dogs and situations that could quickly get out of control. I like Prado once most of the people have left as I live in the desert we use that open area as well. Puppies don’t need a lot of room. Start out at 5 –8 minutes exploring and work your way up to around 20 (slow casual walk for you). Most important rule for you is BE QUIET, PRETEND TO IGNORE THE DOG. Let the pup explore. *Be aware of coyotes.* They love puppies. Be aware of older dogs sometimes they don’t fully appreciate a playful pup. The perfect hunting dog is bold and independent seeking game at high speed but always connected to its owner. The dog and owner working in unison as a team.

The picture on the right was on the cover of our Sept./Oct issue. This is judge **Ruth Weiss** and **Kevin Green** with his dog **Peso**. For those of us that watched the field work at the N.A. Test **Peso** was highly energetic and covered the complete field with relentless drive focus and control. They received a Prize 1 during the test. I recently visited with **Kevin** and his wife **Christi** at a local field trial. Kevin shared that this young dog had qualified for the National Bird Dog Challenge Invitational. He also has qualified two other dogs. Two gsp's, are in the pointing division and one dog, a lab, is in the flushing division.

Kevin and Christi are outstanding dog handlers and we are fortunate to have them as members of **SOCAL NAVHDA**.

Good luck at the National Invitational Kevin!!



VC Belle



To the left is **Cliff Fleming's dog Belle**. Cliff and Belle trained diligently throughout the summer and travelled to Iowa for the **NAVHDA INVITATIONAL**. In Iowa, Belle performed at the top of her game and had an almost perfect day with 197 of 200 points to earn the VC title and become known as **VC Belle**. Sadly, Belle became quite ill recently and was not able to pull through. She was only four. Please keep Cliff in your thoughts during this difficult time. Sadly most of us will eventually have to deal with this situation with our faithful and loyal hunting partners. Fortunately Belle had a couple litters of pups and you can see "little Belle's" running through many of the NAVHDA training fields. They are very enthusiastic hunters just like their mother.

R.I.P. VC Belle.

LOCAL NAVHDA MEMBERS TAKE ON WESTMINSTER

We were thrilled to receive notice that **SOCAL NAVHDA** member **Chuck Kushell** has the **#1 ranked Gordon** Setter competing in the Westminster Dog Show. Chuck wrote a bio on the journey that he has had with his dog **Halsey**. He also included all of the information to follow the event. This story is on the following 2 pages. Halsey is pictured below. Charles is anxious to end the conformation journey so that they can begin to earnestly seek the Hunt Test titles and spend a lot more time hunting together.

Sitting at an AKC hunt test this past weekend I learned we have another member attending the Westminster dog show and they too have the #1 ranked VIZSLA. That dog is **GCHS CH Russet Leather Ride to the Top JH AX AXS** and is owned by **Mary Grant**. Another of Mary's dogs competed in our NA test in the fall where her dog received a prize 3. She was not to be denied the top prize though and quickly signed up for the Inland Empire test where her dog received the coveted Prize 1. Having lunch at the AKC test I noticed that Mary was

Not discussing the big trip to NYC but seemed most concerned about getting birds to train for hunt tests the following morning. A true NAVHDA fanatic.

Recently our chapters have been blessed to have many new members who have arrived with very strong credentials from other dog competition arena's (conformation, agility, etc). They are quickly adapting to the versatile hunt training and becoming quite successful in this venue as well. Their dogs LOVE to hunt!! Thanks for being a part of NAVHDA!! **Best of luck to Mary and Chuck at Westminster.** We would love to hear more about the journey!



kbillyphoto

Shameless scene stealing stand in

Not
GCHS CH RUSSET LEATHER
RIDE to the TOP JH AX AXJ



The Number One Gordon Setter Breed & All-Breed*
GCHG Amberlove's Are We A Pair? JH NAVHDA NA

Halsey was always intended to be a "hunting" dog, and if he turned out OK, the plan was we'd show him in the ring just enough to fulfill our obligation to his breeder (a dear friend), but that was it. My dad was an AKC judge and I've been "in the ring", so to speak, for 50+ years with a variety of breeds...and had NO intention of ever taking it up again with Halsey.

Thus, I got him on birds at 4 months the day I got him. He got his NA and AKC JH on successive weekends at age 7 months and did his first trip to SD on pheasants at the same age. As you know, we did a bunch of training with Guido, who was always a great help and big supporter of this big hairy black dog. We showed him a few times in the 6-9 month classes, and finished his Championship at 12 months with 4 majors. We then went back to the field, skipping SH and went right to MH (the benefit of all that NAVHDA training, no doubt). Got his first 2 passes right away, but then, quite literally, he grew up putting on 30 pounds and 3 feet of hair in about 3 months. Every day, we woke up and there was a different dog in the house!

So, in response to popular demand, we put him with a great handler out of CO and over the last 2 years, has gone from an unknown to the #1 ranked Gordon, All-Systems, in 2016. 3 Best-in-Shows, 13 Group 1's, 65 Group Placements and undefeated in GSCA Specialty shows (just Gordons).

I will send you a few more shots...although the spread I sent you with my mail pretty much says it all...and cc you on an updated note to Halseys "fan club" of where and when to tune in to the silliness in New York. Judging for Breed, Group and BIS is Tuesday 14 February, FYI.



OK, folks, fans, family and friends, herewith the updated scoop for those of you having nothing better to do than watch Halsey in NY Tuesday 14 Feb Valentines Day in NYC at Westminster KC. Breed judging for Gordons will be Tuesday 14 Feb at 1400EST in Ring #6 under Judge Joan Savage and will ONLY be available on your computer, tablet or mobile via the FoxSportsGO app. Go to foxsportsgo.com/ to download the app onto your device (it will ask for your cable/sat carrier ID credentials...most are included for free), sign up and click on the WKC show. I checked it this a.m. and they do not have the streaming schedule up yet...looks as if they only show one-week's upcoming events, but there are streams available from last year's WKC you can click on to ensure everything's working. You can also go to westminsterkenelclub.org and their "TV Schedule" page for more details. Halsey's catalog number is #12, which means Monica will have armband #12 on, although good luck finding it as they run by. Not sure in what order armband #12 will mean in terms of what order the dogs will be in in the ring, so just look for the biggest Gordon with the tallest blond lady handler, and you'll be following the right team. As noted below, later that evening the Sporting Group judging will occur, followed by Best in Show, which will be available at FoxSportsGO as well as on the Nat Geo Wild channel at 2000EST.

Again, I think we have a shot at winning the Breed, which would mean we move onto the group later where, if we're lucky, you'll see a shot of us coming into the ring but typically the broadcasters don't linger on Gordons during judging...too arcane a breed compared to the Labs and Goldens and Cockers, I guess.

Let me know if questions and we appreciate the interest and support.

Cheers

Chuck K.



kbillyphoto



kbillyphoto

GRIFFIN



Thanks to **Kevin Billy** and **Rodge Fradella** for submitting photos for this month's edition. Above, Griffin Blues Coltrane retrieves a duck on a recent duck hunt.



New member Phyllis gets some pointers from **Jim McDonald** to help her dog be steady around birds. **Melody Starr** below works with Sam to get him ready for his AKC MH test. We can probably thank Melody for inviting Phyllis. **Herb Schoderer**, **Steve Engelgau** and Rodge talk while at the January training day at San Jacinto. I am guessing Rodge is re-enacting a recent hunt and that he is "pointing his shotgun". Regardless it looks very interesting. We had a very nice training day at San Jacinto. Probably twenty attended. The grounds and weather were in good shape considering all of the recent rainfall in Southern California.





SOCAL NAVHDA Rattle Snake Avoidance Clinic

at Prado Dog Park, Chino, CA

Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

Rattlesnakes are a big problem here in California for dog owners.

Here are two of the ways that your dog can be bitten by a rattle snake:

1. Hunting dogs with their high prey instinct will attack a rattle snake attracted by the movement, the sound or the smell of a snake.
- 2: A dog running at full speed during hunting/or playing in open space can step on or run by a rattle snake and get bitten.

To avoid this from happening:

1. Train your dog to avoid a rattle snake with Rattle Snake Avoidance Clinic Training.

The SOCAL Chapter of the North American Hunting Dog Association is offering a Rattle Snake Avoidance Clinic at Prado Recreation Dog Park in Chino on Sunday March 26, 2017 starting at 08:00 a.m. at the Guido Dei NAVHDA Pond area.

The cost for the clinic is \$60 per dog. There is a \$15.00 entry fee to the park. Members and, as a public service, non-members are welcome to sign up for this clinic. Your dog does not have to be a hunting dog to benefit from this training. Any dog exposed to open space where there could be snakes present will benefit.

Please sign up by email at <mailto:socalnavhda@gmail.com> and make your check payable to So. Cal. NAVHDA for \$60.00 per dog and mail to:

SoCal NAVHDA
3672 Center Ave.
Norco CA 92860.

Please make a notation on your check "Snake Awareness Clinic". Or you can sign up in advance and pay at the clinic. For questions regarding the clinic contact Rodge Fradella (909) 399-5810.

Bud Andrew (Andy) will be the Clinic Director. Andy is an experienced Dog Trainer and the Game keeper of the Etiwanda Game Association. Dogs will be taught to avoid rattle snakes by smell, sound and sight.



Above is one of VC Belle's pups "Libby". Rick and Susanne Williams are the proud owners. Below Rick and Susanne are at the NA Test. The other photos are from the January training day they and Libby attended. Below Jim McDonald works with Rick and Libby on "steadiness" while pointing.



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

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



SCHEDULED EVENTS

February 19 - Training Day at Prado

March 26 - Training Day at Prado

Snake Awareness Day

April 23—Training Day at Prado

May 21—Training Day at Prado

June 25 - Training Day at Prado

July 16—Training Day at Prado

August 20—Training Day at Prado

September 17—Training Day at Prado

Training days: 7:30—8:00 Set- Up & Air out dogs

8:00 Gather to hear days plan

8:30—1:00 Training

1:30 Help put away tables, EZ UP, etc

Challenges

are what
Makes Life
Interesting
Overcoming them
Is What
Makes Life

Meaningful



More goes into a training day than many people notice. Reserving the fields. Moving the trailer. Finding birds. Bringing lunch. Finding birds. Getting people to help with training. Overcoming challenges (flooded fields, poor weather, etc.). Synchronizing all the moving parts. Many times it seems a little haphazard when you arrive at a training day. You would probably be surprised at how much work goes into being "haphazard". As Steven Tyler says it takes a lot of money to dress this "cheap". Part of this issue is one never knows how many will attend or what ages of dogs they will have. If you would like to help in any capacity please let Jim McDonald know. The cleanup at the end is frequently one of the most challenging as there are few people left And they are now hoping to train their own dogs. If you would like to be on the "cleanup crew" please give Jim McDonald a call.

WESTMINSTER BOUND

GCHS CH RUSSET LEATHER RIDE TO THE TOP JH AX AXJ



kbillyphoto



Mary Grant at Prado training with **Teak**. To the left is Lauren, Teak's handler. She will be wearing armband #11 and a silver sparkly suit or a black suit with pearl trim. Lauren will be one of the first ones in the ring as the males, Teak is a male, go before the females.. Vizslas show on Tuesday, Feb 14 at 10:15 E.S.T. or 7:15 our time in ring 10. Will also be showing on Saturday and Sunday in Vizsla specialties. See National Geographic for more details on TV /Internet viewing. Teak is ranked the #1 Vizsla in the nation for 2016 I am guessing that no other NAVHDA chapter has 2 members in this competition AND 5 in the NAVHDA Invitation-al. It has been a good year for SOCAL NAVHDA. Keep up the good work! **GO TEAK!!!**



Please invite any friends you may have to our Snake Avoidance training in March. This is the single best thing that can be done to prevent your dog from being bitten. You will not want your dog to go through the swelling and pain that accompany a snake bite. One of our dogs was bitten a couple years back and the experience is life threatening and painful.

It is also a fundraiser for our chapter. Andy, the snake wrangler, gives a portion of the money back to SOCAL NAVHDA every year. Not only will your friends have the opportunity to have their dogs trained to avoid snakes but they can receive the rattlesnake vaccine as well. Realize that the first year this vaccine should be given twice. Thirty days apart. After the first year you just need a one year booster. Realize that several varieties of rattlesnakes exist throughout Southern California. You are just as likely to have a dog bitten in the Coastal and Mountain regions as you are in the desert. As NAVHDA members you quickly learn how great our dogs sense of smell is in finding birds. This same excellent sense of smell allows them to avoid the rattlesnake once they understand that rattlesnakes are not good.