

THE UTILITY SOURCE



NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

AUG. 2011

Presidents Message

We had a great turnout for our Annual Chapter Picnic on the 24th. A big thank you to Barbara and Richard Thomas for hosting at their home in Poway. It was a little warm at first but then the cloud cover came in and it was a pleasant afternoon. As usual, the dishes were fantastic. Thanks to the membership for contributing.

The Summer Picnic was also election time for new club officers. We had unanimous approval for the new slate of officers. Thank you to all the new folks who agreed to help the club. We will have a great two years ahead of us. Here are the newly elected officers for the San Diego Chapter:

- Ericka Dennis - President
 - Jeff Derbes - Vice President
 - Mark Miller - Secretary
 - Ed Gebelein - Treasurer
 - Matt Moore - Newsletter Editor
 - Gary Willhite - Training Coordinator
 - Gabby Awbrey - Training Coordinator
- As you can see, there are a few folks who agreed to stay on and help. This is a big relief to me because it makes the transition smoother when you have experienced people. I also commend Jeff, Gary and Gabby for their continued support. I would also like to say thank you to the



past board. We worked well together and had a lot of fun. Sometimes it felt like work but usually we pulled together to have productive training and test days. Thank you to:

- Lance Lauricha - Vice President
- Gary Willhite - Secretary
- Alis Anderson - Treasurer
- Jeff Derbes - Newsletter Editor

Gabby Awbrey - Training Coordinator
Now on to training days. The newly elected board has already met and scheduled our training days for the next 6 months. We are staying in town for August and September until the foxtails and heat start going away. Start planning now for a camping weekend in Imperial Valley. Mark your calendars for November 19-20th. We will be camping at Wister for the weekend and combining training days and wild pheasant hunting.

Two local chapters are having fall tests: Southern California on September 24-25 and Inland Empire on October 8th-9th. If you are testing, let us know and we will help you any way we can. If you are available, go up and volunteer to help. I will be there! Don't forget the Annual Meeting in January. Planning and donations are ongoing. Talk to Gary Willhite if you would like to volunteer to help that weekend. We need a few more folks to monitor the registration desk and help with the banquet on Saturday Night. If you have a donation idea, see Gabby Awbrey.

See you in August!

Ericka

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TREASURERS REPORT:	
Beginning Balance:	\$3,389.67
Income:	\$325.00
Expenses:	<u>-\$93.50</u>
Ending Balance:	\$3,621.17

ASSETS:
Boat, Signs, T-shirts, Hats, Heeling Stakes, 2 Shotguns, First Aid Kits, Zinger Winger

Please send your dues, new membership applications, etc. to:

Ed Gebelein
2237 Calle Opalo
San Clemente, CA. 92673

Single membership \$25 Family \$35



AUGUST 2011

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 13th Training day @ Fiesta Island
 August 21st So Cal Navhda Training day @ prado

Future Test Dates

So Cal chapter testing sep.24-25
 Inland Empire testing Oct. 8th-9th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Training Day @ Fiesta Island
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 So Cal Training Day @ Prado	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	sep. 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Versatile Breed: Portuguese Pointer

A **Portuguese Pointer**, (Portuguese: *Perdigueiro Português*) is a breed of dog developed as a gun dog. It is one of several pointing breeds and is mainly used in Red-legged Partridge hunting. The Portuguese pointer (*perdigueiro Português*) arose from the ancient Iberian hunting dogs with his presence in Portugal traceable to the early Twelfth Century. Initially the dog was bred in the royal kennels and later became a very



popular hunting dog for the lower classes of society. In the Eighteenth Century, many English families established a presence in the region of Oporto in the business of wine production and came to know the Portuguese hunting breed which was taken to England where they played a part in the origin of the English pointer. However, during the Nineteenth Century when Portugal was experiencing considerable social hardships, the breed began a progressive decline. It was not until the 1920's when some breeders made an effort to salvage the breed by locating some of the ancient Portuguese dogs in the inaccessible north of Portugal. The Portuguese pedigree book was then established in 1932 and breed standard in 1938. For at least a thousand years, this dog has always had the same square head, a marked stop, triangular ears and compact look.

SUMMER POTLUCK



This years summer potluck was hosted by Richard and Barbara Thomas at their beautiful home in poway. If you were unable to attend you surely missed out on delicious dishes and we hope to see you next summer.



SUMMER POTLUCK



AUGUST 13TH TRAINING DAY FIESTA ISLAND

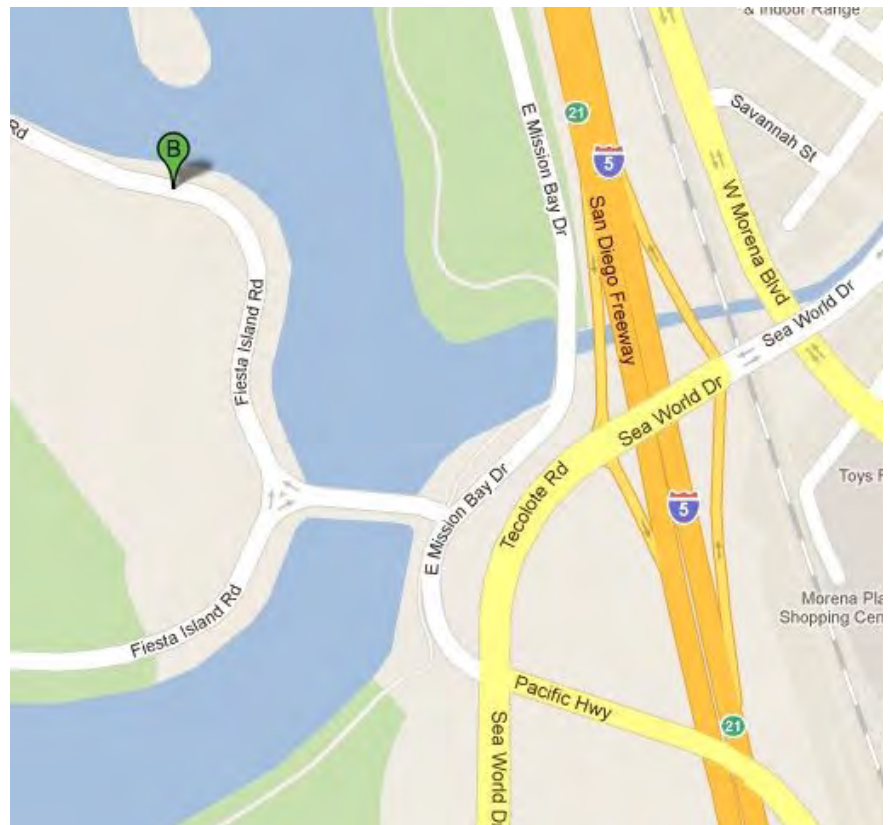
We will be meeting 8:00am at Fiesta Island. We will be working on water and field work. (may be limited due to foxtails)

Click on map to go to Google maps, Type in starting point in the box labeled A and click get directions.

Or input $32^{\circ}46'20.6''N$ $117^{\circ}12'44.6''W$ into your GPS

Training Days Schedule

- ◆ August 13th Fiesta Island
- ◆ September 11th High on Kennels
- ◆ October 1st Prado
- ◆ November 19th-20th Wister and Finney Ramer Camping , Training and Hunt
- ◆ December 4th Christmas Party (Location TBD)



All training site directions can be downloaded from the website: www.sandiegonavhda.com

The Field and Beyond

Congrats Jessica Hanson & Piper - UKC Champion

It was a LONG and VERY HOT weekend at the UKC show in Riverside this weekend. It was 4 shows in a weekend and Piper was able to achieve a UKC Champion title at just 8 months old! I was so proud of her since I have not even worked with her on stacking, inspection, leading, etc at all since she has been



away at field training but she listened really well to me and what I asked of her and we were in pretty good sink with each other and we "winged" it pretty well I would have to say. Most of all due to her and her willingness and great personality.

During one of her Group 1 wins she was up against 6 Gun Dog breeds and all older more mature dogs so I was so proud we won over such a strong group. That was one of the highlights! We won Group 1 again the second day and took 2nd in Group 1, and I was so honored to be with

some very impressive dogs that already had lots of accomplishments. My little "Poop Stain" did great! I love her! Now it's back to field work for some upcoming events in Aug, Sept and Oct!



~Jessica



Handler Clinic Report

By Sylvia Hansen and Gary Willhite

On July 9 and 10 we attended the Handler Clinic sponsored by Inland Empire NAVHDA. The clinic was conducted by Senior Judge Philip Swain who clarified and amplified the information found in the NAVHDA publication *Aims, Programs, Test Rules*. Our own Gabby Awbrey was the other "Judge" and as an apprentice judge he contributed much to the discussion and organization in the field.



Each day's instruction began over breakfast at Harry's Café. The communication of information was enhanced by use of a Power Point presentation and handouts. After the presentation and discussion, we would head out to the field to apply what had just been learned.



The first day covered the Natural Ability Test. Debbie Abel and Tony Astran put their dogs Sage and Dora through their paces in a simulated test. The second day was devoted to the Utility Test. Cliff Fleming's dog Jazz and Sylvia Hansen/Gary Willhite's dog Yoli was put to the test.



Those of us not handling dogs functioned in teams of three as judges. After, observing each dog in action, we fully discussed each performance and came up with a score. Questions and differences of opinions were welcomed. All discussion took place within a positive and encouraging social environment. The feedback received was invaluable.

We highly recommend that anyone who has not yet gone to a clinic do so. This will help you to move more efficiently toward your goal of having a well trained versatile hunting companion.



For all our hard work at cattails replanting day
Bob Worrell Made this sign
Thanks Bob



Unfortunate News

BE AWARE! BE AWARE ! With sad heart.

June 25 (Handler Clinic), I had my two young pups (6 mo and 3mo) old pups at San Jacinto. July 18 all three pups (new pup 14 wks) at the vet for check up and rabies. July 23 training at SJ with the club.

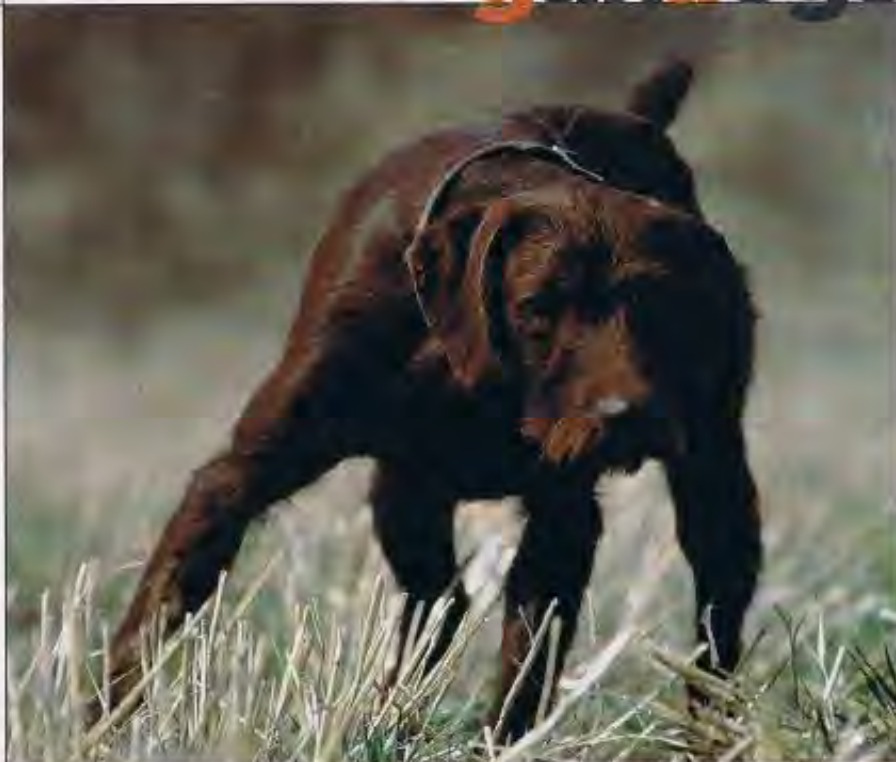
Monday 25th was to meet with Cliff at my place, had to cancel due my 6 mo old pup looked sick, took him to the vet to be shocked with "Parvo" diagnostic, and lost him on the 28th. (even though he was up-to-date on his vaccines). It came on quick, so please take your pups to have them checked,bring them up-to-date on vaccines.

Garo

Articles of interest

From American Hunter magazine

gundogs



The Keys to a Great First Hunt

By Ron Spomer, Field Editor

Dale had been looking forward to his Dakota pheasant hunt for over a year. He'd even bought a pointer pup expressly for the trip. His family enjoyed watching it grow and mature in their house and back yard for 11 months, laughing as it pointed and chased robins and butterflies.

"That pup is going to be great!" Dale told his hunting buddies. "He's bird crazy."

The first day of Dale's big hunt proved him half-prophetic. Young Jake really was bird crazy, but not in the good way, unless your idea of fun is watching Jake chase birds out of sight while you drive country roads shouting, "Jake! Jake! Jaaake!" Occasionally Dale and his buddies were able to pinpoint and track Jake's temporary location by following the roosters flushing wildly from vast fields of CRP grass.

Oh, Dale had a heck of a Dakota hunt—for his dog.

Great first hunts with a new dog don't just happen. They are carefully calculated, planned and controlled. It's too late for Dale, but these seven tips will prevent a chaotic first hunt.

Train For Control First

If you can't stop your dog and bring him back to you on command, it doesn't matter how bird crazy he is. Bird crazy dogs have been known to say goodbye forever in a bird-rich environment. One of my buddies still hasn't seen the nose nor tail of an untrained, bird crazy setter we foolishly unleashed on the edge of a South Dakota wheat field more than a decade

ago. I hope he's somewhere having fun.

Yes, it's important to cut a first-year pup considerable slack in order to encourage "birdiness." It's okay if he breaks point, flushes a few out of range and chases excessively. But it's counterproductive to lose—or risk losing—all control. In the weeks leading up to the hunt, work on "sit," "hup" or "whoa" religiously in all kinds of places and at all distances. A solid "whoa" in the back yard doesn't necessarily translate under the Big Sky of Montana. Distractions and distance increase the dog's temptation to ignore you. Insist that "here" or "come" means your dog must return to your side every time.

Use an E-Collar

Enforce known commands and keep your dog safe with an electronic collar. Forget the idea of compassion for doggy's tender feelings. It's more important to protect his life. An e-collar is the best way to stop a dog from running into traffic, chasing deer or rejecting a distant command.

My DT Systems H20 1850 collar can impart a spark into my pups, but that's better than a porcupine imparting a bunch of quills into them. Done right, an impulse from an e-collar doesn't hurt; it just surprises and reminds the dog that he really doesn't have *carte blanche* rights to roam and chase at will.

As a bonus my DT Systems collar (and many others) has an audio signal to alert me to points, plus a "locate" button. Should a pup escape my observation, I press the locate button and the collar sounds off, loud and clear: Dog found. Also, the collar has a 1-mile range, for obvious reasons.

Start Small

Arrange to hunt small, confined, short covers first, and do so slowly in small chunks with frequent stops to keep your dog calm. Just because you know a square-mile field of 4-foot switchgrass is loaded with roosters doesn't mean you should sic your dog on them. In that habitat he'll be easy to lose and all that bird scent could overwhelm him. If a glut of pheasants begins flushing in a chain reaction, your dog could

■ Quick Tip Don't be afraid to run your dog on a check cord during his first hunt or even his first season. The dog is still in training—hunt accordingly. Thin, hard-nylon check cords work best because they're slippery and less prone to snagging on brush.

indeed go bird crazy—too bird crazy.

Better to first hunt a small patch of cover in which you might find a half-dozen birds. If vegetation is short enough for your dog to rise above it, you'll be able to keep track of and guide him. One bird or covey per covert is ideal.

Consider hunting a private preserve on a day when you can take all the time you need to work your pup through controlled cover over a controlled number of birds. This can be a remarkably cost-effective way to start any pup.

Stay in Touch

It's important for the pup to know that you are still in command, even in big, strange new country. Reassure him by talking regularly, using easy commands he can obey and rewarding him with frequent verbal praise and touch. Don't let him blast out of the truck. Make him wait and cool his jets.

Don't get so absorbed in hunting that you forget about him. Rather, "whoa" or "hup" him occasionally just for the sake of

maintaining control. At other times make him heel in cover for about 50 yards. Call him in often and certainly before he gets away for a long, uncontrolled run.

If you down a bird, give him quiet time to find it and fetch it. Praise if he does, but don't punish if he doesn't. You want no negative reinforcement or bad memories associated with this hunt. It should all be fun. Take a 10-minute break after shooting one bird to let the experience soak in while the dog calms down.

Limit Group Size

It's okay to share the hunt with others, but not too many. A big party of noisy hunters and several dogs merely confuses youngsters. They don't know whether to sniff, run or fight. Some cower back to their kennels. Experienced dog people limit a pup's first few hunts to one-on-one affairs or at most two-on-one in which one person does the shooting, the other the dog handling. This may cost you a few easy shots at birds, but it will pay off big time down the road by preventing your dog from learning bad habits.

Treat it Like Training

Treat the first hunt just like training and ideally the pup won't even notice the difference. Don't think of the first hunt as your chance to limit out, but rather as advanced training during which you test what the dog has learned so far. Be prepared to take him back a step or two to reinforce lessons, and never hesitate to stop, slow down and start over. Ten or 15 minutes back in the truck can calm the pup and prevent escalating behavior problems. Better to invest 30 minutes now than fight him for a lifetime.

Stay Positive

Keeping the proper attitude takes the pressure off both you and the dog. Praise him for good behavior, and avoid disciplining him for performing poorly in situations for which you haven't trained.

With these tips your dog and you should come away with more knowledge and hunting skills than you had going in. And while you're out there, keep an eye out for a wild-eyed pointer that answers, on occasion, to Jake. **ah**

BLISS by Harry Bliss



"What's that look? C'mon, you're scaring me!"

FLUSHING DOGS FOR DUCKS

BY STEPHEN D. CARPENTERI

BY THE END OF YOUR SECOND DAY IN A DUCK BLIND, you've learned all there is to know about the sport, i.e., the birds don't come in to your decoys every time, and most prefer to land "over there" rather than in the middle of your carefully crafted spread. Stuck in a blind, pit or layout box with your trusty retriever at your side, all you can do is watch them fly.

Traditions run deep, of course, and most hunters will tough it out in the blind all day or all week. This is how duck hunting has always been and always will be right? Wrong!

There is a way to turn the tables on reluctant waterfowl, and every upland hunter knows the secret. When you want birds in the air and more opportunities for a shot, it's time to consult an expert on the subject: the flushing dog. Generally small, fast and enthusiastic, flushing dogs take to their job like, well, ducks to water. When you show them what you want, they take over with all the energy and pizzazz you wish you had, and when the day is done, you will have game in the bag. Flushers will not settle for less.

FLUSHING DOGS FOR DUCKS

Working with a flushing dog for ducks is the ultimate hunting experience because success requires the best of both of you. The dog depends on you to know where the birds are, and you want your dog to put them where your shotgun will do the most good. On the best of days you'll bring home a limit of birds, but when either partner falters, all heads will be hanging at the end of the day.

The puddle ducks that don't fly into your decoy spread are most likely to land in peripheral swamps and marshy areas where they are safe from most intruders — except flushing dogs. If ducks have an Achilles heel, it's that they tend to ignore most land-based activity. They will usually allow a fast-moving flusher to run around them, even jump into the water nearby, and in most cases, the birds will swim or flutter to the opposite shore. A seasoned upland hunter already knows where this is going — the flushing dog will move birds your way if your strategy is sound and you do your part.

In most cases, the sequence of events is obvious and predictable. Your job is to spot ducks loafing in the water and send the dog around on land to push



The same tactics that work on upland birds will work on waterfowl. The trick is to train your dog to work with long-range hand signals and whistle commands.

them your way. While this is going on, you will be working your way down to the water's edge to intercept the ducks as they fly by. Simple, right? It is, and when performed properly, it's one of the most satisfying ways to hunt waterfowl. You're not sitting and waiting for them; you're going after them. Ducks don't often see this kind of approach and, in most cases, will fall easily into your trap. Doing it is easy. Training is

the key, and it starts long before you step into the marsh.

TRAINING A DUCK FLUSER

Most flushers are easily trained on upland game at short distances. Most of these energetic little dogs don't need to range much farther than 25 yards from the gun. In fact, they'll cover every inch of the terrain twice before you've taken 10 steps. To get your flusher ready for duck hunting, all that's required is that you expand its field of operation to 100 yards or more. Hand signals, of course, are mandatory. Whistled commands (one note for left, two for right, for example) can help when the dog is out of sight, which is very likely to be the case in the marshes.

To train a flusher on ducks, find a football field, large pasture or other mowed, flat area where you can always see the dog and it can always see you. Work on your basic hand and whistle commands (Go, Left, Right, Back, etc.) so the dog can do its job whether you can see it or not. A full summer of 20-minute training sessions should have your flusher able to go out 200 yards, turn left or right as commanded and come back to the target area (where you spotted the ducks loafing) and get them into the air.

PULLING IT OFF

Depending on your home terrain, you might not have to expand the dog's range much farther than he's used to for grouse, woodcocks and quail. Here in Maine, for example, it's common to spot ducks on the water at 50 yards or less on the state's myriad beaver flow-

Itchy Dog?

If just one of the following problems describes your itchy dog, he or she could be suffering from allergies or other skin problems.

- Licking excessively
- Dandruff
- Chewing on paws
- Red, irritated skin
- Dull coat
- Crustiness around eyes

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FLUSHING DOGS FOR DUCKS

ages. I simply send the dog around to the left or right (as cover warrants) and let him flush the birds from opposite my position. Streams and small ponds are also great flushing-dog hotspots. In most cases the ducks will flush and follow the open water channel away from the dog. If I have selected the best spot (a dead tree, mound of grass or log jam) near a natural flight path, I'll have an easy, open shot at ducks that aren't expecting me to be there.

The key to a successful flushing-dog hunt is to know where the ducks are and then come up with a route for the dog to circle around them and force them to flush and fly down the most natural flight corridor available. Experience will tell you where to set up and where to send the dog for the most odds-on action.

In most cases ducks are easier to pattern than upland birds because ducks need room to flush and fly. They'll usually go out the way they came in, so keep that in mind as you plan your strategy.

On the best of days you'll be heading home with your limit while the guys in the blinds will be wondering about all the shooting going on "over there." ➤

BIRDS AND DUCKS — AND THAT AIN'T ALL!

It's no wonder flushing dogs of one breed or another are the most popular hunting dogs in the U.S. Labs, springers and cockers have led the list of preferred upland and water dogs for decades. Aside from the common traits of good looks, energy, enthusiasm and intelligence, another thing these dogs share is desire. They love to do stuff.

Some common dog tricks are too mundane and routine for the average flusher. Fetch the paper, chase the ball, catch the Frisbee: these are things any 10-cent mutt can do. But flushers and their owners often take it to the next level, and this is where the value of generations of line breeding is revealed. These are smart dogs, and they do everything with style and verve. All you have to do is show them what you want and then stand back.

Off-season chores for flushing dogs include (but are not limited to) finding shed antlers, a favorite hobby of deer hunters everywhere. Introduce the dog to a shed, let him know he'll be duly rewarded (with praise or a treat) for finding one, and then just find a convenient stump and relax. The dog will scour the woods for you, find sheds in places you would not think to go and bring them back to you with a grin that says, "Too easy."

Over the years, I have met springers and cockers with some remarkable skills. One dog in Pennsylvania was taught to fetch eggs from the henhouse — he fetched a dozen every morning and never broke a single one! Another springer in Georgia was used to herd sheep, and a cocker in Ohio found use as a groundhog eliminator. His owner would drive around looking for groundhogs 20 or more feet from their dens. Sneaking to within 100 yards, the dog would be turned loose and, in most cases would beat the hapless woodchuck to the mound.

Though flushing dogs are bred and trained for upland use, they are as versatile as any hunting dog. They will perform any and all tasks with enthusiasm. What more could you ask from your hunting companion?

**NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG
ASSOCIATION
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**

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We solicit newsletter contributions (stories, photographs, recipes, advertisements) from club members. Please send all contributions to the editor: Matt Moore (honda140@cox.net)

Training Days

Guidelines & Procedures

- Dogs are to be under control at all times (leash rule is in effect)
- 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
- Children are to be supervised and remain within the designated parking area at all times
- No Alcohol on premises
- Shotguns must be break open only

Our national sponsors

