



NAVHDA San Diego Chapter
 Newsletter Editor
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NAVHDA Newsletter

San Diego Chapter

May 2007

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ARIZONA TEST

Treasurer's Report

Balance (1 Jan 2007): \$3,364
 Balance (24 Feb 2007): \$5,023

Next Training Clinic

We had over 20 attendees at our Monthly training day in April. We broke into groups but mostly we worked on the "whoa post" under the guidance of Rick Ellis. Everyone got three tries at the post and by the end of the morning everyone's dog was doing well. We worked the older dogs on retrieving drills and spent some time on heeling. If everyone does their homework we should be able to work on whoaing in the presence of birds on the next training clinic.

Our next training will be on Saturday, May 12. We will meet at the Ramona Property at 8:00 AM. We will continue with retrieving drills and whoaing. Anyone not working their dog in whoa, should be heeling their dog and working on come or quartering. I believe Rick Ellis will return to help us fine tune our obedience drills.



Arizona Test

by: Gabby Awbrey

It's been a busy April for some of our members. Lance Lauricha (Roxie, Vizsla) and Gabby Awbrey (Destiny, German Shorthair Pointer) tested with the Southern California Chapter on April 1st in Imperial Valley. They trained for several weeks before the event. But they ran into trouble with the water search and bird drag. So with some time off, Gabby licked his wounds and decided to travel with Jeff Morrey and his son, Ryan, to the Grand Canyon Chapter test two weeks later. It turned out to be an exciting weekend for many reasons.

On Saturday, we ran into Tracy and Fred Presson and Polly Pickering, Backcountry members, who were all running Natural Ability with their Small Musterlanders. Greg and Ruth Weiss were apprentice judges for the day. All the dogs did well. The highlight was Ryan Morey, 14 yr. old, handled his German Shorthair Pointer, Sadie, to a NA Prize I/107.

The following day was even more exciting. We were joined by Donovan Ellis, who wanted another go at the NA with his female German Shorthair Pointer. He finished with a NA Prize I/112. The big dogs for the day were Ruth Weiss with Boone, 12 yr. old Pudelpointer and twice a Prize I dog, Gabby Awbrey with Destiny, and Jeff Morrey with Jake a German Shorthair Pointer. At the end of the day, all Utility dogs passed. Destiny and Jake both earned Prize I/198 and Boone had a respectable Prize III/168. At the end of weekend, Team San Diego finished strong. Gabby Awbrey and Jeff Morrey are now qualified for the 2008 Invitational and Ruth reached her last requirement for appointment as a judge.

We solicit newsletter contributions (stories, photographs, tips, recipes, etc.) from club members. Please send all communications to the editor:

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Force Fetch - Part I

By: Gabby Awbrey

Positive table

The table is one of the most important tools in training. The table allows the handler to create a strict environment where handlers introduces the aspects of standing still (steadiness) and force fetch both of which are needed in the advance levels of testing and training. The height of the table takes the dog out of its comfort zone making it easier to handle. This is exactly what new handlers need. Most likely this is the first time the dog actually looks at the handler for guidance. This is our opportunity to exercise some leadership skills. With out emotion or commands make the dog walk with a leash back and forth on the table until it gradually gains confidence. Handler will see improvements in several sessions. Now that the dog accepts the table, then add in the chain as an additional restriction. The chain is secured to an above pole that slides along as the dog moves up and down the table. Check the length of the chain to accommodate the dog's size, anticipate the dog leaping from the table so make the length long enough to just partially hang the dog if it jumps, but long enough not to choke. This will restrict its mobility to just the table with out the aid of the handler. The dog must accept the fact that it will have to stay on the table and surrender to the situation. The common reaction is the dog jumps off the table and looks to the handler for assistance. Another opportunity to provider leadership to the dog, wait a moment to see if the dog gets itself out of the situation. If not, walk over without emotion or commands and tug on the chain in an upwards motion, try not to do all the work. After this lesson is learned, walk the dog up and down the table until it accepts the table confidently. At this time, introduce the stand (whoa) position to the dog, not the command. One hand thru the neck collar and the other hand on the flank (stomach) position with males handle just forward of its package. Do not be pre-occupied or worried with the tail's position, some handlers like to reposition the tail up but it's not a concern at this time.

Hog tie

The dog's neck is placed in a collar cinched on a post. This is an additional restriction and the dog must accept and surrender to its new environment. The collar should be fascine so that two fingers can easily fit between collar and neck. Initially, the dog will exhibit a sense of helplessness and look to the handler for an out. Again the handler is in a position of leadership, most likely for many new handlers it might be that this is the first time the dog has ever looked to the handler in this manner knowing what to do next is important. There will be some resistance to this situation. The dog might behave in the following manner: head and body tug in every direction, sitting and side to side movement, arching of the back and finally vocalization. Handle dog at P.O.C. (point of contact) the neck and/or flank. One hand through the collar and other hand on the stomach and cinch firmly, lift up and place the dog in the appropriate position of standing still until the dog settles down and surrenders to the situation. It might take a strong lift by the handler and keep rear end suspended so the feet have no foundation. The dog begins to realize gravity of the situation and surrenders. Start sacking out the dog (light, soothing hand strokes) until visual signs of submission such as a change in

breathing, feet still and a relaxed head or body. The dog must submit to all of the handling. Pet the dog with soft and slow strokes creating a calming effect over the dog's head and shoulder and then moving to the dog's legs. If the dog turns its head facing away from the handlers adjust the head forward to the front and when the dog allows the handler to lift its legs without resisting then it's demonstrating a submissive behavior. The dog will resist at first but after several sessions it will submit to handler's touch. The desired look is to have a dog that stands still and looks forward.

Hold

This stage the dog is introduced to the hold. Handler teaches the hold with his hands. Wearing gloves, he places one hand over the head of the dog to lift back the upper lips and push in with his thumb and middle finger to pry-open the mouth and with his off hand and place index and middle finger into it's mouth and use thumb to grasp. Practice this technique by joining index and middle finger together and tap them to the thumb. The thumb acts as an anchor on the lower jaw of the dog providing greater control as the dog pulls, jerks and expels objects. Then take the other hand and tap on the bridge of the nose as the upper part of the mouth opens to repel the object. Some dogs may act as if gagging. Remain firm and quiet during this activity. If dog gives a really good fight then take the hand which is free and grab an adequate amount of skin from the upper neck area and pull up and back. Other manifestations of defiance will be in the dog's body language such as sitting, collapsing its entire body or pulling back its head from the collar. The handler can accommodate the dog with a chain/strap placed around its waist from the above bar. After the dog accepts the glove change objects and use the dolly because if there is any negative association it will be with the dolly and not a bumper. This allows the handler to continue play fetch with bumper. A dolly in the shape of a dump bell will condition the dog to grab at the center of any object, bumper or bird. Now, place the wooden dolly in the mouth of the dog carefully placing the dolly behind the canines and pulling back any part of the lip that might be pinched. Once in its mouth, place one hand in a clinched fist underneath dog's chin and provided gentle taps when needed. A reaction by most dogs will be to move their head away and with an open free hand place it on side of the dog's nose and maneuver the head back and facing front. When the dog drops the dolly which is to be expected, quickly place dolly back into mouth as described above and follow with a clenched fist upward tap to the lower jaw with each additional drop increase the upward tap on the lower jaw. In time, the dog will hold with longer intervals of time. Handler needs to check for compliance (work through distractions) such as the distance between dog and handler, multiple people in the area, unusual sounds (garage door, car's driving by, radio, TV). Dogs will test these situations so be quick to respond in the same manner as above. Once the dogs demonstrates compliance then take it on a walk with the dolly as the it drops the dolly handler make the correction and continue on the walk around the neighborhood and experience new distractions.

Umbrella Insurance

By: Ericka Dennis

I was reading the minutes to the NAVHDA annual meeting in the latest VHD Magazine when I ran across a very important point. There were questions posed on how to fairly allocate the insurance costs of the Association to the individual clubs. The answer given included a recommendation from our National Treasurer, Roland Drew, to encourage all individual members to get an umbrella policy on their homeowners' insurance of at least \$1 million. This would cover the individual hunter for activities outside club sanctioned events as well as additional coverage for official NAVHDA events.

I thought this was a great idea and one I never thought about before. I encourage all the San Diego Chapter members to look into coverage such as this. We all participate in hunting with our dogs at various places and times during the year. This will protect everyone in case of an accident. It also includes watercraft, aircraft, vehicles, other sporting type activities and other unpredictable events.

I immediately called my insurance provider and was able to get a policy for \$1 million for around \$250 per year. A \$2 million policy was around \$350. I consider this a bargain. Please consider this for your peace of mind. You never know what may happen!

Versatile Breeds of NAVHDA - Slovensky Hrubosrsty Stavac

Also called the Slovakian Pointer

SHS belongs to a Continental wirehaired pointer family. Its is a breed which was created on purpose between 20's and the 70s of the last century, as an experiment to recreate a breed which existed in Slovakia already in the 19th century. The FCI accepted the SHS Standard in 1982.

According to the standard, the SHS is a middle-strong pointer of the working type, he has a noble stature, with a wirehaired silver-grey coat and is suitable water, field and forest work. He is good at tracking down shot game, but he is also a good retriever.



Top Dog: May - KMK Smoke'n Jave v Greif SH

Dog's Age: 3yrs. 2 months old (German Shorthair Pointer)

Breed's Standard: (Deutscher Kurzhaariger) Proportioned to body, with broad and slightly round skull. Eyes: Medium size, almond shaped, and dark in color. Ears: Broad, set high, and hanging close to head. Muzzle: Medium size and well proportioned to head. Nose: Black and self-colored according to coat. Bite: Scissor or level. Neck: Medium length and slightly arched. Chest: Deep and broad, with well sprung ribs. Top line: Level. Chest reaches elbows. Body: Symmetrical, powerful. Legs: Strong and well muscled. Feet: Compact, round, webbed. Tail: Set high, docked. Movement: Good reach, with well balanced movement. Temperament: Energetic, free-spirited, with good movement.

Accomplishments: AKC (Senior Hunter Title & 2 legs towards Master's Title), NAVHDA (NA Prize III, UPT Prize III, UT 198/Prize I)

Favorite Hunting: Arizona Upland Hunting

Most Memorable Moment: Duck Search at Orme's Pond

Training Goals: Work towards Invitational, Master's Title and Field Championship



Owner's Name: Jeff Morey

Resides: Poway, CA

Occupation: Air Conditioning Consultant

2007 Election Committee

By: Gabby Awbrey

Elections are just around the corner (July), and our chapter is looking for volunteer members to serve as officers for a minimum of two years. As club officers, we meet once a month usually after our club training days. We typically suspend meetings and training days during the hunting season. The only pre-requisite is that you are an international member which you already are if you receive the Versatile Magazine. If you enjoy people and dogs (not necessarily in that order), are highly energetic and friendly, enjoy hunting, and train your dog off and on, you might want to consider running for a position. You don't have to have had previously tested a dog to be an officer. If you have an interest in volunteering your time as chapter president, vice-president, treasurer, or secretary, please contact Gabby Awbrey at gawbrey@hemetusd.k12.ca.us, gabby071470@cs.com, (951) 764-9329