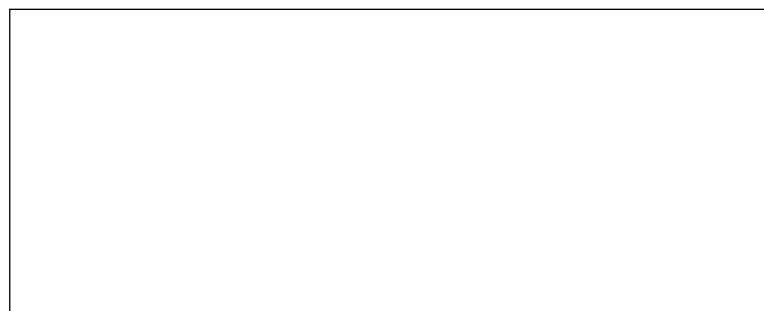




**NAVHDA San Diego Chapter**  
 Newsletter Editor  
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## Upcoming Chapter Activities

There is no training day scheduled for the month of November. We are all hunting or at hunt tests. There will be no training day in December. The second weekend of December, 12/10/06, we are having our Christmas potluck at Bob and Jackie Smith's home.

The Chapter is planning to hold a handler's clinic for January 01/13/07 and then a training day on the Ramona property for February 10, 2007. The second weekend of March (March 10-11, 2007) is the annual San Diego Chapter Test. If you wish to test your pup in Natural Ability and your pup will be 16 months or under by that weekend, please contact David Awbrey at (760) 789-1175. He will put your name on the list and show you how to sign up for the test. The minimum age is 6 months.

You need to start working now on the dog's skills and your own. The handler's clinic in January is a training weekend for the handler.



# NAVHDA Newsletter

## San Diego Chapter

### November 2006

#### San Diego Chapter Officers

President	Bob Smith (619) 226-1164
Vice President	Gabriel Awbrey (951) 764-9329
Treasurer	Jerry Newton (619) 222-1281
Secretary	Nancy Hall (619) 435-5523
Training Coordinator	David Awbrey (760) 789-1175
Photographer	Jackie Smith (619) 226-1164

#### Treasurer's Report

Balance (23 Aug 2006): \$4,182  
 Balance (31 Oct 2006): \$3,993

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

Vironica Oktonia  
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 Arcadia, CA 91006

vironicaoktonia@yahoo.com



JULY PICNIC AT ERICKA DENNIS' HOUSE

© 2006 Jackie Smith

## October Training

by Gabby Awbrey

I was pleased to see so many new faces, especially families, at our last training day. There was undoubtedly a lot of information to process. I encourage you to implement some of the strategies and techniques presented by Rick Ellis. To recap Rick's tips, he explained the use of the chain gang, figure eight, walk at heel, quartering and whoa post. The best thing about all of these activities is that you can do them any where in the house, garage, backyard, park and adjacent fields and it only takes five to ten minutes out of your day. One other thing to understand is that it doesn't require any birds or gun blasts. These activities place the handler in dominant leadership role and compel the dog to submit and become a team player. When our dogs demonstrate proficiency in these tasks then we can add in other distractions such as a second dog, gun blasts or birds, the fun stuff.

Here are some helpful hints when coming out to a NAVHDA training day. You need plan on spending about half the day or longer. Run your dog the night before or morning of any training day prior to arriving. Arrive early and run your dog on a check cord and practice the quartering technique. Walk at heel in camp and demand compliance. Walk at heel with another handler and dog for added distractions. Ask other members what there working on with their dogs and see if you can help from planting birds, setting launchers, duck throwing, laying a drag/track, distraction shooting or gunning. Take the initiative and ask for help, you aren't alone.

## 2006 Duck Opener

By Gabby Awbrey

As like all duck openers, it was fun. Mike Carpenter (Myles, Lab), Mike and John Reid, Dennis Zamora (Rock, GSP) and I (Destiny, GSP & Dallas, Vizsla) arrived Friday afternoon and set up camp. We awoke to the sound of cars exiting the parking at 3:00 A.M. to go line up for the drawing. The Permit Station House was full with about four hundred hunters. We were fortunate to draw a good number in the "Sweat Line". As we picked our blind, there were no good blinds left from my list. So knowing that it would be a lot of pass shooting in the morning and we would eventually trade in our morning blind for a more productive blind in the afternoon, I choose a blind based on its proximity to the parking lot. The walk was a hundreds if that and we didn't place out any decoys. By the end of the early morning, we had twelve ducks (hen mallard, hen gadlaw, six green wing teal, two coots and two shovlers). We later exchanged blinds for better ones but the ducks had left for the day.

Later Saturday afternoon, Randy Hanson (Cosmo, Weimaranar) joined our camp. The Permit Station was less crowded about one hundred hunters for Sunday. We broke up into two groups of two hunters. Randy and I were on T14 blind 1 and shot drake mallard, hen widgeon and two coots. Our dog retrieved all the ducks from the water. The highlight of the day was Randy's drake mallard. That's a prize duck for the Wister Unit.

By lunch Mike and Randy left for home and Dennis and I stayed for the afternoon shoot. It was well worth it. We exchanged our blinds for T12 blind 5. We set up decoys for the first time that weekend because it was all open water and there was no natural cover so we made do with little cover was left from previous hunters. All afternoon, we had great looks on groups of Pintail, Green Wing-teal and Widgeon. A group of Pintail just kept working our decoy spread. Since we already had our limit of Pintail, we just had them work the area and give other species of ducks the elusion of a safe area. It worked all afternoon that way. We finished with two limits of two Pintail, eight Green Wing-teal, three Shovlers and one Widgeon.

Looking back, most hunters gave up by Sunday morning and those of us who stayed got paid. But in truth it was really about **location, location, location**.

The invitation still stands for all, my trailer is set up and there at Wister.

Good Luck Hunting.

## Rick Smith Seminars

By Gabby Awbrey

On behalf of our chapter I would like to thank Rick Ellis for his professional help during last training session. Rick Ellis coordinates The Rick Smith Seminars, one of the leading dog training systems in the country, a silent training method each year in San Diego County. David Awbrey and I have attended both the Foundation class and Intermediate classes and we highly recommend this program to all dog handlers. In the spring of 2007, Rick will host a "Foundation" class on March 9 thru 11 and "Intermediate" class on March 15-18. You may contact him #(858) 486-4600

## Holiday Party

We will hold our annual potluck Holiday party on December 9th. It will be at the home of Bob and Jackie Smith in Ocean Beach, and will start at 5:00 PM. Because it will be a potluck, please call Jackie at (619) 226-1164 so she can coordinate dishes. Also let her know how many people will be in your group. To get to the Smiths' home, take Interstate 8 West to the end of the freeway. Bear left, but stay in the right lane, onto Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Go about 8 blocks until you reach Saratoga St. Turn left, and go about 6 blocks. At the top of the hill, you will reach Santa Barbara St. Their house is on the South-East corner of Saratoga and Santa Barbara. The street address is 1975 Santa Barbara St, and the phone number is (619) 226-1164. Please try to attend; it is a great opportunity to visit with old acquaintances and meet new members, and to share dog and hunting stories and other lies. Hope to see you there!

## AKC Hunt Test Schedule

By Gabby Awbrey

I know for many members it's the start of the hunting season and the birds are plentiful, but for those of you that would like to try for the AKC Hunt Tests, please check out these dates:

- November 18th & 19th (Lakeview, Perris)
- December 2nd & 3rd (California City) \*
- December 9th & 10 (Buckeye, AZ)\*

Cost: \$45 per event (Junior, Senior & Master Test)

(\* ) Double Hunt Days mean four events in a weekend. Quick way to finish a dog.

If you've never been to a hunt test they are fun and AKC Junior events are simple in comparison to Natural Ability test. In AKC, a dog needs "four legs" to complete a Junior or Senior title. A "Leg" represents a pass in any event. A Master's needs "five legs" to earn a title. In general, dogs are scored in six areas with a rubric of 10 points (highest)to 1 point (lowest): Trainability, Hunting Ability, Birding Finding, Pointing, Honoring and Retrieving. Senior and Master are required to honor and retrieve. The dog must average a 7 or higher and receive no score less than a 5 in any one category in order to pass and earn a "Leg".

Any further questions, call Gabby Awbrey (951) 764-9329

## Pictures from July Picnic

