

Illinois NAVHDA



August 2006

BOARD:

President:

Frank Susi
815.588.1377

Vice-President:

Ed Rygasiewicz
708.946.9064

Secretary:

Chuck Horvath
630.420.2681

Treasurer:

Gene Wolf
708.429.1948

Board Members:

Lark Frederiksen
815.287.9802

Jim Ritze
815.458.6063

Ray Scaccia
708.749.8843

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/20

Field & Water Training
Seneca Hunt Club

9/17

Utility Water Work
Seneca Hunt Club

10/8

Water Site Clean-up Day
Des Plaines Conservation Area

Hot Times Can Still be Productive Times

When I left for the NAVHDA Training Day held on July 16th, I realized that the heat forecasted for that day would certainly stop some members from coming out. But as I drove through downtown Seneca and saw no one at the Breakfast Stop, I began to wonder if anyone would even be there. After all, it was 7:30 a.m. and I thought a few of them might be hiding in the coolness of a restaurant as long as they could.

Well, it wasn't going to stop me from doing a few things that day. Early that morning I had filled four (4) squirt bottles with ice and then added water. I had the fan running on the front door of the dog's kennel and the air conditioner in my truck cranking out some coolness. Heck! Wasn't I just out yesterday, golfing 18 holes, in the same oppressive heat and I survived? Certainly I could be smart and not overstress my dog! There were only a few things I'd wanted to do and one of them was of necessity to run her in the field. I had frozen ducks for a track which could lay myself, along with several others that I could put in the water to emulate a duck search. With rest in between for me and the dog, we could handle it.

When I arrived at Seneca I was pleasantly surprised. The same group of die-hard dog handlers that come and support our Chapter were sitting inside getting ready to hit the ponds and field. By 8:00 a.m. we were leaving for the training site and telling Larry to let anybody else who comes to meet us there.

When Lark Frederiksen and I stopped at the entrance to area 3 to do a drag, we saw four more Chapter members driving by. They were heading to join those that already were at the training site. In attendance were Adam Delude, Jim Ritze, Ed Rygasiewicz, Rob Barry, Bill Janes, Chuck Horvath, Erik Frederiksen, Lark Frederiksen, David Junes, and prospective members Kathy and Mike Taskila. We were also later joined by Debbie Frederiksen.

During the morning training session we introduced some dogs to birds and watched some bold puppies go through their paces and show what quality breeding is all about. We did some water retrieves, honoring work, some field work, and several duck searches. As 12:00 noon approached, we sat around on the tailgates of our trucks drinking whatever we had that was cool and refreshing. During that time we had six (6) dogs laying near us in a down-stay position, off leash, and enjoying the shade. It was a chance to do some obedience training while everyone relaxed. It was quite a scene as we tempted them with people, dogs, and an occasional thrown duck to see them being so obedient.

Once again I thank those many members who come out and help each other with our training. I think it is important for each of us to realize that many of these members do training on their own and don't really need us. Or they have finished their dogs and only come out to help each of us develop better trained

hunting companions. Thanks to each of you for your efforts and support. And for those of you who thought it was just too hot, sorry you couldn't make it. Some caution and preparation on each of our part made for a successful training day. By the time I got home, showered, and dressed for a drive up to Wisconsin to meet some friends for dinner, I was marveling at what we had accomplished. See you next month!

Preparing for Our Next Training Day

The Illinois Chapter has its next training day scheduled on Sunday, August 20th at the Seneca Hunt Club. We ask that each of you be prepared to make the day as successful as possible. That would include equipment needed along with the birds you may require. If you plan on doing any bird work, please make arrangements ahead of time with Seneca to have them pull the number of birds you may need or plan on bringing your own if that is needed. Certainly we want to buy as many birds as possible from the Hunt Club as they are providing us with the facilities to train. In some circumstances you may have to bring your own birds if Seneca does not have them available. That is usually the case with ducks. In any case, you should have some means of transporting your birds or taking control of them. A simple cardboard box will do in most cases.

Certainly a long check cord should be available for your use. As this is a training day, we should have control of our dogs at all times and be able to enforce that control. Any command that you give and that cannot be enforced is a wasted command and you have wasted your time and that of the dogs.

In the heat of the summer, we should make sure we have a bottle filled with water for our dogs and carry it in the field. It is of no use if it is sitting in the car and your dog is out in the hot sun doing field work. It may not be unusual to go through a gallon of water during the course of the day, so fill a gallon container up in the morning. In any case, we should all be monitoring the amount of time we have our dog working in the field or water. It does not take long to overheat your dog and everyone should be constantly aware of this and look out for one another.

Another item we should be aware of is what is being done and how we can make sure we do not interfere with another person's dog work. Tracking work needs to be done before other scent is brought into a field. Duck searches need to be performed without other dogs running loose and distracting another in the field. We also need to be aware that shooting may be going on and we, our dogs, and in some cases, family, are not put in harm's way.

Many of your NAVHDA members have game bags for handling birds, along with bird launchers, retrieving launchers, back-off jacks, and cut-outs for backing training. We have training pistols and collars that may help you during the training session. We certainly don't expect everyone to go out and buy everything that may be needed in the course of training your dog. But the essentials are needed every day and should be used.

If you are having some problems, please give any member of the Board a call and we will try to remedy the problem. If you would like to find someone to train with during those in-between days, let it be known. We have a membership directory along with a newsletter. Let the members know what your schedule is and what you need.

One of the most important things any of us can do is ask questions and ask for help to make sure you have accomplished what you want to do that day. When you go home at the end of the day we want to have everyone feel they have gotten something out of the training session. But remember; this is only one day out of the month. If you are not taking the time to do your yard work and getting out on your own, it will be very difficult to develop the kind of dog for which you originally joined NAVHDA.

Seneca Exit to Close for Two Months

A surprise may greet those of you who may be traveling to Seneca Hunt Club to do some training over the next couple of months. There is a sign alerting travelers that the Seneca Exit will be closed beginning August 1st for repairs to the bridge that goes over Interstate 80. While this may not affect those of you coming from the west, it certainly will have an impact on anyone looking to exit from the east.

Last year this bridge was struck by a truck and was closed temporarily while it was being inspected. Over the last year they have allowed single lane access to the bridge while some work was being done. However, it looks like they plan on doing major repair work so it might benefit us to exit at Morris and take Route 6 west. Otherwise you will have to go to the Marseilles exit and come back from the west. It is expected that the closing will last through the month of September.

Why Join a NAVHDA Chapter?

When asked to write a piece on what I was expecting from NAVHDA as a new member, I must admit to some consternation. I suppose this is because I honestly didn't know what to expect and only really joined because my puppy's breeder required it! I can say that I am so glad she did as I have met the most wonderful and helpful people, both in my own chapter, as well as in two other chapters. That said, I suppose I should give you a bit of background...

I was raised with hunting dogs my whole life; English Springer Spaniels, to be precise. My mom and dad always swore that hunting breeds were the absolute best for family life. They were great with kids! So while my kids are no longer in the house, I do have visiting grandbabies and I have always remembered my parents' adage. So hunting dogs it was going to be. Now what breed? Actually, we love all breeds (ok, maybe not the tiny little yippy and nervous breeds), but the larger the better. Well, long story short, we have ended up with a Weimaraner, a Spinone Italiano, and a Bracco Italiano...and a rescue Greyhound and a Victorian Bulldog! (We have two cats and a Chinese Water Dragon as well...ei yi yi!)

We were not HUNTERS and the mere thought of killing anything made me cringe. But I honestly do want to bring the dogs into something they enjoy and that exemplifies their breed qualities. Ultimately, hunting is the one thing tying three of my five dogs together. It is healthy for them in that it provides exercise and provides a direction for their boundless energy. Of course, I say this as my couch potato is resting comfortably on the...where else? Couch! Anyway, I did attend a Fun Hunt held out at my breeder's homestead in Iowa and watched all the activities with mounting excitement. I even saw dead pheasants with half their entrails hanging out. Didn't bother me as much as I thought it would (the bird was obviously dead when I saw it). I figure it will already be dead by the time the dog retrieves it (or I'm hoping anyway) and I eat plenty of chicken! The Fun Hunt brought both of us up to a level of excitement that keeps us coming out for the training days, buying new supplies, and trying really hard to work our babies...our dogs.

So what do I expect from the chapters? I guess I expected a hand-holding as they go about training my dogs while I watch! But is that the way it is to be? Absolutely not! They teach ME how to train the dog and give me pointers on ways to overcome obstacles that the dog seems to be facing at any point in time during their training processes. They offer support, encouragement, and a camaraderie that is important to me. Did they laugh at me for being a girl? Nope! Instead it is me who has to suck it up and get my butt out there and do the work. I can only ask, "Where do you all get the energy???" This said, I think I would like to work with somebody on our off days. I need all the help I can get and the NA test is coming up soon!

So to all of you who are new members with little or no hunting background, or even little or no dog-training background, I say welcome to the club! Wish I could offer you my pearls of wisdom, but alas, I am sorely lacking in pearls. I might have a few grains of sand, but thankfully there are bigger oysters in the sea. Call on them and I know they would be more than happy to encourage you and to help you in your training efforts.

Shorthair Club Hosts Training/Meeting Day

It was evident from the beginning that the best way to get members to attend a club function is to hold something that everyone has an interest in. On Sunday, October 23rd, the German Shorthair Club of Illinois hosted a training day prior to their monthly meeting. When we pulled into the parking lot at the east grounds of the Des Plaines Conservation Area, it already contained about 35 other members that had come and brought their dogs.

Usually, the GSPCI holds their monthly meeting at a restaurant and often provides pizza for those in attendance. At many of these meetings we have 15 to 20 members participate in the planning of the club's activities. When the idea of incorporating a meeting out at a training site first came up, no one was sure how many would come out. It was a pleasant surprise.

By the time the meeting began at 1:00 p.m., most handlers had a chance to do some bird introduction work, some introduction to honoring, along with some steadiness programs. At the end of the meeting, many once again went out to the field to work their dogs. For those of you who have a chance to participate in breed club activity, it will benefit you to do so.

Remember that the Hunt Test, Shoot to Retrieve Trials, Field Trials, and NAVHDA Testing season is upon us. Let's sharpen up our dogs' skills along with our own handling skills as we near the hunting season.

The GSPCI will also be participating at the Bass Pro Shop Hunting Days in Gurnee, Illinois. Stop by and say hello. Or better yet, volunteer to help in their booth.

Perspective on the Handler's Clinic

Coming from the "new member"...and a "novice" standpoint, I'd like to take a moment to give you my views on the Handler's Clinics that are put on by various NAVHDA chapters for the benefit of their members. My very first impression was that the Handler's Clinic was not at all what it sounded like it would be: an intense two days of training for ME – the handler! Not to say that I didn't learn a lot on just that, but it was so much more. The Handler's Clinic is really some primary training for those NAVHDA members who wonder what the heck those judges are looking for when they rate your dog's performances during the various NAVHDA tests. It is geared with the hope of raising some interest in potential "would be" judges.

We worked as individuals, yet overall came together as a team as we worked to rate the various guinea pigs...er...volunteered dogs of various skill levels...as they went about attempting to test as they would normally. Some of us – who shall remain nameless – rated these poor dogs more harshly than our highly qualified judges would have rated them, while others gave credit where credit was not due! Or so it was pointed out by those leading the clinic.

But the main thing we learned is that the judges must come together in a consensus during the final tallying of each dog's performance points. To this end, it is of course important to take good notes as a judge. But for anyone out there wondering, this job is not easy for these judges. They do this because they believe in NAVHDA and what it represents, because they love the dogs and look for the best in them, and because they have the utmost respect for the handlers and trainers. While they will not discuss why your dog received a particular score, they will generally be open to answering your training questions if you ask how you might better enhance your dog's performance. They are a valuable resource, and you know what? I DO want to be a judge when I grow up!

Mark Your Calendars for Fall Test Dates

The Illinois Chapter will be hosting its Fall Test on October 14th and 15th at the Des Plaines Conservation Area. As always, it is important that we put on the type of test that makes our Chapter proud and gives each dog being tested the best chance to qualify. This means we need you.

Since quite a few of our Chapter members will be testing and not available to help run the test, it is imperative that we have as many of you come out to help as possible. We also have several members that have a conflict due to their dogs being tested out of state under the German Testing System on the same date.

Ray Scaccia and Chuck Horvath would appreciate a call to let them know if you will be available on Saturday, Sunday, or both days. In this way, they can better plan the activities and assign individuals to specific tasks.

For those of you who have not participated in a test before, this is a great opportunity to see what goes on and what the judges are expecting from the dogs being tested. You can contact Ray or Chuck via phone or e-mail. Your early response will be greatly appreciated. Contact numbers can be found on the Illinois Chapter website (www.illinoisnavhda.org) as well as on the front page of the newsletter.

The following positions need to be assigned:

- Test Secretary
- Test Coordinator
- Marshall
- Judge Host
- Judges
- Judge Steward
- Properties Person
- Food Organizer
- Gunners
- Bird Steward

- Bird Planters
- Bird Dresser
- Duck Thrower
- Grounds Keeper

If you would like further information on any of these positions and what the job consists of, please contact Chuck or Ray with your questions.

If You Are Testing...

Just a reminder for those of you testing during the Chapter's fall testing dates:

Entries withdrawn or canceled prior to two (2) weeks of the testing date will receive a refund equal to 60% of the entry fee. Entries canceled within two (2) weeks of the testing date will not be eligible for a refund of the testing fees. If your dog is unable to complete the test because of death or a medical condition, a written certificate from your veterinarian must be provided before a full refund will be made.

NAVHDA – Central Office

The NAVHDA Store now has a blanket with the NAVHDA logo knitted into the blanket fabric. It is quite smart looking and would make a wonderful gift, either for a loved one or for you.



<http://www.navhdastore.org/>

Member News

- Ron and Sharon Fitzpatrick have recently lost their home due to fire. The Fitzpatricks and the German Shorthair Pointers were fortunately able to get out of the house in time, but the fire claimed the entire home including irreplaceable items such as photos and awards they have collected for years. The Fitzpatricks are asking members of the Chapter that if they have any

photos of their dogs, if they could please have copies of them. If you do have any photos, please contact Sharon or Ron. You may reach Sharon or Ron at surepoint@aol.com. Illinois NAVHDA is truly sorry for your loss and hardship.

- **Sure Point Smok'n Sensation JH (Skye)** owned by Ron and Sharon Fitzpatrick took Reserve Winners Bitch at the Stone City Kennel Club on Sunday, June 4th. She also took Winners Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex at the Wheaton Kennel Club on Saturday, June 10th. On Sunday, June 11th, Sharon's mom came to watch and celebrate her birthday. Skye and Sharon took Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Winners Bitch. Mom is now invited to every show!

- **Sure Point K. C. Dancin' JH (K. C.)** owned by Bob Halvax and Sharon Fitzpatrick took Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Winners Dog on Saturday, May 13th, when Bob stepped in as handler at the Scott County Kennel Club. It was his first time in the ring and he made it look easy! With Sharon back on the leash, K. C. took Best of Opposite and Winners Dog on Sunday, June 11th, at the Wheaton Kennel Club.

- Jonathan Paranjothy and his Windy City Kennels excitedly announces the birth of their latest litter of Spinone Italiano pups. The dogs were all white, and both parents were NAVHDA Natural Ability tested and passed. Both parents have also been OFA and Penn Hip certified and have been CERF'd. At the time of this writing there is one remaining puppy. Please contact Jonathan at Windy City Spinoni, 847.778.9579 or via email at WCSPINONI@aol.com if you are interested in this puppy.

Puppies from this litter (after all, who doesn't love a puppy?) can be seen below...Do enjoy!



- Marco Parducci sent a photo of his son, Marco, and their wonderful Brittany Spaniel "**Moose**" during field training earlier in the year. Good exercise for the whole family! Enjoy!



Of Reminders and of Interest and Just Because

Highlighted this month will be the Braque D'Auvergne, both for those looking to integrate a new puppy or new breed into their homes, as well as for those in NAVHDA who dedicate their time to helping train each of these wonderful breeds, for as well all know, each is unique and special in its own way!

- ***Braque D'Auvergne*** The Braque D'Auvergne is a rare hunting breed that hails from an ancient province of Southern France known as Auvergne. The word "braque" means "to point", and is descriptive of this breed's field capability.

The mature Braque D'Auvergne grows to between 22 and 25 inches at the shoulders and weighs between 50 and 65 lbs, though the larger dogs can weigh as much as 90 lbs. They have a strong, muscular build with a tail that should be kept between 6 to 8 inches in length, which is carried high. The coat is either black and white or charcoal and white and the dogs usually have ticking. The outer coat should be soft to the touch and the eyes should either be hazel or dark brown in color.

While the Braque D'Auvergne has a wonderful personality and are generally obedient, they are also a bit slow to learn. Maybe slow to mature is a better description. Trainers should be well-armed with patience and be committed to thoroughly training this breed of dog. They make excellent hunters if proper training is received as they have a heightened sense of smell and wonderful tracking capabilities. One breeder states that they "need a lot of love". They are quite a rare breed in the U. S.

Rosabella du Glacier



Amadeus des Gorges de Franchard



Aycha & Hera



Omer des Gorges de Franchard



Photo Courtesy of Simone Argant



Our Sponsors



hunting

