



NAVHDA - Illinois Chapter Newsletter June/July 2006

Current Month Calendar of Events

6/18/06: Field and
Water Training at
Seneca Hunt Club
8:30 a.m.

7/16/06: Field and
Water Training at
Seneca Hunt Club
8:30 a.m.

PRESIDENT:

Frank Susi
815.588.1377

TREASURER:

Gene Wolf
708.429.1948

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ray Scaccia
708.749.8843

Jim Ritze
815.458.6063

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Ed Rygasiewicz
708.946.9064

SECRETARY:

Chuck Horvath
630.420.2681

Lark Frederiksen
815.287.9802

REPORT ON OUR MAY TRAINING SESSION

When the members first started planning the May training day, a little fear was felt in the minds of several of the coordinators. Several of the senior members (by way of experience, not age) would not be present and the ability to handle the large numbers that have been in attendance was questioned. As it turned out, that worry was needless as we had a very workable number in attendance.

When the day wrapped up at about 3:00 p.m., with the last handler arriving late that afternoon, everyone had had their fair share of activity. We had a chance to work with some new puppies, get in some water work and some general obedience training for everyone in attendance.

It seems that quite a few dogs are coming along very nicely and it was great to see some fine field work and some improvements in so many dogs.

Thanks to all of you who came out and gave us your time to help with our dogs while you had a chance to work with your own. Although Seneca Hunt Club did not have quail, we used some ducks that we had and some Chukkars from the hunt club.

CHAPTER'S CLINIC KEEPS EVERYONE ON TOES

Having attended a handlers' clinic some 10 years ago, you have to wonder about the benefits derived from participating in another one. I have been working with dogs for over 13 years, have taken my two personal dogs to AKC Master Titles, finished a NSTRA Championship, a Natural Ability Prize I, and a Utility Prize I. Wow! I must know a lot! And then it hits you! How much more we can know and how much we can do!

The Handlers' Clinic put on by our Illinois Chapter and coordinated by Ed Rygasiewicz was an opportunity to evaluate yourself in what you are doing in preparing your dog to be the best possible hunting companion. The clinic also allows us to see where we are coming up short as well as how others see our performance as it relates to NAVHDA testing.

All of the attendees owe a debt of gratitude to "**Grant**", Eric Frederiksen's Spinoni, Rich Dobey's GSP, "**Willy**", to "**Gunther**", Joe Shaughnessey's GSP, and to "**Chase**", Chuck Horvath's GSP. These dogs were put through all the paces that a dog would be tested for at their levels and had 13 individuals scoring them on the various aspects of the test.

The Clinic was held at Seneca Hunt Club on June 3rd and 4th and the



presenters were Blaine Carter, from Maine and Bob Hauser,



from our own state of Illinois. I believe the presenters gave us every opportunity to understand what a NAVHDA judge is looking for in our dogs' performance, as well as what we should also be looking for as we work with our dogs.

Each morning the participants of the clinic gathered at 8:00 a.m., and that comes mighty early!

Worked until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday...



Theory



Water judging...



Erik Frederiksen & Grant (Spinone)



Rich Dobey & Willy (GSP)



Searching and tracking...



Some rest and water for the weary!



Attendees at close of day two!

The clinic ended at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, allowing enough time for Blaine Carter to make his flight back to Maine.

Saturday's session was followed by many of us going to dinner and talking more about our dogs, training, NAVHDA, hunting, evaluating, etc. At 9:30 p.m. when I arrived home, I was dead to the world and even though anxious for the next day to begin, had a hard time setting my alarm for 5:30 a.m. the next morning!

At the end of the two day clinic, we had discussed not only our scoring techniques with one another, but hints and techniques for better handling and training to accomplish what was necessary to get the magical "4" score.

In attendance from our chapter were Bill Janes, Erik Frederiksen, Lark Frederiksen, Jim Ritze, Daryle Lindell, Chuck Horvath, Ed Rygasiewicz, Ray Scaccia, Sherry Massey, and Joe Shaughnessy.

The chapter would like to thank Jonathan Paranjothy for providing ducks for use during the Handler's Clinic! **THANK YOU!!!!**

HONORARY MEMBER REMEMBERS CHAPTER

Many members of our chapter may wonder just who Herman Welch is that is listed on our membership roster.

Herman was one of the early members of the original Illinois chapter. He participated in NAVHDA programs, had a love for hunting dogs, particularly Griffons from what I have been told, and helped many of our early members when they first joined NAVHDA.

This past month we received a letter from Herman and I thought you might want to read what he had to say. Herman writes,

"I always enjoy the Illinois NAVHDA Newsletter and read it from start to finish and miss being a part of all the activity.

I will be 86 October 3rd and the old back and knees just won't hold up long enough for hunting and field work. Give my hello to all the Illinois chapter members. I am sending you a check for \$25 to apply to any program you may choose, stamps, printing or whatever you see fit.

Thank you again for remembering me."

It goes without saying that it is the Herman Welch's of this organization that made NAVHDA what it is today. You know he is always welcome to come out any time he feels up to it and we would enjoy seeing him.

Herman, as you read this, know that we have several new Griffons that are part of our stable of hunting dogs. Maybe that might bring you out some day. Thank you for remembering our chapter.

VOTING ON NEW BILLS FOR VACCINATIONS

We are watching the New York State Legislature with interest on several bills that are being introduced. Senate Bill #S02164 and Assembly Bill #A04253 would require boarding kennels and grooming facilities to obtain proof of **annual vaccinations**.

Recent studies have shown that many vaccinations are not required on an annual basis and such laws would require over vaccinations for our pets.

Many in the veterinarian field have strong evidence to support that requiring proof of annual vaccinations when they are using vaccines with much longer proven durations of immunity is ill-advised and reckless. It would put companion animals at needless risk of adverse reactions.

It has been documented that annual vaccinations do not boost immunity and only incur unnecessary expense to their owners. It has been reported by many veterinary medical schools that they do not recommend annual booster vaccinations for distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and feline panleukopenia.

While we may think this bill is in New York and will not affect us in our own area, similar measures have been talked about in our own state.

It is best if we educate ourselves now, and hopefully our legislature, so that we are better advised than the legislatures in New York.

PREPARING FOR 2006 NAVHDA INVITATIONAL

Everyone is keenly aware of the planning and preparation that goes into putting on an Invitational Test. The multitude of volunteers to help the hosting chapter never diminishes as more and more dogs qualify to enter.

Therefore, it is not too early to inform our members that the actual date is September 15th through the 17th. Location of the event is in Bloomingdale, Ohio this year. The invitation fee for 2006 has been established at \$330. For those of you planning on attending, you will have the opportunity to watch some of the finest handling gun dogs in North America.

If you are at all interested in finding out more about the test and what is needed, worker lists and job descriptions are on the NAVHDA web site. From the main page, go to Invitational 2006, Details and Test Workers. There you will find links to job descriptions and a workers' schedule.

Presently the Illinois Chapter has one dog qualified for the Invitational. That dog is Ed Rygasiewicz's "**Cora**", who received her Utility Prize I last year. Let's encourage Ed to attend along with encouraging other members to test their dog at the Utility level for future participation in this great event.

A LETTER TO BE SHARED WITH OUR MEMBERS

The following letter was received by Ray Scaccia from one of the handlers at our April Natural Ability Test. It is something to be shared with all of you who came out and worked to make our test successful.

Dear Ray,

Dawn and I would like to thank you and the Illinois chapter of NAVHDA for the warm welcome and assistance we received last weekend when we ran our dog Sadie in the Natural Ability Test. We had never done this testing before, and you, your wife and the volunteers from the Illinois chapter all went out of your ways to make us feel welcome and comfortable with the testing. It is much appreciated.

The actual testing was well organized and run very professionally. The chapter volunteers and the judges were very helpful during the testing, doing what they could to make me feel comfortable and run my dog to her potential. Even if she had not won her Prize I results, we would have had a great weekend.

The test day resulted in fond memories, a day spent with some great people who have an interest in good hunting dogs..."

The letter was signed by John Smith who came down from Bloomington, Minnesota to test his dog that day.

You should all take a bow!

NAVHDA'S NEW SPONSOR: UGLY DOG HUNTING

While "Ugly Dog" may not be a household word, it is a name familiar to many gun dog owners. The Ugly Dog Hunting Company is a direct mail supplier of upland hunting clothes, dog training equipment, hunter and dog field gear, and wingshooting supplies.

Although the catalog has a humorous edge, Ugly Dog is very serious about the quality and reliability of the products they sell.

Ugly Dog has been a NAVHDA supporter for years as an advertiser and product donor. We are pleased now to have them join our team of sponsors along with Purina and Tri-Tronics.

As NAVHDA announces this sponsor, it asks its members to visit their site and support our newest sponsor. You can visit their web site at www.uglydoghunting.com.



And of course, our other wonderful sponsors:



E-MAILS FROM HOME – "THE CENTRAL OFFICE"

The following e-mails were sent from our NAVHDA Central Office:

- ✚ "Bobby" Applegate reminds me that the next annual meeting is being hosted by the Omaha, Nebraska Chapter. With the actual meeting being held at the Holiday Inn Express in Council Bluffs, Iowa. It seems I included a note in last month's newsletter where reference was made to this year's meeting being in Phoenix, Arizona.

We may want to mark our calendars and send a delegation from our Illinois Chapter this year. This is the closest it has been for several years.

- ✚ The Central Office also announces that it is now taking orders for the 2006 membership directory. The cost for the directory is \$10.00.

The directories may be ordered on the web site store, by phone, fax, or e-mail. Directories will be printed with the names and addresses as they are in the membership list as of May 1, 2006.

A membership directory is handy for chapter officers, hunters traveling to a new location, etc. As they say, "Never leave home without it!"

- ✚ Effective January 1, 2006, dues for International membership is:

New Member	\$50.00
Renewal Member	45.00
Spouse Member	22.50
Junior Member	22.50
Premium Package*	73.50

*The Premium Package includes a regular membership, a green training book, and a DVD video.

- ✚ NAVHDA has a new program that has been negotiated with Crossman guns. They are offering a gun with the NAVHDA logo laser cut into the stock. It can be used as a raffle item, a gift for a youth event, or any similar use. If any Chapter is interested in obtaining this gun at any time, they should contact the Central Office.

FOR SALE OR BARTER ITEMS AVAILABLE

If you have something you would like listed for sale or trade, send your information to Sherry Massey at sherrylmassey@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Lark Frederikson and his GSP, Spirit Von Riverwoods, or "**Spirit**" on receiving the "Bester Derby-Hund 2005" award at the recent NADKC annual meeting. She tested in Derby receiving all 4's and 2 of a possible 3 4H. She also received an SG1 which is the highest conformation rating for a puppy.



This spring, as an adult at the tender age of 20 months, Spirit added the highest score at the national meeting for conformation, a V1. She will be doing her adult field testing in that system this fall. Continuing with her accomplishments, Sprit earned a Utility Prize II at the Northern Illinois NAVHDA testing last month.

Last Acre Uli Von Riverwoods finished his AKC championship at Purina Farms in early June. He has earned two legs on his Master Hunter title and plans to complete that as well as earn his utility title this fall.

Kudos to Gene Wolf's Vizsla "**Sunny**" in finishing second in Open Derby at the German Shorthair Pointer Club of Illinois Spring Field Trial.

And still catching up from last year, we owe additional congratulations to Ron & Sharon Fitzpatrick for their great success at the Christmas Cluster dog shows.

"**Sure Point Smok'n Sensation, JH**", a GSP otherwise known as "**Skye**" took home the following awards:

- ✚ Starved Rock Kennel Club, December 14, 2005: Winners Bitch and Best of Winners.
- ✚ Starved Rock Kennel Club, December 15, 2005: Reserve Winners Bitch
- ✚ Fox River Valley Kennel Club, December 16, 2005: Winners Bitch
- ✚ Skokie Valley Kennel Club, December 17, 2005: Winners Bitch

Along with "**Skye**", the Fitzpatrick's were busy collecting the following ribbons on their GSP "**KC**", or more formally known as "**Sure Point KC Dancin**":

- ✚ Starved Rock Kennel Club, December 14, 2005: Winners Dog
- ✚ Skokie Valley Kennel Club, December 17, 2005: Reserve Winners Dog

After all of this excitement, "**KC**" and "**Skye**" are waiting for the announcement of their new brothers and sisters from a new litter out of their mom and dad!

At the GSPCI Hunt Test this past April, "**COCOA**", a GSP owned by Hayden Sandei, finished her final leg, earning an AKC Senior Hunt title at Des Plaines.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of you on your recent accomplishments!

OF REMINDERS AND OF INTEREST AND JUST BECAUSE

We all know that NAVHDA is an acronym for North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, right? I imagine most of you know the purpose of a versatile hunting dog, as well. But in case you've forgotten or are attempting to work on getting a friend or buddy or wife involved with our group, I will provide the organization's definition as well as a list of all of the versatile hunting breeds recognized by NAVHDA today. I'd like also to provide a little detail about each of the breeds on a monthly basis, alphabetically of course, so no toes stepped on and no hurt feelings!

Sigbot Winterhelt and Edward D. Bailey, in The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog, state that breeders of versatile hunting dogs were trying to develop breeds "that would handle a variety of game, both feather and fur, before and after the shot. The dogs had to possess a keen nose and strong pointing instinct, a lively temperament, eagerness to retrieve from both land and water, stamina, and a durable coat and hide that would not hamper the dogs' work in cold water. The dogs also had to be intelligent, relatively easily trained, and have a character compatible with living in or at their masters' dwellings."

Of course, NAVHDA is an organization dedicated to the training of the versatile hunting dog and its master. The versatile breeds recognized by NAVHDA today are:

Bracco Italiano (BI)
Braque D'Auvergne (BA)
Braque Du Bourbonnais (BB)
Braque Francais (BF)
Brittany (BS)
Cesky Fousek (CF)
English Setter (ES)
French Spaniel (FS)
German Longhaired Pointer (GL)
German Shorthaired Pointer (GS)
German Wirehaired Pointer (GW)
Gordon Setter (GO)
Irish Red & White Setter (IR)
Irish Setter (IS)
Large Munsterlander (LM)
Pointer (PT)
Portuguese Pointer (PO)
Pudelpointer (PP)
Slovensky Hrubosrsty Stavac (SH)
Small Munsterlander (SM)
Spinone (SP)
Vizsla (VI)
Weimaraner (WM)
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon (GR)
Wirehaired Vizsla (WV)

Highlighted this month will be the Bracco Italiano, 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 we all know, each is unique and special in their own way!

Bracco Italiano – Italy has provided sportsmen and hunters with two native gun dog breeds, the Spinone and the Bracco Italiano. The history of the Bracco can be traced back to the 5th century B.C. and therefore considered an ancestor of many of today's hunting breeds.

The North American Bracco Italiano Club continues to describe this breed as having a strong, deep chest and very muscular hindquarters. The height of a Bracco ranges between 21.5 and 26.5 inches and can weigh between 55 and 90 lbs. Their coats are glossy, short, dense and fine. The Bracco colors vary in that they can be white, orange and white, orange roan, chestnut and white, and chestnut and roan.

"They have a docile and gentle temperament yet a strong working nature. Training a Bracco requires patience and a calm nature. They are intelligent and quick to learn but can be stubborn and will lose ground if not handled correctly. They have superb noses and hold a staunch point as well as retrieve well to hand. They are excellent family pets living in the house and adapt to the

outdoors just as well. Their calm good nature does not mean they can not be a deterrent to unwanted strangers with their sometimes used deep bark."

"They are tireless in the field and appear not to expend energy unnecessarily. They are strong swimmers and can prove to be a very **versatile** dog.

The are presently recognized by NAVHDA, ARBA, UKC, CKC and other registries in the United States, as well as ENCI in (Italy and Europe).

And just look at this adorable face:



Pablo's Breno Von Obst*



Ch. Tito di Cascina Croce *

*From the North American Bracco Italiano Club website
(www.braccoitaliano.org)

NEWSLETTER

This is your newsletter! If you have any suggestions for articles or news, or have photos of your dog(s) that you would like to share, please let me know! You might have noticed a slightly changed format, which I hope makes the letter easier to read and adds just a little bit of color for you! I'd love to include your photos (please make sure you include the dog's name and the situation in which the photo was taken), anything of interest to you as a NAVHDA member, as well as articles you would like to share. Please contact me, Sherry Massey, via email at sherrylmassey@sbcglobal.net or via phone at 815.634.0741 with your ideas and photos.

You can also still get your information through to me via Chuck Horvath at Chasal2488@aol.com or 630.420.2681.

HAPPY TRAINING!