

# WRC Tales



## Reports from the NAVHDA International Meeting

### Inside this issue:

### From Linda Bennett, President of WRC:

After the freezing cold that accompanied both of the previous NAVHDA International Annual Meetings, it was a pleasure to escape to the warmth of Scottsdale, Arizona for the 2006 meeting.

It was a full agenda for the International Board of Directors. We worked overtime to ensure we would not have to carry our meetings over into Sunday. Among other actions taken by the board, a "Restricted Registry" option was approved. This is basically the "Limited Registry" as we had discussed at our chapter's Annual Meeting. The other motions submitted were voted down in the Delegates' Session.

Our hosts for the event, the Grand Canyon Chapter, did a fine job of organizing the event. The facility was first-class, and the banquet was well run. They are a very small chapter, and the bulk of the work was carried by less than a handful of people. Kudos to them for a superb job.

After the meeting, I spent three days with John and Marilyn McKenzie (many of you know John, a member of the North Central Chapter) and friends of theirs who live in Mesa, Bill and Cathy Wyss. John and Marilyn drove to Phoenix and attended the banquet on Saturday evening, then stayed with Bill and Cathy. John brought his three Brittany Spaniels along for some desert quail hunting. Bill and Cathy Wyss have four Vizslas; Rocky, Ziggy, Yahtzee who all hunt, while Quincy, the Grande Dam, stays at home and offers moral support.

I had the good fortune of being able to hunt with Bill and his three Vizslas for three days. What a pleasure. The dogs are really super, and they sure know their game! We hunted the first day in the cactus-choked desert near Florence. We wild-flushed a small covey, then flushed one really big covey, and had some good shooting. Luckily, I was pretty well "on" and got two quail that day.

The next day, we drove all the way to the Mexican border for Mearns quail. Bill told me that if I was lucky enough to get one, I should consider it a real trophy. He told me "These birds go from zero to gone in nothing flat." He was right! They are so fast, and they always fly up the canyon walls, making it nearly impossible to chase broken-up coveys. Well, I did manage to bag one – a beautiful male. We dropped him off at the taxidermist that afternoon.

The final day found us up north, near Sedona. It was a beautiful day – temperatures in the low fifties, with rain showers moving through off and on. The quail were pretty hard to find on this day, but we did manage to get a few. It started raining in earnest, and by now the dogs were pretty tired and footsore, so we called it an early day.

This place near Sedona is also where Bill hunts javelina (a small wild pig that is indigenous to the area). I told him I'd really like to see one – albeit at a distance, as they are a real threat to dogs. We found several places where we could see (and smell!) where they had been, but never actually saw any of the critters. Bill said I should be careful what I wished for.

I cannot thank Bill and Cathy Wyss enough. They welcomed me into their home, and carted me all over the state, just so I could see all of the different types of terrain and different species of quail. Bill could easily guide professionally, so to be able to hunt with him and his dogs was truly

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an experience of a lifetime. Cathy is a fantastic cook, and she treated us all to her great dinners, with desserts by Marilyn. Good thing we hunted so hard, or I would have exceeded the airline's weight limit on the flight home.

I bade goodbye to the Wysses and McKenzies on Wednesday evening, and spent the last two days of my sojourn with my uncle and his wife. They live in the hills near Cave Creek, which is just north of Scottsdale. Since they have a one-bedroom house, my aunt Shari Jo fixed up their old bunkhouse for me to stay in. It's about one hundred yards behind the house, down a walkway lined with palo verde trees. Pretty nice digs – complete with a little kitchenette, and an attached bath.

On the last evening, walking up to the bunkhouse after dark, I walked directly into a herd of javelina. I brandished my flashlight at them, but they just stood and looked at me with vacant stares. I had to wave my arms and yell to get them to move out of my way. One of them was even up on the porch of the bunkhouse. Fortunately, he had enough manners to not leave any "deposits" there. It was a little bit disconcerting that these critters had absolutely no fear of me.

I felt relieved to get inside my little house and close the door on them. Once inside, my Arizona Experience became complete when I encountered an actual live scorpion scuttling across the bathroom floor. Yecchhh. I'm not good with bugs to begin with, and this was pretty startling. I had no trouble exterminating him with a big squish from my size 7, but I can't say I slept very well that night, thinking about how many of his buddies might still be skittering across my sheets.

All in all, it was a very fun and busy ten days. It sure was great to get home to Larry and all of the boys and girls. Of course, Max is just now getting over me leaving him for such an extended period of time. How do you suppose he knows I went hunting with a bunch of red dawgs?

### **From John Calandra, WRC Test Director:**

With two Annual Meetings under my belt, I have to say Arizona has had the best weather thus far. Kudos to the Grand Canyon Chapter; they did an awesome job arranging the hotel and convention center, and then provided us with a great dinner to top it all off. The most surprising fact is that the GC chapter has only 17 members and managed to put on a great meeting. I only wish I had more time to stay and enjoy the hunting they had to offer. By the time I left I had three invitations to go out and try for the Grand Slam of quail hunting; unfortunately having to bow out each time was getting progressively harder to do. I think if I would have been asked one more time, I might have changed my flight plans.

During the Hall of Delegates meeting, we found NAVHDA on a very solid foundation. Membership has increased, we have money in the bank, more people are testing more dogs and more breeders are receiving breeder awards. A huge round of applause for the chapters making it all happen.

We were updated on the Executive Committee's meeting earlier in the week. The EC decided to restrict apprentice judges to younger than 16 years of age. The 2007 Annual Meeting will be in Omaha, NE, and the Judges' Workshop will be July 15-16.

In addition, the EC decided to allow a "Restricted for Breeding" classification. (*See the January Newsletter for an explanation of this amendment*). This classification can be placed by an owner or breeder and can be removed by the person that placed it. It allows breeders to have better control of the pups they breed once they are sold and still allows the owners to register with NAVHDA. Unfortunately, the Executive Committee's action took the wind from the sail of the delegates. We were going to pass the motion from the North Central Chapter, which essentially was passed before our planes landed.

Before I sign off, I would like to thank the club for allowing me to attend. I learned a lot, met some new friends, and had occasion to visit with old ones. I would urge our chapter to continue to send a delegate every year, I feel it is important to support our parent organization and stay informed and vote. I would also encourage NAVHDA to look at the way business is done and possibly give delegates a voice in making decisions, not just act as a pacifier. I feel that would make us stronger by developing chapter interest in the organization.

## Growing Pains—Jerry Schenck, WRC Vice-President

As we kick off the 2006 season in the Wisconsin River Chapter it has come to my attention that change is in the wind. This club is for the versatile hunting dog. Your Board of Directors works extremely hard trying to provide its members with the opportunity to advance every dog that shows up at one of the WRC's events. If you were to ask the dogs if they had a good day with the WRC, it would be a positive wiggle and a tail wag. So, at least the dog has been satisfied. Now for the rest of us WRC members, I think Vic Connors has said it best. If the WRC can have its members leave an event and have the feeling they had fun that day with their dogs, then the WRC has done its job.

All of us that have versatile dogs know something about training dogs. It might be that you're a master of what not to do, or a person that has an opinion on what to do about a given situation because of past experiences, or you're an avid reader that has the ability to apply what you have read to your training. You could be a person that through trial and error of many dogs has finely reached a way that works, or you have gone the professional route and had your dog trained for you. No matter how you have gotten to the point where you're at today with your dog, we feel that we as a club have something to offer when it comes to hunting your partner. All of us that want a great hunting dog in the field, as well as in the home, know that it's a work in progress for as long as you own a dog. The question is at what level you're willing to accept what you have. This acceptance has a direct influence on who are active members in the WRC and who are members, but not active. Is your dog in jail until hunting season, or is it free in the home to live within the family structure? The other major consideration is the amount of time we all have to give to the sport of training our hunting dog.

No matter what level you're at in the club, always remember that you are considered when an issue is in front of the board. Please know that the board has many issues in front of it this year. Most importantly this year, you will be electing a new Executive Council. The people that volunteer to run for an office need your support to be elected. If you yourself would like to run, or if you know of someone that would be a good candidate, remember it's never too early to start the wheels turning. We will be looking to appoint a nominating committee to receive the nominees that step forward for the position of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Most of your Executive Council has the opportunity to run for a second term if they wish. If you think they have done a good job and you would like them to run again, please let the nominating committee know. All nominees need to submit a letter of consent to the committee. If five active members want to petition a nominee for the election, they must all sign a petition with the nominee's name to be considered. All petitions must be in front of the Secretary before October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The election of officers will be held at the annual meeting in 2007.

Because of the size of our growing membership of the WRC and the desire to be able to help everyone in the club, we will be looking into the by-laws to see if they still fit the needs of our club. Vic Connors and I will be going over the by-laws the next couple of months to see if changes would be helpful in the running of the Wisconsin River Chapter. I want to extend an invitation to everyone that wants to be a part of this endeavor to contact me or Vic so you can be included in the meetings. Your participation will be welcomed.

Another issue that has developed this year is our annual meeting and fun hunt. We are growing to a point that it's no longer to our advantage to run these two events together. I want to make a suggestion to the membership to consider separating the two events and holding them on different dates. If you think this is a needed change that would work to the advantage of our membership, please let someone on the board know your feelings.

Last, but not least, is an issue for which there is no answer. We are a club made up of many personalities. All of us have opinions and ideas that work for us one way or another. Some of you have shown us that your ideas work. Some of you have only expressed ideas. When we bring them to the membership that does not mean we think it works for all of us all of the time. We all understand the concept of being the alpha person when it comes to our dogs. This philosophy will not work when it comes to our people. We have strong personalities within our organization and among our membership. I don't want to see personalities destroy what so many people before us in the WRC have tried to keep together. That's why I named this article "Growing Pains". When someone tries to give advice or shows a training technique and you're not buying into the presentation, please step up and say so. New ideas and situations develop all the time in the world of dog training. Everything we offer has worked for someone at sometime in life.

Your relationship with your dog is the first thing you need to think about when it comes to the training of your dog. It is this relationship that lives with you all year long. I feel we, as a club, have something to offer to everyone that comes to the WRC. Our main goal is to help you with your dog's training so you are prepared for any hunting situation or test.

**The greatest compliment you can give to our chapter is to be able to say at the end of one of WRC's events is, "I had a great day with my dog today" regardless of the personalities you met along the way.**

## Annual WRC Shooting Clinic, June 17

### Shooting Clinic Sweepstakes

If you've been hanging around WRC for very long, you already know about the great shooting clinics that **Bruce Ramos** puts on for our chapter twice yearly. Well, this year, Bruce has really "upped the ante!" Bruce has offered WRC members a chance to win a **private, three-hour shooting lesson**. And all you need to do to have a chance to win is to sign up for our Spring Shooting Clinic. That's right, just attend the WRC shooting clinic, and you'll automatically be entered in the drawing. This private lesson includes Bruce's instruction, and all of the ammunition you'll need. This is at least a \$500 value. This is a donation from Bruce to our chapter, and it's a super opportunity for some lucky member.

The regular Shooting Clinic will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be two classes – one for beginners, and one for more advanced shot gunners. Bruce will be there to offer his expert instruction and get you ready for shooting all of those training birds you'll be using this summer. **Cost for the clinic is \$65.00**, and includes your clay birds, and of course, Bruce's expertise. You should bring along at least 100 rounds of ammunition, and plan to shoot A LOT! The clinic will be held at the Waunakee Gun Club, and once again, Dr. Morrie Link has offered to plan and organize the event.

**To sign up for the clinic, and get entered in the drawing, call Kristin at Spring Harbor Animal Hospital at 608) 238-3461. And do it today, because this will fill up fast!**

## Handlers' Clinic, June 17 & June 18, 2006

In my attempt to fill your calendar with lots of "fun stuff", The confirmation from **Bob West** has come for our handler's clinic!

We will hold this clinic on June 17 and 18, 2006, at the Hwy. 78 Mazomanie Class One dog training grounds.

The clinic is an excellent learning opportunity for all who plan to enter the NAVHDA tests, and the clinic is a key step to the apprentice program to become a NAVHDA judge.

The WRC newsletter will carry more information and during the month of March, we will make the registration form available. If you plan to attend don't "dally" with your sign up, as we can only take **20** participants.

Keep training!

Yours in the doghouse,

Diane Calandra, WRC Training Director



By using the NAVHDA group yahoo site, we can contact any other chapter member who is signed up. This will be an easy way to get together with other members for training in between our regularly scheduled monthly training days.

To use the service, you just need to send an e-mail to: [wrcnavhda-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wrcnavhda-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Access to the site is limited to WRC members and dog training devotees, so once our webmaster John

Calandra hears from you, you'll get a notice back that you've been invited to join

We are looking forward to more members signing up, so we can share news and events

*Connect with members for training; it is a wonderful way to expand and enrich your training experiences with your dog.*

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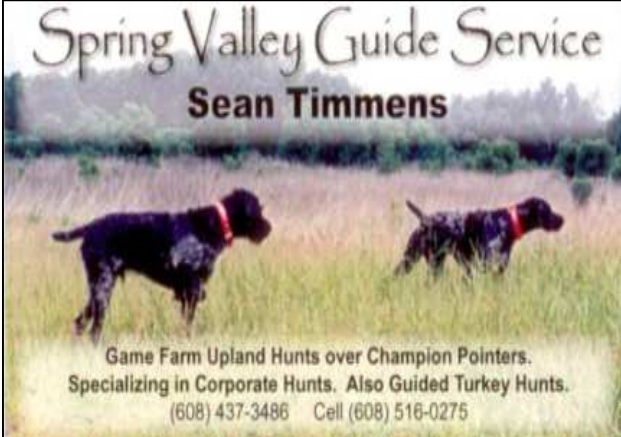
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## Our Latest NAVHDA Sponsor



**Please support the Ruffed Grouse Society by attending their banquets, or by sending in your weight circles found on Purina Pro Plan dog food to me, Laurie Vierthaler. The Ruffed Grouse Society uses the circles to fund land habitat projects for Ruffed Grouse throughout the Northern tier of our nation.**

Does anyone have any puppy pictures or stories, or great stories of training experiences? Please send them in to

Laurie Vierthaler at [vierthal@tds.net](mailto:vierthal@tds.net).

## WRC Gun Raffle for 2006

Below is a picture of a very sweet 686 Beretta 28 GA. 28" barrel which is so light that you will have to have a lanyard on the gun to keep it from floating away! It is incredibly good-looking up front and personal. All members have an opportunity to try to win this gun and to support the WRC in all its endeavors. How much easier can we make it for you?!



Starting with training days, we will be giving out raffle tickets to members to sell to other folks who may want this shotgun. More details will be coming soon as the tickets are printed.

**Drawing will be held at the Fall Chapter Test on September 9, 2006.**

## Do You Want Your Puppy on TV?

Show off your pup! NAVHDA member and television host Scott Linden is looking for puppy photos and video to feature on his Outdoor Channel program "**What the Dogs Taught Me.**" Starting in October, a number of pups will be in each episode, and one lucky owner will receive a hunting gear prize package.

Email stills or short video to: [birdpups@earthlink.net](mailto:birdpups@earthlink.net), and include name and phone number of the owner, and breed of pup. For information on the TV program go to: [www.cast-blast.com](http://www.cast-blast.com).

## Important Information from the International Office of NAVHDA

### NAVHDA International Changes—Dues Invoicing

As of January, 2006 the NAVHDA International dues will increase per the following schedule:

New Member	\$50
Special Value Package	\$72.50
Renewal	\$45
Spouse and Jr.	\$22.50

The Lifetime Membership will not change.

In addition, the time period for all membership dues has been changed to run from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

Many of you either have or would like to have this book. It is back in print. I noticed it is a soft cover but the content is remarkable. It is a book that is worthy of shelf space. It also makes a wonderful gift.

Georgina Byrne's multi-award-winning breed book **DER DEUTSCH-KURZHAAR: The German Shorthaired Pointer** is finally available again after being out of print for over two years.

I'm writing to you as the contact for the Delmarva NAVHDA Chapter to let you know and your members know that we've announced a promotional special which offers a 15% discount to NAVHDA members. Here are the details:

Media Release:

[http://facks.org/files/DDK\\_Media\\_Release\\_16Jan06.pdf](http://facks.org/files/DDK_Media_Release_16Jan06.pdf)

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If you'd like to know anything more about the book or the offer, please feel free to email. Thanks very much.

Best Wishes,  
JEREMY BYRNE  
Facks Publishing

## 2006 Spring and Fall Test Dates - NAVHDA



**Mark your calendars! The Spring and Fall test dates for 2006 are May 20-21 and September 9-10.** As a new training year approaches, many of us may have already given some thought on what we would like to accomplish in 2006 with our dogs. If Natural Ability or Utility testing is one of your goals, it is not too early to register for a test. The entry fees for members for 2006 are \$85.00 for Natural Ability, \$105 for Utility Preparatory and \$115 for Utility.

NAVHDA International has set guidelines for testing that all chapters are expected to uphold. Here are some tips to help you meet those requirements.

### **Guideline #1: Tests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**Tip: Register early;** the tests fill up fast. Our Spring tests in May will typically fill up by the end of January. Our Fall tests in September are usually full by the end of May. As the tests fill up, a waiting list will be maintained for NA and UT. As cancellations occur, the opening will be offered first to the handler at the top of the list for that test. When in doubt, contact the Test Secretary.

### **Guideline #2: A test spot is reserved in your name after the registration form and fee payment has been received by the Test Secretary.**

**Tip: Send your money and entry form to the Test Secretary as soon as you make the decision to enter your dog in a test.** Call ahead or e-mail to find out if there are openings available. If you are still in the process of registering your pup through NAVHDA, mail your payment and entry form to reserve a test spot. You can always provide your dog's registration number to the Test Secretary later prior to the test date. If you have any questions at all, call the Test Secretary who can probably help you through it.

### **Guideline #3: All dogs must be NAVHDA registered to be entered in a test. Puppies must be 16 months or younger to be evaluated for Natural Ability.**

**Tip: Begin the NAVHDA registration process as soon as you get your pup.** Sometimes getting the three generation pedigree from the breeder may take awhile.

### **Guideline #4: All handlers are strongly encouraged to be a member of NAVHDA International as well as a local chapter member.**

**Tip: Some chapters charge increased fees for non-members.** As a registered member of NAVHDA International you help support the testing program and the organization as a whole. As a member you will receive the monthly publication, *Versatile Hunting Dog*, which is an excellent magazine with many articles related to training and canine health issues. The magazine also prints the test schedules and scores from all the chapters.

### **Guideline #5: Fees and cancellation policies are determined by the individual chapters.**

**Tip: WRC's cancellation policy** - 75% of the entry fee will be refunded for cancellations up to 14 days prior to the test date provided the vacancy can be filled from the waiting list. No refund will be given within 14 days of the test date except for extenuating circumstances (Example - health of dog or handler).

## WRC Calendar of Events for 2006

5th Obedience Class—Saturday, February 25, 2006

6th Obedience Class—Saturday, March 4, 2006

Last Obedience Class—Saturday, March 18, 2006

**First Training Day (at UW Stock Pavilion) from 8—noon, March 25, 2006**

**Second Training Day—at Mazomanie Class One Grounds from 8—noon, April 29, 2006**

**Third Training Day—at Mazomanie from 8—noon, May 13, 2006**

**WRC Spring Tests (Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21) at Mazomanie. (See pg. 10)**

**Fourth Training Day—at Mazomanie from 8—noon, June 3, 2006**

**WRC Shooting Clinic—at Waunakee Gun Club, 9 a.m., & noon, June 17, 2006**

***Handlers' Clinic—Details to be announced, June 24, 2006***

**Fifth Training Day—at Mazomanie, 7—11:00 (due to heat), July 22, 2006**

**Sixth Training Day—at Mazomanie, 7—11:00 (due to heat), August 19, 2006**

**WRC Fall Tests (Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10) at Mazomanie. (See pg. 10).**

### YOUTH OUTDOOR EXPO

**FRIDAY, MAY 19, AND SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006 at Dog Cnty. Fairgrounds, Beaver Dam, WI.**

This is a program for youth to experience the outdoor sports of hunting, trapping, fishing, dog training and trialing, etc.

The Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs, Inc. (WAFTC) will play a role in this event and your help is needed for a successful day. Share your knowledge and experience with the youth of Wisconsin. **Volunteers are needed to put on field demonstrations of dog training and trialing, so as to expose youth to the use of dogs in the field.** If interested in helping, contact:

Jim Gleish

1110 Whittier Street

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