

Letter from the President

I would like to thank the chapter members for pulling together and forming a stronger and more balanced chapter. This was one of the nicest training seasons we have had in a while, it seemed that everybody pulled together, pitched in to help and made it fun. For this I want to thank everyone.

In the upcoming year we are going to have a heavy training schedule and a Handlers clinic, we will need all the help we can get so please step forward.

I would like to wish everybody a good holiday season and a great hunting and training year.

Happy Holidays
Charles Kissinger

Handlers Clinic

The Del-Val Chapter will be holding a NAVHDA Handlers Clinic in the Spring of 2004. We will publish a date in a future newsletter. For further information please contact Tim Clark. (732) 341-3268 or vctref@comcast.net

The Handler Clinic is an educational tool developed by NAVHDA to help dog owners and handlers understand the system. The clinics are conducted by designated trained leaders; all of whom are NAVHDA Senior Judges. During the two day clinic weekend, participants experience all aspects of a Natural Ability, Utility Preparatory, and Utility Test. The first few hours of each day is devoted to informal classroom instruction. There is discussion of Test mechanics, the scoring system and NAVHDA philosophy.

The group then goes out to the field to judge and score dogs being run in the actual Test process. After each dog has run and been scored, there is a discussion of performance and scoring as observed by the participants and the clinic leader. The discussion includes strengths or weaknesses of training and handling observed in the demonstrations, and how they may have affected the dog's inherited skills.

Who Should Attend?

- People with their first pup see how other dogs work and gain insight into what their pup is doing and why. This helps them to develop their pup's talents and improve performance in weak areas.
- Novice handlers learn how NAVHDA evaluates versatile dogs, and are better prepared to handle their dogs in a test.
- Experienced handlers gain a deeper, more technical knowledge, of how the team of dog and handler are judged.
- Breeders learn what to look for in their breeding stock and their progeny, and how to use NAVHDA records obtained through the in selective breeding.
- For aspiring NAVHDA Judges, attending a Handler Clinic is one of the first steps in our Apprentice Judge Program.

NAVHDA Del Val Chapter Newsletter December 2003 www.delvalnavhda.com

Chapter Membership

It is time for Chapter Membership renewals to be submitted. A renewal form has been included as part of this newsletter. Please keep in mind that your membership must be current prior to your participating in any Chapter Activities. Please neatly print all information on the renewal form, particularly e-mail addresses, so that we can update our membership roster.

Chapter Contact

Questions or feedback can be directed to:
Barbara Kissinger
(215) 752-9580
BarChar@aol.com

2004 Chapter Events

At our last chapter meeting it was determined that the Del Val chapter would be holding the following events for 2004. We need to secure the dates with the State so please check the website in the near future for a schedule. It should be posted by the end of January.

- Spring Test
- Fall Test
- Roughly 8-10 training clinics (depending on availability of state land)
- Handlers' Clinic
- Club Hunt

2004 Club Hunt

The chapter will sponsor a club hunt this year. The hunts will be held at Bent Creek Preserve on January 18, 2004. Details on this hunt are included to you along with your membership renewal and newsletter.

Please remember, your International and Chapter memberships must be current to participate in any chapter functions.

Bent Creek has a website at:
<http://bentcreekpreserve.com/>



NJ Youth Hunt

The above photo is from the NJ Pheasant Youth hunt at Colliers Mills. NAVHDA members donated their time to make sure a good dog was there to find the birds and retrieve them for the "hunters of tomorrow".

Pictured dogs are Augie (owned by Tim Otto) and Dinah-might (owned by Ron Granai). Del Val thanks all members who got involved!

Next year Del Val plans to get more involved and make the 2004 NJ Youth Hunt experience the best ever.

Talk to a few members who got involved and hear about how impressed everybody was with the dogs. Remember nobody knows what a good dog is until you show them. Please think about volunteering next Fall. Who knows maybe these kids will drive us to our hunting spots when we get older!!!

Annual Meeting Vote

Please take some time to review 2 chapter motions that will be presented to the Hall of Delegates at the 2004 Annual meeting.

As a member you can provide feedback for how our chapter will vote on these motions. Tim Clark will be attending the 2004 Annual meeting in Wisconsin and is our chapter delegate. Please visit: <http://delvalnavhda.com/feedback.html> and complete our on-line feedback form.



**NORTH AMERICAN
VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION
(NAVHDA)
DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. (____) _____ Breed of Dog(s) _____

E-Mail Address _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	New Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	Renewal Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30.00	Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Make check payable to: Del-Val NAVHDA Chapter

Mail to Carl Mertens
538 Lakewood- Farmingdale Rd
Howell, NJ 07731

The above membership dues are for the Delaware Valley Chapter only. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Family members have voting privileges but will not receive a separate newsletter.

A person may join the National organization only (application below), but must have a National membership to join the Delaware Valley Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ Prov _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. (____) _____ Breed of Dog(s) _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$45.00	New Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00	Spousal Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00	Renewal Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00	Youth Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$800.00	Paying Life Member			

Make check payable to: NAVHDA
*All dues are tax deductible in the USA
Tax Exempt No. 95-3402-489

Mail to NAVHDA
PO Box 520
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0520

**NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION (NAVHDA)
DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER**

Dear Chapter Members,

This year the Chapter has scheduled one (1) half-day hunt at Bent Creek Preserve. The date is January 18th, 2004. A cost breakdown and rules for the hunt are listed below. Please keep this letter for future reference, as this will be the only notice issued to the membership.

HUNT COSTS

1. The cost is \$85.00. This includes lunch, coffee, soda, and the stocking of the birds. Please note that lunch will be served at 12:00 PM, as the hunt will commence at 1:00 PM. Please wear your hunting clothes as Bent Creek does not have a large clubhouse and a locker/changing area is not available.
2. All hunt reservations must be paid in full prior to the day of the hunt. Therefore, I must receive your reservation and payment for the hunt by January 9, 2004.
3. The hunts will be limited to 20 members/guests.
4. **Chapter and National dues must be paid prior to attending a Chapter function.** In previous years, I have been forced to handle hunt fees and Chapter dues on the day of the hunt. This has occasionally led to the problem where I inadvertently did not credit someone for paying their Chapter dues. Therefore, your 2004 Chapter dues must be sent to me and your National Membership must be current prior to participation in the Chapter's hunts or training clinics! There will be no exceptions due to the requirements of the National's insurance policy.

HUNT RULES

1. It is the Preserve's policy that hunting parties must contain a minimum of 2 hunters and a maximum of 4 hunters. In addition, it is the Preserve's policy that only 2 dogs be used at any given time per hunting party.
2. The taking of rabbits and/or migratory game is illegal as our hunts are on Sunday. Please abide by State and Federal Game Laws.
3. The bag limit is 2 pheasants and 4 chukars per hunter. Once your party bags its limit, you must leave the field for the day. No re-entry is permitted in order to allow your fellow Chapter members a fair chance at bagging their birds. Extra birds above the limit will need to be paid for.

I hope you are having a safe and successful season and will be able to attend the January hunt.

Sincerely,
Carl Mertens

January 18, 2004 Del Val Hunt

Location: Bent Creek Upland Hunting Preserve 786 Route 524 Allentown, NJ 08501
Office Phone: 609-517-7936 <http://bentcreekpreserve.com>

Lunch: 12:00 PM

Hunt: Commences at 1:00 PM

Hunt Reservations and Payment received no later than January 9, 2004

Make Checks Payable to Del Val Chapter of NAVHDA

Send Reservation and Payment to: Carl Mertens
538 Lakewood Farmingdale Road
Howell, NJ 07731

Name of Chapter Member: _____

No. of Members _____ x \$85.00/Members = _____

No. of Nonmembers _____ x \$85.00/NonMembers = _____

Total = _____
