



Versatile Companion

North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Inland Empire Chapter

Website: www.inlandempirenavhda.org

NAVHDA International: navhda.org

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President's Message

It's that time of the year— hunting season is finally upon us with the opening of dove season in only a couple weeks. Definitely time of the year to get those pups tuned up for hunting season and it is also that time of year when many of us are getting ready to test our dogs in an upcoming test. I know I have been incredibly busy with one dog



in particular training for the Invitational in Sept. and training two pups for N.A. and another two for U.T. at Socal Chapter test and our test coming up in the next couple months. I truly enjoy training my dogs due to a large part I believe is the relationships I have formed with other NAVHDA members that I frequently train with.

We have our next training day at San Jacinto coming up on Sept. 4th. I believe we will have many new members at this training day as I expect it to be a large turnout in general. I encourage our experienced handlers to really reach out to new members to make them feel welcome. I have found that sharing my knowledge and watching these folks have success training their pups is just as rewarding as training my own dogs.

Please check out our calendar, we have a busy upcoming schedule ahead of us. Training at San Jacinto on Sept. 4th, mock test on Oct. 1st and Nov. 5th & 6th is our test. We will be seeking volunteers for the test so please help out if you can.

Enjoy your dogs and I hope to see you all in the field soon,

Cliff Fleming

President

Inland Empire NAVHDA

Chapter Finances

Checking	\$3699.08
Savings	\$4202.79
<hr/>	
Total	\$7901.87

August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Training Day --- San Jacinto	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Test @ Great Cen- tral Valley Chapter	17 Test @ Great Cen- tral Valley Chapter
18 Test @ Great Cen- tral Valley Chapter	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Below is a letter from President David Trahan for re-election of president.

In the three years that I've served as your President, I have stressed the need for more communication with our members while always keeping an open-door policy to listen and act on new ideas for the organization's improvement. Along with the other members of the Executive Council, and with the support of many of our local chapters, membership in NAVHDA has increased nearly 10%. When I ran for this position I knew that it would not be easy—especially not having served on the Executive Council. However, as an active NAVHDA member for over 20 years, I believed that I could represent the membership well while also providing the leadership to keep the organization moving forward.

A little about me:

I am a Life Member of NAVHDA, a Senior and Invitational Judge and Clinic Leader. I am a founding member of the Merrimack Chapter, and served the Yankee Chapter as its President. I have run and qualified dogs in every facet of the NAVHDA testing system. I am a self-employed Professional Dog Trainer and Licensed Hunting Guide. I am owned by my 5 German Shorthaired Pointers, and reside in house with my wife Carol.

In recent years NAVHDA has gone through many changes, most of which have only strengthened the organization. These positive developments have been made possible by a dedicated and passionate Executive Council, who work tirelessly year-round on your behalf. Of course, these changes would not have been possible without the continued support of the membership.

Here are some of our recent accomplishments, along with areas of focus for me as your newly re-elected President:

NAVHDA too. Member retention has improved, and the Registry is going strong! I will continue to focus on this important aspect of our organization by listening to you, the Members.

We have had a strong focus on improved communication with our membership, with enhancements to the Versatile Hunting Dog Magazine, reorganization to the NAVHDA website and creation of presence on Facebook. *On The Right Track, Ask Dr. Lisa and Full Circle Fair* continue to have a strong following. Mary Burpee has done an outstanding job as Editor and Publisher of VHD and this will continue to be a focus for our organization.

NAVHDA's Youth Development Program (due to generous donation from Terry Wilson and Nancy Ansfield) established test Fee refunds for youth handlers and provided financial assistance for youth camps, etc. In addition, our members have also given generous donations to further this program.

Our Sponsors and Partners have become more active with NAVHDA, and we have ensured that they all receive the recognition they deserve by making sure that all local chapters have Sponsor banners. We have a new key conservation partner in Pheasants Forever, who has been active with our youth events, and, of course, our *Focus On Forever* events. The Ruffed Grouse Society has entered into a Partnership Agreement with NAVHDA to also focus on youth events.

We continue to focus on Judge Development by ensuring consistency in the assessment of both Apprentice and Acting Senior Judges. The

Judges Workshop was moved to the last day of the Annual Meeting, resulting in improved attendance due to travel cost savings.

We have been working with other breed and testing groups to help them understand our testing program and except us as a leading testing organization. The popular television program Wingshooting USA was invited to the Invitational to give NAVHDA national television exposure and to showcase our testing program. We have also implemented a new Member requested recognition program through our Test Pins, which have been both wildly popular and profitable for our organization.

We have also implemented numerous improvements in the Central Office. While staying within our approved Budget over the last three years, we have hired a new full-time resource to replace Jim Applegate, and have also hired Maria Bondi as Office Manager. A new Employee Handbook was developed, and the Central Office Computer system and servers have been replaced. In addition, we have been able to see cost savings on the printing of VHD with the transition to a new printing house.

I am very proud to have been a part of these accomplishments, and hope to build upon the progress we have already made. I humbly ask for your vote this next election.

On-point,

Dave

Ric Kildow

Seeking the Board Position of President

After surveying NAVHDA members, as well as past and present leaders, and after reviewing commitments made to the membership, I have to report that **promises are unfulfilled** and **important goals** have not been met.

We see the social, political and environmental challenges that effect hunting/sporting groups, and we understand that these are complex times. I am running to ensure that NAVHDA is positioned traditionally and strategically to deal with these issues now and in the future and to develop a more fully informed organization that values its membership.



Photo by: Moishe Ragieme

My leadership goals are:

- ✓ Pursue an organizational philosophy based on the mutual respect of our membership.
- ✓ Promote increased participation from both our national and international leaders.
- ✓ Seek diversity and inclusion in the formation of committees, dispersing responsibilities across the regions.
- ✓ Design a comprehensive and efficient communication system to increase awareness.
- ✓ Aggressively pursue growth initiatives that attract mutually beneficial partnerships.

My strategic goals are:

1. **Leadership:** We'll develop an incremental, comprehensive, and strategic business plan that is productive, inclusive and diverse. Membership is made-up of motivated, intelligent and hardworking volunteers, I will be their advocate.
2. **Transparency:** I will report on all board activities and how the EC board members vote on initiatives. Transparency is the foundation of accountability, allows evaluation and promotes involvement.
3. **Communication:** I will use available information systems to develop new communication strategies, quickening the exchange of information. New informational algorithms will promote efficiency, timeliness and participation.
4. **Sponsorship/Partners:** I will aggressively pursue new sponsorships, investing the time necessary to develop relationships into the future. Synergistic sponsorships provide the necessary resources and will allow us to accomplish our strategic goals. We will build networks reaching across local, state and national government agencies, encouraging the free flow of information and ideas.
5. **Executive Director:** When financially feasible, we will begin the process of hiring a full-time Executive Director, who will answer to the Executive Council. We must accept this challenge.

Innovative ideas, economic growth and inclusiveness will assure our future success. It's clear, we must act now to effect change later. Let's begin by agreeing to aggressively pursue our mutual goals.

This is my scorecard. I appreciate your support, your vote and I will expect you to **hold me accountable**.

Sincerely,
Ric Kildow
Rhino_dc@yahoo.com

Do the Dew(claws)?

M. Christine Zink DVM, PhD, DACVSMR

I work exclusively with canine athletes, developing rehabilitation programs for injured dogs or dogs that required surgery as a result of performance-related injuries. I have seen many dogs now, especially field trial/hunt test and agility dogs, that have had chronic carpal arthritis, frequently so severe that they have to be retired or at least carefully managed for the rest of their careers. Of the over 30 dogs I have seen with carpal arthritis, only one has had dewclaws.

If you look at an anatomy book (Miller's Guide to the Anatomy of Dogs is an excellent one – see Figure 1 below) you will see that there are 5 tendons attached to the dewclaw. Of course, at the other end of a tendon is a muscle, and that means that if you cut off the dew claws, there are 5 muscle bundles that will become atrophied from disuse.

Those muscles indicate that the dewclaws have a function. That function is to prevent torque on the leg. Each time the foot lands on the ground, particularly when the dog is cantering or galloping (see Figure 2), the dewclaw is in touch with the ground. If the dog then needs to turn, the dewclaw digs into the ground to support the lower leg and prevent torque. If the dog doesn't have a dewclaw, the leg twists. A lifetime of that and the result can be carpal arthritis, or perhaps injuries to other joints, such as the elbow, shoulder and toes. Remember: the dog is doing the activity regardless, and the pressures on the leg have to go somewhere.

Perhaps you are thinking, "None of my dogs have ever had carpal pain or arthritis." Well, we need to remember that dogs, by their very nature, do not tell us about mild to moderate pain. If a dog was to be asked by an emergency room nurse to give the level of his pain on a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the worst, their scale would be 0, 0, 0, 0, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Most of our dogs, especially if they deal with pain that is of gradual onset, just deal with it and don't complain unless it is excruciating. But when I palpate the carpal joints of older dogs without dewclaws, I frequently can elicit pain with relatively minimal manipulation.

As to the possibility of injuries to dew claws. Most veterinarians will say that such injuries actually are not very common at all. And if they do occur, then they are dealt with like any other injury. In my opinion, it is far better to deal with an injury than to cut the dew claws off of all dogs "just in case."

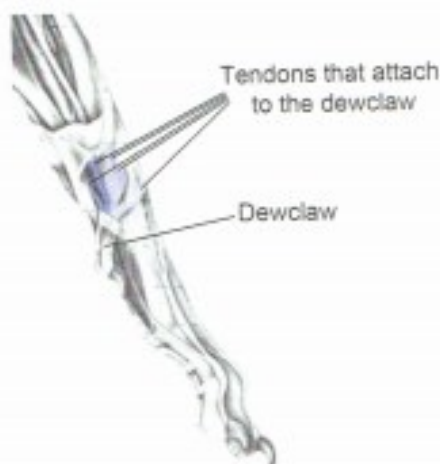


Figure 1. Anatomical diagram viewing the medial side of a dog's left front leg demonstrating the five tendons that attach to the dewclaw.

--from *Miller's Guide to the Dissection of the Dog*



Figure 2. In this galloping dog, the dewclaw is in touch with the ground. If the dog then needs to turn to the right, the dewclaw digs into the ground to support the lower leg and prevent torque.

Thanks to Sylvia Hansen and Shelly Oliver for contributing pictures for this months newsletter. I would like to remind all members that any material you deem appropriate for our newsletter please send to me honda140@cox.net and I will see that it is inserted into our newsletter. The more material there is for the newsletter the easier it is to put together and the better it looks. The pictures on this page and next are from our recent training day and some training pictures of Cliff and Belle preparing for the Invitational next month. On that note, I would like to say good luck to all members of the three Southern California chapter members who are going to the Invitational. May the birds fly high and the gunners aim be true.





The Backpage

Board of Directors

President: Cliff Fleming

Vice President: Mike Shepherd

Treasurer: Steve Engelgau

Secretary & Social Media: Shelley Oliver

**Training Coordinator & Web Master:
Kraig Dix**

Media Coordinator: Gabriel Awbrey

Newsletter Editor: Matt Moore

Equipment Officer: John O'Donnel

Training Days RULES

Guidelines & Procedures Dogs are to be under control at all times (leash rule is in effect)

Everyone in the field must wear **BLAZE ORANGE hat, t-shirt or vest.**

Must have completed a hunter safety class or have a hunting license

Children are to be supervised and remain within the designated parking area at all times

No Alcohol on premises

Shotguns must be break action only

Must have active NAVHDA International Membership

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