

Upcoming Events

Lone Star NAVHDA Fall Test:

Date: December 7-8, 2019

Location: Holth Ranch

Website: <https://lonestarnavhda.org/>



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Issue

ONE

JULY 2019

An Insight into the Lone Star NAVHDA Chapter



NEWSLETTER



currenttopics>>>

Greetings from your Lone Star NAVHDA Chapter

A big thanks to all that came out to the July 26th – 28th training weekend. Good people, better times and great dogs made it a special weekend for all involved. Everyone left with new insight into the NAVHDA process and an arsenal of new training techniques. A special thanks to President Mark Santos for putting together the weekend, John Moffett for supplying training birds, Lance Gilliam for being a great chef and Doc McFarlane at The Big Woods on the Trinity for allowing us to use his beautiful property.

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Lily Lundy

Training Recap: Big Woods on the Trinity!



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The weekend kicked off Friday July 26th, 2019 with over 24 members of the Lone Star NAVHDA chapter. Members traveled from all over the State of Texas to join in the experience and comradery of a great dog training weekend. After Friday night's meet and greet, a plan was devised for the following day's events. Saturday was kicked off with an early morning start that pitted trainers and dogs in a race to beat the Texas heat and get in as much training as possible. The members were split into three groups. One headed for the large body of water known to the property as Moonshine Lake. There they focused on the NAVHDA Utility Test water work events headed by Mark Santos and Jason Stanley. Some of the group worked on the blind retrieves and heeling course, while others focused on the beginning foundation of duck search work. The second group worked a large 100-acre field planting birds and running dogs on field work. UT inspired dogs were run hard, working on finding, holding and steadiness to birds under the experienced and inexperienced hand alike. Stephen Lundy helped to lead the way with his training knowledge afield. The last group was focused on the NAVHDA Natural Ability testing

requirements, led by John Moffett, an established member of the Lone Star NAVHDA chapter and experienced NAVHDA testing judge. He worked with new trainers and young dogs to explain the various aspects of the NA test. He also gave valuable insight into proper introduction and progression of the skills required to get a new versatile gun dog headed in the right direction. By 10:00 AM Saturday the Texas sun had gotten the best of us and we turned our focus back to the camp house and an early lunch from the tireless work of Lance Gilliam who had fresh Antone's sandwiches out and ready for hungry handlers. The group ate lunch and talked about the events of the morning. Others began to figure out the next step in training for the day, with most agreeing that in the heat of the day water work was the only way to go. Early afternoon, those not napping, headed back down to Moonshine Lake for round two of dog training. All aspiring UT dogs took turns running through the heel course, blind steadiness segments and marked retrieve while getting helpful guidance from the group of peanut gallery onlookers. Plenty of laughs and smiles on all who watched and worked dogs.

All about the experience >>>

Waiting on the Moment

Anyone who has ever trained, worked or hunted over a dog

knows of that special moment. The moment when the planets align, and all the hard work reveals itself in a picturesque moment in time.

This moment came to fruition as Mark and Jason ran their Invitational Test hopefuls, Atticus and Zane. Wrapping up Saturday's events a few headed back to the field one last time, racing the waning daylight to run a practice brace that paired Zane and Atticus. The night was illuminated by a stunning lock to point from Zane on the second bird. Near the rear of the commotion Atticus was



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wheeling around on another pass when he spotted Zane locked in the distance. Without hesitation he screeched to a halt on an spectacular backing mark at near 100 yards to the rear. Both dogs held steadfast as the gunners and handlers approached. With the pressure mounting on the bird from the oncoming hunters, the bird exploded from its cover, followed by a quick shot which saw the feathers erupt and the bird plunge into a small pond nearby. Zane still holding steady was released on the retrieve. A retrieve that saw the essence of what it means to be a versatile gun dog. In this one instance, the group afield watched in awe as he glided

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over land, plunged into the water and retrieved the downed bird to hand. That was the moment. Zane's and Atticus's performances epitomized the goal for all our dogs. A moment that reveals what we all know about these beautiful animals and their endless capabilities afield.



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Veterinary Advice >>>

The Doctor is in the House!

Saturday was filled with a jam-packed schedule that not only saw the dogs learning but also helped the handlers. Dr. Dayna Baxter owner of Hampshire Mobile Vet was kind enough to give a special impromptu seminar on the do's and don'ts of field injuries and common elements that plague our most beloved friends. As a versatile dog owner herself, she has firsthand experience of what these dogs can get into during a romp in the field. *Special shout out to Duke for being one hell of a test subject for the doctor!*

SNAKE!

Handlers benefitted Sunday from a snake avoidance clinic scheduled by Mark Santos. Dog owners that chose to participate got to watch firsthand as their pups encountered live rattle snakes and the subsequent volting correction that followed as the dog sensed the animal. After a few short interactions and corrections, the dogs ran a wide circle around the snakes to avoid the shock at all costs. Hopefully, this will hold true in the field as hunting season approaches.

Key Take Away:

- A well-stocked first aid kit with common items can go a long way to buying important time needed to get medical attention
- Help your vet understand the issues you encounter in the field especially the remoteness of locations when emergencies occur. This may help to obtain important Rx medications.
- Having a muzzle on hand can be the difference between injury to yourself and rescue to your dog.
- Attached is a pdf of useful information provided by Dr. Dayna. A lot of the medication she has specified is not available OTC and requires a good working relationship with your vet.

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