

NCW NAVHDA NEWS



Spring is in the air!

The days are getting longer, temperatures have been unseasonably warm, and social media tells me folks have already been out doing some dog training. At our house, we have been busy working on the trained retrieve and the beginnings of steadiness. We are starting to take both outside for that next level of distractions as we work towards preparing our newest GLP Floyd for the Utility Test.

A quick update on news in the club... In January, NCW NAVHDA held their annual meeting. Thank you to all who attended - this is **our** club and **your** voice is important. We had several changes to the board, including a new President, Vice President, Treasurer, and several new Board Members. Get to know a little more about each board member by checking out the MEET THE BOARD section in this newsletter. Many thanks to the past Board Members - your commitment, expertise and contributions to the club are truly appreciated. Also in January, NAVHDA held their annual meeting in Troy, MI. Approved Judges and Clinic Leaders were announced, and none of the motions discussed were passed.

Several important dates that you will want to add to your calendar (additional details can be found on page 3):

- **Bird Orders Due.** March 27. Be sure to get your bird orders in at least 10 days prior to the training date.
- **New Member Orientation.** March 23rd from 9-11:30am. This session will help prepare you for the upcoming training season. As a reminder no dogs for this session.
- **First Training Day.** April 6 will be our first training day at the Mead Grounds - we will hope for a beautiful Spring day.

Enjoy the Newsletter -

Deb Mella

NCW NAVHDA Secretary



"Spring Cleaning" - Perfect weather to clean out our NAVHDA Trailers last weekend!

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Letter from the President



Dear NCW NAVHDA Members,

I'd like to start by thanking all our chapter members. I am honored to be voted in as your NCW NAVHDA Chapter President. I will focus on communication, transparency, member involvement, and improving the overall member experience.

I'm excited to share a few items we've accomplished within the last month since I was elected.

- Monthly and annual Club financial statements are now available in a NCW Board shared online location. Our new Treasurer has created and is maintaining an up-to-date balance sheet and inventory tracker. As of January 26, 2024, the club bank account is now managed online.
- We have secured fields and water sites to hold both Rules and Aims Clinics. More information will be available soon.
- We have secured a duck supplier and ducks are now added to our online Bird Order Form on the ncwnavhda.org website. We have also contacted additional chukar, pheasant, and pigeon suppliers in case of supply issues.
- Our Secretary and Treasurer are working on revamping the club website, and online payments for birds and membership fees will soon be an option!
- Three board members represented the NCW Chapter at the Mead Grounds Association (MGA) Annual Meeting; ensuring our voices are heard as it relates to our training and testing dates, upgrades to the bird pen, field three progress, and review of the MGA's five-year plan.
- The Review Committee established at the Annual Meeting is off and running. The new-found excitement for club involvement and improvement is refreshing.

Other items that are in process:

- Documenting board position responsibilities and what is required when board positions change.
- Setting up an automated email stating your order was received when you place a bird order.
- We are researching the process to become a 501c3 organization.
- Taking stock and organizing all items in both club trailers - including merchandise.
- Testing and updating bird launcher batteries.
- We're in the final planning stages of the bird pen addition at the training grounds.
- Training day revamp/reorganization.

We have a dedicated and trustworthy board of directors and for that I am grateful.

I appreciate your support and encourage you to share any feedback and ideas you may have.

Thank you,

Casey E. Koback

NCW NAVHDA President

Bird Orders for 2024

REMINDER! Birds **MUST BE ORDERED AT LEAST TEN DAYS** prior to training days.

- Pigeons, pheasants, chukars, and ducks are available for purchase for use by NCW NAVHDA members and must be picked up by 9:00am on training days.
- We cannot guarantee the availability of pigeons so please source your own if possible.
- Order pigeons, pheasants, chukars, and ducks using the bird order page on our website: <https://www.ncwnavhda.org/bird-orders.html>

Training Permits

The DNR requires a dog training permit when using game birds outside official NAVHDA events. Use this link to learn more about dog training in WI: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/dogtraining.html>

Membership Information

For a chapter membership form see www.ncwnavhda.org. You must also be a member of NAVHDA International to join the NCW NAVHDA chapter and participate in chapter activities. See www.navhda.org for the International form.



Important Dates in March & April

March 23 | New Member Orientation

NCW NAVHDA New Member Orientation - no dogs

Saturday, March 23
9 - 11:30 am

Stanton W. Mead Education & Visitor Center
S2148 County Hwy S, Milladore, WI 54454

This event is free, but please contact [Casey Koback](#) (715-252-8698) if you wish to attend.

March 27 | Bird Orders Due

Training birds must be ordered in advance online. Please place your bird orders no later than 10 days prior to the upcoming training day.

- <https://www.ncwnavhda.org/bird-orders.html>

April 6 | First Training Day

Join us for the first training day of the season at the Mead Training Grounds.

Start Time: 8:00am

LUNCH SERVED - \$5

Bring a dish to pass!

North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association



NAVHDA is a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to foster, promote, and improve the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America; to conserve game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs before and after the shot; and to aid in prevention of cruelty to animals by discouraging nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs.

Volunteers Needed!

We are always in need of an extra set of hands during training and test days.

Lunch Volunteer to bring lunch for our training days, or test days. Contact deb.mella@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Test Day Volunteers - Planting birds, or being a Field Marshall are great ways to learn about the test. Contact Jill Colloton if you are interested in helping in 2024 at ultrasoundcow@gmail.com or 715.573.9641.

2024 Training & Testing Dates



Training Dates

April 6, at 8:00 am	June 15, at 7:00 am
April 20, at 8:00 am	July 20, at 7:00 am
May 4, at 7:00 am	August 10, at 7:00 am
May 18, at 7:00 am	

The Mead grounds are also reserved for training dates (*bring your own birds and equipment*) on all Tuesdays beginning at 4PM from April 9 - August 20.

Testing Dates

Test dates will be announced on Saturday, March 23, 2024, following the New Member Orientation.

AIMS and Rules Clinics

Details will be announced soon - check our website for more information soon about how you can sign-up.

May 11 & 12 - Handlers Clinic

June 22 & 23 - Invitational Handlers Clinic

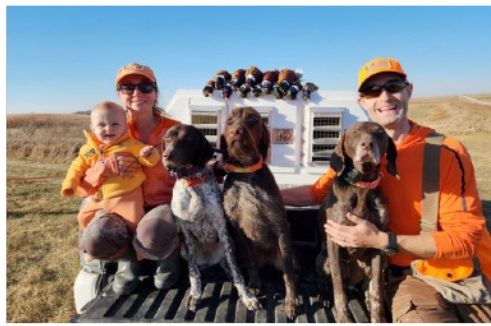
Meet the Board



Casey Koback, President

Casey joined NAVHDA in 2020 when his wife surprised him by getting on the list for a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon puppy. Casey wanted to get back into grouse hunting and thought adding a pointing breed in with his then two Chesapeake Bay Retrievers would be a great way to start. Fast forward a few years and Casey has his Griff, Chipper, running in the 2024 Invitational. Most weekends in the spring and summer were spent dog training with newly acquired, amazing friends. Casey joined the NCW Board of Directors in 2022. He added another Griff, Butters, (to his now five-pack of dogs) who will go through the NAVHDA testing system.

In January 2024, Casey was elected as the NCW Chapter President. While this is new territory for him, he is positive that with the knowledgeable and dedicated team of the executive board and the board of directors, they will make dog training and testing a fun, positive experience for all members. He is excited for the opportunity to be a bigger part of the future of NCW NAVHDA. All of this happened because he just wanted to go grouse hunting with a good bird dog.



Desiree Stormont, Vice President

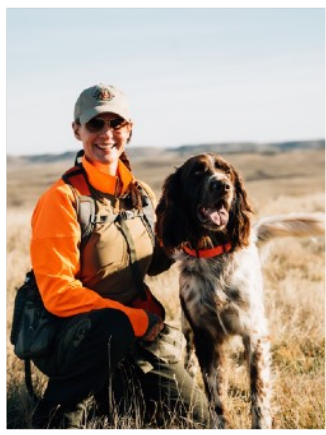
Desi is originally from Wisconsin and NCW will always be her “home” chapter. She owns two German shorthaired pointers and a Wirehaired pointing Griffon and has been involved in NAVHDA for close to 10 years. She has an obedience training background and loves helping new members fall in love with NAVHDA just like she did. Desi loves hunting all over the country with her husband and her 2 year old son, Weller.



Autumn Koback, Treasurer

Autumn joined NCW NAVHDA in 2020, when she and her husband and got their first Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, Chipper. A self-described “non-joiner”, she did not anticipate spending much time at dog training or testing. However, she found herself tagging along at most training days with her husband, Casey. While she is not the dog handler or a hardcore hunter, you can occasionally catch her with any one of her five dogs, and a 20 gauge in the grouse woods or pheasant fields, or with a .30-06 in the warmest deer stand in Wisconsin. You’re more likely to find her in the field with a camera – taking photos of all the dogs she can. Becoming a NAVHDA member has been an unexpected joy. She has met folks who have quickly become close, lifetime friends – and if it weren’t for joining the NCW Chapter, she wouldn’t know any of them today.

Meet the Board (continued...)



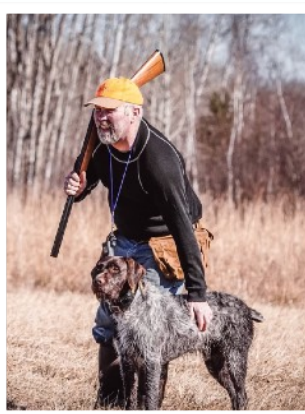
Deb Mella, Secretary

Deb joined NCW NAVHDA in 2011. That was the year she and her husband Joe got their first Deutsch Langhaar (GLP) puppy and started their journey of learning what it meant to train and test a dog. One of her fondest memories is from her very first training day when she watched two finished dogs run a brace in the field as demonstration of what you could achieve through training. She recalls asking her husband if that is what it was like when he went to SD with his buddies. He said he'd never seen anything like that before! Training dogs, quickly became a new hobby that she and her husband could enjoy together. Deb was usually the assistant in the field or photographer, but that all changed in 2020 when an injury prevented her husband from training their third dog Blitz for the Utility Test. After 9 years of watching from behind, Deb found being a trainer and handler an exciting new challenge. She went on to see a passing Utility Test score with Blitz. Later that Fall, she began carrying a shotgun and shooting her first wild bird. Deb and her husband Joe, currently have three Deutsch Langhaars.



Jon Yaeger, Board Member

Jon was learning about upland hunting and wanted a finished pointing dog, and he soon joined NCW NAVHDA. He quickly learned the commitment necessary to truly train a “finished” versatile hunting dog. In 2017, Jon got his first GWP puppy, drank the NAVHDA cool-aid, and trained and tested Grommet at the NA, UT, and Invitational levels. Jon is a big believer in “giving back” as a necessity to further the quality and success of training and testing. He volunteers at training days, and at chapter and Invitational tests. He is currently an approved Invitational Gunner, in the Apprentice Judging Program, and is training for Utility and Invitational testing. Jon looks forward to upland hunting with NAVHDA friends’ dogs (and their owners). He also enjoys, big game hunting, fly-fishing, and supporting our conservation partners. Jon currently owns and operates his painting and design business.



Brian Roth, Board Member

Brian began his NAVHDA journey in 2018 after getting his first Versatile dog. He grew up hunting with flushers, but wanted to try a pointing breed. That’s when he got the bird dog bug. His first Wirehaired Pointing Griffon named Hutch has taken him to places he never thought possible. From waterfowl hunting with his family in North Dakota, to the NAVHDA Invitational in New Mexico. Brian is married with 3 children. When he’s not working he can be found training or hunting with his family and friends behind their Wirehaired Pointing Griffon named Hutch, and his daughter’s Brittany named Archie.

Meet the Board (continued...)



Joe Mella, Board Member

Joe has been a member of NAVHDA since he acquired his first versatile hunting dog, a Deutsch Langhaar (GLP) in 2011. He and his wife Deb have trained for and run several dogs in Natural Ability tests and Utility Tests. Joe has also trained and run dogs in the German testing system (the JGV). Joe began serving on the board of the North Central Wisconsin Chapter of NAVHDA in 2022. He and Deb have been steadfast volunteers for formal and informal training days for the chapter. They share a passion for dog training and testing that they enjoy sharing with others.



Mike Duffin, Board Member

Mike was a NCW member from 2003-2008 and again, since 2015. Prior to working with versatile pointers he hunted with various breeds including labs, goldens and springers. The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon stole a place with his family and in 2020 they had their first litter with UTII Firebirds Electra (Ellie). He and his wife reside in Custer where they have a small kennel, Edgewood North Griffons. Mike is an avid grouse hunter pursuing the cagey bird in the UP of Michigan and Wisconsin. He also hunts upland birds and waterfowl in Saskatchewan, the Dakotas, Iowa and Minnesota. NAVHDA has been by far the best resource to develop pups into finished gun dogs. Advice: With each dog you have to enjoy the journey. "If you aren't having fun, you are doing it wrong".



Jill Werner, Test Secretary

Jill and her husband, Brian, became involved in NAVHDA 14 years ago when they got their first hunting dog, Breeze. Because of support from the terrific people in the NCW chapter Breeze became a Versatile Champion. Since then Jill has tried to pay it forward by volunteering in many capacities, currently as Test Secretary. With Brian she breeds and trains Small Munsterlanders (and their humans) at their 120 acre property in Edgar. When she started with NCW NAVHDA she had never held a gun. Thanks to what she has learned from participating in the chapter she now hunts or tracks 30-40 days a year.



Congratulations !!!

Handler of the Year



Casey Koback

Dog of the Year



VC Smoothbore's Blackhawk "Bentley" - owned by Megan and Taylor Helmuth

NAVHDA Sponsors and Conservation Partners

Please support these organizations and companies who help us in many ways. Remember to tell them you're a member of NAVHDA!



NCW NAVHDA is SOCIAL ...



2024 Board Members



Find us on Facebook!

- **Page:** NCW Chapter of North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association
- **Private Group:** NCW NAVHDA



Follow us on Instagram:
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Check out our Website:
www.ncwnavhda.org

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