



# MN NAVHDA CHAPTER NEWS

February 2011

www.mnnavhda.com

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## **Bill Jensen – An Investment in NAVHDA**

I was walking in the field with Bill last summer while judging the Virginia test with him. It was then that he told that day was going to be his last test as a NAVHDA Judge. It got me to thinking of the first time I met Bill.

I was running my first dog in a UPT test at the Minnesota Horse & Hunt club in June of 94. It was not one of my better days. My dog pulled maybe one or two feathers from the duck and to be honest, left a quarter sized hole in the skin. Bill and his judging team deemed that to be mutilation of the duck and worthy of a No Prize score. I was obviously a little down, and then Bill tells me that the real problem with the retrieve is that I have a “Relationship problem” with my dog. On my way home that night I had only one question on my mind, “Who is this Bill Jensen guy?”

Well, over the next 17 years I had a chance to learn a bit more about Bill. The first thing I learned was that in those days you never got just Bill. You always got his beloved wife Barb as part of the deal. Many of our newest members may know Bill from the Obedience class. Yes, Bill has been the instructor at the Bethel obedience class for the last 8 years or so. But it was Barb who developed the winter obedience class into what we know today. Barb created the format, content, and a huge following. The first time I took the class, there were at least 25 or more students and Barb had to split the class in 2 groups which alternated 30 minutes each on the floor. We had to expand to a second location in Hamel, which Jim Strilich lead for many years and now Wolfie Smith is taking his turn. Four years ago we added the Lake Elmo class which Wayne Darvell has lead. But make no mistake about it, all of this is due to Barb’s efforts, and therefore the name the Barb Jensen Obedience class.

If you look at the NAVHDA website you will see an article on the history of NAVHDA. It describes the details of the organization of NAVHDA at John Kegel’s house in May of 69. Bill & Barb were a part of NAVHDA’s beginnings as evidenced by Bill’s member number 0000036. NAVHDA’s 1<sup>st</sup> test was a UT test in October of 69 that was not at all like what we see today. The test covered 2 days and was similar in format to the German tests. Our first NA test was in April of 72 and Bill was appointed as a Judge that winter in January of 71.

## ***Bill Jensen – An Investment in NAVHDA (Continued from Page 1)***

Bill's contributions on the International front includes everything from the creation of the NAVHDA Logo that many of us display on our trucks today to his role as the Treasurer from 72 to 73 and then another Director position from 74 to 76. Bill then sat on the sidelines and watched Barb take her turn for several years. NAVHDA struggled in the early years to publish a regular communications to all chapter members. When they again found themselves without a Publications Director, Barb stepped up at the January 81 Annual meeting and volunteered for the position. Barb was the first to consistently publish a monthly newsletter from 81 to 86 and in that process, set the foundation and expectations of the monthly VHD magazine you now receive today. Then Bill came back as the Director of Testing from 87 to 92 and then Vice President from 93 to 95.

You will see in our Newsletter that we have another Handler's Clinic schedule for June. This Clinic is about much more than simply handling a dog in a test. The basis of this Clinic is to learn the NAVHDA Judging system and therefore it is a prerequisite requirement for applying as a NAVHDA Apprentice Judge. Bill has made significant contributions to this as well. He certainly has helped us all as a Handler Clinic leader many times. But the one thing everyone gets in this class is a copy of the "NAVHDA Judge Handbook". You can read this book from cover to cover and will not find the author's name. But I will tell you the author is Bill Jensen.

Bill supported our chapter's organization from the very beginning. Today he still attends many of our BOD meetings to provide input as needed. He helped with our first organized "Mock Test at Kelly farms". He has hosted training days on his property, NA tests, and the Mock test as we know it today. He and Joe Dolejsi even developed our Test Prep seminar to help first time handlers prepare for their first test.

The NAVHDA webpage also has an article on the history of the Invitational test. The first of which was held in Ohio in April of 82. It was an attempt to put on a "Big Show" of our organization and the exceptional performance of our dogs to several well know sports writers. Ten dogs considered to be the best of their breed, some of which earned a Prize I UT, were selected for this test. The cover was poor and the test somewhat ragged, but it still had a few good dog performances for the sports writers.

The second Invitational was held in Indiana in the fall of 85. Certainly, some improvements in the test were made. Dogs were now selected based on a Prize I or a Prize II of 185 points or more and not based on breed. The first "Modern" Invitational was held in 88 in Ontario with 5 of 23 dogs receiving a passing score. Minnesota hosted the Invitational for the first time in 1990. Terry Petro was the Invitational Committee Chairman that year and he will tell you it was committee member Bill who set the standard and format that year for "NAVHDA's Big Show" that you now see every year. Bill provided everything from the opening ceremony, playing of the national anthems, selection of good field conditions, organization of chapter support, to the closing meeting and more. Minnesota has now hosted 5 of the 15 modern Invitational tests. Knowing Bill's contributions to the maturing of test itself as well as organizing it, he was my first contact in 08 as we prepared for our last Invitational.

Bill's focus on our Chapter and the International organization did not take away from his true commitment to the purpose of NAVHDA, "to foster, improve, promote, and protect the versatile hunting breed in North America". Over the years, he has provided much input into how NAVHDA can further this vision for all breeds through the registry, test programs, and the many NAVHDA events. His Alder's Edge Kennel has been devoted to improving the Griffon in America and has been awarded 12 NA Breeders Awards. And just for the record, the Alder Edge tally is Barb 9, Bill 3.

Over his forty year career as a Judge, Bill has Judged 1,176 NA dogs, 60 UPT dogs, 381 UT dogs, and what blows me away is 588 Invitational dogs for a total of 2,205 dogs. I am pleased to say that I was on Bill's last judging team, number 224, in Virginia last August.

## ***Bill Jensen – An Investment in NAVHDA (Continued from Page 2)***

So, what have I learned about Bill Jensen over the past 17 years?

First, I learned that Bill has influenced my life in ways that I never would have imagined at my first UPT test 17 years ago. Everything I do with dogs and NAVHDA has been touched by Bill in some way.

Second, I have developed a tremendous amount of respect for Bill, what he has done, and everything he stands for,

Third, an appreciation for all that he has done for me as an individual, for our Chapter, and for the International organization of NAVHDA.

Perhaps the best compliment I could give to Bill is to say that I am now trying to pass his legacy on to my 12 year old grandson Matt, NAVHDA member number 43,145, who is now participating in his first obedience class with his first hunting dog (sorry Bill, it is not a Griffon). Because of Bill, in part, I was able to select from a larger number of reputable breeders to find a good dog, have an excellent list of training opportunities to choose from, a tremendous support group in NAVHDA, and can now enroll them in their first NA test this spring.

We expressed our appreciation for all that Bill has done and recognized him on his retirement from NAVHDA Judging with a small gift at Fable Feast. Even though Bill is retiring from Judging, his involvement with NAVHDA is not done. His involvement with NAVHDA will never end because it is an addiction for him.

I ask you to take the time to thank Bill the next time you see him for all that he has done for you, even if you may not yet know what that is.

Len Kindem

### **Training Grounds**

The MN NAVHDA Chapter is a member club of the Minnesota Federation of Field Trial Clubs (MFFTC). Several years ago the MFFTC negotiated a ten year lease with the MN DNR to lease 640 acres of the Four Brooks WMA which is located 12 miles north of Milaca on Highway 169.

The lease allows member clubs of the MFFTC to conduct field trials, hunt tests and training on these grounds from January 1<sup>st</sup> thru the Friday nearest September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The lease allows for the planting of birds and for the shooting of planted birds.

Since MN NAVHDA is a member of the MFFTC, its members (must be a member of NAVHDA International and the Chapter) are entitled to purchase an annual training pass for the Four Brooks site. The cost of this pass is \$25.00 per year. These passes are available from Bill Jensen, our Chapters representative to the MFFTC.

Over the past seven years, the MFFTC has invested just under \$100,000.00 in donations and grant monies towards improvements on this site. These improvements include fencing, land clearing, seeding, pond development and road and parking upgrades. The area has developed into a wonderful training site which can be used by pass holders whenever there is not an event scheduled on the grounds. To check when events are scheduled at the Four Brooks site, go to [www.mfftc.com](http://www.mfftc.com) and click on calendar.

If you are interested in this training area, please contact Bill Jensen (320-983-6429) for further details and your 2011 Four Brooks training pass.

### A note from your Director of Testing

It will not be long now, soon we will be swatting skeeters and picking ticks, and that's just from the driveway to the house. Crates will be cleaned, leashes untangled and maybe you will locate that lost training bumper. The dogs (ever observant) know what's happening; you can see it in their eyes, their tails. Let's go, I'm ready they are trying to say.

The 2011 Training and Testing season is set. We will be hosting 5 testing events this year. The first being May 21 & 22 at Four Brooks, Then June 18 & 19 at Kelley Farms, Our northern members are running a test August 20 & 21 at the Iron Range Retriever Club in Virginia. If you have never attended the Test or Training weekend that they host at IRRC, give one or both a try - both are first rate events! (Oh and the Saturday night smorgasbord, better known as the Gastronomical Extravaganza on the Training weekend is fabulous. Be sure sign up early by contacting Joe Dolejsi as the training weekend fills up fast.) September 3 & 4 we are running a test at both Kelly Farms and Four Brooks, which are our final tests for the year.

We have reserved chukars for our spring tests. Even though it costs the club extra to have a Game farm hold birds over the winter, we have not raised our testing fee for 2011. Having older birds available for a spring test at the same rates as of 2010 is a great benefit to both handlers and dogs.

If you are a newer member of the club or a long standing member, please remember we are a volunteer organization. We could not possibly do this without your help. If it's been a while since you last helped out at an event; please sign up we would love to see you again. If you're new to the club, give it a try, we are a great group of people (just ask us we'll tell ya). In the coming weeks I will be lining up Test Chairs for the events. Give them a call; let them know you would like to help out. It's a great way to meet new people and learn from some excellent dog trainers.

We are looking forward to seeing you again this year.  
DOG ON POINT, gotta go.

Director of Testing  
Ross Mortensen  
Feb. 2011

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*DENEISE & WILLIAM SWANSON – WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFON*

*LARRY & PAM JACOBS – WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFON*

*RAY & ELLEN FRIGO – SMALL MUNSTERLANDER*

*TIM & MARIA AHRNDT - VISLA*

*TAMMY MAURICIO – GERMAN WIREHAIR*

*MARK & ANNE DONAHOE – GERMAN SHORTHAIK*

*CLYDE & MARILYN VETTER – GERMAN SHORTHAIK*

*BRYAN THOMAS – GERMAN SHORTHAIK*

*TERRY & ANGIE JAKUBIEC – GERMAN SHORTHAIK*

*JIM & FAWN MASTER – PUDELPOINTER*

*THOMAS & WENDY ZANOSKO -*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2011

[www.mnnavhda.com](http://www.mnnavhda.com)

## OBEDIENCE CLASSES IN PROGRESS



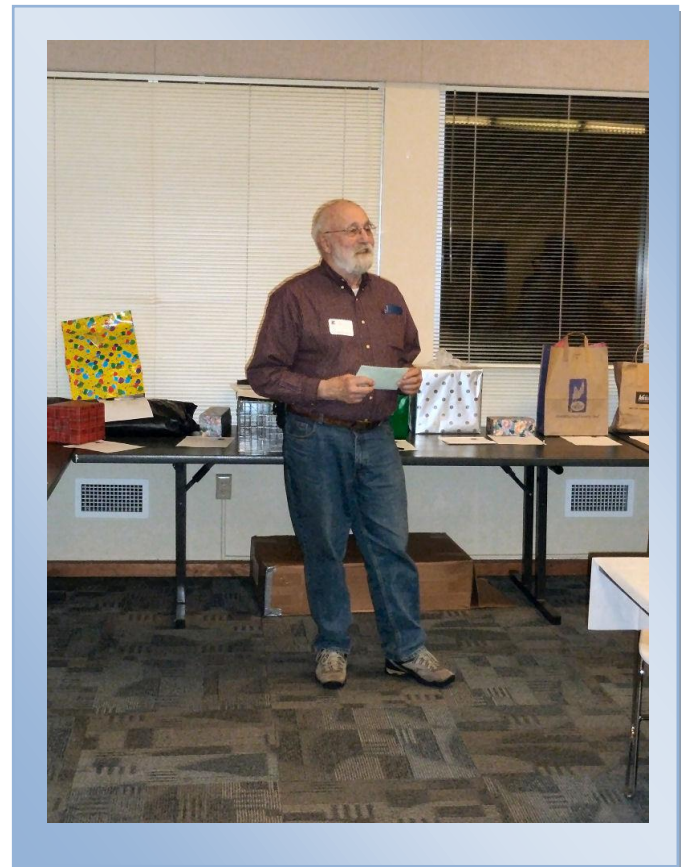
**Bethel**  
**Tuesdays**  
**January 11th**  
**Instructor:**  
**Bill Jensen**



**Hamel**  
**Wednesdays**  
**January 12th**  
**Instructor:**  
**Wolfie Smith**



**Lake Elmo**  
**Thursdays**  
**January 13th**  
**Instructor:**  
**Wayne Darvell**



## **Fable Fest 2011**

Fable Fest was held on the first Saturday in February this year. We had a great turnout this year and a very enjoyable and successful MN-NAVHDA event! Many laughs were had, tacos were over-indulged in, and there was conversation of hunting, dogs and an annual update from our chapter's board of directors as well as a brief recap of the International meeting.

I would like to make a special mention of appreciation to Good Going Kennels for donating a special hunt to be auctioned off to benefit the Mitch Lindberg fund. I would also like to mention thanks to Ed Schintler of SW Cage ([www.swcage.com](http://www.swcage.com)), and Mark Jacobs for a donation of 3 bird cages to auction for the benefit of our chapter.

A special THANKS goes out to the members of our board of directors, who each chipped in to make this year's new taco bar a fantastic success! I would also like to thank everyone who helped out throughout the evening; the event went flawlessly thanks to all of you who chipped in to set up before or clean up afterwards.

Fable Fest 2012 is in the works already and will be held once again at the Chomonix Golf Course on one of the first Saturdays in February, exact date and time TBD. Mark your calendar!

Looking forward to another successful Fable Fest in 2012,

Mindy Brown, Director of Promotions

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2011

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## TENTATIVE TRAINING SCHEDULE 2011

Tuesday January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Obedience Class	Bethel, MN	Instructor: Bill Jensen
Wednesday January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Obedience Class	Hamel, MN	Instructor: Wolfie Smith
Thursday January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Obedience Class	Lake Elmo, MN	Instructor: Wayne Darvell
Saturday March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cabela's Test Prep Seminar	Cabela's — Rogers, MN	Bob Brearey
Saturday April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	New Member Orientation & Chapter Training Day	Four Brooks WMA Milaca, MN	Bob Brearey
Saturday & Sunday April 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Training Weekend <i>4/16 Jason Gooding Training Clinic</i>	Four Brooks WMA Milaca, MN	Bob Brearey
Thursday April 21 <sup>st</sup> through Thursday July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Weekly Training Nights	Major Avenue Hunt Club Glencoe, MN	Joe Dolejsi
Thursday April 21 <sup>st</sup> through Thursday July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Weekly Training Nights (Informal)	Kelley Farms Hugo, MN	Chad Simmer
Saturday May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mock NA Test	Bill Jensen Farm Dalbo, MN	Nick Melby
Saturday & Sunday June 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Handler's Clinic	Major Avenue Hunt Club Glencoe, MN	TBD
August 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia Training Weekend	MN Iron Range Retriever Club Virginia, MN	Joe Dolejsi

## **2011 Training News and Notes**

### **Bob Brearey, Director of Training**

Here are a few highlights from this years training opportunities.

- Four Brooks training passes will be available for purchase at the Test Prep Seminar at Cabela's, Rogers on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- We will have our first **New Member Orientation** day at our first Four Brooks training session on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be an excellent opportunity for our new members to meet each other, to be introduced to some experienced NAVHDA handlers, to learn more about what our Chapter offers, and to get some important field time with your dog. We will discuss the many training opportunities we have available for you through out the year, briefly discuss NAVHDA's testing system, and pair off with some experienced handlers to get some one on one time. Birds will be available for purchase. See the flyer in this newsletter.
- Jason Gooding, a pro trainer from Good Going Kennels, will provide a puppy training session on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at our second Four Brooks training session. Cost will be \$15.
- After the completion of the Mock NA Test on May 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be an open training session with the left over birds, for MN NAVHDA members.
- We will have a Handler's Clinic this year on June 4-5 at Major Ave. in Glencoe, MN. Our Clinic Leader will be David Trahan from Deerfield, NH. Sign up early; there are only 20 slots available.

Flyers and signup sheets for all of these may be found in this newsletter, or on the website.



**NAVHDA**  
**North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association**  
***Minnesota Chapter - 2011 Training Seminar***

**PREPARING FOR NAVHDA TESTING**

**DATE:** Saturday, March 19th  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Cabela's, Rogers, MN (Upper Level conference room)  
**COST:** \$30.00

This seminar will be run by two very experienced NAVHDA members:

**Bill Jensen:** Breeder, NAVHDA Clinic Leader and Senior Judge.  
**Joe Dolejsi:** NAVHDA Clinic Leader and Senior Judge.

This half-day seminar will help new or inexperienced handlers prepare for a NAVHDA test. If you are thinking about entering a level of testing you have never run before, or would just like information to help you feel more comfortable with NAVHDA testing, this will be of great benefit to you.

The seminar will cover each test briefly, how to prepare for the test, handling tips, and some common handler errors. Participant's questions will be welcomed.

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**PREPARING FOR NAVHDA TESTING**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (HOME): \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Minnesota NAVHDA** and mail to:  
**Bob Brearey**  
4943 Heather Ridge Rd N  
Oakdale, MN 55128  
Questions: 651-491-4583 or [Bob.Brearey@gmail.com](mailto:Bob.Brearey@gmail.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2011

www.mnnavhda.com

## TENTATIVE TESTING SCHEDULE 2011

Saturday & Sunday May 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Spring NA Test NA Only (Single/Single)	Four Brooks WMA Milaca, MN	Vince Steffens
Saturday & Sunday June 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Full Test NA/UPT/UT (Double/Double)	Kelley Farms Hugo, MN	Bill Jensen
Saturday & Sunday August 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Full Test NA/UPT/UT (Single/Single)	MN Iron Range Retriever Club Virginia, MN	Jan Paavola
Saturday & Sunday September 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Labor Day NA Test NA Only (Single/Single)	Four Brooks WMA Milaca, MN	Bob Brearey
Saturday & Sunday September 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Labor Day Full Test NA/UPT/UT (Double/Double)	Kelley Farms Hugo, MN	Ross Mortensen

### **SPECIAL CLUB EVENTS 2011** **Additional details forthcoming!**

Handler's Clinic — Major Avenue Hunt Club  
Saturday & Sunday — June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Pheasant Championship — Major Avenue Hunt Club  
Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS – ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

Meetings are typically held at 7pm on the *third Tuesday of every month.*

Come join us at the **American Legion Rosetown Memorial Post 542 in Roseville, MN (651-483-3535)**

**The next meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th, 2011 and Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.**



**Vashti the Griffon on a Berthold ND, waterfowl hunt in late October  
Thanks to Dave Riopel for the Photo!**

**Argo**

**Thanks to Diana Wise for the Photo!**



**Do you have photos to share?  
Email your photo and story to  
Mindy Brown @  
[mindymarie80@gmail.com](mailto:mindymarie80@gmail.com) to  
share your photo or stories in  
the newsletter!**