



Minnesota Chapter of NAVHDA

Annual Meeting Agenda

Date: 02-15-2022

Location: Teleconference via Google Meet

Board Members in Attendance:

X	Pete Aplikowski	President	X	Sean Ewaldt	Director of Testing
X	Sam Snyder	Vice President	X	Mitch Carlson	Director of Training
X	Brent Haefner	Treasurer			
X	Andrew Blonski	Secretary			

x Indicates Present

Number of Chapter Members Participating: Up to 27

Meeting Called to Order: 7:06 PM

President: Pete Aplikowski

This meeting has traditionally occurred in conjunction with our traditional “Fable Fest” potluck and silent auction, which we were unable to hold this year due to CV-19. The size of our group is also outgrowing the venue we have been using at Chomonix Golf Course in Lino Lakes. So, as we did last year, we are holding this meeting on this virtual platform.

This meeting is being held to satisfy the requirements of the Bylaws, which state:

Article III: Chapter Meetings Section 1: The Chapter will hold an annual meeting in January or February.

Purposes for the meeting are to:

- A. Present a report from each Officer/Director, or a briefing by the President from each Officer/Director in the absence thereof.
- B. Present a report from the Chapter delegate to the NAVHDA annual meeting or a briefing by the President in the absence thereof.

The NAVHDA international meeting was held “Virtually” this year on Jan 29th. Myself and VP Sam Snyder attended. Fortunately, this meeting was recorded, and the presentations are posted on NAVHDA’s website and youtube channel. <https://www.navhda.org/annual-meeting/> There were 2 motions presented by the Potomac Chapter about changing the minimum requirements at the UT and Invitational Test to require a 4 in field search to earn a Prize 1 score. Both motions were voted down by the chapter delegates, and the EC supported that, and no changes were approved.

The other big takeaway from the meeting was the continued growth in NAVHDA membership. Membership now surpasses 10,000 active members, with about 96 Active chapters. Not every chapter holds a test every year. While there are some new chapters being formed (about 3 in the last year) individual membership

growth is far exceeding chapter growth. If you look at the chapter locator map, the biggest need for more chapters is in the south.

NAVHDA did hire a full time Managing Director recently. Her name is Kim Arnett. I have had a personal virtual meeting with her to introduce myself and the Minnesota Chapter and that we are happy to share what we do here in Minnesota with other chapters.

The 2023 annual meeting is scheduled for January 27th & 28th in Sioux Falls, SD. The Minnesota chapter considered putting in a bid to host this meeting, but the Board decided to sit this one out and see what the new “normal” might be with respect to large convention meeting attendance in the post-Covid world.

NAVHDA International does not track individual chapter data, but we are undoubtedly the largest chapter in NAVHDA, no matter how you measure it. Number of members, number of testing days, or number of training events we hold. We are also tied for the OLDEST, with the Potomac chapter, being chartered on Jan 1, 1972. Potomac held the first chapter sponsored NAVHDA test in April 1972, and we followed that in May 1972. We have held at least one test every year since. So, 2021, was our 50th year!

Pete covered the Minnesota NAVHDA mission statement and focused on our goal of supporting all of our members and volunteers and ensuring they have what they need to succeed in the way of access to grounds, birds, training & testing opportunities.

To close Pete highlighted the goal for 2022 is to ensure we focus on the fun factor of dog training and support one another.

Vice President: Sam Snyder

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Joel Dolejsi Scholarship
 - We awarded 3 scholarships for 2021
 - Christopher McClennan
 - Derek Van De Velde
 - Andrew Blonski
 - One new applicant for 2022, scholarship entries will be accepted through Mar 5, 2022
 - I brought this up at last month’s meeting, but I would like to bring the proposal of voting to add Mark Jacobs to the scholarship name. This will be on March’s agenda for a formal vote.
- Bill Jensen Apprentice Judge Scholarship
 - Dan Haakensen was awarded the scholarship this year after becoming an approved judge at the annual meeting in January.

FUNDRAISING

- We’re excited to announce that this year we will be raffling off a \$2,000 gift certificate to the Upland Gun Company.
 - Tickets will only be available to purchase at in-person events
 - \$20/chance
 - 300 tickets sold
 - \$2,000 will cover their base model gun, or you can choose to use it towards a higher model or additional customizations
 - Winner will also receive an in-person gun fitting (\$300 value)
 - Gun shipped to FFL of winner’s choice

- Drawing date will be announced through email and Facebook when all tickets have been sold
- Board members and immediate family are excluded from participation

SPONSORS

- Thank you again to all sponsors new and old!
 - A small amount of turnover this year in sponsors, but was offset by new sponsors.
 - Thank you to: Ethan Formo Country Financial, Patrick Moore Attorney at Law, Pineridge Grouse Camp, Jan's Hanging By a Thread, Pete & Kathleen Remax Results, A&M In-Ground Pet Fencing, Tonkadale Greenhouse, and the Upland Gun Company-this sponsorship slot was gifted as a thank-you for working with us on this year's fundraiser
 - Chapter member, Patrick Gaffney also made us aware of a program through his employer, Polaris. I'm happy to announce that Polaris has decided to donate \$1500 to MN NAVHDA as well as offer the use of their vehicles, if needed, at our events.

BIRDS

- Mike Mathias continues to do a wonderful job securing our training and testing birds for the year. It's a huge undertaking that requires a lot of work. Contracts were done months ago to ensure our suppliers could meet our needs. A lot of time spent on this by Mike-so if you see him, please be sure to thank him.
- Pigeons-we will continue to get our pigeons from a new supplier out of SD as our previous supplier stopped due to lack of a vehicle last year.

Treasurer: Brent Haefner

For 2021, the cash balance at the beginning of 2021 was \$49,880.28 and the cash balance at the end of 2021 was \$47,187.20 The chapter had a net loss of \$2,692.58. Included in this net loss is a \$6,650 investment into Four Brooks WMA for grounds improvements. Total revenue \$86,111.91 and total expenses \$88,804.49.

Summary of 2021 Revenue and Expenses

Revenue

Chapter Dues Received \$16,829.96
 Donations Received \$731.80
 Sponsorship Revenue \$741.40
 Raffle \$4,820.40
 Interest \$3.78
 Bird Sales \$26,163.80
 Other Income \$225.00
 Testing Events \$23,274.93
 Training Events \$13,330.84

Total Revenue \$86,111.91

Expenses

Raffle \$1,124.98

Office and Administrative \$1,561.29
Equipment \$2,360.97
Grounds Maintenance and Improvements \$7,241.86
Insurance \$1,818.73
Scholarships \$2,650
Bird Expenses \$31,179.33
Testing Events \$30,241.00
Training Events \$10,626.33

Total Expenses \$88,804.49

Secretary: Andrew Blonski

Andrew Blonski - MN NAVHDA Secretary. I am going into my second year as a member of Minnesota NAVHDA. Last year I was fortunate enough to receive the Joe Dolejsi Scholarship which allowed me to train at Kelly Farms and attend the Aims Clinic at Pine Ridge Grouse Camp. With Pete Ness looking to retire from the MN NAVHDA Board I took this as an opportunity to utilize my tech background and help MN NAVHDA. I'm excited to be able to give back to the chapter and continue volunteering on the Board.

- Currently the Chapter has 241 paid members as of February 14th. This is made up of 182 existing members renewing for the 2022 training season and 58 new members
- With the new testing registration limited to members only through February 2022 rosters are published weekly to the test secretaries to ensure all members can register for tests prior to registration being opened to the general public.
- The chapter exited 2021 with 325 paying members so we are still 84 members short of 2021, but I anticipate this number will reduce as we move through February and March
- Remember that if you have not yet renewed, you will be dropped from the roster on April 1st and no longer receive chapter emails that detail events and testing information.

Director of Training: Mitch Carlson

2022 Training

Winter Classes going on now including two positive reinforcement obedience classes led by Bob Brearey in Stillwater and several groups of general obedience courses being led and hosted by Pete Aplikowski at his house in Ham Lake.

AIMS & Rules June 4-5 at Kelley. Blaine Carter from Maine will be Clinic Leader. Lots of space available.

Small groups - The chapter encourage people to form their own groups. Training survey for others who have yet to find a group to train with in 2022

Other than AIMS, no specialty big clinics this year. The BODs feel we have met pent up demand in the last 2 years with force fetch, steadiness, and Invitational clinics. as we get more new members, these will come around again in future.

With the size of our chapter, the biggest need we have is for people willing to organize and coordinate small groups of individuals focusing on similar goals for their dogs. This does not mean they necessarily have to have the skills to lead the training portion. That being said, we have been extremely fortunate the last couple

of years to have a number of members who have stepped forward to lend their experience and expertise in leading groups primarily at the NA level. Among these folks are Doug Lodermeier, Bob Brearey, Ted Wentink and Bob Brearey.

Our greatest need is for people with the experience and knowledge, who would be willing to lead groups for handlers at the UPT and UT level.

We also are in need of people who would be willing to coordinate training at Four Brooks.

Grounds Coordinator: Mitch Carlson

Four Brooks: MN NAVHDA will be selling the grounds passes online via our website this year. More info to our members in March. There will also be a role played by Minnesota NAVHDA on grass management at Four Brooks. The chapter will ensure the fields are not cut in the spring to allow the grass to grow to a good level for testing

Kelley Farms: Kelley farms passes will be sold directly by the Grogans, as always. No word on pricing yet for 2022. We will be holding an “intro to training” night toward the end of April and passes will be sold that night as well.

Director of Testing: Sean Ewaldt

I have been a member of NAVHDA for 6 years. Excited to say I am a newly approved NAVHDA Judge. After two seasons as Apprentice Judge I applied and was approved at the annual meeting.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

There is A LOT of planning, coordination, logistical challenges and just plain hard work that goes into offering the resources for training and testing that our chapter offers. None of this would be possible without our membership stepping up to help each other. Thank you to our bird buyers, those that care for the birds, training leaders, training volunteers, test secretaries & coordinators, all the volunteers that make our test successful, our judges and appointed position volunteers, the members of the board. Your efforts make all of this possible.

2021 TESTING RECAP

- Challenging Year with Covid-19 uncertainly guiding a lot of the boards decisions around testing
- Despite the challenges we successfully ran tests at multiple sites throughout MN.
- Investments in the grounds at Four Brooks WMA allowed for us to host our 1st ever double test & utility test on these grounds. Thank you to Terry Petro for playing a big role in making four brooks better. With the growth in membership and interest in testing versatile dogs this site will be important for our chapter for years to come.
- In all we held 16 days of testing This is more than any other chapter in all of NAVHDA providing an opportunity for 127dogs from 17 different breeds to test
- 94 Dogs tested in NA with average score of 103.7 pts. 92% of these dogs prized with 43% Prize 1
- 29 Dogs tested in UT 68.9% earned a UT Prize and over 24% achieving a Prize 1 score qualifying them for the invitational
- 4 Dogs tested UPT each earning a prize

- Recognition to MNNAVHDA Members qualified for and ran in the invitational in Iowa last year. We had a total of 15 members that ran dogs at the test. Shout out to the dogs and handlers below that passed the test earning their VC
 - Denise Doll Kiefer & Zoldmali Eclipse Hungarian Aristocrat (Wirehaired Vizsla)
 - John Wickenheiser & Wicks Wild Goose Chase (German Shorthair Pointer)
 - Brian Karr & Willow Creek's True Grit (German Shorthair Pointer)
 - Scott Kossan & Rock Creek Edmund Fitzgerald (Pudelpointer)
 - Scott Kossan & Rock Creek Delta Dawn (Pudelpointer)

2022 look ahead

- General note regarding testing - the chapter “loses” money on each test. I say this only to inform the membership that we have at this point not increased entry fees rather we use money from the general fund to “subsidize” if you will the test cost as a service to our membership
- The board voted to restrict test entries in 2022 to members only for the 1st 30 days. This was done in response to the rising demand for tests and the intent of providing value to our members.
- Another busy testing season is fast approaching, Our chapter will be offering 18 days of testing at 4 separate sites. Once again I believe this will lead all NAVHDA chapters in the number of tests offered in 2022.
- As I said a short while ago, volunteers make all of this possible. Please consider supporting the Chapter by volunteering at a test. Contact me directly and I will get you in touch with a test coordinator

As I highlighted earlier, volunteers make all of this possible. Thank you to our 2022 test secretaries Pete A, Brian M, Jake T, Tammy H, Bryce A, and Megan H you have all been doing the behind the scenes work setting up the chapter for another successful testing season. We welcome all members to step up and volunteer. There is always a need, we will teach you what you need to know and you will likely learn a lot along the way.

Judging Coordinator: Pete Aplikowski

Senior Judge Frank Spaeth from Eveleth retired. We have had a commemorative plaque made already for him, and this will be making its way north to him soon. Frank became a judge in 1987. He judged 131 days. If you think about it, that is 65 weekends, not counting travel time. That is over 1 YEAR's worth of weekends of volunteering to Judge tests. Frank judged a total of 1,120 dogs.

Over the last several years, we have had an increasing number of members enter the apprentice judge program. We are very fortunate that this year, THREE members were approved as NAVHDA Judges. Nathan Freshour, Sean Ewaldt, & Dan Haakenson. I welcome them to the Judging cadre, and they will be a great asset. While NAVHDA does require a mix of local and non-local judges for their tests, having more local judges is a big help to the chapter to keep test costs down, and with the number of tests we do, we cannot have enough local judges.

Mike Neiduski is also a newly appointed NAVHDA SENIOR Judge who recently moved to our area from North Carolina that is helping us out at a couple tests this year as well. We Welcome Mike, and I am sure he will join the chapter this year.

Also, a reminder that the chapter does have in place the Bill Jensen Apprentice Judge Scholarship program, and any members that are interested in the Judging program reach out to me or one of the other judges. AIMS Clinic June 4-5-required to get in program, along with passing a UT dog.

Current Chapter member Judges on the NAVHDA Judge Roster:

Judges	Apprentice Judges
Terry Petro-Senior	Denise Doll-Kiefer
Todd Rockhold-Senior	Tony Hennen
Pete Aplikowski	
Ted Wentink	
David Hahn	
Mindy Brown	
Nathan Freshour	
Sean Ewaldt	
Dan Haakenson	

For 2022, we have 54 judging slot days to fill for our 18 testing days. (3 judges per test). We have commitments for all of these already. We will continue to improve the judge's experience when visiting our chapter in the way of communication, travel coordination, meals, timely reimbursement of expenses, small gifts of appreciation, not doing 3 day tests, etc. All of this is making it a bit easier to attract judges to visit our chapter. NAVHDA Judges are unpaid volunteers, and competition for them is high around the country. There are only about 150 Judges for about 95 chapters in North America. We need to continue to do all we can to make visiting the Minnesota Chapter a great experience for Judges.

Lunch Coordinator: VACANT

Thanks to Ruth Moore, who was appointed to this role in 2020, just in time for the pandemic! We will revisit this in the future.

Webmaster: Drew Brown

Pete A: Our website is the backbone of how we communicate with our members. I do believe we have the best website of any chapter in the NAVHDA system. This is thanks to Drew and the Wordpress website he set up. Drew also set us up with Google G-suite for nonprofits. This is a fabulous cloud based system that we use as a Board of Directors to communicate, share, organize and share chapter documents and information. We hold our Board meetings virtually, as well as tonight's meeting through this platform as well. This is a HUGE step in modernization for Minnesota NAVHDA and will help continue what we have going into the future for future boards of directors and volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM by Pete A.