



# Grand Canyon Chapter

March 2012 Issue 1

## Ted Hamilton, Swan's Song

I just want to thank all those that made my time as President of the Grand Canyon Chapter, enjoyable, exciting, and challenging. After a total of 6 years as President, it's time to let others have some fun, and get a fresh outlook and ideas to move the club forward. I will still be involved as a member of the board of directors as,

be helping out and learning what it takes to put on a test. It takes people working together for the good of the ALL.

I'd like to give a huge thank you to those that served on the board and took positions as directors during my terms. I also want to thank those

*I will ask that all of you take a look at what this chapter is all about, (and it's more than training dogs) and get involved at whatever level you are comfortable with. It's very rewarding, and the friendships are by far the best part!*

Immediate Past President, and as one of my final acts as President, I appointed myself Director of Promotions.

We have a very dedicated core group of people that really keep things running smoothly, and I hope we can get more folks involved, and really learn what it takes to make this club tick. A really good place to start would

members that are always there to help, and offer assistance and guidance when needed.

I wish Dan Wittman a great ride at the helm, and hope he gets the same help and support I had over the years.

Thank you all very much!

Ted

## General Checklist for Dog Training & Testing

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- Licenses and stamps
- Break open shotgun
- Shotgun shells (patterned) - Steel or/and lead
- State required blaze orange
- Upland vest
- Game strap
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses/shooting glasses
- Electronic dog collar
- Beeper collar
- Dog boots
- Dog vest
- Tummy protector
- Dog whistles
- Pocket knife
- EMT Gel
- First aid kit
- Dog water
- Dog treats
- Rabies vet certification
- Location/Directions of closest vet

## The History of the Grand Canyon Chapter



In July of 2001, a letter was sent out by Brent Richards, of Holbrook, Arizona to all looking for interest to start a chapter in the State.

On August 19, 2001 we had an organizational meeting at the home of Kit Critchlow. There were about 10 or 12 people there, from around the state. We had folks from Flagstaff, Tucson, Holbrook, Prescott, and the Phoenix area.

We decided to move forward with the chapter. We put together some bylaws, talked some folks into being officers, and we were sanctioned by NAVHDA in September of 2001.

Those original officers were, President, Brent Richards, Vice President, Ted Hamilton, Treasurer, Chuck Metchis, and I don't recall if we had a secretary, or if we combined the treasurer and secretary. But we were off and running.

Our first test was April 21 and 22, 2002. It was a Natural Ability Test, held out Dugas road. The grounds were very rocky, and the water was a very stinky stock pond. But we did it! The judges for that test were, then NAVHDA president Joe Doejejsi, NAVHDA Secretary, Dick StAmant, and Terry Petro, with Apprentice Gabby Awbrey. It was a real learning experience for many of us, as it was our first NAVHDA test.

We struggled for the first few years, almost disbanded, as we had could not find locations

suitable for utility water work, and being so spread out we had trouble organizing trainings, and interest in the club was slowly disappearing.

Fortunately, we got some new members, rekindled the fire, and got back on track.

We hosted the NAVHDA Annual Meeting in Phoenix in January of 2006, with a chapter of about 18 people. It was a huge event. Spear headed by then Vice President Melissa Knutson. Most of the members that put the meeting on are still a very active part of our chapter, and keep things running after all these years.

The (charter) members that started the Grand Canyon Chapter of NAVHDA were:

Kit Critchlow	Rick Graves
Randy Haines	Ted and Rhonda Hamilton
Joy Hernbrode	John Kippes
Dale Little	Alan Manas
Chuck Metchis	Brent Richards
Anita Weiss	Steve Wiley
Richard StAmant	

Our chapter now has a membership of between 30 and 40 people, we hold 2 tests a year, and hold training sessions regularly.

It was a struggle in the early years, but we now have a strong viable chapter, growing and improving with each year.



## Need Birds?

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Pigeons	\$3.00
Chukar	\$8.00
Quail	\$5.00
Pheasant	\$12.00
Ducks	\$15.00

(Only 5- available Greg-3/Ted-2)

Email your bird order [Greg](#) by Thursday evening before a training weekend.

## Who we are

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**President:**  
[Dan Wittman](#)

**Treasurer:**  
[Erv Comber](#)

**Promotions/Public Relations Director:**  
[Ted Hamilton](#)

**Southern Training Director:**  
[Greg Svancara](#)

**Western Training Director:**  
[Anita Weiss](#)

**Newsletter Executive Editors:**  
[Mark & Kirsten Williams](#)

## Member Profile: Gregory Svancara

**W**ho am I? I am an Arizona "Desert Rat" 50 some years now, who was born in Phoenix, AZ. and grew up in a family of nine. As a kid I thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors! My parents had a cabin in Greer AZ. and through grade school I spent my summers and fall hiking, hunting & fly fishing. I loved to hunt birds and big game, but because you got more field time while bird hunting, I fell in love with wing shooting.

Out of college- with a Commercial Art degree, I went to work for my father as a Maytag commercial laundry service technician in Phoenix. Go figure! He had purchased the Maytag Commercial Laundry Equipment Distributorship (C-PEC) in AZ. I opened up our Tucson office 4- years later and was married to my wife Debbie. Our two daughters Lyndsey and Colleen are currently attending the "U of A", while Debbie and I are empty nesters with two dogs - Jake (GSP) and Avalon (Min Pin). Debbie and I enjoy our own cabin in Greer now, so I get to still hunt and fish where I did as a kid. As for work, my brother and I through acquisition own our fathers business (C-PEC).

My first Dog of 14 years was a Weimaraner which I hunted but did

not know how to train. It was not until a year after she passed that I searched online for another Bird Dog,



and a whole new world opened up to me. "NAVHDA"! I bought my beloved "German Shorthaired Pointer" (Jake) from Anita Weiss who introduced me to the Association! My only NAVHDA regret is not finding it sooner. The club had the same goals that I had! "To build a quality dog for the field and wetland birds I hunted". Not only do I hunt a lot more now, but the quality of my

hunts increased tremendously. I owe the Grand Canyon NAVHDA Chapter many thanks for my trained hunting Dog which has brought much joy, satisfaction and fond

memories to me the short 4- years I have been a member. I have a (UT) Prize II on Jake now and I look forward to working with him and my future puppies to come, in this fine training system.

And that is who Gregory D. Svancara is! "A NAVHDA Lifetime Member"!



# chapter rules

...designed so that each handler & their dog will be safe & receive the maximum benefit from the training day

## PROTOCOL

- Handlers should **RSVP attendance and request for birds** with Training Coordinator prior to training day.
- After attending two training days, new handlers are expected to join the chapter for liability and insurance requirements.
- All handlers should **arrive a half hour prior to scheduled start time** to procure their birds, and be ready for the organizational meeting.

## GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

- **No alcohol** consumption on premises.
- Everyone in the field must wear **blaze orange**, glasses and ear plugs are recommended.
- **Break open shot guns only.**
- Children are to remain in the parking lot area.
- Dogs must be under control (**leash rule** in affect).
- Dogs on chain post or chain gang must not exceed the height of the dog.

## Coming soon...

Mar 17 & 18 8:00 am Orme/ Dugus, Big Rock training site  
*Training Weekend and Snake avoidance class (Web Parton )Cost: \$75 per dog for a 30 minute appointment*

Apr 7 8:00 am Orme/ Dugus, West Training Field  
*Mock Test (All welcome but dogs testing in Spring have priority)*

Apr 13-15 8:00 am Orme/ Dugus, exact location TBD  
*Spring Test*

May 5-6 8:00 am Orme/ Dugus  
*Water Training Clinic (Greg Fry) Focus on UT and Invitational water work  
 Cost: TBD ...More info to come*

May 19-20 8:00 am Orme/ Dugus, Orme Pond  
*Training Weekend*

