

Welcome to NAVHDA, Hickory Run Chapter

The members of Hickory Run would like to welcome you and your dog(s) to the chapter. We are dedicated to training our animals to be the best companions they can be, in the home and the field. We are here to help one another to achieve this goal. We have a large membership and many different levels of experience present. Our members' dogs run the gamut in terms of level of training. We have everything from puppies that are just starting out to Versatile Champions. How can you get the most out of your membership, you may ask? Well that's actually pretty simple, be involved. The best way for us to help you is for you to get involved and be an active member. The more we see you and your dog, the better we get to know you and can help you to achieve your goals. Don't be afraid to ask questions, any questions. Whether it's a dog training question, equipment question, or something as simple as directions to somewhere, somebody most likely has an answer for you. Don't feel like you can't help out because you are new and don't know anything or anybody yet. There is plenty of opportunity at training days to lend a hand. Anything from handing birds out to the setting up of equipment and planting of birds takes people to accomplish. The more people help out, the smoother things run and the more time we can spend training our dogs. You will learn a lot from walking and observing other handlers and their dogs. Be active. By watching others you will learn how different people approach different situations and get different opinions on how to correct different issues. All of which will make you a better and more well rounded trainer/handler. The bottom line is that we are all here for the same reasons. We want to train our dogs and to help others train theirs too. None of this can happen without helping each other out.

We train rain or shine. The day starts at 7:30 am and will probably last about 8 hours, sometimes more. You and your dog will often be wet, dirty, and tired at the end of the day. Plan accordingly and be prepared.

How do you sign up for training days? It's easy. Go to our chapter's website, www.hickoryrunnavhda.com. The website is updated frequently and all information pertinent to our chapter will be found on there. At the top of the page, you will notice different items to click on. The "Directions" link will get you directions to our training locations. The "Events" link will list all of our planned training days, clinics and tests. You will notice the day's event, its location, as well as a link for the registration form will be

found next to the dates of the event. Please take note of the date that bird orders must be in by. Usually they are due the Monday prior to the training event. Ordering and picking up birds for training days can be very time consuming. By having your order in on time or early, you make this process easier on those involved with it. Birds are distributed on Saturday morning. If you can't be there to pay for and pick up your birds, please make arrangements with another chapter member to do so. Also on the registration form will be the opportunity to state where your dog is in its training as well as things that you would like to work on during the training days. By filling this out as completely as possible you make the training coordinator's job much easier. This person spends a good amount of their own personal time trying to set up training groups according to similar goals, while also trying to mix things up so that people have the opportunity to train with different people and get different perspectives on how things can be done. In short, they try to make sure that the time we all spend at the training weekends is well spent and productive. By simply filling out this form as completely as possible we can help them accomplish this goal.

What should you bring with you? Here is a basic list of what you will need. You will eventually know what you need and what you want to bring with you for just in case scenarios.

For you:

- A positive attitude and open mind
- An idea of what you would like to work on
- Money to pay for birds and clinic fees
- Food
- Plenty of water
- Raingear, we train rain or shine
- Sun block
- Bug spray
- Weather appropriate clothing
- A change of clothes and boots, often times we are in wet and muddy conditions
- Blaze orange, hat and shirt/vest required for safety purposes
- Guns and ammo. Only break open shotguns allowed for safety purposes.
- Training pistol and blanks
- Bird bag

- Chair
- Trash bags
- Small first aid kit

For your dog:

- Plenty of water
- Dog crate or tie-out stake
- Food
- Bumpers
- Any item(s) that pertain to your specific training goals
- First aid kit
- Leash
- Check cord
- Any training collars you might use
- A stake out
- A positive attitude and an open mind. He/she will get the most out of it if you are happy doing it and make it fun.

For the birds (yes, you have to care for them too):

- Bird crate
- Water. They will dehydrate and die quickly on a hot day
- Oranges. Toss a few wedges of orange in the bird crate.
- Food. If you have to keep your birds overnight, or longer, allowing them access to simple cracked corn will suffice.
- The bottom line is that you want your birds to be healthy and ready to fly. It minimizes training issues. This is facilitated through keeping them fed and watered.