



2024 SEASON WRAP UP



A TERRIFIC FIRST YEAR!

We have had a terrific first year with Jamie Doud as president of Prairie Vista NAVHDA! Jamie embraced the role with enthusiasm, providing outstanding leadership that guided the club through a successful year of events and growth. His dedication and passion have been invaluable, and we look forward to even more great things under his leadership.

From supporting new ideas like the 2024 Lunch and Learn event for prospective members to sharing his world-renowned pastrami sandwiches and throwing his full effort into every task, Jamie's commitment shines through.

We appreciate you, Jamie—thank you for a great first year!

PV NAVDHA 2024 LUNCH & LEARN:

A big thank you to Jenna and the Events Committee for organizing the first Prairie Vista NAVHDA Lunch and Learn! The event was a tremendous success, offering new and prospective handlers valuable insights into bird dogs and field basics. Plus, the lunch was pretty awesome too! Your hard work and thoughtful planning made this event both informative and enjoyable. We truly appreciate your efforts in creating such a great experience for everyone involved! New handlers gave such positive feedback, highlighting how helpful and enjoyable the experience was! We hope to offer again in the future!



WINTER INDOOR TRAINING 2024

This past season's Winter Indoor Training was a great success, thanks in large part to CDT (Canine Development and Testing) for providing us with their fantastic space. Their facility allowed us to maintain our training momentum through the colder months.

A huge thank you to our dedicated members who showed up consistently and made the most of each session. We also want to extend our gratitude to the volunteers who helped organize and run the training—your efforts ensured everything went smoothly and contributed to a productive season.



ADVANCED SKILLS CLINIC WITH JASON CARTER:



We had a fantastic time at the Advanced Field and Water Skills Clinic with Jason Carter on July 6-7, 2024. The focus was on building strong obedience foundations, refining communication, and reducing reliance on e-collars. The group worked through heeling, eye contact, and recall exercises, followed by steadiness and honoring drills in the bird field. Water work included complex retrieves, duck search, Invitational Test skills training, and casting techniques. Jason's insights and practical exercises gave handlers valuable tools to enhance training, with noticeable improvements across the board. The clinic offered a great opportunity for dogs and handlers alike to strengthen their skills.



A big thank you to Jason Carter for sharing his expertise and helping us become more effective handlers! And we hope it will be possible to have him return next season. Clinic Photos by Pavel Francev.

PV NAVHDA TEST:

This year's testing season brought unexpected challenges, but our club handled them with flying colors. We navigated last-minute changes, relocating to new grounds for both field and water work, with immense support from Ron & Mary and Ducks Unlimited. A special thank you to Janice Shymka for stepping up as Test Secretary on short notice, and to our dedicated judges and volunteers who ensured the event ran smoothly. Congratulations to Edie and her girl Sisi for an outstanding performance, achieving a Prize I with a 198 and being named this year's PV Top Dog!



CECILIA VOM PRARIEFLUGEL (Sisi)



Massive thank you to judges Lisa Pehur, Gaby Giroux & Willian Bastian, as well as to our own Pavel Francev for apprenticing at our test.

10 Natural Ability Dogs ran and 11 UT and 1 UPT during the test weekend.



**SAVE THE TEST DATE:
AUGUST 22-24th 2025**

MEET ANDREA & BELLE - PRAIRIE VISTA 2024 INVITATIONAL TEAM

We are so proud of Andrea and Belle, and we asked Board Member Andrea Fleming to share about the experience!

Begin with the end in mind... not exactly how Belle and I ended up heading to the invitational test this year. As my first gun dog, we started out fairly cluelessly training for an NA test and with some words of encouragement and some training help, we passed.

That was enough exposure to pique my interest. I liked the people and we had learned a few things, so I decided that we should train for the next level

UT TEST - AUG 18 2023 - Prize I



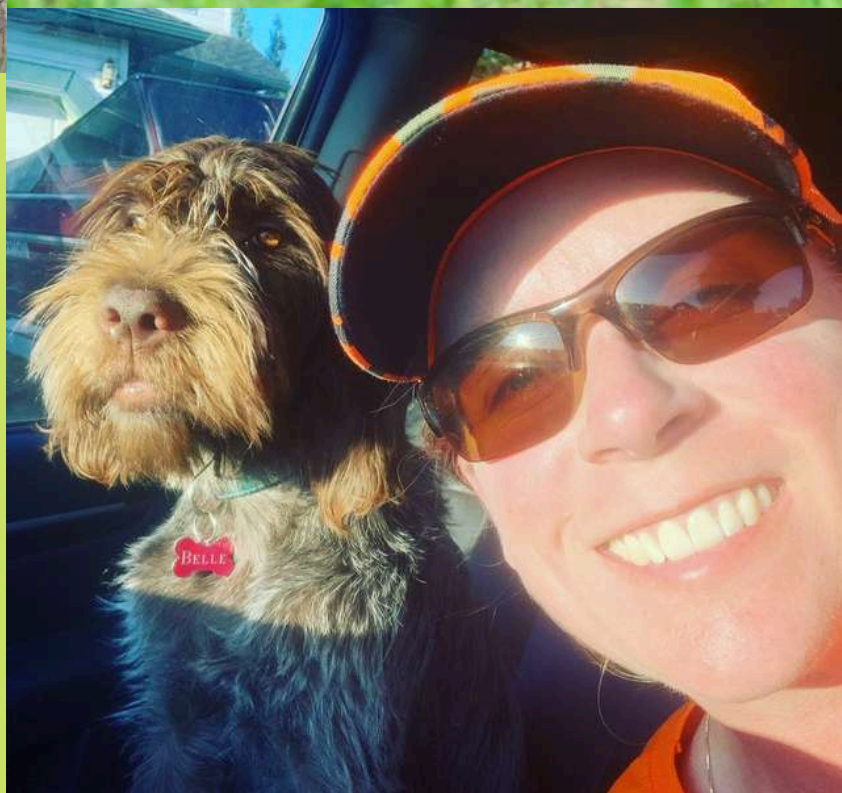
A few attempts and a gamut of scores later, we finally got the prize 1 we had been working towards. After some humming and hawing about what to do next, I thought what have we got to lose, lets go for it. Lets go to the Invitational! I will say it's probably good I didn't really know what new skills Belle and I had to learn at that point, because I may have thrown in the towel right then and there. Instead, we buckled up and travelled to the US to train with other IT bound members and their dogs, got lots of helps from our local chapter, and amazingly enough, made our way to Iowa in September. It was quite an amazing feeling standing in the lineup in the morning while they presented everyone that was running that day as the sun was starting to come up. I was excited. And nervous. And dare I say proud.



NA TEST - AUG 2019 Prize 1 - 112



CROSSIRON'S ANNABELLE - 2019



Our first event was the marked retrieve, and I came out of it feeling ok. I did question our heeling down the hill, but tried to just think about our next event. We carried on to the blind retrieve and unfortunately, Belle decided she would rather go on a duck search, so I knew she wouldn't be going home a versatile champion, but we still had a field search to do. That is really what Belle lives for, so off we went to meet our brace mates. I was delighted with her run in the field. She honoured, she pointed, she retrieved, (and most importantly, she didn't overheat). As I worked at cooling her down after our run, I was ruminating about the fact that we wouldn't be driving home with a new title, but I was honestly still so proud of what we'd accomplished as a team over 2024.



I think the highlight of this year's training season was connecting with so many people along the way and at the IT event itself. The support and positivity and desire to help was truly uplifting and I came away from this season with a lot more knowledge and many new friends. We may not have come home with the elusive VC title, but we sure had an amazing adventure!



At the end of the day, everyone gathered to hear the scores. All in attendance understand the amount of work that went into getting to this test and you could feel everybody celebrating the new VCs and commiserating with those who didn't pass. It was truly a unique, amazing experience and I'm already planning to qualify for another Invitational test in the next years. If you have the opportunity and means to do it, I would highly recommend it. You may cry and yell and smile and laugh, and probably scratch your head a few times, but will grow immensely as a trainer.



As a NAVHDA chapter we are so proud of the hardwork and dedication of this team and we hope more teams are able to train to this level this season and in coming years!