

55TH NAVHDA ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 26-27
2024

HOSTED BY THE
SOUTHEASTERN
MICHIGAN CHAPTER



We are delighted to welcome our NAVHDA friends to Southeastern Michigan, home of the SEMI NAVHDA chapter and host of the 2024 Annual Meeting, scheduled for January 26-27, 2024 at the Troy Marriott. The Southeastern Michigan (SEMI) chapter was founded in 1984 and is proud to kick off its 40th anniversary with an exciting event that we hope will leave you with new knowledge, time spent with birddog friends, and a taste of what our great state has to offer.

We can't wait to have you join us for several relevant sessions that are scheduled over the two-day event. There will be speakers discussing upland bird taxidermy, hunting dog rescue, canine and human field first aid, and search & rescue training; an upland game lunch demonstration; opportunity for Q&A with judges; and more. NAVHDA International is also excited to debut the members-only portion of the website, and will be showing the new Utility Test video for the first time!

The event is being held at the Troy Marriott, in the heart of Oakland County. The

hotel is adjacent to both the Troy Police station and Community Center, as well as one of the best children's hospitals in the state. Down the road is the Somerset Collection, the county's premier luxury shopping destination. It's also surrounded by some of the best restaurants in the area, including Morton's Steakhouse, Ruth's Chris, Fogo De Chao, Cooper's Hawk Winery, Ocean Prime Detroit, and Seasons 52. For an authentic Detroit culinary experience within just a few miles of the hotel, you'll want to be sure to grab some deep dish pizza, a coney dog, and a shawarma – Buddy's Pizza, Leo's Coney or National Coney, and Mr. Kabob or Le Saj are all located nearby.

The Troy Marriott is about 40 minutes drive away from the area's main airport, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County, (DTW), in Romulus, MI. There is no shuttle service directly from the airport to the hotel, so you will need to rent a car or arrange a ride. However, there are plenty of Lyft, Uber, MetroCar and other hired driver options available to get you from Romulus to Troy. (Or, link up with another NAVHDA member!)

If you're coming into town early or staying late, you might want to head to downtown Detroit. You can get a taste of 'Hockeytown' at the Red Wings v Flyers game on Thursday, or check out the Pistons v Thunder on Sunday, both at Little Caesars Arena. If sports aren't your thing, Detroit is home to three major casinos: the MGM Grand, Greektown, and the MotorCity Casino. For great live entertainment, the world class Detroit Symphony Orchestra is performing Elgin & Mozart locally on Thursday and Sunday, or, check out the lineups for the Fillmore, Fox, Majestic, Masonic, or State Theaters, where you can probably find a music or comedy show that suits your tastes.

Southeastern Michigan also boasts some amazing culture and history that is worth checking out if you're in town for a few extra days – you may cross off some bucket list items! The Henry Ford: Greenfield Village & the Henry Ford Museum has something to appeal to everyone; check out a movie on Michigan's largest theater screen if you're not a history or auto buff. Visit the home of Motown records and Hitsville USA at Motown Museum; see world class pieces in the Detroit Institute of Art; experience polar bears swimming over you at the Arctic Ring of Life habitat at the Detroit Zoo; or spend time at Belle Isle, with its own aquarium, conservatory, and the Dossin Great Lakes Maritime Museum. It may not be hunting season, but there is still something here to appeal to everyone!

The SEMI NAVHDA chapter has over 200 members, and has more than doubled its membership in the last decade, growing rapidly from figures in the 80s in 2014. We train on a state-designated field trial Recreation Area in Highland, MI, with 60+ training days and 2 test weekends every year. Members primarily come from the 7 counties that are commonly referred to as the Detroit Metropolitan area, but some travel from as far as Gaylord to the north, Lansing to the west, and even Toledo, Ohio and Windsor, Ontario, to the south and east. *(Trivia question: What country lies due south of Detroit, Michigan? Answer: Canada! The Detroit River—which connects Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair—runs in part in an east-west direction, with Detroit on the north side of the river and Windsor, Ontario, on the south.)*

SEMI NAVHDA is hoping to use the funds we raise from this event to expand access and accommodate our rapidly growing membership in several ways:

- **Invest in infrastructure.** This includes ground improvements at Highland Recreation Area as well as additional training equipment. As SEMI's training days grow to 40+ participants, we want to make sure that we have the space and gear needed so everyone can reach their NAVHDA goals.
- **Provide inclusive grounds.** SEMI strives to provide grounds that allow training for all members at all NAVHDA levels, from NA through UPT/UT to Invitational. In the last few years the field trial association leased additional land, and SEMI hopes to improve that area to allow more training opportunity.
- **Expand youth participation in hunting / hunting dog training.** Kids and teens in our metropolitan area have a plethora of activities available, and SEMI NAVHDA wants to demonstrate to them why training and hunting with bird dogs is relevant and valuable. We seek to add programs and specific events tailored to our youngest generation of handlers!

We can't wait to welcome our extended NAVHDA family to Michigan, and share everything our great state has to offer with you! Tickets are available now on [Whova!](#) Marriott is also offering discounted bookings; please visit the [Event Reservations](#) site to book now.

We welcome all donations and sponsors! Please email navhda2024meeting@gmail.com for more info.

Speaker Agenda

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Day	Speaker	Topic
26 FRI	KALI MAKULA	K9 SEARCH AND RESCUE
	MARK OLCOTT DVM	CANINE FIRST AID
	RODNEY LEE	HUMAN FIRST AID / STOP THE BLEED
27 SAT	MICHAEL MAPES	SECOND CHANCE BIRD DOG RESCUE
	JOE SCHWENKE	MI UPLAND EXPERIENCE - COOKING DEMO
	NICOLE GRIEWAHN	UPLAND + WATERFOWL TAXIDERMY
	AL STEWART	UPLAND BIRD SPECIALIST
	PAT LIESKE	WING SHOOTING
	JEFF CRANE	PRESIDENT, CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION

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