

The Whoa Post

May 2021

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The May Issue

Mother's Day 2021 is in the books. On Sunday, Pete and I kept the tradition alive by going fishing. The dogs were loaded in the truck along with the requisite fishing gear. Stopping at a section of pasture on the way, we let the dogs out to stretch their legs and were treated to not less than four jack rabbit points. And I almost stepped on one too! There were plenty of grouse around, but not then. They just left behind lots and lots of droppings, a sure sign of sharpie residents.

Back to the jack rabbits. Some dogs chase jack rabbits, some will bump them on purpose, and some will point them. The pointing usually comes after breaking your dog from the chase. I like jack rabbits because they are like prairie ghosts, tall and slender that materialize from the short grassed prairie loping off into the distance. They box in the early spring to claim a mate. (If you have never seen a boxing match in person, you are missing out). Jacks are perfectly adapted to live on the prairie, changing colors in the spring and the fall to match the color of the landscape, white in winter, brown in the summer. And lastly, I think they are an indicator species to a healthy prairie ecosystem. Lots of jack rabbits mean lots of other animals including upland birds.

My Mothers' Day activities have evolved over the years. Now that the kids are adults, they usually don't come fishing but they do show up to share the bounty! And this year did not disappoint. With one batch of northern pike in the freezer and another in the frying pan, the son and his fiancé showed up at dinner time, complete with the coleslaw side dish. It could be worse.

I hope everyone had a happy Mother's Day, that you had time for everything that is important to you. I did, family, dogs and the great outdoors!

Sherry Niesar
Whoa Post Editor

Retiring an Old Friend by Ken Bruwelheide

In the April 2021 issue of the Whoa Post Peter Wax wrote an article about hunting boots. As he stated we all have our favorite items and opinions formed over many years and miles in the field. Thanks, Pete, for your insights.

Following the theme of favorite field equipment, I'd like to focus on an old bird hunting vest. I received my first bird dog, Ambra du Hyalite "Daisy," as a gift from Janis and Lauren when I retired in 2005. I already had several shotguns, but I needed some other "stuff" for the field to use with Daisy as we embarked on our adventures.

There were so many choices of vests and so many features to consider:

- How many pockets, size, placement
- The rear bird pocket, lined or unlined
- Water bottle storage
- Ability to wear over a heavier coat in cold weather
- Need for hunter orange and how much
- Shell pockets

My final selection was found at Cabela's. While not fancy, this vest has been serviceable for 15 years. Along the way I bought a second, identical vest to hold in reserve.

The older vest will be retired for fall of 2021. My trusty companion has had seams re sewn, a zipper replaced, and it's dirty...really stained and dirty. Barbed wire tears notwithstanding, I will miss it and its memories. However, it's time to make new memories with Sally and another companion.

It is easy to carry too much stuff in a bird hunting vest. As we grow older necessary items may seem to become heavier too.

I have changed and/or added to the items in my vest to include:

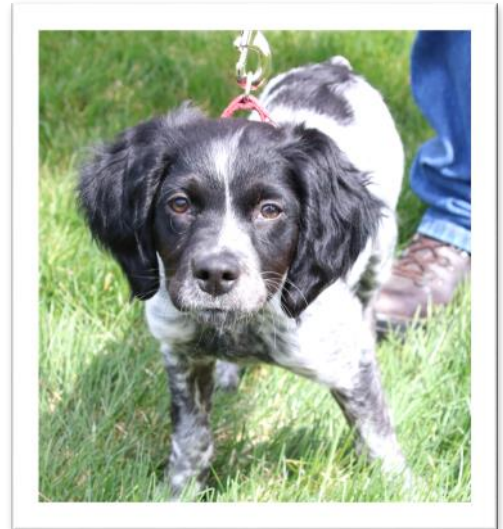
- Improved dog/human first aid kit
- Five slugs in an inside pocket elastic shell holder for any wayward large critters
- Leatherman multitool
- Cable cutters for snare traps and large plastic zip ties for leg hold trap release. For more information see the January 2020 and March 2021 issues of the Whoa Post.
- Water bottles, one liter per dog and an extra liter for the walk back to the truck. I leave it to your imagination about whether we all share that water!
- "The Spot," GPS based electronic locating device
- Very important...toilet paper
- Snacks

Yep, you're right. I carry too much stuff.



*Introducing Sapphyre de
Cumberland Plateau
by Ken Bruwelheide*

Readers may recall that Janis and I lost our two oldest Epagneul Bretons, Daisy (January, 2020) and Cassie (March, 2021). Since we knew that Cassie was failing we decided to hunt for another pup to add to the family so that Cassie and Sally could share the fun of raising it. We are pleased to announce that Sapphyre de Cumberland Plateau, "Dottie," joined our family on April 12, 2021.



Ask Butch by Butch Nelson



Over the years I've heard it said "I don't want a pup from Field Trial Stock". Or "My pup runs too big and I never get to shoot". Another "I want my Breton to hunt within gun range so I can shoot". Range is an absolutely important part of finding birds. I equate range with desire. An old friend once said I'm not breeding shorthairs for run. I breed for desire. I've never forgotten that assessment.

So instead of run or range, let's talk about desire to find birds. Let's talk about dogs who would rather find birds than eat. Let's talk about dogs that go crazy when they see a gun and bird vest but when the hunt is done for the morning will sit quietly for a bite of lunch and will never say a word when he gets the smallest piece.

So how do we control range? Never run him in short cover. The problem with this he'll just follow. I don't recommend this technique. I want to find his natural range and we start pups at eight week old to find this. A horse pasture, wheat stubble or a football field will work. As the little pup gets older, go find a bigger field. Birds are not important at this stage but searching to find something is. I've always said a first year puppy can't make a mistake and it's our job to keep him safe from harms way. We want the pup to think the fields are their playgrounds. They will always find you if you get lost.

I let all my dogs run big in open country while they naturally run shorter in thick cover. So there's one way to shorten their range. For myself, I like to change direction. If you've molded them to be your hunting partner, whatever happens in the field, keep them to the front. It's impossible for the young dog to range forward if you are changing where the front is. Get the pup's attention and turn to the left or right and walk just far enough for them to turn. I don't want them coming to me (if they do I just ignore them). I then continue going in the direction I was going in the first place. I don't use hand signals because I'm going to be carrying a gun and I find it's unsafe to do so.

I hope in writing this is to show that the race can be a very exciting and important part and your day afield and will never be a total loss if your pup has given it's all in finding you a bird to shoot (at). Have fun with your pup. *Butch*

Put Butch Nelson's years of professional dog training experience to work. Submit your training, behavior or general dog questions for the "Ask Butch" column to the editor at sniesar@outlook.com.

Did Your Dog Gain Weight During the Pandemic?

By Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO

From; AKC.org

A recent survey from Hill's Pet Nutrition, conducted in partnership with Kelton Global, found that while overweight pets and pet obesity have been on the rise for years, COVID-19 has intensified the issue. According to veterinarians, more than 71% of pet professionals say the pandemic has impacted the way dogs eat. Since the start of COVID-19, one-third of owners with an overweight pet say their dog became overweight during the pandemic. Nearly two in three veterinarians say most owners act surprised or even defensive when learning that their pet is overweight. Do you know someone like this? I do!



In North America, obesity is the most common preventable disease in dogs. Approximately 25% of the general canine population is obese, with nearly half of dogs aged 5-11 years old being over their ideal weight. Dogs are considered technically obese when they weigh 20% or more above their ideal body weight.

Obesity shortens a dog's life and makes them more likely to develop disease. It was always accepted that heavy dogs lived a shorter lifespan than lean dogs, usually by 6-12 months. But a large, lifetime study found that being even moderately overweight can reduce a dog's life expectancy by nearly two years compared to their leaner counterparts.

Fat used to be considered a relatively inactive tissue used to store excess energy calories and adding to body mass. Recent evidence however now reveals that fat tissue is actually biologically active. Fat secretes inflammatory hormones and creates oxidative stress on the body's tissue, both of which contribute to many diseases. Thinking of obesity as a chronic, low-level inflammatory condition is a new approach.

Before starting any exercise or weight reduction program you should consult with your veterinarian. Your veterinarian will help you identify and assist you with an accurate assessment of your dog's current weight status as well as the ideal goal weight and very importantly diagnose if there are any underlying medical issues contributing to the increased weight, such as hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid gland) or Cushing's disease (overactive adrenal glands). Your veterinarian will form a plan to achieve a balanced weight loss and exercise program individualized for your dog's needs.

If your veterinarian has determined your dog is technically obese, they may make specific suggestions for feeding certain types of food made to help with weight reduction in dogs. Treats should not make up more than 10% of your dogs diet. Weigh-ins every 3-4 weeks at minimum are important in successful canine weight loss as it keeps everyone accountable.

NSTRA by Jim Thompson

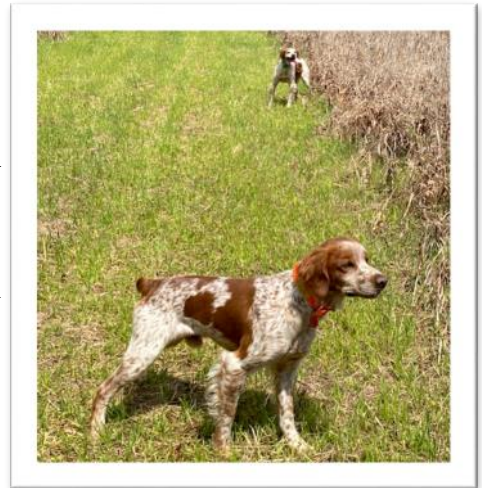
NSTRA otherwise known as National Shoot to Retrieve Association (NSTRA.ORG) offers all breed competitions, in 35 to 60 acre fields. A full trial holds double doubles which means the trial has two fields with 32 dogs per field. A handler can enter both fields on both Saturday and Sunday so there is the opportunity to run four trials. The runs are drawn randomly.

Prior to the first brace the bird planter will plant six birds and following that first run, five birds are planted thereafter. There is a judge for each dog and handler. The judges are on four-wheelers to keep track of the dogs. A dog scores points by pointing and remaining on point until the handler flushes the bird or marks it leave its resting place. Points are awarded when the dog retrieves the bird to within one step of the handler.

You have a NSTRA region within three hours' drive of most locations in the United States and Canada. I live in Tennessee and run in Tennessee, but have also have gone to Georgia, Kentucky, Arkansas, South Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Montana and Florida in the past year.

Often times in Kentucky of the 32 dogs making up a trial there will be six Epagneul Bretons. My three dogs and Dr. Beliveau, an orthopedic surgeon who moved from Quebec, has three Epagneul Bretons, also. We hold our own in the trials.

My older dogs have become champions, Hootie 2X Champion, Jorge 1X Champion, Natty 2X Amateur Champion and 13 of the 18 open points he needs to become an open champion. If you have a hard driving Epagneul Breton, I strongly encourage you give NSTRA a look. Our little dogs can compete!



"The Gift" Jim and Hootie at a NSTRA event captured by artist, Julie Bender

Updates:

- Last weekend in the Arkansas/Louisiana Region, Lewis Burson won with his Epagneul Breton, Lazar.
- Two weeks ago, Dr. Beliveau won the Kentucky Region with his Epagneul Breton, Pierret de l'Excarbot.
- Final 6 – Hootie took a 6th and Natty Dread barely missed going to the final. Hour took a 3rd place. In the past seven years, I have taken 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and a 6th place at Regionals.
- Trial of Champions in Indiana - This is a large National trial where only Championed dogs are allowed to enter and compete. Jorge and Hootie qualified for this trial. Jorge beat an 8X Champion from Arizona. His luck ran out on Friday and was eliminated. Hootie received a roll call making the Saturday Final 6. Hootie received his first National Placement. I am very proud of this accomplishment!

NSTRA is not easy but I enjoy competing with all breeds of bird dogs. I welcome any questions if you are curious about NSTRA. Please email me at deaddux1@bellsouth.net.

2021 Rocky Mountain Cup Wild Field Trial

13 Reasons to Attend the Field Trial

- Outstanding vistas
- High number of bird contacts for your dog at the field trial
- Compete for the famed ***Rocky Mountain Cup***
- Go fish blue ribbon trout streams
- Upland game bird season starts September 1st
- Go hunt unique upland bird species
- Expand your lungs at higher elevations
- Unmatched hospitality
- Excellent and abundant food (don't plan to diet!)
- Meet new people and renew old friendships
- Win prizes at the dinner-affle
- Compete for the famed ***Rocky Mountain Cup***
- Discover maple sticks at the local café (don't plan to diet!)

Mark your calendars for August 28 & 29, 2021!

The Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club will hold a WILD type field trial in Denton, Montana.

Field trial premium, information on location, entry form, and meal package form are posted on the club's website.

<https://montanabreton.com/events--news.html>



Meal Package Order Form

Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club Field Trial
August 27 -29, 2021

Meals provided at the Trial Headquarters, Denton Town Hall, 515 Broadway,
Denton, MT

Meal package includes:

Friday (August 27) evening at 6:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday Breakfast at 7:00 am

Sat. and Sun. Sack Lunches Delivered to the Field

Saturday evening at 6:00 pm

Total cost for meal package per person: \$60.00

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Number of Meal Packages _____ X \$60.00 = _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Questions: Sherry Niesar sniesar@outlook.com

Return form with payment to:
Sherry Niesar, Field Trial Secretary
909 West Ave. B
Bismarck, ND 58501

Photo Gallery



10 month old Russell de' L'Escarbot.
Sire: Jarred du Comte de Batz Castelmore
(Import France)
Dam: Nixi de' L'Escarbot
Photo by John Mooney

Taking a break.
Photo by Sherry Niesar



Dottie's first romp in the snow.
Photo by Janis Bruwelheide



A gathering of like minds at the CEB - US National Conclave
Photo by drone taken by

What Happened at the CEB-US National Conclave?

On Tuesday April 20, 2021, Judges Peter Wax & Butch Nelson kicked off the week with the first UKC Judges seminar hosted by Great North Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club. Ten people attended including Todd Kellam of UKC. Participants ranged from licensed UKC Field Trial Judges to apprentice judges and those that wanted a clearer understanding of the UKC Field Trial Rules and the application of those rules.

The day was kicked off with donuts provided by the sponsoring club and brief introductions. Then everyone took a deep dive into the rules. Questions were answered and scenarios were questioned, but everyone emerged with a better understanding of the field trial rules.



The Conclave was held on April 21 - 24, 2021 with fields at both Four Brooks and the Pheasant Ridge Lodge. Precipitation was forecasted the day of the show so our host Mike at the Lodge cleaned out a large Quonset for us. The Quonset proved to be a good space for the show with more than enough spectator seating for the peanut gallery. Our judge provided constructive criticism to all dogs.

For a complete list of dogs run and winners, check the CEB-US web site at <https://www.ceb-us.com/events/calendar.html>.

A word about meals - The caterers provided sack lunches each day and a full meal for supper. There was more than enough for even

the heartiest appetite and enough options for the pickiest eater.

The Pheasant Ridge Lodge and our host, Mike were first class. The lodge provided everything the club needed, meeting rooms, extra beverages and exceptional lodge trial grounds.

While the grounds, facilities and food were good, it's the people that make a trial. This trial can boast a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Competitors were supportive and new friends were made. If all trials were this friendly, everyone would come. Definitely, a new level of excellence.





Rick Smith Intermediate Level Bird Dog Training Seminar

When: August 7-8, 2021

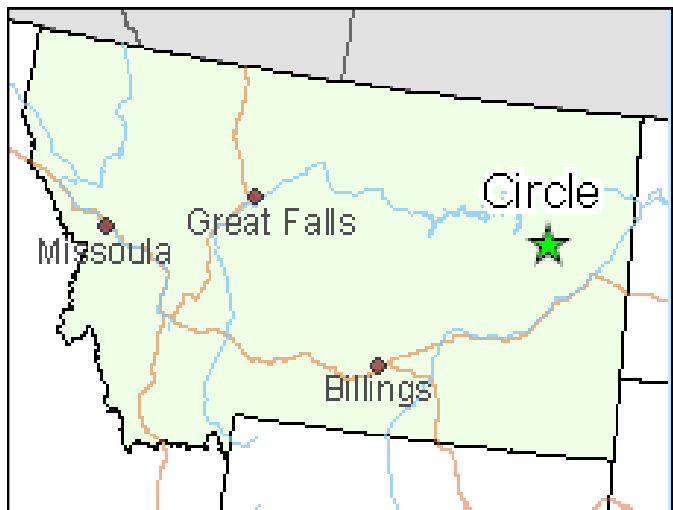
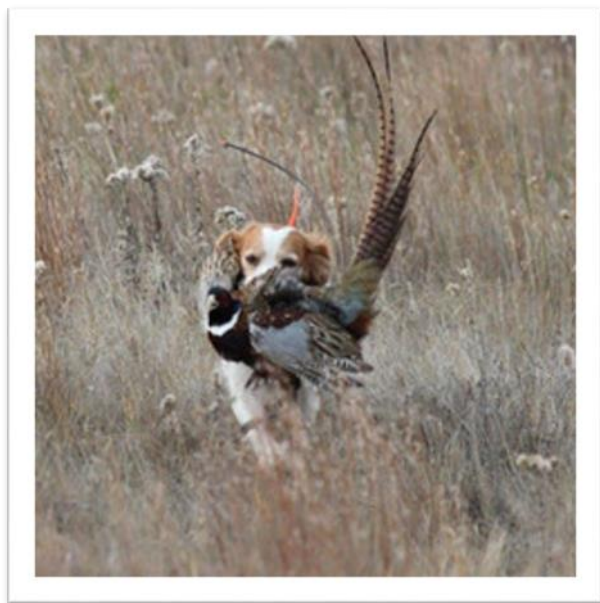
Location: Todd Lehner Kennels, 924 Horse Creek Road near Circle, Montana

Cost: \$800

About: This is the second level of seminar that Rick Smith offers, so if you have attended his Foundation Level seminar (first level).

The seminar will include more field work and get into the ins and outs of transitioning the check cord and command lead to the electronic collar.

Contact Todd Lehner (tlkennels@gmail.com or call 406-941-3578 with questions or to reserve your spot!



Stud Dogs



Just Perfect Du Auburn Bretons
NAVHDA NA Prize 1, 112 Points
NAVHDA Utility Prize III
Penn Hip Lt: 0.46, Rt: 0.42
Sherry Niesar
701-527-3714
www.coteaukennel.com
sniesar@outlook.com



NBOB CH GUN Smith's Legend de Pondsider TAN WRT
OFA: GOOD
Smith's Epagneul Bretons
W. Edward Smith
574 699 6302
www.smithepagneulbretons.com



Nathanael De Chantant K3
Arthur Haines
arthur.haines@yahoo.com
(307)752-7508





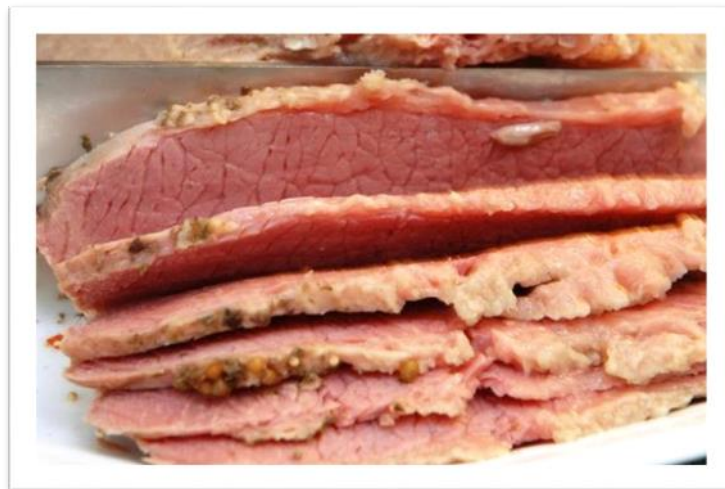
Recipe: Corned Wild Game

Editors Note: You can use this recipe with old meat left in your freezer or wild game you cannot find anyway to eat. I like to use it on Canada Geese breasts.

Combine the following in a large bowl:

- 2 quarts of spring or distilled water
- 1/2 cup canning or pickling salt
- 1/2 cup tenderizing salt (Mortens, etc.)
- 3 TBS sugar
- 2 TBS mixed pickling spices
- 2 whole bay leaves
- 8 whole black peppercorns
- 1-2 cloves of garlic, minced

Instructions:



Dissolve the ingredients in a bowl and bring to a boil for 2 minutes, then cool. Submerge meat and marinate for 7-10 days in the refrigerator. (Larger cuts of meat take longer to corn. You can inject the brine mix into the center area of the meat with a meat pump or syringe.) Drain off the corning solution and wash with fresh water. Cover meat with water and boil for 15 minutes, then turn down the heat and simmer for 4 hours. Serve hot or cold with your favorite garnishes.



Send your recipes to the Whoa Post Editor at sniesar@outlook.com

*Dogs do speak,
but only to those who know how to listen.*

Orhan Pamuk (author, My Name Is Red)

Breeders

Chantant K-3 Kennel
 Norman & Judy Pope
 Lake Andes, South Dakota
popecpa23@gmail.com
 605-572-8236, 605-572-82367

Coteau Kennel
 Pete Wax & Sherry Niesar
 Bismarck, North Dakota
sniesar@outlook.com
 701-222-8940
www.coteaukennel.com

HHF Gun Dogs
 Jeff and Tasha Pleskac
 Foley, Minnesota
 320 260 6202 / 320 420 2442
www.hhfgundogs.com
hhfarmsmn@gmail.com

Hyalite Kennel
 Butch Nelson & Karen Paugh
 Denton, Montana
 406-567-4200
hyaliteknl@yahoo.com

Kimmel's Epagneul Bretons
 Kathleen Kimmel
 Stockbridge, Michigan
 517-204-3342
kimmelsepagneulbretons.net
kimmelk29@gmail.com



Smith's Epagneul Bretons
 W. Edward Smith
 Galveston, Indiana
 574 699 6302
www.smithepagneulbretons.com

Are you interested in listing your kennel or stud dog on the Breeders or Stud Dog page of the Whoa Post?
 All listing s are paid membership. For more information,
 contact the editor at sniesar@outlook.com



Whoa Post Marketplace

Litter Announcement:

We are excited to announce a successful breeding of GRCH Lacey de Cache D'or or TAN WRT (Lacey) and Just Perfect de Auburn Bretons (Blue). Both dogs are UKC, AKC and NAVHDA registered. Blue has a Prize 1 in NA and a Prize 3 in UT with NAVADA. Lacey has 2 wins in Gun dog with the UKC and is planned to test in UT in the fall. Both dogs have their hips certified. Pups from this litter will be cooperative in the home and excellent in the field. 2 Males are still available. Reserve yours today! Contact Bob Yourin at 262-716-1650 or email at bob.yoerin@gmail.com

Blue



Lacey



Did you know?

Pheasants spend almost their entire life on the ground, rarely ever being seen in trees. They eat a wide variety of foods including, insects, seeds, and leaves. If startled however, they will burst to the sky in a "flush." Their flight speed is 38 to 48 mph when cruising but when chased they can fly up to 60 mph.

Roosters typically have a harem of several females during spring mating season. Hen pheasants nest on the ground, producing a clutch of around twelve eggs over a two to three week period in April to June. The incubation period is about 23 days.



Regional Events

May 22 & 23, 2021

Jepsen Memorial NASTRA
Williston, ND
Open/Combined Dbl/Db1
Chad Norpel 701-570-8433
cnorpel@hotmail.com

May 28 - 30, 2021

Big Sky NAVDHA
Great Falls, MT
Contact Chasyte Ontiveros 951-719-9989

May 28 – 30, 2021

Western Montana Retriever Club
Ronan, MT
AKC FT Retriever
Contact: Leigh Larsen, (406) 544-8165, slyrice1@gmail.com

May 29 – 31, 2021

Minnesota Brittany Club
Sheyenne National Grasslands
Hankinson, ND
AKC FT Pointing Breed
Contact Joe Droel, (651) 260-3273 jldeci96@gmail.com

June 4-6, 2021

Montana Retriever Club
Billings, MT
AKC FT Retriever
Jeri Bingham, (406) 281-0692 jlist38@yahoo.com

June 12 & 13, 2021

Regional Elimination MN Region NASTRA
Ellendale, ND
Single/Open/Amateur
Contact Cody Echevarria codycfw@gmail.com
208-571-4543

June 19-20, 2021

Central Dakota NAVHDA
Minot, ND
NA/UPT/UT
Contact Kara Brayko 701-339-8435 or
glasgowchick2@yahoo.com



UKC Events

May 22 & 23, 2021

Great North Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club
Milaca, MN
Liberated, TAN, WRT,
Contact Tasha Pleskac

July 30-August 1, 2021

Epagneul Breton Gundog Society Summit 2021
Canton, Illinois
Contact: Clint LaFary

August 28 - 29, 2021

Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club
Wild Trial & TAN
Denton, MT
Contact Sherry Niesar, Trial Secretary at
sniesar@outlook.com or 701-527-3714



Renew Your Membership

Membership to the Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club is due at the beginning of each calendar year in January. Each member is an important component to the club, adding to the newsletter with articles and photographs and at the clubs annual field trial. If you are not a member, then consider joining. Aside from becoming a part of a group of talented, friendly and likeminded dog owners, members:

- Receive the Whoa Post
- Are eligible to place ads in the Marketplace at no charge
- List Breeder and Stud Dog information (newsletter and web site) at no charge
- Have access to dog training professionals and mentors
- Receive advance notice of special events
- Have opportunity to participate in UKC sanctioned field trials
- Join a fellowship of like minded individuals

Sally says, "Hey Boss, it's time to pay our membership dues!"



Complete your membership form today and help support the UKC trial system.

Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club Membership Form

Name _____ 2nd Family Member _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Membership Category \$20 Individual _____ \$30 Family _____ \$50 Business _____

Make Check out to: **Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club**

Return form & dues to: Mel Kotur 2525 Arnica Dr. Bozeman, MT 59715