

# The Whoa Post

September 2020

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## The September Issue

It's hard to image what a global pandemic does to the dog world. You'd think that an outdoor event would be safe from impact, that is just not the case. Our scheduled Big Sky trial was the latest victim to Miss Rona, AKA Covid 19. Sure, we could have held a field event, not offered lodging or food service and just run dogs, but that is not what the Big Sky Club is known for. We are a friendly bunch and famous for our abundance of excellent food. The club's hospitality is legendary, embracing new people to the sport and welcoming friends from far and near with hugs as big as the Montana sky. So when a neighboring county reported deaths of residents from Covid-19, our trial committee rethought our approach to the trial. We could not have the trial we wanted. And so we would not hold the event. A field trial is not more important than the lives of participants and local residents. So with this philosophy, the trial fell victim to the pandemic.

It was a sad day when we made this decision. We miss our dog friends and won't see them for at least another year. Sharing the news fell on my shoulders, but everyone was very supportive and for this I want to thank you. The trial committee received many notes of thanks and support for our decision. They came from trial participants, spectators, club members, friends and United Kennel Club officials. Thank you for your grace in the face of this difficult decision.

The Big Sky Club is looking forward to next year. We are planning training events and another field trial when the world is healthy again. In the mean time, please continue to keep in touch with phone calls, text messages, Zoom meetings and Facebook posts. And most of all, stay healthy.

Sherry Niesar  
Whoa Post Editor



## *Hello from the Whoa Post Team*

The Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club began its monthly newsletter in spring of 2011. In the beginning the newsletter did not have a name or title. A contest was held for naming the document and the term “whoa post” was entered by Keith Castleberry from Bozeman, MT. Keith and Lorene are avid bird hunters and have been owners of some fine Epagneul Bretons.

The *Whoa Post* developed with some important sections that hopefully appealed to most of our readers.

Some of these topics have been:

- *Ask Butch* providing training advice from noted trainer, Butch Nelson
- Veterinarian tips and information
- Tails from the Field which has been stories about Epagneul Breton hunting adventures
- Articles defining the specific characteristics of the breed
- Photo gallery
- Recipes
- Hunting outlook for fall seasons
- Regional Events
- Breeders’ lists
- Stud dogs
- Whoa Post Marketplace



Sally helping Ken Bruwelheide, club president, edit his article!

Photo by Janis Bruwelheide

These topics and others were listed in the July 2020 *Whoa Post* survey results about what our readers want to see in the issues.

The August 2020 *Whoa Post* will be the last one until December since we take a break during hunting season. We are making a request of all of you readers to remember your fall upland bird hunting trips and the dogs that make them special. Submit a *Whoa Post* article and photos for future issues to share these adventures with other readers who enjoy hearing about your trips.

Many of us do not like to write articles but it can be fun to share the adventures of you and your dogs along with photos of that special time in the field. Editing help is available if you would like it.

Upland bird hunting varies across our country and it would be good for us to share in your adventures. For example, in Montana we have Hungarian partridge, Sharp-tailed grouse and Ring-necked pheasants as well

**Continued on page 3**

## Hello - Continued from page 3

as other mountain grouse. However, I have never hunted woodcock and my only Bobwhite quail and Chukar partridge have been planted birds. So, there are a lot of experiences to share with our readers.

The *Whoa Post* needs articles and photos to continue. Please make plans to contribute to future issues. This is a unique publication by bird hunters for bird hunters about the Epagneul Breton and readership is large. Please send contributions to our excellent editor, Sherry Niesar.

Thanks in advance for your materials. Have a great hunting season and we look forward to hearing about your adventures!

*Ken Bruwelheide*

### *Gone Hunting*

Its my favorite time of year. Hunting Season ! Up north, our season begins at the beginning of September. I will start the season in Montana and then move to North Dakota. My favorite birds to hunt are prairie grouse including Sharp-tail Grouse and Sage Grouse. They are exciting to hunt with a pointing dog and equally tasty to eat. Some of you may disagree but the key to good grouse is in the preparation. When camping we like to eat them unfrozen. Cut them into bite sized pieces or strips, sauté then along with mushrooms, garlic and onions in butter or olive oil and then enjoy. It's a quick and easy campfire meal and all the better because its your harvest.

The Whoa Post will take a break from publishing . This will be the last issue until we resume for the December issue. Save your pictures and hunting stories for then. I wish you a safe fall.

To the Hunt!  
 Sherry Niesar  
 Whoa Post Editor



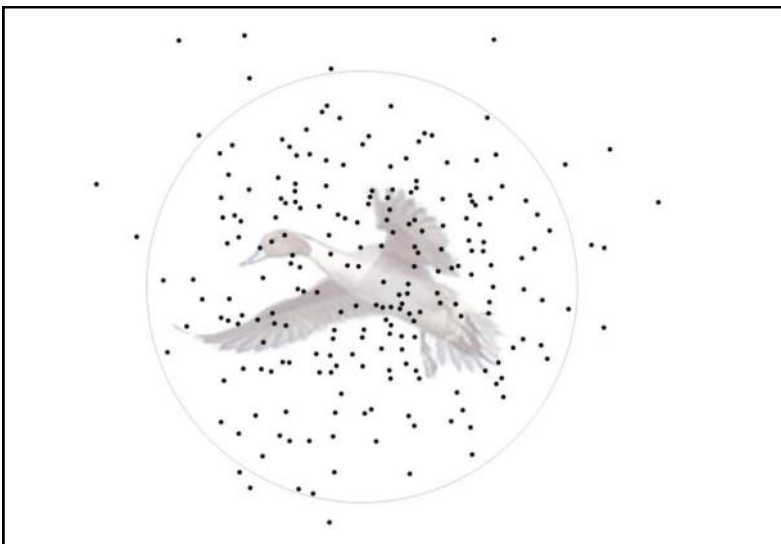
## *Safe Shooting, By Peter Wax*

The point is stylish and the birds cooperative. They hold until I am 15 yards out before lifting in a tight bunch, flying straight uphill. With the two dogs steady between me and them I wait for some daylight. By the time the young birds have placed enough daylight under them to make it a safe shot the range was too far. Safe shot? Blue Sky? Steady dogs? Yes sir, to make a safe shot with a scatter gun you need two things. A clear view of everything behind the bird and enough blue under it to ensure a dog does not catch an errant pellet.



When a shotgun is fired, the shot goes from zero to 1,200 to 1,500 feet per second in less than a thousandth of a second. That's a little under or a little over a ¼ mile in a second. It is rude. The rudeness compresses and crushes some of the shot and smears a couple more against a steel barrel grinding and shearing until busting free. Some lead shot gets out of the barrel still round, some square, and a few as flat as a pancake. It is these flatten pellets you need to worry about. These whirl, dance, dive, slice and hook and will go about anywhere and a dog standing in front is as likely a recipient as anything else.

The high priest of steel will calm your fears as steel shot doesn't do that. Steel to the steel shot disciple, is the answer to everything shotgun. According to the "Legend of Steel" told by the prophets of iron, steel shot does not deform and so shoots a perfect pattern without fliers. To the blasphemous unconverted steel-atheists this would be humorous if it were not also dangerous.



In my misguided youth, I admit to spending time on the shady side of the trap range. We did things like smoke cigarettes and pattern steel. Steel shot did pattern tighter (all other things being equal) than lead, but like lead it threw a few pellets into unpredictable and sometimes strange places. It also made big holes and tiny dust sized holes in the patterning paper. I have no scientific proof what made the ½ holes, but a ½ hole is a scary thing knowing your best friend standing at point 15 yards out might be a recipient.

What the spheres are made of has nothing to

## Safe Shooting - Continued from page 2

do with safe shooting. Safe shooting is and always will be: Never pointing your gun (empty or loaded) in the direction of something you do not want to destroy and always being sure of your background. That's it. Simple. Doesn't matter if you are shooting a BB gun or a bazooka, if you follow these rules everyone comes home safe and sound.

When shooting over a pointer it is easily applied. Always approach deliberately with eyes open. Keep all things you do not want to destroy in view or in your back pocket. On approach, identify and measured the safe zones. Do not mount gun until birds are flushed. When the birds flush, do not mount your gun until you are ready to fire than get it over with. You will shoot more accurately if you follow with your eyes mount and fire when the butt hits your shoulder - all in the same motion.

Birds usually curl with the wind or towards safety. Safety is usually the nearest posted land or heavier cover. Once birds are air-born only commit to fire if the direction is safe and then wait for enough daylight below the birds so that a breaking dog is safely below. Bang. Bird in the bag and everyone happy. To the hunt.



## Ask Butch by Butch Nelson



**Butch,** *When generally looking at the lifetime of proving a dog's ability, what is the order of trialing and testing a dog- with the understanding that all dogs are different? In other words, as you prepare a plan for the dog's career what do you start with? Testing: AKC, NAVHDA, and so on. Or start with trials: UKC, AKC, NSTRA, and so on? Or do you see that doing both makes good dogs in all and a master of none? As you prepare this plan, where and when do you see "trained" retrieving come into the plan? In closing, where does hunting truly come into the plan for a top level trial/testing dog?* Clint W. LaFary

**Clint,** thanks for your questions. I enjoy a good challenge but at the same time age and experience has taught me that my opinions are not law in any book, (I know that's hard to believe), but my opinions are mine. If you like them great and if you don't just throw them in the same bucket that even hogs won't eat. All tests and trials can be good for dogs and the owners or handlers who does the dog training. Geography plays a key role. In Montana for example, there's a NAVDA Chapter 200 miles west and another 500 miles east. NSTRA has a Club the closest being 210 miles. Montana has a AFTCA trial 100 miles and 240 miles away. I won't go on but you can see for me geography can make it difficult or easier depending on where you live. I grew up with trials-finding the best dog of a particularly trial. Tests are judged on a standard. The rules of both types of competition are unique to themselves and to argue their merits would be like saying a redhead is prettier than a blond or brunette. Many black eyes have appeared from this difference of opinion and again this falls under age and experience whether you've sported one or not.

I've always taken a different slant on why we test or trial. I felt it was to find the best dog. I've only bred to 1 National Champion and I'm sure those pups were no better than others I've raised. They were easier to sell and maybe worth more. The stud and a bitch might have oodles of titles or trophies but I truly believe the best dog to breed is on someone's chain in a back yard. Greed and ego too many times decides what pair to mate. I'm not saying it's wrong but it's not my style.

The trained retrieve has been around a long time. Retriever Trials have made this training mandatory and I'll say, that for dogs and trials and tests with a points system for retrieving, the trained retrieve is important. My concern is for breeding hunting dogs. Isn't retrieving part of the grand scheme of the total dog? My one and only answer to hunting dogs that are trialed is it keeps the dogs to be honest bird dogs. I know some dogs will never get the opportunity to hunt wild birds but for those, a trial or test, could still be a Runner-Up. Thanks again...*Butch*

Put Butch Nelson's many years of dog training experience to use by submitting your training questions to the Whoa Post. Send your dog training questions to the Whoa Post at [sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com). Be sure to put *Ask Butch* in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you.

## *Hunting Vests by Peter Wax*

Each time I walked into the Scheels I would look at the “Super Dogger Vest”. It has a thousand pockets for just anything imaginable. One for your phone, two for transmitters, split vented pockets with snaps for both live birds and boxes of shells. Front and back loading game bag, hydration pouch, license slot, whistle string, a dozen clips and carabineers and loops for a dozen more. Blaze orange of the finest space age material. Why if I had it, I wouldn’t need another hunting or training vest for the rest of my life. Only a great hunter or trainer would have a “Super Dog Vest”. Those of us in the know would call it the SDV and be part of a great club.

A State employee wage only goes so far. After paying the mortgage, car loan, city utilities, feeding and clothing the kids, balancing the check book and zeroing out the credit card there was not much left. Truth be told there were more months when there was not enough then when something was left over. And when something was left over it was used for things more useful and less extravagant then a \$150 dollar shark skinned blaze orange Super Dogger Vest.

On December 22, I woke to begin another year on the third rock from the sun. After diner the family sang me happy birthday and gave me a few presents. Opening the cards first, then the wonderful art from Helen and Nick I work my way down to the largest package. To my genuine surprise it contains the “Super Dogger Vest”. I tried it on, and it fit perfectly – how couldn’t it – it was the “Super Dogger Vest”. As I paraded around to the cheers of the family a certain soberness crept into my mood. Someone had to go without for this present. Later that night lying in bed, Momma asks if I liked the vest and of course I was clever enough to say yes.

Like most thing you believe you cannot live without, once owned it loses its luster. That Super Dogger Vest was a bust. It was clumsy, hot and shark skin does not breath. Empty it weighed 20 pounds and fully loaded with everything imaginable nearly a ton. It hangs in a place of honor. I tell everyone I don’t dare wear it because it is so nice. Each time I walk by it I am sad. Someone went without for that.

So, what vest do I use? The best vest ever made. The Filson strap vest. Not the one with the mesh back, that one doesn’t keep your back dry. Not the one with blaze orange patches, that one scares the birds away. It is the one my spouse bought me over thirty-five years ago. The one repaired after Foxy chewed a hole in the game bag. The one with the crooked straps. The one with pockets repaired after 35 years of rubbing here and dragging there. Lopsided, lightweight, cool, comfortable, and waterproof. It fits over a duck coat and waders and hangs nice over a t-shirt.

The game bag carries a couple gallons of water as easily as a limit of roosters, and the pockets carry shotguns shells or a training bird as well as any fishnet split pocketed super vest. Strange how so much of life greatest gifts are just like. Simple and uncomplicated.









## Zucchini Pizza Bites\*

from: foodnetwork.com

### Ingredients

Cooking spray  
1 medium zucchini  
Kosher salt  
1/4 cup marinara sauce  
1/2 cup shredded mozzarella

### Directions

- Preheat the oven 400 degrees F.
- Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and spray with cooking spray.
- Slice the zucchini 1/4-inch thick; you should get about 24 slices.
- Place the slices on the prepared baking sheet and sprinkle with salt.
- Top each slice with 1/2 teaspoon marinara sauce and 1 teaspoon mozzarella.
- Bake until the cheese is melted and bubbly, about 8 minutes.

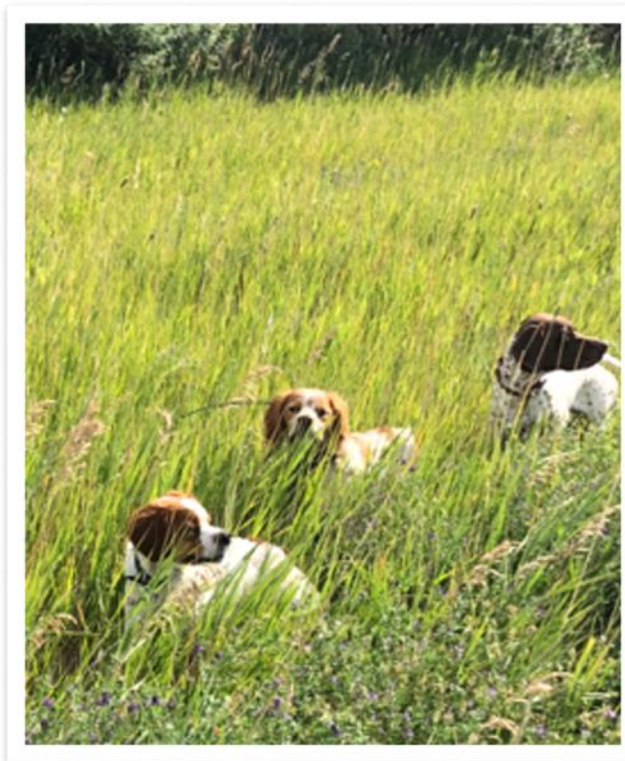
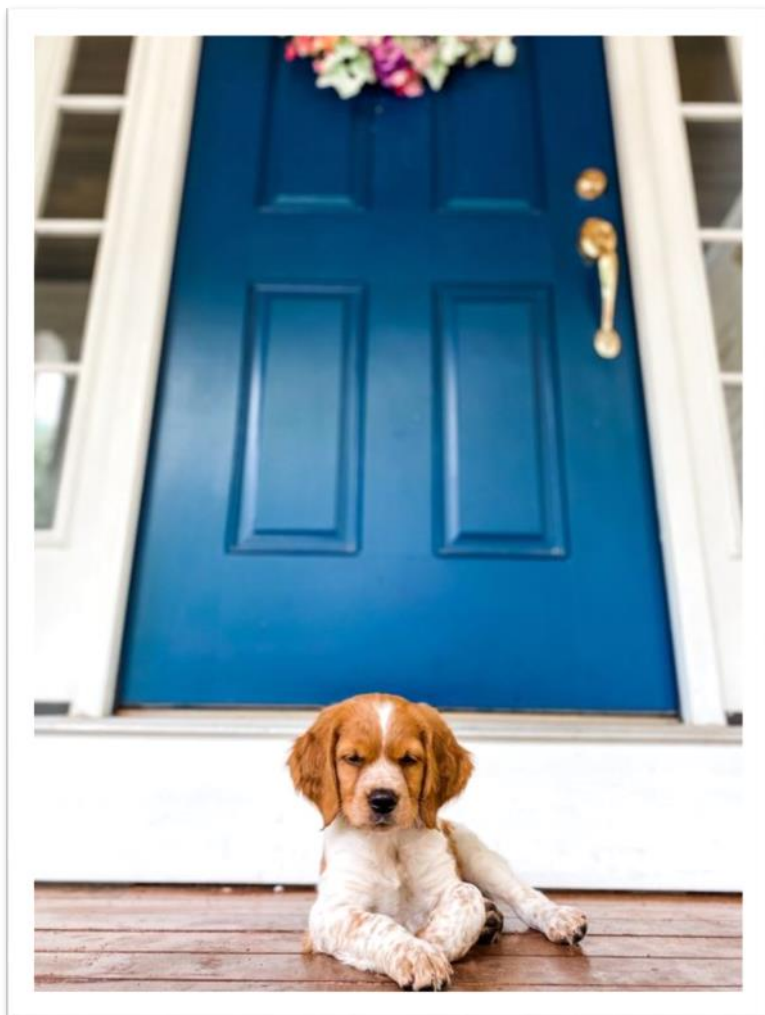


**\*Editors Note:** My friend Susan Davy and I made these. They were quick and very easy to make. We found that we had to bake them longer than the recipe stated, probably due to a disparity in the oven temperature. In addition to the easy of preparation, they were excellent! Another great way to consume zucchini!



Send your recipes to the Whoa Post Editor at [sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com)

## Photo Gallery



Pearl, Purdy and Katy with a spontaneous point!  
Dogs are owned by Fred Overby, Butch Nelson  
and John Gregory, respectively.  
Photo by Butch Nelson

Remy De' L'Escarbot  
Sire: Jarred du Comte de  
Batz Castelmore  
Dam: Lexi De L'Escarbot  
Photo by John Mooney

GRCH CHF Callie de Manchabbarri on  
Woodcock in Georgia.  
Photo by Jackie Hutwagner



## Photo Gallery



Dog days of summer. Rascal seeking shade.  
Photo by Ray Peres

Bone point pup  
Photo by Art Trujillo



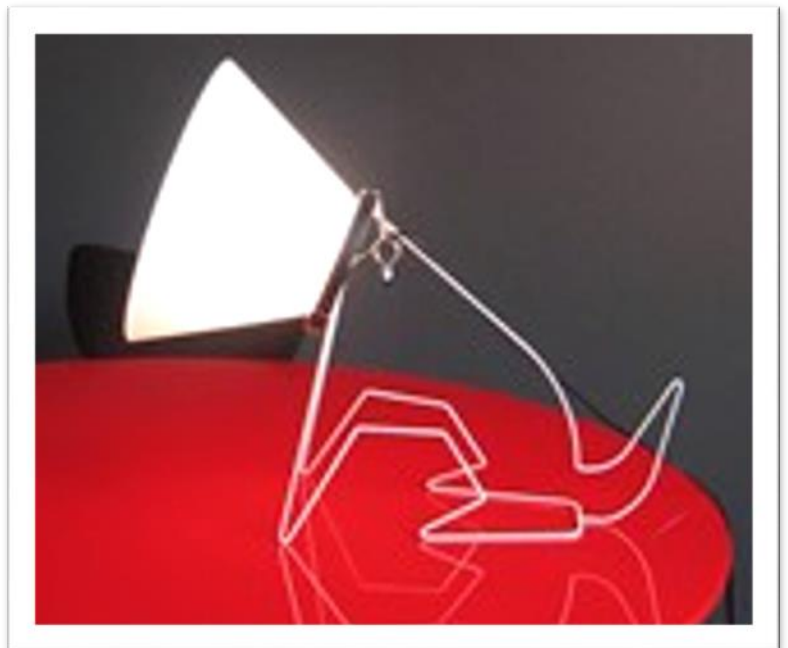
Nixi/Jarred litter one week old.  
Photo by John Mooney



### **The Cone**

Thanks to the cone  
I can't gnaw at my stitches  
Thanks to the cone  
I can't turn my head  
Thanks to the cone  
I cant navigate hallways  
Thanks to the cone  
I get stuck in the doorways  
Thanks to the cone  
I misjudge the stairs  
Thanks to the cone  
I get claustrophobic when I bend  
    for my food dish  
Thanks to the cone I go deaf when I bark  
Thanks to the cone  
Our every game of catch turns  
    into basketball  
Thanks to the cone  
I cant gnaw at my stitches  
But all these psychological scars  
Will never heal

Provided by Carl Anderson



## *The Last Days of August by Peter Wax*

We are nearing the last days of August. The longest days of the year. The calendar marches, the days lengthen, and the bird season never comes. The annual slowing of the earth's spin is compounded. A NAVHDA tests near Avon or Helmville Montana. Griz country. Cold in the morning hot the afternoon and beautiful all day and night. A dog to run but no ticket to ride. Frustrations of frustration. Id laughing. Ego crying. A Prom dress. No date. The earth stopped.

Grass drying. The clouds nearly gone. A promise of birds. Happy dogs. Sore feet. Old boots. Gunpowder. The treasure lays near. Just near. A dog. The dog. A drop of the eyes. A wink. A huff. An involuntary touch of soft fur. Tomorrow maybe. No. Still weeks away. Earth will not turn.

We travel to bird country. To run. Stretch legs. Distract the mind from the stopped earth. Broken ledges and exposed roots is the run badlands. The smell of sage, juniper and perennials flowers. The ever blooming native prairie. Black-eyed Susan, Bee Balm, Purple Coneflower, Indian Blanket, Blue Aster, Yarrow. Butterflies. Monarchs, Viceroys, swallowtails, Morning Cloak, Painted Ladies, Aphrodite's, Admirals, Yellows, Whites and Browns.

Tired at the end of the day. Driving home. No birds to dress. No shotgun to clean. Soon. Soon the grass promises. Soon the sky promises. Soon the flower promises. The earth refuses to turn.





## Whoa Post Marketplace

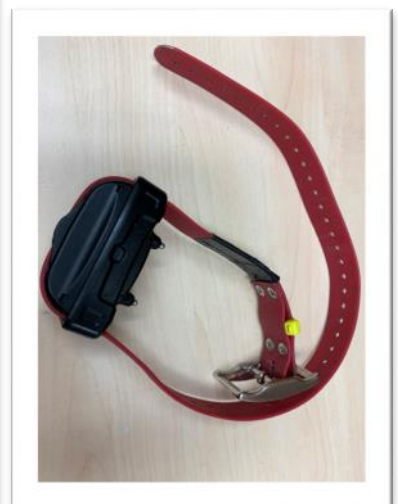
Mud River Truck organizer with 3 shotgun holders plus 4 gear pouches. Bottom gun case can detach for individual carrying. Fits behind the front seat in most trucks and SUVs. In very good shape. \$75.00. Call Susan at 701-240-6702 or email at [pottery@minot.com](mailto:pottery@minot.com)



### Equipment

Tri-Tronics G3 Field 90 EXP dog e-collar. Transmitter and one receiver collar. Also included is the charging cradle and a holster. In good working condition. \$130.00 OBO

Call Susan at 701-240-6702 or email at [pottery@minot.com](mailto:pottery@minot.com)





## Whoa Post Marketplace

**Taking deposits now.**

Pups due September 7th

Sire: GUN Lost Highway Mud WRT TAN

Dam: CH TR Indiana De Broughton WRT

Contact Ed Smith 574 699 6302



**Mud**



**Indiana**

### Hunting Season Dates:

#### Montana

Grey Partridge and Grouse: September 1, 2020 - January 10, 2021

Sage Grouse: September 1 - 30, 2020

Morning Dove: September 1 - October 30, 2020

Waterfowl: see <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/regulations/default.html>

For hunting regulations and season details

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/regulations/default.html>

#### North Dakota

Doves: September 1– November 29, 2020

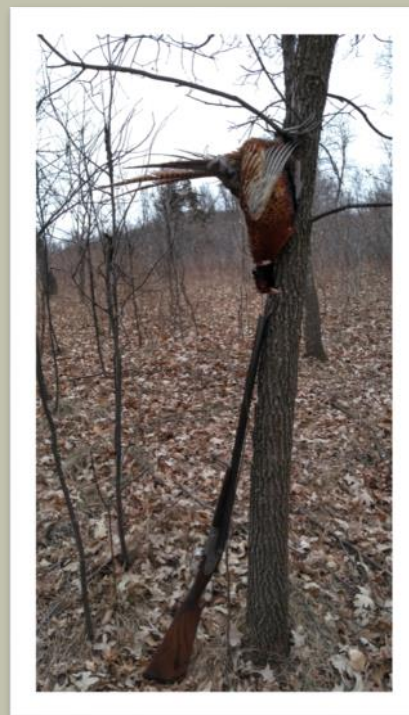
Grey Partridge & Grouse: September 12, 2020 – January 3, 2021

Waterfowl: September 26 - December 6, 2020

Ring Necked Pheasant: October 10 -, 2020 - January 3, 2021

Fore more information on North Dakota Hunting Seasons:

<https://gf.nd.gov/hunting>



## *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](http://www.coteaukennel.com)  
[sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com)



**NBOB CH GUN Smith's Legend de Pondsides TAN WRT**  
OFA: GOOD  
Smith's Epagneul Bretons  
W. Edward Smith  
574 699 6302  
[www.smithepagneulbretons.com](http://www.smithepagneulbretons.com)

## *Breeders*

**Chantant K-3 Kennel**  
Norman & Judy Pope  
[popecpa23@gmail.com](mailto:popecpa23@gmail.com)  
605-572-8236, 605-572-82367

**Coteau Kennel**  
Pete Wax & Sherry Niesar  
[sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com)  
701-222-8940  
[www.coteaukennel.com](http://www.coteaukennel.com)

**HHF Gun Dogs**  
Jeff and Tasha Pleskac  
320 260 6202 / 320 420 2442  
[www.hhfgundogs.com](http://www.hhfgundogs.com)  
[hhfarmsmn@gmail.com](mailto:hhfarmsmn@gmail.com)

**Hyalite Kennel**  
Butch Nelson & Karen Paugh  
406-567-4200  
[hyaliteknl@yahoo.com](mailto:hyaliteknl@yahoo.com)

**Kimmel's Epagneul Bretons**  
Kathleen Kimmel  
517-204-3342  
[kimmelsepagneulbretons.net](http://kimmelsepagneulbretons.net)  
[kimmelk29@gmail.com](mailto:kimmelk29@gmail.com)

**Smith's Epagneul Bretons**  
W. Edward Smith  
574 699 6302  
[www.smithepagneulbretons.com](http://www.smithepagneulbretons.com)



## UKC Events

### **Saturday, September 19, 2020**

EB Gun Dog Club of Georgia

Box Springs, Georgia

Shooting Clinic

Contact: Larry Ellison (404) 989-4485

### **September 26 & 27, 2020**

Canton, IL

Heart of the Prairie Pointing Dog Club

TAN/WRT on Saturday; Youth Trial on Sunday

Contact Clint LaFary (309) 231-8868

### **October 3 - 4, 2020**

Field of Dreams EB Gun Dog Club

Liberated Field Trial OPEN, GUN, TAN, WRT

Searsboro, Iowa

Contact Matt Van Maanen [buckleycreek@gmail.com](mailto:buckleycreek@gmail.com)  
641.780.9581

### **October 3, 2020**

Chisholm Trail EB Gun Dog Club

Central Oklahoma

TAN/WRT

Contact Todd Farris [tfarris@icloud.com](mailto:tfarris@icloud.com) or 405-626-3888

### **October 24 & 25, 2020**

Heart of the Prairie Pointing Dog Club

Bloomfield, IL

Wild on Saturday, Liberated on Sunday

Contact Clint LaFary (309) 231-8868

### **December 12 -13, 2020**

EB Gun Dog Club of Georgia

5th Annual Curtis Bryan Avery Mem. Quail Classic

Contact: Amy Bird [markamybird@icloud.com](mailto:markamybird@icloud.com)



### **Fun Fact:**

A dog's whiskers help them detect subtle changes in the air and keep them more alert to an approaching threat in the dark.

Whiskers help them detect vibrations in the air, thus they act similar to radar detectors. In simpler terms, whiskers transmit vital information to the dog's sensory cells.

From: <https://petpedia.co/dog-facts/>



## Regional Field Events

### Montana

**September 4 – 5, 2020**

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Minnesota

Hankinson, ND

FT Pointing Breed

Contact Mrs. Jill Allen Piechowski (763) 232-5733 [jill@abbielake.com](mailto:jill@abbielake.com)

**September 6 – 7, 2020**

Twin Cities German Wirehaired Pointer Club

Hankinson, ND

FT Pointing Breed

Contact Elizabeth A Barrett-Dixon (612) 865-7556 [bkwdsgwp@svtel.net](mailto:bkwdsgwp@svtel.net)

**9/9/20 - 9/12/20**

2020 Purina Endurance Classic

LEWISTOWN, MT.

Purina Endurance Classic Trial

Information: <https://www.nstra.org/trial-registration>

**September 18 – 20, 2020**

Western Montana Retriever Club

Charlo, MT

FT Retriever

Contact Leigh Larsen (406) 544-8165 [slysice1@gmail.com](mailto:slysice1@gmail.com)



# Renew Your Membership

Membership to the Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club is due at the beginning of each 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 becoming a member. 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



*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