

The Whoa Post

July 2021

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July Issue

Finally, a camping weekend to ourselves. Up to this point, my husband and I have had numerous obligations this spring and summer. Everything from intensive dog training weekends for UKC and NAVHDA trialing and testing events to family obligations. No complaints, every weekend away from the computer is a gift, but it is nice to relax.

We found our favorite forest service campground in the Badlands of North Dakota and sat each morning to listen to the birds. We were entertained catbirds and brown thrashers, yellow warblers feeding young and even the occasional Baltimore oriole to name a few. The highlight of the weekend was an osprey on a nearby fishing reservoir. It was a good weekend for birds. In addition to song birds, we saw some young pheasants and grouse, so there is hope for the fall. While we are in the midst of a drought, we also saw plenty of grass and cover along with a good population of insects for young birds. Only time will tell what the hunting forecast will be this fall.

But what did we do for the dogs this weekend? It was our young pups first camping trip. Puppy learned to hang out on the stake, Fortunately, the adjustment was fast. She also earned to run with the big dogs on the grasslands and where to find shade for a quick break from the heat. She also had her first introduction to water. Since North Dakota is already in the midst of another blue green algae year, we opted for the Little Missouri River where the water flows and is fresh. A river you say? Well the Little Mo' is wadable and in most spots only ankle deep. Traversing it from side to side is an easy task, even for a young pup. She did manage to find a hole where she had to swim a few strokes. No big deal, her feet met the bottom of the river again. We've got a swimmer!

Never underestimate the value of down time for you and your dog. It recharges the soul and gives pup a fresh look when you decide to put on the training had again.

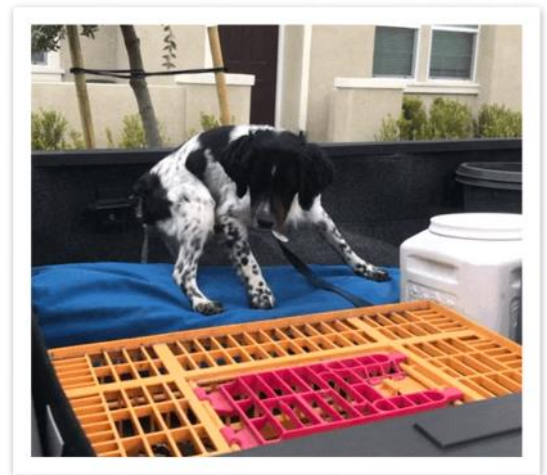
Sherry Niesar
Whoa Post Editor



Meet a Member: Ric & Cindy Haulenbeck

Your first dog, name and breed: Epagneul Breton named **Tux**

Share a fond or funny memory of this dog. Tux, family members and I had just concluded a rather informal or funky "Trial" competition. We were loading everything up in the bed of the truck including a live Bobwhite in a cage. Tux had been resting near the truck. Everything was packed except for putting Tux inside his crate inside the cab of the truck. However, he was gone! We started looking everywhere, asking others if they had seen him- no one had. My wife was close to tears, as he always stayed near us. For some odd reason, I looked into the bed of the truck and there he was, on top of the bird cage in a frozen, most contorted arching point at the Bobwhite. It was stunning, hilarious, and most important, a relief! He continued to hold, we took a photo, and I called him off. I'm sure the terrorized quail was relieved when I did! Tuxie didn't win the stupid competition that day, but he continued to win our hearts.



What do you enjoy about the Big Sky club? I became a member last year but due to covid restrictions, we did not have the opportunity to meet and socialize with anyone. Sherry and Butch are the only members with whom I have had a conversation. Both have been very gracious with their time. We look forward to meeting more members this year, now that the Club's Field Trial is happening.

How did you get your start with dogs? Tux is our third family dog. Our first dog, Camp, was a Kooiker Houndj Spaniel, and our second, Diesel, was a Shi Tzu. When Camp died, we were struggling about losing him. My daughter's boss pulled her in his office and told her not to repeat his mistake by waiting to replace Camp with a new puppy. I thought about it, knew we were all hurting, and decided that bringing a new pup into the family was a wise idea. I had one condition- the new dog had to be a hunting dog and I wanted a Brittany to be a strong consideration. My wife and daughter went to work, looking for a Brittany and found Tux, a French Brittany. The rest is history.

How many dogs do you have now? Breeds? We have 2 dogs, Tux our black/white EB and Memphis, our dinky, all black Shih Tzu.

Tell us about your family? Cindy and I have two married daughters. Both daughters and their husbands are learning to hunt with Tux, The oldest, Richelle, gave birth to the first grandchild Bryson. Our youngest daughter, Jackie is due with grandson #2, Owen, in October.

Share a funny story about you and dogs? Tux is a loving, happy dog who just wants to play with

Memphis and my daughters' dogs. Unfortunately, they have little dog complexes and don't want to play with him. Case in point- Last Spring, Cindy and I were sitting on the patio of our new home in Lake Havasu City with Memphis and Tux. Tux kept approaching Memphis and striking the "let's play stance." You know, the one when the butt is up in the air, the nub of the tail is vibrating, and the legs and paws extended forward. Memphis wanted none of it, growling and barking. Finally, Memphis had enough, bolted toward Tux and nipped Tux on the ear. Tux let out a yelp and launched himself into my lap for protection, We laughed and said to Tux, "Who is the lap down now?"

Are you dogs, family dogs, show dogs, hunting dogs, other? Explain how they fit into your world.

Tux is my companion, our hunting dog, and a family treasure. Tending to him literally saved my life. Memphis is Cindy's dog, a Shih Tzu. He's the house dog, a pill at times, but a part of the family.

If you could do or go anywhere with your dog and one person, where would you go and what would you do? Who is the one person you would take on your adventure and why? Tough question- My best answer is a bucket list item. I would want to take my two grandsons, Bryson and Owen, with Tux and me on a cast (fly fishing for trout) and blast (pheasant hunting) somewhere in Montana. It will be a number of years before that can happen, but God willing, Tux and I will stay healthy and able long enough for that to be checked off the bucket list!

Add anything else you think might interest our readers: In respect to raising Tux as a bird dog and family companion, the best advice I have been given and heeded was:

- Let him be a puppy i.e., allow him to have fun
- *Expose* him to birds early
- Always be the Alpha
- Mold him, don't train him



2021 Fall Waterfowl Outlook

From: 2021 Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey in North Dakota with Comparable Data for 1948-2020 by M. Szymanski, A. Dinges, and M. Ryckman



This is the driest spring in terms of wet basins since 1990, representing the largest single-year decline, by percentage, in wetland numbers in the history of the survey. The prairie-wetland ecosystem is highly dynamic which is evidenced by the last two springs, going from the sixth wettest to the fifth driest in the 74-year history of the survey. Waterfowl resources continue to decline in the state and without a substantial rebound in moisture conditions, populations will start to decline more rapidly.

Our wetland index is based on basins with water, and does not represent amount, volume or quality of water in the state. As is often the case, ephemeral wetlands and water in ditches can significantly impact trends. These wetlands can provide significant pair habitat, but tend to be of limited value as brood habitat in many years. For the most part, very poor wetland conditions were reflected statewide. Some larger seasonal basins still carry water from the deluge of summer and fall 2019 and continue to make progress towards regaining their “normal” water regimes. However, other deeper semipermanent basins, particularly those affected by consolidation drainage, will need several more dry years to draw down to their shallower, productive status. Some of these consolidation basins may never see significant draw downs due to consistent drainage inputs that outstrip evapotranspiration rates.

Breeding duck numbers in North Dakota generally trend with wetland conditions. Despite a significant annual decline, the overall number of ducks, which was driven mostly by blue-winged teal this year, is still above the long-term average. The number of ducks in North Dakota this spring can again be attributed to the large number of ducks that we have been producing for the past several years. Without data that spans the

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2021 Fall Waterfowl Outlook - Continued from page 4

entire midcontinent region, we can only suspect that duck populations have not fared well given dryness across much of the Prairie Pothole Region and decreasing upland nesting habitats. The Dakotas will not be able to buoy midcontinent duck populations as consistently without large numbers of acres of secure nesting cover on the landscape in the form of perennial grasses provided by programs like CRP.

Nesting cover in North Dakota continues to decline. We are seeing substantial changes in grassland conditions, with many areas that were formerly grassland being converted into agricultural land. Expiring CRP contracts and other factors are pushing these conversions. In recent years, we have noted many large tracts of grassland/CRP and native prairie that had been recently converted to cropland or were in the process of being plowed. Wetland drainage and wetland conversion to cropland, including drain tiling, continues to be an expanding occurrence, especially in the eastern half of the state. Warm, dry conditions coupled with early completion of commodity harvests during this past fall appeared to allow for substantial wetland drainage work to be completed. As of 1 January 2021, North Dakota had about 1.24 million acres of CRP, down about 63% from 3.389 million acres in 2007. Another 0.133 million acres will expire in 2021 and 0.373 million acres will expire in 2022.

As CRP grass and native grasslands are converted to annually cultivated crops and more wetlands are being drained, the loss of critical breeding habitats will be disastrous for breeding ducks and hunting opportunities in North Dakota. Additionally, wind energy and oil developments continue to fragment prairie grasslands throughout the Missouri Coteau and the Drift Prairie. Waterfowl breeding habitats are under extreme pressure in North Dakota and these developments can only further reduce waterfowl production in the state.

The population of red fox, formerly the principle duck nest predator, have slightly increased in recent years, but overall, remain at the relatively low numbers seen since 1998. Observers noted zero red fox during the statewide survey.

As usual, we are still waiting to see what brood water conditions will be throughout the state. At this time, conditions appear to range from very poor to some smaller pockets of fair conditions, depending on the region. Rainfall continues to be spotty since the survey and wetland conditions continue to deteriorate, accelerated by an early June heatwave. Numbers of mink, a significant brood predator, appear to remain low, as are muskrat numbers, which are generally highly correlated with mink abundance.



The July brood survey will give us a better idea of duck production, and better insight into what to expect this fall. Our observations to date indicate that duck production will be very poor across most of North Dakota, barring an extreme change in precipitation patterns before mid-summer. However, natural cycling between wet and dry is very important for maintaining high productivity in small and medium-sized wetlands. Only time will tell if this is a one-year resetting of conditions, or the beginning of a longer-term dry period

Federation of Fish Dogs by Jeff Kershner

Intro by Ken Bruwelheide

Recently I was reading the recent issue of *Outside Bozeman* which is always filled with interesting articles and perspectives. One item in particular caught my eye and made me laugh, "Federation of Fish Dogs." As owners we all look for alternative activities for our bird dogs to keep them exercised and entertained. Enjoy this humorous essay that just appeared in the summer 2021 issue of *Outside Bozeman* and is reprinted in the Whoa Post with the permission of Jeff Kershner.

<https://outsidebozeman.com/activities/fishing>



Streamside mischief on the fly.

Like many anglers, I take my dogs fishing with me. The older one knows the drill pretty well: stay on the bank, don't swim in the holes until I'm done, and don't help with the release. The younger one is still learning, and he occasionally wades out into holes and tries to grab a hooked fish. All in all, they're pretty good dogs, friendly and non-threatening to anyone I happen to meet on the river.

One hot summer day proved a bit of a challenge. I ran into a fellow from out of town; he had all the latest gear and must've been sweltering in those brand-new waders. I, on the other hand, with my tee shirt and shorts, was not quite so fashionable. He glanced up from tying his fly and immediately let me have it. "Hey buddy, I'm fishing here. Keep those dogs the hell away from me." I backed off and stood on the bank while pondering my options. I was done fishing, on my way back to the truck, and had to get past him while stay-

Continued on page 7

Federation of Fish Dogs - continued from page 6

ing below the high-water mark.

Again he opened up, “You aren’t even s’posed to have dogs on the river, are ya?” I could’ve been polite and told him that I’d wait until he was done and then we’d slink behind him, but by this point he’d pissed me off. “Actually,” I said, “these are FFD dogs; one is a CFD and the other is a FDIT.”

He paused, then asked, “What the hell is an FFD?” I’d piqued his curiosity. “FFD is the Federation of Fish Dogs, a national organization of dog trainers and anglers that train dogs to be excellent fishing companions.” I’m not sure how I came up with that on the fly, but it wasn’t enough to convince the fellow. “You’re full of crap,” he replied. “I’ve never heard of any group like that.”

“It’s relatively new,” I explained. “They formed about five years ago to promote proper fishing etiquette in dogs. Our motto is *No dog left behind in the truck*. We spend hours training so they won’t be a nuisance on the water. When they’re fully certified, they don’t chase cows or deer or splash through holes—they wait on the bank while you fish and are always steady at the release.”

*“Amazed that the thing took the dry I did my best to keep composure.
My companion’s eyes went wide. ‘Sonofabitch!’ he blurted.”*

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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-raffle
- 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 _____

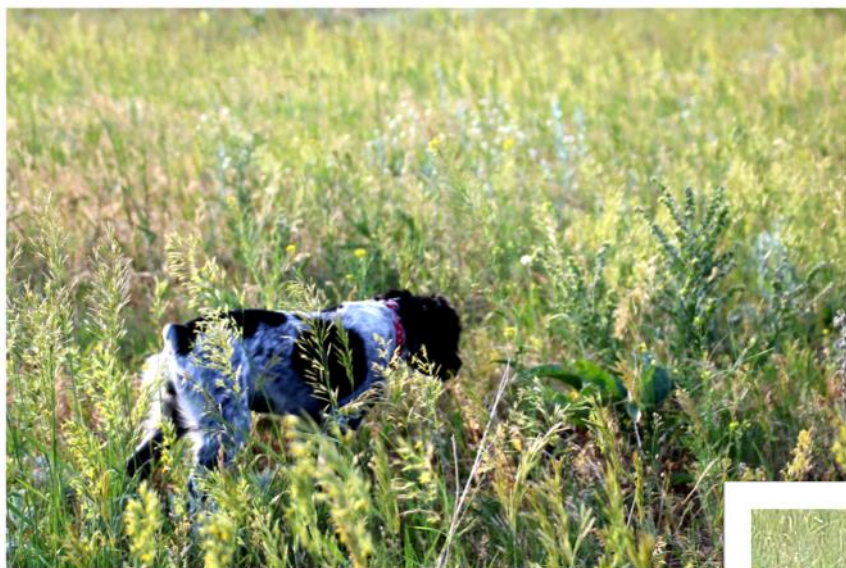
Number of Meal Packages _____ X \$60.00 = _____

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

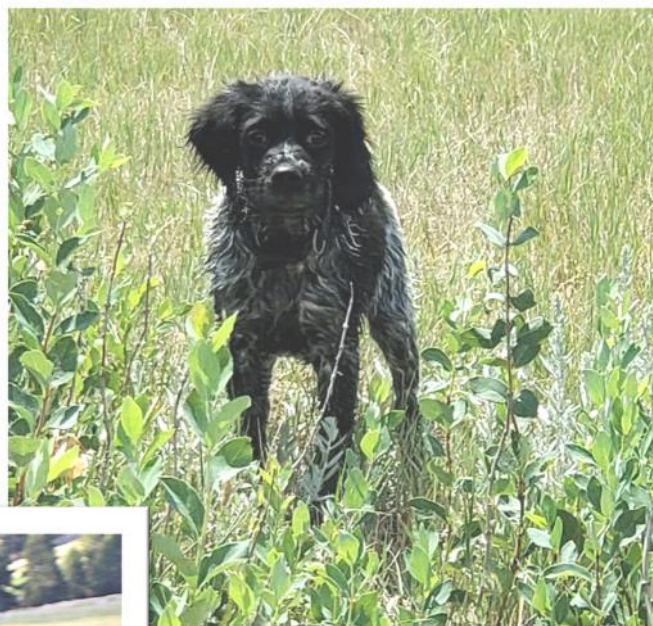


Dottie's first point.

Photo provided by Janis Bruwelheide

11 week old Nyx after a swim in the Little Missouri River.

Photo by Sherry Niesar



Dottie getting air.

Photo provided by Janis Bruwelheide

New Study Shows Link Between Ticks and Kidney Disease

Tick encounters are increasingly hard to avoid. These adaptable parasites are responsible for spreading a variety of diseases throughout the United States, and their range is increasing. Unfortunately, due to issues, such as mice and deer overpopulation (they serve as hosts for ticks), reforestation, suburban sprawl, and patterns in bird migration, among others, ticks and other bugs are taking root in new regions. Add climate change on top of our boundary-less society, and it's clear that your dog—and your family—may be meeting more parasites.

A single tick can transmit multiple infectious agents that can cause serious illness. Because dogs can't tell you how they feel and may not always show clinical signs, it can be challenging to understand the true harm of any given infection to a pet's health. Therefore, it's so important for all dogs to be screened annually for exposure to tick-borne diseases.

An infection from a tick can lead to health issues, including chronic conditions affecting a variety of body systems—blood, joints, kidneys, and others. These complications can be hard to diagnose if we don't understand that a dog has been exposed to an infected tick.

Two studies from IDEXX show a connection between one of these conditions—chronic kidney disease (CKD)—and dogs exposed to infected ticks in areas where *Borrelia burgdorferi* (the agent that causes Lyme disease) and *E. canis* are endemic. This research shows that dogs exposed to Lyme disease are at a 43% higher risk of developing kidney disease. And for dogs exposed to Ehrlichia in *E. canis*-endemic areas, that number jumps up to 112%. This research included both symptomatic and seemingly healthy dogs.

What are the signs of Lyme disease or Ehrlichia?

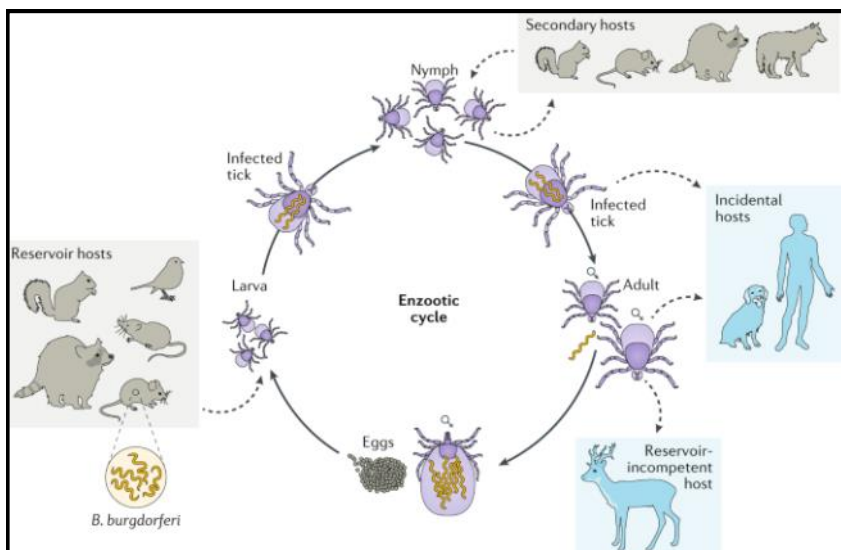
Lyme disease symptoms, may include fever, fatigue, and enlarged lymph nodes. Lyme disease can also be accompanied by joint pain. However, many dogs with antibodies to Lyme disease or Ehrlichia may show no visible signs of their infection.

This new data suggests that certain dogs, regardless of visible signs, may be at increased risk of ensuing diseases, making annual health monitoring even more important in tick-exposed pets.

What if my veterinarian determines that my dog has been exposed to an infected tick?

If your veterinarian perform routine blood work and urinalysis to determine if there is hidden or underlying tick-borne disease. Your veterinarian can also monitor kidney function.

From: <https://pethealthnetwork.com/dog-health/dog-checkups-preventive-care/new-study-shows-link-between-ticks-and-kidney-disease>





Rick Smith Intermediate Level Bird Dog Training Seminar

When: August 7-8, 2021

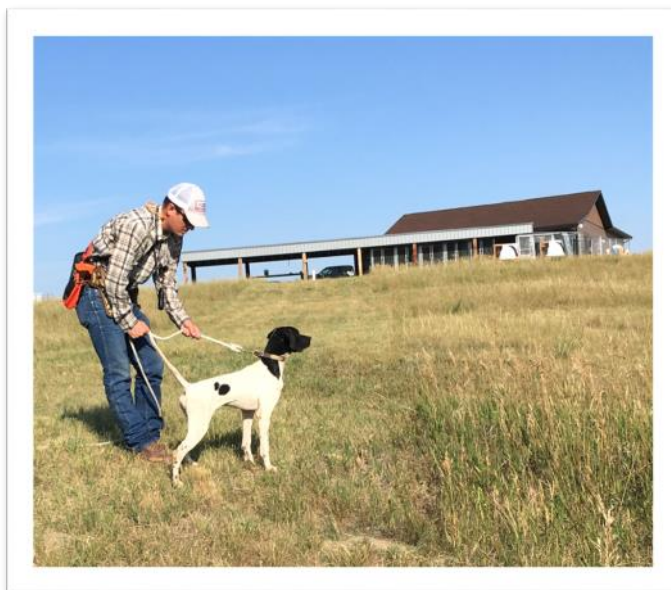
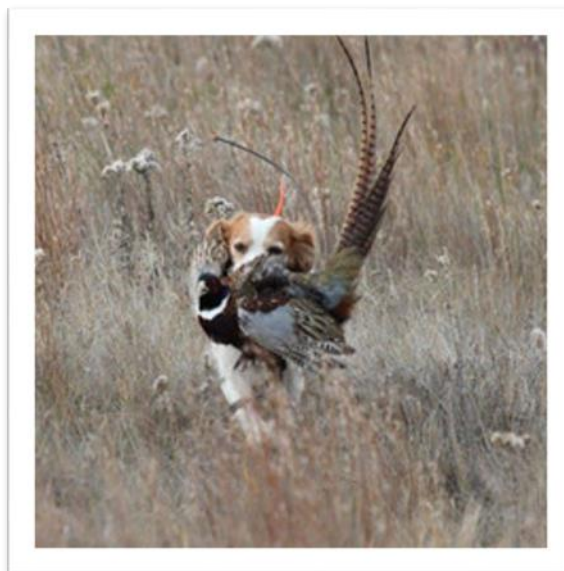
Location: Todd Lehner Kennels, 924 Horse Creek Road near Circle, Montana

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!



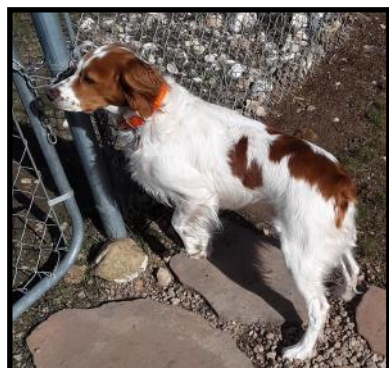
Stud Dogs



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: Walleye Fish Tacos with Radish Slaw

From: <https://www.chelseajoyeats.com/>

Yield: 8 servings

Ingredients

For the Walleye:

- 1 1/2 pounds walleye, cut into about 8 strips
- 1 tablespoon lime juice (about 1 lime)
- 2 teaspoons lime zest
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1 teaspoon chipotle powder OR chili powder
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

For the Slaw:

- 1/2 small (or 1/4 large) head of green cabbage, cored
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch radishes (about 8 radishes), cut into matchsticks
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (about 4 limes)
- 2 tablespoons sea salt
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 6 tablespoons olive oil

For the Tacos:

- 8 white corn tortillas
- 2-3 ounces cotija or feta cheese, crumbled

Instructions

First, prep the marinade for the walleye. Combine the lime juice, zest, cumin, and chipotle in a small bowl. Pour over walleye, gently rubbing into the fish, and set aside to marinate for at least 20 minutes. Meanwhile, start the radish slaw. In a small bowl, pour the lime juice over the red onion. Let it sit for 20 minutes (this basically makes them a little less pungent!). Slice the cabbage as thinly as you can. Move the cabbage to a bowl with the cilantro and radishes. Add the onions, reserving the liquid. Add the red wine vinegar, olive oil, and 2 tablespoons of the onion liquid. Toss to coat. Now finish the walleye. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add the walleye, cooking for 2-3 minutes on each side or until the fillets have firmed up and are no longer translucent. To assemble the tacos, start with a tortilla. Place a portion of the walleye across the tortilla, top with a generous portion of the slaw, and sprinkle cotija or feta cheese on top.



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

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 listings are paid membership. For more information, contact the editor at sniesar@outlook.com



Whoa Post Marketplace

Jones 6 Hole Dog Trailer For Sale

2002 Jones Hunter model 6 hole trailer in good shape. Over the years I've made several modifications to the trailer including a 20 gallon pressurized 12v water system with an Optima blue top gel cell battery with a roof top solar charger. Water system is set up with two hose bibs and is made to completely drain easily for winterization or when hunting in cold freezing conditions. The lift-up top compartment is divided for gear storage & is easily assessable from either side. The trailer is in good shape & ready to roll with good tires, inspected/ packed bearing & seals in 2019, it does have an easy lube axle & has only made one round trip from Denver to South Dakota since the bearing inspection. All lights work with the tail & running lights being LED's.

I'm down to one dog at this point & no longer have the need for the trailer, so I would like to have it go to an EB owner who will get as much pleasure with it as I have.

I'm asking \$4500.00 cash for it, but may be willing to discuss a serious reasonable offer, especially if there would be a hunting invite associated with it. I have several pictures if needed and would love to talk with you if interested. We can discuss delivery options if needed. I willing be traveling through Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota in the first two weeks of October.

Contact Paul at: Paul Ehlers, 303-589-3551, frbrit57@gmail.com



Regional Events

July 23 – 25, 2021

Professional Retriever Trainers Association
 FT Retriever
 Ronan, MT
 Contact: Luann Pleasant
 (209) 840-1680
 redroverretrievers4@gmail.com

August 12 – 15, 2021

Minot Retriever Club
 FT Retriever
 Burlington, ND
 Contact: George Malaktaris
 (701) 721-3674 malks@minot.com

Aug. 6-8, 2021

Big Sky NAVHDA
 NA Test
 Helmville, MT
 Contact: Daniel Fultz (814) 720-9312

Aug. 13-15, 2021

Big Sky NAVHDA
 NA, UPT & UT
 Helmville, MT
 Contact: Daniel Fultz (814) 720-9312

Aug 20-22, 2021

Central Dakota Navhda
 NA, UPT & UT
 Bismarck, ND
 Contact: Kara Brayko (701) 339-8435

Aug 27-29, 2021

Montana Sharptail Navhda
 NA, UPT & UT
 Lewistown, MT
 Contact: Anne Roberts (541) 420-3662



UKC Events

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

October 23rd & 24th, 2021

Bloomfield, IA
 Heart of the Prairie Pointing Dog Club
 Wild
 Event Secretary: Kevin Banasik



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