The Whoa Post

Inside this issue:

January Issue	*1*
Christmas Tail	*2*
Birddogs and the Pittman-Robertson & Dingell-Johnson Acts	*3*
Ask Butch	*4*
Wishes	*5*
Mistress Prairie	*6*
Recipe: Chukkar 'n Dumplins	*8*
Oldest Images of Dogs Show Hunting, Leashes	*9*
UKC Field Events	*10*
Photo Gallery	*11*
Stud Dogs	*12*
Breeders	*12*
Whoa Post Marketplace	*14*
A Diligent Hunter	*14*
Membership	*15*

The January Issue

The new year reminds me that it's time to look back. The 2020 hunting season was excellent. Not due to bird numbers, but the time spent afield with hunting partners, locations, and species hunted. This doesn't even touch the quality of the our dogs performance.

Returning from the field on the last day of the season, we were skunked. No birds. But on the plus side, we had located a new spot, that will be kept in an inventory for locations for next year. It was a full section of short grassed prairie with woody draws and a creek flowing through the middle. This section produced pheasants, sharp tailed grouse and herds of mule and white-tailed deer.

The dogs worked the birds like the pros they are. Pheasants were educated with four months of harassment by hunters so they were not easy to pin, but pinned they were. Only the high, difficult passing shots and poor shooting saved them for next year. I am happy to provide seed for next years birds. Getting close to sharpies at the end of the season is a miracle. We did not have a miracle. The dogs located a large covey - I think there were about 25 birds. At about 100 yards from the birds, they took off, with the dogs watching motionless. A shot was not fired. More seed for next falls population.

A side note on dog health: Thorn had to take a break in the action in mid December. She had several small lumps on a mammary and the vet didn't like what he saw in the biopsy so surgery was scheduled. The lumps were removed and dissected. The interior of one of the lumps contained a seed awn. It was fully encapsulated and resembled the head of a needle and thread grass. First and foremost we were relieved that the lumps were not cancer. Secondly, it was and important reminder to check the dogs out for seed awns after a day in the field. These had found resting points in the body, not impacting any vital organs. We were lucky. Thorn went on to recuperate for two weeks and hunted the last week of the season. Looking forward to 2021!

Sherry Niesar
Whoa Post Editor

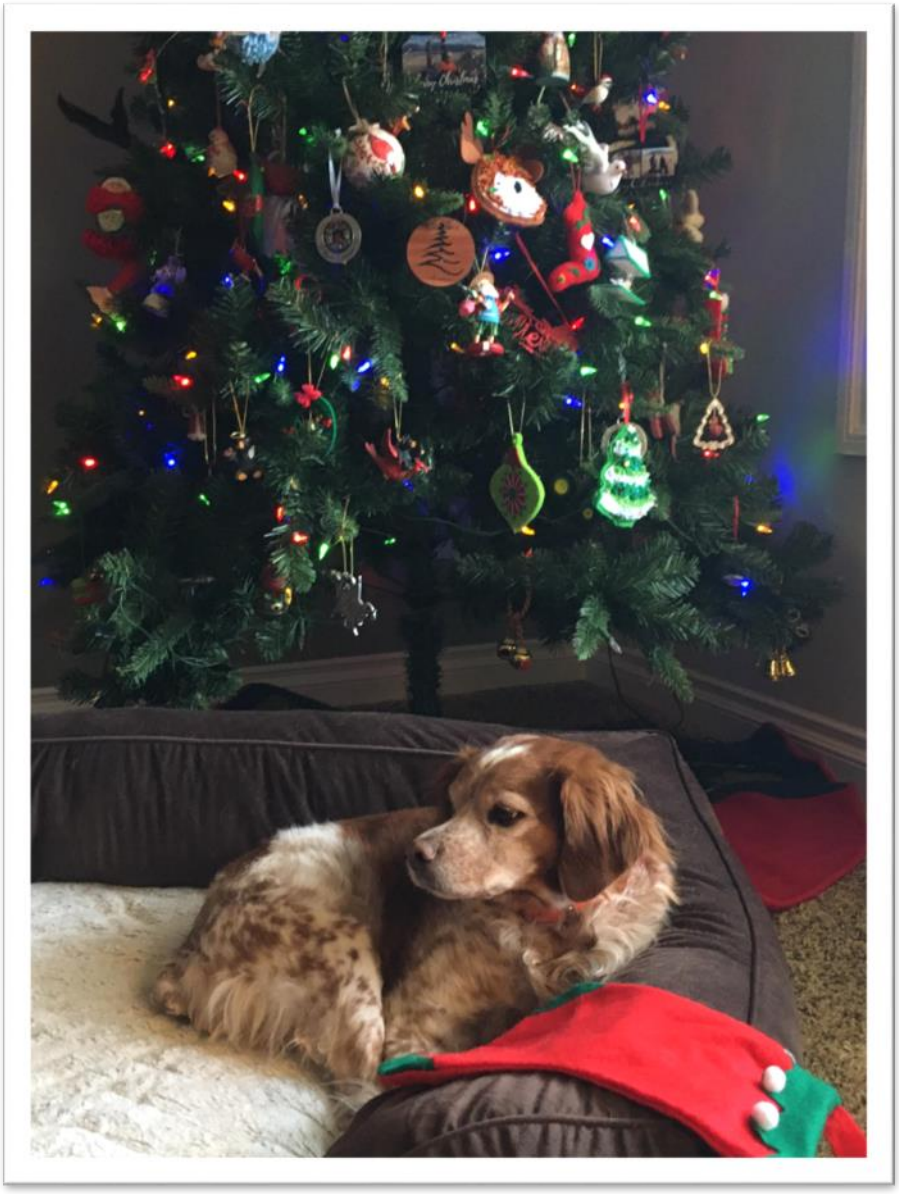
Christmas Tail by Ken Bruwelheide*

Dashing through the snow

It is off to the vets we go!

Who munched the Christmas tree bulbs we may never know.

It's a good thing the bulbs were plastic!



***Editors Note:** Dogs will eat many things around the house. The standard treatment when dogs consume sharp items like plastic is to feed the dog bulk forming food like bread or rice. This allows the ingested item to pass through the digestive tract without harming the dog. Before pursing this treatment, always check with your veterinarian first.

Birddogs and the Pittman-Robertson & Dingell-Johnson Acts by Peter Wax

The Pittman-Robertson Act is the Holy Grail to all that love walking the earth behind a birddog. The PR-Act levies an 11% user tax on long guns, ammunition, and archery equipment and 10% on handguns. The act pays the money back to the states for hunters and shooters benefit. The Act is designed for and supported by hunters and shooters.

Not only is the PR-Act a great financially marriage (75% Federal dollars to 25% State match) but select measures in the Act protect your State Wildlife Agency from political poaching. To qualify for revenue from the tax, States cannot spend any income generated from hunting and fishing licenses by anyone other than the State's fish and game department.

Since the Act's passage, hunters and shooters have generated 12.5 billion in pass-through dollars to State Wildlife Agencies with 2020 generating 601 million alone.

The PR-Act requires the dollars to be spent where hunters would spend it; wildlife research, wildlife surveys, management of wildlife, habitat improvements, and acquisition or lease of land. In the 1970's it was mandated that half of the money be used for education, hunter safety classes and shooting ranges.

In 1950, fishers joined hunters with the Dingell-Johnson Act. The DJ-Act places a self-imposed 10% duty on sport fishing tackle, a 3% on fish finders and electric trolling motors, import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft. The financial impact is phenomenal with over 10 billion paid to state and 470 million in 2020 alone.

The benefit to birddogs cannot be overstated. Birddogs have birds to hunt and land to walk yet nothing specifically associated with a birddog is taxed under the PR or DJ Acts.

Us birddog folks just tag along for free. We are freeloaders. We are like the friend that always forgets his wallet or the sibling that never picks up the check. We are loved by the Wildlife Manager but recognized as moochers.

The average birddog owner has multiple sets of training collars, a GSP trackers, a couple launchers, and maybe a winger. The more involved or professional has an 8, 12, or 24-hole dog trailer. Some dog trailers have water tanks, air conditioning and sleepers. They are equally, or more expensive than a good fishing boat. All this gear is designed to make the birddog more efficient at hunting. A sport that consumes wildlife as well as Federal and State resources.

The fisher and hunter have done the right thing. They asked for it. It is their tithe to nature, to Mother Earth, to the hunter, and the hunted.

Time for the men and women that love birddogging to Ante up!

Ask Butch by Butch Nelson

Butch, I recently retired and have plenty of time now to work dogs now. My current dogs are 12, 11, 10, and 7 years old. In late July we have a new Breton pup coming. How would you start the pup & what would you work on from 7 weeks of age up till one year old? I live in Ruffed Grouse country and also hunt pheasants several times a year in South Dakota. Should I intro the new pup on Ruffed Grouse first, when it's time? Bob

Bob... This is a simple question which is difficult to answer. If you were to take a survey you might find many different ways to achieve the results you are looking for. More importantly, for you is to find the path to training that fits you. Because you asked, I will share my experiences knowing you and most readers will only use bits and pieces due to geography, goals, experience, a friend's experience, the time in your life, cooperation of family, talent of the pup, and a little luck. I don't believe in training a puppy but in molding one. This is very important as to train is to take away and to mold is to lead in a direction or goal. This might be training as a true art form but very few of us can be considered artists so let's call it molding. At seven weeks the pup is totally dependent on us. We must feed, play, make sure of regular health visits, socialize with people and other animals and many more daily routines to satiate our thirst to make this five to six pound curiosity a member of the family. With all of this said, there are some things to do. Here is a list: house-breaking, play retrieving, take for rides in the car, introduce barb wire, getting into water, introduce loud noises, taking out for daily romps in fields where the cover is not too tall and as important to all, be with him. As you can see it's good you are retired. There's no Labor Union to file a complaint and you will be busy. As far as introducing pheasants or grouse first I'm not sure it matters. They are both too big for little puppies to handle and getting the right cover for puppies to run in and search might also be too much but do the best you can. I do believe an old barn pigeon is a good bird for a young dog to put the bite on but make sure at first it's not alive. Thank you for this "Ask Butch". It's been a fun one yet so important for the development of the new pup. I'll leave you with one last puppy thought, "if it's not fun for you it's not fun for the puppy". ***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. Be sure to put *Ask Butch* in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you.

Continued on page 5

Wishes by Peter Wax

Sometime ago gifts stopped meaning as much. Eventually it got to where I would rather give away stuff than get stuff. Maybe this is old age or maybe hereditary. When we moved Dad, we discovered a closet full of the gifts that his kids, in-laws, outlaws and friends had given him. All brand new, unused and unopened. Asked him why and he said, they were too valuable to use. I didn't get it then, but I get it now.

Even though I do not need or desire a gift as much as I need to give a gift there are a few things I wish there were in the world.

I wish Federal, Remington and Winchester loaded factory paper hulls that use felt and paper wads so they would no longer pollute the prairie and wetlands with perpetual plastic.

I wish that the paper hulls came color coded for different gauges.

I wish the paper hulls would be red, green, yellow, purple and blue, and roll crimped with the load stamped on the capper.

I wish they made Lefevers, L.C Smiths and Parkers with an eye to the working man and woman again.

I wish State and Federal Legislatures and Governors hunted every Saturday during the bird season.

I wish State and Federal Legislatures and Governors hunted every Saturday during the bird season on public land.

I wish State and Federal Legislatures, Governors and the Game Commissioner where owned and loved by a birddog.

I wish to share a drink and paint with Charlie Russell.

I wish I could hunt divers with Dad, Dr. Gordon Olson, and Dave McKinley on the big pass just one more day.

I wish Mom could have seen her grandchildren.

I wish all my friends to live longer then I.

Did I mention, I wish the big three ammunition manufacturers made paper hulls with felt and paper wads so they would no longer pollute the prairie and wetlands with perpetual plastic.

Going to the dogs.

Mistress Prairie by Sherry Niesar

My love affair with the prairie began in 1986 when my new husband, took me to a wilderness area in Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge north of Stanley, North Dakota. As a biology and earth science major in college you spend some time in outdoor environments, and lots and lots of time reading about different habitats and ecosystems, but no field trip or reading assignment prepared me for the beauty of the prairie.

At first glance I was astounded by the number of different grasses, flowers or forbs, and even small amounts of trees I came to know as woody draws. All this interspersed with wetlands of assorted size and water depth. I was able to observe all this in the late fall before the snow fell. While the plants were brown and dormant, I could imagine the array of colors that would greet me in the summer. I could go on about the flora that are found across native prairies but was even more intrigued by the wildlife species.

As a hunting and camping family, we tend to hike in the spring and summer and hunt in the fall, using each season to set up for the next. The prairie to someone from mountainous or wooded areas might not seem very interesting. I actually was of this mindset many years ago. My father spent his career in the Air Force, moving every two years or less. The last move that I made with them was to Minot, North Dakota driving in from the east. We had spent most of his career either in Colorado, Europe or on the east coast. Definitely not on the prairie. So, after passing Fargo, I looked out the car window with sadness and plotted my escape. My dad saw this and told me to go ahead, run away, he will be able to see me for at least a week. I settled into the rest of trip to Minot.

Back to the prairie…The landscape is rolling, rather than flat providing hidden pockets for deer and other species to hide, acres of grass that looks like there is nothing, but walking with or without a pointing dog yield coveys of grouse that are perfectly camouflaged. Coyotes appear magically and meadowlarks sing from brush calling out for a mate. Smooth green snakes glide through the summer grass like a ribbon on a package and dragonflies appear at dusk to do damage to the insect population in such numbers it may look like the pinnacle scene from a sci-fi movie.

Continued on page 7

Mistress Prairie - Continued from page 6

One of my favorite memories is from April 2020. It was the beginning of the Covid pandemic and the local, state and federal governments had the foresight to close all campgrounds. We like to camp in April because it is before the crowds and not too hot, but warm enough to spend most of the day outside without all the winter layers. Fortunately, the U. S. Forest service allows camping as long as you don't go more than 100 yards from a road. We found a spot that met this criteria but was far enough off the beaten path to provide a semblance of privacy, even without a tree in sight.

We set camp and made the camper level. With no fire ring to cook over, we had purchased a new Coleman stove. Our old stove purchased at an auction the year we were married, still made fire, but did not provide enough heat to cook. We had some pronghorn check us out from a distance, and were greeted by some ducks from a stock pond over the hill, but nothing prepared us for our neighbors.

After dinner we met the neighbors. They were noisy and dancing. Sharp-tailed grouse! And while the sound carries so other grouse can find and join the party, this dance party was happening 50 yards to the east! Every morning and evening we counted grouse dancing. The females stood off to the side, while the males danced their feet off in hopes of attracting the attention a female to mate with. At one point, we counted more than 30 birds. It was a fantastic morning alarm and bedtime lullaby.

So as you ponder the prairie, get out of your car and take a walk, with or without a shotgun. The prairie is a much overlooked resource. Only to the initiated, does the prairie reveal her gifts. Discover mistress prairie's gifts and you will fall in love with her too.

Chukkar 'n' Dumplings by Fatmi Anders

Ingredients

5 Cups chukkar broth (from cooking chukkar above)
2 Tbsp oil
2 carrots, sliced or chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 heaping Tbsp all-purpose flour
1 bay leaf
4 sprigs fresh thyme (or 2 tsp dried)
6 whole black peppercorns
1 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley, plus more for garnish
Salt & pepper to taste

Cover chukkar in about 6 Cups water and simmer for an hour or so (for added flavor, add a carrot, celery stalk, onion if you want). When cooked, take out chukkar and when cool enough remove meat from bones & set aside. Throw bones back into broth and continue simmering while preparing soup.

Heat oil in stockpot, sautée carrots, celery, onions, and garlic till translucent, stirring so they don't burn. Sprinkle 2 Tbs flour over veggies and mix in. Strain broth and add 2 Cups to veggie mix while stirring. Add remaining 4 Cups broth (if necessary, add water), bay leaf, thyme, parsley and peppercorns. Simmer while preparing dumplings.

For dumplings:

1 1/3 Cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
1 tsp thyme
2/3 Cups milk
1 Tbsp butter, melted

Mix flour, baking powder, salt, thyme in bowl. Mix milk & melted butter in another bowl, then add to flour mixture, stirring gently until blended (don't overmix).

Remove bay leaf and thyme stalks from soup. Drop dumpling batter a teaspoonful at a time into simmering soup. Cover pot and continue to cook another 20 minutes (check a dumpling to make sure it's cooked through). Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add chukkar (cut or shredded into bite-sized pieces) and stir. Garnish with more chopped parsley.

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

Oldest Images of Dogs Show Hunting, Leashes by David Grimm

From: ***https://science.sciencemag.org/content/358/6365/854.full***

Carved into a sandstone cliff on the edge of a bygone river in the Arabian Desert, a hunter draws his bow for the kill. He is accompanied by 13 dogs, each with its own coat markings; two animals have lines running from their necks to the man's waist.

The engravings likely date back more than 8000 years, making them the earliest depictions of dogs, a new study reveals. And those lines are probably leashes, suggesting that humans mastered the art of training and controlling dogs thousands of years earlier than previously thought.

"It's truly astounding stuff," says Melinda Zeder, an archaeozoologist at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. "It's the only real demonstration we have of humans using early dogs to hunt." But she cautions that more work will be needed to confirm both the age and meaning of the depictions.

The hunting scene comes from Shuwaymis, a hilly region of northwestern Saudi Arabia where seasonal rains once formed rivers and supported pockets of dense vegetation. For the past 3 years, Maria Guagnin, an archaeologist at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany—in partnership with the Saudi Commission for Tourism & National Heritage—has helped catalog more than 1400 rock art panels containing nearly 7000 animals and humans at Shuwaymis and Jubbah, a more open vista about 200 kilometers north that was once dotted with lakes.

Starting about 10,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers entered—or perhaps returned to—the region. What appear to be the oldest images are thought to date to this time and depict curvy women. Then about 7000 to 8000 years ago, people here became herders, based on livestock bones found at Jubbah; that's likely when pictures of cattle, sheep, and goats began to dominate the images. In carved on top of the women and under the livestock—are the early hunting dogs: 156 at Shuwaymis and 193 at Jubbah. All are medium-sized, with pricked up ears, short snouts, and curled tails—hallmarks of domestic canines. In some scenes, the dogs face off against wild donkeys. In others, they bite the necks and bellies of ibexes and gazelles. And in many, they are tethered to a human armed with a bow and arrow.

The researchers couldn't directly date the images, but based on the sequence of carving, the weathering of the rock, and the timing of the switch to pastoralism, "The dog art is at least 8000 to 9000 years old," Guagnin says. That may edge out depictions of dogs previously labeled the oldest, paintings on Iranian pottery dated to at most 8000 years ago.

"When Maria came to me with the rock art photos and asked me if they meant anything, I about lost my mind," says co-author Angela Perri, a zooarchaeologist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. Perri has studied the bones of ancient dogs around the world, and has argued that early dogs were critical in human hunting. "A million

Continued on page 10

Oldest Images of Dogs - continued from page 9

bones won't tell me what these images are telling me," she says. "It's the closest thing you're going to get to a YouTube video."

The dogs look a lot like today's Canaan dog, says Perri, a largely feral breed that roams the deserts of the Middle East. That could indicate that these ancient people bred dogs that had already adapted to hunting in the desert, the team reports this week in the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* Or people may even have independently domesticated these dogs from the Arabian wolf long after dogs were domesticated elsewhere, which likely happened sometime between 15,000 and 30,000 years ago.

But Zeder notes that the engravings may not be as old as they seem. To confirm the chronology, scientists will need to link the images to a well-dated archaeological site—a challenge, she says, because "the archaeological record in this region is really spotty." Paul Tacon, an archaeologist at Griffith University in Gold Coast, Australia, agrees that "dating rock art is often a guesstimate." But based on his nearly 4 decades of studying such images around the world, he says, "Their chronology is sound."

Even if the art is younger than Guagnin and her colleagues think, the leashes are by far the oldest on record. Until now, the earliest evidence for such restraints came from a wall painting in Egypt dated to about 5500 years ago, Perri says. The Arabian hunters may have used the leashes to keep valuable scent dogs close and protected, she says, or to train new dogs. Leashing dogs to the hunter's waist may have freed his hands for bow and arrow.

But Tacon cautions that the lines in the engravings could be symbolic. "It could just be a depiction of a bond." Either way, he says, that bond was clearly strong, as the artists appear to have depicted dogs they actually knew, with particular coat patterns, stances, and genders. "These creatures were very important, beloved companions."

Such a relationship would have been critical to helping people survive a harsh environment. Dogs could take down gazelles and ibexes too fast for humans, Perri says. Details of the images also suggest that the ancient hunters tailored their strategies to the landscape, Zeder says. At Shuwaymis, where the dogs may have been used to drive prey into the corners of uneven terrain, the art depicts large packs. At Jubbah, the images show smaller groups of dogs that may have ambushed prey at watering holes. "People were able to venture into these inhospitable areas by strategically marshalling dogs to survive," Zeder says. "And now we're seeing a real picture of how it happened." j

UKC Events

February 6 & 7, 2021
Dawson, GA
Southeastern Pointing Dog Club
Wild Field Trial OPEN, GUN, TAN/WRT
Contact Jackie Hutwagner (770) 883-8360

April 21 - 24, 2021
Milaca/Ogilvie, MN
CEB – US National Conclave
SAVE THE DATE!

UKC
UNITED KENNEL CLUB

Photo Gallery

On the Missouri River near Townsend Jasper, a 5 1/2 mo. Epagneul Breton owned by G B Carson, from Dakota Point Kennel, Hazen, North Dakota

Photo by Catherine Courtenaye

Topperlynn Marco with woodcock

Photo by Jeff Pleskac

Pepsi de' L'Escarbot
Dam: Nanci de' L'Escarbot
Sire: Ipso Facto du Comte de Batz Castelmore (Import France)

Photo by John Mooney, L'Escarbot Kennels

Mel Kotur with Rosie

Photo by Kim Kotur

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 Pondside TAN WRT
OFA: GOOD
Smith's Epagneul Bretons
W. Edward Smith
574 699 6302
www.smithepagneulbretons.com

Breeders

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

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

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

Hyalite Kennel
Butch Nelson & Karen Paugh
406-567-4200
hyaliteknls@yahoo.com

Kimmel's Epagneul Bretons
Kathleen Kimmel
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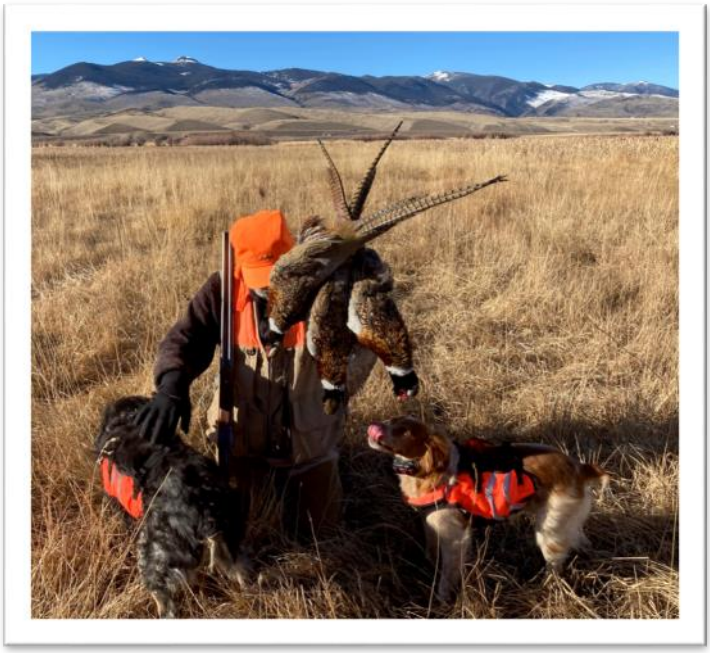
kimmelk29@gmail.com

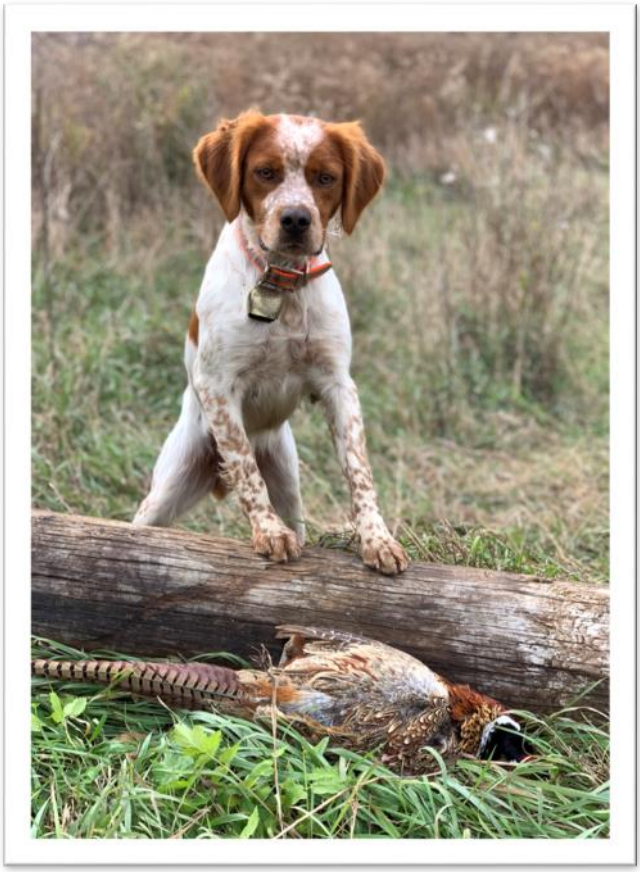
Smith's Epagneul Bretons
W. Edward Smith
574 699 6302
www.smithepagneulbretons.com

Photo Gallery



Mel Kotur with Rosie and ??? After a successful hunt.

Photo by Kim Kotur



Raj's (Orage de la HHF) first pheasant of the season

Photo by Denine Ackerbauer

Pip de la HHF in the late season grouse woods

Photo by Jeff Pleskac

Whoa Post Marketplace

Miracle de Passemarais, Born 8/2/16, 33 lbs and 46 cm tall at withers. Miracle is an accomplished hunting dog; he was originally trained by Butch Nelson of Hyalite Kennels. He is currently steady to shot and retrieves to hand. He has experience hunting the uplands of Montana as well as Minnesota. He has a great nose and is lots of drive in the field and lots of love at home. He will make a great companion and hunting buddy. He is currently owned by Lynda Kieres but is with Jeff and Tasha Pleskac at HHF Gundogs in Minnesota for the season. If you are interested, please Contact Jeff or Tasha at hhfarmsmn@gmail.com. $3500

A Diligent Hunter

Nordy on a hunt north of the twin cities (Minnesota) this past October. Nordy is a duck hunting and retrieving machine. He doesn't make any fuss sitting in a blind for hours. Cold, snow, wind, he's either in the boat or in a ground blind waiting for the next retrieve. Manitou De L'Escarbot (Nordy)
Dam: Jinni Du Comte De Batz Castelmore (Import France)
Sire: Jameson De L'Escarbot
Owner: Louie Fackler, MN
Producer: John and Bruce Mooney

Photo provided by John Mooney

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

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