

# The Whoa Post

January 2024

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## January Issue

A new year is a time for reflection of last year and goal setting for the coming year, be they personal or professional goals. You may also want to set training goals for your dogs. Regardless of your goal category, there are some common threads. It's important to remember that goals provide direction, motivation and ultimately a sense of accomplishment. They help you stay focused and accountable. Goals also allow you to push you, your dog, or both toward continuous improvement. For example, let's say you have a dog that you are training for a NAVHDA Natural Ability Test. This will set up pup for hunting success. Not all dogs swim right away, while others will swim at 6 weeks. Remember, not all dogs develop the same skills at the same age, but they will develop if you are consistent and patient.

Here are some tips for achieving your goals using the swimming example. Break down each step of the process of achieving your goal and create a plan, i.e. getting your dog in the water and to be a proficient swimmer. Start with a run through small warm puddles, then walk through the edge of larger water bodies and go in with them so pup can see its safe. Use a mentor dog, if you have one, to encourage courage, and lastly cheer for them when they achieve each step of the goal. Even more important, don't scold if they don't meet the milestone because there can always be another training session. A training partner can help you when things become difficult. And always celebrate achievements even when they are small. Going into water up to a young pups belly is a big deal and when they swim, it's time for a hamburger for you and pup!

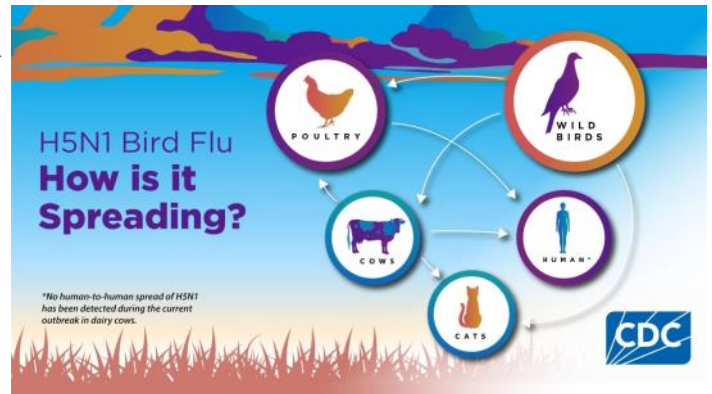
When you meet obstacles in your goals like getting pup to swim, remember to stay calm and be willing to adjust your goals when necessary and with all things training, be consistent. And when you hit that brick wall, take a break, go fishing and bring the dog. You probably both need a break. So remember, "Great dog trainers have broad skills, not inflexible ideologies." as stated by Ralf Weber.

Sherry Niesar  
Whoa Post Editor



## More Information About Avian Flu by Ken Bruwelheide

I first became interested in avian flu also known as “bird flu” in 2022. Since this strain had been negatively affecting wild bird populations in the British Isles it could affect bird populations in the U.S. At the time it seemed like the bird flu was a bit of a “far out” concept. However, it is now having an effect on poultry and other birds worldwide. In the U.S it has caused some outbreaks in poultry as well as U.S. dairy cows. Presumably that is the case worldwide also.



The first article on avian flu (Whoa Post, May 23) presented information from an interview with Dr. Jennifer Ramsey, one of the staff veterinarians with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Dr. Ramsey presented cautions on handling potentially infected birds along with our dogs consuming the tissue and handling the birds as well. The recommendations have not changed much but the avian Flu is gaining in presence with domestic poultry as well as wild birds.

There seem to be common themes in the understanding of avian flu as indicated by other scientists studying the disease. Recently, an article appeared in a Montana newspaper authored by Emma Loveday, an associate professor of microbiology and cell biology at Montana State University. Loveday states that this flu is changing rapidly so the path that it may follow is not understood at this time including the potential of human-to-human transmission. Professor Loveday suggests that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is a prime source of current information and tracking of avian flu.

In the current issue of *Pointing Dog Journal* E. Donnall Thomas Jr., M.D. presents information about avian flu and what we know and what we don't. Dr. Thomas presents a list of cautions to follow when our bird dogs and people may come in contact with infected birds. He also emphasizes that we keep on hunting but remain cautious.

There have been sixty-six human cases of avian flu confirmed in ten states so far. These cases are mostly from commercial poultry operations and backyard flocks of domestic birds leading to their destruction. Human cases are mostly linked to dairy workers when the virus has spread to cattle. At present there has only been one confirmed human death of an older person with additional health complications.

### Sources:

Dr. Jennifer Ramsey, Veterinarian, Avian Flu 2.0, An Interview with Dr. Jennifer Ramsey, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Bozeman, MT, April 2023.

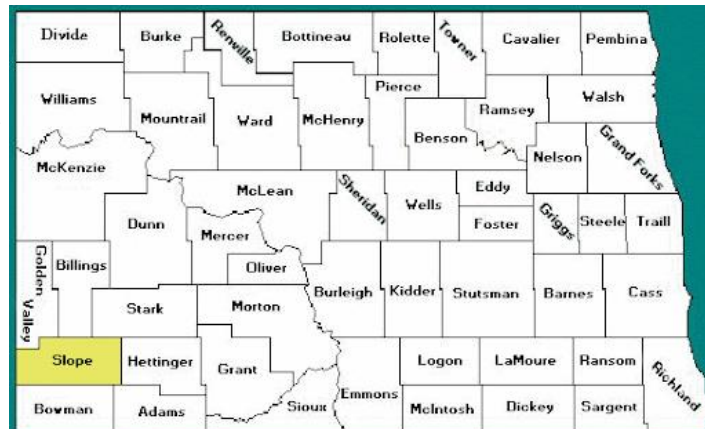
Loveday, Emma, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Cell Biology at Montana State University and Lilly Keller, Staff Writer. Bird Flu, A Rising Threat. *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*. January 4, 2025.

Thomas, Donnall Jr., M.D. Avian Influenza: What We Know, What We Don't and Why We Should Keep on Hunting. *Pointing Dog Journal*, January/February 2025, pp. 27-28.

Larose, Greg. Nation's First Severe Avian Flu Patient Dies in Louisiana. *Daily Montanan*, January 8, 2025.

## What 2025 Needs by Peter Wax

It is the first day of 2025 and I am 150 miles from home. Out to my never-fail Hungarian habitat in Slope County North Dakota. Slope County has many things to brag about. Like ½-person per square mile or 1 person for every 2 square miles, a County Seat of 23 (if you count the dogs and cats), and lots and lots of shortgrass prairie still in the condition the Lord intended - facing up not plowed under. Two-thousand twenty-five needs more counties like Slope.



My first choice of land was bucket posted so I moved to choice two. There are many choices in Slope County, so one or two 5-gallon buckets with posted signs is not an issue. The folks of Slope County are usually polite, reserved and introverted. If you are the same, most will let you hunt feathers if you are lucky enough to bump into one. Ranchers mostly. Cowgirls and cowboys. Here by choice. The true protectors of native sod are cows and the men and women that husband them. They are a special kind. The kind that would fight to the death to keep the earth from changing. Two-thousand twenty-five needs more cows, Cowgirls, and Cowboys.



Choice #2

Choice 2 was further east. East and up on top out of the badlands along a meandering nameless ephemeral crick. A flat crick. Flat, as in a gradient of just a few inches per mile. Dry. Bone dry and has been since July. In eastern North Dakota it would have been plowed under and tiled but here it has a defined bed and bank.

The crick goes everywhere but straight, traveling 4 or 5 miles left and right for every mile down gradient. A complex population of grass takes advantage of the temporary water supplied by the crick. Grasses like cord, needle, sedge, gramma, threawn, and salt. Even the weeds out here are interesting. Lamb's

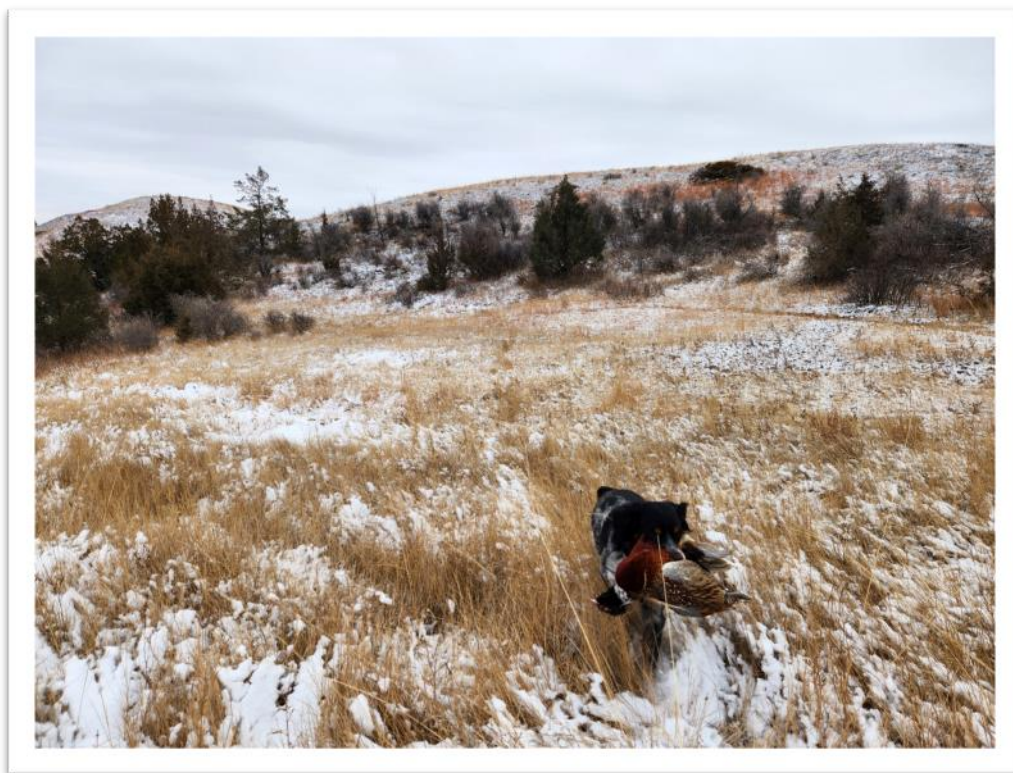
quarter, toadflax, wormwood, baby's breath, sow thistle, milkweed, kochia, and whitetop. The weeds grow in bare earth exposed for 45 to 90 days between dehydration and the killing frost. The weeds are the preferred food of *Perdix perdix*, the Hungarian Partridge. Two-thousand twenty-five needs more unposted, unnamed, flat, dry, cricks.



It is 22 degrees, overcast, and calm as I put my 10 and 14-year-old champions on the ground. Watching the 14-year-old gal I am reminded of Bill Tarrant when he wrote: "But, most of us outlive our dogs, God giving them about 12 years and us 70. So, it is the dog who leaves a legacy to us, not the other way around. How many of us go in memory now where in step we went before: toe-to-tail to freedom's call, the call of gentle wildness, us out walking with our dog"

Bill, trialed, live with, and hunted his dogs, but most of all he loved them: "I always remember Rene. I trialed that dog so many years to so many places. We hunted, sure. But we did so much more. We once looked down a hand-mortared flintstone well together. My voice drummed about in there and Rene tilted his head, cocked his ears. As men are but boys grown tall, Rene was always a puppy. Rene died. I carried him the last time. Carried him and buried him. Mixed prairie grass grows on his grave so no one can recognize the place. But I do. I go now where in step I went before. And I do not walk alone. All men who are dog men walk a similar trail. Two-thousand twenty-five needs more dog writers like Bill.

The flat unnamed ephemeral crick yielded not a single Hungarian partridge, but it did offer up three pheasants. Even Elegant Thorn, the 14-year-old Champion of the Field got a find and a retrieve. Why maybe two-thousand twenty-five does not need anything at all.



*It was like just meeting you made his day. He quivered with excitement. Rolled over in submission. Nuzzled up so's the warmth of his body came soothing to your heart through the skin of your ankle. So you picked him up. That's the way with love. It's contagious.*

-- Bill Tarrant (from 'Hey Pup, Fetch It Up')

## 2024 CEB US Conclave Field Trial Results

### OPEN Braces (W)

December 4, 2024

CAC: Newton de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwagner

Excellent: Smith's Lost Highway Rizzi / John Griffin

Pass: S.A. Ziva de la HHF / Ridge Henderson

### GUN Braces (W)

December 4, 2024

CAG: Ulyssa de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwagner

Pass: Riviere sur le Delavan / Kelly Engle

Pass: Tyr de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwagner

### OPEN Solo (W)

December 5, 2024

CAC: Lost Highway's Mud / John Griffin

RCAC: Smith's Lost Highway Rizzi / John Griffin

### GUN Solo (W)

December 5, 2024

CAGT: Tito de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Nanette Harwell

RCAGT: Sophie Du Mas Le Doux / Rob Winchester

CAG: Tito de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Nanette Harwell

CAG: Sophie Du Mas Le Doux / Rob Winchester

CAG: Touchstones Uquilla / Kevin Grant

RCAG: Smith's Reeder de Pondsider / Ed Smith

Pass: Touchstones Uva / Colin Johnston

Pass: Van Gogh de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwagner

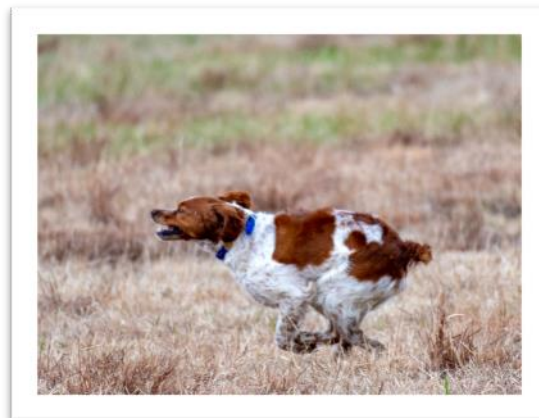
### OPEN Braces (L)

December 7, 2024

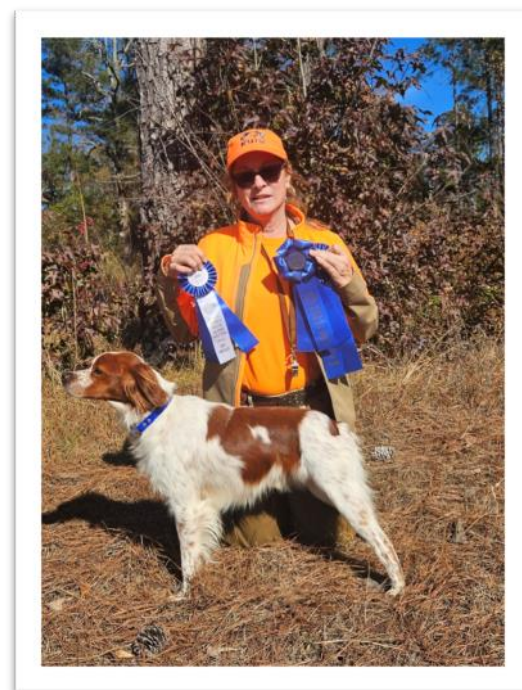
CAC: Lost Highway's Mud / John Griffin

Excellent: Nike de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwagner

Pass: Barbadun Vulcano / Jamin Carr



Smith's Lost Highways Mud owned by John Griffin



Tito de la Source d'Hannahatchee & Nanette Harwell

**Day 3:**

**OPEN Solo (L)**

**December 7, 2024**

**CACT:** Smith's Lost Highway's Rizzi / John Griffin

**RCACT:** Maverick de Sugar Creek / Jim Lucasey

**CAC:** Smith's Lost Highway's Rizzi / John Griffin

**CAC:** Maverick de Sugar Creek / Jim Lucasey

**RCAC:** Nike de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwagner

**Excellent:** S.A. Ziva de la HHF / Ridge Henderson

**Pass:** Newton de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwagner



Maverick de Sugar Creek with Jim and Patty Lucasey

**GUN Solo (L)**

**December 7, 2024**

**CACT:** Pied Piper de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Brian Brouckaert

**RCACT:** Umaysa de Staunch Point / Jay Hudrlik

**CAG:** Tessa de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Nanette Harwell

**CAG:** Pied Piper de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Brian Brouckaert

**CAG:** Umaysa de Staunch Point / Jay Hudrlik

**RCAG:** Theodore de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Nanette Harwell

**Pass:** Tesla Grace de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Karen Fournier

**Pass:** Sophie Du Mas Le Doux / Rob Winchester

**Pass:** Carr's Sarah / Jamin Carr

**TAN Awards**

Venn de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Joey Clark

UGA de Staunch Point / Lorie Glover

U'Hara de War Hill / Lorie Glover

Tanzi de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Jennifer Johnson

Van Gogh de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwager

Tyr de la Source d'Hannahatchee / John Hutwager

U'Ember Lankford du Hokumpoke / Logan Lankford

Ukase de Staunch Point / John Koves

Unity Grace de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Mandy Murtha

Triumphant de Solitaire / Kelly Engle

**WRT Awards**

U'Ember Lankford du Hokumpoke / Logan Lankford

Ukase de Staunch Point / John Koves

Uberti de Staunch Point / Dave Robb

Unity Grace de la Source d'Hannahatchee / Mandy Murtha

Saoirse Fiach de la Trinite / Mandy Murtha

Smith's Lost Highway's Rizzi / John Griffin

Pied Piper de al Source d'Hannahatchee / Brian Brouckaert



Umaysa de Staunch Point and Jay Hudrlik



## *Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club*

### *Board Meeting Minutes*



January 14, 2025

Present: Pete Wax, Todd Lehner, Ken Bruwelheide, Sherry Niesar, Jim Hoschouer, Butch Nelson

Ken called the meeting to order at 8 pm

Treasurers report stated the club has a balance of \$8654. Accepted.

Butch Nelson presented a field trial report from the 2024 Rocky Mountain Cup held in late August. Trial was well attended with approximately 84 dogs judged, many new handlers along with experienced handlers. We had excellent volunteer help on all fronts. The new owner of the King property talked with Butch and has invited us to have the trial on his land as long as we would like. Jim did an excellent job on the silent auction on Saturday evening. We also held a snake break clinic. There were many birds with everyone having bird contact along with the fields being in good condition. Looking forward to a 2025 trial, depending on field and bird conditions a trial is planned but a final decision will be made in late spring.

A discussion was held on the pros and cons of opening our board meetings to current club members. It will continue to be researched before a decision is made.

Sherry presented on the 2024 photo contest and 2025 photo contest. She has secured Seth Owens, professional wildlife/outdoor photographer as the 2025 judge. Contest will open in January and close March 1. We will use the same prize structure as last year.

Todd announced he will be adding a new member to the club on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the Lehner Family!

Meeting adjourned at 843 pm.

Respectfully submitting,

Sherry Niesar

BSEBGDC Secretary.

### *Let's Get Social*

The Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club is on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, ask to join and let the conversations begin. Share your ideas and pictures. Posts must be relevant to the club and may include but not limited to dogs, gear, hunting locations, and nutrition. The web address for the club page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115972485114132/>



# KNIFE RIVER PHEASANTS FOREVER BIRDDOG FIRST AID CLASS



Sometimes accidents happen, but being prepared is crucial to preventing injury and rapidly managing injury. In this class, we'll be covering some of the basic techniques to deal with field trauma, how to 'read' your dog's behavior when it may be feeling poorly, and more.

In this class, you'll receive 4 hours of instruction from Dr. Jessie Evoniuk DVM, MS and Dr. Raul Casa Dolz VMD, CCRT in a small classroom setting with plenty of room for discussion and demonstration! Your ticket fee doesn't only cover your admittance and lunch, but it also sends you home with a Paradigm Sporting Dog Field Kit. You also have a chance to win door prizes!

**@Hazen, ND Golf Club**

**January 25th - 8:30am - 3:30pm (CST)**

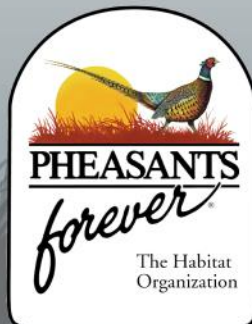
**Limited to first 25 attendees!**



Scan the QR Code  
Or  
visit [events.pheasantsforever.org](https://events.pheasantsforever.org)  
and search for the event!



**GUN DOG SUPPLY**





## Photo Gallery



The Mighty Bean! 25lbs of dynamite!  
Photo provided by Matt Crootof



A prickly hunt. December gambel quail hunt in Arizona with members of the E.B. South-west Chapter .  
Photo provided by Kaycee and Jim Cassara



Cooper at 7 months.  
Photo by Tom Brown

PR Jersey Hites  
Mississippi, 10 years  
old and still hunting  
and living the dream.  
Photo by  
Angie Hites

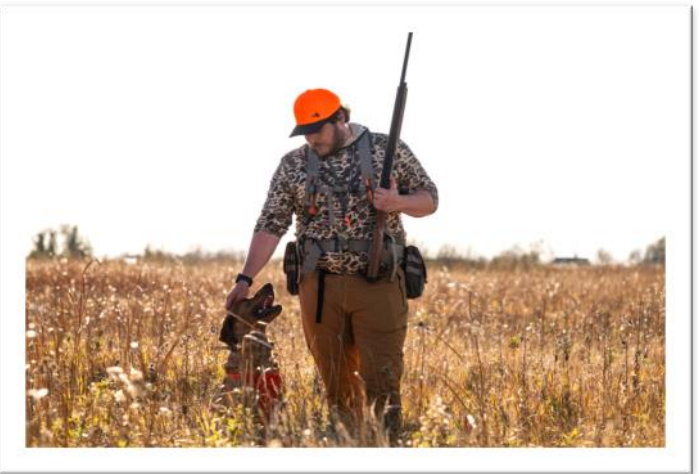


Niko De' L'Escarbot, Russell  
De' L'Escarbot, Lexi De' L'Escarbot  
and three dudes.  
Photo Provided by John Mooney



## About Seth Owens, Photo Contest Judge

Seth Owens is a dedicated conservationist. When he isn't chasing birds with his pup, Tanka, he's pursuing species across the prairies and grasslands of the Great Plains with his camera. Wildlife photography may be the main subject for his camera, but he never shies away from a bird dog on the hunt, and he enjoys watching dogs bust brush, dive for waterfowl, or lock up on a point. Seth's work can be found on Facebook/Instagram at @stuff.seth.sees or on his website StuffSethSees.com.



**Photo Tips!** From: <https://digital-photography-school.com/9-pet-photography-tips/>

**Use natural light** - Work with natural light – either by shooting outside or in a well-lit room.

**Choose the right camera mode** - If you're a beginner or used to always working on Auto. Try

**Keep the eyes sharp** - Sharp eyes are *always* important in portrait photography – and pet photography is no different! They say that the eyes are the window to the soul, and in my experience, a pet's eyes can be very expressive. These days, some cameras offer eye AF for animals. With eye AF activated, your camera will identify your pet's eyes – and nail focus consistently!

**Use a fast shutter speed** - Certain pets are extraordinarily quick – and even the pets that are on the slow side can still move fast.

**Go to your pet** - Instead of forcing your pet to come to you, make sure you go to *them*. Let them choose the location, whether it's in their favorite bed, on their favorite carpet spot, or outside by their favorite toy. Get down on your pet's level. Sit on the floor or lie on your belly and remember to shoot from *your pet's* eye level or below.

**Surprise your pet** - Let your pet play quietly. As they play, consider potential compositions and dial in your settings. Then, once you have your camera set up and ready, give a quick whistle. The sound will surprise your pet. With luck, you'll have a few seconds to capture them in a nice, alert posture, so make the most of it.

**Time your session carefully** - If you want to capture some formal-looking pet photography, then "schedule" your photoshoot when your animal is somewhat sleepy. You might shoot after your pet has woken up from a nap. Or you might shoot late in the day when your pet is tired and lacks energy. That way, it will be easier to capture a sharp shot. You won't be stuck waiting for your subject to stop moving, and you'll have a far more pleasant time.

**Be patient**- Pet photography requires a lot of patience. It might take a few seconds, a few minutes, or even an hour, but thanks to the power of patience, you'll be able to capture beautiful pet images.



The Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club  
wants to see your best shots

## Photo Contest



### Contest Rules

- Open only to **amateur photographers**.
- Open to **members and non-members of the BSEBGDC**.
- Only 1 entry per category per person.
- **Entry Deadline: March 1, 2025**. Winners will be announced in the April *Whoa Post*.
- The photo must be in its original state and cannot be altered in any way, including but not limited to removing, adding, reversing, or distorting subjects within the frame. Only low resolution submissions will be accepted. The winners will then be notified to submit a hi res version.
- Photos must have been taken within the last year.
- Entries must be submitted via email at [thewhoapost@gmail.com](mailto:thewhoapost@gmail.com)
- Entries will be judged by the photo contest judge, Seth Owens, professional wildlife photographer, Pheasants Forever. All decisions are final. The photo contest committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that is deemed inappropriate or does not conform to stated contest rules.
- By entering the contest, entrants agree that photos submitted can be used by the Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club and *The Whoa Post*.
- The winner will be contacted via the email address provided on their entry.

### To Enter

Submit original photos to [thewhoapost@gmail.com](mailto:thewhoapost@gmail.com), subject line: **Photo Contest**. Please include category, photographers name, email, Title of photo. Please name photos with `john_smith_Category` and save as a JPG or PNG format. An example of a photo file name is: `John_Smith_puppy.jpg`

**Contest Deadline: March 1, 2025**

### Contest Theme

*Showing what hunting dogs do best.*

### Awards & Prizes

Best in Show - \$100 & club Hat

Judges Choice per category –  
\$50, Dog Food Coupon for free bag  
& Club Hat

Honorable mention – Club Hat

### Categories Open to Epagneul Bretons

- Hunting (anything related to hunting birds)
- Puppy (under 12 months)
- Old Dogs
- General Interest

### Categories Open to Other Hunting breeds

- All other breeds of dogs (can be puppy, hunting, old dogs, or general interest)

### Questions

Email [thewhoapost@gmail.com](mailto:thewhoapost@gmail.com)  
[www.montanabreton.com](http://www.montanabreton.com)

The Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club UKC is a pointing dog club.





## *UKC Events*

### **January 25 & 26, 2025**

Cumberland, VA  
Carolinas Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club  
Wild Open and Wild Gun  
Species: Quail and Woodcock  
Judges: Grayson Guyer, Fred Overby, Larry Ellison,  
Rob Winchester, Will Crowe  
Event Secretary: Will Crowe | CarolinaEBGDC@gmail.com

### **February 15 & 16, 2025**

Sonoita, AZ  
Epagneul Bretons of the Southwest / Korthals Griffon  
Desert Southwest  
Liberated, Open Class (B and S), Gun (S), TAN/WRT  
(on 15th)  
Event Secretary: Trisha Wherley | eb-softhesw@gmail.com

### **April 5 & 6, 2025**

Delavan, IL  
EB Club of Illinois  
Wild, Liberated, TAN, WRT  
Event Secretary: Suzanne LaFary | surledelavankennel@gmail.com

### **April 2-5, 2025**

Iowa  
CEB US 2025 National Conclave  
Details are on their way!



## *William Harrison Fine Art*



[bill@bill-harrison.com](mailto:bill@bill-harrison.com) 630-235-9382

<https://www.williamharrisonartist.com/>



*Recipe: Marry Me Chicken (or pheasant)*  
from [www.pioneerwoman.com](http://www.pioneerwoman.com)

**Ingredients:**

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 6 Tbsp. salted butter, divided
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil, divided
- 1/2 small yellow onion, finely diced (about 1/2 cup)
- 4 garlic cloves, grated or minced
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2/3 cup dry-packed sun-dried tomatoes, sliced
- 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan, plus more for serving

**Instructions:**

Prepare the chicken breasts: Starting from the thickest end, slice each chicken breast in half horizontally to end up with a total of 8 cutlets. Season both sides of the chicken with salt and pepper, to taste. Spread the flour in a shallow dish. Working with 1 cutlet at a time, dredge the chicken in flour, shaking gently to remove the excess and transfer to a plate.

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add 2 tablespoons butter and 1 tablespoon oil, and let the butter melt. Once the foam has subsided, add the first 4 cutlets to the pan, and cook until golden brown, 4 to 5 minutes per side. Transfer to a clean plate and repeat the process with 2 tablespoons butter, 1 tablespoon oil, and the remaining 4 cutlets. (Do not wipe out the pan between batches unless flour is burning). Reduce the heat to medium-low.

In the same skillet, melt the remaining 2 tablespoons butter. Add the onion, and cook until it is translucent, about 2 minutes. Add the garlic, red pepper flakes, and tomato paste to the pan. Stir and cook for until the garlic is fragrant, and the tomato paste has turned darker in color, 1 minute. Pour in the wine to deglaze the pan, scraping up any brown bits. Let the wine reduce by half, about 2 minutes.

Stir in the chicken stock, sun-dried tomatoes, and Italian seasoning, and bring to a simmer. Once the sauce is simmering, add the chicken and any accumulated juices back into the pan; cook for 5 minutes. (The sauce should be thickened slightly.) Stir in the cream and parmesan and let simmer for 5 minutes more to make sure the chicken is tender and all the flavors have melded.

Top with parsley and extra parmesan and serve alongside mashed potatoes or any short cut pasta you like.



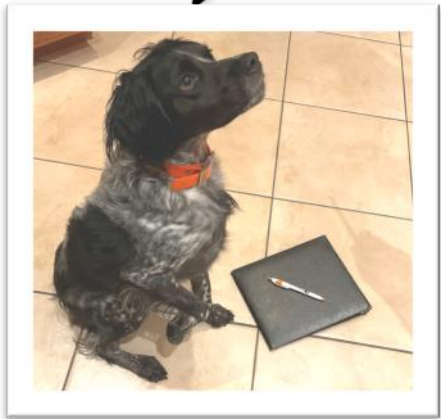




## Renew Your Membership

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: Jim Hoschouoer 3575 Pasha Lane, Bozeman, Montana 59718