

# The Whoa Post

May 2026

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## May Issue

May is a transition month from spring to summer. What might that mean? If you are a student or teacher in school, it means the wonderful escape and carefree months of summer vacation. I am lucky enough to fall into that category. But more important is that I won't have to go back to school in the fall. This March, I made the decision to retire from my college teaching career. Not an easy one to make, but it was time. Fortunately, I get to ease into retirement by way of a part time and flexible position with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department in their education section. I will still get my teaching fix.

But back to the concept of vacation. What will it hold? I am looking forward to more camping trips, days running dogs, and better health. I talked to one wildlife professional that retired. By putting effort into her dogs and the outdoors, she became healthier and happier. She still keeps track of natural resource issues and is active in those organizations, but since she is retired, she can enjoy the life she wants. I will also remain active in teaching and wildlife organizations but on my time. Isn't that what we all work for? To do the things we want to do, while we still are able to do them?

And if you don't have the luxury of a summer vacation by vocation, well...you will just have to schedule that vacation when it works for the people who make decisions for you.

Turkey season is over today. While Pete shot his gobbler on the fly, there was not one for me to harvest. It's ok, they take up a lot of room in the freezer. Our next season is dog training. Grace has had her first hunting season and learned about retrieving on land and water as well as holding point on birds to within gun range. There are bobwhites in our backyard pen waiting for Grace. Next weekend. We'll see where she is in her bird dog education and go from there. She's got wheels and will point everything from a butterfly to a meadowlark and upland birds like grouse so we are halfway there. I'll keep you posted on our progress.

Back to the retirement. After 40 years of marriage (this June), this will be the first time when Pete and I will be spending much of our days together. Between working, raising kids, while Pete was working, or me working, there hasn't been a lot of us time. We are learning. I'm glad we both have things to do separately as well as common pursuits. It keeps it interesting. Enjoy your summer vacation, however you take it, all summer or just a week or two!

Sherry Niesar  
Whoa Post Editor



## ***BSEBGDC Board Meeting Minutes***

May 11, 2026

Present: Jim Hoschouer, Sherry Niesar, Peter Wax, Colin Johnston, Ken Bruwelheide, Butch Nelson, Todd Lehner



Jim called the meeting to order at 735 pm CT,

Motion to approve April meeting by Todd with Pete seconded. Motion carried

Treasurer's report by Jim with \$9955.86 in club account. Motion to approve report by Sherry, seconded by Colin. Motion carried.

### **Field Trial Survey Discussion:**

- Jim could do either August or September dates.
- Sherry recommended that our date should be the best for the club and minimize conflicts with resident hunters – August date.
- Ken wants what is best for the club and is concerned about the attendance due to increasing fuel costs.
- Pete recommended August date.
- Butch thought we should concentrate on the people attending the trial.
- Colin spoke with trialers at the CEB US conclave and they indicated they would come regardless of the date.
- Todd thought we should focus on the trialers and figure out a transition to the new non-resident dates.

After all discussion, Sherry made the motion to hold the Rocky Mountain Cup Field Trial on August 29 & 30, 2026. Butch seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Sherry will continue as Field Trial Secretary and Butch, Trial Chairmen. Butch will talk with landowners and get back to Sherry by next Friday, May 15. Trial application, premium and announcement will go out after May 15, 2026. This year we will make a special effort to reach the Montana club members and encourage them to attend the field trial. Additionally, Sherry will reach out to the other UKC club contacts to attract new trialers.

### **Good Deed Fund Amendment**

Colin made a motion to discuss the new amendment draft, Ken seconded. Motion carried. Details regarding the amendment include:

- There needs to be a board quorum to approve a disbursement.
- Maximum yearly amount to be disbursed to 1 or more applicants is \$1,000

Butch made a motion to approve the maximum yearly amount be \$1000. Colin seconded, motion carried.

Pete made a motion to have the ability to share the maximum of \$1000 per year to more than one applicant. Seconded by Todd. Motion carried.

The board decided that Sherry would craft the details above into a draft to be voted on at the June meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8.39 pm CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Niesar, BSEBGDC Secretary

## Shot Performance “Myth, Real or a Little of Both”

by Peter Wax

There are many interesting and imaginative beliefs on the various types of bird shot. As a scientist, none perk my interest more than the ones that can violate the laws of physics. Instead of approaching these remarkable claims with an unwinnable discussion on alchemy let us do the math. Math is wonderful. It has no agenda, cannot be bribed, is not affected by voodoo, and no matter how many times you add, subtract, divide, or multiple the results are always the same.



Energy in foot-pounds (ft-lbs)/pellet is a surrogate for the potential lethality of shot. Lethality in reality is a combination of shot diameter, penetration and placement or multiple placements. Energy can be calculated and the resulting penetration measured, but the number of strikes and where they land cannot be reliably repeated from a scattergun. There is wide-range of published estimates on the required energy needed to penetrate to a lethal depth, but it is questionable if any would pass a rigorous peer review. As such, this discussion will be limited to the math and you may decide what the minimum energy for lethal penetration is.

### Calculations:

Foot pounds of energy is a simple equation (below):

$$\left( \frac{\text{Ft}}{\text{lbs}} \text{ Energy} \right) = \frac{\text{Weight (grains)} \times \text{Velocity (fps)}^2}{450,240}$$

Where: 450,240 is a constant that accounts for gravity and converts the results into foot pounds.

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## Shot Performance - Continued from page 3

| Table 1: Energy in ft-lbs 1300 fps @ Muzzle. |      |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Type                                         | Size | Muzzle | 30 yds | 40 yds | 50 yds | 60 yds |
| Lead                                         | BB   | 31.2   | 14.0   | 12.1   | 10.5   | 8.1    |
| Bismuth                                      | BB   | 24.1   | 11.9   | 10.1   | 8.6    | 7.4    |
| Steel                                        | BB   | 21.7   | 8.9    | 7.2    | 5.7    | 4.4    |
| Lead                                         | 1    | 22.2   | 10.5   | 8.8    | 7.4    | 6.0    |
| Bismuth                                      | 1    | 20.3   | 9.2    | 7.6    | 6.3    | 5.0    |
| Steel                                        | 1    | 15.9   | 6.2    | 4.8    | 3.7    | 2.8    |
| Lead                                         | 2    | 18.9   | 8.8    | 7.4    | 6.2    | 5.2    |
| Bismuth                                      | 2    | 18.0   | 7.5    | 6.1    | 4.9    | 3.9    |
| Steel                                        | 2    | 13.2   | 4.9    | 3.8    | 2.8    | 2.1    |
| Lead                                         | 3    | 14.8   | 6.5    | 5.3    | 4.3    | 3.6    |
| Bismuth                                      | 3    | 13.3   | 5.4    | 4.4    | 3.5    | 2.7    |
| Steel                                        | 3    | 10.7   | 3.7    | 2.8    | 2.1    | 1.5    |
| Lead                                         | 4    | 12.2   | 5.2    | 4.2    | 3.4    | 2.6    |
| Bismuth                                      | 4    | 10.2   | 4.0    | 3.1    | 2.4    | 1.8    |
| Steel                                        | 4    | 8.6    | 2.8    | 2.0    | 1.5    | 1.0    |
| Lead                                         | 5    | 9.7    | 3.9    | 3.1    | 2.5    | 1.9    |
| Bismuth                                      | 5    | 8.3    | 3.0    | 2.4    | 1.8    | 1.3    |
| Steel                                        | 5    | 6.8    | 2.0    | 1.4    | 1.0    | 0.7    |
| Lead                                         | 6    | 7.3    | 2.8    | 2.2    | 1.7    | 1.2    |
| Bismuth                                      | 6    | 6.7    | 2.4    | 1.8    | 1.3    | 1.0    |
| Steel                                        | 6    | 5.2    | 1.4    | 1.0    | 0.6    | 0.4    |
| Lead                                         | 7    | 5.6    | 2.0    | 1.6    | 1.2    | 0.8    |
| Bismuth                                      | 7    | 4.8    | 1.5    | 1.1    | 0.8    | 0.5    |
| Steel                                        | 7    | 3.9    | 1.0    | 0.6    | 0.4    | 0.2    |
| Lead                                         | 7½   | 4.7    | 1.6    | 1.2    | 0.9    | 0.6    |

Velocity at varying distances is a wee bit more complicated (below):

$$Vd = Vo * e^{\left(-0.5 * p * Vo * \left(\frac{DF}{A \left(\frac{pv^2}{2}\right)}\right) * \left(\frac{A}{M}\right) * t\right)}$$

Where: Vd = Velocity at Distance, Vo = Muzzle Velocity, e= Euler number, p = Air Density, DF = Drag Force, A = Area, p = Air density, v = flow velocity, M = Mass, t = Time of Travel.

Using the required data, a touch of arithmetic and a dash of calculus velocity and energy tables can be built. A second less painful method (**and peer reviewed method**) is to plug the muzzle velocity, shot type, shot weight, elevation above sea level, and temperature into a computer model and right-click-it! If you wish to check my math, use no angle, 1000' msl, 66°F, no wind, and the default weights and sizes for the different shot based on the type of metals.

**Table 1** and the two following contain the calculated energy in foot pounds (ft-lbs) of steel, bismuth and lead shot in sizes #7 through BB at 30-

yards, 40-yards, 50-yards, and 60-yards. **Table 1** uses a muzzle velocity of 1300 feet/second (fps), **Table 2** at 1450 fps, and **Table 3** at 1600 fps)

In **Table 1** the take home message is (per similar shot size) lead has and retains more energy than steel or bismuth. A surprising amount more. At 30 yards lead shot has approximately twice the energy as the same sized steel shot and up to 3 times at 50 yards in the smaller sizes. Using lead shot as the “gold standard” steel shots energy fads quickly while bismuth shot does not. At 30 yards bismuth shot in all sizes is within 75% to 88% of energy of lead and remains within a few percentage points of that out to 60 yards.

One of the “known” improvements to steel shot is upping the velocity to dizzying speeds. If you blast it fast enough, it will have greater energy at the muzzle and at greater distances. This belief does not take into account Newton's third law of motion that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. And well, it just doesn't work.

In **Table 2** and **3** the energy of the three shot types is calculated at 1450 fps and 1600 fps. The faster lead, bismuth, and steel shot begins with substantially greater energy than at 1300 fps. The larger (heavier) shot maintains more energy out to 60 yards, but the energy fades with decreasing shot sizes. By the time #5 bis-

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## Shot Performance - Continued from page 4

| Table 2: Energy in ft-lbs 1450 fps @ Muzzle. |      |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Type                                         | Size | Muzzle | 30 yds | 40 yds | 50 yds | 60 yds |
| Lead                                         | BB   | 38.8   | 17.2   | 14.6   | 12.5   | 11.3   |
| Bismuth                                      | BB   | 32.9   | 13.4   | 11.2   | 9.4    | 8.3    |
| Steel                                        | BB   | 26.9   | 9.7    | 7.8    | 6.3    | 4.9    |
| Lead                                         | 1    | 27.6   | 11.6   | 9.7    | 8.2    | 6.8    |
| Bismuth                                      | 1    | 25.2   | 9.7    | 7.9    | 6.6    | 5.2    |
| Steel                                        | 1    | 19.8   | 6.7    | 5.3    | 4.1    | 3.0    |
| Lead                                         | 2    | 23.5   | 9.6    | 8.0    | 6.7    | 5.4    |
| Bismuth                                      | 2    | 22.2   | 8.2    | 6.6    | 5.4    | 4.3    |
| Steel                                        | 2    | 16.5   | 5.3    | 4.1    | 3.1    | 2.4    |
| Lead                                         | 3    | 18.4   | 7.1    | 5.9    | 4.8    | 3.8    |
| Bismuth                                      | 3    | 16.5   | 5.8    | 4.6    | 3.7    | 2.8    |
| Steel                                        | 3    | 13.4   | 4.1    | 3.1    | 2.3    | 1.6    |
| Lead                                         | 4    | 15.1   | 5.6    | 4.5    | 3.7    | 2.9    |
| Bismuth                                      | 4    | 12.7   | 4.3    | 3.3    | 2.6    | 2.0    |
| Steel                                        | 4    | 10.7   | 3.0    | 2.2    | 1.6    | 1.1    |
| Lead                                         | 5    | 12.0   | 4.2    | 3.4    | 2.7    | 3.6    |
| Bismuth                                      | 5    | 10.3   | 3.3    | 2.5    | 1.9    | 1.4    |
| Steel                                        | 5    | 8.4    | 2.1    | 1.5    | 1.0    | 0.7    |
| Lead                                         | 6    | 9.1    | 3.0    | 2.3    | 1.8    | 1.3    |
| Bismuth                                      | 6    | 8.3    | 2.4    | 1.8    | 1.3    | 0.9    |
| Steel                                        | 6    | 6.5    | 1.6    | 1.1    | 0.7    | 0.4    |
| Lead                                         | 7    | 7.0    | 2.1    | 1.6    | 1.2    | 0.9    |
| Bismuth                                      | 7    | 5.7    | 1.5    | 1.1    | 0.8    | 0.5    |
| Steel                                        | 7    | 4.8    | 1.0    | 0.7    | 0.4    | 0.3    |
| Lead                                         | 7½   | 5.8    | 1.7    | 1.3    | 0.9    | 0.6    |

muth and steel and #6 lead shot reach 50 yards all are traveling at the same velocity and energy as if they were started at 1300 fps.

For examples, at 60 yards BB sized lead, bismuth and steel shot fired at 1600 fps have 12 ft-lbs, 8.4 ft-lbs and 5.1 ft-lbs of energy compared to 8.1 ft-lbs, 7.4 ft-lbs, and 4.4 ft-lbs when fired at 1300 fps. Gains of 4.0 ft-lbs, 1.0 ft-lbs, and 0.6 ft-lbs, respectively. While, 3 shot lead, bismuth and steel at the same distance gains only 0.7 ft-lbs, 0.4 ft-lbs, and 0.3 ft-lbs.

For #5 shot the energy increase is even less. For lead, bismuth and steel it is 0.4 ft-lbs, 0.1 ft-lbs and 0.05 ft-lbs, respectively. On the duck marsh the increase in energy for steel is so minor that shooting against or with a 10- mph wind would have more effect.

Another “known” is selecting larger shot will compensate for the weight differences. The common recommendation is 1 size up for bismuth and 2 sizes for steel.



**Figure 1:** Nice mixed bag of ducks and one merganser shot with 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> oz of #6 bismuth.

Looking at **Tables 1-3** and using lead as the benchmark, 1 size up for bismuth is a viable option. One size larger for bismuth #B-#7 size shot is within 93% to 120% the energy of lead at ranges from 30 yards to 60

## Shot Performance - Continued from page 5

yards, with the majority falling in the 95% to 105% range. If the only factor effecting lethality is foot pounds of energy, going one size up for bismuth would yield result unrecognizable from lead.

Steel shot at two sizes up from lead shot at 30 and 40 yards generates similar energy as lead with a low of 82% and high of 101% with most energy falling in the 90% to 100% range. At 50 and 60 yards this falls to 72% to 94% with the majority in the 80 to 85% range. If the shot size is increased by 3 sizes the energy at 50 and 60 yards is 100-110% that of lead.

### The take home messages

**Steel:** Velocity cannot overcome the lack of weight. Good news. No longer is purchasing ammunition with crippling recoil needed. Also going up two sizes for close ranges (decoys) and 3 sizes for long (pass shooting) seems to be a reasonable option, though shot size eventually becomes limiting.

**Bismuth:** A superior alternative than steel. By going up 1 shot size, bismuth equals the energy of lead shot at all ranges and velocities, and while not discussed, is soft enough to be used in all shotguns.

**Lead:** Still the gold standard.

**Non-scientific Lethal Discussion:** Subjective energy minimums to kill birds are published by Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and experts like Tom Roster. The ranges are quite broad at 1-1.75 ft-lbs for pheasant and smaller ducks, 2-4 ft-lbs for big ducks, and 5-7 ft-lbs for geese. Based on these estimates, the upper energy needed to kill at 50 yards with a muzzle velocity of 1450 fps for pheasants and small ducks would be lead #6, bismuth #5 and steel #3. For big ducks, #3 lead shot, #2 bismuth shot and #1 steel shot. Geese would require #1 lead shot, bismuth B shot, and steel T shot. The energy estimates appear based on the "Lucky Pellet" technic instead of artful wing-shooting. This would be in keeping with the current trend in hunting.

| Tabel 3: Energy in ft-lbs 1600 fps @ Muzzle. |      |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Type                                         | Size | Muzzle | 30 yds | 40 yds | 50 yds | 60 yds |
| Lead                                         | BB   | 47.2   | 18.9   | 15.9   | 13.6   | 12.0   |
| Bismuth                                      | BB   | 40.1   | 14.6   | 12.0   | 10.1   | 8.4    |
| Steel                                        | BB   | 32.8   | 10.4   | 8.4    | 6.8    | 5.1    |
| Lead                                         | 1    | 33.6   | 12.7   | 10.6   | 8.9    | 7.2    |
| Bismuth                                      | 1    | 30.7   | 10.5   | 8.6    | 7.0    | 5.5    |
| Steel                                        | 1    | 24.2   | 7.2    | 5.7    | 4.4    | 3.4    |
| Lead                                         | 2    | 28.6   | 10.4   | 8.6    | 7.2    | 5.9    |
| Bismuth                                      | 2    | 27.0   | 8.8    | 7.2    | 5.8    | 4.5    |
| Steel                                        | 2    | 20.1   | 5.7    | 4.4    | 3.4    | 2.5    |
| Lead                                         | 3    | 22.4   | 7.8    | 6.4    | 5.3    | 4.3    |
| Bismuth                                      | 3    | 20.1   | 6.3    | 5.0    | 4.0    | 3.1    |
| Steel                                        | 3    | 16.3   | 4.3    | 3.3    | 2.5    | 1.8    |
| Lead                                         | 4    | 18.4   | 6.1    | 5.0    | 4.0    | 3.1    |
| Bismuth                                      | 4    | 15.5   | 4.6    | 3.6    | 2.8    | 2.1    |
| Steel                                        | 4    | 13.0   | 3.3    | 2.4    | 1.8    | 1.2    |
| Lead                                         | 5    | 14.6   | 4.6    | 3.7    | 2.9    | 2.8    |
| Bismuth                                      | 5    | 12.6   | 3.5    | 2.7    | 2.0    | 1.4    |
| Steel                                        | 5    | 10.2   | 2.4    | 1.7    | 1.2    | 0.7    |
| Lead                                         | 6    | 11.1   | 3.3    | 2.6    | 2.0    | 1.5    |
| Bismuth                                      | 6    | 10.1   | 2.6    | 2.0    | 1.4    | 1.0    |
| Steel                                        | 6    | 7.9    | 1.7    | 1.2    | 0.8    | 0.5    |
| Lead                                         | 7    | 8.5    | 2.3    | 1.8    | 1.4    | 1.0    |
| Bismuth                                      | 7    | 6.9    | 1.6    | 1.2    | 0.8    | 0.6    |
| Steel                                        | 7    | 5.9    | 1.1    | 0.7    | 0.5    | 0.3    |
| Lead                                         | 7½   | 7.1    | 1.9    | 1.4    | 1.0    | 0.8    |

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## Shot Performance - Continued from page 6



**Figure 2:** Snows & Blues pass shot at 50-60 yards using 1¼ oz of #3 bismuth. No “Lucky” pellet.

**General thoughts:** While steel (iron) shot can be made to take birds, it is a poor substitute for bismuth or lead shot. No amount of wishing will change that. As wildfowler we need to demand more from the US Department of the Interior who gave us only steel as an alternative to lead and the ammunition manufacturer. We need honesty not alchemy that changes steel into lead. This will clear the way for developing the highest quality non-toxic shot in an affordable package.

**Note:** When reviewing the data tables I found a numbers typographical errors. Things like 5.6 that should be 6.5. If you find one assume it was on purpose and use my name in vain.

### *Hunt to Conserve*

H2C is a strategic and focused movement that fights for hunting and conservation and against those seeking to stop these American traditions. Thanks to an affiliation with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, H2C brings creative energy and aggressive action to combat anti-hunting and anti-wildlife management efforts, including reckless legislation and ballot box biology initiatives. Never before have hunting and science-based wildlife management been so under attack. Make a difference and join the movement in support of our shared values and heritage.

For more information, visit their website at: <https://hunt2conserve.org/>





## Ask the Trainer

*“What is the best way to introduce a pup to water?” And “Is there an ideal time?”*



Timing depends upon the season. Ambient temperatures 50-60 degrees and higher is ideal to introducing pups or dogs to water. Optimally during the warmest part of the day after a good run while the pup is hot and thirsty. A breeder that introduces the entire 6-8 week old litter to water is wise. With this approach the bold mates will influence the cautiousness of the brood. In most cases just getting them close and letting nature take its course is all that's needed though tossing a stick or a few pebbles might get their attention. With older pups and dogs- employing a dog or pup that's a seasoned swimmer is a good approach. If all else fails, it's best to just get in with them and have a party.

*Colin Johnston*



The year was 1977 and I was living five miles north of Reinbeck, Iowa on a gravel road. It had rained three days straight and flooded the bridge into town, so I stayed home and played with seven week old black lab puppies. As most know, Iowa can have warm rains and in low lands it creates little ponds everywhere. I loaded those puppies up in my Blazer and went a quarter of a mile to one of those mother nature made ponds. Along the way I noticed a half eaten bag of potato chips, slightly soggy, from humidity. I gave them a quick taste and turned the puppies loose. I carried that bag with me to the waters edge and after they all took sips, I had to hurry because they were getting sleepy, I threw the chips 12 inches from shore. They all piled over each to get the floating morsels. I never said a word it just watched as some of the chips were now in six inches of water. As you guessed, six inches of water doesn't compute with four inches of leg. They were swimming. The next day I repeated the sequence, and with more chips, they were already in the water before I could throw out the bait. My cohorts might give you better advice but I've got even more use treats, they dang sure work for me. If you buy Costco hotdogs cut them in one quarter inch segments. They float so throw them into the water into the wind, but not too far. The wind will bring them into shore, just in case your dog falls asleep. I once loaded four puppies in a canoe and paddled out in a small pond. I left Karen, my wife on shore, yelling “puppy puppy”. You need to be there. Go in with them. Never pick them up or you might look like being in a battle with barb wire. Now here's a hint: if your pup or dog is trying to find solid ground the back legs, push his head down, do not lift his butt. Pushing down on the head with bring the caboose up and he will swim like an otter. Good luck, A Legend No More...

*Butch Nelson*

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When I introduce a pup or any dog to the water I prefer to do it on a warm or even hot day, and at a time of the year after water temperatures have risen to a comfortable level. The idea behind that is to set it up so the water is inviting to the pup rather than shockingly or uncomfortably cold. I like to be dressed to where I can wade out in the water myself to lead by example, especially if they are tentative. If I have another dog or multiple other dogs that already like water, I will let them be out as well, so the rookie can feed off of the other dog(s). Most dogs are fine with wading out in the water

as long as their feet are touching the bottom, so usually the challenge comes when they can't touch and have to swim. If the novice dog has demonstrated a desire to retrieve, I find that to be the best tool to "trick" them into leaving their feet. I take the object that they like to retrieve the most, whether it's a bumper or frozen bird and I'll toss it in shallow water a few times where they can still touch bottom. If they retrieve those for me, I'll start tossing it just far enough that they have to pick some feet up to keep their head above water and make the retrieve, and sometimes they will still have their hind feet on the bottom and that's ok. If they'll do that, I'll just gradually toss a little farther until they have to actually swim a few feet to get it. Another retrieving method I'll use is to pair the novice water pup/dog with an experienced dog that likes to swim and water retrieve. Using short tosses that won't require long swims, I'll hold the pup's collar, toss the object, release the experienced dog with a head start, and then lastly release the rookie swimmer. Many times, their competitive drive kicks in and they will be oblivious to the water in an effort to beat the experienced dog to the retrieve. Timing is critical for the best effectiveness of this method, as the experienced dog gets the head start, but the novice needs to be released quickly enough that they think they have an opportunity for the win and don't just give up. Next, I'll reverse this same drill, and release the novice dog first, and similarly, the competitor in them will throw caution to the wind and race to make the retrieve as they know that the other dog is coming behind them. If the inexperienced dog does not like to retrieve, then you obviously don't have that tool in your bag. At that point I'd rely on the pack and the leader demonstrating calm confidence while being in the water. One last idea is to utilize a stake out chain or a crate down by the water, when pup comes out they have the opportunity to run around and have some fun (on a check cord), but only if they choose to have that fun in the water (even if it's just wading to start). If they avoid the water, or choose to move away from the water, back in the crate they go, and they get another opportunity after some reflection time, and if they refuse each opportunity all day there's no reward, they simply go back in the dog box and go home when we're done and we'll try again another day. With any of these tactics, I'm not going to force the dog in and I'm not getting upset at them, like with many things with dogs, the goal is willing compliance. For that they must volunteer, and it is our job as trainers/handlers/leaders to isolate variables and set up scenarios to try to funnel them to the desired outcome. As far as the "when" question, the earlier positive experiences with water can happen, the better, as long as the pup is up for it mentally (don't force it), and of course depending on weather conditions, season of the year, when pup was born, and where you live.

*Todd Lehner*

The Big Sky Club is lucky to have three professional trainers on our board of directors. In an effort to give back to our membership and readers, Colin Johnston, Touchstone Kennels, Todd Lehner, pro trainer in Circle, Montana, and Butch Nelson, our senior trainer and owner of Hyalite Kennels will answer your questions. Send questions to [thewhoapost@gmail.com](mailto:thewhoapost@gmail.com).

## *Use of 'Cyanide Bomb' on BLM Land by Jimmy Tobias*

from: <https://www.publicdomain.media/>

The Trump administration has quietly opened the door to the resumed use of so-called “cyanide bombs” on Bureau of Land Management parcels across the country, according to an internal April 2026 memo. The memo shows that BLM has effectively abrogated a Biden-era ban on the deployment of the controversial devices on the agency’s land.

M-44s, also known as “cyanide bombs”, are poison traps — shotshell spring operated devices that shoot a powder of sodium cyanide when triggered. They are used by USDA’s Wildlife Services — a federal agency that conducts predator control programs — to kill coyotes and other animals that interfere with ranchers and other industry groups.

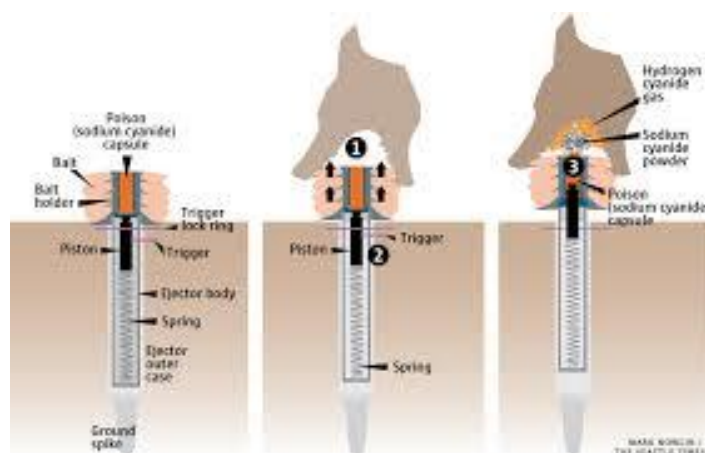
M-44s gained national notoriety in 2017 when 14-year-old Canyon Mansfield and his dog were shot by a cyanide bomb that had been placed in the hills behind the Mansfield family home in Idaho. The dog, Kasey, collapsed and died while Mansfield was rushed to the hospital and survived.

In 2023, the Biden administration barred Wildlife Services from deploying M-44s on BLM lands, a move that was cheered by conservation groups.

The new memo between BLM and Wildlife Services appears to abolish the Biden-era directive. It no longer contains the Biden-era language that prohibited M-44 use on BLM land. Rather, the new memo specifically contemplates their revived deployment on BLM land, directing Wildlife Services to provide notice to local BLM offices prior to use “of restricted-use pesticides such as ... M-44s that deliver sodium cyanide.” The memo will remain in effect until 2031.

“These devices are indiscriminate killers and cannot be used safely,” said Brooks Fahy, the executive director of Predator Defense, who has long campaigned against M-44 use and first obtained a copy of the April memo. “We are going to fight this tooth and nail.”

The Interior Department, in a response sent to Public Domain after publication, stated that the April 2026 memo between BLM and Wildlife Services “identifies restricted-use pesticides—including M-44 devices—as tools that may be considered under existing law and environmental review. The MOU does not itself authorize or expand use of M-44s; any proposed application requires advance notification to BLM, compliance with NEPA and other statutes, and must conform to all laws and regulations. BLM will continue to evaluate proposals case-by-case and may prohibit or restrict such tools where warranted to protect public safety, pets, wildlife, and designated lands.”



# **2026 Rocky Mountain Cup Field WILD Trial**

**August 29 and 30. 2026**

***Open to ALL POINTING DOG BREEDS***

## **13 Reasons to Attend this 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 29 & 30!***

**For more information  
[www.montanabreton.com](http://www.montanabreton.com)**



## Photo Gallery



Sherlock Bones is now 5 years old, but still a puppy at heart!  
Photo by Laurence Gaëlle



Puppy delight from Dam: Ulina De' L'Escarbot x Sire: Sidney de Bent River  
Photo provided by John Mooney, L'Escarbot Kennel



Jessica Cobb and pup making the most of a local NAVHDA training day.  
Photos provided by: Jessica Cobb

Share your photos with the readers of the Whoa Post.  
Email them to [thewhoapost@gmail.com](mailto:thewhoapost@gmail.com)



## Recipe: Fried Turkey Nuggets

from: AETN Arkansas Outdoors Cookbook

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 wild turkey breast
- 1 1/2 C flour
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp course ground black pepper
- Oil for frying

Cut turkey into 1 inch squares. Place flour, garlic, salt and pepper in Ziploc style bag. Add Shake well to mix ingredients. Coat turkey with flour mixture. Pour 1 inch of oil in frying pan. When heated, place turkey in pan filling pan but not allowing turkey pieces to touch. Brown turkey, turn and continue to cook until golden brown. Enjoy with your favorite dipping sauces.



***“The last piece of meat a hunter has in his pot is bigger than an elephant he's yet to catch.”***

African Proverb



Share your recipes with the readers of the Whoa Post  
Email them to [thewhoapost@gmail.com](mailto:thewhoapost@gmail.com)

## UKC Events

**May 1, 2, 3, 2026**

Tracy, MN

United Vizsla Club

Type L, TAN, WRT

Event Secretary: Paul Skoglund

**June 6- 7, 2026**

Highland, MI

Korthals Griffon Great Lakes

Type L, Open Solo, Open Braces, Gun Solo, Gun

Braces, TAN, WRT

Closing Date of Entry: June 3rd, 2026

Contact: Molly Kovacevic, 810.728.4100



## Laughter is the Best Medicine



**Why are dogs such bad dancers? They have two left feet.**

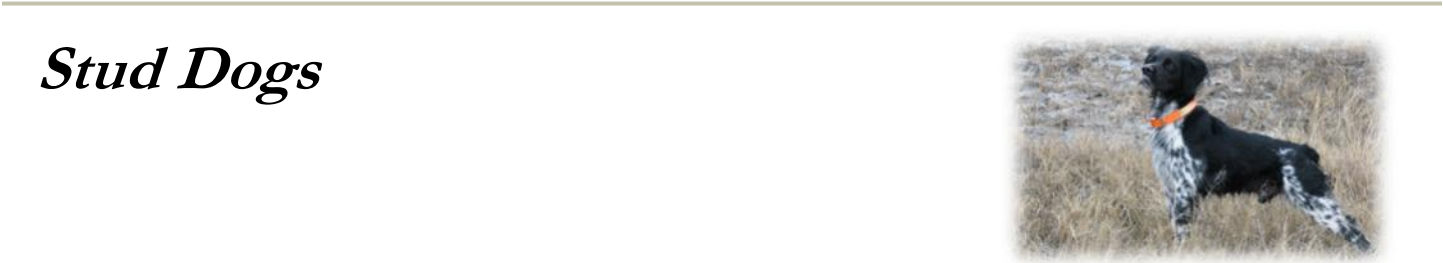
**Why can't dogs work the TV remote? Because they always hit the paws button.**

**What do you call a dog with a surround system? A sub-woofer.**

**What happened when the dog went to the flea market? He stole the show.**

An advertisement for "Madison River Anglers Rest &amp; Retreat". The background is a photograph of a large, dark wooden cabin with a gabled roof, situated on a grassy bank next to a river. The text "Madison River Anglers Rest &amp; Retreat" is overlaid in white. Below that, "Ric Haulenbeck, owner/operator" is written in white. In the bottom left corner, the address "PO Box 569 Ennis, MT 59729" and phone number "714-402-5344" are listed. In the bottom right corner, the email address "ric33lbp@aol.com" is provided. A small inset photo shows a person in outdoor gear kneeling on a log in the water, fishing.

## Stud Dogs



## Gun Noir Tuxedo Machine a Chase WRT

Breeder- Dave Flynn of Sugar Creek

Tux originates from the Cliathen Line

DOB 5-30-17      OFA    Good

Ric Haulenbeck 714-402-5344

[ricflyfish@aol.com](mailto:ricflyfish@aol.com)

## Breeders

## Coteau Kennel

Pete Wax &amp; Sherry Niesar

Bismarck, North Dakota

sniesar@outlook.com

701-222-8940

**www.coteaukennel.com**

## Hyalite Kennel

Butch Nelson &amp; Karen Paugh

Denton, Montana

406-567-4200

hyaliteknl@yahoo.com

## Touchstone Kennel

Coln Johnston

cejohnston@touchstonekennels.com

Touchstonekennels/Facebook

940-642-1037



Are you interested in listing your kennel or stud dog on the Breeders or Stud Dog page of the Whoa Post?

All listings part of a paid membership only. For more information, contact the editor at [sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com)

## *Regional Events*

### **May 1-3, 2026**

Acton, MT 59002

Montana Brittany Club – AKC

Field Trial

Contact Tommie Dahl, 406-827-1827

### **May 3, 2026**

Fargo, ND

All Amateur Single/ Double - NSTRA

Contact: Logan Wickenheiser, 701-412-3774, Wildgoose-chase110@gmail.com

### **May 23, 24, 25 <sup>2026</sup>**

Regional Championship - NSTRA

Dickinson, ND

Contact Chad Norpel, 701-571-8433, cnorpel@hotmail.com

### **May 16 -18, 2026**

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of Wisconsin - AKC

Field Trial

Sheyenne National Grasslands, Hankinson, ND 58057

Contact: Elizabeth Barret-Dixon 612-865-7556

### **May 22-24, 2026**

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of Wisconsin - AKC

Field Trial

Sheyenne National Grasslands, Hankinson, ND

Contact: Elizabeth Barret-Dixon 612-865-7556

### **May 29 – 31, 2026**

Billings, MT

Yellowstone NAVHDA

NA/GDT/UT

Contact: SARA BAIER, (406) 380-0250

### **June 13 – 14, 2026**

Bismarck, ND

Central Dakota NAVHDA

NA/GDT

Contact: KARA BRAYKO (701) 339-8435

### **June 20 – 21, 2026**

Kindred, ND

Red River NAVHDA

NA

Contact: STEVEN BUCK (701) 729-6483



## *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

Dottie 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: Jim Hoschouoer 3575 Pasha Lane, Bozeman, Montana 59718