

The Whoa Post

September 2026

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September Issue

By the time this lands in your inbox, your hunting season has begun or you will be chasing birds very soon. I wish you luck. Before we get to hunting season, let's talk about the 2026 Rocky Mountain Cup. It was a fantastic trial. Over 100 runs in two days. That's a record for our small club in Montana. Dog owners and handlers traveled from Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, South Carolina, Arizona and more. Our judges from Montana, North Dakota, Illinois and Alabama adjudicated with expertise and experience. It was a field trial to remember. We look forward to next year. May we have more dogs, handlers, more birds, and maybe another judge.

We were lucky enough to take a few days off after the trial and do some camping in the mountains. The trout were definitely biting and the temperatures were more enjoyable than our earlier visit in August. A few days were dedicated to walks for grouse. No grouse were harmed during our hunts. Glad the trout were biting.

After a very long week, our season in North Dakota opens September 12. The big discussion is about where to hunt. There has been talk about scouting to see which fields are still being grazed. Not much fun to hunt among the cows and especially a bull or two.

Grace is ready for the season. She has a nice independent search, is a solid retriever and more style on point than she knows what to do with. Blue is back to normal. He has been going for runs with Grace, helps her out when she gets lost and is back to stealing socks. That's my Blue. At 15 Thorn won't be hunting. She will get a walk or two, but no serious runs. But she has earned her retirement.

With my favorite time of the year, the Whoa Post will take a break so we can devote time to hunting. Save your stories, pictures and Ask the Trainer questions for our December issue. Until then, have a safe and fun season with family, friends and the dogs.



Sherry Niesar

Whoa Post Editor

2026 Rocky Mountain Cup Results

The 2026 Rocky Mountain Cup “Cup” is the premier wild bird trial in the United States. It is run on wild birds. Real wild birds. Survivors of winters, hawks, owls, fox, badgers, and human hunters. No stocking to enhance opportunities. Here a dog “must” possess the brains, instincts and drive to find and handle birds that know how to evade four and two footed predators.

To win the Cup a dog needs to rise above a stacked field of competitors. One-hundred and five entries over the two days of continuous courses with the smallest battery being 12 OPEN Braced dogs (6-Braces) on day one and 14 OPEN braced dogs (7 braces) on day two and the smallest GUN Battery was 11 dogs all others were 12.

The list of possible wild upland game species in Montana is long. At this year’s Cup the list included spruce, blue, ruff, sage and sharptail grouse, Hungarian partridge, ring-necked pheasants, and jack snipe. While all these species are possible, only sharptail grouse, ring-necked pheasant, and Hungarian partridge were encountered.

While only three species were countered there were plenty of each. Over the course of two days and 105 individual runs nearly every dog had a least one opportunity (if not multiple opportunities) to handle wild game. For example, in my GUN field on day one the 12 competing dogs handled or moved seven coveys of Hungarian partridge, five coveys of grouse and I quit counting singles and ring-necked pheasants at ten. It was a wild bird dog’s heaven.

The Field Trial Chairman “Honorable Butch Nelson” ensured that the finest pointing dog competition was



Contenders: L to R: Colin Johnston & Rubia de Broughton, John Griffin & Smiths Lost Highway Rizzi, Glen Gunderson & Tuff de Copper Spur, and David Hague & Vincent Max de Pays du Soleil. Not pictured: Ridge Henderson & Ziva de la HHF

supported by the finest judging crew ever assembled. Each judge was selected on experience, knowledge, unbiased reputation, and strong moral character – to heck with the cost. The Honorable Judges in alphabetical order are: C. Frederick (Fred) Overby, Kenneth (Ken) Teppel, Larry Ellison, and Peter Wax.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CUP BARRAGE Judges: Ken Teppel, Fred Overby, Larry Ellison, Peter Wax*

Placement	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
WINNER	Tuf du Copper Spur	Glen Gunderson

Joe Bejcek and PR Viktor de la Hannahatchee,
Honorable Judges Fred Overby, Ken Teppel and
Ridge Henderson and Ziva de la HHF



Keith Larson and Pandemonium du Ruisseau de mont Brun, Honorable Judge ken Teppel, Glen Gunderson and Tuf du Copper Spur



John Griffin and Lost Highways Mud, Honorable Judge Fred Overby, Colin Johnston and Touchstones Villa Pancho

DAY 1: LIST OF PLACEMENTS

OPEN BRACES (Saturday August 29) Judges: Ken Teppel* & Fred Overby

Placement	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAC	S.A. Ziva de la HHF	Ridge Henderson
Excellent	Uproar des Rives de Doucelle	Keith Larson
Pass	Tuf du Copper Spur	Glen Gunderson
Pass	Noir Tuxedo Machine a Chasse	Ric Haulenbeck/Jackie Haulenbeck
Pass	Lost Highways Mud	John Griffin
Pass	Touchstones Villa Pancho	Colin Johnston
Pass	Pandemonium du Ruisseau de Mont Brun	Keith Larson

OPEN SOLO BARRAGE (August 29) Judges: Fred Overby, Ken Teppel, Butch Nelson*

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CACT	Smith's Lost Highways Rizzi	John Griffin
RCACT	Saphir de la Riviere Ouareau	Colin Johnston

OPEN SOLO Battery A (August 29) Judge: Fred Overby*

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAC	Smith's Lost Highways Rizzi	John Griffin
RCAC	Lost Highway Mud	John Griffin

OPEN SOLO Battery B (August 29) Judge: Ken Teppel

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAC	Saphir de la Riviere Ouareau	Colin Johnston
RCAC	Pandemonium du Ruisseau de Mont Brun	Keith Larson
Excellent	Rubia de Broughton	Colin Johnston
Pass	Sitka de Copper Spur	Glen Gunderson

GUN BARRAGE (August 29) Judges: Sherry Niesar*, Larry Ellison, Peter Wax

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAGT	Vincent Max de Pays du Soleil	David Hague
RCAGT	Apollo de Pataula	Lauri Roser



Honorable Judges Larry Ellison and Peter Wax, David Hague and Vincent Max de Pays du Soleil, Apprentice Judge Pete Aplkowski, Lauri Roser and Apollo de Pataula

GUN SOLO Battery A (August 29) Judge: Larry Ellison*

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAG	Apollo de Pataula	Lauri Roser
RCAG	Uberty de Staunch Point	David Robb
Excellent	Rubia de Broughton	Colin Johnston
Excellent	Vlaie de la HHH	Ridge Henderson/Denine Ackerbauer
Pass	PR Hites Mississippi Roux	Tom Strumb
Pass	Vudoo du Bosquet	Kelly Engle
TAN	Apollo de Pataula	Lauri Roser

GUN SOLO Battery B (August 29) Judge: Peter Wax

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAG	Vincent Max de Pays du Soleil	David Hague
RCAG	Venice du Big Sky Bretons	Ric Haulenbeck/Jackie Haulenbeck
Excellent	Beau Ace de la Vignoble	Darren Schram
Excellent	Boyer's Truman	Thomas Boyer
Pass	Ulla de Pataula	Lorene Marciner/ Keith Castleberry
HNQ	Dawson Lake Bretons Aspen	Thomas Boyer

DAY 2: LIST OF PLACEMENTS

OPEN BRACES (August 30) Judges: Larry Ellsion, Peter Wax*



Darren Schram and Beau Ace de la Vignoble

Honorable Judge Peter Wax with Jackie Haulenbeck Bosco RCAC presentation for Venice du Big Sky Bretons



Tom Boyer and Boyer's Truman TAN

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAC	Tuf du Copper Spur	Glen Gunderson
RCAC	Saphir de la Riviere Ouareau	Colin Johnston
Pass	Noir Tuxedo Machine a Chasse	Ric Haulenbeck

OPEN SOLO Battery A (August 30) Judge: Peter Wax

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
CAC	Rubia de Broughton	Colin Johnston
RCAC	Uproar des Rives de Doucelle	Keith Larson
Pass	Pandemonium du Ruisseau de Mont Brun	Keith Larson

OPEN SOLO Battery B (August 30) Judge: Larry Ellison*

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
NO PLACEMENTS		

GUN SOLO Battery A (August 30) Judge: Fred Overby*

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
HNQ	Trigger de la Trinite	Ryan Johnston/Thomas Johnston

GUN SOLO Battery B (August 30) Judge: Ken Teppel

Award	Dog Name	Handler/Owner
NO PLACEMENTS		



Butch Nelson and Scotsman de la Riviere Ouareau and Honorable Judge Peter Wax

Dawson Lake Bretons Aspen owned and handled by Thomas Boyer





David Robb and Uberti de Staunch Point



Honorable Judge Peter Wax and David Hague with Vincent Max de Pays du Soleil



Gun Dog Field

Open Field



The Rocky Mountain Cup

The Rocky Mountain Cup, initiated in 2015, recognizes the finest dog competing over the two-day trial regardless of Classification. The “Contenders” are composed of the winners in the GUN, OPEN Solo and OPEN Braced fields to compete in a barrage as equals.

To get to “The Cup” a dog needs to shine through a packed field of strong competition. The Big Sky Club does not split batteries until the maximum

of 15 dogs is reached to insure the stoutest competition – no watering down the competition here. In 2026 over two days there were 105 distinct runs with the smallest battery being OPEN Braces with 6-pairs on Saturday and 7-pairs on Sunday. Honor given only when due.

This years’ Rocky Mountain Cup Contenders were (1) Tuf de Copper Spur, owned and handled by Glen Gunderson, (2) Rubia de Broughton, owned and handle by Colin Johnston, (3) Smith’s Lost Highway Rizzi, owned and handled by John Griffin, (4) Vincent Max de Pays du Soleil, owned and handled by David Hague, and (5) Ziva de la HHF, owned by Ridge Henderson. Ziva and Ridge could not compete due to an injury but hope to have them back next year and we had no first placements in GUN on Sunday (Did we say tough competition?).



Handlers, judges and Rocky Mountain Cup Winner, Glen Gunderson and Tuf Center)



All of the Cup Contenders ran with superior speed intelligence and gate and would have made great barrage winners. Even the two bye dogs brought in to try and illuminate contenders (Sitka de Copper Spur and Apollo de Pataula) ran with calm heads, straight backs and near perfect gates. However, after multiple runs “Tuff de Copper Spur”, owned and handled by Glen Gunderson was the last dog standing.

Hats off to all the “Cup Contenders”. Great dog owners, handlers and trainers. They all were professional, courteous, and steely-eyed. A second set of cheers for all the competitors who over the course of two days made the trial and this final event meaningful.

Algae Poisoning Time Again by Peter Wax

The phone rings and the epidemiologist reports that there are dead gull, ducks and shore birds at Lake Joseph's public landing, six dead cows in the pasture to the north and Andy Anderson's champion Chocolate lab died last night after swimming in the lake. It is algae poisoning season again in North Dakota. This is the third report this week. Early this year. Early is bad. Once blue-green algae get established they out-compete the other green slim. They affix free nitrogen and produce toxins inhibiting the growth of or even killing rival algae species.

Bluegreen algae (cyanobacteria) are the building blocks of evolution. Their fossils are among the oldest on earth. They produced the original oxygen for all other life. Based on species, cyanobacteria produce hepatotoxins, cytotoxins, neurotoxins and anatoxins. The poisonous details are irrelevant. What is relevant is these are the most powerful toxins known to man.



The toxins are produced periodically throughout the growing season depending on a series of factors such as nutrient enrichment, temperature and stress. There are over 80 known toxic variants. They are toxic to plants and animals (including humans). They cause serious damage to the liver and for our dogs once symptoms are noticeable it is almost always fatal.

Once a waterbody reaches a toxin level of poison it rarely declines below until they are frozen out. Even when water is clear there are sometimes toxin concentrations that are hazardous to your dog – particularly if it is anatoxin or neurotoxin.

Exposure: While some Cyanotoxins cause skin irritation and even lesions they need to be ingested or inhaled to be terminal to your dog. The most common route of exposure is incidental ingestion while swimming or drinking for refreshment.

Continued on page 10

Toxic - Continued from page 9

Prevention: The best prevention is to not swim or train in nutrient rich waters or waters that are experiencing blooms of algae. The dog must ingest the poison. Note that licking (cleaning themselves) after swimming can provide a concentrated dose, so rinsing your dog off may reduce the risk of ingesting toxic amounts.



Signs of Toxicity: Following is a list of symptoms associated with cyanotoxicity. Muscle fasciculation (twitching), Hyper-salivation, weakness, lethargy, collapse, respiratory distress, coma, and death. Unfortunately, there is no cure and the prognosis is poor once symptoms begin.

Treatment: There is no magic bullet to save your pup. Treatment is usually fluid therapy, emetics and activated charcoal. The prognosis is poor. Love puppy up. Do not give up. Some dogs recover so treatment is worthwhile and the more strength pup can pull from you the better.

In Closing: There are many hazards out there for our hunting dogs. Cars, conibears, snares, coyotes, rattle snakes, poison water, angry landowners, and upset big game hunters. Sometimes it feels like we have no place left to roam. That man's best friend is so low on the totem pole of the natural resource and game manager that they are all but forgotten if not despised. Then we put pooch down and all is forgotten. They do what they are bred to do. To run. To hunt. To be free. Do not forgo their passion out of fear. Use common sense. Watch for hazards, get your dog snake broke, avoid green water, and carry a wire rope cutter. Will that prevent you from ever losing a best friend? No. But it will fulfill your end of the contract. A contract that requires allowing dog to hunt to the front.



Recipe: Apple Fritters

from: <https://www.smalltownwoman.com/>

Do you have too many apples? Try this one!

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/3 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons applesauce
- 2 large Granny Smith apples or Honey Crisp apples peeled cored and diced
- canola oil or vegetable oil for frying

Glaze

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

Whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon in medium bowl. Make a well in the center and add 1/3 cup milk, eggs and applesauce. Stir just to combine. Fold in apples.

Heat 1 1/2 inches of oil in heavy skillet, dutch oven or deep fryer to 375 degrees. Drop about 1/4 cup of batter per fritter into hot oil; spreading it out as you drop. Cook each side until golden brown; approximately 2 minutes per side. Use a slotted spoon to remove paper towels to drain.

Whisk together 1/4 cup milk, powdered sugar and vanilla. Dunk each fritters in the glaze turning over to make sure both sides coated. Place on wire racks to air dry and drip.



Share your recipes with the readers of the Whoa Post
Email them to thewhoapost@gmail.com

UKC Events

September 18th, 19th & 20th

Tracy, MN

United Vizsla Club

Liberated, TAN/WRT

Species: Quail/Chukar

Contact: Paul Skoglund 507.221.1370 or

skoglundfarm@gmail.com

December 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st

Dawson and Lumpkin GA

Southeastern Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club

Wild, Liberated, WRT and TAN

Species: Bobwhite Quail, Woodcock, Mallard Duck

Contact: Jackie Hutwagner, 770.883.8360

or hutwag@gmail.com

November 14th & 15th

Bloomfield, IA

Epagneul Breton Club of Illinois

Wild & Liberated

Open Braces, Open Solo, Gun Solo, TAN/WRT Con-

tact: Suzanne LaFary, 309.231.8868 or

surledelavankennel@gmail.com



EXCEPTIONAL EPAGNEUL BRETONS

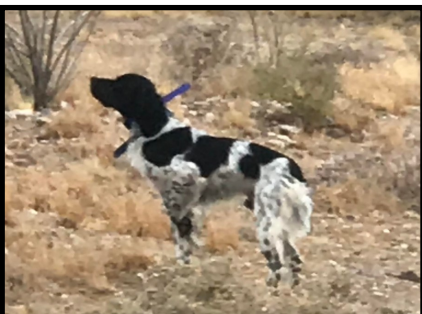
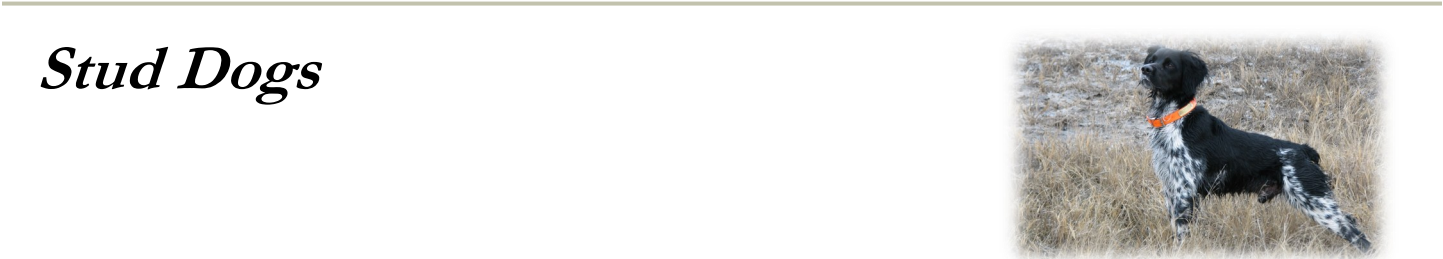


BIG SKY BRETONS

(714) 402-5344 | Ric and Cindy Haulenbeck | bigskybretons@gmail.com

Ennis, MT / Lake Havasu City, AZ | www.bigskybretons.com

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

Breeders

Coteau Kennel

Pete Wax & Sherry Niesar

Bismarck, North Dakota

sniesar@outlook.com

701-222-8940

www.coteaukennel.com

Hyalite Kennel

Butch Nelson & 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

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