

The Gun Dog Supreme

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EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION
<http://www.gundogsupreme.org>

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Good-Bye Winter! Time for Spring Training!

Rob Reed and **Buster Brown of Ancient Kennels** work on retrieving

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

I don't know how it's been for you, but here in the U.P. of Michigan, it's the winter that won't end. April is only a few days away and it hasn't been above freezing for days. Maybe that's why I chose the photo of Rob Reed getting two soakers on a warm spring exposure day last year for this issue's cover.

Getting out there and working with your dog is a general theme of this issue. If you're getting a new pup this year, exposure is the key. The efforts of the Dutchman's Hollow F litter owners illustrates the fun and frustrations of working with a new pup.

Rick Sojda and Laurie Connell provide an update on our cooperative project with Cornell University. They've played major roles in organizing and executing this project. Thank you!

As I write this, the Rocky Mountain chapter is completing it's spring test and the Heartland and Northeast chapters will soon follow suit. Hope to see you at a test.

Rem DeJong

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Annual Dues \$40.00
Jim Seibel WPGCA Treasurer
17550 Seventeen Mile Rd
Marshall MI 49068

EDITORS

Rem DeJong
John Pitlo
Anna Ziedens

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Judy Coil
49625 Waldo Rd NE
Kelliher MN 56650
Ph (218) 647-8451
Jcoil@paulbunyan.net

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Rem DeJong
809 West Kaye Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Ph: (906) 228-6475 (EST)
e-mail: Rem.DeJong@wpgca.org

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Once Again, WPGCA Members Get ‘er Done: The Tally Is 77!

by

Rick Sojda and Laurie Connell

Should you pat yourself on the back? Or, kick yourself in a special part of your back? Read this article and decide for yourself.

Our wonderful four-legged, furry friends, have donated generously of their blood. And, their owners have donated generously of their time and money. There are now 77 Griffons who have had their DNA extracted and now in storage at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Seventy-three are WPGCA dogs. This is a wonderful beginning! Folks have brought dogs across several state lines to get to a club-sponsored group blood draw, and others have done it on their own with a local vet. It all works, of course. The absolutely most important component is to collect blood samples from ALL our dogs. Once they have left us forever, ending up in coverts unknown and evermore on point, we can never generate that blood again. That seems like a simple concept, but our plea is to do it as soon as you are able. The more complete the record on the entire Griffon genetic family tree, the better we will be able to continue to build the breed in the future. If your dog is not from the WPGCA breeding program, we would like to get them into our database, as well. Right now we have collected samples from about 40 percent of our living Griffs, and we want to at least double that. If you need to collect blood at your local vet, just go to the WPGCA web site and read the instructions there. It's easy to have it included in your hunting buddy's annual veterinary appointment.

There will be a group "blood draw event" associated with the Northeast Spring test on May 14th in Winterport, Maine. If you can attend, please contact Laurie Connell as soon as possible so we can get the supplies and support staff together in time (email: laurie.connell@umit.maine.edu or call: 207-827-2202). Dr. Julie Keene will generously supply veterinary support for that event. Other events will be happening around the country, but mostly before this edition of GDS gets to you. We have had wonderful cooperation at these Club sponsored events from lots of local veterinarians and we wish to recognize: Dr. Rick Allen (Jerome, ID); Drs. Carrie Crouse and Ryan Quigley (Galena, Ohio); Dr. Susan Pond (Bellevue, IA); and Dr. Doug Raines (Bozeman, MT). Next time you and your furry buddy are in their offices, give these dedicated veterinarians another word of thanks from the Club, please.

We are working with the veterinarians at Cornell to determine how much funding it will take to begin genetic tests from the banked DNA, as well as to do the sophisticated statistical analyses to begin understanding the genetics of the Griffon. We will likely work with the Cornell team to apply for research grants to get all that done. Stay tuned to future GDS's and we will keep you updated. Thanks again to everyone for all we have achieved together so far. And, thank your Griff for donating!

By the way, do you deserve a pat on the back? Or, a swift kick to "Get 'er Done"?

[Editor's Note: This article is Paul Harvey "The Rest of the Story" genre. The Heartland Test article in February issue of the GDS chronicles Bria's performance in the Utility Field Test. Completing that test was no small feat, given the health problems she had to overcome. It's also a testimony to the love and commitment of our griffon owners and a call for the WPPGCA to dedicate it's breeding program to producing strong, structurally sound griffons, which is the topic of our April Judges Seminar. To the extent mobility problems have a genetic link, our project with Cornell University may one day help to eliminate such debilitating conditions from our breed.]

Stem Cell Therapy to Resolve Osteoarthritis in the Elbow

by

Elaine Challacombe

As Wirehaired Pointing Griffon owners, we are well aware of the health responsibilities we take on when committing to griffon ownership. For our "pack", that responsibility includes the care of all of our dogs, both our Cavaliers and our wire-haired pointing griffon. The dogs in our family are active, regularly running or hunting in the field every day. Agility dog owners understand the problems that can arise with a physically active dog and know how difficult the conditions can be to identify and resolve. When Bria, our griffon, developed severe lameness that was not eased with rest and Metacam, we started the investigation to solve her problem and return her to the routine she loves.

Bria is three years old, weighs 60 pounds and experienced her first bout with lameness after an anaplasmosis infection at two years of age. The infection was cleared but the lameness returned a few short months later. Griffons, like other large breeds are susceptible to disease conditions, including osteochondrosis dessicans (OCD) and hip dysplasia. These are issues that will continue to worsen if not handled as early as possible. We knew the importance of finding the answer and to rule out these diseases to ensure a good quality of life for Bria.

The Quest We began with our local veterinarian who did a series of x-rays that did not reveal any obvious damage or breaks in the joints of her feet, legs, or hips. The lameness not only persisted but worsened, so we were referred to a rehabilitation specialist who focuses on lameness in dogs, particularly agility and working dogs. We were also referred to the Veterinary Medical Center of the University of Minnesota for diagnostic arthroscopic surgery, as well as a possible MRI or CT scan.

The investment in diagnostics was already in the \$1000 range and we still did not have a definitive diagnosis. We were concerned about the possible trauma and stress on Bria if all the recommended steps were taken. There was no option but to continue to search for a cause so that we could make an informed decision. An appointment was made for Bria on June 8, 2009 for a surgical consultation at the University of Minnesota.

Bria remained at the U overnight. Joint taps were done on her left shoulder, left elbow, left carpus/wrist, and her right elbow the following day and samples were submitted for cytological (cell content) analysis, the results of which would be returned in 48 hours. Because the lymph nodes in her neck and shoulder were enlarged, she was placed on a round of doxycycline, 200mg every 24 hours. We were now "investing" in

large amounts of yogurt as well so that Bria could tolerate the meds. We were no closer to identifying the problem or relieving her pain. Her walks were limited and any physical activity beyond a short walks on a leash caused severe lameness. Life did not return to normal and Bria's discomfort was very much in evidence. By July, it was necessary to return to the University of Minnesota to determine what the next steps would be.

Success in Round Two

We had the great good fortune to be referred to Dr. Michael Conzemius, an orthopedic specialist who is trained in stem-cell therapy. He stood over the dog, ran his hands down her body and down her legs and said "There it is." He identified bony changes in



Up to the Test

A post-recovery **Brianna of Hundgaard** demonstrated her resilience by completing the grueling Utility Field Test with owner Ed Challacombe at the Heartland Fall 2010 Test.

(photo by Jon Coil)

both of her ulnas, noting it was worse on the left elbow. Treatment options were outlined for dealing with the osteoarthritis. We had already tried the non-surgical options of rest, Rimadyl and Metacam. While this course of treatment made her more comfortable, it did not allow her to run and engage in the activities of a hunting dog.

Surgical options were exploratory arthroscopy with stem cell therapy, or a proximal ulnar osteotomy, a much more extensive and complicated procedure with a four-month recovery. We opted for the stem cell treatment since it was less invasive, was showing good results in other patients, and if it worked, would be much easier for Bria.

Autologous adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cell (AD-MSC) is accomplished by removing or harvesting fat tissue from the patient's stomach, isolating the stem and regenerative cells from that fat tissue, and reintroducing them into the patient intravenously or directly into the joint. Stem cells have the individual potential to develop into tendon, ligament, bone, cartilage, heart, nerve, muscle, blood vessels, fat, and liver tissue. The cells harvested from adipose or fat tissue are a mix of all these stem cells.

Regenerative cells from fat tissue work so well because they are so easily available and can be collected in greater concentrations than those collected from bone marrow.

Stem-cell therapies have been in use in humans for a long time before animals; in humans to treat soft tissue damage such as that of Crohn's disease. The process for animals originated at Duke University and the University of Pittsburgh but is now practiced in many locations in the country. Stem cell therapy has been used in horses since 2003, and dogs since 2005. Results from a volunteer study by Vet-Stem found that 75% of dogs treated with stem cell therapy improved.

Dr. Conzemius trained in stem-cell therapy at Vet-Stem located in southern California. Dr. Conzemius is a specialist in cartilage injury and repair and musculoskeletal system diseases, and holds a PhD in biomedical engineering as well as his veterinary degree. The stem cell therapy is a logical extension of his work.

Surgery for Bria took place on July 27, 2009. Minor cartilage damage was found and removed. The outside of the joint was normal so the incisions were closed with sutures that were buried in the skin. A small incision was made in Bria's abdomen to harvest the fat used to derive the stem cells for the stem cell therapy. That incision was closed with buried sutures as well. The adipose tissue was sent to the Stem Cell Institute at the University of Minnesota where the stem cells were isolated, and delivered back to Bria both intravenously and by injection directly into the joint. There would be no rejection issues because the cells were her own.

The result has been very positive. Bria has resumed an active life-style and her occasional mild discomfort is controlled with Rimadyl which we give on days she is in the field to hunt. She participated in a hunt in North Dakota with no difficulty and continues to do well. If she has trouble in the future, another round of stem cell treatment is stored in the freezers at the University. An added bonus beside her return to health is that the costs were reduced because she became part of the University's study of stem cell therapy. What began as a treatment for horses is now commonplace for dogs and cats as well. Stem cell therapy did not eliminate Bria's condition but has certainly improved her quality of life and increased her comfortable level of activity.

For more information on stem cell therapy go to <http://www.vet-stem.com/> and select small animal applications.

Follow the Flight

by

Josh Silver



It Begins with a point in the Maritime Provinces of Canada . . .

Ace of Hundgaard locks up on a September woodcock for owner Josh Silver.

(photo by Josh Silver)

I expect that many of you, especially those residing in the northeastern and northern Midwest United States, love to hunt woodcock. Personally, there are precious few things in this world that I would rather be doing on any given day than following my dog through second growth forests in search of the peculiar little bird. With their tendency to rely on camouflage rather than run, woodcock may be the best game bird to hunt with pointing dogs. Woodcock will often hold to a point even when the dog is mere inches from the bird, which make them ideal for both puppies and seasoned dogs alike.

Alas, the woodcock season in each state is fleetingly short. Although the Midwestern states are blessed with a forty-five day season, the woodcock season in the eastern states lasts but thirty days a year. It is almost as if you blink your eyes and the season is over for another twelve months.

I live in Maine and the woodcock season here is generally the month of October. A number of years ago, I started looking into ways to extend my woodcock hunting season. I discovered that if you have the time and resources, you can begin hunting woodcock in the Canadian Maritime provinces in mid-September and finish your season in the southern states at the end of January. Although it is unlikely that I will ever spend four and a half months a year hunting woodcock (at least not if I have any intention of remaining married), the different seasons present wonderful opportunities for woodcock shooting at times when most hunters are focusing on other species or have packed it in for the year. Each state's season is intended to coincide with the arrival and stay of the flight birds, so hunters have a good chance of finding decent woodcock shooting in any state.

If you go, be prepared to experience some very nasty coverts. I always thought that the woodcock coverts in the northeast were as bad as it gets; I was wrong. Some of the most productive coverts I have found in the mid-Atlantic states are chest-high to head-high "forests" of green briar and red briar. It is extremely hard on both the hunters and the dogs. If you wear standard brush pants and jackets, you will find yourself battered and bloodied by the end of the day. The only material I have found to be an effective defense is double tin cloth (and even that is not always effective). I highly recommend it.

Over the past five years, I have been lucky enough to chase woodcock in the Canadian Maritime province of New Brunswick, and the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

I have had both fast and slow late-season woodcock shooting in each of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The woodcock season in New Jersey and Delaware is generally split between the months of November and December. In Maryland, the season is usually three weeks in November and a week in January. For those of you in the northern states experiencing the winter blues, head south for some winter woodcock shooting. It's hard to beat.



... and ends with a January hunt in Maryland

Ace completes the season with a woodcock retrieve in Maryland.

(photo by owner, Josh Silver)

Dutchman's Hollow F Litter Exposure Notes

The **Dutchman's Hollow F Litter**, raised by John and Vivian Pitlo was whelped April 18, 2010. The sire and dam are: **Blue Mountain Brew** and **Ayla of Ancient Kennel** (artificial insemination). You'll likely be seeing some of these pups performing during the Spring and Fall 2011 Natural Ability Tests. We caught up with some of the new owners of the F litter pups and asked for an update on their pups first exposure to game.

All-in-all, at the time of this writing, these pups (only about 8 months old) are showing promise as future hunting dogs. They also illustrate several of the common issues that pups exhibit during their first season afield. Exposure to plenty of game is crucial for optimal development. Disciplined retrieving can come later, but for now, having positive experience with game is what it's all about.

Steve Smith of South Dakota shared these details about his male pup, **Fowler**.



Fowler of Dutchman's Hollow; owned by Steve Smith
(photo by Steve Smith)

We did not do any waterfowl hunting this fall, but Fowler did a lot of swimming this summer. He did find chasing coots along the reeds and cattails was fun, until the ponds froze up. One pheasant was shot over the water; Fowler hit the water running and swam out and retrieved. For a while after that, he checked out everything sticking out of the water that looked like it could be a pheasant.

Hunting with him this fall has been fun. He gets a little wound up sometimes, but so do I when 30 or 40 pheasants are in a small area and

start getting up. Working big areas where we are more apt to find singles or just a few birds is much better. He does like to get out and run once in a while, but he has been holding the point until I can flush. Late season the birds get spooky and ranging out is one way to catch up to them. At 60 lbs and 24 inches tall there is no cover that he will not go into. He's learning to use the wind better all the time. He's getting a little more cautious when he gets scent. Still bumps some birds. I can see a little progress in his wild pheasant education every time we go out. It takes a while to figure out wild pheasants – their behavior changes from early season to late season, then it snows.

We've been out about 30 times – sometimes we don't get any birds – usually points lots

of hens and I shoot the roosters only when he gets a good point. It took him a few birds to figure out what to do with them after they hit the ground, but now he's figured out that I want them. Retrieving is improving steadily.

Our hunts usually last an hour to an hour and a half – with a couple rests worked in – did a few hunts longer, but he's only a pup and I don't think he has the stamina yet to handle that. At the end of our hunts, Fowler is in the pickup, stretched out on the seat sleeping within a couple minutes (He is such a good puppy when he is sleeping.) – then in 15 minutes when we get home he is ready to go again (He usually finds our cat and they go a few rounds of chasing each other).

Fowler is very "enthusiastic" about hunting and birds and has a little more energy than I have. I just enjoy watching him develop. We've got another month of pheasant season left – the number of people hunting and pressure on the birds is less – so Fowler and my hunting will improve.

Tom Coon of Wisconsin is the proud owner of "The **Foizz**."



The **Foizz of Dutchman's Hollow** and owner Tom Coon took advantage of a December Dakota pheasant hunt to get in some exposure time.

(Photo by Ted Coon)

Tom and brother Ted have been getting Foizz out after birds along with Ted's dog, **Buck of Salmon River**. Tom writes: The Foizz has had a pretty good season so far. He was somewhat slow at pointing but by the 27th -30th bird he started getting the idea. He still needs some more work on pointing but is getting better each time out. Where he's really looking good is on his tracking; he has not lost a bird that I've hit.

The Foizz had to have eye surgery and has had some stomach problems but seems to be fine now. He was sidelined for a couple of weeks with the eye, but he's back at 100 miles an hour again.

Ted and I just completed a late season South Dakota pheasant hunt. We had a real good hunt with lots of good dog work and plenty of birds. The Foizz is doing real well on pointing; he seems to get better with each new bird we came across. His tracking and searching are also looking pretty good. Now for his retrieving, that's a whole different story! He likes to run around me with the bird in his mouth for a few minutes then drop it and start hunting again. I think this retrieving is going to take some work but he's pretty young, and I think he will get it at some point.



Friederich of Dutchman's Hollow had a fine introduction to hunting with owner Kurt Eickhof.

(Photo by Kurt Eickhof)

Duck Hunt	9/26	Exposed to many dead waterfowl
Sharp Tail	9/27	Accompanied during a retrieve
Pheasant Hunt	10/9	Retrieved pheasant
Pheasant Hunt	10/15	Pointed First Pheasant
Grouse/Woodcock	10/23	Retrieved grouse found shot Woodcock
Ruff Grouse	10/31	Retrieved Grouse
Ruff Grouse	11/4	Quartered wooded area all day
Mallard Hunt	11/11	Retrieved Mallard from cattail marsh
Sharp Tail	11/11	Retrieved one bird and random flushing

Kurt Eickhof provided a note on the progress of , “Friedy,” complete with journal. All of our duck and pheasant hunting occurred in the wilds of ND while we ventured into the wooded area on North Central Minnesota to prospect for the Ruffed Grouse and Wood Cock. Friederich of Dutchman’s Hollow (Friedy) is a very energetic dog who has a wonderful coat and conformation. He is handsome and strong and we have the expectation that he will continue to become a great hunter and companion. We feel very fortunate to have him in our family.

**Hot Pursuit**

Flapjack Frankie of Dutchman's Hollow discovers birds at an Iowa training day.

(Photo by Greg Hurtig)

Mike Chlapaty of Illinois offered this update on **Flapjack Frankie of Dutchman's Hollow**:

Flapjack, better known as "Jack" is now a 7 month old pup. We started introducing Jack to wild birds this past summer – heading to Rockland, MI in the Upper Peninsula. We had several solid weekends of hunting where Jack got into all kinds of grouse. Jack did well tracking and pointing at these birds. We then did a long weekend in Park Falls, WI, where I finalized his introduction to being shot over. Again, he did just great. Nothing seems to bother this pup and his instincts in finding and tracking birds all seem on target. Eventually we headed back to the UP of Michigan for a longer hunt. Jack made his first retrieve although he liked to play with it first....so we are working on this as we continue to get on birds. Jack and I just recently returned from the Lower Brule Reservation in South Dakota where we found a bunch of pheasants just waiting for us. Just short of our limit, Jack was in the cattail swamp and appeared reluctant to obey my command to come, when he emerged filling our limit all on his own. Interesting concept, given the high cost of shot gun shells! Unfortunately, the following day, Jack also found a porcupine waiting for him and obviously attacked with all four paws. I ended up carrying him out of the field and then drove to the local vet. It was a long afternoon, but it looks like he will have a full recovery. Although that incident cut our trip short, I have been amazed at his stamina and strength as we forge through the thick brush of the UP and the fields of South Dakota. I am confident that Jack and I will have many great years of hunting ahead of us!



Francesca of Dutchman's Hollow made a memorable retrieve to owner Dave Finley on her first pheasant hunt.

(photo by Jerry Yeast)

Dave Finley of Indiana has been watching the development of his female pup, **Francesca of Dutchman's Hollow**.

Dave related his experience through phone conversations. I also had a chance to hunt personally with Frannie as a five month-old on grouse and woodcock in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Frannie got to hang out with several of the big dogs—**Ammo of Hundgaard**, **Brinker of Indian Creek** and **Burley of Salmon River** in addition to her surrogate sibling, **Argo of Hundgaard**. For Frannie, this trip was mostly about playing in the woods and experiencing some wild birds. She made some flash points on woodcock and showed definite excitement about birds. Prior to the hunting season, Dave also took Frannie to a few of our Heartland Chapter exposure days in Marshall, Michigan. Here she got to sniff some ducks and have a first opportunity to chase some young pheasants.

More recently, Frannie has gotten an introduction to pheasant hunting. Dave has taken Frannie to South Dakota on pheasants in early December. She made her first

points, but the birds did not offer an opportunity for a safe shot. But on one hunt with Andy and Jerry Yeast, she helped track down a wounded bird that Jerry Yeast had dropped; she caught it and retrieved it.

Figuring Finley is a tad biased, I checked with Jerry. He more or less corroborates the story and provided some pictures to back it up. Jerry writes: "It was a fun moment. I shot the bird but only crippled it. As often happens, we looked where it came down but it was long gone. Quite a ways away, Dave found one lone blood spot. He put Frannie on it and she did the rest, tracking the bird through the tall grass for about 2.5 miles, (or 100 yards, whichever, it was impressive), and bringing it proudly back to Dave. I wish I'd been quicker to get a really good photo. It would have been just another bird that got away without Frannie making a long track and a perfect retrieve.

So the F litter of Dutchman's Hollow looks to be off to a good start. There's nothing better for a pup's development as a hunter than to get lots of experience with birds in a positive, non-pressured way with the owner/handler. These pups are having a blast; and next year, when the serious retriever training begins, they'll have a solid foundation upon which to build.

A Second Chance for Aimee

by

Jane Cleaves McKenna

13 years ago, my Alder had her first litter. We often lose track of the pups that we breed and wonder how life has turned out for them. So it was somewhat of a surprise



An elderly **Merrymeeting's Aimee** soaks up some affection from her new owner, Jo Gowen.

(photo by Tom Gowan)

two weeks ago when I received a call from my veterinarian regarding one of the those pups, **Merrymeeting's Aimee**. As a young pup, she had been tested in Natural Ability and IHDT and as far as I know had many successful hunting seasons with her owner. But now the dog's family was experiencing significant health problems of their own and were simply not able to care for an elderly dog. Seeing no other options, they had reluctantly brought her to the veterinary hospital to be put down.

Fortunately the veterinar-



Old dog, new trick. I'm a versatile gun dog.

13 year-old **Merrymeeting's Aimee** shares a dog bed with her new owner's white cat. Being tolerant of cats gave her a new lease on life!

(photo by Tom Gowan)

ian had other ideas. She could see that Amiee really wasn't ready to make an exit from this world just yet, so she intervened; according to her, Aimee was really quite youthful for her age. So the veterinarian's reluctance to euthanize set off a search for a new home for Aimee.

Upon arrival at work after the first weekend the dog was being held at the hospital, I spoke to my co-worker in my department, Jo, knowing that she was involved with the local animal shelter. I was looking for information of local animal adoption groups in Maine.

A day later, Jo and her husband went to visit Amiee, and they agreed to adopt her themselves! One concern, though was their older cat, so before taking her home, they needed to be sure that Aimee and the cat would get along. With the vet's help, they introduced Amiee to a cat at the hospital. Amiee did just fine in "cat test." I'm happy to report that she went to her new home several days ago, and I got a progress report today. Everyone is doing great, even the cat. Jo and her husband Tom Gowen can't get over how sweet Amiee is, and how well she seems to be adjusting to new home and life.



Cornell University & WPGCA Canine DNA Project

Has your dog been included in the database for this important project? We need data on every dog, young or old, whether breeding stock or not. See the article on Page 1 for more details.

More information is on the website:

<http://www.wpgca.org>

Please Help!

Upcoming Events

Please check our web page (<http://www.wpgca.org>) for the most current information and updates.

Michigan Training Days The Heartland Chapter usually has monthly training days near Marshall MI during the spring and summer. Contact Jim Crouse for details.

Phone (614) 562-1860.

email: jcrouse01@yahoo.com

Northeast Chapter Spring Test and DNA Blood Draw . Saturday, May 14th in Winterport Maine. jesterhowley@comcast.net

Rocky Mountain Chapter Exposure/Training Day Saturday July 23st
Exposure Day in Montana at the Randy Ross ranch

Contact Teresa & J.J. Conner

Phone: 406-202-3369

email: jcbowstring@hotmail.com