

The Wing and Clay Flyer

official newsletter of



Shooting Instruction

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Where's the Geese??



Tanner Abbas of Kanawha, Iowa patiently waits for the next flock of honkers during an early season Iowa goose hunt
(photo by Jeremy Abbas)

Double A Shooting Instruction advocates shotgun shooting at all levels through lessons, shooting clinics, and other activities such as group outings and educational seminars. In addition, Double A Shooting Instruction promotes local shooting ranges and clubs by introducing new shooters to the facilities and by improving the shooting abilities of existing customers. For more information on AA Shooting instruction, please visit my website at www.AAshooting.com

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By now, most of you wingshooters have probably been out to enjoy some of the early season hunting opportunities. I have been fortunate enough to find time for duck and goose hunting and have just returned from a week-long upland bird hunting trip to Montana with my wife, dogs and long-time friend who now resides in the Big Sky State.

Hopefully all of the time you have spent practicing on clay birds is paying off when shooting the feathered varieties. If not, try to find some time for a little in-season practice on clays and commit yourself to more practice next spring and summer.

In this issue you will find a few tips you can hopefully take to the field to help you bag a few extra birds. Best of luck to you this hunting season, and remember to hunt safe!

Until Next Time,
Good Shooting!
Ben S. Berka



*Rien (Wirehaired Pointing Griffon), Ben and Nina (English Setter)
with a mixed bag of Montana Sharptail Grouse and Hungarian Partridge*

About The Wing and Clay Flyer

The Wing and Clay Flyer is the official publication of AA Shooting Instruction. The primary purpose of the Wing and Clay Flyer is to update the shooting public on upcoming shooting events and instructional information on shotgun shooting. Published quarterly, the Wing and Clay Flyer will also provide a variety of general-interest wing and clay shooting articles.

Two types of Wing and Clay Flyer subscriptions are available, the online version and the print version. The online version is posted to the Double A Shooting Instruction website and links are distributed via email upon publication. The online version of the newsletter also contains hyperlinks to additional information on the Double A Shooting Instruction website and other worldwide websites. The Wing and Clay Flyer, online edition is provided at no cost. Back-issues of the Wing and Clay Flyer are archived on the Double A Shooting Instruction website. To subscribe, please send an email to Ben Berka indicating you would like to subscribe to the online edition.

The print version of the Wing and Clay Flyer is mailed quarterly via regular USPS mail. Cost for a one-year subscription (four issues) is \$10. To subscribe to the print version of the Wing and Clay Flyer, please send a check or money order for \$10 (payable to AA Shooting Instruction) to:

AA Shooting Instruction
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Feature Article

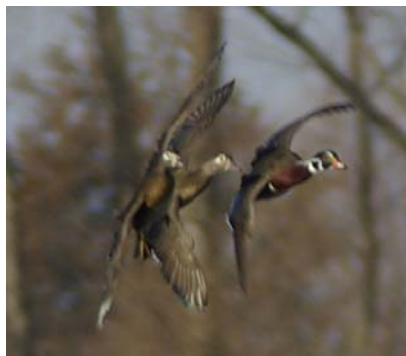
Wingshooting Tips for the Field

Hunting seasons are now well underway and hopefully all of the time spent practicing on the range is paying off with birds in the bag. While the off-season is the best time to practice developing your shotgunning skills, there are a few things you can do when in the field to help improve your chances of bringing more limits home. Below are a few tips to help improve your bird to shell ratio:

- 1) **Be safe:** Before shooting at ANYTHING, be certain the shot is a safe one. Make sure you are not shooting at or near your hunting buddies, houses, livestock, etc. Also make sure all dogs are safe, especially on low-flying game birds.
- 2) **Pick a bird:** One of the biggest reasons covey or flock birds such as quail or water fowl are missed is due to flock shooting. When the covey rises or the ducks make that 'last pass', be sure to pick one bird and one bird only.
- 3) **Focus:** Once your bird has been identified, make sure you 'hard-focus' on the target. For example, when pheasant hunting, try to pick out the red patch on the rooster's head, or the white ring around it's neck. The rooster's tail makes up over 1/3 of the bird's body, so focusing on head/facial features helps put the shot where it counts!
- 4) **Take your time:** Close-flushing upland birds and close-decoying waterfowl offer more time than most hunters think. After identifying your target and obtaining hard-focus, take an extra second to make sure your body is square to the target, make a good gun mount and take the shot as the gun comes to your face.
- 5) **Stay with your bird:** Wild birds are tough and often require more than one hit to be killed. Be sure to watch your bird crumple and fall after your first shot and always be ready for one or more follow-up shots if the bird appears hit, but not killed.

BSB

When hunting ducks or covey-type upland birds, be sure to pick a single bird out of the group. Failing to pick a single bird will result in 'flock-shooting' and usually results in missed, or worse yet, crippled game.. With the wood ducks on the right, you might want to pick the drake!



Beginner's Corner

Field Safety

Whenever in the field, safety should be the number one priority of everyone taking part in hunting. Below are a few safety points to keep in mind each and every trip:

1. Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
3. When hunting upland birds, always wear at least one article of orange clothing (preferably a hat and vest).
4. Always hunt with your gun's safety in the SAFE position. Disengage the safety only when mounting for a shot.
5. Only take shots within your 'safe zone'. Always be aware of dogs and other hunters.
6. Keep guns unloaded with actions open until in the field. Unload guns and open actions when returning to the hunting vehicle.
7. Unload guns and open actions before crossing fences or other obstacles. Also unload your gun and open the action when leaving your gun unattended such as when taking breaks or exiting a duck blind.
8. Be certain of your target and what lies beyond your target.

BSB

Quick Shots

Doc's Hunt Club Corporate Challenge

Doc's Hunt Club in Adel, IA is hosting their annual Corporate Challenge event November 1-18. The event consists of four hunters, up to three dogs, fifty pheasants, twenty chucker, unlimited shells and 3 hours to hunt. Points will be awarded for number of birds harvested. Cost for the event is \$1600 per team and all participants will receive a commemorative gift at the November 18th banquet. For more information or for reservations call 515-993-3711

New AA Shooting Instruction Merchandise

T-shirts and bumper stickers featuring the Double A Shooting Instruction logo are now available for purchase. Bumper stickers are 2x6" and feature the AA Shooting Instruction logo and web address. T-shirts feature the logo and web address on the back and the 'AA

Crosshairs' emblem on the front-left chest. Stickers are \$5 and t-shirts are \$10 (M-XL) or \$15 (XXL).

AA Shooting Instruction and New Pioneer Gun Club Featured in dmJuice Article

Check out the October 26th Juice write-up on Ben Berka and the New Pioneer Gun-Club online at the Juice Website (<http://www.dmjuice.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051026/JUICE06/510260322/1115/juice>).

New Pioneer Gun Club Spring Skeet League

The New Pioneer Gun Club's annual 500 target Spring Skeet League will begin November 5 and run through April 27. Signup cost for the league is \$35 per five-man team. For time and field availability or to join a team, call NPGC at 515-987-4415.

Give the Gift of Shooting Instruction this Holiday Season

Looking for the perfect gift for the shotgun shooter this holiday season? Consider a gift certificate from AA Shooting Instruction.

Certificates are available for hourly private instruction, small group instruction or shooting clinics.

Ben Berka to Speak at Pheasants Forever Iowa State Convention

The 2006 Iowa Pheasants Forever Annual Convention will be held January 13-15 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Des Moines. Ben Berka will be among featured speakers and will be presenting information on fundamentals for successful wingshooting and building skill for the field. Check out details as they become available at the Iowa State Pheasants Forever Website (<http://iowapheasantsforever.org/>).

Performance Coaching Special Through February

For those looking to excel in competition next season, AA Shooting Instruction is offering a Performance Coaching Package at a special price through the end of February. The package includes five private, 2-hour coaching sessions with Ben Berka (conveniently scheduled over the course of the training season) and a Mental Management Systems Performance Analysis Journal to monitor progress and improve performance. Cost for the performance coaching package is only \$400.

Iowa Hunt Clubs Offer More Action for You and Your Dogs

If you are looking for readily available hunting opportunities, you may want to check out one of Iowa's many hunt clubs/hunting preserves. Preserve hunting offers lots of action for you and your dog, plus extended hunting seasons (September 1 through early spring) and no bag limits. Check out the full list of Iowa's hunting preserve on the Iowa DNR website (<http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/pdfs/iapreserves.pdf>).