

OSH TEAMS UP WITH CABIN CREEK KENNELS

Shed hunting with dogs is becoming more popular as the sport of shed hunting grows and consequently gets more competitive. OSH has been interested for several years in pursuing a shed hunting dog. We have tried to train our own dogs, but have never really had the success that we would like to have. And we admit that we are not professional dog trainers, hence our success has been very limited.

At the 2006 Central Oregon Sportsman's Show we were introduced to Steve and Barb Waller of Cabin Creek Kennels, located in Oakland, Oregon. Cabin Creek Kennels has been supplying the sporting community with quality gun dogs since 1971. Steve has owned and trained Labrador Retrievers for hunting and competition for over 30 years. Cabin Creek Kennels offer a complete training program for all breeds of dogs. From obedience, to splash dogs, to training for hunting or competition. In addition to the



Photo Courtesy of Cabin Creek Kennels



twenty acres that the facilities sit on, Cabin Creek Kennels has exclusive use of an additional 80 acres of rolling grass covered hills which they use to do their upland and long distance training.

After talking and getting to know Steve, OSH decided to partner up with Cabin Creek Kennels in getting some shed hunting dogs trained. The training is in process and we're hoping to get some dogs to try out sometime in the near future.

It is the hope of OSH and Cabin Creek Kennels to get some dogs trained and available to other shed hunters within the next year or two. We hope to have some dogs to offer on both the OSH and Cabin Creek webpages. It will take some time to get the shed dogs going, so stay tuned for more information.

For additional information on Cabin Creek Kennels see their webpage at:

www.cabincreekretrievers.com

OSH SHED HUNTING TIP

There have been several occasions when we have spotted sheds laying out in a "scab," meadow, grassland, or clearcut with our binoculars. However, when we first started shed hunting we didn't even pack our binoculars because they were added weight, and added weight over a ten hour hike adds up...especially if you're having a good shed hunting day and you're gaining weight as the day goes on.

It didn't take us long to learn that it is essential to pack binoculars while shed hunting for several different reasons. The first reason is that it allows us to view more ground without actually having to walk it. Anything that allows you to minimize walking and save energy on a long outing is definitely worth it. If there is a brush or tall grass however, it may be necessary to also walk the area that you have glassed. Overall, glassing for sheds from a high visibility vantage point has led to finding many sheds that may have gone otherwise unnoticed.

The next reason for packing binoculars is that it actually allows a hunter time to sit and take a break, that otherwise may not happen. Breaks are essential to allow rest time for the body and to give an opportunity for food and water.

The final reason is simple, but one that we overlooked at first. We are not only shed addicts, but we love to view wildlife and nature in general. We were finding more times than not, that we wished we had our binoculars as we watched a mature pronghorn buck run off in the distance or spotted a bald eagle sitting in the top of tree on the next ridge. It didn't take us long to see that we were missing out because we didn't have our binoculars. So next time you head out on a shed hunting trip, be sure to grab your binoculars! They are a **MUST!**

