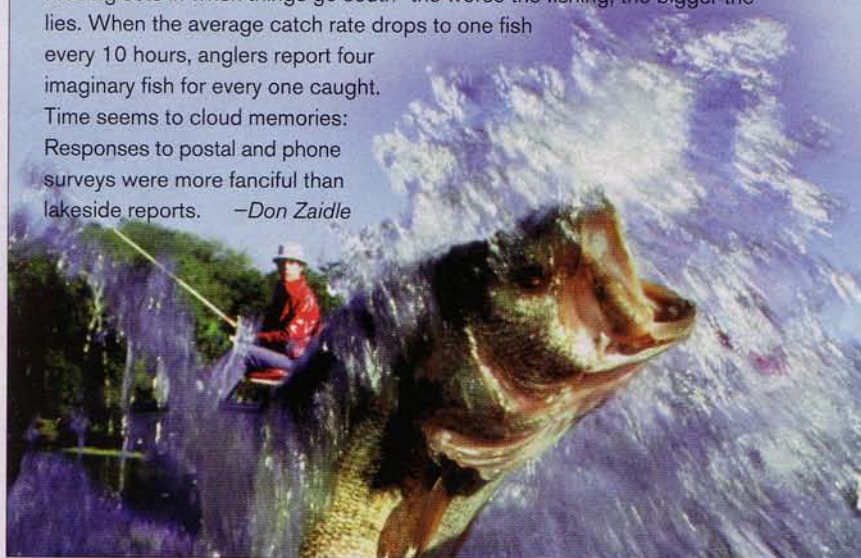


## Fishing's "Fib Factor"

**F**ish tales have been a part of sportsmen's lore since Jonah claimed to discover the "self-chumming" technique. A couple of millennia later, scientists have finally quantified the fishing fib-factor. Biologists in Alberta realized they were getting less-than-accurate data from anglers when they interviewed them or had them fill out post-catch surveys. Bad data could potentially mean bad wildlife management decisions, so they set out to uncover exactly how far fishermen stretch the truth. With the use of spies, Michael Sullivan of the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Service recorded actual angler catch rates and then compared them with information given by the fishermen later on.

Sullivan's study revealed that the fib-factor varies in inverse proportion to angler success. When fishing is good, about one catch per hour, fishermen tell the truth. Fibbing sets in when things go south—the worse the fishing, the bigger the lies. When the average catch rate drops to one fish every 10 hours, anglers report four imaginary fish for every one caught.

Time seems to cloud memories: Responses to postal and phone surveys were more fanciful than lakeside reports. —Don Zaidle



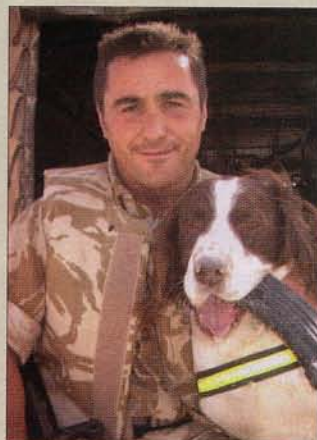
## TRUE TALES

### BUSTER: THE DOG OF WAR

Not only are a large number of sportsmen among those who have put themselves in harm's way in Iraq and other hot spots in the fight against global

terror, but as this image shows, some of our best companions are at risk too. In a perfect world, springer spaniels like Buster would have to worry only about flushing woodcock, but as a member of the British Army, it's his job to sniff out caches of explosives. During the war in Iraq, Buster uncovered a hidden store of AK-47s, grenades, ammo and bombmaking equipment that led to the arrest of 16 supporters of Saddam Hussein—who had denied that they possessed any weapons. Sergeant Danny Morgan, who is Buster's handler, told the British newspaper *The Sun* that his five-year-old daughter misses the dog more than she misses him. "She was upset when I went off to war but wept buckets when she was saying goodbye to Buster. She's been sending him more treats than she's been sending to me since we arrived," he said.

—John B. Snow



Buster, pictured with his handler, Sergeant Danny Morgan, found hidden weapons in Iraq.

## Faces IN THE Field

### Outdoor Mentors

#### PASS IT ON

Anyone who has seen a child's face light up when his or her bobber sinks with the weight of a panfish knows that kids naturally take to hunting and fishing. The problem is that some don't get the chance. To give our youth an opportunity to go fishing, shooting and hunting, Pass It On, a new program sponsored by Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, is pairing up outdoor-savvy adults with children.

A new Big Brothers Big Sisters program gives kids a chance to hunt and fish.



The National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have donated funds to get the program started. This year Pass It On will begin pilot programs in Montana, Pennsylvania and Texas. Next year it hopes to grow to 10 more states. In the meantime, the organization is looking for a few good sportsmen—are you up to the challenge? (*Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc., 219 N. St. Francis, P.O. Box 1026, Wichita, KS 67201; 316-263-3300; www.ksbbbs.org*)

**There were no male parts down there. It looked like a male at the head end, but the undercarriage was all female.**

—Washington state hunter Joe Kiefer, on the antlered mule deer doe he shot last season.