

The Alaskan Hunter

A publication of the Alaska Chapter of Safari Club International

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Alaska Chapter SCI recognizes our Disabled Vets with dream hunts.

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2008
Banquet and Fundraiser
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Own The Adventure

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2008

From the President's Desk



Friends,

As we close out 2007, it's time to reflect on the Alaska Chapter's successes for the year and plan for even greater things in 2008. This past year has seen the Chapter set new records on revenues and attendance at our Fundraiser, we have sponsored a school in Namibia, we have launched two veterans appreciation programs (Disabled Hunting program & Magazines for the Military) we sent a record number of teachers to the AWLS programs to get our message to the kids, we sponsored several more NASP (National Archery in Schools Program) Schools as well as helped fund the reintroduction of Wood Bison and we have grown the Sensory Safari even bigger.

The Chapter has received national recognition; with the upcoming convention in Reno we are receiving the Chapter of the Year Award for large Chapters as well as Newsletter of the Year award. Recently a number of our members have received Chapter recognition at the annual Christmas Party; Roger Jorgensen (Outstanding Youth), Sue Holiday (Diana Award), Conley Marcum (Hunter of the Year), Russ Knight (Member of the Year), Terry Hegge (Presidents Award) and Terry Holliday (Crowning Achievement Award). Congratulations to all for your well deserved recognition and thank you for all your efforts in making the Alaska Chapter one of the most successful Chapters in all of SCI!

The upcoming year brings us opportunity to make an even bigger impact on protecting our hunting rights and teaching our youth to take over the heritage. We have an important issue upcoming on the primary ballot in August; the anti's are again spreading their propoganda and attempting to limit our rights to manage the predator population to insure the predator prey relationship is kept in balance. They have managed to get the issue on the ballot with questionable tactics and innuendo without explaining the biological reasons for scientifically managing the predator population.

We however cannot rest we must raise the resources necessary to insure the general public understands the true relationships and reasons for predator management. This of course will tax our resources so we must insure that our upcoming fundraiser is again another record setting event. I ask that you all become involved and donate your time, resources or sweat to help your Chapter set another record. This will help us to get the messaging needed to the public and insure they understand the issue before they go vote.

Remember we are not defending just our rights but more importantly the rights of future sportsmen/conservationists, the boys and girls that depend on us to insure they have a future in hunting.

Shoot Straight

Ron Haberman



Safari Club International
Alaska Chapter

Officers and Directors
2007-2008

President

RON HABERMAN
689-7629

president@aksafariclub.org

Vice-President

KURT NORBY
696-2192

aknorbys@msn.com

Treasurer

TERRY HEGGE
694-5916(H)

tchsh@aol.com

Secretary

EDDIE GRASSER
745-3772

mtman@mtaonline.net

Director

BILL FISHER
696-0626

lablover@ptialaska.net

Director

JED CRABB
301-6987

Targetman78@yahoo.com

Director

TERRY HOLLIDAY
688-4340(H) 688-4337(O)

Director

RUSSELL KNIGHT
344-5501(O)

knights@alaska.net

Director

GUS GILLESPIE
563-3877

akgifts@alaska.net

Director

BETHANY MARCUM
333-5305(H) 440-7000(C)

morganbethany@hotmail.com

Director

CARL NELSON
333-2355

cnelson@gci.net

Director

JOHN O'DAY
338-6898 (O)

johnsoday@acsalaska.net

Director

FRED LEHMAN
317-6057

lehmanf@hotmail.com

Director

GARY WELLS
258-1058 (H) or 258-4003 (O)
gwells@simon.com

Director

DAVE WOOD
622-5557

Adogfacesoldier@aol.com

Regional Representative

MICHAEL HAMRICK
283-4155

bwanamike@ak.net

ADF&G Liaison

TRACY SMITH
267-2896(O)

tracy.smith@alaska.gov

(H) Home (O) Office (F) Fax (C) Cell

The Alaskan Hunter newsletter is published quarterly by the Alaska Chapter Safari Club International. If you have a submission you want considered for publication, please email it as a Word document using the email address below. When sending hard copy photos, please label with a self-sticking note and include your name, address and photo description. Electronic/digital photos are also accepted. Please email them as JPG files to admin@aksafariclub.org. Address all other correspondence concerning *The Alaskan Hunter* to: Editor, AK Chapter SCI, P.O. Box 770511, Eagle River, AK 99577

Submission Deadlines

Winter Issue – December 31 Spring Issue – March 31
 Summer Issue – June 30 Fall Issue – September 30

Advertising Rates

AD SIZE	ISSUE	YEAR
Business Card.....	\$25.....	\$90
¼ Page.....	\$50.....	\$175
½ Page.....	\$100.....	\$350
Full Page.....	\$200.....	\$500

Note: Acceptance of advertisement in *The Alaskan Hunter* does not imply endorsement or approval of the advertiser by the Alaska Chapter Safari Club International. Similarly, no attempt is made to verify hunting reports filed by members. In addition, readers are encouraged to check with appropriate authorities before booking any hunt to ensure compliance with local regulations.

DONATIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Since the Alaska Chapter Safari Club International is a 501 C (4) organization under the Internal Revenue Service, donations are not tax deductible. If you have any questions regarding your donations and the tax law, you should contact your tax advisor.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Mail to: Alaska Chapter Safari Club International — P.O. Box 770511 — Eagle River, Alaska 99577

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Occupation: _____ Email: _____

Sponsor Name/Membership Number: _____ Enclosed: \$ _____ US Funds

Visa/Mastercard _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp date ____ - ____ CVS _____ Amount Authorized \$ _____

Annually, SCI regular members will receive 6 issues of SAFARI magazine, 12 issues of SAFARI TIMES newspaper and 4 issues of THE ALASKAN HUNTER.

DUES:*	National	Chapter	Total
Annual (Single)	\$55	\$10	\$65
Lifetime	\$1000	\$350	\$1350
Family Membership:	\$175	\$110	\$285

Note: To join Ak Chapter, you must be a member of National SCI. You may join the Chapter at a lesser term than National, i.e. life term of National, and annual term of Chapter; but to be a life member of the Chapter, you must be a life member of National.

Make check payable to the Alaska Chapter SCI and mail to the address shown above.

Roar of Simba

By Abed Radwan

This was my third lion hunt in the last 7 years. The air charter flew us two hours from Johannesburg and landed us on a nice privately owned airstrip. As our party was being collected from the airstrip, the camp manager's wife was charged by a lion while driving across the farm property in their jeep. Not to worry - She was not injured, and her encounter provided us with the advantage of knowing where to start our hunt. We settled down in the comfortable thatched African bungalows after we tested the rifle.

The trackers had no problem finding the fresh tracks when we arrived to that location. The lion tracks were BIG and were etched deep in the sand on top on the tire tracks from the earlier encounter. We were curious to see if he was a good mature size or just a young 2 to 3 year old who may have been kicked out of the pride. Young lion males are usually on their own by 2 to 3 years of age. The trackers silently made

their way in the dense thicket. Every one was tense, eyes scanning all around - we can barely see 20 yards in any direction. This is unnerving to say the least, and it is moments like this when I wonder what have I gotten my self into now? Lion hunting on foot is the ultimate experience of the word Danger. In past hunts - twice I have been around lions - both times they thought of me as food - absolutely fearless. I tried to concentrate on keeping a solid focus to take a quick, accurate shot if and when the opportunity arose. There is no margin for error, no chance for a second shot. The bush is too thick. I wonder if we will even see him.

All of a sudden, the trackers spotted him, cooling off, stretched down in the shade, like lions do during most of the long, hot day. We immediately retreated a little and circled him to try to take a clear look to see if he is worth taking. He was in the shade and hard to see. He was digesting a big meal of some sort of unfortunate antelope. We were trying to get a better angle for take a better look but it was difficult. As soon as we could see him clearly, he started the forward motion of a lunge towards us, possibly bluffing like our bears do here, but we could



not be not sure if this was a bluff. We backed up a few steps and continued to circle him. That's when he decided to lay low, sneaky, hiding, crawling towards us, like lions do to their prey before they attack. We were in his kill zone and we have become his target and his prey. Through the thick brush, I could make out his fearless eyes staring straight at me. We locked vision together for just seconds - he was thinking another easy meal and I was thinking what a nice trophy. It is the moment of truth, a voice in my head hinted for me to just RUN!! It is our internal defenses mixed with hunting experiences that kicks in the last moment and

leads the way, our precious human life rules and takes over. I put the cross hairs under his chin. I could barely make out the outline of his face. I squeezed the trigger. He was looking straight at us and licking his lips when the bullet struck him hard dead center below the throat and in the chest. He jumped high and charged towards us with a loud deep roar, a ball of blonde hair coming at us. Gosh he was huge. I reloaded another shell instinctively and aimed. The two PH's, one on each side of me, pointed their guns forward. Suddenly he swerved away and circled back sharply toward and behind his original ambush in the thicket. He disappeared with no sounds or motions - gone in a flash.

He fell dying about 12 yards away but we could not see him in the thorny brush. He had circled his flank, and he had set up his second ambush as he retreated to his second line of defense. Even as he was expiring, he laid waiting and watching. The 400 grain Barns X had entered under his throat straight into the chest cavity where it severed the top heart artery and destroyed the lungs.

There was no blood ever found where I shot him. Though the first shot proved fatal,

when we came upon him, the PH advised me to break his back with another insurance shot since he was still breathing. We were far from any medical facilities here, and even though the pilot stays with you throughout the hunt, you just do not want this beast on top of you chewing on you.

I aimed at his back and let go the final shot. We were close now, and we watched him as he lay there motionless. With

the two PHs on each side of me and the bushman trackers just behind with their long sharp spears, we approached him in a wall fashion, shoulder to shoulder, all 3 guns loaded and ready to fire. Fingers were still on the triggers as we moved forward, in numbing suspense, not taking any chance that he may spring forward in a final attack.

There he was, the trophy of a life time. I have hunted lions before in other countries, and have had many close calls, but this one is one very, very big lion Oh my! This big boy should make my taxidermist smile for sure.



rica; we took a charter air taxi flight two hours from Johannesburg to the Kalahari region. The region extends all the way to the Okavango swamps in the North. Every thing that roams there is big. The area is flat with reddish, sandy, soft soil and thorny thick brush, a bit like south and west Texas.

The season may close indefinitely on the last day of January 2008; the prices are going to skyrocket after that when they re-open it years later, with even more stringent requirements than what they have in place already. The current cost with trophy fees included runs about 11K (1x1), and can go for as much as 35 K depending on the trophy value of age and hair. If the season closes, and the Government gets their way with new restrictions, the price may go up to 60K for a young male to 175K for a mature one.

The cost of a lion hunt is going up in other countries as well, or closing their seasons. Botswana has shutdown their lion season indefinitely as of October 2007; they are saying that the farmers are killing lions that are attacking their livestock at an alarming rate and that is not accounted for. (The question is if the killing is not accounted for and registered, how would they know it is even happening?) Tanzania is raising their government trophy fees as most of us know already - \$15,000 for the tag only. Zambia is holding steady, but issuing only a limited number of permits. The high demand and prices of lions are approaching new uncharted territories which will force the lion hunts in the future to cost over \$100,000. Beware you have been told, go and get your lion while you can.

His weight was accurately approximated just over 600 pounds. A good thing that I have had a lot of training with bear hunting charges here in Alaska. These lions are by far more confident and fearless. They think that every thing that moves is food that belongs to them. It is just a matter of catching the food - they are definitely the King of the Jungle. This situation reminded me of a Tanzanian hunt back in the year 2000 when a lioness tried to grab me out of the jeep with another 4 cats circling us. I poked it with the barrel of the rifle, and almost shot it. The PH pleaded with me not to shoot, "too much paper work and red tape". These are memories we never forget, the hot sand of the Kalahari reflecting heat waves, like a soundless rolling ocean, waves crashing on the sand, the roar of the lion pride early in the morning, you can almost hear the drum beats orchestrating the rhythm of the roar, even though there are no drums around. If you hear this only once, you are then doomed and have become an addict to the way of the bushman and the hunt & the hunted. This hunt is not for the faint of heart. It is a test of will and sheer confidence to face your quarry at their level - point blank at close range. They have had hunters earlier in the season that did not see a cat. There are no guarantees but you only pay for what you harvest and injure.

For a rifle I used my old trusted 460 cal Weatherby with 400 grains Barns-X bullets, the shot distance was less than 19 yards. Enjoy the pictures. The area is near the Botswana border in South Af-

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SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL (SCI) ALASKA CHAPTER ANNOUNCES

2008 Military Appreciation Donations in Honor of Our Outstanding Alaskan Veterans

(1) All Military ID card holders: Free Raffle for a Weatherby vanguard Stainless .338 Rifle. Enter drawing during the 2008 SCI Auction on Friday, Feb. 22 at the Egan Center, Anchorage. Doors open at 5:30 PM and admission is free.

(2) Iraq/Afghanistan Theater Permanent Disabled Veterans could be eligible for these donated hunting/fishing prizes:

- 7 Day African Safari in Namibia for a hunter and observer, including trophy fees for 6 animals and airfare to and from Africa
- Bison hunt in Delta, Alaska
- Halibut fishing trip for two
- Eligible permanent disabled veterans must submit applications by Jan. 31, 2008. Winners announced Feb. 23, 2008. Details are provided at www.aksafariclub.org.

Questions, call Dave Wood, (907) 232-5706.





Christmas Party



The Ak Chapter celebrated the Christmas holiday season and wrapped up the year 2007 by recognizing the special contributions of our outstanding members at the newly remodeled Howard Johnson's in downtown Anchorage on December 15, 2007. Good food, good friends, guns given away and Gus Gillespie – the perfect recipe for a great evening. Members enjoyed halibut and beef tenderloin while club President Ron Haberman recognized individual members for their special achievements and outstanding contributions to the Ak Chapter in 2007.

Join us in congratulating the following members:

Roger Jorgensen took home Youth Hunter of the Year for all that he has done for the club and for his super year of hunting. Roger was instrumental making the Magazines for the Military drive happen last year.

Sue Holliday received the Diana Award for her contributions to the club and an excellent year of hunting, culminating with a magnificent leopard in Africa.

Conley Marcum received the Hunter of the Year award, recognizing his contribution as a life member and also acknowledging the more than 20 big game animals he took this year.

Terry Hegge received the President's Award for the countless hours of work and success he has brought to the club.

Russ Knight was awarded Outstanding Chapter Member, recognizing the enormous strides he has made managing the taxidermy competition and display at the annual fundraiser.

Terry Holliday was presented the new Gus Gillespie Crowning Achievement Award, acknowledging the many years of dedicated service and donations he has given to the Alaska Chapter.

Again this year, the annual gift exchange brought peals of laughter and hot competition

as gifts were traded up to three times, with alcohol and outdoor equipment being the most coveted items.

If you weren't there, here's a sample of what you missed: Maglights, Crown Royal, knives, Sportsman's Trivia game, candles, knives, Baileys, more Crown Royal, windproof butane lighters, more Crown Royal.... You get the idea – consumables were the most hotly traded items. The perennial plastic drum made its appearance again of course. It will reside with Bill Fisher, at least until next year's Christmas Party!

Pictures say it best, so enjoy—and plan to be there next year.





2008 Banquet and Fundraiser

PHOTO CONTEST

AWARD CATEGORIES:

People's Choice – Judge's choice
Winners Announced
Saturday Evening February 23, 2008

SIZE REQUIREMENTS:

Either 5x7 or 8x10

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Matted only. Name & phone number
must be on back of the photo.

PHOTO DROP OFF LOCATION:

Alaska Fur Exchange, corner of Tudor &
Old Seward, Anchorage

OR MAIL TO:

John O'Day
2224 Candy Place
Anchorage, Ak 99508

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

February 22, 2008

QUESTIONS:

Contact John O'Day
johnsoday@acsalaska.net or
admin@aksafariclub.org

*Attempts will be made to display all
photos, but space is limited. Photos
become property of AK Chapter SCI
and will not be returned.*

TAXIDERMISTRY EXHIBIT & CONTEST

All Members Welcome to Participate

If you have taken a trophy you would like to
have judged or displayed, this is your chance.

Every member that enters a mount to be
displayed will be entered in a drawing to win
prizes. Our judge this year is Mannie Chavez.

Now is the time to call your taxidermist and
urge him to make sure your mount gets entered
into the context. Taxidermists are eligible for
great prizes.

CONTACT:

Russell Knight to make arrangements. (907)
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with approx. size & description (free standing
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ENTRY DEADLINE:

February 21, 2008



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Barnes Bullets and the Mountain-Top Rams

by Jed B. Crabb

My range finder told me that the ram was 87 yards away. At that distance there was no hold under or hold over to compute. All I had to do was put the crosshairs on the vitals and gently squeeze the trigger. I was dressed in my white painter's suit that had been soaked in tea to give it a brownish yellow tint. There were a few jagged rocks to conceal my position, and four of the rams were oblivious to my presence. One of the rocks was an excellent gun rest, which was a blessing because I could see the crosshairs dance every time my heart thumped. The crosshairs were placed on the lung area just behind the shoulder. I took a deep breath, exhaled, and settled in for my shot. My finger caressed the trigger with all of the gentleness it deserved. I had dreamed about this moment so many times before, but could I make the otherwise simple shot with a heart racing like a Kentucky thoroughbred?

In the last edition of *The Alaskan Hunter*, I wrote about my first hunting experience with Barnes bullets when I hunted South Africa. It was the first time that I had taken animals with the Barnes Triple Shock X bullet, but not the first season that they had been stuffed into my rifle chamber while hunting. Moose eluded me in 2005, '06 and '07. In 2005, my two Adak caribou bulls were grounded with Nosler 140 grain Ballistic Tips in .270 Winchester. Two regal Dall rams dodged my bullets in both '05 and '06 (with a total of three hunting partners on those two trips each taking trophy rams). In 2006, a nice black bear fell victim to a single 180 grain Barnes TSX from my Remington Titanium .30-'06, but I also "fell" while attempting to retrieve the expired bear that had somersaulted it's way down a mountain. The only trophies that I obtained from the hunt were a cast for my broken ankle, a cast for my broken wrist, and a large bill from the hospital!!! So, the first Barnes TSX bullet I was able to retrieve from a downed animal was my gemsbok that I wrote about in the last issue. The story of the next recovered bullet follows.

When it comes to bullet selection, one must consider the primary quarry, the caliber of rifle, and the bullets that are available in that caliber. My extensive musing over the best all-around bullet for my .30-'06 was determined to be the 180 grain Barnes TSX. So when it came time to plan for the '07 sheep hunt, I made sure that I had plenty of hand-loaded 180 TSX's on hand. While discussing sheep hunt-

ing opportunities with newfound sheep fanatic friends, Jason Werre and Matthew Edmondson, I convinced them to tag along with me to a super secret spot (as all sheep areas are) with plenty of rams for all...at least I prayed that it to be so. Preparations were made, packs were



minimized for the hike in, toothbrushes were cut in half, but there was no leaving behind the Wint-O-Mint lifesavers! Our departure for the super secret spot was two days prior to opening day, August 8th. We drove to the trailhead that we would use, took ATVs about 13 miles in, and were astonished to find a multitude of people in our area! We had seen a few ewes, lambs, and sub-legal rams on the way in, which really excited our senses, but the sight of multiple hunters took our wind out. And since Matt had left our topographic maps in his garage, we didn't know where to go or what to do. So in the words of Clint Eastwood, we had to improvise, adapt, and overcome. We soon located a suitable spot for a base camp and pitched our tents in hopes of legal rams being nearby. I attempted to sleep that night but visions of hunters chasing my ram away haunted me throughout the night. Jason had a fitful sleep that night too, but that was because he forgot his sleeping bag and had to curl up in his ATV cover. First light meant that it was time to embark on the climb up the hill to establish a spike camp. Since we had no knowledge of what lay behind the ridge above camp, we decided that we would only pack for a three day reconnoiter trip, in order to be more mobile in case of forced relocation.

The climb to the top of the ridge line, where we had spotted a group of about 15 sheep, proved to be an arduous journey. But we soon found an ample water supply and a semi-flat knob on which to make our spike camp. Jason insisted that we drop our heavy packs, grab our daypacks, and immediately head out in search of three 40" rams. Matt was first to submit to Jason's demand so I naturally decided that I had to go too. It wasn't long until we had sheep in our binoculars though. We spotted two bands of rams, one of 7 and one of 9, with a couple of them appearing to be legal. The sun was deserting the day so we returned to spike camp for a much needed rest. For me, the night

was just as restless as the night before, but the sun peeked into our tents soon enough. This was the signal that sheep season had officially started. We rose on opening day with energy to spare!

Our packs were already loaded and ready for the day, so Jason, Matt, and I departed camp, scrambled up to the top of the ridge line, and instantly located sheep. Nothing legal in sight this time so we continued down the spine of the mountain. We crested a small rise and more sheep came into view. There were four rams laying down chewing their cud, and about ten ewes and lambs grazing in various spots on the mountaintop. We decided that only two of us should attempt a stalk, and since I had yet to harvest a ram my partners were generous enough to let me have first dibs. So, Jason and I suited up in our white painter's suits and crept closer to the bedded rams. At just over 200 yards away, we sat and glassed the rams. Jason





was about 80% confident that one ram was legal, and I knew that the largest ram's left horn was longer than his right. Unable to certify the legality, I decided to walk across a wide-open bowl to see if I could get closer. Hunkered down, I managed to not draw attention to myself except for a young ram spotting me and getting nervous. He tried to alarm the bedded rams but they didn't seem to care much. I got into position behind some rocks and settled in for the shot. Heart racing, thoughts of my two previous missed rams, and the taste of fresh back strap cooked over a fire on my mind, I put the crosshairs on the ram. Smoothly compressing the trigger, my '06 roared, and the ram fell. Success at last! The ram slid a good distance down the slope but it wasn't too long before the three of us had the ram in our packs and back on top of the ridge line.

On the way back to spike camp, Matt and Jason detoured from the trail to glass another portion of the valley. I sat and watched them glass for a good half-hour and then they dropped down into the valley. Proceeding on to camp alone, I stopped high on the ridge to rest and soon spotted Matt and Jason sitting about 200 yards from a band of 7 rams. Another half-hour passed when a rifle shot broke the silence and echoed down the valley. Another ram had fallen to one of Matt's 250-grain Barnes X bullets from his .338 Win Mag. Two rams on opening day, what luck! I trudged on to camp and started preparing hot water for meals and just before dark Matt and Jason returned to camp. After a Mountain House meal and a good night's sleep, except for Jason tossing and turning without a sleeping bag, we returned to the field dressed ram. As Matt and Jason reached the ram, I was lagging a good 50 yards behind. I was looking at the ground as I walked and something foreign caught my attention. Bending down to retrieve the object, I realized it was a mushroomed bullet. It happened to be a 250-grain Barnes X with a diameter of .338"!!! I held the bullet up and yelled at Matt, "Hey, here is your bullet!" We couldn't believe the odds of harvesting two rams on opening day, much less finding Matt's fatal bullet 50 yards from where his ram lay!

For the next couple of days, Jason hiked and climbed and glassed and searched for the ram that he wanted but to no avail. He did have the opportunity to take a ram at the same time Matt took his, but he chose to wait. With all the sheep in the area spooked by now, we decided to pack it in and head down to base camp. I got lucky and only had to carry the two skulls; the other fellas got to carry all the meat. Sometimes it is nice to be the smartest one of the group!

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Email: cpmlaw@mtaonline.net

Website: www.chadwickmcgrady.com

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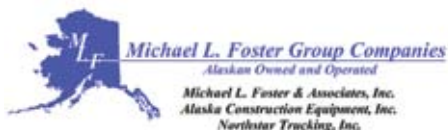


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| Milton Hummer | Harold Sharp |
| Scott Hebertson | Jeff Spencer |
| Marvin Herbst | Gereh Stillman |
| Terry Holliday | Jay Walker |
| Maurice Johnson | Phil Williams |
| Brad Jorgensen | |

New Chapter Members

Tim Godfrey • Wesley Davis • Julian Jensen

Alaska Chapter SCI Governmental Affairs Report

As most hunters and SCI members know, the environmental movement has little to do with conservation and much to do with forging government policies that control people's lives. That is as long as the State is following their personal view of the world. It wasn't always that way, and in fact most of the founders of the conservation movement in America were in fact concerned with the environment. The difference is they were avid anglers and hunters, consequently their efforts were directed toward

management policies that allowed for sustainable human use.

Currently the environmental/animal rights community is once again pushing their agenda upon what they hope is an unsuspecting and apathetic public. From the ballot measure to take away professional management of predator/prey populations to listing polar bears, the environmental community's efforts are, as usual, based on emotion and a less than honest approach

based on actual factual scientific data.

As a member of the State's leading advocate for outdoors men and women, the Alaska Outdoor Council, we believe the following article by AOC Executive Director, Rod Arno, gives a good view of where we anglers and hunters stand in relation to those who claim to be conservationists, but who generally spend their time and resources on controlling others lives, rather than supporting true conservation initiatives.

Which Side Are You On?

By Rod Arno, Executive Director, Alaska Outdoor Council

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Defenders of Wildlife and their friends Alaskan voters next summer will again have to choose whether using aerial shooting to manage predator and prey numbers is an acceptable practice. "Ballot Box Biology" is on the table again. Recent statewide polls suggest that most Alaskan voters have already chosen which side of the debate they favor. Less than five percent of those polled had no opinion regarding aerial predator management.

So what are people making their decision on when they choose to vote on an initiative to ban the practice of aerial shooting to reduce predation? Either they are Alaskans who actually understand the effectiveness of aerial predator reduction, or they believe what critics of aerial predator control are telling them about the practice.

In an attempt to sway voter opinion anti-game management advocacy groups continually cry "aerial predator reduction is unethical, unsportsmanlike, and not fair chase hunting" in all their media blitzes. Pro-game management organizations maintain that aerial predator reduction in many cases is by far the most effective tool for increasing the survival rates of depressed populations of

moose, caribou, and Dall sheep in Alaska. It doesn't have anything to do with sport hunting, "fair chase" or hunters' ethics. Those are not valid criteria by which to judge management of predator/prey systems.

Most environmental organizations question the practice of managing wildlife for human consumptive use. Instead they say "let nature balance itself". They contend that it is just fine if all wildlife populations remain at low levels indefinitely. Pro-consumptive use advocates say "wildlife is a renewable resource" that should be managed for human use on a sustained yield basis.

So how do Alaskan voters choose which side of the "wildlife management" debate to be on? Advocates on both sides know perfectly well that banning the most effective method for reducing predation renders "big game management" just so many words.

Alaska has been the proving ground for what noted conservation speaker Shane Mahoney calls the "North American Model for Wildlife Conservation" – which has worked for over 100 years. This approach to conserving wildlife and their habitats is dependent on providing continued hunting opportunities. These opportunities have been provided

under state laws which provide for game management including effective predator/prey management. History has shown that this conservation model works; neither side in this debate can deny that fact.

To support "ballot box biology" undermines what Mahoney explained has worked so well for North American conservation.

Predator/prey management allows those Alaskans who choose to hunt to continue their practice of being active participants in wildlife conservation -- without diminishing the health of the wildlife resources. It is unfortunate that anti-hunting and anti-management advocacy groups continue to waste everyone's time and money battling over "which side are we on" in the voter initiative process when we should all share the same goal of wildlife conservation.

Please vote to defeat the latest proposed ban, Ballot Measure 8, on aerial predator management during next year's Primary election. Instead of promoting further divisive initiatives let's work together to sustain robust wildlife populations and the habitats upon which they depend.

Upcoming
SCI EVENTS
2007-08

Safari Planning Seminar (TBA)
Call 689-7629, leave your name & number

**2008 Annual Fundraiser
& Sportsman's Banquet**
February 22 & 23, 2008
Egan Center - Anchorage
(See page 7 for ticket info.)

Alaska Chapter Membership Meeting
March 19, 2008
Snow Goose Restaurant - Anchorage
No-host bar, Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

April Trophy Room Tour (TBA)
Hosted by Kurt Norby

May Chapter Annual Meeting (TBA)



Events
AROUND TOWN

Great Alaska Sportsmen's Show
April 3-6, 2008
Sullivan Arena - Anchorage



For more info or to volunteer with local events
listed above, email or call Susan
907-689-7629
admin@aksafariclub.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alaska Chapter SCI
PO Box 770511
Eagle River, AK 99577
Admin Support (907) 689-7629
Announcements (907) 689-7698
admin@aksafariclub.org

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The Alaskan Hunter
P.O. Box 770511
Eagle River, AK 99577



Alaska's Wildlife Needs You! Join Up Now!

The banquet committee is gearing up for the 2008 Alaska Chapter SCI Sportsman's Show and Banquet. We need volunteers to help us make the 2008 Banquet the best ever. And now, we are giving you more reasons to volunteer.

All non-board members who secure donations for the fundraiser will be eligible for prizes. Members who bring in the highest dollar total dollar value in donations by January 31, 2008 could win the following:

- \$1000 in raffle tickets at the 2008 fundraiser for the highest total dollar value in donations
- \$500 in raffle tickets at the 2008 fundraiser for the second highest total dollar value in donations
- \$250 in raffle tickets at the 2008 fundraiser for the third highest total dollar value in donations

Getting donations is fun, and easier than you might think!

For donation forms, ideas, or assistance contact

Eddie Grasser at (907) 841-0358.