

# The Alaskan Hunter

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Read about this issue's cover photo on page 4





## President's Message

I was recently honored to be re-elected as President for the SCI-Alaska Chapter. I am humbled by the faith and trust you have placed in me to lead our organization over the next year. This last year has been a season of change for SCI-AK, and I mean big changes.

Several of our key Board members left the SCI-AK leadership team to take influential leadership positions with the State of Alaska. Former SCI-AK Board member Doug Vincent-Lang was selected by Governor Mike Dunleavy to be the new Commissioner at the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G). Accompanying him was former SCI-AK Board member Ben Mulligan, who is now the Deputy Commissioner of ADF&G. Former SCI Vice President and SCI-AK patriarch Eddie Grasser was selected to be Director for the Division of Wildlife Conservation. Although their presence will be missed at SCI-AK, it is comforting to know that people of their caliber and mindset (in regard to hunting and wildlife conservation), are leading the ADF&G. Many thanks to Doug, Ben, and Eddie for their many years of service in support of the SCI and SCI-AK mission in Alaska.

Another big change this year was the retirement of our longtime SCI-AK bookkeeper and Administrator, Susan Grasser. Susan has devoted many years of her life in support of the SCI and SCI-AK mission. Her presence will be missed.

I am excited to inform our membership that former SCI-AK board member Louis Cusack was hired by the SCI-AK board to serve as the Executive Director for our daily operations. Those that know Louis are aware that we have a real "Racehorse" on our team. His energy, enthusiasm, and skillset have resulted in many positive changes for SCI-AK, with many more great things to come. If there was ever a time to be a member of SCI-AK, it is now.

SCI-Alaska Chapter is one of the most successful SCI Chapters in the world fighting to promote "Hunter Advocacy", "Wildlife Conservation", "Outdoor Education", and "Humanitarian Efforts". SCI has over 50,000 members and roughly 180 chapters throughout the world. In short, our influence and efforts are global. I encourage you to join SCI today, engage in our mission, and become part of a global team that is committed towards a better tomorrow for wildlife and our hunting heritage.

Best Regards and Good Hunting!

Jeff Garness  
President, AK Chapter SCI

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## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter Issue - December 31 • Spring Issue - March 31  
Summer Issue - June 30 • Fall Issue - September 30

The Alaska Chapter SCI is organized as under IRS rules as a non-profit 501(c)(4) and membership dues and donations made to AK Chapter SCI are not tax deductible. The SCI Foundation is a non-profit organized under IRS rules 501(c)(3) and donations made to the Foundation are tax deductible. Donors should consult their tax advisors before taking deductions.

## 2019 NEW MEMBERSHIP\* SPECIAL *Now is a great time to ask your friends and neighbors to join!*

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International (1 year)	\$90	\$10	<b>\$100</b>

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\* A **New Member** is anyone who has never been a member of SCI before or whose membership has been inactive for more than 12 months. All membership prices listed are for US, Canada and Mexico residents only.

\*\* To join the Alaska Chapter, you must be a member of National SCI. You may be a member of more than one chapter but you will need to indicate which chapter is to be "primary". Dues payment is not tax deductible. Membership will automatically renew at end of term. Membership fees are subject to change and your auto renewal will be processed at the then-current rate.  
To cancel contact Safari Club International, 4800 W Gates Pass Rd, Tucson, AZ 85745.  
Phone: 520-620-1220. [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org)

SCI Alaska Chapter now has a feature that will allow you to receive our newsletter electronically. Simply send an email to [admin@aksafariclub.org](mailto:admin@aksafariclub.org) with "OPT OUT OF PAPER" in the title.  
Or, if you're receiving more than one copy of *The Alaskan Hunter* at your household, please contact [admin@aksafariclub.org](mailto:admin@aksafariclub.org).

## On the cover

SCI Life Member Frank Noska took this Dall sheep with his bow in 2014. The sheep was taken in the Talkeetna Mountains and scored 155 7/8" net. It would be hard to find a bowhunter as accomplished as Frank Noska. Just shy of 53, Frank has harvested 159 Pope and Young animals, about 22 of which also make the Boone and Crockett Awards or All Time Record Books. In 2018, Frank completed his second Archery Super Slam of North American Big Game—10 years after completing his first and his Archery Grand Slam of Sheep. He's an official measurer for both the Boone and Crockett Club and the Pope and Young Club, and holds lifetime memberships with the NRA, SCI, Grand Slam Club/Orvis, Wild Sheep Foundation, and the Alaskan Bowhunters Association.

Born in Garland, Texas, Frank learned to bowhunt by chasing deer, turkey, and javelina throughout the Lone Star state. As he grew, Frank started venturing west to hunt elk, antelope, and mule deer, broadening his bow hunting horizons by targeting different species of North American big game every chance he got. When he had the opportunity to move to Alaska about 15 years ago, he never looked back—the move to Alaska only increased Frank's chances for more adventurous, DIY bowhunting opportunities, and Frank has taken full advantage of each one that has come his way.

## SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL INTRODUCES HUNTER ADVOCACY ACTION CENTER & TEXT ALERT TOOL

Safari Club International, the leader in the defense of wildlife management, conservation and hunting access on public land, is excited to announce the SCI Hunter Advocacy Action Center, a new service to engage hunters in the ongoing effort to protect their freedom to pursue their passion. This text alert system sends alerts directly to a participant's mobile phone to make them aware of issues that may affect management, conservation, and hunting access on public land, plus national legislative issues, with links to take direct action.

"This cutting edge service will help hunters mobilize against the forces that may seek to curtail their freedom to hunt through reducing public land access, altering scientific-based wildlife management policy or introducing legislation negatively affecting sound conservation policy," says Benjamin Cassidy, Director of Government Affairs for SCI. "Individuals who register by texting 'SCI' to 73075 will not only receive alerts, but will receive instructions and links to take action on issues that directly affect them."

The SCI Hunter Advocacy Center on [safariclub.org](http://safariclub.org) maintains an up-to-the-minute list of issues that users can register to receive alerts about, or they can **simply text "SCI" to 73075** and be notified based on their area code (rates may apply). Users who have an area code not related to their residence are encouraged to click the acknowledgement link and complete their registration with an address so they receive relevant alerts. The system will service the United States and Canada. Visit [safariclub.org/hunter-advocacy-action-center](http://safariclub.org/hunter-advocacy-action-center) to view issues SCI is currently monitoring and register to receive alerts.

Safari Club International is the only pro-hunting organization with an office in Washington, D.C. that has full-time policy experts, in-house legal counsel and expert staff dedicated to protecting hunting everywhere. SCI monitors, evaluates and lobbies on federal, state, local and international legislation impacting hunting, hunters and wildlife conservation, ensuring that hunting interests are at the forefront when important bills come up by building relationships with Congressional and state leaders.



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# The Waiting Game

BY PAUL D. ATKINS



The buck stood looking at us, even though we were careful not to make too much noise. It was the closest we had been to him all week and at 100 yards he looked even bigger than he did when we had caught him in the Alfalfa a couple of times. As we set up the sticks for the shot, Brad, my good friend and owner of the land we were hunting on, coached me through it. The buck however, decided he had had enough, was getting ready to bolt. It was now or never.

I love Colorado and I love Mule Deer. After living in Alaska for the last 20 years you'd think that my favorite to hunt would be for moose, caribou and grizzly, and it is, but there is nothing like chasing big mule deer bucks. They truly are amazing and my favorite of all big game. Ever since I was kid traipsing with my father across the west, while he chased these guys, I have been enthralled by them. Why? I don't know. It's a combination of things, I think. The country for one. There is something truly special about the west and its wide open spaces. The smell of sage and low-lying scrub

combined with the mountains and cool fall weather that make it a special. Many feel the same I know, but I absolutely love it.

It also as a lot to do with the people who you get to hunt with and the scenario that follows. I've shared a lot of hunting camps and have had plenty of experience with hunters from all over the country. Many come to Alaska to hunt with me and the adventures have been endless. Some have been great, some not so much. My buddy Brad Hart though, is one of the good ones. I've hunted with him four times now and each has been a success. Not that we've gotten an animal every time, but we've had a great time hunting together. That is the difference and for me, especially these days, is really what it's all about. Some people get fixated on whether they are successful or not when it comes to killing an animal and if they don't, most times they feel like it was a bust, not me. I love the adventure, sharing time with other hunters and being able to tell a good story when it's all done.

Last, but not least is the deer themselves. Colorado mule deer and mule deer hunting are legendary, especially during mid-November when the rut is starting to kick in. Bucks are starting to make the rounds and seeing different bucks, who literally show up out of nowhere is like Christmas. It truly makes for a special hunt.

This past November was one of those special times in Colorful Colorado. August through October had been pretty much uneventful here in Alaska. Moose were non-existent, and the Caribou migrated later than usual, and really didn't show up until the bull season was closed. There was however, plenty of bears, but I missed on big bruin and didn't get a second shot. So I was really looking forward to heading south to Grand Junction to fill my tag. It's a long flight with multiple layovers, but once I was there with a week to hunt, I knew it would be worth it.

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# The Waiting Game

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I've hunted the Hart ranch before. Back in 2008 was my first trip and after a long week in not the best conditions I was able to take a freak buck that was still in velvet. Two years later I drew the tag again and couldn't wait to get back to the high country. I again scored on a tall, deep forked buck on the last day. It was special both times and something that truly took hold of my soul and made me fall in love with the place.

The Hart Ranch is a cattle ranch and after growing up a ranch in Oklahoma, I felt like I was home. One of the cool things is that life doesn't stop on a ranch. Things have to be done and the ability to see those activities and also participate while I was there made it even more invigorating. We worked cattle, preg checked and doctored hundreds cows, we sorted, loaded, hayed and did all the things you do on a ranch of this size and it was as big a part of the experience as anything else. We hunted too, but primarily the mornings and evenings, with the rest of the time spent with cows and the country itself. It was a blast.

Our first day hunting was spent looking. Brad knows every inch of the ranch and like times before, we searched in hopes of finding the right deer. Finding deer or more specifically bucks isn't hard. Each day you'll see different deer that have ventured in from who knows where in search of serviceable does. With plenty of does on the place, we knew it wouldn't be long before we had horns. And that is just what happened.

The first morning out we were glassing a small field and saw two bucks cruising across towards us like they were on a mission. The first of the two was a big bodied older buck, and the second, a



*The center point of any good hunting spot is camp, or in this case the lodge. Brad's place is an old homestead complete with log barns and sheds and this bunkhouse. It sleeps plenty and is perfect for telling stories about hunts long spent.*

younger buck, dark in color, but carrying a more impressive set of head gear. Brad said that's a shooter. The problem was he wasn't in the right spot, so all we could do was watch as he exited onto another ranch and out of reach. But we knew he would be back and with a week of hunting in front of us we knew there was a great chance at seeing him again.

The second day we hunted the fields in front of the lodge where I was staying. Brad's place is old, where ranching and hunting has been a mainstay and goes way back. In the middle of the ranch is an old homestead and like many old places such as this, it's pretty incredible. Old log type buildings adorn the place, with a variety of barns and sheds, and one giant lodge or bunkhouse that Brad has turned into his hunting headquarters. It sleeps several, with a wood stove and all the necessities that a hunter dreams about. It faces the field and pastures that lead up into the mountains and on any given morning or evening the land is full of deer, elk and turkeys. It's almost picture perfect in everyway. Maybe that's why I love being there.

It was the second morning when we spotted a buck feeding in one of the Alfalfa fields that Brad has carefully

plotted on his place. It was full of deer and this buck just appeared one morning. We took a drive and got close, but not too close. Stopping the truck, we broke out the spotting scope and had a look. He was wide, but his forks weren't too deep. We didn't see any eye guards, but man was he wide! Now, everyone that hunts mule deer has their preferences. Some like bucks that score well, some are looking for deep forks and tall, while others look for that gnarly non-typical guy that has points going in every direction. As for me I just wanted a big deer, but to be honest I had always dreamed of taking a buck reaching that mythical 30-inch wide range. This guy was close, but we couldn't really tell from that distance. We put him on the list.

They say to never pass up a deer you would shoot the last day or something like that. We had seen two bucks that I would shoot, but it was only the second day, with five more to go, so we kept passing and kept looking. We searched throughout the next day and eventually ran into a 4x2 deer right at dark. He was a monster, but like all big muleys, he kept his distance and only worked the fence line that separated Brad's ranch and the adjacent one. All we could do was watch.

Eventually we ran into the young big horned buck we had seen the first morning. He was in a sage flat accompanied by 20 of his girlfriends, giving him plenty of reasons to stay there. The problem was, there was very little cover and the big guy had an easy escape route via a fence. It was almost impossible to make a stalk. Not to be dissuaded we concentrated all our efforts on this deer anyway, but whatever we did he seemed to have a better plan and avoided us each time we tried to get close. Too many eyes and just not enough places for us to hide to made it tough. All we could do was hope he would venture into new country.

At this point my mind kept drifting back to the wide buck in the Alfalfa and with only a couple days left before I had to leave, I knew we would have to make some decisions and come up with a plan. I told Brad that we needed go find that buck.

I love making a plan when it comes to pursuing big game. Whether it's working the river trying to get close to that big moose in the willows or getting within bow range of a giant bear that is devouring a fish not far from where you're standing, they all have promise. It was like this with this deer. We decided we would look for him early the next morning. It would be a slam dunk after all right? He had been in the field everyday surrounded by smaller bucks and a hoard of does and turkeys. Brad's place is loaded with hundreds, if not thousands of Rio's, not to mention a mountain lion or two.

We made it to the field and to our surprise he wasn't there, matter of fact it was empty of all wildlife, but why? A front had moved in the evening before, light rain and some snow, but that shouldn't have effected the deer. We then thought that maybe one of those lions had come in and had lunch, it was hard to figure out. All

we knew was he was gone, leaving me to think that I shouldn't have passed on him the first time.

Brad assured me he would be back, but with little time left I started getting a little antsy. It had been a perfect week and we had seen so many deer and good bucks too. We also worked cattle, had a great time at the lodge, and got to hang out with friends, but all I could think about was that buck. Maybe tomorrow I thought. The next morning the same thing happened, nothing in the fields and even the young buck we had been pursuing earlier had vanished leaving only a herd of does in the sage. It was like they all just disappeared.

That afternoon Brad and I loaded up in the truck and decided to drive the entire property, hoping to see something. We made our rounds, coming to a hill that overlooks a creek and the entire property to the south. We glassed for a bit when I picked up movement in a group of trees that

separated the creek from the infamous Alfalfa field. At first, I thought it might have been more of those damn turkeys, but after closer inspection I could see it was deer. And my buck was with them!

It was a perfect spot to make a stalk. Separated by the creek and with wind in our favor, all we had to do was drive down and get out and walk to a small tree lined hill, then pop over and make the shot. Easy right? I could feel that old familiar feeling that most hunters get when the moment of truth arrives. If you hunt, then you know the feeling, right? Most do and is probably the reason we love hunting so much.

I grabbed the 300 Winchester Short Mag, loaded with 168-Noslers and took off following Brad across the creek. We had to traverse a large Cottonwood tree to get started, which took some careful attention. Once across we hurried through the

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*Hunting together with a good friend after a week of searching and then to have a plan come together is what hunting is all about. I look forward to more days afield in Colorado with hunting partners such as Brad.*



## The Waiting Game

*continued from previous page*

flat and came to the hill. The buck and whatever other deer should just be on the other side. We eased up, when a doe to our right saw us. I thought it was over, but she just stood and watched. Luckily to our left stood the buck looking in our direction. Brad handed me the Bog pod and I quickly set it up on the rocky terrain. Problem was I had a tree directly in front of me. With the buck getting ready to bolt, I clicked off the double safety and pushed the rifle slightly to the right. The buck had had enough was getting ready to go when I felt the rifle slam into my shoulder. The buck swirled and was gone into the trees. Did I miss or was it a bad shot? I wasn't sure, but it didn't take long to know as Brad grabbed me by the arm telling me great shot!

Shaking nervously, I rounded the trees where the buck disappeared and there he was. I was in total awe and talk about zero ground shrinkage! This guy was a lot heavier than we thought and he did have eye guards after all, small and up further than most, but he did have them. I was elated, but even more so when we put a tape to him. 30-inches wide on the button. I had my 30-inch buck.

Taking that deer after waiting all week and spending time with a great friend on his ranch made for the perfect hunt and to be honest is one of the highlights and greatest thrills of my hunting career. It is something I will never forget.

*Paul Atkins is an outdoor writer and author from Kotzebue, Alaska. He has written hundreds of articles on big game hunting, and fishing throughout North America and Africa, plus surviving in the Arctic.*



*I couldn't be more excited and grateful for this deer. We hunted all week, had fun and then to end up with this guy made it perfect. Hunts are more than bringing home a dead animal, memories are made and to share it with good friends is icing on the cake.*

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The advertisement features a man in a cowboy hat and a red shirt, holding a microphone. In the background, there are logos for 'MOUNTAIN STATES PRO RODEO CIRCUIT' and 'GOLD CARD MEMBER'. Text on the image includes 'Les F. Ohlhauser', 'Professional Rodeo Announcer &amp; Auctioneer', '4555 York Street', 'Denver, CO 80216', 'off: (303) 391-6451', 'toll-free: (800) 346-8702 ext 451', 'Work em: Les.Ohlhauser@purina.nestle.com', and 'Over 50 Years Experience in Professional Rodeo!'.



# SCI Alaska Chapter Supports a Winning Team



The Borealis Bullseyes attended the 2019 National Three Position Air Rifle Championships this past summer at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, Ohio from July 11 - 17. Qualification for the championship consisted of competition at the state and regional levels and either winning the match or scoring above the cutoff score. The Borealis Bullseyes won state championships, placed fourth at the Western Region Championship with a combined score of 4584, 258x and qualified one team for nationals. Kim Jettenberg placed first as an individual scoring 1175, 87x. Grace Fernandez was awarded Distinguished Air Rifle Shooter Badge #1416. To receive the badge, a shooter must earn 30 EIC credit points in designated competitions and score very well. It is not an easy task.

The national travel team consisted of Grace Fernandez, Kimberly Jettenberg, Wrangle Kruckenberg, Michael Stoddard and Matteo Yoon who was the alternate and competed as an individual. Head Coach Scott Henderson accompanied the team along with his wife, Joey Jigliotti.

Day one at the 2019 National Three Position Air Rifle Championships sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) was the National Junior Olympic 3PAR Championship. Borealis Bullseyes finished in sixth place with a score of 2328, 147x (only 13 points away from the first place team).

Day 2 at the CMP National Championship Borealis Bullseyes placed eighth with a score of 2334, 154x, 16 points off the lead. Kim Jettenberg made it into the final and ended up in seventh place overall. The competition was fierce and the scores very high.

See all results at <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&tab=results&match=18227>

What little free time the group had was spent enjoying the water of Lake Erie and the tourist and historical attractions of Put-In-Bay on South Bass Island.

Kim Jettenberg and Michael Stoddard have graduated out of our program. Going into next season we will have a core of competitors in Grace, Wrangle, Matteo and Darin Hanley.

The Borealis Bullseyes club and traveling team members are extremely grateful for the generous grant made by the Alaska Chapter SCI toward the team's travel expenses. Funds dedicated for travel expenses totaled \$6000.00. Team members paid their air travel expenses using mileage and companion fares and the dedicated funds paid for hotel rooms, car rental and fuel.

Thank you so much for your generous contribution of \$2500.00 (ck# 2620). This letter will serve as a formal acknowledgment for federal tax purposes that you made this gift on June 28, 2019. You received no goods or services in exchange for this gift. We greatly appreciate your support of and involvement in our club activities. The Borealis Bullseyes Shooting Club is an Anchorage District 4H Club and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our EIN is 05-0542148.

*—Marshel Reed, President & 4-H Rifle Leader*



*Team members must shoot in 3 positions: standing, kneeling and prone.*



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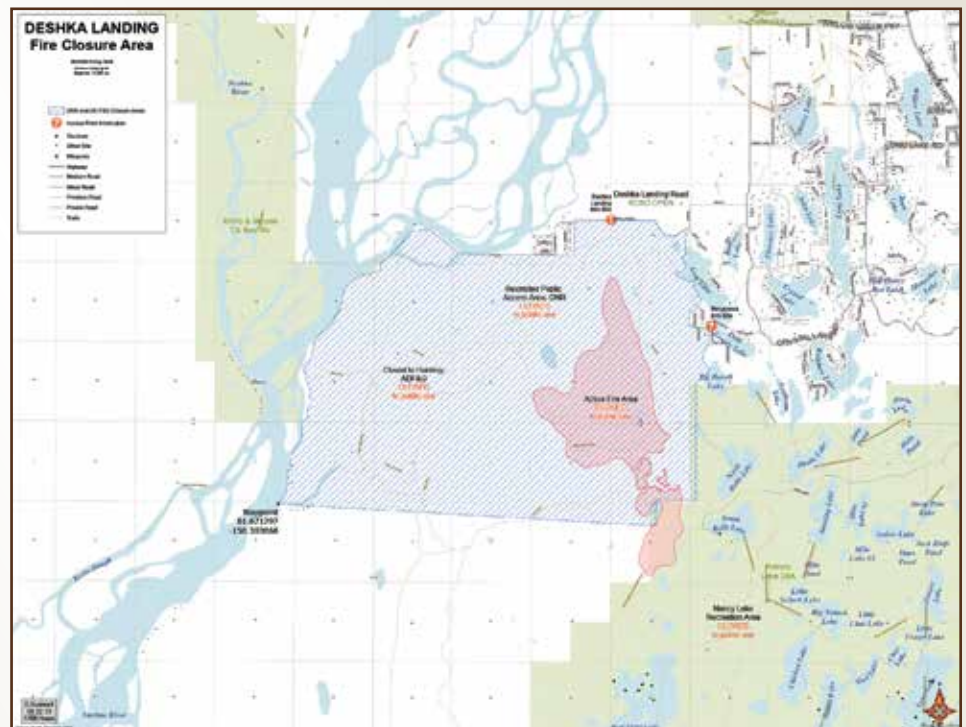
# ADF&G Closes Unit 14A Due to Deshka Landing Fire

Due to the location of the Deshka Landing Fire and related firefighting activity, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has closed a portion of Game Management Unit 14A to hunting and the Department of Natural Resources has restricted all public access to State lands in the same area. The two agencies issued the closures under their respective authorities limiting hunting and access to the Willow Swamp area and the immediate vicinity effective today, Friday August 23, 2019.

The Willow Swamp is a popular hunting area and moose hunting season in the area is scheduled to open on Sunday, August 25.

The Willow Swamp is located in the middle of the 2,217-acre Deshka Landing Fire burning west of Nancy Lake Recreation Area near Willow. There are currently more than 150 firefighting personnel working to contain and suppress the fire, which started on August 17. State Forester Chris Maisch has determined that allowing hunters in the area could pose a safety hazard to both the public and firefighting personnel and due to record dry conditions increase fire risk. At his recommendation and because firefighter and public safety are the number one priority when it comes to fighting wildfires, ADF&G issued an emergency order. Alaska State Parks closed Nancy Lake Recreation Area to public access earlier this week.

The two orders will remain in effect until fire suppression activities are completed and the closures are rescinded. The closures apply to the



following area:

*Unit 14(A), that portion north of 61.671297, -150.303068 (Decimal Degree System) on the east bank of the Susitna River directly east to the western boundary of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, west of the western boundary of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area to the western shoreline of Big Darrell Lake, then to and along the western shoreline of Vera Lake to Deshka Landing Road, south of the South side of Deshka Landing road from Vera Lake, continuing around the south side of the developed Deshka Landing properties and west to the Susitna River, and east of the east bank of the Susitna River to waypoint 61.671297, -150.303068 (Decimal Degree System) on the east bank of the Susitna River.*

While the Division of Forestry and Department of Fish and Game recognize

that this restriction poses an inconvenience to the public, both agencies request that hunters and other members of the public adhere to the access restrictions to allow firefighters to do their job containing and suppressing the Deshka Landing Fire. Violations of this closure may be prosecuted pursuant to AS 41.15.140.

## CONTACT:

Tim Mowry, Division of Forestry Public Information Officer, 907-356-5512  
tim.mowry@alaska.gov.

Gino Del Frate, 907-861-2123,  
gino.delfrate@alaska.gov

## STAY CONNECTED:

- DNR Newsroom: [www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr\\_newsroom.htm](http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm)
- DNR on Social Media: [www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social\\_media.htm](http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social_media.htm)

## PASSING THE TORCH

# Susan Grasser Retires



As many of you know, one of the icons of SCI Alaska Chapter, Susan Grasser, retired recently and we would all like to wish her a Happy Retirement.

Susan first came to Alaska in 1979 and moved to Alaska permanently a few years later when she finished college and got her degree in accounting. She worked various jobs before going to work for the Alaska Department of Revenue as an auditor, where she served for 23 years, retiring from her first career in 2005.

In 2007 she created a small bookkeeping business and began working with SCI Alaska Chapter, providing bookkeeping and other administrative services for the last 12 years.

Susan is a life member of SCI, Sables and SCI Alaska Chapter. She has been a leading volunteer for the Chapter for many years manning the State Fair booth and the booth at the Great Alaska Sportsman's Show as well as assisting at membership meetings and working at special events like the Juneau Fly-in.

As many of us know, Susan has been a work horse behind the details and she has been a key contributor to the success of our annual banquets. Susan has helped and supported the SCI National convention on many occasions, volunteering for the Sables lady's luncheon for many years. She has also contributed several times during work week at the American Wilderness Leadership School.

She is an avid outdoorswoman spending many hours hiking, fishing and flying. As a pilot with her own plane, Susan flew all over Alaska, from the far northern reaches of the state to southeast Alaska. Susan met her husband, Eddie, at a fly-in pancake breakfast in Palmer and their first date was a plane trip to McCarthy in Susan's plane. She has hunted at home here in Alaska and traveled to New Zealand to hunt red stag.

We here at SCI Alaska Chapter can't thank Susan enough for her years of support and dedication. Best of luck in your retirement, Susan. We just hope we can do justice to the legacy you leave. We look forward to seeing you enjoy the opportunity to sit back and enjoy our banquet.

Congratulations, Susan! It's our turn to do the work!

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# BOARD MEMBER BIOS

## David Garganta



In 1970, at the age of 10, Dave Garganta moved to Alaska with his family from Florida. He graduated from Chugiak High School in 1979, joined the Alaska Air National Guard in August 1980 and spent the next 38 years in service to his country.

He is an Alaska registered guide and outfitter of over 27 years and has hunted, fished and trapped all corners of Alaska from Southeast to the Arctic, the Alaska Peninsula to the Interior.

When he is not hunting, guiding or fishing in Alaska, he enjoys traveling to hunt in other states and countries. His travels include Oregon, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Argentina and New Zealand.

Dave is a lifetime member of SCI, SCI Alaska Chapter, NRA, Boone & Crockett and the Veterans of Foreign Wars association.

Dave's passion for hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife conservation is a great fit for our organization.

## Jonathan Heitman



Jonathan Heitman is a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage working towards his Bachelor's of Business Administration in Economics.

He began shooting at age four and has continued to progress in his marksmanship for the past 13 years. He began with his father's Ruger 10/22, moved to a Weatherby youth model .308 and now uses his father's Weatherby .300 magnum. When he was eight years old, he began shooting trap and skeet with a Weatherby youth model 20 gauge.

Jonathan has been a hunter for the past ten years of his life, and has hunted around the world from Alaska to Zimbabwe. His first hunt was the mountains of Kodiak Island and Afognak Island, hunting for Sitka Blacktail Deer. He also hunted in the Missouri

forests on his uncle's land for White-tail deer and in the Gila National Forest of New Mexico for Rocky Mountain Elk. His most memorable hunt however was in Zimbabwe's Savé Conservancy. While in Zimbabwe, at age 11, he harvested a Waterbuck that ranks in the silver-class of the SCI Record books. He also harvested Wildebeest, Impala, and Zebra.

This summer he attended the American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) sponsored by the Alaska Chapter of SCI. There he learned the importance of advocacy for hunters and hunting in its entirety. He also learned the importance of the hunter, not only in conservation, but in the modern economy of the U.S. and the world abroad. He hopes to use that knowledge to attract the youth of Alaska to become involved in our conservation efforts.

Jonathan's other passions in life are music and education. Since the age of ten he has played the cello and has travelled the country to perform with his schools. In the summer of 2018, he travelled to Germany to study in Bremen and Berlin as an exchange student with the German American Partnership Program.



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We will be drawing the winners for our **3 Gun Raffle** from our State Fair booth and live on Facebook at 4 pm on September 2.

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If you would like to volunteer to work the SCI booth at the State Fair, please go to the following link to sign up:  
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Or contact:

Louis A. Cusack  
Executive Administrator, SCI Ak Chapter  
Email: [admin@aksafariclub.org](mailto:admin@aksafariclub.org)  
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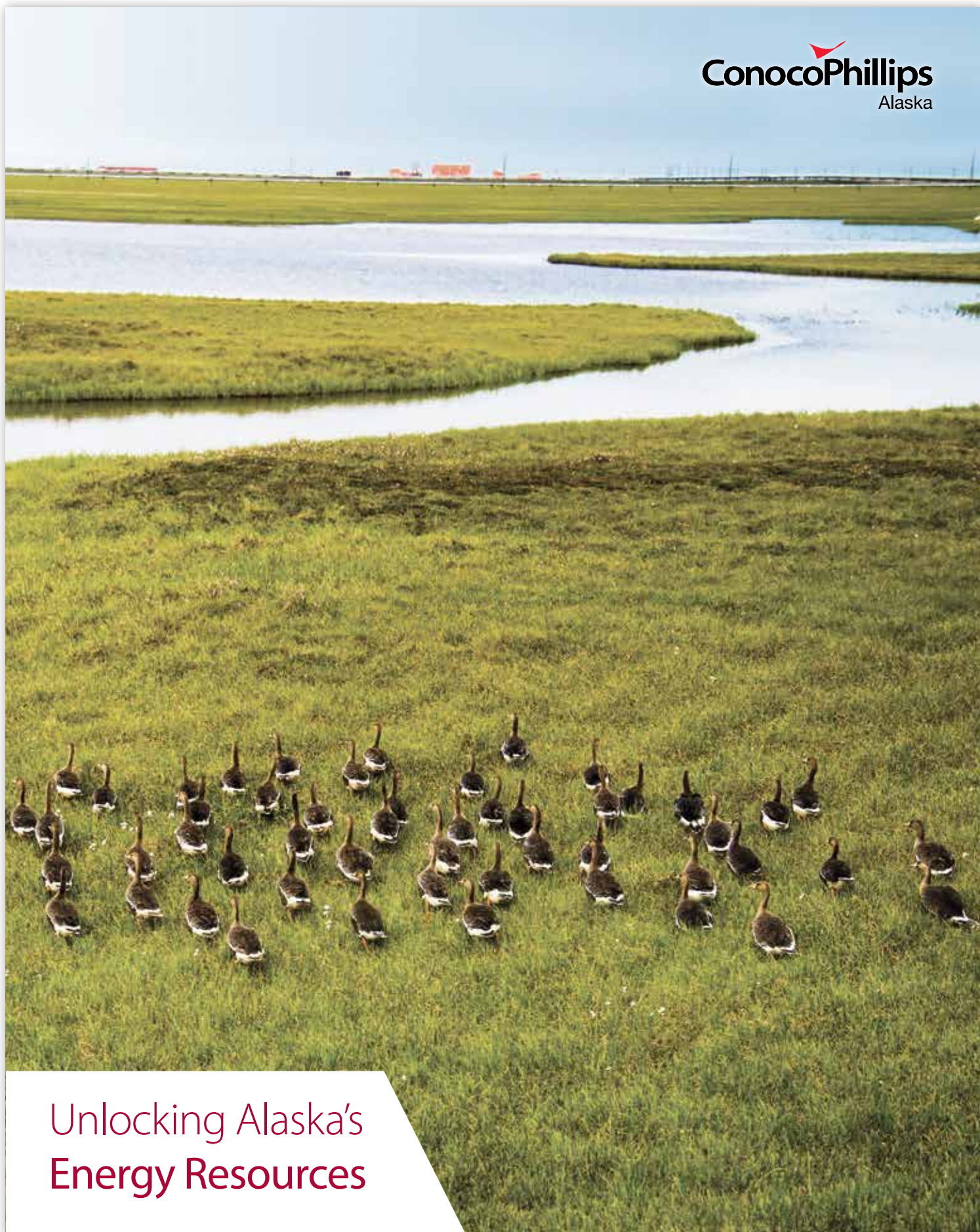


# ALASKA CHAPTER SCI *Life Members*

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Meet newly elected SCI Alaska Chapter Vice President Ruth Cusack, shown here with one of the many moose she has taken to provide for her family. She is an avid outdoorswoman who loves remote wilderness hunting and outdoor adventure travel. She is a SCI National and Alaska Chapter life member and has served on the SCI AK board for several years. Please join us in welcoming her as our Vice President!