# The Alaskan Funter

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# Romania-Hunting Adventure

BY JODEE KUDEN ©2018

Romania you ask, who picks Romania as a place to hunt? It is so unique that I did. Free range, spot and stalk hunting in Romania was the strong appeal for the roe buck that I wanted, but that changed to a red stag and roe buck after an email exchange with Lorand Kornis. I packed my bag and departed from Anchorage on my way to Sibiu on the 19th of September for the opportunity to hunt the red deer rut; hunting a red stag during the roar was an adventure I couldn't let pass by. After a full day of travel and an eleven-hour time change, Lorand met me at the Sibiu airport in the early morning hours on the 21st. We drove about two hours to the small village of Ruganesti near Cristuru Secuiesc. Just before we arrived at the guest house (lodge), we stopped in a field and listened, waiting to hear a roar, the stag's call for mates or dominance over other stags. We might have heard one in the distance,

but at that point I was to travel weary to care. Through this weary fog I recall Lorand saying he would pick me up for an evening hunt as I crashed on the bed about 3 a.m.

Hunting the red stag took precedent on this trip, since Lorand said roe deer were plentiful and easy to find a nice buck. By the end of the third day I was beginning to wonder if I would find the "right size" stag; my patience was running thin to find my stag. In Romania like the rest of Europe, the size of the antlers determines the trophy price you pay and I had a middle sized trophy, the price I had budgeted was my target. We saw plenty of stags, both smaller and bigger, or running away, or heard but not seen. There were many stags, but I was holding to my budget. However, unbeknownst to me my time was coming.

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# President's Message

Fall hunting season is winding down and the geese are beginning to head south. It's the annual reminder that cooler days lay ahead and SCI AK Chapter Board members along with annual fundraiser committee members have begun the arduous task of gathering donations and lining up sponsors for the annual Hunting Expo and Sportsmen's Banquet. We could really use some help from

our members this year and are hopeful you will heed the call.

I just stepped into the Presidency a couple of months ago and am quickly learning that our hunting heritage is facing increasingly tougher challenges. I can assure you the Alaska Chapter leadership is doing all that we can to preserve your freedom to hunt.

SCI AK Chapter and SCI National together form the strongest advocacy group for hunting, fighting for you in Alaska and Washington DC. We are the only group in Alaska that is heavily engaged in the three most important efforts to preserve the hunting heritage, advocacy, conservation, and education.

It takes significant resources to effectively carry out our efforts to ensure you and your descendants will be able to head to your favorite grounds for generations to come. We can accomplish that goal more effectively with your help.

The annual Hunting Expo and Sportsmen's Banquet will take place February 22 & 23, 2019, and will be held once again at the Dena'ina Center in downtown Anchorage. Success depends upon a variety of factors, and SCI members pitching in would make all the difference.

The areas where you, as a member, can help include gathering donations for the raffles and silent auctions, hunting or fishing donations, artwork, and other items for the live auction, underwriting, and help with selling tickets to the banquet.

I hope everyone had a great hunting season, and are enjoying the fruits of the harvest. I look forward to seeing everyone at the banquet in February.

Hunt Forever,

Jeff Garness President, AK Chapter SCI

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#### Romania Hunting Adventure continued

I was up early as I had been the previous three mornings and when Lorand arrived at 5 a.m. I was ready to go. We drove to a spot and parked, from there we began our hike in the early pre-dawn light to arrive in the forested hills to listen and wait. I thought it would be a spot and stalk hunt, but all of our stag hunting to this point was really a listen and stalk. We heard a faint roar maybe off to our right. Sound travels well in the quiet early morning but it also bounces and echoes through the Carpathian foothills and valleys. Yet, after three days of hunting with Lorand I had confidence he was leading me in the correct direction. There was no path to follow, just the sound of the roar. We went down the slope, up the next slope, cut across a hill, down through the trees and brush. I was trying to be quiet while walking on the fallen leaves and keep up with him, but I fell behind. He knew where he was going and that familiarity of the area gave him an advantage. However, my slowness paid off since Lorand came back my direction and we hiked diagonally along the hill to the edge of the forest where it opened into a valley, the two-hour stalk paid off. Across the way and up high on the next slope stood two stags and a half-dozen hinds (females). From this spot we took a minute to discuss our

next course of action, there were two options: a long shot from where we stood or hike around and over to the other side of the valley, closer to the stags. Time to make my decision...

Before I go further on about the hunt, I want to explain how we built our confidence in each other since we barely knew each other. Fortunately, I had met my guide Lorand Kornis in Austria the year prior. We accidently met in the company mutual Austrian friends. Lorand knew English, so we had a brief visit that evening. Eight months later Lorand contacted me about a fall hunt with him. I contacted my Austrian friends who had hunted with him and they all assured me traveling around Romania was as safe as anyplace for an American to travel. They had good experience and successful hunt with him. All of these factors assisted in my decision to choose Romania and hunt there with Lorand, since I am a woman taking this adventure on my own.

The first evening hunt on the 21st turned out to be a "test" of sorts. Lorand picked me up as he said he would, when we soon stopped at the home of the Master Hunter, leader of the hunting district where I was going to hunt. We had a short visit that included the hunting tradition of a toast to a successful by consuming a shot of palinka. I don't drink before a hunt, but the discuss with Lorand would not get me out of it without causing offense. At least I managed to get a half of a shot. The traditional purpose is to make you warm on the inside to withstand the cold outdoor activity. Well it definitely did that as it is the local moonshine.

time it would take me to get up the other hillside could cost me the opportunity. I had Lorand set up his homemade shooting sticks, it cradled his rifle like a lead sled does, and I got set. The bigger stag roared and chased off the smaller one,

but came back to his hinds. Stopped,

Back to my decision time... I knew the

After the toast, the Master Hunter, his two sons, Lorand and I all loaded into vehicles and went looking for a red stag. We parked, and four of us (left one son behind) hiked up a hill, into the trees, and within the forest we came to an elevated stand. We went up into the stand for a while but didn't hear any stags. We left the stand, hiked through the forested hill to the edge of a clearing and stopped there to glass and listen. We heard a stag, then more red deer but couldn't see any of them. We waited, thinking they would come into the clearing to graze though the wind was picking up speed. Looking off to the western horizon we could see the dark clouds boiling our direction. The clouds raced towards us as the wind increased speed and the red deer stayed in the trees. As the leading edge of the rain came near us, the four of us made a mad dash down the hill. The sky grew darker and it became difficult for me to see the terrain but somehow I managed to stay on my feet for that half mile dash as the ground became slick from the rain. The warmth of the palinka had worn off and I was glad to arrive at vehicle with a good heater picked up by the son we left behind. At dinner after this first evening hunt, Lorand informed me that I passed their test. I was truly glad I didn't know beforehand and understand that they did need to gauge my abilities, since I was the first American woman hunter they had ever hosted. I was a stranger to them just as they were to me. We built our trust in each other that evening.



turned broadside and roared again. Lorand said it was about 300 meters, I adjusted the cross hairs to just above the top of his back and pulled the trigger. He reared



up on his hind legs, lounged forward and disappeared behind a tree. Because the stag had reared up and lounged, I felt confident with my shot. Lorand took the rifle and went after him as I stayed below with the shooting sticks. In just a few minutes a vehicle came into the bottom where I was waiting and two men get out, they came over and introduced themselves, a guide with another hunter from Denmark. In just a few minutes we saw Lorand dragging my stag down the hill. We met up with him, took pictures, dragged the stag down to the vehicle and loaded it in the back, and off we went back to the Master Hunter's house to show my success. Yes, one shot kill across the valley. I was very excited to have my free range Romanian red stag! It turns out I stayed within my budget, even slightly less in size, but I appreciated Lorand's ability to judge its size and

honesty in the pricing of it. Now I have added the red stag's ivory teeth to my collection of elk ivory. Hunting during the roar will be something I won't forget, because it is far different from the bugle of an elk or the grunt of a moose.

Two mornings later I filled my roe buck tag with another long shot at that little deer. There were plenty of roe deer to glass and I finally got to put a spot and stalk on a nice buck. It was an easier hunt than the stag, we were skirting the edges of corn and alfalfa fields to find the deer grazing in the early morning or late evenings. I must say the shooting sticks supported that rifle so well I felt very comfortable taking longer shots then I normally would. Since getting a rifle and ammo into Romania (a former Communist country) is difficult, therefore I chose to use Lorand's Howa bolt action .30-06 rifle topped with a very fine Swarovski variable scope. His skill and equipment was top shelf, and his knowledge of the various species became apparent during this adventure. Lorand was and is an excellent guide and I plan to hunt in Hungary with him on another the future trip.

The Kuria Vedeghaz guest house where I stayed fed me breakfast and dinner, all of the homemade or home grown food was delicious. Some days we went out to lunch and others days I just had a snack

before going out for the evening hunt. During the afternoons, between hunting outings I walked around the Ruganesti village. After the successful hunts, the rest of my days were spent touring the area including a trip to the Bran Castle, a tourist spot known as "Dracula's castle." I also hiked Lake Ursu Natural Reserve near the town of Sovata. Lake Ursu is the largest, heliothermal salt lake in Europe and widely known for its therapeutic properties. There are salt mines there one can visit as well. I climbed to the top (22.5 meters) of the "Sacred Heart of Jesus Lookout." I have mentioned just a few things and other options are available as well.

I would highly recommend this unique place to visit and hunt. There is a lot of history and adventure available in the Transylvania region where my guide lives. I have traveled to other places and while in Romania I felt safe, comfortable, and enjoyed my time there as I have in those other places. I am pleased I took the chance and experienced this adventure. Lorand Kornis did an exceptional job as my guide and host along with his sister Judith who toured me around the area. If you want to try Romania, please contact Lorand. He can tell you what other species are available for hunting as well. You can email him at kornislorand@gmail.com or reach him through Facebook.



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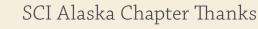
Stacee is an avid bowhunter and has served on the SCI Alaska Chapter Board of Directors for many years, and served as Board President from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. However, the real news on Home Instead has to include mention of the participation of the employees. Each year Home Instead employees organize and manage our silent auction at the annual banquet and fundraiser.

Stacee and her employees exemplify the hunter conservationist envisioned by President Teddy Roosevelt and his contemporaries. They are strong supporters of wildlife conservation and the traditions supported by sustainable



wildlife populations. SCI Alaska Chapter expresses its deep appreciation for Home Instead's commitment in treasure and volunteer time to Alaska's wildlife and its people.

Stacee stands with Hobo Jim at the Alaska State Fair.



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#### ETHICAL HUNTING

# Fair Chase and Beyond

BY EDDIE GRASSER

I recently attended a meeting on ethical hunting practices hosted by the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Committee (EIRAC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). When I was invited, I figured we would be talking about fair chase hunting concepts; however, this discussion was primarily about interactions among hunters and more specifically, about respect and tolerance.

Alaska's fish and wildlife resources belong to all citizens and are to be managed accordingly as spelled out in our state constitution and follows the basic premise for the U.S. Constitution which is equality. However, western civilizations developed the basic tenets of democratic governance over many centuries, while Alaska's indigenous peoples had it thrust upon them in the course of one century. Such cultural transitions can be very difficult and often result in controversy and thus conflict. Alaska today is an example of that very circumstance and the EIRAC members are to be commended for initiating a timely and necessary conversation.

I firmly believe that the foundations of our government are the best ever set down as a path for human governance that has the potential for allowing every citizen the opportunity to flourish economically and spiritually. Yes it is true that some of the founders were slave owners, and yes it is true that political leaders from that time until today that have supported discriminatory laws and policies; however, we've also come a long ways since the civil war and adherence to those founding principles is closer than ever.

What does all of the above have to do with anything? Well it seems to me that if we are ever going to find a way to save our hunting heritage we are going to have to find ways to come together. As I stated in my introductory comments at the meeting, hunting faces several major challenges among which is a growing urban culture and a dwindling rural culture that is creating more and more non-hunters, not to mention anti-hunters. If we are going to save our heritage, we need to find ways to come together as the zealots in the anti-hunting community are flat out against hunting no matter what the reasons.

I chose the title for this piece as ethical hunting should definitely include tolerance and respect, not just fair chase techniques. We all need to respect other people's property, but we also need to be tolerant of others in their use of the resource. Talking with landowners and asking permission to hunt on their land should be a given. However, we also need to recognize that folks living in remote areas of Alaska not only have traditional camping sites and hunting grounds, but often need their harvest to feed their families. At

the same time, rural folks need to recognize that public lands are open to all hunters and therefore could help ease some of conflicts by accepting that a hunter camped miles away from where they are hunting poses little competition.

Having spent the majority of my adult life working to save the hunting heritage, it is often frustrating to acknowledge that one of our biggest stumbling blocks are fellow groups of hunters. If we could find ways to avoid self-inflicted wounds and start finding ways to unify, and therefore strengthen our efforts, the future of our heritage would be more secure. We all need to discard the "me first" platform and start building a unified effort that first and foremost preserves the heritage of hunting.

Yes, hunting is being challenged as a human tradition more than ever. More and more lands are being closed to hunting thereby decreasing access and opportunity, young Americans are drifting away from the tradition which dates back to prehistoric times, new, more lethal diseases are a potential threat to thriving wildlife populations, and there is the threat from those groups whose sole purpose is to ban hunting. We can meet those challenges only if we come together. Thanks to the EIRAC, the conversation has begun. Let's all join in with respect and tolerance as our guiding principles.

## Paul Phillips Hunts with Mike Odin's Alaskan Adventures

I was fortunate to brown bear hunt with Mike Odin's Alaska Adventures in May 2018. It was just plain good fun and a successful hunt. Everything went according to plan starting with my first conversation with Mike during the SCI Banquet in Anchorage – good organization, clear instructions and he lived up to all his commitments. Equally important, the hunt was a success.

How do I judge success? Here's how: a beautiful location; lots of game; excellent camp location and services; food where you can actually-gain weight; guides that listen and work hard to improve your opportunity for success; and, people that really pay attention to the little things.

From the flight into the hunting area that last week in May to the flight out on the first day of June 1, the experience went off with military precision.

Worthy of note, everything that Mike described turned out to be spot on. He, and his crew, really understood the area and worked hard to get me in a position where I could complete my goal—harvest a brown bear. The camp location and set up was one of the best "rustic" set ups I have had the pleasure to experience. Considering the remote area, the equipment was in great shape and everything well laid out. Where we camped and where we could "spot" were in close proximity, so all was well coordinated.

We flew into an area that was absolutely spectacular. Striking views which will stay with me for a lifetime. The pilots in and out of camp knew what they were doing and made sure we enjoyed the flights.

The hunt itself was also in a spectacular setting. Was it easy? No. Do we

want it easy? No, not really. Again, this was a spot-and stalk hunt so, other than getting to the areas to watch, it wasn't overly physical. Considerable glassing. Bears, both black and brown where in the area. From salt/ash flats to marsh covered tidal flats, the bears were there. Weather, as it can be, presented some challenges with wind and rain. However, based on Mike's recommended gear, I was well prepared but, for two days, wind and rain made things difficult.

My guide, along with Mike, knew the area and what to expect. We set up and looked carefully for the bear that met my parameters. After several well laid out stalks, over a number of days, we were able to close the deal on a nice brown bear feeding on the tidal flat. We spotted the bear at a little over six hundred yards then maneuvered carefully managing the wind



while keeping out of sight in order to get into a proper and reasonable shooting distance. Using a Weatherby 375 H & H with a Leupold VX 2 4 x 12 scope, I knew if I set up well I had the power to make the shot count.

It was getting well into the late afternoon and the tide would soon be coming in so we knew our time was limited. However, we moved carefully to close within 210 yards. At that point we had good cover between us and the bear as well as an excellent shooting rest. With the wind in our face we waited to ensure the bear was positioned well. Wind, after all, had turned out to be a difficulty on this trip. Twice, on previous stalks, wind shifted at exactly the wrong time and the result was not positive.

The weather, as well as the wind, cooperated this time. Clear skies and a cool temperature worked to our benefit. The bear moved away from the rocks and shoreline leaving a clear line of sight and a distance right at two hundred yards. More importantly, the bear did not know we were there so I waited for a broadside shot.

The bear cooperated. Having a stable rest I placed the 300 grain Federal Trophy Bonded Bear Claw right behind the shoulder allowing it to penetrate through to the opposite side in front of the shoulder. From the sound and bear's reaction, it was a solid hit. Experience taught me to shoot again, which I did. This time I was slightly further back but, as it was quartering away slowly, the point of impact was perfect.

That final stalk was really a classic that hunters dream about. We spotted the bear coming out on the flats, made a plan to close the distance, worked the wind, and got to where we had planned which left us with a shot I was



very comfortable taking. We waited until I felt good about this shot and closed the deal. It truly was great fun. That plan came together very nicely. Then, of course, the work began.

Forgetting, for a moment, the ultimate success of taking a bear, I felt the hunt was well organized and I received what I had expected from a professional outfitter like Mike. I have new friends and experiences few will ever have. And that should be the result of a successful hunting adventure whether or not you accomplish that final task. Would I do anything differently? I would have had my rifle weather coated prior to the hunt for sure. I would have taken a few less items as it wasn't as cold as I had expected. Of course, when you do that, what happens? It turns cold. All else was good except for the weight

gain from too much food but that is more an issue with me than the guides.

The final question; would I recommend Mike Odin's Alaska Adventures? Absolutely, and I won't recommend guides to others unless they went above and beyond for me. Mike and his crew did exactly that. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience.

Once again, the relationships developed through SCI's Anchorage Chapter have proven themselves true. Great people who now are great friends and fellow hunters. I have been blessed to be able to hunt in many places many times over the years. This was truly a great trip.

Paul Phillips Tigard, Oregon

# Territorial Sportsmen Petition Elected Officials To Stop Illegal Federal Preemption

BY RON SOMERVILLE

Juneau-based Territorial Sportsmen (TSI) petitioned Alaska's elected officials "to return some common sense to what has become a fish and wildlife crisis for the State of Alaska." Our organization accused the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) of "expanding into traditional state responsibilities, inconsistent with the explicit limited authority granted in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)."

Recent actions by the FSB has prompted this conservation organization to raise the alarm. Specifically, the declaration of the Berner's Bay moose hunt as a federally qualified subsistence hunt and the proposal to unnecessarily limit non-local hunter's access to deer in Unit 2 (Prince of Wales Island) were the Southeast-related actions that brought the disturbing trend to light locally.

The Territorial Sportsmen concluded that the present trends established by the FSB in Southeast and other parts of the state will eventually lead to 60% of the state being limited to only federally qualified (local) subsistence hunters. This is in spite of the fact that federal law does not authorize this type of action and there is no conservation justification for such action.

Authorizing 25% of the Berner's Bay State moose permits for only federally qualified subsistence users was a major change in management. TSI commented: "Given the fact that there was not a historical moose population in Berner's Bay, with no accompanying customary and traditional uses of moose, and given further that the existing moose population at Berner's Bay is the result of government and private efforts, TSI believes the herd should remain available to all hunters."

"At Berners we have a place that did not customarily support moose, a sub-species not normally found in Southeast AK, and a hunt that often requires specialized equipment. Further, to reach this hunt one has to go past other moose hunting opportunities with better access and bigger harvest numbers. Finally, it is a small herd that cannot answer subsistence demand due to the low sustainable harvest. All in all, this is not the breadbasket for moose hunting in the region."

At the same meeting, the FSB considered a proposal to reduce the bag limit and shorten the season for non-federally qualified hunters in Game Management 2. The TSI arguments include the following:

"Data presented by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game indicate that deer populations in Unit 2 are high, and that the number of deer taken by federally qualified hunters has actually increased over the past decade. Federally qualified hunters already have substantially more opportunity than other hunters to harvest deer under

current regulations, having a higher and less restrictive bag limit (i.e. allowing taking of does) and a longer season than the state season, including a time of year (January) when the animals are at a low elevations and more vulnerable to beach hunts."

"There is no indication that hunting by non-federally qualified hunters has precipitated any biological concern or that restrictions are necessary in order to provide adequate opportunity for subsistence; therefore the additional restrictions contained in this proposal are not warranted."

Despite our expressed concerns, the FSB reduced the bag limit from 4 bucks to 2 bucks per year for non-federally qualified subsistence hunters.

These actions mirror similar illegal actions taken recently by the FSB such as closing the Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest to only non-local subsistence hunters even though there are no conservation concerns for the herd which still number over 200,000 animals. Similarly, the closing of sheep hunting near Arctic Village by non-qualified hunters for religious reasons and competition from outside hunters again illustrated the direction the FSB was taking in its attempt to limit hunting on federal public lands to only local residents.

The FSB's policy adopted in 2007, states that the "Board will not restrict the taking of fish and wildlife by users on Federal Public Lands... unless necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife resources, or to continue subsistence uses of those populations." This is precisely the extent of authority Congress granted in ANILCA.

After petitioning the FSB to reconsider their actions here in Southeast, TSI decided that some sort of political action may be necessary to prevent this unauthorized preemption of state management on federal lands. On May 24, TSI sent a letter to our Congressional Delegation and the Governor explaining its dire consequences if left unattended. The only response was from Senator

Sullivan. Needless to say, the response from the rest of our delegation and the Governor was "under-whelming."

On October 3rd of this year a video conference with Sara Taylor, Erik Elam and Pierce Wiegard of Senator Sullivan's staff met with Doug Larsen, Ron Somerville, Eddie Grasser and Stan Leaphart to discuss our concerns in more detail. A forty-five-minute discussion allowed us plenty of time to present our case and offer some possible short- and long-term solutions. Whether Senator Sullivan is able to offer some assistance is unknown at this point. However, a coalition of outdoor organizations consisting of Territorial Sportsmen, Alaska Outdoor Council and Safari Club International are committed to finding some solutions.

Matt Robus, president of TSI, summed up the dilemma in his letter as follows:

"Again, we have to ask if this is what was intended when compromise ANILCA legislation passed in 1980? Is this really the level of support for state management we can expect from the federal agencies? Do our delegation, state elected officials and federal agencies support the FSB's regulatory extension of their authorities onto state and private lands and waters? We believe that our elected officials should object to such preemption of state management on federal lands where no conservation problems exist. After all, the quest for statehood was all about state management of its resources-particularly our fish and wildlife." ■





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#### Help SCI Alaska Chapter Support Our Veterans...

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#### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

# 2018 Sportsmen's Rendezvous – Time to Unite

Alaska's traditional outdoor culture faces several major challenges, just as hunters, fishers and trappers do in every other state. We can ignore those challenges, or we can make a concerted effort to unite and meet them head-on thereby ensuring those outdoor traditions we all hold so dear will endure.

The 2018 meeting marked the second meeting in this new effort to build bridges that will give our community the necessary tools to counter the increasing propensity of mainstream culture to move away from an overall inclination to support consumptive uses, and move toward a position of opposition. That's the idea behind the Sportsmen's Rendezvous where Alaska's fishing and hunting conservation groups can have a platform giving them a chance to become better informed and therefore more effective in preserving our ancient heritage.

The 2018 Rendezvous was made possible by the efforts of the Alaska Outdoor Council's Executive Director, Rod Arno and myself representing SCI Alaska Chapter. We also received solid volunteer support for set-up and clean-up from Ben Mulligan, Doug Vincent-Lang, Gary Gearhart, Susan Grasser, Kathleen Shoop and Steve Colligan. Last of all, a big thank you to the Outdoor Heritage Foundation and its sponsors, BP, ConocoPhillips, SCI Alaska Chapter, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation and SCI Kenai Chapter for supporting our efforts.

Rod and I would also like to thank all those groups that supported the Rendezvous by sending representatives to the meeting. I realize that there have been some conflicts over allocation issues among groups; however, I was very appreciative of each attendee's willingness to put that aside and concentrate on listening to the presentations and join the discussion with an eye toward finding common ground issues we could all work on together. With that I would like to thank the

Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC), the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA), the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (AWSF), the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), the Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA), the Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK), SCI Alaska Chapter, SCI Kenai Chapter and the Territorial Sportsmen (TSI).

The main purpose for the meeting was to have presentations on issues of

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



#### 2018 Sportsmen's Rendezvous... CONTINUED

importance with an emphasis on those that provided some opportunities for meeting major challenges. The presenters did an admiral job giving us up to date information on a variety of areas where action could be taken to improve conditions for Alaska's fishing, hunting and trapping community.

Rod Arno kicked things off with a thorough outline on John Sturgeon's lawsuit against the National Park Service. This case is an important effort to ensure that the State remains the owner and manager of navigable waters instead of some far off bureaucrats in Washington DC. Next up was Ricky Gease and Zach Widner with an excellent update on the Fisheries Modernization Act and a variety of local initiatives intended to improve opportunities for Alaskans to put fish on the family dinner table.

Next up we had Ethan Tyler and Brent Goodrum from the Division of Parks and Division of Mining, Lands and Waters respectively addressing access issues and where we might be able to improve existing conditions. As many of us know from reading numerous surveys over the years, access is a major issue and is one of the most important challenges we need to resolve as a group.

During lunch we heard from Representative Cathy Tilton from the Alaska Legislature and Zach Widner from the CSF. They gave a short report on national level legislation and a quick look back at issues dealt with during the 31st Alaska Legislature. There are currently several bills in the Congress that would have an impact on Alaska's outdoorsmen and women, both positively and adversely. Most of them have little chance of passing before the end of the year, and all will die then. Look for some like the

SHARE Act and RAWA to be re-introduced when the new Congress starts in January.

Katerina Wessels from the Office of Subsistence Management was our next presenter and reported on the recent hunter ethics meeting that took place in Fairbanks in early October. As all of us know, issues of allocation and who can hunt and where, have been the main concerns that have tended to divide the hunting and fishing communities. If the initiative Katerina is pursuing can find mutual agreement that could possibly resolve or heal some of those divisions we would all be better off. Having attended the October meeting myself, I would encourage everyone to support this effort and to keep an open mind.

Representative George Rauscher gave a short report on where he thinks resource issues may be headed in the next Legislature and addressed several areas of concern for sportsmen. Following Rep. Rauscher was Wayne Kubat from APHA who updated the audience on progress toward creating a new guide concession program for state lands. Although the idea has detractors, a logical look at the issue clearly shows that such a program would likely be beneficial to resident hunters.

Sport Fish Director Tom Brookover and Terry Thompson from ADF&G gave a great presentation on angler and hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation better known as R3. It is no secret that numbers have been dwindling and the implications are not good. This is quite probably one of the foremost challenges to the future of fishing and hunting, not only because a loss of participants will make it harder to manage for sustainability, but it will also severely

impact funding for fish and wildlife management.

Tina Cunning presented a great lesson on ANILCA and the various issues swirling around that law and the concurrent machinations of the federal bureaucracy to diminish the promises made to Alaskans within the landmark law. Tina's short presentation was concise and informative giving the audience some tools they could use to join the effort to preserve the commitments made and help combat federal overreach. We are so lucky to have Tina's expertise on this issue and her willingness to assist all of our groups in fighting to preserve the Alaskan Way of Life.

Last of all we heard from Kevin Kehoe who detailed where we are regarding the battle to keep Alaska's wild sheep populations disease free. He gave an informative presentations on where we are with the M.ovi pathogen and what is being done to prevent the spread of this disease.

It was an action packed meeting with a ton of information given on issues important to outdoorsmen and women. This was the second gathering and from comments and interest shown, it seems to Rod and I that it may be a meeting we want to make into an annual event with greater structure for hearing presentations and having discussions on issues of importance to the overall outdoor community. We'll keep everyone posted.

#### Save the Date! February 22-23, 2019

# Alaska Chapter SCI Hunting Expo and Sportsman's Banquet

#### Alaska's Wildlife Needs You!

#### JOIN UP NOW!

The banquet committee is gearing up for the

#### 2019 Alaska Chapter SCI Hunting Expo & Sportsman's Banquet.

We need interested members to join our prestigious team of dedicated volunteers to help make this banquet the best ever! If you can help contact Susan Grasser at 907-980-9018 or admin@aksafariclub.org

#### **TICKETS**

Online ticket sales start November 1, 2018

#### **TABLES**

#### **Exhibitor Tables**

Exhibitor tables available for rent. Or ask about complimentary table with a donation to the auction. Contact Susan at 907-980-9018 or admin@aksafariclub.org

#### Corporate Sponsor Tables

Corporate Sponsor tables available. Four levels of sponsorship.

Depending on the level you choose, benefits may include:

Dinner for 10, wine, logo-ed gift, advertisement in the banquet program & quarterly newsletter, and more!!

Contact Eddie at 907-841-0358 or eddie@aksafariclub.org

#### **MORE INFO**

#### See our website: www.aksafariclub.org

Educational Seminars schedule to be posted soon.

#### **SHOW OFF YOUR TROPHIES**

Alaska Chapter SCI needs your help to make our taxidermy display at the upcoming Annual Hunting Expo the largest ever. The fundraiser will once again be held at the Dena'ina Center, and we have room for a herd of elephants!! The show runs February 22–23, 2019.

Our taxidermy display is a large part of the expo, and "variety is the spice of life" so to speak when it comes to the success of our show. We would like to have as many different species and countries represented as possible. All mounts are welcome. If you have a story or pictures of your hunt, email them to Susan at admin@aksafariclub.org. We especially

like to have mentoring or family experiences to share with viewers. Info placards will be made for each mount in the display, so let us know early if you can bring in your trophies!

This is your chance to show off years of hunting success. You will be entered in a drawing exclusive to those who bring in a taxidermy display.

Contact George Jacoby at 907-243-6778 or bigfishnak@gmail.com for more information and/or to reserve space for your trophies. For large qualified collections, pickup and delivery may be arranged.

#### TAXIDERMY CONTEST TWO CASH PRIZES!!

AK Chapter is invites all taxidermists to compete in our judged taxidermy contest. All taxidermy is welcome—shoulder mounts, full mounts, fish, birds, etc. The judging will be done by an outside NTA qualified judge. Cash Prizes will be awarded for "People's Choice" and "Judge's Best in Show." Contact George Jacoby at bigfishnak@gmail.com or call (907) 243-6778 for more info.

#### **PHOTO CONTEST**

#### PHOTO CATEGORIES:

Trophy
Other (landscapes, etc.)

#### TWO PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED:

Winners will be based on "People's Choice"

#### WINNERS ANNOUNCED:

Saturday Evening, February 23, 2019

#### SIZE REQUIREMENTS:

Either 5x7 or 8x10

#### PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Matted only. Name, phone number and description must be on back of the photo.

#### PHOTO DROP-OFF LOCATION:

Alaska Fur Exchange, corner of Tudor & Old Seward, Anchorage or mail to: Ruth Cusack PO Box 770511, Eagle River, AK 99577

#### SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

February 22, 2019

#### QUESTIONS:

Contact Ruth Cusack at 907-854-6451 ruthcusack@live.com

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

#### **Criteria for Alaska Chapter Safari Club Awards**

Nominations due by December 1, 2018

The Ak Chapter is seeking your help in identifying persons in the outdoor community deserving of recognition for outstanding service and/or actions in the following areas:

#### 1. Hunter of the Year:

Our goal is to recognize and honor a hunter who, over the last year, has:

- Demonstrated commitment to Conservation, Involvement, and Contribution to Safari Club traditions and history.
- Pursued and taken wild animals in a Fair Chase environment in the past year.
- Has demonstrated respect and sense of the value of the animals both taken and pursued.
- Has demonstrated a sincere interest in the Alaska Chapter agenda and projects for more than the last three calendar years.
- Number of trophies taken, by itself, is not a measure of qualification for this award. Neither is size of trophy(ies), by itself, qualifying.

#### 2. President's Award:

The selection will be made by the President, not necessarily with input from any other source.

#### 3. Crowning Achievement:

Requirements to be determined by awards committee after consulting with former selection committees.

#### 4. Diana Award:

Equivalent to Hunter of the Year, but could be awarded as an adjunct to Hunter of the Year. Criteria similar to Hunter of the Year, but limited to female members.

#### 5. Outstanding Member of the Year:

For continued and outstanding service to the Chapter for a period of at least the past year. May be awarded to a member who has rendered such service for longer than one year on the basis of long and faithful service. If a Board member, attendance of scheduled meetings will be a factor.

#### 6. Outstanding Youth of the Year:

To recognize the boy or girl under 18 years of age (as of the closeout date of the selection year) who has:

- Successfully completed a qualified Hunter Safety Education course.
- A record of successful scholastic studies.
- Successfully hunted a representative group of animals in a Fair Chase manner. (Number and/or trophy quality is not by itself a determining factor in selection.)
- Whose parent or guardian is an active member of the Alaska Chapter of SCI of at least two year's standing.

#### 7. Outstanding Donor(s):

In recognition of long-term support of the Alaska Chapter through donations of attractive and valuable items. Usually, but not necessarily, for hunting or fishing safaris or other profit producing donations.

#### **Special Awards:**

<u>Legislator(s)</u> of the <u>Year</u>: In recognition of outstanding courage and commitment in preserving equal access to all of Alaska's resources by all Alaskans.

Other subjects may be explored for selection if, in the judgment of the committee, such legislation is

considered to be the equivalent of resources subject matter.

Other categories deserving of Special Award are possible depending on decision of Award Committee.

#### Requirements for awards 1 through 6:

- Be a paid up member of at least two years standing with the Alaska Chapter.
- Be nominated by at least one Alaska Chapter
  member
- Has pursued Fair Chase Hunting as defined by SCI in the taking of animals being considered.
- Has practiced hunting over a period of years.
- Has been consistently active in SCI activities and pursuits for a reasonable period of time.
- Demonstrated ethical pursuit and taking of animals.

#### **Disqualification factors:**

- Solicitation of any committee member's consideration by any prospective nominee, at any time in the year preceding the potential award.
- Has been convicted of any game law violation in the past five years.

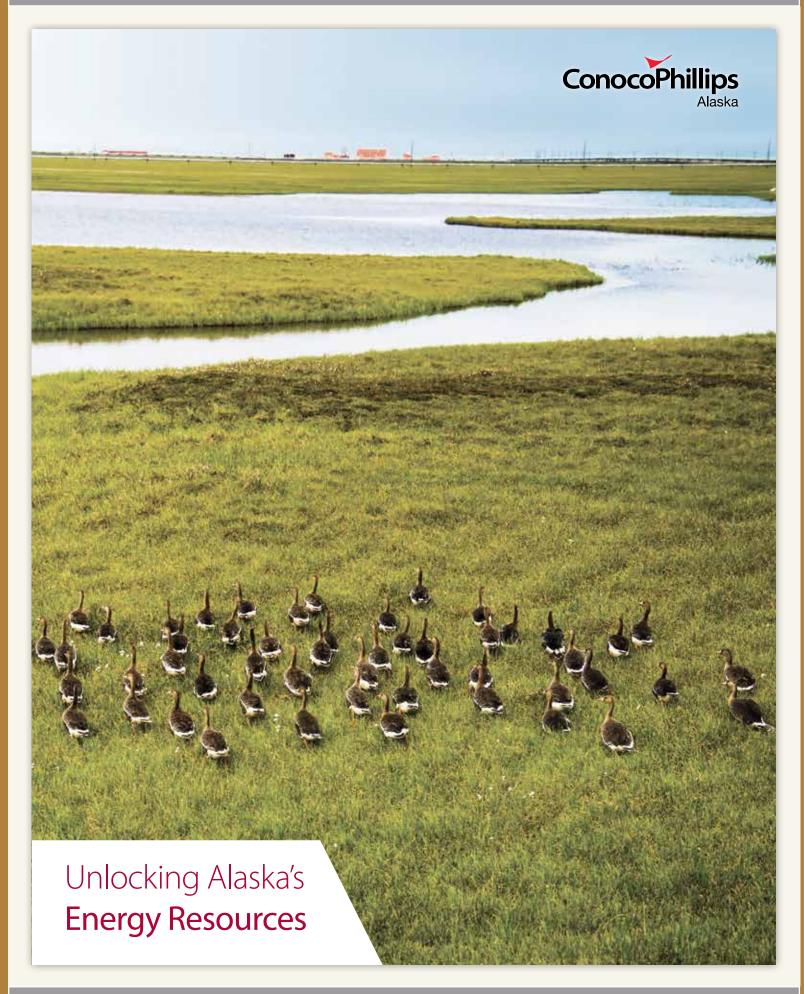
Note: Awards will not necessarily be given out every year in all categories listed.

To make a nomination contact Susan Grasser at 907-980-9018 or email admin@aksafariclub.org before December 1, 2018. Awards will be presented at the 2018 SCI Christmas Party.

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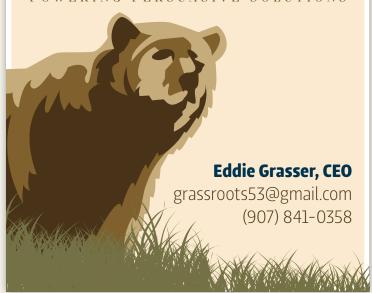


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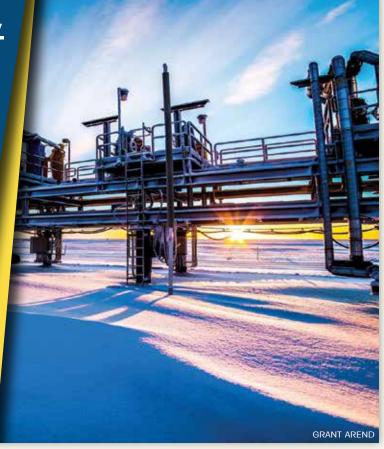
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## TAZLINA RIVER TRADING POST





David J. Sperbeck, PhD



# UPCOMING SCI EVENTS

#### **CHAPTER EVENTS**

Fall Meeting
TBA

#### AK Chapter Hunting Expo & Fundraiser Banquet

February 22 – 23, 2019
Dena'ina Convention Center
Anchorage, Ak
Purchase tickets online
after November 1st
www.aksafariclub.org

#### **OTHER EVENTS**

#### **SCI Convention**

Reno Sparks Convention Center January 9 – 12, 2019 www.showsci.org



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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **Alaska Chapter SCI**

P.O. Box 770511 Eagle River, AK 99577 Ph: 907-980-9018 · Fx: 907-745-6175 Email: admin@aksafariclub.org www.aksafariclub.org



Hunter Seth Peterson (left) with brother-in-law Vince. 62" width with 8x8 brow formations. Taken in the Joseph River region on a remote fly-in with Tok Air Service. Rifle used: Dakota 375 H&H improved (ICL Kodiak) handload.