





This past April, long time member Gary Gillet ar-

rowed this large Chamois deep in the New Zealand



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wilderness.

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Editorial

Gord Nuttall

First off, send me your hunting adventure storeis, as of right now, I have none submitted for the Summer edition.

Spring in Alberta, you just never know what you're going to get. Things were looking on schedule to mow the lawn and set up some bear baits, but little did I know that mother nature had other plans for Easter long weekend. With over a foot of snow falling we were only able to get in half of our baits compared to other years, but eventually got them all set up in early May. Many crops are still on the fields from last fall and many critters are out hitting them hard after a mild winter. It's going to make for some healthy herds. We might even see some bigger animals taken this year than we did last year (see winners of 2016 gold animals starting on page 15).

As per usual over the winter months I took the opportunity to bring my Bear BR33 into the bow shop for an annual tune-up. Always a good idea to bring it in after the fall hunting season incase you have to wait for parts which was the case this year. Although the bow likely could have made it through another year I always like to be preventive and not take the risk. While picking up my bow after it was done, I picked up another dozen arrows, few litres of scent spray and happened to stroll through the Cabela's Bargain Cave and got a wicked deal on a Scent Crusher clothing locker. This allows me to keep my clothes concealed from all other contaminants at my house and give them a blast of ozone frequently to rid any odors. Hopefully this step up in my scent control program will allow me to get that much closer to the animals I am hunting without being detected when the wind is not consistent. I had good luck with an ozone machine last year in the treestand so I see no reason not to continue using that technology.

Be sure to check out Kris Skelly's 3D report on page 18 he gives a full recap of what happened during the indoor season and what to expect for the outdoor season. Hope to see a few of you at the 3D shoots this spring and summer or out bear hunting.

Our past president and life member who needs no introduction, Archie Nesbitt was the first bowhunter to receive the 2017 Pantheon Award from Grand Slam Club / Ovis and Safari Club International. It's quite the achievement, congrats Archie! Read all about it on page 19.

Gord Nuttall



2017 Spring Edition

QUARTERLY Newsleter

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING

Editor & Graphic Designer: Gord Nuttall

SUBMISSIONS

ABA Newsletter welcomes input, photos and stories from its subscribers (ABA Members). For feature articles, please send one thousand words of your adventure along with three (3) high resolution digital photographs to email listed here. Your story (or photo) will be placed in the publishing queue. Send the highest resolution possible for brag board pictures.

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THE AND

As we drove up the rough truck trail to the trail head where I planned to hike from, frustration started to grow. It was currently light enough to see and I was convinced that there would be a slew of other hunters parked in my spot at the top of the hill. This glorious September morning was the beginning of my first date with my new girlfriend and she was thrilled to experience elk hunting, my definition of real living. Typically I would have spent the entire weekend in the woods and hit the ground running well before legal light; however her suggestion sounded like my type of date so I made an exception, breaking up my weekend



on Saturday evening. This was the reason we were driving up our trail a little too late that Sunday morning. This September 23nd marked the 10th day of hunting elk in the 2012 season and the previous weekend I had helped my brother Ivan pack out his archery bull out of the same area. Another reason why I had been brimming with positive enthusiasm until our late start got me worried about how the timing could really mess up our opportunity.

As we pulled up to my customary parking spot I was greatly relieved to see no other vehicles or hunters and I started to hope that my imagination was going to be proven wrong. I pulled up and turned off my noisy Dodge Cummins got out of the truck and shut the doors quietly after us. (I always feel like a fool closing my doors quietly after rumbling in only a few minutes earlier) We then proceeded to get our gear together and remove my bow from its case. We crossed one of the many barbed wire fences that stretch across the grazing reserve and immediately the terrain drops steeply away. I impulsively stopped, pulled my bugle tube out of my pack and after explaining the use of a location bugle to Sherlyn I put it to my lips and let out a beautiful bugle. To my surprise, we heard an immediate reply directly behind us. In fact the response sounded as though that bull was directly beside the truck we had just come from. Naturally we reversed directions, climbed up the portion of hill that we had descended, re-crossed the barbwire fence and preceded right past our truck that we had left not even 15 minutes earlier.

At this point I gave Sherlyn my "hootchie momma" and in a whisper instructed her to squeeze it a few times, wait a couple of minutes and then squeeze a few times again to imitate a lost cow calling for her herd. As I moved slightly away she did as instructed and I heard the bull respond not too far away. As I sneak through the trees toward the call I hear branches break to my right, the noise seems to be coming my direction. I quickly set up in front of a large spruce tree to avoid detection and wait in anticipation for the bull elk to come into view. I continue to hear the sound of branches breaking however, the movement doesn't appear to be getting any closer so I vacate my position and slowly move forward. As I move I see a whole herd of slow cows come into view. I get a sinking feeling that I have wasted precious minutes waiting for the elk to come to me while in reality he's moved on as the cows have come in. However, I keep going the direction of his last bugle and as I cross an approximately 100 yard wide clearing I spot him beating a small tree on the other side. I quickly took stock of the situation noting a lone tree in the clearing between myself and the bull which I guessed to be around 60 yards away from him. He was still fairly preoccupied so I decided to put the lone tree between us and make a run

THEY ARE

by Dan Indenbosch

for it. I reach the tree and lean around to sneak a look and to my dismay I can't see him anywhere! I throw a quick bugle in the air and then charge for that tree line hoping that he cannot see me and that any noise that I do make will be assumed to be a challenging bull. Once I'm in the cover of the trees again I move forward slowly and steadily. I hear Sherlyn making a few mews behind me somewhere and the bull again responds with a bugle. I spot him again about 40 yards through a grove of pencil thin aspens. I weigh my options briefly knowing I don't have much time. If I circle to the south there would be no good chance of a shot with a good chance of getting spotted. So I go against common sense and start circling to the north knowing that if I go the slightest bit too far he'll wind me immediately. I pause by a decent sized spruce that currently hides me from the elks view. He is about 30 yards away from me and walking away! I make a soft cow call which stops him; he turns and starts to circle to the south to attempt to catch my scent. My bow hits full draw and I find my anchor point at pretty much the exact time that he hits my wind and freezes. I lose my arrow and I watch my fletch turn into a blood spot in the moment before he turns and crashes away.

A few crashes and then everything is deadly quiet. My bull is on the ground not eve 60 yards away from where I arrowed him!! With a silent prayer of thanks and then a wild whoop of excitement I sprinted across the clearing toward Sherlyn to let him know he was down. From the time I had parked the truck to the moment the bull was on the ground less than a half an hour had passed!

In every one of the 10 days that I had hunted that September I had pounded out long hard miles in order to get away from other people and hunters. Not one of these days had I found myself anywhere near my vehicle at first light. I had hunted hard, packed my camp on my back and always made damn sure I gave it my all. Elk hunting can be hard and then every once in a while we catch a break and we realize that elk are where they are. Sometimes we don't have to get away from pounded out truck trails and noisy vehicles.

I spent the next whole season hunting elk like I always had, pounding out the miles in the hills and the mountains. I had many encounters with bulls, some I passed on, some of them never gave me the shot I needed and finally the one that is forever engrained in my memory I made mistakes and never was able to close the deal. In the end the 2013 season passed and after hunting elk for 18 days I was forced to eat tag soup.

The year always passes so slowly and September is never quick to return but after many long months the 2014 season finally came. I spent a lot of the off season preparing for hunting by lifting, shooting and doing triathlons and when it arrived I was ready! Our first outing for elk we planned a

six day trip and we went in deep with the mules packed and our expectations high. It started snowing on our ride in and we arrived at our camping spot in two feet of wet, heavy snow. After floundering around for 3 days and not finding so much as a track in the areas where we had previously seen so many elk, we decided to move on to plan B. The ride out was wet and miserable; we went home to drop off the mules in their pasture and then headed to a different area about 3 hours south of our first spot. It had snowed less here and what had fallen was mostly melted by now. A 4 mile hike from the truck had us in to one of our previously scouted spots. Bugles were ringing out and we were excited. We spent the next 3 days chasing them, but never had a shot opportunity.

Another work week passed and once again I hit the hills with a vengeance. Hiking in 5 miles we set up camp near our favorite lookout point. From here we would glass for elk in the evening and then put on miles all weekend trying to seal the deal. This would repeat itself for the next three weekends with me taking off Friday at noon and usually getting home Sunday night.

On the second weekend in October we finally obtained permission from a land owner to cross his property to access the piece of land that we had been hiking to every weekend. It saved us around 3 miles of hiking; however we had to put in an extra hour of driving as the access road was really rough. The first morning shortly after day light we were on our way to our destination with me filming Ivan. We unexpectedly stumbled across a nice looking cinnamon bear and Ivan having a tag put a stalk on it. It was going good and



when within 40 yards Ivan started to set up to take a shot on him. I figured we could get closer and after convincing him to try we moved in a bit closer only to spook the

bear right out of the country. Sorry Bro.

Ivan also had a Muley buck tag for this zone so we checked out a few on our way in, none proved to be shooters. As we approached the area where we expected to find the elk hiding out, we weren't too surprised to see a few cows and a small bull standing near the edge of the clearing. After glassing a few minutes we located a big bull along with most of the cows just a bit deeper in the tress. It took us three different attempts before we got into the herd and near the bull, it being a bit tough with the amount of cows in the herd.

I suddenly realized that I had promised Sherlyn that I would be home for lunch with the family so I quickly fired her a text to let her know that we were into elk and I would make it in time. She responded immediately with a text that read, "If you are late, you had better get an elk on the ground!" About five minutes later we spooked the entire herd and elk exploded from every direction, they blew out of the trees and into the open where we counted around 120 elk! I ended up catching the big bull on video for a moment before the camcorder battery died. I stashed it in my pack, unstrapped my bow and Ivan and I split up working the heard from different directions. The big herd started moving off but a few rag horns came to check out the mews that we were making. They moved back and forth between Ivan and I before one of them presented me with a shot. My arrow found its mark and shortly after we were quartering, boning

and packing him up.

We loaded the meat in our packs and strapped the head and antlers to the top of my load. It was a really tough hike out but thanks to our new route it was a lot shorter than it would have been had we shot him a week earlier! After climbing up and over a big hill we could see the truck just across a pasture holding the rancher's bulls. Growing up as farm kids we weren't too scared but decided to respect the beasts and not cross directly through the field but kind of skirt the edges of it. With less than 100 yards to go we found one of the bulls blocking our path, if we crossed back over the fence we'd be forced to wade a creek but if we stayed in the pasture we could simply cross the bridge the rancher had for that exact purpose. Choosing to use the bridge we decided to scare the bull out of our way. Wrong decision! I guess we ticked him off and he charged toward us. Ivan made it quickly over the fence but with my awkward load, I was off balance and I fell onto the barbed wire. I quickly unbuckled my pack and rolled under the fence and Ivan helped me struggle to pull my pack after me. The snotnosed Angus shook his head and bellered at us from about 8 feet away as we waded the creek and got back to the truck without going back into the pasture. On arriving home, out of curiosity we weighed our packs and had Ivan's coming in at 134 lbs and mine at 150 lbs! In conclusion, after all of the long, hard elk hunts I did in the last three seasons, both of the bulls were killed on

fairly easy day trips. The elk are where they are.











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It's Not Being A Wild Critter! by Brent Watson

Over the years as a hunter and a trapper, as a nature enthusiast I have seen some pretty neat things that shows how tough and resilient wild animals are. Can't run to a Doctor or a dentist at the drop of a hat. Have to tough things out and live with the hand you are dealt. Here are a few examples - I am sure many of you have seen the same or different.

My first Pope & Young bear was taken back in 1997 on one of our bait sites with son David and good friend Doug Erickson. It was getting near dark and we had several small bears at the bait when they suddenly all scattered. As you bear hunters know, that usually means one thing - something big is coming. We seen the black object slide out of the thick brush on the side of the bait and walk into the small clearing. He found a piece of bait and laid down nibbling on it. We whispered back and forth about how big he was, would he make P&Y. The consensus was "yes" and I settled the pin on his side and let the string slip from my hand. The shot was good and he spun and entered the swamp at a run. We were rolling him over and moving him for pictures when we realized he was missing a left front paw/lower leg. He had a

stump of hard, black leather that was fully healed. He was in great shape and very fat. Gave us no indication when he walked in and ran off that he was missing part of his leg. How he lost it is a mystery.

In 1999 Doug and I were bowhunting moose in our new found Honey Hole (which has since dried up by the way) and weather forced us to leave a few days early. The road system back then was nothing like it is now and we had real trouble getting to the top of the ridge from the valleys we had camp in and hunted. I made it to the top but I just had the trailer with the quads. Doug was pulling his holiday trailer and couldn't pull the grade with the road a mud pit. He had to back down and unhook the trailer in a clearing by the road and try it without it. I had just unloaded one quad to go look to see what had happened when I heard a truck coming, then quiet, then a loud "boom". When I made it the half mile to where Doug was, there was a nice bull in the ditch waiting for a ride back to town. As we were moving the bull for pictures and to start dressing him, we noticed something in his left eye. It filled his entire eye



socket and when we pulled it out, it was a 7" piece of broken antler!! OUCH!! This was also the eye that was on Doug's side - the bull never did see what caused his demise.



In 2003 son David took a huge black bear with his recurve. When we were doing up the skull, we noticed one of his molars was split in half. That must have caused him no end of discomfort. If you talk to any dentist they will tell you that your overall health is in many ways, directly connected to the health of your teeth. I am sure this bear would have benefitted from seeing a dentist lol.

We have seen bears over the years that have great coats except for their face which is rubbed right to the skin. They look really odd. This spring we again had such a bear - was a good boar that was as high as a 45 gallon drum, was for a time the boss bear at our bait. I had some good trail cam pictures of him



and sent them to Margo Pybus who is the Provincial Wildlife Disease Specialist for Alberta Fish and Wildlife. Margo diagnosed the condition as "demodectic mange" and "appears to localize only on the face and head. Is NOT the same mange that occurs in coyotes and wolves".

Son in law Steve Rogers was in their house making lunch this mid November when Ben the guard dog started barking on their deck. Steve looked out and at the end of a grassy lane from the one road, was a whitetail buck. Staring at our archery target - a GlenDel Full Rut Buck. He started down



the lane all puffed up and stiff legged. Steve got Ben in the house and as he went through the garage he grabbed his longbow and started a dash to a row of sheds along the lane. The buck had circled the target-turned-decoy posturing. As he moved away and started to angle to the bush Steve stepped out, the buck stopped and Steve sent an arrow through his heart at just over 20 yards. A short 30 yard dash and he was down. The in-shock hunter made his way to him and as he moved the buck he noticed a huge growth between his legs. When I arrived, we took some pictures and sent them to Margo once again. She explained that this was a "a seroma. It is a sterile accumulation of tissue fluids under the skin and is the animal's response to a persistent irritant which stimulates the accumulation of fluid. Has no way to get out so it just gets bigger and bigger. F&W have a fact sheet at:

http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseas-es/documents/SeromaFactSheet-Sep-2012.pdf.

When we cut into this "bag" it was full of a colored watery fluid. We drained what seemed to be a couple of gallons from it and in it we found a small mass that must have been the source of the irritant. There was no smell and according to Margo this does not affect the meat in any way.

Some neat things and if anyone else has some experiences with what Mother Nature deals her children, send us some pictures and a brief note.



Anchor Points

Mark Twang



If you have any questions or would like to suggest a future archery topic please email: MarkTwang@canadianhuntingsociety.com

Treestand Safety

Back in the late eighties, when tree stand hunting really caught on here in Canada, relatively few hunters wore safety belts. Leap forward almost three decades and, along with the pandemic movement toward safe everything – most bowhunters are now using some type of fall arrest system.

Early versions equated to little more than a safety belt worn around the waist or chest. Savvy safety conscious gurus eventually evolved to a more contemporary chest harnesses - then, in turn, the only logical eventuality the full body harness. Available today are a variety of harness systems that provide security while not only sitting on stand but also while ascending and descending the tree. I can't help but wonder what they might come up with next.

While tree stands offer archers an undisputed advantage, this benefit comes with risk and occasionally great cost. It happens every year; hunters across North America fall from their stands. The lucky ones escape injury. Some experience minor injuries and yes, a few are para-

lyzed or worse - these are the facts.

Ás I write this, I'm also researching tree stand fall statistics. Surprising but true, definitive data is difficult, in fact nearly impossible to find, but what I am learning is

Maintain three points of contact, and always tether yourself to the tree as soon as you step into your stand

that approximately one in three bowhunters will, at some point in time, fall from a tree stand. I don't know about you, but that number makes me very uncomfortable. As I see it, it comes down to awareness and diligence.



With the plethora of safety equipment available to hunters today, there is no need to bowhunt without a harness

Simple odds suggest the more we hunt from stands, the greater the chance we'll fall - it's that simple. On average I put up, take down, and hunt from 20 tree stands each year. Doing the math, I am a high risk bowhunter! One snap of a branch, slip of a hand or foot, and gravity determines your fate. My solution - make safety at top priority and minimize the potential for a fall by taking all necessary precautions.

If you don't know anyone personally who has fallen from a stand, I'll bet you've heard of someone who has. Even more sobering, you likely know of someone who has suffered an injury as a result of a tree stand fall. In my small social circle, I know a fellow who is now bound to a

wheelchair because of a tree stand fall.

Now for a sobering moment – I actually fell from a stand 19 years ago. Young, naïve and misguided by the fallacy



Never climb in our out of your stand while holding your bow. Always use a tow cord to raise and lower gear.

of perceived invincibility, I wasn't wearing a safety harness of any sort. As I installed a portable stand, the base kicked away from the tree and I went airborne. Fortunately, I was able to grab for the stand and catch myself mid-fall. Dangling precariously from high up in the tree, I was able to swing my legs, wrap them around the tree and eventually regain full support. Not cool, that was indeed a lesson I will never forget. Narrowly escaping injury, I was lucky.

As bowhunters, we must take precautions to minimize the chances of a fall – we must take extra care to select a safe tree, we need to use approved climbing systems and stands, and most importantly we should always use a full-body harness.

Choose a Safe Tree

The first step to hunting safely from a stand is selecting the right tree. Dead trees are not an option. Poplars can work well as long as they are big enough and strong enough. When available, old-growth spruce trees are my first choice.

The type and size of the tree has some bearing on how safe it is. Always use bigger diameter live trees - ones that are as straight as possible. Alberta's geography, topography, and forest cover is diverse. Different regions offer variable tree options. Whenever possible select a tree with at least a 30 centimetre (12-inch) diameter. Bigger is usually better. In my opinion, big healthy spruce or pine trees with a trunk diameter of at least that at a height of 5 metres (16 feet) are most ideal.

Securely mounting the stand to the tree is paramount. No stand should ever be loose. While most manufacturers have a reasonable mounting system, e.g., in the form of a T-bolt and ratchet strap, I always add a little insurance by reinforcing my stands with two additional custom-made heavy duty ratchets. Once the stand is in

place, consider mounting a tow cord and drop it down for easy access at the bottom of the tree. I generally attach one and carry a second portable chord for backup.

Approved Climbing System

Risk enters the equation long before the stand is mounted to the tree. Safety has to be our first consideration the moment our feet leave the ground. Always use an approved step system. Options are plentiful but the most common include screw in steps, pole climbers, climbing rails, climbing sticks, and ladders. Regardless of preference, make sure that each step or section is mounted securely to the tree so no unsafe reaching or uncomfortable stretching is required to advance up or down the tree or as you climb into, or get out of, the stand.

The importance of using an approved climbing harness can't be stressed enough. Rock and ice climbers have used similar systems for years. Today, it is becoming common practice for bowhunters to employ similar harness systems for installing and climbing in and out of tree strands. Stateside, this practice is catching on big time, but for some reason, here in Canada the uptake has been slow. In most situations, there's no excuse for not using a climbing harness – it just makes sense.

Use a Full-Body Safety Harness System

According to the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA), North America's designated authority for establishing treestand safety standards, safety belts have long been obsolete. What is now required, by U.S. law at least, is the inclusion of a full-body harness within the packaging of each commercial treestand. In my view, that says it all.

Today, every bowhunter should be using a TMA approved fall arrest system. Plenty of good ones are available today, but one of the best I've found to date is made by Hunter Safety Systems (HSS). Regardless of which harness system is used, a hunter's first priority upon stepping into the stand, is to clip their safety harness to the tree belt.

Additional Precautions

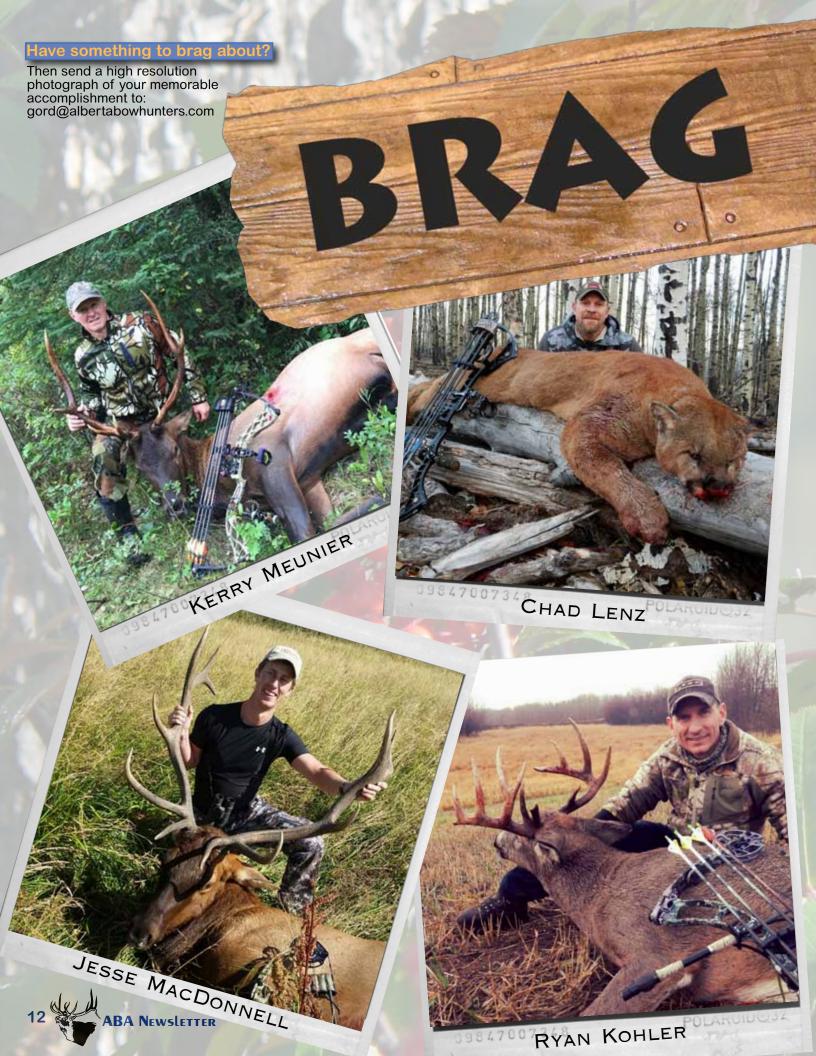
Before climbing the tree, remove bulky clothing, your backpack and bow. Always use the tow cord to pull your gear up to the stand. Regular rope works, but I something like the Speed Winder Hoist Rope made by Tink's is handy and inexpensive. Bulky clothing or gear can snag on branches and cause accidents. Prior to taking your first step, make certain that your gear is fastened to the cord and move it to the opposite side of the tree. By doing this, you move the tow cord out of the way of the steps or rungs on the ladder.

As for climbing, slow and easy is best. Always maintain at least two points of contact - three is better. Calculate each step. Place each hand and foot carefully and as close to the tree as possible to avoid slipping. Likewise, if you choose to use tree branches as steps, remember the strongest part is where the branch joins the trunk. The further away from the trunk you place your weight, the greater the chance of breakage. The same rules apply to climbing on to the tree stand platform or stepping off of the platform as you begin your descent.

About Mark Twang

Mark Twang is an average Alberta Bowhunters Association Archer, with 20+ years of archery experience and has decided to share some of the archery technical information he has gathered over the years as a bow hunter, archery tech, competitor and coach.







PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another banquet has come and gone!! Great time had by all!! Is a fast paced evening right from the start and lots going on. We had 212 people this year with 12 of those youngsters 12 and under. Each of these youngsters have their name put in for a draw for a free youth bow supplied by Trophy Book Archery - the winner was 5 year old Hunter Plamondon from Peace River. Very excited he was!! All of them get a goodie bag stuffed with things from ABA, Report A Poacher, FW, Jim Bows, Lane Archery, Cabelas, Hunting For Tomorrow and Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association. Big thank you to everyone who supports this initiative for the kids!

We had a great response to our theme "Mountain Fever" with 16 rams coming for the display and a life size goat (taken in BC). It was a record year with 99 Pope & Young entries into the Game Awards Program and many were brought to the banquet. Thanks to everyone who took the time and effort to bring something for the display. Greatly appreciated!! In the next newsletter there will be pictures of all the Gold Winners.

There is a pile of banquet pictures on our website (www.bowhunter. ca) courtesy of our official photographer (member Craig George) as well as the "Bowhunting Records of Alberta - 2017 Edition". The record book contains the total archery records for all of Alberta plus the breakdown of entries in this year's awards program.

Big thanks to the staff at the Nisku Inn - they have treated us like gold the last three years and always bend over backwards to meet our every need. Once again, the meal was awesome!!

Next year the banquet will be in Calgary at the Coast Plaza, March

24th 2018. From member feedback, instead of a guest speaker, we will have a "Social" after the 3D and Game Awards presentations are over. Lots of people have mentioned that there is very little time because of the busy nature of the program to visit with friends and tell stories etc. The idea of a social has gotten lots of support.

We did the draw for the Predator Package raffle at the banquet and the lucky winner was Jason Hayes from Red Deer. The raffle did very well and we sold out. The funds raised from our raffles offset the costs of the newsletter, our Game Awards and 3D Program. Thank you everyone for their support!!

Our next raffle will be another cougar hunt - will be our third with outfitter Kelly Morton. The last two winners both took awesome cats!! The raffle details are in this newsletter. NOTE the start time for ticket sales!!! This assures every member gets ample notification and a chance to get a ticket. Tickets will be available online or thru Brent Watson (cash sales). The hunt will take place Dec 2017/into 2018. The hunt will be NON-transferable.

It is spring with bear season opening April 1 across the province. Good luck to everyone and send your pictures and stories in to Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters. com).

Spring also means it is time to renew your ABA membership. The next newsletter will have "Time to Renew" all over it. Your mailing label on the back page has your expiry date on it. Unless you renew soon, this newsletter will be the last one you get. We are at a loss to explain the drop in membership numbers over the last bunch of years. We have tried mail outs, membership drives, constant

notifications to renew. An ABA membership is a great value (cost is one night out for pizza, half a tank of gas in your truck) and benefits are many (awesome newsletter, 3D "Bowhunter Challenge", Game Awards program, insurance coverage) with the biggest being our presence at stakeholder and FW meetings that will define what the landscape will look like for all hunters and bowhunters going forward. In 2016 we had 1297 members. In 2015 we had 1396 and in 2014 1450+ regular members. Back in 2011 we had app 1700 members. On a positive note, we have seen a marked increase over the last years with people buying Life Memberships - at the end of 2016 we had 122 Life Members. We have a mass email list that goes out to 2101 valid email addresses. EVERY one of these addresses is someone who at one time in the last five years was an ABA member. Yet our membership numbers do not reflect that. We are not sure what has caused the decline but if you have any thoughts let any of your executive know. Strength indeed comes with numbers. We hope you will consider renewing.

The Allocation Policy Review subcommittee will be meeting mid April to go over the draft that will be then sent to stakeholders of the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council for feedback and out to the general public for consultation. Once we know when that will be, we will communicate it to everyone - your input and feedback is essential to make sure your voice is heard. Stay tuned.

Good luck with the bears this spring and on the 3D circuit this summer!!

Awards and Prizes

AGM Door Prize

I would like to thank Dale Johnson for the beautifully handcrafted Damascus knife with leather tooled sheath that I won for attending the ABA's Annual General Meeting.

Dale Johnson donated this knife as an incentive to promote greater participation at the AGM on March 25 in Nisku.

I have attended more than several AGM's since the mid 1980's. The bow seasons that we now enjoy are there because of people making and voting on resolutions and policies at the AGM.

With the success and numbers of Bowhunters, draws and Bowhunters share of resources are now important aspects of bowhunting regulations.

Any ideas from members can be brought forward

and discussed at the AGM
It pays to have your voice heard!

It's necessary to have your voice heard!

Thank-you Ron Dixon Vermilion River Archers



780-991-4086

Deer Shoulder Mounts \$640

Deer Skull Bleaching \$150

View sample work at:

www.whitetailtaxidermyleduc.com



Annual Game Award Winners

As with every year, Ryk ran the awards presentation at the banquet giving out master bowhunter buckles, grandmaster bowhunter portraits (delayed until next year) and the annoying small game award. Each year, annual gold, silver and bronze sponsored plaques are awarded to the top three animals based on Pope and Young score in the following categores:

Whitetail Deer (Non-Typpical and Typical)
Mule Deer (Non-Typpical and Typical)

Elk Moose Antelope Black Bear Cougar Bison Ladies Traditional Youth

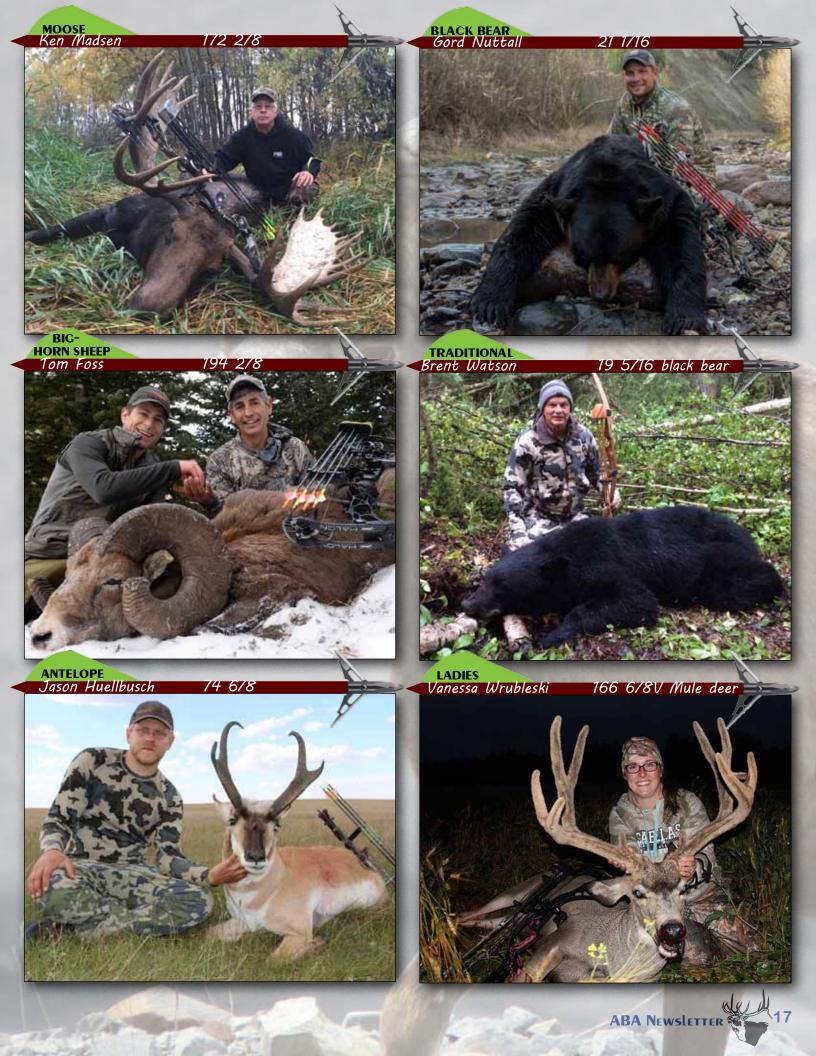
Mountain Goat

The following pages showcase the gold winners starting with the youth winner immediately to the right.









3D REPORT

It's that time again! The snow has melted (2 or 3 times now depending where you are in the Province!) and 3D courses are popping up all over after range cleanup days. Outdoor 3D season is upon us with quite a few shoots available to the eager archers out there. Some of the shoots this year are going to be known yardage shoots! The Oilman's Shootout and the Red Deer Valley Shoot to name two. Currently we are holding fast with our ABA Bowhunter Challenge format (unmarked, 40 yards max distance for compound and 30 yards for traditional). As it seems that we have had very positive feedback for the direction we have been going in the past two years. We want to Recognize the 2016 Sponsors one more time as these are the folks that ensure EVERY archer for the past two years has gone home with a prize of some sort.

- Jim Bows Archery Calgary/Edmonton
- Wholesale Sports Edmonton
- Big Guy Outdoor Sports
- TTRC (Whitecourt)
- North American Hunting Supply
- Cabela's Edmonton
- Trophy Book Archery
- United Truck and Machine
- Wolverine Guns and Tackle
- Ti-Ro Enterprises
- T&T Archery
- Lamont Fish and Game Association
- Barton's Big Country Outdoors
- The Oilmans (Shane Jensen)
- Canadian Tire (South Edm. and Drayton Valley)
- Tammy Bilodeau
- All supporting clubs and participants.

We also want to congratulate those who went home with plaques at the annual AGM Banquet:

Youth Female 1st- Stephanie Drewes

- Youth Female 2nd- Brooklyn Berge
- Youth Male 1st- Adam Berge
- Experienced Female 1st- Linda Hewlett
- Experienced Female 2nd- Lori Keeler
- Experienced Female 3rd- Helen Popson
- Experienced Male 1st- Leonard Claffey
- Experienced Male 2nd- Al Keeler
- Experienced Male 3rd- Alf Farn
- Bowhunter Male 1st- Chris Drewes
- Bowhunter Male 2nd- Norm Devaleriola **2016
 Bowhunter Challenger Buckle Winner** (sponsored by: Jim Bows Archery)
- Bowhunter Male 3rd- Mitchell Payment

Some things that we are continuing to do as the ABA 3D Committee and things that were discussed at this year's meeting:

- 1. Donation of a 3D target to the awarded host club for the 2017 ABA Bowhunter Challenge Championship
- Donation of \$400 to the Oilman's Shootout shoot to be used towards purchasing bottled water for participants.
- 3. Jim-Bows has again offered to sponsor the final shoot-up buckle!
- 4. Updated rules will be published on the Webpage once finalized, very slight changes proposed.
- 5. Bid packages will be sent out to all affiliated clubs soon! August 12-13 as the proposed date so mark your calendars tentatively.

I will be sending out a request for Final bid email and packages soon to all affiliated clubs, there will be a deadline date for submissions. Please check your inboxes in the next week or so for that and then we can start the evaluation process. Hope to see you all out on the range, tell a friend about 3D and drag them out to a shoot or two this summer!



2017 PANTHEON AWARD RECIPIENT ARCHIE NESBITT









Archie Nesbitt is Proud to be the First Bow Hunter Recipient of the 2017 Pantheon Award

Presented for the first time at the 2013 GSCO convention, this award symbolizes a new cooperative effort between Grand Slam Club / Ovis and Safari Club International. GSCO and SCI awards are definitely the most desirable in the industry, so it was a natural next move for the two organizations to join forces in recognizing the "Best of the Best" world class big game hunters, thus, the Pantheon was born. Individuals who qualify will be inducted into the Pantheon each year.

How was Pantheon chosen as the name for the new GSCO and SCI combined award? The dictionary gives four different definitions for the word Pantheon. One, of course, is "temple." But the last listed definition is subtle, and a perfect fit for this award: "A group of important people."

The criteria for the Pantheon are easily defined, but extremely difficult to ultimately accomplish. It takes a lifetime to meet all the requirements for being inducted into the Pantheon. Concerning GSCO's award family, an individual must reach the highest levels. One must have a Grand Slam of North American Wild Sheep; an Ovis World Slam Super 30 of the world's mountain sheep; a Capra World Slam Super 30 of the world's wild goats; and the Super Slam of 29 North American Big Game. SCI's top objective award is the World Conservation and Hunting Award. The requirements for this SCI award are that members must achieve all SCI Grand Slams, and reach the Diamond Level of ALL Inner Circles. This necessarily dictates that one has traveled to all the hunt-able continents and taken all the major big game of the world.

Now you should be getting the picture of just how difficult the criteria for the Pantheon really are. Free of selection committees, emotions, personalities or any other subjective criteria, the Pantheon is a totally objective award, based solely on an individual's documented achievements.

Both GSCO and SCI have stringent requirements and documentation procedures in place for all of their award platforms. Having the most desirable awards in the industry, it was a natural fit for both organizations to join forces in the creation and implementation of this award that is totally inclusive of all worldwide big game hunting.

info@archienesbitt.com www.archienesbitt.com

ABA GAME AWARDS PROGRAM

Small Game, Big Game, Master, and Grandmaster ABA bowhunter Awards (no time limit to earn), as well as the Annual Big Game Awards program have been established for ABA members only. Applications for these awards will be accepted only if the bowhunter is an ABA member at the time the game entered is taken. Must be taken in a regulated hunting season and on a valid hunting license. All animals entered must be taken under "The P&Y Rules Of Fair Chase" (www.pope-young.org) (NOT allowed are draw lock devices, battery operated sights, bow mounted rangefinders, use of cellular trail cameras, etc.)(lighted nocs (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE allowed). EEntries must be received by March 1 in the year following when those animals were taken – NO exceptions!! For example: any ABA eligible animal taken in 2016 must be entered by March 1st of 2017 – the only exception are Cougars taken in Dec 2016 as they fall in the following Awards year (2017) to be consistent with the dates of that particular Cougar season.

SMALL GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take 1 species from 5 of the following 6 categories:

Rodent Jack Rabbit

Snowshoe Hare Cottontail Rabbit Woodchuck Gopher

Porcupine Beaver

Red Squirrel

Migratory

Ducks Coots Common S

Common Snipe (Wilson's)

(Wilson's) Geese

Mule Deer

Varmint

Crow Magpie Pigeon Starling Skunk

Free ranging wild

boar

Raven (private land)

Fish

Species according to Fishing Regulations.

Examples: Sucker

Lake Whitefish

Carnivore

Wolf Coyote Badger Fox Raccoon

Game Bird

Hungarian Partridge Grouse Ptarmigan

Merriam's Turkey

Pheasant

For entries and any information regarding the ABA Game Awards Program contact:

Ryk Visscher 1166 68 Street NW Edmonton, AB. T6k 3K4 780- 445-0327 (Anytime) 780-450-0386((Fax) ryk@ryk.ca (Email)

BIG GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take any 3 of Alberta's 10 species (can be male or female)

Whitetail Deer Elk

Elk Moose Bighorn Sheep Antelope Black Bear Cougar Mountain Goat

Bison

MASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD (Personalized Buckle \$275 value)

ABA bowhunter must take four of Alberta's 10 species and, with the exception of bears and cougars, all must be legal males (> 4" antlers, 4/5 curl, etc.). Two of the four must meet Pope & Young's minimum score. Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

GRANDMASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD

ABA bowhunter must take six species of Pope & Young animals.

Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

ANNUAL GAME AWARDS (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest of Alberta's species. Typical and Non-Typical species for Whitetail and Mule Deer(Dec. 1st thru Nov. 30th).

TRADITIONAL AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

LADIES AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

YOUTH AWARD (Gold, Silver, & Bronze plaques)

ABA Bowhunter must less than 17 years old on day animal is taken.)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species



ABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

YES! I want to protect bowhunting in Alberta!

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY))D/MM/YY)	
MAILING ADDRESS							
спу				PROV.		P/C	
HOME PHONE		EMAIL					
APPLICATION DATE		MEMBERS	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	FEES:	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED*		SINGLI SINGLI	☐ SINGLE ADULT MEMBERSHIP☐ SINGLE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	ERSHIP 3ERSHIP	□ \$35.00 □ \$25.00	□ \$65.00 □ \$45.00	00.00\$ []
MAIN APPLICANT: MALE □ F	FEMALE	D FAMILY	☐ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP		□ \$70.00 □ \$500.00	□ \$130.00	□ \$190.00
NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	AM/YY)			
NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	JM/YY)			
NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	JM/YY)			
NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	JM/YY)			
NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	AM/YY)			
NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	JM/YY)			

 To qualify for the Family Membership or Youth Membership, children must be under the age of 18 as of January 1st in the application year. There must be a minimum of 3 family members

in order to qualify for the family rate.

WWW.BOWHUNTERS.CA JOIN ONLINE AT

Alberta Bowhunter Association * Make cheques payable to: Box 89021 McKenzie Town Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3

Keep Up the Fight to Protect and Defend Bowhunting in Alberta.

our wildlife resources. We are all benefited by the careful management and conservation of this rich natural heritage. The ABA is proud to work with governmental agencies and stakeholders to improve methods that protect and sustain







It has taken years of dedicated work by members of the Alberta Bowhunters Association to accomplish this. envied archery season of any province in Canada. It is not by accident that Alberta has the most

www.bowhunters.ca

Some Past Accomplishments:

- Allowing the use of Camouflage Clothing (1969)
 - Allow the use of Aluminum Arrows (1970)
- Black Bear Baiting (1987)
- Archery Pre-Season province wide (1976/77)
- Antelope archery season (1976/77)
- 410 and 408 Bighorn Sheep season
- Antlerless Deer tags in 212 and 248 • Antlerless Elk tags in 212
- Archery pre-season for Elk (not requiring a draw)
 - · Archery-Only Areas around Edmonton and Calgary (1975)
- · Lobby for Sunday Hunting in much of the province (2008-2011)
- Revamping of Cougar Management (2011) including a general boot license tag
 - · Successful lobby to Keep Crossbows Out of the general archery season (2011)
- Successful lobby to retain Parkland County as archery-only (2009)
 - Successful lobby to stop further erosion of archery season by Muzzle Loaders
- Standardized Start Dates for archery (2011)
- Earlier Start and Later End Dates to Black Bear seasons in southern portion of the province (2011)
- Allow Non-trophy or Trophy Antelope to be taken in archery-only season in all antelope zones (2011)
- Archery Pre-season for Elk in WMU 164-166 and 208 (2011)
- Hunt WMU 164 Monday to Saturday (2011)
- Allow hunting of **Red Squirrel** on private land (2011)

This is our future.

ABA Program Participation

Membership... Join Now!

and attends all regulation meetings with government Game Policy Advisory Council, Hunting for Tomorrow, The ABA is a participating member of the Alberta and stakeholders.

Benefits of Membership

Participating Member of the Alberta Outdoor Coalition

Participating Member of AEP Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council Working with other outdoor user groups in protecting outdoor activities

Single voice for Bowhunters to the Provincial Government

Focus on Youth Programs

Liability Insurance for clubs and members

Promoting International Bowhunter Educational **Programs** and the National Archery in Schools Program

Annual Banquet / Convention

includes ABA Executive Reports, Future Events,

Quarterly Newsletter

Hunting Stories

and much more!

(Guest speakers, Awards, Draws, Raffles, Displays, Stories and Laughs!)

Quarterly Newsletter



|-800-642-3800 Dream Black Bear | Banquet Recap | Tale of Terror

Affiliated Clubs

Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association

Mitchell Elser (Membership) 403-238-5981 mjelser@shaw.ca

Bighorn Bowhunters Club

Leslie Cuthbertson, Airdrie (403) 948-4004 BrentAlana@ bighornbowhuntersandarchers.com

Calgary Archers Club

Calgary Vickilynne Schleppe vschleppe@shaw.ca

Cochrane Archery Club

Greg Gerlitz, Cochrane (403) 280-5442 greg.gerlitz@telus.net cochranearchery.ca

Kneehill Bowhunters & Archers

Three Hills Shawn Kopjar (403) 443-7315 smkopjar@gmail.com

Parkland Bowbenders Archery Club

Spruce Grove Robert Smith (780) 916-8065 treasurer@parklandbowbenders.ca

Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association

Lethbridge Bruce Drewry (403) 320-1262 bruced1@telusplanet.net

Springbrook Archers

Springbrook
Dwight Morency
dwightarcher@gmail.com

Jim-Bows Junior Archery Club

Calgary Dawn Groszko dgroszko@shaw.ca

Vermillion River Archers

Vermillion, Ron Dixon (780) 853-5046 tpconst@telusplanet.net

Yellowhead Arrow Launchers

Hinton Tim Hooey yellowheadarrowlaunchers.ca

Woodland Archers

Whitecourt Ron Brown (780) 512-7174 ron.brown1@pentair.com

Life Members

Honorary

Jack Kempf (2006) Court MacKid (2003) Dave Coupland (1999) Duane Hicks (2008) Ryk Visscher (1998) Mike Ukrainetz (1999) Fred Walker (2008)

LIFE MEMBERS

#1 Ryk Visscher (1998) #35 Rob Kubicek (2008) #36 Robert Giles (2008) #36 Robert Giles (2008) #37 Terry Brew (2008) #37 Terry Brew (2008) #38 Kelly Semple (2008) #38 Kelly Semple (2008) #39 Dale Heinz (2009) #39 Dale Heinz (2009) #40 Tim Sailer (2009) #41 Bradley Wells (2009) #42 Jim Wilsion (2009) #43 Lance Neilson (2009) #44 Ricardo Longoria #45 Julie Griffiths (2018) #45 Julie Griffiths (2018) #45 Dale Collins (2000) #46 Mark Barber (2018) #47 Curtis Cheney (2018) #48 Sandy Hrycyk (2018) #48 Sandy Hrycyk (2018) #48 Bill Gustafson (2002) #49 Wayne Didyk (2018) #45 Ukake Viravec (2018) #45 Wayne Didyk (2018) #55 Wayne Huggins #54 Mike Stuart (2010) #55 Ted Brown (2010) #55 Ted Brown (2010) #55 Kurt Lund (2010)

#23 Dale Hislop (2004) #24 Percy Pyra (2005) #25 Mark Demchuk (2006) #26 David Little (2006) #26 David Little (2006) #27 Cam Johnson (2007) #28 Andy Wiese (2007) #29 Gary Gillett (2007) #30 Ted Hansen (2007) #31 Vince Aiello (2007) #32 Leon Groves (2008) #33 Erin Wilde (2008) #34 Dale Johnson (2008) #35 Rob Kubicek (2008) #36 Robert Giles (2008) #37 Terry Brew (2008) #38 Kelly Semple (2009) #39 Dale Heinz (2009) #40 Tim Sailer (2009) #41 Bradley Wells (2009) #42 James Noiles (2009) #43 Lance Neilson (2009) #44 Ricardo Longoria (2009) #45 Julie Griffiths (2010) #46 Mark Barber (2010) #46 Mark Barber (2010) #47 Curtis Cheney (2010) #48 Sandy Hrycyk (2010) #49 Wayne Didyk (2010) #50 Luke Viravec (2010) #51 Darrin West (2010) #52 Wes Pietz (2010) #53 Dwayne Huggins (2010) #54 Mike Stuart (2010) #55 Ted Brown (2010)

#57 Trevor Yurchak (2010) #58 Gunther Tondelèir (2010) #59 Jim Johnson (2011) #60 Joe Mungo (2011) #61 Hal Ziprick (2011) #62 Tom Kampjès (2011) #63 Daniel Wise (2011) #64 Dave Zimmermann (2011) #65 Jennifer Ukrainetz (2011) #66 David Schlottke (2012) #67 Leonard Verbaas (2012) #68 Geordie Lund (2012) #69 Joey Sr Busetto (2012) #70 Dave Van Belleghem (2012) #71 Steve Rogers (2012) #72 Robert Bennett (2012) #73 Mark Engstrom (2012) #74 Chester Dodgson (2012) #75 Derek Bruce (2013) #76 Neil Johnson (2013) #77 Jesse Wrubleski (2013) #78 John Warwa (2013) #79 Mike Wood (2013) #80 Peter Demchuk (2013) #81 Mackenzie Mayer (2013) #82 Ryan Kohler (2013) #83 Cody Sutley (2013) #84 Randy Repas (2013) #85 Jack Suggett (2013) #86 Dane Percival (2013) #87 Dale Grimstead (2014) #88 Mike Cameron (2014) #89 Sean O'Neill (2014) #90 Jody Vegh (2014)

#92 Jonathan Wrubleski (2014) #93 Eric Moland (2014) #94 Brandon Brown (2014) #95 Remington Dietzen (2015) #96 Chris Črispin (2015) #97 Carson Toy (2015) #98 Derald Stone (2015) #99 Bert Frelink (2015) #100 Dustin Wanke (2015) #101 Ryan Bartholow (2015) #102 Gord Nuttall (2015) #103 Darcy Barret (2015) #104 Levy Groves (2015) #105 Wilf Lehners (2015) #106 Heidi Lehners (2015) #107 Cody Tomke (2015) #108 Tharen Soroka (2016) #109 Chris Kuhl (2016) #110 Riley Groves (2016) #111 Corey Friesen (2016) #112 Matt Hunter (2016) #113 Danielle Dickson (2016) #114 Cory Geier (2016) #115 Thanos Natras (2016) #116 Leanne McCabe (2016) #117 Leighten Hauck (2017) #118 Tara Normand (2017) #119 John Moriarity (2017) #120 Jerid Waselick (2017) #121 Derrick Smith (2017) #122 Greg Gerlitz (2017)

#91 Alan Southwood (2014)

3Rd Annual Cougar Hunt Raffle Details and Conditions:

Guide/outfitter is Kelly Morton of Mayerthorpe, AB. 100% success rate with previous two winners, both taking mature toms.

Open to Alberta residents only. Must be 18 or older to purchase tickets.

Value is \$7000

Hunt is NON-transferable.

Hunter can use any legal hunting equipment as outlined in the current Alberta Hunting Regulations.

Responsibility of raffle winner - transportation to and from main hunt rendezvous location (be determined at time of hunt), tips, Alberta resident cougar license.

Exact hunt dates based on open availability (starting first week Dec 2017), dependent on weather conditions and hunt location, opening/closing of zones. Hunter should be prepared for call on short notice. Guaranteed an opportunity at a mature tom.

Tickets available starting 12:00pm (noon) June 1, 2017. Either at the ABA online store www.bowhunters.ca or cash and cheque sales available from raffle chair person Brent Watson (brent@albertabowhunters.com - cell 780-978-1195. 10238-110 Ave., Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1S7). Sales will be time stamped once the transaction is completed online/cash or cheque in hand, to ensure first come first served.

Members received notice in this (2017 spring) edition of the ABA Quarterly Newsletter.

LICENSE # 462042

Draw date: **August 15, 2017** at Barton's Big Country Sports



Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Alberta Bowhunter Association c\o ABA Membership Director Box 89021 Mckenzie Towne Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3







