

Alberta

2017 WINTER NEWSLETTER

BOWHUNTERS

ASSOCIATION



Namibia Bound | Mulie Magic | Banquet

FEATURES



4

Namibia Bound

by
Kevin Wilson



8

Mulie Magic

by
Kris Skelly

ON THE COVER

Wilf Lehnars arrows a heavy mature whitetail buck in the fall of 2016.

IN EVERY ISSUE

10  Anchor Points

12  Brag board

14  President's Report

21  Member Application

Plus

16  Cougar Raffle Results

18  Banquet 2017 details

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President

Brent Watson
Brent@albertabowhunters.com

Director at Large

Neil Johnson
neil@albertabowhunters.com

Traditional

Gun Lemke
gun@albertabowhunters.com

Vice President

Dale Johnson
Dale@albertabowhunters.com

Regulations

Terry Brew
Terry@albertabowhunters.com

Secretary

Cole O'Neil
Cole@albertabowhunters.com

Treasurer/Webiste

Lance Neilson
lneilson@telus.net

North Director

Rob Kubicek
Rob@albertabowhunters.com

Director at Large

Derald Stone
derald@albertabowhunters.com

Central Director

Mike Walliser
Mike@albertabowhunters.com

South Director

Dan Indenbosch
Dan@albertabowhunters.com

Director at Large

Darin Quintilio
Darin@albertabowhunters.com

Membership

John Biskup
John@albertabowhunters.com

Newsletter

Gord Nuttall
gord@albertabowhunters.com

Director at Large

Cam Johnson
cam@albertabowhunters.com

3D COMMITTEE

3D Director

Kris Skelly
kris@albertabowhunters.com

Members

Brent Watson
Lori Keeler
Al Keeler
Leonard Claffey

Trevor Edwards

Allen Chatten
Sean O'Neil





EDITORIAL

Gord Nuttall

I escaped winter and Xmas (for the most part) by traveling to Maui over the holidays with my family. My luggage consisted of my Bear BR33 compound bow encased in a borrowed traveling Easton bow case. I had just enough room for all my hunting gear and a few t-shirts, board shorts and flip flops - all you need for a couple weeks in Hawaii.



After researching bow hunting in Hawaii last fall, I was pleasantly surprised to find out how many opportunities exist on each island and how plentiful game is. I was fortunate enough to hook up with a fellow resident bow hunter who took me out for a 9 mile day hiking up and down some fascinating and rugged country. We spotted many spanish goats, wild hogs and axis deer herds. It was nice to be able to sit down and eat fresh guava fruit while taking a break from hunting and hydrate in the 25 degree weather.

I was glad I brought my kenetrek mountain hiking boots as I need them to stalk animals along the grass covered loose volcanic rock. Game animals in Hawaii are considered unwelcome by the government and they have plans to fence off the state parks and eradicate any game animals within because of destructive grazing they do to native vegetation. If you are thinking about bow hunting in Hawaii, do it sooner rather than later as things are not going to get any better.

Gord Nuttall



2017 Winter Edition

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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.

JOIN MEMBERSHIP

To join the ABA and regularly receive this newsletter, be eligible for the awards programs and insurance coverage do it quick and easy at our online store, get immediate email confirmation and print your own membership card.

Or join by mail (application on page 22 or from website) and mail to :

ABA Membership Director
Box 89021 Mckenzie Towne
Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3
John@albertabowhunters.com

WEBSITE

www.bowhunters.ca

ONLINE STORE

www.albertabowhunters.com



Like us on
Facebook

NAMIBIA BOUND

by Kevin Wilson

Windy, hot and unbelievably dry, winter conditions were ideal for waiting at a waterhole. After several attempts on foot, we conceded. Laced with parched leaves crackling underfoot, spot and stalk hunting proved to be more of a challenge than anticipated. Opting to crawl into a blind, I was focusing on either an eland or a gemsbok. Barely 20 minutes into our vigil, a young kudu



bull and cow appeared from our right and cautiously migrated to the water's edge. Hyper alert, they took turns quenching their thirst. While one would drink the other would keep watch for danger. Then, minutes later, emerging from the bushveld, a gemsbok and cow made an appearance. Equally cautious but eager to drink, the old bull stood slightly quartering toward the blind. Sporting heavy black scarred horns, he was mature and impressive. Thick worn bases and distinct rings indicated he was a definite shooter. In contrast, his female counterpart had much longer and thinner horns and a more sleek hide.

"Take that one, Kevin, he's a good old bull," whispered our PH, Allan Van Rooyen enthusiastically. "He won't stay long, take him now!"

With no hesitation, I drew, locked in for the 27-yard shot and, as soon as he turned broadside I instinctively squeezed the trigger on my release. My arrow buried deep

quality African outfitters can be a dizzying venture. With all the marketing hype from literally hundreds of outfitters,

it can be overwhelming trying to make sense of it all. Countries like South Africa and Namibia often rise to the top as the most affordable and obvious choices for the plains game hunter. For us it was a matter of researching the circumstances, pricing, and amenities each outfitter offers. At the top of our list was a free-range hunting experience along with the ability to bowhunt with high odds for success. High

fence, put-and-take hunting, was something we wanted to avoid. For this reason alone, Namibia became our primary focus.

In 2015, we had the good fortune of meeting two of Etosha's staff along with a couple who had experienced their lodge and services firsthand. We became increasingly intrigued when they referred to Etosha Hills as one of "Africa's best kept secrets". Imagine 60,000 hectares of private land holding an extraordinarily high population of trophy-class animals, directly adjacent to a National Park. Well, that's equation at Etosha Hills Hunting. Bordering Namibia's famous Etosha National Park, animals move back and forth at several locations along the property. It is literally a hunter's paradise. To add to the attraction, they typically

"Africa has become the go-to destination for traveling bowhunters. Considering the costs, travel, political stability, diversity of game and opportunity, Etosha Hills tops the list as one of my favourites."

into his chest. After a short 40 metre run, the majestic bull toppled. What a rush!

Several years in the making, we had attended Safari Club International (SCI) shows stateside, along with African hunting shows here in Canada before making a decision. When we finally discovered Etosha Hills Hunting, our search was over. For the traveling hunter, researching high

host less than 50 hunters each year.

Once the decision was made, travel arrangements commenced. To add to our African hunting experience, we decided to bring our two daughters. Our oldest was 15 and our youngest still 10 at the time. With no minimum age restriction in Namibia, our youngest was particularly excited about the idea of taking her first big game animal.



We proceeded with the recommended immunizations and scheduled a regular shooting regimen – both for our kids and ourselves. Filming episodes for Canadian Outdoorsman TV (www.CanadianOutdoorsmanTV.com), our goal was to hunt with rifles and bows. We really wanted to experience every aspect of plains game hunting and

that would mean both spot and stalk as well as sitting in blinds at waterholes. In preparation, we spent the summer shooting our bows and having our girls practice extensively with a 243 Win. As our mid-August departure date arrived, the Wilsons were ready to roll.

Traveling through Frankfurt, Germany we caught a connector to Johannesburg, South Africa and then another for the final leg to Windhoek, Namibia. Surreal indeed, as we stepped onto the tarmac at the Windhoek airport, the warm air reminded us that

our long-awaited adventure was finally becoming a reality. Our PH, Allan

Van Rooyen, greeted us at the airport and we drove the five-hour commute to the lodge.

As luck would have it, our rifles didn't show up with our luggage, but thankfully our bows did. In fact, we didn't get them until the third day of our trip. That made our choices for the first few days much easier. Trying our hand at a few different stalks on red hartebeest and gemsbok, the dry ground made it next to impossible to get within bow range on foot. Our first day was spectacular. We saw everything from blue wildebeest to steenbok, eland, plains zebra and more. No arrows were launched but it was an absolutely spectacular adventure. Discussion around the dinner table concluded with a decision to try a remote waterhole the next morning.

After a fine breakfast, and an hour drive deep into the remote bushveld, we arrived at our destination. Allan and his tracker quickly checked the blind for uninvited guests in the form of snakes, spiders, and scorpions. Given the 'all clear', we settled in to wait and see what might come in for a drink. Over the years, I've spoken with scores of people who have hunted Africa, and watched countless television shows. Never have I heard others speak of the numbers of animals that we saw. Within a half hour, kudu carefully ap-



proached from different directions. By 11:00 a.m. we had seen black impala, springbok, large groups of guinea fowl, gemsbok, eland, and warthogs at the waterhole. Then, shortly after that, to our left a small group of three gemsboks could be seen ghosting through the trees. A spectacular non-typical cow sporting exceptionally long horns with the left side off-kilter and pointing forward, was especially noticeable. Without hesitation, Allan

immediately informed Heather that she should take that one. If you've ever met Heather, you know she's not one to hesitate. She's an accomplished bowhunter and she knows how to close the deal. The four of us sat motionless as she stood and readied herself for the shot. The window of the blind was large, affording plenty of angles for a shot opportunity. As the trophy-class gemsbok arrived, it gave Heather a brief opportunity, but she opted to wait. Stepping away from the waterhole, as soon as it turned and looked the other direction, Heather settled her 30-metre pin to take the quartering away shot. It looked like the perfect shot and the gemsbok bolted, running only 40 metres before stopping. Weakened and wobbling, it looked as though it would collapse at any moment. Instead, her gemsbok bedded. Her





broadhead buried deep into the cow's chest, it was an obvious kill shot, but we learned a lesson that day, that being that gemsbok are extremely tough. The nearest comparison I can make is to our North American elk. To make a long story short, we waited it out and ultimately Heather wound up finishing it with a second arrow. But while we waited, that's when the fun really started!

Experienced bowhunters know that it's always a good idea to wait the proverbial 45 minutes before following up, especially if we're uncertain of the shot. Well, we could still see her gemsbok and its head was up, so we waited. As we did, off in the distance we could hear a group of baboons.

Allan informed us that they are extremely cautious and it can be very difficult to get a shot at them. I had left my bow back at the lodge, giving Heather the opportunity to shoot that day, so she was up to bat again. As luck would have it, a couple baboons took a chance and slipped in for a drink. Heather wasted no time, taking her first viable shot opportunity at 27 metres. Launching her Easton Hexx arrow, she made a perfect shot and her baboon sprinted, then disappeared into the trees. What a day!

Two animals down and the day was only half done.

If you can believe it, our day was about to get even better! Our biggest problem was finding a window of opportunity to exit the blind.

Each time we thought we were in the clear, more animals would be lingering near or at the waterhole. At one point a warthog boar with giant tusks slipped in. Allan was even excited, emphatically saying that it was enormous! Unfortunately, he took off almost as fast as he had appeared, robbing Heather of any shot opportunity. Then only a short while later, he raced in again, knelt at the edge of the water and lowered his head for another quick drink. At that point I had been filming other animals and was the only one who could actually see him. I motioned to Heather to grab her bow quickly. One of the advantages to being married is that your spouse learns to read you. It took

only a couple seconds for Heather to get the message and she instantly had her bow in hand, drew and locked onto the spectacular warthog. At 20 metres, she sent her arrow on its way, making a perfect double lung shot. On impact, the boar snorted and sprinted for cover.

Speechless, Heather couldn't believe what she had just done. Allan even commented, reinforcing that, not only were both her gemsbok and warthog gold medal animals, but to get them with a bow on the same day is an amazing accomplishment! Top that off with an archery baboon, well, she had just experienced a world-class day with some outstanding trophies to take home. At that, Allan decided it was time to go collect her animals and take photos for the day. To make the day even better, our video footage for the show was epic!

That evening, we enjoyed a breathtaking sunset. Our ride back to the lodge was pleasant as the heat of the day had subsided and the breeze on the high seat was a welcomed reprieve. Dinner, a short visit, a nightcap, and then off to bed, it had been a day we would never forget.

Over the following days, our youngest, Paige, took a fine

springbok and Chelsea shot a great blue wildebeest. Heather dropped an exceptional 53" kudu and mountain zebra with a 7mm Rem Mag, and I was able to take a very nice plains zebra along with an impressive waterbuck also with the rifle. My all-time favourite, however, was a red hartebeest that I took with a bow. That particular hunt was on a waterhole as well.

Midway through our hunt, Allan and several of the Etosha Hills staff treated us to an amazing tent camp experience for one night. To camp in the bushveld is an experience unlike any other. All kinds of wildlife roam near and sometimes



even through camp. Visiting around the evening fire, as our eyes grew heavy, we called it a day. The next morning, after an open air full-service breakfast, we headed to another waterhole. Much like Heather's earlier bowhunt, within an hour of settling into the blind, we were visited by more wildlife than we could have every hoped for, but two in particular caught our eye. One was a mountain zebra and the other a pair of red hartebeest. Circling just out of range for over an hour, the zebra was especially hesitant. Eventually vanishing into the bushveld, it just wasn't meant to be. Over a few hours, several other animals came to water



weak to get up, I got out of the blind, slowly approached and put a finishing arrow into him. Bowhunt long enough and this happens to everyone at some point in time. For my efforts, I was rewarded with another gold medal animal. Risking a cliché, for us, this was the trip of a lifetime! We saw black rhino, white rhino, elephant, fresh lion tracks, aardvark, more giraffes than I can count and the amount

including a gemsbok, springbok, impala, eland, kudu, and warthogs. Giving the hartebeest a sense of comfort, they eventually moved in as well. Bow in hand, we all remained motionless and, as the larger of the two bulls turned broadside at 25 metres, I drew back. He didn't stand still for long and, unfortunately the moment I released he stepped forward. My arrow hit the right height but passed through him back from where I'd been aiming! I felt sick, but thankfully he only made it 60 metres, slowed, stopped and began to wobble. Within a few minutes, he bedded in the shade under a nearby tree. Waiting him out, as soon as he looked too

of plains game we saw was almost incomprehensible. We made new friends, experienced another culture, took 11 different animals, and enjoyed exceptional meals and accommodation. Would we go back? In a heartbeat! If you're interested doing a hunt in Namibia, feel free to call me any time at 780.913.1021 or e-mail me at kwilson@tbwifi.ca. To check Etosha Hills Hunting out online, go to www.etoshahunting.com. To watch our hunts, visit www.CanadianOutdoorsmanTV.com. The first episode will be live by the end of January.

Mulie Magic

by Kris Skelly

Without a solid game plan, good friends, and perfect conditions....some hunts just are not possible. On occasion when the stars aligns, these moments you cherish always.

and find a mature mule deer to put a spot and stalk on. Just prior to sunrise we spotted two mule deer bedded on a hillside and decided that one of them was worthy spending time on to pursue.



We guessed that shortly after day break they would head into the wind to try and find a place to bed for the day. So I struck out alone and walked a fence line to try and head them off. Sadly by the time I got into position for an ambush, it was too late! The larger of the two deer had walked into a standing wheat field. I kneeled down undetected and hoped that the rising sun would signal the deer that it was time to bed down. He had good cover, some snacks, and wide open country to escape any predators. As predicted the deer bedded down right in a sprayer track! Thankfully his wind was blowing directly towards me and there was a parallel track for me to crawl along.

I was invited out to chase mule deer by a close friend of mine and fellow ABA member in central Alberta. Clint Taylor and I headed out at first light to try

Clint sent a text to my phone and encouraged me to make the stalk, conditions were just right to make this happen. We had all day and Clint was watching

“Perfect conditions made for a perfect stalk”





through the binoculars from a great vantage where he could see me crawling along the sprayer track parallel to the track the deer was in.

275 yards from me to the deer.. Down on my hands and knees, I slowly crawled closer towards him. Taking my time to make sure I wasn't detected I popped up every now and then to see the antler tips sticking high above the wheat stalks.

275 yards became 200, then 90, then 60. Clint sent me another text telling me once I got to comfortable range, which in this instance 30-40 yards would be perfect, he would circle around upwind of the deer to give him his scent. Usually when this happens and the deer is relaxed they will stand to check out the situation but not bolt.

Slowly and cautiously I made it to 32 yards. The slight breeze and the rustling of the standing wheat

muffled the noise I made creaking in the sprayer track. I peeked up and saw the deer, still bedded and relaxed, and knocked an arrow. Clint did his part and quietly circled upwind, all he had to do was drive up a lease road and get out of the truck for a stretch. After a short time the deer calmly stood up....I rose up to a full kneel, drew back, settled my pin, and placed the arrow behind the elbow one third of the way up the Bucks chest. The shot was perfect, right in the heart. The deer bounded off but did not go far.

As Bowhunters we strive to make a quick one shot harvest. We owe it to the game we pursue to make sure we do our part to hold up our end of the bargain. Bowhunting is not about how far you are willing to take a shot. It is about putting yourself in a position to make a one shot clean kill. With perfect conditions, a game plan, a good friend and a little luck this hunt will be one I cherish always.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
Check back cover for your expiry date





ANCHOR POINTS

Mark Twang



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

Bowhunting the offseason - 3D style

The months between fall hunting seasons is a long time to go without shooting your bow. Participating in 3D off-season indoor archery competitions forces bowhunters to practice, retain memory muscle and form or simply offers a welcomed change from range paper targets. Getting together with old friends and meeting new similar passionate bowhunters is lots of fun and can help kick the winter blues - plus there's no work needed after hitting the mark. 3D shoots offer bowhunters of any age or gender the chance to compete by shooting various life size animal foam targets over different unknown distances.



Hip quiver, scoring sheets and binoculars are essential 3D gear.

RULES AND SETUP

3D shoots are attended by both archers and bowhunters. Many different categories of competition exist for males, females and youth. Some competitors strictly shoot only 3D tournaments and never step into the woods, thus have different optimized equipment for indoor aiming at non-living things. But every shoot will have a class where hunting bow setups (fixed sight pins) are only allowed. A traditional stick-and-string bow class is also offered. Historically, rangefinders are banned resulting in disqualification if you are caught with one, however, recently some shoots offer a rangefinder class - taking estimating out of the equation and leaving only shot execution to score high.

3D shoots consist of 1-3 rounds of 10 stations - each station with 3 different shots. Groups of shooters move from station to station, eventually shooting all thirty scoreable arrows - each at a different target, distance and angle. 3-4 minutes is allotted for all members of the group to shoot the station targets. Shots can be diagonal, straight, over other objects and range in length from 15-40 yards for compounds and 5-20 yards for traditional and youth shooters. After the 'all clear' is announced, groups visit each target shot - retrieving arrows and recording scores - then proceeding along the shooting line to the next station, repeating the process at 3 more targets. Each shooter tallies his/her own score by summing all the points from each shot. Regardless of score, the shoot forces bowhunters to fire many arrows in a semi-realistic environment surrounded by familiar camaraderie.

TARGETS AND SCORING

All 3D shoots have a variety of high-density foam targets designed specifically for these competitions. Many targets are common North American and African game animals, but you'll also draw on others such as: giant mosquitos, raptors and big-foot. Some shoots have many different courses (groups of shooting stations), but some smaller shoots just have one course. Every target at each station, on each course, has the same scoring system: 11 points for a small bullseyes in the prime





Indoor 3D shoots over the winter months are a great fun way to stay in shooting shape.

spot, 10 points for next largest circle (heart/lung shot), 8 points for any arrow embedded in the vitals region, 5 points if the target is hit at all (wound) and finally, 0 points for clean misses. Many of the shoots offer additional fun rounds involving arrow wrecking steel plates (if you miss), moving targets and 1 inch bulleye attempts from distances approaching 100 yards – big prize for hitting that mark!

GEAR

I use my bowhunting setup minus my bow quiver. Today's hunting bows shoot at incredible speeds making arrows penetrate deep, especially with smaller diameter carbon arrows. Coating your arrows with arrow snot (smile) and using a rubber arrow puller prevents blisters and sore hands from retrieving arrows. A hip quiver is common with all

shooters as a convenient place to hold and nock your arrows from, plus carry a few spares. You will only need field points, broadheads are not allowed. Behind the shooting line are foam coated racks are provided to place your bow before retrieving arrows, however, getting a foldable two legged kick-stand that quickly clamps onto your lower limb allows you to store your bow vertically and away from the crowded racks – some hip quivers have a special pocket just for this device. 3D scoring cheat-sheets help shooters know exactly where bulls eyes are on each target - commonly seen but aren't necessary. I'd recommend glassing with binoculars to find your precise aiming point.

TIMING TIP: 3-4 minutes is plenty of time for your entire group to shoot. To not waste time, don't glass targets while at the shooting line – aim and shoot only. Step back to glass and let others shoot while you study your next target. Don't rush your shots –it's common that the shooting line marshal stops the clock early if all groups have finished their station.



3D shoots offer the bowhunter a chance to shoot life-size targets of animals they will never see in the field. Fun for all ages.

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.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
Check back cover for your expiry date

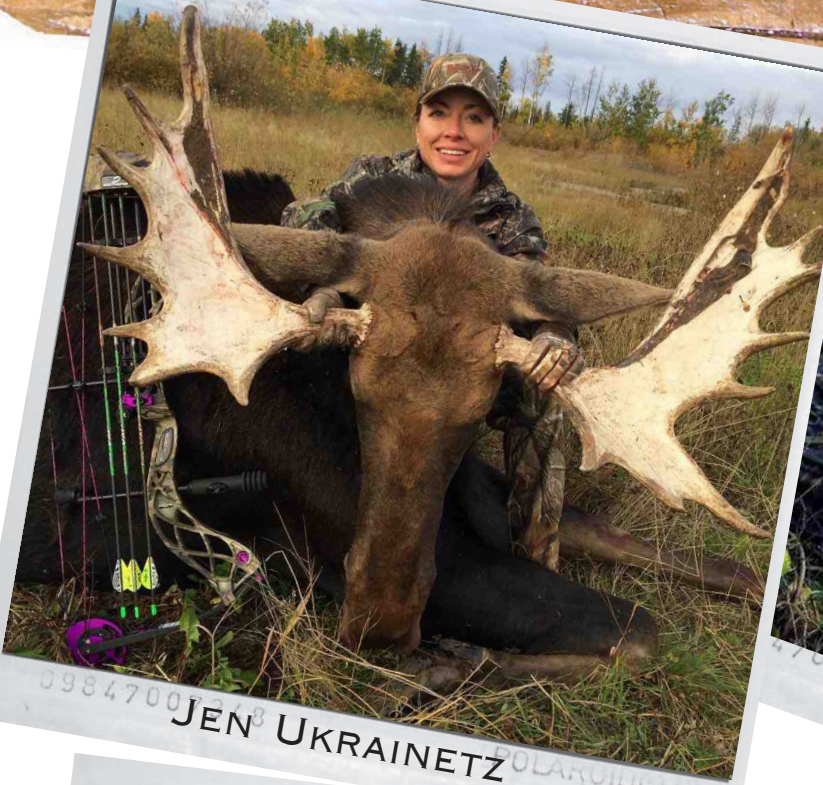
Have something to brag about?

Then send a high resolution photograph of your memorable accomplishment to: gord@albertabowhunters.com

BRAG



BOARD



JEN UKRAINETZ



COLE O'NEIL

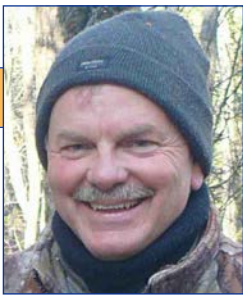


KYLE SINCLAIR-SMITH



AL AVERY





PRESIDENTS REPORT

Brent Watson

Tense night as I put this together - Canada's hockey team at the World Junior Championship. What a way to lose a championship game - especially one like this where both teams should get a gold medal. Can't be disappointed in the effort!! Did the country proud!

We have just had another 4" of snow - that makes about 8" the last week or so. But before that we only had a skiff on the ground - made it slow going with sled on the trapline. Got enough now LOL. This is shaping up to be a great winter for the critters and outside of getting eaten by one of the many predators on the landscape, numbers lost due to a harsh winter should be minimal. Most of the hunting seasons are over and hopefully you all have had some degree of success this year -- as always send your pics and stories to Gord@albertabowhunters.com.

The latest ABA Raffle was launched just before Christmas and we have had a great initial response. Social Media promotion, notice through our mass email network has worked awesome. Currently we are at 70% sold!! The proceeds from all our raffles help offset the costs of our Game Awards Program, our 3D Bowhunter Challenge shoot, the newsletter etc. These dollars allow us to keep our membership dues at their low levels - a great value to belong to the largest bowhunting organization in the country!!

We have another rifle package put together - a Browning X Bolt in .243 (thumbhole stock) topped with a 3-15x Steiner scope. Comes with a sling and Boyt hard case. Included is a FOX Pro Fusion electronic call. Beauty of a gun and very versatile - the caliber is great for predators/deer/antelope and would fit young and old alike. Tickets are available on

the ABA online store (www.bowhunters.ca) and we have spread some tickets out through ABA executive members. Contact Brent for their info if you are not able to get them online OR if would like to take a few books and sell them for the ABA. Ticket price is \$10 each. Raffle license #453046. We will do the draw at the next ABA Banquet March 25/17 in Nisku. GOOD LUCK!!

I have been attending the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council meetings and am on the AGPAC Allocation Policy Review Committee. Two days of meetings with FW and other stakeholders/committee members wrapped up Dec 6/7. At that time FW outlined the changes for 2017 that they are proposing and it is a very short list:

2017 Hunting Regulation proposed changes:

- create antlered and antlerless elk hunting seasons in WMUs 501, 502, 514, 110.
- change the elk season in WMU 500 to a standalone hunting season.
- add WMUs 206, 208, 228, 240 and 242 to the list of areas to mandatory submit heads of harvested deer for CWD testing. Follows a recent positive in 242.
- remove the requirement for designated pheasant release sites to be closed at 2pm during the pheasant season

The Allocation Policy Review committee met on the second day and we just had another meeting on Jan 12/17. Once the work of this committee is done, its recommendations will be taken to AGPAC general, internal FW people and then the draft "policy" will be open to the public and organizations for their feedback and comments.

This policy review is looking at how the big game harvest/tags will be divided up among the residents, non-residents, bowhunters, land-owners etc. As things progress we will keep everyone informed as to the process, developments, how they can get involved and make their thoughts known.

If anyone has an idea on a regulation they think should be changed, contact Terry Brew (Terry@albertabowhunters.com) and fill out the template for Regulation Change. Contact your local/regional AEP biologist. Get as much information together as you can. We will then take these suggestions to our FW/stakeholder meetings.

Things are coming together for the 2017 Banquet. Keeping with our theme (sheep and goats) our guest speaker will be Steve Ecklund and Steve will be talking about his 2015 WMU 410 sheep hunt as well as some of his other sheep trips. We are inviting anyone with an archery taken sheep or goat to bring them for our display. Be eligible for a draw for a great prize as well.

See the banquet poster in the newsletter for ticket details, room reservations etc. A twist for the AGM this year is a draw from all those who attend the AGM for a custom knife made and donated by member Dale Johnson - the hope is this draw will increase attendance for the AGM.

At the AGM we will be voting on a couple of constitution changes - see the official notification in this newsletter. If anyone has comments or questions contact Brent or any of the executive.

We will also be voting for the following executive positions (President, Regulations Director, Secretary, North Director, Traditional Director, Newsletter) at the 2017 AGM.



... CONTINUED

If anyone is interested in running for any of these positions, would like more information as to the job descriptions, what is all involved, don't hesitate to contact any of the current executive (email contact info on page 2). The job descriptions are outlined in our constitution (available to any member) and current executives can explain some more of the hows and whys of the organization. Elections will take place at the 2017 AGM at the Nisku Inn and Convention Center.

Candidates for election to any position may make their names known to the Vice-President in writing, at any time prior to the vote being called, or nominations from the floor will be accepted. Candidates for election need not be present, but if they are not, a signed notice

of intent to stand for office must be in the hands of the Vice-President (Dale@albertabowhunters.com) prior to the vote being called.

Hope you are enjoying the new look newsletter and what an awesome product now in FULL COLOR. With our printers new equipment it is now actually a bit cheaper than the old BW version. Hats off to our editor Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com) and to everyone who submits articles and pictures.

It is time to renew memberships again and check the mailing label on this issue for your expiry date. Or contact Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com) or Mike (Mike@albertabowhunters.com) and we can check the database as well. Renewing online is easy!

If anyone thinks they qualify for the Master Bowhunter buckle or the Grandmaster Bowhunter portrait, you need to get a hold of Ryk (ryk@ryk.ca) or Brent right away so we can get the ball rolling with the engraving and the portrait artist. When you submit any of your Game Award entry forms to Ryk (by mail, email or fax) make sure you follow up with him and make sure he got them. When you email him pictures make sure the file size is not too big - we have had some end up in his junk mail folder and they have been missed.

As always if you have any suggestions or comments don't hesitate to contact myself or any of the executive. Hope to see you in Nisku!!

2017 EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

If anyone is interested in running for any of these positions, would like more information as to the job descriptions, what is all involved, don't hesitate to contact any of the current executive (email contact info on page 2). The job descriptions are outlined in our constitution (available to any member) and current executives can explain some more of the hows and whys of the organization. Elections will take place at the 2017 AGM at the Nisku Inn and Convention Center.

Candidates for election to any position may make

their names known to the Vice-President in writing, at any time prior to the vote being called, or nominations from the floor will be accepted. Candidates for election need not be present, but if they are not, a signed notice of intent to stand for office must be in the hands of the Vice-President (Dale@albertabowhunters.com) prior to the vote being called.

President	Regulations Director
Secretary	North Director
Newsletter	Traditional Director

2017 CONSTITUTION CHANGES

***TO BE VOTED ON AT MARCH 25, 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ARTICLE FOUR - MEETINGS AND APPOINTMENTS -- Point 2

- Quorums - in discussion with Alberta Government Society Act people, they advised that there is nothing in the Society rules that say you need to have a certain number of people/executive for any meeting. Most organizations that have a quorum clause have wording to the effect "if after ___ minutes of the meeting starting, those present will be deemed to be the quorum."
- Our constitution indicates at meetings of the Executive Committee, the quorum shall be three (3) voting members, at each Annual General Meeting, the quorum shall be twenty five (25) voting members and at Special General Meetings, the quorum shall be thirty five (35) voting members.

- To follow the Society rules, we will be putting forth a motion to add the wording "if after 10 minutes of the meeting starting, those present will be deemed to be the quorum" for each of the three types of meetings listed.

ARTICLE 2 Membership -- Point 6.

Eliminate Associate club level - this level offered a discount to any club who affiliated with the ABA and had a different insurance provider/broker. Over the years, only one club has used this level. To make things simpler and streamline things administratively, it was discussed at several executive meetings and a motion was passed to bring it forward to the membership at the 2017 AGM for a motion to eliminate the Associate Club level.

COUGAR RAFFLE RESULTS



Andre Titley

Hard to beat these results. Big thank you to our raffle outfitter Kelly Morton and his crew of hard working guides and hounds. As many know, cougar hunting is not easy but when you have a good “crew” and hunters who put in the effort, good results will happen. Hunters Derek Bruce and Andre Titley had nothing but high praise for



Derek Bruce

the entire operation from start to finish. Both were able to take great mature toms and fulfill lifelong dreams! Congratulations!

If anyone is looking to do a cougar hunt, make sure you contact Kelly (780-786-2727 | kmorton@xplornet.com) or check him out on facebook - "Kelly Morton Hunting"



Guest Speaker
Steve Ecklund
"Canmore Bowzone Bighorn Ram"

40TH ANNUAL ABA BANQUET & CONVENTION MARCH 25, 2017 THEME: MOUNTAIN FEVER

Exclusive Prize Draws

- Bring your bighorn sheep or mountain goat mounts
- Bring your 1st, 2nd or 3rd annual award winning mount

ROOMS :

- Call 780-955-7744 for room reservations – use HUNT or ABH17 to get a discount
- Room rate (double Queen beds) \$109 + tax
- 2 breakfast vouchers included
- Book by March 8th to guarantee reservation

CONVENTION AGENDA:

- 3D Meeting 8:00 – 9:30 am
- Regulations/AGM 9:45 – 1:00 pm
- Banquet 5:30 pm

ABA Game and 3D Awards, raffles and a ton of fun.

TICKETS :

- Online at www.bowhunters.ca or contact Brent Watson (780-978-1195 | brent@albertabowhunters.com)
- \$65 Adult / \$25 Youth (12 and under)
- Limit of 225 banquet tickets.
- NO tickets will be available at the door!!
- If you purchase a full banquet table of 8 or 10, a table will be reserved for you. Otherwise it is open seating and first come, first served. NO exceptions.

ADDRESS:

Nisku Inn & Conference Center
1101 4TH Street , Nisku, Alberta

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 nocks (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE allowed). Entries 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

Varmint

Crow
Magpie
Pigeon
Starling
Skunk
Free ranging wild boar
Raven (private land)

Carnivore

Wolf
Coyote
Badger
Fox
Raccoon

Game Bird

Hungarian Partridge
Grouse
Ptarmigan
Merriam's Turkey
Pheasant

Migratory

Ducks
Coots
Common Snipe (Wilson's)
Geese

Fish

Species according to Fishing Regulations.
Examples:
Sucker
Lake Whitefish

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
Mule Deer

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



GAME AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Deadline March 1st

(MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM FOR FUTURE USE, revised March 26, 2016)

BOWHUNTER (Please Print)

ANSWER THIS QUESTION, IT'S IMPORTANT! Were you an ABA member at the time this animal was taken?

Circle YES NO

ABA Memb # _____

Name: _____ Birthday (for youth entries 16 and under) _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone # _____ EMAIL _____

ANIMAL

*Species: _____ **Sex _____ ***Pope & Young Score (V,NT?) _____

Taken with recurve/longbow (traditional Equipment) Yes _____ No _____

* For Small Game indicate Category / Species e.g. Rodent / Gopher

** To be male, must have 4" horns or better

*** Only official P&Y scorers can fill this in, and affidavit below; make sure scorer indicates Velvet and/or Non-Typical categories if applicable.

Date of Kill _____ Location of Kill (WMU) _____

Signature & Phone # of Witness (Verification of Bow Kill) _____

Photo of Bowhunter with Big Game animal entries are requested but not mandatory



AFFIDAVIT OF FAIR CHASE

I, _____, by my signature do declare that my animal was killed by me entirely by means of the bow and arrow, and in accordance with the "P&Y Rules of Fair Chase" (<http://www.pope-young.org/>) (NOT allowed are draw lock devices, battery operated sights, bow mounted rangefinders, use of cellular trail cameras, etc.) (lighted noes (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE allowed). Must be taken in a regulated hunting season and on a valid hunting license.

Signature: _____ Date: _____, 20_____

AFFIDAVIT OF MEASURER

This affidavit shall be completed only when applying for "Annual Big Game Awards" and the "Master Bowhunter" Pope & Young Animals.

I certify that I have measured the above trophy on _____, 20_____

at (address) _____ City _____ Province _____

and that this score, is to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the official scoring system of the Pope & Young Club.

Witness: _____ Signature (official P&Y measurer): _____ OM# _____

Mail, Scan & Email (preferred) or Fax (last resort) all entries to Ryk Visscher at: 1166-68 St NW

Edmonton, AB T6K 3K4

Email ryk@ryk.ca

Cell 780-445-0327

Fax 780-450-0386 Call to confirm!

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES MARCH 1

NO EXTENSIONS, NO EXCEPTIONS!!

ABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

YES! I want to protect bowhunting in Alberta!

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	
MAILING ADDRESS					
CITY		PROV.		P/C	
HOME PHONE		EMAIL			
APPLICATION DATE		MEMBERSHIP TYPE		FEES:	
				1 YEAR	
				2 YEARS	
				3 YEARS	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED*		<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE ADULT MEMBERSHIP		<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	
		<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP		<input type="checkbox"/> \$65.00	
		<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MEMBERSHIP		<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	
		<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP		<input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00	
MAIN APPLICANT:		MALE <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00	
		FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> \$130.00	
				<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00	
NAME					
DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)					
NAME					
DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)					
NAME					
DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)					
NAME					
DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)					
NAME					
DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/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.

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

JOIN ONLINE AT
WWW.BOWHUNTERS.CA

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

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



**The Voice of
 Alberta Bowhunters
 SINCE 1956**



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

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.



Membership... Join Now!

ABA Program Participation

The ABA is a participating member of the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council, Hunting for Tomorrow, and attends all regulation meetings with government 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
(Guest speakers, Awards, Draws, Raffles, Displays, Stories and Laughs!)

Quarterly Newsletter



Your **Quarterly Newsletter** includes ABA Executive Reports, Future Events, Hunting Stories and much more!

REPORT A POACHER
www.reportapoacher.com
1-800-642-3800

3D Sanctioned Shoots

ABA hosts the "Bowhunter Challenge" shoot once a year.



Game Harvest Awards

Lloyd Mutter Grandmaster Award
Framed and Personalized Print

Affiliated Clubs

Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association

Sandy Hrycyk
(403) 283-3431
Sandy.Hrycyk@gmail.com

Bighorn Bowhunters Club

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

Brazeau Bowbender Archery

Drayton Valley, Leonard Claffey
brazeaubowbenders@gmail.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

Jim-Bows Junior Archery Club

Dawn Groszko, Calgary
dgroszko@7genenergy.co

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

Sherwood Park Archery Club

Sherwood Park
Shannon Blyth
www.sparchery.ca

Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association

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

Oilmens Archery Club

Springbrook Archers

Springbrook
Dwight Morency
dwightarcher@gmail.com

Strathmore Archery Club

Strathmore, Kevin Kempes
(403) 934-6006
kevcinkemps@shaw.ca

Vermillion River Archers

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

Yellowhead Arrow Launchers

Hinton
Tim Hooley
yellowheadarrowlaunchers.ca

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)
#2 Tom Foss (1998)
#3 Duane Hagman (1998)
#4 Steve Hagman (1998)
#5 Terry Hagman (1998)
#6 Des Quinn (1998)
#7 Allen Avery (1998)
#8 Archie Nesbitt (1999)
#9 Eric Ruahanen (1999)
#10 Mike Ukrainetz (1999)
#11 Adam Foss (1999)
#12 Cameron Foss (1999)
#13 Flint Simpson (1999)
#14 David Chorkwa (2000)
#15 Dale Collins (2000)
#16 Darryl Kublik (2001)
#17 Reg Adair (2002)
#18 Bill Gustafson (2002)
#19 Gregg Sutley (2002)
#20 Joe Winter (2002)
#21 Bob Gruszecki (2004)

#22 Robert Heuschwerlen (2004)
#23 Dale Hislop (2004)
#24 Percy Pyra (2005)
#25 Mark Demchuk (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 Jim Wilsion (2009)
#43 Lance Neilson (2009)
#44 Ricardo Longoria (2009)
#45 Julie Griffiths (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)
#56 Kurt Lund (2010)
#57 Trevor Yurchak (2010)
#58 Gunther Tondeleir (2010)
#59 Jim Johnson (2011)
#60 Joe Mungo (2011)
#61 Hal Ziprick (2011)
#62 Tom Kampjes (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)
#91 Alan Southwood (2014)
#92 Jonathan Wrubleski (2014)
#93 Eric Moland (2014)
#94 Brandon Brown (2014)
#95 Remington Dietzen (2015)
#96 Chris Crispin (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 Barrett (2015)
#104 Levy Groves (2015)
#105 Wilf Lehnars (2015)
#106 Heidi Lehnars (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 Leighton Hauck (2017)
#118 Tara Normand (2017)
#119 John Moriarity (2017)



PREDATOR HUNTING PACKAGE RAFFLE



**Browning X Bolt in .243
with Thumbhole Stock**

Details :

- Includes:
 - Steiner 3-15x 50mm scope
 - Boyt Hard Rifle Case
 - Neoprene Sling with Swivels
 - FOX PRO Fusion Electronic Caller
 - Retail value \$3700, supplied by Barton's Big Country Sports (Grande Prairie, Alberta)
 - Draw Date: March 25, 2017 at ABA Banquet, Nisku Inn & Convention Center, Nisku, Alberta
 - License #453046
 - Tickets \$10 each -- 1000 printed
 - Shipping costs responsibility of winner, winner must have valid PAL
 - Purchase directly online at www.bowhunters.ca
- or
- contract Brent Watson (780-978-1195 | brent@albertabowhunters.com)



**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**
Check expiry date below



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

CANADA		POSTES
POST		CANADA
Postage paid		Port payé
Publications Mail		Poste-publications
40810580		

