

Alberta

2018 SPRING NEWSLETTER

BOWHUNTERS' ASSOCIATION



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Mission Accomplished

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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

Sean O'Neil
sean@albertabowhunters.com

Central Director

Cam Foss
Cam@albertabowhunters.com

South Director

Dan Indenbosch
Dan@albertabowhunters.com

Director at Large

Kyle Sinclair-Smith
Kyle@albertabowhunters.com

Membership

Mike Walliser
Mike@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

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EDITORIAL

Gord Nuttall

“The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

We would like to thank Bob Smith, Clint Tweedle and Ted Hanson for volunteering their time at Cabela’s during early April fielding questions about the ABA and helping many youngsters to shoot. Running the safechery.com air archery range was huge draw for foot traffic in the store and many folks stopped to learn about what the ABA has to offer. Again, the most common question was “what’s the benefit or why should I join?” I encourage every member to always be prepared to answer this question to anyone. It’s not hard because there are so many benefits, such as (but not limited too) the following:

- Liability insurance protecting members in the field in case of accident
- Internationally acclaimed Game Awards Program (Portraits, buckles, annual plaques)
- Fair chase code of conduct
- Support 3D Shoot programs and the community
- Quarterly newsletters with feature stories, news and technical articles a
- Annual banquet and convention.
- Participating member of the Alberta Outdoor Coalition and Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council
- Resolution process to lobby government to improve and retain bowhunting opportunities
- Many successful lobbies to expand and improve bowhunting opportunities like our archery only zones & draws and the use or camouflage clothing.

Spring bear season has begun, and I have the same dilemma as Ron Brown did before embarking on his antelope hunt last fall (see page 6): should I shoot my trustworthy bow of the past 3 seasons or do I have time to get used to my new Bear Archery KUMA. Decisions, decisions.

Gord Nuttall

LAST ISSUE UNLESS YOU RENEW. CHECK MEMBERSHIP EXPIRY



2018 Spring 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
membership@albertabowhunters.com

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BEAR BONES

by Daniel Winger



This story begins with archery gear over a bear bait, but the action slowed down on the baits so we decided to head out to one of my favorite areas north of Whitecourt for a spot and stalk. We got to my parking spot and headed out on foot to get back into a few big cut blocks. It was about a two kilometre hike in when we rounded a corner of the trail and spotted a bear 100 metres up. My uncle stopped us and said he thinks that is a bear on the edge of the trail (that area has a PILE of “bear” stumps). I was skeptical at first because it was not moving at all. You could see the blue hue of the fur in the sunlight and it was at that moment we figured the bear was poached.



We started moving in for a closer look. We were about 30 metres from it, when he picked his head up and struggled to stand. It freaked me out quite a bit (my uncle still laughs to this day about the look on my face). When the bear fled he was hunched up bad and you could very clearly tell he was in bad shape. I assumed he was previously shot and not found. He disappeared off the edge of the trail, I decided I was going to fold my tag to put the poor animal out of his misery. I rushed up to where he went into the bush and dang near crapped my pants to see him right there, a mere 3 metres away! The bear went to climb a tree. As he stood up to put his front paws on it, he looked back at me and I could see in his eyes the pain he was going through. He was too weak to do much more than stand there, He dropped on all 4 legs, took a couple steps and fell over. That is when I pulled the trigger and shot him at roughly 6 metres. I will never ever forget that death moan, it still makes the hair on my neck stand up thinking about it.

When we skinned him out is when the realization of what actually happened to this poor guy. He was kicked in the



face by either a moose, elk, or deer the previous fall BEFORE he went into hibernation for the winter. His lower jaw was completely shattered, and almost 100% fully healed up. Because the bear was hibernating the jaw healed up crooked. That bear could not eat or drink for who knows how long. Long enough that the jaw healed. He was so dehydrated it was actually hard to pull the skin away from the carcass during the skinning. To this day I am firm believer that had we not gone that day, but had gone the day after, we would have found him in the same spot, only dead. I am confident where he was laying in the sun, was his spot he picked to die.

This bear so far is the worst thing I have ever seen in the wild. He is 42” from nose tip to tail tip (I just taped him on my wall). He was an 18” boar! Might be the saddest thing I will see for a while.



MISSION

Accomplished

By Ron Brown

I started to put my name in for the Archery Only pronghorn antelope draw back in 2009. After eight years of 999 to build priority before even considering putting in for an actual draw, I discussed the idea with a few acquaintances about which zones were healthy and how to go about planning for just such a hunt. I discussed the zone selection and priority with Chris my most reliable go to hunting partner. Even though the antelope rut landed right in the middle of our most active elk hunting time we planned to make a go of it. He had an eight priority points after nine years of doing the same 999 strategies. We decided to go for it and put in a partner hunt application for the 150-152 WMU zones on the north side of the Alberta Suffield Military base.

Chris and I normally hit a few 3D shoots every summer to stay tuned up and sharp for when the shot counts in a hunting situation. By the time the results came out I was a bit surprised as most of the re-

ports we'd heard was an 8 or 9 at minimum would be required to gain success, but nevertheless we were each awarded a tag. We had already hit a few shoots by the time the draw results came out and that's when we had to get serious about planning and started to check websites and called a few fellow hunters that had had some success down south for tips and advice.

Chris and I had hunted together on a few species in the past, mainly elk and had never had the open plains type of hunting experience. This was going to be quite different from any hunts we'd been on up to this point. We discussed waterhole hunts with ground blinds and decoy hunting as our main options for success.

The summer of 2017 was a hot and dry one, on-line hunting sites listed that there was a significant drought happening in the area we had been drawn for. We started making plans with website inquiries on public and leased land in the area and made a few calls and emails to various landowners in the region. We had a few "sorry not this year" replies and decided to use mountain bikes and a towable bike trailer like you'd use for taking young children out for a bike ride to assist us in easing fears of grass fires. With that plan we had some success with landowners and lease holders with a promise that we'd be on foot to hunt and retrieval would be with mountain bikes and the trailer to avoid any heat sources with the extremely hot dry conditions. Well anyone that knows me would also know, I turned 50 this year and my physical condition is a little less than perfect. With my travelling salesman job and an old back injury that limits me to moderate exercise I'm not a small guy. I bought a new mountain bike and started taking a few rides to "tune" up the legs for the potential hauling of gear in and with some luck, antelope out. I also purchased an antelope silhouette for the hunt.

As the timing of the hunt was also an important consideration, we planned to leave on the evening of September 13th after work and set up camp that evening and would hunt until the following Monday if we needed the time. We were willing to sacrifice prime elk rutting time for this chance to anchor an archery antelope trophy. We also picked up a couple



of mule deer tags as the area was open for archery and odds were good we might see a deer or two.

Knowing the shots might be long, I took my single pin sight off my brand new Hoyt Pro Defiant Turbo bow and installed a fixed pin sight and started tuning my Wac'Em 4 blade broad heads with a plan to sight in 20, 40, 60 and 70 metres. The new Hoyt was a fast bow and after tuning and trying for a full day to get the new bow to shoot a good group I determined that I did not have time to work the bugs out and pulled out my old Hoyt CRX, it had worked flawlessly in the 2016 season and I was able to get it flinging darts in an hour or so out to my desired 70-yard distance.

September 12th had me at Chris's place loading up the gear and food for our trip into the 5th wheel. I got off a bit early on the 13th of September and finished packing the last few things and checking gear. Chris got home and we headed south for nearly 600km drive from our homes in the Whitecourt area to the Buffalo campground that we had selected as our home base for the trip. We arrived at Buffalo at about 1am after dodging deer the last hour of the trip, they seemed to be everywhere near the river valleys. We backed the trailer into an open spot and dollied off so we could do a morning spot and stalk hunt to get familiar with the area once the sun came up and it wouldn't be a long night based on our arrival time.



pasture road in front of us maybe 150 metres and a good looking buck was following, we jumped out grabbing our gear I grabbed the decoy and walked downwind trying to get his attention as Chris stalked using the fence line to break up his silhouette as I walked diagonally behind the group of pronghorn as they headed east. Needless to say the buck was not interested and only wanted to stay with the does. We drove around for another 25 minutes or so before we saw another antelope about a kilometer away on a hillside. We navigated a route to get as close as possible with google maps and the existing oil and gas lease trails that crossed through the area.



We got to a point where we thought a stalk would be possible and walked in about 600 metres and popped up over a gradual roll in the dry grassy plain thinking we were close to where we'd seen the distant speed goat. When we didn't see the intended target we climbed up onto the top of the nearest high ground and heard a weird buzzing snort sound from the direction we had come and there were two young male pronghorn about 150 metres downwind, we saw them and tried a to get them closer with the decoy, they were less than impressed after having watching us climb up the hill they definitely knew something was not right.

Just the week before our arrival it was +30 and hot, we checked the forecast and we were not going to have to worry about excessive heat. Forecast called for some light showers for the next couple days and mid-teen temperatures for most of the week.

We stretched our area to the west and tried to spot another antelope or group with no success until later in the afternoon. We saw a large group of elk on the south side of the Suffield base boundary fence and a not much else. There were cattle in the area and we opened and closed gates and glassed areas looking for any sign of the antelope we had come for. After a few sightings, early in the day it was proving to be a bit more challenging than we had thought it might be.

It was a bit of a slow start that Thursday morning and we had a bite of breakfast and collected our gear, set up a broadhead target and took a few shots before heading out. It was then we found out I was having some issues with my drop away rest. We headed out and before too long we saw our first antelope of the trip. A few does walked across the

Heading further west for the last couple hours of daylight we came across a few mule deer, small bucks and some does and fawns. Most of them were near water holes within a few hundred metres from the base fence. We saw a couple of 5x5 bucks quite



close to a wellsite and Chris decided to make an attempt at the bigger of the two. In our part of Alberta we have gusty winds and you can feel it on your bow as you hold at full draw, well in the south there is a constant breeze that is steady and always blowing, I ranged the buck and gave Chris the numbers and he settled the pin and let it fly, I watched in my bino's as the arrow sailed wide and behind the buck as the wind took the arrow far left off the mark with the cross wind. The buck busted ahead and stopped looking back as Chris nocked another arrow and held out in front of the buck this time he released and the arrow hit with a smack and the buck mule kicked and we had our first southern Alberta animal in the truck a short time later. We quartered and caped the buck in the lights outside the trailer that evening. Chris repaired my drop away rest which was sticking and not always dropping and it was a good thing we fixed it with the following day my equipment would be called into make the shot.

It was now Friday morning and we headed out east first looking for a new area and new antelope to try to set up on. We didn't have any success that morning so went west to see one of the farmers I'd called about a month prior to our trip. We spent a couple of hours on the property and seen a small band of elk and tried a spot and stalk on a big group of mule deer without success and even bumped up a really nice looking 5x5 whitetail buck bedded in tight to a waterhole in the buckbrush. We only saw a single pronghorn on our way back in the general direction of camp, we took another pass close to the area where Chris had taken his mule deer the evening before.

We spotted a lone antelope trotting a couple hundred metres south towards the base fence which was about a mile and a half south of us, I bailed out to pursue the buck as Chris parked the truck on an

lease access road, I headed after the buck and he did not show any interest after a few hundred metres of walking I turned back north and saw Chris walking out in the field about 800 metres away with a white rag in the breeze. I saw the direction he was heading and set a course to intercept him as he walked north west. We tried to get the buck to investigate us. Chris almost had an opportunity but the buck wouldn't stand still and was always moving and eventually skirted us and headed south almost on the exact path I'd pursued the other buck on only a short time before. Chris and I watched the buck as he joined up with what we think was the buck I'd followed only a short time before on the edge of a low area with some stunted buck brush. The two bucks finally stopped for the first time and then very suddenly we saw a much bigger buck streaking in at high speed from the east headed straight for the closest of the smaller bucks and pushing both of the satellite bucks west, we watched him at about 400 metres as he stood defiant after bumping the two bucks off, he then loped off to the east and Chris and I saw why he was so pushy off to the south east was a dirt mound from a man-made waterhole where about 15 does stood watching the action as their selected dominant male pushed off the inferior suitors and made his way back towards them.

As we watched the buck stood guard over his harem of does, we stalked up a bit closer and the does all wandered down to the water which was quite low in the hole in the ground, after the last doe was out of sight in the water hole, the buck walked down to join them. This was our opportunity to make a real move to close the distance on the group as they were out of sight. We hurried along the cow path as quietly as possible with me out in front of Chris whom was holding the decoy out in front of himself, we got into about 90-100 metres of the waterhole and saw some movement, Chris called me to freeze and sit tight as the buck walked up exposing his head and shoulders he spotted the decoy and started walking rapidly toward what he assumed was another invading smaller pronghorn buck. He got to about 70 metres and stepped off the cow path to skirt us on higher ground, the buck was broadside and watching us intently I drew my bow and Chris called yardage over the decoy, 65-60 and the buck stopped and I touched off the shot...the arrow sailed wide, I'd forgotten about the wind and the buck wheeled away with the sound of the arrow sailing past him about 3-feet away from the mark. I thought the opportunity was over for us but I nocked another arrow and a few seconds later the bucks head popped over the hill in front of us as he walked towards us one step at a time a bit more cautiously than his first pass. He started to curl to his left my right still quartering hard onto us, Chris was once again calling yardages as the buck closed the distance, 70-65-60 he turned slightly giving me a look at his shoulder and paused for a second and I released the arrow and the buck spun just as the arrow hit with a smack and the buck



lit the afterburners heading out of sight. Chris said "he spun right into the shot, you nailed him" we stood up and walked up over the hill and there we saw him laying on the ground, maybe 50-60 metres from the point of impact. Having never hunted these animals before we had no idea if he was a good or a great antelope.

We high fived and took a few field photos and I started to clean him as Chris walked the mile back to the truck, unloaded a bike and the trailer and we hauled him back to the truck and again that evening quartered and caped the buck in the trailer lights on the end gate of the truck.

The next day was Saturday and our last hunt day as a couple of northern boys did not know until we were in the area that Sunday hunting was not allowed, so we spent a few hours touring around spot and stalk for Chris, had a couple of opportunities on a group with a pretty decent buck, but his girls didn't like us or our decoy and twice they pulled out and left us in their dust with not even a few steps in our direction. Later that afternoon, we finally did catch a pair of antelope on the move and once again the first reaction was they moved away. We skirted a hill and came up downwind and over the hill being patient. The

buck looked us over and eventually made a decision to come check out our decoy. I was now holding the decoy and calling yardages, the buck committed and I called 65-60-58 and Chris let his arrow fly hitting its mark and the goat sprinted towards us curling east and he fell over about 50 metres in front of us and died. The ritual of high fives, field photos and heading back to the truck to get the bike and trailer was repeated and we had that one in the truck an hour later, we spent the rest of the day looking for a mule deer for myself, close but no cigar and we had another night of caping and quartering with a celebratory nightcap or two as we had planned to pull out the next morning, two happy hunters with our antelope in coolers, Mission accomplished.

I honestly had no idea how to field judge the specimen nor did I know if he was more than just an average Antelope, so I waited the 60-day drying period and had the local P&Y scorer put a tape to my antelope and he measured up at 80 4/8". I completed my paperwork for the ABA awards night and Ryk Visscher replied to my email and advised me that this was the largest P&Y Pronghorn entered since the year 2000, and currently 3rd ABA all-time. This was our first antelope hunt; pretty sure it won't be our last!





ANCHOR POINTS

Allen Chatten



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

My 2017 Journey

The year 2017 began with a surprise! On January 1st I heard the words “You have Cancer” My first question of the doctor was “Will I see my boys graduate?” The doctor assured me that I would. So many thoughts run through one’s mind at this point.

Prior to these words I was having some issues and in the summer of 2016 I contracted giardia (i.e. “beaver fever”). I was treated for it in October 2016 and yet symptoms (Diarrhea) did not entirely disappear. So off to specialist I went and eventually a colonoscopy was scheduled for January 4th.

Before I began the battery of tests I had so many questions. Would I see the next year? Would I see the next hunting season? Would I be able to draw my bow? How much time left with family and friends? How will my family fare financially? I am so unprepared for this!

The uncertainty was very overwhelming for the next few weeks. The tests came back, I had a tumour in my rectum and it was affecting nearby lymph nodes. The classed it as Stage IIIC of 5 stag-



es. Meaning it was localised but had chance of already being spread in my body. I made a decision that cancer may kill me but it is not going to ever beat me. I would live my life to the fullest extent that I could and go down fighting. It could take my life but not my spirit.

A treatment plan was set and before I go further I will just say that the medical staff involved are awesome people. If I knew then what I would be going through it would be daunting and I was encouraged to take each step individually. So the treatment plan was to do chemo and radiation for 8 weeks, then heal up from that and undergo surgery to remove tumour, and nearby lymph nodes and give me an ileostomy. After that there may be more chemo and surgery to reverse ostomy depending on how the surgery went and what they would find.

Chemo and Radiation was not fun towards the end fatigue was setting in and I had to take 2 weeks off of work. During this time I decided to not put off my plan to one day buy an adventure bike. After I started healing up and the weekend before my





surgery my second oldest boy and I made a bike trip together. We biked, fished some streams and lakes on the way, watched some suckers spawn in a creek and enjoyed ourselves. Cancer is not going to beat me!

So I had surgery, they removed the tumour, along with some bowel, 17 lymph nodes, and my appendix. They also reconnected the bowel and to let the colon rest they installed an ileostomy. Long story short it took me awhile to recover and adjust to life with an ostomy. I asked some people on a forum if they could hunt with an ostomy and received loads of help. 4 weeks post-surgery I was able to fly fish with help from family and spent some time fly fishing from a chair.

Hunting season was approaching and I had to turn down my bow and prepare. My oldest boy was able to join me along with a few friends and was able to hunt before I started chemo to reduce chance of recurrence or spread of cancer elsewhere. I was a great season, while I did not harvest any big game with my bow I harvested quite a few grouse and most importantly was outdoors with my son. The little things I never paid attention to before I really appreciated now. Being outdoors was great with fellow hunters and watching their success was very satisfying.

After that I returned to work and had chemo from mid-September to the end of the year. I did ok and

was able to work through all of it except for two weeks. Then I was beginning to feel better and had surgery in Mid-February to reverse the ostomy. There were complications but they were able to reverse it and I am healing once again and relearning bowel habits. I am currently clear of cancer and on road to recovery and on three year surveillance and if it does not recur then chance of it recurring is very low.

This journey taught me so much. I learned that my bow shoots very well at 50 lbs. I learned that being in the outdoors hunting and fishing is priceless. Spending time with friends and family in the outdoors is beyond priceless. I learned that we have an awesome medical system here! But most of all I learned to live in such a way as to enjoy life and promote others enjoyment of life and the beauty of a smile. Most of all attitude is everything. A sense of humour definitely helps. There was also the side benefit of losing 60 lbs although I do not recommend the cancer diet!

In the end I also learned to appreciate the support of my family, friends, and community. While this article is not entirely about bow hunting, it is a big part of my life and got me working towards getting healthy after surgery so I could enjoy it with my hunting compadres and my sons.

Unfortunately I do not have hunting pics here I have a few others to document some other highlights.

I thought I would share this journey with others to acknowledge those who encouraged and helped me and I hope it encourages others to realise just how fortunate we are and to take nothing for granted.



Have something to brag about?

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

BRAG



DAN INDENBOSCH



DARCY FLETCHER



RANDY BERNIER



LINDSAY McQUAID



BOARD



JOHN HENINGER



HEATHER WILSON



KYLE SINCLAIR SMITH



KEVIN YEE





PRESIDENTS REPORT

Brent Watson

We had another great banquet in Calgary this year with 252 people in attendance – the second largest turnout ever! That included 17 youngsters 12 and under and another 7 that were 16 and under. Awesome to see all these young archers/bowhunters in attendance! The 12 and under kids got 10 free tickets to put in for six bucket raffles open only for them plus a Goodie Bag with stuff from AHEIA/HFT, ABA, Jim Bows, F&W/RAP. All of the youngsters had a ticket on a draw for a FREE youth bow/case from Jim Bows (Calgary) – many thanks to Jim, Joey, Dave and Carson for their great support. Every youth who enters into our Youth Award gets a custom knife (top three have theirs personally engraved) and thanks to Al and Lorna from Calgary Archery Center for that. The top three also get a target from Jim Wilson of Grizz Targets and a fanny pack from Cabela's. Lots of excitement and wide eyed expressions!!

After a very tasty supper and with the awards presented, we opened things up to the "Social" and from all accounts it was a hit. Tons of positive comments and something we will have as a staple going forward. Something new is the idea of having some sort of seminar/presentation in the afternoon just prior to the banquet. Lots of good ideas for topics and interest shown.

The only disappointment was at your AGM – we only had 19 people attend and thus, without a quorum of 25, nothing could be voted on. Only the second time in memory that this has happened. We went through the various reports, discussion items and tabled several things (bylaw changes, elections) until the 2019 AGM. That level of interest in the "ABA" must be an

indicator that the membership is satisfied with the way things are being done but it is still important to attend in order to move things along with the very important issues like bylaw changes and elections. Here's hoping for 2019.

Winter is hanging on and everything (2 legged, 4 legged, has wings) is definitely ready for this to be over with. In the NW region, we have had a miserable last couple of months. Lots of snow, high winds causing drifting, colder than normal temperatures. My trapline partner turned 78 years young on April 6th and he has never seen it like this on his birthday. We set records the first part of April for the amount of snow on the ground for this time of year. The geese were back March 12th and have been standing around on the snow for the last three to four weeks. The last few years with our "nice" winters we had bear baits out early and bears hitting by the 10th of April. NOT this year.

What the toll will be on our deer will be interesting to see. Local FW here have said they have been getting reports on dead deer around hay stacks, yards. Imagine the fawn crop may be the hardest hit. Also some reports of dead antelope and deer in the SE. Tough but not much we can do.

Speaking of bears, the season is upon us and I always look forward to the spring for this reason. A twist this year (in addition to running our own baits), is a fly in remote bear hunt mid May out of Fort McMurray. A fellow bought allocations from an outfitter and this particular area was hunted lightly last year for the first time in seven years. He had trouble with an agent in booking hunts for him and wanted to fill some spots with residents to just help pay the bills. Three of us are headed in for the

first week and I am very excited to see this part of Alberta, hunt some "different" bears. We are also looking at the possibility of doing a raffle for the spring of 2019 on this same fly in trip. Would you be interested?? Let me know so we can gauge the interest and look for a report in the newsletter as to the results of our adventure. Can't wait!!

The final meeting with stakeholders and FW on the "Allocation Policy Review" was on April 12th and once FW put everything together, it will be released to the stakeholders and the general public for consultation. After the consultation is over and FW digest "everything" the final document will be presented to the Minister for approval. As things move along we will keep everyone posted as best we can.

In my last Presidents Report, at your AGM and at the banquet, I spoke about the need for people as individuals to get involved, to write the Minister and their MLA on the various issues we face as hunters/outdoor recreationists. Since then I have had several people contact me that they did just that and I was happy to see that some are taking the initiative and trying to make a difference. It is not that hard – actually in this day and age, is very easy. AND it does make a difference!!

Spring is almost here and it is that time of the year to renew your ABA membership. Get a friend to join. It is very easy to do – just go to www.bowhunters.ca and a couple of clicks later, it is done. Very easy process.

All the best this spring to you bear hunters and I am actually looking forward to fighting mosquitoes. At least then we know winter is over!!



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



3D Report

Kris Skelly

Hello all!

Outdoor 3D season is right around the corner or at least we thought it was! Indoor 3D Nationals is coming up in Sundre Alberta this April. I hope to see a bunch of you there. After a 3D Committee meeting Feb 28, 2018, subsequent review by the ABA Executive, discussion at the ABA 3D Meeting, and ABA AGM March 24 2018. The following changes to our 3D Program are in place moving forward.

The primary focus of the new program will be to support the ABA affiliated clubs (there were 15 in 2017). We still want to promote the fun and family friendly atmosphere so many of our shoots offer in Alberta. We also want to stress the need to make sound field choices based on distance and shot placement.

- each affiliated club will be asked to apply to the ABA 3D Chairperson by May 1 of each year for a \$125 donation from the ABA (basically offsets the cost of affiliating with the ABA). The May 1 deadline for this year (2018) will be flexible.
- this donation will be made to the club only if they have a bowhunter type theme or component (Hunter Class) at one of their shoots.
- the donation from the ABA has to be used to supply prizes to that particular shoot and the ABA is recognized as a sponsor/donor etc. The club at their discretion, may have these prizes available ONLY to ABA members.
- the club will have to include in their application request, a poster/shoot info of their club shoot that has the bowhunting theme or component.
- this poster/shoot info will then be put on the ABA website, Facebook Page, newsletter.
- only one club shoot submission per year, shoot

can be indoor or outdoor.

The ABA will supply a package to each club that meets the approval. This package will include 20-25 ABA medals to hand out to young shooters 10 and under. Any unused medals should be returned soon after the shoot.

The ABA will supply a major prize after the 3D season, \$500 Gift Certificate to the Archery shop of the winner's choice OR an ABA Lifetime Membership (worth \$500) and the commemorative plaque that goes along with it. This will be awarded to a lucky winner by random draw at annual ABA banquet.

How to get entered? any ABA member who attends an affiliated club bowhunter themed shoot will be automatically entered in the draw. Each club will have to supply the ABA with a list of ABA members who attended their shoot. The more shoots the member attends, the more entries they will get, 1 entry per affiliate club shoot attended. Prizes could be added as more sponsors donate. The hunter class is left to the choice of the club on the scoring and format, we can provide packages and outlines to implement the Bowhunter Challenge Class if a club needs guidance.

Stay tuned! As the year progresses there may be other ways to increase your draw entries!

I am really looking forward to the upcoming season, thank you to all of our current affiliated clubs and if your club is not affiliated please approach them to become a part of the ABA!

WIN \$500 ARCHERY SHOP GIFT CERTIFICATE OR ABA LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP BY SHOOTING ARROWS. THE MORE YOU SHOOT, THE BETTER CHANCE YOU HAVE



BANQUET AWARDS AND PRIZES

Pay what you pull Prize

This year, our insurance provider (HUB International) who provides any member with 5 million dollars liability insurance in case of accidents in the field generously donated a Bradley smoker for the pay what you pull prize. Garth Paterson was the lucky individual that went home with the Bradley Original XLT Smoker.



Annual Game Award Winners

As with every year, Ryk ran the awards presentation at the banquet giving out master bowhunter buckles, grandmaster bowhunter portraits and those pesky small game awards. 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 categories:

- Whitetail Deer (Non-Typical and Typical)
- Mule Deer (Non-Typical and Typical)
- Elk
- Moose
- Antelope
- Black Bear
- Cougar
- Bison
- Ladies
- Traditional
- Youth
- Mountain Goat

The following 2 pages showcase the gold winners starting with the youth & ladies winner below.



LADIES

Marrit VanEs

176 0/8 mule deer



YOUTH

Jacelyn Motta

16 5/16 black bear



**TYP
WHITETAIL**
Ryan Kohler

156 1/8



**TYP
MULE DEER**
Jesse Roshuk

193 3/8 (V)



**NT
WHITETAIL**
Wilko Jansen Van Rensburg

173 7/8



**NT
MULE DEER**
Austin Penner

218 7/8



COUGAR
Jonathan Ostermayer

15 1/16



ELK
Dave Dickson

313 0/8



MOOSE

Norman Devaleriola

189 0/8



BLACK BEAR

Vanessa Wrubleski

20 6/16



TRADITIONAL

Lindsey Paterson

18 4/16 Black Bear



TRADITIONAL

Devon Pickering

153 4/8 Mule Deer



ANTELOPE

Ron Brown

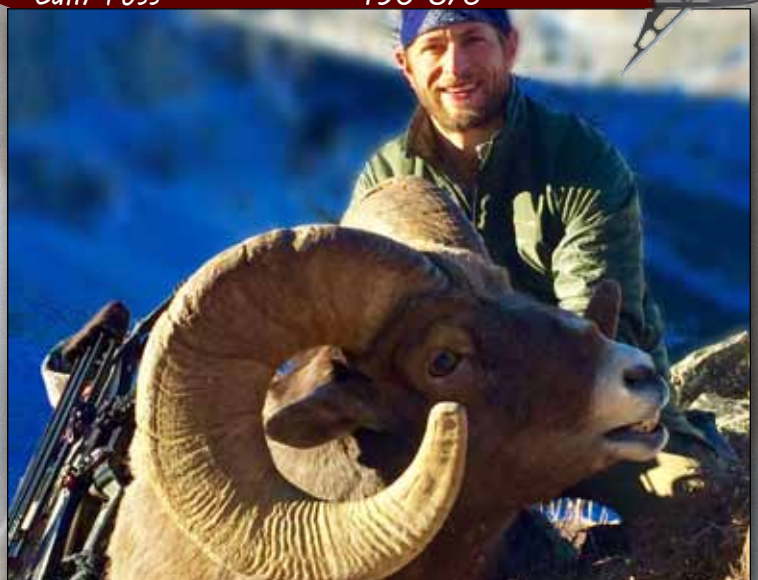
80 4/8



BIG-HORN SHEEP

Cam Foss

196 5/8



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 nocks (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:

1166-68st 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/YYYY)
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"/> \$65.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$90.00
MAIN APPLICANT: MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$65.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$130.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$190.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	

* 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.

JOIN ONLINE AT
ALBERTA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION
 Box 89021 McKenzie Town
 Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3
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)

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

3D Sanctioned Shoots

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



Game Harvest Awards

Lloyd Mutter Grandmaster Award

Framed and Personalized Print

Alberta BOWHUNTERS

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



This is our future.

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

Affiliated Clubs

Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association
Calgary
Mitchell Elser
(403) 238-5989
mjelser@shaw.ca

Bighorn Bowhunters Club
Airdrie
Leslie Cuthbertson
(403) 948-4004
BrentAlana@
bighornbowhuntersandarchers.com

Brazeau Bowbender Archery
Drayton Valley
Dave Gauthier
brazeaubowbenders@gmail.com

Calgary Archers Club
Calgary
Vickilynne Schleppe
vschleppe@shaw.ca

Jim-Bows Junior Archery Club
Calgary
Dawn Groszko
dgroszko@shaw.ca

Kneehill Bowhunters & Archers
Three Hills
Shawn Kopjar
(403) 443-7315
smkopjar@gmail.com

Oilmans Archery Club
Rimbey
Shane Jensen
(403) 350-1678
scjensen@explornet.com

Parkland Bowbenders Archery Club
Spruce Grove
Janet Normand
memberships@parklandbowbenders.ca

Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association
Lethbridge
Tim Lysyk
(403) 381-1796
timlysyk@gmail.com

Sherwood Park Archery Club
Sherwood Park
Shannon Blyth
shannon-don@explornet.com

Springbrook Archers
Springbrook
Donna Morency
(403) 573-4451

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

Yellowhead Arrow Launchers
yellowheadarrowlaunchers@gmail.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)
#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)
#23 Dale Hislop (2004)
#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 Wilson (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)
#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)
#120 Jerid Waselick (2017)
#121 Derrick Smith (2017)
#122 Greg Gerlitz (2017)
#123 Katie Lund (2017)
#124 Darcy Fletcher (2017)
#125 Will ZoBell (2018)
#126 Dale Foster (2018)
#127 Gerald Anderson (2018)
#128 Jason Hayes (2018)
#129 Evan Zahacy (2018)
#130 Don Collins (2018)
#131 Logan Johnson (2018)
#132 Lucas Chernoff (2018)
#133 M Bruce Chernoff (2018)
#134 Steve Ecklund (2018)
#135 Kyle Sinclair-Smith (2018)



ALBERTA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION 4TH ANNUAL COUGAR HUNT RAFFLE

**ONLY 100
\$100 TICKETS
AVAILABLE**

**LICENSE # 492566
Draw August 15, 2018
Jim Bows, Calgary**

Tickets available either on the ABA online store www.bowhunters.ca or cash/cheque sales available directly from the 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 2018 spring edition of ABA Quarterly Newsletter



Our past three winners with their mature toms

Conditions:

Guide/outfitter is Kelly Morton of Mayerthorpe, AB. Value is \$7500 CDN and open to Alberta residents only. Must be 18 or older to purchase tickets. **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 2018), 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.

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



**LAST ISSUE UNLESS
YOU RENEW. CHECK
MEMBERSHIP EXPIRY**