

Alberta

2020 WINTER NEWSLETTER

BOWHUNTERS' ASSOCIATION



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ABA Hats

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EDITORIAL

Gord Nuttall

I personally have been producing this particular quarterly newsletter for nearly 8 years. Over the years it has gone through a couple re-designed, upgraded from black and white to color and has been a constant form of communication to all our member households every 3 months. I just want to thank all those who have ever submitted a picture, written an article or submitted a hunt story. The newsletter is all about the content we receive to distribute, so everyone is encouraged to share pictures, stories and tips to help our young and new members.

We are looking at improving the newsletter once again by removing duplicate or unused pages and replacing them with some new ideas. In addition to that, we are looking at producing an annual publication called a yearbook instead of four quarterly newsletters. The annual yearbook content would remain the same with the exception of the news section – that would be delivered via email only making it more timely. This is a big change so we are seeking feedback first from the membership. Be on the lookout for a survey in your email inbox with all the details or turn to page 18 in this newsletter if you can not take the suspense.

The banquet is fast approaching (see page 13). Ensure to get your game award entries (application found on page 23) into Ryk, our Game Awards chairman in ample time to avoid the mass rush at deadline. Send it via email preferably (or by mail or fax) and follow up with him to ensure he got it. You can also submit your entries directly using our website (albertabowhunters.ca) on the ABA Game Awards Program page.

If you qualify for either the Master Bowhunter Award (buckle) or the Grandmaster Bowhunter Award (portrait), please let Ryk know ASAP so we can start the processes with the engraver and artist to make sure your award is ready for the banquet

The agenda items for the annual general meeting (AGM) are listed on pages 18-21. Please review and make an effort to attend the AGM to hear the latest news and vote on key items needing resolution.

See you at the banquet.

Gord Nuttall



2020 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.

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2ND

CHANCE

by Bill Kossmann

ELAND

Rob Birch banks us towards the airstrip at Royal Karoo Safaris lodge



fortably settled into our accommodations. We had a brief tour of the grounds and the lodge, and Matt cautioned us against wandering outside the grounds after dark because there were Cape buffalo nearby. Cool.

The next morning we were introduced to our tracker, Frank, and cameraman Deon, who would be taking promotional stills and video for Royal Karoo. We then spent some time at the range verifying the sights on my bow and we also zeroed the rifle I'd hired.

Asleep at the Wheel

Early morning on Day Two we were bouncing along a trail in a Land Cruiser pickup (a "bakkie") to our glassing point. We hadn't gone very far when Matt slowed abruptly and we stared at something about 80 yards down the trail.

"Eland," said Matt. "Let's back out and see if we can sneak up on him with the bow." We backed up for several hundred yards, then quietly stopped and exited the ve-

Not only can the footing be rough, you must watch for camel thorns



Into the Karoo

Hunting in Africa has long been a dream of mine, and the dream finally started to become reality three years ago when my wife Carolyn and I finally committed to go. We went to hunting expos and watched innumerable TV shows about hunting on the Dark Continent before we met Rob and Laura Birch of Royal Karoo Safaris in South Africa, and booked our safari.

When we arrived in Cape Town we were met by Laura, who expertly guided us in and around the area before we headed east along the famous Garden Route. At the end of our five-day tour we joined Rob, who flew us in a four-seat aircraft across a mountain range to our destination. I was struck by the rugged beauty of the landscape; the Karoo wasn't at all like the endless plains that I was accustomed to seeing on TV.

Upon our arrival we were introduced to our Professional Hunter (PH), Matt Roux, who ensured that we were com-



The author's wife enjoys some quiet time in the sitting room of the lodge. We were definitely in the lap of luxury here



hicle. I checked the wind - we were in a good position to begin stalking.

The four of us walked quietly in single file with Matt stopping frequently to glass ahead and check on our progress. Eventually he motioned for a full stop and turned to us. "Take off your boots, nock an arrow, and follow me," he whispered to me and, "You guys stay here," to Frank and Deon.

"Do you see him?" Matt asked me.

It took a minute for me to spot two horns that poked out of a gully. We inched closer and Matt again motioned for me to stop while he ranged the eland. "Thirty yards. Get ready," he mouthed, "and come around this side."

I took a step to our left with my release on the D-loop when suddenly the eland stood up, looked at us for a moment, and then trotted off.

"He's not frightened. Let's get our boots and see if we can cut him off," said Matt. We gingerly picked our way back across the rocks and thorns to where Frank and Deon were waiting.

I laced my boots and followed Matt; we alternated between speed-walking in a gully and covering the ground on top

PH Matt and cameraman Deon spent many hours glassing the terrain.



using the brush as concealment.

Matt stopped short. "There. Sixty-seven yards. Get ready."

I nocked an arrow and started to draw but this time the eland bolted. We tried relocating him but no luck; it was as though the red African soil had swallowed him up. The stalk was over and it was time to head back to the lodge for lunch.

Nothing but Nyala

That afternoon we decided to sit in one of the blinds for the evening hunt, and I was thrilled when Carolyn said that she wanted to join us.

Matt dropped us off at the blind and then drove farther down the trail to hide the vehicle; when he returned we settled in for a long wait. He told us that we wouldn't see anything for the first hour or two because it takes at least that long for the area to settle down. Time for a nap.

These blinds are built for comfort. Constructed primarily of brick and mortar, they have a padded bench upon which you can sit or nap comfortably. They have three windows

A handsome nyala poses for the camera



facing a watering hole: one saucer-sized viewing port in the middle, and on either side are two tall rectangular windows with black doors that open inwards for a bow hunter to shoot through.

For the next couple of hours only some birds made an appearance. Then, just at sunset, we noticed a dark form standing very close by. Nyala! It was a handsome bull, and while we were admiring him he seemed to spook and then slowly walked off. Minutes later, two more nyala came to the blind, but like the first one they were skittish. It was getting dark. "I can't see to shoot," I shrugged at Matt, so we gathered our gear and headed back to the lodge.

Lady Luck Lends a Hand

On Day Four, Matt suggested that we sit in a different blind. He thought it best to be in place by mid-afternoon, so Carolyn decided to stay at the lodge to read and relax. After a short drive we were in the blind; I nocked an arrow and hung the bow on a hook.

The next two hours were a repeat of the previous evening:

The giraffe iconic African aren't easy to spot when they're in the trees



watching birds flying back and forth, punctuated only by occasional stretching and peeking out the window. At around 5:30 Matt suddenly perked up and cautiously looked out the window, taking my point-and-shoot camera with him.

He turned it on, set it on the window ledge, began recording video, and stepped back. Both of us could look at the display on the back of the camera and see what was going on without having to put our faces in the window.

"Eland. Big bull," whispered Matt. "Big bull. Move to the back of the blind and get ready." He motioned for me to use the right-hand shooting window. I took the bow off the hook and clipped in my release.

"Get your breathing under control", he said, "and draw when you're ready."

I was really nervous. I nodded to Matt as I came to full draw and he slowly opened the shooting window. My mind wandered at the sight of the massive eland about 20 yards away. This would be the first animal with my new bow... what a big bull... don't miss... don't miss... don't miss...

I put the 20-yard pin in the middle of the eland's body just behind the front leg and sent the arrow on its way. It sailed harmlessly underneath him; he spun around and trotted off.

Matt was visibly disappointed and I was devastated – I had just missed a target bigger than a bull moose! The only explanation I could think of was that in my nervous state I'd sighted with the gap below the peep sight, rather than the peep itself. I was mentally kicking myself all over the blind.

Fortunately my PH remained level-headed. "Nock another one." I fumbled for another arrow.

"Quietly."

Matt stopped the video and closed the window. I had to sit down to regain my composure while he surveyed the scene. After a couple of minutes, much to my amazement, Matt whispered, "He's coming back. Get ready."

Sure enough, the eland was back. Matt restarted the camera and positioned it in the window.

"Make sure of your sight picture this time. Let me know when you're ready."

This time when Matt eased open the shooting window I was ready. The peep sight circled the 20-yard pin as I squeezed the release, and at the thump of the bow the eland lurched and ran out of view.

"Stay away from the window," hissed Matt, "good hit." After about a minute he took the camera and held it so that we could both see what was happening.

The eland stopped thirty-five paces from the blind. His big body was swaying, and after a moment he laid down on his side. He was mine – my first African bow harvest! To say that I was happy would be an understatement. I was jumping around the blind like a little kid at Christmas and I gave Matt a big hug, who grinned and said, "Let's sit down and give him a few minutes so that we're sure he's done."

I asked him how he knew the bull was around even though he couldn't see him. Matt explained that the hooves of eland bulls will grow together at the tips, making a distinctive clicking noise as they walk.

After what seemed like an hour (it wasn't) Matt looked through the shooting window at the motionless eland.

"He's done, let's go see."

I needed no further prompting. I picked up the bow and nocked another arrow as we hurried towards the eland, but I didn't need it. What a magnificent animal! Matt showed me how the tips of the hooves clicked, and the big "mop" of hair on its forehead.

After we set the bull upright and took some pictures, Matt went to get the bakkie while I gathered our gear; all the while I was pacing around in a daze, replaying the night's events over and over.

Once the eland was loaded we looked for my arrows. I found the first one almost right away, and after a short search Matt found the other – it lay five yards beyond the spot where the bull was shot. Amazingly, it was a complete pass-through.

On the way back, Matt radioed ahead to have the skimmers

The blind from which we saw the nyala. Notice the shape of the watering hole: if an animal approaches from the side it increases the odds of presenting a quartering-away shot



meet us in the skinning and processing building, and we stopped briefly at the front of the lodge to show off our prize. Everyone seemed happy that we had an eland in camp, and Matt said that I'd find out why at a special meal to be held the next week.

Rob was there to meet us and he said that this was one of the two biggest eland taken at Royal Karoo. "He's an old bull and likely not breeding anymore. This is exactly the type of animal we want removed from the property," he said. "We'll need to get his measurements to see if he's the biggest."

Once the eland was hanging in processing building, Rob estimated that the bull weighed 900 kilograms (1,980 pounds). That's almost twice the size of any bull moose I've taken. Wow.

Leaving the skinners to do their work, we cleaned up and went for a late dinner, which was a delicious venison pie. Afterwards, a celebratory brandy was in order.

On the Braai

On our second-last night at Royal Karoo, Matt conducted a blind taste test of the animals I'd harvested. The loins would be cooked to medium rare on the classic South African barbeque, the braai (rhymes with fry), and the seasoning would be simple: a sprinkle of lemon juice and a dash of salt and pepper. Once they were cooked we were given samples of each animal and asked to rank them.

The overwhelming crowd favourite was the eland. In spite of being an old bull, the meat was flavourful without being gamey, and it was very moist and tender. No wonder everyone was happy to see it come into the lodge.

In my opinion, the zebra and the impala were tied for sec-

This eland was caught in the open; a telephoto lens is a must if you're going to take photographs in Africa



ond place; like the eland they were terrific but they didn't quite have its rich flavour. The black wildebeest was a close third. The kudu had a great initial taste and texture but I thought it had a funky aftertaste; Matt said it was because of their diet.

The dinner was a fitting end to the hunt of a lifetime. Like the other meals, we ate well and enjoyed some really good South African wine. We had a fantastic time chatting with our hosts and companions.

Carolyn and I still talk about how amazing our vacation was, and we're already dreaming about our return trip.

The author with his eland. For reference, the bow is 32" axle-to-axle.



Jesse's



I remember June 23, 2018 very well. The fourth annual ABA cougar hunt had sold out very quickly (again) and the draw date was bumped up to this day. I had checked the odd social media platforms to see if they posted a winner yet, who would the lucky person be this year? Would it be someone I'd know? Shortly after that my phone began to ring with an unknown 780 area code (these northern numbers were rare with me being a southern Alberta resident). I answered the phone with a slightly excited manner, Brent Watson was the one calling and had asked if I knew why he was calling. I couldn't believe my name had been drawn (Thank you Jim Bows Calgary for pulling my name) it was a hunt that I had dreamed of going on for years. The rest of the evening I couldn't wipe the smile off my face with the fact that I had won an opportunity to hunt an apex predator with arguably the best cat guide around, Kelly Morton.

Summer was in full swing and I couldn't wait for winter, even September, my favorite time of the year chasing elk with the stick and string didn't excite me as much as in the past. Every day was that much closer to cougar season. Kelly Morton and I had spoken a few times as we slowly got towards December, taking any advice on what I should do to be prepared for. I spoke with a past winner, spent more hours than I would like to admit watching cat hunting videos on youtube and of course practicing shooting at much more vertical than I was used to. Kelly had informed me he had a couple clients in the queue ahead of me and that given the right conditions and all the other variables at play we would be good to start hunting around Christmas to New Years. There was some good and bad with that time frame; the good was I was on holidays for a couple weeks, the bad; I would now have to inform my wife that



COUGAR

by Jesse MacDonnell



we wouldn't be travelling anywhere warm over the holidays. Oops, but this was an opportunity that needed flexibility given how much this type of hunt depends on mother nature. Being on a beach somewhere with perfect cougar hunting conditions back in Alberta wasn't something I wanted to risk. The beach will still be there next year... December came, I had the gear ready for most types of weather, flung arrows 30' up to my precariously perched target, checked CMA's daily and most importantly had the tag burning a hole in my pocket. A few days into the season I received a text picture from Kelly of a giant cat with a shortened looking tail, a proud dog and hunter holding this beast up. I was a little jealous at first, but then that quickly dissipated into excitement. One client closer to being my turn! Then a few days after that another picture of yet another big cat, a happy hunter/helpers, excited hounds and a big white dog of a breed I didn't know at the time. Another client closer to my turn. That's about when the excitement of the hunt changed a bit, the long range had temperatures into the positive digits, the snow in the south was definitely gone and most of the north had little or hard snow. The first few days of my holiday's were spent preparing for the hunt and looking at various weather forecasts to see if we would get a skiff of snow. Remember the wife that wanted to be on a beach? She would remind me of the fact we could be somewhere warm every day into our "holiday's". Finally around New Years there was some forecasted snow and I received my call from Kelly to meet him and begin the search for a mature tom.

The drive to meet up with Kelly seemingly flew by, I was excited to begin this hunt, learn everything I could from him about cat hunting and about guiding. This would all be a new to me experience. I was greeted by Kelly outside,



we instantly hit it off, he is a very down to earth guy and I knew this hunt would be memorable in multiple ways. We headed to bed fairly quick, long days were in our future. I didn't sleep much the first night, really wasn't sure what to expect on my first day cat hunting. In the morning I met Chelsey, the lady behind the scenes, the backbone of what I would soon learn to be a top notch outfitting business. We loaded up the hounds and I got to meet all of them and the giant white dog from an earlier mentioned photo, Diablo

a Dogo-Argentino. We headed off in search of a mature cougar track in the wee hours of the morning, the light set up on the truck was awesome. It was pretty impressive how Kelly and Chelsey could distinguish a cougar track from a lynx track, I would have been stopping and looking at every ungulate track. The first track was found in short order, female, keep going, another track, female. This theme continued for a few days, there would be female tracks, females with kittens, young tom tracks but nothing mature just yet. I learnt so much about what a track looks like and what goes into differentiating it from gender and size of its respective gender. One of Kelly's guides in a different location had come across a mature tom track that appeared to be a couple days old. It was too late in the day to make it, so it was planned for morning to head to this location and try and freshen this tom's track up. Did the wind ever howl that night. We headed out in the morning with hounds and a few eager helpers to try and find this tom. The conditions were advantageous for the cat and not us humans. The tracks were thought to be older than the helper had thought and despite our best efforts could not find fresh sign of this tom. This cats story doesn't end here but my involvement does. My holidays had ran out and I had

no choice but to return to work. The Kelly Morton crew did get this cat a couple days after I had returned to work, he was huge, the hunter that got to put his tag on this cougar was very deserving and I couldn't be happier for him. This was not the end for me though!

I was in a bit of a holding pattern for a few weeks as Kelly was tending to their outfitting operations in BC where they guide bobcat, lynx and cougar. An adventure I plan on partaking in someday soon. Of course when things are starting to look good for another trip out to go cat hunting the coldest streak in decades hit. With it being so cold it was decided to hold out and wait for things to warm up a bit, those wind-chills were a tad cold in February. I was back looking at youtube videos and checking long range forecasts. Things started to look warm up a bit around the Family day long





weekend. So a plan was made to head up after work one day and start hunting again. The first day back out started off like the last time, cutting female and young tom tracks. It wasn't until the following day we found "the one" I couldn't believe it, the track looked bigger than all the rest, even with my untrained eyes. The track had everything we were looking for; size, stride and under two days old. The big cat had made a mistake by stepping out onto the road for a few yards and leaving his track. The hunt was soon to be on! We began marking the spot of the track with a GPS and plotted access routes to get closer to the tom. The decision was made not to run the dogs, as it was getting too late in the day and would be dark soon. But we knew if this tom didn't put on a long distance overnight we would be running the dogs the next day. Our confidence was high as we headed home for a few hours of sleep.

Our alarms went off and we were up and on the road in short order. We had a few of his guides coming out to help track this cat down. The temperature had dropped a bit over night and read -35 in the truck as we were on the road heading to where we found the cat track. We confirmed that the cat was still in the area and did not travel many kilometers overnight. Kelly along with a couple of his guides began working the cat track, the hunt was on. It was around noon when everything was sorted out, dogs were collared and about to be released. Seeing and hearing those dogs take off hot on the trail of the big tom was something I had been looking forward to the most. There's something about a working dog doing what it loves that

is really quite special. The hounds didn't take too long to track the cat down, largely in part to the preparation Kelly and company put in and the amazing dogs he has. We were following the dogs and we could hear them barking with a lot more energy now, getting louder as we approached. I'll never forget the moment that I came through the trees and saw all the dogs barking loudly and wagging their tails. Then to look way up in a tree to see this cat looking down at us, slightly annoyed by all the noise bellow him. I can still hear the dogs barking when I think about this moment. We took our time setting up and tying up dogs for the shot. What happened next was accomplishing something I had only dreamed of before. There were congratulations and handshakes all around!

I'd like to thank the Alberta Bowhunters Association and Kelly Morton for providing this great opportunity for Alberta residents to hunt these predators in some less than hospitable country. Next would be all the guides I met along the way while hunting with Kelly, it says a lot about the operation he runs by the people he surrounds himself with. I look forward to the next adventure with the people I've met through this hunt. My understanding wife for being the rock at home while I am off hunting. Lastly but not least I'd like to thank Kelly and Chelsey. They run a very professional operation that I can't say enough good things about, they work hard every day and have such a positive attitude. I felt involved in the hunt every step of the way and thoroughly enjoyed my experience! I hope others get to experience a hunt with Kelly Morton Hunting. As I hope to experience it again in British Columbia with them!

HUNTING FILM TOUR

WWW.HUNTINGFILMTOUR.COM

MARCH 14TH, 2020 · 6:30PM
GARNEAU THEATRE · EDMONTON, AB

FEBRUARY 5TH, 2020 · 7:00 & 7:30PM
THE MOVIE MILL · LETHBRIDGE, AB

MARCH 19TH, 2020 · 7:00PM
MADHATTERS · GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB

CALGARY - TO BE SCHEDULED
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THE GUIDING LIGHT TOUR



PROVING GROUND - produced by MATHEWS ARCHERY • FIRST SEASON - produced by PROJECT UPLAND

RUBY VALLEY - produced by DU FILMS • 20 YEARS WITH A LEGEND - produced by GARY ENGLISH • CIRCLE OF LIFE - produced by JASON MATZINGER

RAIN DEER - produced by ON YOUR OWN ADVENTURES & HUNT SOLO ADVENTURES • SAVING GRACE - produced by RMEF FILMS

43RD ANNUAL ABA BANQUET & CONVENTION

MARCH 21, 2020 THEME: BRING ANYTHING



Bring Anything - old or new

- Bring any bowhunted species mounts, old or new
- Mingle, reacquaint with old friends and make new ones
- Fun filled banquet with raffles, food, ABA awards and a ton of fun
- Come early at 2:00pm for a game head caping seminar by Joey Busetto

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED !!**
free ticket and shirt

ROOMS :

- bestwestern.com or online booking for best rates

AGENDA:

- Regulations/AGM 9:30 – 1:00 pm
- Caping Seminar 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- Banquet 5:30 pm

LOCATION:

The Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre

1316 33RD ST NE CALGARY, AB

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 300 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.**



Have something to brag about?

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

BRAG



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THAREN SOROKA

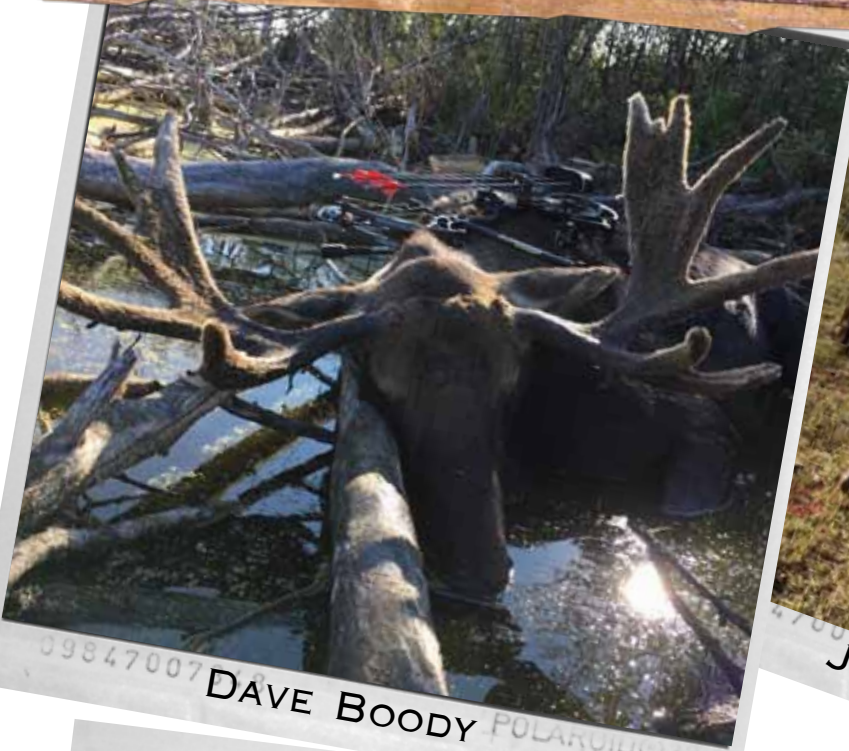


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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Brent Watson

Happy New Year everyone!!

In the Fall Newsletter, we announced the latest and what is, the greatest, ABA Raffle we have ever done. The "Outdoor Adventures" Raffle. We had great support from a variety of outfitters/agents in putting together an incredible variety of trips that we hoped would appeal to a large audience. The raffle was very well received and we sold out in 15 days!! Because we sold out, the Gaming Commission approved us to do the draw early and that was done on Tuesday Dec 17th. The lucky winner was Ray Avignon of Fairview!!

Thanks to everyone who bought tickets and to those who helped support the raffle. Proceeds from these raffles go towards offsetting the costs of the newsletter, the Game Awards Program, the 3D Sponsorship Program, Youth Initiatives etc. It allows us to keep our membership dues low and very affordable.

We are looking at doing this raffle on an annual basis. Your thoughts?? Do you have any ideas as to trips you think would be a good fit and we should add to the list of raffle prizes?? ALL of the trips we currently have were recommended to us by executive or general members who personally have hunted/fished with these operators. We have no reservations about what the winner should expect if they choose any one of the options.

Our last scheduled **AGPAC (Alberta Game Policy Advisory Group)** meeting was on Thursday Dec 5th. We were presented the "proposed" regulation changes for the upcoming 2020 fall hunting season. We will be able to share those with everyone "publically" hopefully soon once things move through the internal FW system.

Some items of discussion we had that we can share:

- This year there is mandatory reporting for "special license" tags and next year ALL licenses will

have mandatory reporting. Thus far this year, FW have gotten a great response already on reporting for the special licenses requirement.

- "Species Management Plans" have been finished or are currently underway for some species and everything should be completed in next two years.
- Alberta Professional Outfitters Society are hosting a "CWD Symposium" either April 1 or April 8 2020. Will have lots of experts and speakers from across North America. More details to follow.
- FW are drafting a "CWD Management Policy" as well which will guide how Alberta deals with CWD.
- Discussion about adding more species to the Ministers Special License raffle (currently just elk, mule deer and sheep). The last resident raffle for the 3 species went very well. The auction of the three at various fundraisers in the US were better but not as good as in the past. AFGA currently administer this raffle and license. Thoughts are to better advertise the raffles "objectives" and to outline what the money raised has been used for etc.
- Sandhill Crane season is moving forward, but slowly. Regional Biologist public meetings – will happen in April likely. Stakeholders will be advised of more details once we get closer and then we can network this information to our respective memberships.

The next AGPAC mtg will be Feb 12 2020 and we should know more about the 2020 reg changes as well as the progress of other items we have been involved in the last several years.

ACA MEETINGS Dec 11/12

Incredible amount of stuff goes on at these board meetings. Hard to take it

all in. The ACA is involved in a wide variety of things that support and promote conservation, hunting, fishing, trapping. The ABA became a member organization of the ACA in August 2019. Current ABA rep is Brent Watson. Also sits on ACA committees - Communications, ACA Grant Program, Operations Standards Review.

Check out the ACA website <https://www.ab-conservation.com/> for a look at the various programs, the things they offer, etc.

Highlights of meeting presentations:

Travis Ripley (AEP Executive Director, FW Policy) – Restructuring and renaming of the department and/or some of its divisions. Should know very soon on how the budget cuts will affect staffing and operations. Current review of how F&W spends its dollars. Concern over the declining numbers of hunters/fishers across North America. Focus of the department will be on hunting, fishing, trapping etc. A priority to have public feedback and consultation/engagement. CWD results to date show 146 positives from 2146 tests – increase in prevalence. Two new WMUs have gotten positives. And since this meeting there is the first case of a hunter taken moose with CWD. Moving forward in the process with the Wildlife Regulations Review and Allocation Policy Review (and then to public/stakeholders for feedback).

Wild Boars in Alberta (Perry Abramenko) – In the 3rd winter of a pilot program to determine scope of the problem. Surveying locations. A call in hotline (310-FARM) to report sightings. Are a huge issue across North America. Came to Alberta as a result of the government's diversification of livestock initiatives and escaped from these farms or were just let loose. Cause 1.5 billion dollars damage in US. Expanding rapidly. Can survive well in harsh climates. High reproductive rates (2 litters a year and average 6 per litter). Eat anything. Rooting very damaging. Are huge



predators on deer fawns and ground nesting birds (eggs/young). To keep populations stable you have to remove 70% of them annually. Hunting does not achieve that. Hunting actually makes it harder to achieve better control or eradication measures. The pigs adapt to the hunting pressure and make it very hard to get the survivors. Is a threat of disease to the domestic swine herds (African Swine Fever is one). Currently legislated as a "pest" – like the rat. Using corral traps and bait in pilot project. Capture entire group (called a sounder) and euthanize. After this winters work, a proposal for eradication will be developed and circulated for public/stakeholder feedback and government approval.

Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum (Linden Roberts curator) – located on outskirts of Wembley west of Grande Prairie. Showcases one of the largest dinosaur bone beds in the world found at nearby Pipestone Creek. The ACA has a four year contract with the museum to use one of their rooms to have rotating displays with a conservation theme and to promote the ACA. Great way to showcase conservation. Hopes are these displays could make their way to other institutions.

FW SHEEP MTGS (Dec 11/12)

FW hosted these sheep meetings (same format both days, just different stakeholder attendees) "to understand hunters' objectives (values), concerns and preferences to inform the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan for Alberta." Dale Johnson attended on behalf of the ABA.

"The information provided from workshop participants will help to:

- develop an online survey for all sheep hunters, and inform best management alternatives to meet stakeholder and agency objectives."

FW will send participants a summary from the workshops for their review.

"The input received from these workshops will help inform subsequent data analyses of the consequences of different management alternatives on hunters' objectives. These results will be presented for discussion at subsequent workshops with you."

As more meetings are scheduled and the information from them is avail-

able, we will pass that on.

The ABA banquet (the 43rd) will soon be here and things are moving along nicely. It will be in Calgary at the Best Western Premier Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre (the old Coast Plaza) on the 21st of March. We are looking for volunteers (have a few now already and that is great) to help out. Volunteers get a free banquet ticket and a free ABA shirt to wear at the banquet and then take home. If you'd like to help out contact Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com) or cell 7870-978-1195. We are looking at a seminar or two for the afternoon leading up to the banquet. After supper and the Awards presentations we will have a "Social". Stay tuned for more details!!

Make sure you get your Game Award entries into Ryk (ryk@ryk.ca) by the FIRM deadline of March 1, 2019. The best is to email them to Ryk but make sure you follow up with a call to make sure he did indeed get them. Don't send high resolution pictures in bunches – do them one at a time so your email actually gets through. Sometimes things end up in Junk Mail so follow up with a quick call or email to make sure Ryk got your entry(s). You can also submit your game award entries through the website!!

We have had great response to the sale of our "ABA Hats" and they are available off the website. Check them out! Great looking hats!!

Make sure you check your membership expiry date on the mailing label of your last newsletter. If you haven't gotten the last newsletter or two, then you most likely are not a current member. With just a click or two of your mouse, you can join off our website (NOTE the new address – <https://albertabowhunters.ca>).

You can select an auto renew box so your credit card is automatically billed so you don't forget to renew, you get an immediate confirmation email, can print off your membership card. Make sure you don't miss out on game award and 3D program eligibility, the insurance coverage, notice on the next RAFFLE and to help bolster our numbers when we attend these very important meetings with senior government staff and stakeholders on hunting/bowhunting regulations, developing and adjusting policy for game management in Alberta.

If you have questions on your membership, contact Mike@albertabowhunters.com.

While you are on the website (<https://albertabowhunters.ca>), have a look around. It has been totally revamped and looks amazing!! Thanks to a pile of work from Lance and help from Kyle and Cam F. If you see anything you think should be changed, things you would like added, etc just let Lance know (Inelson@telus.net).

Make sure you "like" our Facebook page as well. Kris and Cole add new stuff frequently and we have gotten lots of interest and "hits". Currently have over 2700 followers!!

Gord will be working on the next edition of the newsletter in April. If you have any pictures you would like put in the Brag Board feature or a story about a hunt (successful or otherwise) let Gord know (Gord@albertabowhunters.com). We are always looking for content. Big thank you to everyone who submits things for the newsletter – really makes it the great product it is!!

The ABA changed up its 3D Program several years ago as a result of input from its membership, the 3D shooters within the ABA etc and it has evolved into a program that sees the ABA support its affiliated clubs who hold a 3D shoot with a bowhunting theme. We have had a great response and it makes much better use of the resources at the ABAs disposal. Last year we had nine clubs who participated and packages will be sent out in the New Year to all affiliated clubs to sign up for the 2020 3D season.

ABA members who attend these shoots have their name put in for a draw at the ABA Banquet (March 21, 2020 in Calgary) and the winner has their choice of a \$500 Gift Certificate at the archery shop of their choice or an ABA Life Membership.

If you have any questions or comments about the ABA don't hesitate to contact me (or any of your executive – contact info in newsletter and on website) at anytime.



FEEDBACK ON NEWSLETTER CHANGE

ABA is seeking feedback from the membership regarding the newsletter. This idea is to publish a single 80-page issue per year, instead of four 24-page quarterly issues. Below is an outline of what would change and what would remain the same throughout the year in terms of content and delivery.

Same:

- 36 pages of bowhunting adventure stories
- 8 pages of bowhunting how-to articles
- 32 pages hunt success photos
- Annual gold game award winners
- Life members list
- ABA purpose and historical accomplishments

Different:

- 1 issue instead of 4 per year.
- Annual game award entries and historical winners per category
- ABA annual recap report
- ABA news via email

Below are the pros and cons of having a single yearbook instead of four newsletters per annum.

Pros

- \$6,500 - \$9,000 savings per year from reduced printing & mailing costs
- Avoid duplicate printing of the ABA executive, ABA game awards, and the ABA membership application in the same year
- ABA news emailed in a timely manner, avoiding the six-week delay due to printing and mailing. Email addresses currently for over 95% of membership

Cons

- One printed publication per year reaching members, reducing the ABA's current primary communication method frequency
- ABA bylaw changes would require a dedicated mailout prior to AGM to notify members
- Communication lost to those members who do not have a valid email address
- Cost increase risk of quarterly newsletter if needing to revert idea

Visit albertabowhunters.ca on a computer, tablet or smartphone to fill out the survey and contribute your feedback. For those members without valid emails and internet access, there will be an opportunity at the AGM and banquet to submit your survey responses.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Alberta Bowhunters Association annual general meeting (AGM) will be held on March 21, 2020 at the Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. The following items make up the agenda:

1. Executive reports.
2. Discussion items:
 - BYLAW and OBJECTIVE changes. Special resolutions (motions) on the following will be presented to the membership. See pages 19-21 for specifics.
 - Annual Yearbook or current quarterly newsletter format. Discuss idea and survey feedback
 - Stakeholder meeting recaps
 - Regulation change proposals
3. Elections
 - Are you interested in getting involved with the ABA? Are you passionate about bowhunting? Want to make a difference? Have a voice in government

decision making? Ensure your bowhunting opportunities are not lost? We are looking for folks who would like to get involved in the ABA – help with some of the things we are involved in, give input/feedback on issues, some fresh ideas. It does not take a great deal of effort or time – all our meetings (outside of the AGM) are via conference call. We use email extensively. It gives you a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment in being involved in one of the largest bowhunting organizations in North America and help celebrate and shape the future of bowhunting in Alberta. Give it a thought.

- Elections for 2020 are:
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Membership
 - 3D Director
 - Central Director
 - South Director

The OBJECTIVES proposed change will be as follows:

a) Point 1 – will be changed to now read:

To foster and expand the practice of archery, the sport **cultural and traditional importance** of bowhunting and the spirit of good fellowship among archers.

The BYLAWS proposed changes will be as follows:

BYLAW ARTICLE TWO - MEMBERSHIP

a) Bylaw Article 2, Membership, Point 1 will be changed to read as follows:

Membership to the ABA is at the full discretion of the ABA Executive.

Any conduct of a membership applicant that could bring the Association into disrepute, including, but not limited to, a conviction of a Wildlife Act/Fisheries Act violation, any actions that are contrary to the Objectives to the ABA, or any other transgression that would bring discredit to the ABA, may result in the applicant being disallowed from membership in the Association.

The executive committee has sixty (60) days after receipt of membership application to initiate the disqualification process. Upon expiry of said timeframe, the Member Conduct Review Procedure may be utilized.

If an application for membership is in question, then an Executive Committee meeting will take place by following a similar process to that outlined in the Member Conduct Review Procedure, wherein the applicant may or may not be subject to disqualification. However, this process will not include an appeal component.

Any membership fees or dues forwarded by the applicant will be returned.

Applicant will be advised of a decision to disallow membership.

b) Bylaw Article 2 – Membership, Point 2 (Full Membership) will be changed to read as follows:

*Any person, being of the full age of 18 years **and approved by the ABA executive**, may become a full member upon payment of the membership fee to the ABA. A family membership will be granted to a ~~husband/wife~~ **any legally recognized couple or single parent** and their children; under 18 years. Full members have full voting privileges, can attend all meetings of the general membership, have participating rights in all ABA programs and will be covered by liability insurance through the ABA's insurance broker.*

c) Bylaw Article 2 - Membership, Point 3 (Junior Membership) will be changed to read as follows:

*Any person under the age of 18 years **and approved by the ABA executive**, may become a junior non-voting member upon payment of the membership fees to the ABA.*

d) Bylaw Article 2 - Membership, Point 4 (Life Membership) will be changed to read as follows:

*Any person, **approved by the ABA executive**, may be granted a life membership upon application and payment of the life membership fees.*

e) Bylaw Article 2 - Membership, Point 6 (Affiliate Club Membership) will be changed to read as follows:

*Any club or organized body, which has archery as part of its program, may become an affiliate member with the ABA, for a fee established by the membership at the annual general meeting. Individual affiliate club members have full voting privileges and participating rights in all ABA programs **only when they also join the ABA**. The club ~~and its members~~ will be covered by liability insurance through the ABA's insurance ~~broker~~ **policy**. Monies and membership lists to be forwarded to ABA membership chairperson.*

f) Bylaw Article 2 - Membership, Point 7 (Membership Fee) will be changed to read as follows:

*Membership fees in the ABA **can only be changed** ~~shall be set by~~ **at the an Annual General Meeting** **after notice is given to the membership 30 days prior to that AGM** ~~for the next year~~.*



g) Bylaw Article 2 - Membership, Point 10 (Member Conduct Review procedure) will be changed to add:

*Information on the member's case will only be shared with the Member Conduct Committee, then forwarded to the Member Conduct Appeal Committee if there is an appeal. Once the process(es) are completed and the timelines are over, the results can be shared with the ABA Executive, and only the ABA Executive. **These results would include dates of review meetings, member name, results of Court Records search, results of the committee/appeal committee findings and subsequent sanctions.***

The results are to remain confidential and all members of the ABA Executive and Member Conduct Committee participants have a fiduciary responsibility of confidentiality.

BYLAW ARTICLE FOUR - MEETINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

a) Bylaw Article 4 – Meetings and Appointments, Point 2 (Quorums) will be changed to read as follows:

*At meetings of the Executive Committee, the quorum shall be three (3) voting members. **Either the President or VP are to be present and must be part of the minimum quorum numbers of a meeting of the Executive Committee.***

At each Annual General Meeting, the quorum shall be fifteen (15) voting members.

At Special General Meetings, the quorum shall be thirty-five (35) voting members.

b) Bylaw Article 4 – Meetings and Appointments, Point 4 (Meetings) will be changed to read as follows:

*The Executive Committee shall meet a minimum of three (3) times yearly, at times set by the President, and communicated to the members of the committee at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, in order to deal with any business **of the organization not requiring a member vote at they deem to be unable to wait till the next Annual General Meeting.** Such meetings may be by telephone conference call and voting done by voice.*

Electronic voting may be used on executive motions outside of executive committee meetings.

There shall be one Annual General Meeting held on the same weekend as the ABA Convention. Members will be notified of the AGM a minimum of 30 days prior to meeting date. This notification will be through the ABA Newsletter and secondarily through the ABA mass email list, ABA website and ABA Facebook Page.

If any Special Meetings are called, members will be notified of this special meeting a minimum of 30 days prior to meeting date. This notification will be through the ABA Newsletter and secondarily through the ABA mass email list, ABA website and ABA Facebook Page.

BYLAW ARTICLE FIVE – ELECTIONS

a

6. Bowhunting Regulations Chairman

1) This position **and/or the duties** may also be held/done by the President or Vice President **or another member of the executive appointed by the President.**

6) ~~Ensure that the existing Bowhunting opportunities are not lost due to pressures from other resource users.~~ **Remove – impossible to do**

7) ~~Ensure that the ABA is represented on the AGMAG/Hunting for Tomorrow meetings each year~~ **at any stakeholder/Fish & Wildlife meetings.**

8) Receive Resolutions from each **affiliated** club, individual **ABA** members and ensure that each resolution is presented on the standard ESRD **F&W** template. **Resolutions must** include:

- 1) Club or individual making the resolution
- 2) Current strategy
- 3) Concern



- 4) Information to support the change. Written description of the necessity to approve the resolution, as well as the benefit to the Bowhunting regulations of Alberta or the ABA.
- 5) Recommended change.
- 10) Present (or arrange for alternate) the resolutions to AEP/FW directly and/or to AGMAG/HFT **any stakeholder/Fish & Wildlife** meetings

8. **Membership Secretary**

- 2) Receive and list all in-coming ABA Memberships. ~~Forward names to the ABA membership contractor (if in place) for mailing of their membership cards.~~ **remove**
- 4) List all ABA Associate and Affiliate Clubs along with the name of the Club contact person, their email address and telephone number, **any club website address** and forward to the ABA Newsletter Editor for updating in each Newsletter publication **and to ABA website chair to update list on website.**

9. ~~Animal 3-D Tournament~~ **3D Chairman**

- 1) Promote and receive applications from ABA **affiliated** clubs to ~~sponsor the annual ABA 3-D shoot(s)~~ **qualify for the ABA 3D Sponsorship Program.**
- 2) ~~Establish tournament regulations and classes of shooters that will encourage all ages of shooters to participate. The 3-D tournaments are to be a family event, with classes to represent the abilities of each age group.~~ **remove**
- 3) Prepare an Annual Budget for operation and implementation of the **ABA 3D Sponsorship Program** ~~3-D tournaments, to provide keeper trophies to the first placed, second placed and third placed winner of each class.~~
- 4) Prepare an Annual Report on the operation and implementation of the **ABA 3D Sponsorship Program** ~~3-D Tournaments.~~
- 5) Provide assistance to the Treasurer in preparing an Annual Financial Statement for this Program.
- 6) Establish a 3D Committee to aid with the ABA 3D **Sponsorship** Program
- 7) Chair any meetings to set out the rules under which the **ABA 3D Sponsorship** Program shall be run.

10. **ABA Newsletter Editor**

1. ~~Is an elected position—2 year term.~~ **remove – term length is already set previously**
- b) Bylaw Article 5, point 3 "Elections to the ABA Executive Committee, in "Duties of the Appointed Positions of the ABA" is changed to add as follows:

11. **Raffle Chairperson**

- Work with executive/membership on prizes.**
- Work with executive to complete raffle rules specific for each raffle.**
- Get Gaming Commission license (online).**
- Arrange for ticket printing.**
- Require access to ABA online store to receive online sales notifications.**
- Keep ticket log (Excel).**
- Mail ticket stubs to ticket buyer.**
- Coordinate with web chair on number of tickets on the online store and for cash sales.**
- Arrange for the draw to happen as per Gaming Commission rules.**
- Contact winner(s) and arrange for prize delivery.**
- Send treasurer the necessary Alberta Gaming Commission forms once raffle is completed.**

ALBERTA POPE & YOUNG MEASURERS

2020 Alberta P&Y Measurers (Nov 29, 2019)

Brian Rudyk	Athabasca	Home: 780-675-2579	brudyk@mcsnet.ca
Maurice Nadeau	Bonnyville	Home: 780-808-9669	
Kevin Brayford	Calgary	home: 403-280-1655	kbrayford@shaw.ca
David Coupland	Calgary	Home: 403-249-6240	coupland@ckaid.com
		Work: 403-620-3360	
Chad Dillabough	Calgary	Home: 403-202-0796	chad.dillabough@omersenergy.com
		Work: 403-660-2247	
David Paplawski	Calgary	Home: 403-278-3741	dave@aheia.com
		Cell: 403-816-5334	
Sylvester Baier	Camrose	Home: 780-672-1186	forsly@gmail.com
		Work: 780-878-4096	
Levy Groves	Claresholm	Home: 403-625-1019	
Terry Brew	Clive	Home: 403-784-2084	bowshot@gmail.com
Dean Bromberger	Edmonton	Home: 780-450-6124	bbromberger@shaw.ca
		Work: 780-983-5593	
Jack Graham	Edmonton	Home: 780-434-1198	
Dale Johnson	Edmonton	Home: 780-483-1721	arrowest@telusplanet.net
		Cell: 780-893-5892	
Ryk Visscher	Edmonton	cell: 780-445-0327	ryk@ryk.ca
Brent Watson	Gr. Prairie	Home: 780-539-9811	bcwatson@telusplanet.net
		Cell: 780-978-1195	
Dennis Meyer	Lethbridge	Home: 403-381-1558	predatorcamo@hotmail.com
		Work: 403-380-6495	
Ab England	Lloydminster	Home: 780-875-2673	abe_pat@telus.net
		Work: 780-875-3215	
Neil Napora	Mannville	Home: 780-853-3725	
Ronald Nilson	Morinville	Home: 780-996-4922	
Lindsey Patterson	Pincher Creek	Cell: 403-627-8417	
Mike Walliser	Red Deer	Cell: 403-396-5335	stealthm@telus.net
Dallas Kaiser	Red Deer	home: 403-224-2090	dkaiser74@gmail.com
Jonathan Shapka	St. Paul	Home: 780-645-9694	
Ryan Bartholow	Sundre	Home: 403-507-1125	rjbartman44@hotmail.com
Bob Daudelin	Warburg	Home: 780-848-7557	bob@aag-gis.com
		Work: 780-514-8783	
Curtis Siegfried	Whitecourt	Home: 780-778-4856	crsiegfried@hotmail.com
Eric Rauhanen	Yellowhead County	Home: 780-723-3475	hunting@telusplanet.net
		Work: 780-723-3598	





Deadline March 1st

GAME AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

(MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM FOR FUTURE USE, edits Jan 13, 2020)

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/B&C 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/>) Was taken in Alberta, and for big game entries and applicable small game, 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," the "Master Bowhunter" and "Grandmaster 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 780-445-327 Fax 780-450-0386

(DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES MARCH 1 – NO EXTENSIONS, NO EXCEPTIONS!!)(Call to confirm)

After polling members on Facebook, and selecting which hats most would like to purchase. Here is our current line up of ABA branded ball caps! Using popular and high quality Richardson brand hats we have a great selection of hats available. Check back often as we offer limited edition styles from time to time. Hats can be shipped (actual shipping costs apply) or they can be picked up in the local Edmonton area. These options are fully explained and available at checkout. Hat styles, current inventory, as well as our various clothing options are available at: albertabowhunters.ca. All hats are \$25 + shipping (if applicable)



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

