

Alberta

2020 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

BOWHUNTERS

ASSOCIATION



Bow Switch | Tree Stand Cougar

FEATURES



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ON THE COVER

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EDITORIAL

Gord Nuttall

This issue is a little late, apologies for that - life has been hectic but I trust those subscribed to our social media channels and email communications know what has been happening. Since my tenure as newsletter editor on the ABA executive committee, this is the second issue that we have not printed. I have taken out some common content from the newsletter such as the game award rules, synopsis and entry forms because all that information can be found on the website anyway. Is it missed? In addition to the removed game award information from the newsletter, the brag board (pages 14,15) pictures, I feel, are dated and not nearly as timely as our Facebook and/or Instagram feeds of the successful bow hunters out there. However, I must remember that not everyone has (or enjoys) social media.

You might remember a survey in the early part of 2020 (pre-COVID) in which we were seeking input about switching the printed quarterly newsletter to an annual publication called a yearbook. Although other factors entered into play and we had to stop printing the quarterly newsletter for economic reasons it's still to be determined about an annual printed publication. I for one am all for it. The ABA banquet is always a good time, filled with success stories, comic tales and ones that got away. And who does not like looking through the green booklet printed by Ryk to see who shot what. That's still my vision - an annual printed recap of the season filled with stories, awards and important information that you should know from year-to-year like regulation changes, initiatives and how the ABA is continuing to promote and expand the sport of bow hunting in Alberta.

The ABA executive will continue to discuss the future of printed communications through until the next banquet. We will be looking at how many folks are downloading and reading these electronic newsletters which will be welcomed data that we never had before when printed. I welcome any thoughts you have as well and you can send them to gord@albertabowhunters.com

Gord Nuttall



2020 Summer 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.

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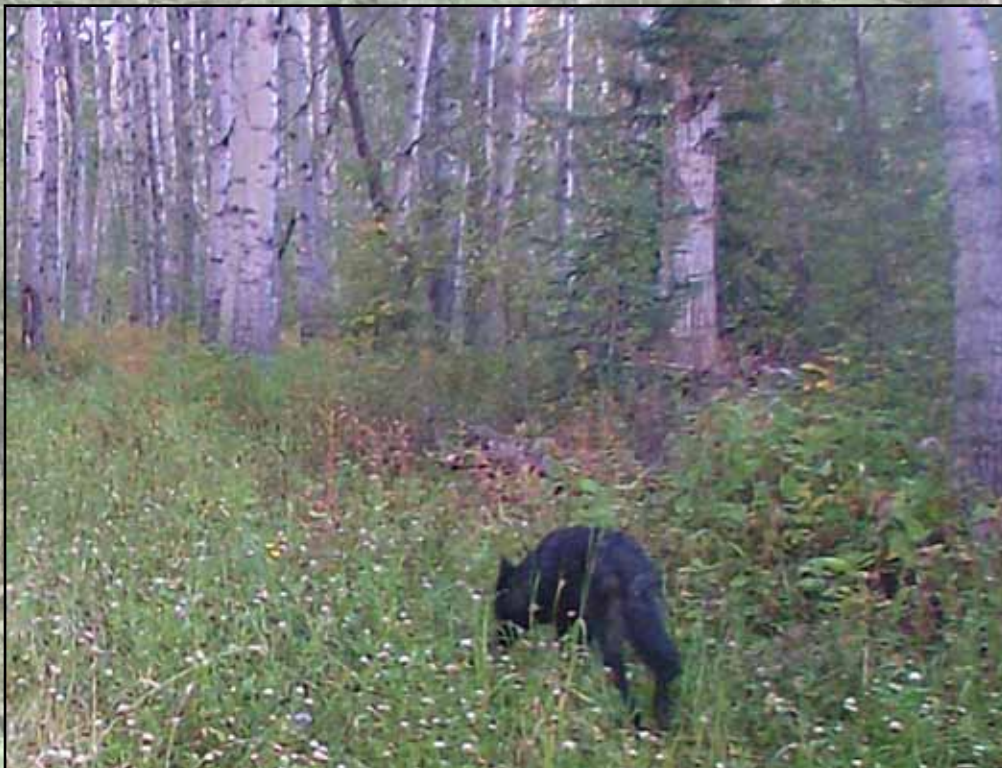
TREE STAND

by Glenn Bielech

A couple of years ago, I bought some land out west of Grande Prairie. It is an awesome hunting quarter, being 90% bush, with a year round creek running through it and adjacent to crown land, a bowhunter's paradise. There is a good population of whitetail with a few elk and moose, however way too many big predators; wolves, black bears, grizzlies, and especially cougars. The cougars pass thru every couple of months and I will get a picture on one of my many trail cameras, only had 1 daylight picture in 2 years. The disturbing part is the most pictures I get are on my cabin camera, where the buggers have been right next to my deck. I turn on all the outdoor lights when I step out for a 4 am nature calling.

It's the end of August and I am sitting in one of stands along the creek, doing an evening sit, calling for elk. There were a couple fresh sets of tracks on my walk into the stand, so I thought I might get some action. Around 7:45 pm, I gave a couple of bugles and some cow calls, but no answers. Had been in my stand for about 30 minutes, around 8, broad daylight, when I look straight down and right below me, 2 meters from the tree I am in, is a cougar.

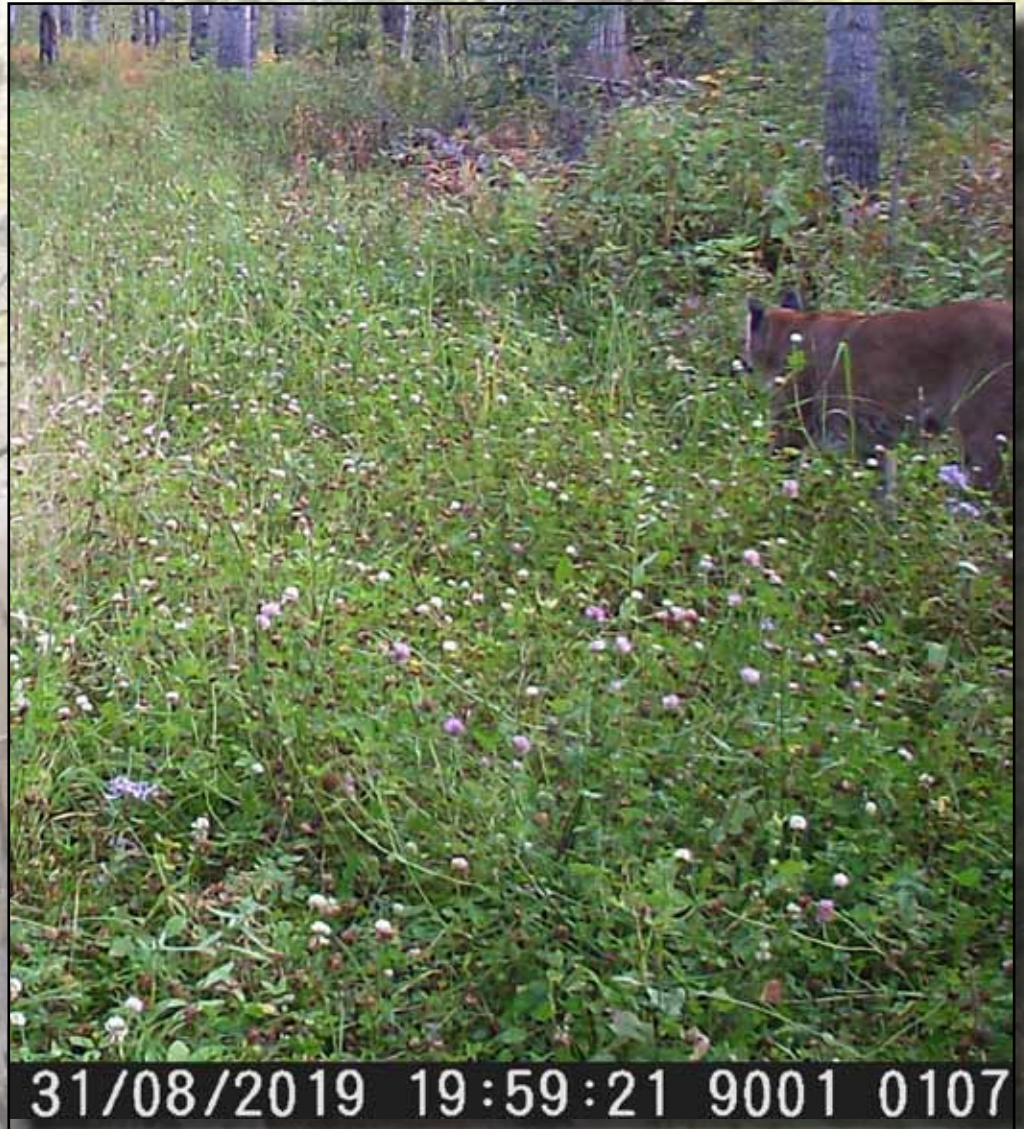
It is slowly walking down the game trail following those elk tracks. I grabbed my bow off my hanger, a quick draw, knew the range at 40 to the tree it was next to, settled the pin and let fly. The arrow flew like a dart, the nocturnal lighting the way, a real hard quartering away shot. Smoked it dead center in the middle of the body, right behind the shoulder. I could see a huge white slash open up down its' whole side. Cat jumped 3 feet in the air, slammed broadside into a big poplar tree and then bolted like grease lightening into the bush. Could see my nocturnal sticking out its' side for about 50 yards, till it vanished. My adrenaline was pumping a hundred miles an hour after that truly amazing encounter, that lasted maybe only 20 seconds. Made a couple quick phone calls to the hunting partners and told them about my incredible experience. Waited 30 minutes, then got down to track it, really took my time, moving cautiously, with defender in my hand, loaded and ready. Had never tracked predators before, it was an uneasy, tense feeling, with nerves on edge, to say the least. I found blood after 75 yards but only a few drops and then 1 small pool where it must of stood for a few seconds. There were



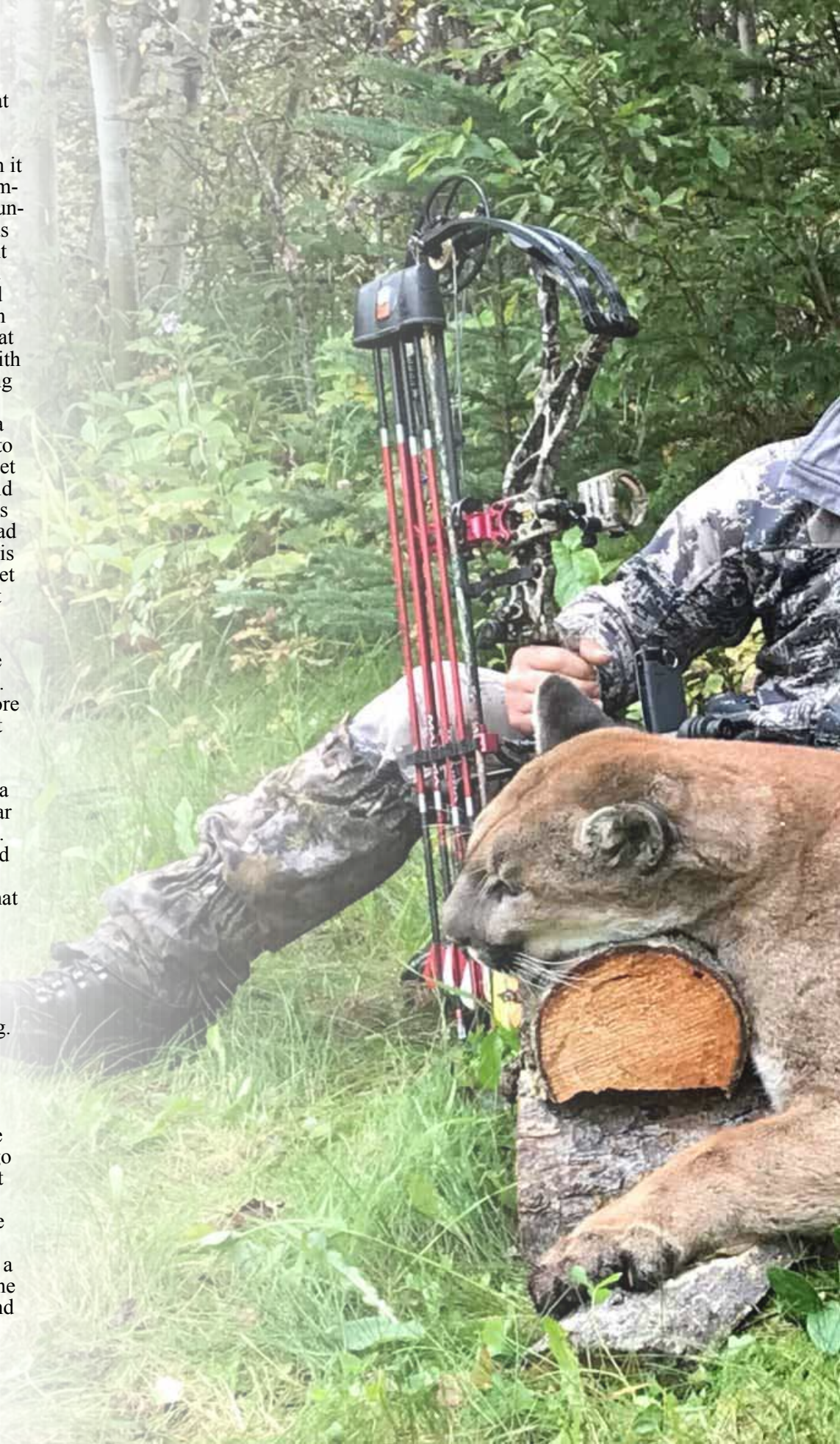
COUGAR

bubbles in it, so a real good sign the arrow found the lungs. Dusk was starting to set in so I decided to back out and leave the cat overnight. Back to the cabin to unwind with a cold rum and coke and to round up a friend for tomorrow morning's tracking, just in case a guy still needed backup. Was not sleeping well, then remembered my nocturnal, so

I zipped back at 3 am and went up in my stand, was hoping to see my lighted nock in the darkness, no luck, dammit, back to bed for a restless couple hour snooze. At 7 bells, my buddy Chad shows up and we head back in. Got to my flagging where I quit tracking from last evening. Steady blood spots, but the cat did some big jumps in a few spots,



so we had to be real careful to find the blood trail again. That cat snuck under logs, walked on top of, jumped over deadfall, walked tight around big spruce trees, then it started slowly zig zagging and aimlessly wandering after a couple hundred yards. The last hundred yards was steady blood in the right front paw print so easy tracking finally. We walked up to the cougar, dead under a big spruce tree, laid out in mid stride. What a relief to see that big cat laying there. High fives with Chad, took in the moment of being able to take down a cougar with the bow, truly unbelievable. Got a few field pictures and was going to figure out where to cut a trail to get the side by side in. Then Chad said he wanted to try carry it out on his back, something unique that he had never done before. We strapped his backpack to it and I helped him get to his feet, that cat weighed about 125 lbs, big female. He is a one tough bugger and slowly walked out with it, about 400 yards to the side by side, next to my treestand. Back to the cabin for a couple more trophy pictures. We skinned it out and butchered it up. Chad took all the meat, surprisingly a very tender white meat, going to have a big feast this summer to try cougar meat with all the hunting buddies. Getting a rug made out of it, could not quite convince the better half on the full mount. A bonus was that I have a trail camera right at my stand and it did get a couple pictures of the cougar about 10 seconds before I shot it, plus a black wolf had walked through there at 7:30 that same day in the morning. Definitely going to have to spend more time in that stand knocking down the predator population. In over 35 years of hunting, I have only seen 2 cougars, called in one in Kakwa elk hunting 15 years ago and seen one in Gold Creek about 25 years ago. Overall an amazing and rare hunting experience, to be lucky enough to see a cougar in the wild, let alone shoot one with a bow sitting in a tree stand. Won the lotto that night! She made Pope and Young at 13 & 10/16.





BOW SWITCH

by Wacey Arthur

I was not as fortunate as a lot of my friends to get involved in archery at a young age I was in my late teens early 20s before I had found my brothers old pse nova in his closet and started tinkering with it. As I grew into archery as most people do it became a passion of mine and something I would truly become obsessed with. After attending a few 3D shoots in the mid 2000s I had seen a few older fellows with stick bows and wood arrows and I proceeded to ask them about there bows and we chatted about a few hunts and some game they have taken with their bows. Promptly

after that I went on the Internet blindly looking for a bow and I ordered My first stick which was a samick sage (great starter bow) which is a super affordable bow for beginners. Around 2013 I started shooting it and could not hit barn door at five yards, and I said to heck with this thing and picked my compound up and carried on about my business hunting. 2014 I tried my hand again and this time I reached out to a guy on instagram in which we became good friends because of this after. He walked me through the set up of the bow and finding arrows that worked and to my surprise



I started hitting the target, I had practiced enough with it over that summer I was confident enough to try and harvest a animal which I did take a Mulie doe on the ground. After tasting a little success with the wooden bow I was determined to make a go of it so i sold all of my compound equipment in 2015 and made the plunge, I found a old bear super Kodiak on Kijiji for 300\$ and purchased it. This was my first big mistake in traditional archery in which I over bowed my self with this 60lb glass limbed bow. I shot the bear for a few months until my shoulders felt like they where gonna fall off, and I was terribly inaccurate with it to say the least, my hunting season was not much of a success and at this point I was wondering to myself what have I done. After reading on line about bows and trying to learn I decided the thing to do was to get a custom build bow to accommodate my 31" draw and get the right poundage so I went and seen a local bowyer Joey Ryan of Joes tradi-

tional. It was a great experience and Joey helped me learn a lot about the traditional world. After I got my first real bow I practised hard that summer and was ready to hunt. That year I had pulled a bull moose tag and had a good spot picked out that I new held some good bulls. I hiked in to a area did some calling it was super windy and hard to here bulls grunt when the wind is really going so I moved down into a bottom with heavy buck brush and let out a cow call and picked up a bull grunting and closing ground fast. Because the brush was super thick I don't think I coulda even shot with all the limbs in the way, so ended up standing in a old moose bed and watching the bull trance dance past me at 5 yards and drew back picked my spot and let the string go and my arrow passed through the bull he ran 15 yards and tipped over, at that point I figured I had a chance at making a go of hunting with a stick bow. By now I've been on my traditional journey for four years which is way lon-



ger to get going then it shoulda have been, I hunted with that long bow for another season and had some great success. My next step was to get into the recurve game and starting to figure out what I wanted, I new what my builds would involve, what time of grips and wood poundage etc.... I ordered a super recurve from a company out of Scotland called border archery and for most people that don't know what a super curve is it's just what it describes it's not a static limb tip it has a real aggressive limb tip the hooks over. I received this bow and proceeded to set it up and hunt with it I taking a few animals and had some great success, but deep down I knew what I needed and what I've always wanted was a Jack Kempf kwyk styk and if anyone doesn't know who jack is he's a legend in our province and in my opinion one of the best bowyers to ever pick up a bow. I arrived at jacks in late 2019 and started going over the details of the bow and riser I picked out a piece of cocobola wood for the riser and jacks kwyk styk limbs which ended up tipping the scales at 53lbs @31" which can be a challenge for bowyers to get the poundage right because of stacking. Jack finished the bow in late November and I proceeded to get it set up and arrows tuned for the bow. I did my first hunt with it spring 2020 and took a nice black bear. The traditional journey can be daunting and hard and it doesn't have to be, I went though the process now and standing on the other side looking back I shake my head at some of the decisions I made and some of the set ups I was running. My advice to anyone wanting to switch is that these bows can be very accurate and easy to shoot if you get the proper training and instruction from the beginning, and I feel like a lot of guys and gals give up on the dream of hunting trad because it seems unrealistic to become accurate enough to hunt with them. I have dedicated my time to helping people get on the right track and properly set up there equipment so they can have a better start then I did. There are some great online coursers and dvds I recommend masters of the bare bow with Denny sturgis and Randy cooling is a great DVD to help you get started along with Tom clums solid archery mechanics course which is available on his website at rms gear. Traditional archery doesn't have to be a hard thing to start and struggle with (struggle stick) as it's called in some circles. You can make the switch easier then you think so if your thinking about switching you can find me on all social media platforms. Best of luck







ANCHOR POINTS

Mark Twang



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

Proven Bowhunting Methods



Bow hunting requires patience to get within shooting range. Bullets can harvest animals at great distances compared to arrows, but successful bow hunting is not simply a matter of waiting longer for the game to come within bow range. To be a successful bow hunter, patience is only part of the

equation. Tweaking your hunting strategy or tactics is a key component that is often overlooked by rookie bow hunters. Calling, spot and stalking, and ambushing can be effective bow hunting methods, however, to increase your odds of success, a few adjustments are necessary to release an arrow instead of going home again without a shooting opportunity.

Calling animals gets game coming towards you. An ideal bow hunting calling setup should include placing yourself in an area where the animal will still feel secure and not hold up outside your shooting range. These types of areas include smaller openings no wider than your effective shooting range of your bow. If these smaller type areas are not available, then setting up near entry trails of larger openings will suffice. This differs from rifle hunting setups where the hunter often selects an area where you can see over hundreds of metres in multiple directions. An animal may (and often does) come to the edge of a clearing and no further, therefore, you are asking it to ignore its instincts by exposing himself to potential dangers to get closer to you. The



same principle applies to thickets or other areas where no escape route exists from predators. Try to make it easy for the animal and set up in places where the path of least resistance intersects with your shooting lanes. A quality shooting opportunity as the animal approaches is usually the result.

Spot and stalk is another common hunting technique used by many, but with bow hunting, the distance you must close is far greater and comes with higher intensity. The hunter needs a plan for cover with accompanying favorable winds and patient calm animal(s). Sometimes the only cover puts you upwind, which is no good. Sometimes the animal is lying in the middle of field and provides no ground cover to get close enough. Sometimes the ground cover is really noisy. When hunting with a rifle, you keep all these things in mind as well, but the importance of them increases when you try to close the distance from hundreds of metres to within your effective bow range. To swing the odds in your favor, before attempting any stalk ensure you have the following: cover right up to your shooting location, a consistent strong favorable wind and a relaxed animal that will give you enough time to complete the stalk. If these three factors are present, spot and stalk may be your best bet. If not, consider waiting it out until the three factors materialize or search for another opportunity.

Bullets shoot extremely fast and straight and for the most part plow through small twigs, leaves and shrubs. Arrows on the other hand, deflect easily off course with the smallest interference such as thick blades of grass. For bow hunters, clear shooting lanes are a must. A very common bow hunting method is ambushing game from a tree stand or blind. With this method, the hunter has an opportunity to clear shooting lanes well in advance and they should take full advantage of it. Often, clearing interference will provide many shooting lanes from the same fixed position, thus increasing your chances of success. Because knowing the distance is crucial to making the shot count with an arrow, pick shooting lanes with easy to remember reference objects for distance markers, like trees, rocks or bright colored flora.

When selecting a spot to ambush game from with a bow and arrow, try to avoid the edges of openings as these are really only good for rifle hunters. It is much better to setup ambushes on trails leading to the openings. Go ahead of time to scout the confluence of trails (if any) and you will be able to select a spot to setup an ambush from and with a little clearing of bush, you will have a variety of shooting covering most scenarios.



About Mark Twang

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

Have something to brag about?

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

BRAG



BOARD



OLIN LUND



DYLAN HUNTER



MATT MAIK



JESSE MAC





PRESIDENTS REPORT

Brent Watson

Hope some of you got the draw(s) you were hoping for. Some success pictures and stories are already being circulated so some are having luck!! There was a record number of draw applications this year – 445000!! Lots of people wanting to get into the field to harvest their own meat – coupled with the fact that so many people have lost their jobs, people using the federal government's financial aid packages, having the time this summer and fall. Online hunter education course numbers are way up.

The numbers from this spring bear season seem to reflect that – bear tags sold for the 2020 spring bear season were 6018 compared to 4744 for 2019. Supplemental tags were 1311 compared to 916. Especially interesting were the bowhunting licenses sold – doubling from 1907 to 3875 in 2020. Be very curious to see what the results are once the fall hunting season ramps up.

These increasing numbers of hunters is a good thing in that our increased numbers mean we have a greater presence and influence on government decisions. At the same time it will put increased pressure on our draw system, on our general seasons. There is only so much "pie" out here for us as hunters to share so if the trend continues we can expect adjustments - longer wait times for a draw, possibly some general opportunities going to a draw. There may be enforcement issues as more people in the field, many with little experience in "hunting" and the rules that we have, make "mistakes" or intentionally take advantage of the circumstances they find themselves in. More people approaching landowners for permission which strains the landowner/hunter relations (is starting

to be an issue now) – or on the other side, an uptick on trespassing issues. Will make for an interesting fall hunting season!!

Throughout this COVID situation, the ABA has been very busy!! We launched our first ever Facebook Auction which was a resounding success!! Thanks to Kyle and Kris for doing the bulk of the work on this – thanks to our sponsors for the donated items and thanks to everyone who took part!!

We raffled off the Jack Kempf recurve that Jack so graciously donates every year to our banquet. Gord and Pati at Big Timber Archery in Grande Prairie donated the accessories. We sold out quickly (which was no surprise) and applied to the Gaming Commission to do the draw early and the lucky winner with ticket #170 was Kris Skelly. Congrats Kris and many thanks to everyone who bought tickets!!

We have done a comprehensive review of the Game Awards Program – laid out a "Game Awards Review" process to deal with any questionable or controversial entries we have reported to us, consolidated the "ABA Game Awards Entry Requirements" into one document, used the Pope & Young/Boone & Crockett Rules of Fair Chase to come up with our own, made in Alberta "ABA Rules of Fair Chase." We revamped the "Game Awards Entry Form" to make it more streamlined and maybe easier to fill out. Updated the "ABA Synopsis" to reflect these changes.

We have created several new initiatives – the "Bowhunter of the Year" competition. The new "Red Arrow Award" for those bowhunters who get their first ever big game harvest. Upgraded the Game Management Draw.

Our executive and committee meetings are now all held using the ZOOM platform. Works awesome and is as close to an in-person meeting as you can get. We are using electronic voting by email on motions on things we have to resolve outside of our regular executive meetings. Makes our administrative job and meetings much more efficient.

We have had a great response to our Facebook page with lots of comments and input to our posts. We now also have a new Instagram account – sign up for that!! Social media is an awesome communication tool and we are taking full advantage of that. With our mass email list of over 2800 valid email addresses and frequent "ABA News" emails going out, there is lots of ABA communication going out. Hopefully you get one or more of those – if not let us know and we will get you signed up.

We have been involved in lots of other bowhunting/hunting issues – have our own Regulation Review/Bowhunting Opportunity committee. Are a board member of the Alberta Conservation Association. We have representatives on government initiated councils/focus groups for the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council (since 2009)(had worked for quite a few years on the newly passed Wildlife Regulation amendments), the Big-horn Sheep Focus Group, the new Alberta Mule Deer Management Plan Advisory Committee just established by the Minister. More details are outlined further along in this newsletter.

Make sure you are a current member to ensure your eligibility into the Game Awards program but more importantly, lend your hand in being a member to support our initiatives "on your behalf" as a bowhunter in Alberta.

Bighorn Sheep Focus Group – F&W have resurrected the sheep meetings after a brief hiatus. They are consulting stakeholders and sheep experts to come up with ideas on how to best manage bighorn sheep, hunting opportunities for these sheep. The ABA attended the preliminary meetings and a scheduled meeting for August 18 had to be postponed because too many stakeholders could not make it (getting into hunting season preparations, scouting etc being the main issue). The next meeting dates have been scheduled for October 21 and Nov 9 (same agendas and meeting content but two dates to help accommodate participants). We will keep folks up to date as things progress and if you have an interest in bighorn sheep and sheep hunting, contact our Regulations Chair Terry Brew (Terry@albertabowhunters.com) – we are always looking for feedback and help on these types of issues.

Alberta Mule Deer Management Plan Advisory Committee – The ABA has been invited by Minister Nixon to participate on this mule deer committee. The ABA representatives will be Brent Watson and Terry Brew. We had our initial meeting Sept 18 to go over the previous Mule deer Management Plan (from 1989), the processes, principles, outline etc we will use in going forward. The goal is to have something in rough form by December-ish and the final product in place to use for next hunting season. Contact Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com or 780-978-1195) or Terry (Terry@albertabowhunters.com) if you have any thoughts/comments on mule deer in your area. Any concerns or other observations you see in the field. We will take this feedback to the meetings that will be held over the next months.

From the government press release August 12, 2020 --

One of the key issues this committee will examine is the sustainable use of the mule deer population. Some areas of Alberta are seeing a decline in mule deer populations, causing conservation concerns. Other areas have an overpopulation of mule deer, causing issues with human-wildlife conflicts and vehicle collisions. The spiritual and cultural importance of mule deer to Indigenous Peoples will also influence the committee's work. The committee will include representatives from key stakeholder organizations, as well as Alberta Environment and Parks science experts and Fish and Wildlife staff. A parallel process will take place to engage with Indigenous communities. Government recognizes the importance of maintaining healthy mule deer populations for the continued practice of Indigenous harvesting rights and traditional uses. The committee will be in place until spring 2021.

ABA Regulation Change/Bowhunting Opportunity Committee – In May of this year, we established a committee (under the Regulations Chairman) to assist in the processes that the ABA works with government and other stakeholders on, in identifying issues with the current hunting regulations that may be in need of changes, as well as possible ways to increase bowhunting opportunities. This committee's main goal is to generate ideas for regulation change, anything that increases bowhunting opportunities and the focus of this committee is to action those ideas and keep the process moving. We are looking for ideas and help on this committee from the general membership – contact the Committee chair Cam Foss Camf@albertabowhunters.com if you would like to help out. Very

important stuff.

Wildlife Regulation Amendments – the ABA along with the other stakeholder member groups of the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council (AGPAC) and the senior F&W staff, have been working on amendments to the old Wildlife Regulation since 2014. The last update to the “Wildlife Regulation” document was in 1997. This piece of legislation is what guides F&W in how and what they can make regulations on and was in need of a tune-up.

There were 43 amendments signed off by the Minister in July and will take effect August 25 – these amendments will be reflected in the new 2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulations.

Some of the more notable ones are:

- Outfitter allocation use by Alberta residents:
 - is only for the next two years to offset the effects of COVID on the business of the outfitting industry.
 - can only get one of these outfitter allocation tags for a species that is under a resident special license (moose, antlered mule deer, antelope primarily) and you can only hold what number of particular tags are allowed under the Regulations for an Alberta resident (typically one).
 - if you've already bought the license for a particular species as a resident then you can't get another one from an outfitter.
 - If you get a tag through an outfitter you have to book a guided hunt and sign their applicable contract. Can't just buy an allocation and hunt on your own.
 - as an FYI, you have always been

able to hire an outfitter to guide you for those species on a general tag (bears, wtail, most elk, sheep (have to use a recognized “S” outfitter)

- Can now use quads all day except in WMUs 400-446.
- Can use pack dogs in mountain zones. Have conditions attached to their use.

For the complete list of all 43 amendments click [here](#).

Of Note: couple edits in the penalties section. The penalty applies if you do NOT report the trapper harvest of non target species and if you do NOT report/submit your head in CWD zones.

ABA GAME AWARDS PROGRAM UPDATES

Over the last few months, we have undertaken an overhaul of the Game Awards Program and the guiding documents that we use. This update resulted in the ABA now having its own “[ABA Rules of Fair Chase](#)” which was a compilation of the rules of fair chase of the Pope & Young Club as well as the Boone & Crockett Club – both leaders in the North American model of wildlife conservation and record keeping. We have decided not to place any restrictions or conditions on the use of cellular trail cameras, cell phones or two way radios – even though P&Y/B&C have finally made a joint statement regarding the use of these cellular trail cameras as it pertains to their organizations (see that in this newsletter).

In addition to our own ABA Rules of Fair Chase, we have consolidated the “[ABA Entry Requirements](#)” all under one document. This outlines everything that you need to do to have your entry allowed into the Game Awards Program.

We have made a change in how we deal with cougars (and any other species) that are hunted in parts of two years – cougar season runs from Dec 1 of one year into the end of March in the following year. These cougar entries would be recognized at the banquet a year later. Starting Jan 1 2021, we will now have any cougar (or other specie) harvested in that calendar year be entered into the following years banquet awards. IE - A cougar shot Jan 2 2021 and a cougar shot Dec 18 2021 would now be in the same award period and be recognized at the 2022 banquet awards.

We have put together a “[Game Awards Entry Review](#)” document which will guide the ABA through a process if a game award entry is questioned or controversial in some form. It outlines how this entry is dealt with and mirrors the same type of process we have for Member Conduct Reviews.

We have updated the “[Game Awards Entry Form](#)” to reflect these changes and have added a disclaimer whereby “all entry materials including photographs submitted to or taken by the Alberta Bowhunters Association or its representatives can be used as the Association wishes.” The “[Synopsis](#)” wording has been updated as well.

In addition, we have come up with two new and exciting levels of achievement in the Game Awards Program. The first is the “[Red Arrow Award](#)” where the ABA recognizes the achievement of those members who take their very first (ever) big game animal with a bow and arrow. This special occasion in a bowhunters career is something to be celebrated. These first time successful bowhunters will be recognized at our Banquet along with all our other award presentations. They will be presented with a one of a kind ABA hat with a “red arrow” and the ABA logo along with a frameable certificate.

The other new award is the “[Bowhunter of the Year](#)” and will be awarded to a bowhunter who takes multiple animals with the top three of their Pope and Young scores, converted to a



percentage and added up to rank the entries. An entry must be a minimum of 75% of Pope and Young to be considered for entry to avoid animals that are too small to be properly scored to qualify for entry. The winner of this award will be presented an ABA buckle.

We have had a “[Game Management Award](#)” for quite a few years and want to be more active in promoting that award. It was designed to show wildlife managers that bowhunters taking

antlerless animals are a valuable wildlife management tool. Winner will get a unique Game Management Award hat (with the year) – the only way to get the hat is if you win it. Multiple antlerless animals taken mean you get multiple entries into the draw.

If you have any thoughts, comments, questions or suggestions contact Brent | Brent@albertabowhunters.com | 780-978-1195

ABA GAME AWARDS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- [Print Application](#) | [Online Application](#)
 - Must be taken in accordance with the Alberta Hunting Regulations.
 - Use the definition of allowable bow, arrow and broadhead from the current Alberta Hunting Regulations.
 - Incorporating any device or mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter’s muscle power (draw lock devices) is NOT allowed. (Voted at 2010 AGM)
 - Crossbows are not considered a “bow” and entries taken by crossbow are not allowed for entry into the ABA Game Awards program. (ABA Position Paper from 2011)
 - For big game and applicable small game entries, must be taken in a regulated hunting season.
 - Must be taken on a valid Alberta hunting license (exception for some small game/predator entries that do not require a hunting license).
 - Must be an Alberta resident.
 - Must be an ABA member in good standing at time of harvest.
 - Must be entered in the Award Period for the year the animal was harvested in.
 - Effective Jan 1, 2021, animals taken from Jan 1 – Dec 31 will be considered for the following year’s ABA Game Awards Program. An example is a cougar taken in Jan 2020 would be in the same competition with cougars taken in Dec 2020. (Only excep-
 - tion would be an animal entry that is under review from the previous year)
 - Must be entered by March 1 deadline.
 - ABA Game Awards Entry Form must be completely filled out with all signatures as required. Incomplete entries will be returned to person making the entry to be completed as required.
 - If using the online entry form, the paper copy of the Game Awards form (filled out completely with all signatures as required) must be attached.
 - Entries for the Annual Big Game Awards, Big Game certificate, Master Bowhunter and Grandmaster Bowhunter levels, require the entry to be measured and the entry form signed by an official Pope and Young or Boone and Crockett measurer if a “score” is attached to the entry.
 - Abandoned search – an animal for which the search was abandoned and the animal is later recovered will not be eligible for entry. Any time an entry is questioned for which the recovery was not immediate (within a day), a wide range of circumstances surrounding the recovery process will be reviewed by the Game Awards Review Committee on a case by case basis to determine the eligibility of the individual entry.
- Disclaimer: All entry materials including photographs submitted to or taken by the Alberta Bowhunters Association or its representatives will be donated to the ABA. The entry materials will be used as the Association wishes. Signature required on Game Awards entry form/ Affidavit of Fair Chase portion.

ABA RULES OF FAIR CHASE

The Pope & Young Club and the Boone & Crockett Club have established, defined and maintained “rules” that define an ethical code of hunting referred to as FAIR CHASE. The Alberta Bowhunters Association had adopted the Pope and Young Club Rules of Fair Chase at the 2010 AGM. The concept of fair chase bowhunting is the very core of the P&Y/ABA’s belief system and one of our major focuses.

We have recently created our own “ABA Rules of Fair Chase” – they mirror that of P&Y and B&C for the most part.

From P&Y:

The fair chase philosophy reaches to the very foundations of the hunting spirit; it should be a dominant factor in the personal hunting ethic of every responsible individual; it is key to bowhunting’s future with deep roots in our hunting heritage.

Simply defined, fair chase is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit of free-ranging wild game animals in a manner which does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the animal.

The “ABA Rules of Fair Chase” shall not include the taking of animals under the following conditions:

- Helpless in a trap, deep snow or water, or on ice.

- From any power vehicle or power boat.
- By “jacklighting” or shining at night.
- By the use of any tranquilizers or poisons.
- While inside escape-proof fenced enclosures.
- By the use of any power vehicle or power boats for herding or driving animals, including use of aircraft to land alongside or to communicate with or direct a hunter on the ground.
- By the use of electronic devices for attracting, locating or pursuing game or guiding the hunter to such game. These devices would include:
 - artificial lighting.
 - sights with built-in electronic range-finding capabilities.
 - drones/unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
 - thermal imaging equipment other than for use in searching for a wounded animal.
 - electronic game calls as defined in the Alberta Hunting Regulations (are allowed for use for hunting predators and snow geese).
- By the use of a bow or arrow to which any electronic device is attached with the exception of lighted nocks and recording devices that cast no light towards the target and do not aid in rangefinding, sighting or shooting the bow.
- Any other condition considered by the ABA Executive that would be considered unacceptable or contrary to the ethical conduct expected of an ABA member.

ABA GAME AWARD ENTRY REVIEW PROCEDURE

Game Award Entry Review Procedure
August 23, 2020

Put into Policy and move to Bylaws at 2021 AGM.

Even though an entry into the ABA Awards Program may have already been accepted by

P&Y/B&C we do not automatically accept it into the ABA Awards Program.

All questionable or controversial entries are to be reviewed by the Game Awards Review Committee using the “ABA Rules of Fair



Chase” and the “ABA Game Awards Program Entry Requirements” as references. The purpose of the Game Awards Review Committee is to determine whether the harvest successfully satisfies the spirit of the ABA Rules of Fair Chase and the conditions of the ABA Game Awards Program Entry Requirements. The committee’s decision will be final. The Game Awards Review Committee will not be investigating the harvest to determine the legality of the harvest. If illegal activity is suspected; it will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

All evidence (could include social media posts, website threads, pictures, statements from concerned individuals, conversation with game award entrant / applicant to further clarify areas of hunt details, etc) pertaining to any questionable or controversial application is to be reviewed by the committee along with a written statement by the member in question. That written statement could be supplied by email.

The Game Awards Review Committee will be made up of 3 or 5 members from the ABA executive. Or if necessary (because of any conflicts or obstacles within the executive), committee members can come from the general ABA membership at the discretion of the President (or if not available, the Vice-President).

When a questionable or controversial entry is identified, the President (or if not available, the Vice-President) shall call from the current ABA executive, executive members to serve on the Game Awards Review Committee. The name of the entrant shall be disclosed at the time of notification to the executive. In the event an executive or committee member has a questionable or controversial entry, the President or the Vice-President shall form a committee from the general membership. Anyone on the committee who has any bias of the entry or is unable to provide a fair opinion, knows the person personally, works with them, hunts with them, related, any kind of conflict has to disclose that immediately to the President (or if not available, the Vice-President) and withdraw from participation on the committee.

Need to select / nominate committee chairperson at the onset of the review. The committee chair is to draft the summary of the decision, chair conference calls, sort and disseminate information and emails between committee members, other organizational duties required of the committee.

In the committee review process, if the entry and the decision to allow or disallow cannot be made before the March 1 deadline for normal Game Award entry acceptance (for whatever reason – committee needs more clarification, outside parties become involved (eg FW enforcement), then that entry’s acceptance into the Game Awards program is on “hold”. Once a decision is made by the committee and if the Entry Requirement timelines have been missed, the entry would be considered for entry into the following year’s awards.

If there are no outside parties involved (ie FW Enforcement) the committee has 14 calendar days from the formation of the committee to reach a decision.

After the decision is made it is binding and anyone on the committee or executive, because of the ABA Executive Fiduciary Duties and Responsibility Policy, if asked, will say that “This is the decision of the committee” regardless of their personal opinion or vote. Vote results will not be disclosed to the public.

Everything that happens during the committee review process is treated in confidence. Committee members cannot talk about the details of the review outside of the committee.

The review and subsequent decision has to be recorded and then becomes a precedent that has to be followed in future cases. The President shall keep a repository to file and keep on record summaries of various reviews.

Cellular Trail Cameras

The Pope and Young Club, historically, has not viewed the use of trail cameras as a violation of the Rules of Fair Chase. With the invention of wireless trail cameras and other devices that can send real-time data to a hunter, all hunters need to consider how the use of these devices may affect fair-chase. While the use of a wireless trail camera is not automatically a violation of the Rules of Fair-Chase, using this technology to deliver real-time location data of the animal being hunted, would be a violation of the Rules of Fair Chase #7.

“After numerous phone calls and emails asking for clarification on the use of cellular trail cameras and other transmitting technology,” said Roy Grace, Records Chair for the Pope and Young Club. “The Pope and Young Records Committee, with assistance from the Boone and Crockett Records Committee, jointly created a policy that should provide hunters with a greater understanding of how this technology can be used in a manner that still provides Fair-Chase.”

For clarification, receiving a wireless image (photo, video, GPS coordinate, etc.), which elicits an immediate (real-time) response, guiding the hunter to the animal would be considered a violation of the Rules of Fair-Chase. This would prohibit that animal from being eligible for entry into the Pope and Young Club’s Records Program. Fair-Chase is defined as the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit of free-ranging wild game animals that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the animal.

Velvet Record Entries

The Pope and Young Club is excited to announce a significant shift in policy on how the Club will address velvet antlered animals submitted for all-time entry into the Club’s Records Program. While the Club has accepted all

species of velvet antlered animals since 1999, these trophies were never eligible for awards (top three animals in each recording period). Additionally, velvet trophies were not listed in the All-Time or Velvet Edition record books in the same manner as hard antlered animals. They were not ranked and were listed by recording period, rather than the largest scoring animal to the smallest scoring animal. Lastly, velvet antlered animals were not eligible for World Record status within their category.

“With the assistance of our Records Committee, we reviewed this long-standing policy in-depth, analyzing all potential issues,” said Roy Grace, Records Chair of the Pope and Young Club. “These discussions took several weeks to ensure all aspects were covered. In the end, the Records Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the P&Y Board change our policy on how we deal with velvet animals. During the June 2020 Board meeting in Reno, the P&Y Board unanimously approved the change proposed by the committee.”

Effective immediately, velvet antlered animals will be treated exactly like all other animals accepted into the Records Program. Additionally, and most importantly, velvet antlered animals will now be eligible for World Record status within their respective velvet category. To summarize, the following changes have occurred:

- Velvet animals will be eligible for World Record status within their respective category.
- The top three (3) velvet entries from each category received in each recording period, will be eligible for awards during the Big-Game Awards banquet.
- Velvet entries will be listed in the record book (all-time and velvet edition) by rank from largest to smallest.
- Top velvet animals for recording period (and all-time) will be invited to panel for verification/authentication.



ABA Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Kris Skelly – the winner of our latest raffle. Kris held lucky ticket #170 and won the Jack Kempf Kwyk Styk recurve and accessories package. HUGE THANK YOU to Jack – he has donated one of his bows to the ABA every year for as long as any of us can remember. This particular bow was to be raffled off at our 2020 banquet but COVID cancelled that so we decided to try a raffle. It went extremely well and we sold out quickly – applied to the Gaming Commission and did the draw a month early. HUGE THANK YOU to Gord and Pati at Big Timber Archery as well – they donated the accessories package.

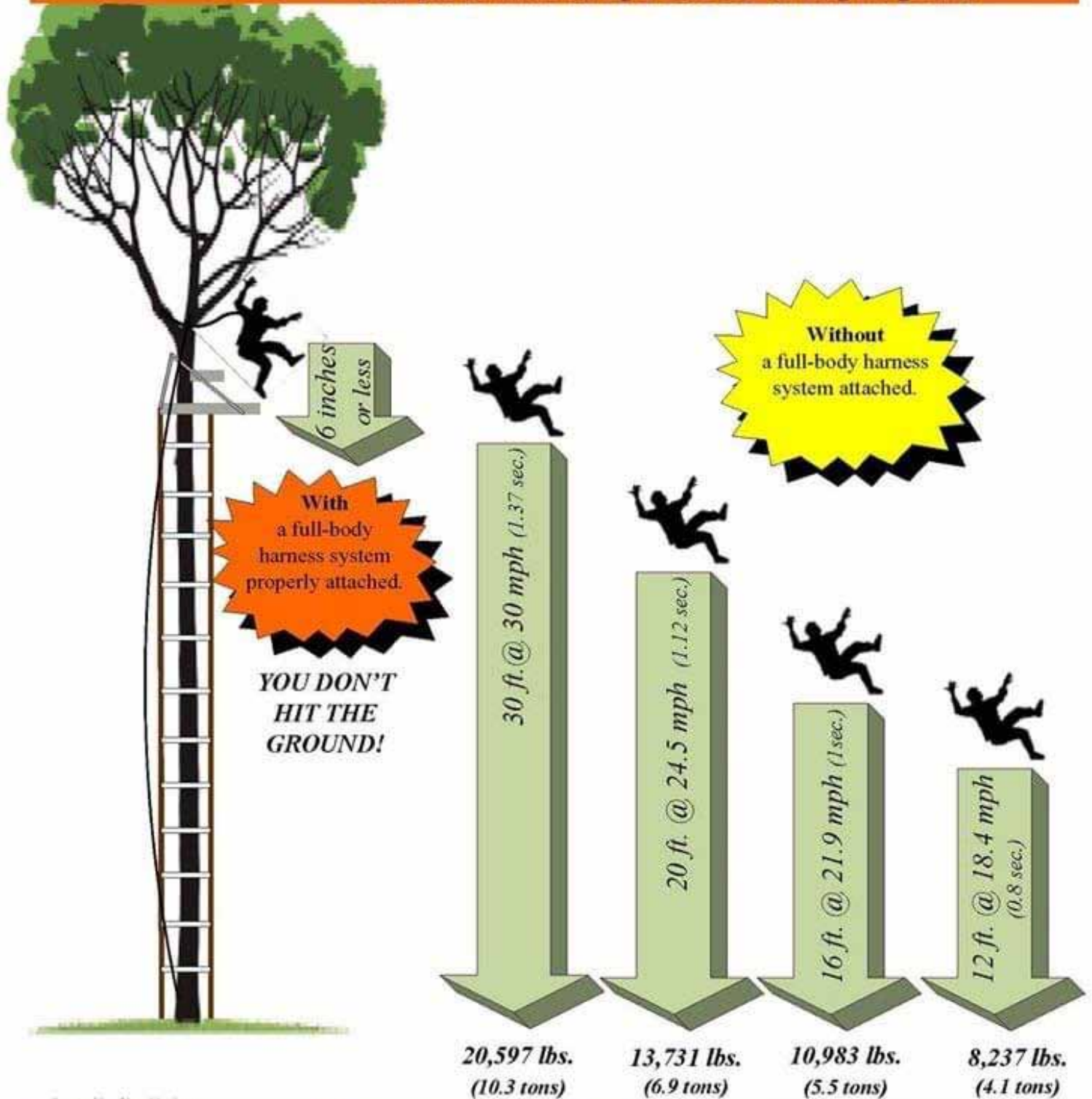


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How Hard will you Hit the Ground?

You Choose . . .

(Ex. 180 lb. hunter falling at 32.1 ft/s² striking the ground)



Created by Glen Mayhew

Connected 100% of the time.

Always use a full-body harness and a life-line or lineman's belt.



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
Desiree Janzen
brazeaubowbenders@gmail.com

Cochrane Archers Club
Cochrane
Kate Hogg | (403) 280-5442
norm2hogg@gmail.com

Game Country Archers
Grande Prairie
Mike Welsh | (780) 532-4418
gamecountryarchers@gmail.com

Jim-Bows Junior Archery Club
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Dawn Groszko/Martin Kuczaj
dgroszko@shaw.ca

Kneehill Bowhunters & Archers
Trochu
Eldon Samson | (587) 579-0327
eksam@persona.ca

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

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

Springbrook Archers
Springbrook
Donna Morency | (403) 573-4451

Vermillion River Archers
Vermillion
Tim Pardely
(780) 853-5046
tpconst@telusplanet.net

Yellowhead Arrow Launchers
Hinton
Rita Hooley
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)
Brent Watson (2018)

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 Wilsion (2009)
#43 Lance Neilson (2009)
#44 Ricardo Longoria (2009)
#45 Julie Griffiths (2010)
#46 Mark Barber (2010)
#47 Curtis Cheney (2010)
#48 Sandy Hrycyk (2010)
#49 Wayne Didyk (2010)
#50 Luke Viravec (2010)
#51 Darrin West (2010)
#52 Wes Pietz (2010)
#53 Dwayne Huggins (2010)
#54 Mike Stuart (2010)
#55 Ted Brown (2010)
#56 Kurt Lund (2010)
#57 Trevor Yurchak (2010)
#58 Gunther Tondeleir (2010)
#59 Jim Johnson (2011)
#60 Joe Mungo (2011)
#61 Hal Ziprick (2011)
#62 Tom Kampjes (2011)
#63 Daniel Wise (2011)
#64 Dave Zimmermann (2011)
#65 Jennifer Ukrainetz (2011)
#66 David Schlottke (2012)
#67 Leonard Verbaas (2012)
#68 Geordie Lund (2012)
#69 Joey Sr Busetto (2012)
#70 Dave Van Belleghem (2012)
#71 Steve Rogers (2012)
#72 Robert Bennett (2012)
#73 Mark Engstrom (2012)
#74 Chester Dogson (2012)
#75 Derek Bruce (2013)
#76 Neil Johnson (2013)
#77 Jesse Wrubleski (2013)
#78 John Warwa (2013)
#79 Mike Wood (2013)
#80 Peter Demchuk (2013)

#81 Mackenzie Mayer (2013)
#82 Ryan Kohler (2013)
#83 Cody Sutley (2013)
#84 Randy Repas (2013)
#85 Jack Suggett (2013)
#86 Dane Percival (2013)
#87 Dale Grimstead (2014)
#88 Mike Cameron (2014)
#89 Sean O'Neill (2014)
#90 Jody Vegh (2014)
#91 Alan Southwood (2014)
#92 Jonathan Wrubleski (2014)
#93 Eric Moland (2014)
#94 Brandon Brown (2014)
#95 Remington Dietzen (2015)
#96 Chris Crispin (2015)
#97 Carson Toy (2015)
#98 Derald Stone (2015)
#99 Bert Frelink (2015)
#100 Dustin Wanke (2015)
#101 Ryan Bartholow (2015)
#102 Gord Nuttall (2015)
#103 Darcy Barrett (2015)
#104 Levy Groves (2015)
#105 Wilf Lehnars (2015)
#106 Heidi Lehnars (2015)
#107 Cody Tomke (2015)
#108 Tharen Soroka (2016)
#109 Chris Kuhl (2016)
#110 Riley Groves (2016)
#111 Corey Friesen (2016)
#112 Matt Hunter (2016)
#113 Danielle Dickson (2016)
#114 Cory Geier (2016)
#115 Thanos Natras (2016)
#116 Leanne McCabe (2016)
#117 Leighton Hauck (2017)
#118 Tara Normand (2017)
#119 John Moriarity (2017)
#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)
#136 Shane Jensen (2018)
#137 David Gerber (2018)
#138 Clint Taylor (2018)
#139 Ray Melom (2018)
#140 Kristofer Skelly (2018)
#141 Stephane Tittley (2018)
#142 Riley Warwa (2019)
#143 Chris Semograd (2019)
#144 Dwayne Van Schaick (2019)
#145 Darryl Polowaniuk (2019)
#146 Damon Polowaniuk (2019)
#147 Luca Pizzal (2019)
#148 Frank Noska (2019)
#149 Clayton Schoepp (2019)
#150 Dean Kirkeby (2019)
#151 Jeff Squires (2019)
#152 Olin Lund (2019)
#153 Jamie Arnett (2019)
#154 Mark Fletcher (2019)
#155 Dean MacArthur (2019)
#156 Sean Furlong (2019)
#157 Levi Leary (2019)
#158 Norm Hogg (2010)
#159 Steven Taylor (2020)
#160 Dallas Kaiser (2020)
#161 Justine MacFadyen (2020)
#162 Tom Arnett (2020)
#163 Tracy Reed (2020)
#164 Lindsay McQuaid (2020)
#165 Jonah Prevost (2020)
#166 Ken Hesse (2020)
#167 Kyran Iwaskow (2020)
#168 Zachary Tychkowsky (2020)

