

2010 SCI CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



2012 Award-winning Publication

BASECAMP

Serving members from San Jose to San Francisco, Monterey to Napa, Sacramento to the Pacific

Safari Club International - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Q4-Winter- 2018



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COMING EVENTS

Greater Bay Area Fundraiser, March 2

Wild Game Dinner, May 5

Board of Directors Meetings

3rd Thursday of each month

Please call Beverly Valdez at 650-627-7601

Buck Buchanan BC moose hunt won at auction at the Greater Bay Area Fundraiser.

For BaseCamp articles, photos or ads please email Beverly Valdez, bev@safariclub-sfbay.org

Jim Redd

★ ★ ★ ★
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HAWKINS BAR TWO HOMES ON 94 +/- ACRES



Gorgeous acreage with excellent hunting, well loved by one family for generations. It enjoys two homes, one of which has made use of the iconic red barn, and turned it into a rustic & charming home with the original cathedral curved beam ceiling. The acreage enjoys beautiful flat meadows and a fenced orchard with apples, cherries, peaches, plums, figs and pears! Water is plentiful: Spring water feeding into a 2500 gallon tank, a large pond, and water rights from the Hawkins Creek for irrigation purposes. In addition, the property has substantial timber, the nearby Trinity River, and additional outbuildings. A true Trinity County dream! \$1,495,000

DEAN WITTER'S 3,000 +/- ACRE WHITE RANCH WITH 3.5 MILES OF EEL RIVER FRONTAGE

The natural resources and beauty here are phenomenal, with over 3.5 miles of Eel River frontage, plus many creeks and springs providing water sources to the ranch, the pastures and the cattle. Wildlife is also abundant, including blacktail deer, elk, bear, mountain lions, quail, grouse, redtail hawks, bald eagles and more. This is also an excellent cattle operation with approx. 200 mother cows wintering. The privacy, forested areas, and river frontage combine for phenomenal recreational opportunities and serene scenery. Shown to pre-qualified buyers only. \$4,950,000



OCEANVIEW DESTINATION MANOR ON 110 ACRES

19 BEDROOMS, 24 BATHS, completely refurbished with upscale amenities. Currently hosting weddings, etc. but also could be a home & entertainers dream. Acreage includes forests, pastures, a large shop & a pole barn. \$4,800,000



The Manor property is contiguous to:

1,076 +/- ACRES AG, HUNTING & TIMBER WITH OCEAN VIEWS

Incredible acreage with Ag and TPZ zoning: substantial timber, meadows & pasture lands....great hunting, too! The home has been nicely remodeled, with wood floors, a new kitchen, newer roof, 2 bedrooms downstairs & a huge loft. The ranch includes a 9,600 sq ft metal shop, and Guthrie Creek runs through the property. \$3,500,000



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The holidays are over and by now you have had your fill of leftovers of turkey, ham, and pie. Perhaps you were even lucky enough to harvest it yourself! We all know the health benefits of eating wild game. I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays, whether at home or traveling.

Now (January) we are at the beginning of the convention and hunting show season. We hope to see a few of you in Reno this year at the SCI Convention, January 9-12. There are also a number of other conventions/shows happening in January and February—Dallas Safari Club, Houston Safari Club, Wild Sheep Show, and Western Conservation and Hunting Expo (WCHE, or the Mule Deer Convention). If you have never had the chance, I highly recommend checking out one or all of these shows. It is a great way to see how other organizations do things and perhaps get fresh ideas for our Fundraiser and Chapter activities.



This is also the time we start concentrating on our annual Greater Bay Area Fundraiser. We are back to our normal date which is the first Saturday in March — March 2nd this year. We are always looking for donations for our Silent Auction, General Raffle and Youth Raffle. Items of particular interest are hunting related items, local events/activities and dining. Please feel free to call me if you can donate. And check out the early live auction listing starting on page 18, register with the form on page 17 or online at gbafundraiser.org.

It seems like the Board is always planning. In addition to the annual Fundraiser, we are looking ahead to plan for our Wild Game Dinner at the Three Flames in San Jose (May 5), Coyote Valley Sporting Clays Shoot and BBQ (August 25) and a new Holiday Dinner (December 8). Volunteers are always welcome. Just call me.

Finally we are always looking for new places for a Chapter hunt. Speaking of Chapter hunts, look for the story about this year's hunt at Tim Reich's Ranch on page 23. Rob Lawson has a unique chapter hunt for prairie dogs (see page 26) and there are only two spots available for our next Texas exotics chapter hunt at Starry Night Ranch May 6-11, 2019 (contact bev@safariclub-sfbay.org for more information). We are also planning a Ladies/Chapter hunt at Legends Ranch in Michigan October 29-November 2, 2019 (more information to follow). Be sure to see the story of Edie Ortmann and my latest hunt at Legends on page 16.

I'll see you soon at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City!

Happy New Year and Happy Hunting to all,

Cathie Nelson, President

2bliss@msn.com, 650-222-0963



President Cathie Nelson



President Elect Tomas Bermejo



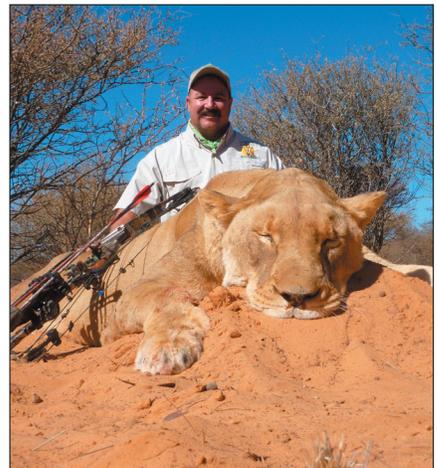
Vice President Larry Lundberg



Secretary Paul Williamson



Treasurer Dwight Ortmann



Past President Rob Lawson

BOARD MEMBERS

Buck Buchanan · Glenn Chrisman · Tom Enberg · Richard Pierce · Jeana Rolsky-Feige
Tom Mattusch · Diane Sheardown, Sables President

Would you like to get involved? Join the Board!

Interested members are being identified. Board members have two year terms. The Board routinely meets ten times per year (monthly except December and either January or February). Meeting dates are the third Thursday of the month unless notified otherwise. Routine business is also conducted via email when circumstances require. If you would like to:

- Guide the future of hunting in the Bay Area and California
- Participate in decision-making for planning and implementation of conservation projects
- Help set priorities in terms of youth education and activities
- Have a better understanding of Safari Club International
- Become a leader for any of the on-going projects and fundraising

For more information, email Dwight (dwight@bealsmartin.com) or Cathie (2bliss@msn.com). Or contact the office at 650-627-7601 (phone / fax) or email Beverly (bev@safariclub-sfbay.org).



BASECAMP

Fall 2018

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 Treasurer Dwight Ortmann
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Past Presidents' Council

Cathie Nelson 18-19
 Robert Lawson 16-18
 Dwight Ortmann 14-15
 Tom Mattusch 10-13
 Dwight Ortmann 06-10
 Jim Peters (deceased) 05-06
 Ilah Uhl (deceased) 04-05
 Stanford Atwood 03-04
 Tomas Bermejo 02-03
 Mike Nice 01-02
 Bill Gouin 00-01
 Ilah Uhl (deceased) 99-00
 Glenn Chrisman 98-99
 Gabe Tabib 97-98
 Dean Miller (deceased) 96-97
 George Cobb 95-96
 Joe Bullock 94-95
 John Peterson (deceased) 93-94
 Al Lawson (deceased) 92-93
 Brenton Scott 91-92

SPECIAL NOTICE



BECOME A FAN!

If you are on Facebook, become a FAN of SCI-SFBay now to get the latest breaking news first. Just look for Safari Club - SF Bay.

You can also become a FAN of SCI National. Just enter SCI in the Facebook search box and join.

CIRCULATION AND ADVERTISING POLICY

We have added several new categories of ads for individuals so that you can show your support for this award-winning newsletter!



Business Ads

Full page, 4x per year:\$350
 Half page, 4x per year: \$200
 Quarter page, 4x per year: ... \$75
 Business card, 4x per year: ... \$35

Supporter Listing, 4x per year:
 Bronze \$25
 Silver \$35
 Gold \$50

- All ads run for one year, (four issues) printed in black and white.
- Special pricing for color pages is available by contacting the editor.
- Advertisers must submit electronic artwork to the Chapter Office 10 days before submission deadline.
- Business card size ads for members for sale of personal property such as sporting equipment or clothing will be accepted. There are no fees for these ads and they will be run for a single issue only unless resubmitted for additional issues. Must follow all guidelines for submission.

The contents and opinions expressed in Base Camp are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Safari Club International, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, or the general membership. Information and articles in this newsletter are intended to inform the members about chapter activities and present various viewpoints and issues of general interest. Base Camp, however, cannot verify or be responsible for the accuracy of statements made in the articles and columns written by the newsletter staff or guest authors.

MEMBER PHOTOS



Above: John Russell, pheasant hunting with Rob Lawson at Hastings Island

Below: John Russell, of San Jose, caught this 23 lb Chinook salmon trolling six miles from Pillar Point Harbor on the Huli Cat.



Rick Berg got this great 71.6lbs tuna on the Excel 14 day trip



Tom Enberg – mule deer, Tim Reich Ranch (see page 23 for stories from the Chapter hunt team who were there right after Tom!)

MEMBER PHOTOS



Jeffrey Atwood - Lucky K ducks.



Pamela Atwood - Lucky K ducks.



Stan Atwood (L) and Joe Bullock - opening day at Pato Loco.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

March 2, 2019

Annual Greater Bay Area Fundraiser,
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City

May 5, 2019

Annual Wild Game Dinner and Chapter Awards,
Three Flames Restaurant, San Jose with special Chef
AJ Szenda serving wild game harvested by members

August 25, 2019

Annual Jim Peters Memorial BBQ and Shoot,
Coyote Valley Sporting Clays, Morgan Hill

December 8, 2019

Holiday Dinner,
Location TBD



Bob Puette at the 2018 Lander One Shot Antelope Hunt.

"This was my 9th year as a past shooter --- I competed in 2010 and shot my Antelope 20 minutes after the season opened at 175 yards with One Shot. This is not a trophy hunt but a fun hunt with friends where we mostly all shoot our bucks in the first couple hours. This 2 year old, 12 inch buck, was shot at 300 yards, heart shot. He's already processed and on dry ice."

MEMBER PHOTOS



Eddie Ortmann - whitetail at Legend Ranch



Dwight Ortmann's Dye Creek Mulie

Eddie and Dwight Ortmann prepping for a backcountry elk hunt anniversary trip



SCI Life Hunter Advocacy Society

Have you joined the SCI Life Hunter Advocacy Society (LHAS)? Launched in 2016, LHAS was created to allow Life Members – those who have already taken a big step in Protecting the Freedom to Hunt — to raise additional funds dedicated to SCI's Advocacy Mission. Funds raised through LHAS memberships are restricted funds to be used for the purpose of funding advocacy projects only, which shall include litigation, marketing, legislative and voter education, and similar projects, but which shall not include lobbying for specific legislation or contributions for or against any candidate.

Levels:

- Bronze: \$2,500 – \$1,000 upgrade from basic Life Member (\$1,500 Life Membership)
- Silver: \$5,000 – \$2,500 upgrade from BronzeGold: \$7,500 – \$2,500 upgrade from Silver
- Diamond: \$10,000 – \$2,500 upgrade from Gold

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This hunting adventure has been on my bucket list for a long time. An opportunity presented itself at our March 2018 SCI Greater Bay Area Fundraiser. After I researched the Omineca Outfitters & Guides before the event and liked what I saw, I decided to bid on the hunt. It took some spirited bidding but I would be going moose hunting for the very first time!

The donation from Omineca was for a 9 day, 2 on 1 guided hunt for Canadian moose in 2019 with the option of adding black bear and wolf. I contacted Frank Badey, owner and guide, about the hunt and he pulled some logistical strings to conduct the hunt 1 on 1 for Sept 2018. But that left me with only 6 months to get prepared. The planning and preparation phase is an adventure in itself! The internal excitement, expectation, physical training, rifle selection, cold/wet weather clothing, field position rifle practice, meat and trophy transportation and deciding how to get to the middle of no-where British Columbia.

I decided to drive the 1600 miles to the pick-up point near Fort St. James, BC over 4 days. Exploiting my old Boy Scout motto of being prepared, I packed five duffel bags of gear, 3-100qt ice chests for meat, roof rack for the antlers, 2 rifles with a little space left in my Subaru Outback for me.

I normally hunt with a Browning A-Bolt Stainless Steel Stalker .300 Win Mag but thought why not use my Pre-64 model 70 in .375 H&H that's traveled to Africa 3 times with me performing flawlessly. Since very wet weather conditions are the



norm in mid-September I removed the wood stock and it's recoil pad to seal the raw wood with lacquer as a precaution to prevent warpage and point of impact changes; more on that later. I worked up some accurate hand loads with 300 grain Nosler partition bullets for the hunt. I had my .300 Win as backup with both rifles sighted in for a 200 yd zero. Being prepared for a hunt means being completely familiar and confident with your rifle and requires lots of trigger time at the range. Why get pounded excessively by recoil with the possibility of developing a flinch or trigger jerk. I load reduced velocity ammo for shooting field positions and reserve the hunting ammo for sighting in and the hunt. I made 7-8 trips to the range over the 6 months leading up to the hunt date. Practice consisted of shooting two quick shots

at five inch Shoot-N See targets at 100 yds from field positions with the goal to keep both shots in the black. Going from standing to sitting or kneeling with a sling or short shooting sticks to tall shooting sticks and standing free style with a sling for a 30 round practice session to build speed, precision and confidence.

Physical training was somewhat limited as I injured my right hip hunting 6 months before buying this hunt. I paced myself with floor exercises and walking 2-3 times a week. At least this would be more or less level terrain hunt.

I assessed my boots and hunting clothes as to what to bring without over packing to be prepared for all weather contingencies. My living room looked like Cabela's with all my gear strewn about in piles. I must

have tried on every boot, pants, base layer, socks, shirts, hats and coats 20 times before I was finished.

As the departure date rapidly neared I believed I had every thing and all contingencies covered. Planned to drive 400 miles a day over four days to allow for bad weather, road construction and traffic. My first lay over from leaving the SF Bay Area was Grants Pass, Oregon. SCI members, Beverly Valdez and John Ware recently moved to Oregon where they offered me a room for the night. Finding their secluded home site was difficult as my GPS didn't play well but I eventually found my way. Turns out John Ware drew a coveted limited entry Utah elk tag as first alternate and was notified only 1 week before the hunt. Not much time to socialize as they were packing and leaving the next morning also. All three of us went to the back 40 to confirm our rifles were zeroed in. With a bit of adjustment, we got it done. Quick hamburger dinner with a bit of time to relax and prepare for tomorrows departure.

Then, going through my duffel I came across a zip lock bag with a copy of my passport but no passport! Panic! Taking some slow deep breaths to keep my heart beating I converse with Beverly and John about what to do. Canada has very tight borders

as to who they let into their country. My wife's not home to overnight my passport and Beverly and John are leaving same time as me and couldn't drop me off at the airport. Only thing to do is a 15 hr, 750 mile turn and burn to retrieve my passport to assure entry into BC Canada. That was the longest 15 hrs ever that I don't ever want to repeat. On the way back I only made it to Ashland, Oregon before I got a room, 30 miles short of Grants Pass.

On Day 3, I drove through Oregon without a hitch, beautiful county. Now Washington state was another matter. I-5 is five/six lanes wide with bumper to bumper traffic moving at rush hour pace all the way to the Canadian border! The Canadian border crossing went well, took 45 minutes to inspect my guns; having gun entry permits filled out in advance expedited the process. They checked my vehicle thoroughly for hidden treasures but nothing of interest. Asked the border agent about crossing into Canada with only a copy of my passport and was told that would be up to the discretion of the individual agent, how well I sold myself during the Q & A interrogation process, would add a lot of additional time, and I might not be permitted to enter Canada. So triple check your required entry paper work and have valid passport in hand.

On Day 4, I drove the finale leg of the road trip to Prince George then to Fort Saint James where I fueled up for the 3-hour gravel road trek to the pick-up point. I was only an hour late having driven 2350 miles. Frank pulled up to the lake shore in a



homemade plywood boat framed with 2X4's that he built 20 years ago right there on the lake. It is a sturdy vessel that served us well, with lots of floor space to move about and with room for a bull moose. As we neared the hunting lodge on a small island on the lake, Jill, along with Lou the camp dog, and their new lab puppy Van, greeted us. I was given the grand tour of the rustic lodge and cabin sites. Again plywood with 2X3 construction and lodgepole pines for rafters. A stack of fire wood and kindling neatly stacked by the wood burning stove in the corner, two beds with comfy mattresses, and 12 volt lighting greeted me as I prepared to take up residency for the next 11 days. Once unpacked with my hunt gear laid out for the opening day of moose season I returned to the lodge to discuss our hunt plan. We would cruise the lake shore to glass the many coves for moose for 3 hours. Take a lunch - nap break, then road hunt the lodgepole pine clear cuts for moose, bear and wolves till dark. After a hearty meal I crashed for the night till the early

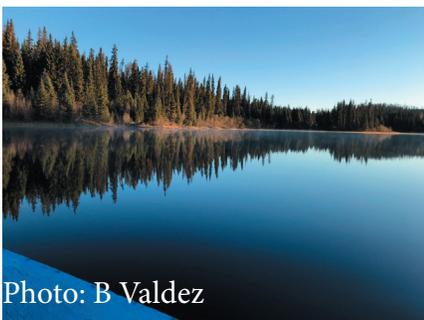


Photo: B Valdez

morning wake up call.

Day 5 brought opening morning anticipation, a quick light breakfast, loading the boat and shoving off into the darkness. We cruised across the lake to glass some promising coves. The early morning glow was shrouded with gray mist on the lake and dark cloudy skies. Frank said to look for black dots on the shore and lake edges as they would likely be moose. I focused my eyes for black shapes in the poor early morning light. Frank spotted a cow with calf feeding on the shore line; we moved in looking for a bull but to no avail. Several coves later we both spot a paddle bull at the same time. We checked him as we searched for others bulls, eventually he got nervous and moved into the willow. Rounding another cove and I pointed out a big moose to Frank; think I am getting the hang of spotting moose. Whispering and hand signaling we point the boat on a collision course. Glassing intently from 400 yards out I can see he has 6 huge brow or eye guards on the left and 4 on the right, high wide top spread with narrow canoe paddles palms without any points. Looked as if ran out of nutrition when it came time to grow his palms. Exciting encounter but we pass on him as it's 2 hours into a 9 day hunt. Soon the wind picks up and rain comes pouring down cutting visibility significantly. Back at the lodge we are pumped up with adrenalin after spotting 4 moose the first morning. We rested in camp with the rain pounding the lodges roof. That afternoon with the rain still falling along with the air temperature, we motor across the like to road hunt nearby clear cuts. We tried calling

for moose at strategic locations with no action. Winds picked up to 20 mph with snow cutting visibility to 50-100 yds and did I mention it was 20 degrees without the wind chill factor. I told Frank "let's call it a good day" as we were beating a dead moose in these conditions, and he agreed. Snug and warm at the lodge we recounted the days events with optimism for tomorrow.

On Day 6 the morning brought a snowy surprise, 2-3 inches of powdery snow covered the landscape and the boat. Zero wind, lake surface like glass, and pure silence. Coffee and toast before scraping the hard ice and snow from the boat before setting out. Morning two was beautiful, snow covered pine trees, glassy water and silence other than the purring out the outboard motor. We located the two paddle bulls, a cow with calf but no shooters. After the mid-day break we road hunted clear cuts, did some hiking and calling. We came across set of big bull moose tracks

trailing a hot cow, the rut is ramping up. The abundance of fresh grizzlies' tracks kept me checking my back trail often. Wolf tracks seemed to be everywhere — boy they have big feet. After hunting until dark, motoring across the lake in pitch darkness, I was glad Frank had recently marked way points in his GPS to guide us back to the lodge.

Day 7 (day three of hunting) brought partly sunny skies and little wind. After 2 days of rain and snow, the original varnish finish on my faithful, Winchester model 70 was flaking off and water was obviously discoloring the woods to dark brown-black colored patches but I didn't want to risk a point of impact error time to switch to my stainless steel, synthetic stocked .300 Win mag. Soon we located a couple of cows with calves and rounding a bend on the lake I saw a big bull as the sun flashed off his antlers. I signaled to Frank in whispers and thumbs up to push forward, this bull looks good. The



stalk is on; we are in focused hunting mode. This bull has everything, 3 and 4 large brow tines, good spread and palms with 8-9 points with long sword points. Approaching 300 yds we cut the motor and coast another 75 before the bull turns broad side, BOOM! and the bull runs 75 yds straight towards us and stops in belly deep water, BOOM! Down he goes with a splash with half his rack and a bit of rib cage above the surface of the lake.

My first thought was how do we get a 1200 lb moose out of the water. Franks laughed, smiling, I have a plan and tells me good cool shooting, well done. I responded with how can you miss something the size of a standing moose with a solid rest. Frank said it happens all the time, we'll let him float while we go back to the lodge for breakfast, I protested a bit but Frank said it wouldn't be an issue as he won't sink in the cold water.

After breakfast Frank screwed a 2X4 across the gunnel of the boat to stiffen it and give us something to lash the antlers to. We loaded up rope, hand winches, game bags, saws, etc. We took pictures before and after lashing the moose's antlers to the gunnel cross brace. Off we go to a gentle sloping landing site a mile away to winch to moose ashore for processing. More pictures before we get down and dirty. Two hand winches easily moved the bull into place. It was a labor of love processing something 10 times larger than a California deer and it took most of the day processing, hanging the 4 quarters and laying out pieces on a 4X8 sheet of plywood on saw horses as our cutting table. We had

moose steaks for dinner with lots of red wine to celebrate.

Hunting days four and five (day 8-9 of the trip) — when Frank and the Omineca team say you are responsible for your meat once in camp, they are not kidding. Options are to drive to the local butcher shop hours away or butcher it yourself in camp. That is my personal choice as I take pride processing my own meat. I laid out my knives, large plastic cutting board, and gallon zip-lock baggies and bagged up 7-9 lbs meat per bag and was able to freeze them all as I was the only hunter in camp. I paced myself in 2-3 hr work shifts.

On hunting day six, we hunted the clear cuts for black bear, and spotted a big sow with 2 cubs which we enjoyed watching for a time. An hour before sunset we got into a good size bear for the area, 150 yds out. I planted the tall tripod sticks and waited and waited for the bear to show itself. He played peekaboo in the slash of the clear cut for the longest time till it vanished. Then half the bear appeared in a small opening broad side. BOOM! He runs 10 yds and disappears in the slash. Wow you shot quick, did the shot look good? Yes, but you never know shooting a big ball of black fur; I called it low in the chest. Frank is hesitant to follow up a bear in the quickly fading light, we wait 10 minutes before going in. Approaching the small tree as a land mark where the bear vanished, a large black object comes into focus — it's our bear. Perfectly shot through the heart, no worries. After a couple quick pictures, we dress the bear and place logs under it's back to let it air cool and will come back in the morning to pack it out. I have some

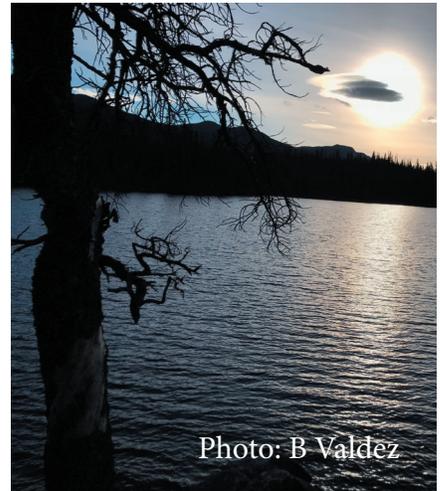


Photo: B Valdez

concerns that the local grizzlies or wolves will get find it, but it's a risk we have to take as my tag is punched.

Hunting Day seven and it's time to process and backpack the bear to the road. As we were about to start hiking another hunter on an ATV stopped to chat. He offered to drag the bear to the road for us; that sounded like a smart idea. Moving logs and slash we made it to the bear with some effort. We had multiple hang ups in the slash but soon made the road, and thanked the hunter for his assistance. We had a difficult time loading the bear so we cut it half which solved the dead weight lifting issue. Back at the boat launch, we loaded the bear on the cowl of the boat and headed for the lodge. We tossed the bear on the processing table to skin and found the fur was full of loose dirt and debris. Maybe dragging it out behind an ATV wasn't such a good idea after all as it took great care and lots of additional time to keep the meat clean. We learn as we go.

On Hunting Day eight, I finished cutting and bagging the bear and moose meat then spent time prepping the moose skull and antler for a European mount — just ratchet

Photo: B Valdez



strapped the head to a tree and used a Sawzall to accomplish the task, easy peezy.

Hunting Day nine and it's time to boil the skull for transporting across the Canadian border. Frank had a cut down 35 gallon oil drum with notches for the antler beams to rest on to keep them out of the boiling water. So, it was time to use my Boy Scout skills building a fire pit of rocks to rest the freezer grill on to support the weight of the heavy water filled drum. A rock fire ring open at both ends for proper air flow and large enough to add additional fire logs with the grill atop the rock walls. After standing on my creation attempting to shake it down I did some readjusting as needed to stabilize grill and water filled barrel. I cut some corrugate aluminum roofing material for flame

guards along the sides of the rock wall and covered the antlers with HD foil to keep smoke soot from staining them. It kind of reminded me of the cartoon characters with tin foil hats to keep the government from reading their minds. After 6 hours of cooking, scraping and more cooking time and lots of fire wood, the skull came out 98% clean ready for border inspection. In between splitting wood to feed the fire, Frank and I made Osso Boco out of the moose shanks. Using a Sawsall we made about 40 lbs in several hours of work, those leg bones are thick and hard.

The day is done and time to pack for the long drive home. I didn't pack as neatly but it all fit in the duffels bags. We had the last dinner with wine and Zinfandel Port for a chaser.

Then it's departure day. I couldn't get all the bagged meat out of the bottom half of the chest freezer as the frozen meat had expanded locking it in place! So we turned off the freezer to wait while loading the boat with gear. Several hour later, we retrieved the meat with great effort, got 300 lbs meat in 2-100 qt ice chest. I gave half the Osso Boco and many bags

of moose meat to Frank and Jill and played with Lou and Van for the last time. Van, the lab pup, has learned a lot in 11 days from Lou and training from all of us. I am going to miss every one.

I got what I expected out of this hunt. Fair chase, beautiful scenery, quality animals and new friends. I can't emphasize enough about planning and preparation. Bring the right clothing for all weather conditions. Practice with your rifle until you are quick on the trigger and accurate when the opportunity for a shot presents itself. Time is of essence, get into position ASAP and shoot straight. Stay focused and keep an optimistic mind set, never give up, it's up to you, your guide to make things happen.

Editor's Note: We expect to once again have the pleasure of both a bear and a moose hunt on auction at the Greater Bay Area Fundraiser on March 2, 2019. Put it on your calendar today and don't miss it!

ANOTHER MOOSE HUNT - SAME LOCATION, DIFFERENT RESULT! BY BEVERLY VALDEZ

Moose has been at the top of my "get one" list for as long as I've been hunting -- admittedly, not as long as a lot of SCI members! Moose are magnificent to look at, they have a grace of movement that is beautiful, and (most importantly) the meat is one of the best!

So, of course, I wanted to get the Omineca moose hunt when it was up for auction. Finally in 2018 it was my time!

Originally it looked like I would be hunting the same time as Buck Buchanan but scheduling got in the way and I was there a week later. I didn't have the snow he had but there were a lot of cold mornings on the lake. Was it that or just bad luck that kept me from seeing moose? Even with extending the hunt to 12 days, all I saw was a hind quarter running away from me and one young bull running madly towards me and my

shot went wild and all I did was scare him.! Two other hunters in camp with me saw 5-9 bulls and were successful.

My moose dream is still alive! I can only expect that I will get a monster moose when the time is right!

PAMELA S. ATWOOD
PRESIDENT
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Edie Ortmann and I visited Legends Ranch in Bitely, Michigan (just outside Grand Rapids) for the third year this past November. Your adventure begins when the Ranch camo “party” van picks you up at your airport hotel—no normal bus or van for them! On the hour or so ride to the ranch, you get to know the other hunters who have arrived to hunt in camp with you.

Upon arrival at the Ranch, we are given a cubby with wood-burned sign with our name and year for our gun, gun case, hunting clothing, equipment. etc. The main Ranch building is divided into two wings with an enormous dining room and kitchen in between—the Whitetail wing and the African wing—each with its namesake animals adorning the walls. All rooms are en suite and there is a large sitting area (with TV) in each wing. There are also a couple of rooms upstairs in the middle of the lodge. My favorite room after three years is the upstairs Whitetail room. The rooms are made up daily, just like your favorite hotel.

Meals are prepared by an on site chef. I have included a couple of pictures of the daily menus. These menus do not do the meals justice as the portions are enormous (I’ve learned to only eat half of what I am served) and, in addition, cocktails and appetizers are served in the new Gutierrez Wildlife Center after hunting prior to the After Dark Snack.

So much for accommodations, now on to the hunting. Every hunter is given a guide. Edie and I hunt together and have hunted with Sam Reed all three years. We have seen no turnover in staff or guides (they have only added on), which definitely shows that the Ranch is a class act even to work for.

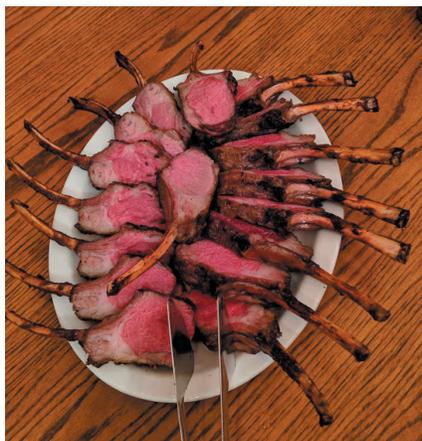
On the first day, hunters draw cards to see which guide gets first choice of blinds/hunting areas. After the



first draw the guides rotate on the list for their choice so everyone can get a chance to shoot the “premium” blind. Of course, this is open for interpretation as you never know where the deer will be on the property.

We are in the blinds before daylight and usually back to the Ranch around 10:00am, but that is subject to your hunt. We get a little rest period and then out again (to a newly chosen blind) around 3:30pm and head back in when it is beyond shooting light. There can be some spot and stalk also.

Let me tell you, the quantity and quality of deer that you see are unbelievable. These whitetail are incredible. You want to shoot the first one you see as you have never seen them this big. Now that I have been to the Ranch three years, I am a little more particular in what I shoot. I



was trying to get a nice buck this year to put on a pedestal with my buck from last year (which measured 239-2/8). That’s another thing, Edie and I are not all about scores or points. We go by look. The first thing anyone (usually male) asks us when they see our pictures is “What did he score? How many points?” Anyway, I got a beautiful buck on our third day, but unfortunately, he will not go on the pedestal. Darn, I have to go back again!

The Ranch now has a nice gym and a massage room with a masseuse on call. I like to get my hunting done and celebrate with a massage although you can arrange one at any time.

Speaking of celebrations, the Ranch has a special tradition to celebrate each successful hunter. After a successful morning hunt the entire staff comes out with Mimosas (or straight Veuve Cliquot, if you prefer) for everyone. It is champagne only after a successful afternoon hunt. Everyone toasts and “oohs and ahhs” the downed buck(s).

From hotel pick-up to meals to accommodations to staff to everything, Arthur Gutierrez and his grandson, ranch manager, Robert Sergi, have built up a 5 star hunting adventure.

See you next year, Legends Ranch!

SCI GREATER BAY AREA Conservation Banquet and Fundraiser

March 2, 2019 – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City — 4PM to 10PM

For your reservation, fax this form to 650-627-7601 or email to info@gbafundraiser.org. Call Beverly at 650-627-7601 for questions. **Register online at <http://www.gbafundraiser.org>**

Dinner Tickets

- _____ Full Table (10 persons) @ \$825 **before Jan 15, 2019** Receive a Silver pre-purchase package and two (2) "GBA BUCKS" tickets.
- _____ Full Table (10 persons) @ \$900 after Jan 15, 2019.
- _____ Half Table (5 persons) @ \$425 **before Jan 15, 2019**. Receive a Bronze pre-purchase package and one (1) "GBA BUCKS" ticket.
- _____ Half Table (5 persons) @ 450 after Jan 15, 2019
- _____ Single Dinner Ticket(s) @ \$85 each **before Jan 15, 2019**. Receive one (1) General Drawing ticket
- _____ Single Dinner Ticket(s) @ \$90 each after Jan 15, 2019
- _____ Youth Single Dinner Ticket(s) @ \$45 each (12 and under). Includes 1 youth raffle ticket for each youth registered.

Guests (be sure to include yourself)

General and Progressive Bonus Drawings

Bronze Package \$100

Six (6) General Drawing tickets plus three (3) Bronze progressive tickets

At event: Six (6) General Drawing tickets plus one (1) Bronze progressive tickets

Silver Package \$300

Eighteen (18) General Drawing tickets plus six (6) Bronze progressive tickets and three (3) Silver progressive tickets

At event: Eighteen (18) General Drawing tickets plus three (3) Bronze progressive tickets and one (1) Silver progressive ticket

Gold \$500 Package

NOT AVAILABLE FOR PRE-PURCHASE

At event: Thirty (30) General Drawing tickets plus twelve (12) Bronze progressive tickets, eight (8) Silver progressive tickets and two (2) Gold progressive ticket.

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Tickets will be held at the door.
**Seating: Full and half table
reservations will have reserved
seating. If you are registering less than 5 individuals,
please arrive early to get best seating!**

**Early Bird Deadline: January 15, 2019
After February 16, 2019 you must register at the door**

The holidays are over and it's convention time — as you are attending the national and international conventions, don't forget that your own local fundraiser has many of the same donors and donations along with local favorites.

On the next few pages are just a few of the many hunts and adventures we will have at the Foster City Greater Bay Area Fundraiser. Your support of the local fundraiser provides the money to make sure we can continue our youth programs, veteran's support, local conservation activities, humanitarian work, and public education.

Go to gbafundraiser.org to see more of what's in store, and to register right away. Or register using the form on the previous page. This is a very family-friendly event that you won't want to miss!



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**7 Day African Plains Game Safari Including Trophy Fees
Donated By: Ralph Koster, Buffalo Kloof Hunting Safaris
\$17,000**

This donation is a one-on-one 7-day hunt for TWO hunters for hartebeest, waterbuck, impala, bushbuck, warthog, blesbok, duiker, and nyala. Trophies are shared between the hunters. The donation can be used in 2019 or 2020 and additional species can be added at the list price.
<http://www.buffalokloofsafaris.co.za>



**3 Day Whitetail Deer Hunt In Texas For 1 Hunter / 1 NonHunter
Donated By: Robert and Pam Emmons, Starry Night Ranch
\$1,000**

Fill your freezer with this 3 day / 3 night whitetail deer 1:1 guided hunt for one cull buck and one doe. A cull buck is by guide's choice and doesn't exceed 120" B&C with upgrades available. YOUTH may accompany hunter at no cost. Other game available on property at published rates include exotics and turkey in season. When you're not out hunting there is plenty more to do — Bocce Ball, Skeet Shooting, or fishing for Blue Gill and Guadalupe Bass on the Llano River is nearby and you won't even need a fishing license!
www.starrynighttexas.com



**1 Day Turkey Hunt for 1 Hunter
Donated By: Josh Peixoto, JP Guide Service
\$800.00**

You don't need to travel far for a good spring turkey hunt — just travel to the Northern California Castro Valley area! This 1 day spring turkey hunt for 1 hunter/1 bird is one of the best kept secrets around. There is plentiful game to be found right here in our own backyard! Just 35 minutes from San Francisco or San Mateo, 45 minutes from Half Moon Bay. Take a morning or afternoon off work and get a bird!



**7 Day Black Bear Hunt for 2 Hunters in British Columbia
Donated By: Frank Badey, Omineca Guides & Outfitters
\$7,000**

This is a 7 day 2x1 hunt for 2 hunters and includes the trophy fee for one bear each hunter. Location is central British Columbia lake region near Prince George, drivable distance from the Bay Area within 2-3 days. Does not include taxes, royalties, license, tags, and fees (approx \$1,200 per each hunter); shipping; or gratuities.
www.ominca.bc.ca



5 Day Vita Dart of a White Rhino for 1 Hunter and 1 NonHunter
Donated by: Mike Murray, African Field Sports
\$12,000

This is a great adventure from our long-time donor and friend Mike Murray, owner of African Field Sports in the Eastern Cape. All the fun of a rhino hunt plus! Includes transportation on the hunt, luxury accommodations, meals. Additional specials may be hunted at list price. www.africanfieldsports.co.za



4 Day Wyoming Whitetail Deer Hunt For 1 Hunter
Donated by: Tim Reich, Reich Ranch
\$1,500

This is a 4-day rifle, muzzleloader or bow hunt is for whitetail or mule deer in Wyoming Region A. High bidder must draw a tag, application by is usually due May 31, results posted in June. Draw success has been near 100%. Accommodations at the ranch house with home style cooking. Spot and stalk or driven hunts. Includes transportation at the hunt. Another great youth hunt!



7 Day Bezoar Ibex (Any Size) Hunt In Turkey For 1 Hunter -
Includes Trophy Fee
Donated by: Mehmet Alkan, Caprinae Safaris
\$15,500

This 7 day ibex hunt includes custom handling, all necessary paper work and hunting license, gun import permit, area fees, transfers from/to Istanbul Ataturk airport, full board accommodation in the area, interpreter and local guide. Accommodations will be in a hotel closest to hunting area. Caprinae Safaris guided the hunter who took the world record bezoar ibex 57½" taken 9 years ago which is still current world record. www.caprinae.com



4 Day Roe Deer hunt in Serbia for 1 Hunter and 1 NonHunter
Donated by: Srdja Dimitrijevic, Hunt In Europe
\$5,500

Your hunt includes hunting organization, transfer to/from Belgrade airport, all meals and lodging, reserve entry fees, hunting licenses, services of a professional guide, all ground transport during the hunt, first treatment and measurement of the trophies. Does not include trophy fees, dipping, packing and export documentation (\$500), rifle rent (if required) \$150 including ammo per hunt and government tax (\$1,155). The trophy fee for the first best available Roe deer \$1,900 + tax. www.huntineurope.com

And don't forget we will have Paella and Pinot on the Huli Cat along with tequila tasting with Tomas Bermejo (Tommy's of San Francisco). Plus a special VIP table for 2020 will be auctioned!



2 Day Golf And Fishing Mini-Vaca For 2 People
Donated by: Rob Lawson, Lawson Wildlife Adventures
\$1,000

This is a great mini vacation to the central Northern California area for two people — a 3 day combo fishing / golfing trip. You will be staying at the Fall River Motel.. The Fall River Country Club is one of the top 10 courses in California, a very challenging course that can bring even the best golfer to their knees! Fishing will include fly fishing on the Fall River off a 14 ft drift boat and trout fishing in the serene, beautiful Bidwell ponds.



2 Day Wild Pig Hunt For 1 Hunter
Donated by: Chad Weibe, Oak Stone Outfitters
\$800

This 2 day wild pig hunt for 1 hunter puts you near Paso Robles hunting on a private ranch with experienced guide and owner Chad Weibe. This hunt is for a wild 'meat' pig hunt. You may upgrade to trophy wild boar, add extra days and additional hunters at current rates. Includes transportation during hunt, snacks and drinks while in field. Does not include accommodations, meals or taxidermy. www.oakstoneoutfitters.com



5 Day Black Bear Hunt For 2 Hunters - Includes Trophy Fee for 1 Bear
Donated by: John and Sherry Cargill, Iron Wheel Outfitters
\$6,500

This 2x1 private lands spring bear hunt is in southwest Montana. The second bear fee is \$1,000 and license fees are \$350 each hunter. Accommodations are in the Iron Wheel Guest Ranch house along with home style meals. All hunts are fair chase, no bait or dogs are used. Their bears have qualified for SCI record books, in all colors. www.ironwheel.com



5 Night/6 Day Sport Fishing Adventure for 2 People
Donated by: Lisa Andresen, Lynch Creek Travel
\$5,762

Experience world class sport fishing at it's finest in Cost Rica! Your trip will include 2 days sport fishing on a private charter 33' strike tower yacht. Fill your additional days with sightseeing, eco touring, spa visits, beaches or just relaxing by the pool. www.lynchcreektravel.com

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*Preferred communication: Phone Fax Email

Would you be interested in serving as an officer or on a committee in this chapter?

Yes () No () If yes, in what area would you like to be involved? _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____ Sponsor: (required) _____

	San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Dues Only	Safari Club International Dues Only	Combined San Francisco Bay Area Chapter and Safari Club International Dues
1-Year New Member	\$20	\$35	\$55
Electronic Renewal (1-Year)	\$20	\$35	\$55
Standard 1-Year	\$20	\$65	\$85
3-Year	\$50	\$150	\$200
3-Year Electronic Renewal	\$50	\$90	\$140
Life	\$300	\$1,500	\$1,800

* You may join the chapter at any level that is consistent with your National membership. You must be a life member of SCI to join the chapter as a life member; you must be a three-year SCI member to join the chapter three-year program. Special memberships are available for senior and international members. Please contact us for more information!

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The Reich Ranch Chapter hunt happens every two years and is always a great time! This year's hunt for Wyoming whitetail and mule deer had eight participating members. It was a mix of new and veteran SF-Bay Area members at the Reich Ranch.

Buck Buchanan

Getting to Wyoming is part of the adventure! Four members flew to South Dakota then rented 4X4 vehicles to cross over into Wyoming. Rich Phipps flew to Idaho and drove over with Tony Puig. Paul Williamson and I did the long haul 1350 - mile drive from California to Wyoming. We budgeted four days for the drive as snow and ice was predicted for the last two days. The weatherman's report was partly correct, there was a bit of ice and snow, but we didn't need the new cable chains Paul bought especially for the trip; however, best to have them and not really need them. So we made it to Bella Fourche, South Dakota in two days. We carried some rifles, hunting gear and ice chests for those that were flying in. The back of the truck was packed up to the gills!

Luckily for us, the day before the trip Paul's Ford Raptor's battery gave up the ghost. For this single application battery with limited availability, there was only one in the SF-Bay area! Imagine if it had gone out in our travels through desolate areas! Traveling across Nevada in the middle of nowhere the fuel monitor



From left to right, Tony Puig, Paul Williamson, Allen Phipps, Glenn Chrisman, John Russell, Frank Wentworth, Buck Buchanan, Rich Phipps

says we have 35 miles till empty but it's about 40 miles to the next town. The truck's computer system is relearning strategy parameters after the battery replacement. We pull to the side of the road in pitch darkness contemplating to turn back for the town of Wells or try our luck for West Wendover, Wells it is! Driving only 55 mph to conserve fuel we make it Wells with 2 miles of fuel in the tank!

Now for the actual hunt report! This was my second hunt at Tim Reich's ranch, having taken a big 10 point whitetail in 2016 my hopes were for a mule deer. On arrival day, introductions were made, beds were chosen, equipment unpacked, and a few needed to test fire their rifles to see if they were shooting true. After that we were all kicking back, it's Cocktail Hour! What an interesting group of hunters, all have had successful careers, enlightening life contributions, and experiences.

On the first morning of the hunt, Tim positioned us at strategic posting

sites, some young bucks were seen and passed up as it was the first day of a 4 day hunt. Then a driven hunt, posting and drivers were given their instructions with no deer taken. Lunch, as always, was at the rustic Aladdin Cafe. The evening posted hunt proved fruitless, with only a few small bucks and lots of does.

The second day's posting setup was same as the first. But different results! A morning drive up in the rim rock bluffs above the house produced a big bodied 4X3 for me, at a moderate 290 yds shot. I called Tim's cell and left a message as to where we were. Three other bucks



REFLECTIONS ON THE 2018 REICH RANCH CHAPTER HUNT

were pushed by the drivers into the rimrock bowl: two medium 4x3's and a 2x2.

Soon I could hear Tim's Polaris UTV growling up canyon. Pictures were taken, loading the 250 lb buck was a chore and he filled the whole bed of the UTV. I rode back to the skinning shed riding on his rib cage savoring the hunt experience with a smile on my face and a glow in my heart.

For the rest of the trip, there was the same hunt strategy of posting and drives. Shots were taken, several were misses, and many does were harvested for the freezer. The hunting was challenging but everyone had opportunities to take bucks.

I am looking forward to the next chapter hunt opportunity. Be sure to read the Base Camp for upcoming chapter hunts but don't procrastinate as available reservations fill up fast!

Chapter Hunt for the New Guy – by John Russell

My first impression when I signed up for the hunt was "where in the heck is this place"? Directions included GPS coordinates, "the first right when you enter Wyoming" and a 1 digit off address in a text. You would think that after getting such elaborate directions that you would know where to go. Google Earth clearly showed the property. However, the drive is the second right in Wyoming. The GPS was close but not too close. The address was on the road in front of "the house to the right or those shelters slightly to the left". I knew where the property was but, I was not quite sure which drive and building to approach.

Equipped with a rental pickup, I

headed west from Rapid City towards Aladdin. I drove past the first drive, then a second and I pulled off the road where there was a couple of barns. A young man was pulling out and he stopped for me to ask if he was familiar with the Reich Ranch. He said, "never heard of it". Unbeknownst to me, I was sitting in front of the ranch's skinning shed. I reluctantly gave in and called Buck for directions.

Arriving at the house and meeting the group of guys and my hosts was easy. I felt at home and they didn't seem to mind my sometimes-obvious questions. Being prepared for a hunt is always easier each time you go. Everything flowed smoothly in the living area with eight guys using one small, obstacle filled bathroom.

The ranch featured Holly's famous ranch cooking. Breakfast consisted of large sausage patties, platter bacon, scrambled eggs, fruit and waffles. Accommodations were made for special dietary needs. Lunch at the local restaurants featured good portions of comfort food. Dinner at the ranch consisted of protein heavy comfort food that most of our spouses would not let us eat on a regular basis.

Tim Reich drove and dropped us off several times a day. Tim's slow and steady driving style was familiar with the local wild life and had minimum impact. Years of skinning hundreds of deer has made him quite proficient. He uses a knife made by his son. Tim knows his properties and is able to set the hunters up where the deer are or are going to be.

The weather was crazy. The first two days featured lows in the teens and a

light snow. I wore too much clothing. My "breathable and layered system" did not work that well when covered with a wool over-suit. The last two days were warm with the lows around 33-35 degrees. The changing weather front sometimes brought a brisk wind.

Buck's woods-man-ship was apparent by his downing of a nice mule deer 4X3 buck, a whitetail doe, and a turkey. He accomplished the last two kills between butchering his first deer. Everybody had opportunities to harvest either whitetail or mule deer. I believe that 7-8 deer were harvested. The rut was beginning and probably several nice bucks would have been taken if we "were there the next week". "That's Huntin!"

The hunt seemed to go by quickly. I will have fond memories of the hunt. My only regret is that I didn't arrange my schedule to include visiting Devils Tower, Mount Rushmore, and other sites in the area. I guess there is always next time.



I finally remembered—red with hunter, white with fisherman.

Paul Williamson

Once again in that beautiful corner of Wyoming and South Dakota. Buck and I arrived early due to having planned for bad weather that didn't happen. Since Buck hadn't seen Devils Tower up close and personal we drove over and walked around

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2018 REICH RANCH CHAPTER HUNT

the base. Gosh what a morning well spent, next we drove over to Mt. Rushmore; a fine finish for the day. Then we went to a real sporting goods/gun shop in Rapid City. Wow! It's nice to be back in America. Buck found some hard to find .222 new brass and I got a really good Baretta shotgun soft case for my Baretta.

My hunting exploits were however not so fortunate.

First morning I could have taken a dandy 8 point whitetail but I passed because there was still three and a half more days to hunt. Suffice it to say that that's why they call it hunting not shooting.

Every animal I saw from that point on was too long a shot. Concluding with the final morning. I'm on that same ridge I saw the eight point and Buck is on the next ridge to my east. So where do the deer go? Right in front of Buck!

Oh well it's hunting not shooting.

It was really good to be in the company of such great friends from our Chapter. That made it all worthwhile.

Allen Phipps

November 9, 2018; first deer hunt in three years for me. Excited to get out there again! Recently joined SCI to join my friends Glenn and Frank and meet 5 new guys on this chapter hunt at Tim's.

Stuffed my cold weather gear and packed my Weatherby 257, the perfect hard hitting, flat shooting gun for northeast Wyoming bucks. Holly Main, Tim's daughter and her family hosts us for the delicious standing rib opening dinner with Buck's great

Zinfandel.

First morning is 16° and we're bundled up. I'm propped up in a rock pile waiting for the buck that never showed up in the alfalfa fields. Later, a long hike up to the mesa, same story; nothing doing the first day for any of us. The first time ever at Tim's without anyone scoring the first day. Second day, Buck and I got our bucks, his a big bodied 4 by 3, mine a young whitetail, but we're all surprised by how few bucks we've seen. That afternoon we're off to Tim's homestead ranch for whitetails where we sit in a light dusting of snow till dark. Again no action but the softly falling snow was magical. It's become clear that the "rut" hasn't really started, in spite of a couple of cold, snowy days. No one has seen any trophy bucks, in fact very few bucks at all, so far. Still, we're enjoying being out in this beautiful Black Hills country with old and new friends. The hunting picks up a bit the third day and several of us bag does to fill our freezers. The weather has warmed, making stand sitting more comfortable but making hiking pretty hot. That evening, we enjoyed another delicious Holly dinner and then her daughter Anika and son Josh entertained us with a piano duet and Anika gave a stunning dramatic rendition of the Gettysburg Address. There wasn't a dry eye at the table!! From the looks of the three Main kids, Wyoming is still producing fine youngsters with great values and a sense of patriotic history! By the last day of the hunt, all but two of us have our deer in the skinning barn. Unfortunately, the last afternoon fails to break the curse and Paul and Glenn come in empty handed.

It's been the least productive hunt on Tim's ranch in memory, just following a great hunt for the group just before us. The bucks began to sniff and chase the does that last day, showing sign that the rut was on. We all agree that Dwight's group, in next, will probably clean up on the big boys!! The consensus was that this another memorable SCI hunt in beautiful country, memorably hosted by Tim and his family and highlighted by new friendships and great fellowship. We all look forward to coming back!

Frank Wentworth

For five years now I have been fortunate to hunt Tim Reich's Wyoming alfalfa, hay and cattle ranch, with prime deer and elk habitat. This year with eight hunters in our SCI group we had an advantage: our foot hunters pushed deer toward those on stands. But the rut was not on, so



we didn't see many good bucks. Most of us ended up harvesting does, not a bad option. Below is an image of a young buck I harvested two years ago on Tim's, a nice memory!

It was really good to be in the company of such great friends from our Chapter. That made it all worthwhile.

Tony Puig

Once again, Tim’s Wyoming hunt was great. If you haven’t done this yet, put it on your list.

This time around I didn’t harvest a deer, but that was because I wanted a real challenge and brought a short range rifle. Passed on plenty of shots, though.

Incredible group of guys, great food as always, and just a great time out in the woods. The best part about this hunt is that you can make it as tough or easy as you choose. The bucks didn’t seem to appear until the end, but plenty of does. They were out there, but pretty wary. I hope to continue to hunt Tim’s ranch for many years coming.

Glenn Chrisman

Even though I’m very much at home at Tim Reich’s ranches in NE Wyoming thanks to previous trips, joining this year’s Chapter Hunt was

a good new experience. I don’t think any one of the eight participants knew all of the other seven guys. But, not surprisingly, thanks to each man’s love of the outdoors, hunting in particular, we quickly found common ground and discovered other areas of common interest. I felt each participant was anxious to get to know his new “camp mates” and warm relationships quickly developed.

Unlike earlier trips, there was no sign of the rut for the first three days. There were plenty of both muley and whitetail does around but bucks of any size were scarce. Buck Buchanan shot a nice 4x3 muley the second morning, but at trip’s end it was the only nice buck taken. Finally, on day four, the late rut began to come on and several fork horned Muley’s were spotted enthusiastically harassing does that afternoon. Several of the group took nice does for meat, but I held out for a buck and came home empty handed for the first time in four hunts. To be sure, there are lots of deer on and around Tim’s ranches, but timing is important and the rut was late. I’ve heard from friends in

other areas of Wyoming that the rut was a little late in their areas also.

All things considered, it was a darned good trip. Just being in that country is always invigorating, especially when you’re with good friends and have a chance to make new friends. We all agreed that we need to get together for more hunting adventures both in Nor Cal and out of state.

Rich Phipps

A great hunting experience. Tim is a gracious host. He has in depth knowledge of his property and knows where the deer are.

Tim’s daughter Holly is a fantastic cook and always provides a delicious meal for both breakfast and dinner.

We had a great group guys participate in the hunt this year.

My friend Tony and I were the youngest of the group and we thoroughly enjoyed listening to the various hunting stories from the most experienced sportsmen during the cocktail hour before dinner.

I highly recommend this hunt for experienced and novice hunter alike.

Can’t wait to return again.

Editor’s Note: Tim Reich donates a deer hunt each year to our Greater Bay Area Fundraiser. Bid on it this March 2, 2019!!

**prairie dog and goose
COMBO**

Hunt includes trespass fee, lunch in the field, shooting benches and chairs.

Not included: Fall River hotel (\$85 per person), dinner, and breakfast. You’ll drive to/from ranches following Rob.

All the shooting you can manage before your arm or your ammo give out!

**Chapter
Hunt**

Minimum 5 Hunters
\$250 per person
Weekends only
Fall River location

February 1 through April 30, 2019



Contact Rob Lawson at mogombo1@yahoo.com to schedule your group (5 or more) or for more information. Or register online at www.safariclub-sfbay.org.



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CALIFORNIA GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY DEER TAG AT AUCTION

March 2, 2019



California's **G**olden **O**ppportunity **D**eer **T**ag is the premier auction item at the 2019 SCI Greater Bay Area Fundraiser. The Golden Opportunity tag allows you to hunt throughout California, in any zone, for an extended season from the second Saturday in July through December 31, using any legal method of take.

You do not need to be a California resident to purchase this tag. All tag and license fees are included in the high bid price.

Proceeds from your bid will be used for conservation by California Department of Fish and Game and SCI Chapter local activities.



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SCI San Francisco Bay Area Chapter and Golden Gate Chapter are California-based nonprofit organizations.

This years' annual SCI San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Fall Dinner was held at Izzy's Steak House in San Carlos

A good time was had by all who attended. All the chairs in the room were filled with adults, families and kids laughing and having a good time. The selection of entree's was well received (the prime rib was hot and cooked perfectly) with choices of salads and desserts. The service was solid with friendly staff who worked quickly to provide the meals and filling of waterglasses, bread and butter with ease and grace. The only time the room was nearly quiet was when everybody was eating. Other than than there was laughter, an esprit do corp of outdoor folks sharing stories. Cathy and I had a great time, we met some new folks and had a good time in talking and

getting to know them. Buck, Delores, Larry, Forrest, Steve, and Tom were in speaking range. In fact, Tom (Mattusch) and I discovered we shared the same passion for scuba and free diving in our earlier youth and promised to share some lies at the next meeting!

Steve Schindler was the DFG guest speaker along with his lady, Sheila and her son. As a hunter and fisherman himself, he understands the CA situation of CA DFW special speaker. He provided a background of accomplishments and trials of his DFW department. In particular, he explained the hunting/fishing population (people) in CA was stable but with an increasing overall population it was becoming a smaller percentage. DFW has trouble retaining wardens since when they become trained they leave for better paying jobs such as CA Highway Patrol, etc.

Steve was friendly, positive, and a solid speaker who enjoys his calling

and is comfortable in speaking in public. He is based in the Santa Cruz/Monterey area. He answered all questions frankly and with honesty even if he did not have the exact figures. When the question of mountain lions and coyotes came up, he said we need to find methods to put the fear of humans back into them to avoid potential issues. Possible solutions may include paint ball guns or airsoft for one idea. There was some discussion of copper bullets vs lead with the ban coming up next year. He believes lead will still be allowed for range use.

The silent auction had all items with bids but, unfortunately, I didn't win my bid!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Warm clothing was collected at the event for donations, and there was plenty of clothes brought! Donations were made to Monterrey and San Carlos humanitarian groups.

Chapter Holiday Dinner December 8, 2019

Plans are in progress for a 2019 San Francisco Bay Area Chapter holiday dinner. We are checking our lists (twice!) for great locations and hunters and fishers will attend! Be sure to keep December 8th open on your new calendars for a great time of fun and camaraderie!



I was very lucky (?) to be drawn as the alternate for a very hard-to-draw unit in Utah, rifle season in the Fillmore-Pahvant. My official draw results reported only unsuccessful. I didn't find out about being the non-resident alternate until 2 weeks before the short season opened. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources contacted me, asking if I'd like to exercise my option as the alternate. They gave me 24 hours to decide, and confirmed that the tag cost \$800.

I quickly did some web searches to confirm this was indeed a very exclusive unit, and it would be well worth jumping through hoops to make it happen. This was described as a rare unit that afforded a real opportunity to bag a mythical 400pt elk, free range. I did more research, and found an outfitter that Huntin' Fool endorsed who had a reasonable cost for a 5 day hunt. The outfitter assured me that a bull around 350-360 was a very reasonable expectation. He told me I should spend another \$900 on the hunt to get a spotter in addition to the guide, which would increase my odds of getting a truly great trophy. I told him I wouldn't bring a tape, I'd trust and rely on my guide to get a good bull for the unit, and I'd be happy with what I shot. When pressed for a target size, I said 350 would be a good minimum. I also asked specifically that we get to meet him while on the hunt, as Bev and I felt quite strange on previous outfitted hunts where the outfitter never made an appearance. He promised we'd meet sometime during the hunt.

We arrived the day before the hunt, and got settled into the accommodations provided (at another



extra \$900) by the outfitter, which was a clean, old camper trailer. It stood out in stark contrast to the very nice, new 5th wheel the guide parked next to it. Our impression when booking was that the trailer would allow us to be closer to the hunt area, thus making for shorter early-morning / late night drives in the dark. In reality, we could have been in a decent hotel in town and it would have been closer to where we hunted and would have saved a few dollars.

We went to the rifle range in the afternoon to confirm zero on the rifle, and I proved to the guide that under stable conditions I could shoot the "moment of elk" as Buck (our chapter shooting trainer) would say, out to 700 yards. He was concerned about the longer distance shooting as the area we were to hunt involved a lot of steep drainages and the possibility of cross-canyon shots.

The evening before the hunt the

guide and spotter went out to do some scouting. I asked to go along but they said it would be better if I didn't. Trust your guide. They returned after dark with tons of nice spotting scope pictures of bulls. They felt they had one bull in the 360 range patterned, and we'd simply show up tomorrow morning and shoot him. We went to sleep optimistic, with a plan to be up early to get up into the mountains.

As we drove up the mountain in the dark, I wasn't sure what to expect, other than that by now I'd seen pictures of maybe twenty 6x6 or better bulls that the guide and spotter had photographed or videoed, so I trusted we'd see something. We parked off the road near the top, and setup a few spotting scopes glassing out over a high mountain valley. We were at about 9,000 feet, and would hunt from here up or down 1,000 feet. We had a plan based on pre hunt scouting, so made a short hike to a

promontory where we could shoot cross canyon at a nice bull that the guide expected to be home again today as he'd seen him cross that canyon several times in the preceding days. This was very different from my only other elk hunting experiences, most recently with Beverly a few years back where we hiked in the dark for several hours each morning to get to "the spot".

As is often the case, the wild animals didn't get the memo, and our primary target bull didn't show up. So we regrouped around 8 or 9 AM back at the trucks. We were hearing bugles echo across the canyon, and started seeing bulls out to about 3-4 miles in drainages on the far side. Our overlook provided an expansive view of about 270 degrees, and we often had 3 or more bulls in different spots that we were watching. I was trying to hold out for a great symmetrical bull, and turned down pursuit of a few because they were broken off.

The spotter saw a bull that looked like a good 7x7 he estimated at 350, so we went on our first "Mr. Toad's wild ride". This was the first of several during the hunt, where rather than hiking down and hunting the bull, we'd drive around back behind and down on an ATV. Myself, rifle, hunter orange cap, binos, backpack, trying to hold onto everything and not get bucked off the back of the ATV while trying to lean into curves to help avoid turning it over.

We stopped the ATV, and stalked in about 1/2 hour up towards where the bull was last seen. To go any further we'd have to be very exposed crossing an opening, so the guides' plan was to back out, and come around from above. We did so and after an hour or

two, were in a position above where the bull was, in a good position to see and shoot. By now it was close to mid day, and the bulls had quieted down. The plan was to wait until the bulls started bugling and moving, and then we would have him. Shortly thereafter four people on a side-by-side went up the 2-track, right past where we had left our ATV, through the open field. The bull stood up where we couldn't see him, but they could, and several shots later they had "our" bull. Public land hunting. Our spotter was friends with one of the people in the side-by-side, so at lunch he went to visit them and found the bull was in the 350-370 range, 7x7. He would have been awesome to take.

That evening we continued to see and hear a lot of bulls, and put another wild-ride stalk on a 6x8 that the spotter said was very big, but I never saw him. On the way back to camp the guide dumped a very personal issue on us that he feared was coming to head this very evening, and his wife was coming to camp to discuss it with him. We sincerely suggested that we take a day off from the hunt so he could deal with the issue. I was feeling good about how much action we'd been seeing, and wanted his head fully in the game when we were hunting. He declined and assured it wouldn't be a problem. Trust your guide.

The next morning was much the same as the first. Bulls were bugling everywhere. After a while we spotted one we thought was worth a closer look, and another wild ride later we were stalking up a draw. It was intense and awesome with 3 bulls bugling within a few hundred yards of us. It was pretty thick so we had

a plan to take an overwatch over an active wallow. Things calmed down midday, as we got into position. The guide said they'd be up and moving around 3pm, so we took a nap. At 2:45 we got up, and got into position. Sure enough a nice looking 7x7 came out into a small opening at 200 yards. We watched him for several minutes through the spotting scope. It was awesome to see him bugling and thrashing a bush violently with his antlers. The discussion was a back and forth, where I declined the shot and the bull several times, he just wasn't big enough I feared. The guide estimated him at 340. After my third or fourth decline, the bull moved out of the small opening. He ended up at the wallow about 90 yards downhill from us.

Now I made a critical error, which I realize only with hindsight. After looking at bulls all day yesterday through spotting scope at 900 yards out to several miles, I looked at this bull *through the spotting scope* at 90 yards. He looked HUGE compared to bulls at 900 yards! And my guide said, "he might go 350".

The setup was beautiful. The fun of watching him come in, bugling and thrashing was great. The shot was easy. The bull didn't go 10 yards.

Soon enough we were down to look at the bull up close, and thank him for his sacrifice. He looked smaller up close, and I knew I was in trouble — both the guide and the spotter only said "nice shot", and not "nice bull". As promised I didn't bring a tape, and trusted my guide. He'd be 340-350, and that was close to my goal. Some initial pictures and posing, and we got onto the work.

After some argument I sent the guide back to camp to retrieve Bev. I'd paid a lot extra for an observer to join the hunt, and I wanted her to see the bull and take pictures. Meanwhile the spotter and I started breaking him down for a short pack-out to the 2-track, employing the gutless method. More pictures after the guide returned with Bev. As we were loading packs, I asked when we'd get the tenderloins. The guide asked me if I knew how, then started looking at Youtube videos to learn how while I started the cut behind the last rib. Trust your guide.

A few other oddities occurred over the next few days, that probably would have mattered naught if I had a huge bull. The outfitter never showed despite his explicit promise to do so. The guide woke us up out of a sound sleep pounding on a door very early in the morning because he was ready to leave and we hadn't tipped him yet. On the 2-day drive home, while

I started having serious regret about my shot choice and ending the hunt so soon with a bull that just didn't measure up, we received texts from the guide. "More than half of hunters go home without an elk, you should be happy". And "I estimated him at 330" (after which I had to correct him and remind him of what he actually said). When I got home, after some recovery time and another short CA Deer hunt, I finally measured the antlers. My score was right at 310. A few months later and I've now had it scored by an Safari Club International (SCI) master measurer, who scored it at 308 and change.

So, I have very conflicted emotions and feelings about this hunt. In one sense, yes, I did get my first elk. And it was a 7x7 bull. And my all in cost was around \$7k, which is about normal for a guided elk hunt. But I wound't have spent that money on an elk hunt at this time if not for the opportunity for something much

better. And I feel a great remorse at a perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity being squandered.

I know the score of the trophy, or even getting an animal at all, are not the only things that matter in evaluating the quality of a hunt, but they are things that are important to me. And, in the particular case, I was very optimistic and excited about this great opportunity to get a remarkable trophy, and even talked ahead of time to some friends

about the big bull I was sure to get. Oddly, I felt better about my two other hunts last season (stories for another time), and on neither of those did I even fire a shot at an animal.

This hunt caused me to question my basic desire and goals of hunting, and the relative value of guided vs. non-guided. I've always justified guide expenses based on not wanting to waste good opportunities.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HUNTING — GOING BEYOND THE SHOT

Based on this hunt, and lessons learned over the past years of hunting, I have decided to institute a new tipping policy. I have two envelopes, one is the tip for "good effort", and the other is the tip for "lucky results / great trophy". I will tell the guide upfront about the policy, and I'm sticking to it. In the past I've always tipped the "expected" full amount regardless of results. No more. I'm also asking my outfitter how much they are paying my guide, and verifying it with my guide. If the outfitter doesn't even show up at the hunt, I wanted to know how much of a cut they are taking. And next time I'm bringing a tape measure.

How do you feel about these ideas? Let me know at johncware@gmail.com. I'll gather peoples' input and write about it in a future issue of the Chapter newsletter.

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Photo by Kenn Lipke

CALIFORNIA STATE GENERAL ELECTION 2018

The Outcome – What Can We Expect in 2019?

With the 2019/2020 version of the California State Legislature set to reconvene on Monday, January 7th, 2019, it's time to recap the results of the November 2018 California State Election, and what those who care about the future of wildlife conservation and hunting in California may expect over the coming two years.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTION BRIEF – NOVEMBER 2018

Whether you are paying close attention or not, what takes place under the dome of California's State Capitol has a tremendous impact on nearly every aspect of your life. To begin, to lay some foundation for those who may be confused by California's complicated political process, let's begin with a brief overview of how our State Legislature is built and how it works, followed by the results of last November's election and how it may impact hunting, shooting and wildlife conservation in our state.

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE – HOW IT'S BUILT

The California State Legislature is a bicameral body consisting of the California State Assembly with 80 members, and the California State Senate with 40 members. Members of the State Assembly serve two-year terms, while members of the State Senate serve four-year terms. In short, all 80 State Assembly seats are up for election every two

years, while twenty State Senate seats are up for election at each two-year election cycle. Making things even more interesting, under Proposition 14 – which passed on the June 2010 ballot – statewide and congressional candidates in California, regardless of party preference, participate in the nonpartisan "blanket primary". After the June primary, the top two candidates – regardless of party affiliation – advance to the November general election.

Finally, just to make things even more confusing, the California's State Legislature has "term limits" – initially established in 1990 following the passage of Proposition 140. Proposition 140 limited Legislators to three terms in the State Assembly and two terms in the State Senate. In June 2012, voters approved Proposition 28 which allows Legislators to serve a maximum of 12 years without regard to whether the years are served in the State Assembly or the State Senate. Legislators first elected on or before June 2012 are restricted by the previous term limits called out by Proposition 140. With term limits eliminating long-serving incumbents from the ballot, each California State election proves to be interesting, with many seats up for grabs and much at stake. The November 2018 State election was no different.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTION – NOVEMBER 2018

When it comes to issues of importance to California's hunting, shooting and wildlife conservation community at California's State Capitol, does it really matter which political party is in control? Frankly, it really does.



Although there certainly are many exceptions, the Democratic Party has historically been the party least supportive of hunting and our Second Amendment rights. Why? Because, in many cases, it is the Democratic Party that represents California's urban legislative districts – constituencies that largely do not hunt or shoot, and which have little understanding of hunters, hunting, our critical role in wildlife conservation, or the important positive impact we have on our state's economy. Residents of these urban areas elect representatives that reflect their values and often share their misunderstandings of our outdoor activities.

As California's landscape becomes increasingly urban and our State Legislature made up of increasingly urban districts, the future of hunting and shooting in our state is facing an uphill battle. Six years ago, in the November 2012 election, Democrats captured two-thirds of the seats of our State Senate and State Assembly – giving them a legislative "supermajority" and the power to raise taxes, override legislative rules and pass emergency legislation, and/or

place constitutional amendments on the ballot without a single Republican vote. Two years later, however, when the dust settled on the November 2014 election, the Democratic Party had narrowly lost its supermajority in both houses. Fast forward to November 2016, although conservatives scored big wins on Capitol Hill and in state races nationwide, California was – no surprise – different. Two years ago, after the dust settled and all the votes were cast and counted, Democrats had netted back enough seats in the State Assembly to recoup their supermajority, while falling only one seat short in the State Senate. So, did the Republican Party net enough seats this past November to avoid a Democratic supermajority in either or both houses in the upcoming 2019/2020 State Legislative Session? We'll see....

State Assembly

In the State Assembly, 54 seats are needed to hold a supermajority. Heading into the November 2018 election, the Democratic Party narrowly held a supermajority with 55 seats in the Assembly, compared to the Republican Party holding 25. On November 6th, all 80 Assembly seats were up for grabs. With California's "blanket primary", all 80 districts had a Democrat in the race, while 15 districts did not have a Republican or an "Other" party represented on the ballot.

When all the votes were counted, and some recounted and recounted again, Assembly Democrats had grabbed five more State Assembly seats – strengthening their supermajority by now holding a whopping sixty Assembly seats to the Republicans twenty. Races

of note included Republican incumbents losing their bid for re-election in three districts – District 16 (San Ramon), District 38 (Santa Clarita) and District 74 (Costa Mesa).

State Senate

In California's State Senate, a party needs to control 27 seats to hold a two-thirds supermajority. Leading up to the November 2018 election, the Democratic Party narrowly missed having a supermajority by holding 26 of the State Senate's 40 seats, with the Republican Party holding 14. Due to the "blanket primary", four of the 20 total Senate seats up for grabs did not have a Republican or an "Other" party in the race, while all the seats up for election had at least one Democrat in the race.

When the dust settled on the Election, the Democratic Party had picked up three more seats, giving them 29 State Senate seats to the Republicans 11 – easily re-establishing their supermajority. Races of note include Republican incumbent Senator Andy Vidak losing his seat in District 14 (Southern Central Valley) and Republican incumbent Senator Janet Nguyen losing her bid for re-election in District 34 (Santa Ana).

SUMMARY – WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

Re-securing a strong 2/3rds supermajority in both chambers, while also maintaining all statewide elected offices, will keep the Democratic Party in complete control of California's policy decisions for the next two years. But, will it make a notable difference on policy associated

with wildlife conservation, hunting and/or sporting arms?

Looking back to the recent past, in the 2017/2018 Legislative Session, the Democrats held a supermajority in the Assembly and a near supermajority in the Senate. They also controlled the Governor's office. In the upcoming 2019/2020 Session, the Democrats will have a stronger hold on both houses and arguably the most liberal Governor in state history. In short, the results of the November 2018 election could make the next two years the most challenging ever in the halls of our State Capitol for those who seek a strong future for wildlife conservation and hunting in California.

We have our work cut out for us. What can we do? With the help of our partners and you, we will continue to educate both new and experienced urban Legislators of the importance of science-based wildlife management, the critical lead role of hunting in wildlife conservation and the importance of our Second Amendment. Gaines & Associates will also continue to provide you with real-time updates on pending policy decisions of concern – along with the information you need to have your voice heard to help make a difference.

For more information on any district race of California State Election 2018, please contact Gaines & Associates at info@gainesandassociates.net

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To promote good fellowship among those who love the outdoors and the sport of hunting, shooting and fishing.

To promote conservation of the wildlife of the world as a renewable resource in which hunting is one management tool among many.

To help conservation efforts by supporting worthwhile projects, both verbally and financially, when possible.

To educate our youth in the safe and proper use of firearms and to interest and teach them in conservation and preservation of the forests and animals, which are our national heritage.

To share the latest hunting experiences and information of our members so that other members may profit from same.

To operate the association as a non-profitable organization, originated for the enjoyment of the members, and with the thought in mind that perhaps we can be of assistance in helping to conserve and preserve the animals which we love to hunt today for those who will come to love the sport tomorrow.