



Wyoming Chapter

Foundation for
North American

Wild Sheep

Volume 5

Summer 1997

Number 2



THIS
IS WHAT
YOUR
WYOMING
CHAPTER OF
FNAWS IS ALL
ABOUT!



YOUR SUPPORT
WILL HELP PUT
MORE OF
THESE ON THE
MOUNTAIN AND
MAKE MORE
PERMITS
AVAILABLE.



Foundation for North American *Wild Sheep*

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Alcova, WY 82620

Wyoming Chapter

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REWARD!
The Wyoming Chapter of F.N.A.W.S. is
offering up to \$5,000 for information of
leading to the arrest and conviction of
anyone poaching Bighorn Sheep in
Wyoming. Call (307) 234-9597



Membership Application

Help Support The Wild Sheep
Join the Wyoming Chapter Today!

YES, I want to help "Put Sheep on the Mountain." Enclosed is my check.

- ☐ \$15 for One-Year Membership
- ☐ \$40 for Three-Year Membership
- ☐ \$300 for Lifetime Membership
- ☐ I am a new member.
- ☐ This is a renewal.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

Business Phone () _____

I also wish to join the National Foundation for
North American Wild Sheep and have
enclosed a check for:*

- ☐ \$45 - 1 year, Regular Membership or three
years for \$120.00
- ☐ \$80 - 1 year, Family Membership
- ☐ \$15 1 Year Junior Membership
- ☐ \$100 - 1 year, International Membership
- ☐ \$200 - 1 year, Individual Sustaining
Membership
- ☐ \$200 - 1 year, Company Membership
- ☐ \$1,000 - Lifetime Ages 59-64 \$750
Ages 65 and over \$500
- ☐ \$1,000 - 1 year Corporate Supporting
Membership

*All figures in U.S. Funds
Make checks payable to: Wyo FNAWS, Nancy
Collins, Box 125, Chugwater, WY 82210



Member Craig Kling from Laramie with area 10 ram scoring 178 pts.

WYOMING CHAPTER "POP QUIZ"

How many species of wild sheep are there in the world? _____

You have our admiration if you can name them, both common names and Latin names before looking at page 14.



New Life Member Dirk Edgeington from Riverton with his area 10 ram.



Member Rodger Kendrick with his ram taken in 1994.

NAYAUR NAYAUR

18) BLANFORD URIAL: *OVIS VIGNERI BLANFORDI*

19) PUNJAB URIAL: These two sheep found in Pakistan are huntable with a provincial permit, but as an American you can't bring them home. *OVIS VIGNEI PUNJABIENSIS*

20) RED SHEEP: Found in an extensive area of the Elburz mountains of northern Iran are huntable only to the natives, however you can hunt them in the rugged Davis mountains of west Texas. *OVIS ORIENTALIS*

21) ARMENIAN MOUFLON: This graceful reddish tan sheep has a narrow grayish white saddle patch. Horns curve above and behind the neck. Found in north-western Iran and the eastern edge of Turkey and are only huntable to the natives. But you can hunt them in the Davis Mountains of Texas. *OVIS GMELINI GMELINI*

22) KONYA MOUFLON: Occurring in a small area of central Turkey, there are no permits available at this time. *OVIS GMELINI ANATOLICA*

23) EUROPEAN MOUFLON: Originally found on the islands of Corsica and Sardinia, they were reintroduced to Europe where they disappeared at the end of the last ice age. They can also be hunted in Texas & Hawaii. *OVIS MUSIMON*

24) BARBARY SHEEP: This sheep is thought to be the link between sheep and goats and is also known as Aoudad. They are found in many of the desert mountains of northern Africa. Can also be hunted in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. *AMMOTRAGUS LERBIA*

25) ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN: Found in 11 western states, Alberta and British Columbia. *OVIS CANADENSIS CANADENSIS*

26) CALIFORNA BIGHORN: Nearly extinct except for a population of about 2500 in British Columbia. They have been reintroduced into Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada. *OVIS CANADENSIS CALIFORNIANA*

27) DALL SHEEP: Our most plentiful sheep, found in Alaska, Northwest Territories, British Columbia and Yukon. A white sheep with Amber horns. *OVIS DALLI DALLI*

28) STONE SHEEP: Strikingly beautiful they are found from the Peace river in the northern rockies to the central Yukon. The Chadwick Ram considered by many the number one trophy in the world is a Stone sheep. It is the logo of our Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. *OVIS DALLI STONEI*

29) DESERT BIGHORN: Three subspecies are classified together for the record book. This is the ram that keeps most from getting the "GRAND SLAM", there is a drawing in 6 western states, but the odds are poor. They can also be hunted on 3 Indian Reservations, as well as 3 Mexican states. *OVIS CANADENSIS NELSONI*, *O.C. CREMNOBATUS*, *O.C. MEXICANUS*

If reading this has inspired you to hunt the sheep of the world remember the old adage "THOSE WHO THINK THEY'RE RICH HUNT AFRICA - THOSE THAT ARE HUNT SHEEP !"

OUR THANKS TO VANCE CORRIGAN OF "THE HUNTING CONSULTANTS" for this material. Visit with Vance about hunting the "SHEEP OF THE WORLD" at 307-527-4235.

There are many possible interpretations of the Genus, Species and Subspecies. Use this as a start to your research.





Sheep of the World

- 1) MARCO POLO SHEEP: Good huntable populations exist in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and China. OVIS AMMON POLII
- 2) KARAGANADA ARGALI: Found only in northern Kazakhstan, they provide a hunt over relatively easy sheep terrain. OVIS AMMON KARELINI
- 3) TRANSCASPIAN URIAL: A beautiful sheep with a snow-white bib on its neck. Found in good numbers in Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. OVIS VIGNEI ARKAL
- 4) AFGHAN URIAL: A small reddish buff sheep hunted in Turkmenistan along the border with Afghanistan. Also found but not huntable at this time in Afghanistan. OVIS VIGNEI CYCLOCEROS
- 5) SEVERTZOV URIAL: Found in Uzbekistan only a hand full of these sheep have been taken in the last 100 years (you are going to have a tough time getting this license). OVIS VIGNEI SEVERTZOV
- 6) SIBERIAN SNOW SHEEP: Really 3 sub-species for record book keeping purposes. Widely distributed and hunted in various areas of the Russian Far East. OVIS NIVICOLA LYDEKKERI, ALLENI and KORIAKORUM
- 7) KAMCHATKA BIGHORN: This is the largest of the snow sheep that looks similar to our bighorns. They're hunted on the Kamchatka Peninsula at 3000 to 4000 feet. OVIS NIVICOLA NIVICOLA
- 8) PUTORANA SNOW SHEEP: A very little known sheep even to scientists from Russia. Huntable only with a museum permit and found in the Putorana mountains. OVIS NIVIVOLA VOREALIS
- 9) KARA TAU ARGALI: Huntable only with a scientific permit, but as an American you can't bring him home anyway. OVIS

AMMON NIGRIMONTANA

10) GOBI ARGALI: Found over large area of southern Mongolia. You will need a Presidential permit but should be able to expect horns in the 49" to 51" class. OVIS AMMON DARWINI

11) ALTAI ARGALI: The worlds largest sheep with the most massive horns, the world record measured over 71". The Altai mountains of Mongolia is the primary range but they are also found the the northern Xinjiang area of China. OVIS AMMON AMMON

12) TIAN SHAN ARGALI: A large Beautiful sheep found in the Tian Shan mountains of China northward into Kyrgyzstan. OVIS AMMON KARELINI

13) LITLEDALE ARGALI: Named after British sportsman George Littledale. Distribution limited to a small range east of the Tian Shan mountains in Northern China. One of the rarest sheep taken by western sportsmen. OVIS AMMON LITTADALI

14) SAIR MOUNTAIN ARGALI: Found in eastern Kazakhstan and northern Xinjiang, it is a uniformly reddish sheep with a white neck ruff and is the smallest of the argalis. OVIS AMMON SARENSIS

15) GANSU ARGALI: Found in the Gansu province of northern China and can be hunted at the same time as Blue Sheep. OVIS AMMON DALILAMAI

16) TIBETAN BLUE SHEEP: Also called the Chinese Bharal and is some what smaller and lighter than the Himalayan Blue Sheep. PSEUDOIS NAYAUR SZECHUNENSIS

17) HIMALAYAN BLUE SHEEP: This bluish grey sheep with black and white markings is striking in appearance. Its home in the high Himalayas is some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. PSEUDOIS



Member Jack Connolly with his Great Stone Ram.

In 1993 I booked a stone sheep hunt for August 1994 with Dalziel Hunting Ltd. (Myles and Sherry Bradford) of Northern British Columbia. In May of 1994 I suffered a heart attack and had five by-passes. I thought I would have to postpone my hunt, but after talking to Sherry Bradford she assured me, I would be able to handle the hunt. Tim Mervyn & Delvin Bradford were my guides. As you can see, I did well with their help. The ram measured 42 7/8 on the left horn and 41 2/8 on the right. This gets me in the three year Boone & Crockett book with a score of 165 1/8.

Jack Connolly



Kevin Hurley receiving National's State Statesman Award in Philadelphia from President Dan Podrotti.
Congratualtions Kevin!

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Big Piney, WY 83113
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The following was submitted from member Mike Schooler who purchased this hunt at the 1996 convention.

My hunt started 26 years ago at age 16 watching American Sportsman. They were grizzly hunting and I decided I was going to hunt bears.

My first bear was a black taken in 1974 in New Brunswick, Canada. In 1997 I shot a grizzly in British Columbia, Canada. From 1978 to 1997 the Brown Bear of Alaska were a dream and desire.

A friend of mine in Wyoming, Jim Collins told me of the hunt Wyoming Chapter had for sale. I had met Jim Baum of Alaska Wilderness Trophies, who donated the hunt, a year earlier. If you can imagine an Alaskan, Wyomingite and Kansan getting something put together, it was a miracle.

I left Kansas April 14 and arrived in Anchorage around 11:00 pm. We got all the paper work out of the way that night. I don't think I slept at all.

We left Anchorage the next morning in a loaded up Super Cub and headed for bear country. We flew around looking for dens for 4-5 hours. Jim spotted a den with no tracks leaving the area. Trying to spot a den to a Kansan is like trying to find Mushrooms back home. We landed the plane about a mile and a half from the den site and set up camp. Camp consisted of setting up a tent and unloading the plane. I had never camped in deep snow before, it was quite an experience.

Next morning we put on our snow shoes and walked the 1 1/2 miles. We set up about 140 yards from the den. Around noon I spotted a head at the den. A

beautiful blonde 3 year old cub came out followed by another and then the sow. That was quite a sight but not what we were after. We walked back and loaded everything into the plane and started looking for dens. Later that afternoon we spotted another den. 7:00 am the next morning found us outside the den. Around 11:00 Jim said something didn't look right. About 50 yards from us Jim had found tracks for about a mile and spotted the 8 1/2 foot bear in a patch of alders. He was about 300 yards away and never gave us a good



shot all day. I was starting to get a little discouraged. Saturday afternoon we loaded up the plane and started looking for another den. We finally spotted a den, landed and camped in the snow again.

Next morning, we set up 200 yards from the den and spotted another place where the bear had been digging. After an hour I spotted the bear in some alders laying down, but was unable to get a clear shot. Moving left, I found a clear shot and was setting up my 340 Weatherby on top of my backpack when the bear must have heard Jim coming up and jumped, heading for the top of the hill.

I only had one spot, 10 yards long, open enough for a shot. The bear got to the spot, slowing down just enough for me to shoot. I hit him clean through both shoulders and he was dead before he hit the ground. He slid down the hill about 100 yards and hung up in some alders. It took me about half an hour to climb to the spot and then drag the bear and myself down the hill. After the pictures, the work began. What a trip that was busting thru the snow up the hill back to the plane. We made it but at times I started to wonder if it was worth it.

Next morning we took the hide to the taxidermist, it was over 8' with a beautiful blonde and dark hide. What a hunt and the scenery was indescribable.

On the jet heading home Monday it hit me. The dream that had started at 16 was over I had gotten my three bears. What a hunt, one that I will always cherish. Thanks to Jim Baum I had a great time.

One tip for anyone thinking of a spring bear hunt. Get in SHAPE. I learned to love and hate snowshoes at the same time.



We encourage all our members and readers to
join our parent organization!
**The FOUNDATION FOR NORTH
AMERICAN WILD SHEEP**

Use the membership form on the back page to lend your support.

YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored By The Foundation For North
American Wild Sheep

National FNAWS is once again sponsoring their annual Youth Essay Contest. The topic for this year's essay is "Should Wildlife Management Be Controlled By The Ballot Box". Contestants need not be FNAWS members, but must be between the ages of 16-19 on or before August 15th, 1998.

The winner will receive a fully donated 7 day caribou hunt in the Mackenzie Mountains, N.W.T., Canada, with Arctic Red River Outfitters. Let's have a Wyoming youth win this hunt this year.

For more information contact: Jim Collins 307-234-9597

ROCK SPRINGS CONVENTION

The December Convention, December 5 & 6, 1997, looks to hold the promise to be the best ever for the Chapter. The Chapter will for the first time have booths and booth spaces are going fast. We are having an expanded speaker lineup for both men and ladies on the afternoon of the 6th. The ladies start at 11:00 am with a bead jewelry making demonstration, followed at 1:00 with a spice and herb seminar, 2:00 a History of the Sheep Eater Indians and a repeat of the popular wine and cheese seminar at 3:00. The men's schedule will start after the business meeting at 1:00 and include a ram scoring seminar, high altitude health problems facing sheep hunters, and the last hour we will hear about the health of our big-horn sheep herds.

The cocktail hour will start at 5:00 followed by the banquet and auction. Look for your member notification coming in early November for the full lineup.

SEE YA THERE!



P. O. Box 4178
601 North Highway 189
Marbleton, Wyoming 83113
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
Owner: Rod Bennett



PRESCIBED FIRE HELPS SOUTH FORK SHOSHONE SHEEP

by Bart Kroger

Bighorn sheep spending the winter on the upper Southfork Shoshone River, 35 miles southwest of Cody, can expect to see improved habitat conditions thanks to efforts and financial support from both the state and National Chapters of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, and the Shoshone National Forest. These improved habitat conditions were just part of a multi-facet project aimed at enhancing the survival and health of Bighorn sheep on the Southfork.

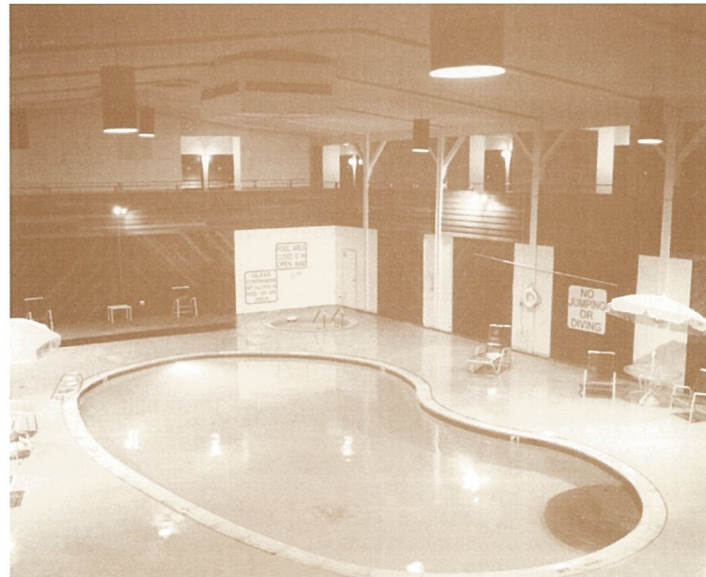
During the early 1980's the Wyoming Game & Fish Department recognized the potential for problems among sheep wintering on the Southfork. Since that time several University of Wyoming studies were conducted, livestock grazing was shifted, fences were removed, information signs were installed and land exchanges were completed. All these projects have helped maintain and enhance Bighorn sheep survival. But one thing

was still missing - FIRE!

After nearly 15 years of planning, developing and negotiating, prescribed fire was finally used during the fall 1996 and spring 1997 to improve approximately 400 acres of this Bighorn sheep winter graze range. The burning was used to reduce sagebrush and juniper which has steadily increased in the past 70 years. These shrubs and conifers were outcompeting many of the native grass and for plants which are important food items for sheep during the winter. The burns will help increase the quality and quantity of herbaceous forage, allow the sheep to move around freely between foraging areas, and overall help in maintaining the health and survival of this important sheep herd.

Great strides have been made in reducing conflicts among sheep and their habitat on the Southfork thanks to the effort, support and funding of many participants. I know for one thing certain, the Bighorn sheep of the Southfork also thank you.

SEE YOU AT THE *INN OF ROCK SPRINGS* December 5 & 6, 1997 Banquet/Auction



Call To Arms



We need members' help with:

- 1.) Hunting pictures and stories.
- 2.) Auction items and door prizes for Rock Springs.
3. Sponsors for coffee and events at Rock Springs.
4. Ad sales for newsletter.
- 5.) The chapter needs your shed antlers: Call Mike Mohr 307-577-7218.
- 6.) Help Friday December 5th for auction setup.
- 7.) Help recruiting new members and life members.
- 8.) Our first BYOH weekend (bring your own horse) a day ride to see the transplant area at Owl Creek. Kevin Hurley will be our guide. See details on page 6.
- 9.) Help installing the guzzler we funded on the Ferris Mountains. See details on page 11.
- 10.) Help with tank and pipe line once the well at Red Creek is completed.

If you are interested in the last 3 projects or can help with any of the above problems, please call Jim Collins (307) 234-9597 or Cole Benton (307) 736-2277.

PHOTO CONTEST

Once again you have the opportunity to pay for your auction bidding at Rock Springs, December 6th with your winnings from photo contest. Auction credit will be given for the top 3 photos judged by the attendees.

Photos must be 8X10 or larger and matted, not framed to be entered.

Start going through your photo's now and good luck with the people's choice judges!



Director Mike Mohr and his brother Matt with two near book antelope taken in the Red Desert





President's Thoughts

ATTENDANCE

It brings new ideas, new enthusiasm, new guidance, a part of belonging, its great for Wyoming wildlife, and sure beats TV for your family. It's your choice! We want you.

The chapter has set an unprecedented funding pace! We have committed funds for 1997 nearly equaling half of all funding in the Chapter's history. The need is there. The Bighorn funding requests are going to keep coming. We, as your board, need to improve on our funding evaluation procedures, because the requests are going to continue to be larger than the funding account.

As your President I am extremely lucky to have the hard working board I have, but the board can only be as good as its member's participation. WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Help in Guidance, Fund Raising, Priorities and Fund Dispersals.

I personally invite each member to attend the Board meetings as well as request all chapter minutes. If you would like notice of the board meetings or copies of the minutes, please contact myself or your secretary.

DO YOUR PART!

I want to thank Jay Lawson, chief Game Warden with the Game and Fish, for his leadership in starting the Bighorn task force. With bringing the G&F expert "sheep guys" to one table, we are started down the road asking questions. With these questions will come answers.

Jim Collins



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**Watch for Outlaw Guiding &
Outfitting's Alberta fishing
trip to hit the auction block
in Rock Springs!**

FINAL TOUCHES PUT ON BYOH WEEKEND

Kevin Hurley announced the final plans for the Bring Your Own Horse Weekend (BYOH) at the Summer Meeting in Thermopolis.

We are to meet at the Twin Lakes camp grounds Friday, July 25 at 4:00 pm. You need to bring your own horse, camping gear, groceries, etc., and certified weed free hay or cubes for your horses.

We will take a day ride on Saturday, July 26th, to see the area where we hope to introduce Bighorns with the January transplant from the South Fork of the Shoshone. We will see where the sheep will be loaded on the helicopter and where they will be released. We will return to the Twin Lakes camp site for a night of camaraderie with mid-morning departure for home on Sunday, July 27th.

Your board has worked hard to get you a hands on project. Here you are, let's all take advantage of the opportunity.

For more information and a map call Kevin Hurley at 864-9375 or Jim Collins at 234-9597.

FERRIS MOUNTAINS

No horse needed here for your hands on project. Your Chapter funded water guzzler to be insalled on Ferris Mountains (located north of Rawlins) in late July or August. You need a stout pair of legs and the rest is up to you! We are waiting for a date commitment from the Army National Guard to helicopter the guzzler to the installation site. Your help is needed to do the dirty work installing it. Call Jim Collins 234-9597 to be kept informed of the time schedule.

WYOMING CHAPTER'S FINANCIAL REPORT as of 6/8/97

Assets	
CD	9,257.29
CD	3,237.93
CD	6,624.79
CHECKING	15,181.49
PETTY CASH	0.00
MONEY MARKET	40,458.15
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	74,759.65
 TOTAL ASSETS	<u>74,759.65</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	
BH SHEEP CENTER	3,000
LIFE MEMBER TRUST	7,200
OWL CREEK TRANSPORT	11,200
RED CREEK WELL	10,000
REWARD FUND	5,000
WHISKEY DITCH	7,000
AREA 24 POP. SURVEY	2,500
ALASKAN WOLF REFERENDUM	2,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	47,9000

EQUITY	26,859.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	74,759.65

ASPEN GROVE RANCH OUTFITTERS

Fred Neuman
110 E. Brooks
Rawlins, WY 82301
307-324-2310

Pete Johnson
54 E. El Rancho Rd.
Wheatland, WY
307-322-4231



BE THE LUCKY BIDDER on Wind River Mountain Outfitters 3rd annual FNAWS fishing pack trip at the Rock Springs Convention.



**MT. LION
SHEEP
MOOSE
ELK - DEER**



H. FRITZ MEYER
WIND RIVER
MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS
Box 5
Dubois, Wyoming 82513
Ph. 307-455-2464





The Rut

Bighorns start the rut in late November, with the peak between December 15 and 21, tapering off to end in January



Dave Steger with lion taken with Wind River Mountain Outfitters

Bill Richard's Montana ram

	Right	Left	Difference
Length	39 1/8	37 5/8	
Base	16 5/8	16 5/8	
1st	15 5/8	15 4/8	1/8
2nd	13 3/8	13 3/8	
3rd	8 4/8	8 5/8	1/8
Total	93 2/8	91 6/8	2/8
	185 0/8		
	2/8		
	184 6/8 Official		

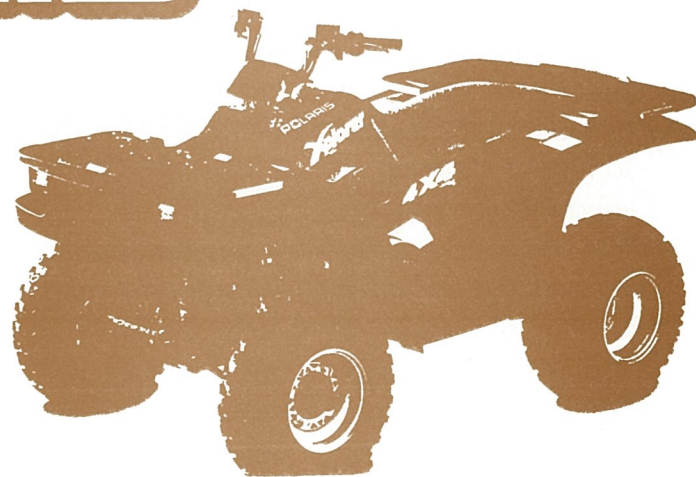
Be sure and join us at the ram judging seminar, by Duncan Gilchrist, December 6th at the Inn of Rock Springs.

Dave Steger is one of the Chapter's FOUNDERS, a Past President and Life Member, and now a Commissioner on the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission, where he has donated a Commissioner license to the Chapter each year. He has been a loyal supporter since helping found the Chapter.

POLARIS

Xplorer 300

- 283cc air-cooled, oil injected, 2-stroke engine
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Wyoming Chapter thanks Brown Co. and Polaris for partially donating the Grand Prize Raffle - an Xplorer 300. 1st prize is a 1/4 Wyoming-fed beef, 2nd prize is a compound bow and 3rd prize is a framed print by Director Mike Mohr. Tickets are \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100. Tickets will be limited to 600 sold, a one in 150 chance of winning.

WYOMING CHAPTER'S YOUNGEST LIFE MEMBER

Vince Allegra at age 18, becomes the Chapter's youngest life member #23. Sam Pancotto, Vince's Granddad, in giving Vince this life membership, likens it to passing the "TORCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION."

Vince was SCI young hunter award winner in 1992. Winner of 23 Gold medals in Junior Olympic Swimming.

WYOMING CHAPTER'S LIFE MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| #1 Ron Ball | 3/88 |
| #2 Jeff Reynolds | 1989 |
| #3 Dave Steger | 1989 |
| #4 Don Schmalz | 1989 |
| #5 Harry Whyel | 11/89 |
| #6 Freddie Goetz | 1990 |
| #7 Gene Hardy | 1991 |
| #8 Hale Kreycik | 6/91 |
| #9 Dr. R.D. Keeler | 6/91 |
| #10 Jim Collins | 6/91 |
| #11 Mike Martin | 11/91 |
| #12 Jack Hildner | 1992 |
| #13 Kent Stevinson | 1992 |
| #14 Fritz Meyer | 11/92 |
| #15 Kathy Gay | 12/92 |
| #16 Keith West | 6/93 |
| #17 Lud Kroner | 2/96 |
| #18 Serge d'Elia | 12/96 |
| #19 Terry Marcum | 3/2/97 |
| #20 Kevin Hurley | 3/3/97 |
| #21 Craig Pitters | 3/16/97 |
| #22 Sam Pancotto | 3/22/97 |
| #23 Vince Allegra | 3/22/97 |
| #24 Dirk Edgington | 4/15/97 |
| #25 Cindy Reynolds | 6/7/97 |

SHEEP JUDGING SEMINAR

Duncan Gilchrist will give a one hour seminar on ram trophy judging at the Rock Springs Convention December 6, 1997. Guess the score of the ram below, taken by Bill Richard with his Bob Lee recurve bow. (Score on page 10) Join us and then test your skill at the Happy Hour in Rock Springs.



Bill Richard and Duncan Gilchrist

"Before A Standing Army Can Rule, The People Must Be Disarmed; As They Are In Almost Every Kingdom In Europe. The Supreme Power In America Cannot Enforce Unjust Laws By The Sword; Because The Whole Body Of The People Are Armed."

- Noah Webster, Author, American Dictionary



News Flash!

If you missed the Chapter's Super Fun Summer Meeting You Missed A Lot!

We gathered at the Holiday Inn of the Waters at Thermopolis at Noon, June 7th, facing the choice of joining the fly fishing seminar or the annual Chapter shoot-off. Both events were well attended. Reggie Treese of Bighorn River outfitters was gracious and donated his time and talents to conduct the fly fishing clinic attended by about 10 members. The annual shoot had a record turnout with the competition being, well, almost ferocious. Ernie Reynolds won the Rifle shoot, with Fritz Meyer winning the trap shooting competition. After a marathon Shoot-off, Fritz was declared the overall Champion for 1997. Thanks to Kevin Hurley for lining up the shooting club for our use.

The business meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by President Jim Collins. After tying up some of the Chapters loose ends we moved right to funding. The funding requests were at a record level with over \$100,000 requested. The board made its recommendation to the membership and after going clear through the recommendations funded: \$7,000

for PVC pipe to replace ditch at Whiskey Basin, \$2,500 for an August helicopter survey of sheep area 24 to confirm that the unit will sustain continued hunting. We funded \$200 for educational video tapes, \$500 for technical report from the Whiskey Basin technical committee for distribution, \$365 for the highway sign all for the Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center in Dubois, \$5000 toward purchase of Poison Creek property in the Hoback Canyon for sheep habitat, \$2000 toward the referendum lawsuit banning all wolf control from the air in Alaska. This brings the total of committed funds

for the year to \$41,900, which nearly equals half of the total funded in the last 10 years. We need to gently improve our fund raising if we are to continue at this rate.

The meeting ended with the enjoyment of the wine and cheese hour sponsored by the Holiday. Dinner started at 6:00 and with the large turn out, extra tables had to be added. The attendance nearly doubled from last year.

The Chapter held a drawing to reward one of the hard working ladies from the Little America convention. Bonnie Hildner is well deserving of the tuition to the Whiskey Basin "Becoming An Outdoor Woman Camp" congratulations and thanks for all your hard work Bonnie.



Elaine Benton served birthday cake to all, in honor of our aging Vice President Cole Benton. Congratulations Cole on another birthday, and special thanks to Elaine for the great cake, droppings included.

A ram scoring contest was held at the dinner. Judging from the "educated guesses" many will benefit from the scoring seminar to be held at the winter meeting. Ernie Reynolds had the winning score 160 2/8 with a real score of 160 7/8.

The evening program concluded with Tim Fagan reporting on THEFT of our Bighorns from poaching and Pat Hwilicka's report on the ewe pregnancy test the Chapter funded on the Whiskey Basin Herd.

NO rest for the wicked! Sunday started early with a tour of the Wind River Canyon where we helped transplant 43 Sheep in 1994? About 20 of our eagle eyed members glassed for sheep under the direction of Kevin Hurley. Even aided by radio collars and directional equipment, we had to admit we could hear the signal but could not find the sheep.

10:30 am found 15 of our most daring members at the doors of Wind River White Water Rafters! We embarked on a grand adventure on the Wind River, and proved ourselves up to the rapids ahead. The journey started when we boarded the rafts and a water fight in calm water earned us the title of being the group to get wet earliest of this year's clients. Unanimously it was agreed regardless of age and gender, which varied greatly, we would all go white water rafting again SOON! GREAT FUN! Thanks to Darren Calhoun and all the staff of Wind River Canyon White Water.

Paul Weimer and family from Burlington, Iowa, attended and are making plans for next years meeting, many of us don't have near the drive to join the fun, make plans to join in the festivities next year!

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