

# Wyoming Chapter

## Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

Volume 5 Winter 1996 - 97 Number 1

### CHAPTER NEWS

The 13th annual winter banquet / auction at Cheyenne Little America is nostalgic history. With a changed format, fun was had by all. This year, instead of an all day business meeting, three afternoon hours of entertaining information was offered to the sheep enthusiast and two hours of entertainment was provided for the ladies.

Starting early Friday morning the board and interested members met to tie up a few last minute details, and then went right to work on funding requests for 1997. After a long question and answer session, the board voted its recommendation to accept or reject each funding request for consideration, by the membership, at the general business meeting Saturday. Following the board meeting many hard working volunteers cataloged the auction items and prepared for the upcoming event. When the work was done we kicked back for a general BS session complete with finger food and cocktails, a well earned reward.

Saturday started with the business meeting at 9:00 a.m. Two bylaw changes were first on the agenda: (1) The fiscal year will be changed to end April 30th to allow for better accounting of the December fund raiser. (2) Checks in the operating account will require only one signature of the president, secretary, or treasurer, we also plan to move most of the funds out of the operating account into an interest bearing money market account, which will require two of the officers' signatures on all

checks as well as all other accounts including CD's. Both changes passed unanimously.

National FNAWS mandated that no chapter could fund any funding request without their first having OK'D it. After discussion it was decided that this was not something we could live with. It was agreed we will notify National of all funding within 15 days. National has agreed to address this issue at the next National-Chapter meeting.

Helen McCracken gave a report on the Becoming an Outdoor Woman program that we have helped fund the last two years. Fifty-three were in attendance at the Whiskey Mountain camp, 3 more than the 50 full attendance. She reported that 150-200 participants could have been booked if space had permitted. WY FNAWS again showed its support for this great program by committing to 6-\$50 scholarships.

Mary Reed from Rawlins BLM made a funding request for a guzzler on the Ferris Mountains.

The board made its recommendations on funding requests at this time and after many good pointed questions the membership voted to fund: (1) \$10,000 in cost sharing on the Red Creek well requested by Sue Oberlie of the Lander BLM office. The well is going to be located on potential winter range for the Whiskey Mountain herd. (2) \$440 for teacher packet production and \$395 for educational program brochures in response to a funding request from June Sampson from the National Bighorn Interpretive Center. (3) Mary Reed's request for a



Freddie L. Goetz \*\*\*  
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### Membership Application

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- \$1,000 - 1 year Corporate Supporting Membership

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





### CHAPTER NEWS continued . . .

water guzzler to help alleviate stress to bighorn ewes and lambs on the Ferris Mountains was OK'D to cost share with the Wyoming Game and Fish up to \$2,000 on the project. (4) Helen McCracken request for \$300 in scholarships to Becoming an Outdoor Woman was also OK'd. (5) We also reaffirmed our commitment to the Owl Creek transplant for \$11,200 scheduled to begin January 1998. Total commitments of \$24,335 for 1997 so far on top of the \$5,000 reward money held.

Elections were held with results of your new board being: President: Jim Collins, Vice President: Cole Benton, Secretary: Nancy Collins, Treasurer: Jay Reddon, Two Year Directors: Carl Asbell and Randy Taylor. Fritz Meyer was elected to a year director term, with Mike Mohr having one year left on his Director term. Ron Ball is Past President.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:50 for lunch.

Duncan Gilchrist lead off the afternoon entertainment with a slide show on monster rams of North America. The stuff every sheep hunter's dreams are made of! Following Duncan, Peter Kummerfeldt gave a talk and slide presentation on wilderness and high altitude survival. Many of the points that Peter brought up pertained directly to sheep hunting, and should make us better equipped for safe hunting. The last hour was a run down on the 16 sheep herds in the state, updates on the South Fork Shoshone prescribed burn, a report on the any ram areas, and results of harvest over the last 5 years, and finally Valerius Geist tour of the Wind River Range to assess the present and future of the sheep herd. Mr. Geist, from British Columbia, is recognized as the world's foremost authority on bighorns. Thanks to Kevin Hurley, Doug McWhirter and Bart Kroger from the Wyoming Game and Fish for this great hour.

Nearing the end of the information program, the ladies' wine seminar put on by Terry Ranch Cellars let out, and from the noise in the hall there was no doubt as to its success!

The happy hour and banquet started at 5:00 featuring many new and exciting activities, the Hi-Low game and M+M guess for the kids being stand outs.


Mr. Larry Brannian and Mr. Dan Gay did an outstanding job as auctioneers and made the evening! THANKS GUYS!

Fritz Meyer won the pistol in one of the card raffles, with Bree Collins winning the earrings in the other. The 50 cents raffle shotgun was won by Croban Ball. Serge d'Elia of Casper walked away with the grand raffle prize of a 1996 Arctic Cat Powder Special Snowmobile. Congratulations, Serge. Serge is our newest Life Member.


The Bighorn is one of Wyoming's most prized trophies. It seems reasonable to believe that an animal so valued and esteemed by sportsman the world over, will pay ample dividends on any capital invested for increasing their numbers.

**DUES**



Please note your address label on this newsletter. If there is one check mark, it means your 1997 dues are now due. If there are two red check marks it means both 1997 and 1996 dues are due. Please send your dues to: Nancy Collins, Secretary, Box 125 Chugwater, WY 82210.



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### Call To Arms



We need each members help:

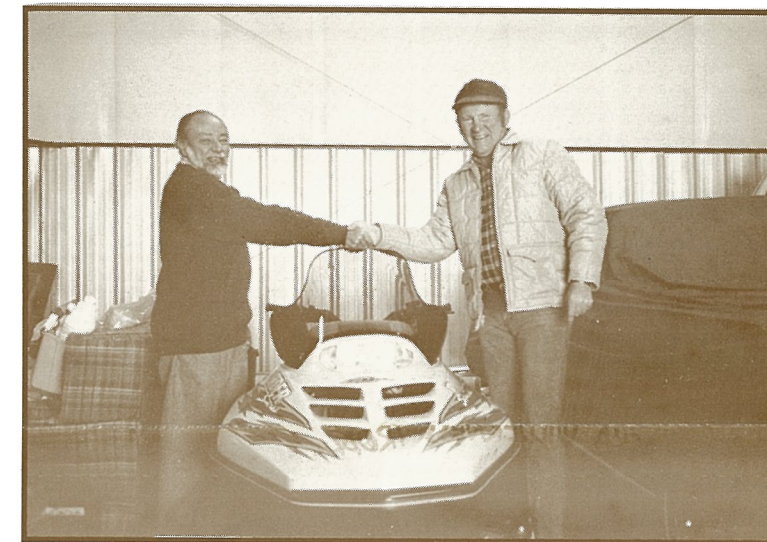
- 1) Hunting pictures and stories
- 2) Auction items and door prizes for Rock Springs
- 3) Sponsors for coffee and events at Rock Springs
- 4) Ad sales for newsletter
- 5) Help finding booth vendors for Rock Springs
- 6) Trophies for display at Rock Springs
- 7) Help recruiting new members and life members
- 8) Our first BYOH weekend (bring your own horse) a two day ride to see the transplant area at Owl Creek. Kevin Hurley will be our guide
- 9) Help installing the guzzler we funded on the Ferris Mountains
- 10) Help with tank and pipe line once the well at Red Creek is completed

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



### BYOH WEEKEND

Wyoming Chapter is pleased to announce our first BYOH (bring your own horse) weekend. Kevin Hurley has invited all interested members on a two day ride to visit the North Fork of Owl Creek, site of the sheep



Serge d'Elia was the winner of the Arctic Cat Raffle

transplant scheduled to begin January 1998. The dates have not yet been set, but are likely to be in late July or early August, 1997. Interested parties are asked to contact Kevin at 864-9375 so an approximate head count can be made. Final details will be available by the summer meeting in Thermopolis on June 7th. Tentatively here's what we are looking at:

- 1) Everyone will need to bring their own horse, camping gear, groceries, etc.
- 2) Plan on two separate day rides (Cottonwood Peak/Sugarloaf Peak Ridge and the head of the South Fork of the North Fork of Owl Creek) from a common camping area near Twin Lakes/Wind River Stock Drive Trailhead area.
- 3) Weed free hay is required on the Shoshoni National Forest where we will be camping.

DON'T MISS THE FUN!

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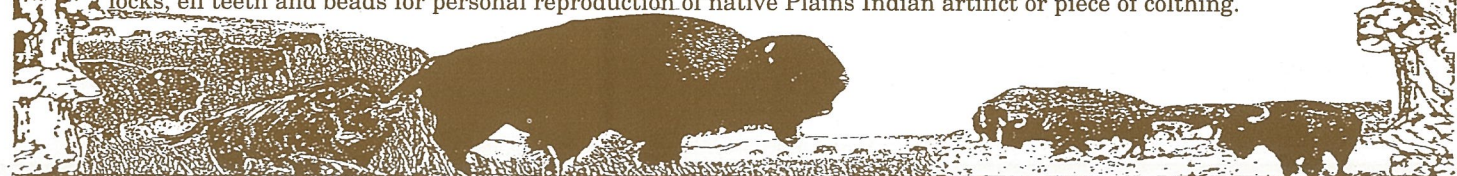
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1935 will go down in history! For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration! Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient and the world will follow our lead into the future.

ADOLF HITLER

House Bill HB0021: now being considered would allow for possession but not sale of pickup sheep horns.


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MC's Jack and Mike Hildner look on as Bree Ann Hildner draws the card raffle.



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What Smoky The Bear has failed to realize is that his own habitat, in which he lives, is dependent on fire. The food he eats, the trees that provide him shelter, and the arrangement of his living space has evolved with fire.

In 1944 Desert Bighorns from Nevada were released in the Sweetwater Rocks. None survived.



Bree Collins is beaming after winning the diamond earrings.



Dubbed the first annual FNAWS pack trip by those in attendance, a great time was had by all. Pictured: Elaine Benton, Cole Benton and the Hosts Fritz and Connie Meyer, Wind River Mountain Outfitters. Plans are now in the works for the second annual "FNAWS pack trip" destination Dunoir.



**SIMPSON LAKE**

Elaine Benton purchased this great fishing get away, donated by long-time supporters Fritz and Connie Meyer, at the 1995 auction. A total of twelve spent four days and three nights in the majestic Wind River Mountains. The fishing was so good that all but one hook was cut off the treble hooks!

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF WYOMING CHAPTER F.N.A.W.S.**

Jim Collins, President  
 Sand Creek Ranch  
 Alcova, WY 82620  
 307-234-9597

Cole Benton, Vice President  
 1230 Noma Drive  
 Buffalo, WY 82834  
 307-736-2277

Nancy Collins, Secretary  
 Box 125  
 Chugwater, WY 82210  
 307-422-3415

Jay Reddon, Treasurer  
 111 North 3rd East  
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New member Jack Morgan with a great ram taken in Area 5.

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**Tribute**

Wyoming Chapter owes much of what we are today to our out going officers. Ron Ball, Jack Hildner, Freddie Goetz and Jennifer Ball and their families have taken this Foundation from its infancy and have guided it to what we are today.

The Chapter's ability to fund over \$100,000 in sheep projects since 1988 is in great part due to the hard work of these dedicated families. The future is also bright knowing they are just as dedicated and willing to pitch in any time the Chapter needs them.

No words can express our thanks for their dedication!

How can you help Wyoming Bighorns?  
Answer: Become a Life member. Life Membership is only \$300.

**ATTENTION:**

Wyoming resident sheep, moose and goat application deadlines have been moved up to March 31st. Don't miss out!

**THANKS**

It takes a lot of special people to put on a banquet and fund raiser. Our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone who helped!

**DOUBLE THANKS**

Our donors are what makes this Foundation run. A very large portion of the funding is paid for through their generosity. Please patronize them each and every chance!

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**David Horsley**



6 1/2 foot Black Bear



Over loaded Vice President Cole Benton



Vice President Cole Benton's very successful Alaskan adventure: Ram is 10 1/2 years old.





## President's Thoughts

In today's climate it is easy to feel down trodden as a hunter and gun owner. One only has to look at the past and into the future of game management to have great hope.

I have recently come across a 1942 Wyoming Game and Fish pamphlet titled "A WYOMING BIGHORN SHEEP STUDY" and I realize the great distance we have come, and after visiting with many of you at the convention, I realize the great possibilities for the future.

From the 1942 study I quote, "The 2500 mountain sheep that exist in Wyoming today, represent only a small portion of the vast numbers once found in the state." Kevin Hurley's census report gave the 1996 state's bighorn numbers in Wyoming at 6,200, two and one half times in just 50 years! The possibilities for the next 50 years are limited only by our effort and support. Our kids and grandkids might very well have a great chance at the permit we covet!

On a personal note, I am proud to be your new president. I am in awe of the job past president and co-founder Ron Ball has done in his last two terms. I will do my best to fill his shoes and I will depend on all of you for support and direction.

JIM COLLINS



Auctioneers Larry Brannian and Dan Gay made for a lively evening at our Cheyenne Banquet.



President Ron Ball awarding Kevin Hurley engraved canteen bags in recognition of winning the State Statesman Award.

Congratulations are in order for Kevin Hurley, nominated by Wyoming Chapter, winner of the National State Statesman Award. Kevin's dedication and passion for Bighorns is unparalleled. Kevin definitely deserves this prestigious award. We are very lucky to have Kevin working for Wyoming's sheep.



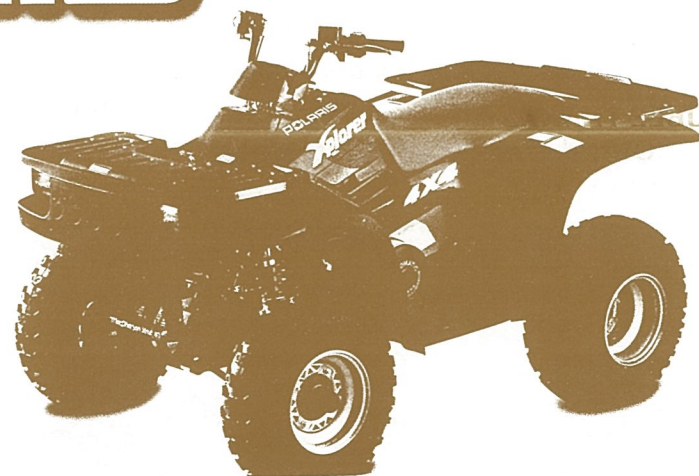
President elect Jim Collins presenting a plaque in recognition of years of outstanding service to Ron Ball.

House Bill HB0051: Now being considered changes the current "Preference Point" system for Moose, Sheep, and Goat to a "Bonus Point" System.

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Wyoming Chapter thanks Brown Co. and Polaris for partially donating the Grand Prize Raffle a 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. Ticket are \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100. Tickets will be limited to 600 sold, a one in 150 chance of winning.

## WY FNAWS Cash on Hand

\$75,330. ALL ACCOUNTS  
\$40,785. ALL COMMITMENTS  
\$34,545. FUNDS AVAILABLE

Due to the change in fiscal year, The Wyoming Chapter Balance Sheet will start appearing in the summer newsletter. Above is where we stand as of January 14th, 1997. The full balance accounting will be in the next newsletter.

A 1942 estimate of sheep in the Wind River Mountains was 500. The 1996 estimate is 950.

1,894 Bighorns have been trapped at Whiskey Basin. 1,489 transplanted in Wyoming, 389 out of state.

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## Announcing WY FNAWS Super Summer Meeting

This year's summer meeting will, once again, be held at the Holiday Inn of the Waters in Thermopolis. On June 7th we will meet at noon, just prior to the annual shoot but this year you have a choice. During the shoot we are offering a fly fishing clinic for those interested. The clinic will be held on the lawn of the Holiday Inn, moving to the Bighorn River to see what you have learned. You will need to be in possession of a 1997 fishing license. After the fly fishing clinic and annual shoot, we will hold a business meeting until 5:00 when the Holiday is again sponsoring a wine and cheese party for us. Moving to the dining room we will hold a dinner meeting which will include a ram scoring contest. Kevin Hurley has again graciously offered to talk on bighorns, also Tim Fagan will talk on sheep enforcement problems.

Starting early Sunday morning those interested can enjoy a guided tour given by Kevin Hurley, of the Wind River Canyon Bighorns we helped transplant. For those staying behind we are offering special rates on many of the local attractions, The Dinosaur Center, The Hot Springs Water Park Swimming and free use of the Holiday's gym and racquetball court, to name a few. We have also made arrangements with Pete Calhoun for a white water raft trip in the upper canyon lasting about 2 1/2 hours leaving Thermopolis at 10:00, provided we have enough interest.

We have a block of rooms reserved at a special rate until May 23rd, to get the discount you must book under FNAWS. Check-in time is 3:00 and we have a noon check-out. Book early because the Holiday fills up at this time of year.

Plan on attending now, we look forward to seeing you all at THE SUMMER FUN WEEKEND!



Fritz Meyer shooting at 1996 Annual Shoot Off in Thermopolis.



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## 14th Annual Banquet and Auction December 6, 1997

Friday, December 5th at the Inn of Rock Springs an exciting line up will start with a board meeting, including all interested members, to hear funding requests for 1998. Then we will prepare for the auction on Saturday the 6th.

We will begin Saturday at 9:00 a.m. with a general business meeting. Topics will include funding and the election of two board members. Tentatively at 1:00 p.m. Duncan Gilchrist will give a presentation on judging sheep in the wild, followed by Peter Kummerfeldt talking on environmental health problems facing the high altitude hunter. The final hour will include talks from the Wyoming Game and Fish on the health of our bighorn herds and enforcement problems with bighorns.

We have greatly expanded the tentative program for the ladies starting at 11:00 a.m. with a bead jewelry making demonstration. Following lunch will be a spice and herb seminar, a history of the sheepstealer Indians in Wyoming, and ending with a wine and cheese seminar.

Cocktails will start at 5:00 p.m. followed by the banquet and auction. This year we will also feature booths around the pool area.

**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND NOW!**



Member Craig Pitter with Wyoming Ram scoring 171 2/8.

### Attention Ladies

Wyoming Game and Fish is offering two "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" camps this year. One camp is again being held at Whiskey Mountain, June 20 thru 22nd with a registration deadline of June 2nd, and for the first time a camp will be held at the Skyline Ranch near Encampment, Sept. 5 thru 7th with a registration deadline of August 18th.

Final plans are still being made but some exciting new classes are being worked on. The workshops are divided into 3 areas of interest. Under shooting skills, they offer: Introduction to firearms (this is required, unless the student has taken hunter education, for all participants who wish to take any of the shooting classes), Riflery, Shotgun, Blackpowder, Archery, and Hunting. Under water sports classes include: Basic fishing skills, Flyfishing, Flytying, Canoeing, and Boating basics. The third category is miscellaneous areas: Wildlife and nature photography, Outdoor first aid and survival techniques, Camping skills, Backpacking, Orienteering, and Campfire cooking. New classes that may be offered include plant identification at both camps, with horsepacking at Whiskey and mountain biking at the Skyline camp. All classes are set up for the beginner to introduce women to the outdoor sports.

The registration fee is \$100 which covers meals, lodging, and classes for the 3 day workshops. All equipment will be provided for the classes but if a participant wishes to bring her own equipment and learn to use it, she is welcome to do so. Partial scholarships are available. All interested ladies are encouraged to contact Helen McCracken, Hunter and Outdoor Skills Education Coordinator, at the Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters, 5400 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82006-0001. This is truly an exciting way for women to become involved in the out of doors!



Member John Bath with trophy Wyoming Ram.