

Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.

Is proud to sponsor The RAMPAGE



Wyoming FNAWS Donor

CODY  GILLETTE  RIVERTON  SHERIDAN



Wyoming Chapter
Foundation for North American
Wild Sheep
PO Box 845
Dubois, WY 82513

Freddie & Glenda L. Goetz
Box 603
Wheatland, WY 82201

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Dubois, WY 82513
Permit No. 23

The RAMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

WINTER 2002



Photo credit Serle Chapman



Officers & Board of Directors

President - Cole Benton
1230 Norma Drive, Buffalo
307-736-2277 work
307-684-9488 home
grizout@vcn.com

Vice President - Dirk Edgington
Box 1352, Dubois, WY
307-856-5372 work
307-850-6273 home

Secretary - Lynn Stewart
Box 631, Dubois
307-455-3549

Treasurer - Dennis Claman
P.O. Box 192, Farson
307-273-5054
clamandc@wyoming.com

Jim Collins
Sand Creek Ranch, Alcova
307-234-9597 home
307-267-3879 cell

Fritz Meyer
Box 5, Dubois
307-455-2464

Dave Steger
1130 Major Ave, Riverton
307-856-7015 home
307-856-7800 work
307-857-7076 fax

Bob Sundeen
P.O. Box 11, Buffalo
307-684-5233 phone
trailswest@vcn.com

Mike Wakkuri
3036 North Fork Highway, Cody
307-587-8238
307-331-1605 cell

Kevin Hurley
Wyoming Game & Fish Liaison
356 Nostrum Rd., Thermopolis
307-864-9375 phone/fax
307-899-1264 cell
khurley@trib.com

Sheri Howe
Administrative Assistant
P.O. Box 845, Dubois
307 455-2094 Phone/fax
ryter6@wyoming.com

Becky Layne
Chapter/Affiliate Coordinator
FNAWS Headquarters
720 Allen Ave., Cody
307-527-6261 phone
307-527-7117 fax
blayne@fnaws.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of the *Rampage* is dedicated to Sky Aviation pilot Jeffrey Jay Schroeder of Carrington, North Dakota, who lost his life in the August 16th airplane accident during a Wyoming Game & Fish antelope survey. Our sympathies and prayers go to Jeffrey's family and friends.

WGFD biologist and WY FNAWS liaison Kevin Hurley sustained serious injuries in the same accident. We are grateful beyond words that Kevin is well on the road to recovery. His friendship, support and dedication are invaluable to us all and could never be replaced.

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

During Saturday's General Membership Meeting in Thermopolis, Board President Cole Benton informed the membership that the board would be reduced from 11 to 9 positions, leaving two positions up for grabs. He then asked for nominations from the membership to fill the open positions.

The membership nominated Mike Crocker and Bob Sundeen. Fritz Meyer, a board member with an expiring term, was re-nominated. After a brief introduction and autobiography from each nominee, the members were asked to vote. It was a close election, with Fritz winning re-election and Bob Sundeen voted in to take the second position.

**Renew Your
Membership
Now!**



High Country Sporting Goods

Hunting • Fishing • Camping
Reloading • Archery
Guns & Ammo

2125 East Monroe
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-8661
Wyoming FNAWS Donor

The Wyoming Chapter Newsletter is published semi-annually and your subscription is included with your paid up dues.

Wyoming

FNAWS

Donors

ROY PETROWICZ

CYNTHIA PETROWICZ

Lanplighter Lodge

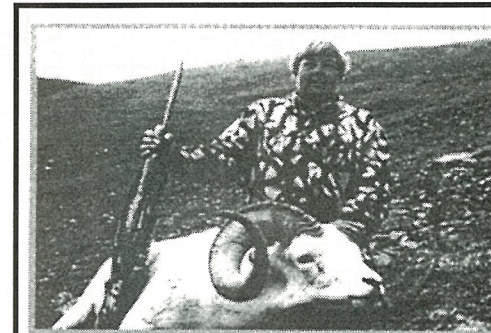
McBRIDE LAKE
P.O. BOX 538
STURGIS, SASK.
S0A 4A0

WINTER NO.
STURGIS PH/FAX 306-548-2104

SUMMER PH/FAX
306-547-4477



Jack Atcheson, Jr. Keith
International Hunting Consultants
3210 Ottawa Street, Butte, Montana 59701
(406) 782-2382 (406) 782-3498 (406) 723-3318 fax
atchesons@in-tch.com www.atcheson.com



Hunt Yukon

DALL SHEEP • GRIZZLY
MOOSE • CARIBOU

with experienced guide & outfitter

PETE JENSEN

58 Alsek Road, Whitehorse
Yukon Y1A 3K4 • (867) 667-2030

If no answer, call
(867) 667-7418

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Ovis

DENNIS CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 310727 * BIRMINGHAM, AL 35231 * (205) 674-0101 * Fax (205) 674-0190
www.wildsheep.org • E-MAIL: CampHoll@aol.com
Membership is available to anyone interested in wild mountain sheep.

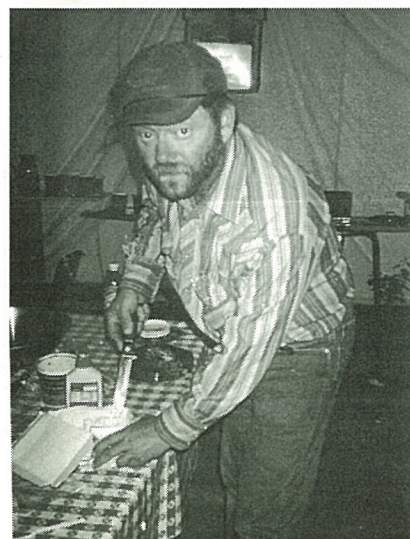
NAME _____ PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE / PROVINCE _____ ZIP _____

Membership dues are \$60.00 (U.S. currency) annually and are payable when making application.
Life Membership: \$1000.00 (U.S. currency)

SUMMER PACK TRIP



Photos

The group enjoys a view from the top. (Top Photo)

Camp host Bob Sundeen (left) served up ice cream with his home-baked chocolate chip cookies. The ice cream proved to be a bit on the solid side and our newest board member and life member was quite inventive in finding the best way to serve it.

Packing up for the trip home (above left).

Lacey Benton and Bree Collins (above right) were hooked on a bit of fishing...and wading...in the Greybull River.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I first started to write this article, I wanted to talk about the importance of water for wildlife. We take it for granted when we want a drink, we can grab the water bottle or turn on the tap. Our wildlife is not so fortunate. As each watering hole, spring or tank goes dry, wildlife must move on. In some areas there are no places to go. Right now, livestock producers are one of the most important sources of water during these drought conditions for birds and wildlife. Watching some of my neighbors as we go through the drought and fight fires, their time is limited. Consequently, some of us move livestock from pasture to pasture and do not worry about the pastures we leave behind. When most of the watering holes are dry, no one worries about water until they return with their livestock, whether it be a month or a year. For the sake of water availability for fighting fire and giving our wildlife friends a drink, please keep any watering facilities full at all times. A half-full water tank drowns many small animals. Also throw a board onto the water for birds to perch on. On our cattle operation, we go back as often as possible and run the wells to keep the tanks full and fresh.

As I said when I first started this article, the topic was to be the importance of water for wildlife. Unfortunately, since the airplane accident on August 16th that took the life of pilot Jeffrey Schroeder and critically injured our dear friend and biologist Kevin Hurley, my thoughts now are not only water for wildlife, but life itself. We all take both for granted. In closing, I would like to ask all of you to send your prayers to the family of Jeffrey Schroeder and for a speedy recovery for Kevin, one of the greatest biologists we have working for wildlife, especially our bighorn sheep.

Cole Benton, President

WY FNAWS concludes fifth allotment waiver

The fifth domestic sheep allotment waiver/retirement in the past 3 years has been concluded by the Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS, to reduce the likelihood of interaction between bighorn and domestic sheep, and to improve habitat conditions for elk and other wildlife. Culminating another complex negotiation on 5/16/02, Wyoming FNAWS (\$6,000), FNAWS (\$10,000), Minnesota/Wisconsin FNAWS (\$6,000), Eastern FNAWS (\$6,000), Iowa FNAWS (\$6,000), and Utah FNAWS (\$6,000) paid permittee Marc Nogle \$40,000 to waive three domestic sheep allotments on the Bighorn National Forest back to the U.S. Forest Service. Then, on 5/24/02, the Shoshone NF and Bighorn NF issued a 10-year modified term grazing permit to Regan Smith on the Bighorn NF, transferring Smith's domestic sheep operation from the Beartooth Mountains (in sheep Hunt Area 1) to the Bighorn Mountains. With this action, no domestic sheep grazing will occur in bighorn sheep hunt areas 1-5, where 70-75% of Wyoming's sheep, sheep licenses, and sheep harvest occur.

Regan Smith has been a permittee for many years on the Beartooth Plateau (in sheep Hunt Area 1), grazing domestic sheep on a term permit on the Beartooth Allotment complex (6 different allotments; 37,510 acres) and an annual, temporary permit on the Pearson Allotment (12,686 acres). There has been a history of grizzly bear and wolf interaction with domestic sheep on these allotments through the last decade or more. Over the past 3 years, Wyoming FNAWS has been in active discussions with Regan Smith and the Shoshone NF, seeking resolution to the potential overlap between wild and domestic sheep on the Beartooth Plateau. Following this recent action, the Shoshone NF will issue a Decision Notice in October 2002 proposing to vacate the Pearson Allotment and the Beartooth Allotment complex.

This is another great example of the FNAWS network leading the way, voluntarily working with willing permittees and involved

agencies to address identified, high-priority resource issues for multiple wildlife species, arriving at "win-win", economically-driven solutions. For \$40,000, domestic sheep grazing has been removed from more than 50,000 acres of occupied bighorn sheep habitat in Hunt Areas 1 and 2; that's a real accomplishment.

In an interesting footnote, Kevin Hurley of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has summarized expenditures by Wyoming FNAWS and all cooperators over the last 3 years on 5 domestic sheep allotment retirements. With 5 of these done so far in the Wind River Mountains (N=2), Teton Range (N=2), and Beartooth Mountains (N=1), \$249,825 has been spent to close/vacate 161,607 acres (\$1.55/acre) and 5,066 AUMs (\$49.31/AUM) of domestic sheep grazing.

EXPENDITURES ON 5 DOMESTIC SHEEP ALLOTMENT RETIREMENTS IN WYOMING: \$249,825 (as of 5/24/02)

Wyoming FNAWS	\$ 60,275
National FNAWS	\$ 41,000
Minnesota/Wisconsin FNAWS	\$ 26,500
Eastern FNAWS	\$ 26,500
Utah FNAWS	\$ 18,500
Iowa FNAWS	\$ 15,000
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$ 15,000
Lehigh Valley (PA) Chapter, SCI	\$ 5,000
Alabama Chapter SCI	\$ 2,500
Detroit (MI) Chapter SCI	\$ 2,000
Dallas Safari Club	\$ 2,300
Dallas Ecological Foundation	\$ 3,250
Defenders of Wildlife	\$ 28,000
Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Memorial Bear Fund	\$ 4,000
Total =	\$249,825



Wyoming Chapter Life Members

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| # 1 Ron Ball (D) | #48 Ron Wilmes | #95 Glenn Anderson |
| # 2 Jeff Reynolds | #49 Wally Young | #96 David G. Soderquist |
| # 3 Dave Steger | #50 Joshua Robert d'Elia | #97 Michael J. Mahon |
| # 4 Don Schmalz | #51 Ralph J. Campoli | #98 Pepper Neustal |
| # 5 Harry Whyel | #52 John Zenz | #99 David Connor |
| # 6 Freddie Goetz | #53 Jesse Troutman | #100 Joe DeCora |
| # 7 Gene Hardy | #54 Tom Sauter | #101 Elaine B. Benton |
| # 8 Hale Kreycik | #55 Thomas P. Grainger | #102 Mark W. Fountain |
| # 9 Dr. R. D. Keeler | #56 Mike Crocker | #103 Jeffrey Adam Milton |
| #10 Jim Collins | #57 Dyrk Eddie | #104 Bill Pidd |
| #11 Mike Martin | #58 Bob Kelez | #105 Kyle Hurley |
| #12 Jack Hildner | #59 Wayne Suda | #106 Steve Hornady |
| #13 Kent Stevinson | #60 Scott Jankowski | #107 Michael J. Wellman |
| #14 Fritz Meyer | #61 Solvay Minerals Inc. | #108 B. Joe Coy |
| #15 Kathy Gay (H) | #62 Ron Dean | #109 Tim Hockhalter |
| #16 Keith West | #63 Ed Novotny | #110 David C. Stull |
| #17 Lud Kroner | #64 E. Perry Edgeington | #111 Roger B. Donahue |
| #18 Serge d'Elia | #65 Randall K. Edgeington | #112 Bernard R. Harvey |
| #19 Terry Marcum | #66 Michael J. Thompson | #113 Terry Davis |
| #20 Kevin Hurley | #67 Dan Coletti | #114 Tom Christiansen |
| #21 Craig Pitters | #68 Douglas Liller | #115 Dave W. Daigle |
| #22 Sam Pancotto | #69 Ron Elkin | #116 Keith Dana |
| #23 Vincent Allegra | #70 Tom Spawn | #117 John Coulter |
| #24 Dirk Edgeington | #71 Bruce John Thompson | #118 Joseph Konwinski |
| #25 Cindy Reynolds | #72 Robert Sherd | #119 Bill Skelton |
| #26 Fred Mau | #73 Larry Brannian | #120 Ron Pomeroy |
| #27 David S. Luzmoor | #74 Dan Gay | #121 Jeffrey A. Keim |
| #28 Craig Kling | #75 Ron Lockwood | #122 Gretchen Hurley |
| #29 Sam Green | #76 Scott Bushnell | #123 Terry Janssen |
| #30 Cole Benton | #77 Jim Smith | #124 Lenore Smith |
| #31 Rodger Kendrick | #78 Wayne Knapp | #125 Joe Vollmer |
| #32 Brian Valentine | #79 Debi Van Buren | #126 Dennis Claman |
| #33 Alfred P. Weeden | #80 Mike Hildner | #127 Don Peay |
| #34 James L. Scull Jr. | #81 Patrick Zummo | #128 Randall S. Edgeington |
| #35 Kay Thomas | #82 Mike Turek | #129 Wally Needham |
| #36 Fred Thomas | #83 Douglas D. Cline | #130 Al Benton |
| #37 Lou Misterly Jr. | #84 Dan Pocalia | #131 Steven Wildeman |
| #38 Lawrence I. Masserant | #85 William T. Hill, Jr. | #132 Bob Sundeen |
| #39 Fred Pierce | #86 Robert Van DeRostyne | #133 Gary Roebing |
| #40 Tyler D. Benton | #87 Tad Giovanini | #134 Allan A. Holland |
| #41 Fred L. Novotny (D) | #88 Robert W. Jacob | #135 Ron Crispin |
| #42 Lee Livingston | #89 Pat Poppe | #136 Wayne Jones |
| #43 Richard Lennington | #90 Richard Wobser | #137 Gary Keene |
| #44 Lynn Stewart | #91 Rusty Gooch | #138 Jim Verplancke |
| #45 Russ Green | #92 Todd Alley | #139 Opey Hlavnicka |
| #46 Truman A. Wilkins | #93 John Wilson | #140 Robert Joslin |
| #47 Tex Goerger | #94 Doug McWhirter | #141 Ken Metzler |

WINTER MEETING

Set for December 7th

The WY FNAWS winter meeting will be held in Lander on Saturday, December 7th. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. with a tour of Sinks Canyon immediately following. Those interested in submitting Grant-in-Aid requests for board consideration must do so no later than November 1. GIAs can be sent to WY FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513.

The meeting site has not yet been selected. Watch your mail for more information or call 307.455.2094.

A R E A U P D A T E

Hunt Area 7 Update

By WGFD Biologist Kevin Hurley

Since January 2002, personnel in the Jackson WGFD Region have been aware of a pneumonia dieoff in the Jackson bighorn sheep herd, which ranges from south of Hoback Junction through the upper Gros Ventre and upper Green River drainages. A primary cause of this pneumonia dieoff has not been determined. Stress from drought and poor forage conditions may have combined to cause a loss of 50-60% of this herd, estimated at about 500 animals last fall/early winter. Some localized areas like Crystal Creek probably lost 75% of their bighorn sheep.

There has been a total of 121 mortalities documented in HA 7 since December 2001, including 53 rams, 36 ewes, 12 lambs and 20 unknown sheep. Ram mortality occurred across all age classes (Table 1).

Table 1. Ram ages from pick-up heads in the Jackson Bighorn Sheep Herd Unit.

Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
# Sheep	8	5	12	11	9	2	4	1	1

The Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS helped fund an intensive helicopter survey in HA 7 during July 2002. On two flights completed July 11 and 19, 2002, 194 live sheep were observed (121 ewes, 30 lambs, 27 rams less than ¾ curl, 11 rams that were at least ¾ curl and 5 yearling rams). The flights were originally planned for consecutive mornings, but because of search and rescue missions and fires on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, the helicopter was difficult to schedule. Lamb production was variable during the surveys, with almost no lambs being observed in the Crystal Creek area to 50 lambs:100 ewes being seen in the Darwin Peak and Stinking Springs areas.

In April 2002, WGFD managers had recommended, and the WGF Commission had approved, a reduction in the number of hunting licenses from 28 to 16 for the fall 2002 season, due to the mortality documented as of that date. Based on subsequent documentation of mortalities, coupled with data collected during the 2 July flights, WGFD is offering HA 7 hunters the option of either going ahead with their 2002 hunting plans or voluntarily returning their 2002 licenses. If hunters remit their licenses to WGFD Cheyenne HQ, along with a letter to the WGFD License Review Board, preference points will be reinstated for those hunters. This will minimize the impact on hunters who were fortunate enough to draw a license for 2002 but were affected by this unforeseen pneumonia dieoff. These hunters can then apply for a bighorn sheep license in 2003, likely for a different hunt area. In the coming years, WGFD will likely issue a minimal number of hunting licenses in HA 7, while this herd hopefully rebounds.

Summer Pack Trip

By WY FNAWS Member Lucy Turek

It's been five years since the inception of the Wyoming Chapter's "Bring Your Own Horse" trip. This year's BYOH—and a few hikers—brought about 35 WY FNAWS members and guests into the backcountry of the Greybull River.

Some members rode in from the Jack Creek Trailhead out of Pitchfork in Meeteetsee, while others rode and hiked in from Double Cabin out of Dubois. We met at Bob Sundeen's Full Circle Outfitters Camp on Stuart Creek, where he and his most hospitable crew help us to enjoy the wilderness.

We rode or hiked into Area 5, the Franc's Peak herd of bighorn sheep, and viewed the rugged and beautiful country where the bighorn sheep survive in all four seasons of the year. Lively discussions about potential bighorn sheep habitat, grazing allotments and buyouts were readily exchanged between WY FNAWS members, Game & Fish biologists and others interested in the bighorn sheep.

Such trips that take us into the high country wilderness offer more than scenery. Seeing bighorns grazing on the mountain tops with lambs hovering at the ewes' legs is a blessed opportunity. It is here that appreciation is gained, even more so for those who work so hard and diligently to manage and maintain our bighorn sheep population and wilderness backcountry.

The SPORTS LURE

YOUR OUTDOOR HEADQUARTERS



- Maps
- Licenses
- Hunting Gear
- Ammo
- Archery Equipment
- Camping
- Fishing
- Outdoor Clothing

DOWNTOWN BUFFALO, WYO.
66 South Main
800-684-7682

Wyoming FNAWS Donor



Bruce Lamberson

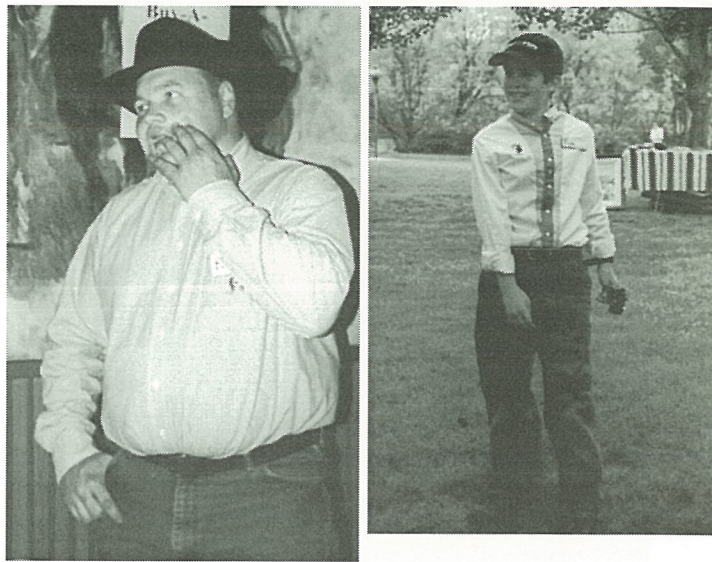
Proprietor

543 South Center • Casper • Wyoming • 82601
307-266-1136 • Fax: 307-266-1185
Toll Free: 800-426-1136 • Email: bruce@wyomap.com

Wyoming FNAWS Donor

PROJECT REPORTS

- An additional \$2,000—bringing the WY-FNAWS total to \$4,000—toward the STOP POACHING reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the illegal killing of an 11-year old ram in Shell Canyon, on the west slope of the Bighorn Mountains between Christmas and New Years Eve 2001.
- \$1,500 toward the national FNAWS political campaign, specifically earmarked for the ongoing Alaska vs. Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior lawsuit over issuance of hunting licenses to non-residents.



2002 Fundraiser a Success!

The 19th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser took place in June 7th, 8th and 9th at the Holiday Inn of the Waters in Thermopolis. The first life member breakfast kicked off a busy day on Saturday, followed by a general membership meeting, the best-attended meeting in recent years. There were 170 people in attendance who enjoyed several activities, WY FNAWS offered its first-ever afternoon seminar to successful recipients of 2002 bighorn sheep hunting licenses. Kevin Hurley started the seminar with an overview of each bighorn sheep hunt area, drawing odds data, recent harvest/hunter success information, and an outlook for the upcoming season. WY FNAWS Board Members Fritz Meyer and Mike Wakkuri gave an informative presentation on field judging trophy rams, shot placement, and sheep hunting techniques. WY FNAWS Secretary Lynn Stewart gave an excellent presentation on field care of your cape and trophy, once you have a sheep down. Following a "Funded Projects" update by Kevin Hurley, breakout sessions and small-group discussions occurred between excited hunters, WY FNAWS representatives and WGFD wildlife biologists with management responsibilities in each of Wyoming's sheep hunt areas. "Hunting Sheep in Grizzly Bear Country" advice was offered to all hunters by WGFD, via a "Bear Trail" and mock camp setup. By all accounts, this seminar was judged to be very successful, and plans are to offer a similar program at the 2003 summer meeting in Lander. The events were capped off with a barbecue dinner followed by the auction fundraiser. The event netted over \$21,000 for wild sheep. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated to make the Wyoming Chapter's annual fundraiser another success!



2003 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The next WY FNAWS fundraiser will be held June 13th, 14th and 15th at the Community Center in Lander. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! More information will be sent to our members at a later date.

HUNT REPORTS

EXT-RAM-AGANZA 2002 GRAND SLAM RAM

My interest in hunting the wild sheep of North America was triggered when I was a teenager. This was nurtured by the published sheep hunting adventures of the late Jack O'Connor. I soon began dreaming of one day collecting the "Grand Slam" for myself. My 30+ year quest to fulfill that dream soon began.

In 1969, at age 18, I drew a Wyoming bighorn permit for the Temple Peak area, and with the help of a high school buddy, I went on a self-guided hunt. We backpacked into the wilderness area and spent a full week hunting. We had no sheep hunting experience, and had never been in the area before. This hunt turned out unsuccessful in that I did not get a ram, but it did not dampen my interest in sheep hunting.

I saved my pennies and soon booked a hunt in Alaska for early September 1972. This was to be a 15 day combination hunt for Dall, caribou, and bear. The outfitter was Master Guide Earl Payne, and the cost of the hunt was \$1800. I was lucky enough to collect all three species, and now had my first sheep of the Grand Slam. In 1974, I drew another Wyoming permit, this time for Area 19, Laramie Peak. This area is close to my home, which allowed me to do a lot of pre-scouting.

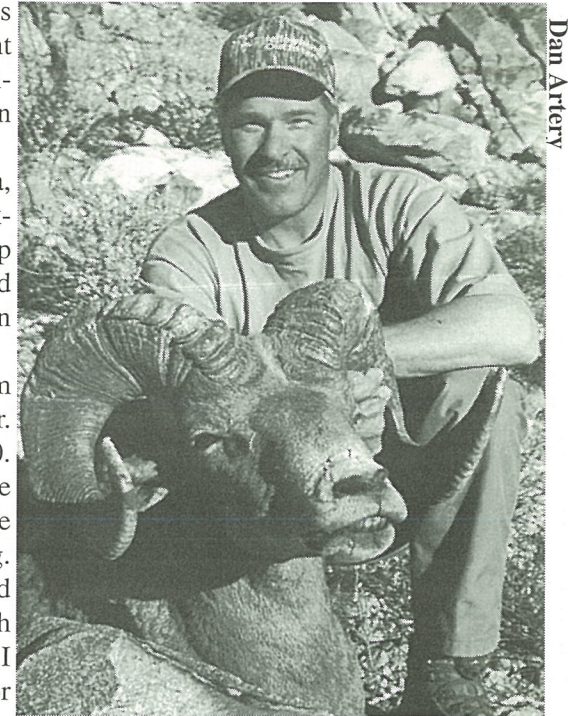
On September, 1, I harvested my first Rocky Mountain bighorn and the second sheep in my Grand Slam. I then booked Stone sheep hunt for August 1975 with outfitter Bob Kjos. This was a very difficult 15 day hunt with guide Stan Stevens. I finally got a ram on day 15. I also took a mountain goat on this hunt. The hunt for the third sheep in my Grand Slam cost \$2,700.

It was also about 1975 that I started applying in Arizona and Nevada for desert sheep. I have only missed one or two years of applying during that time. But I have not drawn a tag yet! In 1977 I went on a backpack hunt in Alaska for Dall sheep with Ken Bunch. I hunted a total of 13 days and 139 miles and foot, but came home unsuccessful. We passed up numerous rams while looking for a really large one. Jim Kohring guided me on this hunt and it was a great experience. 1979 found me booked with Redstone Outfitters in the NWT. Tim McCauley was the outfitter on this 14 day Dall sheep and caribou hunt. I took both sheep and caribou on this horseback hunt. In 1981, luck found me again as I drew yet another Wyoming bighorn permit! This time it was in Area 5, or Franc's Peak. With the help of a friend, I did a backpack hunt during opening week. I passed on several rams the first week, went home, and came back with a different friend in late September. After several days of hunting I harvested my second bighorn in Needle Creek.

In 1984 I returned to the NWT to hunt Dall sheep and caribou with Stan Stevens. This hunt was during the last few days of September and early October. I shot a nice caribou, then spent five days in a backpack tent, watching it snow. When it finally cleared it was three feet deep. After being rescued by Stan and spending several days in Norman Wells, we returned to a lower elevation mountain and I harvested my third Dall sheep. In 1992 I headed to Alaska's Wrangell Mountains to hunt Dall sheep with outfitter Dick Gunlogson. The guide on this hunt was Matt Wolfe. With his help, I harvested a nice full curl ram out of a large group of rams. My fourth Dall and another great hunt. 1988 turned out to be another lucky year. Wyoming bighorn permit number four arrived in the mail, and I soon began planning another Area 5 hunt. Because of limited time and old age creeping in, I booked with outfitter Fritz Meyer of Dubois. We decided to hunt the season opening, but I was only going to be able to hunt for three to four days. After passing on 24 rams, I went home and returned in October with my youngest son Brad. After hunting very hard and passing on more rams, I harvested bighorn number three. Brad took a nice bull elk on this horseback hunt also.

For many years I had been wanting to hunt another Stone sheep. I finally bit the bullet and booked for August 2000 with Myles and Sherry Bradford. I was guided by Billy and Devlin Oestreich. I was able to collect an 11-year-old full-curl Stone ram. I now had two complete 3/4 slams, but no desert sheep in sight. Tom Grainger accompanied me on this hunt, and also took a ram and a mountain caribou.

For the past two National FNAWS conventions, I have had high hopes of winning the desert sheep hunt in the 3/4 slam drawings. At the 2002 FNAWS convention, I also purchased tickets for the desert sheep hunt in the Ext-Ram-Aganza drawing. On the Saturday before the drawing was to take place, my good friend Tom Grainger purchased numerous tickets for the Ext-Ram-Aganza and then asked the lady selling the tickets to put them all in the desert sheep hunt drum. I wished him luck, but jokingly added that he had just lowered my drawing odds... thanks a lot, Tom. Just as the drawings were beginning, Tom leaned over and casually mentioned that, by the way, he had bought those tickets to increase my odds. He then added, "If I



Dan Artery

EXT-RAM-AGANZA CONT.

win, you're going." when the name Tom Grainger was called out, I couldn't believe my ears. I immediately told Tom that I would not hold him to anything he had previously stated. He replied, "You're going!"

I soon found out that this hunt was to be with Carlos Hermosillo in Sonora, Mexico. It was also to take place in less than a month! I was totally ecstatic, while being somewhat apprehensive about the short preparation time. In the week that followed the convention, Tom decided to purchase another sheep hunt from Carlos and accompany me. Tom and I flew from Denver to Phoenix on February, 15 and began our hunt in Mexico the following day. After arriving in Phoenix, we took a three hour shuttle ride to the border town of Lukeville, where we were met by Carlos's son-in-law Renan Medina. After proceeding through border inspections, Renan drove us to the base camp, which was approximately 45 minutes away. The hunting camp, located on the San Francisco Ranch, turned out to be very modern and comfortable. We were greeted by some of the guides, camp staff, and the camp cook. We spent the remainder of the day checking rifles and preparing for day one of our hunt. I had brought a Remington Model 700 in 7mm Rem Mag that I have hunted with since before my first sheep hunt. I had harvested all but one of my previous sheep with this rifle, hence its name, "Old Reliable." I really wanted to complete my Grand Slam with my favorite hunting rifle.

Day one brought his spirits and much anticipation. Tom and I wished each other good luck, then departed to hunt separate mountain ranges. Our day was spent traveling from vantage point to vantage point, followed by hours of intense glassing. At day's end, my crew of four guides and I had tallied up six ewes, five lambs, and one half curl ram. Tom's party of three guides and himself had seen only one ewe. Day two was spent by both hunting parties returning to the same mountain ranges as the day before. Day two produced five ewes, three lambs, and five rams for my hunting party. The five rams were all together, and we climbed to within 544 yards to take a close look at them. The largest ram was a 7/8 curl, slightly broomed and fairly tight. I decided to pass. Tom's party saw five ewes, two lambs, and two rams, the largest being a wide flaring 3/4 curl with medium mass. Tom also passed.

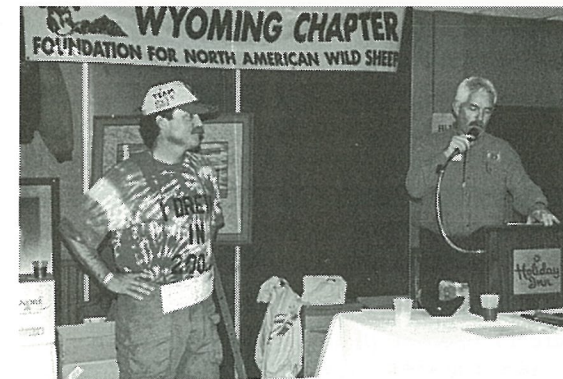
Day three found Team Dan and Team Tom, as we had now labeled ourselves, heading to new areas to hunt. After many miles traveled and many hours spent glassing, Team Dan sighted seven ewes, four lambs, and three rams. The largest was a nice 3/4 curl ram. Team Tom located two rams late on Day three, but again, not the size we were looking for. After a nearly sleepless night, day four started off with me feeling like I had developed some form of intestinal flu bug. Nevertheless, both hunting parties departed early as usual. As the morning progressed, I knew I had severe health problems. I instructed Team Dan to keep looking for sheep, but really didn't know if I would be capable of climbing any mountains if a good ram were spotted. Two of my guides took a two-hour hike up a good sheep canyon. They returned later in the day with reports of 28 sheep, but still no big rams. Team Tom suffered a total goose egg on day four, as no sheep at all were sighted. By day's end, Tom was also suffering from the same intestinal bug.

Day five broke with both Tom and I feeling very weak, as we had tag teamed the john most of the night. Tom felt he was too ill to go in the morning, and opted for an afternoon hunt. The guest for my life long dream was just too great to allow me to stay in bed. We soon headed out of camp, and after the one hour drive to our hunting area, Team Dan began the morning ritual of intense glassing. By 8:30 A.M. a good ram was sighted about 3/4 mile away. I got the spotting scope on the ram just as he was moving behind a boulder and into a large canyon. All I knew for sure was that he looked pretty massive, all the way to 3/4 curl. The rest of his horn was hidden behind the boulder. We decided to make a stalk, and at least take a closer look. The climb was very exhausting in my weakened condition, and when we reached our vantage point the ram had vanished. It had seemed like a nearly perfect setup. We found out later from one of the guides that the ram had moved up and disappeared over the top of the mountain. We went from emotional highs to lows within seconds. We returned to the vehicle about noon and learned that another guide had spotted a good ram about 1 1/2 miles away, on another mountain. They asked if I were up for another stalk and I assured them I would give it all I had. The plan was to drive around to the other side of the mountain, climb over the top, and come in on the ram which was bedded down. It seemed like a low-risk stalk if I could make the climb. The climb turned out to be easier than the previous one, and the entire stalk probably took less than 90 minutes. Once we were in position, I situated my pack on a large boulder to use as a rest. We could not see the ram, but decided to wait until he got up and moved into view. After about 30 minutes of waiting, the ram suddenly appeared above us at a distance of approximately 200 yards. Because the ram had moved up, my boulder rest immediately became useless. The ram stared down at us for a few short seconds, then began to trot. If he covered 40 yards of rock, he would disappear over the mountaintop. I instinctively swung my rifle and found the ram's front shoulder. As the guide said "Shoot", the shot broke the silence and the ram folded. After freefalling and sliding 100 yards or so, the ram came to rest the sudden realization that my 30 year dream had finally been completed was a bit overwhelming. Finally, the Grand Slam!

On Day six, Tom's hunting party left camp early. At their first spotting location, one of the guides immediately spotted a sheep. Tom elected to take the largest ram, and our desert sheep hunt came to an end.

Notes and Thanks: I must once again thank Tom Grainger for his most unselfish act on my behalf. Next, as current president of National FNAWS, I want to thank Carlos Hermosillo for working with us to make the Ext-Ram-Aganza desert hunt a possibility. It has also been reported that Carlos has once again offered to provide a desert sheep hunt for the 2003 Ext-Ram-Aganza II. Next year's lucky winner has much to look forward to!

2 0 0 2 F U N D E D



At the June 8th summer meeting, the Wyoming FNAWS membership approved funding to the following projects:

- \$7,000 toward the Stone Ranch water well drilling project northeast of Rawlins. This project involves drilling up to 10 water wells on the Stone Allotment, to facilitate a complete conversion from cattle/domestic sheep grazing, to cattle grazing only. This project is estimated to cost a total of \$110,000 over 2 years. To date, cooperators on this project include Wyoming FNAWS (\$7,000), MN/WI FNAWS (\$5,000), Mule Deer Foundation (\$7,000), SW WY Chapter MDF (\$3,000), Central Coast (CA) Chapter MDF (\$3,000), Water-for-Wildlife/One-Shot Foundation (\$5,000), North American Pronghorn Foundation (\$1,000), Cowboy 3-Shot Sage Grouse Foundation (\$500), Bartlett Oil Field Service (\$700), and Home Depot (\$630); the Rawlins BLM office will put at least \$69,000 into this project over a 2-year period.
- \$3,000 toward an intensive helicopter survey in Hunt Area 1, to document bighorn sheep numbers, distribution, lamb:ewe and ram:ewe ratios, and population trend. Numerous comments have been received in the past 1-2 years about wolves and their possible impact on the sheep herd in the Clarks Fork drainage.
- \$2,000 toward a special helicopter survey in Hunt Area 7, to document a minimum number of sheep (particularly rams) still alive, following the pneumonia dieoff in this herd during winter/spring 2002. This data will help WGFD decide what options exist for the upcoming fall 2002 hunting season in HA 7.
- \$1,524 for 3 satellite GPS radiocollars to be placed on 3 bighorn ewes, one on each of the Torrey Rim, BLM Ridge, and Sheep Ridge winter range complexes. Seasonal movement data, impediments to migration, lambing areas, habitat use, and potential habitat enhancement opportunities will be identified with this relocation data.

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

The RAMPAGE Magazine

ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE

FULL PAGE	\$180.00
1/2 PAGE	\$100.00
1/4 PAGE	\$ 55.00
1/8 PAGE	\$ 35.00

PLEASE SEND COPY WITH YOUR CHECK TO

WY FNAWS MAGAZINE

P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513

HUNT REPORTS

c o n t i n u e d

W Y FNAWS member **Dick Pollard**, who hails from Texas, was pleased with this ram he took in Area 7 last year with Lazy T Outfitters:

At 5:30 a.m., I was picked up at my hotel in Jackson, WY by Jon and Cathy Toolson, son and wife of Tom Toolson, my outfitter. We proceeded by pickup, pulling a big horse trailer some 1½ hours to the trailhead into the Gros Ventre Wilderness. At about 8 a.m., we began our 6½ hour ride to the sheep camp on **September 11, 2001!**

After unsuccessfully apply in Wyoming for umpteen years, primarily in Areas 3 and 5 and attaining maximum preference points, I finally decided at 75 years of age, I would apply for Area 7. I did draw, but immediately discovered that many of the “known” outfitters did not know the Area 7 country. Extensive research with past Area 7 hunters highly recommended Tom Toolson of Lazy T Outfitters in Jackson.

I found Tom's horses, mules and equipment to be top-notch. His wall tent camps were adequate, warm and comfortable and Cathy's food was really a treat—sausage, gravy and eggs for breakfast!!!

Tom trailed in two days early to set up camp and scout. He had already located a band of five rams, plus he had glassed two small singles prior to our arrival. It did not take me long to again become acquainted with the steep shale rock climbing almost always associated with sheep hunting, and getting started climbing in it at barely daybreak was par for the course. Son Jon carried the “old guy's” rifle and closely shadowed me in the “real tuff” stuff.

We glassed the band of 5 rams for hours from above and 500-600 yards away. The larger of the rams appeared to be only in the 30-inch class, but with 15-plus bases. I finally determined that if we had an opportunity for a shot, I would go and finish my five ram slam as my other bighorn is of the California variety. Finally, at almost dusk, the rams came somewhat towards us up into the bad shale. We maneuvered to within about 300 yards and got off the shot. Tom crawled to the ram after dark and brought out the head and cape. He was slightly broomed, 31” x 15¼ and 7 years old.

Tom Toolson is an excellent choice for an outfitter in Area 7. He also outfits for Area 5.



DICK POLLARD

FIRST

Life Member Breakfast

By WY FNAWS Board Member **Jim Collins**

Over a third of the Wyoming Chapter's Life Members gathered early for breakfast June 8th before the banquet and fundraiser auction in Thermopolis. Attendees all agreed that the filet and egg breakfast—including a life member hat and name tag at no cost—was a hit. A long list of WY FNAWS supporters stepped forward to cover costs of the entire breakfast.

A short auction and raffle was included, raising \$2,700. With plenty of great door prizes, the odds of winning were better than one in four. Twenty new life members signed up with the excitement of WY FNAWS honoring our lifers. Plans are under way for next year, but this year will be tough to beat!



HUNT REPORTS

c o n t i n u e d

Life member **Bernard Harvey** of Grundy, VA took this beautiful ram with WY FNAWS board member Mike Wakkuri and enjoyed every minute of it:

My friend Mark Virant of Wheatland, Wyoming, hunted with Mike Wakkuri and Clint Menke of Elk Mountain Outfitters in 1998. After his hunt, he told me I had to hunt with these guys if I ever drew a sheep permit. At 9 a.m., May 2, 2001, I received a phone call from Mike. He wanted to know if I'd heard anything. I said, “No, but if you're calling me I figure I drew a sheep permit.” He said I was right and I booked my hunt right then. My hunt was to be September 20th for 10 days. He also said I should try to be there on the 17th or 18th, and maybe we could start early. That day, I started walking up and down Hoot Owl Mountain in Grundy. I know people thought I was crazy. The temperatures were in the 90s, and I'm out there with boots, pack and a 10-pound hand weight. I was doing six miles in two hours and I thought I was doing good. It did help, but you can't train for altitude and terrain.

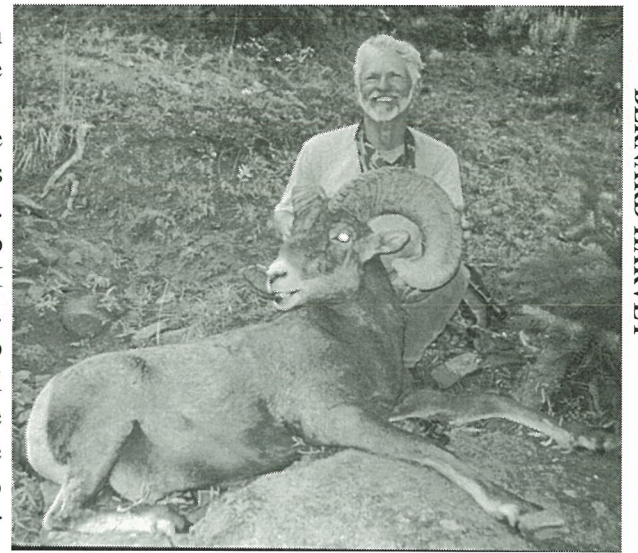
I departed Grundy the afternoon of September 14th and arrived in Wheatland around noon the 16th. I spent the evening with Mark and picked up my pronghorn mount from a hunt in 2000. En route from Wheatland to Cody, going through Wind River Canyon, I saw my first bighorn of the trip. Now I'm really fired up!

Mike wanted to day hunt out of his home on the 18th. We trailered the horses early to get in where we would be hunting. During the day, we spotted five rams, but no shooters. We also saw mountain lions on two occasions. It's really neat to watch lions rest and nap. On the 19th, Mike and Clint set up our base camp. The plan was to hunt low for a couple of days, then move up if necessary. On the 20th, we saw three rams and three unknown sheep. We started the next day at 4:15 a.m. and a two-hour horse ride put us back where we were the day before. I just barely had my horse tied up and they spot six rams.

They're excited—one is a shooter. Mike said, “Let's go get him.” It was 8:20 a.m. when we started off the mountain. After about a 1½ ride, we tied up the horses and started up the mountain where the sheep are located. We thought we would have the ram in a couple of hours. At noon, I asked for a short lunch break. It was hot and we weren't making the progress we expected. I was tired, too! Up we went again. At about 2:40 p.m., we got into position where we could see five rams. The shooter couldn't be found. We thought he was in the timber above the other rams, which are 200 yards to our front. Instead of continuing to pop my head up, I decided to take a break and let Mike do the looking—less chances to be seen this way. I'm lying on my back with my eyes covered with my hat. Actually, I'm trying to recover from the climb. At about 2:55 p.m., Mike said the ram was coming out of the timber and he's 374 yards away. I rolled over, put the cross hairs on top of this back and fired. He went down like he had been hammered. Mike told me to put in another round and I already had. Thankfully, we didn't need it.

As you can see, he is a great ram. His horns are 33” and 34” x 14” and score 165. An 8½ year old dark chocolate ram. Beautiful! Thanks to Mike and Clint, plus the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for this opportunity. I will continue to hunt and visit my friends in Wyoming.

Keep up the good work on *The Rampage* and Wyoming sheep projects.



BERNARD HARVEY

In Memoriam

Dele Ball, Hugo Kilian & Duncan Gilchrist

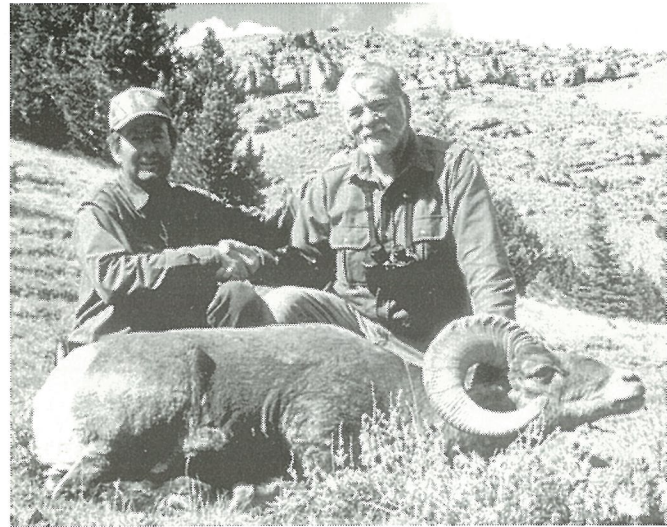
It is with regret that the WY FNAWS board learned of the passing of **Dele Ball**. She and her husband Ron—who was one of our founders and our first life member—were long-time members of the Wyoming Chapter and great supporters of our efforts toward the survival of bighorn sheep. Dele passed away August 13. As with Ron, she will be greatly missed.

Hugo Kilian of Cody, passed away in September. He and his wife Carol have been generous WY FNAWS donors for many years and the WY FNAWS board extends its prayers and sympathies.

Long-time wild sheep enthusiast **Duncan Gilchrist** passed away in October. Duncan served on the National FNAWS board and was a supporter of the Wyoming Chapter. Our sympathies to his wife Pat and the Gilchrist family.

HUNT REPORTS

c o n t i n u e d



WALLY NEEDHAM AND COLE BENTON

One of our newest life members, **Wally Needham**, recounts his memorable hunt with WY FNAWS President **Cole Benton**, board member Bob Sundeen and another new life member, Steve Wildeman:

In May 2001, two hallmarks were established in my life since my first appearance over 65 years ago. I drew both a Wyoming Area 5 bighorn license and my first Social Security check! I didn't expect to draw the sheep tag and no one expected me to reach 65. Without hesitation, I called my friend, Cole Benton of Grizzly Outfitters in the thriving megalopolis Buffalo, Wyoming to inform him of my good fortune in drawing the sheep license. Then I warned him that I wanted him to get me into shooting range of a mature ram. When I said "warned him," I wanted him to know that I was not

anywhere near the definition of being in "sheep shape" and that it would be a definite challenge to get me in shooting range. Cole took a long pause, I guess about 5 seconds, and told me if I could set a horse, he'd get me a ram!!!!

I showed up in Meteetsee on September 15th and met Bob Sundeen, Cole's partner in this endeavor, Steve Wildeman, another lucky resident sheep license recipient and Kevin, our dedicated camp manager and cook. After a hearty breakfast, the next morning, we proceeded to the trailhead, packed the horses and mules and headed to our camp just 3 hours up the Greybull River. We arrived in camp without incident, had dinner and hit the rack with anticipation of the next day's hunt to come.

Monday morning, all awake and ready to go!!!! Fell in love with my horse immediately!!! He traversed those seemingly vertical trails with no problem. Once on top, the glassing began—a ram was spotted almost at once, then three more and another one in an adjoining drainage. Try as we could, we couldn't locate any sheep that we could approach on our side of the mountain. We would have to reconnoiter for a different approach the next day. Back down the mountain and less than a half mile from camp, Cole abruptly reined in his horse and pointed to his left. "Ram," he whispered. "Get off the horse and hand me the reins." To make a long story short, it was a young 3/4 curl ram, but Cole talked me out of shooting it. I questioned my decision not to shoot all the way back to camp and really questioned my decision the next day when we got "weathered out."

Wednesday broke with no clouds or wind and we headed to where we had spotted the sheep on Monday. Cole located 3 rams almost exactly where they had been two days earlier. Here's where the unexpected factor came in: It was Steve's shot, but because of our age difference and physical capabilities, he, without any hesitation, suggested to his guide, Bob and to Cole that he wanted to defer this opportunity to me. I couldn't believe this young man would make a gesture of this magnitude. I tried to talk him out of it, citing all the uncertainties of sheep hunting, but Steve would not be deterred from his decision. I shook his hand and sincerely thanked him for giving me this opportunity.

An hour and a half later, we rode our horses within 500 yards of the 3 rams, did a stalk on foot to within 200 yards and ultimately made a 116 yard shot with my 7 Mag!!!! Cole and I were back in camp by 4 p.m. with a 7/8 curl, 7 years-plus ram. Much to my satisfaction, Steve, my ultimate benefactor, harvested his ram two days later. This hunt will go down in my memory as my number one experience, not only because of success due to Cole's efforts, but also because of the camaraderie of the hunt!

HUNT REPORTS

WY FNAWS member **Dale Roth** of Gillette, Wyoming took an outstanding Dall Sheep. Here's his story:


To roll out of your sleeping bag one morning in the remote Mackenzie Mountains and know you will be hunting Dall sheep that day is an experience I wish all could enjoy. Perry's supercharged Porter flew me to Eric Mikkelson's N.W.T. Outfitters base camp at June Lake for the last sheep hunt of the season. Eric was there to welcome me, as well as my guide Slim Sawatsky. You cannot imagine how beautiful this country is! The two sheep guides were 100% for the season. I would be hunting an area that had not been hunted this season and therefore looking forward to finding that 40" ram. The next morning, I rolled out early and took many sunrise pictures of the Mackenzie Mountains and the fog over June Lake. It was a beautiful beginning to what would become a hunt of a lifetime. Late morning Slim, Chad, and I headed out of June Lake with a string of horses. I knew these horses well by the end of the hunt. All good stock that can get you and your gear efficiently and safely to anywhere your guide takes you.

Our first stalk ended with not taking the 38" ram we were stalking. I won't go into the details. The next day we packed up camp to head for another remote canyon. After seeing many ewes and lambs and some smaller rams, Slim found me the sheep hunter's dream. At some distance, he found 12 rams bedded and feeding at the top of the mountain. After a major climb—and always 10 yards behind Slim—we were there. Now at the top and breathing the same rarified air as the rams, we glassed the 12 rams. There were several shooters in the bunch, but there were three exceptional rams. I told Slim to pick the ram and make damn sure I did not shoot the wrong ram. After some time with the spotting scope Slim said, "Take the third ram from the top facing away and feeding." I got it, the third ram from the top right? Slim said, "That's your ram." I waited about five minutes to have the ram turn broadside...and I had my 11½ year old 40" ram. Thank you Slim!

Back at June Lake, Eric and I talked conservation, sheep, outfitting, and Canadian politics. His camp and guides are top notch and when you are rained or snowed in, the conversation is always interesting! Thank you, Eric and Slim, for a hunt of a lifetime.



DALE ROTH




DAN ARTERY'S
OUTDOOR
ADVENTURES
LICENSED GUIDE & OUTFITTER


SPECIALIZING IN TROPHY HUNTS FOR
DEER, ANTELOPE, ELK AND BIG HORN SHEEP


Dan Artery
PHONE: (307) 331-0117
FAX: (307) 322-4133

5 HILL DRIVE
WHEATLAND, WY 82201



MT. LION
SHEEP
MOOSE
ELK - DEER





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

