

The
South Dakota

August 2020



Bowhunter

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On the Front: Stan Rausch, Moose, Yukon

On the Back: Jocelyn Haak, 11, first archery rabbit



Editor's Note

Mike McKnight

While the past four months have not seen a lot of good news, the historic passage of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) is something we can all applaud. Described by most as the biggest land conservation legislation in a generation the GAOA is seen as having two main positive impacts we will all notice.

First, the GAOA will provide \$9 billion over the next five years for much needed maintenance at our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests and other federal lands. Secondly, the GAOA guarantees \$900 million per year in perpetuity for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). While this fund is comprised of funds from royalty payments from oil and gas development on offshore federal lands it has historically only been funded at less than half that \$900 million figure. The LWCF helps fund the four main federal land programs: National Parks, National Forests, Fish and Wildlife and Bureau of Land Management. The LWCF also provides grants to states and local governments to acquire land for recreation and conservation. We will all see the benefits of this legislation in years to come.

On a sour note, however, two of our three members of Congress chose not to support this piece of legislation: both Senator Rounds and Representative Johnson voted "Nay". Many thanks to Senator Thune for his support of this act. If you run in to any of them, let your voice be heard.

This newsletter is a little late. I still need more material than I am presently getting in order to generate a product worth sending out. This has been a problem for as far back as the archives take me. Send me a picture. Send me an article, a tip or a recipe. Short of nude photos of the Board I will run about anything. HELP.

When you get this we will be in the midst of the archery antelope season and right on the cusp of the deer opener. Enjoy your hunts and be grateful for your time afield. Remember, make memories as those are the true trophies.

Play hard and have fun!

Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is November 1

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :
Mike McKnight
msmcknight2912@gmail.com



President's Notes

Jay Liebke

Fellow South Dakota Bowhunters-

As fall seasons are fast approaching I want to remind you we not only hunt for the meat and trophy, regardless your idea of trophy, but also for the stories, memories, wild places and friendships. I want to encourage you to take time to reflect and cultivate some of these this fall as we are afield. Maybe hunt with someone new or take a kid with you. What a great opportunity to pass out great sport of bow hunting along.

This is also SDBI's 50th year anniversary. We have a great banquet planned in Rapid City this year with Mark Kayser as our keynote speaker! Try to attend and bring a few friends if you can. There will also be some great raffle items. We are also raffling off a bow of choice or \$1000 cash. You can get those tickets on the website or from a board member. Also check the website for more info on the banquet. Hope to see you there!

Good luck this fall!!



Vice-President's Voice

Wyatt Skelton

Well isn't this year going by at warp speed. After a wonderful convention in Mitchell with C.J. Winnand as speaker earlier this year we were working on the next one. Dana has lined up Mark Kayser as the featured speaker for the 2021 Convention in Rapid City March 12-13. We are seeking donations for this Convention as its the 50th Anniversary of SDBI! If you have any items made by you or collected donations please contact anyone from the board. We want to make this a stellar gathering of bow hunters in recognition of the many years of work from this great organization! Spring has zipped by and summer is flying right into fall already.

We had super great gathering at West Whitlock for the Annual Prairie States Traditional shoot and gathering. There were some amazing homemade targets this year! A 7-8' tall Sasquatch, the Caddyshack Prairie dogs, an iron buck, a flying F-16, a big yellow minion and a purple minion, Ackmed the terrorist, and many many more! If you haven't been to a Prairie States gather you really are missing out! There's a long distance shoot, a Saturday night cookout and prize drawing. A splendid event for the whole family and then some. Great job Ron Tibke for organizing the location and event.

Where does the time go! Hope you were able to draw some great tags this year. Can't believe antelope season is just a few days away!

We are going to have some great SDBI merchandise available! I've worked with Dale Penning on some stainless steel drink tumbler in 20 and 30 oz sizes. I think they'll be selling fast! They'll be available through Dale in the Harrisburg/S.F. Area and I'll have a few with myself in Bryant, and at the convention in Rapid too. Also, I've been working with a company in Spearfish, Alpine Impressions, to get an online store up and going where you will be able to order shirts, caps, and coats with the SDBI logo! They can be shipped to you or we can have them delivered to the convention in Rapid City. You should be seeing the online store very very soon. Good luck in all your hunts this fall! Please send your field photos and stories, even past hunts you recall to Mike McKnight for the e-newsletter. Also, remember we're doing a drawing for a \$250 gift certificate at the convention! Get those stories in all you arrow launching hunters! We need all of you to help make this great!

Shoot true,

Picture of \$15 SDBI tumbler!





Secretary's Update

Dana Rogers

The board held a teleconference meeting this past week August 6th. Main topics of discussion were the Newsletter, 2021 annual convention/banquet and a request for a booth at the SD Trappers convention. The newsletter NEEDS articles and photos from all members to be able to put together a good product. **Deadlines are 1 Aug, 1 Nov, 1 Feb and 1 May.** If you have photos or stories to share, please send them to Mike McKnight at mcmc-knight2912@gmail.com

The 2021 SDBI convention will be held at the Ramkota convention center in Rapid City March 12/13th. I have Mark Kayser lined up as a seminar and keynote speaker. Once again, we will have a social hour Friday evening. Seminars will occur Saturday late morning through the afternoon. If you have an idea for more seminars, please let me know. I have reserved 150 meals in a buffet style and we will have auctions, raffles and many prizes. We are lining up fishing trips and hunts to auction and raffle off as well. If you haven't gotten your bow raffle tickets, please go to the website and purchase them. The cost is \$10 per ticket and it's your choice of a flagship hunting bow from 2020 or \$1,000 in cash.

The president of the SD Trappers association (John Hopple) is a friend of mine and we worked together at Ellsworth AFB for several years. He's been very active with the GFP Commission on conservation issues. He recently asked us to set up an SDBI booth at their annual convention in Aberdeen September 12th at the Brown county Fairgrounds. Several other conservation organizations will also be present and they expect a visit from Governor Noem. If you are in the area, please consider attending.

On the lobbyist side, the only thing I have to report is the current Elk Management plan is up for renewal and adjustment. I am on the elk stakeholders group and hope that we can advance several concerns many SD elk hunters have. The GFP is currently operating a survey on Elk, Elk Depredation and Landowner issues that will be used to make decisions on the next management plan. If you received a survey request, please fill it out and let them know your thoughts. My concerns primarily lie with elk habitat, numbers and opportunities for sportsmen. We have an opportunity for more elk hunting opportunities in the Prairie as elk further expand into many west river private land habitats. With that expansion, there is also depredation concerns and access issues. A recent proposal that was tabled this spring actually wanted to offer a landowner elk season from Aug 1 - March 31. We continue to see 'some' landowners push for more depredation hunts, fence and hay payments as well as transferable elk licenses that 'some' would like to sell. Many qualifying landowners feel quite the opposite though. Several I know actually want more elk and to see an increase in elk populations and hunting opportunities. This continues to be a tough issue with a segment of vocal landowners having enlisted state legislators to further an agenda of elk reduction and hunter funded cash payments to 'tolerate' the wildlife. I will personally be requesting serious consideration be given to requiring any landowner that receives payments and wants a significant reduction in elk population be restricted to a cow permit, since that's how you control populations. I also think serious consideration should be given to changing the 'unit wide' landowner permit to a 'landowner on own land' permit. I feel this would more fairly represent their habitat enhance-



Secretary's Update

Dana Rogers

ment efforts while keep them from directly competing with regular hunters on public lands that have waited 15-20 years for their opportunity to pursue elk in SD. Regardless of your personal opinion, please let GFP know how you feel and please stay involved with SDBI! We need your photos and articles and I hope to see you all in Rapid City for the March 21 convention.



Convention!

Wyatt Skelton

Well convention time has come and passed. Thank you Scott Loecker for heading up a great convention! If you made it you know how great the seminars were on Wildlife photography, using mapping tools, and the G,F,&P update. Our feature speaker C.J. Winand presented engaging hunting techniques, methods and information. We again had fabulous items on the auctions and raffles. Beautiful handmade custom recurves, Xpedition bow, blinds, Leupold binocs, Pope & Young books, and many more great bowhunting donations. A splendid time was had by all!

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of SDBI and hope can make it to Rapid City for that grand event. Former SD hunter/columnist Mr. Mark Kayser now from neighboring WY will be our feature speaker. To help commemorate this achievement we're working on having some caps, shirts, jackets etc you can order. Please help to make this 50th Convention special by getting donations or donating any hand made items. This is a great milestone for this organization.

Also we're doing a \$250 Scheels gift card to be drawn at the 50th Convention in Rapid City from the submissions of articles for our newsletter! Think about it! You have great odds of winning! We need your stories and input to make each issue a content packed journal of our group! Mike McKnight puts these submissions into a great format for all to enjoy, so please help Mike to be able to keep our organizations newsletter full of content. Please send in any pics, hunt stories, recipes, concerns, or other relevant information that will benefit SDBI members.

In addition we are also doing a year long fundraiser bow raffle! You get to pick a flagship bow from several great brands or a \$1000! \$10 per chance and winner drawn March 12 at the Rapid City Convention!

Please stay up to date on legislative issues and send comments and concerns to your representatives and the GF&P game commission on proposals and potions. Dana has been doing an outstanding job of keeping members informed. We all have a voice so please use it. It's far easier to keep opportunities we have than trying to get them back when they are gone.

Shoot straight,



Three-Time Olympian Named New Mount Marty Archery Coach

On Friday, the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center announced the addition of two new staff members to the facility and both will be coaching the Mount Marty University archery team.

Vic Wunderle, a two-time Olympic medalist, will serve as the new Head Coach for the Mount Marty Lancer Archery team and will also assist with programs at the facility. He is an eight-time World Champion and has spent 25 years as a member of the United States Archery team. Wunderle has won 46 National Archery Championships in compound, recurve, indoors, outdoors, field and 3D. He has over 35 years of experience in the archery industry and holds a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University.

Wunderle is a NTS Level 4 certified coach who has privately coached and mentored students and teammates to a number of championship titles and teams throughout his illustrious career.

"I'm very excited about this new chapter in my life," Wunderle said in Friday's release. "I've been to Yankton several times for tournaments and have been very impressed with the NFAA facility, staff and the Yankton community. Working with such a great team at the world's largest archery center is a dream come true. The MMU archery program has done incredibly well for such a new program and I look forward to working with the athletes in achieving top-level success."

Taking the reigns as the Mount Marty Archery assistant coach is Samantha Rayburn. Rayburn, a former compound collegiate archer, studied at the University of Cumberlands where she earned Academic All-American honors and numerous medals in women's 3D, mixed teams and singles shooting events. Rayburn comes to Yankton from Mississippi and has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Fitness & Sports Management. Samantha will also be assisting as a community coach while at the center and is a NTS Level 2 instructor.

"Coach Wunderle's passion and experience for the sport is certain to enhance our program," Mount Marty athletic director Chris Kassin said. "And the addition of Coach Rayburn is going to take this program to the next level. This further strengthens our partnership with the NFAA for the betterment



Three-Time Olympian Named New Mount Marty Archery Coach (continued)

of our student-athletes. We look forward to the continued success of our national championship level program.”

Wunderle begins his duties Aug. 1, while Rayburn starts July 1.

For more information on the Mount Marty Lancer Archery team, please visit mmclancers.com/sport/archery.

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Tips on how to fall asleep
in a living room chair:

1. Be old
2. Sit in a chair



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Yukon Bowhunting Adventure!

Stan Rausch

YUKON BOWHUNTING ADVENTURE

By Stan Rauch

The big Otter floatplane lifted off the Yukon River at Whitehorse and we were on our way to Widrig Outfitters' base camp on Bonnet Plume Lake in Canada's Yukon Territory. A lot of research and planning had gone into this 1989 hunt and I had chosen this outfitter due to his solid reputation and because of the large Alaska-Yukon moose that were plentiful in his 4,000 square mile outfitting area. It also had a strong population of caribou, grizzlies and Dall's sheep.

After we arrived at the base camp, long-time friends Lonnie Henriksen (Arlington, SD) and Rob Robinson (Albion, NE) horse backed several hours with their guides to a separate spike camp. My dad, Harley Rauch (Lake Preston, SD) was with me in our camp and he opted to hunt caribou as he had taken a nice moose on our 1978 Yukon mixed bag hunt, and another bull on a 1982 British Columbia hunt.

On this hunt I was the only one bowhunting and looked forward to taking a moose and hopefully also a grizzly. We established our spike camp in the upper Bonnet Plume River drainage that was excellent country for moose and bear with the surrounding higher elevations being home to the caribou.

Guide Ella Price and I would ride out with the horses to high vantage points and glass the surrounding expanses for game. Ella was a rugged yet personable woman with thirty years of guiding experience in the far north. We shared tales of past hunts and every day was full of adventure as we moved throughout the country.

On one occasion we watched a big bull moose with two cows for an hour before they finally bedded down. A slow, meticulous stalk finally had him 40 yards away. There was a small depression that I could go down into and up the other side to where he would be in the open at 25 yards. But when I got to the desired place to shoot, there was a blank spot where the bull had been. Despite his large size he had slipped away without me hearing him at all.

Another time we saw the sun shining like a beacon off the antlers of a big bull probably two miles up the valley, and he was coming our way. We headed over to get in front of him and set up to call. But he was never seen again. There are lots of terrain features and cover where animals can simply drop out of sight.

The first grizzly we saw seemed to be late for an appointment as he was moving fast through the country. Dad and his native guide Leo had also seen a nice bear and we had noticed other fresh sign so felt confident that we would eventually get the opportunity for a close encounter. Later we were glassing and the excitement picked up substantially when a dark spot I had been watching moved and I could tell it was a grizzly. We got on the horses and went around and above him as fast as we could. The wind direction cooperated nicely and when we looked over a rise, there he was about 100 yards away. But there was no stalking cover at all, only short tundra grass between us. He was digging a big hole in the ground and when he had his head in the hole we moved toward him and when his head came up to look around, we stopped. After a couple times of this I was about 70 yards from him and then he decided that something on his turf wasn't quite right. He stared right at us, gave a big woof, and galloped off down the moun-



Yukon Bowhunting Adventures

(continued)

Stan Rausch

tain. Just being in the presence of these large and potentially dangerous bears is a never to be forgotten hunting experience.

A couple of days later we were riding along when we spotted three cow moose about 200 yards ahead just up off the river. A closer look revealed that there was a nice bull with them. They started to slowly move up a small open ravine that went up the side of the mountain. It looked like they would go right through a small saddle so I took off running to get there ahead of them. I hadn't been in place for more than three minutes when they showed up but they were 80 yards below me and they took a left turn into the trees. If they maintained their current direction of movement, I still had a chance if I could get ahead of them.

Fortunately, it was easy going on the open tundra hillside and I covered the desired distance in short order. I took up a position just inside the trees and waited. The three cows soon appeared about 50 yards away angling toward me. The bull was grunting with every step as he followed in the same general direction as the cows. When he stopped momentarily at 35 yards, I took the shot. I could see a few inches of the back end of the arrow low behind the front shoulder as he instantly roared off like a runaway freight train. I had him in sight as he went about 100 yards, took a sharp left turn, stood there for a moment, and fell over dead. The broadhead had gone through the bull's heart.

Dad took a very nice caribou and Lonnie and Rob both took big moose. It had been a fabulous adventure in some of the most stunningly beautiful and truly remote wilderness in North America. The two and a half hour return flight to Whitehorse was brief compared to the seven day, 165 mile ride required to bring the two dozen horses out to the nearest road after the last hunt of the season.



Memories of Chuck Bledsoe

Paul Anderson

Wish I could have spent more time with Chuck when I was the Bear Rep covering South Dakota in 1966 and 67. I recall earlier times when we first got acquainted. I believe the event was the first 5 state NFAA Midwestern Tournament which our Long Pine Archery club hosted. We held it at Long Pine Hidden Paradise facilities. Our Club laid out and built 3- 28 target courses, One for Field, One Animal round, and one Hunter round. The tournament was a 2 day affair and I was the Tournament Chairman, so I didn't get the opportunity to shoot the courses except for a few hours on the 2nd day. I was a 250 classification NFAA handicap and I guess Chuck was the same. We who were in the business of selling equipment seldom got to shoot as much as our customers, so we were not exceptional on the field and target ranges. Our expertise was more in hunting where we held our own.

Chuck and I hit it off as if we had been friends for all our lives, just on those few targets we attacked on a very windy day. Chuck enjoyed all phases of shooting the traditional bow, and accumulating a shelf full of trophies was not his motive at the tournaments and other archery events that he attended and participated in. In that regard, we were alike. Chuck Bledsoe enjoyed the companionship, friendship, just the challenge of releasing a good arrow and watching it sail to the target. He was one of my best Bear Dealer in South Dakota, too. During those early days, there was not a lot of bowhunting area except western part of the State, Black Hills, Missouri River area and prairie rough landscapes around Bison, Spearfish, Buffalo, or badlands where Pronghorn Antelope was an early challenge.

I started a bowstring manufacturing operation here in 1976, and we did have a Bear Distributorship until Kelly got a crazy notion and cancelled all his distributors. My motive to take on the extra work and inventory was that I could give my old friends who were dealers in the Nebraska and South Dakota, Kansas area a better price than direct dealers got and to compete with the discount stores. Things changed when Bear was sold and owned by Victor Comptometer, then Kidde.

I visited Chuck once for several hours on a trip when I delivered a couple of my Salers Bulls to a customer near Sioux Falls. I don't recall the date or year without looking back through bank records because have pitched all my old registered cattle records.

Chuck Bledsoe was of the old Bear Archery Dealer mode. Truthful, Honest, and doing a service to friends in bow fishing and hunting because he loved being able to contribute to make things better and to grow the opportunities, the right reasons.



Prairie States Traditional 2020

Wyatt Skelton





Pictures from Prairie States (continued)

Wyatt Skelton





Pictures from Prairie States (continued)

Wyatt Skelton





Pictures from Prairie States (continued)

Wyatt Skelton





Pictures from Prairie States (continued)

Wyatt Skelton





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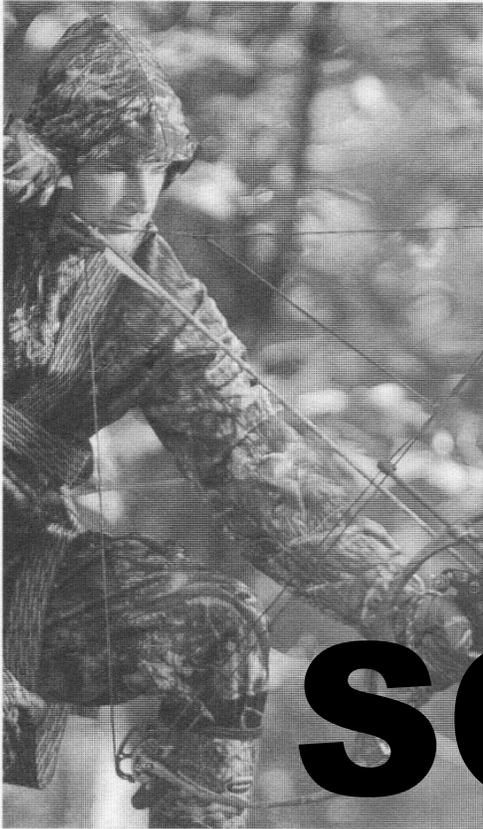
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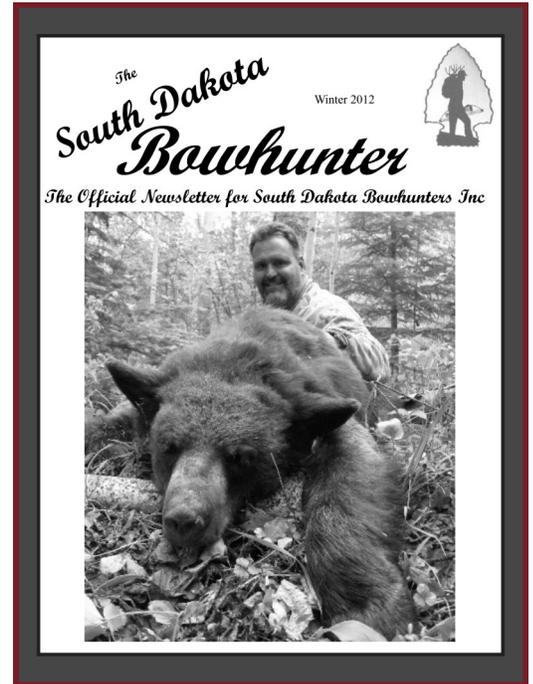
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