

The South Dakota

November 2019



Bowhunter

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On the Front: Vilas Schoenfelder, Black Hills bull

On the Back: Picture from Jake Leibke



Editor's Note

Mike McKnight

Many thanks to those of you that stepped up this edition with pictures. Pictures are the first step - I hope I can convince many of you to write an article or two to go along with the pictures. It will help us with the publication.

Water is the big news everywhere in the state. My son and I were out west for the archery deer opener and, while we weren't directly impacted by water, the mosquitoes were enough to drive a guy crazy. It has been a long time since I have had to deal with mosquitoes during hunting season out in the west. Many of our favorite pheasant spots this year will be tough if not impossible to get to and I suspect many of you have had similar experiences getting to your deer spots.

I have heard from quite a few folks that the change to the October 1 date for non-residents to hunt public land has dramatically reduced the hunting pressure in many areas. One of the GFP Commissioners asked me what I thought about the changes and I told the commissioner I thought they were generally good but that I was surprised the change went in to effect in 2019 not 2020. I certainly can understand the anger of the non-residents that made the plans earlier only to have the rug pulled out from underneath them. Perhaps that went too far. Time will tell.

I would once again encourage all of you to pay attention to what is happening on the national level with regard to public land use and access as well as other issues like clean water and air. There are many organizations out there that you can join or even just follow that are dedicated to these issues. Stand up and be counted.

Play hard and have fun!

Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is December 1

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



Vice President's Voice

Wyatt Skelton

I hope everyone's season going well. I've not had a shot yet, but have had a couple close encounters with a couple dandy mulies in velvet and one bruiser just out with a strip hanging off his beam. They seem to love bedding in the thick tall sweet clover. I've enjoyed the lower deer hunting pressure on public land although still plenty of pressure for antelope as I've had a couple stalks botched by others. I think the changes this year have been a great help for the SD resident bowhunters. Definitely noticed lower deer pressure. Please share your thoughts and observations if these measures are adequate or if there need to be more adaptations implemented. Still lots of deer season left and hopefully a shot chance at an antelope before rifle starts. It's also been exciting to see pics of the bulls coming out of the new Harding county prairie unit again this year. Some fantastic bulls. I've even seen a couple myself while poking around out west.

I also drew a IA archery deer tag so hope to enjoy some out of state opportunities. Looking forward to chasing some of those famous IA big boys. I'm sure I will make some great memories on these adventures. So here's to hoping you all make some great memories or at least some wildly fabulous lies n stories to share at the next SDBI Convention!

May your arrows fly true,



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Camouflage Jacket and Trousers**



Secretary/Lobbyist's Column

CMSgt (Ret) Dana R Rogers

I hope this fall finds you shooting straight and with some great bowhunting ahead. Many of you may remember that SDBI sent in a position letter about making changes to Non-Resident Deer and Antelope Archery licenses a year and a half ago. The Game Fish and Parks Commissioners wanted to have a far reaching “conversation” about all Non-Resident hunting and fishing. Long story short, they held a few Non-Resident stakeholders group meetings in Pierre. I attended and fought for our case regarding Non-Resident pressure, specifically on our public lands.

After many Commissioners meetings, testifying on our behalf. As well as lobbying commissioners and Game Fish and Parks statistics, with their own harvest data, a vote and “compromise” was passed in July. A new group calling themselves “Landowners and Outfitters Alliance” hired a lawyer to push against some of the changes we requested, along with working for more Non-Resident firearms permits for their “clients”. They were very effective. Even though few e-mailed the Commissioners or took the time to go and testify, the Commissioners heard our pleas for change. The statistics on increased Non-Resident archery pressure, higher harvest rates and specifically much higher mule deer harvest on public lands could NOT be ignored. The compromise reached was (in my opinion) primarily a result of the Commissioners not wanting to do anything to limit overall Non-Resident licenses, specifically those on Private lands. Thus, they came up with a plan to require Non-Residents who wanted to hunt public lands to have to purchase their license by August 1 in 2019 and April 1 from 2020 on. That should significantly reduce the public land pressure and really help with South Dakota being a Non-Residents “Fall Back Plan”. Other stipulations were that Non-Residents hunting Private land could continue to buy Private Land only licenses throughout the fall and that any Non-Resident wishing to hunt Publicly Accessible lands have a season start date of October 1.

Finally, the SDGF&P Commissioners took more restrictive action with the Custer National Forest. Some may know that as Rifle unit 35L, which encompasses the Cave Hills, Short Pines and Slim Buttes in Harding county. Given the overwhelming Non-Resident pressure in that area specifically, the Commissioners proposed and passed a measure that requires a drawing for those Limited Access Unit permits. They decided on limiting them to about 550 resident permits and 125 Non-Resident permits. Previously unlimited, in 2018 there were approximately 550 resident permits and 500 Non-Resident permits issued.

There was a lot of politicking over many of these issues on all sides. I’d like to thank Vice President Wyatt Skelton for driving over to Pierre to help me with testimony on one of the Commissioner meetings. In the end our Commissioners voted 7-1 in favor of this compromise. I truly feel this is a step in the right direction to help our resident public land bowhunters achieve a much greater experience in the field. So, if like me, you have avoided Harding county in September at all costs due to the crazy pressure, it should greatly improve from here on out.

The Commissioners are always getting petitions from the public. Some you might consider great ideas, others you personally may be opposed to. It’s important to keep an eye on these things! There is a growing movement in SD to put serious restrictions on trapping and always



Secretary/Lobbyist's Column (continued)

CMSgt (Ret) Dana R Rogers

a high interest in Mountain Lions and how many are allowed to be taken and what way. You also may recall that I e-mailed you about a petition to allow Muzzleloaders to be topped with 4X and/or 6X scopes. That petitioner sighted his poor eyesight and his “inability” to find any 1X scopes to purchase. The initial vote was 6-2 in favor of adopting that petition. I applaud Commissioners Bies and Olson for voting against it. Since the Petition passed, it went to a 30-day public comment period. I was in attendance for Thursday’s meeting in Spearfish on September 5th. The Commissioners pushed the vote another month and it will be open for further comments until early October. By the printing of this, we may already have another primitive type season being moved further in the direction of “technology”. When issues like this come up, it’s absolutely vital that you call, write or come and testify in front of the commissioners to provide your inputs. When doing so, I always urge anyone to be Polite, Professional and have a Plan. Meaning, come armed with information that is factual.

In my discussion with several Commissioners over the past year, I often came away perplexed. As an example, in 2018 there were 7 archery technology proposals for change that came before the Commission as a result of inputs and lobbying from the Archery Trade Association (Archery manufacturers). SDBI Board members had a telephone conference and sent in our opinions on each item. President Jim Twamley, Board member Jake Liebke and I all drove to Pierre to testify against these changes. In the end, the Commissioners voted to pass 5 of the 7 agenda items to expand various technologies in archery season in SD. What caused me great concern came later in that year.

On separate occasions I had two different Commissioners speak to me regarding “all this technology” in archery seasons. They expressed concern over the possibility of higher harvest rates and openly discussed “having to shorten seasons” or “create a draw”. Those comments came after SDBI fought against the very type of changes they voted for.

I type all this as a call for involvement. During the last few years of the Deer Stakeholders group meetings. Both Mike McKnight and later myself attended and fought for our interests. Mike did a hell of a job working to keep our statewide and ER/WR archery permits out of what wound up being a “combined drawing” for all firearms deer licenses. That was a huge win for SD Bowhunters, I assure you. Some Commissioners and even the SD Wildlife Foundation representative indicated to me personally that they thought Archery tags should have been included.

Additionally, after the Non-Resident archery changes were made to push their public land start date back to October 1, I had conversations with a handful of Commissioners that independently indicated to me that they may look at changing the overall start date of archery season from September 1. That has NOT been proposed yet, but it would not surprise me if it will be in 2020. Discussions in private conversations were a 2nd Saturday or a Sept 10/15th type opener. In full disclosure, I was personally not in favor of the September 1 archery opener, as I felt it would only lead to more Non-Resident pressure (16% increase happened). But as your Secretary/Lobbyist, I serve at the memberships pleasure.

On the positive side, we’ve welcomed several new members to the fold the last few months. I’ve been trying hard to spread the word and “preach” about the good SDBI does on social media. We’ve also had some memberships laps and not be renewed though. As of this writ-



Secretary/Lobbyist's Column (continued)

CMSgt (Ret) Dana R Rogers

ing, we are sitting at 230 members. I personally find that quite sad, as we have over 20,000 resident bowhunters in SD. So please, spread the word and let all your bowhunting friends know WHY being a member of SDBI is so important.

I have tentatively scheduled our 2021 SDBI annual convention/banquet at the Ramkota in Rapid City for March 12/13. I also have a verbal agreement to bring in former SD resident and TV/Writer Mark Kayser as keynote.

~Dana Rogers



Sixty Years Ago!

Stan Rauch

It seems that a personal milestone has crept up on me. It was October 1959 when I was 14 that I took my first big game animal with the bow. It was a doe and the success came in mostly dry Lake Thompson about a half mile south of the current State Park.

I got the bug to shoot the bow when I was at the Methodist Youth Camp at Lake Poinsett. There was a small target range complete with bows and arrows. I shot and shot and then shot some more. They had to run me out of there to attend other camp activities.

I had taken my first rifle deer in 1953 out by Hill City so my dad was well aware that I had a distinct interest in hunting (all thanks to him) and he knew that I liked to shoot the bow. Our local game warden in Lake Preston, Don Weiland, had a bow for sale and my dad took me over to his house and bought it for me. It was a 45 pound Ben Pearson Javelina model.

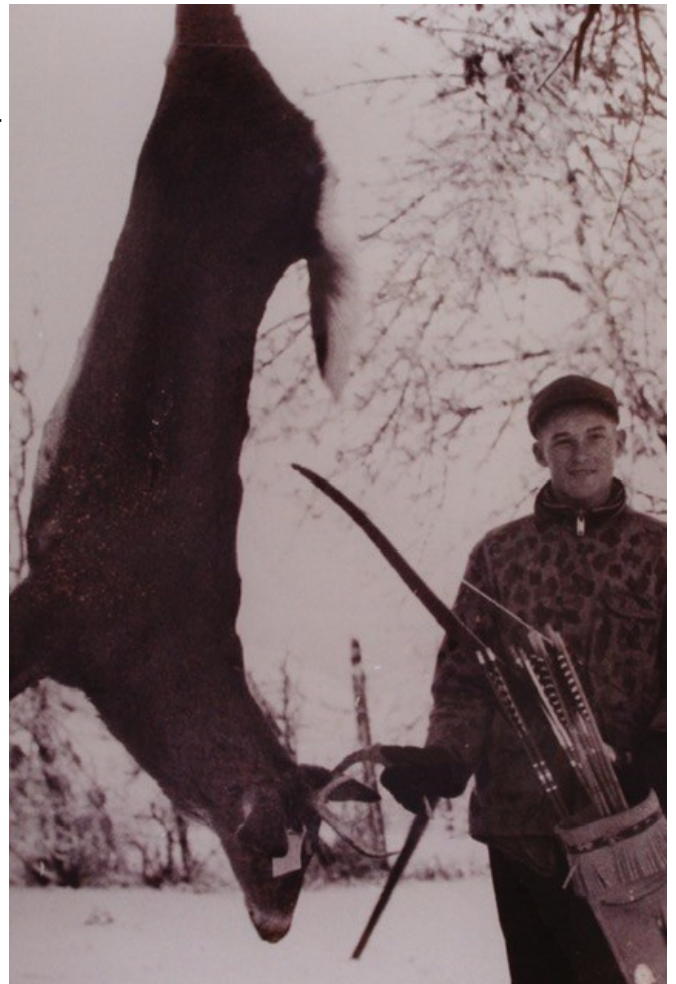
I then ordered my arrows, Bear Razorhead broadheads, shooting glove, arm guard and quiver from the Herter's catalog. I practiced a lot that summer and was anxious to hunt when the season arrived that fall.

My first bow hunting attempt was on the east side of Lake Thompson where a series of ditching had been put in for waterfowl conservation purposes. I sat on a five gallon bucket in the rushes just off a trail that ran along the edge of one of the ditches. A 4X4 buck came along and was about 8 yards away when I shot right over its back. This was exciting stuff as I was amazed that I had a deer that close to me.

I don't recall how many sits I had on the pail before that fateful doe came along. But there was extreme happiness when the shot was good resulting in a short recovery.

The next year, 1960, I managed to come up with a small buck in the Lake Preston lake bed. I was hooked on this bowhunting thing when I got the doe the previous year, but the buck added even more fuel to the fire. To say that I have enjoyed a lot of great bowhunting experiences since then would certainly be an understatement.

It seems that I should be feeling very old after 60 years from that first doe. But I am only aware that I don't get around quite as fast but still get there in good shape. Onward to more hunts with bow in hand!!





The Mentor

Dana R. Rogers

Jacob and his parents approached me one evening and asked if I'd show their son the ropes of bowhunting. I'd known both his parents most of my life and after some brief discussions I accepted. I have tried to mentor a few youngsters and thoroughly enjoy taking kids hunting. My standard practice is to let them know "my rules" and see how the kids/parents react. One thing I've tried to do is to reverse some of the practices I saw growing up and hope to see change in hunters in future generations.

There would be practice with weapons, to ensure proficiency and it wouldn't be just going hunting. I like to show the children the land, show them how habitat and the wildlife react to changes in habitat. Part of that is sometimes work planting trees or helping with fences or food plots, stands, cameras etc. Jacob was VERY enthusiastic and an absolute joy to mentor. He met me at "the farm" no less than 5 times to practice with weapons, go over hunting ethics/rules and mix in some habitat work and fun. All of it intended to be educational.



That year Jacob took a beautiful doe with a great shot and showed his metal as a new hunter. One evening he came to bowhunt and I observed him from a distance with my glass. I watched Jacob walk to the treestand we had placed for him and I noticed he walked around and then went back to his pickup. Jacob had forgotten his safety harness and knowing that was one of "my rules" he didn't climb up, he returned to his truck to get his harness. I was so proud of him and impressed that I immediately texted his father. Jacob was learning and taking it all in.

Later in the year he proudly called me and told me that he'd taken a nice buck on his own with his rifle near his parents property. Another great milestone for him. Still having his any deer archery tag we continued to bowhunt together. One evening I was sitting a few hundred yards away over water when an older buck that



only grew one antler came in. I photographed the buck but decided to let him walk. Just before dark, that old one antlered buck walked right in front of Jacob.

Jacob was nervous as the buck walked through his shooting lane and his arrow entered the buck a bit higher than we'd have liked. He texted me and we looked over the scene in the



The Mentor

(continued)

Dana R. Rogers

dark. We elected to look further in the morning as the sign wasn't good and we couldn't find the arrow.

We tried diligently the next day but couldn't locate the buck, arrow or further sign. A week later, I found the buck a few hundred yards away. The coyotes had really gotten to him but the right thing to do was tag the buck and take possession as 'we'd' made the fatal shot. I was very proud of Jacob for the young man he was becoming and the future hunter I knew he'd turn into.

I believe mentoring youth is very important and I hope that you as sportsmen will consider taking on the challenge of introducing a youngster into the fold. I truly believe I get more joy and happiness out of it than most of my own hunting experiences.





Crockpot Elk Roast with Gravy

Megan Biel

3-4 lb elk roast
1T sugar
1T salt
1 packet dry onion soup mix
1 10.5 oz can cream of mushroom soup
Garlic powder
Pepper
1 T cornstarch

Combine sugar and salt with enough water to cover roast in a container with a lid. Soak roast in this brine for at least 24 hours. 2-3 days is preferred if you start from frozen. This will remove a lot of the gamey taste and make the roast tender and juicy.

Place roast in crock pot. Sprinkle with garlic powder and pepper, then with dry onion soup mix. Pour can of cream of mushroom soup on top. Fill can with water and pour into crock pot. Cook on high 4-5 hours or low 6-8 hours, rotating roast and ladling juices on top every few hours if you are able. (I usually start this before I leave for work in the morning and don't rotate it until I get home and it is still delicious.) Toward the end of cooking time, carefully slide roast to one side and combine cornstarch with a little bit of water and whisk into the juices. Put crock pot on high and cook 15 more minutes. This will thicken the juices to make a nice gravy.

By the end of cooking time, the roast will be falling apart. You can shred the meat into the gravy or serve it separately. We like this over egg noodles or mashed potatoes.

You could also add Carrots, Potatoes, Mushrooms, etc. to the roast while it cooks if you prefer.



Pictures From The Hunt



This was my 19th Pronghorn with a bow and it made the magical 16" green length. 2 of those Pronghorns were taken on private land in Montana, the rest on public lands in Wyoming and South Dakota. I very much have seen the difference in the hunting pressure this fall, my hunting was once again enjoyable.

One thing I would like to emphasize, there is a lot of long range arrow flinging going on out there. We see it on TV, it's all over social media and I have seen it with even friends of mine. I shoot competitively at 20-60yd indoor and outdoor competitions. So far have always been in the money at the 60yd mark and am a former NFAA Senior Bowhunter Freestyle National Indoor Champion. I do hold many Midwest and State titles as well. I'm speaking to all of us here to remember bowhunting ethics. An animal doesn't deserve to be wounded from a pot shot. Most of my animals have been taken inside 20 yds. I once took a potshot at 82 yds on a buck I wounded at 20yds. It was getting dark so in a high 40 mph style crosswind I gave my arrow about 12 feet of wind drift hoping luck would prevail, and it did, again it was pure luck...but those long shots should be left for such events to get the animal down and quick retrieval.

Good Luck this fall.

Ronn McDaniel, O.D.



Pictures From The Hunt (continued)



Clint Coyle, Archery Deer, Vale, SD

Stan Rauch





Pictures From The Hunt (continued)



Dale Penning, Gregory County





Pictures From The Hunt

(continued)

Jake Leibke photos





Pictures From The Hunt (continued)

Jake Leibke photos, continued





Pictures From The Hunt (continued)



Cole Kosmala, Wyoming (Dana Roger's son)



Pictures From The Hunt (continued)



Dana Rogers, Wyoming



Dana Rogers, Wyoming



Dana Rogers. Colorado BLM buck with recurve. This is my very first Trad kill and I took it with my custom bow made by good friend and SDBI bow auction supporter Travis Sivertsen of Ree Heights. (Thanks Travis)



Pictures From The Hunt

(continued)



Al Kraus, Limpopo Region of South Africa

Crawled into 20 yards of this sleeping dinosaur. You have to shoot a croc through both lungs. When he goes back into the water, the water pressure forces water into his lungs. He will suffocate if he stays in the water. 12 minutes after he went into the water he resurfaced trying to get air. When he realized that wasn't working he went to shore and crawled onto the bank. When he got the wound channel out of the water he laid down and died on the bank! The other picture shows where his lungs are located. You aim between front and back legs for left and right and where big back scales meet the smaller side scales is where you shoot. You have to be ground level to get under the spine and hit both lungs. If you shoot low you will hit the heart and he will die in the water and could result in a lost croc. I was using a 330 easton injexion with a 125 gr Helix broadhead. Total weight was 504 gr. Very awesome adventure and best of all got to share the experience with my son!!



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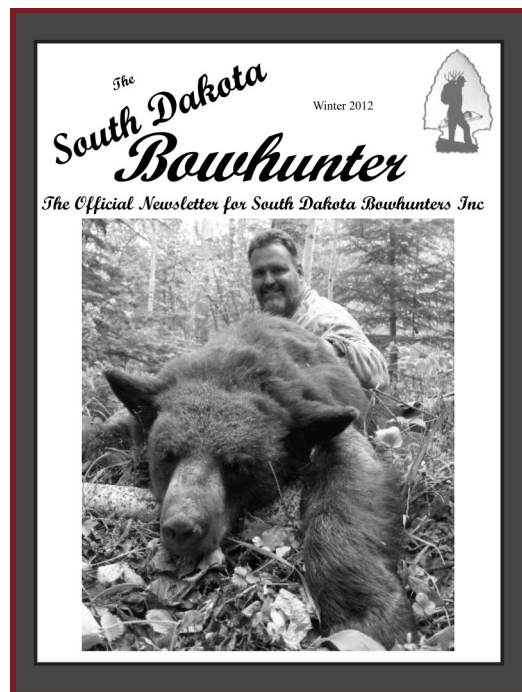
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