

**Central
Wyoming
Chapter**



CENTRAL WYOMING CHAPTER

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

October 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Number 8

Next Meeting : When : Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 6:30 PM
Where : Casper Petroleum Club Sunroom

Presentation : Chapter members Charlie Shopp and Rick Ullery will give a presentation on their recent Dall sheep hunt in Alaska.

Agenda :

- 1) Welcome members and visitors.
- 2) President's remarks.
- 3) Chapter business.
- 4) Presentation.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 5, 2009. The November meeting has been cancelled as many of the Chapter officers will be unavailable in early November.

Thursday, December 17, 2009. In lieu of a November meeting, we have decided to have a little holiday soiree instead in the banquet room at the Casper Petroleum Club. As this point our proposal is to have a "social" hour featuring hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar for our membership to celebrate the holiday season and just to take time to talk about hunting, renew old friendships, etc. There is no formal program proposed at this time but we may have a few items for auction to cover our expenses. Your family is welcome and we will need an RSVP for the event along with any suggestions you may have for the event.




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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I had originally started to compose an article on volunteers in SCI and the work that they do on a national and international level and then something happened, I stated watching the Ken Burns series “The National Parks - America’s Best Idea” on PBS. After watching episodes one through three, I am compelled to write about the series and for those of you who have not been following the program, it is a MUST SEE!

One of the recurring themes in the program is that America’s National Parks define our country and provide our citizens with not only a sense of place but also with natural areas where we may renew ourselves in the unspoiled wonders of

Nature. What many of us may not know is that the United States was the first country in the world to set aside unique national lands for the enjoyment of ALL the people, not just one particular social class.

Living in Wyoming, most of us probably know that Yellowstone National Park was the first National Park to be designated by Congress and that President Theodore Roosevelt issued an Executive Order designating Devil’s Tower as the first National Monument. What many of us may not realize is that these events occurred due largely to the efforts of a small, but dedicated group of individuals - not because the Congress of the United States was determined to preserve our natural heritage. Moreover, the efforts of this small group of dedicated individuals resulted in the birth of the conservation movement in this country, which ultimately gave rise to the North American Conservation Model. Notable among these individuals were sportsmen such as Theodore Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell (founders of the Boone and Crockett Club), Gifford Pinchot (generally responsible for the creation of our national forest system), Charles Sheldon (an early naturalist, author of *The Wilderness of Denali* and ultimately responsible for the creation of Mount McKinley National Park) and others, who worked tirelessly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to preserve and protect those areas of the country that were priceless in terms of their natural beauty, unique geologic features, and biological diversity.

While the PBS program is primarily concerned with documenting the history of the National Parks and the process through which the individual parks were established, it also chronicles the beginning of the conservation movement in this country – a movement which is unparalleled elsewhere on the planet. More importantly, the program has repeatedly pointed out that many prominent sportsmen of the age stepped up to preserve and protect what they loved most - the animals and their habitat. One of the key motives for the establishment of Yellowstone National Park was the preservation of the American bison. The last remaining herd of free-ranging bison in the country resided in Yellowstone at that time and was in danger of extinction. If these “conservationists” had not stepped up to the plate, this species may have been lost forever from the American west.

While I find the historical aspects of the development of the National Parks interesting, what has grabbed my attention is the continued references to the need for unspoiled lands, the effect that these lands have on us as individuals, and the commitment of these early conservationists’ to preserve these lands. Several issues ago, I talked about “Why We Hunt” and this program goes to the very heart of that discussion. The National Park system we enjoy today was largely created by men and women of vision who had a passion for wild places, wildlife, and the spiritual renewal that they experienced when visiting these special areas and they recognized that these places needed to be preserved for posterity. The need to know that there are places that we can go to experience solitude, to contemplate the grandeur of nature, and to reflect on the meaning of our existence is what drove the initial conservation movement. These needs remain in our society today, perhaps even more so than then, and hunting provides many of us with an excuse to seek out wild places where we can renew our souls away from the demands and hectic regimen of our twenty-first century lives. While hunting is not generally allowed in National Parks today, the conservation movement that was started back in the late nineteenth century is still largely responsible for the bounty of

wildlife that exists in North America today and also resulted in the establishment of a system of national forests that provide recreational opportunities for hunters and non-hunters alike. When the north entrance (Roosevelt arch) to Yellowstone National Park was dedicated on April 24, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt stated that “The Yellowstone Park is something absolutely unique in the world...This park was created and is now administered for the benefit and enjoyment of the people...it is the property of Uncle Sam and therefore of us all.” The arch bears the inscription “For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People” as a tribute to that noble concept. In the early days of the conservation movement, everybody was in agreement that we needed to preserve our natural heritage for future generations. Hunters and non-hunters alike worked together to achieve a common goal and history records the success of this movement, which is unprecedented in the human experience. Unfortunately, we have seen movements in the last twenty-five years that generally ignore the fact that concerned sportsmen and women were at the forefront of the conservation movement in the county. The anti-hunting groups, animal rights advocates, radical environmental groups, etc. all fail to recognize that sport hunters were among the first conservationists and that we continue to support conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. They also fail to recognize that were it not for the efforts of early groups such as the Boone and Crockett Club, many species that flourish today may well have vanished from North America. I hope that this program on our National Parks will help dispel some of these misconceptions and demonstrate that hunting played a vital role in the early conservation movement and continues to play an important role in wildlife conservation and sustainable use today. But the caveat is that modern sportsmen and women must live up to the lofty ideals of those early men and women who worked so tirelessly to ensure that the natural bounty this country was blessed with remains for future generations.

SCI/SCIF FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

As I have said many times before, the strength of any organization lies in it's members - particularly those members who volunteer to serve on the various committees that develop and administer the programs of said organization. In this regard, I spent the week of August 24 -29 in Tucson attending a Chapter Leadership Training Seminar and also attending the Fall SCI Board of Directors meeting. During that time, I had an opportunity to witness first hand the dedication of a relatively small group of men and women who work tirelessly to further the mission of SCI to protect our freedom to hunt and promote wildlife conservation worldwide.

For those members who have never attended a Board of Directors meeting or served on one of the many committees within both SCI and SCIF, it is difficult to comprehend the degree of individual effort that goes into furthering the goals and objectives of our organization. As your president, I am a de facto member of the Board of Directors of both SCI and SCIF and, in an effort to become more engaged in the process, I currently serve on SCI's Membership Committee and on SCIF's Conservation Committee. I also serve on three Conservation sub-committees including the Africa, CITES, and North America committees. Working with these committees/sub-committees has given me a much better understanding of the challenges that we collectively face on a daily basis in the struggle to preserve our hunting and wildlife heritage. More importantly, it has given me a much broader understanding of SCI/SCIF and the critical role that our organization plays with respect to worldwide hunting - which is why I typically try to disseminate some of the information obtained in these meetings to our members so that you also will have a better understanding of how SCI/SCIF is working to preserve your hunting heritage (see attached).

As a member of the CITES sub-committee, SCI is currently working to forestall a potential proposal at the March 2010 CoP (Conference of Parties) to uplist the African lion from CITES Appendix II to CITES Appendix I. While this may not seem to be an issue critical to our membership in Wyoming, uplisting of the African lion would spell the end of sport hunting for this species - which would ultimately result in the demise of lions across Africa. For additional information on the plight of lions in Kenya, where hunting is not allowed, see the CBS 60 Minutes program “Poisoned” which aired on July 26, 2009: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=5189491n&tag=contentMain;contentBody>. You may also go to the CBS 60 Minutes website and type in the word Poisoned in the search window and it should come up as a selection resulting from the search.

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More importantly, uplisting would be a stepping stone to prevent sport hunting of other high profile species such as elephant, leopard, etc. and once hunting ends for these species it is unlikely that it will ever resume. How does that affect us here in Wyoming you ask? Those opposed to hunting are constantly searching for opportunities to put an end to sport hunting and they are learning that it may not be possible to effect a wholesale end to sport hunting all at once. So, they are turning to a more insidious practice of using established laws, rules and regulations such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to slowly but surely whittle away at our rights. The African lion is just one example, but each time they succeed in stopping hunting on a particular species, they are one step closer to achieving their ultimate goal and, unfortunately, the targeted wildlife species will pay the ultimate price. So, we can't afford to allow the anti's to close hunting on a particular species where the scientific (population) data does not support uplisting. However, in the case of African species, many of the range states can't afford to conduct the level of scientific investigation necessary to demonstrate to the CoP that populations are healthy in those countries that allow sport hunting and that an annual off-take of surplus animals is warranted. It requires help from conservation-minded organizations such as SCI and SCIF to provide the funding necessary to conduct these scientific investigations. The SCIF Africa sub-committee has just recommended spending \$50,000 in Tanzania to conduct just such a study of the lion populations therein in an effort to forestall the uplisting of lions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Getting back to how this affects us here, wolves and grizzlies are a prime example of how the anti's are working to prevent us from hunting these species, despite the fact that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that these species are "recovered". The argument that there are not a sufficient number of wolves in the northern Rockies to ensure genetic diversity is being used as an excuse to challenge the downlisting. A challenge to the downlisting of grizzlies in the northern Rockies has recently been filed based on the premise that climate change is affecting a primary fall food source (white bark pine nuts) that are an important component of the bears fall diet prior to entering hibernation. There is also the question of genetic diversity for the bear population, particularly if the population declines due to a lack of an important fall food source. The climate change card was also a factor in the recent uplisting of polar bears, which has precluded the harvest of surplus bears in the arctic – despite the fact that the polar bear populations are at recent highs.

This is how it works – an emotional appeal to the courts and to the public that results in protections that are often not warranted by the actual data. As hunters and conservationists, we don't want to see lions, grizzly bears, polar bears, etc. disappear from the wild places of the earth and we are typically the ones who shell out our hard-earned dollars to forestall this from happening. Unfortunately the general public is not aware of this fact or that we were at the forefront of the conservation movement and remain there today.

So, as hunters and as members of SCI, we have an obligation to go forth and educate the public regarding the role that hunting plays in species conservation. No one else is going to do it for us and the future of our sport is dependent upon our success (or failure) in this regard.

2010 WHITE ELEPHANT BAR-B-QUE

Our eighth annual White Elephant dinner event will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Best

Western Ramkota - please mark your calendars accordingly. I have initiated a tentative conversation with Dr. Larry Rudolph, the current President of SCI, as a possible speaker for the event and I am hoping that I will have a decision from Larry shortly in this regard. Realizing that Larry has an extremely busy schedule which may preclude his attendance at our event in April, I am considering Shane Mahoney as a back-up speaker. You have seen my references to Shane's editorial comments in previous newsletters and I believe that Shane would be a powerful speaker on the subject of the North American Conservation Model and the driving forces behind our need to hunt. If any of you have opinions in this regard or suggestions regarding an alternate speaker, please feel free to contact me at 307-473-1268 or you may send an email to biologist@prodigy.net.

2010 ELECTIONS

As stated in the previous newsletter, the terms of our officers and directors will expire on February 4, 2010 and we will hold our elections for a new slate of officers and directors in conjunction with our January 2010 meeting. In this regard, I have appointed Rick Bonander as the chairman of the Nominating Committee. In accordance with the bylaws (Section VI. 12. B.), the Nominating Committee consists of the President, Vice-President and three additional committee members and I have also appointed Mike Moore and Sy Gilliland to serve on the subject committee.

Once again, we will be electing officers including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer along with a minimum of three directors to be elected from the general membership and I have advised the Committee Chairman that I will seek an additional term as President of the Central Wyoming Chapter. If any of you are interested in serving as an officer or director of the Central Wyoming Chapter, please feel free to give Rick or myself a call.

On a similar subject, we need to begin delegating more responsibility to our membership regarding the daily affairs of the Central Wyoming Chapter for the coming two years. In this regard, there are a number of SCI standing committees that need to be developed and will require chairmen as follows: Membership, Public Relations, SCI-PAC, Education, and Humanitarian Services (including SafariCare, SafariWish, Sensory Safari and Sportsmen Against Hunger).

We are also in need of someone to take over the responsibility for publishing the newsletter on a monthly basis. Ultimately, this is your Chapter and we desperately need volunteers to step up and help us run the affairs of the Chapter. I am hoping that there are those among you who will heed the call for volunteers. If you look at our accomplishments to date, we can all be proud of the Central Wyoming Chapter and I would hope that we can continue our good work many years into the future – but the future depends on all of us collectively to help out, not just a select few. This is not the “Rick and Bob” show nor was it ever intended to be!

In closing, let me say that I know that everyone is busy, but what if men like George Bird Grinnell, John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, Charles Sheldon, Theodore Roosevelt et al. had been too busy to work for the preservation of places like Mount McKinley, the giant sequoia trees, the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, etc. where would we be today? I have faith in SCI and in the work that we are doing. Likewise I have faith that there are those among you who will help us keep our Chapter going in a direction that we can all be proud of.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership as of September 30, 2009 stands at 163 active members, with an additional 48 members who have allowed their memberships to lapse. If you have any questions concerning the current status of your membership or would be interested in contacting any of these lapsed members in an effort to secure their renewal, please contact Bob Anderson at 307-473-1268.

The strength of any organization lies in its members and we need to get the word out to our hunting friends and neighbors that they need to join SCI. The loss of our hunting rights affects ALL hunters, not just members of SCI, and the non-member needs to understand who we are and what we are really all about. Passion just doesn't always spring up over night - it takes an understanding of the issues and the realization that there is a very real threat to our hunting heritage out there. So, if you have a friend or neighbor that is not currently a member of SCI, bring them to the meeting on October 8th and introduce them to the Central Wyoming Chapter - we're really not all that bad!

SCI Membership Types and Fees include the following:

- Life Member \$1,500;
- Senior Life Member \$1,250;
- **National Member 3 Year \$150;** and
- National Member \$55.

For those individuals who are National Members, you can save \$15.00 by renewing your national membership for a three-year period and avoid the hassle of having to renew you membership on an annual basis.

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In addition to the above, there are two classes of membership that are not well advertised by SCI including the **Young Hunter** membership and the **Family** membership. The Young Hunter membership is available to youths under the age of 17 for an annual membership fee of \$15 - the Central Wyoming Chapter has waived our annual chapter dues for Young Hunter memberships in an attempt to encourage participation from our youth. Family memberships are available to families consisting of both spouses and any children under the age of 17 for an annual membership fee of \$95 (annual SCI dues are \$75 and the annual Chapter dues are \$20 for one adult family member).

SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

Bill Spicer, chairman of the Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAG) Committee, reports that over 10,000 pounds of processed game meat was donated to local charities by Dan's Meat Processing, Inc., Pearce Custom Butchering and Processing, and Tom's Game Processing in 2008. Each of our participating processors were recognized for their contributions to the SAG program during our Dinner Event on April 18, 2009 with a very nice gift and a certificate of appreciation. We appreciate their participation in the SAG program and will look forward to working with them in the future to help those in our community who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Bill has already started working on getting the program organized for the 2009 hunting season. If you are interested in serving on the committee and helping Bill with the program, feel free to give him a call at 307-472-2125.

ADVERTISING

The Central Wyoming Chapter continues to accept paid advertising in the monthly newsletter. Whether you wish to advertise your business or have a personal item for sale, your advertisement will reach our entire membership and will help support the monthly production and mailing costs associated with the newsletter. Rates for personal advertising will be \$5.00 per item up to three lines. For business advertising, we have agreed to charge \$10.00 for a business card, \$50.00 for a full page insert, and \$10.00/column inch for any other ads. If you need additional information concerning advertising in our monthly newsletter, please contact Bob Anderson at 473-1268 or send an email to biologist@prodigy.net.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

A cash bar will be open and available during the evening for refreshments. For those of you who would like to come early and have dinner, you may order from either the bar menu (lighter fare) or from the regular dinner menu at your discretion - cash or check please for non-club members. Spouses are always welcome - be sure to bring your better half and introduce them to our chapter, some fantastic presentations, and the adventure of the great outdoors! Likewise, children are also welcome and are the future of hunting both in North America and elsewhere. We encourage you to bring your kids, introduce them to SCI and the Central Wyoming Chapter and promote our sport. As the SCI bumper sticker says: "Hunt with your kids, not for them". We encourage you to bring a friend, introduce them to Safari Club International, and help our new club continue to grow.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or require information regarding SCI, the Central Wyoming Chapter, or the contents of this newsletter, please feel free to contact one of the officers listed below:

Name	Title	Telephone
Bob Anderson	President	307-473-1268
Roger Green	Vice-President	307-473-1112
Vacant	Secretary	
Gail Zimmerman	Treasurer	307-235-1173

NOTICE

If you have news or announcements that you would like included in future issues of the newsletter or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Bob Anderson at 307-473-1268 or send an email to: biologist@prodigy.net.

Just so you know, the mailed version of the newsletter is in black and white, while the electronic version is in color. If you have high-speed internet capabilities and wish to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email message to biologist@prodigy.net expressing your desire to be added to the electronic newsletter mailing list. Likewise, if your email address has changed recently OR if you are no longer receiving your newsletter electronically as expected, you need to advise us of your new/revised email address. If you have changed your ISP (Internet Service Provider) and have not notified us of your change of address, you will no longer receive the newsletter. In most cases, we normally do not duplicate our mailings and those members who are receiving the newsletter electronically WILL NOT receive hard copies via regular mail UNLESS we have been instructed to send a hard copy as well.

Finally, if any of our members have experience with Desktop Publishing and would like to take a swing at upgrading our newsletter, we would be grateful for the help. The Central Wyoming Chapter has a real chance to win a major award from SCI in 2009 if we can take our chapter activities to the next step, so we would appreciate any help from our membership to enhance the newsletter or become more involved in SCI and SCIF programs to promote the mission of SCI locally and on a state-wide basis. So, if you have an interest in helping us to be all that we can be, please contact Bob to discuss these possibilities.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Bob Anderson has the following item for sale:

- **Swarovski PH riflescope: 6-24 X 50 with Plex reticle and target turrets. Like new with very light ring mounts from previous mounting – glass perfect! \$1,350. New retail value = \$1,998.95 +S&H.**

The scope can be seen at 5315 East 21st Street in Casper. Call 307-473-1268 for additional information.

 **SCI FIRST FOR HUNTERS**