

**Central
Wyoming
Chapter**



CENTRAL WYOMING CHAPTER

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

October 2011

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Number 3

Next Meeting : When : Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 6:30 PM
Where : Casper Petroleum Club

Presentation : Chapter Member Rick Bonander will give a presentation on his lion hunt in Zambia earlier this year.

Agenda :

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

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 3, 2011. Speaker to be announced.

Thursday, December 1, 2011. In accordance with our past policy, there will not be a meeting in December in observance of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Thursday, January 5, 2012. To be announced.

Thursday, February 2, 2012. To be announced.




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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ladies and gentlemen, the Central Wyoming Chapter is approaching a crossroads that will determine the future direction of our chapter. Over the past eight years, I have worn many hats in the service of the Central Wyoming Chapter in addition to my duties as Vice-President and President. During this eight year period, I have acted as the Fundraising Chairman, Membership Chairman and Newsletter Editor. I have coordinated our Conservation and Education efforts locally, nationally and internationally. Finally, I have also represented the Central Wyoming Chapter at the SCI Annual Convention as well as the Spring and Fall Board of Directors meetings.

During the past several years the demands on my time have increased, which now includes running my two businesses in a down economy, taking over the day-to-day management of Global Sporting Safaris, an increasing involvement with SCI/F on both a national and international basis to protect our freedom to hunt, and my responsibilities associated with the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust. As a consequence, I find that I no longer have the time to devote to all of these responsibilities within the Central Wyoming Chapter. Unfortunately, I have been asking for volunteers for four years now with no success, so something here must change if the Chapter is to survive and prosper.

As I mentioned in the March newsletter, I am in my fourth year sitting on the Membership and Chapter Development Committee within SCI. As a result I have seen and continue to see the issues that face chapters and the reasons for either outright failure or revocation of their charter by Tucson and I can say that we are starting to see the early warning signs of failure in the Central Wyoming Chapter. I don't expect the failure to occur next week, next month or next year - but within the next four years without an influx of new leadership and ideas into the Chapter, we will be in the final stages of unraveling.

Those Chapters nationally that succeed year after year do so by having a steady stream of volunteers who work their way up through the ranks of the Chapter leadership to the Presidency. In that process, they learn the how's and why's of SCI, how we operate, what is expected, what resources we have at our disposal through the National Organization, etc. But you have to participate to learn this, it can't be learned by reading Safari Magazine and/or the Safari Times newspaper. There is a whole other world of SCI/F out there that these publications only hint at. To learn about SCI and how we operate, you must attend the Board of Directors meetings, attend the Chapter workshop that is held annually during the fall BOD meeting (which will be in Jackson next year), meet and talk to your peers from other Chapters and within the SCI Board of Directors. It takes both time and commitment to do this. So I am asking each one of you to consider stepping up to the plate and helping direct the affairs of our chapter over the next two years, whether by handling membership issues, putting out the newsletter, etc. Your help is urgently needed - we have worked too hard to let this all unravel now.

If we do not get the desired response, then I will arrange for a "Red Cross" meeting to be conducted by Mr. Bill Burton, who is our Field Coordinator within SCI. Bill is an employee of the SCI Field Operations Department and lives in Colorado. His job is to assist Chapters in this region with their normal operations and he will also assist in the reorganization of chapters when requested.

2012 ELECTIONS

As stated in the previous newsletter, the terms of our officers and directors will expire on February 2, 2012 and we will hold our elections for a new slate of officers and directors in conjunction with our January 2012 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 - I have also appointed Kelly Boyle and Mike Keim to serve on the subject committee.

Once again, we will be electing a full slate of officers including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer along with a minimum of three directors to be elected from the general membership.

I have advised the Nominating Committee Chairman that I would entertain running for one additional term as President of the Central Wyoming Chapter if, and only if, some of my current responsibilities can be transferred to someone else including fundraising, membership and the newsletter. With these duties assumed by someone else, I would be free to concentrate solely on the duties and responsibilities of President.

So 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.

Irregardless of who is elected President, we must begin to delegate more responsibility to our membership regarding the daily affairs of the Central Wyoming Chapter for the coming two years. As I have stated on several occasions in the past, there are a number of SCI standing committees that need to be developed within the Chapter and these committees will require chairmen or chairwomen as follows: Membership, Public Relations, SCI-PAC, Education, Humanitarian Services (including SafariCare, SafariWish, Sensory Safari and Sportsmen Against Hunger) along with the development of a Sables Chapter for the ladies in our organization if they are so inclined.

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There is so much that we can do, but it takes all of us rowing together in the same direction to accomplish this. If you could see the work that is being done by the volunteers within SCI you would be as enthused as I am, but you must make an effort to attend the BOD meetings (Las Vegas would be a good start) in order to fully understand what we are doing to further the mission statement of SCI - which is to protect the freedom to hunt and promote wildlife conservation worldwide. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be affluent or a world traveler to be involved in SCI - you just need to be passionate about hunting.

Let me close by repeating a comment I made in the October 2009 newsletter regarding the elections that were scheduled in January of 2010: *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.*

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So, in January of 2012 the current Officers and Board members will bequeath a Chapter to the membership that has a very positive financial statement, is compliant with the terms and conditions of our Charter from SCI, is becoming more recognized each year as a driving force behind both conservation and hunter education here in Wyoming, and who has demonstrated a continuing commitment to the national/international mission of our organization. It will be up to you to take the foundation that we have laid and expand thereon accordingly in the years to come. If not you, who? If not now, when?

Those of us who will step aside in 2012 do so with the fervent hope that there are individuals within our membership who share the same passion that has driven the Chapter to this point. While there is a lot of work involved, the rewards are equally impressive – particularly when you see and understand the work that is being done nationally and internationally by SCI and meet the volunteers who are committed to protecting our freedom to hunt and/or promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. My involvement in SCI has brought friendships and camaraderie with people that I didn't even know existed eight years ago. My membership in and service to the Central Wyoming Chapter has made these relationships possible.

CENTRAL WYOMING CHAPTER WEBSITE

We inadvertently discovered last week that our website was down and that the domain name www.sciwyoming.com had been purchased by another entity following its expiration. This past week we have been working to get the site back up and I am happy to announce that we are back on the Internet once again under the domain name www.sciwyoming.org. Please note the new web address and bookmark the site in your Favorites file for future access thereto.

As a consequence of the move, we have lost a bit of content, but we will be working over the next few weeks to restore all prior content to the site as well as to update our the site with current information.

If you have any current trophy photos, please send them to me in a digital format and I will review for possible posting to our site (photos must be suitable for posting to the site for viewing by both members and the public).

REPORT ON SCI/F ACTIVITIES

Since the last newsletter, I have attended both the spring and fall Board of Directors meetings held in Washington, D.C. and Tucson, Arizona respectively.

The annual elections are held at the spring Board of Directors meeting in D.C. and I am happy to announce that I was elected as an SCI Director at Large and am assuming greater responsibilities within the organization. Earlier this year I was appointed Vice-Chairman of the SCIF Conservation Committee and sit on most of the standing sub-committees including the Treaties and Conventions sub-committee, which deals with CITES (Convention on Trade in Endangered Species). The Conservation Committee Chairman is Al Maki from Jackson, so two Wyoming residents occupy the top two positions on the Conservation Committee.

So, what does this mean for Wyoming and the Central Wyoming Chapter? To begin with, it shows the Board of Directors that Wyoming is involved in our organization. Secondly, our involvement imparts a distinctly “western” view to the politics of SCI and the governance thereof. Finally, it has worked in our favor where funding of wildlife conservation projects important to the west and our wildlife resources are concerned. Right now, SCIF is funding conservation projects in both Montana and Wyoming that are looking at the predator/prey relationships between elk and wolves; we are also funding habitat suitability and behavior response studies for elk and moose in Wyoming; and we have supplied funding for a major study in western Colorado that will look at the impacts of natural gas development on mule deer populations in the Piceance Basin.

Under the Small Grants Program through SCIF, one half (up to \$2,000) of our annual 30% contribution is available to the Central Wyoming Chapter for projects right here in Wyoming. Through the years we have used those grants to promote wildlife habitat work in both Converse and Natrona Counties through the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust. These monies were matched by the state and, in turn, generated additional matching funds from project cooperators with the result that these donations were leveraged by an average of almost 4:1. So our involvement in and commitment to the national organization is translating into dollars being funneled directly back into Wyoming and the surrounding states. This is what comes from attending the Board of Directors meetings, getting to know the “players” in SCIF and subsequently getting involved in the organization!

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership as of August 24, 2011 has dropped to 86 active members, with 5 active SCI members having allowed their Chapter memberships to lapse and an additional 29 members who have dropped out of SCI altogether. A steadily declining membership is one sign of a failing chapter and our membership is slowly deteriorating.

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 6th and introduce them to the Central Wyoming Chapter.

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 \$65.

For those individuals who are National Members, you can save \$45.00 by renewing your national membership for a three-year period and avoid the hassle of having to renew your membership on an annual basis.

Effective this past January, SCI raised the yearly dues for an individual membership to \$65 and eliminated the **Young Hunter** and **Family** membership categories. The recruitment of Young Hunters will be relegated to the Chapters, but the Young Hunters will not have a national membership classification. This increase in the yearly cost of an individual membership represents the first dues increase in twenty years. With postage and publication costs continuing to increase on an annual basis, SCI felt that it was necessary to increase the individual dues in an attempt to offset these rising membership costs.

The three year membership in SCI will remain at \$150 in the hope that more annual members will take advantage of the savings and renew for three years.

As I mentioned above, I am currently in my fourth year on the SCI Membership and Chapter development Committee. In this time, we have discussed on many different occasions how to increase membership in the organization and why we are having difficulty recruiting members on a national basis. Some believe that our dues are too high and others believe that we are perceived as snobs (i.e., rich hunters who go to Africa, etc.). While there is no simple answer, the one thing that we have determined is that SCI is perhaps the best kept secret in the hunting world. All of our advertising in the past has been directed at ourselves, not the hunters that we are hoping to recruit. The SCI website is not friendly or overly informative – it was designed to provide information to our membership, not those individuals who are looking to join. Our annual convention is “members only”, so there is no opportunity to recruit new members at what is billed as the biggest hunting convention in North America and possibly the world. If you watch the numerous outdoor shows that air on the Outdoor Channel, Versus, the Sportsman’s Channel, etc. you don’t see much about SCI. The Dallas safari Club gets more pres than we do with a fraction of the membership. So part of our problem is and continues to be marketing and the Board of Directors is working on this.

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Again, what does this have to do with the Central Wyoming Chapter? We need to learn from the mistakes of SCI and do a better job of membership recruitment. I don’t believe that our members are snobs and, compared to some other conservation organizations such as Grand Slam Club/Ovis or Dallas Safari Club, I don’t believe that our dues are unnecessarily steep – particularly when you consider the effort that SCI expends to protect our freedom to hunt. For the international hunter, SCI is the only organization standing between you and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where the import of CITES animals is concerned and we are working right now on the strategy for the CITES Convention of Parties (CoP 16) to be held in Thailand in 2013. As mentioned previously, we are working in Wyoming and Montana on the wolf issue and SCI has and continues to intervene in the ongoing wolf litigation on your behalf. It not only requires dedication, but commitment and money. SCI has also defended hunters and hunting rights across the United States – facts that most hunters in the United States are not even aware of. So it is incumbent to promote membership in SCI to our hunting friends who are not members – no matter what or where they hunt, because the anti-hunter are much better organized and funded than we

are. If we become complacent and adopt an attitude of letting somebody else worry about these issues then we are lost. At our age, most of us have had a good life of hunting and enjoying the outdoors, it is our responsibility to pass this heritage on to future generations. Again, if not you, who. If not now, when? Most personal freedoms are lost because a majority of people become complacent and allow a motivated and vocal minority to convince the lawmakers that their opinion is correct. We can't allow that to happen, because once we do, we will never regain those freedoms and the animals that we cherish will suffer accordingly.

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.

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 try not to duplicate our mailings and those members who are receiving the newsletter electronically generally WILL NOT receive hard copies via regular mail UNLESS we have been instructed to send a hard copy as well.

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 or directors listed below:

Name	Title	Telephone
Bob Anderson	President	307-473-1268
Sy Gilliland	Vice-President	307-473-1112
Steve Sibrel	Secretary	307-259-6030
Mike Keim	Treasurer	307-265-1056
Rick Bonander	Director	307-234-2058
Kelly Boyle	Director	307-265-0659
George Hartman	Director	307-265-8900
Mike Moore	Director	307-235-6200
Dr. Sam Scaling	Director	307-577-4227
Gail Zimmerman	Director	307-235-6200
Mitch Zimmerman	Director	307-266-2291

ITEMS FOR SALE

Bob Anderson has the following items for sale:

- Nightforce NXS 5.5-22 X 50 riflescope with NP-R2 reticle. Like new with perfect glass! New retail value varies between \$1,681.00 and \$1,731.43 + S&H depending on the vendor, will sell for \$1,250!
- Swarovski PH riflescope: 6-24 X 50 with Plex reticle and target turrets. Like new with very light ring mounts from previous mounting – the glass perfect! New retail value = \$1,998.95 + S&H, will sell for \$1,250!
- Oehler Model 35P Chronograph with printer and three skyscreens. Used but in great condition - \$350!

Please email biologist@prodigy.net or call Bob at 307-473-1268 if you have any questions regarding either of these two items.

Rick Kennerknecht has the following item for sale:

- Kimber Caprivi bolt action rifle in .458 Lott. NIB = \$2,677 or \$3,247 with un-mounted, NIB Trijicon TR24G 1X4 scope with green reticle. Please email rick@gssafaris.com or call Rick at 307-259-9603.


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