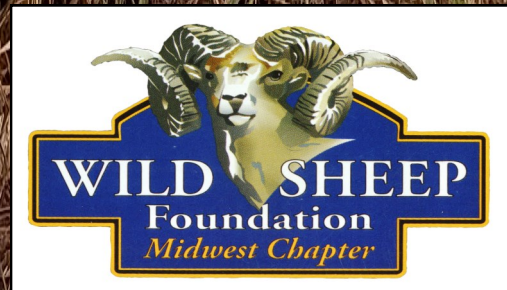


Ram Tracks

Winter Newsletter 2016
Volume 37 Issue 2



Ram Tracks

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MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance, expand and preserve wild sheep populations; to educate the public about wild sheep and conservation efforts surrounding wildlife; to encourage lawful hunting and protecting hunters' rights; and to encourage youth participation in hunting.

Check Out Our Website:

www.midwestwildsheep.org

Facebook: Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Chapter

Twitter: WFSMidwest

President's Message

WSF Midwest Members and Wild Sheep Enthusiasts,

With the 2016 hunting seasons recently completed and another year drawing to a close its time for both reflection and anticipation. Reflection is both relevant and important. It is relevant to look back to see what has been accomplished. It is also very important to take an inventory of those accomplishments; determine what worked out well – and what didn't. The anticipation comes when the plans you put into place to make improvements succeed.

I mentioned in the last issue of Ram Tracks that we generated significant revenue from the 37th Annual Fundraiser. Our Gross Receipts increased 13% over 2015 which was attributable mainly to a very successful Live Auction. The Net-After-Funding (State Governor's Licenses) also increased by 8%. This success was achieved despite a 15% drop in attendance from the previous year and a 34% decrease since 2014.

The 35th Annual Fundraiser (2014) was a banner year for both attendance and revenues. We had three successive years of increases in attendance and revenues. An 11% increase from 2012 to 2013 and a 16% increase from 2013 to 2014. As I mentioned in my last message in Ram Tracks, much of those achievements can be attributed towards the quality of our Live Auction items and Raffles. So our lesson learned from the Fundraiser this past March was to look at the quality of Live Auction items and try to improve upon what we are offering. Further in this edition of Ram Tracks is a preliminary listing of Live Auction items we are currently working on.

The most exciting and significant announcement is the opportunity to win an Aoudad sheep hunt simply by attending our Fundraiser & Banquet events. In order to be eligible you must register for both the Friday and Saturday Banquets. Your entry will automatically qualify you for the drawing to be conducted at the Saturday evening Banquet. We've worked closely with the outfitter of this quality hunt. It will be an opportunity for anyone that enjoys Wild Sheep to enjoy a quality experience, especially someone who has never been on a sheep hunt.

I'd like to draw your attention to a brand new event for this year. John Coulter - our past president, devoted Life Member, and very dedicated to the Wild Sheep community - has graciously offered to organize and run a Garage Sale. If you have great quality and gently used hunting gear that you no longer need this will be a great opportunity to help the Wild Sheep and receive a tax break. It will also be a great



opportunity to check out the items and fill a need of yours or purchase a gift for a special hunter in your life. More details will be described in this issue of Ram Tracks.

We also reviewed our one day format for the Fundraiser & Banquet that we have used for the past few years. We decided that a new two day format would enable the Board of Directors to accomplish more with less stress. We also wanted to increase the **“Fun Factor”** for all in attendance - Less Business and more fun. **So we are excited to announce that a very talented and popular musical group, Hitchville, have agreed to entertain us for a short set on Saturday afternoon.** From their web site:

Hitchville has quickly solidified themselves among the upper echelon of regional talent. Under the foundational leadership of dynamic lead vocalists Heidi Owens and Matthew Kneefe, the group's trademark harmonies, down home personalities, and kinetic stage energy leads to an unforgettable live show in which the band has worked tirelessly to produce.

The current plan is to have them perform a live set for us on Saturday afternoon leading into our Two-for-One Happy Hour. I can't wait to hear them.

The expansion of the format to two days will also be appealing to outfitters and guides. We are working closely with several individuals and companies that we haven't seen in a few years as well as some exciting new ones. We plan to publish a preliminary list of them on social media, email and upcoming editions of Ram Tracks. If you have an outfitter that you have been in discussions with about upcoming hunts and would like to see them at our Fundraiser please get in touch with us.

President's Message continued

We'll be happy to reach out to them with an invitation and work through all the logistics with them.

We also are encouraging any member to bring their trophy for display within the Banquet hall. We all enjoy the beauty and splendor of our hard earned wildlife. Why not share it with fellow members. I know I have a couple of very special mounts that my father was very proud of. They will contribute to the atmosphere of the events and is certain to generate great conversations.

Also new this year will be the Life Member Breakfast on Saturday morning. Our preliminary itinerary will include a few words by some of our founding members about the history behind the Wisconsin-Minnesota Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. *We are also blessed to have the President of the Wild Sheep Foundation, Mr. Gray Thornton, in attendance.* As an added bonus, we have procured a special 200th Anniversary Limited Edition Remington Model 700 rifle that will be raffled off during the Life Member Breakfast. If you are not already a Life Member of the Midwest Chapter and have considered becoming one, now is a great opportunity to do so. You may also register to become a Life Member prior to the Saturday morning breakfast at the registration desk.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank all the loyal supporters of WSF Midwest. Without your attendance, participation and contributions we would not be able to fulfill the mission and vision of your organization – to put and keep sheep on the mountain. We invite you to join us at the 38th Annual Fundraiser & Banquet, March 17th and 18th at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest, Minnetonka, MN. It will be a fun, entertaining event that will memorable.

Your dedicated president,

Brian L. Helm, PMP



March 17-18, 2017

WSF—Midwest Chapter Annual Fundraiser

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday, March 17, 2017

Registration Begins	9:00 am
Exhibitors/Outfitters	
Booths Open	12:00 noon
Garage Sale Opens	12:00 noon
Raffles Open	12:00 noon
Kid's Arcade	12:00 noon - 4:00 pm
Seminars	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
2 for 1 Happy Hour	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Buffet Dinner	6:00 pm
Membership Meeting	
State Biologists Presentations	
Live Auction	8:00 pm

Saturday, March 18, 2017

Registration Begins	8:00 am
Exhibitor/Outfitters	
Booths Open	9:00 am
Silent Auction Opens	9:00 am
Raffles Open	9:00 am
Kid's Arcade	12:00 noon – 4:00 pm
Seminars	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
2 for 1 Happy Hour	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
LIVE PERFORMANCE	
by Hitchville	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Banquet Seating	5:30 pm
Banquet Dinner	6:00 pm
Keynote Speaker—Dan Adler	6:30 pm
Life Member Presentations	6:50 pm
Live Auction	7:00 pm
Raffle Winners Announced	
Silent Auction Winners Announced	

Steve's Auction Corner

Here is our **Preliminary Auction List**. More donations are coming in daily, so please keep an eye on our website for an up to date list. If you have any suggestions or have a donation, please contact me as soon as you can. We are working hard to have another great auction for next March! Thanks!



Steve Powelson,
Auction Chair
(507) 334-7413
powie_s@yahoo.com

ALASKA GRIZZLY BEAR HUNT, Alaska Outfitters Unlimited
MOUNTAIN LION HUNT, Cayuse Outfitters, Idaho
WOLF HUNT TRAP LINE EXPERIENCE, Alaska Midnight Sun Safaris
MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNT B.C., Costal Mountain Outfitters
DALL SHEEP HUNT YUKON, Widrig Outfitters
STONE SHEEP HUNT A.B., MacMillan River Adventures
SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR SHEEP TAG
NORTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR SHEEP TAG
WYOMING GOVERNOR SHEEP TAG
SOUTH DAKOTA BIGHORN SHEEP SKULL
RIFLE ELK HUNT, SaskAdrenaline Outfitters
ARCHERY ELK HUNT, Lazy J Bar O Outfitters
ARCHERY ELK HUNT DROP CAMP FOR 3 PEOPLE, Horn Fork Outfitters
BLACKTAIL DEER HUNT, Southern Oregon Blacktail
SOUTH AFRICAN SAFARI, Henk Jacob
DOVE HUNT IN ARGENTINA, Link Safaris
JERRY JOHNSON KNIFE
LAB PUPPY, Kathy and Larry Strong
GUN SAFE, Reeds Custom Safes
GUNS from Roger Van Raden's Collection
348 WIN. RIFLE, Dave and Loretta Zacharias
ESP DIGITAL HEARING PROTECTION PACKAGE
MOCCASIN BOOTS, Russell Moccasin Company
DUCK HUNT, Bouton Brothers
HARVEST LODGE BEAR HUNT AND WALLEY FISHING COMBO
SOUTH DAKOTA BISON HUNT
WHITE TAIL HUNTS
MULE DEER HUNT
BLACK BEAR HUNT
GATOR HUNT
TURKEY HUNT
ANTELOPE HUNT
PRAIRIE DOG HUNT IN SOUTH DAKOTA
DUCK HUNT
GOOSE HUNT
GUIDED WALLEYE FISHING TRIP - MISSOURI RIVER SD
GUIDED WALLEY SUMMER FISHING TRIP - DEVILS LAKE, ND
SALMON FISHING TRIP
SOUTH AFRICAN WINE TASTING
WHITE WATER RAFTING TRIP - IDAHO
MANY TAXIDERMY CERTIFICATES
VACATION PACKAGES
CABIN RENTAL

Plus Many More....



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
WSF- Midwest Annual Fundraiser
Saturday, March 18, 2017



DAN ADLER

Veteran Air Force Captain, Outfitter/Guide: Diamond Outfitters of Arizona, Co-Host: The Best of the West TV, Keynote Speaker, Seminar Host, Shooting Instructor & Author

Dan is an endorsed public figure, professional hunter/outfitter, television host & national speaker on a large variety of hunting and pro-Second Amendment seminars and panels. Annually Dan presents at the National conventions for Safari Club International, The Wild Sheep Foundation, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Dallas Safari Club, Grand Slam/Club Ovis, The Western Hunting and Conservation Expo, The Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, The National Rifle Association, The World Deer Expo and multiple Safari Club International regional/local banquets.

Tens of thousands of conventioners meet and greet Dan annually at these shows, pro-staff events, shooting courses and in the field. Additionally, 14 million households watch The Best of the West each month as one of most viewed programs in the Pursuit Channel's history. Dan is a Veteran Captain of the United States Air Force and graduate of the University of Arizona.

Diamond Outfitters of Arizona has guided hundreds of elk, Coues deer, mule deer, antelope, lion and javelina hunters over the past decade. Diamond Outfitters is one of the most trusted hunting operations and largest of its kind, in the Southwest.

Dan's patriotic keynote speeches, military background, pro-Second Amendment addresses, sense of humor and seminars make him one of the most sought after speakers in the outfitting world today.

ENTERTAINMENT- Saturday, March 18, 2017
WSF—Midwest Annual Fundraiser

Hitchville has quickly solidified themselves among the upper echelon of regional talent. Under the foundational leadership of dynamic lead vocalists Heidi Owens and Matthew Kneefe, the group's trademark harmonies, down home personalities, and kinetic stage energy leads to an unforgettable live show in which the band has worked tirelessly to produce.

Hard at work in Nashville on their sophomore project scheduled for a Spring 2016 release, Hitchville was humbled to have that forthcoming album's first single, "Even When It's Bad It's Good" rocket to #1 on the iHeartRadio Top 5 Countdown just a few short weeks after its release in 2015. The band has even more recently realized another big dream of theirs: to start their own country music and camping festival...and so it began! The First Annual Hitchville Hootenanny took place August 14 & 15, 2015 with some of the region's most sought after talent and was a resounding success!

Over the past few years, fans have come to know to expect the unexpected at a Hitchville show. There's really only one place where the beer is always cold, the people are always friendly, the music is always world class, and the energy is always palpable...they'd like to welcome everybody home... to **Hitchville**.



Check out their website at www.welcometohitchville.com

SPORTSMAN'S GARAGE SALE

Friday, March 17, 2017 during the WSF - Midwest Annual Fundraiser

Dear WSF Family:

Your Board of Directors is trying several new things, including going back to a full two day, two auction show for our coming March 17 and 18, 2017 Convention to be held once again at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka. One of the new events this year will be our first ever **"Sportsman's Garage Sale."** I have agreed to head this event. On Friday night March 17th there will be a silent auction of the new or gently used sporting good items that you rarely, if ever use, that have been just taking up space in your home. We are asking you to FULLY DONATE these items to the Midwest Chapter in return for a GENEROUS TAX DEDUCTION! Funds raised from your donations will be added to our large and growing ENDOWMENT FUND. This fund is unheard of for a group our size and will allow us all to keep helping wild sheep long after all of us are gone to the happy hunting grounds!

There is no question that The Wild Sheep Foundation boasts the most dedicated/addicted hunters there are. We are often borderline crazy when it comes to our obsession with big game hunting, so I know your hunting equipment is the very best possible. Technology however changes with time. As addicted hunters, we like having the best of the best in our equipment. When we buy new equipment it generally replaces hunting equipment that is excellent and well taken care of. Please consider fully donating to us the optics, firearms, clothing, footwear, knives and other big game hunting equipment that you no longer use. You will be helping to continue to build our Endowment Fund, make space in your hunting room and you will receive a generous tax deduction for your full donation.

I know you are VERY busy during this special time of year, but I need you to contact me via email, cell phone, or text ASAP and let me know what you are willing to donate. I will make certain that you are acknowledged to our membership for your donation and you will also receive a generous tax deduction. I have no idea how big our first ever "Sportsman's Garage Sale" will be, but I do know there is going to be a lot of paperwork! Please give this aging hunter time to do all the paperwork by giving me a call, text or email soon. I have been told that I need to have everything in order by February 15th! I look forward to your calls and talking with you all!

Sincerely,

John Coulter
Cell: 507-829-2304
Email: coulter@iw.net



REGISTRATION RAFFLE

Register for our
Annual Fundraiser
(for both Friday and
Saturday Night
Banquets)
and you will
automatically be
entered into a Raffle
for an Aoudad Sheep
Hunt with Joe Jakab of
Point Blank Hunts!

See enclosed
Registration Form or
register online at:
www.midwestwildsheep.org



Picture courtesy of Point Blank
Hunt's Website:
www.pointblankhunts.com

Arizona Silver Creek Waterhole Project – March 3-6, 2016

by Oscar Carlson, Forest Lake, MN

On March 3, 2016, a group of 11 students and 5 chaperones met at the Minneapolis Terminal 2 to start our journey to Arizona to help build the Silver Creek Waterhole. We flew directly to Las Vegas, rented two large vans and headed toward Hoover Dam for our first stop.

The Hoover Dam is a stunning engineering project, developed in the 1930's, which backs up water into Lake Mead which acts as a main source of water to the Southwestern States. This was another great interesting and educational stop for the kids attending this project.

The actual waterhole is located between Needles, California and Laughlin, Nevada near Fort Mohave, Arizona. When we finally arrived at our campsite late Thursday afternoon, our tents were ready and waiting. On Friday morning, we found out that we had an additional treat to look forward to and that is we would all fly by helicopter up to the job site and back. It took a while on Friday morning to get organized and helicopter all the materials and the people into position to start the project. Once it started, everyone was impressed with the Midwest crew that was brought up on the mountain. We got a lot done the first day. While flying off the project site Friday afternoon, a number of our people actually sighted some desert bighorn sheep, which was a real treat.

On Saturday morning, when the helicopters first arrived, there were seven sheep resting right at the helicopter landing site as if waiting for water. The crews arrived a lot earlier on Saturday and we had a long, productive day. In addition to putting in the apron, tanks, and drinker, a whole pipe metal fence was erected around the site to protect it from the destructive wild burros that roam the area. This fence was a major part of the work that our group accomplished. First of all, you must dig or jackhammer holes in the rocky mountain terrain, at least 18 inches deep to install metal posts with hand-mixed cement to secure them. After the cement is dry enough an elaborate 3-level pipe fence is welded all the way around the site at a level that will let all wildlife through, except the wild burros.

These projects are a coordinated effort by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), The Arizona Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS), and the Arizona Bureau of Land Management (ABLM).

The above coordinators did a great job trying to stay ahead of our youth. Our Midwest youth could really produce and they were in charge of a lot of the hard labor tasks like digging post holes, picking and moving rocks, carrying cement blocks and bags, hand-mixing cement, etc., etc., etc.

Brad Remfrey and his Arizona crew did a tremendous amount of planning and coordinating on the Arizona end. They provided the food, tents, cots, etc., etc. All of us want to thank them for their exceptional planning. A special thanks to the cooks who kept us happy and well fed.

On the Midwest end, the planning and coordination was accomplished by our trip chaperones who were Kathy Strong, Joe Lynch, Billy Morrow, and Val and I. This took a tremendous effort and time commitment and I want to make sure to thank each and every one of you. Next I would like to thank the students, who not only took time to write an essay to qualify, but took time from school and certainly represented the WSF Midwest Chapter, their parents and themselves exceptionally well. Thank you! Those students attending were: Chase Friendt, New Richmond, WI; Brody Miller, Oakdale, MN; Teejay Atwood, Hot Springs, SD; Samuel Simunek, Hot Springs, SD; Tyler Morrow, Hot Springs, SD; Laura Stowater, Algona IA; Alexandra Schott, Exeland, WI; Catherine Krance, Barron, WI; Riley Danielson, Tracy, MN; Dakota Danielson, Tracy, MN, and Bailey Wallin, Rice Lake, WI. Finally I would like to thank the sponsors who made this trip possible for all the youth and chaperones.

Our project, named Silver Creek, was a totally new project, positioned right in the middle of a saddle between two higher peaks. This was a very steep and difficult place to build. The system is made up of a large metal apron, approximately 30'x40' installed at a slight angle, which collects rain water. The water then feeds into a trough and dumps into three large holding tanks. During the rainy season, these tanks fill up and will provide water for the balance of the year. These tanks then feed into a walk-in drinker that is used by sheep and other wildlife for their water source. The system is a total gravity fed system which should not require maintenance for at least 30 years. The Silver Creek project was unique because very few new projects are approved anymore and the older projects are the ones being worked on. Many are 30 to 40 years old and need repair, maintenance and updating.

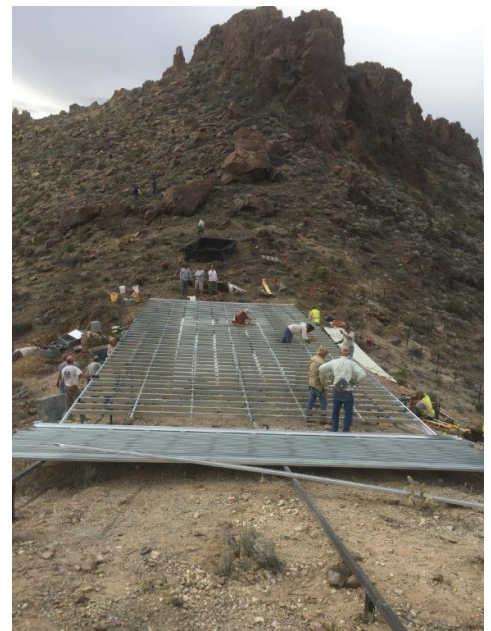
Personally, I felt honored to work with this group. They worked hard, did a great job and represented all of us extremely well. Around the final, big Saturday night campfire, the Arizona group sure showed their appreciation.

Overall I think everyone had a great, great time learning the importance of wildlife conservation through hands-on experience and teamwork.



More Pictures on Next Page

Waterhole Pictures Continued



Watch for more information on our website or in the next issue of Ram Tracks.

During our 2017 fundraiser we will be showing videos and slide shows of our member's hunting trips. If you would like to have your video or slide show shown, please contact Nick Negrini (763) 238-6333 or nick.negrini@outlook.com

If you have an interest in helping us out with any of these areas, please contact **Brian Helm at (651) 269-6013 or email: blhelm@visi.com.**

The Winds of Unimak

by Larry Tyson, White Bear Lake, MN

As we headed in to camp under the cover of darkness and began to stow our gear I happened to look up to see two eyes peering at us thru the deep cover of the forest. We continued to go about our business when all of a sudden another set of eyes appeared and joined in on the drama. At this point I called my hunter to have a look. As he joined in the mystery we noticed yet another set of eyes staring at us thru the darkness.

That's three beasts! What the heck could it be? Owls? Bears? Wolves?

At this point, a little concerned, we decided to fire a warning shot which didn't even illicit a blink out of the unknown beasts. Our minds racing we prepared our weapons for the impending attack on our position.

We hunkered down and continued to watch and wait. Time passed at a snail's pace as anticipation fueled our senses. Then it happened. The beast revealed itself. It was the moon rise forming perfect sets of eyeballs thru the forest growth. The mind plays tricks! (Wesley "The Bear Man" Snipes)

Coupled with the fine food provided by Gunny, this was one of the many tales told as we waited out the 45 mph Bearing Sea winds that had us holed up at Rod Shuh's R&R Guides Lodge in Cold Bay Alaska. Several guides had been sent to the field along with hunters as windows of opportunity presented itself for the Beaver. When our turn came we were ready.

Our area would be 70 miles by air across Unimak north of the Progromni Volcano where a dead Sea Lion had washed ashore. As we descended looking for a place to land four wolves scattered that had been feeding on the lion. The winds were not cooperative for our first choice of camp sites so we ended up a couple of miles north of the Lion, setting up camp in one of the depressions made by the 1946



Earthquake and time, protected from the winds, a stone's throw from the sea coast.

Unimak is the easternmost island in the Aleutians and, with an area of 1,571.41 square miles, the ninth largest island in the US and the 134th largest island in the world. It is home to Mount Shishaldin, one of the ten most active volcanos in the world.

There were 64 people living on Unimak as of the 2000 census, most of them in the city of False Pass at the eastern end of the island. .

The Fisher Caldera is a volcanic crater in the west-central part of Unimak. Some characteristics include many volcanic cones and undrained lakes. It is named for Geologist Bernard Fisher, who was killed in Umnak Pass.

We spent the first few days a quarter mile from camp on a high knoll where we could put the spotting scope on the Lion and get a feel for the surrounding area. On our first morning we discovered a Brown had claimed the carcass as his own. We named him The Beach Bear. He was draped over what was to become his meal for the next week, fast asleep, having spent the evening filling his belly. We thought him to be a 9' plus Bear. We were in search of the Bear that would kick him off the Lion. Over the next few days we watched as he ran off other bears while the wolves would run in for a quick snack only to be run off on his return. At one point he became furious thinking the rising tide was going to make off with his vittles. He was furiously digging and splashing at the Lion trying to prevent its



disappearance. This went on for quite some time before he settled down and he went for an evening swim only to return to drape himself over the Lion for a nap.

We named him Old Silver Tip. A mature beast who looked like Kong walking as he lazily made his way across the bog to the dunes. We talked it over and decided to try and get a better look. That's when we were taught a lesson on The Winds of Unimak. We hiked another half mile to a knoll but as we set up the scope the wind shifted and we watched as this magnificent animal walked (too big to run) quickly to the other side of the bog, some 5 miles to the base of the mountains, never to be seen up close again. Seems these mountainous volcanos make their own wind counter to the winds of the sea.

We had been seeing several bears every day for the past seven days so we decided not to let it get us down.

Unimak is a special place. Seems back in the fur trade days many fox farms were in the area supplying the European markets. When the market collapsed the animals were set free to roam the Aleutians. The little critters would visit us each day. Come and sit five feet from us and stare in wonder at what we were. They had No Fear!

From our vantage point a chip shot from the shoreline of the Bearing Sea we had a constant parade of Sea Lions and Whales going through their yearly mating ritual. The male lions would roar their intentions while the whales would depart the water in a perpendicular dance to entice the Ladies. We watched daily as the sows and boars got all lovey dovey to say nothing of the wolves who wouldn't take no for an answer.

On the morning of our eighth day our Beach Bear was gone. It wasn't long before we realized why. A bigger bear had entered the territory. With the winds in our favor we decided to take a closer look and moved a half mile up the dunes. He had gone behind a dune for what we thought would be a nap as it was mid-morning. As we slowly made our way a mile south looking back in the dunes a wolf came within thirty yards to check us out. The limit on wolves is ten per day, no license required however we passed on the wolf, not wanting to alert the Browns. Lucky fella!

After an hour or so as we continued to glass the entire area we noticed an even bigger bear had appeared out in the bog to the north from where we had just came from. The winds were squirrely so we decided to take a look and began the trek to a small knoll a mile out in the bog. By the time we were in position the bear had disappeared into the dunes so we decided to sit tight and watch. Then it happened.

A bear behind us ROARED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



We moved to the other side of the knoll to put the scope on him. It was the first time I saw Wes get excited and when I took a look I could see why. He had the Kong walk and looked like a monster wood tick as he slowly made his way with head down following an old trail, stopping to munch along the way. It looked as if he was going to walk right to us until a thousand yards out he decided to head east away from the sea, towards the mountains. To add to the drama the wind had shifted running parallel to the direction he was headed. A quick decision and we were off on a parallel course with Roaring Bear. We closed the distance as far as possible until we realized our scent would intersect his path in a several hundred yards. We decided to try a shot at upwards of 400 yards or chance getting busted by the wind. I thru my pack down, as the bear continued his walk.

Now in a prone position, I applied Kentucky windage, led him a little and with a two-foot drop aimed the 375 H&H high and let it fly. The first shot dropped him like a rock. But he was getting up so we let another one fly. Thump.



Winds of Unimak, continued

Down he goes. But this was a tough old bear that wasn't giving up so two more thumps just to finish the job.

As we approached the bear Wes made sure he was done while I stood in amazement at the size of this old bruin. We discovered the reason he dropped on the first shot was that I hit him in the spine. We will never know if the remaining shots were required but better safe than sorry. It was ten pm.

It was one am by the time pictures and field prep were finished. As Wes performed the task masterfully we discovered that this old boar, aside from having his teeth ground down to nubs, had been in several life and death battles over the years. He had old scar tissue around two canine holes on his right haunch that went all the way into his innards. Life is fierce on Unimak.

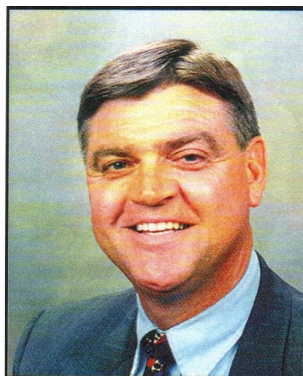
We placed the scull and cape in a large contractor's bag, to be retrieved the next day by Wes, left our scent on it and under the cover of darkness, yelling as we went along, began the 3 or 4-mile trek back to camp thru the same country we had seen bears all week in. Funny how your senses can be on high alert during absolute exhaustion.

It was 5 am by the time we arrived back at camp and settled in. Three stalks, 12 miles in a 24-hour hunt day.



WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

We often hear many of you say, "I'd love to help out, but I really don't have a lot of time". We have an answer for you and it doesn't require a lot of time! Share an experience you've had with the membership (brag a little!). It's important to us to put out an informative, interesting and entertaining Ram Tracks newsletter. We need stories of your adventures (hunting, fishing, travels, an outdoor experience, awarded with an honor, etc..) even a brief description with a nice picture. Whether you've hunted the Nile for crocodiles or caught a nice pike this summer at the cabin or on vacation, we want to hear about it! If you see an article or information that would be a good addition to our newsletter, let us know or send it to Patti at our office. We all have a past experience or adventure worth sharing. Let us share yours!



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