

# Ram Tracks

Winter/Spring 2017  
Volume 37 Issue 3



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# Ram Tracks

Winter/Spring Newsletter 2017

Volume 37 Issue 3



## Wild Sheep Foundation- Midwest Chapter Officers and Directors

### **PRESIDENT**

**Brian Helm** ('18)  
1008 Sunrise Road  
Saint Croix Falls, WI 54024  
(651) 269-6013  
blhelm@visi.com

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Nick Negrini** ('19)  
13970 47th Lane NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376  
(763) 238-6333  
nick.negrini@outlook.com

### **TREASURER**

**Andy Otte** ('16)  
2630 270th Street East  
Randolph, MN 55065  
(507) 301-8655  
crisbickman.otte@gmail.com

### **SECRETARY**

**Edward Schabert** ('18)  
5258 185th Avenue  
Wyoming, MN 55092  
(612) 961-9706  
eschabert@firenetsys.com

### **DIRECTORS**

**Curt Babler** ('17)  
24846 Fondant Avenue  
Wyoming, MN 55025  
(651) 490-9395  
cbabler@thebablers.com

**John Coulter** ('17)  
201 Craig  
Tracy, MN 56175  
(507) 829-2304  
coulterj@iw.net

**Steve Powelson** ('18)  
2607 Hulett Court  
Faribault, MN 55021  
(507) 334-7413  
powie\_s@yahoo.com



## Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Main Office

Patti Murry, Executive Director  
1806 Aspen Court, Northfield, MN 55057  
Phone/fax (507) 645-8811  
patti.murry@gmail.com

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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](http://www.midwestwildsheep.org)

Facebook: Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Chapter

Twitter: WSFMidwest

# President's Message

WSF-Midwest Members,

Hello again! Welcome to the busiest season on the calendar for a number of us – Fundraiser & Banquet Season.

Many of you have plans to attend multiple events hosted by a variety of conservation organizations from Reno, Las Vegas, Dallas and other cities in the Midwest. Last count there were more than 20 events scheduled near and around the Minnesota and Wisconsin area. This provides for tremendous variety and opportunities to shop around for a specific hunt.

As I stated last year at this time, we at the Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter are offering a number of opportunities to put a check mark next to some lines on that “Bucket List” and fulfill some dreams. We are fortunate again to be offering the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep tags from Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. The funds raised from these auction items go right back to fund the crucial research, habitat development, relocation and species management at the state level. Extremely vital is the research into the bacterial infections that cause pneumonia in Wild Sheep. Your Board of Directors voted to contribute to the funding of this critical research and pledge to continue to do so into the future.

This is the mission of WSF-Midwest, to “Put and Keep Sheep on the Mountain”. In order to complete that mission we need your participation to follow through with our objectives.

First, I encourage all our members to attend our Friday events. I'd like to invite your involvement in your chapter by nominating new board members. It is a lot of work to plan and conduct an event of this magnitude. The more help we get on the board from individuals that are willing to roll up their sleeves, be involved and lend a hand the more successful we will be with achieving our fundraising efforts.

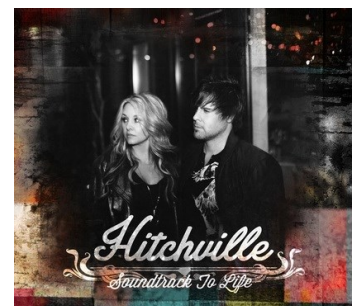
Second, we are fortunate to have representatives from the very states where a significant number of funding has been conducted over the years. The game biologists from Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska will be providing us presentations about their respective projects and achievements. This is the direct link you have as a member to the very point where your hard earned funds are utilized. You have an opportunity to ask questions and provide them with feedback if you desire. I encourage you to invite a



friend, neighbor or a couple of hunting buddies to the Saturday banquet of course. But make a real impression on them by bringing them to hear the presentations by the state biologists. It will be well worth your time.

So now, you are thinking... I have read those two paragraphs before – as in this time last year. Members of the WSF Midwest Chapter, “the more things change the more they stay the same” (Bon Jovi). What stays the same is your Board of Directors commitment and dedication to the mission and objectives of your organization. Your involvement and participation is important as well. However, what has changed will really have you interested.

Since April of 2016, just after the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser & Banquet, your Board of Directors has been busy planning the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser & Banquet. Our commitment was to implement the type of changes that would generate excitement. The return to a Two-Day format will give members, outfitters, vendors and board members more opportunity to socialize and have fun. With more time available, we added the Life Member Breakfast, seminars on both Friday and Saturday afternoon and the real highlight – entertainment by “Hitchville”. We so very excited that they agreed to perform a short set for us on Saturday afternoon. We know you will be impressed.



## President's Message continued

Another exciting change is the addition of a drawing for an Aoudad hunt with your purchase of both Friday and Saturday Banquet tickets. One lucky attendee is going to enjoy this opportunity simply for supporting WSF Midwest.

There is so much more to mention. I would encourage you to check out the Schedule of Events and our Preliminary Live Auction list. They are included in this issue of Ram Tracks as well as online at [www.midwestwildsheep.com/banquets](http://www.midwestwildsheep.com/banquets).

I also, highly encourage everyone to check out [www.welcometohitchville.com](http://www.welcometohitchville.com).

Respectfully,

Brian L. Helm, PMP  
Director, President  
Wild Sheep  
Foundation Midwest Chapter



## SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

An event that everyone enjoys at our fundraiser is the SILENT AUCTION. In order for this event to be successful, we need donations! If you would like to donate something to the Silent Auction for our Annual Fundraiser, please contact our Silent Auction Chair, Ed Schabert. His contact info is listed below.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

**Ed Schabert**  
(612) 961-9706 or email: [schabert@firenetsys.com](mailto:schabert@firenetsys.com)

## IN MEMORIAM

Lester J. Behrns, age 82, long-time member of the Wild Sheep Foundation - Midwest Chapter passed away December 1, 2016. Les, along with his wife Shirley, have helped with the Firearm Registrations at many of our Annual Fundraisers.

# March 17-18, 2017

## WSF—Midwest Chapter Annual Fundraiser

### Tentative Schedule of Events

#### Friday, March 17, 2017

Registration Begins	12:00 noon
Exhibitors/Outfitters	
Booths Open	12:00 noon
Garage Sale Opens	12:00 noon
Raffles Open	12:00 noon
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
Life Member Breakfast	8:30 am
Exhibitor/Outfitters	
Booths Open	9:00 am
Silent Auction Opens	9:00 am
Raffles Open	9:00 am
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	





**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](http://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](http://www.midwestwildsheep.org)



Picture courtesy of Point Blank  
Hunt's Website:  
[www.pointblankhunts.com](http://www.pointblankhunts.com)



Watch for more information on our website.

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](mailto: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](mailto:blhelm@visi.com).**



# When 'Max Points' Wasn't

By Kyle M Meintzer, Reno, NV

If you're a sheep addict, you know the value of having 'max points' for the sheep draws. 'Max points' are of particular value in a state such as Wyoming, where 75% of the tags go to applicants with the most points.

So imagine my surprise when I looked at the 2015 Wyoming draw odds earlier this year and saw a unit it appeared I had an excellent chance of drawing, even though there were only three non-resident tags and 319 non-residents had more points than I did.

Obviously, my first questions were, "Why is this unit not being pursued by those 319 sheep hunters?" "Why is the success rate in the low 60% range?" "Are there very few sheep?" "Are the rams small?" "Is it very physically demanding?" "Is it all of the above?"

Intrigued, I did some research, starting with the WY DGF sheep biologist for the unit. He told me there were plenty of sheep, the genetics were among the best in the state, but that it was very physically demanding and the sheep were mostly at elevations between 11,000' and 12,500.'

BINGO! That last one told me everything I needed to know; people weren't apply for the unit because it might well be the most physically demanding and intimidating unit anywhere. Of those who do apply and draw, many can't handle the physical and mental challenge, so end up with tag soup instead of a ram.

That was right up my alley, even at age 67. So I applied, drew a Wyoming tag five to ten years sooner than I would otherwise would have, then took a great ram!

The unit is intimidating beyond description and tested my fitness and mental discipline to the limit. On the other hand, I had a great adventure and put my tag on a terrific ram!

You can too, but **only** if you are physically and mentally prepared!

+++++

Note: In the 2016 draw, of the 319 non-residents who had more points than I did, not one of them applied for my unit. Of the 402 guys who had the same number of points I did, only five applied in my unit. Thanks, guys!

# WFS Midwest Member's Adventures



What do you do when you don't draw a sheep tag?  
You go musky fishing! Life Member Scott Vander Meulen poses with a 50 inch Musky in Minnesota.



Life Member Gregg Boeke had a great time with Mike Bouton of Bouton Brothers waterfowling in Alberta. They had excellent weather, birds and a start for Gregg's new pup's first hunt. Food and accommodations were first class!





# The Twenty Four Hour Buck

By Robert Utne, Savage, MN

After seeing and hearing stories about the big mule deer bucks in the Sand Hills of Nebraska, I knew 2014 was going to be my year for a chance at a trophy muley! This was an archery hunt, and opening weekend was moved up to September 1st, so a buck in velvet would be an added bonus.

The first day of the hunt was spent glassing the many slopes and draws that come with the Sand Hills. If you have never been to this area, make a trip. It is a very unique and gorgeous place. After getting the lay of the land and seeing a monster one hundred and ninety pound plus buck on the way back to the lodge, I was getting excited to make a stalk in the coming days! I was sharing the lodge with fellow artist Larry Zach of Des Moines. Larry and his guide had also seen a couple monsters on the first day. Game plans were made for day two during a dinner made by my guide and expert cook Dustin.

The start of the second day was foggy and warm with a ton of mosquitos; I thought I had left our state bird back in Minnesota. The pests were forgotten when Dustin said we had a shooter! We moved into position and make the stalk

up a yet-unnamed hill with the wind in our favor. Even though we were discovered by a coyote and busted by a doe at ten yards, we managed to get into a position approximately sixty-five yards away. It was then that the doe blew, sending the buck on over the ridge.

Regrouping, we moved up to the next ridgeline and found that the buck had bedded down. We were at fifty yards. After spending the last two months shooting every other day, I felt confident in the distance.

It was 9:30 AM when I drew and stood up over the yuccas. The deer got to its feet, giving me a great broadside shot, which I took. The shot looked good but may have been a bit low. Still, we were confident. Dustin moved quickly to get around the eastern edge of the ridge. Seeing the buck walking slowly in the valley, blood on his left side, we set up to watch him. He moved up in a draw and bedded down once more, at times gasping for air. He made an attempt to stand but was forced back to the ground. After watching him struggle for next three hours with no respite, we figured it would be best to try to get another shot in him.

This time we ended up above him at forty yards, with a laying down shot from the front being the only shot available. I chose to wait until the buck's head was turned; exposing a bigger kill shot. It was not to be; the swirling winds gave us away. To our dismay, the buck got right on its feet with renewed energy and bounded away, stopping at a couple hundred yards to look back briefly before heading off over the next ridge. Still struggling to figure out how mortal the wound was and how he managed to run off, we made another plan. Dustin felt he knew where he would bed down again so we started another stalk. Again the wind did not help us; we were busted. Again we watched the deer bound away, this time going more than six hundred yards over a distant ridgeline.

All the ups and downs of big game hunting were in full play now. I tried to remain optimistic, but at this point it was not looking good! We decided to go back to the lodge to eat quickly and go back to the hills for the afternoon. When we returned we made multiple stalks in areas where Dustin thought he might be, but there was nothing. Heading back to the truck and frustrated, I noticed something out of place.

There was the buck! It looked as though he was piled up along a fence line. Hopes that it was now a recovery were squashed when Dustin said he was, "very much alive." I knew stalk number three was going to be the most difficult as the final shooting distance ended up at 10 yards! I did shoot but it was definitely more like wing shooting as the buck was in flight when the arrow left. A miss of course.





## The Twenty Four Hour Buck continued

We tried our best to get into position for another stalk as time was not on our side. The worst part of the hunt was watching him walking away on property we could not hunt. Now I was really bummed out, I figured he was lost!

It was now my guide Dustin's turn to be the optimist. He said, "we will get on him in the morning, there is nothing on that property for him to bed in". Starting early, we started with locating the blood trail. African trackers had nothing on Dustin this day! We stalked a half dozen sand bowls before locating the buck again. This morning's shot was going to be twenty yards, laying down. While it was not the best shot, I did take out his shoulder, which confused him and slowed him down enough for the killing 30 yard shot. It was 9:30 am again, giving this deer the name: "twenty four hour buck." Dustin from Deer Meadows Outfitters helped me take a great trophy, which was also my first archery deer kill! Great scenery, great guide, and great deer; I could not have asked for more.



## Please see the enclosed Preliminary Auction List *which is subject to change*

More donations are coming in daily, so please keep an eye on our website for an up to date list.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE A  
DONATION TO OUR FUNDRAISER!**



Steve Powelson,  
Auction Chair  
(507) 334-7413  
powie\_s@yahoo.com

## BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

During the upcoming Banquet and Fundraiser, we will be nominating a few new board members. If you would be interested in becoming a member of the Wild Sheep Foundation - Midwest Chapter's Board of Directors, please contact Brian Helm prior to our Fundraiser.

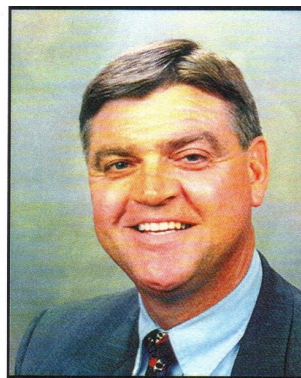
Brian Helm

Phone - (651) 269-6013

Email - blhelm@visi.com

## 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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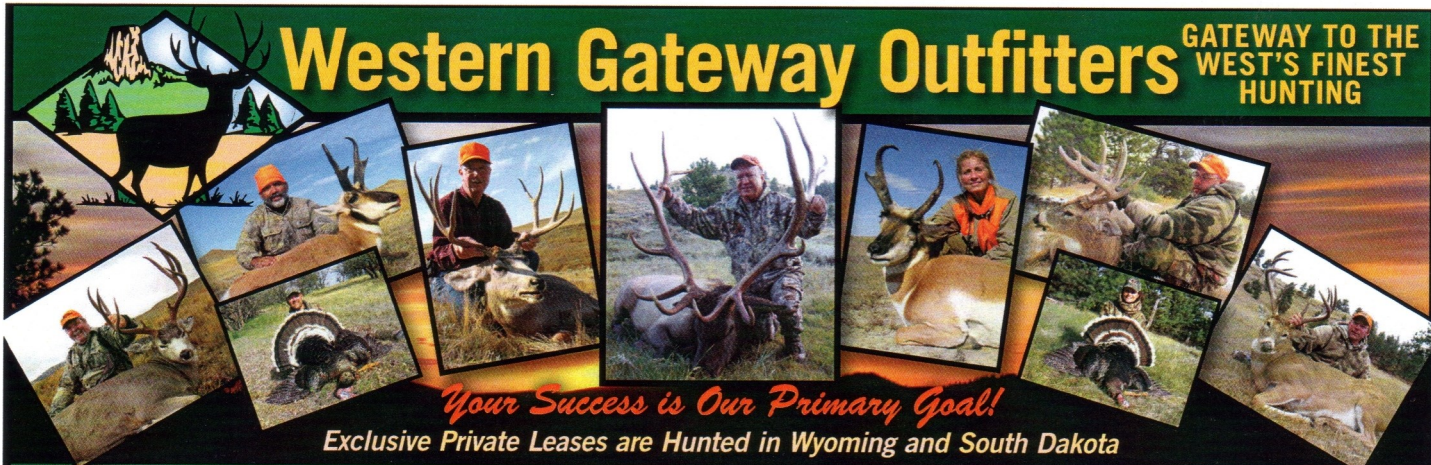
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**Wild Sheep Foundation - Midwest Chapter**  
1806 Aspen Court  
Northfield, MN 55057



**“Keeping sheep on the mountain!”**