



California Wild Sheep

Winter 2016

**SPECIAL
ISSUE
2016
SHEEP
HUNTING**



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Dan Smith III
California Bighorn Ram
Orocopias, Dry Creek Outfitters
November 2016
11 years old, 182"



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

Our favorite season, Fall, is making way for Winter (and we are thankfully getting some rain and snow). I hope you have enjoyed, and are perhaps still enjoying good hunting. In this issue, you will find some great hunting stories inspirational quotes, fun humor, a teaser about our 2017 Banquet and Fundraiser, insights from CDFW, Photos from the field, AND MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 1Q17 issue is February 20.

SPECIAL SHEEP HUNT ISSUE! Four sheep hunt stories inside!



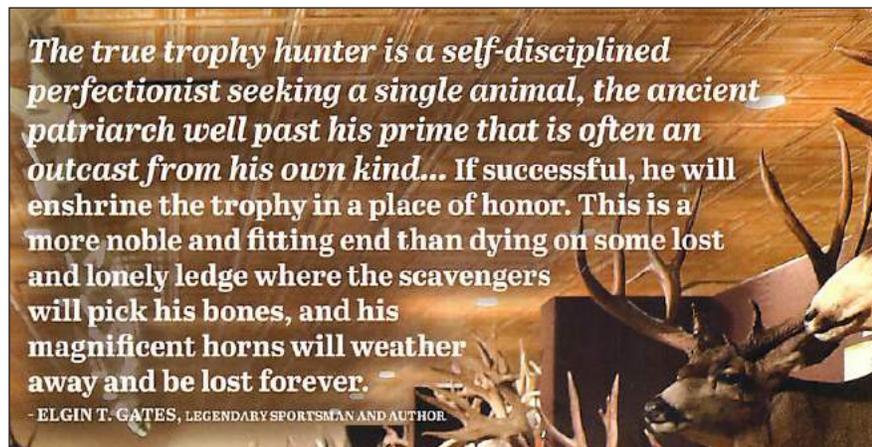
CA WSF WANTS YOU – AS A MEMBER!

Are you a Californian? A transplant to or from? Do you hunt wild sheep? Or do you dream about hunting wild sheep? Do you want to help assure that wild sheep can thrive for future generations? Do you want to be part of a young, growing and making-a-difference organization?

If you answered yes to one or more of the above questions – please join CA WSF! If you are already a member and are able, upgrade to 3 year or better yet - Life Membership. The Desert Bighorn in CA are doing well and CA WSF is making a difference by raising funds, getting connected, working with CDFW, collaborating with SCBS, DBC, SCI, FDB and others to preserve and enhance Desert Bighorn populations in California. Something we are very proud of is the fact that when we started in 2002, California issued just 11 Desert Bighorn tags. We got to 24 before disease struck in 2014 when we dropped again to 11 – and we need to get back! Thanks to our support providing hours of flying time for surveys we are back to 14. The more surveys we can support, the higher the number of tags we can get!

Joining is easy – do it online at www.cawsf.org or call/fax Beverly Valdez at (650) 472-3889 or email forthesh sheep@gmail.com.

Already a member? Volunteer to help with the fundraiser, a water project or donate. It's all important!



The true trophy hunter is a self-disciplined perfectionist seeking a single animal, the ancient patriarch well past his prime that is often an outcast from his own kind... If successful, he will enshrine the trophy in a place of honor. This is a more noble and fitting end than dying on some lost and lonely ledge where the scavengers will pick his bones, and his magnificent horns will weather away and be lost forever.

- ELGIN T. GATES, LEGENDARY SPORTSMAN AND AUTHOR

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JULY 31!

If you join or renew anytime between July and June, including at the Fundraiser, you will be covered until July 31 of the following year. Membership Options are:

Annual – \$40

3 Year – \$100

LIFE – \$500

Renewal Method options include: email, phone, mail, or on the website at www.cawsf.org!

Please keep your membership current, invite others to join – and please consider upgrading to Life Membership.

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California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to
mike.borel@contextnet.com

Photos should be high resolution and in color.
It is recommended that digital photos be sent by email.
Please include photo credits and captions.

Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott
Published by Beverly Valdez, Gaiatec Services

Events

2017

- January 18-21 WSF Convention Reno, Peppermill
- January 20 CA Pre-Banquet Reception Peppermill, Reno
- January 19-22 ISE Show - Sacramento
- January 25-28 GSCO Convention, Las Vegas, Westgate Resort
- February 1-4 SCI Convention, Las Vegas, Mandalay Bay
- February 16-19 WHCE - Salt Lake City
- February 20 Due date for articles for 1Q2017 CAWSF Newsletter
- April 18-21 Desert Bighorn Council Meeting, St. George, UT
- April 28-30 NRA Convention, Atlanta, GA
- May 5 Sheep Summit XXI in Sacramento (DoubleTree by Hilton)
- May 6 CA WSF Fundraiser/Banquet in Sacramento (DoubleTree by Hilton)
- May 20 Due date for articles for 2Q2017 CAWSF Newsletter
- June 22-23 WSF Chapter & Affiliates Meeting, Kalispell, MT

President's Letter

Dear CA Wild Sheep Members and Friends:

Another year is drawing to a close, which means a new year is right around the corner. At CA Wild Sheep, we look back at the past year with pride in our accomplishments for the benefit of California's wild sheep and their habitat and look forward with excitement to what 2017 will bring.

As members and friends of CA Wild Sheep, you were a part of some great work on behalf of the sheep this year. In 2016 we continued work on habitat improvement such as water guzzler repairs and installations; supporting wild sheep disease research; aiding CA DFW wild sheep management by helping to fund and complete much-needed aerial population surveys; planning and promoting improvements in the future as the leading proponent of research into the use of drones for future survey work (which will be less expensive, more complete, pose less risk for crews, and, probably most important, be less stressful for the sheep than helicopter surveys); and advocating for the interest of wild sheep with new Department of Fish and Wildlife commission members and key sheep program employees.



As we look forward to 2017, we are excited about some changes to our annual gala and fundraiser to be held in Sacramento on the evening of Saturday May 6, 2017 at the Sacramento DoubleTree by Hilton. Many of you will probably note the change in venue. The DoubleTree provides a larger and more private area and other improvements, while at the same time being closer to the other attractions and conveniences of downtown Sacramento.

As a special reward to the loyal followers of CA Wild Sheep who attend the fundraiser, many of whom were disappointed last year when the always-popular Alaska Dall sheep hunt provided by Don Martin and Ultima Thule Outfitters sold out the remaining tickets early in the evening, this year the Dall hunt drawing will require the winner to be present. However, early ticket purchases are still encouraged to make sure you do not get shut out.

For those who can't be present at the banquet in 2017 but want to support CA Wild Sheep by participating in a great opportunity to win, we are teaming with Gunwerks to provide a special drawing for a very special custom long distance shooting rifle in which the winner will need not be present to win. The limited number of tickets for this \$9,000 rifle and scope are bound to sell out fast. More details on this super opportunity can be found on page 31.

In more exciting news, we will have a California Any Zone special deer tag, an extremely popular Alaska bison tag, and many other great items in the live auction. Our silent auction will continue its tradition of numerous high quality items. And our general raffle will again concentrate on a selection of "upper end" firearms and other desirable prizes for those who may have too many firearms.

But the most important part of the 2017 gala is you, and your opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, all for the benefit of California's wild sheep. Mark your calendar for May 6 in Sacramento and make your reservations early.

For the sheep!!

Paul Brisso, President
CA Wild Sheep Foundation

2016 WRANGLEL ST ELIAS, ALASKA
ULTIMA THULE DALL SHEEP ADVENTURE

by California Wild Sheep Raffle Winner Donald Patterson

My adventure started with a phone call at my work, "Is this Don Patterson?" I said yes. They said, "Congratulations you have been selected as this year's winner of the California Wild Sheep raffle drawing!" I thought to myself this must be a scam, I told the caller I was at work and could I call them back later that afternoon? We agreed that 2 pm I would call Donald C. Martin aka "Hollywood" as I would come to know him.

Well I called Don back that afternoon and began my journey to Alaska's Wrangell St. Elias National Preserve and an Ultima Thule Dall sheep hunt. The first thing I did was realize I was in for a serious adventure and that I would need to be in the best physical condition of my life. I'm a 62 year old average guy from Montana that likes hunting elk and deer every year in the mountains of western Montana. I have also been putting in for a Big Horn sheep tag in Montana for 13 years and have never drawn so this would be my first sheep hunt. I got on the web and looked up Ultima Thule and read the story of Paul and Donna Claus and the name Ultima Thule. The ancient Greeks used the name "Ultima Thule" to describe the unknowable realm beyond the northern bounds of their maps. I knew this would be the adventure of a life time.

I began getting in physical condition December 2015 joining the local athletic club and going to "Spinning" and working on weight machines. Anything to lose weight and get in shape I told myself. As winter turned to spring I began hiking the trails of the Bitterroot Mountains. When summer came I was hiking 20 miles per week up and down the mountains of western Montana. I got my pack and loaded up with 25 lbs. of gear and hiked every chance I got. I went to rifle range every week and practiced various shooting scenarios and banging the 18"x24" steel plate at 300 yards with my Tikka 300 WSM until I was confident in it.

August arrived before I could be completely ready but I knew it was time to go to the Wrangell's and do the best I could, knowing full well that I would be fully tested in the coming weeks. I got to Anchorage and texted Donald C. Martin about pick up, he said he would be there around 7 am, I was ready. We picked up the other 3 hunters and headed to McCarthy, Alaska, the end of the road. We got there around 4 pm and Paul Claus was waiting at the airstrip in his turbine otter with wheel/skis. As we were loading gear Paul would grumble and ask why we were taking so much gear, he said he did a 10 day back pack hunt from the lodge and took no more than 30 lb. pack for the entire trip. I looked at our gear and had to admit we looked a bit



heavy compared to what Paul described. Folks started climbing into the otter and I was waiting in line, Paul said "someone can ride up front" I took the opportunity to ride copilot and climbed aboard the plane. It lifted off the gravel air strip like a feather and took us up for my first look at the famous Wrangell Mountains and they were spectacular. We arrived at the lodge and found our comfortable quarters for the night in anticipation of the morning and our super cub flight to our spike camp.

The next morning arrived and after a wonderful breakfast we got our rifles and did a sight in check on the range. All was good and we went to get our gear and head to the air strip for the ride out to our respective spike camps. Paul had determined that Don Martin and I would be dropped off at a place named "the Tommy strip" on a glacier about 25 air miles from the lodge and a short trip by super cub. As we were flying to the spike camp it began raining as it would almost every day I was there. Loni landed the super cub on a patch of cobble rock alongside a glacial stream on the east side of the glacier. Don and I unloaded packs and gear and got settled into the Arctic Oven tent. It was still day light so we decided to set up the spotting scope and do some glassing. We looked the country over and saw some sheep but could not tell their age or quality at the point. We then had a hot cider and our Mountain House dinner and hit the sack for the next day.

It was dark and we had oatmeal and coffee before starting our hike out of camp. We went east up the stream looking for sheep and we did not go far and spotted a group on across the canyon. We set up the spotting scope and glassed them over, no good ones in that bunch, so we moved on up the stream. We spotted some more and repeated the process but no shooters in that bunch either. Don said we need to go "up" the



mountain and go over the top. He said he had seen good rams up top before so I said lets go. We began our climb up the mountain through the alder brush and rocks. It got steeper and steeper as we climbed. We climbed for a couple of hours and got on a spine ridge that took us up to the top of the mountain, about 3,000 vertical feet up. I was exhausted. We crept over a small ridge to look in the next high bowl and sure enough there were 2 rams there, but they were not legal. We ate our lunch and watched the rams feed in the high mountain basin 250 yds. Away, they were magnificent animals and I loved seeing them. We hiked further to the east as far as we could go before being cliffed out and glassed the surrounding mountain sides, basins, valleys for sheep. The day was winding down and we started back to the spike camp. We started down the side of the mountain and it was steep, Don said "this is where some guys take out the valuables from their pack and just throw it down the mountain." It will go all the way to the bottom no problem! I took a look and sure enough it was that steep. We got back to the spike camp and rested some before going out and glassing more, this time we went west up to the edge of the glacier and glassed across. After a while Don said "that is a good sheep." We looked at the band of sheep feeding in a high basin across the rocky glacier and saw that one of the sheep was larger body and heavy looking. We watched them until dark then headed back to the tent. Don said that is a good sheep and that we should go over the glacier. I was very intimidated by the sight of the glacier. It was 2 miles of the most broken, uneven, rocky piece of ground I ever saw and it had small streams that ran in to ice holes that one would ever get out of if you fell into. I looked at Don and said "do you think I can get over there" Don said "look at it this way, this is the adventure part of the hunt" Okay, let's do it.

The next morning we woke before dark and started packing our gear for the crossing of the Hawkins. We setup the spotting scope and glassed the rams again to make sure they were good ones before heading across the Glacier. We took small tents, food for a couple nights, change of socks, sleeping bag/pad, rifle, stove, rain gear and started the journey. First we had to climb up the side wall of rocky debris the glacier pushes to each side. A jumble of granite rocks about 150 feet high and then down onto the glacier itself. Each step is on a rock, some solid some not. I followed Don Step



for step. There are small hills of granite rock debris scattered across the entire way, the north side of each is solid ice and impassible. Winding around each of these granite boulder hills heading in the general direction of the other side. It took us most the day to get across and it began raining as we neared the far side. By the time we got to the far side it was raining hard and we had to climb up the side wall of the glacier to get off. The side wall was compressed granitic rock and dirt. It was compressed so hard I could hardly get a toe hold with my boot to climb up the steep side wall, I ended up crawling up the hill on hands and knees and it was raining hard by now. We got off the glacier and set up the tents in a small valley between the glacier and the mountain side, it was raining harder now. I got in my tent and sleeping bag to warm up, had some mountain house and cider and went to sleep completely exhausted and listened to the rain come down, it rained all night.

The next morning we got up in the dark and it was still raining. We talked it over and thought the rain may have brought the sheep down lower in the hanging glacial valley above us. We had a quick breakfast of oatmeal and coffee and headed up the mountain side. It was very steep and had alder brush and willow up the side we were going. We climbed about 500 feet to the top of a small side ridge and peaked over to see the sheep had come down, they were about 600 yards feeding beneath a tall cliff in a valley that sloped toward a small glacial stream. There was a good ram in the bunch of 5 sheep and they were feeding slowly making their way back up the valley away from us. We dropped back and discussed our options. The only stalk we had was to retreat back down the mountain and get in the stream for the approach. If we stayed in the stream the cut bank would shield us from view of the sheep, at least for part of the way. After retreating down the mountain a ways we got in the stream and started back up the hill staying low and crouched over.

We scrambled up the granite cobbles and rushing water making our way up closer to the sheep when we came to a portion of the stream that was totally exposed

with no cut bank to hide our approach. We were stuck having to cross an open portion where the sheep could see us. That is when Don said, let's put on the "whites", splendid idea! I said, "lets go for it." We dropped our packs and put on the Tyvek painters whites, bent over and stayed in the stream that was rushing down the steep hill creating a perfect back drop of glacier white water. We crossed the open portion and was soon hid behind another cut bank between us and the sheep. We continued up as far as the cut bank went and eased up over the top for a peak at the sheep. They were scattered across the hillside below the cliff feeding about 290 yards away. Don said to get ready, so I got set up prone across the top of the cut bank hill laying of granite cobble. Don said the sheep all the way to the left is the one. I got situated across the rocky terrain prone with a good rest. I took several deep breaths, calmed myself in anticipation of the shot. I got the ram in the cross hair and made sure the set up was solid. I took a deep breath and let half of it out, settled the cross hairs on the quartering away ram and slowly squeezed the trigger..... Boom it went off and I heard the distinct sound of the bullet hitting the ram. The ram stumbled forward and regained his footing, I reloaded and got ready to hit him again... boom and he went down for good.

Wahoo, congratulations, what an amazing ram, photos, high five, smiles all around. We caped the ram for a full body mount, deboned the meat, packed up and headed back down the mountain to our spike camp. Man that pack was heavy!! We had mountain house dinner, hot cider and then retired to the tents after a long day.

Up early the next morning for the load up and back across the glacier only this time with heavy packs and threat of sprained knees or ankles. The load was heavy but we made it across and back to the arctic oven tent that day, got the cape soaking in a glacial stream to wash it up some then hit the sleeping bags after a long day. Up at daylight and it was a gorgeous morning, Don got a willow fire going and we had fresh sheep tenderloin over the fire while we waited for the super cub to pick us up and take us back to the main lodge. We got back and took a care of the meat and cape, then got a sauna and had a gourmet dinner at the lodge with a cold beer! Awesome night.

The next morning we loaded up and caught a super cub to McColl ridge and setup camp for some black bear spot and stalk. The country was totally different than the glacier, with rolling tundra hills just loaded with all types of berries. We glassed the next morning and afternoon spotting one black bear that was average size, we wanted to look for a bigger one and had two day's to hike and look around the country. Day two we glassed and hiked all day and did not see any more or different bears. The third and final day we got up early and glassed and saw a huge black bear, but he was at least 5 miles away, we watched him for quite a while deciding if we should

go after him. After an hour or so, we decided not to go after him but to put the stalk on the first bear we saw and was about 2 miles away still feeding. We hiked over the next drainage and glassed, he was feeding down the hill away from us. We hiked down the hill and dropped our packs for the final stalk. He was about 200 yards away and disappeared behind a small rise, we approached and peaked over the hill, he was gone. He must have winded us and dashed in to the thick alders, Don said to get set up and be ready, and we waited. I got the bi-pod down and setup facing down the hill. After about 5 minutes Don said, "get ready he is coming out." I said, "where?" Don said," down the hill." I looked and saw a black blur dashing up the far side of a gully, swung up the 300 WSM, saw black in the scope, squeezed the trigger, boom and the bullet went smack. I saw a paw swing up in the air and the bear rolled out of sight in to the alder brush down the hill.

I went up to where I had shot the bear, no sign, no blood, nothing. Don circled down the hill and into the gulley that had a small stream running in it. Don said, these bears always fall off the hill/cliff and land in the bottom. After about 5 minutes Don hollered "I got him" sure enough the bear had rolled off the hill down the cliff and into the very bottom of the thick willow and alder choked stream. I made my way down into the brush and we got ahold of that bear and dragged him out on to the side hill. He was just over 6 feet long, beautiful black coat, big beautiful black bear! We caped the bear out and took the back-strap meat and headed back to spike camp. We got there just about 5 o'clock, too late for a super cub to pick us up and get back to the main lodge, we had to overnight and get a ride the next morning.

When we woke up the next morning we were soaked in with rain and fog. "No plane is flying in this soup," I said. We waited until noon, no change, we waited until 3 pm and it started to break up a bit, soon we heard the sound of a super cub flying in a circle around us, after about 15 minutes the fog cleared and the super cub dashed in and landed on the tundra, it was Paul Claus. We loaded up and headed to the main lodge. The sauna never felt so good that night. What an adventure and experience that I will never forget.

I want to thank the California Wild sheep foundation, Donald C. Martin, and Ultima Thule lodge for this once in a life time experience. I'm now a dedicated sheep-a-holic and looking forward to contributing what I can to "put and keep sheep on the mountain" and help conservation efforts for these magnificent animals. See you in Reno at the Sheep show.

Sincerely,
Don Patterson,
Life member, Montana Wild Sheep number 247

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Dan Smith III
California Bighorn Ram, Orocopias,
with the Dry Creek Outfitters team, November 2016
11 years old, 182"

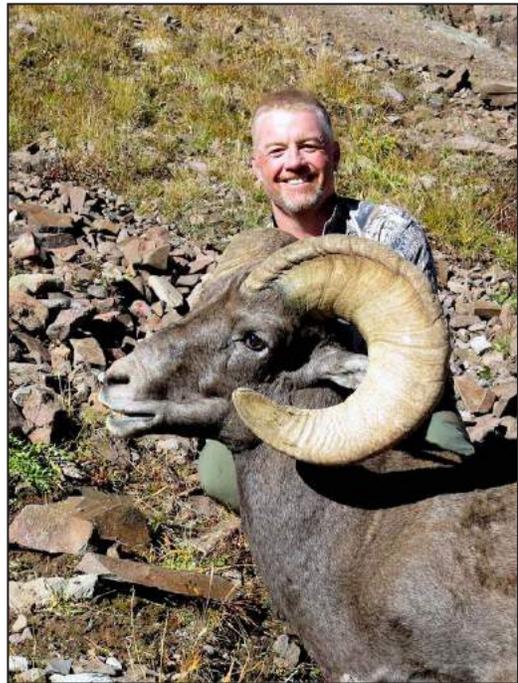


Beverly Valdez
New Mexico Elk, first elk
Hunting with JFW Ranch Consulting
October 2016

An old 7x8 fighter taken with CA WSF 2016 Gun of the Year!



Brendon Chuck
17 year old Brendan Chuck of Oregon poses with his 168 7/8
California Bighorn and CA WSF Director Donald C. Martin.



Terry Meyers
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Ram
September 2016

*Terry is the Executive Director of Colorado Rocky Mountain
Bighorn Society. He saw 56+ rams before taking this one -
#2 of his top 3 seen*



Adam Casagrande
California bighorn in Idaho
Self Guided
November 2016

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Don Patterson
Alaska Dall Sheep
Ultima Thule with Don Martin
October 2016



Tom Gordon
Nevada desert bighorn
Mystery Ranch with G&J Outdoors
173 B&C 10 year old ram
November 2015

Largest ram to be taken in the unit!



Mike Borel
SouthEastern Ibex
Spain with Srdja Dimitrivic
November 2016
That makes 23 Capra!



Mike Borel
Mouflon Sheep
Spain with Srdja Dimitrivic
November 2016
Now has finished 20 Ovis!

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Henry McNatt III
Gredos ibex
“La Sierra” hunting area, Spain
November 2016



Henry McNatt III
Alpine ibex
Canton Valais, Switzerland
Green scored 112.5 SCI, November 2016t

Congratulations to Henry who completed his Capra World Slam!



PHOTOS “ON THE HOOF IN CALIFORNIA” From Cliff St. Martin and Carlos Gallinger

WHEN 'MAX POINTS' WASN'T

by Kyle M Meintzer



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!

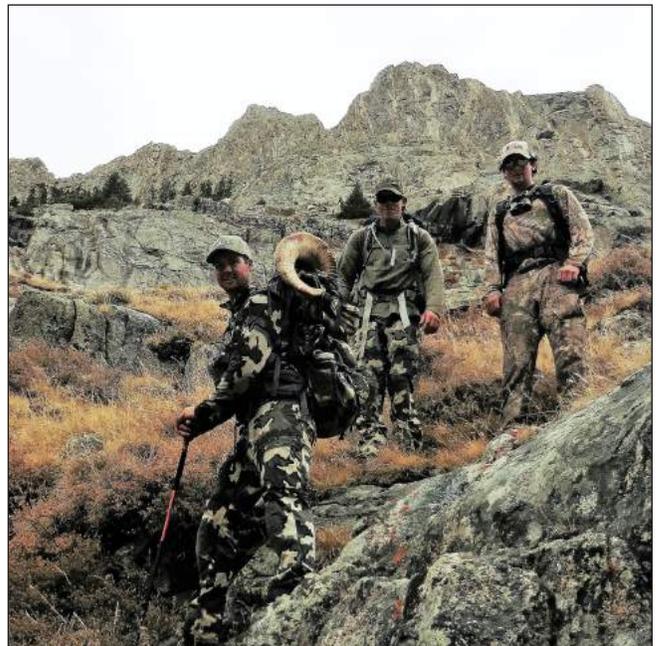
It was a WY tag I drew for three reasons:

- 1. It's been available for applicants who are one short of max points.*
- 2. It's likely the most physically demanding sheep unit in North America.*
- 3. Success rates have been in the low sixty percent range. (See #2 above)*

I did some research and learned it has a good number of sheep and some of the best genetics in the state. Most of the unsuccessful hunters are residents, which did not surprise me at all.

One shot, 420 yards at a 45 degree downhill angle, dead ram within 5 seconds and he didn't go ten feet from where he was when I shot.

That Nosler 6.5 x .284 Norma I won at the CA WSF raffle in 2009 is one awesome weapon!



DAN SMITH III

CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT

by Cliff St. Martin

Dan Smith III and I had many discussions about hunting California sheep hunting so I was not surprised when his dad approached me at the Wild Sheep Foundation convention in Reno (January 2016) to talk about sheep hunts. I have known both Dan and his father (Dan II) for many years and we have discussed sheep often. After looking at some of the trail cam photos and discussing the status of sheep with me, Dan II decided to try to win the bid on the special California bighorn sheep tag being sold at the convention. This tag allows the holder to start one month earlier than anyone else and hunt anywhere in the state throughout the hunting season — it's really a great tag if you can get it. But getting it is the hard part; bidding was lively but eventually Dan II lasted longest and won the auction.

From that point on, our entire Dry Creek Outfitters team was on the lookout for the right bighorn for Dan (and our other hunters) — a year round scouting activity always but for this special tag we sent Dan photos throughout the ten months from January to opening day of his hunt. We were seeing a lot of rams that might be good from different units but we kept coming back to the Orocopias because we saw several rams that were above and beyond the rest and about 35-40 rams altogether in the unit.

This special tag allowed Dan to start hunting the first Saturday in November while the rest of the sheep hunters would be opening one month later (first Saturday in December). We set up camp in the Orocopias before the season and Dan came in a few days early with his dad to do some scouting and be ready to hunt on opening day. Wouldn't you know it, the ram we had been seeing was suddenly no where to be found! The weather was abnormally hot, over 100 when we were first starting out and cooling to 75-80 by the second week. We also thought a contributing factor was that the rifle deer season in the same unit was open for the first two weeks in November and this may be causing the sheep to be a little more wary than normal. After several days of not seeing that ram, although we did see others, Dan had to take some time out of the field for work and would come back when we let him know that they were out moving about again.

We caught sight of the big ram and we called Dan - he and his dad came back out for the hunt. Once they were in camp, the ram totally disappeared again! I was feeling pretty bad about having Dan come back out but as he was getting ready to leave again the next day, we spied our 'disappearing' the ram the next morning.



This year, Dan Smith III was the first hunter in California to harvest a ram, just days before the normal season opener! Dan, a CA WSF member since 2003, is Life Member number 1 and was one of the earliest members of CAWSF.

Dan, his dad, Matt, and I started stalking the ram while the rest of the DCO team took up positions along the ridges and tried to keep him in sight. When we first saw him he was with seven other rams; then he disappeared for a while. He came back into view with three other rams and, again, disappeared. Finally he reappeared alone. He had the stamina to keep going and was about a mile and a half away. We kept on him through some harsh terrain and about 1pm got within 1,000 yards when we finally got our first up close look at him. Looking at photos and trail cams can give you an idea relative to others but it's only when you can see them live that you can gauge their age and size more accurately.

We were able to get 200 yards away by going up over a little knoll and he was just below us! Normally we don't want to get that close but all the conditions were just right and this time it made sense. We were able to see even more clearly that he was a massive old ram with a length of 40" or more on his horn. As we were peeking over the knoll looking at him, Dan started discussing the ram — is this the right one? — a question every sheep hunter asks himself! His dad just shook his head and said "Shoot!" Dan started to get into position but the ram caught sight of some slight movement; with four people it's not hard to imagine



that something would catch his eye! He became a bit wary and stared at us so we couldn't make a move. Finally after about half an hour, he bedded down and Dan was able to get on the gun. Dan was shooting a Brown Precision 7mm in Weatherby Mag given to him by his dad and one that he has had for many years on many hunts. The ram stood back up, taking a good position for a shot, and Dan was able to shoot.

The ram went down and there were whoops and hollering all over the mountains as we let the rest



of the team know. The shot was at about 3:15pm. Following photos, the work began as the team did a fully body mount caping and cut the meat up. We finally got everyone off the mountain about 9pm.

It was a great hunt made even more enjoyable by the camaraderie around the camp — Dan and his dad are great guys, sharing the evenings' meal and telling stories of hunts past are one of the best parts of any hunt.

BLESS THE IRISH

The Irish are always the first ones to come to the aid of their fellow man...

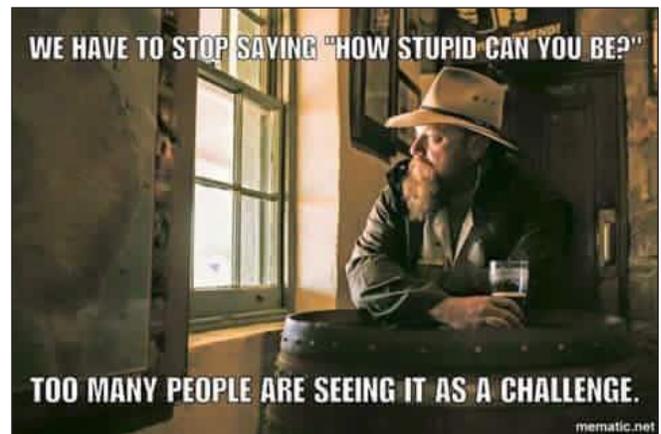
Shortly after take-off on an outbound, evening Aer Lingus flight from Dublin to Boston, the lead flight attendant nervously made the following painful announcement in her lovely Irish brogue:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I'm so very sorry, but it appears that there has been a terrible mix-up by our catering service. I don't know how this has happened, but we have 103 passengers on board, and unfortunately, we received only 40 dinner meals. I truly apologize for this mistake and inconvenience."

When the muttering of the passengers had died down, she continued, "Anyone who is kind enough to give up their meal so that someone else can eat, will receive free and unlimited drinks for the duration of our 10 hour flight."

Her next announcement came about 2 hours later:

"If anyone is hungry, we still have 40 dinners available."



WILDERNESS FIRST AID

by Darryl Williams



We all love the outdoors. It's part of who we are and where we love to spend our free time. Jack O'Connor's famous sheep hunting quote sums it up very well for those of us afflicted by sheep fever, "Sheep hunters are romantics who love high places and solitude.

To them the wild ram embodies the mystery and magic of the mountains, the rocky canyons, the snowy peaks, the fragrant alpine meadows, the gray slide rock, the icy dancing rills fed by snowbank and glacier, the sweet, clean air of the high places, and the sense of being alone on the top of the world with the eagles, the marmots, and the wild sheep themselves. The sheep hunter is willing to climb until his lungs are bursting, to walk until his legs are dead weary, to grow hungry and thirsty for great rewards. There is no half way." The one downside of all that beauty is that the same country that brings us so much joy can also bring us terror.

As Alison Hudson stated in her article Wilderness First Aid: Be Prepared Before Venturing into the Backcountry, "One of the scariest things that can happen when you're in the backcountry is an injury. Even a small blister can upend a backpacking trip, but imagine facing something more serious, like a broken leg, an allergic reaction, or a burn from the campfire, and not knowing where to start. Suddenly it's abundantly obvious that getting to a hospital isn't as simple as calling 911, and you wonder where you packed the first-aid kit – you did pack a first-aid kit, right?"

The NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute offers the following considerations for a Wilderness Medical Kit:

For Blisters

- Moleskin
- 2nd Skin® dressings
- Tincture of benzoin swabs
- Blister bandages

For Small Wounds

- Gloves
- 12cc irrigation syringe
- Povidone-iodine solution
- Tweezers

- Antiseptic towelettes
- Antibiotic ointment packets
- 1 X 3 fabric bandages
- Knuckle and fingertip fabric bandages
- 3 X 4 non-stick gauze pads
- 3-inch conforming roll gauze
- Wound closure strips
- Transparent dressings

Other useful items

- Safety pins
- Oral thermometer
- Rescue mask
- Coban® wrap
- Athletic/medical tape
- 4-6 inch elastic wrap
- Wire or SAM® splint
- Triangular bandages
- Water disinfection device/chemicals

Just as important as having a first aid kit you should:

- Re-pack your first aid kit for each trip.
- Check for expiration dates on medications, for sterile items that have been torn open, damaged or dampened.
- Know how to use everything in your first aid kit.

You can either piece together a kit based on these recommendations or purchase a complete kit at REI or on-line from the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute (www.nols.edu/wmi). I personally have two first aid kits: a small kit with the essentials that I carry in my backpack and a larger, more complete kit that I leave in camp.

One of our first instincts when someone gets hurt is to rush in to help, but it is important to size up the situation to prevent you from becoming the next casualty. NOLS WMI recommends these steps:

- Survey the scene for hazards:
- Immediate danger to rescuers
- Immediate danger to bystanders
- Immediate danger to patients
- Determine what might have caused the accident or injury
- Protect yourself from bodily substances

- Determine the number of patients
- Form a general impression of the patient

NOLS WMI also provides a simple way to remember these steps:

- I'm #1 – don't want to put yourself in danger
- What happened to you? Try to determine what caused the injury.
- Not on me. Wear latex gloves to protect yourself.
- Are there anymore? Is this the only patient?
- Dead or alive?

A recent study of wilderness accidents concluded that most outdoor accidents are the result of incompetence, inadequate preparation, and/or poor judgment by the people involved. In other words, the majority of mishaps and deaths are not caused by unavoidable natural phenomena, such as an avalanche or rockfall or rampaging wild beast. They are caused by preventable human error. We spend a significant time each year exercising to ensure we can get to the game, shooting our favorite rifle or

bow to make sure we can make the shot when we get there, but very little time thinking about what could go wrong.

Many mountain hunts require a guide and like many of you, I depend on my guide to take care of me. What if your guide is the one who gets hurt? What if you are hunting with friends or family and one of them gets hurt? Taking a Wilderness First Aid course (like those offered through NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute) is a great way to brush up on your skills. During my career in the military I received a significant amount of medical training and found the course to be excellent. Working in teams, students are faced with scenarios that include simulated injuries to practice the skills learned during the lecture portions. The basic class is two full days and students receive two-year certifications in Wilderness First Aid and Epinephrine Auto Injector. The course is taught through REI and is available year round.

Alaska Hunting Extravaganza

If you've been waiting for the opportunity to hunt the great state of Alaska, this is your year! We have four amazing opportunities for you.

**Ultima Thule
2018 Dall Sheep Hunt**



**Bison
Permit**



**Moose
Permit**



**Dall Sheep
Permit**



Ultima Thule Outfitters is providing a fully guided 10 day Dall sheep hunt for one lucky winner! Alaska DFG is allowing us three special permits for the 2017 season! Will our home state of California offer us a special fundraising tag this year? Stay tuned! We won't know for another month. Watch your email and Facebook page for information.

Plus we will see the return of the Bob Swanson California bull tule elk hunt at auction! What a year we will have. Join us on May 6, 2017 in Sacramento! See page 18 for more details.





ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FEATURING TWO ALASKA SPECIAL DRAWINGS

Alaska's Best! 2018 Wrangell-St Elias National Preserve 10 day hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters and guide Don Martin

Includes
Meals, lodging
Transportation (from Anchorage to Lodge)
Field Dressing

Not included
Non-resident License
Sheep Tag
Processing
Shipping
Taxidermy
Personal items
Gratuities



MUST be present May 6, 2017 to win



Alaska Chitina River Bison Permit

Unit D1450

Also in the Wrangell Mountains, this special state permit will be issued a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of the 2017 hunting season.

This area is lightly hunted for bison — in 2016 only 2 permits were issued! 2016 Hunt dates were Sept 6 to Nov 30; 2017 expected to be similar.

Do not need to be present to win

\$20: One (1) ticket

\$100: Six (6) tickets

Place your order via mail, phone, fax, email, website

Or at our annual fundraiser on May 6, 2017 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Sacramento

CA WSF is a 501©3 nonprofit organization.

Funds from this random drawing will be used for the benefit and enhancement of bighorn sheep in California.

CA Wild Sheep Foundation 2017 ORDER FORM

Gunwerks Drawing (1) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Gunwerks Drawing (21) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Dall Sheep 1 ticket (\$20) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Dall Sheep 6 tickets (\$100) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Bison Permit 1 ticket (\$20) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Bison Permit 6 tickets (\$100) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Annual Membership (\$40) _____ = \$ _____
 Life Membership (\$500) _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount: = \$ _____

Send or Fax form to:
 CA WSF
 423 Broadway #617, Millbrae, CA 94030-1905
 Fax: (650) 472-3889
 Email: cawsf@cawsf.org

Check ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ AmEx ___ CCV _____
 # _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature: _____
 Name (Please Print): _____
 Address: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

No tickets sent to purchaser; we make out and submit tickets for you.
 A receipt and ticket numbers will be sent to the provided email address or via mail when a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is enclosed with your order.

Ticket orders must be received by APRIL 21, 2017
 See more details at www.cawsf.org

LIFE MEMBER LIST

Show your support of California Wild Sheep Foundation and upgrade your membership today. Join these Life Members who know how important it is to continue the work we do in sheep environment enhancement and sheep disease research. Your continued support is what makes it possible for us to continue **PUTTING AND KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS.**

Ralph E. Adams	Randy C. Fortune	Ken Morrill
Jack Ahart	Dan Fox	James C. Mower
Daniel M. Alegre	John C. Frazier, III	Tim Murray (Deceased)
C. Dennis Anderson	Dallas Freeman	Robert Lee Murry Jr.
Donald B. Anderson	Ronald S. Gabriel, MD	Richard P. Musselman
Terry B. Anderson	Will Garrouette	Glenn Napierskie (Deceased)
Brian Anderson	Rick Garzoli	Gordon Ohanesian
Stanford Atwood	Steven Gingras	Andrew Ohanesian
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Richard Butler	Larry J. Johns	Graham Rogney
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Danny B. Ferguson	Rod Miranda	Shawn Wood
Kenneth D. Fish	John Montelli	John Zenz
James Fitzgerald	Bo Morgan	

MOJAVE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

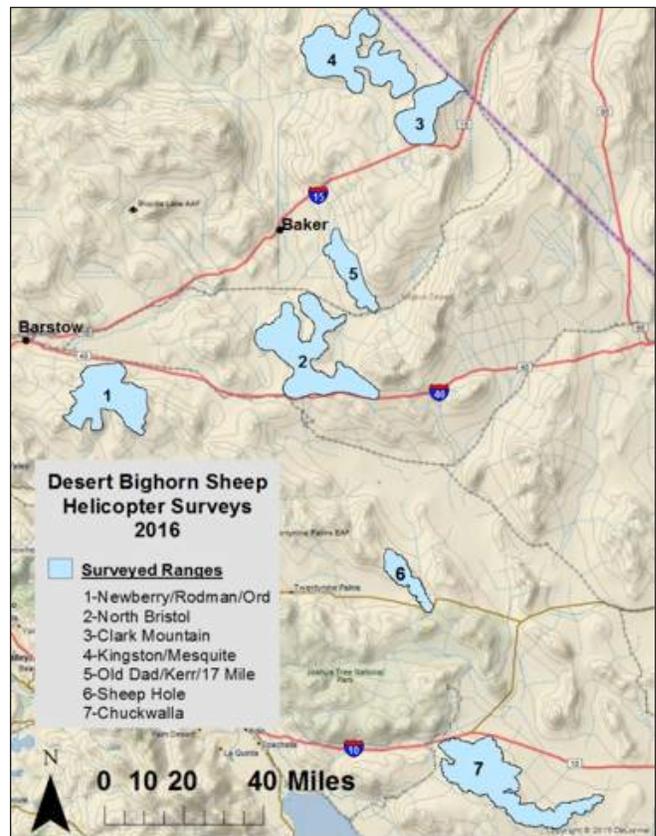
by Paige Prentice

The Department flew our second consecutive year of desert bighorn sheep helicopter surveys this past October, with great success. 15 days on the road, 42 hours of flight time, 7 populations surveyed, 439 desert bighorn counted, and 2 new water tanks long-lined into place. Not only did the weather grant us ideal flying conditions, but our flight crew was optimistic, dedicated, and maintained stomachs of steel for the duration. The table below summarizes the number of desert bighorn counted and the lamb to ewe ratios (number of lambs per 100 ewes) for each range. The map highlights the seven ranges, which are numbered in the order flown. These areas represent a combination of core index populations, hunt zones, and ranges desert bighorn are known to currently or previously occupy.



East Ord Mountain ram.

CDFW 2016 Desert Bighorn Helicopter Surveys	Minimum Count	Lamb-Ewe Ratio
Newberry/Rodman/Ord	171	70:100
North Bristol Mountains	56	25:100
Clark Mountain	50	3:100
Kingston/Mesquite	55	10:100
Old Dad/Kerr/17 Mile	33	5:100
Sheep Hole Mountains	25	36:100
Chuckwalia Mountains	49	30:100



Helicopter surveys are a reliable and efficient tool for conducting reproducible bighorn sheep surveys in otherwise difficult to access, rugged terrain. The data collected from these surveys will be used for the continual tracking of herd size as well as monitoring lamb:ewe and ram:ewe ratios. This data will help the Department make informed management decisions, track the long-term effects of disease outbreaks, and identify ranges of potential concern. For example, the lamb:ewe ratio for the Old Dad/Kerr/17 Mile Point area is extremely low, five lambs per one hundred ewes. In 2013, we documented a major die-off in this range resulting from exposure to a bronchial pneumonia complex. The low lamb:ewe ratio suggests

that lambs are still being infected and are dying at a young age. Although this is not an uncommon occurrence after a disease outbreak, it is important for the Department to track because if lambs continue to fail to survive into adult-hood there will be long-term consequences on the herd's viability. The Clark



Paige Prentice (left) and Danielle Glass (right) excited to survey.



Lamb and ewe in Newberry herd.

and Kingston/Mesquite ranges also have very low lamb:ewe ratios and represent areas that we have not recently tested for disease. It is our goal to test animals in both of these areas during our next capture.

The Newberry/Rodman/Ord range had the largest population of desert bighorn that we surveyed and also appeared to be the healthiest. Unfortunately, a visit in early November revealed that several ewes were displaying early symptoms of pneumonia.

We'll be watching this population closely in the coming months in order to document any major disease events.

Overall, this year's surveys were a success. We are currently working on calculating population estimates for these ranges and we will continue to monitor areas of concern.

WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION RETURNS TO WASHINGTON D.C.

by Kyle Meintzer

The Legislative Affairs Committee of the Wild Sheep Foundation returned to the nation's capitol in mid-September to further promote WSF's conservation agenda.

Representing the LAC were LAC Chair and WSF Board Member Brett Jefferson, WSF Board Member Jim Wilson, Dr. Peri Wolff, president of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, Greg Schildwacter, our lobbyist, as well as myself, LAC Vice-Chair.

On the 14th, we met with Senator Steve Daines (MT) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK), followed by meetings with staff from the offices of Senators Jon Tester (MT) and James Risch (ID). In the afternoon, we met with Congressman Mark Amodei (NV).

The following morning we met with Congressman Cresent Hardy (NV) and staff from the office of Congressman Joe Heck (NV).

Our purpose was to update these elected officials on the status of the wild sheep/domestic sheep disease issue, to include the importance of maintaining separation and identifying suitable alternative grazing allotments for wool growers. We



also addressed a new concern regarding the USAF and the Navy's efforts to annex over 800,000 new acres to their bombing and training ranges in Nevada. Our concern with this issue has to do with the potential loss of access for sportsmen and the loss of the ability to service and maintain several big game drinkers that exist in the proposed area.

The LAC was very well received in all of the meetings and solid progress is being made on our issues. We will continue to work with our elected officials on issues vital to wild sheep and conservation.

2017 CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP FUNDRAISER UPDATE

by Donald C. Martin



Just off the mountain from assisting a youth hunter take his first bighorn sheep in Oregon and already I'm thinking of our upcoming annual fundraiser dinner in 2017. I know many of you are out hunting as well this fall but it isn't too early to start planning to attend our event on May 6, 2017 at the Arden Double Tree by Hilton in Sacramento. Again, this is a new venue for our event and we are looking forward to the change in scenery!

Couple of big items I'm happy to announce, first, thanks in large part to the hard work of Don Priest and Beverly Valdez, California Department of Fish and Wildlife has awarded our chapter an **Open Zone Deer Tag for 2017!** This tag allows the hunter to hunt during the authorized season dates of any deer hunt in California, using the specific method and meeting any special conditions of the tag for that hunt. It will be one of the spotlight items available during the live auction. Instead of waiting years to draw a premier deer permit, you could bid on this tag and have the whole state and the whole season to hunt the buck of a lifetime!

Second, CA WSF President Paul Brisso has secured a custom **Gunwerks long range rifle** as our spotlight raffle item. This will be a separate raffle from the general raffle. Tickets will be \$50 each or 21 for a \$1,000. ONLY 250 tickets will be sold! Winner will be responsible for any FFL fees, shipping (if unable to pick up in person at Rancho Cordova Sportsman's Warehouse after the waiting period), etc. You do not need to be present to win. More information and tickets will be available soon at: www.cawsf.org

And once again, Ultima Thule Outfitters(UTO) has donated an opening week Dall sheep hunt that we will be giving away at our event. **You must be present to win the Dall sheep hunt**, so plan on attending. This has been one of our most popular items in recent years and CA WSF would like to thank Paul and Donna Claus for their tremendous support of Wild Sheep Foundation and its chapters. Tickets are available now at: <http://cawsf.org/store> or at www.cawsf.org. 2015 dall sheep raffle winner Don Patterson had a tremendous hunt with me this fall and his

story will appear in our next newsletter. Eric Gould of Artistic Wildlife Taxidermy took a world class Dall sheep with us as well this year and hopefully he will submit his story for our next newsletter as well.

To round out our random drawings this year, I want to remind everyone that the State of Alaska has awarded a **2017 Chitina River Bison permit** to CA WSF! I cannot stress enough what a tremendous opportunity this is to hunt trophy bison in the last frontier. The hunt will take place in the heart of Wrangle-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and is hosted by Ultima Thule Outfitters. This is a turn-key do it yourself opportunity for the hunter seeking a real Alaskan adventure. UTO and CA WSF Board Member Donald C. Martin, will INCLUDE pre-hunt scouting of bison, round trip air charter Chitina/McCarthy to the lodge, all Super Cub flights, shipping of trophy and 50 lbs of meat, and 2 nights stay at the beautiful Ultima Thule lodge. **HUNT DOES NOT INCLUDE:** Guides (\$300/day), packers (\$150/day), shipping of meat (Turbine Otter charter @ \$2,000/hr), and gratuities. Tickets are available now at: <http://cawsf.org/store> and you do not need to be present to win.

Just a couple of highlights from the live auction — this year we will see the return of the Jim Bardin Ranch Bull Tule Elk permit. Brandon Reystead of Colorado just completed his tule elk hunt with me last month and took a tremendous tule elk bull, his story will also appear in our next newsletter. In addition, we will also have an Alaska Delta Junction Controlled Use Area Dall Sheep Permit, and a Non-resident Unit 13D Bull Moose Permit and many more.

Additional donations are coming in for our live auction, silent auction and general raffle. Visit our webpage at: www.cawsf.org and follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/californiawildsheep> for more information.

This is definitely the year you don't want to miss our event so plan on attending today and pencil us in for May 6, 2017 and help us **PUT AND KEEP SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS.**

PAMIR MARCO POLO ADVENTURE

by Victor Mancuso Jr.

My Pamir adventure began when I landed in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Sergei, of Ostbye's hunting tours, whisked me through customs and brought me to a very nice hotel downtown. It was a little unnerving leaving my passport so the embassy could issue my Tajikistan visa. Sergei assured me I would have it back that evening with the visa. He was spot on. I do recommend making a copy of your passport just in case. We enjoyed a very nice evening with another successful hunter who was headed home.

The next morning, after a fog delay, Sergei and I flew to Osh. I was then introduced to my driver who drove me the 10 hours to camp. Along the way we enjoyed beautiful views and delicious fresh roasted chicken. We arrived at Ostbye's immaculate camp just before dark. The camp was at 13,500 feet and had indoor plumbing and a generator. Yes, the camp was equipped with indoor restroom and shower. We also had a wonderful cook, camp manager and an absolutely huge, lovable camp dog. I had the pleasure of hunting with Ansten, the local man in charge of the hunting area and his two sons.

The next morning, after shooting the rifle, we headed higher into mountains to do some glassing. At midday Ansten asked how I was feeling and if I felt up to climbing on the first day. Although I could tell I was at serious altitude I felt I was ready. After a climb and some sidehilling we settled in to do some glassing. We had a nice view and after a few minutes sheep started showing up. By the end of our day we saw close to a hundred sheep. A few nice rams were in the group but we all agreed they were too young and lacked the mass we were looking for. After we backed out, went up and over, the boys wanted to glass back down the drainage we had come up. Ansten spotted a ram with at least twenty ewes a few miles away. He thought that if he could see horns at this distance he could be our ram. Our plan for the next day was to get to know him a lot better.

We all thought he might be fairly close to where we saw him the night before. Wrong! We stopped to glass the side of the mountain where he would be if the sheep decided to cross the top. That's exactly what they did. Although still quite far, we could tell he would be worth trying for. The ram then decided to leave the ewes and side hilled to meet a band of 10-15 rams. They then turned the corner and proceeded up the drainage and out of sight.

I figured we would go back to where we were the day before and try to find them. Ansten thought it better to just start climbing and follow them up the mountain. I was concerned that if it warmed up before I could get there the wind might push our



scent right to them. My guides agreed that it would remain cold enough. The stalk was on. As we started out I couldn't believe who showed up. The huge and now not so lovable camp dog. What!? He followed us all the way from camp. Although I was concerned I couldn't help but laugh as he rolled around and played in the snow as we tried to corral him. I swear I saw pure joy in his face.

Over the next 4 1/2 hours we climbed, poked along and checked every nook and cranny. We saw plenty of super fresh sign but no sheep. Finally, after climbing up a sharp, rocky spot the guys peeked over and spotted our ram. After reading a lot of Marco Polo stories I have come to understand that a lot of the shots are long ones. Much to my delight I saw my ram at little over a hundred yards away. It was breathtaking. He looked so big. He was laying in the snow watching his brothers feed. I told the guys I would shoot when he stood up. After getting an ok rest on the sharp rocks and acquiring him in the scope I waited for quite some time. The ram's body language started to look like he was ready to bolt. As the sight picture looked good I told Ansten that I was going to shoot him laying down. He agreed. As I settled back in the ram jumped from his bed and took off on a fast run. All I could think was, "There goes my ram! I can't believe it." As I got ready for the Texas heart shot he stopped and whirled around. I adjusted the crosshairs and touched off. Down he went. The rest of the day was an emotional roller coaster of joy followed by tears of gratitude.

The evening was spent enjoying a great meal and the company of my companions. I will always remember that high elevation celebration! Although I always feel blessed to be able to hunt and a bonus to take an animal, this was truly a humbling experience. I will forever be grateful to all that made this day possible.

A LIFE-CHANGING VISIT TO THE SHEEP SHOW

By Joe Torre, Future CA Wild Sheep Member

For years now, I've wanted to attend the Wild Sheep Foundation's Convention in Reno, but as it falls in January - a week or two before the SCI Convention - I've never gotten around to it. This year, since I was not attending SCI, I thought it was my prime chance to attend the "The Sheep Show".

I'd always heard that "There are two kinds of hunters: Sheep hunters - and everyone else" so I knew that sheep hunters were "a breed apart" and I wanted to see for myself what it was all about. I packed my duffel bag and headed to Reno, NV for the 2016 Sheep Show 21-23 January.

THE SHOW

Attending the show was a breeze. Admission involved paying \$15 for a day pass and having your back pack checked for spray paint (animal rights activists have been attending hunting shows lately and spray-painting the taxidermy). You don't even need to be a member of the Wild Sheep Foundation, but joining costs only \$45 for the year so well worth it.

I would guess half the outfitters at the show were from the western US/Canada or Alaska, with the rest from places like New Zealand, Spain, Turkey and even Mongolia. But the dominant "feel" of the show was Western: there were lots of cowboy boots and hats everywhere.

The mix of vendors was very different than the ones I've seen at SCI. The rifle manufacturers were much more oriented to long-range shooting, like Gunwerks with its "Long Range University". The optics manufacturers promoted lots of range finders and larger spotting scopes and the gear was all about being light-weight and keeping the hunters warm in layers.

While there were some seminars on various sheep hunts taken by the members, many of the seminars were about how to get in "sheep shape". Sheep hunting involves hiking up and down mountains at high altitude, with thin air - often for weeks.

Hunters are recommended to embark on a serious training regimen, including maintain a training log starting six months before the hunt, and doing strenuous training like running long distance, using a Stairmaster with a back pack on, hiking with heavy back packs and climbing flights of stairs.

While attending these seminars, it felt like the speakers were preparing novice hunters for a military deployment! But it really drove home the point that sheep hunting is not for the faint of heart.

Overall, The Sheep Show was an interesting peek into a unique hunting subculture.



The "Less Than One" Club One of the oddities of the sheep hunting sub-culture is the "Less Than One Club": It may be the only club in the world whose members' sole ambition is to get officially kicked out!

Here's the problem: Harvesting a wild ram is a goal that may take many years to attain. First, due to the high cost, it may take years to save up for the hunt. And if unsuccessful, it will take more years before the hunter can try again.

Knowing that this can be discouraging to aspiring sheep hunters, the Wild Sheep Foundation started the "Less Than One Club", a kind of support group for hunters who haven't gotten their first ram yet.

Membership in the club costs only \$25 per year. Members get a t-shirt with the above logo and are entered into a drawing at the annual Sheep Show for a chance to win one of three sheep hunts, plus \$1,000 to help with expenses.

Pretty neat, huh? Just another example of the tight-knit, sheep-hunting community!

More info at: WildSheepFoundation.com - LTO Club

Editor's Note: Don't miss The Sheep Show in Reno, January 19-21 in Reno! Join the <1 Club and have a chance at one of three fully outfitted sheep hunts!

SO WHAT SETS SHEEP HUNTING APART?

Based on what I learned at the show, I see two things that separate sheep hunting from other hunting.

The first I already alluded to: Sheep hunting is much more physically demanding. Hunters spend 10-14 days at high altitude hiking up and down steep mountains just to get in position to take a shot, only to see the animals run up seemingly vertical rock faces and disappear, and having to start all over again. Sheep hunters need lots of stamina and will power - not to mention balance and sure-footedness and even a bit of stubbornness - to have a prayer of reaching these animals on their own turf.

The second thing that struck me was how expensive sheep hunting is. Hunting exotic rams like argali or ibex in places like Mongolia or Tajikistan costs upwards of \$40,000! Even a relatively local Dall sheep hunt in British Columbia or Alaska will run you \$16-20,000.

When you consider that many hunts are not successful, one might have to pay these fees multiple times before bringing home the trophy - and those costs add up.

These two factors combined lead to what I've come to think of as the paradox of sheep hunting: By time you're old enough to afford it, you're too old to DO it!

So I wondered: Why do they do it? Perhaps Jack O'Connor said it best:

"Sheep hunters are romantics who love high places and solitude. To them, the wild ram embodies the mystery and the magic of the mountains... the sense of being alone at the top of the world with the eagles, the marmots and the wild sheep themselves. The sheep hunter is willing to climb until his lungs are bursting, to walk until his legs are dead weary, to go hungry and thirsty for great rewards. There is no half way."

A young woman named Kelli Thornton who just got her first ram in Alaska last year adds:

"It is a life-changing experience only a sheep hunter knows and understands. The commitment you made to yourself is fulfilled. You have a greater respect and appreciation for the species and their habitat. I pushed myself to limits I never thought imaginable. [My] ram taught me more about myself than I realized. I became a better person up on that mountain that day."

Sentiments like these take the allure of hunting to another level and make you do some soul-searching. Could I do it? I've personally hunted in the Western US as well as Africa and New Zealand, but the one hunting mecca I haven't hunted yet is Alaska, home of (among other things) Dall Sheep. Should I take the challenge?

Well, they say there are two kinds of hunters: Sheep hunters – and everyone else.

I might have to give it a try – before I get too old.

TIPS ON UNDERSTANDING THE "COMMON GILLNETTER"

Author Unknown

So, you are someone like me; you live somewhere in the lower 48; you troll for salmon or are involved in any of the fisheries we do down here. You see the shows and you keep thinking of Alaska like some goldmine full of fish that just die to be caught and riches beyond belief for those who work hard at it.... And then one day you get a call from a gillnetter "Hey, you should come up and help me here for a month, we'll have some fun, catch some fish and make a bunch of money. I got a little camper sitting here and you can stay in that!"

Here's what you should do at that point: Treat the situation like a call from a telemarketer; cuss him out and tell him to never ever call this number again. Chances are you won't do that, because of that little pot of gold you imagine sitting there right beneath the northern lights.

But let me tell you that gillnetters are a different kind of people, and you should be aware that although their language is almost indistinguishable from regular American English, there are grave differences that make communications nearly impossible. Their language is just about as different from yours as Portuguese is from Spanish. Sure, they use some of the same words, but the meanings can be something totally different. It's an utter gibberish that can only be described as a foreign language: "Gillnetterish."

I personally only had a short intercourse with this language that lasted about 10 days, so I didn't dive into a real deep understanding, but just in case you didn't hang up that phone, let me give you the Gillnetterish 101 language primer. This way you may fly to Alaska with a better understanding on what's about to happen to you than most.

Let me hereby present you with an incomplete list of totally regular American English words and phrases that have a different meaning in the Gillnetterish language:

English "Steering Ram" Gillnetterish: some device in the stern of the boat that leaks in the neighborhood of 3-4 quarts of oil during a regular fishing excursion.

English "Auto Pilot" Gillnetterish: means that the deckhand steers the boat for a while, because that technology is totally unknown to the common Gillnetter.

English "Wash Down Pump" Gillnetterish: usually a bucket utilized by the deckhand to scrub the decks. It could also be an actual pump, but that pump can never be used while underway because it has a suction hose (weighted with a rock) that needs to be tossed overboard when the boat is on the mooring.

English "Cleaning the decks" Gillnetterish: using the afore mentioned pump or bucket to rinse things off and leaving the majority of the blood and slime

for next year as it will magically disappear over the winter.

English “Salmon” Gillnetterish: a fish which usually swims through the holes in the net, but when one is actually caught it’s handled without much concern given to quality control.

English “Slush” Gillnetterish: when a couple of buckets of water are thrown over the salmon in the hold that are cooled down with a few shovels of ice.

English “Bilge Alarm” Gillnetterish: the common Gillnetter may have heard of such a device, but the utilization of such seems very outlandish, and installation of one is far too complicated.

“EPIRB,” is the USCG-mandated safety device that the common Gillnetter carries on the boat since he bought it 15 years ago, but he most likely never ever changed the battery even once.

English “Hydrostatic Release” means duct tape in Gillnetterish – if the boat sinks, you grab the EPIRB that’s duct-taped to the wall.

English “Flares” Gillnetters have these too, but he buys the type that never need replacing even after the expire date written on them.

English “Anchor Winch” in Gillnetterish is when the deckhand pulls the anchor up by hand.

The English phrase “wiring the electrical system” is almost too scary to translate, but let me try. First of all, in an effort to control spending, every device only gets one wire – the negative is attached to a screw that’s driven into the aluminum hull or mast of the boat. This, of course, causes stray currents and major electrolysis, which eventually eat holes in the boat, but that’s not of much concern to the common Gillnetter. Also anything that would prevent chafing of hot wires which are routed through holes with sharp edges in the aluminum bulkheads is highly frowned upon – and so are fuses. Fuses are almost never used because the Gillnetter has found that he can simply attach a number 12 automotive wire directly to the battery terminal. The color-coding of crimps (red, blue and yellow) is also very confusing to the common Gillnetter, and one should expect to see number 10 wires in red crimps where only 2-3 strands of the wire made it into the crimp. Why things don’t work is usually because the deckhand used the pump for longer than it was rated for.

English “Gillnet” Gillnetterish: a device one puts in the water to let fish swim through the holes in it that could comfortably accommodate something of the size of a Ford truck. It doesn’t get mended because the common Gillnetter doesn’t have the skills for that, he also doesn’t have the money to buy a new one.

English “Money” Gillnetterish: Oh boy.... So the Gillnetter tells you that “we’re gonna make a lot of money.” Sounds great, but it actually means the deckhand makes in the neighborhood of \$5/hour.

English “Boat” Gillnetterish: the vehicle that the

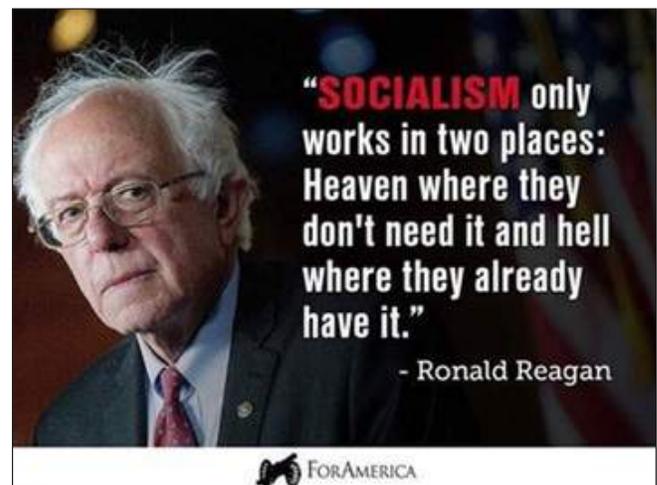
Gillnetter uses to deploy his net which allows the fish to swim through unharmed and after 30 years in the business it’s still not paid off – but that’s also no concern to the common Gillnetter because of all the electrolysis, the leaky steering, etc., it will sooner or later simply become a burden to the person who holds the title.

English “Cigarettes” Gillnetterish: something the deckhand should bring in ample quantities from the mainland because they cost over \$100/carton in AK, and because the deckhand makes “lots of money” they are really hard to afford.

When someone says in English “I have a camper you can stay in,” we expect something more or less well kept; something with electricity, running water in the sink, maybe a table to sit at. In Gillnetterish “Camper” means the hull of a derelict camper that should have been recycled some 20-30 years ago. It is usually parked in a situation that can only be described as a homeless encampment. The roof has a tarp over it to keep most of the water out, and there are various amounts of mushrooms and black fungus growing in it. There are no amenities, except the following:

Showers in a trailer ¼ mile down the dirt road with unfiltered river water that essentially make you dirtier than you were before (sometimes the water is actually warm), and a porta-potty somewhere in the vicinity that’s used by ALL the fishermen in the homeless encampment who fish for the same processor.

Mind you that I was only exposed to the Gillnetterish language for about 10 days before I had to flee one early morning. So if you still feel that you should go to Alaska to try yourself at “making money” in the gillnet fishery, please help those who come after yourself and add a few words and phrases to this list.



ABOUT THE CHADWICK RAM SOCIETY

by Darryl Williams

In 2013 the Wild Sheep Foundation launched a \$25 million fundraising campaign titled Ensuring the Future of Wild Sheep (ETFOWS). This initiative offers tax and estate planning services, counsel and advice for major gifts, and giving societies to raise funds required to ensure the future of the wild sheep resource by directing even more dollars to wild sheep restoration, repatriation and conservation. The Wild Sheep Foundation's vision is to build a series of funds, with a targeted off-take of approximately 4%, allowing WSF to direct an additional \$1 million annually in mission-focused funding.

During the 2015-16 fiscal year the ETFOWS campaign recorded \$6,524,500 in commitments of which \$1,219,654 were received in cash. Since inception, the ETFOWS campaign has commitments totaling \$13,566,188 of which \$2,996,156 has been received through June 30, 2016. Contributions to the ETFOWS campaign are recognized through three WSF giving societies – Marco Polo Society TM, Chadwick Ram Society TM, and the Legacy Society. The remainder of this article will focus on the Chadwick Ram Society.

The Chadwick Ram Society TM (CRS) was created in 2013 with five benefactor levels, enabling tax-deductible, donor-directed gifts ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 per year. Donations can be made in annual installments or in a lump sum. Benefactor levels can be "upgraded" at any time within the Chadwick Ram Society TM as well as to the Marco Polo Society TM and donors can direct their contributions to WSF's Endowment Fund, Conservation Fund and/or Operations to fund specific programs and initiatives. Chadwick Ram Society™ members will be recognized with a stunning embroidered badge displaying their Copper, Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Benefactor Level.

Since inception 87 WSF members have joined the ranks of the CRS, more than the other two giving societies combined, and it's easy to see why. CRS was created with the entry-level progressive donor in mind. CRS enables every dedicated sheep conservationist to contribute to ETFOWS regardless of their financial situation. That's right, every dedicated sheep conservationist...how you ask? The entry benefactor level, Copper, represents a commitment of only \$250 per year for ten years or \$4.80 per week - less than one-third the amount a daily Starbucks drinker spends in a year. Isn't the future of our most magnificent wildlife resource worth passing on a couple of cups of coffee?

Another benefit of joining CRS is that members can direct where their contributions will be spent.

Members can work with WSF staff to target a specific project or can simply direct their contributions to the area of greatest need. In my opinion, the greatest benefit offered by this unique giving opportunity is the ability to upgrade to progressively higher giving levels within CRS or even upgrading to the Marco Polo Society™ as your financial situation allows.



During the Chapter and Affiliate's Summit conducted in Nebraska in June 2016, Marc Hansen, WSF Vice Chairman, asked how to increase Chadwick Ram Society membership during the next year. As a result, the Chadwick Ram Society Committee was formed with a goal to increase Chadwick Ram Society Membership by at least 100 new members over the next twelve months. I am proud to have been one of the first to join CRS and to be asked to be a member of the CRS Committee. Please join me and CAWSF board members Mike Borel and Bob Keagy as a member of the fastest growing WSF giving society – The Chadwick Ram Society TM. If you'd like more information about joining CRS, visit the WSF website at <http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org/support/giving-societies>, email me at dtwilliams1959@aol.com or call me at (323)333-2160.

"Those who have never known the fatigue of the grueling climb up rocky crags and over frozen snow fields, the tense impatience of the final stalk, or the nerve-wracking uncertainty of success or failure cannot even begin to realize the toil and torture necessary to attain a good sheep head."

—James L. Clark, *The Great Arc of the Wild Sheep*

PHOTO: DONALDMJONES.COM

QUALITY OF WATER IN WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENTS, AND A POTENTIAL FOR DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN!

by *Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.*

In a column that appeared recently in this newsletter, I reviewed a great deal of information regarding what is known about predation events at wildlife water developments, and whether or not wildlife water developments act as ecological sinks, or traps, for the species that the water developments are intended to benefit. Those remarks were based on an updated version of a review paper that my co-authors Nova Simpson (the senior author and a former graduate student at the University of Nevada Reno) and Kelley Stewart (an associate professor at UNR) published several years ago. Another point that frequently is brought up by critics of wildlife water developments or wilderness “aficionados” revolves around the issue of water quality. Although water quality is important, virtually every investigation to date has concluded that water quality concerns are, at best, minimal for wildlife, as reported by Simpson et al. (2011). In this discussion, I include the results of our review (again, much of it being verbatim), and update that information with several recent publications, at least one of which has asserted erroneous and misleading information. Additionally, I call attention to a situation at a heavily used wildlife water source that could have disastrous consequences for bighorn sheep if repairs are not made before the existing situation worsens.

Water quality is an issue in the debate over wildlife water developments, and frequently has been brought up as being potentially problematic for wildlife. Indeed, quality of water available for use by wildlife is an important management consideration, and poor water quality could affect health of wildlife through physiological distress, electrolyte imbalances, or dehydration, as well as being potentially noxious or toxic (Broyles 1995). Biological factors most likely to affect water quality at natural or artificial sources are the result of high temperatures, high evaporation rates, contamination by feces or other organic matter, and infrequent flushing, most of which are of heightened concern during summer (Broyles 1995; Bleich 2003; Rosenstock et al. 2004, 2005; Bleich et al. 2006). For example, evaporation raises the ionic concentrations of already mineralized or saline waters, and biological contaminants (blue-green algae, bacteria, and invertebrates) can cause toxemia, diseases, or parasitism and transmission of parasites. Nevertheless, it has been repeatedly demonstrated that appropriate design and maintenance of water developments can assure availability of good-quality water (Rosenstock et al. 2004, 2005; Bleich et al. 2006).

A frequently cited example of water developments having posed a health risk to wildlife was reported by

Swift et al. (2000), where ≥ 45 bighorn sheep died near two wildlife water developments at Old Dad Peak in the Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County. Investigators reported that toxin produced by *Clostridium botulinum* was most likely responsible for the mortality event, a result of contaminated water being consumed by bighorn sheep. Condition and dispersion of bighorn sheep carcasses indicated a rapid onset of mortality, typical of toxicity caused by ingestion of toxin produced by *C. botulinum*, the same organism that is frequently associated with massive mortality events among waterfowl occupying contaminated wetlands. Conditions suitable for the production of *C. botulinum* toxin, including anaerobic (i.e., not requiring oxygen) decomposition of organic material associated with warm temperatures, are not restricted to wildlife water developments, and likely occur more often at natural water sources used by bighorn sheep than previously had been recognized (Bleich 2003).

Several investigators have assessed quality of water in wildlife water developments. Bleich et al. (2006) compared water quality among 3 types of water sources (water stored in natural tinajas [rock basins], aboveground in tanks constructed of metal or plastic [typical of those used cooperatively by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the Department of Fish and Game], and underground in fiberglass tanks [typical of those constructed by Desert Wildlife Limited in the Sonoran Desert of California and Arizona]). Few differences in water-quality parameters were reported between the natural tinajas and the two different types of wildlife water developments. Water quality in the catchments was, however, within available recommended guidelines for livestock, and the reported differences were thought to be related to the design features of the developments, such as construction materials. Because guidelines for water quality have not been published for large, wild mammals, guidelines for livestock often are used as a surrogate. Water quality also has been evaluated at natural, modified natural, and anthropogenic water developments, including natural tinajas, modified tinajas, springs, rainwater catchments, and wells (Rosenstock et al. 2004, 2005). The majority of constituents detected in those



developments occurred at levels below recommended maxima for livestock, and those few that occurred above recommended levels (pH, alkalinity, and fluoride) were presumed to be nontoxic to wildlife. Additionally, no significant evidence of toxins produced by blue-green algae has been observed, and water developments do not appear to play a significant role in transmission of hemorrhagic disease viruses (Rosenstock et al. 2004, 2005).

Although specific water quality guidelines for wildlife largely are lacking, results of investigations completed to date—with the exception of the aforementioned incident at Old Dad Peak—do not support assertions that water quality is problematic for wildlife that use anthropogenic water developments. Indeed, several investigators have concluded that water developments in desert environments do not constitute a health threat to the wildlife they are intended to benefit (Rosenstock et al. 2004, 2005, Bleich et al. 2006). Situations in which specific elements or other parameters that do not meet guidelines for water quality of livestock may occasionally exist at some water developments, but studies to date suggest they rarely occur.

Several investigators (Griffis-Kyle et al. 2014, Kiesow 2015, McIntyre et al. 2016) recently have criticized wildlife water sources as being potentially problematic for amphibians as a result of high levels of ammonia those authors detected in the waters they examined. A very recent publication (McIntyre et al. 2016) erroneously reported that Bleich et al. (2007) did not consider water quality to be a concern because those authors (Bleich et al. 2007), "...did not assess ammonia concentrations." In fact, Bleich et al. (2007) did report ammonia concentrations in three types of wildlife water sources, and compared those results to each other. There were no differences among those water sources in ammonia concentrations; in fact, ammonia concentrations reported by Bleich et al. (2007) in each type of development were less (and by two orders of magnitude) than those reported by McIntyre et al. (2016).

Different techniques were used to determine ammonia concentrations; McIntyre et al. (2016) conducted their analyses in the field using a portable colorimeter, and all samples were collected "between July and October." Bleich et al. (2007) reported results from water samples collected during October—specifically because that period would most apt reflect influences of warm summer temperatures and anoxic conditions—and that were analyzed under controlled conditions at the Department of Fish and Game Water Pollution Control Laboratory in Rancho Cordova, California. Locations from which the samples were collected at each water source also differed; Bleich et al. (2007) collected samples at locations where animals were most apt to drink; McIntyre et al. (2016), collected samples "at mid-water column from the edge

of the water body." Different types of catchments also were examined, further complicating any comparison, and the catchments examined were in a very localized area, the Barry M. Goldwater Range (and on nearby BLM lands) in southwestern Arizona. Given the potential—albeit possibly unintentional—bias implied by the statement that others have not considered ammonia concentrations in analyses of water available in wildlife water developments, that statement must be corrected in the professional literature. I will do so.

In the incident at Old Dad Peak that was described above, investigators (Swift et al. 2000) concluded that the cover of one of the water storage tanks had become dislodged, and about a dozen lambs had fallen through the "manhole" in the top of that tank and could not escape. Decaying flesh in the tank subsequently created conditions suitable for the growth of *Clostridium botulinum*, resulting in the production of botulinum toxin. Concomitantly, bighorn sheep that repeatedly had jumped on the top of the tank and caused it to become concave, rather than convex. When rainfall occurred the concave surface resulted in water entering the tank to mix with the already contaminated water and overflow into the concavity, thereby becoming available to bighorn sheep in that unintended, accidental "reservoir." Had the dislodged lid been detected, a crew would have replaced it and ensured access to the tank was not possible.

Currently, another problem at Old Dad Peak exists in the form of major cracks at the top of one of the three water storage tanks, all of which have been in service for about 30 years. The lids currently are in place, but the situation is quite dangerous because one or more sheep jumping on top of that tank could break through and be unable to escape—and with the probable result of another botulism outbreak. Thus far, repeated requests by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn sheep to replace the damaged tank and to construct a barrier that will prevent bighorn sheep from accessing the top of the tank have been firmly rejected by the administration at Mojave National Preserve. If wildlife conservation was considered to be as important as "solitude" or as a "wilderness experience", I doubt the administration's views would be the same.

—Dr. Vern Bleich is an independent wildlife biologist who worked for the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years. He currently resides in Bismarck, ND but remains active in the conservation and management of bighorn sheep and other large mammals inhabiting arid landscapes throughout the western United States. He serves as an advisor to several nongovernmental organizations, and to the Bureau of Land Management as a member of the Montana-Dakotas Resource Advisory Council. In the interest of conserving space, the full citations of papers referenced in this article have not been included. Interested parties can, however, request those references by contacting Vern (vcbleich@gmail.com) directly.

SURVIVING NUTRITIONAL LIMITATION IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS

by Tom Stephenson, Ph.D.



Bighorn sheep are well adapted to harsh environments with extreme climates. They live in deserts with that exceed 120o F, yet they also thrive on snow covered mountain tops with 150 mph winds and temperatures that drop below -30o F. Both of these environments exhibit severe seasonal limitations in food. Desert bighorn sheep experience periods of severe drought that result in limited forage of sufficient quality to meet the energetic needs of individuals. Alpine dwelling bighorn (Rocky Mountain and Sierra Nevada) have abundant high quality forage in summer but food may be extremely limited when they winter in the alpine. At times, their food may be buried under feet of snow but in alpine winter environments they select micro-habitats where the snow is scoured away by wind.

How do they keep from starving? They rely on fat reserves to meet metabolic requirements during periods of nutritional stress. In addition, bighorn adapted to cold environments and in winter pelage, do not expend additional energy to stay warm until the air temperature drops below -20o F. In the Sierra Nevada, bighorn may feed on a diet for more than 6 months that does not meet their energy (caloric) needs. Consequently, they catabolize body fat to provide energy.

We quantify the level of fat reserves in bighorn as percent body fat. We measure this using ultrasound in

live animals and body fat ranges from 0.5 to 33%. If an animal is relying on fat reserves to survive and their body fat declines to 0.5% they will die of malnutrition. At the other extreme, a bighorn with substantial fat reserves can survive for months on a very poor diet. When forage is of poor quality (e.g., dried grasses) it may be less than half as digestible as when it is green during the growing season. By mobilizing fat reserves, bighorn sheep may compensate for reduced dietary energy intake and convert stored fat to energy to meet metabolic demands.

When rainfall is adequate in the desert, high quality forage provides both nutrients and water. During the dry season when forage is of poor quality, body reserves including fat are used to meet the nutrient demands that forage is unable to provide. External water sources become important during dry periods to meet an animal's need for water, while fat stores meet their needs for energy. The manner in which bighorn sheep survive by using fat reserves is analogous to the way hibernating species get through months without eating.

Photograph by Steve Yeager.

WIN A CUSTOM GUNWERKS RIFLE!



Elite long range rifle maker Gunwerks and the California Wild Sheep Foundation are proud to partner to make one lucky person a big winner in 2017, while fundraising to benefit California's wild sheep.

Gunwerks and CA Wild Sheep have partnered to donate a custom Gunwerks rifle, designed for hunting and target shooting, that rightly boasts 1,000 yard "out of the box" accuracy. The rifle will be up for raffle, giving ticket holders a better chance of winning the \$9,000 rifle and scope combination than they have of drawing a California desert bighorn tag.

The rifle is Gunwerks' LR 1000 chambered in 7mm Rem. Mag. (one of Gunwerk's most popular calibers) featuring a stainless action, fluted barrel with muzzle brake, graphite Cerakote metal finish, and a dark gray camo finish carbon fiber stock. The 9.9 lb. rifle is topped with a Nightforce NXS 5.5-22X 50 MOAR scope with Zstop capped windage and a custom Gunwerks long range turret.

"As with any of our rifles, it will be ready to hunt right out of the box," said Aaron Davidson, Gunwerks founder and president. "While our rifles are easily capable of shooting accurately well over 1,000 yards, our focus is on one shot, ethical kills whether from 10 or 1,000 yards, or in any conditions. Our customers can rely on the LR 1000 to do its job perfectly."

CA Wild Sheep is offering raffle tickets for the rifle for a donation of \$50 each, or 21 tickets for \$1,000. Tickets will be limited to 250 tickets, plus any "bonus" tickets for packages of \$1,000. (Due to the limited number of tickets available, the maximum possible number of "bonus" tickets for \$1,000 purchases would be 12.)

The lucky winner of this magnificent rifle will be drawn at CA Wild Sheep's annual gala and fundraiser at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento on May 6, 2017. The winner need not be present to win. If the winner cannot personally pick up the rifle in Sacramento following the FFL waiting period, he or she will be responsible for shipping from Sacramento to the winner and any additional license or transfer charges. Gunwerks has built a reputation as a leader in long range shooting and hunting since its beginning over 10 years ago. With an obsessive commitment to the science behind engineering and building the world's most accurate and consistent rifles, Gunwerks has cracked the code in creating a true out-of-the-box long range shooting system. Yet Gunwerks has remained true to its hunting roots. A walk through its facility in Cody, Wyoming reveals a true passion for the hunting and shooting sports and the intricacies of fine gunsmithing. The Gunwerks business model is simple. They hunt hard. They shoot and train all year. The spend months, not days, with one short between success and failure. And they build some of the finest rifles on the planet. In addition to custom long range rifles, Gunwerks also offers custom ammunition to complement their firearms, ballistic ranging equipment, and a number of courses on all aspects of long distance shooting. More information on Gunwerks and their LR 1000 can be found at www.gunwerks.com.

Tickets can be purchased through the CA Wild Sheep website at cawsf.org, where additional information about CA Wild Sheep's mission, the 2017 gala and fundraiser, the 2017 version of the always popular Dall sheep hunt drawing, and other information can be found.

Tickets for the Gunwerks rifle will be available at the fundraiser only if they have not been previously sold out. Due the anticipated popularity of the drawing, it is anticipated that few, if any, tickets may be available on the night of the fundraiser, so early ticket purchases are strong recommended.



ONLY 250 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD! (Plus any additional bonus tickets for \$1,000 buyers)

The winner will be responsible for any FFL fees, shipping etc. if unable to pick up in person at Rancho Cordova Sportsman's Warehouse after the required wait period.

You do not need to be present to win

\$50: One (1) ticket

\$1,000: Twenty-one (21) tickets

Place your order via mail, phone, fax, email, website

Or at our annual fundraiser on May 6, 2017 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Sacramento

CA WSF is a 501©3 nonprofit organization.

Funds from this random drawing will be used for the benefit and enhancement of bighorn sheep in California.

CA Wild Sheep Foundation 2017 GUNWERKS ORDER FORM

Gunwerks Drawing (1) x no.	_____	= \$ _____	Check	___	Visa	___	MasterCard	___	Discover	___	AmEx	___	CCV	_____	
Gunwerks Drawing (21) x no.	_____	= \$ _____	#	_____											
Dall Sheep 1 ticket (\$20) x no.	_____	= \$ _____	Signature:	_____											
Dall Sheep 6 tickets (\$100) x no.	_____	= \$ _____	Name (Please Print):	_____											
Bison Permit 1 ticket (\$20) x no.	_____	= \$ _____	Address:	_____										Zip:	_____
Bison Permit 6 tickets (\$100) x no.	_____	= \$ _____	Phone:	_____										Email:	_____
Annual Membership (\$40)	_____	= \$ _____													
Life Membership (\$500)	_____	= \$ _____													
Total Amount:	= \$	_____													

No tickets sent to purchaser; we make out and submit tickets for you.
A receipt and ticket numbers will be sent to the provided email address or via mail when a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is enclosed with your order.

Ticket orders must be received by APRIL 21, 2017

See more details at www.cawsf.org

Send or Fax form to:
CA WSF
423 Broadway #617, Millbrae, CA 94030-1905
Fax: (650) 472-3889
Email: cawsf@cawsf.org



PREPARING FOR DESERT BIGHORN, AND A FEW RANDOM REFLECTIONS

by Bob Keagy

After 55 years of hunting, I am finally going on a Desert Bighorn hunt—a Mexican desert bighorn hunt that costs about the same as a good Cadillac. I am preparing as best a 72 year-old man can, although by-and-large sheep hunting is a younger man's sport—as the French would say, the concept of a 72-year old guy toiling up the ridges is “to laugh”. In short, both my financial commonsense and my “get up and go” have both seemingly gone and done precisely that.

This will, however, be my thirteenth free-range wild sheep (lucky number, eh?), and, if I get it, the ram will complete my “Triple Slam”, completing a mountain hunting career spanning over 35 years.

My first concern in embarking on this current adventure was, as always, choosing the right guide. I have used Bob Kern of the Hunting Consortium with great success many times, and I spoke with him regarding Mexico or Texas for Desert Sheep. We eventually decided upon Mexico, and Bob strongly recommended Nayo Balderrama of Amigos Outfitters. Since I always check on this most crucial aspect, I contacted many friends in the sheep-hunting community, including, of course, my good friend, Mike Borel.

The opinion was unanimous: Nayo was a great choice, and Bob Kern had an opening in late January, 2017. I took it, adding Desert Mule Deer to the sheep hunt, on the dubious logic of “in for a penny..”.

No one ever talks much about the financing of one of these little bankruptcy-inducing adventures, but suffice it to say that I was daunted by the amounts involved. We have seemingly created a sport where, literally, these are no longer “fun” hunts, but closer to serious investment outlays. In 1980 I shot my first Stone ram—it cost \$4250 for a fifteen day hunt in the Stikeen River area of Northern British Columbia. Today, it would cost very roughly 10+ times that amount. I fail to see how a hard-working young man, with a wife, two kids, a mortgage, car payments, etc., can possibly participate. I think this a serious problem for the future of the sport.

Perhaps, however, this only reflects the old adage that we live our lives upside down—in our youth, we have no money, but great energy, and enthusiasm: in old age we have the money, but have shaky legs and tend to nod off a lot. Unfortunately, I have no answer to this conundrum...

(It does seem to me, however, rather unfortunate that many U.S. sheep hunters, living under the all-pervasive spell of Jack O'Connor's writings, are so focused upon North American sheep, often



Bob on a recent successful hunt for musk ox in Greenland

overlooking other mountain species. Anyone who has hunted true ibex, for instance, will tell you that they are generally the clear equal to sheep for wariness, endurance, caginess, challenge, beauty of surroundings, and the regal quality and impressive nature of the trophy - often at a fraction of the cost of a North American sheep. Also, the several varieties of the little chamois are great little sporting animals, and yet few trumpet their handsome stature, their attractive markings, their unbelievably lovely alpine habitat, nor their table quality. In short, looking beyond North America, it is possible to have a memorable and wonderfully satisfying mountain hunt, without mortgaging the family farm. Perhaps this is a partial answer to the above “conundrum”.)

My second concern was choosing the “right” rifle. I had three rifles that seemed appropriate. Interestingly, all three derived from CAWSF fundraiser guns. I have a .280 Kimber Mountain Ascent in a very sexy camouflage, but it is also definitely “squirrely”, and I need at least a week at the range to see if I can sort out its oddly unpredictable groups. Secondly, I have a delightful little stainless Kimber Montana in .270WSM, which I used to hammer an Aoudad in the Davis Mountains of Texas, and last year's B.C. California Bighorn.

I ultimately chose, though, a more powerful Weatherby Vanguard in .300 Weatherby Mag, with an illuminated reticule Leopold 4.5x14 variable scope, and using 165 grain Nosler Ballistic Tips. Important in this choice were several comments I had received, indicating that one had to anchor both the Desert Ram and Desert Mule Deer, as, if not properly anchored by your shot, they would run for cover

into thick cactus patches, which you definitely didn't want to try to dig them out of. I have used the .300 Weatherby extensively, and am comfortable with it.

(Note that I am changing ALL my scopes on my hunting rifles to illuminated reticules. Until you've tried to find a dark animal in dark cover at last light, with black crosshairs, you just can't appreciate how wonderful that glowing little red dot can be!!!!!!)

A final important aspect of preparation for this hunt was to get my left knee replaced. I had hunted my California Bighorn in 2015 with a bucketful

of cortisone shots in the left knee, but I wanted a more permanent solution, and have spent the last eleven months strengthening and exercising my new artificial knee.

So, here I am, hiking every day an hour or so, and trying to bicycle industriously for another hour, taking my Serutan, checking my rifle zero every now and then, and hoping for the best...I'll keep you posted.

Best regards to all and Happy Holidays, Bob

CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP SUMMIT XX

by Mike J. Borel

CA WSF and SCBS hosted Sheep Summit XX (yes #20!) on December 2. This has proven to be a valuable interactive seminar and a Summit XXI is scheduled for May 5, 2017 – the day before our annual fundraiser in Sacramento. The purpose of these summits is “to accomplish more collectively for the Desert Bighorn in CA than the sum of what each organization can accomplish individually through sharing and collaboration. Following is a summary of Session XX.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: CDFW, MNP, USFS, CAWSF, SCBS. 26 persons in all. CA WSF was represented by Mike Borel, Ken Crother, Kyle Meintzer and George Kerr.

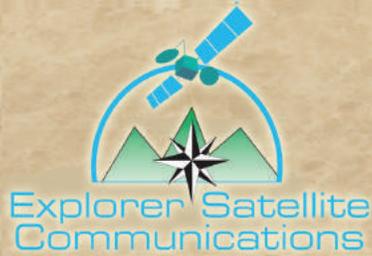
New information reviewed:

1. Comprehensive Overarching Bighorn Sheep Plan - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations -*Abella*
2. Herd Unit Management Plans - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations -*Abella*
3. Discussion on implementation “of the Plans” -*Abella*
4. Status and Results from Aerial and Ground Surveys (Since Spring Summit); Populations and Range Analysis -*Prentice*
5. Desert Bighorn Sheep Activities and plans in Region 6 -*Prentice*
6. Status of plan/agreement to better share the commitment for water developments – volunteers (e.g. SCBS, CAWSF), CDFW, BLM, NPS -*Prentice*
- 7.

8. DBH Disease Monitoring Update and Actions -*Dekalaita*
9. Report on Recent Activities in WAFWA, Wild Sheep & Goat Council, Desert Bighorn Council, Boone & Crockett Club, etc. that are of value and interest for CA wild sheep -*Bleich*
10. Update from US Forest Service -*Austin*
11. State Lands status and progress -*Marschke*
12. Info on the new Monuments and some of the renewable energy projects in Sheep habitat -*Burke*
13. Accessing Legislative Action -*Meintzer*
14. Mortalities at Little Fargo Drinker in San Bernadinos - could it be the water? Testing in progress -*Villepique*

Our previously committed COLLECTIVE VISION FOR WILD SHEEP IN CALIFORNIA:

- Ensure the persistence and restoration of healthy and sustainable metapopulations of bighorn sheep throughout their historical distribution in California.
- Develop and use science as the basis for conservation and management.
- Provide for recreational uses of bighorn sheep wherever appropriate.



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