

# CTAS STICKS & STRINGS NEWS

[www.colotradarchers.com](http://www.colotradarchers.com)

December 2024



# A Note From the Editor

## Hello CTAS Family!

Happy New Year's everyone! I hope you all had an amazing hunting season filled with unforgettable stories and delicious meat! I'm thrilled to share some of our member's successes that we've received. You'll see those later in this newsletter. I genuinely enjoy putting together this newsletter and seeing all the stories first hand and the incredible photos that come in. I can't wait to see you all at the Compton Big Game Classic in March!



For some exciting news, the rabbit hunt in Rangely, Colorado is back this year on January 18th and 19th. We'll meet at the Main Street Café at the east end of Rangely between 6 and 7 AM. Bobbie Fiscus will be providing a delicious chili lunch for everyone. Jarrod and Dan will be your guides for the best rabbit hunt ever! There'll also be a dinner at Gio's on Saturday night. And guess what? You might even win a Jarrod Fiscus knife if you join the rabbit hunt!

The Compton Big Game Classic, in partnership with the CTAS banquet, will be from March 14th to the 16th. The hotel where it's happening is the Marriott Denver West, and as of now, there are only 42 hotel rooms left, so don't delay - book yours soon! We're also trying something new this year. There will be a ladies' day on Saturday. You'll be touring the Molly Brown Museum and having an afternoon tea. If you're interested in joining, please contact Kristi. They could really use some help with transportation, so if you have a vehicle that can fit more than five people and are willing to drive around Denver on a Saturday, let us know!

The youth hunt was incredibly successful this year. We had more kids than mentors, and next year, we're already down one mentor. If you're interested in mentoring for 2025, please reach out to Dean and Karen Derby. They'll be happy to provide you with all the details.

Thanks a bunch,

Nick Mead

Nickmead561@gmail.com

970-629-8023



# Announcements

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## 2025 Rabbit Hunt

**When:** January 18th and 19th @ 7 AM, 2025

**Where:** Main Street Cafe—124 W. Main St, Rangeley, CO

**What:** Join in on this years Rabbit Hunt outside of Rangeley, CO! The Fiscus family is hosting once again! Come on over to get your winter hunting fix in! Bobbie will have a mean red chili for lunch on Saturday and everyone is invited to dinner that night at Gio's. Jarrod (Forged in Fire Champion) will be raffling off one of his custom knives this year to one lucky participant! Please let Jarrod know if you're attending!

**Contact:** Jarrod Fiscus—970-629-3430; Bobbie Fiscus—970-629-0039; Daniel Fiscus—970-629-3946

## 2025 Big Game Classic

**When:** March 14th and 15th, 2025

**Where:** Denver Marriot West, 1717 Denver West Blvd, Golden, CO, 80401

Mention Big Game Classic to take advantage of the group discounted rate

**What:** Events start at 11 AM, then Dinner at 5:30 PM on Friday

Vendors open and Ladies Tour begins at 9 am on Saturday

Seminars are all day Friday and Saturday

Saturday Dinner is at 6 PM with special guest Fred Eichler

**For more information and registration, visit [COLOTRADARCHERS.com](http://COLOTRADARCHERS.com)**

## 2025 Spring Shoot

**When:** May 4th

**Where:** American Bowmen Range in Bailey, CO

**What:** CTAS and American Bowmen Archery Club will be co-hosting a traditional archery shoot on Sunday, May 4th, 2025.

**Contact:** Scott Hargrove and Ron Rockwell

# Announcements

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## 2025 High Country Shoot

<b>When:</b>	June 20—22, 2025
<b>Where:</b>	North of New Castle, Colorado, White River National Forest
<b>What:</b>	Mark your calendars, the annual High Country Shoot on the Flattops in Colorado is coming! The shoot consists of 6 3-D target ranges, a kid's range, novelty shoots, vendors, and evening gatherings in the shoot's commons center. More information on the schedule, registration, and events will be forth coming this spring.
<b>Contact:</b>	Brad Parkhill—720-989-3389 or Karl Van Calcar—970-314-4588

### A Note From Your Shoot Chairman

December 2024 Newsletter

High Country Shoot Chair

Hello Everyone!

Hope everyone is doing well, had a successful 2024 hunting season (whether you harvested anything or not) and are ready for Christmas and the new year. I know my season was successful and have lots of memories from spending time with friends and family out in the field. And I'm definitely looking forward to spending more time with friends and family this holiday season.

I have been thinking back on the High Country Shoot from last June, going thru all my notes and trying to organize everything for another great shoot this next June. It seems like it was a long time ago, but as always, it will be here before we know it – but first we need to have some fun in the snow wherever your hobbies and interests take you.

Just so you can mark your calendars, the shoot will be held in the same location in the White River National Forest north of Newcastle and will take place the weekend after Father's Day weekend – June 20th thru June 22nd, 2025.

As for some fun this winter, I hope to see many of you at the upcoming rabbit hunt this January (January 18th and 19th) in Rangely, Colorado and then many more of you at the Compton Big Game Classic in Golden, Colorado in March. The Big Game Classic is shaping up to be an awesome event you definitely won't want to miss!

In the meantime, if there are any questions about this next year's High Country Shoot or if you have any comments or suggestions, please reach out to me. I would love to hear from you.

Cheers for now and Happy Holidays!

Karl Van Calcar

Cell: 970-314-4588

Email: [ib4elk2@gmail.com](mailto:ib4elk2@gmail.com)

# CTAS Youth Hunt

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The 2024 Colorado Traditional Archers Society (CTAS) Youth Hunt was one for the books! For the first time in several years, we had a full compliment of youth and an alternate. The trend of half boys and half girls continues and is exciting to see.

As with any hunt, some blinds were hot spots and others had less action, though the deer trails were well established at each location. The hunters were very accepting of rotation assigned blinds to provide the best chance for all to see action. As it turned out, no deer were taken this year, but all hunters had close calls from the blinds and were able to test their budding skills at stalking those wary does.

We have to give a big shout out to Aiden Flemming who teaches archery to youth in Leadville. Aiden recruited four of the youth we had in camp, plus the alternate who is scheduled for next year's hunt. CTAS also needs to give a big shout out to Rocky Mountain Specialty Gear who helped recruit the other two youth and who is instrumental in helping CTAS secure archery gear for the youth program. The youth were well prepared and brought plenty of enthusiasm to camp. Their competitive spirit came out as they practiced in camp from standing and kneeling positions as well as from within a blind.

The parents that attended this hunt were exceptional, as they seem to be nearly every year. They jumped in to help with any and every task, really taking a load off of the CTAS crew. Camp duties and tear down went smoothly and in short order.

The CTAS Youth Hunt program could sure benefit from an influx of seasoned mentors for these young hunters. Each year it seems to come down to the wire securing enough mentors resulting in the same folks volunteering year after year. Imparting years of hunting knowledge to these young hunters is very rewarding and helps to pass our enthusiasm and hunting heritage on to those who will carry that torch in the future. Please consider reaching out to any CTAS Board Member if you are able to donate your time and experience. The hunt is traditionally scheduled for the Thursday through Sunday between the end of archery season and the first rifle season. The camp is in a gorgeous location, set in the aspens southwest of Grand Junction

Wall tents and cots are set up and a kitchen/dining tent is where all the meals are provided.

Camp and blinds are generally set up Wednesday prior to the hunt and any mentors who can make it are encouraged to be available then to help set up. Set up is where we really fall short of help each year, sometimes being done by one or two people. If you can't carve out enough time to mentor, please consider volunteering for a day to help set up. I know these youth really appreciate it. You can see it in their smiles!

Thank you,

Steve

# CTAS Youth Hunt

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# CTAS Youth Hunt

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# CTAS Youth Hunt

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# Big Game Classic

The combined Compton Traditional Bowhunters /Colorado Traditional Archers **Big Game Classic** will be here before ya know it. We're working hard to have an outstanding event. The dates are Friday and Saturday March 14th and 15th at the Denver Marriott West in Golden Colorado. Fred Eichler will be the keynote speaker Saturday night, there will be some great seminars and vendors throughout the day Friday and Saturday. see the flyer in this newsletter.

The auction will include some great hunts along with custom bows, outdoor gear and collector's items. We do need more items for the raffle, if you have something or know of someone who's interested contact raffle chairpersons , Chelsea Mead at, [chelseamead17@gmail.com](mailto:chelseamead17@gmail.com), or Greta Van Calcar at [gretavc610@gmail.com](mailto:gretavc610@gmail.com)

We want to have an impressive trophy display to showcase our Colorado hunting opportunities, **PLEASE BRING YOUR TROPHIES**, all are welcome, Contact Barry Smith at 303-919-2755 or email him at [taxi-smith@hotmail.com](mailto:taxi-smith@hotmail.com) with what you plan to bring so we can plan the display areas.

Please note that registration is thru Compton Traditional Bowhunters website, go to [Comptontraditionalbowhunters.com](http://Comptontraditionalbowhunters.com), enter site, go to menu [ upper right corner] click on 2025 BGC to register for the banquet , there is a link at the bottom to book you're room at the hotel.

Saturday will be a Ladies only trip to the historic Molly Brown House in Denver followed by afternoon tea at the famous Brown Palace. this promises to be a great tour, it is limited to 25, if you're interested, please sign up when you register on the Compton website.

Tom Clum at RMS Gear will be hosting a 1/2 day shooting clinic Thursday March 13th at his shop in Wheatridge [10 minutes from hotel], Tom is a level 4 NFAA archery instructor and a bowhunter, he has combined these two in a very effective teaching method. This is a game changer if you want to improve your shooting accuracy. This class is limited to 15 shooters cost is \$150. Register on the Comptons website.

We do have room for more vendors , if you or anyone you know is interested please contact me at [scott@hargrovekidd.com](mailto:scott@hargrovekidd.com) or Andy Ponce at [vendor@comptontraditionalbowhunters.com](mailto:vendor@comptontraditionalbowhunters.com)

We look forward to seeing everyone in March, have a great holiday season!! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Scott



**COMPTON TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTERS**  
**2025 BIG GAME CLASSIC**  
**March 14th & 15th, 2025**

**Auction Items Needed**

Please bring donations to the Big Game Classic or send them to:

**Scott Hargrove**  
**14805 Pecos St.**  
**Westminster, CO 80023**

Questions? - Email Scott at [Youth@ComptonTraditionalBowhunters.com](mailto:Youth@ComptonTraditionalBowhunters.com)  
or call him at 970-209-2281



# Compton Traditional Bowhunters

## 2025 BIG GAME CLASSIC



### March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

***"THE PREMIER NATIONAL TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTING CONVENTION"***

**Hosted by Colorado Traditional Archers Society**

**Denver Marriott West**

1717 Denver West Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401

Special room rate of \$119 plus tax per night available 3/13 through 3/16

**[Call 888-238-1803 and reference the Compton block rate](tel:888-238-1803)**

**or copy and paste the link below into your browser**

**[marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1719518339090&key=GRP&app=resvlink](https://marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1719518339090&key=GRP&app=resvlink)**

Compton Traditional Bowhunters would like to invite you to join us for a fun-filled weekend, full of camaraderie centered around our shared passion for traditional bowhunting. On Friday evening, we'll have a dinner buffet available prior to the Compton Traditional Film Festival. **Compton members who register for the Saturday evening banquet by February 13, 2025, will be entered into a drawing for a new, custom St. Joe River bow built to your specs!**

The Big Game Classic is open to the public and \$15.00 day passes will be available at the door for those of you that can't make the evening festivities. All attendees will have the opportunity to shop the traditional bowhunting vendors, test shoot new bows, attend informative seminars, and take in all the big-game heads and mounts that will be on display, all taken with traditional archery gear.

# Ladies Tour - 25 Person Limit

**Ladies, Join Us for a Special Day Out in Denver!**



## *Molly Brown House Museum*

"Explore the home of Titanic heroine Margaret "Molly" Brown, an outspoken Western woman whose activism and philanthropy impacted the lives of many around the world. She survived the sinking of the RMS Titanic and was

known as the "Heroine of the Titanic" for her service to survivors. Husband James Joseph Brown was a mining engineer who struck gold at the Little Johnny mine in Leadville, Colorado.

## *Afternoon Tea at The Brown Palace*



No visit to Denver is complete without experiencing our iconic Afternoon Tea. Sip tea topped with Devonshire cream, shipped directly from England while listening to the soft sounds of the grand piano float through our multi-story atrium. Also enjoy handmade pastries,

scones and tea sandwiches while admiring the natural light streaming in from our stained-glass ceiling.

# 2025 Big Game Classic Registration Form

**Bring your big game trophies for entry into the Compton Archives and display them during the event. Let's fill the room with all your traditional bowhunting trophies!**



Friday Night <u>Adult</u> Dinner Buffet (6pm to 7:30pm)	\$50.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____
Friday Night <u>Youth</u> Dinner Buffet (6pm to 7:30pm)	\$25.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____
Friday Night Social & Trad Film Festival (7:30 to 11pm – no food, cash bar)	\$ _____ <u>Included</u>
Saturday Ladies Tour – Molly Brown Museum & Brown Palace Tea	\$95.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Night <u>Adult</u> Banquet >>>>----->	\$65.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____
Saturday Night <u>Youth</u> Banquet Ticket - 16yrs and under	\$25.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____
<b>Grand Total = \$ _____</b>	

Clearly print each attendees name as well as Saturday's Entrée choice (Short Rib or Salmon or Chicken or Youth meal)

Name _____	Short Rib ___	Salmon ___	Chicken ___	Youth Meal ___
Name _____	Short Rib ___	Salmon ___	Chicken ___	Youth Meal ___
Name _____	Short Rib ___	Salmon ___	Chicken ___	Youth Meal ___
Name _____	Short Rib ___	Salmon ___	Chicken ___	Youth Meal ___
Name _____	Short Rib ___	Salmon ___	Chicken ___	Youth Meal ___

**Enclose a check payable to Compton Traditional Bowhunters for the amount due or complete the credit card information below**

**You can also register at [ComptonTraditionalBowhunters.com](http://ComptonTraditionalBowhunters.com)**

Tickets will not be mailed, you will receive a confirmation email or phone call if you prefer. A packet will be waiting under the name listed below, with tickets and other information at the event registration booth in the hotel.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide email address for confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC/Discover # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail registration and payment to: Jameson Olson – 7619 E 250 N – Andrews, IN 46702 Phone: 260-224-4873**



# *The Compton Traditional Bowhunters*

## *Big Game Classic Schedule*

Denver Marriott West

March 14th & 15th, 2025

*“The Premier National Traditional Bowhunting Convention”*

Hosted by Colorado Traditional Archers Society

### FRIDAY—March 14, 2025

Vendors Open for Business	11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Big Game Trophy Display	Throughout Weekend
Compton Traditional Bowhunting Archives Measuring—Bring your trophies!	Throughout Weekend
Photo Contest Entries	Throughout Weekend

### SEMINARS — Keystone / Telluride Room

**Mark Turner: The Wild Ride of Traditional Bowhunting** **11:30 AM**

Mark Turner is a Colorado, Rocky Mountain, Continental Divide native. As a longbow hunter he has taken nine species in Colorado. He has taken 24 North American big game species and became the 76th bowhunter to take the Colorado Big 8, and 19th bowhunter to take the 9 species recognized by the Colorado Bow Hunters Association. Mark's personal hunting experiences have taken him to the most beautiful regions of North America. During his adventures he has taken a Coues Deer in Mexico and a Yukon Moose in Alaska which completed his Deer and Moose slams.

**Ben Pinney: Two Decades of Bowhunting Mountain Goats in Southeast Alaska** **1:30 PM**

Ben Pinney experienced his first Alaskan mountain goat hunt in 2005 and was able to watch his friend shoot a mountain goat at seven feet with a longbow. Eventually he moved to the great state in 2008. Mountain goats hold a special place in his heart and he has been on 32 mountain goat hunts with traditional equipment and has killed 6 goats. You won't want to miss this!

**Harold Farenbrook: Experiences from a lifetime of Bowhunting** **3:00 PM**

Harold grew up hunting and trapping in the Colorado mountains. He's been a traditional bowhunter for 48 years and has taken 21 of the 29 animals required to complete the North American Super Slam. He's been a professional guide in Alaska for many years and he will share some of his many adventures with us.

### FRIDAY NIGHT

Dinner Buffet — Ballroom — Ticket required	5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Compton Traditional Film Festival / CTAS Awards / Auction — Ballroom	7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Inaugural Traditional Bowhunters Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony — Ballroom	8:30 PM to 10:30 PM

Don't miss the much anticipated “Trad Film Fest” and view the top entries in each category. Soft drinks and cash bar will be available. Enjoy the company of old friends, make some new ones, and be a part of history with the inaugural Traditional Bowhunters Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

# *The Compton Traditional Bowhunters*

## *Big Game Classic Schedule*

Denver Marriott West

March 14th & 15th, 2025

*“The Premier National Traditional Bowhunting Convention”*

Hosted by Colorado Traditional Archers Society



### Saturday—March 15, 2025

Vendors Open for Business	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Ladies Tour – Gather in Lobby — Name badge required	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Big Game Trophy Display	Throughout Weekend
Compton Traditional Bowhunting Archives Measuring — Bring your trophies!	Throughout Weekend
Photo Contest Entries	Throughout Weekend

### SEMINARS — Keystone / Telluride Room

**South Cox: 10 Hard-Learned Lessons in the Backcountry** 10:30 AM

South Cox is owner/bowyer of Stalker Stickbows, A&H Archery and Dryad bows. He has been hunting the backcountry of the West since the mid-80's. He has logged countless nights sleeping in a tent or under the stars while pursuing blacktail deer, mule deer and elk in many western states. Many of his hunts can be seen on the Stalker Stickbows YouTube channel. Join South and learn from his vast experiences.

**Nathan Andersohn: Late Season Hunts—Canadian Lynx and Mexican Coues Deer** 1:30 PM

Nathan was raised in southern Michigan, and was heavily influenced by the exploits of Fred Bear. His travels have taken him on adventures throughout the western states, Canada and Alaska. Nathan is the only person to complete the grand slam of sheep with the longbow. In August 2017, Nathan took a grizzly bear in Alaska which was his 29th species of North American Big Game, with a longbow and handcrafted arrows. Join Nathan as he shares his experiences on some unique late season hunts.

**Brian Koelzer: Western Adventures—Preparations and Thoughts** 3:30 PM

For over 30 years, Brian has bothered critters all over North America with a stickbow as his trusty companion. He has learned the hard way about what works and what doesn't in different situations. Brian will share some hunting adventures along with gear, tips and tactics he has found useful or not so much.

### SATURDAY NIGHT

**Evening Banquet and Entertainment — Ballroom — Ticket required** 6:00 PM

Welcome — Invocation — Meal — CTB Archives Awards — Auction & Raffles — Key Note Speaker

**Key Note Speaker — Fred Eichler — Crazy and Funny Experiences While Bowhunting**

Cash bar available in banquet room. Relax and hang around after the festivities and enjoy the company of good friends.



# Compton Traditional Bowhunters

## 2025 Big Game Classic

### Photo Contest



#### Photo Award Categories

**Harvest Photos:** Photos must be done in a tasteful manner in a natural background. No excessive blood, pics taken in trucks, ATV's, etc.

**General Outdoors:** Scenery, camp scenes, bowhunters in the wild, etc.

**Wildlife:** Photos of wildlife in the wild

**Youth:** Photos in the above categories. The photos must be taken by youth under 16 years of age

- ◆ Photos must be unmatted and delivered to the Big Game Classic
- ◆ No photos larger than 8"x10" and size will have no bearing on the judges decision
- ◆ Please include contact information on the back of the photo

Awards will be given for each photo category



# Compton Traditional Bowhunters

## 2025 Trad Film Fest



*Deadline February 15, 2025. Email YouTube links or MP4 videos (via Google Drive) to [Marketing@comptiontraditionalbowhunters.com](mailto:Marketing@comptiontraditionalbowhunters.com)*

### Film Award Categories

**Best Film By An Amateur – Long – (5-10 minutes)**

Films by individuals *who are not paid to produce video* will be considered for this category.

**Best Film By An Amateur – Short – (up to 5 minutes)**

Films by individuals *who are not paid to produce video* will be considered for this category.

**Best Film By A Professional – Long – (5-10 minutes)**

Films by production companies or people who are paid to produce video will be considered for this category.

**Best Film By A Professional – Short – (up to 5 minutes)**

Films by production companies or people who are paid to produce video will be considered for this category.

### Rules

- ◆ Entries must be the original work of the submitter.
- ◆ Entries are nonexclusive; you can enter your film in other competitions.
- ◆ Multiple entries are allowed.
- ◆ Films produced prior to hunting season are permitted.
- ◆ Submissions with noticeable audio or visual problems will not be accepted at CTB's sole discretion.
- ◆ NO COPYRIGHTED MUSIC, STOCK FOOTAGE, OR LICENSED IMAGES. ROYALTY FREE RESOURCES ONLY. (This is for CTB's protection if we share the videos on social media. Don't want recording artists suing us for copyright infringement)
- ◆ Submissions containing illegal, unethical, or irresponsible hunting practices will not be accepted.
- ◆ No instructional/tutorial or promotional videos for products/services will be accepted.
- ◆ Any sponsorship information must be limited to the credits of the film.
- ◆ By submitting a film, a non-exclusive right to link to and/or publicly display the film is granted to Compton Traditional Bowhunters.
- ◆ All copyrights remain with originator of the film.

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# A Note From Your President

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Hello All,

Here we are again, facing a long winter as most hunting seasons are coming to an end. As many of you prepare for Christmas and the New Years celebration, there is a small group of CTAS volunteers preparing for what looks like a record setting winter banquet.

In March the Colorado Traditional Archers Society will be hosting the annual banquet with the Compton Traditional Bowhunters at the Big Game Classic event, to be held in Golden, Colorado this coming March 14th and 15th.

I, for one, am very excited about this event and look forward to sharing our stories and adventures with fellow archers from around the country. Our guest speaker and fellow traditional archer, Fred Eichler, will be on hand to share a story or two at the big event.

Many of us are blessed to live in Colorado, to be in a state that offers 10 big game species, and to have relatively easy access to over 23 million of acres of public hunting ground. This plethora of opportunity should not be understated and keeping these traditions and hunting seasons alive are an important piece of the CTAS mission.

Obviously promoting traditional archery and extending the legacy of our forefathers is the Colorado Traditional Archers Society's mission. In the meantime, the only way to do this is by getting our youth involved and keeping them interested and passionate about archery. Although hunting isn't the soul driver of our mission, it does capture the interest of millions of children and adults.

Don't miss out, support our mission, help continue our legacy and sign up for the Big Game Classic banquet as soon as possible. Help us to continue the love and passion for traditional archery. Maybe Invite a neighbor kid and his family, a brother, sister or friend to share in our way of life. Learn of our mission and share our core values, our commitment to the outdoors as stewards of the land and our wild game. Sharing your passion for this sport is a critical piece in the recruitment and future of hunting, traditional archery and the outdoors!

Ok, I know I am preaching to the choir with most of you, but somebody has to do it. Invite a friend, bring them to the banquet and let them know and understand what we all share, the love of traditional archery.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all, see you all soon!

Brad Parkhill  
Chairman

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## Banquet Speaker Bio - Fred Eichler

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Fred Eichler is a man of personal achievement. His passion for bowhunting has taken him all over the world in pursuit of his next adventure. Fred truly believes that any animal with a bow is a trophy. His personal quest to complete the North American Super Slam with a recurve bow reflects that state of mind. In mid August of 2009 Fred harvested a cow Tule Elk to become the first to take all 29 North American big game animals with a recurve bow and complete the Super Slam. Fred has been fortunate enough to share his love and enthusiasm of the sport with fellow bowhunters across the country through his television shows and personal appearances. If you ever run across Fred in the woods or at your local bow shop you'll be greeted with a big smile and friendly handshake. Bowhunting is more than a passion for him, it's a way of life.





# Member Success

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Fourth day of the hunt. Tuesday September 10th. Thirty-four degrees out but sky is clear with a billion x 10 stars. Tricia and I head out at first light, and we see the bull and cow from yesterday. I tell Tricia I will give this younger bull a rest today. The '08 Tacoma continues down the road passing two more meadows; no moose sighted. We pass the big meadow where I had seen two bulls and a cow a day to two before. No moose there. Traveling farther I turn down a different road to a different drainage. Two hundred yards farther I am looking on both sides of the road and out into the moose meadows, looking hard in the new light of the day. Up ahead and we are about to cross the creek at the bridge, and looking over to my right I see what looks like a black 4x8 sheet of plywood standing upright 100 yards up stream. Wait, it has long legs and widespread antlers and it is moving. Holy cow, no holy bull moose and a shooter for sure! I put the Tacoma in reverse and we back slowly up the road and out of sight of the bull. He is busy feeding in the thick willow bottom and had no idea we were there. Another day, another opportunity. Hell yes!

I slowly get out of the truck and take my recurve bow and range finder. I creep down the road, cool morning breeze is in my face, and I start the stalk. The moose bottom is covered with thick willow plants, not too tall for good cover but the thickness makes it hard to advance. I seek another route, better now, getting closer, now fifty yards. The bull looks in my direction and I freeze behind some taller willow brush. He seems suspicious and continues to stare in my direction. Staying low, I cow moose call to him and that seems to calm him down. He continues to feed and moves forward, grunting along the way with each step. I move forward also getting closer, now thirty-nine yards. Still closer now thirty yards. He looks in my direction for a few seconds but then continues to feed and I can hear him grunting more with every step he takes. I move closer still, and as I do his head and eyes swing in my direction; he turns broadside at twenty-seven yards trying to figure out what is this object following him; I draw back, pick a spot, and aim a little higher. I am somewhat shaken at the sight of this large beast and within bow range, and then I loosen the 550 grain arrow with a 150 grain very sharp three blade, VPA BH, a WHACK sound is heard in the calmness of the cold morning air.

As the bull moose spins away, I see the arrow sticking out of the posterior of the shoulder blade and it only penetrated eight inches. The brightly colored arrow and fletching waving in the air. We have all been there. A "flyer" for sure be it the first arrow or the last arrow we launch. The bull charges off, slows down, grunting all the way out to fifty yards farther and starts to feed again, hardly noticing that a large bee might have just stung him. I watched him move forward out to one hundred yards away and he then entered a small island of trees and began to feed again and to rake a nearby tree with his still velvet-covered antlers. I needed to get out of the willow bottom jungle and move to my right and get on more solid ground, which I did, still keeping an eye on the bull moose. I was able to move parallel to the moose bottom, without much cover, but it was a lot quieter that way.

# Member Success

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I would stop in the shadows of the few trees that were there, being very cautious not to spook him. I needed to get another arrow into this bull and finely got to within fifty yards of the small, wooded island where he still was and still feeding and raking the nearby brush. I stalked forward as he turned away. Closer still closer, wind in my favor, now thirty yards. I stopped, then twenty-five yards, watching the bull's every move. Moving very slowly, I came out behind a small pine tree at nineteen yards, he turned broadside, and he had no idea I was there. The sharpened broadhead split the distance between his heart and lung area and this time only the brightly colored fletching stood out. He ran out to seventy-five yards and just stood there in the same spot for the next ten minutes. Yes, ten minutes in the same spot with the bright fletching glowing in the new sun of the morning. I was waiting for him to tip over as I knew the arrow placement was a killing shot, but then he started to slowly walk forward to the bank of the nearby creek thirty yards away where he laid down on a shelf above the water and almost out of my sight. I knew he would die shortly but I needed to get another killing arrow into the bull. I waited a few more minutes and moved towards that spot, at first only seeing the tips of his antlers, then his head, moving closer, his neck and moving still closer, his chest.

At five yards, I drew back the recurve and shot an arrow through his lungs. He jumped up, sprang forward, and then landed in the shallow slow moving creek twenty feet away and stood there on stiff legs, then wobbly legs that were giving out. He then toppled over, struggled to get up, fell down again and died in the shallow water. I let out a loud cry of excitement and of relief that could be heard miles away on the calm, crisp, morning air.

I sat there on the creek bank looking down in amazement and the memories of the last hour flashing through my mind. I remember being asked, "Why the challenge of using your recurve bow for this once in a lifetime hunt?" I remember my answer was, "I just believe this noble beast deserves the best in me and I am up for the challenge and my recurve bow will be in my hand." Don't get me wrong, there were a few times I doubted myself, and my compound bow would also be in the truck as a sort of back up bow. Sort of like taking along a gun to a knife fight; you know how that would end! The compound bow stayed at home.

OK, reality check! The bull moose is in the cool water and that is actually a good thing as the water will help cool down the hide and organs, but I will need to get him moved twenty feet to the dry sand/pebble bar. Tricia and the new Labrador, Teal, are still back at the truck and I have no idea if she heard my yell. Time to get moving and as I moved away I looked back at the scene and just shook my head, still in disbelief. Twenty-five years!

Arriving back at the truck, Tricia had no idea of what happened and the end results. A tear came from her eyes, and she only said, "Oh Paul," and then a huge hug. Driving back to camp, I knew exactly how to handle moving the moose to dry land and as we pulled into another nearby hunting camp, I just knew my prayers would be answered and issue solved.

# Member Success

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A few hours later I was able to recruit four fellow elk hunters who helped me drag the moose twenty feet to a nearby gravel bar. They had to leave, so Tricia and I spent the next five hours gutting, quartering, bagging and then floating, yes floating the moose parts in my Jet Sled, downstream four hundred yards to the bridge and then to the back of the truck. That evening, after a warm meal, and a shot of Maker's Mark, we both hit the sack, tired as expected.

The twenty-five years of waiting for this Colorado bull moose license all seemed worth it now and even better with the recurve bow. I thought back to 1962 when I killed my very first white-tailed deer with a recurve bow, and now I had just killed the largest deer species in North America with the stick, sixty-two years later. This moose made number nine of the Colorado Big Ten big game species with a bow. What is next? A Colorado Desert Big Horn Sheep of course!

Paul Navarre



# Member Success

