

## April 4 2016 Vertical Response

Spring is very early this year and will make for an extra long bear season. After Mike's presentation at the banquet and all the bear mounts there, people left pretty excited! Good luck everyone.

Before I get to the banquet summary, we are looking for folks to help out at the ABA booth this coming weekend (April 9/10 -- from 11am to 4pm) at the Cabelas store in Calgary. Good way for us to promote the organization, educate people there even is a provincial body lobbying for their bowhunting privileges. For anyone volunteering some time you get employee pricing -- is a good time to stock up on anything you need. If you have a couple free hours this weekend, contact Lance (lneilson@telus.net) -- greatly appreciated!!

Our morning meetings (3D and AGM) went well and had decent attendance. The banquet was well attended -- ticket sales were up from the last couple of years with 203 adult and 14 youth (12 and under) attending. Thanks to everyone who helped out in some form or another with the banquet. We had lots of auction items, lots of bears for the theme display. Mike Ukrainetz had a great presentation and once we got the sound system glitch figured out - we were away. To avoid any future issues we are going to buy our own sound system so we will be virtually self sufficient. Go to our website to see some banquet pictures and the Gold Winners. A more detailed report will be in the next newsletter (being put together as we speak).

As things were winding down and we pulled the many silent auction items, we did the draw for the Cougar Hunt Raffle. This raffle was once again a hit and the winner was long time ABA member/supporter Stephane Titley. Good luck to Stephane!!

Just a huge thank you for all those who helped out and attended. Was lots of fun!! Next year the banquet will be back at the Nisku Inn - March 25 2017. The theme will be "Mountain Fever" and we will be asking folks to bring any Alberta/archery taken bighorn sheep and mountain goats. We are working on a sponsor to provide a significant prize for a draw of anyone bringing something for the theme display. We have guest speakers lined up - Mike Ukrainetz with his two BC mountain goat backpack hunts and Steve Ecklund with his 2015 WMU 408 sheep bowhunt. Should be great -- mark your calendars now!!

The 3D chairman (newcomer Kris Skelly) and the committee are doing a bunch of work and will be sending all the ABA affiliated clubs some information on getting their submission in to host our 2016 ABA Bowhunter Challenge shoot. Lots of feedback from the 3D community/ABA membership shows a great deal of interest and positiveness on this format. Big thanks to outgoing 3D chairman Sean O'Neill for all his work on the ABA 3D program the last 4 years!!

We are scheduled for an "Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council" (FW and stakeholder) committee meeting April 13 to continue discussions pertaining to the "Allocation Review". The summary from our last meeting was to be sent out March 11 but we haven't seen anything yet. All of us stakeholders are anxiously waiting for the regulation changes for 2016 - last we heard they were still sitting on the minister's desk. Hopefully after the April 13th meeting we will have more to report.

The next edition of the newsletter is being put together right now and will be in your hands by first part of May. It will be the LAST one you get if your membership expired at the end of 2015. Check the mailing label on the back page -- it has the expiration date of your membership. You can renew through an affiliated club (updated list in newsletters) or from our website. Our online system works awesome - 46% of our memberships in 2015 were sold online. You get immediate email confirmation of the transaction and can print your own membership card. Not only does your membership qualify you for the insurance coverage and 3D/Game Awards Programs, it helps support the fight in maintaining and hopefully enhancing your bowhunting privileges.

Good luck this spring to you bear hunters and those on the 3D circuit. Straight shooting!!

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