

Vertical Response Feb 23 2017

The 2nd edition of the **COLOR newsletter** should have made it to your door (if you didn't get it let me know - I have a few extras). We are getting a lot of very positive feedback on it and deservedly so! What a great product! Was a wonderful surprise when our printers called and said they could do it in color for bit less than the black and white version. That was a no brainer decision lol. Big thank you to Gord (your newsletter editor) for putting it all together. As always - if you have pictures or stories to send them to Gord at Gord@albertabowhunters.com.

The **mass email list** we have built up over the last 7 years was updated again the other day and we now have 2160 viable email addresses. Every one of these email addresses represents someone who was or currently is, an ABA member. Our 2016 ABA membership ended up at just over 1400 members. If we could get everyone on this email list to renew, what an incredible boost to the association!! Speaking of renewing

Being the start of the year it is time to **renew** your membership. The best way to do that is online (or through any of our affiliated clubs - list in the newsletter) -- check the mailing label on this latest issue for your expiry date. Or contact Brent (Brent@albertabowhnters.com) or Mike (Mike@albertabowhunters.com) and we can check the database as well. We queried the membership database and sent a mass email specific to those members whose membership expired at the end of 2015 or 2016. Worked awesome and is a very effective/efficient way to send reminders.

The latest **ABA Raffle** is going very well with 90% of the tickets sold. We have an awesome rifle package put together - a Browning X Bolt in .243 (thumbhole stock) topped with a 3-15x Steiner scope. Comes with a sling and Boyt hard case. Included is a FOX Pro Fusion electronic call. Beauty of a gun and very versatile - the caliber is great for predators/deer/antelope and would fit young and old alike. Best place to get tickets is on the ABA online store (www.bowhunters.ca) or contact Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com). Ticket price is \$10 each. Raffle license #453046. We will do the draw at the next ABA Banquet March 25/17 in Nisku. GOOD LUCK!!

Things are coming together for the **40th Annual ABA Banquet** March 25 2017 at the Nisku Inn (same venue as last year). Best way to purchase the banquet tickets is from our online store at www.bowhunters.ca and are now available from Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com)(Cell 780-978-1195). Tables of 8 or 10 will be reserved. Adult is \$65/youth (12 and under) is \$25.

The theme is "**Mountain Fever**" - showcasing sheep and mountain goats. Anyone bringing a mount/horns for the theme display will be entered for a prize draw courtesy of WILD TV. We created an email list of all 33 ABA members who have entered a bighorn sheep into the award programs since 1999 and asked if they could bring their ram(s) and have several members respond already. There will be another prize draw for anyone who brings something that qualifies for the annual awards. Steve Ecklund will be our guest speaker and be talking about his 2015 sheep hunt in WMU 410.

For Room reservations (group code *ABH17* or rate code *HUNT*) call 1 780 955 7744. Must book before March 8 to guarantee reservation. Queen doubles - \$105 + 9% tax. Includes 2 voucher breakfasts per day.

At the AGM we will be voting on several **constitution changes** - official notification appeared in this last newsletter. In addition, as an executive, we have had a great deal of discussion on the Member Conduct part of the constitution. We will be sending out a seperate email on the changes to be voted

on and the Member Conduct discussion points. Handouts will be available at the AGM. If anyone has comments or questions contact Brent or any of the executive.

We will also be **voting for the following executive positions** (President, Regulations Director, Secretary, North Director, Traditional Director, Newsletter) at the 2017 AGM. If anyone is interested in running for any of these positions, would like more information as to the job descriptions, what is all involved, don't hesitate to contact any of the current executive (email contact info on page 2). The job descriptions are outlined in our constitution (available to any member) and current executives can explain some more of the hows and whys of the organization. Elections will take place at the 2017 AGM at the Nisku Inn and Convention Center.

Candidates for election to any position may make their names known to the Vice-President in writing, at any time prior to the vote being called, or nominations from the floor will be accepted. Candidates for election need not be present, but if they are not, a signed notice of intent to stand for office must be in the hands of the Vice-President (Dale@albertabowhunters.com) prior to the vote being called.

A twist for the **AGM** this year is a draw from all those who attend the AGM for a custom knife made and donated by member Dale Johnson - the hope is this draw will increase attendance for the AGM.

Ryk has been busy with lots of game award entries. A reminder of the March 1 **DEADLINE!!** When you submit any of your Game Award entry forms to Ryk (by mail, email or fax) make sure you follow up with him and make sure he got them. When you email him pictures make sure the file size is not too big - we have had some end up in his junk mail folder and they have been missed.

Ryk mentioned the other day that we have **ZERO** youth award entries this year. Since the inception of the award in 1998, we have never had "no" entries. If you know of any youngster who is an ABA member and has harvested a big game animal, make sure you get their entry in to Ryk asap. We also have only **ONE** traditional entry. Mark Barber of the affiliated club Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association (ATBA) will be sending their membership a reminder as well. Our Game Management entries are at an all time low at only three entries this year. If you have shot a doe, cow, ewe etc make sure you get an entry in for a great prize.

Brent has been attending the **Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council** meetings and is on the **Allocation Policy Review Committee**. The Allocation Policy Review committee met again on Feb 9, 2017. The preliminary work of this committee is done. Its recommendations will be taken to AGPAC general, internal FW people and then the draft "policy" will be open to the public and organizations for their feedback and comments. This policy review is looking at how the big game harvest/tags will be divided up among the residents, non-residents, bowhunters, landowners etc. Once this draft policy is ready to be released we will let everyone know - there are a great many parts to this policy and some affect bowhunters. We need bowhunters to get engaged in the consultation process and make their voices heard.

**** 2017 Hunting Regulation proposed changes**

- create antlered and antlerless elk hunting seasons in WMUs 501, 502, 514, 110.
- change the elk season in WMU 500 to a standalone hunting season.
- add WMUs 206, 208, 228, 240 and 242 to the list of areas to mandatory submit heads of harvested deer for CWD testing. Follows a recent positive in 242.
- remove the requirement for designated pheasant release sites to be closed at 2pm during the pheasant season

*In an email communication from Matt Besko (Director of Wildlife Policy) "there will be **NO** changes to the sheep hunting regulations. FW will continue to monitor and manage sheep populations using survey, registration and harvest data, in addition to enhancing habitat and managing other factors influencing the survival of mature rams. The sheep management plan and domestic sheep separation policy are still processes in motion, including continued discussions with stakeholders."*

Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com) will be heading up our **ABA booth/display** at the Edmonton Cabelas for the April 8/9 weekend. If you would like to help out in our booth let Gord know. Great way to help promote the ABA!!

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts/comments on the ABA, do not hesitate to contact any of the executive or myself at any time.

See you at the Banquet/convention!!

Brent
brent@albertabowhunters.com
780-978-1195