

Vertical Response Mar 6 2016

Spring is officially here in the northwest - seen geese March 4 and that is the earliest even the old timers say, that they have been back. Bears be next lol.

The banquet/convention is under three weeks away. Things are coming together well - looks like we will have a great "bear" display and if anyone else would like to bring a mount/rug don't hesitate to contact Cole (Cole@albertabowhunters.com) or Dale (Dale@albertabowhunters.com). The more the merrier. Ticket sales are going well - 162 to date with 14 youth tickets sold and lots of people yet to get theirs. For those needing tickets, the best way is to buy them online (www.bowhunters.ca). I even bought mine there lol. If that doesn't work contact me and we will hook you up. I'll soon start holding them for pickup - don't trust the mail getting them to you in time.

Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee meeting Mar 1 (Allocation Review) went well. Lots of discussions on lots of topics. Outfitter/bowhunters/landowner pieces of the pie. FW will do up a summary of the meeting and have it to us all by next Friday the 11th. Summary will be the public release and once the summary comes out it will be circulated, put on our website, in newsletter reports etc. The issue of "at what point do bowhunters go to a draw" was discussed. Also the "archery season draw proposal" - passed out the new/revised/updated brief (available on our website). Discussion followed. Might lead to "more consultation" from the general hunter population to gauge interest, support etc. Watch for that - we will let everyone know. Next meeting will be April 13. Once this "Allocation Review" committee completes its discussions, recommendations, a report will be done that will be taken back to the AGPAC group for further discussion/feedback and then this "policy" recommendation will be presented to the minister for sign off.

2016 Reg changes - is stalled at minister level. FW presented the changes and they all came back (first time for this). The "minister" wants a power point presentation; who supports/who is against; what are the political/social/economic implications for EACH change they have requested - no matter how small or how big. No idea when that will get done and could really bog/slow things down so much that deadline to complete the process could pass and no changes might happen. As soon as the changes are official, FW will advise everyone and we will pass that on to you. One thing that was presented at AFGA Convention a couple weeks ago is proposed changes to cougar hunting - quotas being increased, the boot season lengthened. Let's hope that happens for this year!!

The ABA continues to get entries into the ABA Game Awards Programs from people who have not renewed their membership or send in entries for animals they killed years prior. We only have a few "rules" and all are listed on the Synopsis (is in every newsletter, on website) and have been talked about in various newsletter reports, mass emails, at banquets, at AGMs. These rules were put in place many, many years ago and maintain the integrity and fairness in our awards program. But the two top ones (which seem to be an issue in varying degrees almost every year) are:

1) Applications for these awards will be accepted only if the bowhunter is an ABA member at the time the game entered is taken.

2) Entries must be received by March 1 in the year following when those animals were taken – NO exceptions!!

With several issues arising from entries sent in this year, we convened (as per the constitution) an ABA Awards Committee March 3 - this version of the committee consisted of the twelve ABA Executive and

our three Directors (15 in total). The two rules mentioned above were discussed by 13 of the 15 and the decision was to follow them to the letter. The Game Awards Chairman (Ryk) followed up with the questionable entries/entrants and advised them of this decision.

It is unfortunate that members who forget to renew will not have their animal be eligible. Over the years, the ABA has tried very hard to notify members to make sure they renew. Not only to be eligible for 3D or Game Awards but to also aid the ABA in having strong numbers to help in lobbying for bowhunters. We know the importance of renewing and being a member. We recently tried mail out notices for a period of 2 1/2 years going to app 5000 mailboxes at a cost of \$1 per. We estimate a <1% return on that investment and decided to stop that effort. We send out regular emails to over 1700 viable email addresses. In the first two issues of the year we have notices all over the newsletter "It's Time To Renew" or "Last issue Before You Renew". Your expiry date is on the mailing label of your newsletter. If anyone has a question on their membership status, a quick email/call to John or Brent and they can check the database to see how you fare. If anyone has any ideas on other ways to do this, please let us know!

Make sure you confirm with Ryk once you send your entries (whether that is by mail, fax or email). ALSO, when you email him your entries and send him pictures, make sure your pictures are small in "mb" size - otherwise they may not make it and he will never know the entry was sent.

Speaking about membership and renewing, it is that time again. Join through an affiliated club or directly. We are doing a lot of memberships from the website (www.bowhunters.ca) and it is very easy, very quick and you get an immediate email confirmation and can print off your own membership card. Contact John (John@albertabowhunters.com) or Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com) to check your current status if in doubt.

We are going to have our ABA Booth set up at Cabelas Calgary location either the weekend of April 2/3 or April 9/10, 2016 - which weekend we pick will depend on volunteer response. Great way to promote the ABA. Volunteers working our booth will be supplied lunch and you get employee pricing!! Contact Lance (Lance@albertabowhunters.com) if you would like to help out.

Hope to see many of you at the AGM and the Banquet!!

brent

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