

Vertical Response June 9 2016

Hope everyone is enjoying the last of the spring and the first of the summer. Lots of areas of the province have had timely rains - except the one spot that needed them the most up in the Ft. McMurray country. Utter devastation and it is hard to imagine what those folks went through and are/will be dealing with over the next months. The support from people within the province and across the country has been phenomenal to say the least. As did many others, the ABA donated \$500 to the Red Cross to help with the efforts.

We sent out an email several days ago announcing our latest **raffle** with a decked out "Deluxe" wall tent and pile of accessories from Cabelas. Is an awesome package. Tickets are \$50 each/only 200 printed. Easiest way to get your ticket(s) is to order online www.bowhunters.ca from our ABA store. Or, you can contact Brent at brent@albertabowhunters.com/780-978-1195. The draw will be in two months on Aug 10 2016. Winner is responsible for pickup of the prizes in Calgary. License #433013. The dollars generated from this raffle and other ones we have done, offset the costs of your quarterly newsletter, the Game Awards Program, the 3D "ABA Bowhunter Challenge" and various youth initiatives. These raffles also allow us to keep membership dues very low.

Speaking of **membership**, many of you will have received the last newsletter you will get unless you renew. Normally the expiry date of your membership is on the mailing label of your newsletter but we had a glitch and it was missed the last two issues. We got the glitch fixed so it will be there in the future but if you want to know when your membership expires just send a quick email to John (John@albertabowhunters.com) or Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com)(78-978-1195) and we will check that out for you.

The easiest way to join/renew if you do not belong to an affiliated club, is to join online (www.bowhunters.ca) - it is very quick and easy. You get an immediate email confirmation and you can print off your own membership card. If you are a new member and do not have a membership number (this number stays with you forever) John will send it to you and you can fill it in on your printed card. Make sure you renew promptly so you remain eligible for Game Awards and 3D program awards. Plus you support the only organization that is working on behalf of the bowhunters of Alberta.

From our **3D Chairman** - Kris Skelly (Kris@albertabowhunters.com)

As you may know, from the feedback of our membership and our 3D community the ABA has revamped the direction the ABA 3D Program is taking. It has evolved to a one shoot format and is to promote ethical bowhunting shots/situations and staying within reasonable practical range limits, promote a family friendly shoot atmosphere, and mix in some friendly and fun competition. Thus, the "ABA Bowhunter Challenge" Class was born.

Jim Bows has sponsored a beautiful buckle to the winner of the "Shoot Up". Certificates will be awarded to the winners of each of our classes, all youth will get an ABA medal.

We have seen other shoots use this "Class" format and the ABA will supply our affiliated clubs that institute the format in their club shoots ABA branded certificates and youth medals and ABA scorecards.

We have a shoot host submission process and the decision was not easy as each submission from our clubs had different things to offer. After committee review and consideration we have awarded the Brazeau Bowbenders club of Drayton Valley with the 2016 ABA Bowhunter Challenge Final. This shoot is to be held the weekend of [August 6-7, 2016](#) at the Brazeau Bowbenders facility just off of

HWY 22, 10 mins East of Drayton Valley. The contact for the shoot is Leonard Claffey - [780-898-2489](tel:780-898-2489) / leonard.claffey@servus.ca

We want to thank all the clubs for the submissions and interest and we look forward to the final. We are looking forward to a fun, family oriented and challenging shoot which will simulate "real life" bowhunting style shots. The timeframe for the final should be perfect practice for the upcoming archery season.

For updates, see what the Shoot Up buckle and certificates/medals look like, visit and like our ABA Facebook Page.

We had the latest round of the "**Allocation Review**" committee meeting May 26th. This was the second meeting and at the end of the process, will determine the policy that will guide FW decisions and dictate who gets what of the pie as far as tag distribution goes. It was our first look at a rough draft of what the Allocation Policy will look like. This committee is made up of stakeholder reps, individuals who bring expertise to the table. We have been asked to keep the discussion details in house. We have another meeting July 27th where an updated draft will be presented as well as more information provided on several of the topic items. After this meeting there may be another one scheduled for the committee to review the policy draft further or if there is not much to discuss or there are persistent impasses on an issue, it may move on to the next step of FW internal review. Then it will be presented to the entire Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council - which is made of many of the same stakeholders and representatives. Then it will be sent out to the public and the stakeholder groups can then send it to their members for feedback/comments etc. Then all that feedback will be taken into account, a final draft policy done up and taken to the minister for sign off. Could take some time so not sure what a finished date might be.

Outside of the changes to hunting regulations that were outlined in the draw booklet, everything is status quo (sheep included). There were likely many more changes proposed but the delay created when the minister at last minute asked for more information, a detailed power point for each and every change etc., pushed things back immensely. As we hear of any future discussions/changes we will keep you all informed.

Wanted to bring your attention to the 100 page **Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan** that was just released and is now available for review. There is also a survey requesting public feedback on the plan. The survey is open until July 15th. Please consider providing your feedback. Also please consider sharing this with your networks.

The plan and a short survey on the different plan components is available at the following link. <http://aep.alberta.ca/about-us/public-engagement/surveys/default.aspx> . Open the link. For a look at a 4 page brochure that shows the seven grizzly bear management zones and has some basic info, click "Grizzly Bear Recovery Planning". To get to the 100 page plan itself click the "Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan Consultation Survey". There are links that take you to the past plan from 2008 and the current "Alberta Grizzly Bear - Recovery Plan (Draft) June 1 2016". Once you look over the plan take the time to fill out the survey and let FW know your thoughts. In addition, a letter to your MLA wouldn't hurt either. Any decision going forward on a future grizzly bear hunt will depend on the support of government in general. Getting your MLA involved, letting him know you support a hunt goes a long way in getting your input to the right people who are able to make changes. When the grizzly bear hunt was cancelled, it was pure pressure on government from around the world by an uninformed public. I remember talking to then FW minister Ted Morton and he said they were getting a weekly average of 100 calls/letters/emails to stop the hunt and only a couple a month to keep the hunt. The government buckled for all the wrong reasons.

Send your stories and photos to Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com) for upcoming issues of the newsletter. Inventory is close to zero so we desperately need more content.

Enjoy your summer and don't forget to renew your membership and get your draws in before the deadline of June 23!! Good luck.

If you have any questions, concerns, thoughts on the "ABA" don't hesitate to contact any of the executive members or myself (Brent@albertabowhunters.com) (780-978-1195)