

## Vertical Response July 5 2016

Just an update on the current **raffle**. We sent out an email June 9th announcing our latest raffle with a decked out "Deluxe" wall tent and pile of accessories from Cabelas. Is an awesome package. We notified the membership through the last newsletter and then launched to the general public after the newsletter was in our member's hands. Sales have been disappointing actually - sold tickets #94/95 today. Break even was #88. It is really a crap shoot when running a raffle if it will be successful or not. Over the last dozen years, we have tried a wide variety of prizes, a big single package or several prizes, low ticket prices/lots of tickets, high ticket prices/low number of tickets. In this case is the prize not appealing? Is the ticket price too high? Please let us know your thoughts - running out of ideas.

Tickets are \$50 each/only 200 printed. Fantastic odds!! Easiest way to get your ticket(s) is to order online [www.bowhunters.ca](http://www.bowhunters.ca) from our ABA store. Normally I would mail you your tickets the same day but with the looming Postal strike, will hold them until we know what is happening. I will send you an immediate email advising you of your ticket(s) number. Or, you can contact Brent at [brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:brent@albertabowhunters.com)/780-978-1195. The draw will be in one month's time on Aug 10 2016 - is approaching fast. 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.

Thanks to everyone who has bought a ticket - appreciate the support. If you can spread the word and it maybe initiates a few more ticket sales, that would be great!!

Bear season seemed to go by very fast even though we had one of the earliest starts in recent memory and our season goes to the 15th of June. Have heard of some great bears being taken and congrats to all those lucky hunters.

The draw results will be out July 12th and for many, it is just like Christmas. Lots of plans being made, fingers crossed. Alberta affords us an incredible number of hunting opportunities and bowhunters even more so. Even though we have such a wide variety and quantity of opportunities, bowhunters have lost a great deal of opportunity - especially in the way of moose, elk and antlered mule deer in some WMUs, in the archery seasons. Over the coming months, decisions will be made with the "Allocation Policy Review" that will determine whether our "archery season draw" proposal will be implemented, what share bowhunters will get of the harvest, if the current share system will even exist in the future. Once the draft is put together, it will be reviewed by AEP internally, then to the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council and to the public for feedback and comments. We will keep everyone informed as the process moves along and what to be concerned about.

The ABA will have our **display** at Cabelas Aug 20/21 to help promote the ABA. Gord is going to be looking after our display that weekend but we need some volunteers to help out. Let Gord ([Gord@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Gord@albertabowhunters.com)) know if you can spare a few hours either day. You get employee pricing for helping out so it's perfect timing to do your shopping before hunting season starts!!

*(I have repeated some of the info from the past mass email just to reiterate some stuff going on)*

In regards to **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 Mike (Mike@albertabowhunters.com) or Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com)(780-978-1195) 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) Mike 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](mailto: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.

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. Deadline for the next issue is July 10th.

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)

ENJOY THE SUMMER!!