

# Safari Club International

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO CONSERVING WILDLIFE AND PRESERVING HUNTING

## WESTERN MONTANA FIVE VALLEY CHAPTER NEWS

Fall 1998

### President's Message

As we near the end of yet another hunting season, I believe we may all share similar feelings of gratitude and fulfillment. We, as sportsmen, have been the driving force behind conservation efforts necessary to insure the future of our heritage, so generations to follow may share the same feelings.

It is our efforts, no matter how insignificant they may seem, teamed with others that have similar goals, which have made such staggering statistics such as the recovery of white tailed deer, elk, wild turkeys, and antelope, not to mention hundreds of species abroad.

We as a small Western Montana chapter may not seem significant when viewed within the overall picture. Yet our geographical region is such a critical piece of the puzzle. It is subject to such irrational ideas as the California moratorium on mountain lion hunting and its outcome. We as conservationists must do our individual part to protect our hunting future and the future of this region.

Our chapter is filled with individuals willing to rise and fight against any issues jeopardizing these rights and also fight against efforts which would unravel over eighty years of recovery to wildlife through hunting.

The fights will come as will needs for studies and education for our youth. We as a chapter are now funded and able to take on these challenges. At this time I ask that you as members or non members join our annual banquet and contribute to our cause. We have plenty of work to do, all that you would ever want to contribute. If circumstances will not allow such time commitments, I ask that you join us this one time. You will do your significant part by doing so. This year should exceed the success we had last time.

Thanks so much and see you there.

Jon Wemple, President

### SABLES NEWS

By Bonita Smith, Sables Rep.

The Sables would like to extend a warm welcome to new member Dotty Patterson who joined our team at the October 11 meeting held in Missoula. We are hoping that the invitations sent out for this meeting to the regular SCI chapter members' wives and friends will inspire additional new members at the December 11 banquet. We are planning an exciting year for 1999 with a more organized schedule and quest presentations. We are especially excited to announce that our Sables' Chapter has purchased a very exciting print by renowned international wildlife artist Guy Cohleleach. The print is entitled "Mountain Rush" and depicts a cougar enjoying a romp in the snow. Mr Cohleleach is an ardent supporter of SCI with a wide range of wildlife subjects covering the globe. The purchase of this print was made possible by the funds raised at the Spring 1997 SCI Missoula Chapter Banquet and a generous discount provided by the Mill Pond Press of Venice, Florida. On a more local level we are very proud to announce that our chapter is once again being supported by the Sapphire Gallery of Philipsburg, MT. They made a fantastic donation of sapphires in 1997 for the Sables and in the same spirit for 1998 they have donated a fabulous carved gemstone kingfisher on quartz. The kingfisher is carved from blue sodalite, white and black dolomite with garnet eyes and silver feet. The beautiful bird is then perched atop a crystal quartz. This art creation is from Brazil by Peter and Teja Mueller. Our most heartfelt appreciation is extended to Shirley Beck and her staff for this magnificent donation. This is only a beginning of the list of wonderful items being compiled for the December 11, 1998 SCI Chapter Banquet. We hope to see you there and just think of what a great way to make points on Christmas morning with the super gifts you can take home with you from the evening of fun, good food, and fellowship with others who share your interest in hunting and the outdoors!

### Invitations Sent

Invitations as well as the flyer for our banquet/fundraiser were sent to all who attended last years function.

## DONATION FORM

If any members have acquired a donation such as a hunt, trip, or other item which needs to be described for the auction please contact a board member for a donation form which will describe exactly what the person is bidding on so that there are no misunderstandings. It's not too late to get donations! Even if you bring them at the last minute to the banquet with you I'm sure we can use them. If you have something call a board member and let them know. **And don't forget we're going to have a lot of ladies in attendance who might appreciate something other than a moose hunt to bid on.**

## MY DAY IN THE SUN

By Doyle Patterson

I had planned my "safari" to Namibia to start June 1 because the kudu would be in rut. June is the start of winter and the grass is still tall and the trees and brush are fully leafed out making for tough hunting. After years of drought the summer was a record wet one with grass and water everywhere. The game was really spread out. In the 11 days I hunted I saw very few animals at water holes.

I had told my professional hunter that I wanted a mature representative Kudu in the 50" range. We started hunting kudu the first day as he felt they would require the most effort to fulfill my goal. We saw a couple 48" to 50" bulls near a water hole at about 9am but we passed, hoping to find something better. The growth along the dry river beds is like a jungle. As we were going along one of these dry water courses 3 cow Kudu jumped off the four foot bank and ran in front of us at about 40 yds. out. We waited hoping a nice bull would be hot on their tail. But nothing! After about 3 minutes I happened to look to my left into the jungle-like growth. There staring at me and as if frozen in time was a bull kudu at about 15ft. All I could see was his chest, face and about 3/4ths of his beautiful spiral horns. (That picture will last forever in my mind) As if by some strange fate my PH happened to look that way at the same time. He saw me looking and said "take him". Take him I did. The 225 gr. X bullet hit dead center and he dropped like a rock. This all took maybe all of 3 seconds and the bull was mine.

My PH said he knew he was really wide, but if I had told him I wanted a 55" bull he would not have told me to shoot because he couldn't tell how big he was. When we got up to him. WOW! he was beyond my dreams. Fifty seven and a half around the curves and 41" tip to tip. Not only was he huge he was ancient like the old boy that shot him. Cornie my PH thought he was on the back side of 15 yrs. This old boy was a survivor. As I sit here gazing at him on the wall I can see the more than 2 doz. scars on his neck a foot long or better from battles of long ago when leopards and lions were not his match.

Cornie said "How are we going to top this? We've got ten more days to hunt!" It was 11:11 am June 1, 1997- a day I won't forget. When we skinned him out we found the .338 bullet under the skin next to his tail. That's not bad penetration.

Just to add to the excitement as my tracker was clearing brush with his machete so we could take some "what a guy" pictures, am 8 1/2 ft. spitting cobra took his best shot at him and missed. Cornie spit back with his .357 and didn't miss. So much for "snakes aren't a problem in winter"!

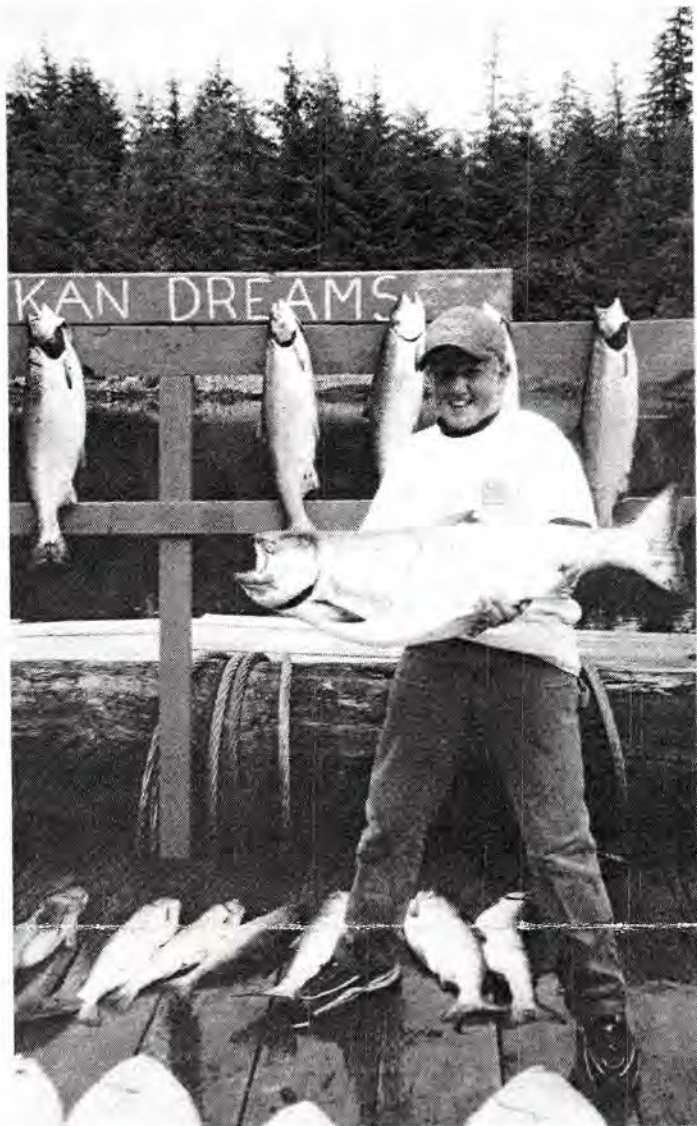
Every hunter should have "their" day. That one day that stays frozen in their mind forever. I've had mine, I hope you have yours as well.



*I'm bound and determined to have some members hunt stories and pictures in "our" newsletter. If I don't get some of your stories soon, not only will you be sick of my stories, but I'll be down to my pictures of forked horn bucks and spike bulls and my wife's gardening stories! Save me that embarrassment and send in your stories and a picture. I'll return all pictures. Ed.*

## FLYERS POSTED

Flyers have been posted in business's covering most of western Montana advertising our upcoming banquet on Dec. 11th.



### FATHER AND SON SHARE ALASKA

**Garret Garrels** is all smiles with one of many salmon and halibut caught on an Alaska fishing trip with Art King at Alaskan Dreams. Garret's dad Lloyd purchased the trip for two at last years banquet. They enjoyed the trip so much they went back again this summer and had a great time again.

### Why Join SCI?

Today one doesn't have a problem finding an organization to join that is concerned with almost any animal that walks on earth. So if you have a passion for hunting one of those animals you should probably join one or more of these groups to do what you can for that cause.

There is one very powerful and large organization that works with all the animals of the world as well: This is SCI.

SCI now has over 150 chapters and is growing fast. It is much like an anti-virus. With its money, lobbyists, and just everyday hunter it "talks the talk" and "walks the walk". SCI chapters know what's going on in every corner of the world and every time a new 'virus' shows up; SCI will be there to inject whatever is needed at that specific site. It bears repeating that most of the money a chapter such as ours makes at our fundraiser will stay right here and be spent in anyway we deem deserving of our goals and mission.

I don't know how many times I have heard SCI referred to as a bunch of rich, old codgers who have nothing to do but fly around the world hunting. Well, that may be true for a certain number of members, but I'll bet they worked their ass off getting rich and old. And remember this: they have to get on a plane and fly out of their rat race infested area to where you live day in and day out just to go hunting. If it were not for money people willing to let some of it go there would be no SCI. Every society or organization needs someone to plant the grape vine, pick the grape, make the wine, sell the wine, and then have those who indulge themselves by buying and feasting with it. Likewise there would not be an SCI if there weren't everyday people to make the machine run. It doesn't bother me one bit if someone is willing to drop \$250,000 to hunt a sheep and then not take one. Think of how many other sheep tags will be produced by that one person's donation. A while back I was at a local outdoor show with a bunch of 'good ol boys' who had the aforementioned concept of SCI and I'm here to tell you they haven't got a clue. I also believe that SCI is an organization where people of many other groups can belong and in doing so help everyone's cause, be it the elk or a three-toed lizard.

End of story. Sign up a hunting buddy or friend and let's let Western Montana know we're around and just who we are. The game need our help, the hunters of the future need our help, and the anti's need our help to keep them at bay.

Get someone to join today!

### GARNET MOUNTAINS MOOSE STUDY

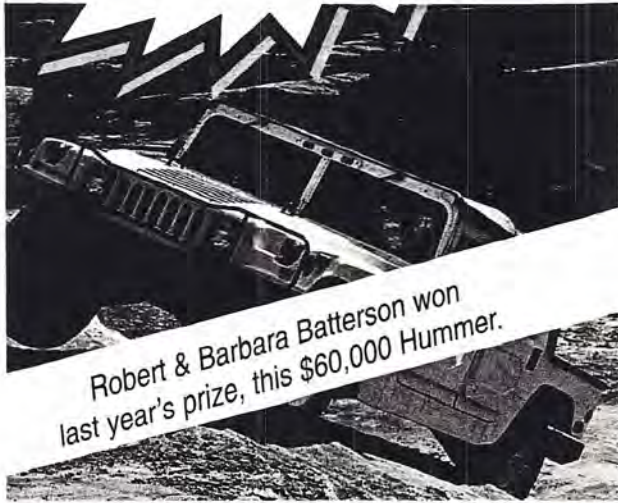
Last August Milo Burcham of the University of Montana in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Dept. gave a presentation on an upcoming moose study in the Garnet mountains. Little is known about the moose in the area and the study will catch, collar, release, and monitor up to a dozen moose in the area.

The board voted to grant \$2500 to the study and apply for a matching grant from SCI national. SCI national has agreed to our request for the matching grant. Mr. Burcham will give us a detailed report of what the \$5000 grant will be used for before said funds are received from the chapter.

Congratulations to all those who gave their time and donations to last years fundraiser, and to those who spent their dollars to fund this project and others in the future.

### ANNUAL BANQUET/FUNDRAISER

DECEMBER 11, 1998 6PM ELKS CLUB  
BE THERE



**KEEPING IT LOCAL AND WINNING**

**By Bonita Smith**

When SCI is mentioned in Montana it seems many people immediately think of far away places. That's part of the fun of this organization the mystique of the African jungle or the heart of Siberia, but also our own back yard in Western Montana. The SCI organization is set up to keep 70% of our local fund raising dollars right here for us. Well, Bob and Barbara Batterson took this concept to heart when they went to the 1998 Reno SCI Convention this past January! When the Battersons arrived at the Reno Hilton and saw a shiny, new, fully equipped Hummer vehicle displayed out front they thought "We need to take that home to Montana". Bob and Barbara own and operate the Pepper Box Ranch on the West Fork of the Bitterroot and are Five Valley's Chapter members. The sign on the Hummer display announced "Play the Slots at the Hilton and You Could Win This Hummer". You could also buy raffle tickets to qualify for a win. This is how the Reno Hilton, SCI and Hummer worked together to support our hunting organization. Bob and Barbara did their part by playing the game and buying tickets. When the game was over and the winner announced the Battersons had WON! After some discussion, as to who bought which ticket, Barbara had her name on the ticket, Bob had the keys in his pocket, and the Hummer came home to our own Montana. Bob has also won several new rifles at past SCI functions. So when it's time to support our local December 11, 1998 fund raiser in Missoula and the 1999 SCI Convention in January I plan to be there "playing the game". My ace in the hole will be - I'm going to have Bob pick my tickets!

**FACTOID**

There are 285 SCI national members not affiliated with a chapter in Montana who reside in Montana. One hundred thirteen of those live in western Montana. Those 113 were sent an invitation to join our chapter and to attend our banquet as well as a membership application and flyer describing the banquet.

**Mountain Goat Survey**

The FWP did a spring helicopter mountain goat count in areas 240 and 250 of the Bitterroot. It had been some time since a survey had been taken due to lack of funds. The Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association helped with a \$2000 grant. The survey cost was about \$4000. Hunter harvest in the Canyons of the Bitterroot last year was only six goats of the 14 permits according to FWP Biologist Lyn Nielsen who also said that the hunter harvest of goats in the Bitterroot canyons is "almost immaterial". He also said the increase in mountain lion harvest was a factor of the apparent goat increase. This information was taken from an article in the "Bitterroot Wildlife Newsletter of the RCF & WA.

<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Billys</u>	<u>Nannies</u>	<u>Kids</u>
North Fork	0	0	0	0
Trapper Creek	17	8	4	5
South Fork	0	0	0	0
Trapper Creek	12	3	7	2
Chaffin Creek	10	7	2	1
Tincup Creek	5	4	1	0
L. Rock Creek	9	1	5	3
Rock Creek	5	2	2	1
South Fork	0	0	0	0
Lost Horse Creek	10	4	5	1
Lost Horse Creek	4	1	1	1
North Fork	0	0	0	0
Lost Horse Creek	1	1	0	0
Roaring Lion Creek	17	6	8	3
Sawtooth Creek	8	3	5	0
Blodgett Creek	18	3	10	5
Fred Burr Creek	5	1	3	1
Mill Creek	13	5	6	1
Bear Creek	6	3	2	1
Sweathouse Creek	1	1	0	0
Big Creek	12	4	5	3
Kootenai Creek	12	4	5	3
Bass Creek	9	4	5	3
Sweeney Creek	8	2	5	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>31</b>

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**Guest Speaker**

**Tim Dobson** from SCI national will attend our fundraiser. Tim is Chapter Development Coordinator for SCI. Tim will give a short talk and man our membership table for us.

**BANQUET TICKETS**

## BIG HOLE BATTLE FIELD

Our illustrious president Jon Wemple called on his cell phone today to let me know he was driving through Butte with a 5 point bull in the back of his truck.

Now Jon knows that in 30 some years of hunting elk I've never gotten one that I would even hang on the back side of my barn. He then proceeds to tell me that he and hunting buddy Bill Everett both got bulls after **one** full day of hunting, along with two North Dakota hunters who also took two bulls.

If you can imagine the gall, Jon goes on by telling me I should have seen the pickup with all four of those field dressed bulls in the back at once! They just drove up to them and loaded em up.

I'm not sure why I wasn't taken along, probably just an oversight. *Ed.*

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# 1998

## banquet/fundraiser

This years banquet will be greater than ever. The auction, silent auction, and raffles will have wonderful items for all to bid on and tickets for the numerous raffle items will be available as well. The list is growing as this goes to press. There will be hunting and fishing trips from Alaska to Mexico. Original art work, beautiful bronzes, prints by numerous famous artists as well as original paintings. Hunting knives, show knives, custom SCI weather vane, gorgeous jewelry, a beautiful hunting dog puppy, dinners, weekend stays, custom taxidermy certificates camping and hunting gear and even your own 1/12th scale hunting cabin. Hundreds of items all donated for the future of hunting and wildlife. Bring your check books because I know there will be something for everyone. Plus a great dinner and a fun time as well.

## BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets for this years banquet/fundraiser can be purchased by calling 1(800)650-4868 or by contacting one of the board members. The earlier you get your tickets the better for us. It will help us in planning the evening. Ticket prices are \$25 each or \$40 per couple. Bring your friends as this banquet is for all who would like to attend. Help us make this banquet a great success.

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