



Five Valleys Chapter

Safari Club International

Summer 1996

Issue 1

Western Montana Home to New SCI Chapter

Last fall SCI polled the existing members of western Montana to determine the level of interest in forming a new chapter. In January and February of this year, during huge snowstorms, several members met and decided a chapter should be organized.

We now have approximately 40 members and activities are being organized. This first edition of our newsletter is one method of keeping our

First Meeting a Success: Grizzly Reintroduction is Primary Topic

Our Chapter held its first membership meeting on June 12 at the Victor Steakhouse, with about 40 members and guests in attendance. Many door prizes were awarded and a raffle for a 30-06 raised some much needed funds for the chapter.

In addition to a great dinner, we listened to presentations by opponents and proponents to the reintroduction of Grizzlies to the Bitterroot Selway. Proposed alternatives include:

- No reintroduction at all
- Reintroduce Grizzlies but let them survive on their own with no change in other regulations
- Reintroduce Grizzlies and ban any activities which might interfere with their survival or movement through corridors to other bear populations
- Reintroduce Grizzlies but eliminate those Bears which do not stay in the wilderness

A flyer in this newsletter asks your opinion on this issue. Please respond and assist us in forming an opinion for our chapter.

members informed of past and future activities.

Our chapter was organized for people of all ages who are interested in local conservation and hunting issues. Please read the message from our President Jon Wemple, and review the other articles. Contact one of the directors with any comments, suggestions or to volunteer to serve on a committee.

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In Search of a Logo

Help! We need a logo for the Five Valley Chapter to use on our letterhead and newsletter.

The National Logo is the lion and shield (featured on the front cover of our newsletter). We would like to see something that will represent the Five Valleys theme or multiple animals from various continents since SCI is a worldwide organization.

Contact one of the directors with any of your ideas.

President's Address

Jon Wemple

In my first address to our chapter I would like to thank all members for their support of our new organization. Additionally, I want to commend an extremely dedicated board for their individual efforts in this crucial organizational period of the chapter.

Safari Club now has a voice in western Montana. An important fact to remember when discussing your participation with Safari Club International Five Valley Chapter is that 85-90% of the funds we generate stay right here for our own discretionary use. While National Headquarters combats our adversaries on a grand level, our responsibilities are focused locally.

Many members have addressed key issues in our area that may require immediate attention. Please participate by attending our scheduled events and meetings so that your input and concerns can be of help. Also, you can support our chapter by recommending friends to join with us, as strength comes in numbers.

Our cause is a good one and we all know this. Let's not forget that our key role in conservation is continually jeopardized by ill-informed individuals and organizations. To delineate their claims is why we are here and that is why you are sincerely appreciated for being part of our cause.



14 year old Russell Smith with his 6'8" Black Bear from Vancouver Island, BC

Featured Hunt: Musk-Ox Hunt a Dream Come True

Jim Weatherly

I have admired the musk-ox with their long hair and graceful horns for years. After reading an article in the Boone and Crocket magazine I decided to book a hunt for March 1997.

I visited with Fred Webb in Reno, Nevada during the FNAWS convention to book a 1997 hunt, when he informed me two people had cancelled and I could take a discounted hunt in March of this year instead.

I committed to a hunt and returned to Missoula with less than three weeks to prepare. I began purchasing clothes and equipment, degreased my 30-06 and departed for the Arctic in early March.

We stayed overnight at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories in a warm hotel with -25 Fahrenheit temperatures. The next morning we flew to a small Eskimo village called Coppermine, NWT. We landed at 11:00 am and by 2:00 pm I was fully dressed, licensed, and headed across the ice on the Coronation Gulf. I rode in a kamatik (wooden sled) tied to a snowmobile with 80 feet of rope. The seven hour trip to our first camp spot was unbelievably cold and rough. I was concerned about sleeping in a single wall tent with no heat. But after a hot meal I spent a very comfortable night in an arctic sleeping bag.

The next morning we loaded our camp on the sled and headed for Musk-Ox country. We saw a few lone bulls which were small. About noon my guide, Charley Bolt, spotted a herd with 15 bulls. We were able to approach within 175 yards for a shot.

The bull I harvested has long hair that hangs to the ground and a thick undercoat of wool-like hair. We camped overnight and spent the next day returning to Coppermine.

The prehistoric animal I harvested is a trophy I will always cherish. I highly recommend Fred Webb as an outfitter for a Musk-Ox hunt.

Editors Note: We would like to print a hunting story by more of our members in each newsletter. Please submit your stories to Russ Smith along with pictures for future editions.



Outfitter Russ Smith with clients and four 1996 Russian Brown Bears

Sables Branch Created: Education is Fundamental Goal

Bonita Smith, Montana Sables Rep.

The five Valley SCI membership has recognized the importance of being a complete SCI chapter and that means sponsoring our own local branch of Sables. I have been given the honor of chairing this project through our local SCI chapter as well as being the National Sables Representative for Montana. Let me tell you I have never enjoyed being a part of any organization more.

The main focus of Sables, of course, is to support the Local, National, and International goals of SCI. However, the Sables go a step further and have our own agenda as well. That agenda is **EDUCATION**.

On the local level Sables clubs sponsor programs which help educate the local public about conservation through projects like "Becoming an Outdoors Woman". On the national level, Sables help sponsor young hunter programs in conjunc-

tion with SCI's American Wilderness Leadership School at the AWLS Ranch in Jackson, WY. Internationally the Sables have had several very exciting projects going. The first being "Books For Africa" which is recycling old textbooks from our local schools to be used by children in Africa who have no books at all. The second is to provide many of the African countries with a small library of game management books, SCI record books, and SCI measurers video and measuring kit.

Top these exciting projects off with the camaraderie of women who share a love of the outdoors, whether they hunt or not, and who would want to miss all of this?! Not Me! And, I hope not you! See me at our August membership meeting if you would like to join in all this fun or call me at (406) 859-3948 for more information. See you in August!

A Note About Advertising

The following members are advertising their services through our newsletter. Please consider using their services when you have need of such skills. Our members are some of the most competent in their respective professions. Give em a try!

R. Jon Wemple
Chief Operating Officer
Tel (406) 642-3624
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Membership Summer Picnic:

BBQ, Meeting, Trap shoot and Rifle Competition Planned
Saturday, August 24th

Larry Pendleton of Lone Tree Outfitters has graciously donated the use of his rifle range, and picnic area for our use on August 24th. This will be potluck affair. Please bring a salad or dessert to share with others and meat of your choosing for your family as a barbecue will be available for cooking.



We will meet from 10:30 am until noon to discuss issues of concern to our members. We will then have several contests on the rifle, pistol, and shotgun range. Bring your favorite weapon and plenty of ammunition.

We will have shooting competition at ranges up to 400 yards.

We will send a flyer to remind you of this event in early August. Mark your calendars to attend and meet your fellow members.



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