November 2021

South Dakota



Bouhunter

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On the Front: Joey Kemnitz, Elk

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Editor's Note

Mike McKnight

As I write this I am about two weeks from my annual journey out west to spot and stalk mule deer. I was quite concerned about EHD after the email from GFP about pulling back tags in Harding, Meade and Perkins counties. After inquiry I was told that the situation was not as bad in the area I hunt and the hunt is on. I hope to have a story to share for the winter newsletter.

Speaking of stories to share (and to continue to sound like a broken record), we need material to keep this publication worthwhile to publish and read. It should not just be the obligation of the Board to send materials - is is the obligation of every member to contribute. It does not have to be long and I will publish what you send as long as it meets the objectives and ideals of SDBI. Pictures are welcome as well. Everyone carries a cell phone with them in the field and cell phone pictures these days are better than most cameras of old. Send them to us. We want to keep this publication going and need your materials.

We will be gearing up soon for another legislative session and I suspect another crossbow fight. WE WILL NEED EVERYONE'S HELP to continue to defeat efforts to expand crossbows beyond current allowed uses. Can we count on you to help? Just imagine what would happen if crossbows could be used by anyone and everyone during regular archery seasons. It is not a pretty picture so gear up for the fight.

Play hard and have fun!

Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is December 1

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :

Mike McKnight
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Vice-President's Voice

Ronn McDaniel, O.D./Joel Kemnitz

I asked my cousin Joel Kemnitz to write a story about his SD Hunt for Habitat archery elk experience. Just reading his story gets one's blood pumping. Hoping he has another story about his deer tag as well. The antelope chances with a bow are waning. An incredible experience, enjoy!

I received a phone call back in July, from the SD GFP with the outstanding news that I had won the "SD Hunt For Habitat" raffle. I typically purchase 1-10 tickets, but specifically remember standing over my kitchen trash can and thinking whether or not this is worth it. It was for sure and thankful that I bought some tickets. Once the media released the news and my name was announced as one of the 2 in state winners, my phone went crazy with calls and texts for the next couple weeks. I had won, an elk, deer and antelope tag, anywhere in the state and season, any weapon. I am an avid archery hunter and apply for almost every available archery license in the state, so needless to say I was going to archery hunt. Most everyone knows, you can't wait for SD if you want to elk hunt every year, so of course the archery elk tag was of course going to be my main focus. My son Austin had just finished his college internship and started a new job and my brother Paul Kemnitz had drawn a MT elk tag, so neither of my main hunting partners would be able to join me. I planned to be out for about 10 days to start, which would keep my wife happy by only missing one of my daughters volleyball games. I did have a couple friends coming out later in the week to do some calling once the rut picked up. I have been fortunate to arrow two smaller bulls in the Black Hills and in 2015, after a few days of trying to archery hunt during gun season, I shot a 330" bull with my rifle. As an archery hunter, and in my opinion, I would rather shoot a decent bull with my bow, than a 400" bull with a rifle...again, that's my opinion. I also was focused on calling one in and not sitting on a water hole even though it has been hot and dry throughout SD, and that tactic was working for other archery hunters. Sept 9th, 95°, I spent the first couple mornings and evenings focusing on the areas where we had done some scouting and found good elk numbers. Bulls were vocal in the early mornings and late evenings, but not very responsive to calls and it seemed the more mature bulls were still alone, and the satellite bulls had some cows rounded up, knowing it was just a matter of time before they'd loose them. I hunted with a good friend of mine from Rapid City, Lance VanZee, thru the weekend. We had some close encounters with big bulls who as always do the opposite of what you want, but by all means put on a show! I had a number of cows, spikes and smaller rag horn bulls close and the more mature bulls staying just out of archery range. Too many eyes, the wind would swirl, and the bugling would stop making it difficult to locate the herd, every elk hunter knows the feeling. About 5 days into the hunt I started to feel the impatience creep into the back of my mind, concerned if they were going to get busy with the hot weather, and wondering if I should wait a week and come back out. I had a good friend from Pierre, Eric Gregg come out to do some calling on the evening of the 14th. We located a few bugling bulls and moved in on one quickly under 100 yards, to what we figured was him and a group of cows. Eric was bugling, cow calling and raking trees, while I continued to creep closer. When the bull would in turn bugle



Vice-President's Voice (continued)

Joel Kemnitz

and rake a tree, or seeming move in our direction, I would sneak slowly closer, feeling like the hair on the back of my neck was growing rapidly with every bone chilling bugle. I slipped into a group of jack pines and thru a small opening out of an aspen patch to finally see the bull. 52 yards, I nocked an arrow, and raised my bow to draw, as he stepped away and out of our sight for the evening, it seemed like my heart hit the ground, he was a dandy, and all alone. I should have moved in quicker, I should have had an arrow ready, why didn't I cow call and stop him, it happened so fast. I could tell 5 other close encounters similar to that over the past few days where we were so close. Every other close encounter we had up to this point, had been surrounded and looming with cows noses and eyes to deal with. He seemed like he was in a rut daze, and we both agreed it was going to start getting good. The next morning Sept 14th, with the weather cooling, finally 50 ° and good cloud cover, Eric and I were back in that same area but couldn't locate any elk, possibly due to some heavy unwanted side by side and 4 wheeler traffic throughout the last few days. We moved a few miles west and were able to locate more elk. As we worked our way up the creek, bulls were bugling in every direction, and Eric made the comment, "you're going to arrow a bull this morning" I was confident, but kept silent with no response. The elk were all amongst a big area of 6-10' jack pines and broken timber, and we moved toward the closest bugle and crept our way into the zone before we made a call. Eric stayed back and made a couple soft cow calls, immediately 3 different bulls bugled, close, I mean close! I nocked an arrow and had a spike step out at 15 yards, with a big set of 6x6 horns right behind him in the jack pines, Eric continued to call working a bull to his left unaware of my exact location, while my bull turned to walk and I drew my bow. He had 2 steps to the opening, my heart was calm and I felt poised, another deep bugle rang out to his right, he answered, turned and walked away, I watched him split the 10' pines with what I figured was another 320-330" bull. Eric was only 25 yards to my right and after we regrouped, he said, sort of nicely, there was a nice 5x5 at 15 yards in front of him, "what are you doin over there, why didn't you shoot?" He understood after a quick story. Frustrated, but in awe of what we had both witnessed, we tried in vail to get back on any of those bulls. 8am, back at the pickup and a quick gulp of coffee, we moved around to where the elk were heading. Again, like a broken record, more bugles, a quick hike to get in position, and we are trying to impersonate elk. As we moved up the ridge, and Eric calling about 50 yds back, a bull popped out of a group of aspens 200 yds up the ridge, it was the same 5 pt he had at 15 yards. This ridge was unfortunately more open, no short pines, few scattered aspens, and some rock outcroppings. The bull quickly made the decision to commit to investigate our calling, and my only choice was to duck behind a roughly 10' wide x 5' tall rock. Eric continued to call just below the ridge from me and perfectly out of sight to draw the bull close. He covered 200 yards in seconds and was 25 yards straight up the hill behind the rock, shaking his horns, looking for a fight or some cows. I was ready, and made the decision to draw and shoot if I got the chance. He wasn't the biggest bull we had been close too, but he was bigger than anything I had arrowed, and had a lifetime friend calling for me, who was leaving for his own archery elk hunt in WY today, what an unreal hunt it had been already. The bull stepped to my left and then disappeared behind the rock, his horns peeked out at 10 yards, headed back to the right side of the rock, then were



Vice-President's Voice (continued)

Joel Kemnitz

gone. I couldn't look, in fear of getting pegged, Eric kept calling and the bull finally stepped out. I slowly ranged him at 38 yards, he saw me, in my mind I said, if he busts its ok, maybe we will get another chance. Just as he picked up my movement, Eric called and the bull looked down the ridge, I drew, the bull took a few slow steps, stopped and I released, the shot was good, and the bull bolted down the hill about 150 yards, and expired. I was overjoyed to say the least. Archery hunters especially understand, the emotions and thoughts that run through your mind when it all comes together. Quickly sending texts and pics to my circle of archery friends, my family and my Dad, Gary Kemnitz. Never have I been so close to elk every day, or had so many close calls, having a good friend with me, enjoying time in the beautiful Black Hills, made the experience forever memorable. I would like to thank the SD Game Fish and Parks, and also encourage everyone to buy a few "SD Hunt for Habitat" raffle tickets, it's a great cause that raises a tremendous amount of money for public lands in SD.





Secretary/Lobbyist Report

Dana Rogers

I hope this fall season finds each of you well and enjoying some awesome bowhunts! Already this September, I've spent a week in the 12,000' range in central Colorado and another week in South West Montana, chasing high country Mule Deer and Bugling Bulls. Unfortunately, my trips were mostly hiking and camping as "at the time of this writing", I haven't located a target animal inside my effective range.

Please be safe out there! Just after I left Colorado, a Colorado bowhunter was killed while bowhunting elk. Why Colorado runs archery and muzzleloader seasons that overlap is beyond me. Safety is always paramount.

We received quite a bit of good, positive feedback from the public on our recent summer petitions to SDGF&P. As you all know, each was summarily defeated by the Commission. The premise was the department wishes to have an overarching discussion about all license allocations later this winter. We SHOULD be involved in that and I hope each of you will keep your eyes out for opportunities to be involved and comment to GFP Staff and Commissioners on your wishes.

I have been dialoguing with Andy Lindbloom a Big Game Biologist with GF&P regarding elk permit allocations. SDBI is hoping to get a few more opportunities for bowhunters here in SD, based upon application increases and our overall FAR lower harvest success. That will be another opportunity for you to become engaged and involved.

We held a SDBI board Telecon in August and had Kevin Robling of SDGF&P as well as Zach Hunke, President of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation call in and discuss "issues". Secretary Robling was very generous with his time and went over many issues. Those notes were previously e-mailed out to the membership. Two things that "stuck" with me during Secretary Roblings comments that I think bear watching by SDBI. The "idea" that "possibly" going forward, Hunters wishing to bowhunt "may" be asked to use that as one of the options during the license allocation system that currently limits "firearms" hunters to TWO first choice options. NOTHING has been planned or finalized....YET.

The second was a split/dual issue he mentioned as being concerns. Cellular Trail Camera use and ATV/UTV use. Those subjects were NOT gone into in detail but I picked up on his comments as something to watch for and perhaps be involved in if the time comes.

Obviously, Crossbows within the normal archery only seasons is something most SDBI members are quite interested and concerned about. The general thought is that the bill will once again be brought forth to the legislature during the 2022 session. As you remember, this was oh so narrowly avoided last year. Please get ahead of this and speak to your local legislators NOW. VP Ronn McDaniel and I plan to work with Al Kraus of Black Hills ar-



Secretary/Lobbyist Report

(continued)

chery on an educational video on Crossbows once Al gets one of the latest models into his shop.

I've also received a few 'anecdotal' reports from archery antelope hunters on public land in Northwest South Dakota. The consensus is that the pressure from non-resident archers continues to be quite overwhelming. Our petition to create a Public Land NR draw was killed. If this is something the membership feels strongly about, we need to keep telling SDGF&P and the commissioners about it. If you don't communicate issues and concerns, nothing is going to be done. Remember, the vast majority of the commissioners are NOT Bowhunters, let along Public Land bowhunters. If they don't see it, or hear about it....

I hope you are all having an awesome season! While afield, please remember to Respect the Land, Respect the Landowner and Respect the Wildlife.





Two Surgeries Later I Am Back in the Woods! Convention Bow Winner

Arnie Veen

First I'd like to thank the SDBI for the bow that was given away at the 2021 SDBI convention, I was the lucky winner.

After winning the SDBI bow that was given away I had a decision to make as I was told I needed surgery to repair my rotator cuff and biceps tears on my left shoulder to cure the pain and restore the use of the shoulder. As a 68 year old bowhunter I was very concerned if I would be shooting a vertical bow or cross-bow in my future. To compound the coming surgery on my left shoulder my surgeon indicated due to issues in my right shoulder I would need surgery on my right shoulder on biceps tears to correct the pain and restore movement in that shoulder as well.

Getting back to the SDBI bow I had won, SDBI was kind enough to allow me to choose the money instead of a bow at this time. Thinking I would have those funds available to buy a cross-bow after surgery if needed so I could continue hunting in the future I chose the cash option.

After the April 16th surgery on the left shoulder and months of PT/rehab it looked like the shoulder was coming around nicely according to my PT therapist and surgeon, so now August 10th it was time to get the surgery on the right shoulder done as I reasoned if I was doing rehab on the left shoulder I might as well be rehabbing the right as well at the same time to cut down time before archery season.

The August surgery on the right shoulder went well and PT/rehab started as soon as possible to get both shoulders back into shape so I could see if a determined bowhunter could shoot a compound bow this fall. I am happy to say that as of the end of September I can draw my vertical compound hunting bow set at 52 lbs. with some difficulty a little more work is needed. Time to check the trail camera and set up my ladder stand in my favorite spot and get ready for a welcomed 2021 Archery season.

Looking back on a very long 6 months of PT/rehabbing of both my Left as well as my right shoulder I can see why it is necessary for 60+ Bowhunters that need to use a crossbow due to physical limitations and hope by doing so they can enjoy the outdoor experience for as long as possible. But for myself I will continue to use my Hoyt Carbon Defiant compound bow for as long as physically possible. I could not have regained the use of my shoulders without the surgeon who operated on my shoulders and the physical therapists who worked with and encouraged me. Now maybe some SDAA State Archery Tournaments in the 2022 season, I think I will be looking forward to those after missing the 2021 SDAA tournaments and friends I have met at many previous events along the way also as well as maybe a new Hoyt hunting bow from the SDBI 2021 convention.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation



Mike McKnight

Have you ever heard of The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation? Chances are if you took bowhunter education you probably heard at least a passing mention. This topic was one of my favorites when I taught bowhunter education and in my view an important concept for all bowhunters to understand.

The Model is a set of principles that has guided wildlife management and conservation decisions in the United States (and Canada) for over a hundred years. The Model rests on two basic principles, (1) fish and wildlife are for the non-commercial use of citizens, and (2) should be managed such that they are available at optimum population levels forever. The Model has been widely accepted by wildlife professionals, incorporated into U.S. state agencies, and endorsed by professional organizations and teaching institutions.

The core principles of the Model are based on the following:

Public Trust

In the Model, wildlife is held in the public trust which means that fish and wildlife are held by the public in trust through state and federal governments. Though an individual may own the land upon which wildlife resides, that individual does not own the wildlife. The wildlife and fish are owned by all citizens. With origins in Roman times and English common law, the public trust doctrine has at its heart the 1842 US Supreme Court ruling Martin vs. Waddell.

Elimination of Markets for Game

Commercial hunting and the sale of wildlife is prohibited to ensure the sustainability of wildlife populations. This principle holds that unregulated economic markets for game and non-game wildlife are unacceptable because they privatize a common resource and lead to declines. Privatization of wildlife is also at odds with the public trust doctrine.

Allocation of Wildlife by Law

Wildlife is allocated to the public by law, as opposed to market principles, land ownership, or other status. Democratic processes and public input into law-making help ensure access is equitable. This is why your voice is important to GFP and the legislature.

Wildlife Should Only be Killed for a Legitimate Purpose

Under the Model, the killing of game must be done only for food, fur, self-defense, and the protection of property (including livestock). In other words, it is broadly regarded as unlawful and unethical to kill fish or wildlife (even with a license) without making all reasonable effort to retrieve and make reasonable use of the resource.



The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (continued)

Wildlife is Considered an International Resource

As wildlife do not exist only within fixed state or national boundaries, effective management of these resources must be done internationally, through treaties and the cooperation of management agencies.

Science is the Proper Tool for Discharge of Wildlife Policy

The Model recognizes science as a basis for informed management and decision-making processes. This tenet draws from the writings of Aldo Leopold, who in the 1930s called for a wildlife conservation movement facilitated by trained wildlife biologists that made decisions based on facts, professional experience, and commitment to shared underlying principles, rather than strictly interests of hunting, stocking, or culling of predators. If you haven't ever read "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold do yourself a huge favor and read it now.

Democracy of Hunting

This tenet is inspired by Theodore Roosevelt's idea that open access to hunting would result in many benefits to society. This tenet supports access to firearms and the hunting industry, of which much funding for conservation is derived. This is where Pittman-Robertson funds come in to play along with other sources of revenue generated by the money we all spend.





Colorado Mile High Mule Deer

Dana Rogers

The first week of September found me traveling to a VERY hard to draw Archery Mule Deer Unit in Central Colorado. The country was absolutely stunning at 12,000' and I'd highly recommend everyone do a hunt like this at least once in their lives. I learned a LOT about what my capabilities are and also, many things that I would do differently on any future backpack high country mule deer trips.

I spent a week in several different spots, bouncing between access points and very rugged 2 tracks to get as far up as I could before loading my pack to spend a day or two in each location. Colorado has a TON of ATV, UTV, Dirt Bike and Mountain Bike 'users' in their national forests. That is something I definitely failed to anticipate at the level I encountered. There's nothing quite so deflating as hiking 2 miles back from the "trailhead" and encountering Rocky Mountain moto cross aficionados or the day I found myself smack dab in the middle of an Iron Man type Mt Bike race.

I was continually reminded that our National Forests are "multi-use". I only ran into a few elk and deer bowhunters in the back country, but I probably encountered well over 50 side by sides and another 100 motor bikes and mountain bikes during the week. If I had it to do over, I'd have definitely waited until AFTER Labor Day.

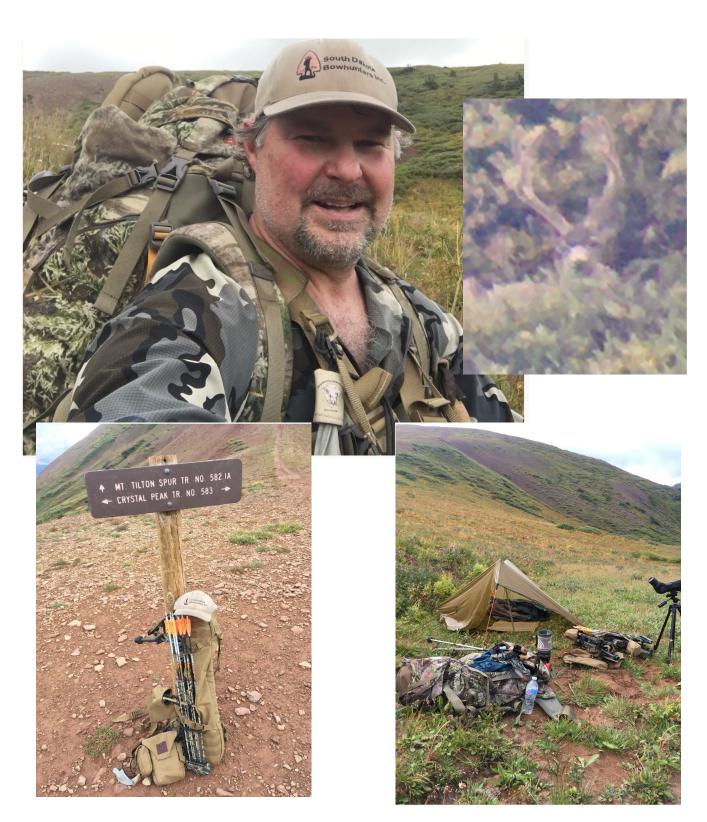
Lessons learned for the next time! Having burned 12 points on this unit for an archery mule deer tag, I came in with a certain standard on the type of buck I was looking for. On opening morning, I glassed up a nice tall and heavy 3x3 with brow tines. In hind sight, I should have stalked him and attempted to take him. He wound up being the best buck I encountered on the entire week long trip. That's the way it goes with bowhunting in the back country. I located several mule deer and lesser bucks but the heavy 3x3 I glassed on opening morning wound up being the best one I saw the entire week.

Bowhunting is a challenge, particularly on public land in the high country. I highly recommend it at least once in every bowhunters lifetime. The scenery was fantastic and there are opportunities for adventurous bowhunters that just don't exist here in South Dakota. I hope every SDBI member is having a great season. Always remember, Respect the Land, Respect the Landowner and Respect the Wildlife.



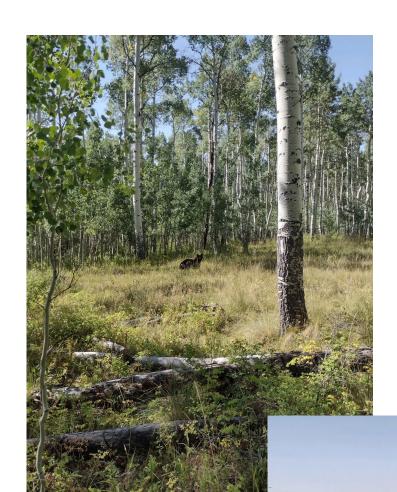
Colorado Mile High Mule Deer (continued)

Dana Rogers



Pictures!

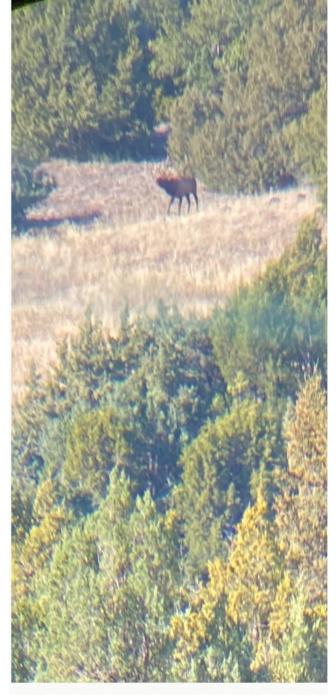
Justin Kubesh



Pictures!

Justin Kubesh





Smoked Elk Meatloaf Recipe!

Megan Biel

This is a favorite at our house. My very picky daughter loves it!

Everyone wants the end of the meatloaf, because who doesn't love that crunchy outside? To save us from fighting over the ends, I started making individuals mini loaves so that each person gets their own perfectly smoky outside layer and tender, juicy inside. Plus lots of delicious meatloaf sauce smothering each loaf. It can be oven baked or made on the smoker, but the smoker is definitely preferred for that delicious extra layer of flavor. Plus it's nice to not have to heat up the oven in the summer! These make pretty large servings, but we don't complain about that!



Smoked Elk or Venison Mini Meatloaves

2 lbs ground elk or venison

1 lb ground pork (sausage is fine)

1 box pork stuffing mix (other flavors work too, but this is a favorite)

1 cup water

1 egg

1 Tbsp spicy mustard

1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce

1 Tbsp minced garlic

1 tsp onion powder

Salt

Pepper

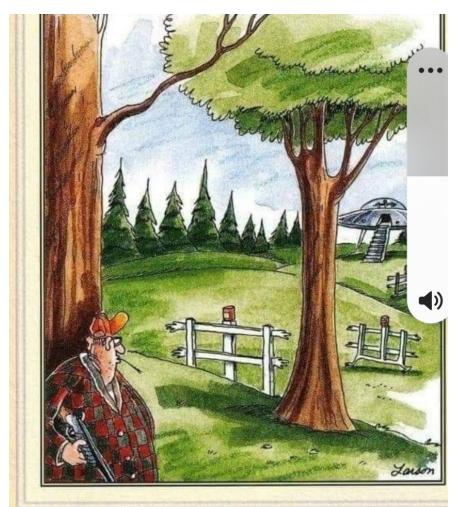
Sauce 1 cup ketchup 2/3 cup brown sugar Black pepper

Heat smoker or oven to 350 degrees. Mix all meatloaf ingredients together by hand. Divide into 8 equal portions. Shape each portion into a small loaf, making sure to flatten the

Secretary/Lobbyist Report

tops a bit so the sauce stays on top. Place the loaves on a greased sheet pan. For easier cleanup, line the sheet pan with aluminum foil and grease the foil. Smoke or bake the loaves until browned on the outside and meaty cooked through, about 30 minutes depending on the thickness of the loaves. Resist opening the smoker and checking on them too much! That takes a lot of your heat and smoke flavor out of the smoker. Meanwhile, mix your sauce ingredients in an oven safe dish. Coat each loaf in sauce and leave the rest of the sauce on the smoker to give it even more flavor.

We like to make roasted potatoes and carrots or cheesy hash browns on the smoker with these.



The Zeonions came with the answers to many secrets of the universe. Vern, regrettably, came with thick glasses and his deer rifle.



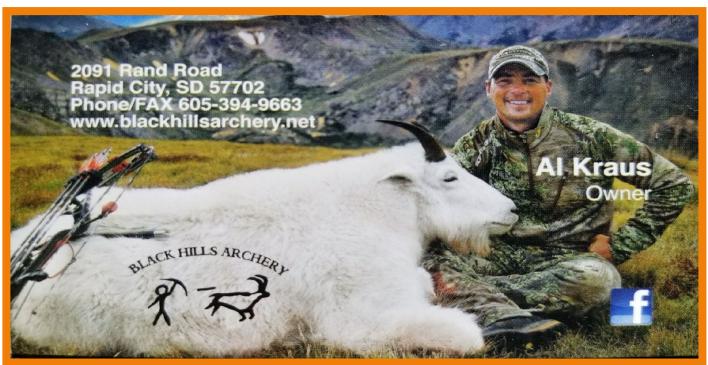
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- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a bowhunting organization interested in preserving and upgrading bowhunting in South Dakota.
 - South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a leader in the South Dakota Bowhunters Education Program.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a leader in fighting the anti-hunting movement in South Dakota.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc is a strong lobbyist working in the best interest of Bowhunting.

South Dakota November 2020 Bouldhuyn Lear

What benefits would I gain by becoming a member of the South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.

- A <u>VOICE</u> to the GF&P Commission, GF&P Staff and the SD Legislature through SDBI.
 - A quarterly newsletter (shown top right) full of stories, pictures, and tips from SDBI members. This newsletter also keeps you up to date on bowhunting seasons and license availability. The satisfaction of knowing you have done your part to insure bowhunting future in our state just by joining.

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