

FRONT SIGHT

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Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

July 2009, Issue 7



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Meet Greg Traviss, our new website designer.
Check it out at www.midmichigansci.org

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Standing Committees

Chairmen are listed first

Annual Awards Banquet/Fundraiser - Tim Hauck, Don and Mary Harter, Kevin Unger, Bill Brown

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Education/AWLS - Scott Holmes, Dave Gloss

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Veterans' Hunts - Ben Benzing

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Public Relations - Terry Anderson

If you don't already receive "In The Crosshairs", a SCI communications, and would like to, just e-mail Nelson Freeman at crosshairs@safariclub.org to be placed on the list.

The **Front Sight** is the official publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International, keeping club members informed about local club activities, and encouraging and defining good sportsmanship. The **Front Sight** Magazine is published quarterly: January, April, July and October. Distribution 325+.

Check our own www.midmichigansci.org website for copies of the **Front Sight**, listing of events, and fundraiser auction items.

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SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting Type	Time	Location
July 6, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
August 3, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Harter's
September 14, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
October 5, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
November 2, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
December 7, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
January 4, 2010	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
January 29, 2010	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Big Buck Night	5:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Big Buck Night	7:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Dinner		
February 26, 2010	Hunter's Convention	2 - 10:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Casino
February 27, 2010	Hunter's Convention	10:00 a.m. - close	Soaring Eagle Casino



Don McMillan, championship turkey caller of Close Encounters Guide Service, demonstrating at our May meeting

Reservations required. Please call Maxine at 989-773-9042, ext. 119.



Message from your President

I recently returned from our May National SCI board meeting held in Washington DC. On Wednesday we attended an executive committee meeting, an open SCIF board meeting and later a reception at our SCI Washington office.

Thursday was Congressional Day and we all met with the congressmen from our local area. Mary and I along with Pat and Nancy Bollman met with Congressman, Dave Camp, who is a great supporter of our cause. We also met with someone from Senator Carl Levin's office for the first time. Most of the representatives everyone met with were receptive to our ideas. It was equally important that we talked with the members who may not agree with us to communicate our point of view. We went to the Hill to gain their support on these issues:

1. Polar Bear Legislation - H.R. 1054 to allow polar bears legally harvested prior to the Endangered Species Act listing in 2008 to be imported into the US. H.R. 1055 to allow the future import of sport hunted polar bears by amending the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
2. Conservation Easement Tax Incentives - H.R. 1831/S. 812. These bills make permanent an incentive for farmers and ranchers to voluntarily place land into conservation easements to help protect wildlife habitat.
3. Clean Water Restoration Act - S. 787
4. Firearms Fairness and Affordability Act - H.R. 510/S. 632. The legislation would move the bi-weekly excise tax payments to a quarterly basis like any other business. One out of every 20 jobs in this country is related to fishing, hunting, and wildlife related activities, goods and services, and stimulates 8% of all consumer spending.
5. FLAME Act H.R. 1414 to appropriate funds to fight large scale fires.
6. Farm Bill Appropriations - Ask congress to fully fund so that every eligible acre of critical habitat can be properly conserved.

Friday nearly every committee of SCI and SCIF scheduled meetings and we attended as many as we could.

Saturday was the Board of Directors meeting and elections which resulted in:

President:	Larry Rudolph
President Elect:	Kevin Anderson
Secretary:	Sven Lindquist
Treasurer:	John Whipple and other elections to be published in Safari Times.

Reelected were Larry Higgins, Director at Large and DuWayne Schuller, our Region 19 Representative.

These meetings were very valuable. We met many SCI members from around the world who are all working to promote, protect, and preserve our hunting heritage.

Hunt Often, Hunt Safe,

Don Harter

Don Harter, President



Don and Mary Harter outside Rep. Dave Camp's office in Washington D.C.

Editor's Comments

One of the suggestions I heard while in Washington D.C. with Don was to recycle your Safari Magazines and chapter publications by giving them to an interested non-member who might read them and join our organization or leave them in a doctor's or dentist's office where potential new members may see them and learn about us. Let's do all we can to recruit new members, young and old. Even if someone says they are too old to hunt, they should join us for support and to reminisce when they read our publications. My father enjoys reading my stories and he is almost 97.

As the number of hunters dwindle, so does our voice and voting power. We need to do all we can to protect our hunting rights. The more of us there are, the more power we have. If you have tried to purchase any ammunition lately and found none available, you can see that people are stocking up, not knowing what the future holds. Don't just sit back and think nothing will change. The majority of people voted for change.

And again, write your stories. If you enjoy reading about the hunts of others, others will enjoy reading yours. Your story can be told mostly in pictures if you don't care to write much. Someone once said, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Send me your recipes, also. It is nice to enjoy our harvests twice, once in the bush and again on the table.

Keep writing,

Mary J. Harter

Mary Harter



Pat and Nancy Bollman and grandchildren. Pat is Past President of National SCI, current finance/investment chairman of National SCI, and founder and first president of our Mid-Michigan Chapter in 1979.

Department of Natural Resources, March 11, 2009

Natural Resources Commission Votes to Expand Crossbow Hunting Opportunities

New crossbow regulations recently approved by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission are designed to expand hunting opportunities, retain existing hunters and recruit new hunters, and offer a way for some hunters to continue hunting when facing physical limitations.

Under the new regulations, crossbows may be used:

- by anyone 50 years of age or older during the Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 bow hunting deer season statewide.
- by any hunter age 12 and older during any hunting season in Zone 3 (southern Michigan), including the bow hunting season.
- during any season in which a firearm may be used, for both big and small game statewide.

Under the new regulations, 10- and 11-year-old hunters may not use a crossbow. Youth hunters must be at least 12 to use a crossbow.

A crossbow stamp will be required in addition to hunting licenses for those using crossbows. Stamps will be available at all license retailers starting March 15. The stamp, which is free, will help the DNR monitor and survey crossbow hunters over the next three years.

Crossbow hunters are required by state law to wear hunter orange while hunting. The DNR will pursue legislative changes to modify the hunter orange law for crossbow hunters.

Included in the regulations are limits on the velocity of the crossbow. Crossbows used for hunting are restricted to no more than 350 feet per second.

The regulations have a three-year sunset. Crossbow hunters will be surveyed over the next three years and regulations will then be reevaluated by the Department of Natural Resources and the NRC. Data will be collected that analyzes impact on the resource and the crossbow's potential to recruit or retain hunters. The data also will be analyzed to determine if crossbow use should be expanded further in the future.

The crossbow changes do not affect hunters with disabilities who are currently hunting under the authority of a DNR-issued crossbow permit.

The new regulations are designed to increase hunting opportunities in Michigan, especially in Zone 3, where the white-tailed deer population remains well above the DNR's desired population goal. The new regulations also will provide hunters with more choices to continue hunting if they have been injured, have a disability or other physical limitation that affects their ability to hunt.

For more information on hunting opportunities in Michigan, visit the DNR's Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

The DNR is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural resources for current and future generations.



Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

Crossbow FAQs



Who can hunt with a crossbow?

Anyone who is 12-years-old or older and has obtained a crossbow stamp can hunt with a crossbow during any season when a firearm is allowed, for big game or small game. In addition, anyone who is 50 years old may use a crossbow during the Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 archery deer season, with an archery license. And in Zone 3 (southern Michigan), anyone 12 and older can hunt with a crossbow during any hunting season as long as they have the appropriate licenses. Meanwhile, anyone who has obtained a crossbow permit because of a permanent disability can continue to use a crossbow.

Why is there total inclusion in just southern Michigan?

The Natural Resources Commission decided that the large deer population and the preponderance of private land in southern Michigan made it the best place to allow the widespread use of crossbows for evaluation while minimizing conflicts among hunters and without putting the resource at risk.

Why can't I use a crossbow in the northern part of the state during the late archery deer season?

The NRC thought that the large migration of deer gathering in wintering yards might subject deer to over-harvest if crossbows are widely adopted by hunters.

Why do I need a crossbow stamp?

The requirement of a crossbow stamp, which will be available free of charge beginning March 15 from all license vendors, is designed to help the Department of Natural Resources build a data base to conduct surveys. The surveys will help determine whether crossbows are effective in helping recruit new hunters, retain older hunters, and whether they increase the harvest rate of deer. Results of the surveys will help wildlife officials determine whether the use of crossbows should be further expanded or restricted. Hunters already hunting under a DNR-issued crossbow permit will not need to get a crossbow stamp.

Why can't 10- and 11-year-olds use crossbows?

The NRC thought that there might be potential safety issues involving very young hunters using crossbows, which, unlike conventional archery gear, are pre-cocked and loaded. The DNR is optimistic that hunter safety education programs will incorporate crossbows into the curriculum.

Are there any restrictions on crossbows?

Yes, hunters are limited to crossbows that shoot bolts at no more than 350 feet per second.

Is it true that deer hunters must wear hunter orange when using a crossbow?

Yes. State law is very specific that hunters must wear hunter orange unless they are hunting wild turkeys, waterfowl or with a bow and arrow. Crossbows do not meet the definition of "bow and arrow" in the current state law. The DNR will seek some modification of state law on this issue.

Why are these regulations valid for just three years?

The Natural Resources Commission passed these expanded crossbow regulations on a trial basis. They have directed the DNR to evaluate the use of crossbows on hunter recruitment, retention, and effectiveness.

Honoring our Veterans at Mid-Michigan Chapter's Hunter's Convention

Friday, February 27, 2009
Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan



*Veteran Award Recipients - Dave Gloss
(Chapter Board Member),
Ron Porter, and Ron Browning*



*Ben Benzing, Chapter Veterans Hunts Chairman,
presenting Don Harter with a Certificate of
Appreciation from Chapter 18 of the
Disabled American Veterans because of our
Chapter's commitments to veterans.*



*Special recognition was given to Velmer Stevens,
a World War II. Army Medic who aided
Dachau after their liberation.*



Award's Night Winners

February 27, 2009



Roger Froling receiving a trophy for 30 years as Chairman of Donations



North American Introduced Major Awards Winner, Cindy Eldred



South Pacific Major Awards winner and Board Member and Outfitters Donations Committee Member, Brad Eldred



African Major Awards winner,
Dr. Terry Braden



Male Hunter of the year, Larry Higgins and wife, Cindy,
booking a hunt with Mike McCrave from Scotland



Female Hunter of the Year and chairman of the
Chapter Trophy Awards, Joanne Witte



Randy Raymond, Bow Hunter of the Year



Youth Hunter of the Year, Andrew Sackett

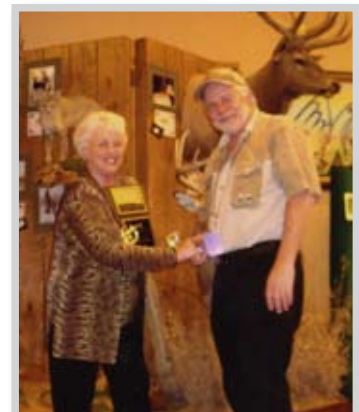


North America Major Awards Winner,
Tim Torpey with wife, Charity

**Next year's Mid-Michigan
SCI Hunter's Convention**
will be held February 26 & 27, 2010
back at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.
Mark your calendars now!



Keith Davis, Muzzleloader Hunter of the Year



Tim Becker, Handgun Hunter of the Year



Pictures from our 30th Annual Hunter's Convention February 28, 2009



Owen Eldred and Nan Riley, chairman of our Handicapped Youth Hunts



Board Member Mark Marlette, and wife Lisa



Board Member and Outfitters Donations Committee member, Ed Peters and wife, Lois



Region 19 Representative, DuWayne Schuller and wife, Jean



Rev. Dennis Bromley of the United Methodist Church in Clare giving the benediction



Merle Shephard, National President of SCI with a few remarks for our audience



Board Member and Public Relations Chairman, Terry Anderson and wife, Phyllis



Inja and Lance Norris, Past National SCI President, and Pat Bollman, Past National SCI President, current National SCI finance/investment chairman and first president of our Mid-Michigan Chapter



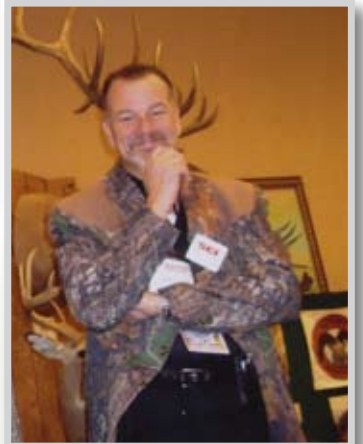
Our chapter treasurer and member of the fundraising committee, Bill Brown



Board Member and Education/AWLS chairman, Scott Holmes and wife, Sheri



Board Member, Past President, and Fundraiser Chairman, Tim Hauck



Vice President, Big Buck Night Chairman, and member of the Fundraiser Committee, Kevin Unger



Board Member, John Ayris, chairman of our Chapter's Shooting Sports



Some of our lucky winners at our 30th Annual Hunter's Convention



Briefcase winner, Jerry Morey



Other happy winners



Snapshots of some of the many in attendance





More snapshots of those who attended the fundraiser



Thank You!

to our Fund Raising Sponsors for our Hunter's Convention

Our Mid-Michigan Safari Club International Hunter's Convention held February 27 and 28 at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant was a huge success. Our profits will help us to continue to promote various programs in conservation, education, and humanitarian services and to aid in the preservation of our hunting heritage. A big thank you to all of those that participated in our event and especially our fund raising sponsors who are:



Brenda and Jeff Poet from Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare, displaying a 4 x 4 at our Annual Hunter's Convention



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Many thanks to the members/businesses who donated funds that went directly to help defray the costs of our event.



Leopard - A Dream Come True

by Mary Harter

Dick and Jackie Stockmar from our chapter had hunted with Johan and Human (pronounced e-man) Pieterse and invited us to their home to meet them. While at Stockmar's, appreciating the beautiful leopard Jackie had harvested with them, we booked a royal hunt in Tanzania. Last October, we went to Tanzania to hunt.

This story is specifically about hunting for a leopard which was the number one animal I wanted on this 21 day hunt with Johan and Human Pieterse, through Kulungu Safaris.

The first day in camp which was in the Selous Game Reserve, the largest game reserve in the world, we spent driving around checking out old leopard and lion baits and looking for places to put new ones. We were hunting in Block L-1 which consisted of 100,000 acres. That evening we heard hyenas and a leopard that came near camp because of the meat of a beautiful zebra that Don had shot. We used the meat for bait. We had two armed guards patrolling the camp at night so even though we heard lots of animals every night we didn't worry.

On the second day we set up a couple of new lion and leopard baits. The lion bait was hung a little lower to the ground so they could reach it. I shot an impala which we also used for lion and leopard bait. We checked all of the baits and saw lion tracks in the road - two females and a young male. No baits had been hit yet but we saw hundreds of

other wild animals some of which were zebras, warthogs, impalas, bushbucks, reed bucks, gemsboks, Liechtenstein hartebeests, Nayasa wildebeests, water bucks, kudus, cape buffaloes, sables, baboons, elephants, and lions. We saw lots of tracks in the trails. Many were of hyenas which Johan and Human called "the doctor" because a hyena takes care of the dead and ill.

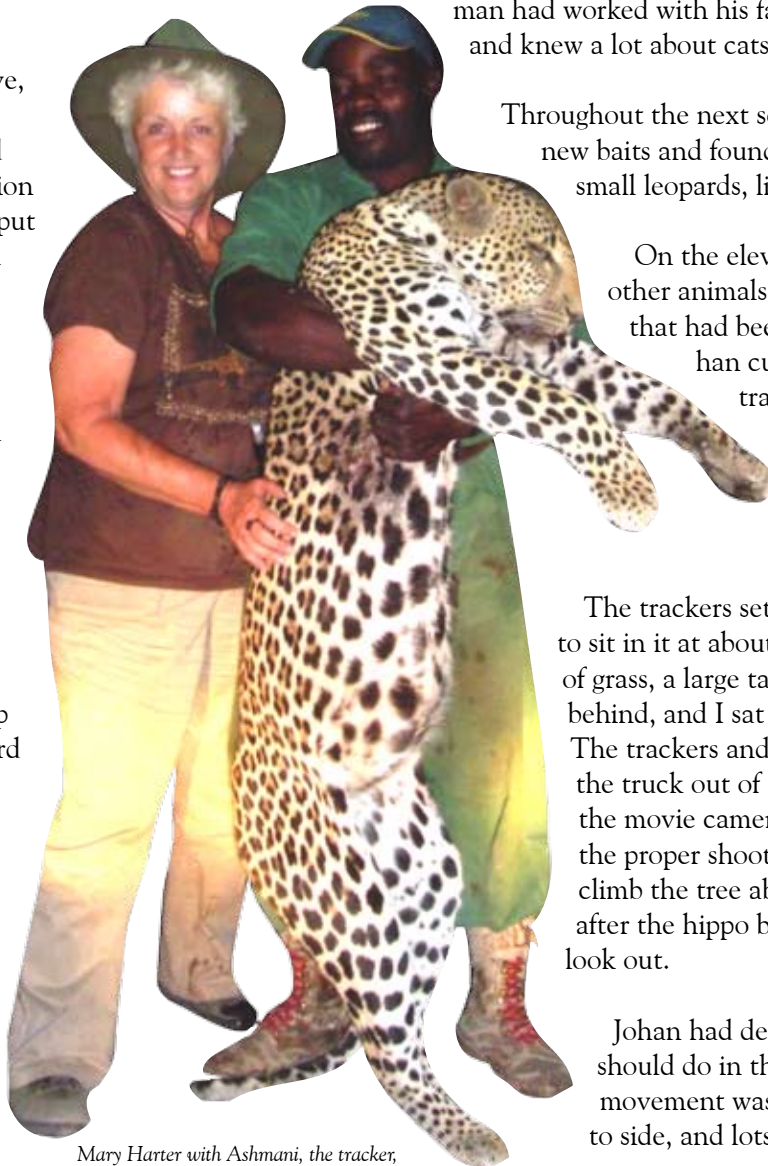
Johan had held a job in South Africa similar to our DNR officers and earned a reputation as a cat expert. Whenever anyone had a problem with a cat, Johan was called. Human had worked with his father since he was very small and knew a lot about cats, also.

Throughout the next several days we hung many new baits and found a few that had been hit by small leopards, lions, or hyenas.

On the eleventh day after hunting many other animals successfully, we found a bait that had been hit by a good leopard. Johan cut me a stick the length of the track to keep for good luck. We also spotted a lioness laying just inside the treeline and could hear lions in the distance.

The trackers set up a blind and we went out to sit in it at about 4 PM. The blind was made of grass, a large tarp over the top, a blanket behind, and I sat between Don and Johan. The trackers and Human drove off to wait in the truck out of sight. Johan had a spot for the movie camera and my gun was tied up in the proper shooting position should a leopard climb the tree about 70 yards in front of us after the hippo bait. Don had a peep hole to look out.

Johan had described exactly what we should do in the blind. No talking, the only movement was to be back and forth, not side to side, and lots of cough drops to prevent the



Mary Harter with Ashmani, the tracker, helping display her Tanzanian leopard





standing up for about four hours. According to a study done by the Serengeti National Park, lions actually kill about 30% of what they eat and scavenge for the other 70%. Hyenas kill 60 to 70% of what they eat and 30 to 40% is scavenged carrion of others. You would think this would be just the reverse.

At about 7:30 p.m., Johan quietly called on the radio for the truck to come and get us. The truck pulled right up to the door of the blind and we quickly transferred to it. Then we could

urge to cough. If a leopard came, Johan would touch my shoulder to indicate it was a large male and that I should take a shot when it would be in the proper position. He also described how a lioness had approached an earlier blind and reached in with her paw to feel what was inside. He wanted us to tell him if a lioness did this to us and I assured him that I certainly would!

Soon a lioness and two cubs almost full grown came and laid to the left of the bait. I could peek out around my gun barrel and see them. They made a lot of yowling noises and more came in. I couldn't see them all but Don could. Some laid between us and the blind about 25 yards away. At least eight came in but none went to the bait and all were females and cubs of different ages. When they yowled you could just feel it and I think my hair was standing on end. It was hot in the blind and I was soaked with perspiration from head to toe. I kept wiping my palms on my knees to keep them dry in case I would get a chance to shoot. Don wanted a lion and I wanted a leopard but if a huge male lion was in my sights, we had decided I would certainly pull the trigger. I was sucking cough drops like mad to keep from coughing or making any noise.

Johan had told us that lions and leopards rest for about 20 hours per day and hunt and eat for about four hours. Elephants eat for about 20 hours per day and sleep

breathe deeply, cough if needed, and move freely. Human saw 8 or 9 pairs of eyes as they approached to pick us up. It had been dark for about an hour. Only lions had come in but you never know who is coming to dinner.

On the next day as we approached a lion bait, Don saw one in the distance. As we got out of the truck we could see a lion and lioness and they decided to sit near the bait that evening. We put out three more baits from my cape buffalo I had shot the previous day. Johan and Don sat out on an old termite mound for the evening but the wind was wrong and nothing came in.

On day fourteen we saw two lioness laying in a newly burnt off area. They really showed up against the charred earth. We hung another bait and checked all the remaining ones.

On day sixteen while walking back from a long track for buffalo, one of the guides walked past a leopard bait and found that the cape buffalo leg had been hauled clear up on the limb. It must have been a big leopard and again Human cut me a stick the size of the track to carry for good luck.

The trackers, Amos, Chiva, and Ashmani, with Human went to tear down the old blind and set it up again about



Eventually Johan touched my shoulder meaning the leopard had arrived, was the one we wanted, and I could shoot him when I was ready. I heard him eating and could see movement of the branches covering the meat, but I couldn't see him clear enough to take a shot. Oh my gosh!! My chance of a lifetime and I can't see him clearly! Several very anxious slurping, chewing, rustling of leaves moments and a branch that was covering the meat falls. I could see the leopard's head and the outline of his back. Oh, is he crouching or standing?!! So many thoughts in just a few seconds. He seemed to be contently eating so I carefully picked my spot and squeezed the trigger of my .375 H & H with 180 grain Barnes XXX bullets.

A YOWL, A THUD AS HE HIT THE GROUND, RUSTLING OF THE TALL GRASSES AS HE MOVED THROUGH THEM, THREE GUGLING SOUNDS AND THEN NO MORE.

Johan called for the truck and trackers and asked me about my shot. Don and I were both sure he lay out there dead but an injured leopard is nothing to be near. Johan joined the trackers when they arrived and slowly they worked through the tall grasses. The trackers carried spears. I held my breath several times and worried and wanted them to find him soon and dead. There was no blood trail. From the blind Don directed the trackers to where we last heard the leopard and finally Johan said, "Here he is!"

We were all jumping for joy and the trackers came to help us out of the blind. What celebrating and dancing and much picture taking. With the help of Ashmani, I did hold the leopard on my shoulders long enough for a few very special pictures but boy was he heavy!

We loaded the leopard in the truck and when we neared camp we stopped and I shot in the air three times (as instructed) to signal our successful return. The trackers decorated the truck with leaves and branches and as we approached camp the whole staff came out to greet us. I was officially Mama Moja (mama #1) and they were having a Kabubi-Kabubi (celebration). They carried me on their shoulders into camp. They had drums, were decorated, some with white faces, and sang and danced. One of the trackers, Ashmani, did his crocodile dance plus several others. They wrapped Ashmani in a blanket and carried him in the lodge where we all danced and sang. They are truly happy when we are successful. We felt very fortunate.

75 yards from the bait. It took about an hour. They recovered the bait with leafy branches to keep the buzzards away. We hunted other animals until 4 p.m. and then quietly went back and sat in the blind.

Again, Johan sat on my right and Don on my left, each with guns. My gun was tied up in position and Johan had the movie camera pointed at the bait ready to be turned on. As we quietly sat, we heard birds on top of the blind, little animals scurrying around outside the blind, and our senses were on high. Everything seemed louder and more intense. I was soaking wet again. Even my scalp was perspiring. Water ran down both sides of my face and dripped off my chin as it was probably at least 100 degrees outside and much warmer in the blind. I kept my palms on my knees to help keep them dry. I could hear my heart pound like a base drum.

A slight breeze felt good but at first went towards the bait. Soon it turned and was in our favor and then it was still.

"Making Wishes"

Tony Semple Foundation for Hope

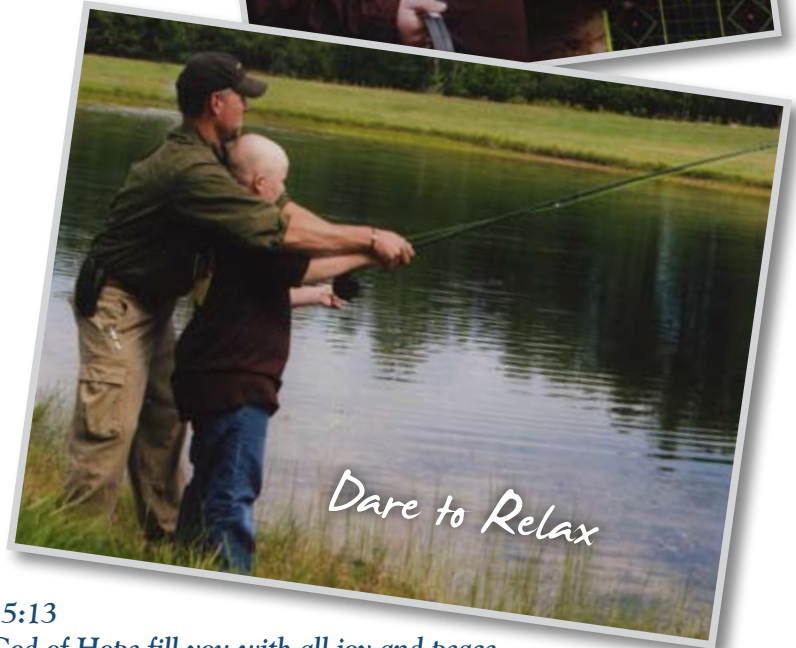
About Tony

The Tony Semple Foundation for Hope was established by former Detroit Lions offensive guard Tony Semple. The mission is carried out with the same passion and intensity that Tony played with for nine years in the NFL.

Our Mission is to facilitate inspiring, meaningful outdoor experiences for youth and young adults who suffer life-threatening or life-altering medical conditions. We value, promote and preserve the heritage of the "Outdoor Sports Person".

Participants need to meet the following criteria:

- Citizen of the United State or Canada
- Must meet a minimum age requirement of 10 and no more than a maximum age of 25 at the occurrence of the Outdoor Adventure
- Two different certified letters from a physician confirming the life-threatening or life-altering condition
- Request approved by parent or guardian
- No previous hunting or fishing Outdoor Adventure granted



Romans 15:13

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Come True"



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If you or someone you know are interested in applying for an Outdoor Adventure, please download an application from our website, www.tonysempelfoundation.org or call member Nan Riley for more details! 989-866-2001

Elk Hunting in Colorado

by Joanne Witte

There were elk everywhere! What fun it was to round a corner and spot yet another majestic animal.

My husband, Larry, and I hunted trophy elk at North Rim Trophy Hunts near Hotchkiss Colorado from Sept 20, 2008, to Sept. 23, 2008. We both took very good bulls

We arrived at the Lodge on Sept. 19 to find that the water system was not functioning. "Oh, no not again," I thought.

To digress a little: It seems that Larry and I often have water trouble on hunting trips. On our first trip to Zimbabwe in 2001 and again in 2005 when we returned to the same camp one of us had to stand guard over the water valve to keep the staff from turning it off while the other was in the shower. The valve leaked while in operation so the staff was trying to save water, often to the detriment of the bather.

For four years we bear hunted in northern Saskatchewan at a remote camp in the bush. Water for drinking, tooth brushing, and cooking came from town but everything else was pumped from a nearby lake using a sump pump suspended on a ladder. An electrical line several hundred feet long powered the pump. There was so much sand coming out of the showerhead that you were exfoliated very efficiently. Periodically the toilet tank would get so full

of sand that it had to be dipped out by hand. Very often while soaped up in the shower the water would stop and the bather would have to yell for help. Someone had to flip the breaker and get the pump working again. I learned to wash my hair first—very fast.

On another trip to Canada, the cistern was empty just when we were looking forward to much needed showers. Eventually the problem was taken care of and we were able to take our showers.

On our Muskox trip to the far North in Canada there was NO water for three days while we were hunting. We drank coffee from the creek in hopes that boiling the water made it safe to drink. This proved not to be the case for Larry. We were saved by wash/wipes and paper towels, which we always take on hunting trips.

On our trip to South Africa in 2008 the first day we arrived at Julius Gers beautiful Lodge they had no water due to frozen pipes from the below freezing temperatures the night before. I got up to use the bathroom in the middle of the night and when I turned on the tap—no water. I had a little trouble getting back to sleep. In the morning we found out that Julius had turned the pump off to prevent having broken pipes once again.

Now here we were in Colorado with no water. For the first time ever the Lodge was without water due to a broken water line. The lack of water affected the whole area and county employees were having difficulty locating just where the break was. We had to use bottled water for drinking, cooking, and tooth brushing. To flush the toilets we had pails of water from the creek. The kitchen was piled high with dirty dishes from several meals for 12 people. The cook didn't come to work the next day so the owner's wife cooked and washed the mountain of dishes. When the cook returned I teased her about quitting so she wouldn't have to do all those dishes. She was a good sport as well as a great cook.

By noon the next day there was water—the leak had been located and fixed. Of course, everyone claimed that Larry and I had caused the water problem due to our previous bad luck with water.

Now back to hunting: There were seven hunters, three were hunting management elk and four—including Larry and me—were hunting trophy elk. Larry and I each had our own guide. Mine was Jack Sampson who is from Houghton Lake, MI, and recently joined our chapter. Larry's guide was Mark LeValley, the owner. We chose North Rim because they could accommodate Larry's difficulty in walking.

The first morning Jack and I rode an ATV part way up the mountainside and then walked the rest of the morning. We saw lots of elk, but nothing I wanted to shoot. Occasionally we heard bugling but not often. Larry and Mark drove part way up the mountain and took their time walking to a blind. They didn't see anything shootable either.

Two of the management hunters, a husband and wife team from North Carolina, shot elk as they were leaving their blind for lunch. Their animals were huge and beautiful.

When we went back to the Lodge for lunch we found out we had water. Everyone was thrilled especially several guides who hadn't had a shower in several days.

After lunch and a rest we went back to the trophy area. It was about a 45-minute drive to get there. This time Larry's guide was Mike who had successfully guided the husband and wife team. Mark wanted to stay at the Lodge and make sure the water problem had been solved.

The 5,000-acre trophy area was fenced and consisted of thick oak brush, aspen, and sage. There were water holes distributed throughout and some two tracks. It was very hilly. Animals easily hid in the thick cover.

Jack and I heard a shot about 5:00PM and it was the other management hunter. He had a beautiful animal too. This was the first guided hunt for the two North Carolina couples—three of whom hunted. It was also the first time the non-hunting wife had joined her husband on a trip and she enjoyed it very much.

Larry and Mike spent part of the afternoon sitting on a hillside glassing for elk and did a little walking. They saw two good bulls but they were too far away to shoot. It poured rain for a short time so they sought shelter in a blind.

I saw fewer animals in the afternoon. We spotted two good elk in the creek bottom as we walked out at dark but it was too dark to get a good look so we decided to wait till the next day.

The next morning Jack and I sat in a blind. He said he didn't want to wear me out after all the walking we did the first day. Larry and Mike were in a blind about half a mile to the left of us.

Jack and I were overlooking a little meadow. One bull wandered through and presented a good shot but he wasn't big enough. Being the impatient person that I am,



Larry's Elk

Joanne and Larry Witte



I was tempted because it would have been an easy shot. About 600 yards away on the hillside we saw a very good bull. The brush was so thick we could only see parts and pieces at a time. We hoped he would move down into the meadow but he didn't. It was very frustrating.

At mid-morning we heard two shots that we decided must be Larry. Shortly thereafter Jack saw an elk drop and then he saw Mike and Larry looking for an animal. He said, "Should we go down there and help them? I saw just where the elk dropped." We ventured down and the distance was much longer than it had appeared in our binoculars. By the time we got there they had found the animal and were taking pictures. That was fun!

Larry told us the story later. His bull had come down the mountainside through the oak brush to water. Mike gently woke Larry up to tell him there was a huge bull just inside the brush. The bull was suspicious and after checking out the blind turned to go back up the mountain. Mike used a cow call to stop the bull in a little opening about 150 yards

up the hill. Larry's first shot hit oak brush and missed the bull. When the elk heard the shot he paused and turned so Larry shot him behind the shoulder while he was quartering away. The bull tipped over backwards into the oak brush. It took Larry and Mike some time to get to the bull because they had to circle through thick brush on game trails.

To load the animals they had a tractor with a big bucket. They carefully put the animal in the bed of a pick-up truck for the trip to town to the meat processor. Larry and Mike departed for town with his elk.

Jack and I went back to the blind and "my" elk was still on that hillside. We decided to try to get close enough for a shot. We got within 30 yards, one step at a time, and with the wind in our favor, the elk never knew we were there. Due to the thick brush I could not get a shot. More frustration! We debated about what to do. Should we try to spook him and get a quick shot or back out and try again in the afternoon? We agreed it would be prudent to back out for now.

After lunch and a rest we returned to the blind. He was still there! We discussed what to do and decided that we would wait until 5:30PM and if he didn't move we would walk down to the two track and see if he went to the creek bottom where we had seen elk the previous night.

Sure enough, he did not move. About 6:00PM we sneaked out of the blind, crossed the meadow, and crept



Scenery from the lodge

down the road. The wind was perfect for us as we started down the two track. When we rounded a bend, there he was about 50 yards in front of us, happily munching away, totally unaware of he was being stalked. I was using my favorite Browning A-Bolt .300 WSM. I got the rifle on the sticks and waited for him to turn so I could get a broadside shot. It took forever, but finally he turned and I shot. He stood there and trembled so I shot again and he toppled over.

Jack and I dragged him off the road so he would not get run over by the truck in the dark when the other hunters left the hunting area. When they drove up we found out that one of them had shot an elk too. The tractor made two stops to pick up both animals and deposited them in the bed of the pick-up.



*Jack Sampson, Joanne's guide
with Joanne's elk*



The four of us headed for the town of Paonia to the meat processor. That was a very long night. We didn't get back to the Lodge for supper until 11:30PM.

The next day Larry and I slept in and waited for our meat to freeze so we could take it home. Both bulls measured over 360 inches. We were very happy.

The following day we picked up over 400 pounds of meat, filled five huge coolers with meat and bought another cooler for the capes. It took us an hour to load the truck and get the antlers in without damaging anything. We had the cooler with the capes in the back seat of the truck so we had to figure out how to get our duffel bags, boots, and rifles in also.

Our trip home was easy, partly because we were reliving our exciting hunt. This time I 94 was open around Michigan City IN. On our trip out the interstate was closed for 36 miles due to flooding. Instead of one hour to get around



*Joanne's elk ready to put
in the pickup*



Joanne's Elk

Chicago, it took four hours. Everytime we tried to get on the freeway the entrances were blocked. There were no detour signs so we just had to find our own way around. We were very happy the Interstate was open this time.

The North Rim staff treated us very well. The hunting, the guides, the Lodge and the food were great. Larry got to fulfill a lifelong dream of harvesting a big elk and I got to benefit from his dream too.



*Loading the pickup with two elk
Joanne's and someone else*



Joanne Witte cooking in her kitchen and she is an excellent cook.

Favorite Recipes from Joanne Witte:

BRINED TURKEY BREAST

Wild turkey breast is quite tough and this brining method will make it better.

Make a brine of:

7 cups water
1/2 cup kosher salt
1 T. black pepper, 1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup brown sugar, and 2 cups ice cubes.

Pour in a two gallon zip lock bag, add one whole turkey breast, boned and skinned, and refrigerate for 24 hours. For ease of handling, put the zip lock bag with the turkey in a large bowl.

Rinse well so it won't be too salty and dry the breast before cooking. You can cut the breast into strips and fry, cook on the grill, or roast in a bag with dressing. It can be cooked any way you like.

TACO SOUP

1 lb. ground wild meat (any kind)
1 lb. ground sausage (wild is best but domestic is OK)
1 package taco seasoning, dry
1 package Ranch Dressing, dry
1 can cream corn, undrained
1 can whole corn, undrained
1 can pinto beans, undrained
1 can navy or great northern beans, undrained
1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
1 can chili beans, spicy, undrained
1 28-32 oz. can stewed or home canned tomatoes
1 16 oz. jar salsa (medium)
1 onion chopped (not browned)

Cook the meat and rain. Dump everything else into a huge pot (8 quart) and cook slowly for about 2 hours. Be careful that the tomatoes don't burn. Serve in a bowl with crushed taco chips, shredded sharp cheese, sour cream, and taco sauce or salsa on top. Add avocado, if you like. This freezes very well, too.

Everyone Joanne has given this recipe to loves it.

SLOW COOKER VENISON STEW

Brown a piece of venison, preferably one with a bone. (shoulder or neck is the best) Salt and pepper the meat.

Add potatoes, carrots, onions, fresh mushrooms, celery. Use as much as you like but have the chunks of vegetables fairly large. (Quarter potatoes and onions, halve the carrots) You can get really creative and use rutabagas, or parsnips, too.

Add: Two packages of dry onion soup mix, one can of mushroom soup, undiluted, 1/2 soup can of red wine.

Cook on low for 8 or 9 hours. You can make this first thing in the morning before you go hunting and eat it when you get home.

Trees of Michigan

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C N S A W N B R S R A M E R I C A N B A S S W O O D
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Poplar
White Oak
Tamarack
Norway Spruce
Jack Pine
Sugar Maple
Yellow Birch
Tulip Tree
Boxelder
Black Oak
Red Maple
Osage Orange
Horse Chestnut
Black Spruce
Large tooth Aspen
Eastern Red Cedar
Eastern Hemlock
American Mountain Ash

Scotch Pine
Austrian Pine
Wild Black Cherry
Black Gum
Bur Oak
Beech
Black Walnut
Redbud
Sassafras
Red Mulberry
Black Maple
Slippery Elm
Norway Maple
Trembling Aspen
Bitternut Hickory
Eastern Cottonwood
Eastern White Pine
American Basswood

Black Ash
Black Willow
White Spruce
Red Pine
Sycamore
Shagbark
Balsam Fir
Butternut
White Ash
Silver Maple
Honey Locust
American Elm
Paper Birch
Staghorn Sumac
Northern Red Oak
Northern White Cedar
Flowering Dogwood
Northern Catalpa

Alaskan Yukon Moose

by Paul Conner and Jim Stender

It's late August 2008 and as Jim Stender and I hurriedly walk through the Anchorage Airport towards our Alaska Airlines gate, we hear a monumental roar of human voices and applause directly ahead. The news of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin being chosen as Republican VP running mate is being announced to the world on every airport monitor. The flight to Nome was held up due to all the passengers reveling in the news, us included. The first scheduled stop on our way to Nome was above the Arctic Circle at the village of Kotzebue. While waiting to depart we talked to a pleasant Eskimo lady seated next to us who apparently was involved with Alaskan tribal politics. She explained enthusiastically of the effort made and financial results obtained by Governor Palin for the people of Alaska, simply a miraculous feat from a miraculous lady. This was the first of several volunteered glowing endorsements for the Governor by locals.



Bering Sea. After check-in we dropped off all the gear in our room, turned on the heat as now it was cold in Nome, and headed to the Airport Pizza restaurant for a much needed dinner and relaxation. Menu items were about double the cost of those back home.

Tok confirmed our bush plane flight to camp scheduled for early the next morning, so, with the remainder of the day free, we took a short tour of the historical area of Nome, Alaska, an amazing place. We were anxious to go hunting, but with some spare time on our hands we did a bit of sightseeing, picture taking, and gift buying for the wives. Since luggage space and weight on the plane was at a premium, we had the gifts boxed and shipped home for the girls.

Finally the moment arrived and Tok took us to the airport to meet our pilot, Alaskan Senator Donald Olsen. After a careful firearms inspection, our gear was stowed in the bush plane's cramped interior, safety instructions were explained to Jim and I, and soon we were in the air with Nome disappearing from view behind us as our adventure began. We trekked north over the Eskimo village of Teller and continued towards our remote camp. Incredible views awaited us at every turn, every mile of the way. The Alaskan scenery alone is worth the trip and "Donny", as Senator Olsen is known, got us through, around and over



When we finally arrived at the Nome airport, we took a few "I was there" pictures after leaving the plane, and found our way to the small lobby. We noticed a man holding a sign with our names on it. It was Tok, our new found friend and guide to everything important. After all the luggage was accounted for, we were driven to our hotel, the Aurora Inn on Front Street, just a stone's throw from the

many mountains, canyons and passes before arriving at camp. A fly-over told Donny the wind direction had changed, he altered the approach for our landing, went around and down towards a river. The landing on a gravel bar at a bend in the river was fast and exciting.

Brian Simpson and his son were waiting nearby with an ARGO and trailer to get us and our gear to camp. It was also our first time to ride in one of these unique 8-wheeled vehicles. Camp was a cluster of tents with the cook shack sort of in the middle. It was manned by Garth McBride, a good cook and one fine fella. To round out the camp, there was Jim Truax from Texas hunting for a big bull caribou, successfully I might add, just two (2) successful for his wife. Then there's Nick and son-in-law Dean looking for moose, also successful eventually. Two muskox hunters were hunting at a remote camp by a river which we picked up later in the day as their hunt was over. They left camp as early as possible.

Brian's wife, Nellie and son, were staying in camp for a couple of days before leaving with the next flight out. Jim and I were there for moose and bear, and a caribou or wolf in the opportunity arose. Three fine guides, Jim (Jimbo), John (John-boy) and 'Swede' completed the crew.

After the usual camp comradery we ate our first meal in the cook shack and then were off to bed, as we had a big day to look forward to and needed the rest. We each had an aluminum cot to put our sleeping bags on and a very small wood burning stove to help with the late night and early morning chill. The stove was in constant need of wood so being above the tree line, we used it sparingly. At the first sign of darkness, about 11 p.m., the Arctic winds picked up and blew hard, loud, and constant until dawn. In big bear country it helps to hear every little noise, BUT, since we couldn't hear ourselves think with all the wind noise -- we quit worrying about it and slept quite well. The next morning, and for many mornings after that ... we gathered our gear, got in the ARGOS and headed out and usually up, in the search of game.

The time and distances required to reach all the various hunting locations within Brian's allotted area meant many hours of travel each day in the extremely rough riding ARGO, possibly driven a bit too fast at times, and each day trying different ways to cushion the ride and



maybe discover a new handhold or two. Brian and his crew 'glasses' each and every crevice and corner carefully every time we stopped in a likely area, assuring us with their confidence of a game rich environment. We looked over several moose and caribou in the early days of our hunt. Towards the latter part of the hunt we actually took a couple of shots at two fleeing caribou. Sadly, we both completely missed our shots after decades of not missing, which was disturbing, but, we noticed a few hundred yards later, that the high winds blowing through a snow runoff area made it a low probability shot at best at that range. The main reason though was not the wind, our age, or the color of the embarrassed look on our faces, but instead, as we later discovered, that Jim's rifle stock and scope were broken and my scope had been knocked out of alignment due to being heavily bounced on by adult bodies when a makeshift seat broke. A rifle rack would have saved much





grief and money. All this, of course, being part of the great adventure we seek, no matter the outcome .. sometimes.

One by one, most of the hunters got their chance at the animal sought -- taking their trophy then leaving for home, now with just Jim and I to continue our quest. With our guides not getting concerned about the lack of animals for some unknown reason, we stretched our hunting days further and drove farther until .. on the last day, on the way back to camp, our Eskimo guide spotted a decent moose.

Since Jim's rifle was broken he borrowed mine, not knowing the scope had been knocked out of alignment, and left immediately with Brian to get close enough for a shot at 'his' moose. John-boy and I stayed with the ARGO



to watch the action through binoculars. Jim and Brian walked about 700 yards to a position directly across from the sleeping moose. In the meantime, John and I sat on the high hillside tundra watching their slow progress. It was also in the cold Arctic wind so I asked John if there

was any chance the moose might notice the motion if I walked to the other side of the ARGO. "No, in your camouflage you'll be completely invisible to the moose", he said. Hmmm? Jim and I hunted with Eskimos a few year back and always got a smile out of their wry, British style remarks .. but not until later in the day. So, as John sat there all exposed in his black ski bibs and tan shirt smoking his ever present cigarette I asked, "John, if you walk around to the other side of the ARGO will the moose see you?" While not taking his eyes away from his binoculars he replied, "No, moose have terrible eyesight."

Looking over a stand of willows, Jim and Brian both decided this moose was the trophy he wanted and at the sound of Brian's moose call, the moose raised his huge antlered head one last time directly into the path of Jim's bullet. At long last, a hard earned dream came true for Jimmy and shortly we all examined the giant Alaskan moose before us. One huge critter! We hurried to take pictures in the fading light before field dressing the moose. Jim's wife would soon be thrilled to see the moose she wanted him to have, now planning where he was to hang in the trophy room.

None of us saw a bear or even a fresh bear track the whole time we were there, though several people witnessed bears in the area prior to our arrival. I did have an exciting walk downhill to a gut pile with Swede one morning .. where a bear might have been feeding but .. no bear. I did however, in a very undignified manner, fall down just as we got to the gut pile which once again reminded me of reaching the "Golden Years" and my gout ridden foot. Had a bear been there .. it might have been an interesting time? Swede kindly never mentioned my clumsy fall. I'm still trying to forget it.

A long, tiring ride back to camp in the dark followed. When camp was finally sighted, all the ARGO's light were turned with the top light flashing bright yellow to indicate a successful hunt.

The following morning was the next scheduled flight back to Teller so we packed up everything and grabbed a few hours sleep. Naturally the plane was a few hours late due to a flight schedule error, but soon we were leaving the remote camp in scenic northern Alaska and heading towards a rendezvous with Tok, who waited patiently to drive us all the way to Nome on the famous Teller Road. Arriving once again at our hotel room in Nome, we showered and shaved for the first time in many days, then slept for about 10 hours. The following morning after breakfast



at the Polar Cub Inn, Tok drove us to the Northern Air Freight terminal to arrange shipment of the moose hide and rack to a tannery in Anchorage then on to our taxidermist, Bob Vitro, in New York state.

As a special bonus Tok took us to the best view around Nome -- the closed DEW LINE base named "White Alice", high up on top of a mountain, where much cold war drama played out years ago. Now, below the old

base is the site of a new gold mine and perhaps some prosperity for the local residents. The views of the Bering Sea, Sledge Island, and surrounding landscapes are a photographer's dream, a terrific, unexpected sightseeing adventure. A last night dinner with Tok's family and some of the hunters from our camp made it quite memorable. As usual, the next morning came all too soon.

Paul Conner and Jim Stender





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Looking Ahead -

In our next issue --


**American Bison - When a Hunt
is more than a Hunt!**

by Art Street

Cape Buffalo or "Black Death"

by Mary Harter

*And more articles, poems and jokes
yet to be submitted.*

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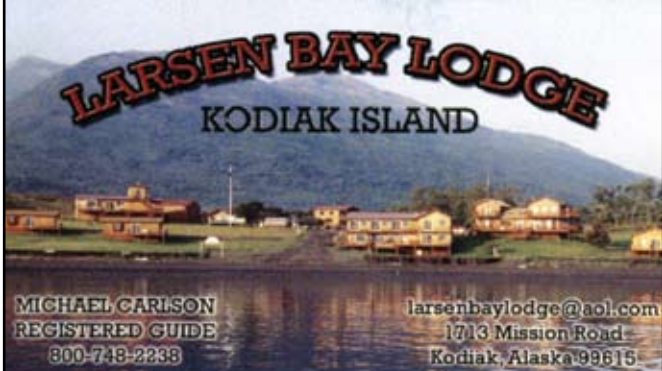
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