



ABA BULLETIN

April 16, 2005

Welcome to the “ABA Bulletin” – the first of many you will receive from me and the rest of the executive. This will serve as one of the tools of communication we will use to keep in touch with each of you, the affiliated clubs and your membership. The other will be the newsletter and our web page. Communication is the key to any good organization and we intend to do lots of communicating!! We hope this will keep you abreast of all the issues taking place within the ABA as well as what is going on in the rest of the world.

Pat Morphy and Calvin Briggs have made up a tri-fold “ABA Brochure” that we will be circulating to merchants, shows, etc. to tell people about the ABA and how to join.

Dale Johnson (Bowhunter Education) continues his tireless efforts in bringing these courses to as many people and locations as possible, Tom Foss and his committee with his work in the Bowhunting Regulations, Ryk Visscher and the Game Awards program/Alberta Bowhunting Records, Russell Hillis with the website, Brenda Hillis, our newsletter editor, Lance Neilson in keeping the books straight, Pat Morphy with the membership duties, John Biskup with the 3D shoots, Brian Struthers with the Grants program, Len Verbaas as our new secretary, Stephane Titley and Russell Hillis as the Directors at Large, Darryl Kublick our HFTF board representative, and Andy Wiese (vice-president) and Ron Dagg (past president) round out the current executive. Above and beyond the work each of these people do in their current positions, they all respond to the many emails, inquiries, etc. that we have to deal with as a group in running the ABA. I can't thank them enough for their dedication and efforts – is great to be a part of and makes all our jobs so much easier. Again, communication is the key and I assure you, we do lots of it!! Just to give you an idea, I personally have received approximately 460 emails in the last three weeks on ABA issues alone. I know others on the executive have gotten at least that many. Gives you an idea of what we are doing with our “spare” time. All we hope for, is that our membership appreciates the work we are doing on their behalf, that we can count on their support, and that we can rely on them for help, suggestions, and feedback in doing the best job possible for the “bowhunters of Alberta.” Contact information for all the executive will be in the newsletter and is on the website. We are just a phone call or a click away. Remember, communication is the KEY.

The newsletter will be arriving in your mailboxes shortly and I think you will be impressed with the results. You can thank editor Brenda Hillis and her assistant editor; husband Russell, for an outstanding job!! It will also be posted on the website after a brief period. ENJOY!!

The 2005 Banquet/Convention in Red Deer was a great success and you can read about it in the newsletter and on the web page in the “Forum”. There will be an article by Brad Fenson in the May issue of The Alberta Outdoorsman as well.

The three 3D Sanctioned Shoots are set and ready to go. BIG thank you to the host clubs (Sherwood Park Archery Club – May 28/29, Game Country Archers – June 11/12 (Grande Prairie) and Bighorn Bowhunters – June 18/19 (Innisfail)) and to John Biskup for their work.

I will be writing to as many archery/bowhunting clubs as I can find out about, inviting them back in to the ABA, or if they have never joined before, to join for the first time. I will be sending them a couple of complimentary issues of the latest newsletter, some ABA Brochures, “What The ABA Has Done For You”, etc. If you know of any such clubs, please contact me with their contact information and I will send them a package. Strength is in numbers and is so very important, especially in this day and age.

We have fostered and will expand on the relationships with other like-minded organizations. I personally know the presidents of The Alberta Fish and Game Association and The Alberta Trappers Association as well as many of their directors and will keep the lines of communication open to them and others. Many of our executives know other officers in other organizations (APOS, FNAWS, P&Y, SCI, etc) and these connections are vital to the health of our own organization, the ABA. We are leaning heavily on The Hunting For Tomorrow Foundation for their guidance and suggestions, use of their connections and resources, in how we can do our part. *United we stand. Divided we fall*, has never been more true than it is now.

Many of our executive, members from the affiliated clubs and just individual members, have attended the Fish & Wildlife Public meetings that were held throughout the province. The ones I know of include Coronation, Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Bonneyville, Peace River, Spirit River, Valleyview, Whitecourt, Drayton Valley – I am sure there are others as well. A big thank you to all who took the time to attend and especially those who stood up and spoke about their concerns, not only as a bowhunter, but as a hunter and wildlife conservationist as well. Remember about the squeaky wheel!

If you have youths in your club or know any in your communities, contact Kelly Semple at The Hunting For Tomorrow Foundation office and they will send out “Youth Kits” full of goodies to these youngsters. Is a great way to get them interested in your club and just to reinforce their participation in the outdoors.

Lance Neilson is contacting the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association in regards to putting an ABA “page” in their newsletter. Lance also sent a letter to the Alberta Taxidermists Association supporting their internal resolution for their membership to “require a hunting license/tag for any taxidermy work” they do. Subsistence hunting would not qualify.

Please visit these interesting websites:

<http://www.bowhunters.ca/>

<http://www.usssportsmen.org/>

<http://www.letsgooutdoors.net/>

<http://fnawsab.org/>

<http://www.albertatraditionalbowhunters.com/>

<http://www.huntingfortomorrow.com/>

<http://fca.ca/index.htm>

<http://www.albertatrappers.com/>
<http://www.afga.org/>
<http://www.albertaoutdoorsmen.org/>
<http://ursus.biology.ualberta.ca/blackbears/>
<http://www.pope-young.org/>
<http://www.boone-crockett.org/>
<http://www.sci-northern.ab.ca/>

Please find attached in the accompanying email the following documents and letters.

- (1) Rick Lepp thank you letter.**
- (2) Brazeau Bowbenders thank you letter.**
- (3) Letter of sympathy to the Roger Feener family.**
- (4) The ABA letter to the Alberta government on the Metis Interim Harvest Agreement.**
- (5) The Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association letter to the Alberta government on the same MIHA.**
- (6) The current and up to date 2005 Game Awards entry form and synopsis. (Please destroy all old copies)**
- (7) Letter to other organizations advising them we have put them on our newsletter mailing list.**
- (8) The 2005 current club contact lists.**
- (9) “What Has The ABA Done For You”**

You will be receiving more Bulletins in the future from each of these individual executive members as new issues arise that may not be within the time frame of the newsletters. This first one is rather lengthy but we wanted to keep you up to speed with what has transpired since the convention, and your president has been known to have bouts of “verbal diarrhea” on occasion.