

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

ROGUE VALLEY REVIEW OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Oregon Hunters Association, Rogue Valley Chapter
PO BOX 1748 MEDFORD, OR 97501

June 14, 2018
Volume 33; Issue #6



Membership Monthly Meeting: June 8th 2018; 6:00pm
Eagles Club 2000 Table Rock Road, Medford, OR

Speaker: Bill Park/Cat Sandor-Korte, OHA/ODFW Jointly
Developed New/Adult Hunter Program
Menu: Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Dessert, Soft Drinks \$12

Our "Whys":

There are a lot of reasons we choose to spend time in the great outdoors: Camaraderie, Freedom, Tradition, Exercise, Heritage, Food or maybe just Peace of Mind - a way to escape our daily responsibilities and unplug from the clock-driven lives most of us lead. For most of us, there are probably several "Whys" to explain our passion for being afield. Some of us are so motivated, and fortunate, that we develop our occupational pursuits around the opportunity to be outside - ideally working in, and around, all things nature. For folks who live in cities or have never been exposed to our ways of life, our biases are sometimes hard to understand. In a desperate effort to categorize our interests, some folks choose to define our pursuits as "scary" (as well as many other unsavory terms) because of the tools we utilize to willingly participate in our own food production (the "mess of success").

Have you ever noticed there are no strangers in hunting camp? Most of us can attend church, go to a show, spend time at a child's/grandchild's school function and be comfortably resigned to our circle of known friends and family. Not so in hunting camp - everyone nearly immediately becomes part of a tight, dedicated group of believers. We are believers in the promise of the next day's hunt. Believers in the fact that in the event of success, or stress, those in camp will gladly, willingly and happily join in to share our opportunity/challenge. The common thread of hunting camps is that hunters believe in other people's motivations in an affirmative manner, which translates to earnest emotional investments in each other. We "get" each other most of the time - despite our always present and persistent "weirds." Most of us understand that everyone has their "weird" and we try to make allowances for theirs, and in turn, they make allowances for ours. Hunting camps are the incubator for lifelong relationships that are reinforced in the stories we tell, and re-tell, as we gather friends and memories each time we are out.

Most of us folks who love to be in the field/brush/woods or on the lake/river/seas would prefer to be left alone in that decision-making process. We'd rather not have to explain our goals and ambitions while others decide how to potentially draw bigoted conclusions about our character. We'd like to exercise our rights and privileges without sensing a need to rationalize with someone who doesn't understand, or worse, is motivated to prevent us from participating in these things that help make our souls whole. Many of us long for those days gone by where the things we most enjoy doing are things that most of our peers embraced and viewed as simple, wholesome activities. Those were the "good old days" and they are gone. As a result, we now have an opportunity, and responsibility to speak up.

Nearly every day, we have a chance to influence the views of others with logical, stoical conversations about hunting, fishing and the overarching reality of sportsmen as the first, and most meaningful, conservationists. The facts are, we believe in the responsible, sustainable management of renewable resources. We believe in being part of the food chain and we respect the simple fact that not doing your own killing doesn't make you more civilized, it makes you more anesthetized to the realities of life and death in this world. It doesn't serve us to rely strictly on emotional characterizations of our interests - we can't shout anyone over to our way of life, and besides that's their tactic. We have to explain, as patiently as possible, why we do what we do. Then we need to show them by making them part of the inner circle. We need to lend them our tools and gear. We need to share maps and techniques. And we need to provide firsthand coaching and mentoring to get them a look into the window of what it's like to truly live - sleep when tired, eat when hungry, etc. - without the need for a time-piece reminder.

As you develop your plans for these coming seasons, we hope you will make a concerted effort to include some new folks (hopefully the person/people you secured an OHA gift membership for!) to the process and experience. The days of hoping to be left alone in our efforts are gone and it's time for us to evangelize, and demonstrate the "hows", and most importantly "the WHYS", of what makes hunting one of the most thrilling, challenging, rewarding and motivating things someone will ever do in their life.

Oregon Gun Control Ballot Initiatives:

The OHA State Board and Legislative Committee have reviewed IP 43 and 44, and have been working diligently preparing comments and strategy to stop these ill-conceived and grossly misleading measures. IP 43 would make felons out of law abiding citizens who own certain semi-automatic weapons. Even citizens who registered their firearms would be prohibited from using them on public lands. OHA is coordinating with gun rights organizations to block this measure from reaching the ballot box and defeating them, if they actually come to a vote of Oregon citizens.

OHA comments outlining our objections to the draft ballot title on IP 43 have been submitted to Oregon's Secretary of State and Attorney General. Our comments can be found at <http://ohacomment.webs.com>. Clearly, IP 43 violates our right to bear arms under the Oregon Constitution and the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution. If a challenge to the ballot title doesn't stop it, OHA anticipates this ending up in court, most probably the Oregon Supreme Court. OHA will be prepared to do everything it can on behalf of our members to defend our rights.

Measure 44 also raises concerns over how it would impact youth hunts, since minors would always need to be under direct supervision. Comments on IP 44 were being prepared for the May 15th deadline. Both measures represent the biggest assault all gun owners have ever seen on our ability to own, hunt and defend ourselves with our firearm of choice.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.... Constitution of the United States, Second Amendment (1789)

General Membership Speaker "Thank You's!"

RVOHA's Board of Directors would like to extend some special thanks to recent speakers.

We'd like to acknowledge Chris Bottom, ODFW Biologist (Denman), for his recent presentation regarding blacktail doe deer trapping and survey efforts being conducted in several western Oregon game management units, of most particular interest to RVOHA being the Applegate Unit (28). Chris explained the details of ODFW's current trapping, collaring and intra-uterine placement efforts designed to educate us on the habitat utilization of the deer in the Applegate Unit. Further, the innovative design and miniaturization of telemetry tools has made it possible for us to determine fawn birth timing to facilitate capture and collaring of fawns to help determine losses (predation, disease, injury, etc.) Chris is a RVOHA member.

We'd like to thank Nate Bailey, Southern Oregon Hunting Guide Service and President of Rogue Valley's NWTF Chapter, who generously donated an evening to help educate our membership on tips and techniques for successfully hunting spring Rio Grande turkeys in Southern Oregon. Nate's enthusiasm for turkey hunting was readily apparent as he described scouting, behaviors and applicable gear. He provided some excellent visual information highlighting his experiences, as well as some specific calling sequences and situational approaches to bagging a tom. Nate noted a very important aspect of turkey hunting - it is a GREAT way of introducing new people to hunting. Nate is a RVOHA member.

We'd like to express our appreciation to Leland Brown, Biologist - Oregon Zoo, who described a proactive effort at reducing the potential impacts of lead contamination resulting from our ammunition choices in the field. Leland provided a suite of visual, hands-on teaching aids to help attendees see and understand the apparently nominal differences in lead and non-lead hunting ammunition performance levels. He described the ways that small fragments of lead in gut piles have the potential for making their way into wildlife diets (scavengers) that consume that "good food", as he put it, as a product of our successful hunting endeavors. He presented a fair and balanced view of the cost differences and considerations in using non-lead ammunition in the field, and patiently answered the pointed, and appropriate, questions that came from our membership. Leland is a true professional.

We are looking forward to the next set of presentations scheduled and hope you will prioritize attendance of these meeting, where the Friends of Eagles staff will happily serve you a tasty steak, salad, baked potato, dessert and soft drinks for \$12/person. They do a great job supporting our meetings.

June 14th:	Bill Park/Cat Sandor-Korte (OHA/ODFW) jointly developed "Learn to Hunt" Adult Hunter Program
July 12th:	Long Range Centerfire Instruction, Phil Cicero (Jackson County Deputy)/ODFW Regulations Update
August 9th:	Tactical Handgun Instruction, David Cunningham (Stoneridge Tactical)
September 13th:	Regional Habitat Funding Initiatives, Ken McCall (OHA Resource Director)

RVSSA Range Fee Increase Proposal:

Very recently RVSSA (Rogue Valley Shooting Sports Association) sent a notice to RVOHA demanding a substantial increase in range fees as well as a participation contract with new provisions, some of which do not appear to be appropriate for the RVOHA membership. RVSSA has given RVOHA a deadline of June 30, 2018 to respond. Some of the new contract references are Hunter Education-oriented. Hunter Education is one of RVOHA's close and important affiliations, but functionally is a completely separate and distinct organization, with a different mission and oversight model. RVSSA, a non-profit organization which is comprised of a Board of Directors, manages the Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Complex, which is a publicly-owned facility, for the benefit of all Jackson County residents. Range fees are typically \$5/shooter per day, while annual memberships for an individual can be purchased for \$25 and an annual family membership can be purchased for \$40.

The proposed new contract increases RVOHA's annual fees from \$2,500 to \$10,000, which represents a four-fold increase. With an RVOHA membership of roughly 1,000 memberships, the translation of this increase is approximately \$10/membership. RVOHA does not know how many members actually utilize the range, but do know that many do not use the facility. RVOHA has asked RVSSA for an explanation of the increase, and to date, RVOHA has not been provided a breakdown, or rationale, for the proposed increase related to a publicly-owned facility other than to offer there has not been a increase dating back to 2008. RVOHA has requested records from RVSSA to demonstrate RVOHA membership use of the range, but they were unable to provide them at the time they presented the new contract. RVOHA has since asked for them to produce that information to help the RVOHA Board of Directors assess the reasonableness of the requested increase based on RVOHA range use (what would the average cost/membership be based on actual use?).

RVOHA's Board of Directors would like to ask RVSSA to help us understand what has changed in the operating cost structure of the Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Complex to necessitate such a profound increase in RVOHA's annual contract. Finally, RVOHA intends to ask for information from RVSSA to help verify that all facility user groups are being treated similarly with respect to new contract pricing and provisions. The proposed increase reflects what would equate to a 15% per year increase from 2008 to present. Actual inflation over this time period, as reflected by government reported CPI (Consumer Price Index) levels averaged 1.55% per year.

At which time all of the requested information is received and reviewed, RVOHA's Board of Directors is prepared to seek redress of the matter with the Jackson County Parks leadership/oversight team as well as the Jackson County Commissioners to ensure RVOHA is being treated consistently, and fairly, relative to other user groups. If, in fact, the substantial increase in fees is deemed appropriate, RVOHA's Board of Directors will take the matter under consideration. However, RVOHA members should be prepared for this benefit to be eliminated as part of membership.

Nonetheless, it should be unequivocally clear that RVOHA is an organization that will gladly pay its fair share to support its membership's utilization of publicly-owned assets and will also rigorously represent members' interests in obtaining "fair and reasonable" treatment in that same regard. RVOHA represents approximately 1,000 members of the local community. At a time when the shooting sports are under relentless political attack, it seems RVSSA's charter would be to encourage as much cost-effective utilization of the facilities as possible, so the timing and significance of this proposed increase are confusing and seemingly counter to that goal.

2018 YOH (Young Oregon Hunters) Day:

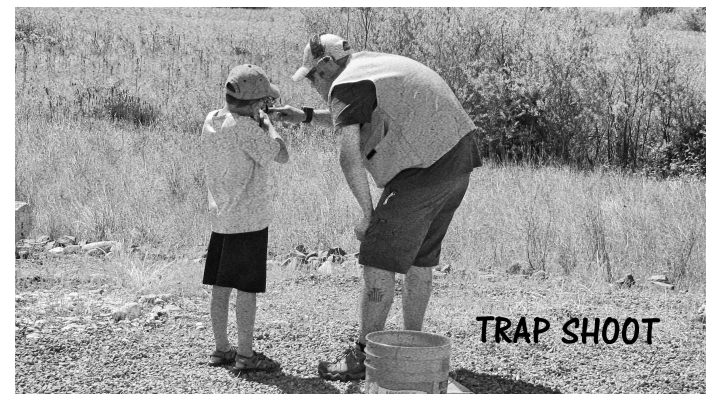
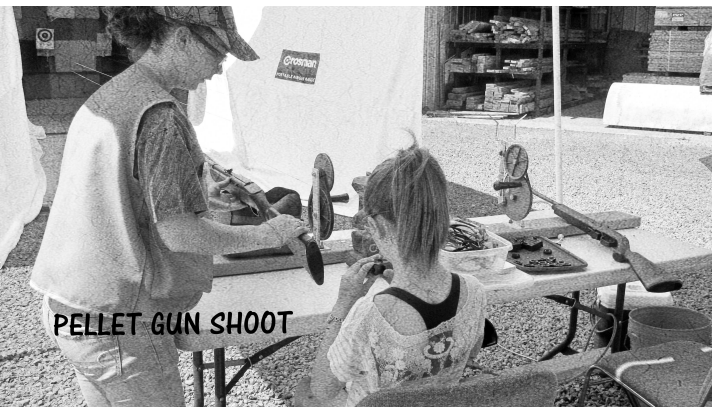
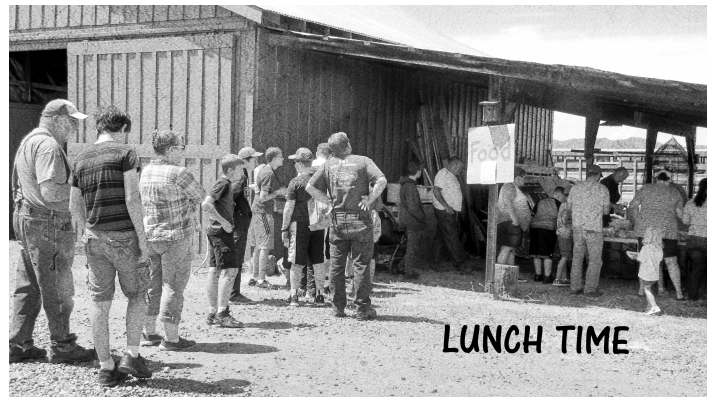
On a beautiful "Chamber of Commerce" spring day (May 19th), the RVOHA chapter hosted its annual Young Oregon Hunters day at Denman. The event was well attended with 119 kids, and their chaperones/parents, in attendance. Activities included flint-knapping, tomahawk throwing, fishing, T-shirt making (with a clever hunter safety message included in the process), pellet gun shooting, archery and shotgun trap. An army of volunteers representing RVOHA and Hunter Education were backstopped with several ODFW staff members, members of the Little Butte Mountain Men and a representative from the Crater Rock Museum. The Mule Deer Foundation's Southern Oregon Blacktail Chapter graciously donated the use of their pellet gun range for the event.

In addition to great weather, and patient coaching and mentoring, everyone who attended was treated to a hamburger/hotdog lunch with the normal sides (chips and drinks) - all of which was "FREE!" thanks to the generous support of our RVOHA membership. RVOHA would like to acknowledge and thank our partners in helping provide opportunities for our community to put down their cell phones, and game controllers, long enough to get outside and develop an appreciation and interest in the great outdoors!

YOH DAY PHOTOS



Registered participants 119 (82 boys-37 girls)



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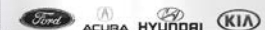
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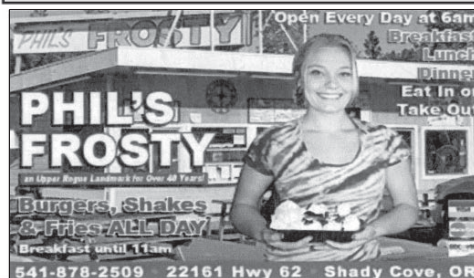
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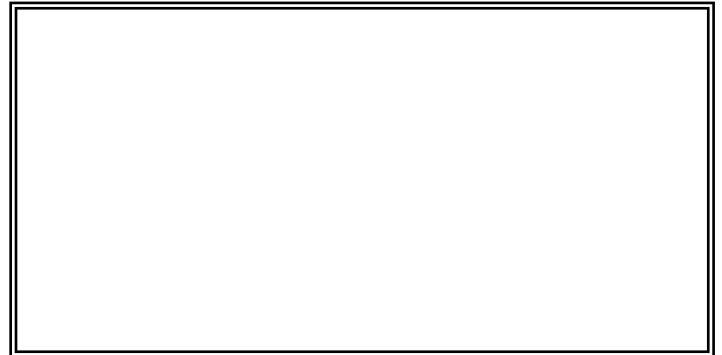
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- General Member Meetings
 - 2nd Thursday of every month
 - Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Road; 6:00pm Dinner
- Chapter Board Meetings
 - 3rd Thursday of every month
 - 2683 Montara Drive; 6:30pm
- Newsletter Submissions
 - Pictures, articles and event updates are appreciated
 - Deadline for newsletter submissions is the last Friday of each month

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Rogue Valley Chapter Oregon Hunters Association looks forward to seeing you at the June 14th, 2018 meeting



USE THIS AS YOUR PASS TO THE RVSSA SHOOTING RANGE

The mailing label may be used as your ID when you visit the white city gun range. Range use is free for OHA members with a current mailing label from our newsletter

2019 Banquet Planning:

The Banquet season is in full swing throughout OHA's 26 chapters, the State level and among our breatheren organizations. The State Convention fund raiser was held, and well-attended, on May 12th at Seven Feathers Casino. RVOHA was well-represented at the State Convention. The Access and Habitat benefited nicely with the sale of the Governor 's tag hunt sold to an unknown buyer for a cool \$78,000.00. David's Chair Banquet was May 19th at the fairgrounds and was also well-represented by RVOHA membership. It was an exciting surprise when the first hunt was awarded to an RVOHA life member, Bill Fisher. Bill will be stalking pheasants in David's chair for a long awaited hunt.

The RVOHA Banquet Committee has been investigating a larger venue for the 2019 event which promises to be our best and most successful event ever - please note Saturday, March 2, 2019 in your calendar's accordingly. The Banquet Committee relishes your comments, suggestions and donation leads - please direct them to Norma at 503-250-3000.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

Little Butte Mountain Man High Cascades Rendezvous (June 8-10th); 15508 Butte Falls Highway, Butte Falls, OR (See their Facebook Page for more details and contact information, or call Kathie @ 541-282-3752

Mule Deer Foundation 4th Annual Fund Raising Banquet (June 30th); Jackson County Fairgrounds & Exposition Park - Mace Building (Call 541-690-9176 for more details and information)

ODFW Bow Hunter Education (June 9-10th); Denman Wildlife Area 9am-2pm. Bow hunting techniques/Bow hunter education card. Sign up at <https://or.outdoorcentral.us/OR/License/Classes#> and Don Pritchett @ 541-773-1587

Rogue Valley Ducks Unlimited Banquet August 4th - Jackson County Expo; Contact Richard Moyer @ 541-773-8736