

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

November 1st, 2018
Volume 33; Issue #11



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

Speaker: Trail Cameras: Options, Setup,
Use, Technology and Security - Jeff Heil
Menu: Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Dessert,
Soft Drinks \$12

First Rule of Finding Yourself in a Hole - Stop Digging:

Most of us have heard this saying more than once - usually about the time we realize we're in over our heads. It would have been fortuitous for some of our brethren in another non-profit to have been familiar with this adage. Over the last several months, RVOHA has been challenged by a fundamental change in their relationship with Rogue Valley Shooting Sports Association (RVSSA). RVSSA is contracted by Jackson County to manage the Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Range ("The Range") in White City. The change in the relationship is entirely a function of RVSSA Board's prejudicial and punitive attempt at penalizing the RVOHA membership for having the temerity to change the leadership and Board composition of RVOHA. We are sad, and embarrassed, for the RVSSA Board. As this process has unfolded, we've learned RVOHA is just the most recent example of RVSSA's belligerent, bullying and blustery approach in managing this PUBLICLY-owned facility for the benefit of Jackson County residents, including nearly 1,000 RVOHA members.

In addition to their efforts at extracting a four-fold increase in RVOHA range fees (from \$2,500 to \$10,000), they have been misrepresenting the facts of what has transpired when folks, unaware of the change, arrive at the Range and are denied access. Apparently the latest misrepresentation is that RVOHA didn't pay its bill for more than a year. That is a gross misrepresentation. We went and did some checking: it looks like RVSSA got checks for each year's utilization of the range for at least the last five years (that's how far our Treasurer went back) on 2/13/2013, 1/16/2014, 1/19/2015, 3/10/2016 and finally on 12/15/2016 for 2017 access. In any case, and throughout your learning process, you should know that a former RVOHA Board Member is also an RVSSA Board Member and has been for many years. We are so disappointed to have to advise you of the facts of this situation, but as more and more members are contacting us to learn the details, we feel it is now time to share this information more broadly. We have taken great care to avoid naming names, because we wanted to give those involved the opportunity to fix the situation, and preserve their personal and professional reputations. Sadly, the time is coming, very quickly, where names will be named publicly.

RVOHA has addressed this matter in a measured, professional manner. RVOHA has tried to give RVSSA the opportunity to make course corrections. They have repeatedly declined and as you learn more, you are likely to be as confused as we are as to why they don't just tell the truth, say they are sorry and move past this unfortunate lapse in judgment. RVSSA allowed pride and ego to undermine a long-standing, important and valuable relationship with RVOHA. Unfortunately for RVSSA, the new RVOHA Board seated on June 1st doesn't have anything personal at stake - this is a professional matter and we are going to prosecute it until it is resolved and RVSSA is prohibited from abusing its authority with respect to the management of a PUBLICLY-owned facility. RVSSA needs to be accountable to their behavior.

As you read on you will see the entirety of our most recent letter to the Jackson County Commissioners (there are previous letters to RVSSA and Mr. John Vial (Jackson County Parks Director) that we may share in some form sooner or later - they are, more or less, summarized in the letter to the County Commissioners). After reading the letter, you are welcome to contact RVSSA, Mr. John Vial, Mr. Danny Jordan (Jackson County Administrator) or any/all of our three county commissioners - Mr. Rick Dyer, Mr. Bob Strosser or Ms. Colleen Roberts - to gain their perspective and point of view while you share your own. If RVOHA efforts seeking the Commissioners' support is not successful, the RVOHA Board is prepared to continue this conversation with the Oregon Department of Justice and then the Internal Revenue Service.

The facts are, this spring RVSSA presented RVOHA a \$10,000 proposed range fee, with a contract which RVOHA could not execute. RVOHA asked a number of questions any prudent, professional team would (Why the increase? What's the change in RVSSA cost structure to drive the increase? How many RVOHA members used the range last year? Who else has a contract for range access?). Mostly we were ignored, and then RVSSA retaliated by withdrawing their \$10,000 offer which proved they weren't about resolving the matter in any case. If you have further questions, you know how to reach us.



“Protecting Oregon’s wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.”

Oregon Hunters Association

Rogue Valley Chapter 🦌 P.O. Box 1748 🦌 Medford, OR 97501

October 11, 2018

Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Rick Dyer

Bob Strosser

Colleen Roberts

10 South Oakdale, #214

Medford, OR 97501

Re: Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Complex/Rogue Valley Shooting Sports Association Grievance

Dear Commissioners Dyer, Strosser and Roberts -

RVOHA respectfully requests that the Jackson County Parks Department requires the substantial reconstitution of the RVSSA Board of Directors to reflect a less openly hostile and more cooperative leadership team for an organization charged with managing a publicly-owned facility.

As a newly seated Board of Directors, effective June 1, 2018, we have been tasked with the opportunity to review and consider a contract proposal from Rogue Valley Shooting Sports Association (RVSSA), Jackson County’s contract partner in managing the Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Complex Range (JCSPSC). Unfortunately, the nature and content of the proposal and RVSSA’s refusal to address matters germane to the proposal’s reasonableness has led us to the conclusion that the RVSSA Board of Directors is acting in a manner that is prejudicial and punitive, motivated by an intention to discriminate against the Rogue Valley Chapter of Oregon Hunters Association (“RVOHA”), and others, based on personal animosities associated with past and current members. Thank you in advance for your patience in allowing RVOHA to share the reasons for our grievances, which includes prejudicial and punitive behavior without explanation or rationalization, cronyism reflecting financial mismanagement and administration of Jackson County assets, alleged efforts to limit access and competition in employing the Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Complex by other parties, as well as allegedly contracting work for RVSSA with a member of the RVSSA Board creating a profound conflict of interest.

After failing to make any progress in correspondence with RVSSA, the RVOHA Board of Directors has contacted John Vial, Jackson County Parks Director, to express our concerns. Mr. Vial has been cooperative and cordial, but from the initial contact has expressed reticence about involving himself in reconciling the competing points of view. As a result, nothing has changed and apparently will not – Mr. Vial is satisfied with RVSSA’s performance. He has been clear in describing his intention to avoid mediating for non-profit organizations and has resultantly chosen to accept RVSSA’s positions on this matter. We do not consider our requests unreasonable and frankly, neither RVSSA nor Mr. Vial has characterized them as such, yet they have done nothing to address them. We think they are requests that might be expected given the drastic change in the RVSSA and RVOHA relationship, precipitated by fundamental changes in RVSSA’s behavior with respect to RVOHA. It is critically important to appreciate

the thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours RVOHA has previously invested in the JCSPSC. This includes general support, in addition to specific efforts including the youth .22 and the archery ranges. RVOHA's Board believes a prudent person's assessment of the situation could not possibly rationalize the stonewalling and punitive actions taken by the RVSSA Board.

Despite an acknowledgement of past issues with RVSSA's behavior and treatment of constituents, Mr. Vial seems satisfied with their overall performance. We are not, and will not be until some simple questions are answered. We have asked RVSSA, and now Mr. Vial, to explain to us what the RVOHA usage of the JCSPSC has been in recent years. It is impossible for RVOHA to make an informed decision about a \$7500 increase in expense (from a base of \$2500) without knowing how many members use the range – they are the only entity with this information. RVOHA has asked what has changed about the JCSPSC cost structure to rationalize a 4x increase in fees, when the variable cost of an incremental member shooting into a dirt bank is absolutely negligible. As you will see in our correspondence, neither RVSSA nor Mr. Vial has been willing to provide any information or characterization of a rationale for these changes. RVSSA is failing to provide a minimum and reasonable level of communication and failing to perform in fundamental duties relative to managing an asset for the collective public's benefit.

During one cycle of communication, Mr. Vial described that RVSSA had not appropriately advised and gained approval for the proposed change in the contract between RVSSA and RVOHA. On another occasion he advised that he would address the RVSSA Board to have them put it back to where it was, and while nothing material changed, he described the result of that meeting as making them mad. In that conversation, Mr. Vial made a reference to a new RVSSA charge of lack of performance by RVOHA – which was new information for our Board. There were no further details provided. Likewise, in reference to an alleged failure of RVOHA to perform, it was noted to Mr. Vial that the former RVOHA President (who served in that capacity until May 31st, 2018 while the new contract was being proposed), is a sitting member of the RVSSA Board. If there truly was any lack of performance, the former RVOHA President should be able to describe any such failure, as he was uniquely positioned as a member of both entity Boards. Further, if that is in fact an accurate characterization, why is that person, who failed to communicate issues of lack of performance - never actually described - still an RVSSA Board Member? We are unclear of the RVSSA Board formation details, or for that matter an accountability process for underperforming members.

RVOHA notes that there is a lack of transparency with respect to the contracted management of the JCSPSC. RVOHA has been unable to identify the names and process for appointment to the RVSSA Board. How are Board Members nominated and voted into their capacity? What is the accountability structure for RVSSA? It is not clear what accountability measures are incorporated into the RVSSA contract. If necessary, RVOHA will file the appropriate information requests and appreciate any assistance with access to these documents that you can provide. As noted from the beginning of our efforts, our principal motivation in this process is to drive performance accountability to the RVSSA Board.

RVOHA would like to amicably resolve the matter of an access agreement, but reject the original RVSSA proposal for the following reasons:

1. As noted in RVOHA's response letter of June 4, 2018, RVOHA is not able to agree to provisions of the proposed agreement because RVOHA does not conduct Hunter Safety (Education) Courses. Specifically, points 5, 6, 7, and 8 are all in reference to Hunter Safety (Education) courses, of which RVOHA is not directly affiliated. We have yet to see a revised contract.
 - a. Members of the Regional Hunter Education organization, as well as the ODFW coordinator intend to testify to their experiences with RVSSA which resulted in a similar outcome, when the RVSSA's proposed contract terms for utilization of the range for Hunter Education events was made impossible.

2. The previous rate at which RVOHA utilized the range was \$2500. The most recent proposal was \$10,000, a four-fold increase. There have been alternating explanations for the increase, however, RVOHA does not accept any of those presented. Instead, RVOHA notes the proposal as being prejudicial to public access and punitive toward RVOHA. In particular, RVOHA would highlight the following problems:
 - a. RVSSA characterizes the increase as being due to RVOHA's membership. At roughly 1,000 members, \$2500 reflects an average cost to each user of \$2.50, which RVSSA characterized as being well below the rates charged to other users.
 - i. RVOHA asked RVSSA to describe the actual usage of the range by RVOHA membership and they refused to do so. This would help establish actual use of the range and potentially help reconcile a financial agreement in both parties' interests – something that existed for a decade. RVSSA has sign-in sheets for each day of operation and could very simply identify the number of discrete and unique RVOHA members utilizing the range by referring to those documents. Doing so could help both organizations learn usage trends and resolve the matter amicably.
 - ii. RVOHA notes that there are myriad examples of products and services being discounted based on a "volume" discount rate. Further, the value of the negotiated rate to RVSSA was certainty of revenue for budget planning purposes. When we asked about other group usage rates, as well as any changes in the operating cost structure of the facility, our request was ignored.
 1. RVOHA notes that minutes from RVSSA Board Meeting, that were entered into RVOHA Board Meeting minutes by RVOHA's past President, indicate that RVSSA was able to comfortably approve \$16,500 of work (including an overrun cushion), as well as donate another \$1,500. Neither of those outcomes indicate any form of financial hardship necessitating a four-fold increase in the fees RVOHA pay.
 2. RVOHA notes that the incremental variable cost of a participant using the facility is absolutely negligible in any case. RVOHA fails to see how RVSSA incurs meaningful, material expense if RVOHA has 100 members using the facility as opposed to, illustratively, 500 members.
 3. RVOHA notes that RVSSA is a 501(c)(3) and as such is chartered to only collect funds in keeping with the requirements of fulfilling their contract as an agent of Jackson County. We asked for evidence of hardship and were ignored – what is the incremental increase of \$7,500 intended to address?
 - b. RVSSA bases their rationale on "the lack of adjustments that should have been done over the last number of years."
 - i. A review of actual Consumer Price Index indicates CPI increased an average of 1.55% over the 10-year interval in question. Using that average increase as reflected here (https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm) would indicate the actual inflation adjustment would render a rate of ~\$2,984.52.
 - ii. If a contracted inflation rate of 3% over that period had been applied, the resulting rate would be ~\$3,359.79.
 - iii. To rationalize a \$10,000 rate, the annual inflation rate would have had to have been approximately 15% annually. This leads one to conclude that the increase is a simple punitive measure.
 - iv. The rationale is being offered by essentially the same Board of Directors that approved \$2,500 as adequate (more than adequate, considering annual donations made back to RVOHA) until spring of this year – for a period of 10 years.

1. Further, this is the same RVSSA Board of Directors that annually made direct donations to RVOHA (i.e. ~\$500) to support the annual RVOHA banquet fundraising event, as recent as a March 3, 2018 event.
 2. Further, this is the same RVSSA Board of Directors that didn't have an issue with the rate until it became evident the former President of RVOHA was not going to continue in that capacity – the former RVOHA President is an RVSSA Board Member.
- c. Jackson County residents, and RVOHA members, are discouraged by a characterization of RVSSA's performance as "good" if they have been effectively leaving \$7,500, annually, on the table for the last 10 years (a total of \$75,000). In our professional experience, our performance would not be characterized as "good" if we consistently under-collected 75% of the apparent value rendered.
- i. If RVSSA concludes that, in fact, they were incorrectly accepting a below market rate for access to the JCSPSC, it must only have been because the former president of RVOHA sat on the RVSSA Board, and for that reason RVSSA provided RVOHA an inappropriately low access fee rate until such time as the former President no longer served in that capacity? RVOHA contends that smacks of cronyism. RVOHA rejects the application of blatant cronyism in the administration of a public asset.

RVOHA has historically been an avid supporter of RVSSA, helping to fund expansion and maintenance efforts through financial and volunteer service opportunities. Conversely, RVSSA has reciprocated that support by making direct donations to RVOHA.

It is time for a changing of the guard and adoption of new practices. Alternatively, we would encourage JCPD to consider establishing a new oversight organization, or contracting with one, to manage the publicly-owned shooting complex. Sadly, RVSSA has gained a reputation as an organization that resorts to bullying, blustering, and bluffing its way through matters of concern in our sportsman's community. RVOHA is now calling RVSSA's bluff and has the committed determination, and financial means, to resolve this matter so that other groups will not have to deal with this set of behaviors in the future. RVOHA is whistleblowing on this matter and encourages the Board of Commissioners to make further investigations with respect to RVSSA Board Members allegedly being awarded contracts for RVSSA work and alleged instances of specifically limiting access and competition to the facility by other firearms instructors in the area.

Our current and former Board Members are prepared to provide sworn affidavits reflecting the content and nature of conversations and events that have resulted in this unfortunate set of circumstances. If necessary, RVOHA will file Public Records Requests for RVSSA Board Minutes and communications among Board members reflecting any, and all, activities RVSSA has engaged in as an agent of Jackson County. If this matter proceeds to a judicial resolution, RVOHA will name the RVSSA Board Members, collectively and individually, if that is the recommendation of our counsel. RVOHA will continue to press for accountability in this matter, including potential litigation proceedings, press releases and involvement of the media to draw attention to the untoward behavior of the RVSSA Board. Any conflicts of interest will be laid bare. The newly comprised RVOHA has no qualms or apprehensions regarding the airing of the facts and opinions regarding this grievance. By this letter, RVOHA seeks to make these issues matters of public concern and contemplation.

We would prefer to resolve the matter of negotiated fee access to support RVOHA member use of the range. Nevertheless, that is not our principal interest and motivation in this matter. We would, however, entertain a proposal for the mutual benefit of the operation of JCSPSC, Jackson County, RVSSA and RVOHA.

RVOHA proudly supports RVSSA's mutual interest in the shooting sports and is motivated in the common purpose of making safe shooting opportunities available in a cost-effective and robust manner for all Jackson County citizens. As RVOHA noted previously, RVOHA is an organization that will gladly pay its fair share to support its members' utilization of publicly-owned assets, and at the same time will vigorously represent its members' interests in obtaining fair and reasonable treatment.

Thank you for hearing RVOHA's grievances. Please advise as to the best means for resolving this matter to our collective satisfaction. We appreciate your consideration – as this progresses we expect an increasing number of RVOHA members will be making their voices heard.

Respectfully,

RVOHA's Board of Directors

Cc: Duane Dungannon, OHA State Coordinator
Mike Ayers, OHA State President

Stoneridge Tactical Drawing Thank You!

At our October Membership Meeting, Stoneridge Tactical (David Cunningham (541)-499-4706) sponsored another winner of a certificate, good for one year, representing free participation in Stoneridge Tactical's Tactical Handgun class (\$125 value; 8 hours). We are thankful for Stoneridge Tactical's generous donation of training.

Upcoming Membership Meeting Speakers:

- November 8th: Trail Cameras: Options, Setup, Use, Technology and Security, Jeff Heil (OHA Board)
- December 13th: Horn Night; ODFW New Online Licensing System Review, Steve Niemela (ODFW)
- January 10th: TBD
- February 14th: TBD
- March 14th: Spring Turkey Hunting Tips and Techniques, Nate Bailey (Southern Oregon Hunting)
- April 11th: TBD

Please feel free to send any comments, questions or content suggestions to:

roguevalleyoha@gmail.com

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Check for Updates on Our Website at

<https://oregonhunters.org/rogue-valley-chapter/>

Matt Blaschka (Dewclaw Archery) Speaker Thank You!:

Those who were in attendance this past month got a treat. Matt did a fantastic job walking our membership through a very thorough and systematic review of the processes we should employ when we consider purchasing a new bow, or when we've acquired one otherwise (used purchase, hand-me-down, etc). Matt talked at length about the key considerations in terms of bow fit and tuning. He further evolved the conversation to include an entire "chapter" dedicated to the selection and outfitting of arrows, including broadhead options and compromises. Thanks Matt!

Oregon State Police Report:

On a night flight in the Prospect area the pilot and an ODFW spotter located a vehicle well after dark on a closed road (TMA). The plane, with the aid of night vision, could see lights on the ground on the hill above the vehicle. Troopers intended to wait the vehicle out expecting they had killed an elk and wanted all the people, animals, and weapons in one place, at the vehicle. The plan changed when one of the hunters walked out and walked into a Trooper waiting on the closed road. A Trooper on the ground went ahead and contacted the vehicle. Six hunters were contacted, one covered in blood. A Trooper followed the flagging and the hunter to a 5x5 bull he had killed. The elk was a legal kill, the violations were for the TMA, and a citation was issued to the driver who drove in. The other five had not traveled in the vehicle as they had been working on quartering the elk and getting it packed out to the closed road.

A Trooper from the Central Point Office was working the Jackson Road closure (TMA) and contacted two subjects that had violated the road closure on ATV's. They had come from Salt Creek road and had crossed to Geppert Butte Rd. One rider was on 2-stroke 250 dirt bike and the quad rider was a built 650. To the Troopers surprise they both stopped for him. Several warnings related to ATV and road closure violations were issued, as well as a citation. One of the riders was lodged on an outstanding warrant out of Jackson County.

The Central Point/Grants Pass team worked in conjunction with our pilot to catch spot-lighters last weekend. About an hour after legal shooting hours, the pilot spotted a vehicle casting light out the passenger side, south of Willow Lake. When contacted, the people spot-lighting were not at their vehicle but up on a hillside. The wife was called down off the hill using the PA, however, the husband decided he did not want to come down. The woman at first said she shot at a bobcat and they walked up on the hill to look for it. She said when she heard and saw OSP she threw the .22 and walked down. She said her husband, a felon and on probation, was not the one that shot and he did not have any guns, but still high-tailed it out of there. There was a .270 rifle in the back seat and a spotlight in the front seat. The wife finally admitted to shooting at "eyes". She was arrested for hunting with the aid of light, hunting with the aid of motor vehicle, and hunting during prohibited hours. When we were at the jail, the jailer came on the loudspeaker asking if that was a deer decoy in the back of my truck. The wife looked up at me and asked if that was what she shot at. I think she knew she was shooting at a deer and not "eyes".

What's for Dinner? Roadkill Rules Approved:

The new rules on road-struck elk and deer were adopted at the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in October in Klamath Falls. Here is a summary of the newly adopted program:

- Deer and elk accidentally struck by a vehicle may be salvaged for consumption only. Intentionally hitting a deer or elk in order to salvage it remains unlawful.
- Anyone who salvages a road killed deer or elk must complete a free online permit within 24 hours of salvaging the animal.
- Antlers and head of all salvaged animals must be surrendered to an ODFW office within 5 business days of taking possession of the carcass.
- The entire carcass of the animal, including gut piles, must be removed from the road and road right of way during the salvage.

In cases where a deer or elk is struck, injured and then put down to alleviate suffering, only the driver of the vehicle that struck the animal may salvage the carcass and law enforcement must be immediately notified.

- Sale of any part of the salvaged animal is prohibited, but transfer to another person will be allowed with a written record similar to transferring game meat.

In a letter to the Commission, OHA stated it supported the new program, but added this caution: "We are hopeful that ODFW and OSP will work together to ensure that those applying for the salvage permits are in fact doing so because of road-struck kills and not poaching. It is our recommendation that OSP and ODFW monitor this program closely to ensure that poaching is not occurring under the permit process."

3000 Plus Membership Drive (Subject to Change and Modification at RVOHA Board's Discretion):

The drive will begin October 1, 2018 and end February 24, 2019 (end of Jackson County Sportsman's Show)

1. All RVOHA members working at least one four (4) hour shift at the Sportsman's Show will get 10 referral tickets.
2. The drawings will take place on March 2nd, 2019 at the annual RVOHA banquet.
3. All entries will be completed on the specific application form created and circulated in the newsletter, provided at the general membership/Board meetings, and the Sportsman's Show.
 - a. Tickets will be distributed to the tumbler prior to the Banquet.
 - b. There will be at least three drawing pools: (New/Extended Memberships, Referral Memberships, Overall Last Chance (and up to six drawing pools)).
 - c. Drawing pools 1, 2, and 3 will have first, second and third prizes.
 - d. Drawing pools 4, 5, and 6 will have only one prize for each drawing.
4. Drawing Pool 1 (New/Extended Memberships):
 - a. Each new member or one that renews/extends their membership during the membership drive timeframe will be given one drawing ticket for each year represented in their new/extended membership period (i.e. new 1 year member gets 1 drawing ticket, existing member extends 5 years and gets 5 drawing tickets and so on).
 - b. Any new or existing member that upgrades their membership to a LIFE MEMBERSHIP (PAID IN FULL ONLY) will get 10 drawing tickets. Any existing LIFE MEMBERS (PAID IN FULL ONLY) will get 3 drawing tickets to honor their prior commitment to OHA.
 - c. First prize for this drawing pool will be a Ruger SR45 .45ACP; Crossbreed IWB Supertuck Holster, Classic Gun Belt and Tuckable IWB Mag Carrier.
 - d. Second prize for this drawing will be a Vortex 1300 range finder.
 - e. Third prize for this drawing will be a Badlands SuperDay Pack.
5. Drawing Pool 2 (Referral Memberships):
 - a. Each member that refers a new member will get a drawing ticket for each year represented in that new membership period.
 - b. Any member who extends their membership will get a referral drawing ticket for each year they extend their own membership period.
 - c. Any member that refers a new member to a LIFE MEMBERSHIP (PAID IN FULL ONLY) will get 10 drawing tickets. Any existing member who upgrades their membership to a LIFE MEMBERSHIP (PAID IN FULL ONLY) will get 10 drawing tickets.
 - d. First prize will be a Kimber Montana Rifle.
 - e. Second prize will be a Vortex 1300 range finder.
 - f. Third prize will be a Badlands SuperDay Pack.
6. Drawing Pool 3 (Overall Last Chance):
 - a. Will consist of all NON-WINNING tickets from Drawing Pools 1 and 2.
 - b. First prize will be a Ruger Precision Rifle, 6.5 Creedmore.
 - c. Second prize will be a Vortex 1300 range finder.
 - d. Third prize will be a Badlands SuperDay Pack.
7. In the event the drive achieves certain milestones for NEW membership acquisition (250, 500 and 1000), EVERYONE who was in Drawing Pool 3 will be eligible for Drawing Pools 4, 5 and 6.
 - a. In the event the drive results in 250 NEW members, a fourth drawing pool (4) for a \$250 shopping event at Sportsman's Warehouse or Coastal will occur.
 - b. In the event the drive results in 500 NEW members, a fifth drawing pool (5) for a \$500 shopping event at Sportsman's Warehouse or Coastal will occur.
 - i. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE \$250 EVENT.
 - c. In the event the drive results in 1,000 NEW members, a sixth drawing pool (6) for a \$1,000 shopping event at Sportsman's Warehouse or Coastal will occur.
 - i. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE \$250 EVENT AND THE \$500 EVENT.

We are taking away the excuses - the excuses around our previously fervent request for you to recruit new members. Now EVERYONE has reason to upgrade/extend/renew/begin their membership as part of RVOHA. We have not done this before, so bear with us. If the Board learns that we missed something in trying to consider how to execute this effort, we will reconvene and communicate our decision. Bear in mind this is an effort to reward and encourage membership; something we shouldn't really have to do. However, we think it will be fun, and we have a vision of 3,000 members for RVOHA, on our way to 5,000; so do your part and extend your membership and recruit several more.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

Check ALL applicable boxes: **New Membership** **Renewal** *Referred by _____

Individual – Annual \$35 2 Years \$65 3 Years \$90 8 Years \$210 Junior \$10 Student \$12.50
 Business \$75 Life \$800 Pledge Life \$100 \$ _____

Family – Annual \$45 2 Years \$80 3 Years \$115 Family Life \$900 Family Life Pledge \$100 \$ _____

This is a gift from: Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Payment Method: **Visa/MC/Disc/AmEx** _____ Exp _____ CVV2 _____ **Cash/Check**

*Please mail to: Rogue Valley Chapter, PO box 1748 Medford, OR 97501 or scan and email to roguevalleyoha@gmail.com

Name _____ Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

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ODFW Cougar Hunting/Management/Regulation Historical Review:

This month, ODFW thought it would be useful to share Oregon's cougar hunting and regulation history. The following timelines come from Big Game History 1890 - 1990 (RU Mace, R Denney, and R Ingram, 1995, ODFW) and the 2017 Oregon Cougar Management Plan (2017, ODFW). For more information on cougars, see the current Cougar Management Plan available online at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/management_plans/

Some Historical Perspective:

1843-1961: The government establishes a bounty on cougars (\$10 in 1911). The bounty increases to \$25 in 1925 (\$364 today after adjusting for inflation) and to \$50 (\$900 today) in 1939. From 1915 to 1961, hunters turn in 6,718 cougars, ranging from 27 to 337 per year. A cooperative government hunter program from 1915-1961 removes an additional 442 cougars. In 1960, the statewide population declines to approximately 200 animals. *RVOHA Editorial: "The good ol' days."*

1962-1969: Bounties are discontinued in 1961, although hunting continues. Cougars are reclassified from a predator (unprotected) to a game animal, and the season closes in 1968-69, except for cougars taken for damage to livestock.

1970-1978: A December hunt in Wallowa County is authorized with 25 tags from 1970-1978. A cougar tag costs \$5 in 1970, and \$10 in 1975 (\$33 and \$48 today). A controlled hunt priority application system for cougars is adopted in 1965 (replaced by a three-year wait period between draws in 1976), and ODFW offers controlled hunts with varying parts of the state open to hunting. Cougar tag limits increase from 25 in 1970 to 130 in 1978 (most for northeast Oregon), however actual harvest remains low (the bag limit is 1 cougar).

1979-1990: The December hunting period is lengthened in western Oregon. The number of hunting areas and tags increase, and harvest also increases from 23 cougars in 1979 to 155 cougars in 1990. Data indicates that the increase in harvest matches a similar increase in population size. In 1987, the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopts a statewide cougar plan to direct management. In 1988, hunters are allowed to apply each year for a tag. The cost of a cougar tag increases from \$20 in 1980 to \$50 in 1988 (\$64 to \$109 today). In 1989, the state develops a population model to better estimate cougar numbers in the state, modeled as 2,150 animals in 1990.

1990-2000: The cougar management plan is updated in 1993. In 1994, a ballot measure (Measure 18) eliminates the public use of dogs for cougar hunting (maintaining provisions to allow government agencies to use dogs). In 1995, ODFW switches to an unlimited general season with expanded season dates. ODFW institutes a quota-based system of harvest management, and the Commission establishes a statewide minimum cougar population of 3,000 individuals. Cougar tag prices drop to \$10 in 1997, and tag sales increase from 937 in 1997 to 22,386 in 2000.

2000-2018: In 2001, the Oregon Legislature makes it legal for persons to take a cougar posing a threat to human safety without a permit. The cougar management plan is updated in 2006, and again in 2017. From 2006-2015, Oregon's human population grows by 9.75 percent. Cougar populations also increase to an estimated 6,493 animals in 2015, resulting in increased frequency of cougar activity in areas of human development. Cougar season changes to a statewide, full calendar year structure in 2010, and a mortality quota of 777 cougars set in 2007 is increased to 970 cougars in 2015. In 2018, a cougar tag costs \$16, and an additional tag can be purchased for an additional \$16. As of September 2018, 340 cougar mortalities (128 taken by hunters) are reported for the year.

File for OHA State Elections by February 1st, 2019:

This year, OHA State Board candidates will be elected for Vice President, Treasurer, Southwest Director, Southeast Director and Northeast Director.

- An individual can qualify for the ballot via a nomination from an OHA chapter or with 10 signatures from OHA members. The nomination deadline will be February 1st, 2019. Position statements (also due February 1st) of up to 200 words may be submitted for publication in the election section of Oregon Hunter magazine.

Board member duties include, but are not limited to:

- Prepare for, attend and participate in State Board meetings, which typically include four face-to-face board meetings per year scheduled throughout the state, and up to six teleconference board meetings per year.
- Actively work on projects or current issues. This may include management plan reviews, serving on a special work group, pursuing a specific legislative action, developing OHA policies or positions, tracking and responding to external issues, etc.
- Serve on one or more OHA Board committees and may take on special assignments as needed.

Wolf Plan Stakeholder Meeting Saga Continues:

RVOHA Editorial: *If you've ever wondered about the value of your RVOHA membership, please appreciate the efforts that are made possible, and would not happen with the same efficacy, if not for OHA's advocacy.*

The first facilitated wolf plan stakeholder meeting was held in late August in The Dalles where little progress was made, especially on "controlled take" or hunting language. The management representatives - including OHA, RMEF, OCA, and the Farm Bureau - all emphasized a need to leave this option in the plan.

Most of the four wolf advocate groups want hunting removed from the management tool box for the next five-year planning period. The second meeting was held in Salem on October 9th. It resulted in progress on reaching consensus on radio-collaring efforts, the definition of chronic depredation on livestock, and which agencies and staff could review depredations in the field. OHA emphasized better wolf population monitoring, with number limits per management zone, which are yet to be developed.

The issues of controlled hunting and protecting ungulate populations will be addressed in detail at the next in-person meeting scheduled for Pendleton on November 27th.

OHA Emphasizes Need for Better Cougar Control:

OHA staff have done interviews for TV and newspaper articles in the past month, following the tragic fatal cougar attack in the Mt. Hood area. This fatality is the first documented case of a wild cougar killing a person in Oregon in recent times. In speaking on this incident, we have been respectful of the family's tragedy, but also have taken the opportunity to express the importance of more effective cougar management, involving renewed use of trailing hounds for cougar hunting in many parts of Oregon. In addition, new concepts for improved cougar hunting effectiveness are currently being formulated into an upcoming proposal for the 2019 legislative session.

Banquet Center-Stage, Eye-Opener, Breath-Taker, WOW-Factor Item (and we need some help to do it):

There's a acronym used in some business contexts: BHAG. **Big Hairy Audacious Goal.** We have a BHAG for our banquet this year. We are looking for the centerpiece to the entire extravaganza - the "ARE YOU SERIOUS" item?! What we'd like to have is a drift boat, or a power boat, or a motorcycle, or an ATV, or a ? that will be our "OMG!" item for this year's banquet. It need not be new, but it does need to fit the prototype of being of high-value and something we can gussy up to bring the house down, and the banquet fund total up! If you have an item that might fit this general description, know a potential donor, or are in a position to help us fund such an item, we'd really like to hear from you.

Presently, the donations for the 2019 banquet are pouring in. We are truly blessed to have a generous and motivated membership who take seriously, and earnestly, the responsibility for protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage in a very open-handed manner. Thank you to all of our year-in and year-out donors. In addition to those folks, we have several new donors and their names, as well as our long-time contributors, will be part of next month's newsletter. In addition to several hunts, fishing trips and other fantastic merchandise, we already have the following firearms donated and ready for the banquet (in the last week we got donations for four more!). Check this out:

Sig Sauer 1911-22 (.22LR), Springfield XDM (2 - .40 S&W), S&W 642 Carry Revolver (38 SPL), TIKKA T3X (2 - one each of 6.5 Creedmore and 300WinMag), Savage AXIS (7mm-08), Remington 700 (6.5 Creedmore), Weatherby Vanguard (.257 Weatherby), Mossberg 590 (12 ga), Bergara B-14 Ridge (6.5 Creedmore), Diamondback DB15 (5.56)

We expect to surpass last year's 40+ firearms by a considerable number and will have several classics that will be part of the silent auction. There is little doubt we will have the biggest selection of items in the history of RVOHA. Plan to be part of this wonderful event and be one of our many winners. Oh, did we mention that we are increasing the raffles from five (5) to six (6) by adding Personal/Home Defense. That's right - come and get it (and invite several friends to get their share and support our important work in partnering with Oregon Hunters, ODFW and OSP).

In the meantime our planning team is working diligently to develop our format for the meeting. We have our software ready to go and will start inputting all of the information in there. We are hoping to feature a "line busting" capability that will allow you to provide us/confirm a credit card number during your expedited check-in process so that at the end of the evening, rather than standing in line, we just hand you a receipt detailing all of your purchases charged to that card. We are both excited and apprehensive about driving these new features, and are committed to having a great evening with all of you. We have a commitment for live music to kick things off, we are working feverishly on some very attractive decorations as well as a hunting themed "selfies" photo area (we are NOT responsible for the embarrassing pictures that will assuredly result!), and are pleased with progress on security support and other aspects of what we think will make the Armory venue a huge step up for your enjoyment. We can hardly wait to kick the evening off!!!



35th Anniversary Banquet - March 2, 2019
 Rogue Valley Oregon Hunters Association
 Medford Armory
 1701 South Pacific Highway

Doors open at 4:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm, Drawings & Raffles at 6:00 pm
All Funds Raised Stay in Oregon and Support Local & State OHA

Ticket Packages:

\$275 Benefactor#: 1 dinner, 1 benefactor drawing, 2 drink tickets, \$500 in general raffle tickets (\$670 value)
#Benefactor Raffle: 1 out of 10 Benefactors wins a SPECIAL PRIZE!!!

\$125 Basic: 1 dinner, \$120 in general raffle tickets (\$180 value)

\$60 Mini: 1 dinner (\$60 value)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Basic Package		<input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor		<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Benefactor Guest Meal (*only one available w/Benefactor Package)		<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Mini Package	
Name:			Phone:		Guest Name:		Life Member #
Address:				City:		Zip:	
Payment Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check #:	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card # and security code			Card exp. date:	
Business Name:			*Non OHA Members Add Membership Fee: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$45				
Email address				Signature (for credit cards only)			Total Enclosed:
Mail Form & Payment to: RVOHA P.O. Box 1748 Medford, OR. 97501 or Contact Norma Morehouse at 503-250-3000 Purchase Packages by Jan. 15th, 2019 to enter the Early Bird Drawing! Please confirm your membership is current!							

Corporate tables (combinations of Benefactor and Basic Packages ONLY) may be purchased at an approximate 5% discount to regular price. Please state dinner seating arrangements preferences: _____. It is the committee's desire to exceed your expectations for an enjoyable evening as items are presented in both silent and live auctions. Please bid early and often as this event is dedicated to the generation of funds to assist OHA in meeting the organization's mission of Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage.

Corporate Table Price Schedule:

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------|
| 1. | 1 benefactor package plus 1 guest meal = \$315.00 + 6 basic packages (\$750.00)
(8 meals + 2 drink tickets) | Total \$1010.00 |
| 2. | 1 benefactor package @ \$275.00+ 7 Basic packages = \$875.00.
(8 meals + 2 drink tickets) | Total \$1090.00 |
| 3. | 4 benefactor packages + 4 guest meals @ \$315.00
(8 meals + 8 drink tickets) | Total \$1195.00 |
| 4. | 8 benefactor packages @ \$275.00
(8 meals + 16 drink tickets) | Total \$2090.00 |
| 5. | Platinum Table (10 seats) 10 Benefactor Packages @\$275.00
(10 meals + 20 drink tickets PLUS 1 in 10 chance to win firearm) | Total \$3750.00 |

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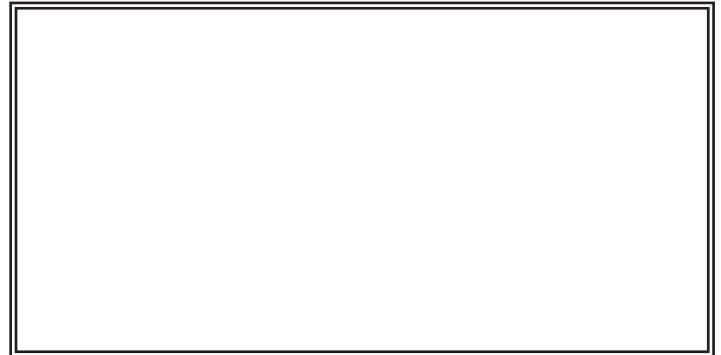
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- General Member Meetings
 - 2nd Thursday of every month
 - Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Road; 6:00pm Dinner
- Chapter Board Meetings
 - 3rd Thursday of every month
 - 4175 Old Stage Road; 6:30pm
- **Newsletter Submissions**
 - Pictures, articles and event updates are appreciated
 - Deadline for newsletter submissions is the last Friday of each month

The advertisements in this publication are submitted in accordance with postal regulations regarding Special Bulk Rate eligibility for periodical publications, as described in USPS Pub. 417-6-3-5



Rogue Valley Oregon Hunters Association looks forward to seeing you at the November 8th membership meeting



The RVSSA (Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Range) Board has withdrawn the offer of a use contract with RVOHA. Effective July 1, RVOHA members will be subject to the normal use fee structure. \$5/day/shooter, \$25/year for individuals and \$40/year for a family of two adults and children under 18.

2019 Banquet Planning:

Congratulations to Sam and Phyllis Inkley for being the FIRST to secure their seats for RVOHA'S 35th anniversary celebration on March 2, 2019. Those two are on the ball! Guns are being secured and we plan to identify the "WALL of GUNS" and the "BIGHORN GUNS" before Christmas so tickets can be purchased early. All of the details are in the newsletter so buy tickets now as you could win your dream gun in one of these raffles. All our banquet games will have a gun in the prize mix. Start budgeting now so you can play to win. We have additional prints for our collectors. John Thiebes, our Southwest Regional Director generously donated Michael Sieve framed prints titled Athabasca River Challenge, Athabasca River Battle, and Athabasca Monarch. Join Sam and Phyllis, and your friends, at this party.

The 2019 Banquet committee will meet Monday, November 19th at the RVOHA headquarters (4175 Old Stage Road) at 6:00 PM. All RVOHA members interested in the planning, purchasing, organizing and soliciting of merchandise please plan to attend. We are also inviting those members who will work the night of the banquet to attend this meeting. This is an important meeting to learn about the software we will employ on March 2, 2019!

We have some excellent new sponsors and donors stepping forward to support our efforts. Please continue to review the contents of your gun safes, your storage units, your homes and your garage(s), where you might have accumulated treasures that would be incredibly valuable to RVOHA in improving the entire banquet experience for everyone involved (more stuff = more winners = more money to Protect Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage).

For those members that haven't donated in the past, but are feeling motivated to do so now, please contact Norma Morehouse at (503)-250-3000. Thank you in advance for your generosity.