

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

August 9th, 2018
Volume 33; Issue #8



Membership Monthly Meeting: August 9th 2018; 6:00pm
Eagles Club 2000 Table Rock Road, Medford, OR

Speaker: Tactical Handgun Instruction, David Cunningham
(Stoneridge Tactical)
Menu: Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Dessert, Soft Drinks \$12

Many Hands Make for Light Work - Volunteers:

The Rogue Valley Chapter of Oregon Hunters Association has approximately 1000 members. Every second Thursday of the month, we have a chapter membership meeting with approximately 50 attendees - sometimes a few more, sometimes a few less. Many of the attendees might be thought of as "regulars", although there are a few new folks every meeting and we really appreciate their attendance and getting to meet and welcome them to the event.

RVOHA has been blessed with very generous members, both in terms of time and volunteer support, however to accomplish some of our ambitions goals, we are asking for more. More of everything because RVOHA is determined to help overcome the prevalent, generalized and bigots misrepresentations about hunters and outdoorsmen. To help appeal to those who don't hunt (90% of the population), we want to continue to make consistent strides in describing all the positive aspects of effective management and harvest of biological surplus (hunting).

We have already described some ways we'd like to see you all recruiting new members and are working on a program that may potentially reward those efforts. We would love to expand our annual auction (live and silent) packages to include additional items. There are a lot of individuals and prosperous business owners in our ranks that could, but haven't yet, come forward to participate in offering something for the banquet. There's bound to be something you manufacture, or service you offer, or have something that others would find valuable enough to support RVOHA's mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage by actively bidding on it as a live or silent auction item. We have some excellent RVOHA member artists and craftsmen that could render themselves some pretty amazing advertising and marketing reach by including one of their work projects as a banquet auction item at the same time they help RVOHA raise additional funds.

We are working very hard on the content of the newsletter. It would be interesting and informative to know if you've noticed the additional effort we've put forth. We welcome your feedback - this is a good change, or perhaps you don't feel the information is worthwhile? We're putting a lot of effort into trying to identify and coax quality, and accomplished, subject matter experts to provide presentations for our monthly membership meetings. The last several months of presentations have been very informative and those we have scheduled through the end of the year are highly anticipated. We hope you will consider supporting these volunteer presentations by attending.

The RVOHA banquet is a widely anticipated event each year. It is an opportunity for RVOHA to raise considerable funds for application to a whole suite of worthy activities and affiliated organizations. It takes a LOT of time and effort to create the experience we all get to enjoy. Presently RVOHA, with other chapters and Bryan Cook (Field Director), is evaluating a couple of software programs specifically designed to support non-profit fund raising events like our banquet. We have reviewed two programs via "Go To Meeting" demonstrations and both offer considerable opportunity to vault our efforts into the 21st century. Our Board of Directors seek tech-savvy members who might be willing, able and interested to assist the Banquet Committee in their adaptation efforts when we decide which software we will employ for the 2019 banquet event.

Hopefully the content of the newsletter is encouraging to our membership. It also takes a lot of time to develop the content, get it formatted, proofread and so on. It might make an interesting project for someone, including a young adult, who is interested in developing, further refining or perfecting their digital publishing skillset. This set of responsibilities might be a great way for a creative, graphical artist to help us tell a more vivid and complete story about RVOHA and all of its ambitions. This represents opportunity to serve others and expand skills concurrently.

Bottom line is we have a tremendous opportunity and the only thing missing presently is your help. We look forward to having you become an integral part of our team.

Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt

ODFW Speaker “Thank You!”:

RVOHA would like to thank ODFW representatives (Steve Niemela, Dan Ethridge (presenter) and Sam Doddenhoff) for presenting an informative overview of coming changes to hunting regulations. In addition to highlighting several important changes already coming, they also noted some potential changes in regulations. After completing the review of proposed/enacted changes, ODFW covered recent area deer and elk survey results. Overall, the information was useful and prompted several comments and questions such as:

- Consider combining the general deer and elk seasons in the Cascades so that there was the potential for harvesting one, or both species while in the field
- Consider moving the general deer season later into November as the weather is consistently too warm in October and the hunt timing is before the rut
- Consider increasing the daily bag limit for turkeys to two or three to allow hunters to harvest their seasonal limit on fewer days of hunting
- Consider having the draw process for bighorn sheep and mountain goats completed earlier in the year to give successful applicants more time to arrange, plan and scout for their once in a lifetime opportunity.
- Consider banning the feeding of wildlife

Finally, Team ODFW noted that there is a new on-line licensing program/process that will be implemented in December of 2018. The simple summary of this web-based, on-line system is that the Point of Sale (POS) systems at many retailers will not be the only way sportsman can pay for and print licenses in the future. Instead they will have the ability to do so from any number of devices. RVOHA members who have secured licenses in other states may be familiar with similar systems. ODFW intends to support rollout of the new system with a number of presentations and test sessions, and has agreed to do an RVOHA presentation on December 13th at the membership meeting.

Phil Cicero/Jake Whitmire Long-Range Shooting Speakers “Thank You!”:

Those that didn't the July 12th Membership meeting, or left early, missed an excellent summary of Long Range Shooting considerations by two very knowledgeable and articulate speakers. Phil Cicero (Jackson County Sheriff's Department) and Jake Whitmire (The Estate Planning Group - <https://www.epgoregon.com/about.html>) covered everything from equipment (weapon, trigger, optics, range finding) to ballistics (internal to the weapon/external to the weapon) to shooting techniques (positions, breathing, sight pictures, follow through) to environmental conditions (temperature, wind, angles). In addition to their knowledge they presented several firearms and shared their detailed experiences and observations about the furniture of each of them.

Upcoming General Membership Presentations:

We are looking forward to the next set of presentations scheduled and hope you will prioritize attendance of these meetings where the friendly Eagles staff will gladly serve you a steak, baked potato, salad, dessert and soft drinks for \$12. Here are our scheduled speakers:

August 9th:	Tactical Handgun Instruction, David Cunningham (Stoneridge Tactical)
September 13th:	Regional Habitat Funding Initiatives, Ken McCall (OHA Resource Director)
October 11th:	Archery Equipment Selection, Setup and Tuning, Matt Blaschka (Dewclaw Archery)
November 8th:	Trail Cameras (options, setup, use, technology and security (Jeff Heil, OHA Board Member)
December 13th:	Horn Night; ODFW New Online Licensing System Review (Steve Niemela, ODFW)

Potential RAWA Funding for ODFW:

Dear Rogue Valley Chapter OHA Member,

I wanted to thank the local OHA board for the opportunity for ODFW to provide content to your newsletter. This is an excellent way for us to communicate directly with your membership, and we appreciate it. Today, I wanted to talk to you about the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and how it may fit with some of ODFW's on-going funding issues.

RAWA is currently a bill (H.R. 4647) in front of the US House of representatives. If approved, it would dedicate \$1.3 billion in existing revenues from energy and mineral extraction on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. This money would be distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies to fund State Wildlife Action Plans. Under the current proposal this would mean \$26 million dollars to fund the Oregon Conservation Strategy, which is Oregon's proactive, voluntary plan to conserve at-risk species and habitats. Current funding for implementation of the Strategy is \$900,000. Obviously, passage of RAWA would be game-changing for wildlife conservation in our state.

Passage of this law would have immense benefits for our hunters and anglers. The Oregon Conservation Strategy identifies habitats that are at-risk, many of which are incredibly important to game species as well as our Strategy Species. Think of the benefit to deer and elk if we could find a way to improve our Oak Woodlands, Ponderosa Pine Forests, and Grasslands and let a little more light hit the forest floor. Perhaps most importantly this would take some of the burden off hunters to pay for wildlife management, by fully funding our conservation actions for at-risk species. During our last fee increase, OHA and the other sporting groups supported our agency and the work we do, but made it clear that Oregon had to find an alternate funding method. We are incredibly grateful for that support and have been working hard to secure that alternate funding. The Oregon legislature passed HB2402, which created an alternate funding task force. While these efforts are underway, they have not yet born tangible fruit. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide the alternative funding we have been looking for.

Passage of this bill is far from guaranteed. I would encourage you to reach out to your local representative to the House of Representatives and let them know that the Recovering America's Wildlife Act is important for conservation and for fixing some of the inequity in how we fund wildlife management.

I am a hunter and an OHA member, and believe strongly that we are Oregon's leading conservationists. I hope you will join us in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Steve Niemela
Rogue District Wildlife Biologist

TIPs (Turn in Poachers) Worth it or Waste of Money?:

At the general membership meeting, ODFW was asked their opinion of the value of TIP offers that RVOHA and other similarly motivated sponsors contribute to periodically. ODFW offered that they felt TIPs were helpful in helping incentivize people to contact OSP on occasions when illegal acts have taken place.

As a result of that question, we decided to ask our partner and OSP liaison Trooper Jim Collom his thoughts on the value of the TIP program. Trooper Collom noted that OSP relies very heavily on the public to develop information and leads on game violation cases. He noted that the biggest, most impactful cases he has worked on in his career were driven, in a significant and important way, by valuable information the TIP reward program helped surface. The absolutely disgusting matter of the recently arrowed deer in Shady Cove are a prime example. Trooper Collom feels that the collective contributions of several interested parties, including OHA, directly contributed to the arrest of the alleged shooter/poacher. RVOHA is delighted to have played a part in the arrest by supporting a substantial increase in the TIP.

There is another reward concept RVOHA might like to promote where instead of funds, or perhaps in addition to funds, those that turn in game violators might be eligible for a preference point. That seems like an excellent idea and additional incentive for turning in the bad actors - who wouldn't like to get another preference point? Any such program would require a thorough vetting process and must be passed in the form of appropriate legislation, which just gave us another idea to push to our State Office personnel who work closely with the legislators in Salem.

RVOHA has a new email address! Please feel free to send any questions or observations to roguevalleyoha@gmail.com. We'll do our best to promptly respond!!!

Medford Trap Shooting Team Nationals Result:

The Medford Trap Shooting Team RVOHA recently supported with a donation to attend the High School Nationals event in Michigan rendered some outstanding outcomes. First and foremost was recognition from their volunteer coaches praising the team for exemplary sportsmanship in supporting their teammates (and other teams from Oregon) as well as their integrity during the competition. However, the results weren't just about the manner in which the team competed; they competed very well in terms of placings as well. The team placed 59th in the nation, ahead of over 100 other teams. Further, two members of the team placed 25th (196 of 200 targets) and 142nd (192 of 200 targets) in the nation as part of a field of over 1400 shooters. The team is already looking forward to next year's competitions and graduate only one senior. RVOHA is proud to have been able to support these young sportsmen and sportswomen.

RVOHA Website and Facebook Accounts:

RVOHA is in the process of evaluating the potential for an updated website and working toward making better, more consistent use of the already established Oregon Hunters Association - Rogue Valley Facebook account. We have nearly 1000 members, but only 265 folks liking the Facebook account so some of you might be missing out.

RVOHA State Summit (Diamond Lake):

Several board members will be attending the annual statewide meeting of OHA State and Chapter leadership the weekend of August 3rd-5th. There is a robust and full agenda of updates and presentations planned. Those attending on our behalf will happily report out in the September newsletter.

RVOHA Ducks Unlimited Greenwings Support:

RVOHA is proud to sponsor the Rogue Valley Ducks Unlimited Greenwings banquet packages for 2018.

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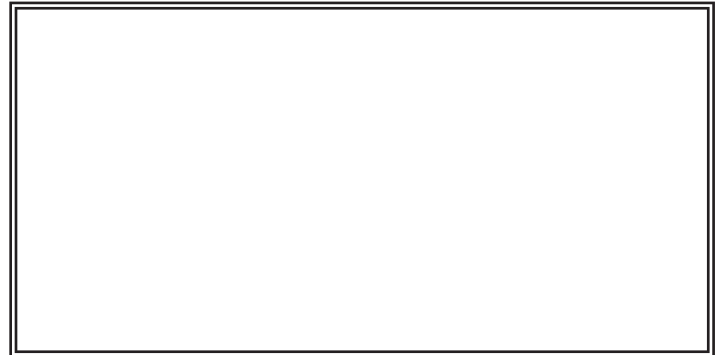
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- General Member Meetings
 - 2nd Thursday of every month
 - Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Road; 6:00pm Dinner
- Chapter Board Meetings
 - 3rd Thursday of every month
 - 4175 Old Stage Road; 6:30pm
- **Newsletter Submissions**
 - Pictures, articles and 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 August 9th 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 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. RVOHA's Board of Directors are pursuing redress on the matter and will report back on progress as it unfolds.

2019 Banquet Planning:

With the move to the new ROVHA "headquarters", the banquet committee will be ramping efforts at securing and storing donations of goods, services and cash donations to support the March 2, 2019 event. We are very excited to have back some young volunteers who will be playing an even bigger role in our next banquet event.

We are working feverishly on an expanded banquet venue and are looking forward to the opportunity for expanding our fund raising, all with the expressed intention of using those funds to Protect Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage. For those interested in supporting the Banquet Committee, please contact Norma Morehouse at 503-250-3000. Banquet preparation meetings will be held at the 4175 Old Stage Road location.

As we will be adopting a new software supported means for conducting our ticket sales and banquet event, we are eager to add technology savvy volunteers to help us make our event the best it can possibly be. If you have considered participating in the past and feel the urge to serve in support of RVOHA's main fund raising platform (annual banquet), please contact Norma Morehouse at 503-250-3000 and she WILL find you a task (or several) that need an energetic and committed owner to champion it.

Topics of Potential Interest:

Buy your tags before the seasons start! Be safe and enjoy the amazing opportunities and experiences we all get to have when we step out of our trucks or off our back porches and head out into the promise of a day in nature.

Think about mentoring a newcomer this fall. Check out "Mentor the Hunt" on Facebook for some ideas.