

## ROGUE VALLEY REVIEW OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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

September 13th, 2018  
Volume 33; Issue #9



**Membership Monthly Meeting: September 13 th 2018; 6:00pm**  
**Eagles Club 2000 Table Rock Road, Medford, OR**

**Speaker: Regional Habitat Funding Initiatives, Ken McCall (OHA Resource Director)**  
**Menu: Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Dessert, Soft Drinks \$12**

### OHA Annual Summit (Diamond Lake):

At the annual OHA Summit meeting, attendees got to hear from a host of speakers representing a number of functional and organizational responsibilities across the state. Speakers included members of the OHA State Offices: Duane Dungannon (State Coordinator) - Media, particularly new website opportunities, Bryan Cook (Field Director) - Banquet Activities including "Best Practices", Scholarship Regulations and Non-Profit Banquet Software Options, Ken McCall (Resource Director) - Regional Habitat Project Development and Execution, Jim Akenson (Conservation Director)/Fred Walasavage (OHA State Director - NW Oregon/State Board Chairman)/Mike Ayers (OHA State President) - OHA Strategic Plan Overview and Cindy Rooney (OHA State Director - SW Oregon) - Recruitment and Retention Initiatives.

Additional speakers included Curt Melcher (ODFW Director) who spoke in depth on the efforts ODFW has made, and will continue to make, to reduce costs and increase customer (hunter) satisfaction. He noted the new ELS (Electronic Licensing Software) that will roll out in December of this year. Captain Jeff Samuels (OSP) offered a summary of his team's current makeup and discussed his appreciation for the regular and reliable support OHA offers his officers when it comes to TIP reward money and tools to improve their enforcement efforts. Monty Gregg (USFS Ochoco Biologist) and Tim Greseth (Oregon Wildlife Foundation) discussed the myriad of options for identifying and applying funding resources to support wildlife and habitat-centric efforts that OHA can exploit in leveraging chapter and State project fund donations. The bottom line is there is a lot of opportunity if we're willing to raise and spend money for the benefit of our game populations.

We heard from Nick Myatt (ODFW) who is diligently leading the current ODFW hunting regulation simplification process. Nick discussed progress to date and what's left to do in trying to achieve a dramatic revision of current regulations to make them far easier to understand and administer. Since returning from the Summit, RVOHA has provided some feedback on the proposed changes, as well as a few other suggestions based on membership thoughts.

Finally, and perhaps the most interesting/stunning information presented was a two-part effort by Cidney Bowman (ODOT Biologist) and Suzanne Linford (PAM - Protect Animal Migration Director) who detailed the profound impact safe animal passage efforts can mean to Oregon's game populations. Suzanne is a sparkling example of what can happen when one or more decide enough is enough. Suzanne is not a hunter, but is an OHA Bend chapter member and someone who just grew tired of seeing all the deer being killed on highway 97. These ladies detailed some learnings from Central Oregon's Highway 97 under crossing. Here are some of the startling facts and related opportunities:

- 1) Mule Deer populations in the Lava Butte area are only at 50% of sustainability based in part of road kills
- 2) Roughly 500 mule deer are killed in their twice annual migration across highway 97
- 3) Road killed Mule Deer represent 20% of herd loss which is more than the adjacent 4 hunting units combined
- 4) Present daily traffic on highway 97 is 22,000 cars/day. At 28,000 cars/day the road will be impassable
- 5) Each collision results in an average repair bill of \$6500 (\$3,250,000/year)
- 6) Many collisions result in OSP dispatch to euthanize deer and the annual costs to remove carcasses is \$20,000
- 7) Specifically designed and implemented wildlife fencing and over/under crossings reduce collisions by 85%
- 8) The ONLY under crossing (there's no over crossing in OR) has FIVE years of factual data supporting its value
- 9) The Lava Buttes under crossing has documented utilization by 40 unique species

As evidenced by the profound costs of collision repair, OSP intervention, loss of wildlife resources and carcass disposal costs it's readily apparent that more effective use of planning and design for safe animal crossings must be a part of our transportation funding at the federal, state and municipal levels. If you would like to learn more, you can contact [www.myowf.org](http://www.myowf.org) or [www.protectanimalmigration.org](http://www.protectanimalmigration.org). Specifically there is a work-in-progress under crossing you can learn about at [www.myowf.org/gilchristcrossing](http://www.myowf.org/gilchristcrossing).

*If you are not working to protect hunting, then you are working to destroy it.*

*Fred Bear*

**Stoneridge Tactical (David Cunningham) Speaker "Thank You!":**

RVOHA would like to thank David Cunningham for providing an introduction to the firearms training that has made Stoneridge Tactical one of the most appreciated service providers/training teams in the Rogue Valley. David covered the 5-step draw technique that is foundational to his tactical pistol training program. He also took some of our members through a simple drill to highlight the proper employment of a safety circle approach to working with a friendly in an unfriendly situation. David summarized the facts of personal defense by noting that "time is life" and that finishing in second place isn't an option.

We also appreciated his updates on the various legislation that might affect gun ownership in the State of Oregon. David and his wife have earned the distinction of many firearm and personal defense credentials. Members might like to learn more about Stoneridge Tactical at <http://www.stoneridgetactical.com/> or by calling 541-499-4706.

In appreciation and support for RVOHA, and to support the application of improved firearms training, Stoneridge Tactical has offered to support a MONTHLY membership meeting drawing where the winning attendee will be provided 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 time and training.

**New RVOHA Website:**

RVOHA, with the support of the State Office and a local digital media consultant, have built a new and improved website. It is functional, but not fully complemented with information. We are working on that and hope to make it a meaningful communication platform for our membership at <https://oregonhunters.org/rogue-valley-chapter/>

**RVOHA FFL:**

The RVOHA Board has authorized funding to support the securing of a Board Member FFL license. Presently RVOHA incurs regular expenses, and hassles, to responsibly transport firearms in a couple of contexts. The Board hopes to minimize the cost and hassle of firearm handling efforts with this change. Stay tuned for more details.

**Upcoming General Membership Presentations:**

We are looking forward to the next set of scheduled presentations, 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:

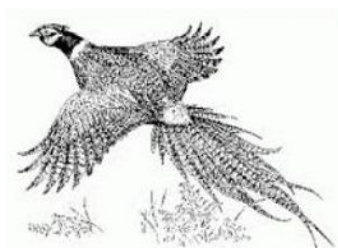
|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 13th: | Regional Habitat Funding Initiatives, Ken McCall (OHA Resource Director)                 |
| October 11th:   | Archery Equipment Selection, Setup and Tuning, Matt Blaschka (Dewclaw Archery)           |
| November 8th:   | Trail Cameras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

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

## Denman Youth Pheasant Hunt:

The Denman Wildlife Area Youth Pheasant Hunt will be held on Saturday and Sunday September 15th and 16th, so save the dates on your calendar. This year ODFW staff will release 500 rooster pheasants for the event. Breakfast will be served by United Hunters and Sportsmen starting around 7:00 am. The hunt will begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 5:00 pm each day. Success rates vary, however, participants typically average more than a bird per hunter. OHA and Hunter Ed will run the trap shooting range so participants can sharpen up their shooting skills. OHA also contributes to the event by purchasing 200 of the birds for the event. The additional birds really make a difference in the success rates of the hunt.

There are always some volunteer opportunities associated with the event. OHA will be recruiting and welcoming volunteers to man the trap range and assist with other duties. We always appreciate a couple of folks ready to accompany hunters who don't have enough family member chaperons to provide a one-to-one ration of adult supervision for youth participants. We are always thankful for dog handlers to accompany participants who don't have a dog of their own, but would like to hunt over one. If you have a competent field dog and want to run it in the event, bring it and ODFW staff can connect you with some youth participants. It's a lot of fun. ODFW staff will need help releasing pheasants on Friday evening and again on Saturday evening (September 14th and 15th). Meet in front of the pheasant pens at 5:00 pm each evening if you would like to support our efforts.





### **All Lands; All Hands - Support Public Agencies:**

We regularly hear a lot of griping and complaining about various government agencies. All seem to draw fire on an all too frequent basis. Certainly there are challenges and bureaucratic frustrations reflected in the time it takes to get things done, but there are also consistent indications/manifestations of progress. At the State Summit there were lots of quality interactions with representatives from several government agencies. The overwhelming majority of people we get to work with, as part of the ODFW, OSP, ODOT, USFS, BLM, etc. teams, are friendly, motivated, hard-working and dedicated folks. Some might share our biases personally, but are not at liberty to reflect those professionally. We need to respect that fact. We also need to avoid some of the finger-pointing and blame-shifting that has become so permissive in our culture. Rather than complaining about how things are, we need to be working to making things better with constructive conversations about possible solutions. Our Board is delighted to help any of our members make connections to enable support of the various government organizations with volunteer efforts. In the meantime, let's do our best to develop constructive dialogue around the issues that matter to everyone motivated by the habitat challenges and game population opportunities we all want to see improve.

### **Gun Control Lobbying and Legislation - Coming Distractions:**

IP43 & IP44 did not make it to the ballot this fall. Both measures intended to greatly restrict and compromise our firearm ownership, storage and usage rights. The expectation is these initiatives, in some form, will be presented as potential legislation during the 2019 sessions. In the event these measures (in some form) are not passed as legislation as part of the 2019 session, they are expected to return as ballot initiatives in 2020. The battle was won this summer, but the war will rage on and on and on. Consider adding and upgrading memberships and affiliations to organizations that share your views on the important matter of firearm ownership rights. Don't wait until it's too late.

### **Oregon State Police:**

RVOHA is proud to add some content from our partners from OSP. Here's a taste of what they've been up to over the last few months. In addition to supporting lot of fire related activities, including evacuations, and checking on salmon anglers, there have been a few recent cases they've been working on related to Oregon wildlife populations.

Troopers responded this summer to a call that someone had killed a bull elk in the Wimer area. OSP's investigation revealed that a landowner "just got buck fever." The hide and organ remains of the elk were buried on the property. The elk meat was seized and the suspect was cited for Take/Unlawful Take of Elk Closed Season.

Troopers responded to a call where someone found a gut pile on a gravel bar on the Rogue River below TouVelle boat ramp. The same day Troopers also received a call that a beaver may be in a leg-hold trap at the mouth of Bear Creek. The troopers floated down from TouVelle in pontoon boats and discovered the gut pile sitting on the gravel bar. The remains were from a bear and not a deer as was originally suspected. Bear season was open. The troopers floated on down to the mouth of Bear Creek, but could not locate the reportedly trapped beaver. There was no human activity on that side of Bear Creek, but it was obvious a beaver had been busy in that area. No traps were located. Several salmon anglers were contacted during the float and some salmon were checked.

Troopers have recently patrolled the Dutchman Peak/Mt. Ashland area in the middle of the night on OSP's new Can-AM ATV's, but did not detect much activity. OSP had some reports of bear hunters/hound hunters in the area.

In late July, Central Point and Grants Pass Fish and Wildlife Troopers were called to the Merlin area to investigate a deer that was discovered dead in someone's front yard - the person reporting the dead deer thought it might have been poached. Troopers responded and discovered two dead deer inside a fenced yard only 20 feet from someone's house. Both deer had bullet holes in them. Shots were heard in the area on the evening of July 22 around 11pm. The location was off of Grouse Creek Road in the Colonial Valley if anyone in RVOHA might have information.



**Sr. Trooper Brad Bennett examining one of the deer poached.**



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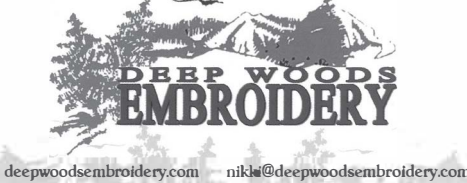
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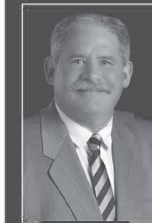
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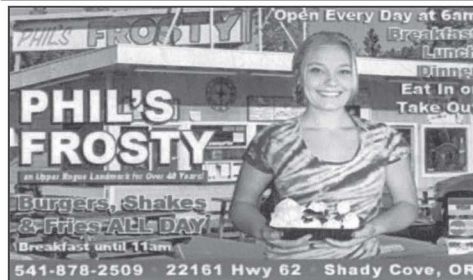
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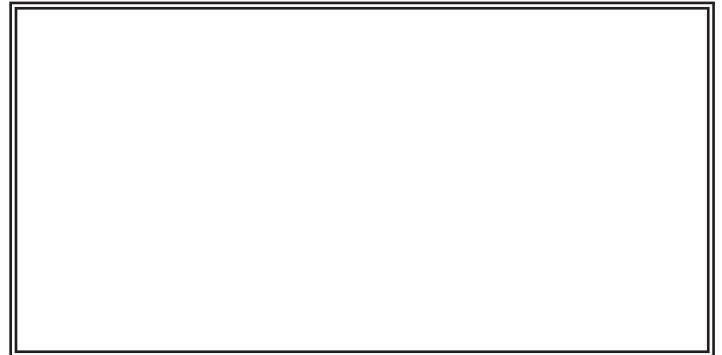
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- General Member Meetings
  - 2nd Thursday of every month
  - Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Road; 6:00pm Dinner
- Chapter Board Meetings
  - 3rd Thursday of every month
  - 4175 Old Stage Road; 6:30pm
- **Newsletter Submissions**
  - Pictures, articles 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 September 13th 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. RVOHA's Board of Directors have filed a grievance with Jackson County Parks Department Director.

#### **2019 Banquet Planning:**

The 2019 Banquet committee will meet Monday, September 10th at the new RVOHA headquarters 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 first meeting to insure a great celebration commemorating RVOHA'S 35th "party" on March 2, 2019!

To make our banquet the best it can possibly be, which is to say as much fun and profitable as it can be, we need our memberships' assistance. We are blessed by the considerable generosity of our sponsors and donors. Our goal is to improve the entire banquet experience for everyone involved. For that to happen, we will need to make investments, and those investments will have to be funded with additional auction items (live or silent). 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 or Bryan Coggins at 541-601-9905. Let's get creative in imagining how you can become a bigger part of our efforts to raise money that will be turned around and invested right back in to protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage.

This year we will be requiring banquet attendees to have an up to date paid membership. We are working out details on how this will be accomplished. One proactive measure all of us can take is to make sure our membership is paid.

For those interested in supporting the Banquet Committee with volunteer support of any kind, please contact Norma Morehouse at 503-250-3000. Banquet preparation meetings will be held at the 4175 Old Stage Road location.