

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 1st, 2019  
Volume 34; Issue #8

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**Membership Monthly Meeting: August 8th, 2019; 6:00pm Speaker: Bill Fisher, Stop the Bleed, Paramedic**

Eagle's Club  
2000 Table Rock Road, Medford, OR

**Menu: Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, Cake  
and Soft Drinks \$12**

### **Getting Ready:**

Controlled hunt information has been shared by our friends at ODFW, so most everyone knows what they are doing for this fall's festivities. Whether it's Rifle, Bow or Muzzleloader, folks are starting to earnestly tune themselves up with some range and trigger time. RVOHA is trying to support your habit by completing their second jointly hosted Archery 3D shoot with ODFW out at Denman just held on July 28th. What a privilege it is to have something so well done, so convenient and so cost-effective right in our backyard. We all dream about the best we can afford from Coastal, Sportsmans Warehouse, Black Bird Shopping Center, Cabelas, Welburns, Bass Pro Shops, Dewclaw Archery, Southern Oregon Archery and so on. Catalogs and promotions are tempting us and taunting us to replace old gear, or just upgrade to the latest and greatest and lightest. Lots of us have started logging early morning and/or evening walks as we prepare for the rigors of upcoming hunts. The summer weather is like it used to be - warm, but not too blazing hot and at least for now, the distant hills of the Rogue Valley are visible all the time.

As you get ready for the season, think about that person - relative, friend or coworker - who has expressed some interest in your outdoor pursuits and see if they might like to join in. So many folks are curious, but most aren't very courageous about asking. Bail them out with an offer of some range time, or the opportunity to sort through some gear to learn and get educated. See if they might like to join you for some shopping at the local retailers who specialize in our kind of apparel and equipment. Take the time to explain the whys and what fors. If you've got some functional "hand me downs" try to find them a home - it will make some room in your closets and may be the boost someone else needs to get started in a game pursuit of their own or as part of your hunting party this fall.

Every camping trip this summer can be an excuse to scout, to get those legs and lungs in shape and most of all to just renew our spirits in the great outdoors. Get out there and soak in a sunrise. Take a dip in a high mountain lake after a long dusty hike. Hike a few miles to no place in particular just to smell the forest and enjoy the sounds of nature. Get the whole family involved by putting aside the technology and enjoy some evening sunsets as you walk the neighborhood just enjoying being a citizen and resident of the greatest country that has ever existed. God Bless America; land that we love!

Be thankful for all the public land available to explore and all the private lands owners who are so gracious to allow us access to their property. Think about doing something special for those folks - a simple email thank you or a nice bottle of wine to recognize their permission. If they aren't members of OHA, consider purchasing a membership for them? Let the forestry folks see what and how we do what we do. See that we are in the fight with them. The more folks we make aware of our commitment, and the more profoundly our advocacy is appreciated, the stronger our collective effort toward sustainable protections of our privileges as outdoors folks will be. It won't come easy because there are so many people who never leave the city and have no idea what they are missing and might ultimately take that from us with some poorly conceived and contemplated legislation. The fight never stops - the ignorance is rampant. Being disgusted and frustrated won't work - you can't yell someone over to your way of thinking. You have to show them, reason with them and stay in the conversation even when every fiber of your being wants to go full-blast cynic. Hoping they'll just figure it out on their own won't work either - a learning culture requires mentors.

This fall will represent the last hunting season for some folks. Numbers don't lie. 50% of hunters are 50 years of age or older. If we don't replace the hunters we'll lose after this season with at least an equivalent number of newly recruited or reactivated hunters, we'll continue to lose ground. The time is now. Recruiting and reactivation are your responsibility. How's your progress? How many new RVOHA members have you signed up this year? The land of the free and home of the brave was hard fought and won. It's our MANDATE to preserve and perpetuate all that others sacrificed for our benefit, with the clear and present understanding that doing nothing is not an option. Get ready.

### **RVOHA Monthly Membership Speaker Thank You!:**

RVOHA would like to thank our great friends and partners at ODFW for jointly hosting our July Membership meeting at the Denman Wildlife Headquarters. 68 folks enjoyed an RVOHA hosted menu of grilled burgers, macaroni salad, chips and soft drinks. Sam Doddenhoff crushed the public meeting presentation of the recent survey results and new proposed regulation changes. Afterward the ODFW team collected a number of interesting comments and suggestions which will be consolidated to others from other presentation. The BBQ was something we'd like to do again and are hopeful one day that we will be surprised and embarrassed to run out of food. We have a dream of community and celebration and cooperation. We aren't giving up - don't ever give up.

### **Oregon State Police Report: BE AWARE AND TAKE CARE!**

Law enforcement has experienced a significant increase in theft reports for camp/camping related activities. With hunting season just around the corner they have several suggestions for helping limit the risk to your/our camp(s) being targeted. They also have some suggestions for ways to help them make cases by having evidence and information that might lead to arrests, recovery of stolen items and convictions. Some of our RVOHA members experienced very suspicious vehicle and individual behavior while camping and scouting over the July 4th weekend in the Applegate Unit. On more than one occasion the nature of the traffic, and timing of traffic, was inconsistent with someone "just passing through" the area.

If possible it's always best to limit the number and type of items that you leave in camp. Same with items left in your vehicles - some might have read the recent reports of vehicle window break-ins at some of the local trailheads. In the case of camps, on some occasions camp equipment (tents, coolers, sleeping gear, etc.) are being stolen as well. Ideally each camp would have someone present at all times to ensure maximum deterrence for those folks that might be out looking for an easy mark. Leaving things out on the "honor" system might not be practical any more.

If you are not able to post someone at your camp as a camp host - at all times - law enforcement is encouraging everyone to set inconspicuous and well-hidden game cameras along the roadways near their camps. Ideal positioning of the roadway cameras should include a location that is likely to capture rear license plate numbers since many of the criminals tend to remove the front license plate from their vehicles. In the case of camp cameras, hang them in a manner that will allow relatively close photographs. Officials indicate that most of thefts are likely locals well-acquainted with law enforcement, including prior experience in the system. With good photographs it's entirely possible that circulation of those photographs, among officers and agencies, will result in a recognizable face and subsequent arrest.

It's unfortunate to have this be part of our hunting camp reality, but it is so we need to do what we can to protect ourselves and property. Please pass this information and suggestions on to your hunting partners, family, friends and fellow sportsmen. If we all take some appropriate care, we might limit the risk of theft and increase the odds of arrest, recovery and conviction with tools already in our toolbox with which we are intimately familiar.

### **Gun Storage Ballot Initiative Roars Back to Life:**

A new ballot measure has been submitted to the Oregon Secretary of State. The "Safe Gun Storage" Ballot Measure 2020-040 states: A person who owns or possesses a firearm shall, at all times that the firearm is not carried by or under the control of the person or an authorized person, secure the firearm:

- With an engaged trigger lock or cable lock...
- In a locked container, equipped with a tamper-resistant lock...

The measure also addresses guns being used while hunting by saying that this measure does not apply if the unsecured firearm was obtained:

- For the purpose of hunting, trapping or target shooting, during the time in which the person is engaged in activities related to hunting, trapping or target shooting.

You can find a copy of the ballot measure here: <http://oregonvotes.org/irr/2020/040text.pdf>. This ballot measure is basically the same as Ballot Measure 44 from 2018. OHA and our allies were successful in the Oregon Supreme Court in stopping that before it got to voters. It is also similar to parts of SB 928 that was defeated in the 2019 Legislative Session. The gun owner would be responsible and liable for a stolen gun even if it is locked up. Like earlier attempts, there is no reference at all for stiffer penalties for those who actually steal guns.

"Ban Home Defense" should be the title of this ballot measure because it requires your self-defense firearms be locked away. OHA will be working with gun rights advocacy groups to help defeat this ballot measure. Stay tuned; the fight has just begun. If this measure gathers enough signatures, it would appear on the November 2020 ballot.

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

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#### Upcoming Membership Meeting Presentations:

August 11th	Stop the Bleed (First Aid); Bill Fisher, OHA Board Member/ABS Paramedic
September 12th	Works Predator Deterrence/Control; Cricket Peyton/Paul Wolf, USDA Wildlife
October 10th	Services OSP Enforcement; Sgt. Jim Collom, Oregon State Police
November 14th	"How to" Hunt Videography Training; Sage Davis, YouTube: Chasing Moby
December 12th	RVOHA Horn Night

#### Recent Board Actions:

The RVOHA Board of Directors met on July 18th and here is our report out on some of the topics covered:

- Discussed the July Membership Meeting BBQ and ODFW Public Meeting
- Deferred further action relative to the RVOHA-owned Hunter Education firearms at least until additional information from the State OHA Summit and Attorney meetings is reviewed
- Discussed the 2020 Banquet including pricing, early bird drawing, benefactor packages, life member drawings, program development, table layouts, and lots of new donation ambitions. We intend to introduce several really exciting raffle drawings for some impressive prizes this year.
- Discussed the \$16,500 ARDF Grant RVOHA was fortunate to receive to support our ambitions for YOH day, Youth Turkey Clinic, ODFW Denman Youth Pheasant Hunt and additional funding to develop more A&H opportunities with our partners at ODFW and local private landowners.
- Discussed and authorized an increase in ODFW Denman Youth Pheasant Hunt funding to \$7500 which represents a \$2500 increase from the initial budget level of \$5000

**Please send comments, questions or content suggestions to:**

**[roguevalleyoha@gmail.com](mailto:roguevalleyoha@gmail.com)**

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**Check for Updates on Our Website at:**

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

## **ODFW Update:**

We are now in the middle of our public comment period for this year's hunting regulation proposals, and have had three public meetings in the Rogue Watershed. I wanted to thank the Josephine County Chapter of OHA for hosting us at their monthly meeting, and the Rogue Valley Chapter of OHA for providing an excellent BBQ before our public meeting on the Denman Wildlife Area. OHA's continuing participation in this process allows us to hear directly from hunters. We appreciate the direct conversation and frank and honest feedback on the proposals.

The two proposals getting the most attention locally, include:

- Removing spikes from the antlerless bag limit and including it in the western general seasons for black-tailed deer. We are recommending this change, because we believe our buck ratios can support it, additional harvest on spikes is unlikely to affect the population due to the inherent mortality rate suffered by yearling male deer, and the opportunity to harvest young bucks may help with our strategies to retain, recruit, and reactivate (RRR) hunters, especially younger or less experienced hunters.
- Removing the east slope wildlife management units from the general Cascade Elk General Rifle Season, and creating new controlled hunts. With the current general season framework some east slope units are not able to meet bull ratio management objectives. Tag numbers would be set to maintain overall hunter opportunity, but shift some harvest from the East Central Cascades to the Southeast Cascades so bull ratio objectives can be met. The new hunts would provide an improved opportunity for hunters in the East Central and Southeast Cascade due to the later timing of the season. These changes would simplify the regulations by having all Eastern Oregon rifle "One Bull" elk hunts as controlled hunts and make the Cascade Elk hunt boundary consistent with the Cascade Deer hunt boundary.

More information on all of these proposals can be found at: <https://myodfw.com/articles/proposed-changes-2020-big-game-regulations>

If you were not able to attend one of our meetings, you can still provide comments by:

- E-mailing [odfw.info@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.info@state.or.us),
- Writing ODFW Wildlife Division at 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE, Salem, OR 97302, or
- Testifying in person at the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Gold Beach on September 13th when the Commission will consider this year's proposals.

Again thank you for all your comments and participation in this year's process.

Steve Niemela  
Rogue District Wildlife Biologist

## **Wildlife Passage License Plates - Let's Go!!!:**

After many years of preparation and prototypes here is an opportunity to purchase a really cool license plate (Voucher) for the protection and funding of wildlife crossings all across Oregon.

This license plate, similar to the Salmon plate and others, is intended to provide specific financial support for ungulate wildlife migration - the idea came about as part of the Highway 97 passage/animal collision group. According to ODOT, the current wildlife passage near Lava Butte/Sunriver has resulted in at least an 86% reduction in animal/vehicle collisions. A second passage is being started near Gilchrist, further south on 97 this year - we hope with similarly outstanding results.

We are operating under the assumption that when plates are sold, a net of ~\$35 per plate set goes toward funding passage, habitat and connectivity. You might like to confirm those details yourself before acting on a purchase decision. There will need to be 3,000 vouchers sold before ODOT moves to sell the plates to the general public.

Follow the link to the Oregon Wildlife Foundation website and click your way through the voucher process information and directions for purchase.

<https://www.myowf.org/watchforwildlife>

You might like to pass this on to anyone whom you think would like a really cool plate AND help protect wildlife passage at the same time! Get them an RVOHA membership while you are at it.



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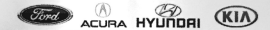


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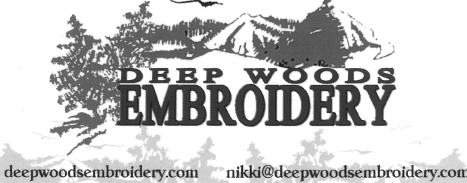
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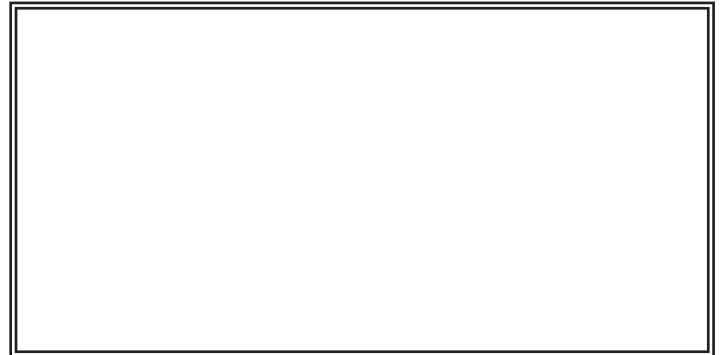


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- General Member Meetings
  - 2nd Thursday of every month
  - Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Road; 6:00pm Dinner
- Chapter Board Meetings
  - 3rd Thursday of every month
  - 4175 Old Stage Road; 6:15pm
- **Newsletter Submissions**
  - Pictures, articles 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



#### August 8th Membership Meeting Venue - Eagles Club

Please consider joining us as we will have a presentation for everyone's benefit specific to field-level first aid. Being far from roads and the convenience of modern medical facilities, it's in all of our interests to have some updated information and skills. The life you save might just be your own. Come learn on August 8th.

#### 2020 Banquet Preparations:

Heads up Everyone! There was a mention about banquet Early Bird drawing in your last newsletter. Did you notice that there will be more than one Early Bird and what the prizes will be? If you didn't pay attention you should dig that issue out and get up to date. **Now you need to mark your calendars as the Early Bird deadline to get in the drawing is December 15, 2019 (previously it was January 15th).**

Tickets are not prepared at this time. Watch for news about ticket availability in the upcoming newsletters. Interesting and exciting donations are coming in. The Chetco Chapter is sending over passes for Jerry's Jet Boat trips. Our own, ever-faithful, Rimrock Taxidermy (Jim Turcke) has already donated a shoulder mount for some lucky well-trained young hunter who will bag a deer late next year. Services and merchandise have equal importance for a good banquet - please consider ways you can support our efforts with your business and/or personal donations. If you need assistance with a "goodie" pick up let Norma know by calling 503-250-3000.