



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

January 2025

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, January 8th
→ * 6:00 pm *
NEW: Bend VFW

(come early if you want to purchase dinner)

Please turn to *page 2* for *more details* on our upcoming monthly chapter meeting.
We look forward to seeing YOU there!

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- ◆ Meeting recap
- ◆ Bend Chapter info.
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities, habitat projects
- ◆ **NEW MTG LOCATION see pg 4**
- ◆ Mule Deer Classic banquet details on pg 5: **REG NOW!**
- ◆ OHA Tracker (no room this month)
- ◆ Photos & More!
- ◆ The Email to which you can send your photos, articles and other items for the newsletter. Thanks for your help!

Thank you, **Eric Brown**, for the header photo. Turn to page 3 to see the original photo, before it was cropped, of 2 hunters packing elk

President's Message

Hello to all our members of the Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association.

As of December 26th our total membership was at 543. We extend a warm welcome to our 6 new members: **Shawn Blalack, Dylan Jones, Aiden Koistinen & Justin Goodman** from Bend and from La Pine **Kimberly Hannon & Tim Whitehall**. Thanks for joining and we hope to see you at an upcoming meeting, on a project or any of our other activities soon. Remember to check your membership expiration date that's on the address label of your Oregon Hunter magazine. Here it is the start of another year. Once again we look back at the accomplishments made during the past year and look forward to what still needs to be done. Seems that the "needs to" list gets bigger each year. We are in the middle of getting the annual **Mule Deer Classic Banquet and Fundraiser** up to speed. This year it's on **March 8th**, again at The Riverhouse. As in the past, your chapter is asking not just for your participation attending the banquet, but for any assistance you may be able to offer in collecting the much needed donations and committee help as well. Our past banquet chair Greg Petsch, has graciously agreed to step up and help out this year due to unforeseen health issues. Contact Greg if you are able to assist in any way. Take it easy Bill, and get well. We hope to see you back soon. Our chapter continues to be involved in the issues surrounding our hunting heritage and the need to keep our open spaces wild and accessible for all hunters and outdoor enthusiasts. We need to be vigilant and honest in our stance that this beautiful state we live in is in fact, for all users no matter their stance on hunting or the use of firearms. It is in this vein that the Oregon Partners in Conservation was developed this past year. It's initial success coupled with the desire to be known as an event open to all groups offering outdoor activities information, that has led to a re-branding. This event will now be know as the **Oregon Recreational Partners in Conservation (ORPIC)** to be held once again in the arena at the Deschutes County EXPO Center. "Recreational" was added so that folks seeing or hearing about it will know that it is Recreation organizations interested in the conservation of our state. It is about the recreation groups that want our outdoor visitors to learn that the users of the out of doors are also about keeping these lands open and available for all to use. It's a combination of various user groups that want to show some of the alternate activities available for recreation here in Oregon. The event has also been moved to a later date, in the spring and will be held on **April 26th**.

Stay safe. Hope to see you out there.

Rex E Parks Sr
Bend Chapter President
Oregon Hunters Association

UPCOMING JANUARY MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday January 8th**. Our **NEW** meeting location is **the VFW Hall** in Bend. Remember to arrive early so you can purchase dinner from a nearby food truck and enjoy it before the meeting. (You are welcome to bring food with you) Arriving early also gives you the chance to visit with old friends or meet some new ones. Doors open at 5:00pm. **NEW START TIME is 6:00pm**

GUEST SPEAKER:

Our January guest speaker will again be **Bob Buddenbohn**, who will explain the matrix used to assist the board's decision on funding requests and give insight to our 2025 budget. His computer hard drive had crashed before last month's meeting, so he was unable to make that presentation.

Your attendance is important to us and you might even win a prize. (see page 8 for last month's winners)

December Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on Dec 11th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Bob Buddenbohn**, the media manager for the Bend Chapter. Ironically, he had his computer hard drive crash before the December meeting, so he was unable to share the originally planned presentation: how the board is working to prioritize where our available funds go, how the funding request form is used to help make this determination, as well as a draft of the 2025 budget for the Bend Chapter. When we see the budget on the screen at the meeting, it will make it more clear why we don't have access to all of the funds in the checking account to sponsor/donate to every request. (e.g., funds need to be held back for our pledges, for the next year's banquet, etc.) Bob reminded us of OHA's mission and asked us what more we can do as a chapter to fit in and help to fulfill this mission. Are we on the right track? To protect wildlife we have donated to or have spent volunteer hours: TIPS, collars, guzzlers, Hwy wildlife crossings, billboard. For habitat: All Hands, buck & pole, burn recovery, thinning. Hunting heritage: Youth & Family Outdoor Day, Youth Upland Bird Hunt. What more can we do for the future, to secure our traditions and hunting culture? What else can we do to draw in youth and families to our chapter and to hunting in general? (youth & family events, ORPIC, Learn to Hunt . . .) **Nancy Doran** reminded us that getting women involved is the key to securing a future for hunting. If you have ideas on how we can get more people involved in our chapter's activities as well as attending our meetings, please share those ideas with us. Most of the people holding this chapter

together are older, many are retired, and a few are looking to move out of the area. We need "younger blood" to get involved. Bob passed around a handout showing how we've used our funds this year. The percentages in each category have helped him to create a 2025 budget.

JR Lorimor was unable to attend the meeting because he had to run out to the woods and help his son **Jaret** get his elk home. (photo on page 9). JR wanted to remind us that if ORPIC is to continue, he needs an assistant and committee. Please think about how you can become involved. He would like to keep it under the OHA umbrella but is looking elsewhere because no one has stepped up to take over. JR is too involved in the new high school archery league to continue overseeing ORPIC. He needs to step away, but we don't want ORPIC to go away.

Bill Littlefield is working on a new system to keep track of volunteer hours. **Don Clark** will now help track everyone's hours and report to the state office.

Please get your donations turned in ASAP for the Mule Deer Classic fundraiser banquet in March. If you don't have a service or product to offer, perhaps you know someone who does. Anyone can also donate funds to sponsor a gun raffle or allow the banquet committee to purchase other necessary product.

The raffle proceeds from the December meeting (\$160) will go to the Family Kitchen. Congratulations to **Rex Parks**, who was the winner of our annual membership drawing! (\$500 reimbursement for outdoor related items) His name was drawn from all of the door prize tickets collected in 2024. See page 8 for the rest of the winners that evening.

You missed out if you weren't at the meeting! Please join us at a monthly meeting. You might learn something new, have a good time, give us some valuable input . . .



*Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat
and hunting heritage.*

Now Collecting Donations for our Mule Deer Classic Banquet (fundraiser)

Do you have a service, skill, product . . . that you would like to donate for our 2025 banquet? Or perhaps you would like to make a cash donation or sponsor one of our raffles. NOW is the time to make those donations! Bring your donations to a meeting, contact a board member or Eric Brown 541-647-0424, who can assist in getting your donation from you. Thanks for your support! See page 5 for more details on our upcoming banquet

IMPORTANT:

As requested by the OHA state office, our chapter is sending our newsletter via email. Just like last month, this issue will be mailed to only 1/4 of the usual recipients. Everyone else will receive an email with a link to retrieve the newsletter online. Thanks for your patience during this transition. If you receive a hard copy, either you requested it, or we don't have your email address. If you didn't receive the email with the link, then we don't have the correct email address for you. Please inform Wendy Borst of any problems and she will pass along the info to the correct person (s). Wenb.oha@outlook.com You can also turn to page 4 to learn how to update your info. Thanks for your help!



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Volunteer Opportunities

Sometimes last minute volunteer opportunities arise. If you would like to be notified of such projects, please contact **Don Clark** @ 702-460-3653

If you have an interest in helping with wildlife fence maintenance please contact **Eric Brown** @ 541-647-0424

SAVE THESE DATES

March 8, 2025: Mule Deer Classic Banquet and Fundraiser (many volunteer opportunities available)

April 26: ORPIC family expo

May 31: Youth & Family Outdoor Day

June 27-29: All Hands, All Brands

4th Saturday in September: National Public Lands Day

Oct 18: Bend Chapter Youth Upland Bird Hunt



Header photo before it was cropped



Send photos and other newsletter items to:
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**COMING SOON:
The Bend Chapter's
Mule Deer Classic Fundraiser Banquet**

MULE DEER CLASSIC 2025

The Bend Chapter Oregon Hunters Association announces its
"33rd annual Mule Deer Classic"

The banquet/fundraiser will be held at the Bend Riverhouse
Convention Center March 8, 2025

This is the main fundraiser for the year and it enables us to fund
chapter habitat projects, scholarships, youth programs & more.

You can help make it a success with a **donation** or
by **volunteering** at the banquet!

If you have been looking to get involved in chapter activities,
this is a fun and meaningful way to contribute.

Find the registration form and more details in a separate mailing and
also on our website: oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

You don't want to miss this worthwhile and fun event!

If you have any questions about the banquet please contact:
Greg Petsch at g.petsch728@gmail.com or call 541-330-6218

Or

Eric Brown at ericbrown5112@gmail.com or call 541-647-0424

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



OHA Bend Chapter Officers

President **Rex Parks Sr** firelt602@gmail.com (541) 480-0230
 1st VP **Doug Stout** (541) 312-8332
 2nd VP (newsletter editor) **Wendy Borst** (541) 480-0748
 Treasurer **John Bambe** (541) 480-9848
 Secretary **Carolyn Lorimor**
 At-Large (Media) **Bob Buddenbohn** (817) 470-7018
 At-Large (Youth Events) **Kevin Borst** (541) 480-7323
 At Large (Outreach Coord.) **JR Lorimor** (541) 420-2741
 Project Coordinator **Don Clark** (702) 460-3653
 Volunteer hrs. manager **Don Clark**
 Banquet Chair **Greg Petsch** (541) 330-6218
 Assistants to banquet coordinator: positions available
 Past President resigned

Website:

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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Owner



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Info@hdfirearmsusa.com

OFFICE: (541) 408-0003

CALENDAR

Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| January 1, 2025 | Happy New Year!; 2025 licenses required; cougar season opens |
| January 8 | Monthly Chapter Meeting (Bend VFW Hall) |
| December 18 | Board meeting (date change) |
| January 2 & 22 | Banquet meetings Abby's pizza 6:00 pm |
| January 20 | *Deadline to submit items for February newsletter*
Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| January 29 | Board meeting |
| February 5 & 19 | Banquet meetings Abby's pizza 6:00 pm |
| February 12 | Monthly Chapter Meeting; Early-Bird banquet deadline |
| March 8 | Mule Deer Classic Banquet and Fundraiser |

CHECK YOUR OREGON HUNTER'S CALENDAR FOR TAG DEADLINES, HUNT END DATES, & EVENTS ACROSS OUR STATE

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NRA R.S.O. CERTIFICATION

Would you like to earn the NRA Range Safety Officer Certification? The Bend Chapter will offer this 1-day course if there is enough interest. If you are a Bend Chapter OHA member, then the curriculum will be paid for by the chapter. The NRA Certification & card (application fee) is paid for by the student.

Please contact
Doug Stout 541-312-8332 or
Kevin Borst 541-480-7323
so they can add you to the list.



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Thank you to everyone who contributed content for this newsletter!

Stay Informed

Please go to our chapter website: oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter and find the publications link to read past issues of The Tracker. We ran out of room to include the Tracker in this newsletter, so watch for it to also appear on that link.



EQUIPMENT

5G

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It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:

Congratulations to **Eric Brown** for winning the door prize at our Dec. meeting.

Enjoy your \$25 Bi-Mart gift card!

Larry Thaxton of Bend drew for the December monthly membership prize (\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but was not present to win.

STICKS & STONES

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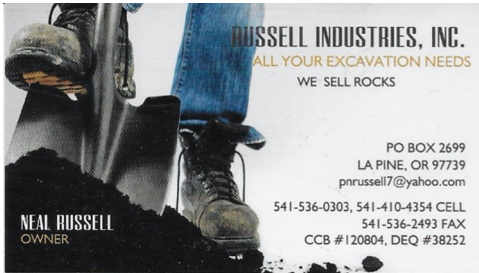
Please help us to personalize this informative newsletter:

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Send photos to:
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REMEMBER TO RENEW!

When does your membership expire? Check out the back page for your expiration date. Welcome to any new members!

SUCCESS IN THE FIELD!



Congratulations to **Charlie Cookson** for harvesting his first elk in Arizona!

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

On the next page, read the exciting article of the cougar sighting during a successful youth elk hunt!

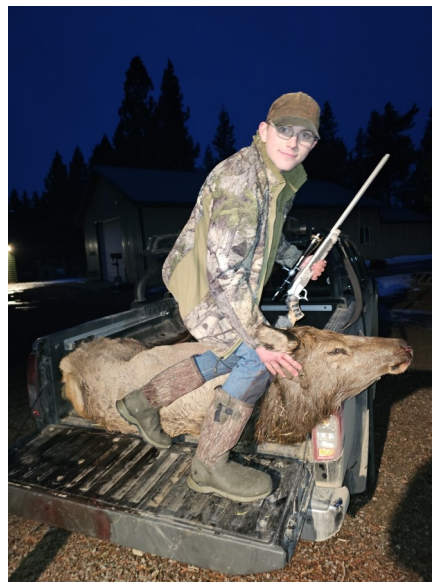
The next day, brothers **Kade & Jaret Lorimor** tracked the cat all day, hoping for a shot. They got within 25' more than once. They came upon a fresh bed, still warm.



Below is a photo showing how the cat double backed on them: the cat's track inside of Kade's boot track about 2 minutes after he had stepped there.

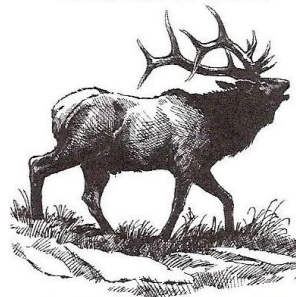


Jaret Lorimor has successfully harvested an elk each year with his youth tag. The snow was so crunchy that he was unable to sneak up on them with his bow this year, so he decided to try one last time with his rifle and was successful! It was a scramble to get Jaret's elk home, so no photo in the woods



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MORE SUCCESS IN THE FIELD!

It was snowing out, hard. We had been out for hours with no sign of any animals, and I was given the decision to keep hunting or go get McDonald's. But while the temptation to give up was high, it was decided that we would push through and keep on hunting, and boy am I glad we did. We got out of the truck and started walking, and once my fingers were frozen and my breath was seen in the air, we heard them call. They sounded so close, not even a mile away, so we started running. My lungs were burning and my heart was pounding in my ears. Then we stopped, because not even ten yards away, laying in the blood covered snow, was a calf, two of them in fact. And as I was frozen, I heard a deep growl and looked up. This huge cougar went running from the bushes, stumbling from its old age, and when I say huge, I mean HUGE. This cat was trying to singularly take down two almost full grown elk at once and would've succeeded at it if we didn't happen upon them. Jaret, my hunting partner, ran after the cat, barking at it with the hope that it would run up a tree; but as we only had one gun, he chose to stay behind in case that wasn't the only cat. But the hunt wasn't over yet. We could hear the rest of the herd not too far away and started stalking them, trying to step as quietly as we could on the icy snow, running through it as our feet sunk far below the surface. And there they were, a huge herd of elk, peeking through the trees. I knelt down on my knees, feeling the cold seep through my pants, wetting my legs, and sending a shiver through me. As I lifted the gun, I could see a sliver of skin through the scope, only the part I needed to shoot, and I placed my finger on the trigger and jumped. I had left the safety on, so this time I turned it off, breathed, and BANG. You could see the bullet fly through the snow as it went towards the herd, making the world go in slow motion. The cow jumped and her herd ran past her, leaving us with no visuals on my shot placement; but as we walked towards her, Jaret stopped, turning to me and beaming. I had got her, a perfect shot, she was dead, and I just got my first elk.



Haley Honda from Three Rivers Archers
with her first elk.

Jaret Lorimor was her guide.



Jaret and Haley
after their exciting cougar
encounter

EVEN MORE SUCCESS IN THE FIELD!

Finally, on the very last day of the antler-less elk tag I had to hunt it, I had a cow hanging up. Months before, when I drew the tag, I was ecstatic about the opportunity to have one last youth tag, and at the very same time, my first elk tag. And I thought, oh I thought, how simple and how much easier a cow would be to find and kill. Much easier than a bull, surely! Well, my unsuccessfulness up to this point was certainly not for lack of opportunities. Calls from the community came from left and right, seemingly the entire town teaming together with me in efforts to fill my tag! After a few missed shots and a hunt of seeing five bulls and no cows, my hope in myself was wavering. Discouraged, I decided to give it one last go, doubtful that today would be the day. Little did I know that morning, first thing crossing onto the old dirt road I was so familiar with, we would cross elk tracks less than five minutes old, chase them, I would miss, chase the herd for about another mile, and turn around again, discouraged, and empty handed. After this last miss, my friend Jaret took one look at me, and said "How 'bout we try and rid you of that flinch?" I knew I was a flincher, and knew it was messing up every shot I was taking. Out of pure habit, even the click of the rifle would make me jump out of my skin. A few practice shots and fake clicks later, I felt more ready, more collected than before. So, the very same day I had missed so miserably, I was out to try again. This time, as we were driving around a bend, Jaret pointed out my window, saying, "Guess what, guess what? There they aren't." Only this time, there they were! Right where he was pointing, there stood a large herd of God's beautiful creatures. Now was His time to bless me with one in my freezer! We jumped out and crouch-ran so we could see over the crest, and sure enough, there was that large herd. Moving. So, we moved. For over a mile, we chased them at a half-sprint half-speed walk over the slipperiest snow out there. Far too often we could see them through openings in the thicket, but it was only torturous without the opportunity to get a shot through the thick branches. All we could do was watch, chase, and pray, a lot, that they would slow down enough to get a shot off. Soaked with snow, sweat, and whatever all else, we chased until we... at least I, was dead on my feet. And then we kept going. Finally, after about a mile of high-speed chase, there they were, sun-shining on them, shining in the glory of the Lord. Clustered together, I waited, scope trained on them, waiting in agonizing silence as I waited for a broadside shot. And then, there it was, a perfect broadside shot. After a breath in, a self-reminder to stay calm, and a quick little mental replay of the wisdom that came from Jaret earlier "Make a good shot, you don't want one of God's creations to have to suffer." I was ready. As ready as I was going to get for the deafening BANG that followed the squeeze of the trigger. Jolted back to reality a few seconds later, I scanned the forest, watching the area I had last seen her. There she was, and after watching her jump, I remembered I needed to be ready to make a finishing shot, if need be. "You hit her." I heard from behind me, and with a squeal, I could no longer suppress the excitement I needed to make a good shot. Adrenaline flooded my veins and I realized how close I was to possible success. We could see her laying in the snow, which was good, but she was still moving. I shot a quick prayer up, pleading I would have the sound mind to make the final shot if needed. Sneaking up, she looked hurt and dying, or maybe that was just my lack of experience. Just to be safe, I shot once more, a for sure vitals shot from about 35 yards out. Then there she was. My first elk ever! More excited than I could describe, but even more so, grateful. So grateful. Grateful for the blessing of an elk, grateful for the time out in a breathtaking creation, grateful for time with friends and family, and just grateful for everything. Although it was a bit of arduous work, quite a lot of time, and a good chunk of failure, all those aspects only added to that gratefulness. And with that, I ended the season with my first validated elk tag.

Libby Smith from Three Rivers Archers with her first elk.
Jaret Lorimor was her guide



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- \$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope
- \$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
- \$300 Habitat Destruction
- \$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
- \$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
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- \$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
- \$200 Spotlighting
- \$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag



ODFW Preference Points rewards

- 5 Points-Bighorn sheep
- 5 Points-Rocky Mountain goat
- 5 Points-Moose
- 5 Points-Wolf
- 4 Points-Elk
- 4 Points-Deer
- 4 Points-Antelope
- 4 Points-Bear
- 4 Points-Cougar



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