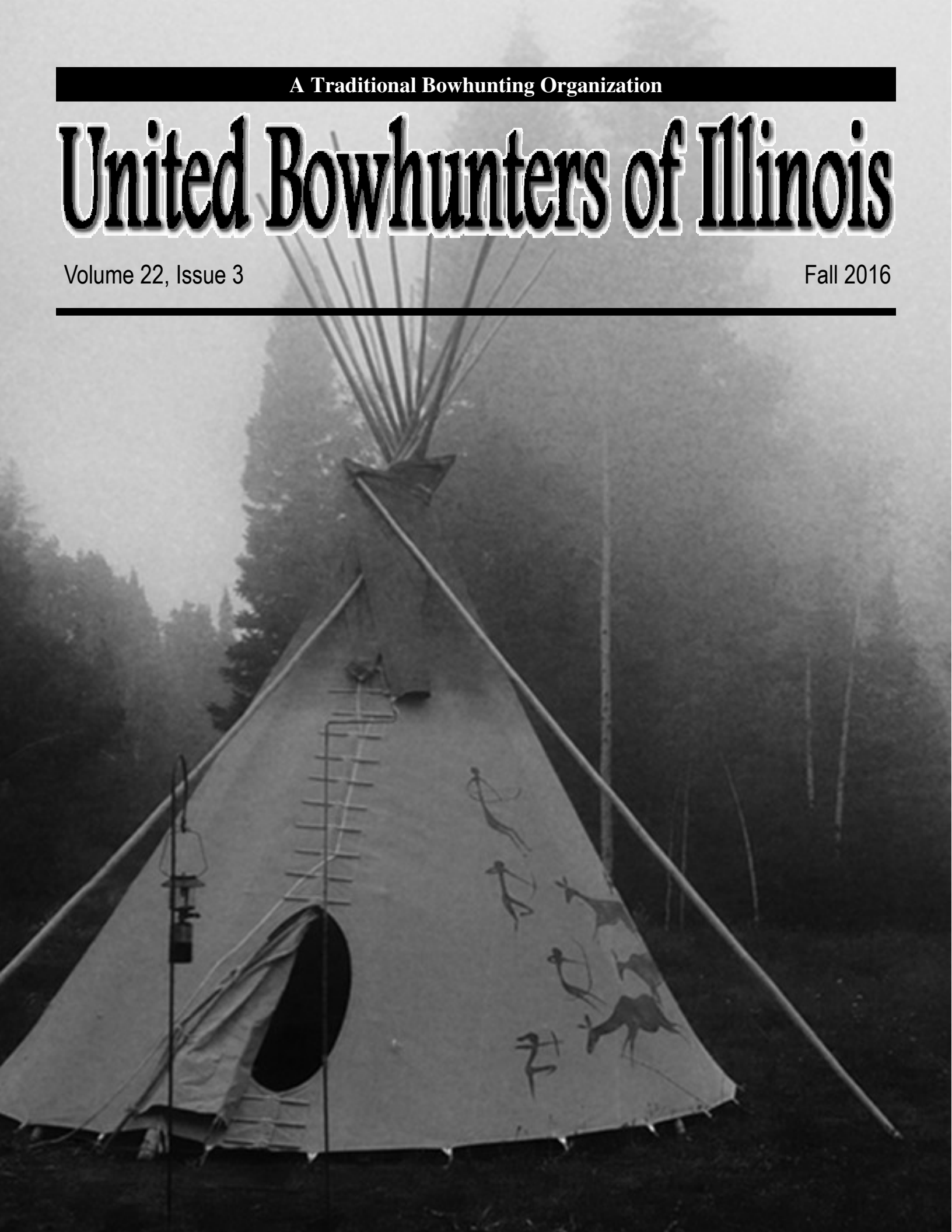


A Traditional Bowhunting Organization

United Bowhunters of Illinois

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Fall 2016



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If you would like to have an article, letter, photograph or other item published in the newsletter, send it to the editor.

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President's Report - Jim Ellis

It's that time of year again. By the time this article gets to you everyone will have been in a tree stand numerous times, bow and arrow in hand in pursuit of whitetail deer. The rut will be starting and hopefully a number of UBI member will already have venison in the freezer. As I write, there are a number of UBI members that I know of heading to Canada, Colorado, and South Dakota to hunt with traditional equipment. For me I will be heading to Eastern Montana for a bison hunt on the Crow Indian Reservation. My hunt will be on a 13,600 acre bison range. For the last 15 years I have been wanting to hunt this iconic animal, and now I finally have that chance. I hope to share some great stories about my bison hunt in the next UBI newsletter.

The new UBI Board has met three times since June 1, and they have been working hard on the 2017 banquet. Mike Mitten will be our keynote speaker. It has been a number of years since Mike has been here, so I look forward to hearing a new hunting adventure from him. We also have University of Kentucky Professor Matt Springer coming to update UBI on the Southern Illinois University whitetail deer travel study that UBI helped fund five years ago. At that time Matt did a day seminar on the preliminary travel study. I found this seminar very interesting, and it was a new look into deer travel. Last but not least Mike Davenport will present his 2015 British Columbia goat hunt to the membership. Mike's exhausting hunt in rugged terrain will be interesting to hear about, and I look forward to seeing pictures from the hunt.

Board member Denny Hayford is working on an order of UBI logo t-shirts for the banquet. Treasurer Tom Bartolomucci will have a credit card reader at the banquet this year. In the past UBI has depended on the good graces of our vendors to process credit cards after the UBI auctions. Bob Mayo suggest we look into this.

The Board and a number of other UBI members manned the State Fair Youth Archery Tent on the last Saturday and Sunday of the fair in August. What a great time. Young and old alike came though to try their hand at popping a balloon or sticking an arrow in a deer target. For the 17th year in a row UBI member Bill and Marie Secker oversaw the Youth Archery Tent. UBI treated Bill and Marie to a dinner at the Chesapeake Restaurant for their years of dedication to this event. Thank you Bill and Marie!

On Saturday morning before we took our spot in the Archery Tent, the Board held a short meeting. Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Wayne Rosenthal took time to stop by and share a few things happening in the IDNR. For us the important issues were the bobcat bill and the AD rule allowing bowhunting during gun season. The IDNR is also investigating dropping the legal bow weight to 30 lb. pull. Also the Deer Vehicle Accident tally report was in from the Illinois Department of Transportation, and a few more counties were removed from the late season gun hunts. Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources (IFOR) President


Scotty Bryant also stopped in and shared his unfavorable thoughts on bowhunting during gun season with us.

One topic of discussion at the State Fair meeting with Director Rosenthal was National Archery in Schools Program (NASP). Joe Robinson who oversees NASP for the IDNR was also there. The issue is the Mathews Archery business model of only allowing Mathews bows to be used by NASP. I am not against archery in the schools, but I totally disagree with only allowing Mathews bows. This is nothing more than a marketing gimmick to sell more Mathews bows and gain repeat customers years down the road. Almost all school sports are modeled after Olympic events, and there is not another school sport that I know of that requires the use of equipment by a single manufacturer. Archery in the Olympics requires the use of recurves and not compounds. I have read over the equipment rules for Olympic Archery, and it is very simple. Joe Robinson said Mathews contributes ZERO dollars to this program and to my understanding Mathews contributes ZERO dollars to help schools. Mathews only contributes to their bottom line. I want to push the IDNR and schools to drop NASP and adopt there own archery programs that allow both recurves, longbows, and compounds.

As I started planning my upcoming bison hunt, I reconsidered the use of my standard three-blade broadhead. I re-read Dr. Ashby's report on broadheads, and I decided to go with a single-bevel head. So I ordered six 190 grain single-bevel heads from UBI member Joe Furlong owner and maker of Vintage Archery Broadheads. As soon as the heads arrived I mounted three of them on three wood arrows, and I was very impressed on the flight of the arrows. The real test will hopefully be to bring down a bison!

Be safe and shoot straight,

Jim Ellis



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Bob Mayo

Director's Report - Jason Farr

From the "Farr Side of Fulton County"

Dear Traditional Bowhunters,

This was my first year participating in the Archery tent at the State Fair. Excluding one short lull at the end of the day, we had eight and a half hours of constant shooting with many children and even their mothers or guardians going through the line more than once. Events like this are great PR for bowhunting and of course the UBI.

Speaking of events, our Banquet will be here before you know it. Your leadership goes to great lengths putting this together. I hope to see everyone there and I'd like to encourage you to participate in all that goes on that day. Do you have a bowhunting related item that you no longer use? Do you think someone would bid on it in the silent auction? Bring it in. It's for a great cause. Also, if anyone has any suggestions contact me at jasonfarr36@gmail.com.

Hunting season is here. I wish you all safety and success. Congratulations to everyone who had success on adventures out west and up north. This is the first time in several years I didn't hunt somewhere in Canada. I've enjoyed talking to a few of you about your hunts to foreign states or providences. It reminded me of the journey to these places and the funny or odd things that happen along the way. Allow me to share a few.

Trophy Class Adams Apples

Several years ago my wife joined me on an antelope hunt in the south eastern part of Colorado. I was going to bowhunt for a few days while she went to see a few sights. Once we arrived in the local town we stopped at the local bar/restaurant. Immediately I could tell something was up. A few of the male customers were wearing dresses and decked out in jewelry and make up. Now where I come from there is no losing bet so severe you'd go out like that in public so I couldn't help but wonder. We left and down the road at the next place it was the same thing. The first person dressed in drag had to be 6 foot 4 inches tall, had 20 inch neck and an adams apple the size of a golf ball. The bar tender of course comes over and it doesn't take long for me to find out I was "In the sex change capitol of the United States". Later I found out I was hunting on ground owned by the doctor who performed the surgeries. Fast forward until just a couple months ago and I see one of the cable networks made a movie after it and named the picture after the town. I guess every area has their claim to fame.

An Oasis To Ourselves

In 2012 my wife and I vacationed in Hawaii. The plan was for her to do her thing again while I hunt hogs, axis deer and feral goats for a couple days. (Yes, my wife is very understanding and supportive of my bowhunting lifestyle.) On the second day I got a young axis deer so I was on cloud nine. We actually grilled allot

of it at our condo throughout the week. Anyway, later in the week we went down to the beach and found that for the most part we had the place to ourselves. There were a few groups of ladies and a couple guys there with their buddies. Within an hour of really doing nothing I got to looking around and realized my wife and I were not the only couple there. It wasn't until we were back at the condo I mentioned how empty the beach was to a local. He then explained to me I had just gone to the "gay" beach. Awesome.

And At Home

Just so you're aware strange and funny things happen to me at home as well. I finished planting corn on a beautiful April day in 2013. Before the birth of our daughter my wife liked to mushroom hunt like I like to bowhunt and that day was no exception. Although I really wasn't feeling it I let her talk me into going with her on a farm of mine just down the road. I thought she could hunt mushrooms and I'll see how a couple stand sights weathered the winter. We pulled up on the four wheeler and she took off down the fence knowing right where to go. I took one step off the four wheeler in the other direction looked down and there was a full bag of mushrooms and two cold Busch beers. I remember smiling and thinking "Perfect". I guess as we pulled up we flushed out a trespasser. Who and why he/she didn't take their find with him we'll never know.

Again, have a great fall everyone! Make some memories. Life's short so enjoy every moment in the woods.

"A Bowhunter"

Jason Farr

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Director's Report - Paul Ladner

The board has met a couple times since the last newsletter (see meeting minutes included with this newsletter), the latter being at the DNR offices in Springfield in conjunction with the State Fair and archery tent. Planning for the 2017 banquet is underway. We had the pleasure of meeting with Director Rosenthal and IFOR president Scotty Bryant.

As noted in the meeting minutes the following were of interest to our membership:

Deer/vehicle collision reports were made available to DNR in early August and some changes in the late season antlerless quotas and open counties will be affected.

Archery hunting in gun season will be allowed this year, but will require a gun permit to participate (per Scotty, IFOR president, the need to have gun permit will upset regular gun hunters due to potentially less permit availability for them).

Dropping hunting bow weight to 30# is being considered.

Director Rosenthal was opposed to any use of airbow as a hunting weapon.

Although our suggestions are not always followed we do have a voice at the DNR.

I hope your fall hunts are safe and rewarding.

State Fair Archery Tent - Bill And Marie Secker

Another fair came and gone and with the help of the UBI members, August 20th and 21st closed the Illinois State Fair and the Youth Archery Tent.

This year not only did we have a rough start with the heavy rains but most of the local and rural schools started school early again this year. So needless to say our attendance was steady but not as heavy as years past.

The first Friday brought us a nice surprise of five inches of heavy rains. Many of the vendors and cattle and swine people were affected by this since they come stay in the fair grounds and lost their trailers and trucks by the floods in the fairgrounds. Monday it rained constantly some heavy and some slow but that left our area very muddy and not many people out and about.

All in all the last weekend of the fair brought cooler temps and more people out and about and visiting the Conservation Area.

During the week we had wonderful help thanks to Joe Robinson for getting so many volunteers. We had one boy who came everyday and stayed all day to help us out. He was an amazing young boy and we truly appreciate the efforts of Joe for taking care of us all these years. We also had some National Guard men come help us which was a nice surprise as well. It is hard to believe Marie and I have been doing this for 16 years now.

A big thank you to the following UBI member who gave up time in their weekend to help us out. On Saturday we had Jim Ellis, Jerry Beverlin, Denny and Ann Hayford, Dan Forystek, Jason Farr, Peter

Tarcha and Paul Ladner. On Sunday we had Ron and Karen Hayford, Ron Jack, Jerod and Lisa Shofner, Charles and Kathy Ormsby, Don Osborne, Bernie Swank, Frank Ferris, Elmer Servis and Chuck Brawner.

With many of us getting up in years, it becomes more of a challenge each year to help out however we truly do appreciate each of you. Hopefully we can recruit some young members to give us old timers a break.

A big thank you to Ann Hayford for bringing her wonderful cookies for all of us to enjoy.

Another thanks is in place from Marie and I to Jim Ellis and the UBI membership for presenting us with a gift certificate to the Chesapeake Seafood in Springfield. What a nice surprise and we really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Hopefully everyone will stay in good health and have a successful hunting season.

Thank you again for all the help and God willing we will see you next year.

Happy Hunting,

Bill and Marie Secker

Director's Report - Denny Hayford

Education Committee request for assistance

In August I received a call from Ron Hayford Region 3 Rep (AKA my brother) telling me that he had a cache of bows, arrows, and other hardware fall in his lap because of the quick thinking of one of his friends. It seems that a local school was cleaning house and decided to dispose of their old fiberglass bows, wooden arrows, etc. He was looking for ideas on what to do with it all. I said I might be able to help with that and made a call to Darrell Stiennen at Select Archery in Bloomington. Darrell had mentioned to me that he was looking for light weight kids bows so that he could have enough bows to hold birthday parties at his range. The bows needed a lot of cleanup. They were checked for fiberglass splinters, re-centered the grips (don't know how they all got moved), refinished, and the strings replaced. In addition some of Ron's other friends donated some other old equipment. We had decided that because of our good fortune and Darrell's generosity the proceeds would be donated to the UBI. A check for \$350.00 was deposited in the United Bowhunters Education Fund.

Last month the Education Committee donated 6 dozen arrows, 2 arrow rests, and 5 finger tabs to the Cuba High School archery program. We are looking into assisting with the archery needs at Eagle Creek on Lake Shelbyville. The superintendent there, Richard Glazebrook, provides archery equipment for the boy scouts during their Rendezvous in May. Several members of the UBI including my wife and I assist Ron Hayford and the DNR on that weekend by running the archery program. Their equipment has steadily deteriorated over the last 5 years and they are in need of arrows as well as work on their bows. We have not had a request from Mr. Glazebrook but, because this equipment would serve the boy scouts we will be looking at what we can provide. Richard has been very accommodating to the UBI during Ron's Region 3 fall rendezvous. We feel this is a great way to show our appreciation and assist the boy scouts at the same time. We are assessing their needs now and will determine the level of assistance in the next quarter.

Thanks to the generosity of the Jerry and Betty Pierce family we have nearly \$1000 available for the Scholarship Fund. If you have a student that is in school and is pursuing a field in conservation or

a related field they could be eligible for this award. Please contact me for an application. Applications will be reviewed by the education committee and awarded at the 2017 UBI banquet. (stykbow2@yahoo.com) or 309-840-2327

Banners

Randy Beasley is working on getting two banners made for us. We hope to have them by the banquet.

The Banquet

Start thinking about donation for the 2017 banquet. Remember that almost all our funding comes from the generous donations of our members and businesses related to our sport. Please let them know that we appreciated their donations and get a business card that we can print in our newsletter. It would be good PR to follow up with them in the off season and take a copy of our newsletter to show them. It's a small token of our appreciation but it would be the only way they would know we are doing something for them in return.

State Fair Tent

The UBI board manned the tent on Saturday along with Jerry Beverlin, Tom Bartolomucci, and my lovely wife. On Sunday Ron Hayford and his band of merry men and ladies kept the arrows flying. It would be great to see some new faces next year. I have to thank everyone for taking their time to teach others about our sport. We get to work with shooters of all ages and experience levels. This is one of our best opportunities to get new shooters started. Hope to see you there next year.

Etc.

I am finishing this report so I can be out at my camper tomorrow night with anticipation of a restful night's sleep and the dawn of a new season. By the time you read this the season will be well underway and the season's harvest is being liked and shared on Facebook. Enjoy the precious time you have to spend this and every season. I know I spend all the rest of the year in preparation for the opening day. Hunting season probably consumes too much of my year but I wouldn't want it any other way.

I'd like to say thank you to all who share their knowledge, skills, and passion for bowhunting with me and others. It is time well spent.

Be safe, hunt hard, shoot straight.....

Best Regards,

Denny Hayford

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IFOR Report - Rick Stillman

Greetings UBI!

IFOR held its latest board meeting on Sunday Sept 25 at Scheels in Springfield. Legislative activity has been rather slow lately with most legislators busy with elections and campaigning. There is one item of interest to bowhunters: Hunting with archery equipment during the firearm season. This subject has been bounced around for years and though there have always been members in support of this, as an organization the UBI always stood opposed. IDNR Director Rosenthal started pushing for this change earlier this year. In line with the bowhunting interests, IFOR took a stance as opposed to this change, but it has been pushed through the Ad Rule process and is now legal with some limitations.

You MUST have a valid FIREARM SEASON permit

You MUST be hunting on PRIVATE ground

Even though hunting with archery equipment, your archery permit is not valid during the firearm season in this situation. Our CPO's have been advised of this rule change, but it might be a good idea to contact your local CPO if you plan to bowhunt the firearm season. I also don't know how this will affect public areas such as Ramsey State Park, where bowhunting during the firearm season has been allowed in the past. A call to site personnel should get you an answer. For some reason, the IDNR has decided not to announce this rules change to the public and you will not find any word of it in the 2016 Hunting Rules Digest.

The Natural Resources Advisory Board is scheduled to meet October 24 at 4pm at the IDNR Building in Springfield. The NRAB meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend and support their constituent group is encouraged to do so.

IFOR meetings are open to all members wishing to attend. If you want to see what IFOR does and the breadth of user groups represented, I invite you to attend our next meeting, January 29 at 12:30 at Scheels in Springfield. The 2017 IFOR Banquet will be held May 6. More on that later!

Good hunting and best wishes for a great season!

Rick Stillman

UBI IFOR Representative



Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources
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United Bowhunters of Illinois Board Meeting 7/31/16

Jim Ellis Homestead

Attendance: Jason Farr, Peter Tarcha, Denny Hayford, Paul Ladner, Jim Ellis, Devlin Neuhaus.

Minutes from last meeting: Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: Jim presented the treasurers report. Balance at this time is @ \$10,750 considering a few last minute expenses.

Membership Status: No update.

IFOR: Per Email from Rick: "IFOR Board meeting was last weekend. We seem to have survived this summer without too many legislative pita's, but the fall veto session still looms and nothing ever really dies in the legislature. Not anything directly bow hunting related that I can see hanging on, but SB2143, which makes it illegal to trap bobcats or sell pelts in IL is still in breathing and picked up another co-sponsor earlier this month. There is also a move on the federal level to transfer federal lands to the states, where they can be sold, making no longer public access lands. I don't find any bill #'s, but it is being pushed and on several agendas in both parties."

Insurance: Seems some secondary market insurance policy sale caused a change in insurance company. Basic club insurance provided by Outdoors Insurance.com (Specialty Insurance Consultants LLC) has been purchased for annual premium of \$750.

Budget: Review of \$2000 allotment for Ed and Cons committees. There was some other discussion about expected expenses as well. These are the major expenses for the club. No written document was produced or voted on.

Archery Tent: 8/20 at State Fair. Bill has volunteered for years supervising the archery tent. Jim proposed honoring him somehow. It was approved to spend \$50-\$100. Jim will look into that.

Credit card reader for cell phone app: Devlin did some research and seems can be set up at no cost. 2.5-3% charge for transactions would be incurred. Tom will be asked to set up since he is the treasurer.

2017 Banquet: The present venue has been booked for next year (3-3/4-17). Mike Mitten will be the banquet speaker and will do a day presentation as well. Jason Farr volunteered to chair the banquet. We reviewed a planner for the banquet.

T-shirts/button down shirts: A T-shirt design was presented by Denny and approved. It included an image on the front and "United Bowhunters of Illinois" on the back. They will cost about \$10 per shirt.

UBI will pay for the set up to produce button down shirts and each board member will pay for their shirt. Giving the general membership the option to order shirts at the banquet was mentioned as the set up costs will be paid. Denny to see if the T-shirt guy can do. Jim was going to look into also.

Conservation Committee: Peter has looked into what the CPOs might need. More trail cams were mentioned, but also a "robo" deer for poaching investigations was a priority. The expense for one such decoy was @\$2250. No decision was made to approve an amount over budget, but it was not ruled out.

Education Committee: One request for funding so far. Bernard Swank put in request for 6 dozen arrows and rest replacements for Cuba High School. Denny is making finger tabs for them. Archery tent donation of \$500. Boy scouts \$300 for 6 dozen arrows. Currently looking at \$6-700 of expenses in near future. There is still \$962 in Betty and Jerry Pierce memorial fund earmarked for scholarships. Not sure there was any announcement of scholarship availability in the newsletter soliciting applications as was planned from last meeting.

Legislative Committee: No update from committee. According to Jim Ellis, bow hunting is to be allowed during gun season.

United Bowhunters of Illinois Board Meeting 8/20/16

State Fair DNR Building

Attendance: Jason Farr, Peter Tarcha, Denny Hayford, Paul Ladner, Jim Ellis, Tom Bartolomucci, Dan Forystek.

Minutes from last meeting: Minutes approved.

Director Rosenthal was available to meet with us immediately and spent about 40 minutes with him discussing various topics.

Deer/vehicle collision reports were made available to DNR in early August and some changes in the late season antlerless quotas and open counties will be affected.

Archery hunting in gun season will be allowed this year, but will require a gun permit to participate (per Sunny, IFOR rep, the need to have gun permit will upset regular gun hunters due to potentially less permit availability for them).

Dropping hunting bow weight to 30# is being considered.

Director Rosenthal was opposed to any use of airbow as a hunting weapon.

Treasurers Report: Tom Bartolomucci presented the treasurers report. Balance at this time is @ \$8500 considering a \$500 check to Bill to help with the archery tent and \$2000 for purchase of robo-decoy deer for CPOs as recommended by the conservation committee (Peter Tarcha).

The budget is to be tracked using a spreadsheet with quarterly submissions to place in the newsletter.

Membership Status: Providing membership cards to members was mentioned as desirable. Reduced shoot fees for members of archery organizations was given as a potential benefit. Card would provide proof of membership.

IFOR: Sunny from IFOR happened into our meeting and discussed the general difficulty of meeting all users objectives. The archery in gun season was a current concern.

Credit card reader for cell phone app: Tom Bartolomucci working on it.

2017 Banquet: We reviewed a planner for the banquet again. A representative from the Nature Conservancy will give a brief presentation at the banquet. Rick Dugan is available for the 2018 banquet speaker position (Grand slam with recurve). As banquet draws closer please include notice in your local papers. It was decided to give Jamie Ellis \$100 in consideration for making brain tanned bow sock to present to Mike Mitten. It was suggested to have a self bow competition. Need to make sure information on the banquet is in the next newsletter.

T-shirts/button down shirts: No word on T-shirts or button down shirts yet.

Conservation Committee: Peter managed to get a robo-deer decoy purchased (for CPO use) for \$2000 rather than \$2140 as initially quoted.

Education Committee: Archery tent donation of \$500 done as well as a \$75 gift certificate to restaurant for Bill.

Legislative Committee: No update from committee.

Regional Reps: Was suggested that the regional reps receive a few extra newsletters (more than needed are printed due to quantity costs) to share at events.

Chairman: Any interested persons are encouraged to run for chairman position which will be open after Jim's term ends.

September Elk Hunt - Mike Davenport

The Laramie peaks area of Wyoming is an elk mecca. Try applying for a bull tag in the famed Area 7 and you will soon see it takes either a stroke of luck in the random draw or 8 years of building points. If you are enamored with horns this place has them. Giant herd bulls us elk hunters all dream of for sure. However if you are enamored with a full freezer of delicious elk meat, well, this is the place for that too!

I have drawn a bull tag here once, and I managed to mess up a perfectly good shot on one of those audacious bull elk there. The other times I have been here have been much more productive for the freezer, going 2 out of 3 trips with an elk for the long trip home. This year when I got my rejection letter it contained my back up plan: no bull tag but happy to report a cow tag. Game on!

I am lucky to have generous ranching friend who allows me and a few other folks pay a trespass fee to access a section of his ranch and the 20,000 acres of BLM ground in the mountains. He is picky about his guests, and for some reason, I made the cut. It is bordered by National Forrest which is strangely not accessible without a guide. The BLM and state pieces are okay. Like I said, strange. Either way it is more ground than I can handle as it is, and it holds a fair number of bowhunnable critters. It is perfect for my need to climb and glass, and has some stalkable pinch points and drainages perfect for a guy with a single string bow and a sharp broadhead.

After arriving at the ranch September 3rd I got my gear together for a spike camp and for a stay in a tent in a pasture by my truck. I was greeted by a band of horses which changed my plan to put out a tent. They were friendly ranch horses still used for roundup and pleasure, and said hello by wanting me to pet them. Luckily the ranch manger offered me a different plan. I could use the bunk-house which was open since the branding was finished, complete with a toilet and running water. Talk about luxury! I would spike up in my hammock for a day or two at a time and have creature comforts down low. It didn't take me long to say yes.

The first evening I just wanted to climb and feel my legs burn some. I was 9 weeks removed from a scary time for the family and I. The words tumor and cancer and bowel resection are words I hate to use when it is a patient of mine ever, let alone when I am describing the possibilities of my own health to my friends and family. Having uttered all of those and withstood a major operation the 9 weeks prior, coming out the other side with not only a clean bill of health, but more appreciation of friendship, family and love, the burn in my legs felt very good. It sure beat a tube in your nose and jello for a couple weeks. Arriving at my predetermined glassing rock I got settled in for a little time with God. You see, I hear him better up there alone. The world might as well be miles away (which it is) and the noise of life fades as I sit and glass and listen for the sounds of elk in the high country.





It didn't take long to hear and see what I came for. A ratty old herd bull began to push his band of cows to the drainage below me, and although too late for me to intercept them, I found it as relaxing and pleasing as anything I have ever done. To just watch him and his harem come to water as the light faded and the cool air started blowing down the mountain, I was back to living again!

I awoke the next morning and made a bit of breakfast of oatmeal, fruit and coffee and stowed my gear for a trip to overnight on the mountain. I don't know what my pack weighed but it told me it was plenty climbing in the pinkness of dawn. I had a spot out of the wind I wanted to reach before I dropped my gear for the day, returning maybe at lunch to rig my hammock and set up my home. I made it by 9 or so, decided to go ahead and set up my camp, and actually took a long rest there. I had tried to prepare for this hunt physically, but truth be told my cardio was limited until the last month before the hunt due to the craziness of my post op instructions. I tried to cheat a bit, but with a wife that is nurse and a surgeon for a friend, I got called on the carpet more than once.

I did manage to get to top out mid-morning to enjoy a sandwich and a look around with a spotting scope. I found elk within 400 yards of my perch, bedded and happy. With the right wind and an alleyway to advance I made my way to the 40 yard mark in record time. What I thought was a few elk turned out to be 40 cows, 3 spikes, 2 orbit bulls and one giant stud of a herd bull. I needed to close the last 15 yards to a bedded cow, and each belly crawl, scoot, and shuffle resulted in more eyes on me from the herd. Finally a nosy cow that was bedded facing me stood, signaling to the whole herd something was up. I was in range of a nice cow, but when I came to my knees to draw a silly spike bull stood right in front of me, essentially blocking my shot. When I doubled clutched my draw I should have known it was trouble: the little bull cleared and I watched my arrow crease the back of the nervous, now standing cow, who had ducked as I delivered. The shot drew hair and that was all, and the herd thundered off the mountain in a way that to anything below them was a stampede. They stopped in a little opening and I pursued only enough to make sure I didn't have a wounded animal. That was when I figured out my little group of elk was really a giant herd, full of bugles, mews, and high pitched squeals. It was awesome to behold for sure.

I backed out and went back to camp for a nap. I had spent 4 hours as close elk as you can get. The herd bull for which I had no tag gave me very shot I needed. At one point I had to lower my head and giggle as he was bugling so close and so loud I bordered on outright lunacy having him so near. I could feel it in my chest each time he cut loose with a glunk or bugle, he was that close. I laid there and listened to the wind blow hard, and thought about my family and friends who I wished were here to experience this. I awoke in time to get to a little wallow ambush before dark. The evening proved to be anticlimactic and I made camp in time for food, water and rest.

The next 5 days was much of the same. I went down for food and a good night's rest a couple times, and managed to get into elk every single day I was on the mountain. With each passing day I got more air and more strength, but couldn't get those final few yards. I know with our equipment what it takes. For me, anything inside 25 yards or so is good. I got inside 40 every single day, and realize more than ever how tough it is to close the show with a traditional bow. Instead of making me wish for another weapon however, it makes me realize how special this is. I think of all the things I would have missed had I just pulled the trigger instead of lying there in a bad spot with elk all around, needing them to make the next move. It was great!

On the last day, having resigned myself to a close but no cigar mentality, I made my way to an ambush creek crossing to serve out my last few hours of daylight. Making that last climb put a smile on my face. There was plenty of regret on how I approached some of the stalks, and how a puff of wind or a curious calf made that final few yards my nemesis all week. But even that regret had company: contentment, happiness, and accomplishment resided there too. After arriving and positioning myself wind friendly, knowing I'd have to move when the thermals changed, I listened to the wind howl above me on the top of the peak, thankful to be tucked into a deep bottom a scant mile from the truck. My gear was packed ready to drive home and I was at peace. The wind stalled long enough to hear a loud bugle above me, and a quick repositioning to see the hill above revealed a familiar sight. The herd bull from the second day was making his way to the water, pushing his harem of 40 plus cows and calves in front of him.



I quickly changed my ambush plans to intercept plans, and just made it to a large rock when the lead cow came around to investigate my little cow call. I had to stop her like I would a whitetail and watched my arrow center punch her side, a little high, but in the goods. She ran, scattering the herd in the right direction, towards my truck! I found her piled up near a fence crossing for the ranchers cattle, done for. In the fading light I called my wife from the high peak, and in the heavy wind I told her of my good fortune. There was something about that call that gets to me now as I write. All that we had been through, all that we had learned about ourselves came to light for me. It dawned on me later: we weren't afraid anymore.

I did the field dressing chores with a fading headlamp, and made my way to my vehicle, exhausted. At midnight I decided to sleep some there and was awoken before dawn by a rap on my truck. Seemed the ranch hand couldn't sleep for worrying about a missing cow or two, and when he learned about my success, he insisted on helping. Using the ruse of looking for his cows anyway, to my surprise he used a cattle trail 2-track to bring my elk out whole, driving right to his fence crossing and my elk. I spent the cool morning butchering in the luxury of barn, and loaded every morsel of meat in my coolers. I tried to give the man who helped me so much the best cuts, but he turned it down. Something about needing to get to looking for those cows, and not needing any meat. I shook his hand, thanked him, and realized again, how many good people there are in this world.

The drive home took less time than it should, and when I got there I had 3 smiling faces to greet me. We spent the next couple of days canning elk, prepping elk for the freezer and enjoying several meals from this fine animal. Someday I am going to go and kill a big, old herd bull. I doubt however it will mean more to me than this elk, or this hunt, where worry was put to rest, and peace was made on the mountain.



On a personal note, thank you all for the calls, cards and well wishes during my illness. I am so lucky to have friends like the members of UBI. Lynnette and I, along with our children, are so happy that this is now behind us, but know we are so fortunate that things went as well as they did. I am back to doing martial arts, and as you can tell from the article, bow hunting! Blessed beyond measure and happy!

Mike

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Financial Report

<i>January 1, 2016 - January 29, 2016</i>			
Date	Description	Amount	Balance
			\$ 8,787.32
1/7/2016	Check # 633 Sunny Mooney	\$ 150.00	\$ 8,637.32
1/6/2016	Check #634 Devlin	\$ 139.00	\$ 8,498.32
1/26/2016	Check #635 Maxur (Conservation Com-	\$ 364.98	\$ 8,133.34
1/28/2016	Check #1002 Michael	\$ 661.98	\$ 7,471.36
1/7/2016	Deposit	\$ 200.00	\$ 7,671.36
1/13/2016	Deposit	\$ 35.00	\$ 7,706.36
1/25/2016	Deposit	\$ 90.00	\$ 7,796.36
1/22/2016	Ordered Checks	\$ 38.18	\$ 7,758.18
<i>January 30, 2016 - February 29, 2016</i>			\$ 7,758.18
2/4/2016	Cash Withdrawal (Banquet Change)	\$ 300.00	\$ 7,458.18
2/5/2016	Check #632 Gilbert Best	\$ 200.00	\$ 7,258.18
2/2/2016	Check #1001 Jim Ellis (Hatchet)	\$ 128.95	\$ 7,129.23
2/11/2016	Check 1003 JP Enter-prises	\$ 230.00	\$ 6,899.23
2/11/2016	Check #1004 Michael	\$ 77.50	\$ 6,821.73
2/16/2016	Check #1005 Peter Tar-	\$ 602.98	\$ 6,218.75
2/9/2016	Check 1006 Jerry Ghille	\$ 30.00	\$ 6,188.75
2/9/2016	Check #1008 Northfield Inn	\$ 266.80	\$ 5,921.95
2/9/2016	Check #1009 Tom Bar-tolomucci (Hotel	\$ 463.18	\$ 5,458.77
2/16/2016	Check #1010 Northfield Inn (Banquet)	\$ 3,398.77	\$ 2,060.00
2/17/2016	Check #1011 Gene	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,010.00
2/9/2016	Deposit	\$ 9,625.00	\$ 11,635.00
2/11/2016	Deposit	\$ 1,907.17	\$ 13,542.17
2/22/2016	Deposit	\$ 120.00	\$ 13,662.17
<i>March 01, 2016 - March 31, 2016</i>			
3/28/2016	IFOR Membership	\$ 238.50	\$ 13,423.67

April 01, 2016 - April 29, 2016

4/29/2016 St. Mathews School	\$	785.00	\$	12,638.67
4/28/2016 Michael Wiltse (Web	\$	143.40	\$	12,495.27

April 30, 2016 - May 31, 2016

5/4/2016 Jim Ellis (IFOR Dona- tion)	\$	100.00	\$	12,395.27
5/16/2016 Cusack Gilfillan & O'Day	\$	75.00	\$	12,320.27
5/13/2016 Michael Wiltse (Newsletter Spring	\$	669.00	\$	11,651.27

June 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016

6/28/2016 Deposit	\$200	\$	11,851.27
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July 30, 2016 - August 31, 2016

8/1/2016 Specialty Insurance Consultants LLC	\$	750.00	\$	11,101.27
8/5/2016 Michael Wiltse	\$	522.07	\$	10,579.20
8/11/2016 Denny Hayford (Region Bill Secker (IDNR Ar-	\$	110.00	\$	10,469.20
8/22/2016 chery Tent)	\$	500.00	\$	9,969.20
8/16/2016 Ron Hayford (Summer	\$	37.61	\$	9,931.59

Director's Report - Peter Tarcha

A large robotic buck decoy was purchased and donated to the IDNR at total cost of \$2000 from Custom Robotic Wildlife, Inc., Mosinee, WI. According to Custom, it should ship to IDNR in Springfield, IL in early October 2016. I will ask a UBI member who lives in the Springfield area to visit the the office where the decoy is first received and set up, to get a picture of the robot, the member, and a CPO involved, for our next newsletter.

Lt. Danner, Director of Procurement for IDNR Enforcement, thanked us for our support and said that the decoy will be deployed in the field to sites where there are a high number of complaints of deer poaching.

Peter

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DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

Region 2 Report - Dan Forystek

Things in northern Illinois are starting to cool down and on the long early morning dog walk the low sun makes all the tracks easy to read. I am grateful that the sense of smell has the best memory of all our senses. The vegetation being crushed under foot bringing back thoughts of past seasons of quietly making my way to a tree stand that is sure to produce an early season opportunity. A great feeling even though that property will never be hunted by me again. It's that time of year again and if I never kill another deer again nobody can take away those fond memories. Unless you own the land you have to expect the idea that at any given time without warning you can be without a place to hunt. Another reason to take a camera with a timer. Bowhunting for the most part is done alone. Preserve those memories sooner or later they will be all that is left.

While at a sportsman club meeting the subject of eating squirrels came up. I think they are the best tasting of all small game and the subject of spots on the liver came up. I always tossed them out if I saw spots on the liver remembering my grandfather saying that rabbits with those spots were no good and never eat rabbits killed before a really good frost. He was referring to rabbit fever (bacterium *francisella tularensis*) also called deerfly fever which can be transmitted from things like a deerfly or mosquito that has bitten a critter with this bug in it's system. It's no wonder some people don't want to leave the house. Keep in mind please this stuff is very rare. I thought it was a good time to google it and get to the bottom of this. I could not get a solid answer. Different spots mean different things. One type here in the city was a pretty disgusting possibility that like rats they could be feeding on dog feces and picking up a parasite which in turn migrates to the organs like the liver and develop into yellowish/ off-white spots. Some guys on-line said they didn't let the spots keep them from cooking them

up. O'l Gramp's used to eat the rabbit's brains but in my research the eating of squirrel brains which some folks like is a big no no. It can cause serious illness and like eating rodents with spots is just not worth the risk. I contacted a state biologist Bob Massey who was a wealth of knowledge and gave me info for U of I lab where the next squirrel I get my hands on will be sent and evaluated for a more positive identification of these spots.

I have very seldom used rubber gloves when gutting game. Seems like even when I carry them I am up to the elbows in blood when I remember that they are in the pack. After talking to Mr. Massey it makes good sense to wear them. There's a lot of stuff going on in those guts that you don't want going on inside of you. No wonder Sis stayed on the front porch.

Some of you already use these but for those who don't, I find a good cheap squirrel point is a 38. cal used brass like Howard Hill used to use. It can be improved by drilling a hole in a piece of pine just big enough to let the end of the brass protrude about 1/4". Then cut a slice with a hack saw about a 1/4" or more and force a triangular cut piece of sharpened heavy metal banding into the slot with a touch of glue. Now if you want to make it weigh the same as your field/hunting point turn it over and add solder and heat the brass. Keep pesharpened pieces of banding with you. If you hit a tree the banding blade usually stays up in the tree and the arrow comes down to the ground and you force another sharp blade in it's place. They have the punch of a blunt plus the ability to cut like a small broadhead and the arrow wont be stuck up in some tree.

May your arrows find the mark,

Dan Forystek



Region 4 Report - Gilbert Best

As you read this report our Illinois 2016, deer season should be just about ready to kick into high gear. I hope to score a big one or at least fill the freezer with some good meat, and I wish that for all of you too. As a constant reminder if you are going up into a tree stand or down, be careful! Don't forget to strap yourself into that tree either. If you are like me I sleep my best up in that tree. Think Safety! Let someone know exactly where you are hunting too.

As for Region 4, everything is quieter than quiet. Please use my email or phone number to contact me with any questions or information that needs to be passed on.

While out in the field this season, just don't carry a camera, use it. We certainly could use some good pictures to spice up our magazine. Pictures provide great memories; so don't forget to photograph your successes.

I just reread Pat Cebuhar's article, "Then and Now", from the Spring 2016 issue. What a great article that brought me back to my early days of this great sport called bow hunting. Some things have changed for me, as that young eager bow hunter, but his article brought back a great memory:

October 30, 1980 this young man of 20, sat quietly on the ground with a bow in his hand, on a cold and frosty morning. I first saw the magnificent 8-point buck that made me tremble with excitement. I still remember that amazing feeling of the adrenaline rushing through me while the beautiful creature stood in front of me. It was only a couple of minutes, just a few breaths, and the hunt was over, but I can still experience that rush of excitement over and over again as I reminisce. I believe that "feeling" is what keeps me yearning for deer seasons to begin each year.

Best Hunting to All!

Gilbert Best Jr.

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Region 3 Report - Ron Hayford

Several people from region 3 helped with the state fair archer tent again this year. It's always a long day and we are very tired, but it is fun and definitely helps promote interest in archery. Helping on Sunday this year were Ron Jack, Don Osborne, Chuck and Kathy Ormsby, Jered and Lisa Shofner, Chuck Brawner, Frank Ferris, Bernie Swank, and Karen Hayford. Thank you to all who helped out. We could not do it without such good volunteers.

The end of August Ron Jack and I headed west to Bill Kisner's camp near Mancos, Colorado. We hunted elk for 10 days. There were several other hunters in camp from many different states. We saw Greg Clark and family from Georgia, Bill and Tracy Dunn from Ohio, Jim 1 and Jim 2 from New York, Tim from Tennessee, Nate from Indiana, Mark from Iowa, Scott from Arizona, and Darrell Harding from Illinois. Quite a melting pot and lots of fun talking and sharing stories around the fire. I saw a couple of elk (no shot), and Ron saw a bear that was more than close enough. Bill killed a nice cow elk while we were there. Congratulations Bill. Ron and I got back home late Sunday night. I spent five days getting ready to leave again. Then early Saturday, Karen and I left to go back out west to tour several National Parks. Our first stop after

getting across Kansas was Bent's Old Fort near LaJunta, CO. I've been there before, but it's still fun to absorb the history and know that when the fort was built the Mexican border was the nearby Arkansas River. Then we traveled on to Mesa Verde. Again the rich history of an area occupied by the Ancestral Pueblo for over 5000 years, and then they just left the fabulous cliff dwellings and headed south into New Mexico and Arizona. If you have any interest in Native American history or artifacts, then the place deserves a spot near the top of your bucket list.

Next we headed southwest to the Grand Canyon, and here I sit in the campground writing this article. We have worn ourselves out today hiking the rim from Hermit's Roost. We did see a lot of elk today. We saw at least 20 cows and a very large 6 x 6 bull. The views of the canyon were fabulous.

Tomorrow we head to Utah to see Bryce, Zion, and as many others as we can see before heading back to prepare for the Eagle Creek Rendezvous.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful deer season this fall.



We really enjoyed Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde Nat'l Park



Too bad the Ron Jack and I didn't see this elk while hunting. We saw this bull at the Grand Canyon.

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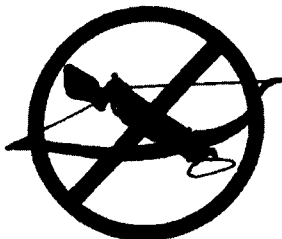
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UBI Crossbow Position Statement

The United Bowhunters of Illinois is adamantly opposed to the inclusion of any weapon that is not hand drawn and hand held in Illinois' archery season. Specifically, we are opposed to the use of the crossbow and the drawlock device, as well as any other weapon that does not require the shooter to draw by hand, hold by hand, and release by hand. Such weapons have the potential to negatively alter the primitive weapon status originally designated for archery seasons in Illinois

We are not opposed to the use of such devices by the truly handicapped, but we do question the legitimacy of some of these cases. Therefore we support all efforts by the IDNR to maintain the integrity in issuing handicap permits so as to minimize abuse in this practice

UBI Archery Season Position Statement

The United Bowhunters of Illinois is opposed to the creation of any new hunting season, or the extension of any existing hunting season which will decrease the length of the archery only season or displace the season into less favorable dates. While the United Bowhunters of Illinois recognizes the rights of hunters who choose to use other weapons in separate hunting seasons, we will oppose all efforts to include such users in Illinois' archery season

UBI Big Game Shooting Enclosure Position Statement

The United Bowhunters of Illinois opposes any big game hunting where the animal is within the confines of game proof enclosures. We oppose this despicable practice on the grounds of fair chase hunting, the threat of disease spreading from captive cervids to our wild deer populations, and the fact that privatizing wildlife is contrary to the North American model of game management. It is our position that the selling of hunts for big game animals that have been raised within an enclosure, or animals that currently are confined within an enclosure should be illegal in Illinois