

ISSUE 9 - FALL 2025

THE TRACKER

MICHIGAN CHAPTER SCI



ANOTHER DAY
AT THE RANGE

THREE STATES
THREE ANTELOPE

ADVENTURE
NEW ZEELAND

DUE DATE
DEER

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- A. To promote good fellowship among all who love the outdoors and hunting.
- B. To promote conservation of the world's renewable wildlife resources, recognizing hunting as one of the many management tools.
- C. To educate youth, sportsmen and the public in conservation of our wildlife and our forests, which are our natural heritage.
- D. To share our hunting experiences and information among our membership.
- E. To operate the association as a non-profit organization, consistent with its charitable purposes, while providing enjoyment for our members, always with the goal of helping to conserve the animals that we love to hunt today for those who will come to love the sport tomorrow.

SCI'S CODES OF ETHICS

Recognizing my responsibilities to wildlife, habitat and future generations, I pledge:

- A. To conduct myself in the field so as to make a positive contribution to wildlife and ecosystems.
- B. To improve my skills as a woodsman and marksman to ensure humane harvesting of wildlife.
- C. To comply with all game laws in the spirit of fair chase, and to influence my companions accordingly.
- D. To accept my responsibility to provide all possible assistance to game law enforcement officers.
- E. To waste no opportunity to teach young people the full meaning of this code of ethics.
- F. To reflect in word and behavior only credit upon the fraternity of sportsmen, and to demonstrate abiding respect for game, habitat and property where I am privileged to hunt.

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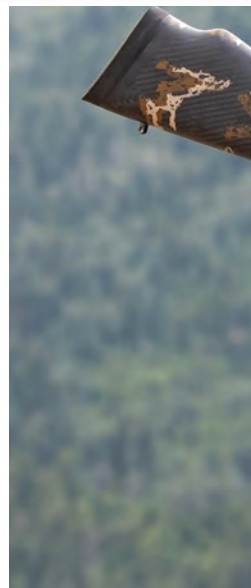


14 THREE STATES,

2024 was a fortuitous year for me. I was able to hunt antelope in South Dakota, New Mexico,



30 DUE DATE DEER



EDITOR'S NOTES



Welcome to the Fall issue of the Tracker. Our North American hunting seasons will be well under way when you receive this issue. Hopefully, you have all taken time to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of God's creation right here in Michigan. From small game, to bear, to waterfowl, to deer there are a lot of opportunities right here at home. Don't forget to share pictures of your hunting success. Whether that success is measured in animals taken, the beauty of creation, or time well spent with family and friends. We would love to see your photos. This is also a great time to send us your unique trail cam photos.

In this issue we get to enjoy stories about a local deer hunt with a twist by Erik Moelker, a New Zealand hunt by Larry Smith, and a triathlon of antelope hunts by Ron Grenadier! This is what we are about. Local, national, and international hunters all enjoying each other's experiences and working together to preserve, protect, and promote hunting and conservation. As usual we also have an important word on guns and ammo by Terry Blauwkamp and Steve Kernosky as well as updates on chapter activities and the great work our chapter is accomplishing. Don't miss the article about custom rifles by Jared Walker of Flint Ridge Rifles. Jared and Flint Ridge are building our custom Gun of the Year for our upcoming fundraiser.

Please note that we do reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to edit or refuse any submission. If you would like to submit an article or pictures, please send them to me at: trmoelker@gmail.com or 5132 20th Ave Hudsonville, MI 49426 or call me at 616-889-1003.

Thank you,
Todd Moelker, Editor



THREE ANTELOPE

for me.
in three different states:
and the Panhandle of Texas



20 NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE 2025

For those who have not hunted New Zealand, give it some consideration. It is a beautiful country and the hunting is great.



35 WHY GO CUSTOM?

44 PREZ SEZ

Hopefully you've had the chance to tag a big whitetail this fall here in Michigan. There is nothing quite like autumn in our great state!

*As we wrap up the season, we are gearing up for what promises to be another exciting time at our annual fundraising event! **Mark your calendars for February 6–7 at the Muskegon Conference Center.** This event is always a highlight of the year. It is an opportunity to connect, celebrate, and make a real impact.*

Our generous members are driving change both locally and around the world. This year's auction will feature unforgettable hunting adventures, incredible firearms, and premium gear for outdoor enthusiasts. If you or someone you know is passionate about hunting, you won't want to miss it.

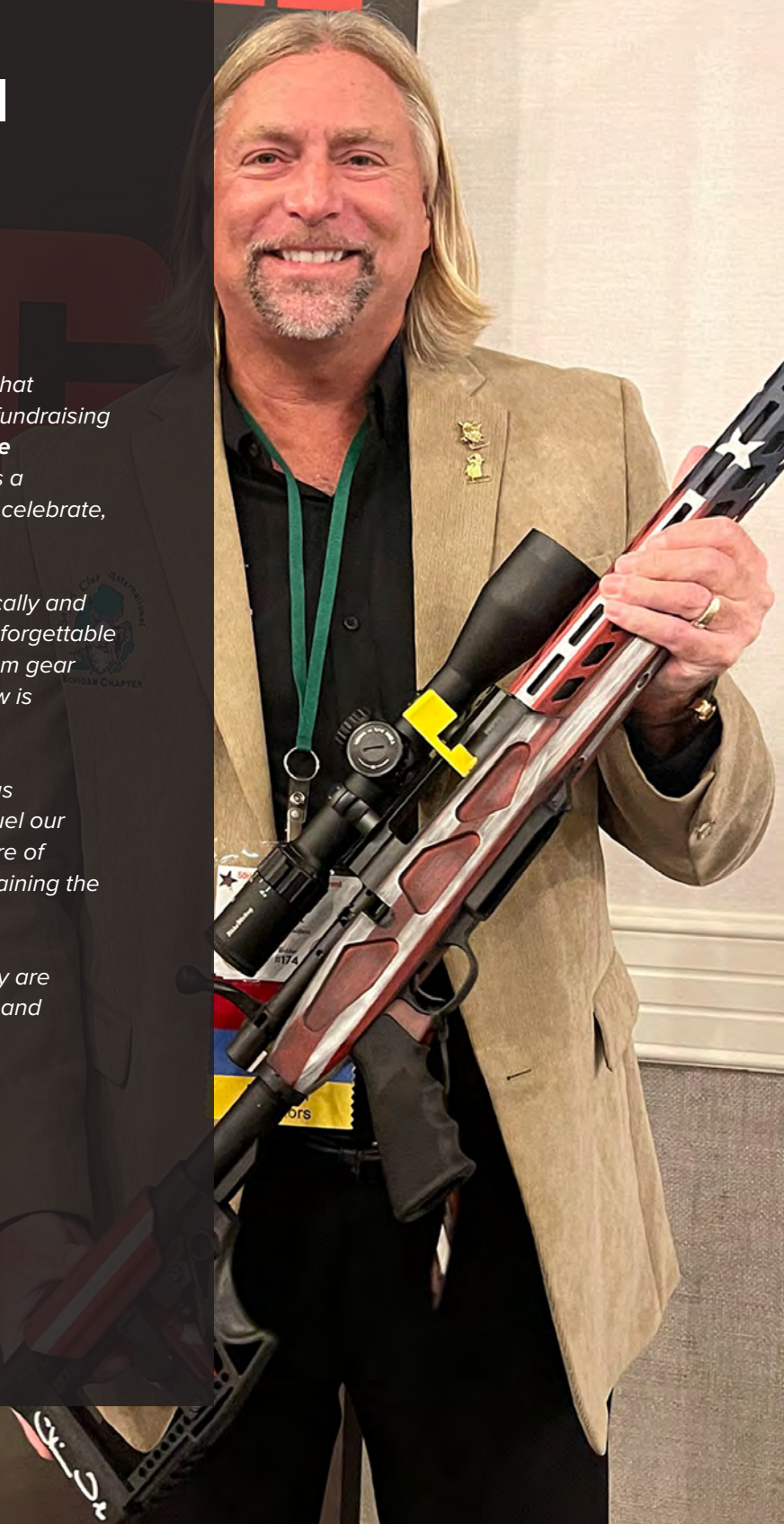
*Take a moment to look back at what our chapter has accomplished this year. Your support continues to fuel our mission to **Promote, Protect, and Preserve** the future of hunting. Every dollar raised is an investment in sustaining the outdoor lifestyle we all love.*

Thank you for your dedication and support. You truly are making a difference in the world of hunting, fishing, and conservation.

We can't wait to see you at the fundraiser!

Warm regards,

Dr. Michael Kwast
President, SCI Michigan Chapter



ATTENTION SCI Michigan Members

Important information for our members such as chapter events, meetings and membership renewals will be emailed to every member that we have an email address for. If you didn't get an email reminder of our last meeting we do not have your email address. Please send your email to mvghareeb@gmail.com so we can get all of our emails on the list.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 6th

Adult Pheasant Hunt

Thursday, December 11

Member Christmas Party

Thursday, January 8

Big Buck Night

Friday & Saturday, February 6, 7

SCI MICHIGAN Fundraiser Convention



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IN MEMORIAM



CAROL & VERN EDEWAARD

The SCI Michigan Chapter community would like to express our sincere condolences to wife Carol and the family of Vern Edewaard. He passed from this life to his eternal home in glory on September 9. Vern was instrumental in the founding of SCI International and our Michigan chapter as well as the Discovery Center in Holland Michigan.

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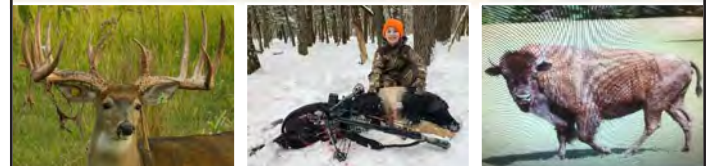
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DID YOU KNOW?

****OUR SCI MICHIGAN CHAPTER IS HAVING A TROPHY AWARDS CONTEST****

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FEB
6th-7th
2026



CONTEST RULES:

- All entries must be received by December 15, 2025.
- All trophies are welcome, however, only those meeting SCI minimum will be judged.
- A field photo of the trophy must accompany the scoresheet(s) & must be scored by an Official or Master SCI Measurer.* Please indicate at top of submitted scoresheet(s) if youth entry.
- Must be a SCI Michigan Chapter member.
- Trophies must have been taken between 12/15/21-12/15/25.
- A specific animal may be entered and judged only once.
- Trophies entered must be exhibited at the fundraiser.
- All trophies must be brought to the SCI Michigan Chapter Convention. Drop off is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday, February 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Mail your SCI scoresheet(s) and field photo's to: Bill's Taxidermy, 4546 6 Mile Road, Marne, MI 49435

*List of measurers can be found in the directory of the Tracker Magazine.

****Adult and Youth Entries****

Youth (age 21 and under) will be judged separately using the same criteria.

Awards Include Cabela Gift Cards and Photo Award Plaques. All awards will be presented Saturday night.

THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WILL BE USED IN JUDGING THE TROPHY CONTEST:

1. ANIMAL CATEGORIES – a. Free-Ranging b. Estate

2. AWARD CATEGORIES – a. Best of Species b. Best of Continent c. Best of North American Estate d. Best of Show

3. METHOD OF TAKE CATEGORIES – a. Rifle b. Bow c. Crossbow d. Muzzle Loader e. Handgun

AWARD CRITERIA:

- Best of Species for each category is awarded to the animal with the highest score.
- Best of Continent and Best of North American Estate is awarded to the animal that scores closest, numerically, to the top score in the International Record Book. To find this score, the rank of the entered animal is divided by the total number of ranks in the International Record Book.
- North American Estate animals cannot win Best of Show.

QUESTIONS?: Larry Smith: (616) 279-2926 Email: lsmith738@gmail.com
Don Dixon: (616) 450-4644 Email: dixonofada@comcast.net



SCI
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MICHIGAN CHAPTER

ANOTHER DAY



DOES YOUR GUN FEED FROM THE MAGAZINE?

This may seem like a “dumb” question. How many of us go to the range and load only one shell at a time like we are supposed to do? We then find out later when we put a shell or two in the magazine, it will not feed. What we need to check first is if the cartridge will fit into the magazine. Quite often, loading only one shell in the magazine of a bolt-action rifle is less sensitive to Cartridge Overall Length (COL). Because the shell is above the magazine box, an extra .025 or .050 of an inch, is not so important unless it will not chamber. However, if you try and put three or four shells in the magazine, they could jam because they are too long. The next important step after establishing the correct OAL, is to cycle a few shells and see if they feed properly into the chamber. This will accomplish another objective. If you are using the exact ammo you are taking on a trip, you will know if it feeds from the magazine. And, if the bolt will close on the cartridge. ***** CAUTION***** Be very careful while doing this! Make sure the muzzle is pointed safely downrange in case of an accidental discharge. Some rifles, like the Winchester M70, can easily have the striker (firing pin) removed. This will eliminate the chance for an accidental discharge. Guns with three-position safeties can be cycled with the safety “on”. Another concern is having incorrect caliber ammo. Do not laugh. It happens! There are so many similar cartridges. For example, the 300 Winchester Magnum, 300 WSM (Winchester Short Magnum), or several 270 cartridges. I have seen hunters using 30-30 ammo in their 32 Winchester special. They go bang just fine, but don’t even hit the target at 50 yards. It is important to check and double check your



ammo. What are you going to do if you encounter feeding problems or jams? I have had some guns feed perfectly from the left side of the magazine and fail from the right side, or the opposite. With several brand-new custom rifles, I have had it happen. When I put 3 shells in the magazine and rapidly operated the bolt, all three shells popped up and jammed. Quite often, poor feeding can be solved by getting a different “follower” as it is called, and sometimes by taking the rifle apart and smoothing up the edges of the action (rails as they are called). Or, take it to your local gunsmith and see what he thinks might be appropriate. Sometimes, it is best to send it back to the manufacturer. While you are testing the “feed”, it is also a very good time to run all the cartridges you are taking hunting to see if the bolt closes on each one. It is also important to remember, whether you are using reloaded ammo, or the most expensive factory ammo, it is a manufactured product. If some part of production gets only a few thousandths out of spec, you may get an oversized cartridge. It is far better to find out now, than on a hunt.

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Three States, Three Antelopes

2024 was a fortuitous year for me. I was able to hunt antelope in three different states: South Dakota, New Mexico, and the Panhandle of Texas. And, with a lot of pre-hunt preparations, some luck, and persistence, I harvested three nice trophies. All three were excellent hunts in their own way. The following are the stories for each of them.



South Dakota



Northwest South Dakota is a magnificent place to hunt. Yellow grass prairie with rolling hills, and interspersed with gully and canyon breaks. It is easy to imagine the herds of buffalo that used to roam the plains, and the various tribes which hunted them. Lots of history in this area, including that of the settlers and ranchers trying to survive and make a living. Besides plentiful game, the area is sparsely populated with humans. It was easy for me to feel emotional and spiritually uplifted.

I was the winning bidder for an archery antelope hunt at the 2023 West Michigan Bowhunters Annual Banquet "WMB". My hosts were Marty and Mike Haines from Fairview Ranch Outfitters "Fairview". I had hunted for antelope in other states with a bow, but was never successful. The guys at WMB spoke very highly of Fairview. It did not take much

convincing. Being 68 years old at the time, I didn't know how many other chances I would get. Marty was gracious enough to allow me to push the hunt to 2024 due to several personal conflicts I had in 2023.

I can't say enough good things about Marty and Mike. Excellent hosts. Excellent facilities. Just about excellent everything. And I saw MANY antelope and mule deer which always makes for a fun trip. I **DO** need to add that they are an **ARCHERY ONLY** operation. **NO RIFLES ALLOWED.** The hunting is different from the forested woodlands east of the Mississippi, as South Dakota is wide open plains hunting. Marty recommends that a hunter be proficient with a bow at 80 yards. Being a Michigan bowhunter, most of my shots have been at 25 yards or less. My longest kill previously was at 54 yards on a Springbuck in the African Kalahari.

So, if you are a bowhunter, this is something you need to consider. And plan for. And practice.

I practiced and practiced. And practiced some more. I got to the point of regularly hitting the kill zone on a 3D antelope target at 65 yards, but at 70 yards or more, it became iffy at best. My previously torn rotator cuff was acting up again (I tore it on an archery cape buffalo hunt in 2019). During the month of June, prior to the August 2024 hunt, I was walking in a boot recuperating from a torn Achilles tendon surgery. Nevertheless, mid-August came, and I decided to take my chances, and drove to South Dakota.

In brief, after missing several shots over 70 yards, and one at 48 (bad case of buck fever), I finally connected on a nice goat at 63 yards. I was beside myself with joy and gratefulness. I was really thankful to the Lord for the opportunities. Also, I suspected this would be my last regular bow hunt too. My shoulder was without strength and very sore. Pulling a compound bow was getting too difficult even with the draw weight set at 52 pounds. Upon my return to Michigan, a torn rotator cuff was confirmed by a doctor. The doctor said it would be a long recovery from shoulder surgery if I chose that route. I elected not to do surgery thus far, but may change my mind in the future. In the meantime, I have since decided to switch to a crossbow. Again, the hunt was a very nice finish to a 40-year bow hunting career. **This trip scores 10 out of 10 in my book.**

P.S. Be sure to fill your gas tank at the last village before heading to Marty's place. There is nothing but prairie and sky for 45 miles or more one way.

New Mexico

Right after my South Dakota archery antelope hunt, I drove down to Pep, New Mexico, for a father and son pronghorn hunt. I had hunted this same area the previous year. It was another great hunt, but for me, more difficult than the prior year. Excessive heat with the temps continually over 100 degrees, and the game being more difficult to find. We really had to work harder.

This was an adventure that was supposed to happen in 2025, but an Army deployment for my son, Greg, to Africa in 2025 accelerated the hunt timing to 2024. Our trip was booked via Wildspirit Outfitters and Guide Service "Wildspirit," owned by Andrew McWilliams. I had hunted with Wildspirit in 2023 for antelope, and took my first goat with a rifle. I really enjoyed the trip, and wanted to hunt with Wildspirit once again. Andrew has access to lots of very good and large ranches, lots of game, and lots of repeat hunters. Some of the hunters in the 2023 camp had hunted with Wildspirit for over 10 years in a row. With over 450,000 acres of private land access, it's the type of hunt where you can look over lots of game before pulling the trigger. Andrew was very accommodating by letting Greg and I slip into the 2024 calendar. Definitely an outfitter I would recommend using. I would book with them again.

I arrived to camp a bit early, so Justin (guide) and I went scouting while waiting for Greg to drive in. After about an hour, we located a nice group of antelope with a shooter buck. They were feeding in a low valley, and were very relaxed. We decided to pull out and come

back the next morning, with Greg being the first hunter up.

We left camp at daylight with anticipation. About four miles from camp, we came to a spot where we could park the truck, and make our way to an overlook. Sure enough, the same group of antelope from the previous day were slowly making their way from west to east in the bottom of the valley. Greg was all smiles. We crept down back to the truck, and drove about a mile and half or so further eastward. Planning our approach, we saw there was a clump of low growth trees about ½ mile towards the group of antelope which were still moving our way. We crouched and crept, making our way using the cover of the grass and other scrub. We had just gotten to the trees when the antelope came into view. They were about 400 yards away, with just enough time to get Greg positioned for a shot. Suddenly, the buck spooked, and took off at a run directly towards us. The whole group followed leaving a trail of dust. As fast as the buck took off, he also skidded to a stop at about 220 yards away. The buck was visibly nervous. I whispered to Greg to take the shot now, or lose the chance. It was a good shot, dropping the antelope. The shot was a bit high though, as the rifle's MOA was never adjusted from 350 yards to 220 in the excitement of the moment. Even trained Army personnel get buck fever, I suppose. Ha-ha.

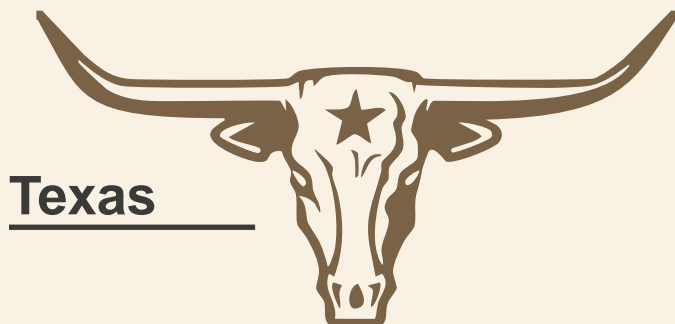
After lunch, we set out to find a goat for me. We spotted several nice bucks during the afternoon, but making three separate approaches on three different bucks all resulted in the bucks



seeing us. They all ran off at top speeds. This was the story of my life once again the next morning. I was getting a bit discouraged, and wondering if I would go home empty handed.

New Mexico is hot in August. Very hot. The afternoon of the second day was around 105 degrees. Nevertheless, late in the afternoon around 6 p.m., we spotted two does, and this buck chasing off another buck. My guide and I quickly drove off in their direction about ½ mile up the road, hopped out of the truck and waited. Ultimately, the dominant buck ran a full circle, came over a small rise, and stopped about 55 yards away. Initially the buck didn't notice us, as he was obviously thirsty, and was concentrating on finding some water at a dry pan. After about a 5 second pause, he looked up quite surprised to see us standing there. But the five second pause was enough time for me to bring my rifle up onto the sticks, put the crosshairs on his shoulder, and pull the trigger. He dropped right there. The End: 6:20 p.m. Pictures: 6:30 p.m. Back in Camp: 7:00 p.m.

Talk about luck! I will take it, considering that most of the antelope shots in this area are 300 yards plus. But more importantly, I got to spend time with my son, and we created some great memories together. **Another 10 out 10 trip for me.**



The Texas Panhandle has some really big antelope. During the time I was in camp, two antelope were harvested which scored in the mid 80's. If a hunter is in the right place at the right time, the opportunity for a high scoring goat is as good as those found in Wyoming and New Mexico. In early 2023, I booked with the Pope Brothers for a 2024 hunt. The first week of October finally came. It was opening week, and I was ready for my third hunt of the year. Upon arrival to Dalhart, Texas, I met my guide, and we proceeded to the hunting "camp". And WHAT A CAMP! It is hard to beat a 5-star house, aka VRBO, run by Holly Pope, Clay Pope's wife. Holly is a superb camp

administrator, an awesome cook, always has a nice smile, and she made sure everyone was comfortable and well fed. I had a wonderful stay and it was hard to leave. My guide was a young fella, I don't remember his name, but he sure worked hard to find antelope. For this article, I'll just call him Travis.

After unpacking, we went scouting that afternoon. After about an hour, we spotted a real shooter buck. We guessed he went over 80 inches. We had to hurry though, as the buck was making his way towards a neighboring ranch which did not allow for any hunting. We got as close as we could with the pickup. By the time Travis and I got out of the truck and set up on the sticks, the buck slipped under the fence. Gone. The owner had seen this buck before so we were optimistic that we would get a second chance at him over the next couple days.

This is where hunting antelope in Texas gets challenging. The permit system only allows for one tag per section of land that a rancher applies for. So, for example, if a rancher has two sections of land divided by a road or highway, he can only get one tag for each section. And once a tag has been used on a harvest in a section, NO other antelope can be taken on that piece of the property. The rancher cannot transfer the

unused tag. Also, if the hunter has a tag for a section with no antelope on it, well, bad luck. There were two or three hunters who left camp empty handed, as a result.

The next morning, we went back to the area where we previously spotted the buck. We found him, but he was hanging out in an alfalfa field on the neighbor's no hunting property. After watching the buck for a couple of hours, it was clear he had no intention of leaving. In fact, he had already joined up with a couple of does. It was the start of the rut, and he was beginning to round up his harem. Long story short, we watched him for two days, mostly from the bed of the pickup truck, but the buck never left the neighbor's ranch. We were on the perimeter roads so long, staring through the binos and spotting scopes, that the ranch owner even came out to question us about being there. In the meantime, the buck's harem grew from two does to about 12.

Travis and I did drive around quite a bit. There were lots of nice antelope to look at. Unfortunately, it seemed luck was not with us. Whenever we saw shooter bucks, they were on ranches where other Pope Brother clients were hunting, or the sections already had their tags punched. All we could do was watch, dream, then check out another spot.



It was the afternoon of the third day. I was taking a nap after lunch in my luxurious bed at the "5 Star Camp". Travis knocked loudly on my door and came into the room saying the owner of the ranch from the 1st day spotted a buck antelope on the property. We scrambled, and 15 minutes later we were at the ranch. The owner asked us to quickly switch vehicles, as the rancher's truck was a common sight for the antelope. They were familiar with it, and would tend to stick around or move slowly. Driving around several cornfields, we eventually saw the buck feeding in an alfalfa field about 500 yards away. The owner drove straight on towards the antelope. The buck paid us no mind thinking the owner was doing farm business. He kept on feeding until we were about 200 yards away, then looked up to watch us. At about 150 yards, Travis and I hopped out of the back of the pickup, setting up on the shooting sticks. Once in the crosshairs, I pulled the trigger,

and that was it. Dropped him at 157 yards per the range finder.

In sum, it wasn't the 80 inch we had been keeping an eye on, but a very old buck. The horns were broomed off about an inch or more on each side, and when capping it, the teeth fell out. This old guy was well past his prime, had his glory days, and I'm sure his genes were in some of the antelope we had been watching the past three days. Perhaps even in the 80 inch as well. In my book, the old buck made for a fine trophy, and I left with smiles and a good feeling.

Due to Texas's system of just one tag per section, I rate this trip an 8 or 9 out of 10. More luck involved with hunting in Texas. As for the Pope Brothers Outfitting, they did an excellent job, and get rated a 10. I would certainly hunt with them again.

Saludos!



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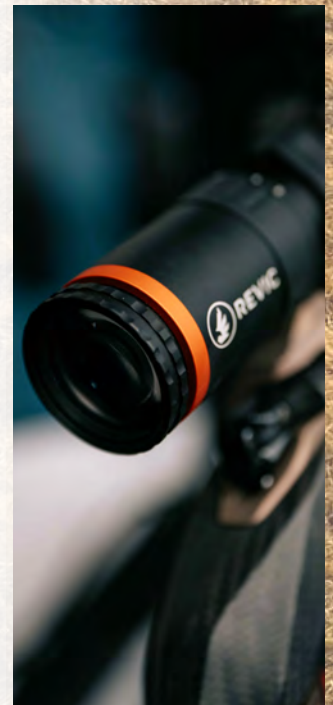
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GUNWERKS



NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE – 2025

STORY BY LARRY SMITH



It was February of 2006 and I was at the SCI Michigan Chapter Fundraiser held at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, MI. This was my first SCI event.



I jumped right in and found myself the high bidder for a donated hunt from South Pacific Safaris in New Zealand. My now deceased wife and I went to New Zealand in April of 2007. We toured the North Island and hunted the South Island. I took a great red stag and an Arapawa Ram. We had a fantastic time.

Fast forward to February of 2024. I was walking the aisles of the SCI Convention in Nashville. I took a little break and sat down

on a chair by a booth. A gentleman offered me a bottle of water and I gladly accepted. He looked at me and said, "I know you." I look at him and said "I know you too." It was my guide, Hayden, from South Pacific Safaris in New Zealand from my 2007 hunt. I could not believe this--what a coincidence! It had been 17 years since we hunted together. I thought this must be déjà vu and karma both! After talking over old times and catching up, I booked a hunt for May of 2025 with him.

My girlfriend, Diane, and I arrived in Christchurch on May 4, 2025. It is located on the South Island of New Zealand. We toured the city and found it to be nice, clean, and very friendly. The botanical gardens, in the center of town, are world-class and not to be missed.

The next day, we were picked up by South Pacific Safaris and transported the 3 hours north to their beautiful lodge. On day 3 of our 5-day hunt, Hayden spotted a very nice wapiti (elk) in the early morning. We made a 200-yard stalk for a 230-yard shot before he could get into the timber and bed down for the day. I made a good shot. He took some lead before going down. As the saying goes, keep shooting until the animal goes down. Well, he went down alright—right into a mud hole. It took all we had to move this 600+ pound animal into place for the

photographs. He was a great looking old bull and I was very happy to have taken him.

The following day, we went to a property that Hayden leases and hunted for feral goat. We used a quad to access the property. It was quite steep and it had rained heavily that morning. We had a great view of the Tasman Sea. After an hour or so, we found a group of 7 goats with one "Good Billy". I got prone from above and waited for him to clear some shrubs. One shot did the trick. Before I took the shot, Hayden told me to shoot as many other goats as possible. He wanted to cull a few. I managed to get 3 others before they ran off.

South Pacific Safaris looks very much like it did 18 years ago when I first hunted there. New accommodations of 2 chalets separate from the main lodge have been added. They have spectacular views and all the amenities. New owners Louise and Brent make you feel right at home. For those who have not hunted New Zealand, give it some consideration. It is a beautiful country and the hunting is great. Diane and I had a great time. For me, it was like "going home." Thanks Hayden! Hope to see you and the rest of the group from South Pacific Safaris at the SCI Convention, Nashville 2026.



RAISED AT FULL DRAW



I received a few thank you letters from campers that attended the camp we sponsored and I wanted to pass them along. Also, if you have not checked out Raised at Full Draw's Facebook page there are a lot more pictures from the Michigan camp and others. <https://www.facebook.com/share/1EnKFd8jBB/>.

I typed out the thank you letters since some of the handwriting was a little hard to read



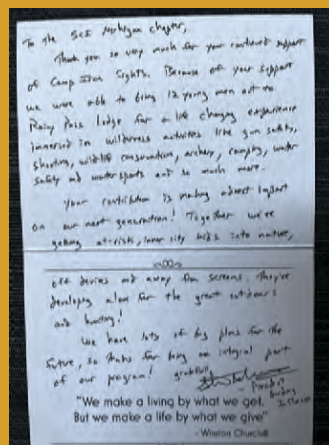
Dear SCI Michigan, Thank you for choosing to sponsor Raised at Full Draw. We are so grateful for your donations as they let this camp run smoothly & year after year give campers the opportunity to come again.
Sincerely John S

Thank you SCI Michigan. I learned that you should never leave your gun or bow loaded and I got to shoot out of a tree stand and ground blind.

Parker

Dear SCI Michigan, Thank you for sponsoring our camp. I had a great time at camp. I made a lot of friends. I learned how to shoot a bow and gut a deer. My favorite part was archery tag. Sadley in archery tag I lost every time. Thank you again for sponsoring our camp.

From Rory



SENSORY SAFARI TRAILER



For many years our Michigan Chapter has had what we call a Sensory Safari Trailer. Stoney and Alma Bing put on many miles towing this traveling conservation themed interactive display to schools, veterans' homes, and many other events. Recently it was delivered to Two Hats Ranch. Our chapter and Two Hats have had a long and productive relationship which has been furthered by sharing this resource. Two Hats is now able to use the trailer for its outreach efforts.



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THANK YOU SCI MICHIGAN CHAPTER!

for sponsoring our 1st Time Hunter program



EZEKIEL GUIKEMA-11 HART, MI

On behalf of The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous sponsorship of our 1st Time Hunter program. Your support has made it possible for us to offer life-changing opportunities to 59 new hunters this year and a total of 343 since 2020.

Your sponsorship plays a crucial role in recruiting and introducing new individuals to the wonderful world of hunting. Through this program, we aim to ignite a passion for the sport and foster a deep appreciation for wildlife conservation. By providing these aspiring hunters with the chance to experience the thrill of the hunt in a safe and controlled environment, we are confident they will carry this love for hunting and conservation throughout their lives.

Ezekiel Guikema is an eleven year old boy who attends Oceana Christian School. Ezekiel came to The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch through our FREE School Tours program. We reached out to each of our 54 schools that visited us during 2024 and requested they each send us one student chosen to be a 1st Time Hunter at Legends Ranch. Ezekiel won a contest at his school and won the opportunity to become a 1st Time Hunter. He attended his hunt this December with his father and successfully harvested his first whitetail deer. He is so excited to use his hunting skills at home next year!



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MEMBER'S ADVENTURES

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Member Challenge Shoot Update

Jim Naber, with the help of Brandon Heyboer, once again organized a great event for our members. Over 30 shooters converged on Two Hats Ranch near Big Rapids for a day of burning powder, ringing steel, and enjoying the outdoors together.

The hilly wooded setting at Two Hats Ranch makes for an impressive long-range hunt simulating rifle course. It challenges the accomplished long-range shooter and improves those of us who are just hunters and not accomplished long-range shooters. Some of the challenges faced by the shooters included time, distance, shooting position, targets hiding in the shade, and fog/mist in the air. This course really makes the shooter face real-life shooting challenges. The morning started with signing in and heading up to the 1,000-yard range building. Everyone got in their finest shooting form eating sugar-loaded donuts and drinking caffeinated coffee! After a short safety talk and instructions, everyone headed out to their assigned starting station for the shotgun start. When the smoke cleared, and the scores were tallied, the winning team looked partly familiar! Brandon Miedema, Case Overweg, Joel VanDyke, and Isaac Koetje rang the most steel for the win. Curtis DeYoung, from Long Range Archery and Firearms (Holland), who had the top shooting honors in the past was kind enough to step back from shooting this year. He helped run the longest station which was, of course, the 1,000-yard range with four targets located from 400 to 800 yards. Brandon Miedema took top individual honors and did it using an AR platform weapon! Really, everyone who participated was a winner. For myself, I am the furthest thing from an accomplished long-range shooter. I discovered shooting this course really helped me improve at the ranges and in scenarios,

I may face in actual hunting situations. Besides that, this is just a great way to spend a summer Friday afternoon! If you have not participated in this event, I would recommend keeping an eye out for announcements with the date for the 2026 SCI Michigan Chapter Member Challenge Shoot. You do not want to miss the bullseye on this one!

Without our dedicated sponsors these types of events would not be possible.

A BIG THANK YOU to our lead sponsors:

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We also want to thank our station sponsors:

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The final thank you goes to Colby Bettis from Two Hats Ranch. The Bettis family has been long time supporters of our chapter and finer people you will not find.





DUE DATE DEER

STORY BY ERIK MOELKER



When it comes to family planning, hunters have a slightly different perspective than the general population. With the heart of hunting season falling in October and November and the expected gestation period of a human being nine months, January and February could be considered the “off-season” in more than one way. When you have been trying without success to have a baby for a while, the pursuit of something other than a bag of ducks or a big buck can take priority.

For those of you adults reading this, you can connect the dots on how my wife and I ended up with the due date of November 15, 2024. For any kids reading, ask your parents and they may explain how difficult it can be to schedule deliveries with the stork that brings babies. This date was not in my plans, but you know the saying, “the best laid plans of mice and men.”

My wife, Kaitlyn, was extremely gracious throughout the hunting season. She gave her blessing for me to be away the same amount of time I usually am during archery season. Her only request was that I drive separately so I could leave on a moment’s notice from our family hunting property two hours north. I think this was particularly understanding, considering she did not grow up in a hunting family.

Leading up to the opener of firearm season, I still had not managed to get even a doe to present a shot. With Kaitlyn’s blessing, I was still planning on going up to the regular hunting camp for the yearly traditions of waking up early, sitting in a tree all day, playing cards, and eating too much good food. Since I have only mentioned it once, Kaitlyn is extremely gracious to support my hunting passion—especially during her first pregnancy.

However, things changed the day before the opener. Kaitlyn felt sick all day on the 14th. This was unusual as she had been blessed with minimal sickness throughout the pregnancy. The unfortunate, but quite reasonable, request was made that I stay closer to home.

At this point, I should say I have been blessed to hunt a private property that was bought by a small ownership group in the 90’s. I have had minimal time deer hunting anywhere other than this property. I hadn’t done any scouting of closer locations. In hindsight, that was unwise. I should have had a backup plan. Now I was scrambling. I started calling people the afternoon/evening before the opener to see if anyone had a spot they would be willing to share with me and if anyone had a gun that was sighted-in that could be used south of the rifle line.

Through the grapevine, I managed to be put in touch with the father of a member of my church. I had never met this man, but he was willing to share some OnX pins with me of places on public land roughly 45 minutes from my house. Anyone who is a hunter knows how sacred a public land spot is, and knows how much I am indebted to someone I’ve still never met in person.



While I would have guessed that getting tips on places to go would be the harder thing to find, it turned out that getting a sighted-in gun was actually more difficult. Everyone I called was either using the guns they had or hadn't checked their spares. So, I resorted to a backup plan of using my duck gun with buckshot. Not exactly my preferred route, as my range was limited to basically the same as my bow. But, I had a gun and a couple of pins on a map. And so equipped, I headed out early on the 15th, that unofficial Michigan holiday. There were a few vehicles that beat me to the parking area, but not too many. I threw my backpack on, pulled out my compass and phone, turned on the headlamp, and headed into the woods. I proceeded to get soaked with some water infiltrating from the light mist coming down outside. Much of the dampness was from the sweat that built-up as I wandered through the dark. Winding your way through a state forest for the first time is difficult in the dark. I got close to the area of the pins that had been dropped, found a spot that seemed decent (at least by what I could tell in my headlamp), and sat down against a tree.

When dawn broke, I quickly realized that what I could see in my headlamp was insufficient. I had sat down in a very poor position near the bottom of a small ravine, where the wind would swirl. I sat for a little bit so I wasn't walking during the first half hour of light, then made a move. I went up the ridge and found an area where the wind was in my favor. As I looked for a good tree to lean up against, I spotted the remains of a brush blind with a folding chair lying in it. Working on the assumption the person this belonged to would already be there at this point if they were going to show up at all. I gladly took this creature comfort and sat up in the ramshackle blind.

There were fewer shots than I expected for opening day on public land. The morning went by reasonably quickly with multiple deer sightings, one of which was a spike

that skirted just outside of my limited range. Normally, I would pass on a spike. But given my potential time constraints of having to leave at a phone call, my desire to put some venison in the freezer, and that I was hunting a place I'd never been on a tip from a man I'd never met, I was prepared to shoot anything I could.

The opportunity to shoot came in the early afternoon. A doe came up quietly from behind me on my right, following what turned out to be a deer trail 30 yards away. Being a lefty, the fact that she stopped directly to my right was a perfect setup. I decided to aim for her head, with the reasoning that I wouldn't damage any meat. With multiple pellets of buckshot, it should be an easy task. Turns out, that wasn't quite true. My shot went right over her head, a clean miss that was immediately evident by her running away.

I left the blind to be sure there wasn't any blood. All the while, I was giving myself a good internal chewing out about missing a deer standing still at 30 yards with a shotgun. Fortunately, there wasn't any blood. I returned to the blind continuing to wallow in frustration and self-directed anger.

After about 30 more minutes of internal self-punishment, the sound of a twig breaking drew my attention away. The sound came from the same area from which the doe had approached. The trail (that I saw when checking for blood) ran along a slight dip in the ground parallel to the ridge I was sitting on. The dip in the ground prevented me from seeing the body of the deer that broke the twig. However, I could see the antlers standing out loud and proud as the nose of their bearer followed along the scent of the doe. It was immediately obvious this was by far the largest buck I had ever seen in person.

The setup was once again perfect for a lefty like me. I grunted to stop the buck, once again 30 yards directly to my right. This time, I could see the impact of the 00 buck pellets hitting right in the crease. I followed the first shot with a few more. My dad taught all of us boys that if the "deer is still standing, you are still shooting." I hadn't ever used a semi-auto shotgun for deer hunting before. It sure makes follow-ups shots quick! The gun was close to empty when I stopped. At least it was closer to empty than it probably needed to be. Adrenaline may have been a factor in my trigger pulling as well.

I listened and watched as the echoes of the shots drifted. I lost sight of the buck, but heard a crash almost immediately after he disappeared. I packed up all loose items, threw my backpack on, and headed in the direction of the crash. Upon not immediately seeing the deer, I had to calm down, reroute back to the site of the shot, and follow the blood trail. It didn't take long before I spotted the buck this time. It only made it about 80 yards. All the emotions and feelings are so hard to capture in words. Every hunter who has killed an animal understands the emotions and they surged as I approached. I sat with him for a bit and soaked in the moment.

After field dressing the deer, and shedding as many clothes as I could fit in my pack, and getting my hunter's orange arranged to show from all directions, I started the (somewhat long) drag back out of the woods. Unfortunately, it seems that I didn't pack enough water. I am not sure how many readers have ever "bonked out" from lack of water or food, but this was a first for me. As someone who works out regularly and thinks of himself as being in good shape, it was embarrassing to be staggering while dragging a deer out of the woods. Without going into excessive detail, I ended up calling my father-in-law to bring some water and help drag the deer the last stretch of the way. I did feel a little vindicated when the buck set a record for our family, producing over 78 lbs. of meat when we finished butchering it.

As it turned out, I didn't really need to hunt closer to home. The baby didn't arrive until a week later. Connor David Moelker entered the world on November 23, 2024. Maybe this is putting undue expectations on a baby, but I am going to be very disappointed if he doesn't become a hunter. It would be a real waste of a birthday in November if he does not take advantage of it. On the plus side, he already loves venison and has eaten a few small portions of the deer that was shot on his due date.



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Jon Zieman

PLAY BALL!

July 2 was hot and sunny.

Just the way it should be when enjoying the SCI Michigan Chapter night at the ballpark. Once again, we had a great turnout with kids of all ages. Even though the Whitecaps lost, a great time of food fellowship and fun was had by all.

STORY BY TODD MOELKER



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WHY GO CUSTOM? IS A CUSTOM RIFLE WORTH IT?

STORY BY JARED WALKER – Owner & General Manager, Flint Ridge Rifles, Howell, MI



Definition of Custom: “Made or done to order for a particular customer.”

In the world of rifles, this meaning has many interpretations. We each have our own way we like to have our rifles put together. A favorite optic, sling, or other accessories can make an everyday item one of a kind. As Colonel Townsend Whalen wrote in the American Rifleman Magazine “Only accurate rifles are interesting.” Those were the last lines in a very interesting article depicting developments in cartridges and rifles, from black powder to service rifles, and to ultimately hunting/competition rifles. If you were to apply those sentiments today, just about everything being produced could be considered “interesting.” I

find that in today’s market of mass-produced rifles, you will find everything from “bugholes” to some that have “pie plate accuracy” for your grandpa’s deer hunt.

We subscribe to a different philosophy at Flint Ridge Rifles. Our tagline states “A Generational Acquisition.” Where did this phrase come from? My father and I were deep in the Boston Mountains of Arkansas. It was a cold December day hunting for whitetails. The hunting was slow, but the conversation was good. We were talking about rifles, accuracy, and gifting them to loved ones. What Dad meant with this tagline is that when he purchased a rifle, he was buying it not just for me, but for generations to come. We also did not go out and purchase new guns frequently. There was a significant amount of time, thought, and savings that went into a rifle purchase. I share this story as the foundation for who we are and how we view our custom rifle business. We have also built conservation into our business plan. We support organizations that value and promote our lifestyle. Not just for us, but also to protect our outdoor traditions for generations to come.

The standard of accuracy is 1 MOA (minute of angle or 1.047 inches)



at 100 yards. You will hear those saying their rifle is a 0.5 or a 0.25 MOA. While that may be true on a good day, or for one group, it is probably not the case day in and day out. Do we customize rifles that can produce 0.5 MOA or better. We sure do! However, not everyone has a bench or the ability to shoot at that level. We advise our customers to put in the work and find out for yourself what your effective range is with your rifle.

Now for the fun stuff. Customization! We started this operation working on Remington 700’s and Stiller receivers. While we still do a fair amount of 700 rebuilds under our Ozark model, we have moved, over time, to using Defiance Machine as our receiver platform; offering 3 different receivers for your build. The Ascent (AnTi, AnTiX, and Titanium), Ridge Runner (Renegade), and Bomber (Ruckus). From there, we use various stocks from McMillan, Manners, AG Composites, and Pure Precision. We source carbon barrels from Proof Research, Carbon Six, Oregon Mountain, and Snowy Mountain. For stainless steel barrels, we use Hart, Shilen, Bartlein, and several others. We offer hinged floor plates or detachable box magazines. Our primary source for triggers comes from Trigger Tech (Primary, Special, or Diamond). Cerakote provides a multitude of colors to match your stock. We can use any combination of the parts mentioned and create your ultimate custom build. You can go light or heavy. Just know you will probably have some pushback if you want to build a 338 RUM in a 6lb rifle!!

So, you have to ask yourself, what are you gaining by going custom? Well, you get tighter tolerances and custom chamber design optimized for cartridge performance for starters. You get exactly what you want and the way you want it! We have the experience to provide you with the customized rifle you want, with the highest quality components. Whether you have African plains game or Alaskan moose on your bucket list, we can build the rifle that hits the mark and keeps hitting for generations to come.

You can connect with Jared and other knowledgeable staff members at our Howell, MI location via (517)304-4793. Our email is FlintRidgeRifles@gmail.com.

Editor’s Note: We would like to thank Flint Ridge Rifles for providing SCI Michigan Chapter with a custom rifle, chambered in 7PRC, for our Gun of the Year. Raffle tickets to win this one-of-a-kind rifle will be available at the monthly dinners beginning in November.

BIOS 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Michael Kwast

President

My name is Dr. Michael Kwast. I am the CEO of Peak Performance Integrated Medicine and iChiro Clinics, which I founded in 1999. I am a husband, father of four, and proud grandfather of two. Since 2000, I have lived in the Rockford area and have been actively involved in the community. For the past four years, I have served as president of the SCI Michigan Chapter, following two previous years on the board. As a Life Member of SCI, I am deeply committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting hunting. Some of life's greatest moments are found in the field. I look forward to continuing to serve SCI ensuring future generations can enjoy hunting while stewarding God's creation.



Stacey Platz

Vice President

My name is Stacey Platz. I am honored to be on the Board of Directors for the SCI Michigan Chapter in a Vice President role after serving for the previous six years in various board positions. I work as a Manager of Client Services in Employee Benefits with Alera Group. I also own "Thomas & Company II Salon" based in Greenville, MI. Outside of my professional life, I am most proud to be a devoted wife, mother of three, and grandmother of two. My husband, Jay, and I live in Sand Lake, MI. We enjoy the outdoors and traveling.

I am a Lifetime Member of both SCI International and the Michigan Chapter. From the beginning of my tenure, Jay and I have worked diligently together as Fundraising Chairs. My involvement is driven by a strong belief in protecting, preserving, and promoting our hunting traditions ensuring they remain intact for generations to come. I am further committed to introducing young people to the wonders of outdoor adventures.



Ron Grenadier

Treasurer

My name is Ron Grenadier. I am a retired CPA and business owner who loves travel and the outdoors. My preference was to bow hunt. But, as age has crept up and taken its toll, my hunting style has shifted to crossbow or rifle. I have been fortunate to hunt on five continents.

I reside either in Portage or Ludington, Michigan, depending on the time of year. Ludington is hard to beat in the summer and fall seasons.

Being involved with the SCI Michigan Chapter allows me to be a part of what I am passionate about: hunting, conservation, and the opportunity to be with people who share the same ideals. In addition to hunting, I enjoy fishing, rock hounding, hiking, and bike riding. I have been on the SCI Michigan Chapter board since around 2009. I have served as Treasurer for all but two of those years. Also, during this time, I was the Annual Fundraiser Chair for 6 years.



Bob Mills III

Secretary

My name is Bob Mills. I was born and raised in Rockford, Michigan. I now reside in Allendale with my wife, Sarah, and our twin 9-year-old boys. Growing up, I spent countless hours hunting deer, turkey, and small game across Michigan with my dad. Those early adventures sparked a lifelong passion for hunting, leading us to pursue larger trips to Canada and Africa.

My dad introduced me to the SCI Michigan Chapter at a young age, bringing me to the Annual Fundraiser every year. Those experiences left a lasting impression. I have been attending ever since. A few years ago, I joined the SCI Michigan Chapter board helping to inspire the next generation of hunters. I currently serve as Youth Chairman and Secretary, roles I take great pride in. One of my favorite activities as Youth Chairman is organizing the Youth Pheasant Hunt, bringing kids into the field for hands-on hunting experiences.

My goal as a board member is ensuring as many young people as possible will have the opportunity to discover the joys of hunting and learn the importance of conservation. By fostering these traditions, I hope to keep the spirit of hunting alive for future generations.



Scott Bylsma

My name is Scott Bylsma. I am a Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors. I have lived in West Michigan nearly my whole life. I am married (Patty) with two daughters and twin granddaughters. We, along with my sons-in-

laws, are outdoors enthusiasts--especially when it comes to hunting.

I joined the SCI Michigan Chapter in 2008 and became a Life Member soon after. My wife and I have been on many hunts with outfitters that support our chapter. Everyone had a great experience. Going to different places and countries, hearing and seeing what a difference SCI has made for the conservation and preservation of wildlife, and the environment is a blessing. I joined the board in 2024 and have enjoyed working to further SCI's mission.



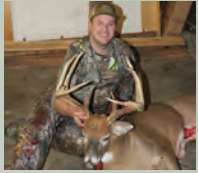
Todd Cook

My name is Todd Cook. I live in Byron Center with my wife, Tania, our two children, and our pointing labs. My passion for the outdoors started at a young age. I began duck hunting at age 12. At 15, my dad introduced me to deer hunting. These experiences sparked a passion. Eventually taking me overseas to South Africa, and then Mozambique. Professionally, I grew up in the lumber industry and started working in that business at age 18. I was introduced to Safari Club International by Mark Rohde, who warmly invited me to a Michigan Chapter fundraiser. In 2015, I also met Joe Pedersen (current SCI Corporate Treasurer) at a subsequent shooting event. It was meeting such dedicated and inspiring individuals that led me to officially join SCI and serve on its board. I currently chair both the Guides & Outfitters Committee and the Sponsorship Committee. I am surrounded by a great team. Together, our goal is to build strong, lasting relationships within the hunting and outdoor industries. Through strategic outreach and collaboration, I am passionate about supporting SCI's mission ensuring the continued success of our fundraising efforts that are vital to the future of hunting and wildlife conservation.



Don Dixon

I am retired from a career as a manufacturing representative. My favorite hunts have been for elk, whitetails, and mule deer. I joined the SCI Michigan Chapter in 2005. My wife, Linda, and I became Life Members of SCI International and SCI Michigan Chapter 15 years ago. I have been on the BOD for those 15 years and enjoy being part of a great group of volunteers who share my love of hunting.



Brandon Heyboer

Brandon Heyboer: I am a full-time firefighter and EMT for Byron Township. I take pride in serving my community and helping others when they need it most. My passion for the outdoors began at a young age, spending many seasons up at “deer camp” in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. There, I learned to appreciate nature, tradition, and time well spent with family and friends. I have been a member of the SCI Michigan Chapter since 2020 and began serving on the board in 2024. I am also a member of our Gun Committee, where I work to bring new calibers and equipment to events and share that experience with others. When I am not on duty or volunteering, I enjoy fishing for bluegills or jigging the Detroit River for walleyes, duck hunting and exploring the outdoors. This is when I recharge and find balance. I believe in living simply; appreciating the little things, and surrounding myself with good people. Adventure is important to me. So is slowing down to enjoy life’s everyday moments.



Quincy Kwast

My name is Quincy Kwast. I am a professional travel advisor, devoted wife, proud mom of four, and grandmother of two. Our family has made our home in Rockford, Michigan, where community and family values are at the heart of everything I do.

My love for travel began shortly after marrying my husband, when he took me on our very first hunting adventure. What started as a new experience quickly grew into lifelong passion. Over the years, exploring the world, especially with family and friends, has become one of my greatest joys. For me, travel is not just about seeing new places. It is also about creating unforgettable memories and cherishing the moments that last a lifetime.

For more than 15 years, I have been an active member of Safari Club International and our SCI Michigan Chapter, proudly serving on our board for the past four years. Through this involvement, I have combined my love of adventure with my dedication to protecting and promoting hunting traditions for future generations.



Todd Moelker

My name is Todd Moelker. I have been married to Lynda for 34 years, have three grown sons, two daughters-in-law, and one grandson. I grew up hunting and fishing. Some of my earliest memories are of bluegill fishing and rabbit hunting with my dad and brother. I have always

been passionate about hunting and am blessed to have done so in many places the world. Yet, at heart, I will always be a Michigan deer and duck hunter.

Lynda and I were introduced to SCI and our Michigan chapter in 2005. I have served on the board since 2021. My responsibilities included being Editor of the Tracker, Chapter merchandise development/inventory, and organizing monthly membership meetings. I believe every hunter should be a member of and support SCI. As our slogan says, “First for Hunters.” We are leaders in conservation both here in Michigan and throughout the world.



Ron Northman

My name is Ron Northman, I have been an SCI member since 2017 and was elected as a Board member shortly thereafter. I am a lifelong Michigan resident and started Deer and small game hunting with firearm as well as archery just after graduating high school in 1972. I was introduced to hunting by a close friend and very quickly became hooked.

My wife and I have been fortunate to hunt internationally in South Africa as well as in the Highlands of Scotland. We have also hunted in Wyoming, Florida and Texas and have enjoyed these hunts very much.

I am very passionate about hunting and am looking forward to serving on the board again and helping to promote hunting and conservation in any way I am able.

My wife Kristy and I reside in Spring Lake and have Four grown boys with two Grandsons and four Granddaughters.

We are self employed owners of a long-time family business ... The MacLeod Insurance Agency in downtown Grand Haven. We specialize in Medicare Insurance Products. Prior to this I was in the Engineering field for 30 years.

Preserving Our Hunting Heritage is very important to me!



Jay Platz

My name is Jay Platz. I am 48 years old and blessed to share my life with my loving wife, Stacey. I have worked at Speed-Tech for 23 years and currently serve as a Service Supervisor, building my career on hard work, dedication, and a commitment to serving others. Hunting has always been a central part of my life. I am an avid hunter and target shooter who enjoys spending time in the outdoors with family and friends. Some of my greatest joys come from sharing (remove the word the) hunting traditions with others. Introducing new hunters to the sport I love is very rewarding. For me, hunting is more than just the pursuit. It is about

fellowship, respect for wildlife, and carrying forward values that matter. I am truly honored to serve on the SCI Michigan Chapter of Board of Directors. This role provides me opportunities to stand up for hunter’s rights, protect the future of hunting, and give back to a community that has given so much to me. My goal is to help ensure the heritage of hunting is preserved and strengthened for generations to come, while making a positive impact on the hunting community today.



Larry Smith

My name is Larry Smith and I have been a board member of the Michigan Chapter for 18 years. I am a life member of both the SCI and NRA. I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I served in the U.S. Navy with a tour in Vietnam aboard the destroyer the “USS Basilone.” I learned to hunt from my father, grandfather, and uncle as a teenager. I have a bachelor’s degree from the University of Idaho. I truly believe “Hunting is Conservation.” SCI is “First for Hunters” and I am proud to serve on the Michigan Chapter Board of Directors. When I am to old to hunt, I will get more serious about fishing.



Denny Sprick

My name is Dennis (Denny) Sprick. I moved to the Grand Rapids area from Holland, MI in the early 1970’s after fulfilling my obligation with Uncle Sam. My wife, Michelle, and I have lived in Vergennes Township for the last 40 years. So, I guess that is home! We have been very fortunate traveling to so many exciting locations in different parts of the world. We have truly lived so many of our dreams! Of course, hunting, the conservation of wildlife, and protecting hunters’ rights are a big part of our lives.

I became a member of our great SCI Michigan Chapter in 2010 and was elected to the board in 2012. I also became a Life Member in 2013. Over the next few years, I chaired 2 of our annual fundraising conventions and served on many other committees. I had the opportunity to serve as your Chapter’s Vice President (under Dan Olson 2015-2019) for four years and was also our Chapter’s Treasurer for a year after that. For 10 years, I have been blessed in so many ways as your Chapter’s Humanitarian Chair. Together, we have accomplished much and truly made a positive change in so many lives. The outpouring of generosity from all our Chapter members is truly a huge blessing!! Whether it is getting kids outdoors hunting and fishing, working with Purple Heart Veterans, or meeting the challenges of those who are less fortunate. You have truly made the difference! I thank you for all you have done!!!



Adult Pheasant Hunt

(Members Only)

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Registration 7:30am - Start 8:00am

\$200 per Hunter

Guided Field Hunt, 5 birds per hunter, light snacks and beverages provided.

(bird cleaning available upon request - \$4/bird)

Sign up now @ <https://onecau.se/scifun2025>



All ammo must be non-toxic



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FEBRUARY 6 & 7, 2026

SAVE THE DATE! 53RD ANNUAL SCI FUNDRAISER



**VANDYK MORTGAGE CONVENTION
CENTER - MUSKEGON, MI**

**Information will be coming out soon regarding our Fundraiser.
Please watch for updates on our website at SCIMichigan.org, as
well as your emails for updates.**

WWW.SCIMICHIGAN.ORG

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

2026 Sponsorships

\$15,000

ELITE SPONSOR

- Company name as title of event "The ABC Company SCI Michigan 53rd Annual Convention"
- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine full page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$2,000 raffle ticket package

\$10,000

GOLD SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine full page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$1,500 raffle ticket package

\$7,500

SILVER SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine full page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$750 raffle ticket package

\$6,000

SATURDAY DINNER SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$4,000

FRIDAY DINNER SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$6,000

BRONZE SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine 1/2 page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$5,000

GUN OF THE YEAR SPONSOR

FRR RIDGE RUNNER 7 PRC

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine

\$3,800

VIP TABLE SPONSOR

- 10 Friday & Saturday Dinner Tickets, 5 Hotel Rooms Friday & Saturday
- Front Row Seating & Signage
- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$4,000

GALLERY OF GUNS SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine

\$2,000

SABLES SPONSOR

WINE TASTING SEMINAR

Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention

- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year

\$500

OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Centerpiece Sponsor
Mens Table Sponsor
Womens Table Sponsor
Hunting Awards Sponsor
Single Gun Sponsor
Wall of Wine Sponsor
Liquor Toss Sponsor
Veteran Game Sponsor

All sponsorships include the following

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine

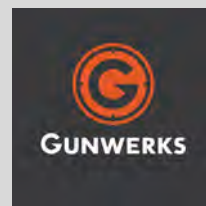




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SCI Michigan Chapter 2026 Annual Fundraiser February 6 & 7

SPONSORED BY:



PURCHASE EARLY!!

BEFORE JANUARY 10TH

Friday Youth (20 & under) Price	\$10
Friday Adult (21 +) Price	\$25
Saturday Member Price	\$125
Saturday Non-Member Price	\$150

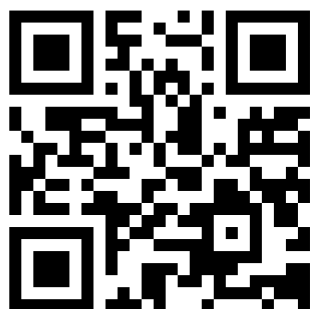
JANUARY 11TH - FEBRUARY 1ST

Friday Youth (20 & under) Price	\$30
Friday Adult (21 +) Price	\$45
Saturday Member Price	\$145
Saturday Non-Member Price	\$170

AT THE DOOR

Friday Youth (20 & under) Price	\$40
Friday Adult (21 +) Price	\$55
Saturday Member Price	\$155
Saturday Non-Member Price	\$180

**GET YOUR
TICKETS
NOW!**



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Safari Club International

Michigan Chapter



SCI & Michigan Chapter Membership Form

New & Renewal

SCI Membership

- ☐ \$65 One-Year Annual Membership (New & Renewal)
- ☐ **\$150 Three-Year Membership Special (New & Renewal -\$45 savings)**

SCI Michigan Chapter

You must be an International SCI Member (see above) to join a Chapter (both memberships need to be in sync)

- ☐ \$25 One-Year Annual Membership
- ☐ **\$50 Three-Year Membership Special (\$25 savings)**

Join the SCI Michigan Chapter as a Life Member

You must first be a Lifetime Member of SCI before becoming a Lifetime Chapter Member (Regular-\$1,500.00, Seniors 60+ \$1,250.00)

- ☐ \$300 one time due; if age 59 and below
- ☐ \$200 one time due; if age 60 and above

Youth Membership Renewal (21 and under)

- ☐ \$25 One-Year Annual Membership (SCI and MI Chapter)

Please Print:

Member's Name: _____ Street Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ SCI Member # (renewals) _____

☐ Cash ☐ Check Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ CCV#: _____

Please make checks payable to "SCI Michigan Chapter" and mail to:

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WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES!



SCI Wildlife Conservation & Hunter Right Support	\$41,067
Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance	\$20,000
Guiding Influence	\$7,500
Quest Ministries	\$7,000
Powderhorn Charters	\$6,500
Colorado Wildlife Deserve Better	\$6,368
MOOD TV	\$5,800
MSU Conservation Class - SCI MIC	\$5,000
Hunt 2 Heal	\$5,000
Outdoor Discovery Center	\$3,500
Youth Pheasant Hunt	\$3,845
Best Outdoors	\$3,000
JD Vance Video with Ruthless TV	\$2,000
First Time Hunter Pledge	\$1,500
Michigan Ad - SCI MIC	\$1,500
2024 Support Donation - SCI MIC	\$1,500
Grad Grant - SCI MIC	\$500
Kent County Orange Crushers	\$500
Sportsmen for Youth - Placemat Program	\$150
GRAND TOTAL	\$122,230

HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS 2025

We would like to thank all of you who donated to our Humanitarian Fund this year. All monies donated go directly to causes that support events for challenged youth & adults, veterans, others with special needs, and organizations that support our mission and goals. Your continued support enables us to help so many, in so many ways!

- \$3500.00 -

Skip & Sheri Weller

- \$3000.00 -

David & Mary Slikker

- \$1000.00 -

Tim Burhart

Mike & Quincy Kwast

Jim & Sandy Naber

Tim & Lisa Piccard

Jay & Stacey Platz

Bruce & Nancy Tyree

- \$750.00 -

David & Alvera Kidder

John & Helen Mellema

- \$500.00 -

James Cooke

Don & Linda Dixon

Vern & Carol Edewaard

Tim & Jocelyn Jones

Mike & Renee Leonard

Bill MacDermaid &

Allie Emery

Mark & Kim McCoy

Lee & Jan Murray

Joe & Debbie Pedersen

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Jerry & Sandy Swett

Tim & Charity Torpey

- \$250.00 -

Scott & Patty Bylsma

Todd Cook

Sam & Danielle Fahl

Bob & Deb Garza

Rob Doro &

Scott Doro

Rob & Joy Harms

Brandon Heyboer

Robert Hicks

Bob & Nancy Mills

Geoff Newmyer

Ron & Kristy Northman

Dan & Julie Olson

Scott & Melissa Sieracki

Larry Smith &

Diane Thompson

Tim VanZyll

Joel Zuidema

- \$200.00 -

Mark & Kathy Haisma

- \$100.00 -

Bill & Cheryl Bettys

Stony & Alma Bing

Johann Combrink

Elijah Cook

Ed & Lisa DeYoung

Will & Kasey Fawcett

Bob & Meredith Gano

Chase Grant &

Leo Grant

Dale Grimes

Joe Guinn

Gary & Brenda Haisma

- \$100.00 -

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Nick Sprankles

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Dan & Debra TerHorst

Brian Thompson+Carole Stowell

Rich & Sara VanDyke

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Troy Baareman

John Pitsch

Ryan Willie

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Sat – 8am-4pm
Sun – Closed

SCI MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2025 CONVENTION SUPPORTERS

The SCI Michigan Chapter Board of Directors wish to thank the following people and companies who have generously donated cash or merchandise for our 2023 fundraiser.

Aaron Gellar Photography Lee & Jan Murray Afrihunt Safaris Legends Taxidermy Alan Reinemann Long Range Archery & Firearms LLC Anchor Point Wealth Management MacLeod Insurance Agency Anurity Ranch Marupa Safaris Argentina Bird Hunts & HP Wingshooting Adventures Matwetwe Safaris Arluk Outfitters Michelle Ghareeb & Denny Sprick Baranof Expeditions Michigan Whitetail Food Plots Bergara Naber's Taxidermy Best Outdoors LLC & Packer MAXX New Zealand Hunting Adventures Byron Hart African Safaris Numzaan Safaris Cascade Furs Orion Construction Cedar Cove Ranch Peak Performance Integrated Medicine/iChiro Columbus McKinnon Corp Pine Ridge Taxidermy Cooks Outfitting Pope Brothers Guide Service	Coppersmith Global Logistics Powderhorn Sportfishing Charters Corju Hunting Prime Archery & G5 Outdoors Craig Boddington Rainy Pass Lodge Dan & Julie Olson Roche Safaris Don & Linda Dixon Roger Froling Erwins Outdoors Safari Art Everland Outdoors Safari Unlimited LLC Final Rest Shooting Systems Sam & Danielle Fahl Fourth Arrow Silver Bullet Firearms Game Trackers Africa Skip Weller Giuseppe Carrizosa Slayer Blinds Great North Real Estate South Pacific Safaris Gunwerks Sunrize Safaris Haymarsh Hunt Club Terra Pampa Lodge Hepburn Lake Lodge The Gator Quest Hidden Horns Game Ranch Thomas & Company II	High West Outfitters Three Sixty Safaris Hunt Trip Spain by Francisco Rosich Todd & Tania Cook Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris Tom Dreyer Safaris Jannie Otto Safaris Trijicon Jerry Brenner Two Hats Ranch Joe & Debbie Pedersen West Central Outfitters John Weidner Wild Namibia Hunting Safaris Kenetrek Wild Spirit Guide Service La Espadella Hunting Adventures Wyndscent Larry Smith & Diane Thompson Zambeze Delta Safaris
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SCI MICHIGAN 2025 DONATION LIST

The SCI Michigan Chapter Board of Directors wish to thank the following people who have generously donated cash to this year's Annual Donor Drive as well as to the other fund drives held during the convention.

We are very thankful for each donor. Your donations make the important work of SCI and SCI Michigan possible.

David & Mary Slikkers Brenner Excavating Jeff Mohoney Don & Mary Harder Vern & Carol Edewaard	Ron & Mary Johnson David & Alvera Kidder John & Helen Mellema Rodney & Jennette Winkel Don & Linda Dixon	Bob Schautz Dennis Sprick Michelle Ghareeb
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***If we missed recognizing or thanking anyone, we apologize.
Please let us know so it can be corrected in our next Tracker magazine.***



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