

ISSUE 8 - SUMMER 2024

THE TRACKER

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- 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.

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

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- 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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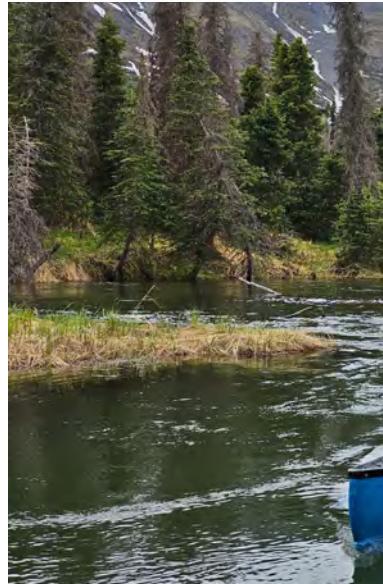
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32 YOU CALL THAT SPORTING!

As avid hunters, we all have our own ideas of what constitutes fair chase. What do you consider sporting? How did you come to your conclusion on what constitutes ethical hunting behavior and conditions?





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HUNTN' GATORS AND IGUANAS

What better way to spend Spring Break 2024 than a quick hunting trip to Florida for alligators and iguanas with my daughter Andie and my dad.



28

CAMP IRON SITES

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Welcome to the Summer 2024 Issue of your Tracker magazine! As always, this is your magazine and your contributions to it are needed and appreciated. We need your stories and pictures to make it a success! The deadline for submissions for the Fall issue is October 7. Did you have a great hunt here at home last fall, winter, or spring? Did you travel south of the equator this summer for a hunt? Did you take a hunt bought from our annual fundraiser auction? We'd love to hear about it!



In this issue we once again travel to Florida with a great story about three generations of the Olsen family enjoying a hunt together. There is a thought-provoking article about what is ethical, sporting and fair chase. Hopefully this article will prompt all of us to think about the image we project and the importance of being ethical and good sports persons. We introduce two new board members. A big shout out to Brandon Heyboer and Scott Blysm for being willing to serve! Scott brings us an article about how life changing a safari can be and Brandon brings so many of us back to our roots. I'd dare say that most of us grew up hunting deer and bunnies right here at home in Michigan and our club puts a lot of effort into conservation, hunter's rights, and humanitarian work right here at home. As always, we have a round up of the great club activities from the last quarter. Those activities include monthly dinner meetings, a great night at the Whitecaps and about the time this reaches your mailboxes the 3rd annual Long Range Shoot. We also have an introduction to Emmett Harrison Jr, our new designer at Grandville Printing who brought us the great new redesign with the last issue. We also say thank you to Pete Vander Ark for his many years of service as copy editor for the Tracker. Don't overlook the calendar of upcoming events! September will be here before you know it and once again we will have our monthly dinners the second Thursday of each month. Join your fellow members for these great meals, fellowship, and programs. The picture, in the last issue of Vern Edewaard and his wife Carole, Carole was mistakenly changed to Sally.

As always, 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

MASTERING VISUAL STORY TELLING

Hello, Safari Club International Michigan Chapter members! Meet Emmett Harrison Jr., the lead graphic designer at GPC. Emmett is married to the amazing Alexis, and together they have a son named Suede and a dog named Maliboo.

Emmett received his BFA in Graphic Design from Trinity Christian College, where he double majored in Art History. During his college years, he was a two-sport Division II athlete, excelling in both golf and basketball. His passion for art and sports has always been a driving force, enabling him to transform concepts into interactive experiences.

As a professional artist, Emmett has had the privilege of working with many well-known artists and organizations. His diverse portfolio ranges from creating brands for multiple different industries to designing movie graphics for the big screen. Emmett draws inspiration from everything around him, whether it's the backcountry of Montana or the bustling streets of NYC, like renowned designers like Frank Stephenson, Paula Scher, and Jessica Walsh.

Emmett believes that masterful design requires cultivating a mindset that fosters creative thinking and the emergence of unique ideas. While this thought may be familiar, he emphasizes the often-overlooked importance of staying dedicated to one's work and learning from past experiences with grace. This philosophy shapes his approach to purposeful design. As Joe Sparano once said, "Good design is obvious, and great design is transparent." Emmett views transparency as a mirror reflecting the subject of the design.

Living in a world filled with inspiration and creativity, Emmett encourages us all to open our eyes to the everyday and tap into that creativity, never being close-minded.

MEET EMMETT HARRISON JR
"The Visionary Graphic Designer
Transforming our stories into Art"



EMMETT'S BEAUTIFUL FAMILY
HIS WIFE ALEXIS, SON SUEDE
AND DOG, MALIBOO.

PREZ SEZ

I HOPE YOU HAVE ALL HAD A GREAT SUMMER AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT FISHING!

As we all start to gear up and practice for the upcoming hunting seasons, take a moment to reflect on our hunting heritage and its' future. As you know, the anti hunting movement is not letting up. More and more pressure is being applied at all levels of government to limit, restrict, and ultimately end hunting. As a club, we are united to fight this agenda. Here at home, we are organizing with other SCI chapters in Michigan to help promote, protect, and preserve hunting. Our partnerships on various projects in Michigan have never been stronger, and are designed to create lasting impacts in our state. As an SCI Michigan member, we need a massive influx of help from our members. The time to donate your time and resources is now. The time to sign up new members is now. The time to make a difference is NOW. If you would like to get involved, sponsor, or donate, give one of our board members a call. Together, we can make a difference and save the hunting heritage we all love.

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

Friday, August 16th

Third Annual Member Challenge Shoot

Thursday, September 12

We kick off a new season of monthly dinners. Program by Geoff Newmyer on his Legacy Award Hunt with Oelofse Safaris.

Thursday, October 10

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Great program by Sam and Danielle Fahl about their slice of Paradise in Old Mexico

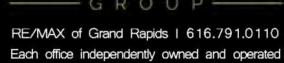


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Billing cycle is January to January with sponsorship cost pro-rated for sponsorships starting during the year.

To submit material to The Tracker:

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The Tracker magazine can be viewed on our official Michigan Chapter website by friends and nonmembers. website: www.scimichigan.org

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BROAD HEADS

I make this very simplistic statement because as archery hunters this is about all we can agree on.

This feeble attempt on a hotly contested subject is a follow up to the previous issue of The Tracker magazine delving into the changes in composition and size of arrows.

SO, what are we talking about when we get into the types of broadheads? Broadheads are generally divided into two types. Those being fixed and expandable, also called mechanicals. Fixed-blade broadheads come in many different varieties. We have old-school fixed blades with either dual bevel or single bevel dating back to the days of cedar shafts, but also making a comeback in today's modern era. Most of these will be of the two-blade variety that can be resharpened.

More and more fixed blade broadhead manufacturers are also coming out with three- and four-blade varieties. These three- and four-blade varieties tend to have stainless steel blades that are designed to be replaced after use. Some of the better replaceable fixed blades are QAD Exodus, G5 Striker and Muzzy Trocar.

The other type of broadheads is known as expandable or mechanical broadheads. Mechanical heads are designed to start with a small profile, for more accurate flight, and then open to various

cutting diameters by way of frontal opening and the more popular rear deployable blades. Some of the more popular mechanicals are the G5 Dead Meat, G5 Mega Meat, and Grim Reaper, all of which are three-blade heads. In the two-blade variety you have the G5 T2 and Rage.

Now to add to today's controversy: in our testing, when you use small diameter arrows (.166), the mechanical heads tend to shoot more accurately than do fixed blades. Let's look at some observations from our personal experience with real life testing. In Texas, on hogs, we had six hunters using various draw weights and draw lengths, so not necessarily a controlled environment, but very realistic. We shot a total of 30 hogs using 19 different broadheads. We judged the effectiveness of the heads by the distance a hit animal traveled and the blood trails left for tracking. Our real-world results showed that, on the same quality of hit, mechanicals had the best blood trails and the shortest tracking distance.

Fortunately, we shot very well and went 30 for 30, and we did not lose a single hog.

A final thought and recommendation would be to shoot your hunting setup with both fixed and mechanical heads to be sure you do not have to retune your bow to the exact head that you choose to use for hunting.

Best of luck this fall, to all of our fellow hunters, and be safe.



STORY BY Pete Miedema from Long Range Archery and Firearms

YES, the controversial thing on the end of your arrow opposite the string nock.



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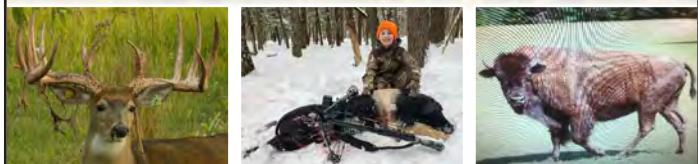
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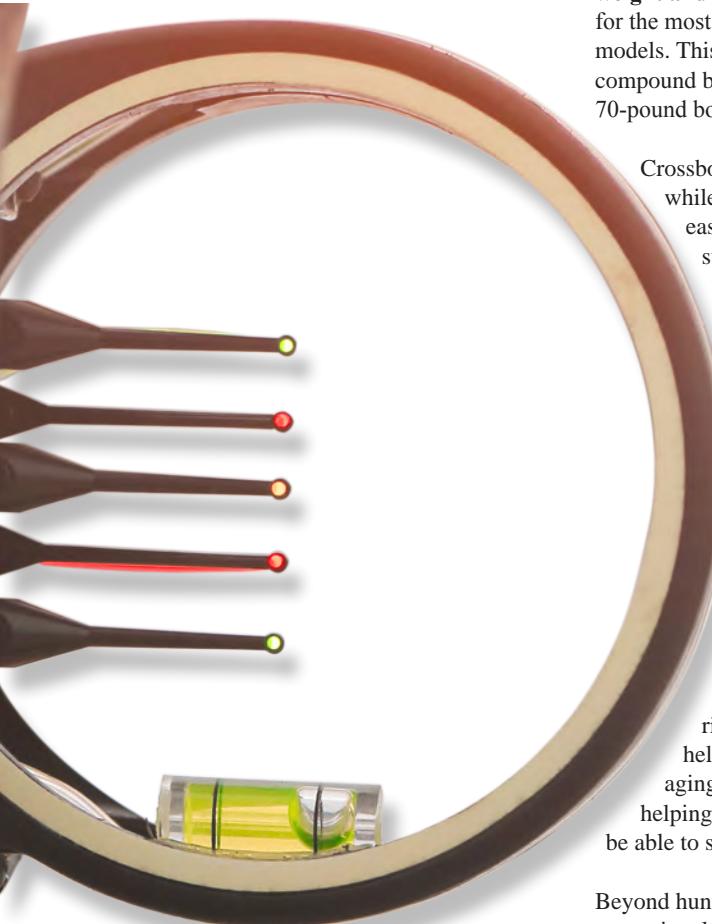
BOWHUNTING

TODAY

The West Michigan Bowhunters have been working hard to bring the great outdoors to more people and conserve wildlife habitats.

TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING

the face of archery today in both compound bows and crossbows. New designs and materials are making bows lighter, stronger, and more efficient.



Compound bows are utilizing carbon risers to cut weight and increase efficiency. Today's 60- pound bows, for the most part, are more efficient than earlier 70-pound models. This allows outraging hunter base to stay in the compound bow realm without having to pull the heavier 70-pound bows today.

Crossbows are seeing more and more advancements while being lighter, narrower, shorter, faster, and easier to cock. Believe it or not, crossbows have surpassed that once unimaginable 500 feet per second speed limit. Another more recent offering in the crossbow market is the ability to de-cock the bow without discharging the bolt into a target or the ground at the end of your hunt.

Bowhunting remains a cornerstone of the archery industry through dedicated and passionate followers. In some of the last figures we have, overall hunting numbers from 2011-2021 have declined 1% while bowhunting participation numbers have risen 6% over the same time period. In this same time frame, it is estimated that America has 3.7 million bowhunters. The rise in bowhunters using crossbows has really helped with hunter participation. Keeping our aging population in the woods longer, as well as helping newer hunters with limited practice time, to be able to still enjoy participation.

Beyond hunting, archery is gaining traction as both a recreational activity and a competitive sport. Archery clubs and family participation have shown to be growing again, led by women and kids of all ages. West Michigan Bowhunters has reached out to the community to fill gaps in the hunter education classes through a partnership with ***Sports Persons Ministries and Certified Instructor Ross Graveling (616-990-1075).***

STORY BY PETE MIEDEMA



ANOTHER DAY

Now I have a new twist for you. If you want to see what it's all about, search Remington Ammo on ... (of all things) YouTube, as there is a great segment that the NRA did plus a couple other writers have also posted. I too recently had the pleasure of spending the day at Remington's Ammo plant in Lonoce AK. Remington has just released a new line of Long Range ammo in several of the most popular calibers.

Unfortunately, I did not get any of the ammo from them until after I had been to Africa a few weeks ago, so it will have to wait until spring of 2025 to field test them on the real thing. This past week my friend and ballistic cohort, Steve Kerosky, and I were at the range shooting some of this new ammo in a pair of 30-06 rifles. As you can see by the above picture, Remington is promoting long range retained

LAST SPRING I WROTE ABOUT THE YOUTUBE "EXPERTS", AND THAT I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THEM.

velocity and energy, plus it has a bonded core bullet. We shot them using a Lab-Radar chronograph and also shot some into what is known as Ballistic Gel, much the same as the ammo companies and bullet manufacturers do. The results were quite interesting. In the

Remington 30-06 bolt action, the 173 gr ammo averaged 2763 fps and 2769 fps in the Ruger #1 single shot. Even though it says 2825 fps on the box, those few less fps we

experienced I'm sure no animal shot with it will ever know the difference. We recovered one perfectly expanded bullet from the gel, and it is pictured sitting on the front of the ammo box. It was a perfect specimen and the retained weight was 122 gr. Now I'm not saying this bullet is the ultimate answer to your hunting needs. Like I wrote last spring, unless you reload and can tweak things to suit



your rifle, try as many different brands and types of ammo as you can (afford), and then and only then will you see what your rifle loves. Then use that one. We can cuss and discuss bullet types and velocities etc. around the campfire all night, but one thing remains MOST important, and that is Bullet Placement. A hole in the lungs is a hole in the lungs and it matters very little what bullet size or speed put it there, as the intended victim will die very quickly!

Feel free to write or call me anytime about your experiences with bullet performance at 616-669-9464 or BlauwkampT@gmail.com

Now to wet your appetite for what's in store for an upcoming Tracker, we are looking forward to doing a segment or two on using "OLD" aged powder vs new manufactured powder. We are going to take rifle powder that is 30- 40 even 50 years old and compare its performance to newly manufactured identical powder.



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SCI NIGHT

APRIL CHAPTER DINNER

Stacey Platz had Jim Naber come up for the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and Jim had all the youngsters join him. Then Jim offered a prayer.

Stacey said the convention raised \$140,000 including \$25,000 for the humanitarian initiatives. Stacey also said Michigan Out of Doors TV this week features the pheasant hunt sponsored by our club. Then she introduced Tim Becker and his assistant from the Powderhorn Charters. Just today they had another great time with handicapped students on a fishing trip. This was started seven years ago by Dr Craig Bade, and others, and we have sponsored hundreds of students since then.

Bryan Judge was our speaker tonight with his sheep hunting adventure in Mexico, "Desert Bighorns in Sierra el Alamo." Bryan's article was featured in Sports Afield in their July/August 2023 issue, with a four-page spread. The ranch is located in Sonora, Mexico, the Mexican state just south of Arizona.

A hundred of us showed up for April Chapter Dinner, and lots of guns, bows, and ammo was out for potential purchasers





Bobby Mills won the gun raffle taking a Weatherby rifle in .308 Winchester.



Erica Beeke winning the youth gun



Sean Beeke and Elly DeBlaay

After a 15-year shut-down, the Mexican government reopened desert sheep hunting, and the Artee family began to offer sheep hunting on their ranch. Bryan had a very challenging hunt in the desert, but finally nailed a big ram, nearly ten years old, with his .308. Alma Bing won the jewelry drawing.

Bobby Mills won the gun raffle taking a Weatherby rifle in .308 Winchester. Erica Beeke won the youth gun, a Rossi .22 LR. Sean Beeke and Elly DeBlaay won the youth hunts at Two Hats Ranch!

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What better way to spend Spring Break 2024 than a quick hunting trip to Florida for alligators

and iguanas with my daughter Andie and my dad. I wanted to make sure that they had the opportunity to do an outfitted hunt together so I re-booked two management gators with Matt Cates, owner of Triple M Outfitters in Palm Bay, with whom I and a group of fellow Chapter members had hunted in 2019. I also booked a 4-hour iguana hunt with Carlos Iriban of Reefs to Rivers Fishing Charters in Lake Worth, which is located just south of Palm Beach. Chapter President Mike Kwast, who hunted iguanas with Carlos during the previous Christmas, strongly recommended him.

We flew down to Orlando early Easter morning and drove to Kennedy Space Center. After enjoying the entire day seeing the history of space exploration, meeting an astronaut and riding simulators, we drove an hour south to the hotel.

The next morning, we were up early to meet Matt and hitch a ride on his purple swamp buggy. That alone was a highlight for Andie! We were hunting a 6,000-acre cattle/crop farm that Matt said was teeming with gators, and sure enough, from a distance, Matt spotted through his binoculars the tip of a nose and set

of eyes floating in a man-made muddy pond. However, upon seeing the buggy approaching, the gator disappeared beneath the safety of the water, so Matt suggested that I take Andie and set up on a little sand bluff overlooking the pond. Matt then backed out the buggy with my dad in tow in search of another gator.

Andie and I snuck our way to the pond's edge, tucked in and lay prone under a green bush, and propped the barrel of the .22 Hornet on the sand mound. Within 10 minutes, we saw the tip of a nose all of the way across the pond—no shot. Five minutes later, the nose tip re-emerged, this time 30 yards away. Soon, we saw the eyes, with the gator swimming broadside, right to left. With only a small 2-inch by 3-inch target between the perimeter of the gator's eye, ear and top of its head, I told Andie to aim for the eye and not to rush the shot as the gator had no idea we were hiding nearby. She popped off a round, and the gator spun over in the water, creating a splash before disappearing. I texted Matt, and while we awaited his arrival, Andie and I intently watched the pond for any sign of the gator. Nothing.

Matt drove up, grabbed his “fishing” pole to which he had a “gator-sized” treble hook attached, and started casting it, hoping to snag a dead gator.

Within three short casts, he had Andie's dead gator, which measured nearly 8 feet and was donning a perfect eye shot. I couldn't have been more proud!

After photos, we loaded him aboard the buggy and were off in search of my dad's gator, which he and Matt had spotted earlier in a different pond. However, Matt determined it would require a similar set-up as the buggy made the gator suspicious of lurking danger. We perched ourselves 15 feet atop a large sand hill, which offered a great view overlooking the entire pond. Soon, we spotted eyes surface across the pond so my dad took aim and squeezed the trigger. With a splash, the gator disappeared. Matt again grabbed his trusty “fishing” pole and started searching the pond. After several dozen casts and no gator, Matt decided to take a break and watch to see if the gator resurfaced. Suddenly, I spotted the nose tip and eyes in the identical location we'd last seen him before the shot. Matt quickly snagged the gator, but it was very much alive, his powerful tail thrashing out of the water and the body repeatedly doing barrel rolls. My dad grabbed the rifle and dispatched him. It was an exciting 10 seconds! Upon closer inspection, the first shot hit the gator just in front of his eye. It was only 11 a.m., and they each had their gator.

The following morning, we met Carlos at the dock to start our iguana hunt. These

REPTILE & IGUANA

STORY BY DAN OLSON



invasive lizards are a nuisance in Florida that state officials want eradicated; hence, no hunting license required or bag limits. After a short safety briefing aboard the boat, including instruction on using the two .22 air rifles, we began motoring throughout the canals looking for the green lizards sunning themselves in the surrounding trees, bushes, grasses, and docks. A keen eye is required to find them hiding amongst the thick green bushes. While hunting rules are generally liberal, they cannot be shot off a permanent structure but can be captured off such structures with a noose.

The target area on an iguana's body is only about the size of a quarter, between the eye and ear, so getting close is a prerequisite, with shots no farther than 15 yards, and many times much closer. If they are hit anywhere other than the head, they usually run off and will be impossible to recover. Soon we had our first iguana in the boat, followed by Andie and I noosing one off a dock. That was an experience! We were then off and running, collecting five in the first hour. We saw dozens, but some were in front yards, while others scurried away when they saw our boat approaching. However, many others sat there oblivious to any danger until it was too late. While we shot plenty of 2-3 footers, we had yet to find a big one worthy of a taxidermy shop. With about an hour left in the hunt, Carlos spotted one measuring four feet along the canal's grassy bank. We quickly got Andie lined up

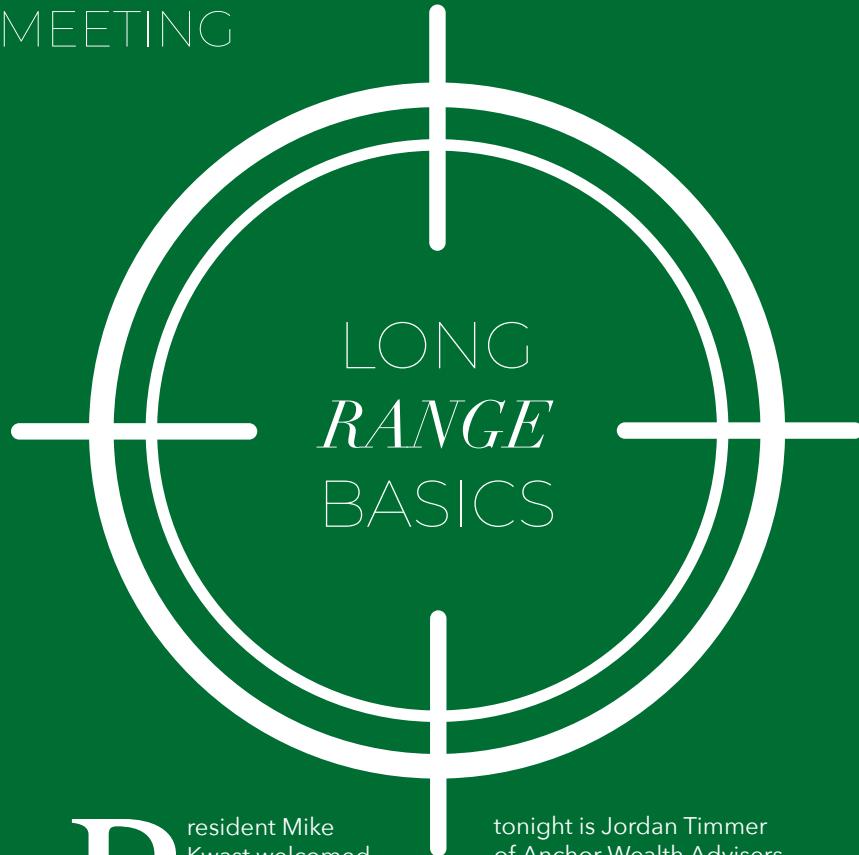
for the shot, and she plunked it in the head, dead! At the end of the 4-hour excursion, we had 14 in the boat.

It was a fun, inexpensive hunt, and I'd highly recommend that you schedule with Carlos when you are in southeast Florida next time! You won't be disappointed.



SCI-MI MAY

MEETING



LONG
RANGE
BASICS

President Mike Kwast welcomed our members and guests and made several announcements. Jim Naber came forward to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer. Dinner was a delightful buffet, including scrumptious BBQ ribs and pulled pork. Mike introduced new board members Scott Bylsma and Brandon Heyboer, and mentioned returning board members, Stacey Platz and Scott Sieracki. Then Mike thanked honorary retiring board members, Bob Schautz and Stony Bing. Stony's been with our club almost 30 years. During his time, Stony served as president and many years on our board, and he and Alma hauled the Sensory Safari trailer around to schools, churches, and clubs for several years and thousands of miles. Stony stepped up to thank our membership for their support, and said how many friends he has made through his involvement. Thanks, Stony! We really appreciate you! Our meeting sponsor again

tonight is Jordan Timmer of Anchor Wealth Advisers. Thanks, Jordan. Mike then held up a copy of The Tracker, our quarterly magazine, all gussied up by our new lay-out guy at Grandville Printing. Our editor, Todd Moelker, got lots of approval on this mag. Our presenters were Brandon Miedema and Kurtis DeYoung, from Long Range Archery and Firearms. They told about their classes, explaining how shooters could gain confidence in the longer shots at game. Jim Naber is an enthusiastic alumnus of their program. Their store is in Holland, but their shooting classes are held at Two Hats Ranch near Big Rapids. Youth gun winner was Tripp Warners, winning a Rossi 22, jewelry winner was Rod Coons (at his very first SCI meeting!) and the adult gun winner was Aaron Hollister, claiming a Savage Axis .350 Legend.

Join us again September 12 for food and fun, and to support our great causes.

STORY BY PETE VANDERARK



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

It's a privilege to introduce our two new board members, Brandon Heyboer and Scott Bylsma. They are hunters who demonstrate a varied range of hunting interests and yet a similar passion for hunting and conservation. Thank you, Brandon and Scott, for your willingness to serve. Our Chapter can always use more volunteers.



BRANDON HE YBOER

I'm Brandon Heyboer and I'm 29 years old. I live in Byron Center and my full time job is as a firefighter for Byron Township. My love for the outdoors began with my dad and grandfather up at our cabin in the UP that I refer to as 17 acres of Paradise. I will be headed there in September this year to hopefully fill a black bear tag! Although I do like to travel west for hunting, I haven't done it very often. My main hunting focuses are around here for Whitetails. I got to know Jim Naber as his son Austin and I went to high school together. I have helped him with hanging/installing some of the mounts from his business. He introduced me to SCI 4 years ago and encouraged me to run for the board last March. I look forward to meeting you all in the future.

ADVENTURES OF A LIFETIME with Scott Bylsma

Sold! Bidder number 352!

Back in 2008 at our first Michigan SCI chapter banquet, my wife and I bought a donation with Numzaan safaris. Johann Combrink is a longtime SCI Chapter supporter and Outfitter and has always provided an exceptional & unforgettable experience! Not only did we have a fantastic first trip with Johann but in 2013 we went back and this time took our two daughters. The memories we made on that trip will forever hold a special place in my heart. Not only did we make memories as a family, halfway through the trip my oldest daughter, Kasey, said to Johann, "I want to do this! I want to come and work for you!"

After returning from our family trip, graduation slowly approached. Kasey graduated, packed her bags and headed to South Africa. She had to earn her place working with Numzaan Safaris. After 4 short years, we had another family trip! In 2018, we decided it was time to have a "Visit your Daughter at work day"! We all harvested some beautiful animals and we even met Kasey's future husband, a Texan PH that also worked for Numzaan Safaris.

Late last year the kids got together and decided that the whole family was going to go back to Numzaan. It looked a little different this year adding my two son-in-laws to the mix but I was very much looking forward to a family hunt! Our group consisted of our family of 6 plus our family friends, Will, Cassandra and Brenna. I thought I was going to be guiding my twin grand daughters on their first safari but I



guess I have to wait till next time!
 I got to share my son-in-law, Kyle's, first trip to Africa. To be with someone with all of their "Firsts" again was unforgettable. There is something about the smell of the dirt & seeing your first African Sunrise and Sunset. Mallory and Kyle were paired with PH Poena and his wife Stephanie. Poena has been a PH with Numzaan for several years and has spent many visits to the states with us here in Michigan. They are all "newly weds" and the same age so that really enhanced the experience for them. On day one I went with their group so I could be there for Kyle's first hunting day in Africa. We had many stalks on zebras but the wind was constantly changing on us making it difficult. It was Kyle's first time on a "stalk" and he was so excited that he was shaking and couldn't have shot anyway! After multiple stalks and a couple different "plans" we found a group of blesbok and he connected on his first African animal. To see his excitement was one of the highlights of my trip!

The next day we did a boys and girls hunt. Boys with Johann and the girls with Naude. The girls had a nice warthog come into the waterhole and My wife, Patty, made a great shot on her first pig! It had a broken tusk on one side and had a huge tusk on the other side. After tracking the pig we were all surprised that the tusk had broken off on his way through the bush. Backtracking to find where he broke his tusk off was a bit harder than finding the warthog! After a little bit of help from some electrical tape he was all set up for an unforgettable laugh worthy picture!

As for the boys, we had many stalks on several different species. Nothing came together for us until we found a beautiful Sable Bull. I finally got to see my son-in-law, Will, spot and stalk a Sable with his double rifle. What a fantastic animal and happy I got to be apart of his big hunt.

Mallory had her eye on one target and one target only, a Kudu. After a couple days spent in the mountains she shot a beautiful mature bull. The smiles from that group were priceless, it must have been Patty as their lucky charm that day!

Kasey wanted a proper Cape Buffalo hunt. On day 3, I went with her and Johann for the Buff. We were on the tracks of a proper ole' dugga boy all day but could not get a shot. Hunting in a thunderstorm for a Buffalo really brought a lion king scene to the mind! The next morning, we realized we needed our good luck charm, Patty! Early in the morning we spotted some good bulls. Johann and Kasey went off and we stayed behind. After a while a different group of buffalo headed towards them. Most of them moved on but we realized we still had 2 bulls 30 yards from us. That gets your attention when you just the observer on the hunt! Finally after a couple hours and miles later Kasey had a proper hunt and a proper buffalo. It was very special to see your daughter walk up to her trophy and have tears of happiness in her eyes. Those moments are priceless!

Finally on day 4 Dad got to hunt! I was fortunate enough to get a nice mature Golden Wildebeest. Throughout the safari I harvested a Serval, Caracal, Golden

Wildebeest and a Blue Wildebeest. Patty shot a kudu and warthog. Mallory got her Kudu. Kyle shot a Blue Wildebeest, Zebra, Blesbok, Impala & Warthog. Kasey got her dugga boy (Buffalo) Will shot a sable, baboon, blesbok and multiple broken horn impalas. Brenna shot her first African animal, an impala. Will and Cassandra shot a crocodile, springbok, sable, zebra, honey badger and many many more.

The camp was great. The food was Fantastic! The guides were all friends of Kasey & Will. We were all paired up perfectly! There is something about the relationship you create with your PH over your hunting adventures.

It has been amazing to see the transformation at Numzaan Safaris from 2008 to 2024! Numzaan has provided us with memories that will last a lifetime. I am forever grateful for our first hunt with Johann as he has helped create some of the most special memories with my family.

The hunting trips with my daughters are the most special trips that I have ever had. To see them experience the joy of hunting that I have and have them see their dad doing what he loves is priceless. Continuing to share that with them and their families as they grow is something I will hold close to my heart.

Don't wait, take the trip!
 Scott Bylsma





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CAMP IRON SITES

AND GUIDING INFLUENCE



All nine boys arrived safely at camp yesterday. We have a great group of young men this year that so far appear to open and engaged. We had a full day of activities which included, camp fire building exercises, archery, volleyball, a tour of the property and some even jumped in the cold lake and did a little Kayaking.

We had our first camp lesson where we discussed “Becoming the Best You Possible” We explained that we wanted to help them become the best version of themselves and that they were created for a purpose.

Taking personal responsibility is a huge first step in taking control of your future. One of our past campers from 2022 is here as a student counselor and shared his story with the boys. He was one of our toughest campers who almost punched me in the face during

his camp because of his anger issues, he has struggled with substance abuse issues and other things his whole life and has made amazing strides in his life. We are so proud of him, and his testimony was so good for these new campers to hear as he could relate to them what it was like to be in their shoes at camp and the possibilities they could have down the road if they wanted to take advantage of them. Facing your fears, growing your confidence, learning from other men how to live healthy, successful, moral lives is what this camp is all about. Camp is almost over and to say we are going to miss these faces is a understatement!! But looking forward to our mentorship program where we get to live life with these young men!





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Carson Nyenhuis - Founder and President

Dear Safari Club International Michigan Chapter,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$5,000.00 that you made on 2/13/2024. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission. Your gift will help us get more people back into the outdoors to experience nature, camaraderie, and emotional and spiritual well-being. Your gift is allowing us to realize a dream. It's great to get back out into the woods. All that have wanted to do is to share the hunting experience that gave me my life back so that I can help as many others who might also be experiencing a life-changing disability. It was the thing that helped me more than anything else. Thank you again for your most generous support and your willingness to make a difference.

*Sincerely,
Carson Nyenhuis
Founder*



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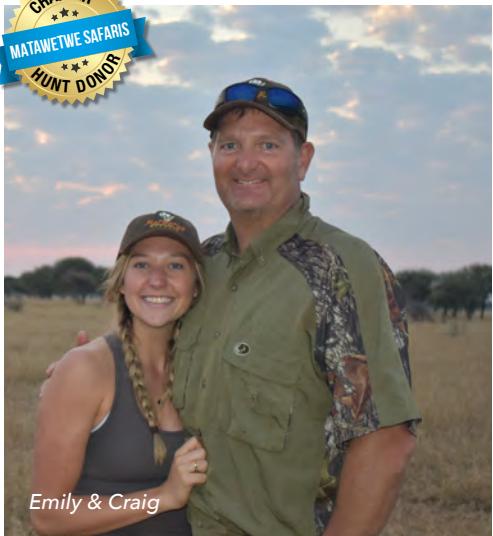
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AS AVID HUNTERS, WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN IDEAS OF WHAT CONSTITUTES FAIR CHASE. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER SPORTING? HOW DID YOU COME TO YOUR CONCLUSION ON WHAT CONSTITUTES ETHICAL HUNTING BEHAVIOR AND CONDITIONS? AS YOU CAN SEE, WE ALSO HAVE MULTIPLE TERMS THAT COME INTO PLAY, (ETHICS, SPORTING, FAIR CHASE).

The idiosyncrasies of our varying views on fair chase hit home while I was having a conversation with a fellow hunter. He had gone to Texas to hunt aoudad and mule deer. After a few days of hard hunting to get his aoudad, he and his guide went out for a trophy mule deer. The whole hunt was in a free-range area, but water holes were maintained throughout the area and the guide had the mule deer bucks patterned to water. When the hunter saw how easy it was to get on this buck, he was incensed, and felt that the set up wasn't sporting. He didn't take the shot and decided to go home rather than fill his mule deer tag. The hunter's ethical disgust caught me by surprise. After all, the area was all fair chase, and the guides couldn't be faulted for doing their best to pattern the bucks. This isn't even where the story gets interesting, though! Our

hunter, in this true story, hunts with a high-end rifle and cartridge combo set up to shoot 500-700 yards! He also hunts food plots on leased private land for whitetails with the latest and greatest archery equipment! I'm not telling this story to besmirch our hunter. He is an avid and passionate sportsman who has his own personal hunting ethic that is consistent and constitutes fair chase in his mind. But this conversation did get me thinking about how we define fair chase and why. Here in Michigan the biggest question seems to have centered on the use of bait for deer hunting with some judging that hunting over bait is unethical while others willingly dump out a pile of apples and hunt over it. The lines seem clearly drawn here but maybe not so much! What about the guy who plants apple trees and then hunts over the dropped apples? Or what about the guy who plants a lush little clover plot in a perfect

little opening on the edge of the swamp? Often bait hunters will respond to attacks on their hunting method with scornful comments about the guy with a food plot or his own little orchard. Are these sporting methods of hunting?

Another hot topic of ethical debate revolves around hunting in an enclosure versus hunting free range. Some sportspersons wouldn't dream of hunting in an enclosure no matter how big it is. Some hunters will draw their own ethical limit on how small an enclosure they will hunt. But the size of the enclosure is really only one factor. Rugged terrain and thick cover can make a 500 acre enclosure more difficult to hunt than 2,000 acres of open rolling hills. On my family's first safari, to Namibia, we hunted an 83,000 acre property that was half high fenced and half free range. There were cattle guards in the roads, rather than gates, so after a while we didn't know if we were inside or outside the fenced area. Was this fair chase hunting?

And now a final hot topic for this article, in the debate on hunting ethics: weapons and optics! Of course, the hottest topic in the arena of what constitutes sporting weapons today is the question of long range shooting.

Our minds, right away, go to long range rifles, scopes, range finders, and wind meters. But it isn't only long range centerfire rifles that can raise ethical questions. Pope and Young, the pre-eminent record keeping organization for archery records, has set an ethical standard for what equipment is allowed to be used in order to have trophies taken with archery equipment entered into their record book. Things like lighted sights and high let-off compound bows have been and maybe still are restricted from entry. Crossbows, along with impressive new compound bows, have raised a whole new level of questions about ethics and sportsmanship. Archery equipment can be accurately used out to 100 yards and farther! These were unthinkable ranges not so many years ago. Muzzleloaders aren't immune from ethical questions either. Pennsylvania has a flintlock only season. Colorado doesn't allow optical magnification for sights on muzzleloaders. But the big question is how far is too far? The question, how far is too far, brings us to our conclusion. Each ethical sportsperson needs to think through these questions for themselves and needs to take a long hard look at their own abilities to determine how far is too far. Each sportsperson needs to think through the ethics of their hunting methods. Each sportsperson needs to be comfortable in their own minds with how they hunt. Each sportsperson needs to allow room for others to set their own standards. Always within the bounds of the law of course! We all need to band together to fight attacks on any one type of hunting, because you can bet your bottom dollar the antihunters are unified in their desire to end all hunting, one method and species at a time. Your SCI International and SCI Michigan membership and involvement are incredibly important for the preservation of hunting so you can make ethical, sporting, fair chase decisions now and for generations to come.



CHAPTER

AT THE WHIT



ER FUN ECAPS GAME



On June 12 we had another great turnout for the Michigan Chapter family outing at the Whitecaps ballpark. We enjoyed the Planet Fitness Studio patio on the third base line. Great company, great seats, great weather, hot dogs and hamburgers, along with a Whitecaps win made for fun night for all!

THANK YOU PETE

For many years Pete has been an active volunteer and supporter of SCI International and our Michigan Chapter. He and his wonderful wife Judy have invested their time, talents, and donations in the important work of conservation and hunter's rights. An area where Pete has had a big influence, but a largely invisible influence is in his work as copy editor of the Tracker. Pete has been instrumental in the Tracker being a quality magazine. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 says "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Pete has decided that it is time to "retire" from those duties so this is his last Tracker as copy editor. I know I speak for our past editors when I say that Pete's input will be greatly missed. I know that I speak for our past editors and our members when I say, Well done Pete! Thank you for selflessly giving of your time and expertise to give our club a great quarterly magazine!



NEWS FROM ZERO GRAVITY



Yup, it's summer, and we just got done throwing water balloons at kids and running through sprinklers. I'll explain that later; let's go back a few weeks to one of my favorite spots in this wonderful state. Lake Michigan, and not on the shore where hundreds of people gather, but out on a boat surrounded by cold blue water and silence. Now add my favorite person in the world, my wife Amber, and a handful of students who are taking in the scenery for the first time. I promise you it is a special place, and it always stirs up special conversations.

During the school year at Zero Gravity we meet with hundreds of students. It's controlled chaos as we proceed with what we call our shotgun approach of gospel preaching. Preach the word and watch carefully for spiritual fruit. As things wind down in the spring, we begin to narrow our aim as we select particular students to join us on some of our summer fishing trips. This time our trip came with nearly perfect weather, and somewhat poor fishing, which didn't bother me one bit, because of what was about to happen.

One of the students, unprovoked, simply walked to the back of the boat where I was standing with the first mate and began to share: "I'm still not sure if I believe in God." Instantly my mind locked on, this is what we have been praying for. She continued, "I've learned a lot at Zero Gravity, and I'm really glad that I decided to go, but I still don't know if there really is a God." Now, you are actually getting a summarized version of this story, but I hope you comprehend the immensity of what took place. While she was pouring out her heart, I was trying to formulate a good response, not knowing that I really didn't have to. Why? Because someone else had been listening in. It was the first mate. He interjected, "I used to wonder the same thing, but..." His story continued as he shared the details of how God healed him of what was essentially a death sentence from his doctor five years prior.



Her eyes were wide while he shared the details. It turns out that she had a very similar medical experience, but had failed to give credit to God for sparing her life. She spent most of the time on the trip separated from the group staring out into the sky. I walked up beside her and commented on the beauty of the sunset. She responded by asking "Do you think that God knew I was going to be out here tonight and that's why He made the sunset so beautiful?" I responded with a smile and a simple "I know He did."

I said it before, but I'll say it again, I love this work!!! Never would I have thought that God would have put me in this line of work, but here I am. It has been a while since I have had to ask for financial help, but the explosive growth we have experienced has come with additional costs. We still provide all of our events at no cost, including food. In addition, we have also added some part-time staff to help out and could easily add more. Please prayerfully consider helping us out if you are able. I hope you all have a very blessed summer, stay cool and go fishing!

— Chad Kraker



Safari Club International

Michigan Chapter



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