

The Quiver

Voice of the Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association

*Fall / Winter
2006*



*D.A.R.T. League 2007...
Group Hunt...*

Southern Alberta Plains Mulie

Featured Story

It's Over For Now by: David Sherwin

From the Editor



"You need not harvest game
For a hunt to be successful"

Calvin Briggs

Well I'm not sure where to start so I'm just going to start rambling and see where it takes me.

This hunting season was different for me this year, it started out like most, the urge, the anticipation of a great season. I could see the hunts in my mind before they even started. Spending time with the people I like to spend time with. The laughs, the stories and the sleepless nights waiting for morning. But something was missing this year and I still can't put my finger on it.

Elk hunting started out great, new areas to explore, lots of sign, great camp spot and some new friends to share time with. But I got to tell you the heat this year got to me. Couldn't walk a block without getting heated up. Needless to say it shortened our stay. At the time it didn't bother me to leave a day early because the next week was the ATBA Group Hunt in Southern Alberta.

The ATBA Group Hunt was a lot of fun. The evenings around camp were great, so many fellow hunters to share laughs with. Hunting Antelope for the first time was definitely a challenge, something I look forward to doing again. It was also nice to see a couple of members had harvest game this year. The weather started out pretty good but when it started to rain it sure changes things in that part of the province, needless to say it shortened our hunt by a day.

The next hunt would be for moose, tried something different this year by hunting locally. I was hoping to see more moose but how doesn't. I did have a couple within a 100 yards only to have the wind give me up but that's bowhunting. The worst possible thing happen a part of me will no longer be hunting with me anymore. The bow that became a part of me, came to the end of its life. Last summer my bow became strung backwards because I didn't take care of it and when the first frost came the wood in the limbs let go. I will never forget the sound of wood splitting will hanging beside me at my tree stand. I knew at that moment things were not going to be the same and there not. I miss shooting my bow like you wouldn't believe. I have ordered a new one and pray everyday it will fill my void.

Write to:

The Quiver c/o Calvin Briggs

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Ft. Saskatchewan, AB

T8L 2M3

or email

the-quiver@shaw.ca

Custom Archery Supplies Ltd

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Vice-Presidents Message

Before I start this column I want to say that the recent resignation of our President Gary McCartney has been a tough blow to ATBA. Gary's departure has left a huge hole in our organization that will be hard to fill. He was the driving force in a lot of the initiatives that we have on the go, and personally want thank Gary for the leadership and direction he has provided our association.

I hope all my fellow members had a successful time a field. With the end of the season comes the end of another year for the ATBA. Looking back I think this has been our most successful year as far as giving back to the membership. Let's look back at some of the highlights of the last 12 months. We started the year with the Dart league, which was followed up with a rabbit hunt, and numerous get together over breakfast organized by Gary. We held our second annual HCJ this summer, which was a huge success. This year Gary and Mel organized and hosted our most successful group hunt to date. The hunt was held down south around Jenner, and everyone I talked to said, if you weren't there you missed out. Yes looking back this has been a busy and value added year for our members.

Looking forward to the upcoming year we have some challenges in front of us. Leadership for one, Gary's departure has left us with some big shoes to fill. This year we also have the insurance issues to contend with and all the fall out from that. These are pretty big issues for the association but if we pull together we can look forward to another successful year.

Anyway I don't want to run on here so I'll leave you with something I found while reading about the history of the longbow. It amounts to the first insurance program for archers and goes as follows.

It is recorded that during the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) a law was passed exonerating an archer from charge of murder or manslaughter if while at practice on a recognized archery ground and after calling "stand fast" he accidentally killed a passer by.

Simpler times, simpler insurance policies.

Have a safe and Merry Xmas,

Vice-President

Bryan Down

Membership & The Cash

Memberships Report

There has been very little activity within the membership as you can expect with hunting season being the busy time of year for our members. Our membership is now 84 members, which is made up of 49 families.

Our membership has not really grown as rapidly as I had hoped considering the number of traditional shooters that we have in Alberta. Some of this can be explained being that bowhunting and especially traditional bowhunting is somewhat of an individual sport. However the ATBA does hold several functions to try and get traditional shooters together. Things such as the jamboree, rabbit hunts, group hunts, the dart league and group breakfasts to mention a few. It would sure be nice if we could get a better representation for traditional bowhunters. If any of you have ideas as to what we need to do please let us know.

There has been some discussion regarding the insurance requirements being placed upon clubs. At this time there is no real solution to the dilemma, however there are some very ambitious people working on it and I hope we will be able to get through this before the new year.

Hope you all had a good hunting season and you all have a great Christmas season.

Duane



Kelly Semple, Executive Director

#87,4003-98 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6M8

Phone (780) 462-2444

Email: ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com

Treasurer Report

We have purchased the remaining targets from the NBA for \$500.00. We have also purchased our own Inkjet Printer \$300.00 to print The Quiver newsletter. We have some postage cost that aren't in yet so we will end 2006 with just over \$2100.00 in the bank.

This is good considering that we now own approximately 50 3D targets.

Happy New Year

Duane Hicks

"I can always use money"

Duane Hicks

Web-Masters Report

I found this on the web and thought I would share it with you.

Worlds Shortest Fairy Tale

Once upon a time a guy asked a girl
"Will you marry me?" The girl said,
"No!"

And the guy lived happily ever after.
Went fishing, hunting, played golf a lot, drank
beer and farted when ever he wanted.

Your Webmaster
Calvin Briggs

Group Hunt 2006 Response

"The group hunt was the highlight of the season for me....I got to drive around in my buddy's new truck. Oh.....the hunting and the post hunt stories were great. I was very disappointed with Mel; he could have done a bit better on the food department. BBQ steak and shrimp just isn't fancy enough for a group like us"

Gary McCartney

"It was a great time and I think I am now addicted to some new hunting opportunities. This was due to Gary's and Mel's preparation and research. Well done guys! "

Yves Blouin

"Two things were most memorable; How vast the rolling prairie was, arid grassland to the horizon. I imagined what it must have been like when the buffalo in the thousands came thundering through! Secondly the excitement of returning to camp and hearing the stories of the encounters of others. The evenings of interaction say to me I'm already looking forward to next year's! "

David Sherwin

"This was only my second group hunt but I have to say it was the most fun I have had in a while. The stories and laughs with friends back at camp were priceless. Hunting for Antelope was an experience unlike any other. Can't wait to do it again."

Calvin Briggs

Photo of the Red Deer River outside camp.



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I was one of the dozen members that made the trip to Buffalo for the annual Group Hunt. Brent Watson and his wife arrived before everyone else and started hunting Antelope, but unfortunately had to leave when everyone else was showing up. Gary McCartney and Cal Briggs had a real nice camp set up when I had arrived. Wall tent and kitchen area tarped off. David Sherwin was in attendance, Mel Kaban was camping with Jack Kempf, Yves Blouin and Gunter Lemke showed up, Ken Bodden arrived, set up his tent and then left, he was back by 6:30 with a deer for the first kill of the week. Jason Collingridge took a day off from University to make the trip as well.

David was concentrating on a group of Whitetails, enjoying the terrain and hunting hard, left camp early and got back late. Gary and Cal were chasing Antelope to the south, stalking and trying the decoy. Mel and Jack were paired up, Mel trying to be a guide for Jack. I had the pleasure of hunting with Jack for a day, got to take a little video of him stalking and then shooting at a pretty good Antelope. Gravity and the wind played havoc with his arrows that time. Gunter and Yves were after deer, Yves spent some time trying to stalk a bunch of Mule deer that seemed to know the terrain better than him, he returned just as happy if not happier than when he set out. Gunter and myself tried a couple of stalks on Antelope, I missed an easy shot badly, with an audience no less. Jason got turned loose by Jenner after some deer and seemed to enjoy himself. Ken was offering suggestions on where to go and how to hunt different areas as he is really familiar with the area. There were a lot of chances for success on this trip, stuff usually happens and it did. Wind, arm guards, etc.

The weather changed on the Friday, cool and rain. I had the opportunity to travel with Ken Bodden and ended the morning with an Antelope. We arrived back at camp in time to say good bye to the crew as everyone had packed up and were heading for home.

The Annual Group hunt was a good time, new friends were made, new areas were explored, which is what it is all about.

Gary & Mel did a great job organizing the Hunt!

Terry Brew

Did You Know...

- **The A.T.B.A. Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held March 2007 . Your attendance is needed, attends has not been great in the past. It is up to you!! To change that.
- **A.T.B.A. Shed Hunt** scoring will only be done at the AGM. For the member to be eligible to win a prize, they must attend the AGM with their sheds.
- **A.T.B.A. DART League** will being January 5 2007 at Trophy Book Archery in Spruce Grove. Any members needing more information can go to the web-site or call me at 780 998 1085

From The Cookshack

Bake beans À la Grouse

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 Cups of dried white beans | ½ cup of molasses |
| 1 pound of salted pork | 1 tea spoon big salt |
| 1-2 grouse, or 1grouse and 1 rabbit | ½ tea spoon of black pepper |
| 2 medium onions (hole) | 1 tea spoon of savory |
| 1 table spoon dry mustard | 1 clove leaf |
| 1 cup of brown sugar | |

Clean the beans. Cover them with plenty of cold water for 12 hours. Bring to a boil then simmer for 45 to 60 minutes.

Cut the salted pork in large chunks; place them in the bottom of a large clay pot/urn.

Strain the beans, then pour the beans on top of the salted pork.

Cut the rabbit in single portions; bury the pieces in the beans. Put the grouse breast and legs if you like in the beans. Put the onions in the beans.

In a bowl mix the; mustard, brown sugar, molasses, salt, black pepper and savory, pour on top of beans.

Add the clove leaf. Add hot water until covered.

Cover the pot and bake in oven at 325 F/ 165C. , 5 to 6 hrs. Remove the lid one hour before cooking time is over. Add some water if beans are dry.

I usually check them after 4 hours and like to have them some what harder then over cooked and mushy.

Enjoy!!

Yves Blouin

**Have a favorite
wild game recipe and want to
share it
with others.
Email it to:
the-
quiver@shaw.c**

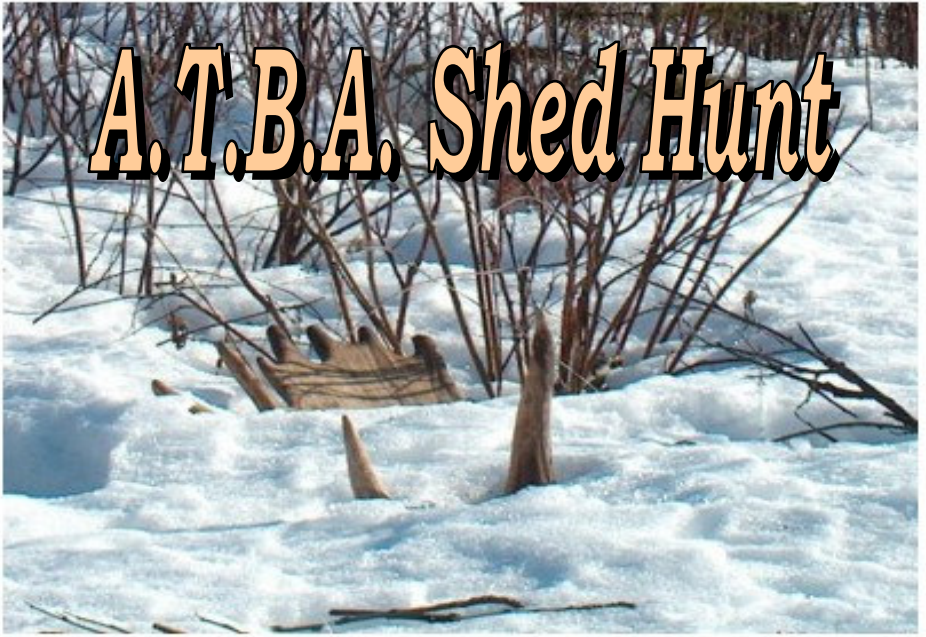
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A.T.B.A. Shed Hunt



Come to the annual AGM (date to be announced) and have your sheds scored and win great prizes.

Three categories; Three great prizes for:

Largest Mule deer - Largest Whitetail deer - Most sheds found

For this year.....the time frame is from Nov 1, 2006 until the AGM in March 2007 (Rob's shed is ineligible by the way).

For following years.....the time frame is from the day after the AGM until the following AGM.

This contest is open to any ATBA member in good standing and any shed that fits the above three categories' found within the specified time frames. All sheds must be found in Alberta. Scoring will only take place at the March AGM and the winner will be based on the highest percentage of Pope and Young.

Being that ATBA members are all honorable.....this contest will be "on the honor system".

So folks, there you have it....Another great opportunity to get outside and another great reason to attend the upcoming AGM. Organize a group shed hunt, get the kids involved in the search, make it a family deal.

It's Over For Now!

By David Sherwin

The final day of my first season upon returning to bow hunting, traditionally, is passing with dusk, which is falling around me. As I come up over the rise a striking band of orange sky behind the Rocky Mountains bids farewell, one hundred miles to the southwest. My heart is saddened by this closure. The day began as I emerged into a notable November west wind, thankful for the extra wool sweater I had layered on. The western sky looked foreboding with it's coal-like clouds. Could they be carrying snow? To the east, though, I was greeted by an inspiring sunrise of orange and pink hues behind a group of barren trembling aspen, as barren as my season, failing to send forth an arrow upon anything other than a savory Ruffed Grouse. None the less, it's fanned red tail will stir my season memories as it is displayed.

Now, as I take time to absorb the beauty of the setting sun, my heart is grateful for the day, the



season, for returning to bow hunting, for the time with my son who has taken up the path of a traditional bow hunter and, as well , for the time amongst creation. The flow of thoughts drifts back over the day to my rising expectations upon my delightful find of a network of deer trails marked by rubs and scrapes as I still-hunted from an aspen stand into a cluster of stout white spruce. These stood as sentinels in the forest, holding sway over the lesser trembling aspen. As well, I remember the frisky Red Squirrel that came down in front of me to ravage a spruce cone, flake by flake, picking out the concealed twin seed nestled in each one. I also recall when a Golden Crowned Kinglet alighted to the forest floor before me, as I was about to try some rattling to provoke the resident buck into a revealing response. What surprising delight for, being the end of November, this petite creature should have long gone south. Later on, a “mouse” appeared , scurrying by my feet, to dash into a tunnel, only to about face to see



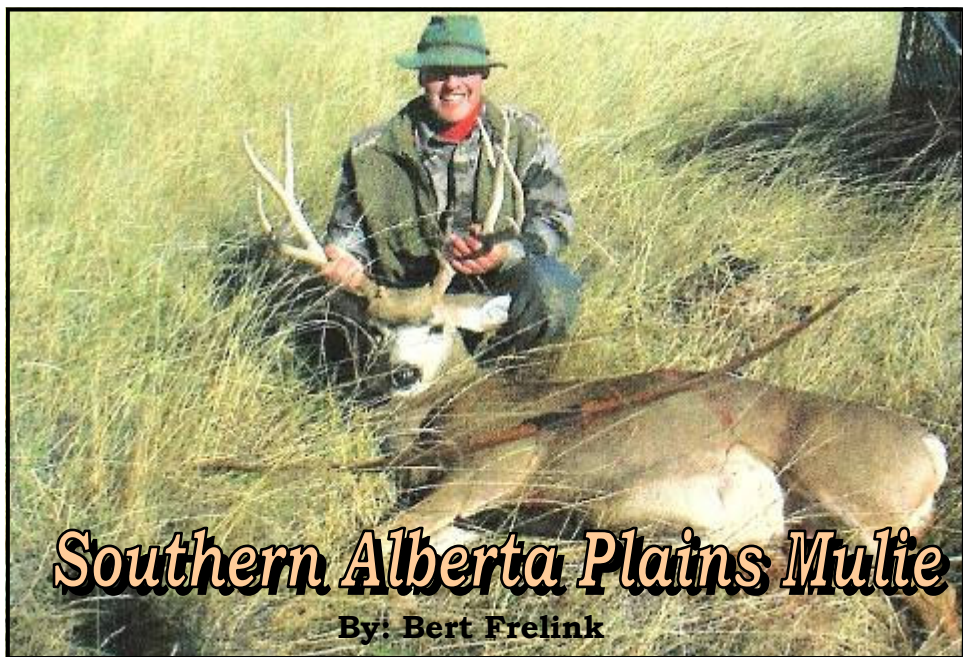
just who was eyeing him so closely. His rusty cap and back identified him as a Southern Red-back Vole: what a cutie! And finally, I think of the Whitetail doe and fawn who, coming up on my left, I alerted to my presences by too quickly turning my head as I sat off trail, awaiting the resident buck.



With disappointment I realized that the season is over for now. The ache in my heart is strong and subsides

only after several days. How good it has been to return to the person who I feel I am, with bow and arrow in hand. My deep feelings puzzle and surprise me. I think I wasn't fully appreciating how much my soul was being renewed by returning to a simple arching stick and string.

I quietness, I will have to abide the longing for another season a field and the expectation of my first harvest.



Southern Alberta Plains Mulie

By: Bert Frelink

Let me tell you a Mule Deer story from the Southern Alberta Plains.

I have hunting Permission on one of the large Southern Alberta ranches, it was a warm fall day and the previous few weeks had thought us that there was not much movement after the initial morning feeding patterns.

Maybe I should back up to a very unlucky day towards the end of July, I nearly severed my thumb and the first three fingers on my left hand on a table saw, after the initial diagnosis and some much needed pain management, here in Pincher Creek, it was decided I would be better off with a plastic surgeon in Calgary.

The Surgeon that put me back together told me that things did not look as bad as I thought, although he did express his concern about my thumb he gave me less than a 50/50 chance to be able to keep the tip.

A number of pins were holding my two middle fingers together and the damage to my pointer finger were minor compared to the rest.

A month went by before the pins came out and then a few weeks of intense physiotherapy, I of course was concerned about my shooting ability and rigged up a sling that would hold my longbow from falling to the ground after the shot, the sling was a necessary evil as it was extremely painful for me to hang on to my bow after the shot.

It was another few weeks before I felt I could shoot without my sling, my shooting did suffer slightly but with some extra practice sessions (and a very understanding therapist) came about fairly quickly.

After the initial stalk in the morning I watched the large bodied buck cut away from his five friends and bed in a very steep coulee I decide to give him

till 10:30 to settle down and get comfortable.

I got the wind in my favor (not a hard thing to do in this part of the world) and decided to try and see how close I could get to this guy.

The lay of the land was absolutely perfect as I got to the lip of the coulee I was hoping to see Antlers but couldn't, there was about a three foot drop off to another level almost looked like an old overgrown road so on I went and snuck to the edge looking through the grass I could finally make out Antlers and they were pointing in the right direction for a change.

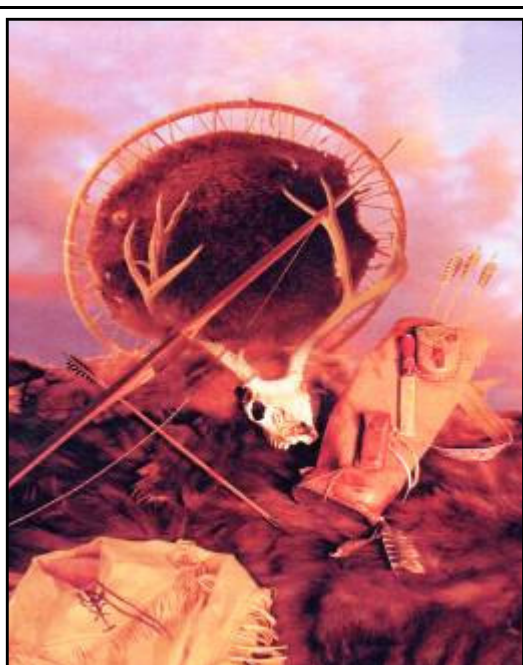
I was within 25 yards however too square with him and would never be able to sit up and shoot so I made the decision to back off and belly crawl another 10 or so yards to get a better angle, peeked again and decided to back off once again to still improve my angle more.

As I was getting settled in for a long wait (for him to stand) a flock of birds that flew over made him nervous enough to stand and look straight up the coulee. This gave me the opportunity to sit up, come to full draw and release my 800 grain arrow. The arrow looked good all the way to the boiler room, after the 60 yd dash he folded at the top of the coulee he was bedded in.

My legs were shaking and I was having trouble standing to see where he went I could see Antlers sticking up out of the tall grass and not till then I realized he was a pretty decent buck.

I was shooting a "Hill" style longbow of my own "QuarterMoon" making, 52# @28" the arrow was a tapered birch tipped with a 200 grain Ace broad head for a total weight just shy of 800 grains, no problem with penetration here!!!!

By: Bert Frelink
(Quarter Moon Longbows)



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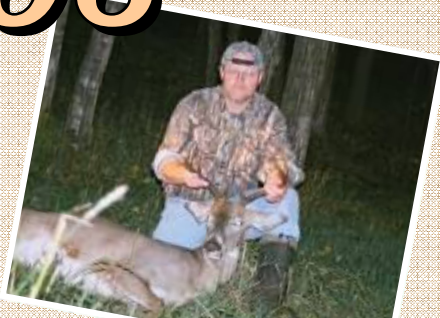
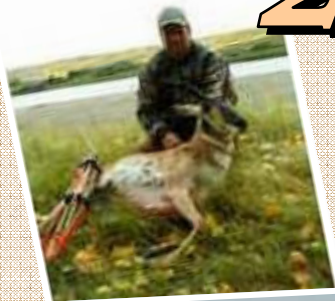
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quartermoonlongbows@yahoo.com

2006



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HARVEST INFORMATION

SPECIES _____ SEX _____

SCORE _____ DATE TAKEN _____

SIGNATURE OF MEASURER _____

WITNESS OF KILL _____

ATBA MEMBER AT TIME OF HARVEST **YES** _____ **NO** _____

***All entries must be legally taken in the province of Alberta
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Please submit a quality photo of your trophy.

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