Dear Friends,

Best wishes to everyone with our new year. I hope everyone had wonderful holidays and are looking forward to a prosperous 2018. Your Board has been working hard on the upcoming banquet on March 16th and are looking forward to seeing new & old friends there. We have a wonderful night planned and appreciate everyone who attends. With your support, the chapter has continued to thrive and support many charities. It’s because of you, our support of conservation and hunting will continue, for that we can’t thank you enough. Thank you to all and we look forward to seeing you at the banquet.

Life is Short…..Let’s Go Hunting!!!!

Mark Wehinger
Mark Wehinger
President,
Central Ohio Chapter

Mark Your Calendar:

CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER’S ANNUAL SPORTSMAN’S BANQUET & FUNDRAISER

MARCH 16, 2019

Tickets are $80 each with tables seating 10

OPEN AT 3:00 P.M. WITH BEER & WINE BAR + GUN DRAWINGS @ 4 & 5P.M.

DINNER IS SERVED AT 6:30P.M. WITH LIVE AUCTION TO FOLLOW

Email Heather Fisher to R.S.V.P. for Events - centralohiosci@yahoo.com
Central Ohio Chapter of Safari Club International

Would like to acknowledge the following persons for joining or renewing membership

- Gustavo Acosta
- Robert Berner
- Brain Drake
- K.C. Fields
- William Frisky
- Blaine Gearing
- Chris Godley
- Elmer Hines
- Marina Hoge
- Andrew Hopkins
- Scott Horowitz
- Jeffery Jones
- Ryan LePage
- Kurt Lohrmann
- Traci Ludke
- Rod Meade
- Chad Montgomery
- William Stranahan
- Jim Pancake
- Sean Powers
- Howard Reeves
- Karl Schneider
- John Snyder
- Jeff Stewart
- Rick Strater
- Lew Teale
- Vincent Eichhorn
- Louis Visco
- Shawn Walker
- Dave Onega
- Todd McDonald
- Mike Chrisman
- Matthew Sette

You may have noticed there is room for you to join!!!
HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS & EVENT – 1991—2018

1) SCI National
2) Wounded Warriors in Action
3) U.S. Sportsman’s Alliance
4) Salvation Army of Central Ohio
5) ODNR - Division of Wildlife
6) SCI - Blue Bag Program
7) Wounded Warrior Program
8) Appalachian Outdoor Adventure
9) Recreation Unlimited
10) Bubye Valley Conservancy - SAVE OUR RHINO
11) Youth Hunter Education Programs & Hunts
12) American Leadership Wilderness School
13) Pheasants Forever Youth Events
14) SCI - International Wildlife Museum
15) Kalene Mission Hospital—Zambia
16) Bubye Valley Conservancy - SAVE OUR LION
17) Charity Newsies

Total Disbursements to Date $450,000+

“Thank You” Members & Friends for making this possible
Maui, Hawaii Axis deer and goat

In July of 2018, I traveled to Maui along with my family and hunted with Maui Hunting Safaris for the second time. While my family enjoyed the sights of Maui and played on the beach I was able to harvest a very nice 33" Axis buck and a feral goat. The weather was beautiful as always. And Rodney and Dawn were excellent hosts as usual. It is always a pleasure to hunt with them and I will be returning in 2020.  

Nick Beiter

Kamchatka Brown Bear

In April of 2018 Chapter President Mark Wehinger, Jamie Flewelling, Chris Schnetzler, and myself traveled to Kamchatka, Russia with the Stalker Group. We toured Moscow for two days and enjoyed sightseeing and many historical landmarks. I especially enjoyed the unique architecture of the city. From Moscow we then headed to Kamchatcka to begin our journey to camp. It took many hours of travel via dirt roads and by snowmobile to reach our final destination. Over the next four days we all took very nice bears. I, myself, was able to take two making it a very successful trip!  

Nick Beiter
Hunting the Mid-Asian Ibex in the Tian Shan Mountains of Kyrgyzstan
August, 2018
By David M. Webster

The mental and physical journey begins eight months in advance of my trip to the country of Kyrgyzstan to hunt mid-Asian ibex. It will require hunting gear to live out of a spike camp, for up to 5 days, in the Tian Shan mountains. After gear is gathered and physical conditioning the 8 months fly by and I am off in the middle of August. I will be meeting in Chicago, a fellow hunter, David Gamblin, an elk outfitter and cattle rancher from Wheaton, WY. We have been talking over the last few months and he has been very helpful in planning the trip as he hunted a bighorn sheep in his native state of Wyoming 2 years prior.

My hunting started at around 8 years old with a Crossman BB gun. I was always fascinated by all living things as a kid and remember laying on the family room floor watching Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom with my Dad. Never would I have imagined that I would be able to travel to those far away destinations to hunt those animals. I have done a lot of different things in my life and the fair chase of hunting a wild animal is still the best adventure on earth. The outcome is not know, your are forced to read the wind, terrain, animals, and deal with the elements of nature, as well as testing your physical and mental toughness.

After 16 hrs and 3 planes (7000 miles) we land in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. We are met by Renata and Raymond who will be our host and taxidermist for the next week. We leave Bishkek for base camp, normally a 6 hour drive is now 10hrs and our trip shortened by 1 day, because the Kyrgyzstan government wants us and our rifles out of the country before The World Nomad Games begin the 1st of Sept.

Hunting in Kyrgyzstan is limited to only a few different animals for international hunters and even more so for residents. All of the animals that I would hunt in the states like, pheasant, rabbits, marmots, duck, geese, etc. are all illegal to hunt even for residents.

We arrive at base (elevation 9200 ft.) and meet our outfitter Natalia, who shows us to our overnight rooms. We unpack and crash after 48 hrs of travel and little sleep. The following morning we are meeting our guides at 8 am. My guides for the trip will be Ruzlan and Shaun. My horse for this journey will be known as "Trippy", as he had the habit of stumbling a lot at the most treacherous moments of the climb to spike camp. We arrive at spike camp after 5 hrs of horseback riding and thanks to my wife Brenda buying me some padded biking shorts, I feel no worse for the wear. Spike camp consists of two tents at the base of a mountain, along a gravel riverbed.

The next morning we are up at 3:30 am for instant coffee and a Cliff bar, then we are heading up a tight mountain gorge in the dark, I am thankful for a great headlamp and hiking sticks. The footing is poor and most of time we are walking from boulder to boulder or on the side of a hill. Sometimes it is necessary to plant my hiking stick downhill to have something to stop my boot and me from sliding off the mountain. We climb for two hours and ascend some 1500 ft. Legs and lungs screaming for more oxygen. The tight gorge was only 50-100 yards wide in places and now opens to a small meadow 200-300 yds wide. Just up the meadow we spot our first herd of ibex. My guide Ruzlan has played this game before and knew right where they would be at first light.

And now the hunt begins (elevation 11050 ft.) As we move up the meadow the ibex are on the left and we are on the right hugging the cannon wall. They continue to feed away from us up the meadow. There are 8 rams in this group and by my standards all quality rams. My goal is always a good representative animal of its species.
Finally Ruzlan finds a mound for us to hide behind as the ibex are now in the middle of the meadow. Ruzlan determines the best ibex is now second from the right I ranged him at 351 yards. As he finally moves clear of the others he is broadside facing left, I hold behind the shoulder and fire. In that split second he moves slightly left and my bullet hits him at the back of his lungs and the whole herd now moves off. He is slow to follow and stops, giving me another shot, and now he is done. As we approach he and his horns continue to grow in size. He is easily 350 lbs. with heavy bases and horns around 45” long. What a magnificent animal and nine years old.

Now Ruzlan and Shaun begin to skin and bone out this great beast, I relax and recover from the hardest physical hunt of my life. We pack up everything and begin the descent down to spike camp. I named the gorge we came up the The Valley of the Snow Leopard, for every few hundred yards there was a dead ibex skull and horns. We found one set of leopard tracks and some scat. As the descent continued I fell further behind the guides and became slightly concerned for my safety as I did not want to be leopard bait. Half way down the mountain it began raining, adding to the difficulty. I was thankful for the hiking sticks, my legs felt like wobbly rubber bands by the bottom. If not for the hiking sticks I surely would have fallen. We were walking on ibex trails barely a foot wide and a misstep meant a 100ft fall to rocks.

So 7 hrs after we left, we arrive back at spike camp. I unpacked and crashed for 4 hrs. Never have I been so tired in my life and yet so happy at what I had accomplished.

For dinner we feasted on ibex and the breast of a mountain grouse I shot while waiting for the skinning to be done. I mixed the breast meat with a package of Mountain House ready to eat Chicken and Rice meal and it was as good as any restaurant.

The next morning we broke camp and loaded my gear and all the meat on my horse “Trippy” while Shaun carried the cape and horns. Trippy did a great job considering he had close to 250lbs on his back. The trip back was beautiful 70 F weather and was downhill, only taking 3.5 hrs to get back to our extraction point. We forded 5 river crossings and the key was getting the right line and giving your horse his head. Most crossings got my boots wet and the bottom of our saddle bags. The extraction point was at an abandoned town called Enylchek. It was being built at the end of the Cold War by the U.S.S.R as a copper or gold mining town. But really it was for Uranium for nuclear weapons. The Soviets built all buildings in sections. So first the foundations of all buildings were done by one crew then next the walls, roof, etc. So when the U.S.S.R collapsed the towns buildings were all 3/4 done with no interior finishes. It looks like a ghost town. Now back in base camp I have several days relaxing for the other hunter to return, then the long travel home.

David M. Webster
This past September I traveled to southeast Alaska to hunt with Larry Benda from Alaska Fair Chase Guiding. Larry had informed me that this would be a very physically and mentally demanding hunt. The terrain was definitely intense like he said it would but luckily we had good weather which helped. After a long climb from sea level up to 6,500 feet, we spotted several goats. I was able to harvest a mature billy on the first evening. We spike camped that night on the mountain and came back down the following day. Larry was a terrific guide. He is very hardworking and I would highly recommend Larry as a guide for any hunt. I was so pleased with my experience, that I have already booked my next hunt with Larry for brown bear in 2021.

In November of 2018 I hunted with Rainy Pass Lodge on Kodiak Island for Sitka Blacktail deer. This hunt was an auction item that I purchased at the yearly Central Ohio SCI Banquet that was generously donated by Legends Taxidermy and Rainy Pass Lodge. Flying into camp we knew bad weather was headed our way. I arrived around noon and immediately took advantage of the short amount of time we had of good weather to hunt. We spotted over a dozen deer and saw a nice buck which we decided to go after. The rut was in full swing and that stalk did not work out. While we were trying to find that buck we spotted another very nice buck that I instead harvested. After taking care of this deer and while packing him back to camp we then again spotted another nice deer and harvested him as well. We were very glad and lucky that we were able to harvest both of these deer on the first afternoon. The weather following that day was filled with pouring rain and 40mph winds. After several days of bad weather we were finally able to fly out of camp and back to Kodiak city. I was very impressed with Rainy Pass Lodge. I booked another hunt with them for a moose combo hunt in 2021 and look forward to my return.

Nick Beiter
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Dear Members of SCI Central Ohio Chapter,

I cannot say thanks enough for sponsoring me for the American Wilderness Leadership School workshop this summer of 2018. The experience was incredibly meaningful and impactful in many ways and was truly one of the best weeks of my life. Our time was packed with meaningful and fun activities that have deeply inspired me.

**Workshop Activities and Highlights**

**ECO-WALKS:** A few mornings we went on walks with a wildlife biologist pointing out a wide variety of vegetation, birds, and other wildlife and provided a close-up understanding of what ecology is and the interconnectedness of all the variables within an ecosystem. We would stop and discuss the impacts of variables such as human-activities and natural disasters and their impacts on ecosystems.

**STREAM-STUDY:** One day was largely devoted to this topic whereby we worked in groups to study various aspects of the Granite Creek, a gorgeous creek, what is a healthy stream or river, calculated rate of flow, netted various creatures, and learned a great deal about insects, fish, and finished the day learning to tie-flies. A highlight occurred when I used one of those very flies to catch a 17-inch cutthroat trout about a week later in Teton National Park.

**SPRINGBOARD TO A VACATION:** I stayed an extra week in Wyoming after the workshop to experience the area. I drove our camping gear, 4 kayaks, and 4 mountain bikes out in my truck. After the camp, my 3 sons flew to Jackson, WY and I spent another 8 days with them in the area camping at Jenny Lake, fishing the Jackson and Teton area, backpacking in the mountains, kayaking and mountain biking all around the area. I have since purchased a fly-rod and have far more interest than insects and “matching the hatch” than I ever thought possible! I’m even investigating the feasibility of becoming a certified fly-fishing instructor next summer. Talk about life-changing!

**ARCHERY:** Being NASP archery certified and the coach of a large program here in Worthington I was able to enjoy assisting other teachers learn some finer points about archery technique as well as how to build an archery program at their school. It’s been a pleasure corresponding with and helping 4 other teachers from the workshop start their archery programs. Almost every day I’m communicating via text, email or phone calls with them to help them purchase the right equipment, structure their practices, plan their season, how to host tournaments, generate funds to build the program and more. We spent about six hours over the course of three days on archery. We finished the archery experience with a friendly 3D competition and although our team came in 2nd place being edged out for first-place, I was fortunate to take first-place in the individual competition!

**FIREARM TRAINING:** We received training using pistols, rifles, and shotguns. We were able to begin our training indoors on a virtual skeet/trap shooting range as well as an adjacent indoor air-soft pistol range. Although I have a good amount of experience with firearms, this allowed participants, about two-thirds of whom had never held a firearm to ease into firearm training. The next day we went outdoors and spent the entire day and evening shooting pistols, rifles, and shotguns. Later in the week they held shooting competitions. It was a blast, pardon the pun! I was the champion of the skeet shooting contest and in fact never missed during our competition and was awarded a gold medal made out of a gold painted clay-pigeon. Naturally, I fell in love with the autoloading Remington 1187 that I used!

**FIELD TRIPS:** We spent a day going to Pinedale, WY where we saw several energy fields. It was very interesting to see how they functioned, how they do fracking, the ecological impacts and efforts made to restore the area, etc. We also saw various parts of the pronghorn migration and elk migration. For the latter we visited the Elk Refuge in Jackson, and the former we saw various aspects of pronghorn management.

For example, they have built very large land-bridges over the roads near Pinedale which has reduced pronghorn deaths from automobiles by 85%. We saw numerous wildlife management practices in work such as jump-fences located all throughout the region. We also saw some rendezvous points that had historical impacts on the area and fur-trading. Being a former middle-school history teacher, I found this especially interesting! We also spent an afternoon white-water rafting which was a complete blast! I was one of the few on our raft who opted to “rid the bull” which was sitting on the very front edge of the raft as we went through rapids.

**INFORMAL LEARNING:** One very pleasant surprise was the privilege to have rich and meaningful conversations about hunting, wildlife management, conservation, firearms, 2nd amendment rights with other educators who had different views than mine. I had so many conversations throughout the week with individuals or in small -groups about these topics and perceptions were greatly altered over the course of the week in part due to these informal conversations that happened in dorm-rooms, at the dinner table, or while on morning hikes. Another teacher and I, Josh Christensen from central Michigan, hit it off famously and felt like I had met my best friend. He has very extensive hunting experience in Africa and all over the world. Between the two of us we very much felt like hunting and firearm ambassadors. He and I took morning walks every day and much of our discussion, in addition to sharing hunting stories, was discussing conversations we had the previous day with the many non-hunters and skeptics of firearms and hunting in general and how-to best advocate for conservation. Josh wrote an article in the most recent edition of the SCI electronic newsletter. I highly recommend reading it. We text or converse almost daily and are attempting to work and/or volunteer at AWLS for a portion of next summer.
RELATIONSHIPS: To say that we had a special group of participants is an understatement. I met so many incredibly good people and forged what will undoubtedly be life-long friendships. Four of us guys who bonded greatly over our love for the outdoors, education, and our faith are in fact planning an annual or biannual reunion to continue our friendship. As exhausting and full as the days were, we woke early every morning to go on hikes not only to see the scenery, but to maximize our time together.

CURRICULA: At the end of the week we all received a thumb-drive that was completely full of many books and teacher resources including lesson plans and activities to utilize in our classrooms, Power Point presentations, posters, manuals, books, magazines, pictures, contact info for non-government organizations, and just so many other resources from these various agencies. We left loaded with resources! CURRENTLY: This school year I had the opportunity to create an elective for our 6th graders. We’ll meet each Friday for an hour. My principal approved the following 3 course offerings and as you can see I’m planning to incorporate much of my learning into each of these three unique offerings. If there are any offerings that you see a place for the central Ohio SCI chapter to plug in, please let me know. The AWLS director mentioned possibly having access to various educational kits, trailers, and various SCI resources.

Here are the course offerings for our 6th graders this year at Bluffsview Elementary in Worthington Schools:

1st TRIMESTER Awesome Adventures: Will use the climbing including crate stacking, zip line, high-ropes in the gym, etc. Then we’ll “climb” into the world of backpacking, mountain biking, kayaking, and camping including discussions on ecology and conservation. Mr. Wilson will bring in camping and hiking equipment. Students can as well. We’ll analyze the equipment, setup tents, sleeping bags, campsites, and discuss the various uses, advantages, disadvantages, etc. This class will also include some time playing our favorite gym games and practicing our sports skills.

2nd TRIMESTER Fitness, Nutrition, and the Great Outdoors: This course will emphasize both fitness and outdoor education. For fitness, we’ll work on our fitness, discuss or nutrition, healthy eating, various diets, and different approaches to working out depending on your individual goals. For the outdoors, we’ll hike to the ravine down the road and do some orienteering in addition to stream study and discussion on ecology and conservation. Hopefully we’ll see some wildlife as well! This will also include some time playing our favorite gym games and practicing our sports skills.

3rd TRIMESTER Archery Academy & The “Wild” Life: For those who love archery and hope to make the archery team. This will provide extra archery practice just in time for States and perhaps Nationals. This class will also emphasize wildlife conservation, the value of hunters, various occupations in the outdoor adventure industry as well as wildlife management industry. It will also include discussion of other shooting sports that are available. This will also include some time playing our favorite gym games.

Obviously, my experience was absolutely impressionable and meaningful. It truly changed my life and gave me a passion to explore possibilities of:

- Working or volunteering at AWLS during the summer months
- Starting a camp similar to the AWLS camp involving outdoor education
- Being a fly-fishing guide or raft-guide in the Jackson area during the summer
- Volunteer or paid staff member in the Grand Teton National Park
- I even entertain the idea of approaching my school district about the possibility of starting some sort of outdoor education camp or trip during the school year and/or during the summer months offered though the district much like some of the trips they take to Europe, etc.
- Another possibility is to use our archery company of Aim High Archery Ltd. to promote and take a group of youth out to that area for a week or so that would provide an experience similar to mine but obviously geared to youth learning about conservation, camping, hunting, shooting sports, and outdoor education.

As you can see I’m very excited to utilize my learning!

To the SCI central Ohio chapter please accept my deep appreciation for sponsoring my workshop. It was truly a life-changing experience that I’ll carry with me not only throughout my career as an educator but in my personal life as well. Please let me know if the chapter would ever desire a presentation on my experience or interest in partnering with possible future projects and/or adventures that I might be lead or be involved with.

Sincerely,
Ben Wilson P.E. & Wellness Bluffsview Elementary - Worthington Schools
bwilson@wscloud.org
614.562.7556

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CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER
PRESENTS OUR 27TH ANNUAL SPORTSMAN’S BANQUET
Saturday, March 16, 2019
Hilton at Polaris
Doors Open at 3:00 PM
***
Open beer and wine bar 3-5 PM ***
Sponsored by Environmental Management, Inc.
Visit Exhibitors, raffles, gun raffles and silent auction items
Dinner Served at 6:30 PM
Live Auction Commences 7:30 PM

Evening Highlights

Hundreds of Silent Auction, Live Auction and General Raffle Items

Including North American, African & European Hunts,
Fishing Trips, Jewelry, Artwork & Ladies Items,
Home Décor Items, Hunting Gear and Much More

Two Early Bird Drawings

#1 Guests arriving between 3:00 and 4:00 PM will be entered into a drawing for a Ruger American 9mm at 4:00

#2 Guest arriving between 4:00 and 5:00 and the remaining early bird entries will be entered into a drawing for a Ruger LC9S 9mm at 5:00

5 GUN HUNTER’S PACKAGE
(5 Winning tickets will be chosen)

Ticket prices: $20 each or 4 for $50 or 10 for $100

• Browning BL-22 22LR
  CZ 550 American Safari 458 Lott
  Kel-Tec Shotgun 12g
  Kimber Select 7mm Rem Mag
  Henry Golden Boy 22lr

The tickets for the raffle mentioned above will also be sold at the banquet and all ticket drawings will be held that evening.

Please reserve _________ 2019 Banquet admission Tickets @ $80.00 per person- Includes Dinner

(Table Reservations of 10 - 12 guests available) Table Name: __________________________________________

ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND @ http://www.centralohiosci.org

Please call Heather Fisher at 614-902-3963 or centralohiosci@yahoo.com to purchase tickets. All major credit cards accepted

Or mail a check made payable to: SCI Central Ohio Chapter 3511 Demington RD Columbus, Ohio 43232

Name: __________________________________________  Phone: _______________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________ E-Mail: ________________________
2019 Annual Sportsman's Banquet
Saturday, March 16, 2017
Hilton at Polaris

Program of Events
Doors Open at 3:00 PM

HORS D’OEUVRES & OPEN BEER-WINE BARS 3 - 5 P.M.
PLUS TWO EARLY BIRD GUN DRAWINGS

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Early Bird Drawing #1
All guests arriving between 3:00 and 4:00 PM will be entered into a drawing for a Ruger American 9mm at 4:00 PM

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Early Bird Drawing #2
All guests arriving between 4:00 and 5:00 PM will be entered for another drawing for a Ruger LC9S 9mm at 5:00 PM

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Open beer and wine bar with hors d’oeuvres

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Visit Exhibitors, General Raffle, Gun Raffles, and Silent Auction

6:30 PM
DINNER -- followed by announcements, recognitions and presentations

7:30—8:00 PM
Live Auction Commences ***

*** PLEASE NOTE: All Raffles Drawings (EXCEPT THE EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS) will be made AFTER the Live Auction!

Live auction items can be viewed at centralohiosci.org

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Make a donation to the Central Ohio Chapter of SCI. The Annual Sportsmen's banquet requires hundreds of items between the Live & Silent auctions, Gun and General Raffles. If you would like to donate to your Chapters fundraising causes. EX: Mounts, Art, Gift Cards

Please contact—Chris Fisher: chris.fisher@herrealtors.com @ 614-562-1717
The Central Ohio Safari Club appreciates your support.
In return we would like to support you.
Please contact Heather Fisher @ centralohiosci@yahoo.com
My wife and I purchased a hunt in Spain at the 2018 SCI banquet. The hunt was offered by Alfonso Fabres from "Hunt in Spain". Alfonso graciously offered an all inclusive hunt for a Mouflon sheep, Fallow deer, or Red stag based out his lodge in Salamanca, Spain. Let me first say that this hunt is grossly understated. Alfonso operates a lodge and hunting facility that is absolutely first class with a staff that simply cannot do enough for you. They all make you feel very welcome and at home. I decided to upgrade the hunt to include 2 of the 4 Spanish subspecies of Ibex goats. Alfonso is very accommodating and offers a very well organized program to include Ibex during your visit. Ibex hunting was the highlight of the trip. You will experience "True Spain" and have the opportunity to visit some of the most spectacular mountains that I have ever seen. The scenery is nothing short of spectacular and the local flavor is something that needs to be experienced. Check out Alfonso’s website at "huntinspain.com"

There you have it.  

Jeff Fowler
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  - Criminal Gun Charges
- Federal Firearms License Issues
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2018 Hunter of the Year or Humanitarian Award Nomination

AWARD NOMINATION SUBMISSION EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 10, 2019

☐ YOUTH ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

Nominee: __________________________________________________ Age: ______________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ____________________

Phone: __________________________ Email: _____________________________________________

Nominated By: _________________________________________________________________________

(OK to Self Nominate)

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ____________________

Phone: __________________________ Email: _____________________________________________

# of Years Hunting Experience: __________________________________________________________________________

Type of Game Hunted: _____________________________________________________________________________

Qualifications for Award:
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

Please Remit Form To: centralohiosci@yahoo.com or Call Chris Fisher @ 614-562-1717
Wayne Farnsworth Jr.
Hunted with: BARS 2010
Location: Tajikistan.
When: November 2018
BY: Wayne Farnsworth Jr.

Please see Wayne’s hunt report over the next 2 pages
My story begins about a year ago when my new found lawyer friend, Lou Visco and his wife Deb, invited both my wife, Patricia, and I to join them for dinner at Smith and Wolinsky in Columbus, Ohio, to introduce me to Lou’s booking agents whom are a sister and brother team, Michelle and Andrew (Andy) Buchanan, owners and partners of Buchanan Hunts from Zimbabwe. Michelle handles most of the bookings and logistics while Andy is the videographer and professional camera man for their hunts.

During our dinner, Michele explained to me they had been awarded a contract to film safaris which would be aired on the Pursuit Channel. Most of their bookings had been for African safaris but getting exposure to the Ovis/Capra World of Hunting would be a whole new experience for them. Therefore, myself being a four-time North America Wild Sheep Grand Slammer and recipient of the Triple Slam award, they were interested in recruiting me as one of their clients. After a lengthy conversation, I was excited to book the Tajikistan hunt with Michelle’s confidence that I’d be able to take a record book Bukharan Markhor and an Afghan Urial. Following additional get-togethers, I sent the booking fee to secure the hunt dates for November 9th through 18th, 2018.

Steve Turner, of Travel with Guns, was instrumental in assisting me with my flights, seat assignments and visa application. Michelle arranged for my rifle permit and the Bukharan Markhor and Afghan Urial permits for me. All I had to do was pay the bill and show up.

Finally, the day arrived, November 6th, I boarded a United flight from Columbus, OH, to Chicago, IL, then transferred to Turkish Airlines and boarded their flight to Istanbul, Turkey. There I had a 5 hour layover before transferring on to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, a 26 hour trip in all. Upon arrival in Dushanbe, I was met by Timur Sokhibkulov, son of the outfitter, Nikolai Sokhibkulov, outfitting company “BARS 2010.” Timur did an excellent job of clearing my rifle and gear bag through security while I waited in the VIP lounge. My arrival time was 4:50 am, Thursday, November 8th local time (6:50 pm, Wednesday, November 7th, Ohio time). Once all cleared through Tajikistan customs, we went to the Dushanbe Serena Hotel where I spent the rest of the day and that night.

The next morning around 8:00 am, Timur and his main guide, Kareem, met me at the hotel. Unfortunately, I become ill with a horrific stomach commotion from a cheeseburger I had at the hotel restaurant the night I arrived. Anyway, we began our 4 hour journey by a Toyota 4x4 to the Markhor hunting area. It seemed to take much longer with my stomach disorder. Arriving at the hunting area, I was unable to hunt due to dehydration and weakness! Therefore we drove on the highway along the Panj River which is 1,125 km long (675 miles) and forms a considerable part of the Afghanistan–Tajikistan border. It was at that moment I realized I was less than 100 yards from Afghanistan. After we had spotted some Markhor we pulled off to the side of the road to put my spotting scope on them. We spotted several decent Markhor which made my illness recovery more enthusiastic for the next day. We returned to camp for the night, had a traditional Muslim style meal of soup with excellent homemade bread baked in a make-shift oven right on the spot. We slept on the mats in our sleeping bags where we had previously dined and woke to fried eggs, green tea and their version of sausages, similar to our hot dogs.

Although it was the second day of my Markhor hunt, it was the first day I was able to climb. So, after breakfast we loaded the vehicles and headed to where we last saw the Markhors from the day before. About 9:00 am, we spotted some Markhor so I grabbed my rifle backpack and started our climb up the mountain. It was the most rugged terrain I’ve ever encountered. Loose rock, steep inclines, cliffs and hours later, we made it to the ridge to set up our scope and begin scanning for Markhor. Around 3:30 pm, over 350 yards away, we spotted a Markhor that would be approximately 36” or better, based on Kareem’s best estimate. We watched him for some time, feeding on the leaves of a tree on the edge of a cliff. While the Markhor provided me with several ideal shooting opportunities, I chose not to take the shot. The position of where he was standing would inevitably cause him to fall off the cliff, possibly breaking horns and I did not want that to happen. Additionally, I was looking for a minimum of 38” or possibly 42” Markhor. The team was disappointed with my decision but I felt strongly about my reasons. We returned in the dark, a treacherous climb down the mountain and back to camp.

The third day, Sunday, November 11th, we drove to a different area and mountain ridge. We started glassing from the road and spotted several young Markhor. Then suddenly, on the ridge above the road, a shooter Markhor appeared for a brief moment, then just as quickly, disappeared into the mountain. Again, as the day before, we began our climb up the mountain, however, we were in hot pursuit, looking for the Markhor we had seen from the road and soon the sweat began to pore off my forehead as my breathing increased.

After reaching the top of the ridge where we began glassing for the Markhor, I did not see our camera man Andy. I asked Alexsei Budin, my Russian interpreter, where he was. We were both concerned and asked the Tajikistan guide who suggested he must be somewhere down the mountain. I suggested he go look for him while we continued to glass. While we were having lunch on the mountain, the guide appeared with Andy. He was exhausted and scared as he had never been on mountains such as these and did not have the right gear to make the trek up and down those aggressive mountains. He shared his worst thoughts of falling to his death, the climb was that steep. I assured Andy he was doing an exceptional job under these conditions and for him to continue as we were close to the Markhor, even though we had not spotted him yet. He graciously accepted my challenge of which instilled a new vigor into Andy.

Not long after this, one of the Tajikistan guides spotted our Markhor in the rocks. After diligently searching with my binoculars, I spotted him at about 550 yards across the canyon on the next mountain. His frame blended into the mountain environment but I could see his head appearing over the top of the rocks. I got into position, adjusted my scope and waited for him to stand to expose his body for a killing shot. What seemed like hours of waiting, the wind at my back at 10mph, I was afraid the Markhor might catch our scent. He finally stood up, began to walk to the front of the cliff and facing towards us, presented me with a full frontal straight on shot. He was 550 yards line of sight distance and I held for 525 yards. I positioned my cross hairs between his two front legs 1/3 up. I gently squeezed the trigger and while filling the recoil, I heard the ‘WHOP’ to which everyone started to cheer ‘You hit him!’ I quickly bolted another round in the chamber of my 7mm Mag, Grey Bull Precision rifle for a follow up shot if needed. I located the Markhor in my scope and I could tell he was hurt bad. Now standing broadside, facing to my left, I placed the crosshairs in the crease just behind his left front leg/shoulder and squeezed the trigger for a follow up shot.
He dropped to the ground, however, his head was still up and I took the third shot which finished him off. The Markhor is a strong tough animal and it took all three killing shots to bring him down for good before he might jump off the cliff. Andy was thrilled as he caught it all on camera. However, due to the time of day, we had to leave the Markhor on the mountain that night until the next morning to bring him down. It was late afternoon, 3:45 pm and the guides suggested it would take us an hour to climb down the mountain and two to three hours of climbing up the other side to recover my Markhor. It would be totally dark by the time we would reach him; moreover, we needed to get off the mountain, this time during the daylight.

I didn’t sleep much that night in anticipation of recovering my Markhor the next morning. The next morning, it took several hours to trek up the mountain before locating my Markhor, dead where we last saw him. We took many pictures before bringing him off the mountain to the eagerly awaiting drivers in the 4x4’s on the highway below at the base of the mountain.

On our way back to camp my driver stopped and bought me a room temperature beer in celebration of my successful Bukharan Markhor kill which I green scored at 97”.

Once back at camp we packed up then loaded our gear in the 4x4 along with my Markhor and headed back to Dushanbe, arriving late evening and drove most of the distance in a rainstorm. A long day and back at the Serena Hotel in a different hotel room, I unpacked only to find the thermostat didn’t function, although the bed was a welcome sight.

The following morning, Tuesday, November 13th, Timur and his father Nikolai and their main guide, Kareem, met Andy and me at the hotel. We again loaded our gear in the same 4x4 and started our pursuit for the Afghan Urial, which was in an entirely different area of Tajikistan then the Markhor. This journey was approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours from Dushanbe. Arriving in a small village, we were joined by a gentleman that took our bags and gear to a room we had rented in another location. Kareem, Andy, Aleksei and myself went on ahead with my rifle and pack to the hunting area, about an hour driving time from our new camp for my Urial hunt.

Once on location we met up with two more guides that supposedly pre-scouted the area and advised my interpreter, Aleksei to have me quickly ready myself to pursue a Urial ram that he said he saw just over the ridge. For the next 2 to 3 hours, we trekked up and down, climbed many ridges and never saw a Urial. As dusk was quickly approaching the decision was made to head back to the new camp site where our gear had been dropped off for us earlier. That night we had lamb that was prepared from a kitchen that was hardly recognizable, moreover as before, we slept on the floor on mats, Muslim style, as we did with the Markhor hunt.

Next day, Wednesday, November 14th, we did quite a bit of hiking and glassing to no avail. I did not see any Urial whatsoever that day either, which was disappointing having previously been told the scouts have been seeing Urial daily on the mountain.

It was not until later in the day on Thursday, November 15th, that one of the scouts had located a ‘shooter’ Urial ram. Moreover, he advised us it was just over the ridge which was only 200 yards away. In a ‘hurry-up’ mode I was advised to leave my backpack, as I did, we began moving towards the ridge where the ram was spotted. However, I was hesitant to leave all my necessities behind such as water, visas, passport, phone, flashlight, etc., that were all in my back pack. Nonetheless I started to proceed without my pack and after more than approximately 5 kilometers (approximately 3 miles), I finally saw my first Urial. It was a male with one female Urial. I was tired and thirsty, however, more disturbed that the guides were not as stealth as they should have been. That is, they were all silhouetted, standing on the ridge skylined! In a kneeling position I brought my binoculars to my eyes to locate the Urial and to get their distance from me. The next thing I knew, the guides are pushing me, one from the left and another from my right, pointing and shouting excitedly, in their language, ‘there they are!’ This rookie action immediately scattered the two Urial up and over the ridge and out of sight, giving me no opportunity to even get my rifle scope on them. At which point, a vibrant conversation was conveyed to my interpreter from me! My basic communication was if this was how future stalks were going to end, they are NOT welcome on future stalks. In addition, I explained we are to crawl on our bellies to the top and very carefully glass range and build my nest for a shot. In the end, they better get their act together! Disappointed, I followed them off the mountain with my head hung low to our vehicle and drove back to camp without much conversation.

Friday, November 16th, the day began as the previous day of Urial hunting, driving to the mountain but a different area. Around 10:30 am we spotted several females and 2 rams bedded down on top of a ridge, over 1000 yards away. We made a plan to close the distance and moved to within 480 yards and I concluded we should not try for any closer, otherwise we will be seen by the Ursals. This time the guides were exceptional, they made it possible for me to get a shot. Lying prone position I lined up my crosshairs above the Ursals shoulder, anticipating when the Urial stood up, I would require little adjustment. Finally he stood up, my crosshairs were in perfect position on the Urial so I took the shot. It was a one shot kill.

Now I am jubilant and a very happy hunter for having taken both my Markhor and Urial, both on the same hunt and within 5 days of each other. As with the Markhor we headed back to Dushanbe after pictures and after we had loaded up our SUV with all our equipment and gear and of course my Urial trophy. For the next two nights I would stay again at the Serena hotel. Early Monday morning, after clearing Tajikistan customs, I boarded my 5:50 am departure for Istanbul, a four-plus hour flight on Turkish Airlines, a 5 hour layover in Istanbul, then another Turkish Airlines flight to Chicago, where I cleared U.S. customs, another layover of 3 hours, and finally a United flight to Columbus, OH, arriving 11:43 pm that evening. Over 28 hours total travel time back home from takeoff in Dushanbe to touchdown in Columbus, Ohio, where I was graciously met by my lovely wife of 41 years, Patricia.

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Calendar of Events

March 16, 2019 .... Central Ohio Chapter Annual Sportsman’s Banquet
(Raffles, Silent Auction & Live Auction)
Contact Heather Fisher @ centralohiosci@yahoo.com
Tickets are $80 each with tables seating 10
Hilton at Polaris 8700 Lyra Dr. Columbus, OH 43240
614-855-1600

AWARD NOMINATION SUBMISSION EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 10, 2019
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