



OUTDOOR BUDDIES NEWSLETTER

555 Highlands Road Westcliffe, CO 81252

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LOOKING TO GIVE BACK THIS YEAR FOR THE HOLIDAYS? WE COULD USE YOUR HELP! SIGN UP HERE TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR BUDDIES PROGRAMS
<http://outdoorbuddies.org/contribute.aspx>

President's Column

By Larry Sanford

We are busy here at Outdoor Buddies with planning of future events like the annual fundraiser banquet scheduled for April 11, 2015 and working on acquiring raffle items so that we can get to selling raffle tickets throughout the holidays as well as at the International Sportsmen's Expo in January. If any of you have some great contacts that can help provide items such as rifles, handguns, trips, as well as buffalo hunting ranches



please contact us so that we can follow up on these possible donations!

Along with all of the aforementioned events our big game committee members Larry Sanford, Dwaine Robey, and Jim Piper have worked very hard over many hours on the computers and phones getting the mobility-impaired hunters placed in the limited number of Outdoor Buddies hunt slots throughout Colorado.

I want to personally thank Dwaine and Jim for their personal dedication and hours of volunteering they willingly give to Outdoor Buddies and its Board. I am blessed to work with the many volunteers who make Outdoor Buddies outdoor adventures possible.

Outdoor Buddies recently finished up the annual six day antelope hunt in northern Colorado where we had approximately fifty volunteers helping forty-five hunters with disabilities, youths and their families! This is the largest antelope hunt in the state of Colorado! THANK YOU to all of the volunteers for their compassion to our hunters and families, you are truly the fiber that makes up Outdoor Buddies!

I want to give special thanks to Jim Bulger with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Youth Outreach Program. Through this program, doe antelope vouchers were made available for three new youth hunters so that they and their families could go on their first big game hunt under the sponsorship of Outdoor Buddies. They learned how to become safe and ethical hunters and enjoy the great outdoors here in Colorado! Jim and the CPW's Youth Outreach Program have also provided another twelve vouchers for doe pronghorn to be

Executive Director's Comments

By Dwaine Robey



It is not the policy of Outdoor Buddies to continually solicit donations from our newsletter readers. However, we need to make it known that Outdoor Buddies must have financial support in order to continue to provide our programs each year. To help obtain required funding Outdoor Buddies holds an annual

fundraiser banquet, a golf benefit, conducts raffles, and submits grant applications throughout the year. We typically limit our solicitation for donations to the December timeframe each year. However, donations can be made via the Outdoor Buddies website at <http://outdoorbuddies.org/> at any time. So please consider making an annual donation to Outdoor Buddies. Your support is sincerely appreciated!

As most of you know, Outdoor Buddies is an all-volunteer organization. None of the officers, board members, or other volunteers receives a salary or other compensations for the work they do for Outdoor Buddies. There are many of us who devote significant time and personal resources in the management of Outdoor Buddies and its programs. One of those persons is Outdoor Buddies President, Larry Sanford. Larry performs a multitude of tasks in his work for Outdoor Buddies. He spends a vast number of days in the field each year helping disabled members and youth with antelope, deer, and elk hunts. He also leads many waterfowl hunts each season. Of course, all these hunts require many hours of planning, preparations, and coordination work before going out for the hunt. Thank you, Larry. Please know that you are very much appreciated!


If you have suggestions or comments, you can contact me at dwayne.robey@outdoorbuddies.org or (719) 783-9044.

used by youth hunters during November and December Outdoor Buddies sponsored youth hunts. Now that is what I call Partners in the Outdoors!

I also want to thank Erik Slater of CPW who is the head of special licensing. Erik helps our mobility-impaired hunters get licenses for elk, deer and antelope.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter stories!

May God bless each and every one of you!



Outdoor Buddies Newsletter
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Editor: Dwaine Robey

Outdoor Buddies' Mission:
"Provide opportunities through a volunteer organization, for those who have been deprived of enjoying outdoor experiences." *These opportunities are available to all, with no cost, other than personal expenses, and no discrimination due to race, color, creed, religion, sex, or family status*

Outdoor Buddies is managed by its Board of Directors. Voting Board Members are shown below:

Dwaine Robey, Executive Director	303.877.8584
Larry Sanford, President	970.218.5356
Dustin Robey, Vice President	303.845.0423
Wally Hunt, Treasurer	303.985.2293
Dylan Harrell, Secretary	303.827.4610
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Rick Brady, Director	970.330.3151
Rich Cori, Director	303.604.9227
Terry Nelson, Director	303.884.3266
Jim Piper, Director	303.932.1209
Kathy Shears, Director	303.431.1275

All Outdoor Buddies members are encouraged to submit input for the newsletter
 Newsletter input should be submitted by the 15th of the month to be included in that month's newsletter
Please send newsletter input via Email to:
executivedirector@outdoorbuddies.org.

Hospital Bed Available to be donated to a Disabled US Military Veteran

A generous donor is offering a very high quality hospital bed to a deserving US military veteran. The hospital bed was used by the donor's father for approximately one year. And it is in "like new" condition.

Following is a detailed description of the bed.

TotalCare SpO2RT® 2 ICU Bed



Pressure Redistribution

Complications related to immobility and long term ventilation - such as pulmonary secretions which can lead to nosocomial pneumonia and neuro-muscular dysfunction - are among the most commonly acquired adverse events in critical care. Complexity and cost of care in affected patients increases significantly.

The TotalCare SpO2RT® 2 Therapy Bed helps caregivers treat patient complications by supporting early mobility strategies in ICU patients. Technology specifically designed to drive evidence based protocol compliance guides caregivers and patients through scientifically acknowledged steps of verticalization and early mobility.

The fully integrated TotalCare SpO2RT® 2 surface synchronizes with the frame when any function is activated.

Features

- Continuous Lateral Rotation Therapy
- Percussion and Vibration Therapy, including postural setting options
- Weight based pressure redistribution in any bed position
- Advanced Microclimate Management technology
- Point-Of-Care® siderail controls with Graphical Caregiver Interface feature (GCI®).
- Digital Head of bed angle indicator and alarm
- 3 mode bed exit sensor with alarm silence and alarm suspend modes
- FullChair® and chair egress with stand assist
- One-button Boost® patient repositioning support
- Turn assist
- Optional IntelliDrive® powered transport
- FlexAfoot® electrical bed retraction and extension
- HandsFree™ emergency CPR and Trendelenburg
- History data on patient weight, head of bed elevation, chair position, and pulmonary therapies
- Therapy reminders
- Safety stop and alarm for pulmonary therapies when side rails are down

Persons interested in the offer should contact Dwaine Robey at (719) 783-9044.

My Pronghorn Hunt

By Darrell Bowen

First, I wish to thank Outdoor Buddies president Larry Sanford and the hunt team for providing me with an awesome team of hunting assistants. Without the help of Dan Brown, Derek Smith, and his dad Dennis Smith, I would not have had such a great hunt.

We decided to hunt up on the area I will call Soapstone Flats. Derek and Dennis had extensive knowledge of the area and that worked to our advantage.

Early on we spotted numerous herds of pronghorns, but they were either too far away or on private land. We watched and glassed until animals were spotted within our search area.

There were other hunters also working the same area. We spotted one group of animals that we could follow until I could get a shot.

However, as luck would have it, some hunters who were on the ground spooked them, and, I didn't get a shot.

We decided to go back to the area where we had previously scouted and see what we could find. There was one vehicle in the area and we spotted a small group of animals in front of us. We proceeded along the track we were on and a vehicle went by us up to the water tank ahead. Fortunately, for us this did not spook that group too much as only three of them decided to escape. The vehicle at the tank left and only one other vehicle at our left was watching these three pronghorns.

We slowly continued forward waiting for a possible shot. Finally we stopped and I decided to take a shot.

After positioning me for a shot, the animal was ranged at 328 yards. I fired and the shot was just in front of her. My second shot was fired and I scored a hit and she could not run off. We approached for another shot, ranged at 231 yards, and I fired my third shot and put her down.



Taking Aim Photos by Dennis Smith.

Upon arriving at the animal we saw that she was still alive, and Dennis finished the kill with a well-placed .22 shot.

Again, I cannot say thank you enough to the gentleman who helped me on this hunt. We are now known as the **Deadly D's** (Dan, Derek, Dennis and Darrell).

I am happy to say that this **year's** hunt was the **BEST hunt I've had in years**. As always, thank you Outdoor Buddies, and may God Bless you all.

From Dennis Smith:

Hey guys (and girls)

I am writing this message to explain to you all how much Derek, Dave and I enjoyed hunting and hanging out with everyone for the annual Meadow Springs Ranch Outdoor Buddies pronghorn hunt.

My son Derek, Dan Brown and I were really fortunate to hook up Darrell Bowen out of Aurora. We immediately dubbed our foursome "The Deadly D's, "The Killer D's" and a couple more names I can't repeat here.

Dan drove, Derek rode shotgun and performed duties as guide and spotter while I rode in the back with Darrell - who proved to have a great game eye (he often spotted pronghorns with his bare eyes before we did with our binoculars), and an incredible, self-deprecating sense of humor. He was a joy to hunt with and filled his tag by 8:45 after a ranged 328 yard shot, followed by another at 238 yards. Dan and Derek field dressed the animal while I took photos. We were back to camp swapping stories with the skinning crew and other hunters by 9:30.

But more important than all the fun we had, the wonderful people we met and the beauty of the northern Colorado plains we saw; we felt privileged and honored to have played a small part in the Outdoor Buddies program. **We can't wait to do it again.**



Daybreak! Photo by Dennis Smith

A special note to Darrell and Dan. Stay healthy you guys, take care of yourselves and - **Good Lord willin' and the crick don't rise** - we'll see you again next year. In fact, we can't wait.

From a Mother's Point of View

By Jodi Elzi

Dear Outdoor Buddies,

My husband and son had been planning an antelope hunt for a number of months. A week prior to the scheduled hunt, my husband says to me "Oh no! I have to work next Saturday"

We contemplated and tried to rearrange our schedules but nothing seemed satisfactory, and then he says to me "Why don't you take him?"

At first I was reluctant. I love the end product but not so keen on the actual hunt.

So after much deliberation, I decided to take my son hunting. I am so glad I did. It allowed us quality time together. I really enjoyed seeing his delight when he took down the antelope. Rob and Dan made the experience worthwhile. Very relaxed fellows, very knowledgeable, really, really genuine and very professional.

They knew the area well; they knew where to go, what was safe, what was not. They made sure everything went well and answered all my questions.

What a great day my son and I had! I loved being a part of the outdoors, loved following the herd, and loved seeing my son at his hunting best. What a great shot, 211 yards! I may even get a tag for myself next year!

Thanks so much to the Outdoor Buddies crew. Nothing but smiling faces and encouragement!

2014 Elk Hunt

By Randy Olson

It was hard to imagine that the big game hunting season was about to start. After a successful antelope hunt it just didn't seem possible that the first elk season had arrived.

The last time I had done an Outdoor Buddies elk hunt was six years ago. I really feel that participating in one of the hunts is a special privilege and an opportunity to, shall we say, rejuvenate the spirit. Having gone through some medical issues in the spring and summer this was a welcome getaway.

Terry Nelson and I arrived in Westcliffe the afternoon before the season began. We were welcomed by what seemed a repeat of six years ago, the remnants of a hurricane from Mexico and a full moon.

The next few days were filled with rain, hail, sleet and snow. During the breaks in the weather we were able to get in some quality time hunting, but with all the effort harvesting an elk fell just a little short.

However, all was not lost, as we both saw some really nice mule deer, turkeys and I was quite close to a mother bobcat and her kittens as they came right by me.

We knew the elk were around and close as the trailcam pictures provided the proof; a bull and his harem smiling in the camera almost every morning around 4:00 AM. I wonder how they know!

I also had the opportunity to give one of the new Action Trackchairs a hearty work out. This chair gave me more mobility than I have ever had in the past. It handled well in some really rugged terrain and I found myself in some places that would have otherwise been inaccessible. The controls, after some practice and experimentation, were easy to use. The ride was really

quiet although be prepared for a bumpy ride. It stops quickly and turns a tight radius for its size and the tracks it operates on. The kid in me felt like I was driving a tank. These chairs are a great addition to the program and if you need or get the opportunity to use one don't pass it up.



Thanks go out to Terry Nelson and Dwaine Robey for helping me with the hunt and to Outdoor Buddies for another wonderful opportunity. Harvesting an elk wasn't in the stars this year, but the time out, away from all the worldly distractions, was well worth it.

Thank you Outdoor Buddies!

Stetson's First Hunt

By Shai and Bardfield

I would like to start off by thanking the wonderful people at Outdoor Buddies for making this happen. From the moment we heard about Outdoor Buddies, Stetson was so excited at the possibility of hunting an antelope. He studied hard and nearly aced his hunter safety exam, made sure he had all the required equipment and asked a thousand questions to make sure he was armed with all the knowledge he needed to be successful.

The night before the hunt, he could hardly sleep and was up and ready to go as soon as the alarm went off. The 3 hour drive up from Fort Carson seemed to fly by as we talked about the hunt. He was especially excited to be able to use the Action Track Stander (ATS).

As soon as we arrived we were greeted with warm smiles and hot coffee. We were introduced to our guide,

Dave. He works for the city of Fort Collins and is one of Outdoor Buddies hunting guides. We grabbed our gear, loaded up and set out looking for antelope.

Almost immediately, Dave led us to a great spot where we found a herd of about seven doe and one buck. As we closed the distance in the ATS, rather than pushing us away, the buck walked directly towards us to within 100 yards. I swear he knew nobody in the group had a buck tag.



As the day progressed, we came across several other herds, but never managed to get a clean shot off. After taking a shot at a herd grazing next to an old highway, we thought Stetson may have scored a hit because of the way the antelope jumped. We tracked the doe for about a mile and half and saw her fall over as she was playing with the buck.

At this point we were certain that Stetson had scored a hit and headed out to collect his prize. Apparently she had other plans. As we closed to within about 150 yards she decided she had rested long enough, jumped up and sprinted across and over the train tracks.

By the time we made it back to the truck, the ATS battery was a bit low and we were all getting hungry. Dave led us to a small compound in the middle of the ranch where we could plug in the chair before heading back to camp. As we pulled into the compound, we noticed a rather large herd of antelope just outside the gates. After dropping the trailer and plugging in the chair we started back to camp and notice the antelope had moved closer. We decided to see if could manage a shot before breaking for lunch.

As we closed in, our luck seemed to be changing. This group didn't seem to startle quite as easily as the others. We found a pair of does separated from the rest of the group and decided on the bigger of the two.

Stetson lined up his shot and slowly squeezed the trigger. As the doe sprinted off to the left, she must have startled another doe lying in the grass. The second doe jumped up, almost directly in front of him, broadside at 100 yards. Stetson reloaded and fired again.



This time there was no question. She jumped and ran for about 20 yards and then dropped like a rock. It was a clean shot through the heart and lungs.



After the obligatory pictures, Dave and I loaded up the doe in his truck and headed back to camp. Once again, we were blown away by how helpful and friendly the people from Outdoor Buddies are. They helped us clean and quarter the doe and she was in the cooler in less than an hour.

I also have to give special thanks to the folks at Reliable Big Game Processing, in Fort Collins. They processed our doe for free and did a fantastic job. I can't express my thanks and gratitude to the wonderful people and volunteers at Outdoor Buddies. They made this an unforgettable experience and created a lifelong love of hunting

My Bull Elk Hunt Experience in Colorado

By Sam Lomen

Hunting bull elk has been my dream for over thirty years. I have done small game hunting and even deer and wild pig hunting ever since I was in high school, but I considered elk and moose hunting out of my reach.

Twenty six years ago, due to an auto accident, I was left paralyzed from the waist down. Disability of this magnitude turned my life upside down and for a while I was busy trying to adjust to the fact of having to spend the rest of my life confined to a wheelchair. Being a born again Christian I did not give up hope that, even though physically challenged, by the grace of God I could live a full life.

After my rehabilitation, I started working again and started making short excursions into the great outdoors. With the help of family and friends I also started fishing, shooting, and a little later, hunting again.

A few years ago I started searching on the Internet to see if anyone was offering big game hunts for people with disabilities.

I found a site for Outdoor Buddies. I became a member and faithfully applied every year for an elk hunt.

During March of this year I received an e-mail from Larry Sanford informing me that I had been selected as one of the hunters for the upcoming fall elk hunt in Colorado. Words can't express my joy at a prospect of bull elk hunting in Colorado!

Our first day out my wife, Cindy, and I drove around with Larry in his truck glassing for elk and still hunting at various game trail intersections but we saw no elk.

That evening Larry suggested I hunt on an Action Trackchair in order to be able to get deeper into the woods without causing much noise and startling the game.

Earlier that same evening another hunter had shot a nice cow elk close to where we had been staked out and while Larry went to get the ATV and the trailer, the other hunter reported seeing two bulls approximately 500 yards down the hill.

The next morning we started out early while it was still dark and by the light of a flashlight, I transferred into the Trackchair. Then, with Larry by my side, we started down the hill.

We settled in the high grass with Aspen trees to our back and two clear cut lanes through the Aspen to our right and front. I adjusted the Caldwell rifle shooting rest on the Trackchair for my 300 Win Mag and we waited.

The morning was pretty cold and even though warmly clothed, I still shivered in the early breeze.

At approximately 8:00 o'clock the sun was still behind the mountain and from the corner of my left eye I noticed movement of two main beams of bull elk antlers. His head was down and I could not tell whether or not he

was legal. I whispered to Larry, "there's an elk" and he replied "well shoot him".



Once the bull lifted his head we could tell he was a nice big bodied 4x3. He was making his way down the hill to a clear cut lane just in front of us. I readied my rifle and followed him in my crosshairs until he came to a clearing approximately 100 yards in front of us and stopped.

He was looking around but did not detect us; I put the crosshairs just behind his shoulder and squeezed the trigger.

At the impact of the bullet against his side he momentarily buckled but recovered and took off like a freight train down the hill through the Aspens crashing through the brush and fallen logs.

As Larry was high fiving me I felt warm blood running down the side of my nose and from my right nostril. It seems this was as a result of the recoil from the 300 Win Mag. The Caldwell rifle rest had swung back a little farther than I expected and the scope took off some of the skin on the bridge of my nose and broke some vessels inside my nostril.

By this time Cindy came down from the truck and had some tissue with which we plugged up my nose.

Larry and Cindy went tracking the bull and in approximately fifteen minutes Cindy found him lodged against a fallen tree no more than 100 yards from where he was shot.

The Aspen grove was so thick that it took three men with an Arctic Cat over two hours to get the bull out by using every available means and tools we had. Once they finally brought him out I could see that he was a beauty.

The bullet penetrated through his body and punctured both lungs. As a friend of mine later stated the bull ran a

long dead run down the hill until he was stopped by a log.



Larry, Jeff, and Rob were a great help in gutting, skinning, and capping the elk. Cindy and I are very grateful to them. We are grateful to Outdoor Buddies for including us in the hunt and we also thank Peabody Energy for allowing us to hunt on their land.



This was a great hunt and the scenery was breathtaking! I have always wanted to hunt in the Aspens and now my wish came true. By the way, the Aspens in the fall are gorgeous!

From Larry Sanford:

Outdoor Buddies has two Action Trackstanders and an Action Trackchair that were donated by some awesome folks. These chairs are changing the lives of hunters with disabilities by allowing them to go places they could only dream about before.

I guided Sam Lomen on his first elk hunt. We talked about the action track chair and how he could drive it down the steep fire cut in the middle of a huge stand of aspens, mountain mahogany, wild roses and pine trees. This was a place that I previously had to tell our mobility-impaired hunters **"Man I wish I could get you down there!"**

Well, Sam not only drove himself down that hill over 300 yards, he also utilized the Caldwell Dead Shot shooting stand that Don Reid and I mounted on the track chair's foot base.

As you already know from Sam's story, he was able to shoot the bull at 80 yards without the elk even knowing we were there.

An able bodied hunter had gone ahead of us down the fire cut while Sam was transferring to the track chair which takes effort for a high paraplegic in the dark.

After Sam filled his tag with his bull the able bodied hunter came by and congratulated Sam for a great bull.

At that time, Sam was looked at as a hunter and not a disabled person. This was a hunt that Sam and his wife, Cindy, both enjoyed. Cindy was able to find his elk for him and be a part of his hunt!



That is one of the great things for which Outdoor Buddies is blessed to be a catalyst.

I am so very proud of the land owners and great volunteers that make this happen

Hunting Committee Report

By Larry Sanford

For the past several years, Outdoor Buddies has had the privilege of being invited by Garry Woodman to bring a few disabled antelope hunters to the Monaghan Ranch near Laramie, Wyoming.

The Wyoming hunting seasons and license regulations are different from those in Colorado; requiring significant lead time to complete the licensing process. Therefore we are asking that mobility-disabled persons interested in doing a Wyoming antelope hunt in 2015 or 2016 to let us know as soon as possible. The license fees for a non-resident buck license are approximately \$300 and for a doe approximately \$50. This will fill up fast so please contact us soon. They only allow us one buck per year but if we have great response they may add more buck slots!

Our elk hunts have started near Westcliffe and on the western slope. I had the pleasure of coordinating an **Outdoor Buddies elk hunt on Peabody Energy's coal mine** property near Oak Creek. We had mobility-impaired hunters from South Carolina, California, Nebraska and Colorado and volunteer helpers from North Dakota, Nebraska and Steamboat Springs, Craig and Loveland Colorado.

Opening day Robbie Hopkins was able to connect with his cow elk! Robbie is from South Carolina and was a great help after he harvested his elk even though his legs were hurting from his injuries, Thank you Robbie!

On the second day all of the hunters and helpers were spread out over 15,000 acres of elk country on land that had been open pit coal mined and then reclaimed with the best animal groceries they could ever want! I had the pleasure of helping Sam Lomen from California on his quest for his first elk! Sam and his wife, Cindy, were very **happy to be in the Rocky Mountains on Sam's Outdoor Buddies hunt. Please see Sam's story in this newsletter.**

Outdoor Buddies Upcoming Events Calendar

(Note: Shown below are currently scheduled events. Other activities will be scheduled as appropriate.)

Date	Event/Location	Description	Contacts
October 1 thru January 31	Elk and deer hunts in various Colorado locations.	Previously scheduled hunts will continue throughout the big game hunting seasons.	Larry Sanford (970) 663-7852 lpbusy@comcast.net
November 1 thru February 15	Waterfowl hunts in various northern Colorado locations.	Waterfowl hunts will be scheduled based on requests received from mobility disabled members.	Larry Sanford (970) 663-7852 lpbusy@comcast.net
November 12	Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors Meeting at CPW Denver Office located at 6060 Broadway.	Bi-monthly Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM. Visitors are welcome.	Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
January 1 thru March 15	Ice fishing in various Colorado locations.	Ice fishing events will be scheduled based on requests received from mobility disabled members.	Joe Arcese jfarcese@yahoo.com or Terry Nelson (303) 884-3266 terrencet_8@hotmail.com
January 15-18	International Sportsmen's Expo at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.	Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.	Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
April 11	Outdoor Buddies 2015 Banquet at the Westminster Westin Hotel located at 10600 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, Colorado.	Mark your calendar. Annual fundraiser banquet at the Westminster Westin. Tickets will go on sale in January.	Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org