



OUTDOOR BUDDIES NEWSLETTER

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organization with ColoradoGives.org. There is an article elsewhere in this newsletter which includes information about making donations to Outdoor Buddies through ColoradoGives.org.

Please feel free to contact me if you have ideas about improvements to your organization or if you are willing to serve on one of our committees or as an officer or Board member.

You can contact me at (719) 783-9044 or drobey@centurytel.net.

My Experience So Far – Thank You by Dylan Harrell, Outdoor Buddies Secretary

Executive Director's Comments by Dwaine Robey



The annual Outdoor Buddies pronghorn hunt at Meadow Springs Ranch was a howling success again this year. Outdoor Buddies President, Larry Sanford, did a great job of managing the hunt, even though very strong winds on Thursday through Saturday made it very difficult to get the check station tent set up and functioning.

We will provide more information about the pronghorn hunt in the next edition of the newsletter.

This is a very busy time for Larry and other Outdoor Buddies hunt coordinators. Larry is currently on assignment at Twentymile Mine assisting handi-buddies hunters there and I have been involved with the open house at Tarryall and deer and bear hunts in southern Colorado since returning from the Meadow Springs Ranch pronghorn hunt. We expect to remain busy with many hunts scheduled into February 2014.

We certainly need more volunteers who have the skills and inclination to help with finding additional hunting locations and performing as helper/guides for big game hunts for disabled hunters. Please let me know if you would like to get involved in that capacity!

Outdoor Buddies continues to grow. The increasing membership and increasing participation in our programs means increased need for finding additional properties for hunting and fishing activities. It also means increasing costs associated with providing our programs.

Please contact us if you know of landowners or land managers who might allow Outdoor Buddies to access their properties for hunting and/or fishing activities.

If you are able to contribute financially, we encourage you to do so. Outdoor Buddies is a registered nonprofit



I want to take a moment and thank everybody for their comments and welcoming me to the Board of Directors. Many have also offered their condolences as I assume the role of Secretary for the organization.

Being more involved with Outdoor Buddies has been great. Recently I've been able to attend the antelope hunt at Meadow Springs Ranch and also participate at the Tarryall open

house. Both events were great and I'm looking forward to meeting more members of Outdoor Buddies.

At Meadow Springs Ranch, I was fortunate enough to get to *guide* Mike and Tom Swezey. The father son combo was a lot of fun to be around. What could be better than hunting with your kids, even after they're all grown up?

What was even better was that the roles were sort of reversed. Mike and Tom are both able-bodied, but I, being the member in the wheelchair, took on the helper/guide role as I drove them around.

Eventually, we came up on a small herd of antelope and backed the truck up behind a hill so that Mike could get out and stalk them.

Big game hunting has become an "after-accident" thing to me, so I had never seen this done before. The patience and time it took for Mike to stalk the herd was awesome to watch. Tom and I had no idea where the antelope were over the hill, we could only see what Mike was doing.

Minutes later, we heard a pop. Mike had downed his doe. As Tom and I drove up to where Mike was, I witnessed something else that was new to me. The stalking and crawling around Mike had done left him picking cacti out of his legs, OUCH!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the field and at various events. Thanks again for welcoming me into the Outdoor Buddies family.

Outdoor Buddies and ColoradoGives.org



A program of Community First Foundation

There are stringent requirements for nonprofit organizations to be part of ColoradoGives; including being headquartered or providing services in Colorado, reporting at least \$50,000 in annual revenue or \$25,000 in net assets, possessing 501(c)(3) status and being registered and in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State.

Outdoor Buddies meets all requirements and you can support Outdoor Buddies through ColoradoGives.org.

Do you ever wonder where the money comes from to provide Outdoor Buddies programs? It doesn't come from the federal, state or local government.

It comes from the annual Outdoor Buddies fundraiser banquet, foundation grants, and donations from individuals.

So how do we get the funds we need? That's easy - through the financial support of people like you.

You can donate now by clicking on the link at the end of this article. We hope you will consider signing up for a recurring donation. A donation of \$5, \$10, or any amount per month, by members who have discretionary funds available, would be a great benefit to the organization.

Thank you in advance. We appreciate your support.

You can reach the Outdoor Buddies donation page at: <https://ColoradoGives.org/index.php?section=organizations&action=newDonation&fwID=36091>

Volunteers Needed!

by Todd Bacon

I hope all is well with you and your family and everybody has been enjoying some of the great opportunities that Outdoor Buddies has been providing.

It takes a lot of work to make these activities happen. I have talked with the manager at Sportsman's Warehouse in Thornton and he said that we can sell raffle tickets and banquet tickets there any weekends we want too.

I would love some help with this. The time slots will be 3 hours at a time, Saturdays and Sundays, starting in late November or early December. (As soon as we have raffle tickets available.)

We also have our fundraising banquet coming up on April 5th. If all of us pitch in, we can make this the best banquet ever.

Outdoor Buddies doesn't charge fees for all that they do for the members. There are many ways you, your family and friends can help keep Outdoor Buddies moving forward!

If you can help, please call me at 303-955-6363. Or send an Email message to toddbacon@live.com.

I look forward to working with you!

Thank You Outdoor Buddies!

by Stan Elzi

As a Colorado native growing up in rural America, I always had a passion for the outdoors and wildlife and a desire to hunt. Due to my upbringing and educational and professional obligations, I never experienced a big game hunt. Now as a father, my son has expressed the same passion. I had no idea where to start when along came a connection with Outdoor Buddies through Wally Hunt.

With Outdoor Buddies' guidance, my son, Aiden, and I participated in the Pronghorn hunt of October 2013. The experience was something we will cherish forever. Aiden harvested a beautiful doe. I cannot remember him ever more excited when he succeeded. When we got home, he wrote an essay on his hunt (I can't ever get him to do homework!). He contacted all family and friends to report his "trophy". He even promised to cook Mom breakfast with the antelope sausage being processed under his name.

We cannot express how grateful we are to our guides Randon and Rob. They were extremely knowledgeable and patient. When we finally succeeded, they were as excited and passionate as we were.



Stan and Aiden Elzi with Aiden's pronghorn.

Also, the game processing help was fantastic. With the help of Dave Thoms, we gained a true appreciation of where our meat comes from.

Aiden's comments:

I went on my first big game hunt today. My Dad and I wanted to go antelope hunting for a long time. We didn't know where to go until Mr. Wally Hunt told us about the Outdoor Buddies pronghorn hunt at Meadow Springs Ranch.

We went to area 9 by Ft Collins and the Wyoming state line.

We had to leave our house at 4am. We got to the area before sunrise. We signed up and met our guides, Randon and Rob.

My dad drove, but Randon and Rob showed me how to hunt. I missed my first shots because I was too excited. I learned that you stay calm and follow the herd

of whatever you are hunting. It isn't always easy on your first hunt.

Once you get your first shot fired, the next shots will come naturally. It took me two shots to get my first big game animal.

I also learned a lot after I shot the doe, Rob and Randon showed me how to field dress the animal and Dave showed me how to skin and quarter the meat.

We took the meat to a processor to make steak, hamburger, and sausage.

I enjoyed my hunting trip very much. The volunteers that work at Outdoor Buddies are good people.

I want thank everybody at Outdoor Buddies, especially Wally Hunt, Dave Thoms, Rob Adams, and Randon Fagley. Maybe we can go hunting again sometime,

Again, THANK YOU SO MUCH to Outdoor Buddies for such a fabulous experience. What a fantastic Mission!

We hope, in the future, to return the favor and feel the joy of hunting!

Thank You,
Stan & Aiden

My 2013 Pronghorn Hunt by Rich Cori

I was real excited about going on this hunt and started getting ready a couple of days before opening day. I packed all the basic stuff in my vehicle on Friday, I was up at 3:30 AM and ready when my hunting partner, Tim Hilden, showed up and finished loading, we were on the road by 5:00 AM.

The Thursday before opening day Larry Sanford called and said he set me up to be guided by Karl Watkins and said he would call on Friday to coordinate the details.

We arrived at the Outdoor Buddies check in station at 6:10 AM, filled out all the paper work and were introduced to Karl and his girls Jessica and Autumn; what a nice family.

Tim and I proceeded to load Karl's truck and figure out the best way to shoot from his truck. The set up was me in the passenger seat with Tim right behind me to range the pronghorn. With all that figured out we were on our way to the south end of the ranch. The wind was howling and gusting, it was going to be a tough hunt.

Karl is a calm methodical hunter. We moved along slowly looking for animals and this was successful; as we found a small herd early, but it did not have a large buck, so we continued on slow and easy. We spotted another herd that had two bucks in it. Karl maneuvered the truck around the terrain keeping out of site of the herd. We stopped and Karl said the herd should be just over the rise, discussing what approach we should take and I asked if it would be possible to get me to the top of the rise on foot and set up in a prone position for a good shot. They all said we could give it a try, understanding that I was going to need a lot of help, Jessica held my gun, and Tim helped support and balance me going up the hill while Karl and Autumn lead the way.

I was excited; this was the first time since my accident that I was able to sneak up and stalk some game. As we reached the top of the rise we were actually closer than we thought; at about 80 yard in front of us was a doe looking right at us. The wind was at our back

and we were busted and they took off like a bat out of hell. With the coordinated effort of all these people I was able to have this experience, possibly one of the best of the hunt, I had actually made it up the hill and it did not matter that I did not get a shot, this was hunting.

Karl went and got the truck and we started looking again slow and easy for some more pronghorn. We spotted the two herds we had pushed joining quite a distance away from us so we started closing the distance. We noticed what we thought was a good size buck with them.

The chase was on! We slowly closed the distance again, but we could not get closer than 500 or 600 yards. They spooked and took off, but we did not see the big buck go with them. So we very slowly continued in the direction the herd went.

Then, unexpectedly, we saw the good size buck walking toward us, Tim was calling off the yardage; 350 yards, 300 yards, 275 yards and at 257 yards the buck walked into my sites. For a split second it stopped and I shot, holding on the front of the shoulder because of the cross wind.

I hit it!

The animal stopped and I then put another round in it and it went to the ground. We were on the opposite side of a fence so Tim took my rifle and crossed the fence to make sure it did not move as Karl looked for a way to the other side of the fence, when we got there we picked up Tim and approach the buck for a broadside finishing shot.



Rich with his nice pronghorn buck!

You have to know, as an engineer, I was curious about how my shot had moved so much, so using the Nikon Spot On Ballistic calculator; I determined the wind must have been better than 45 mph because the drift on my first shot was about 24 inches at 257 yards.

I have to say that on my first buck hunt with Larry Sanford two years ago I was trying for a neck shot and the buck turned toward me and I shot his lower face off. Ironically, as you can imagine with the cross wind, this buck was shot in the rear end, maybe the next time I will get it right. However, this is the best buck I have harvested to date and I am happy.

I can't say enough about Outdoor Buddies and the people with me on my hunt, Tim my long time hunting partner, Karl and his two beautiful daughters. Thank you for making my hunt so memorable.

Chances Are.....Part 2 by Darrell "Doc" Bowen

After spending a long and windy night in a truck, it was once again time to try for another pronghorn at Meadow Springs Ranch.

I was fortunate to draw a tag at Meadow Springs again this year. I arrived at the ranch with my hunting partner for this year, George Carter, and his friend, Scott, as our able-buddy. We arrived at about 11pm Friday night.

As I stated earlier, it was cold and very windy there. There were already a good number of hunters at the check in location.

As daylight approached we gathered ourselves, and prepared for the upcoming adventure.

With George's knowledge of the ranch (and a map) we headed west from the check in station. After passing through a gate, we proceeded to a water tank where George thought we might spot some pronghorns. After glassing the area for a while George spotted a buck about two hundred yards out. We glassed for does with him, but didn't see any.

Another vehicle with hunters came in behind us and saw what we were doing and they spotted the buck. They circled around behind us and moved farther west. About this time the buck started moving across the ridge in front of us and walked to the top of the ridge. The other vehicle spotted him and took their shot. One buck down.

We drove over to where they were, and visited with them for a few minutes, and then continued along the road that continued west on the other side of the ridge. We didn't spot anything for a while. We came to a fence that marked some private land and I spotted three white rumps ahead of us in the field they were in. Our stopping spooked them and they headed up the ridge to our right (a buck and two does).

I should say at this point that George and I had doe tags. George thought that he knew where they would probably come out and we headed in that direction. We got there just as they came over another ridge toward us. However, we couldn't get in a position to take a shot. Again, we estimated where they were headed and went in that direction. Suddenly, the two does appeared to our left on the ridge. I said "I'll take the one on the left", George said "I'll take the one on the right", Scott said "On three".

1, 2, 3, George and I both fired together; Scott exited the truck and ran up the hill to see if we had scored a kill. Scott raised his right arm to indicate that George had his animal down, and looked to his left where my animal would be. He raised his arm again. Two simultaneous shots. Two pronghorns down.



Darrell Bowen with his pronghorn.

Again, I thank the good Lord for allowing me the chance, and Outdoor Buddies for giving me the place. I also want to thank George Carter and his friend Scott for allowing me to go along with them for this hunt.

Tarryall Open House by Kathy Shears

The initial idea to have an open house at the Outdoor Buddies bunkhouse was to introduce some of the property owners/managers in the South Park area to our organization. We had hopes that we might gain access to more hunting and fishing properties in that part of the state. We also wanted to make people aware that the campground is available for groups who might be interested.

Anne Slubowski, a Fairplay resident and new Outdoor Buddies member, contacted some property owners and also hung posters about the open house around the town of Fairplay. Wally Hunt also hung posters at some of the businesses, and Terry Nelson and I contacted some of the businesses and property managers in the area.

We also met with Tom Locke, who is the editor of The Flume, the newspaper that serves the South Park area. Mr. Locke wrote an article about Outdoor Buddies and the open house, which was published in the October 4th edition of The Flume.

Randy Olson, Terry Nelson and Darrell Bowen got donations from some grocery stores in the Denver metropolitan area, which made it possible for us to

provide brats, hotdogs, and all the “fixins”, chips, pop, and water to all who attended.

Anne showed up early and helped get everything organized in the bunkhouse while Terry, Dwaine and Randy set everything up outside.



Some of the helpers.

Thanks to Randy (with a little help from London, his service dog) the brats and hotdogs were delicious and thoroughly enjoyed by all (including London.)



Randy; the master chef.

Anne’s husband, Dave, brought his “world famous” baked beans, which were a hit with everyone.

Of course, with the date of the open house being October 12, the weather was of concern, however, it

turned out to be an absolutely gorgeous Colorado fall day.

Anne’s son, Ryan, and two of his friends, did a rock climbing demonstration.



Rock climbing demonstration.

Many people, including Emily and Sean (Darrell’s granddaughter and her husband) enjoyed the archery. Darrell’s great grandson, Justin, was quite the little trooper, and the bean bag throw game was Avery Harrell’s favorite. (Just a little cheating was allowed.)



Bean bag toss game.

Of course, Dwaine, who came all the way from Westcliffe, was the first to arrive and Larry Sanford attended, in spite of having just finished an exhausting week coordinating antelope hunts at Meadow Springs Ranch. Dylan Harrell, his wife, Sherri and their beautiful children, Avery and Ivy, drove right past the bunkhouse without noticing the open house and Outdoor Buddies

signs. To quote Dylan "We were looking at the lake". They ended up stuck in road construction for quite some time. While waiting, Dylan met a gentleman who might be a great contact for Outdoor Buddies (sometimes what seems to be a huge mistake, works out to be a huge benefit.)

Larry Jones, his wife Caroline and some of their family (Alec, Kim, Stephen, Kris and Anthony) also seemed to have a good time. Caroline was a huge help when it came time to clean everything up and call it a day.



Larry demos the crossbow.

Jim piper, camera at the ready, kept busy taking pictures of everyone. Jim Peterson kept busy trying to hurry me up to get the food set up. (He was not just hungry.... He had to go to work.)



An archery lesson.



Yea; I hit the target!



Chewin' the fat!

Even though we didn't make as many new contacts in the area as we had hoped, it seemed that everyone had fun, enjoyed the food and the good company. Thanks to all who attended.

Get on the Fishing Email List!!

by Joe Arcese

Sometimes we have fishing opportunities that come up at the last minute, and there is not time to put the date in the Newsletter

Please send me your email address if you would like to be notified about future fishing dates, and I will let you know whenever we have one.

This includes both Handi-Buddies and Able-Buddies who are interested in participating in fishing events.

Also, please contact me if you have a good fishing spot and maybe we can set up a fishing date there.

Please contact me via Email at jfarcese@yahoo.com

Can we Email your Newsletter?

We prefer to distribute the Outdoor Buddies Newsletter via Email rather than using the Postal Service.

Using the Postal Service requires that we print copies of the newsletter, print and apply address labels to envelopes, and pay postage for mailing each copy.

All that adds up to considerable manual labor and expense compared to virtually no cost for sending the newsletter via Email.

If you are receiving your newsletter via the Postal Service and are able to receive it via Email please let us know.

Please notify us by sending an Email message, including your name, saying "Please send my newsletter via Email to: "(Your email address)".

Send your Email message to drobey@centurytel.net.

Thank you for your help!

Outdoor Buddies Membership Cards

Outdoor Buddies used to issue membership cards to our members. Several years ago, this policy was discontinued.

Recently, it was suggested that membership cards be made available to Outdoor Buddies members in order to identify themselves to businesses that may offer discounted prices on merchandise to Outdoor Buddies members. In addition, a membership card may be useful for verifying Outdoor Buddies membership to landowners who allow access to their properties for our members.

Since not all members need a membership card, Outdoor Buddies will produce membership cards for members on a "by request only" basis.

If you wish to have an Outdoor Buddies membership card, please send an Email message requesting a membership card to Dwaine Robey at drobey@centurytel.net.

Firearms and Other Stuff

by Bill Baker

Outdoor Buddies member, Bill Baker, is a gunsmith and shooting enthusiast with a lot of experience with

firearms. I am a gunsmith and firearms advisor volunteering my services to Outdoor Buddies members.

I will help, at no charge, handi-buddies who may need assistance with keeping their firearms clean and in good working order.

If you would like to talk with me about getting his help, please contact me at 719-942-3027.

I express my thanks to Hyskore Professional Shooting Accessories (631-673-5975). This great company has donated a Deluxe Premier Shooting Rest for use by Outdoor Buddies. Thanks so much Hyskore!



As a professional, I have decided to endorse CZ Arms exclusively.



They have been in business since 1936, in one form or another. They are now called CZ-USA. I personally own several CZ firearms, the oldest dating back to 1939. These weapons are rugged, reliable, well-built and downright "the best bang for the buck".

There are several firearm sellers and dealers who have agreed to give Outdoor Buddies members a discount from the MSRP listings. Please stop by or contact the following:

Pueblo West Guns and Ammo. They carry all brands, types, and platforms, and they are my personal CZ-USA dealer. 719-644-9483

Bighorn Canyon Trading Post LLC. John and Gwenda Sterle carry all brands, types, and platforms. 719-539-8577

Basalt Firearms LLC. They carry all brands, types, and platforms. 970-279-5128

American Hunting and Firearms Services. Marc Steinke carries all brands, types, and platforms and he is a Browning dealer. 719-207-4285

Plains Firearms. Gregg M. Keeton is a dealer for EMF Company and Cimarron Firearms. 303-366-2370

On behalf of Outdoor Buddies, our thanks go to these companies for their support of our organization!

Outdoor Buddies Upcoming Events Calendar

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
October 1 through 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 or Dwayne Robey (719) 783-9044 drobey@centurytel.net
November 1 through February 10	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 Craig Hospital.	Bi-monthly Board Meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Visitors are welcome	Dwayne Robey (719) 783-9044 drobey@centurytel.net
January 1 through 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
December 3	Outdoor Buddies Banquet Committee Meeting at Craig Hospital.	Banquet planning meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Volunteers are welcome.	Dwayne Robey (719) 783-9044 drobey@centurytel.net
January 16-19	International Sportsmen's Expo at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.	Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.	Dwayne Robey (719) 783-9044 drobey@centurytel.net
April 5	Outdoor Buddies 2014 Banquet at The Wildlife Experience in south Denver.	<u>Mark your calendar.</u> Annual banquet at The Wildlife Experience. Tickets will go on sale in January.	Dwayne Robey (719) 783-9044 drobey@centurytel.net
May 17	Armed Forces Day Outdoor Buddies Community Appreciation Day in Westcliffe.	Family day honoring wounded warriors and all military service members and veterans. There will be free admittance, free food, and lots of games and demonstrations. Everyone is welcome!	Dwayne Robey (719) 783-9044 drobey@centurytel.net