



NEWSLETTER

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Contents

- 1 - Executive Director's Comments
- 2 - Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors
- 2 - Outdoor Buddies Publishing Information and Mission Statement
- 2 - President's Corner
- 3 - Thank You to Cabela's
- 4 - Bear Hunt
- 5 - A Thank You from Tony Hodges
- 5 - Thanks for a Great Hunt
- 5 - Meadow Springs Ranch 2015
- 6 - My Antelope Hunt - Peter Harper
- 8 - Upcoming Events Calendar

Executive Director's Comments ~ By Dwaine Robey



Outdoor Buddies continues to grow with new members registering continually. So this is a good time to provide some basic information about our organization.

Outdoor Buddies was founded in 1984 by representatives of Craig Hospital and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Originally, the organization focused on a need to find therapeutic recreational opportunities for patients who had suffered debilitating spinal cord injuries.

Through the years, Outdoor Buddies has expanded its programs to assist mobility-disabled persons from all walks of life and has implemented a youth program. The organization has experience consistent growth and currently has 865 registered members residing in 39 states. Approximately 2/3 of the members are disabled persons, while the remaining 1/3 are volunteers. About 85% of the members reside in Colorado. The non-resident members are primarily interested in coming to Colorado for big game hunts.

Our organization provides four basic programs for which we are seeking general operating support.

- [Hunting Programs for Mobility-Disabled Persons](#)
- [Fishing Programs for Mobility-Disabled Persons](#)
- [Wounded Warriors Support Activities](#)
- [Youth Program](#)

A definition of these basic programs can be found on the Outdoor Buddies website at www.outdoorbuddies.org

As year-end draws nearer many of us are considering making tax-deductible donations to our favorite charitable organizations. Here are a couple of suggestions if you are considering making a donation to Outdoor Buddies to help offset expenses for our programs.

A great way to make donations is via the Colorado Gives website. ColoradoGives.org is a year-round, online giving website featuring over 1,700 Colorado nonprofit organizations. ColoradoGives.org encourages charitable giving by providing comprehensive, objective and up-to-date information about Colorado nonprofits and an easy way to support them online. All of the charities on ColoradoGives.org are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and the Secretary of State and are in good standing. Donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent permitted by law. You can make your donation to Outdoor Buddies online at:

<https://www.coloradogives.org/outdoorbuddies/overview>.

You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation via this website.

Another good way to make a tax-deductible donation to Outdoor Buddies is through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation's annual Spirit Campaign in December. That way, the Foundation will match a portion of your donation. If you wish to do so, please use the donation form that will be included in the November and December newsletters.

Please let me know if you have ideas about improvements or if you are willing to serve on one or more of our committees or as an officer or board member. You can contact me at (719) 783-9044 or dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org.

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
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Dylan Harrell
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Todd Bacon
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303-916-8955

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719-580-6366

Daniel Brown
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Vice President Elect
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Jim Piper
Director
303-932-1209

Gerald Robinson
Director
303-949-4267

Gina Robinson
Treasurer Elect
303-619-4683

Outdoor Buddies Newsletter Publisher: **Outdoor Buddies, Inc.**

Co-Editors: **Dwaine Robey and Chris Bardfield**

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 members are encouraged to submit input for the newsletter.

Submitted newsletter input by the 15th of each month to be included in that month’s newsletter.

**Please send newsletter input via E-mail to:
dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org**

President’s Corner

By: Larry Sanford



What a great pronghorn hunt we had! Or should I say “What great pronghorn hunts we are having”?

We have finished the October 3-9 hunting season with a total of fifty-five pronghorns being harvested. However, Outdoor Buddies is still scheduled to conduct several late season pronghorn hunts for disabled hunters and Youth Outreach pronghorn hunts for twelve youth hunters during November and December. We really enjoy the opportunity to help young hunters get started in the sport of hunting.



We are now heavily involved with fall deer and elk hunts. I am currently in the Steamboat Springs area coordinating elk hunts at the Twentymile Mine property. Hopefully, the hunters involved here will have some good stories for future Outdoor Buddies newsletters.



I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the rules pertaining to Outdoor Buddies sponsored big game hunts.

1. Participants must be registered members of Outdoor Buddies.
2. Hunters must possess a "WILDLIFE RECREATION ACCOMMODATION PERMIT", issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).
3. Participants are expected to provide their own transportation to/from and during the hunt, unless other arrangements are made in advance, and pay personal expenses including required licenses. Outdoor Buddies will provide a location to hunt and an able-bodied helper/guide.
4. Hunts are scheduled for the disabled hunter and one companion only.
5. Outdoor Buddies cannot afford to be responsible for transportation, food, or lodging.

Please be aware of these rules and any deviation from these rules must be approved and coordinated with Outdoor Buddies well in advance of the hunt.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

God bless!

Thank You to Cabela's

Cabela's

Mr. Nicholas Filler is the Marketing Manager at the Cabela's Store located in Thornton. Nick volunteered to help out at the annual pronghorn hunt at Meadow Springs Ranch this year.

He did just that; and brought along a few of his fellow Cabela's staff to join in the fun.

Nick and his band of volunteers proved to be excellent guides and proficient at field dressing and processing harvested animals.

They were assigned to help a disabled hunter, Garald (Gary) Chambers from Littleton.

Gary has had a full hip replacement and uses a walker to get around. He expressed great appreciation for the help and companionship he had from Nick and his crew!



Bear Hunt

By Dylan Harrell

Growing up in Colorado, I always knew there were quite a few bears around, but I had never really seen any. In all my years of hunting and enjoying the outdoors, I think I had seen maybe 3 of them in the wild and so the idea of hunting them had crossed my mind only briefly. The only opportunity I had ever had was when a nice black bear came about 15 yards from me while I sat in my wheelchair in a blind during archery season. That year, I did not have a bear tag and made the assumption if I ever did, I'd probably never see another bear.

All of this changed in early September when an opportunity arose for me to participate in a bear hunt through Outdoor Buddies. I've been volunteering with the organization for a few years now and this is the first time that I recall having the chance to hunt for bear.

Early September, one Tuesday morning, I got an email asking if I was aware of any disabled hunters who would be interested and also be able to go in the next few days. Without knowing all the details, I threw my hat in the ring. Typically, I get so busy with work and family and volunteering that I don't actually take part in the Outdoor Buddies hunts. By Wednesday evening, Dwaine Robey and I were on the road to southern Colorado to see what we could find.

We arrived Wednesday evening and met with Kenn, the ranch manager. He showed me where we'd be hunting and with an hour or so of daylight left, we setup to get familiar with the spot. Low and behold, in that last hour of the day, we saw our first bear. He was off in the distance about 350

yards. Having practiced quite a bit with the rifle I was using, I put the cross hairs on and judged the distance. Focusing hard, I put more and more pressure on the trigger until it fired. DUST, right behind the bear! Bummer, I had spent so much effort and thought on the distance, that I forgot to judge leading the slow pace he was walking. At that distance, it was enough to miss. That was it, I thought. That was my one chance and I blew it.

As hunting goes, we went to bed and got up before dawn on Thursday. Within the first hour of shooting light, we saw our first bear. It was a different one than the night before, but he was off in the same area as the night before, with the water tank right behind. I'd been warned not to shoot the tank, so I waited. He disappeared, not to be seen again. AGAIN! I thought, that was going to be it and I would not get any other chances. Less than an hour later, I heard some branches snapping. Despite the sounds, I couldn't see anything. These sounds continued and then not long later, a brown head appeared to be sticking out of the scrub oak, about 175 yards down in front of Dwaine and me. We watched for a while and at one point this bear had her whole upper body, shoulders and all, out the top of the oak. Part of bear hunting is being sure that there are no cubs around, so we continued to wait since the oak was so dense. Moments later, she appeared out of the oak, walking into a clearing. To this point, we had still not seen any cubs so I took a shot. Bang, I knew I hit her, but she took off running. Dwaine waited a bit and then went to look for her. He found her not 20 yards from where

I shot, but she had dropped in some oak out of our sight.

After finding her, Dwaine came and got me and we went down together to retrieve the bear.



I spent about three hours on the ground that day, skinning the harvest and taking care of the meat.



It was an awesome experience and I thank Dwaine for the opportunity and the help. Kenn was also a GREAT host. Since we got her so early in the day, I got to spend some time afterward getting to know Kenn. That really is what made the hunt so much better and why I love this recreation. It's not always just about the harvest!

A Thank You From Tony Hodges

As you know I am visually impaired and I want to thank Outdoor Buddies for allowing me to hunt at Meadow Springs Ranch this year.

Even with my visual impairment I was able to get my 1st pronghorn.

I want to thank Larry Sanford and Dylan Harrell for helping me get the right forms in so that I could take part in the hunt. Special thanks also to Dan Eaton and Rich Jarmul. Dan told me about Outdoor Buddies and got me involved. He also helped me get to the range so that I could qualify for the hunt. Rich went on the hunt with us and helped me by directing my gun in the right direction so that I could find the pronghorn in my scope.

Thank you all again,
Lou (Tony)
Hodges

Thanks for a Great Hunt!

By Dan Brown

I want to thank everyone who had a part in the Meadow Springs Ranch pronghorn hunt. From my observation, everyone greatly enjoyed the experience, their involvement and their hunt. I want to especially thank Larry Sanford for all his dedication and hard work in putting this event together and making sure that everything went according to plan (much of it done without his truck which is no easy task). Thanks Larry!

I greatly enjoyed helping handi-buddies with their hunts. What a thrill for me. Congratulations to them for being there and having a successful hunt.

My stay in the Brown Palace (our new Wells Cargo enclosed trailer) was most enjoyable, all the comforts of home.

My hunt too was successful and most enjoyable with my expert guide and driver Jim Piper. He is the best guide ever and was never lost, not even for a moment!

Thanks again to everyone who helped make this a rewarding experience.

Meadow Springs Ranch 2015

By Darrell Bowen

Once again the hunting Gods smiled on me. On October 3rd, 2015 I was again fortunate to get to hunt pronghorns at Meadow Springs Ranch. This year, with the assistance of Outdoor Buddies board member Dan Brown I was able to get to and hunt for another pronghorn.

Our hunt started slow, but the action soon picked up as more and more animals started appearing in the area we had chosen to hunt. After cruising around for a while we saw a buck with four does to our left. The does stopped and the buck continued on.

It looked like a good opportunity for me to get a shot. Dan estimated the range to be around 350 yards. I fired one shot and the doe just stood there. I fired a second round and the other does walked away and the one I shot just stood there. By the way she acted we figured she had been hit. She moved away a short distance and lay down. This is usually an indication it was hit. After watching her for a short time, Dan thought it would be a good idea to approach her and see if she got up or was alive.

Dan kept glassing her for signs of movement. He told me later that she was moving her head around and looked like she might try to get up. Because we, as disabled hunters, have a track and dispatch accommodation on our license, Dan put her down.

This year is the first time I have stayed in camp for several days. Dan and I helped take out other hunters on Sunday and Monday. I was especially pleased while being in camp when new and young hunters returned with their first pronghorn. It made me very glad that I am a member of Outdoor Buddies. Also, I am pleased to say, that next year, if able, I will do the same thing again (help in camp), if needed.

Once again thank you Outdoor Buddies!

My Antelope Hunt – October 2015

By Peter Harper

Editor's note:

Peter is a 20 year old double amputee who lives in Colorado. Born in Russia and adopted as a baby, Peter was born with a spinal defect. With no use of his lower limbs Peter, at age 14, decided it would be better to have an amputation. Peter enjoys video games, has his own sit ski, has sky dived and works as a security officer. He enjoys driving his convertible Mustang.

Under the Outdoor Buddies program I had a special and unique opportunity for an antelope hunt in northern Colorado. Only my second hunt, this one proved to be unusual and unique.

Right from the beginning my time under the Outdoor Buddies program was like no other. With my older brother Brad and my Dad, we drove out on a Friday evening to check things out.

It was a little rainy and cool, but we were greeted by fellow hunters with warm hellos and smiles. Dwaine Robey, Outdoor Buddies Executive Director, was on site and met us right away. We soon met Larry Sanford who I like to think of as the "Hunt Master" for the camp. We felt so welcome, like we had known them for years.

My brother, my Dad and I returned bright and early Saturday morning. A few hunters had already checked in and were gone. We were given a map of the area and some suggestions where we might go. Although a guide was available we opted to go it alone. (My brother Brad has been big game hunting for years and we liked the chance to explore a little).

After a hardy "good luck" from the Outdoor Buddies staff, we were off and in the field by 7:30am; not early but early enough. It did not take long to realize that finding antelope would not be a problem.

Many hunters (by the way, the number of hunters was limited so crowding would not be an issue) went one way to some open and flat country, Antelope Flats they called the area. But we hung a bit closer to the rolling hills. A couple of other hunters were in the area. Soon we spotted antelope. Normally they stood off about 800 to 1000 yards on the hills and ridges. As you know these critters have some great eye sight and it doesn't take long for them to spook and run at the slightest human presence. I had a buck license and bucks were there busy with the does.

Around 8:00am we spotted a very unique buck about 700 yards off on the hill. Looking at this buck

something weird appeared to be on his head. "What in tar nation", was the big question at the moment. Brad took a look through his spotting scope. The buck's horns went out flat to the right and left instead of up as a normal buck would have. Freaky! He finally ran off up and over the hill. We named him "Floppy" because he looked like a floppy eared rabbit. Later we heard that some folks in the area called him Flat Top.



Well we continued hunting but elsewhere. Antelope were spotted here and there. Some were over the fence line close but in the No Hunting area; some out a distance and some caused us to pause and think. "Can we take a shot?" We had heard shots that morning so we knew others were being successful. We weren't concerned. At this point we were looking for opportunities to shoot from the truck which I am licensed to do. We finally ended up in the same location where we had seen Floppy. We decided to sit quiet for a bit and scope the hills for movement.

After a time, I saw an antelope come slowly over the ridge. It was the same buck we saw earlier in the day, Floppy. We sat quiet in the truck, waiting. I placed the rifle over the truck window to wait and be ready. Slowly the buck moved down the hillside and sideways along the ridge. He was coming our way. Would he keep coming or would he move sideways along the ridge and disappear behind the hills? We continued to sit and watch.

To our surprise the buck settled down and lay in the grass. It was getting to be that time of day when the antelope begin to lay down for day. There he sat, looking our way about 500 yards out. Well what should we do? The distance was too long of a shot for me and a buck lying down makes even a smaller target. After a bit of a discussion we decided a stalk might be an option. Moving the truck ahead and out of view of the buck we gathered our gear. We really wanted to try to close the gap to under 300 yards if we could; 200 yards preferably. We had a small ridge to climb and at the top we knew we would become exposed to the buck. I'm a double amputee so our little trek was going to be more difficult. Brad put me on his back and my Dad grabbed the rifle and backpack. Off we went up the hill. Near the top we stopped and crouched.

Off to our left was the buck, still quiet. Brad ranged him at 385 yards; still too far.

We began to crawl on our bellies, Brad with the rifle and Dad with the backpack. Our crawl was over grass and cactus but we finally were able to another hundred yards. This all took a while as the crawl was slow. The buck was still there and unconcerned it seemed. Another 30 yards and we were good. We laid the backpack out to be used as a rest for the rifle. With rifle in hand I laid there quiet and ready. We wanted to see if the buck would stand up; a better target. It appeared he was there for the duration.

I took my shot. Hit! He tried to stand but fell over. He was not going anywhere I was sure but he continued to move a little. Giving him a few moments I wanted to be sure he would not get up. He was down for sure but a second shot was needed.



Peter with Dad (Larry) and brother (Brad).



Peter with his buck "Floppy".

This was my first stalk. It was exciting and well worth the effort. The patience and calm proved to be a successful combination for my hunt. I'm glad I had the chance for this hunt and thanks to Outdoor Buddies it will be a great memory. "Floppy is being mounted and I am sure the question I will often hear is, "What in tarnation?"

Following are more pictures from Peter's hunt.



Brad and Peter with Brad's buck.



Larry and Peter with Larry's doe.

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>
September 1 thru November 9	Dove hunts near Watkins, Colorado.	Dove hunts will be scheduled on an as needed basis. Contact Al Montoya for hunt dates.	Al Montoya (303) 296-4610 agmontoya@q.com
October 1 thru January 31	Deer, elk, and pronghorn hunts in various Colorado locations.	Previously scheduled hunts will continue throughout the big game hunting seasons.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com
November 18	Outdoor Buddies Board Meeting at Colorado Parks and Wildlife facilities located at 6060 Broadway, Denver.	Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM. Visitors are welcome.	Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
January 14-17	International Sportsmen's Expo at the Colorado Convention Center.	Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.	Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
April 23	Outdoor Buddies 2016 Banquet at the Omni Interlocken Hotel located at 500 Interlocken Blvd., Broomfield, CO.	Mark your calendar. Annual fundraiser banquet at the Omni Interlocken Hotel. Tickets will go on sale in January.	Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
June 11	Outdoor Buddies Family Day at Swift Ponds. Everyone is welcome!	There will be free admittance, free food, and lots of fishing, shooting, games and demonstrations.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com
July 30	2016 Golf Tournament Green Valley Ranch Golf Course	The format for the tournament is a scramble with a shotgun start. The entry fee includes cart, range balls, silent auction, prizes, lunch buffet, contests, and lots of fun.	Dustin Robey (303)845-0423 dustin@midwestfloors.com
August 6	Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Event at Colorado Clays.	All day fundraiser event at Colorado Clays LLC 13600 Lanewood Street Brighton, Colorado	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com or Michael Sabbeth 720-839-7264 michaelsabbeth@ymail.com