



NEWSLETTER

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The 2017 Outdoor Buddies Antelope Hunt Shows Community and Character

By Michael G. Sabbeth

The 2017 Outdoor Buddies antelope hunt was on a private ranch just south of the Wyoming border. For years the landowners have donated its access for antelope hunting. By 8:00 Saturday morning, several disabled hunters had been strapped into highly sophisticated battery-powered machines that are self-propelled chairs on steroids, with tank-like treads, a wheel on each of two bars that extend in the front and two in the rear to stabilize the machine that enables it to navigate up and down hills as steep as forty-five degrees without tipping over forward or backward. The seat can elevate the shooter to a full standing position. An adjustable gun mount can be affixed on either side of the handlebar.



I signed in with Diane Dudley and Penny Sanford, wife of Larry Sanford, president of the organization, and was given a numbered flag to place on the window of my car to indicate I had registered. The darkness that had covered the northern Colorado plains like a shroud had lifted, now boasting a cold gray light. Hunters and volunteers, some having arrived as early as four in the morning, were navigating gentle hills and flat terrain in pickups identifiable only by their headlamps. A chilly wind slashed across the plains like an angered predator, penetrating clothing as if it were an iced dagger. The snow-capped Rocky Mountains to the west gained definition as did the traffic on Interstate 25 to the east, presenting a surreal hunting landscape of mountains, hills, plains and thousands of cars and trucks.

The Heart of the Outdoor Buddies Hunt

It is easy to be compassionate but compassion unaccompanied by virtuous action is mere self-indulgence and morally worthless. Outdoor Buddies enables disabled people and their volunteers to take action. As Executive Director Dwaine Robey says, "The point of rehabilitation is to DO something. We offer that to disabled people and we need people to help us do those 'somethings' with them."

Dwaine's path to involvement with Outdoor Buddies is a study of the soul and character of the volunteers and the disabled shooters. Dwaine became involved when his high school friend and hunting buddy, Don Young, was severely injured in a Kansas oil field accident. After learning of Outdoor Buddies from an article in Colorado Outdoors Magazine, Dwaine contacted Don to get him involved in hunting. Sam Andrews, head of therapeutic recreation at Craig Hospital, involved the hospital in Don's rehabilitation.

Don trained to shoot and efficiently exit his modified vehicle. When Don was able to hunt, they hunted elk in Estes Park, Colorado. The local Holiday Inn allowed its room to be fitted to accommodate Don's hospital bed and other accessories.

That hunt was unsuccessful but, persisting, the next year Don got a cow elk. Don's success must rightly be viewed as a community effort. Sadly, Don succumbed to infection the following year. Don never lost his sense of humor, Dwaine told me, and always had a smile. Don is illustrative of the character of these severely disabled hunters, and that character inspired Dwaine, among others, not only to be grateful for their own blessings but also to commit to the noblest behavior: selflessly doing good for others. Dwaine became director of Outdoor Buddies in 2004.

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Volunteer Corner

By Dan Brown, Volunteer Committee

Persons interested in volunteering for any of the upcoming Outdoor Buddies events please contact Dan Brown at 843-816-0901 or fk15pts@yahoo.com.



My First Hunt in North America

This was my fourth hunt volunteering but the first year drawing a license, a doe tag, making this my first hunt in North America. Saturday afternoon a guide, aptly named Craig Hunter, was available to take me and my friend, Rob Anderson, to hunt. CZ-USA had provided me with a 557 Sporter in 6.5 x 55 Swedish. Fiocchi USA donated boxes of 140 grain SST ammunition, which produced one-inch groups at one hundred yards. Leupold generously donated a 3 x 9 power scope.

After half an hour or so of driving, we found a trio of antelope half a mile away. Craig maneuvered his vehicle so that we were within about three hundred yards, but perpendicular to the aggressive wind. I urged driving west and then turn north to try to get closer. Rob cautioned we might spook the animals. “Spook!” I blurted. “With that crosswind they might as well be on the New Jersey Turnpike! I’m not taking that shot! What do we have to lose?”

We drove until Craig stopped the truck about one hundred twenty yards from the animals. A large doe stood. The wind was directly behind me.

I exited the vehicle with my rifle; bipod attached, and took careful aim. To pull or not to pull the trigger? That is the question. For that brief moment, the world is reduced to a small patch of hide. All the hours at the range are invested for this one moment—firing the most ethical shot possible. I fired.

The antelope took a dozen steps and it was over. Then the careful dressing and tagging and returning to camp.

Volunteers and Disabled Hunters

Sharing the words of the hunters and the volunteers is, I believe, the most impacting way for me to communicate the character and honor of the participants and the significance of this hunt. The range of disabilities varied among the hunters. Some were able to walk or move their upper bodies but with difficulty. Others’ disabilities were more severe.

I reunited with Stetson Bardfield, one of the most extraordinary human beings I’ve had the honor to meet. I met him in 2014 on his first Outdoor Buddies antelope hunt, also on this property. A handsome young man with the face of a Raphael angel, he is afflicted by an extremely rare congenital birth defect, causing deformed arms and hands and no legs.

I have met him several times and have never seen him without a smile or heard him utter a word of self-lament. His character tickles heaven.

He has been successful on each of his four hunts, the first time, 2014, getting an antelope using my CZ rifle, the rifle I successfully used this day. On this hunt he shot his dad’s .270 Weatherby Magnum, customized in many ways, including an inlay in the stock of a Blackhawk helicopter, the helicopter his dad flies for the United States Army.

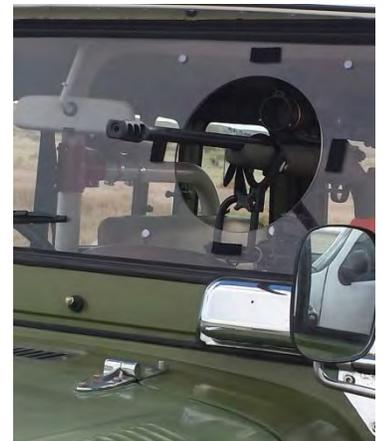
“When I am out there hunting,” Stetson told me, “I can compete with anyone else. I am equal.”



Shown above left to right are Stetson Bardfield, Stetson's father, Shai Bardfield, and the author, Michael Sabbeth.

Actually, Stetson is more than equal. His love and dedication to shooting propelled him to qualify for the USA Paralympics in 10-meter air rifle category. He will compete in Thailand this November.

Another hunter who makes the eyes a little watery is Conner Dowsett, a Navy veteran who was injured in a diving accident that rendered him quadriplegic. He shoots a rifle fitted with a ‘sip and puff’ trigger system, fitted to shoot through a removable section of the front windshield of his highly customized Toyota Land Cruiser.



Conner sits inside his decked out hunting vehicle.

It is fatefully fitting that on this hunt Conner shot the largest buck antelope. I marvel at the attention and perseverance of Stetson’s and Conner’s dads, for there can be no greater illustration of a parent’s love for a child.

Penny Sanford, Larry's wife, shot a magnificent buck. Penny explained the pleasure of her success. "This way I can put food on the table and at the same time teach conservation and hunting values to my children."



The Volunteers

"America is great because she is good.

If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Alexis de Tocqueville

The hunt is a community effort; Carl Watkins, manager of the ranch; points out that the hunt is great for these hunters because so much of the property is accessible by car and antelope are over almost every ridge. The opportunity to acquire an animal is high. Karl added, "Watching these people makes me appreciate more what I have and take care of myself better."

My friend, Rob Anderson, learned of Outdoor Buddies when he met Larry Sanford at a sporting clays event in 2013. "It had instant appeal for me," Rob shared. A physical educator in the Cherry Creek School system for over thirty years, he taught adapted physical education and worked with a variety of special needs students. "I had expertise I wanted to share and I love shooting, hunting and fishing. Outdoor Buddies presented opportunities to do things with deserving people."

Barbara McConnell, the owner of Reliable Big Game Processing in Fort Collins, donates game processing services to the disabled hunters. What motivated her generosity, I asked? "When you see these hunters come in with their game, and you look in their eyes and see their faces, you know they have had an experience that is fulfilling to them. And that's worth everything. You have to be there and feel their joy."

Hotel rooms at the Comfort Inn in Fort Collins are donated to hunters and volunteers by proprietors Dariusz and Zosia Czyszczon. (Spell that fast ten times!)

An avid hunter, Dariusz supports Outdoor Buddies because it helps disabled hunters and expands their passion for the outdoors. "They get physically and mentally tired," Dariusz said. "They need a break and we are here." Some hunters must stay more than one day to meaningfully participate and, without Dariusz, could not afford to participate. "I want to give back," Dariusz told me.

Nick Filler, a manager at Cabela's, is a fixture at all Outdoor Buddies events. Under his direction thousands of dollars of products have been donated to raise money for the organization and to help hunters directly.

November 18 Sight-In Shoot at Tarryall State Wildlife Area

By Jim Piper



Outdoor Buddies will host a rifle shoot at the Outdoor Buddies bunkhouse at Tarryall State Wildlife Area on Saturday, November 18th.

Handi-buddies will have an opportunity to shoot from a vehicle at this event.

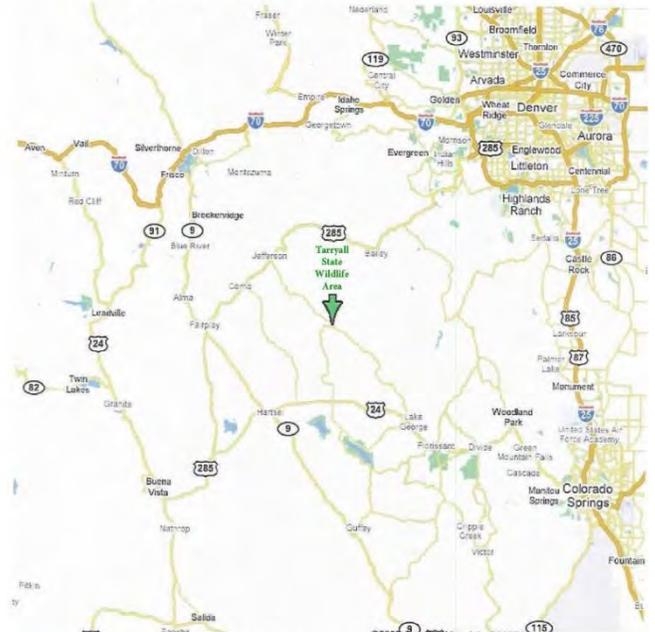
Typically, Outdoor Buddies hunters have opportunities to sight-in, but do not get a chance to try shooting from the vehicle. This is your chance to get this practice.



Outdoor Buddies bunkhouse at Tarryall State Wildlife Area

Carl Copeman with Colorado Parks & Wildlife built a shooting bench at this range and encouraged our group to use it. We will meet at the Tarryall bunkhouse at 9:30 am.

Tarryall State Wildlife Area Location Map



Location: From Jefferson, go 15 miles southeast on County Road 77.

You may want to allow some extra time to do some fishing while you are at Tarryall!

Contact Jim Piper at or geopros@ClanMurray.org or 303-514-8944 for more information and to make your reservation.

Outdoor Buddies Big Game Hunting Program Guidelines

Outdoor Buddies has limited Deer, Elk, and Pronghorn hunting opportunities for disabled members. To qualify for a hunt, a Big Game Hunt Request must be submitted via the Outdoor Buddies website at www.outdoorbuddies.org.

Big Game Hunt Requests are valid only for the year in which they are submitted and can be submitted each year beginning on January 1st.

Requests submitted by March 1 have priority as we strive to assign hunts in time for participants to apply for a license via the CPW Draw Application deadline early in April of each year. All currently available hunts are assigned at that time.

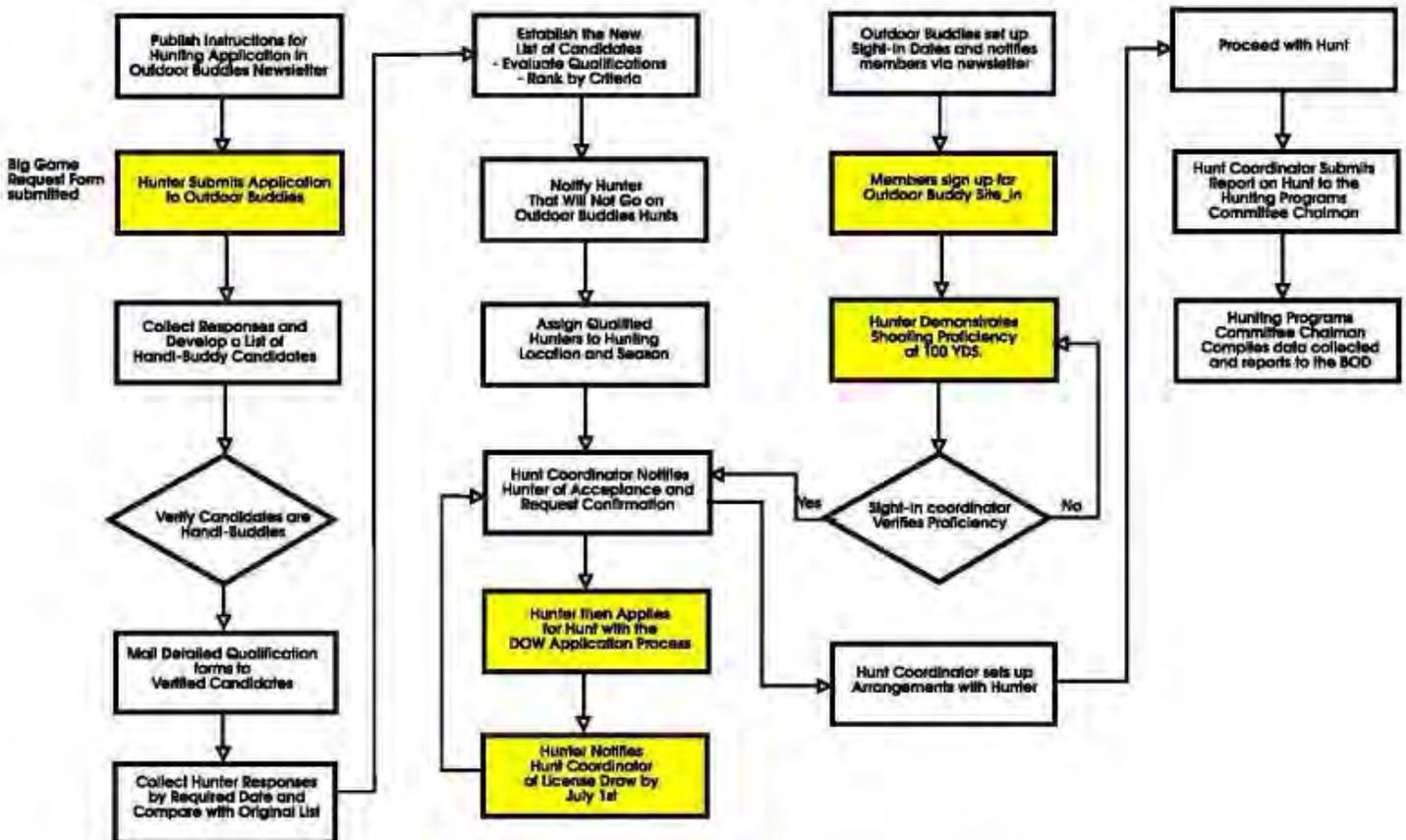
REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS

1. Participants in Outdoor Buddies sponsored big game hunts must be registered members of Outdoor Buddies. Registration must have been completed prior to being considered for a big game hunt.
2. A Big Game Hunt Request must have been submitted via the Outdoor Buddies website.
3. **All Colorado hunters must possess a "WILDLIFE RECREATION ACCOMMODATION PERMIT", issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), authorizing the hunter to shoot from a vehicle.** It is also suggested that hunters be enrolled in CPW's **Mobility-Impaired Big Game Program**; for questions and application form contact CPW at (303) 291-7380.
4. 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.
5. Hunts are conducted on properties where Outdoor Buddies has requested and been granted permission to hunt by landowners. **Participants shall not solicit private hunts on these properties.**
6. All Outdoor Buddies sponsored big game hunts are **"No Smoking"** activities.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Outdoor Buddies Big Game Hunt Committee will review all requests received and work with hunt applicants to determine eligibility, plan, and schedule the hunts.

The following diagram depicts activities included in the selection of hunters.



Outdoor Buddies is managed by its Board of Directors.

Board Members are shown below:

Dwaine Robey
Executive Director
303-877-8584

Larry Sanford
President
970-218-5356

Nicholas Filler
Vice President
720-644-4842

Christopher Nowak
Treasurer
303-717-7159

Terry Gleason
Secretary
303-868-2579

Shai Bardfield
Director
254-630-6447

Daniel Brown
Director
843-816-0901

Eric Enstrom
Director
303-548-9681

Tony Hodges
Director
303-523-0583

James Lowry
Director
713-248-9001

Jim Piper
Director
303-932-1209

Dustin Robey
Director
303-515-9777

Gina Robinson
Director
303-619-4683

Frederick Solheim
Director-Warriors on
Cataract
303-818-7600

*Outdoor Buddies Newsletter Publisher: **Outdoor Buddies, Inc.**
Editor: **Dwaine Robey***

Outdoor Buddies Mission:
Improve the quality of life by providing opportunities, through a volunteer organization, for those who have been deprived of enjoying outdoor experiences. These opportunities are available to all with no additional costs (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.

Submit 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**

Time to Chase Pronghorns

By Darrell Bowen

October; and once again it's time to chase pronghorns.

I arrived at Meadow Springs Ranch with my new assistant Dave Remus and his friend 'Bear' Blanchard very early on opening morning. We were greeted by very blustery winds.

This year I had requested the services of Dan Brown as my guide. However, Dan was booked for the first day.

Because we were in Bear's truck, after a conversation with Dan Brown, we convoyed to a location that Dan felt would be a good starting point for our hunt.

After discussing with Dan his plan of attack, Dan and his group stayed there and I, with my crew circled around to another point.

As daylight approached, we were able to make out several small groups of pronghorns all around us. As full daylight appeared we began glassing for the best place to intercept one of the groups. However, we were unable to get into a good position for me to take a good shot.

We moved to another location in that area and very soon three does looked to be heading in our direction. Bear positioned his truck so that, if a shot presented itself, I was in position to shoot.

One doe turned broadside at about 175 yards and I fired. She pivoted to her right, took two steps, and went down.

It was 7:15 a.m. After spending 15 minutes looking, we drove to where she was down.

I cannot say enough thanks to Outdoor Buddies and the hunt team for allowing me the opportunity to again hunt at Meadow Springs Ranch.

Thank you, Outdoor Buddies!



How Can I Make a Donation via the WMVCF Spirit Campaign?

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) conducts its annual Community Spirit Matching campaign to benefit local nonprofit organizations each November through the end of the year.

The Foundation will contribute matching funds, when donations are received by December 31st.

The maximum amount that will be matched is \$1,000 per family and/or business. Matching funds will be pro-rated based on the dollar total of contributions made through the campaign.

Donations may also be made directly to the Community Foundation Spirit Campaign to increase the matching funds and further stretch the community's charitable dollars.

Donors wishing to take advantage of matching funds for donations made to Outdoor Buddies must use the donor form provided by the Foundation. Make checks payable to the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (or WMV Community Foundation).

To make a tax-deductible donation to Outdoor Buddies by check through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation please use the donor form that will be included in the November newsletter.

Your support of Outdoor Buddies is sincerely appreciated!

Please watch for the donation form in the November Outdoor Buddies Newsletter.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Shown below are currently scheduled events. Other activities will be scheduled as appropriate.

Date	Event/Location	Description	Contacts
October 1 through January 31	Pronghorn, deer, and elk 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 14	Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting at the Thornton Cabela's.	Board meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Non-board members are welcome; please RSVP in advance.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
November 18	Sight-In Shoot at Tarryall State Wildlife Area	Handi-buddies will have an opportunity to shoot from a vehicle at this event.	Jim Piper (303) 514-8944 geopros@ClanMurray.org
December 12	Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting at the Lone Tree Cabela's.	Board meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Non-board members are welcome; please RSVP in advance.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
January 11-14	International Sportsmen's Expo at the Colorado Convention Center.	Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
April 21	Outdoor Buddies 2018 Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center located at 13200 East 14 th Place in Aurora, Colorado.	Mark your calendar. Annual fundraiser banquet at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center. Tickets will go on sale in January.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
April 28	Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club 2490 County Rd 3, Erie.	Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:00 AM.	Wally Hunt (303) 985-2293 wdhunt1716@outlook.com
May 19 Armed Forces Day	Outdoor Buddies Family Day at A Painted View Ranch in Westcliffe.	There will be free admittance, free food, and lots of games and demonstrations. Everyone is welcome!	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
June 9	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 28	Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club 2490 County Rd 3, Erie.	Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:00 AM.	Wally Hunt (303) 985-2293 wdhunt1716@outlook.com
August 4	Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Event at Colorado Clays Shooting Park near Brighton, Colorado.	All day fundraiser event at Colorado Clays LLC 13600 Lanewood Street Brighton, Colorado.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com or Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org