



NEWSLETTER

November 2017

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Outdoor Buddies Asks for Your Annual Support!

Year-end is almost here and many of us are considering making tax-deductible donations to our favorite charitable organizations. Please consider making a donation to Outdoor Buddies to help offset expenses for our programs. Your contribution will help allow us to continue and expand services to those in need of assistance in order to enjoy the great Colorado outdoors.

A good way to make a tax-deductible donation to Outdoor Buddies is through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation's annual Spirit Campaign. That way, the Foundation will match a portion of your donation.

Make a Donation to Outdoor Buddies 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. 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 donation to Outdoor Buddies by check through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation please use the **donor form included on Page 6 of this newsletter**. Donations to Outdoor Buddies are tax-deductible.

Thank you for considering making a contribution to Outdoor Buddies.

My Deer Hunt with Outdoor Buddies

By Mike DeYoung - Simi Valley, CA

My hunt with Outdoor Buddies has ended and I sat back and reflected on all the events that have taken place in the last few days. I then began thinking about how I have reached this point in my life and the people who helped me achieve the many goals of getting back into the outdoors that I once thought was impossible.

But before I get into that I will introduce myself, my name is Mike DeYoung and I grew up spending much of my time outdoors surfing, snowboarding, hiking, hunting and fishing.

In 2001, at the age of 19, I broke my neck in a snow-boarding accident and ended up as a C5/6 quadriplegic.

For months after my accident I was completely immobile, being kept alive by a ventilator and unable to move any part of my body except my shoulders and head. My complete focus in life was working as hard as I could to get as much function back and to become as independent as possible.

With hard work came more function and with returning function came more independence. It took three long years of constant physical and occupational therapy before I felt comfortable enough to begin venturing out on my own. Little by little I could travel farther and my adventures became bigger and bigger.

Contents

- 1 – Outdoor Buddies Asks for Your Annual Support
- 1 – My Deer Hunt with Outdoor Buddies
- 3 – November Pronghorn Hunt
- 4 – Thank You Outdoor Buddies
- 4 – Lone Tree Cabela's Honors Veterans
- 4 – Help Outdoor Buddies by Shopping at AmazonSmile
- 5 – Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors
- 5 – Tarryall Equipment Donation
- 5 – 2018 Annual Banquet
- 6 – Community Spirit Campaign
- 7 – Upcoming Events Calendar

Sixteen years later I now travel by myself to different parts of the country and in several cases the world, but I still cannot do this without help from others.

This is where groups like Outdoor Buddies come into play!

I am able to travel to Colorado with relative ease, but having confident, competent, and caring volunteers to help me continue my adventure once my plane touches down is invaluable.

On November 7th, I flew into Colorado from my home state of California. Once I arrived at the small town of Westcliffe, I was greeted by two extremely nice and accommodating volunteers, Dwaine Robey and Ivan Brooks. Immediately they made me feel comfortable, even though I had just met them for the first time. We discussed the mule deer hunt that we would be going on for the next 3 days and went over what physical abilities I had and did not have and how we would work together to make this a successful mule deer hunt.

We began the hunt that morning by mostly driving around and getting a lay of the land. I also had the privilege of meeting some of the gracious landowners that would let me hunt deer on their properties.

That first day we saw many deer but decided to make it more of a scouting trip and see some of the beautiful sights in and around Westcliffe.

The second day we got down to business. Dwaine had arranged for some help from Sangre de Cristo Outfitters. We got up early and hunted hard. We hunted several different properties. When one spot didn't work out we would move to another until we finally came across a beautiful mule deer buck.

Getting into position for an ethical shot is very difficult for me. I cannot firmly grip the rifle and cannot easily move it up or down or left or right as is normal for most hunters, nor can I pull the trigger. I use Velcro on the butt of my rifle and a Velcro shoulder harness to help hold the rifle in place. I also use a Bite Trigger Mechanism and fire the rifle by biting the mechanism. I need a lot of help from the vehicle driver to get into position for a reasonable shot.



Mike uses Velcro and a Bite Trigger Mechanism on his rifle.

The buck kept eluding us for about a half an hour until we were finally able to get into position to take a good ethical shot. I took the shot with my .270 Browning rifle and the deer only went about twenty yards before he expired.

He ended up in a bit of a tough place to get him out, but Bill Schulz and his crew stepped right in to help us extract the 200+ pound buck so we could get some good pictures before the hard work really began of gutting, cleaning and skinning.



Mike poses with his helpers from Sangre de Cristo Outfitters.

I was officially tagged out 2 days into my 3-day hunt.



A proud hunter poses with his beautiful buck!

Without Outdoor Buddies, its volunteers, and property owners allowing me to hunt the game that roams their land, my adventure would have ended at the hotel room. But, with the help of all these great people I was able to get back into the field and harvest a great buck. This is something I never could have imagined was possible 16 years ago laying in that hospital bed.

I would like to end this by giving a big shout out to the Outdoor Buddies organization. Without all the hard work that they put into bringing out disabled hunters like me, I would not have been able to experience the true adventure that I was fortunate enough to go on.

I also don't want to leave out the people who were the actual hands on folks that got me on the deer. Thank you Dwaine Robey, Ivan Brooks, and Bill Schulze and his crew at Sangre de Cristo Outfitters.

Thank you all for making this dream hunt happen and I hope I get the opportunity to hunt with you all again in the future.

November Pronghorn Hunt

By Steven Medberry

I was fortunate enough to enjoy an absolutely unreal antelope hunt with Outdoor Buddies earlier this month, and I have been replaying the experience in my head ever since.

Over the past ten years since I became mysteriously handicapped by a neuropathy which robbed me of all muscle activation below my knees, I have dealt with my share of uncertainties and obstacles interfering with my passion for the outdoors. Though I have been lucky enough to be able to hunt, fish, hike, and camp throughout that time, it has been discouraging and challenging at times to get out into the field to enjoy all of the pursuits that I love.

I hope that, when others look at me, they do not see a handicapped man who enjoys the outdoors—I would like to be known as an outdoorsman who only happens to have a handicap. I know that this is the way that the volunteers of Outdoor Buddies see me.

Through the grapevine of friends, acquaintances, and message boards, I became acquainted with the organization and planned a hunt with Nick Filler and Larry Sanford in mid-November of this year.

Upon arriving at Larry's truck, the trip was nothing short of perfection, as far as I am concerned. While we waited for Nick to return from assisting another group of hunters, Larry showed me around the vast open country that supported the herd of antelope we would be pursuing that day.

I greatly enjoyed Larry's company, and before long Nick arrived for the afternoon hunt. At his suggestion, I had come up to try to hunt the remainder of that Saturday before heading out in earnest the following morning. We did not really expect success in the scant hours remaining before sunset, but we were about to be proven wrong.

Larry seemed to have a psychic sense of where the animals would be; like a compass pointing north, he pointed at a promising patch of countryside where he suspected the herd would appear. Not twenty minutes away in Nick's truck, sure enough, they were right in front of us.



Scarcely believing our good fortune, we dismounted the truck and kept low as we approached the herd by way of a narrow gulch leading like a highway to a perfect place to set up a shot.

I was thrilled and excited; I did not notice the strangling braces on my legs for just a moment as we stalked closer to the herd and made our way up the embankment at the opposite end of the gulch.

Nick and I briefly discussed the setup, and we carefully set up my rifle for a prone shot.



Everything fell together like clockwork, and although I was excited I do not recall feeling nervous in the least.

My hands dialed in my scope to the range that Nick reported, just shy of 250 yards, and before I knew it the crosshairs of my scope settled onto a bedded doe offering a perfect broadside shot.

Time seemed to freeze as I pressed the trigger, and the report of the shot was dulled by the satisfaction of a successful hunt. She dropped where she lay, not moving an inch as the rest of the herd fled.

Nick and I could hardly believe it—the hunt had gone smoothly from beginning to end in an unusual but satisfying turn of events. Nick helped me as I field dressed my animal, and I pocketed the brass from the single shot fired in the hunt—the first big game taken by that particular rifle.



Steven poses with his pretty pronghorn.

Best of all, I was free from that point on to help out with other hunts.

The following day, I was glad to be able to assist Larry as he guided another participant in the program, an outdoorsman just like me who also happened to have physical impairments in his life. Hunting with him and helping him harvest an animal as well made me realize the truth of what Nick had told me the day before—that helping someone succeed was perhaps more fulfilling than filling a tag myself.

This was my first hunt with Outdoor Buddies, but I certainly hope that it is not my last—both as a hunter and as a volunteer. Thank you to Larry and Nick, and here's to many more adventures to come!

Thank You Outdoor Buddies

By Al Montoya

I want to thank all the guys who helped on my deer hunt. Wally Hunt and I were off to a slow start due to traffic but made it to Westcliffe to meet Dwaine Robey at our motel.

Dwaine and Ivan Brooks were helping a disabled hunter from California so we split up into two hunting parties.

Dwaine led us to a ranch where Wally and I would look for a buck for me. Then Dwaine and Ivan left to take the other disabled hunter to a different ranch.

Not too far from where we were dropped off, Wally spotted a few does, but I had a buck license so we headed to another part of the ranch.

As we came around a bend Wally spotted about six or seven deer, about 600 yards away. I continued around some trees and according to my range finder got to 165 yards away from the deer.

I spotted a nice buck and got set up to shoot, took aim, took a couple of deep breaths and aimed for his neck right below his horns.

I fired one shot and he went down!

As I drove up we could see he was nice 10 pointer, 6 by 4, a big deer.

Wally tied the deer to the truck and we headed down the road pulling the deer. Fortunately we ran into an out of state hunter with his wife. He helped Wally load the deer on my wheel chair carrier. I couldn't help because there was too much snow and I couldn't go in the snow with my wheel chair.

We headed to the motel where we met Dwaine, Ivan, and the other hunter. Dwaine said lets go to my place and we will gut and skin your deer in the shop building where there are lights and it will be warm.

By now it was close to 6pm and very dark. Not to mention that we all had been up early and on the go all day so we were all getting pretty tired. But, we had to take care of the deer.



Wally loaded the deer on Al's wheel chair carrier.



Ivan Brooks, assisted by Wally Hunt, begins to field dress, skin and quarter Al's deer.

When we arrived at Dwaine's shop I backed up to the large door and Ivan and Wally unloaded the deer and went to work.

Ivan did most of the butcher work and my deer meat was bagged and placed in a large cooler.

We left the deer in the cooler in Dwaine's shop building overnight and Wally picked it up the next morning. When we got back to Denver Wally took the deer to the meat processor. Then we headed to the taxidermist.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED!!!

Lone Tree Cabela's Honors Veterans

Cabela's in Lone Tree celebrated Veteran's Day with an in-store Hometown Heroes event. Active military and veterans, law-enforcement, firefighters and emergency services personnel were offered discounts on in-store purchases.

The Veterans' Day event recognizes the sacrifice and dedication of those who protect and serve our country and communities. Additionally, it is a way of saying "thank you" for their service.

Outdoor Buddies, represented by Terry Gleason, and several other nonprofit organizations joined the celebration in support of this activity. We thank Mark Guebert-Steward, Marketing Manager for inviting us to be a part of this event.



You Can Help Outdoor Buddies by Shopping at AmazonSmile



What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com.

The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Outdoor Buddies is a registered and approved nonprofit organization with AmazonSmile.

If you like to make online purchases via Amazon.com you may want to use the link below instead. That way the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a portion of your purchase prices to Outdoor Buddies.

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2498946 and Amazon donates to Outdoor Buddies Inc.

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

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

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**

Tarryall Equipment Donation

By Jim Piper

We extend a big "Thank You" to Bill Gowdy, who donated a wall tent to use at our Tarryall Campground.

This tent is ideal for camping, and will help enable us to continue with our mission to help foster outdoor experiences for the mobility impaired and youths.



This is a great tent; thank you, Bill!

Some of you may have camping or hunting equipment that you no longer use or need. If so, you may want to consider donating it to Outdoor Buddies. We can put it to good use.

If any of you are thinking about camping next summer at our campground, please let us know.

You can reserve your time by contacting Jim Piper at GeoPros@ClanMurray.org, or call 303-514-8944, and we will schedule you for camping.

Use of one of our track chairs may also be an option, as needed, to gain access to the lake for fishing, and help with access at the campground.

Make Plans to Attend the 2018 Outdoor Buddies Banquet

It is not too early to think about attending the annual Outdoor Buddies Fundraiser Banquet. The 2018 banquet celebrates **thirty-four years of community service** by Outdoor Buddies.



The Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center

The banquet will be held at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center in Aurora on Saturday, April 21st.

The Conference center is located at 13200 East 14th Place in Aurora.

Banquet tickets are available now and can be purchased from the Outdoor Buddies website at: www.outdoorbuddies.org.

Banquet tickets purchased will be held at "will call" and will be available upon arrival at the banquet.

All funds raised at the annual event go towards helping Outdoor Buddies continue its programs to improve the quality of life for youth and persons with disabilities.

Attending the annual fundraiser banquet is a great way to show your support and it is always a lot of fun! Your participation at the banquet can help to make a big change to someone's life.

Please plan to attend and pass on the invitation to others who would like to contribute towards this good cause.

The 14TH Annual Community Spirit Campaign Is Underway



The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation is proud to sponsor the annual Community Spirit Campaign, a matching gift project to benefit local nonprofit organizations beginning each November. The Foundation contributes matching funds, augmented by donations from other foundations and individuals. Donations are used to match private contributions made to valley and county nonprofits when received by December 31 of each year.

How can I donate?

Donors wishing to take advantage of matching funds for their favorite local organizations must use the donor form shown below. Make checks out to the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (or WMVCF), and please note the nonprofit organization and the amount you wish to go to that organization on the donor form. The maximum amount that will be matched is \$1,000 per family and/or business. You are welcome to spread your donation to more than one nonprofit, or just one -- it's your call.

Mail your completed form and check to:
Wet Mountain Valley, Community Foundation, P.O. Box 718, Westcliffe, CO 81252
Make one check payable to: **The WMV Community Foundation**

Please Distribute My Donation to the Following Custer County Nonprofit Organizations in the Amounts Shown (Use Separate Sheet if Necessary)

Donation to Matching Fund - Benefits All Nonprofits: Amount \$ _____

Nonprofit Org Outdoor Buddies Amount \$ _____

Nonprofit Org _____ Amount \$ _____

Nonprofit Org _____ Amount \$ _____

TOTAL Amount \$ _____

**Make one check for your total donation payable to:
WMVCF (or WMV Community Foundation)**

(Please Print)

My Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 2017

Mail your completed form and check to:
Wet Mountain Valley, Community Foundation, P.O. Box 718, Westcliffe, CO 81252
Make one check payable to: **The WMV Community Foundation**

Please Distribute My Donation to the Following Custer County Nonprofit Organizations in the Amounts Shown (Use Separate Sheet if Necessary)

Donation to Matching Fund - Benefits All Nonprofits: Amount \$ _____

Nonprofit Org Outdoor Buddies Amount \$ _____

Nonprofit Org _____ Amount \$ _____

Nonprofit Org _____ Amount \$ _____

TOTAL Amount \$ _____

**Make one check for your total donation payable to:
WMVCF (or WMV Community Foundation)**

(Please Print)

My Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 2017

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
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 9	Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting at Bass Pro Shops located at 7970 Northfield Blvd, Denver.	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
February 13	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
March 13	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
March 24	Outdoor Buddies Pheasant Hunt at Drake Land Farms near Goodrich, Colorado.	All day event starting at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served. Shooting is reserved for disabled members, except for "back-up" shooters.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
April 10	Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center located at 13200 East 14 th Place in Aurora.	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
April 21	Outdoor Buddies 2018 Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center located at 13200 East 14 th Place in Aurora	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@outdoorbuddies.org