



# NEWSLETTER

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## **Bears and Buddies!**

By Larry Sanford

We no sooner got everything set up with Conner behind the crosshairs of the Leopold scope atop his custom rifle cocked, locked and ready to rock when it happened!

We were on the ridge overlooking the oak brush and water tank on the canyon floor below when Allan Dowsett said "Bear"!



**Conner Dowsett watches a black bear sow and her two cubs play in the water tank.**

This bear hunt for Conner started last spring at the annual Outdoor Buddies Fundraiser Banquet when one of Conner and Allan Dowsett's great friends, Scott Downs, attended the fundraiser with them. While this band of buddies were enjoying the evening supporting Outdoor Buddies, one of the live auction items came up which was for a bear hunt.

Scott and a few other supporters were bidding back and forth on the bear hunt, with every raise of the bid helping the Outdoor Buddies programs more and more!

Finally when the last hand was raised Scott Downs bought the bear hunt at this year's fundraiser.

This is how Conner's bear hunt started when Scott won the bid on the bear hunt he gave it to Conner! Conner was so excited and grateful to his buddy, Scott. Conner is a disabled US Navy veteran who is paralyzed, but does not let that prevent him from living life to the fullest! This would be Conner's first Bear hunt.

There was a lot of planning to be done by Conner's family and the Outdoor Buddies team to get ready for the hunt to be held on a private ranch near Aguilar, Colorado.

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Editor: **Dwaine Robey**

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> Dwaine Robey and I headed to the ranch to start getting the hunting camp set up for Conner's Dad's arrival the next day with the custom Toyota Land Cruiser that Allan had retrofitted with special equipment that makes it possible for someone that is paralyzed from the neck down like Conner to be able to enjoy a big game hunt.



**Allan arrived on Monday with the specially rigged vehicle that enables Conner to hunt big game.**

On Tuesday morning, Conner and Allan, along with Conner's personal assistant arrived ready for the hunt. It was cool with a slight frost of fall in the air.

The first task was to transfer Conner to the Toyota Land Cruiser which is called the "FJ". The FJ has a left front seat that turns out to the side so that Conner can be transferred and buckled in. Allan drives from the right side like a mailman's vehicle so that he has the best access to help Conner operate the rifle. Conner can fire the rifle by puffing on a straw that pulls the trigger. He moves the crosshairs up and down and side to side by using a joy stick he operates with his chin.

We maneuvered high up on a bluff overlooking a beautiful canyon loaded with oak brush; choke cherries and a water tank placed there for cattle use.

Then Allan assembled the shooting rig that Conner uses to shoot while seated in the FJ.

We no sooner got everything set up with Conner behind the crosshairs of the Leopold scope mounted atop his custom rifle that was cocked, locked and ready to rock when Allan said "Bear coming towards the water tank".

Without a whisper Conner started to move his rifle with his chin on the joystick to get the crosshairs on the animal.

It was a black bear sow with two big cubs! The family of bears jumped into the water tank as if it were a swimming pool.

One great thing was we were able to watch a great natural wild show; the bad thing was that they were not legal to shoot!

Conner said it best when he said "there is the future of the bear population and we have just started"! This was the Dowsett's first time seeing bears in the wild.



**Larry Sanford (left) and Conner had a great time watching bears and other wildlife.**

We had a great day watching turkeys, squirrels and many different types of birds and the memories of that family of bears!

The next day went about the same, we saw the same cubs and sow come into the water tank enjoying watching them swim and do what bears do!



**Conner gets set in the FJ for the second day of hunting with help from Allan and Conner's personal assistant.**

## Wyoming Antelope Hunting Opportunity

By Nick Filler

It's time; Outdoor Buddies would like to let our mobility impaired hunters in on our little secret. We have access to some amazing hunting ground in Wyoming. This ranch is massive and holds huge numbers of antelope, including some trophy quality bucks. The property has very minimal hunting pressure, relaxed herds of antelope and an extremely high shot opportunity. We've had this hunting available for years, but the owner and game manager would like to expand access to Outdoor Buddies. This year they will be allowing ODB to select 4 doe hunters and 2 buck hunters. This is an especially good hunt for ODB members that live outside of Colorado or hunters that are looking to harvest a once in a lifetime buck. Or if you are looking to "fill the freezer" with a doe, this ranch gets a bit less pressure than Meadow Springs, so it's a wonderful opportunity for new hunters, or those with more physical limitations. If you'd like to hunt this property, ODB recommends you purchase a preference point from Wyoming Game and Fish, which is \$31. In WY you don't earn any points for an unsuccessful draw, like in Colorado. The only way to build points is to purchase them. So if you'd like to hunt here in the future, buying a point is a very smart option, as drawing without pints is getting very tough. Once the ODB applications open back up January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020, please apply for "Southeast Wyoming Area" and email us that you have a preference point. This will put you at the top of the list for this property. Please find a picture from this past weekend. Both hunters were extremely happy with their harvest.



Allan and Conner head for the hunting area in the FJ followed by Larry in the Outdoor Buddies Honda Pioneer 1000 EPS.



Here is a picture showing the view from the bluff looking down on the water tank.

It was an exciting few days with many memories made and stories told. It was unfortunate the Scott was unable to come on the hunt, but he sure would have been there if he could have.

At first we felt bad that Conner didn't get a shot at a bear, but this hunt was a huge success in that Conner spent three days away on a bear hunt! Wow! The courage and trust and patience that Conner was able to handle before, during and after this adventure is second to no man.

Oh, I can tell you that there will be and another great outdoor experience with these "Bears and Buddies"!



Outdoor Buddies hunters Earl Moffitt (left) and Roger Duckworth had a great Wyoming antelope hunt.

## End of Summer Camp Out

By Jim Piper

The Outdoor Buddies camp, fish, and shoot campout event on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> was a blast!

Around 50 people folks turned out for this event, including Outdoor Buddies members and friends who participated in the activities.

Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted in putting up tents, placing targets, and assisting with shooting and fishing.

The first day started with setting up camp, and then shooting 22's at the shooting range.



Setting up camp.



Getting set up to practice shooting from a vehicle.

I would like to give a big thank you to Edgar Munoz and his family for all the many things they did in making the day's activities a big success.

Thanks Steve Medberry for your assistance and to Dan Brown for assisting with the shooting from vehicle activities.

There were many others who helped and need to be recognized: Nick Filler, James Lowry our photographer, Tony Hodges, and Ted Scholl.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO 2019 BANQUET SPONSORS



Phoenix Automatic Sprinkler, Inc.

Big Bull Ranch



Stephen Red Owl



Judge Merwin M Brandon Jr.

Thank you Chuck Schwalier for the fishing passes to the private ponds. I know I missed naming some of the helpers, but I want to thank everyone for your help and for coming out to make this a great event.

Terry Gleason and his grandson did a great job with the noon meal and were well assisted by James Lowery and Tony Hodges.



Terry Gleason and Luke Schreiner were "chefs for the day".

Everyone enjoyed a great lunch!



After lunch we headed up to the private ponds to test our angler skills, and boy there were some big ones in those ponds. John Duncan, Ted Scholl, and many others assisted Handi-Buddies at the ponds.



**Trish Upton is shown helping her husband, Charlie, get rigged to go fishing.**



Almost everyone who fished was able to catch some very nice trout.

Special thanks to Larry Sanford and Dwaine Robey for bringing the track chairs and other equipment. This event wouldn't happen without Larry's hard work in planning and preparations.

After spending the afternoon fishing we all finally headed back to camp to eat a luscious trout dinner prepared by Esmer Jansen.

As evening approached, we gathered around the campfire to tell stories on a beautiful night under the stars. It was a perfect camp out; mosquitoes weren't bad, it was not too cold, and it was time well spent with good friends.

We are so fortunate to have this campground available. Please join me in thanking Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Tarryall Technician, Ty Anderson, and his helper, Diana, for making this opportunity available to Outdoor Buddies.

## Outdoor Buddies Warriors on Cataract Program

By Dr. Fred Solheim

We are wrapping up our four raft trips this year with an All-Female Disabled Veteran 4-day Colorado River Canyonlands National Park trip, launch date September 26.

Sheri Griffith River Expeditions is our outfitter, a great outfit. Because the water is tamer, we will be able to put the women in paddle boats and duckies (kayaks) and let them go through some of the rapids in their life jackets. There will be yoga, meditation, mindfulness, hiking, and much campfire time as well as other healing and bonding activities. We have several licensed therapists along, steeped in outdoor recreation therapy.

The three British female veterans are coming over 2 days early, and some of the All-Female rafters will linger an extra day. We will provide them with a 6-link zip line <https://www.ravensrim.com/> adventure and a tour of Arches National Park.

Warriors on Cataract was fortunate to have Commander Dr. Bill Krissoff on this year's second May Cataract Canyon 2/7 Marines raft trip. Dr. Krissoff, an orthopedic surgeon, lost his Marine son in Afghanistan, so at age 60 he decided to drop his medical practice and enlist in the Navy Marine Corps as a battlefield surgeon in his son's battalion. It took a special dispensation from President George W Bush to get past the maximum age limitation. Krissoff served 6 years as Navy Surgeon. Stephen Spielberg created a short video on him. You can Google Search *Spielberg Krissoff* for the video or play it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tyT4gIkvBs>.



**Group photo from the Marine trip.**

We have been rafting the Second Battalion Seventh Regiment (2/7) Marines for several seasons. They had a rough go in Helmand Province, lost over 30 in combat, and then lost over 30 to suicide after they mustered out.

They were the subject of a front page Sunday New York Times article on their anomalous suicide rate. You can view the article with a Google Search of *New York Times 2/7 Marines high suicide rate*. We have lost no 2/7s to suicide that we have rafted.

Professor Dan Dustin of the University of Utah is convening a conference in Salt Lake entitled "Nature's Grace: America's Veterans and the Healing Power of Nature" November 13-15. Fredrick Solheim of Outdoor Buddies and two licensed therapists are convening a two-part session on Prevention of Veteran Suicides. Over 8000 veterans die by their own hand each year. The purposes of the session are to identify methods to seek out those at risk, and strategies to get them to join in with comrades on outdoor activities. We find that the regeneration of camaraderie and support on these raft trips is very healing. A VA therapist told us that these soldiers, among themselves, are better healers than what the VA can accomplish with therapy and pharmaceuticals.

**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

**Tony Hodges**  
Director  
303-523-0583

**James Lowry**  
Director  
713-248-9001

**Steve Medberry**  
Director  
720-255-9453

**Edgar Munoz**  
Director  
720-261-1857

**Jim Piper**  
Director  
303-932-1209

**Dustin Robey**  
Director  
303-515-9777

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

## **Bill Authorizes "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit" Tax Checkoff Fund!**

On May 29, 2018 then governor, John Hickenlooper, signed SB 18-141!

**The bill authorizes a new line on the tax form for 2020 (2019 tax year) called the "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund,"** which allows Colorado taxpayers to donate part or all of their tax refund to any nonprofit registered in Colorado. All the taxpayer would need to do is write or type in the amount of the donation and provide information to identify which nonprofit will receive the donation.

The Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund provides donors with the opportunity to give at a time when they have additional disposable income. It encourages donors to give during tax season in addition to year-end giving.

To be eligible, the nonprofit must be registered with the Colorado Secretary of State for charitable solicitations for at least five years and in good standing.

### **How will it Work?**

- Nonprofits will complete their annual charitable solicitations report with the Colorado Secretary of State, so they remain registered for five years and in good standing
- On the Voluntary Contributions Schedule on the Colorado Tax Return, taxpayers will see a line starting in 2020 for the Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund
- Taxpayers can write or type in the amount of their refund donation and provide information to identify which nonprofit will receive the donation
- Taxpayers can make their entire refund donation to this fund or donate various amounts to this fund and other tax checkoffs
- The Department of Revenue (DOR) will direct payment of the donation from the Treasurer to the recipient nonprofit organization.
- Gifts, grants and donations will pay for start-up and ongoing management of the program by DOR.

**Outdoor Buddies is registered with the Colorado Secretary of State and complies with all regulations related to Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit. Outdoor Buddies will participate in this new program.**

## Upcoming Events Calendar

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>
June through September	Outdoor Buddies fishing and camping outings at Tarryall State Wildlife Area.	Outdoor Buddies volunteers will coordinate activities at Tarryall using leased properties and Tarryall Reservoir.	Jim Piper (303) 514-8944 <a href="mailto:geopros@q.com">geopros@q.com</a>
November 12	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 <a href="mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org">dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org</a>
December 10	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 <a href="mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org">dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org</a>
January 9-12	International Sportsmen's Expo at the Colorado Convention Center.	Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 <a href="mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org">dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org</a>
February 1	Outdoor Buddies Ice Fishing Outing at Tarryall Reservoir.	Outdoor Buddies volunteers will coordinate ice fishing activities from 9am to 3pm. A free lunch will be provided.	Jim Piper (303) 514-8944 <a href="mailto:geopros@q.com">geopros@q.com</a>
March 21	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 and youth, except for "back-up" shooters.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 <a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a>
April 18	Outdoor Buddies 2020 Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center located at 13200 East 14 <sup>th</sup> Place in Aurora.	<u>Mark your calendar.</u> Annual fundraiser banquet at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center.	Nick Filler (719) 359-3641 <a href="mailto:nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org">nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org</a>
June 6	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 <a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a>
August 22-23	Outdoor Buddies Family Outing at Tarryall Reservoir.	Outdoor Buddies volunteers will coordinate a variety of activities for members and their families and friends. Overnight camping is encouraged. More information will be provided as the event date nears.	Jim Piper (303) 514-8944 <a href="mailto:geopros@q.com">geopros@q.com</a>
September 12	Outdoor Buddies Fishing Outing on the Cache la Poudre River west of Fort Collins. Directions will be provided to those who register with Larry Sanford	Everyone is welcome. Outdoor Buddies will provide lunch, soft drinks, and fishing assistance for those who want it. There will be Actiontrack wheelchairs available if needed.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 <a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a>