



NEWSLETTER

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Fishing on the Poudre

By Larry Sanford

Outdoor Buddies held the annual fishing event on the Poudre River at Stevens Gulch on September 14th this year.

My wife and I arrived at Stevens Gulch well before daylight with all of the equipment and food for the day's event.

We walked down to the river where we could see fish coming to the surface in what was left of the moon light!

Volunteers Dave Thums and Dan Brown arrived and started to set up the grills and fishing equipment in readiness for the disabled folks and youth with their families who were on their way. Todd Bacon and his family were among of the first to show up for a fun day of fishing and fellowship. They got Todd transferred into one of Outdoor Buddies track chairs so he could drive himself down to the river's edge to start fishing.

Dan Brown assisted in getting Todd started fishing with the help of Todd's brother-in-law.

Bam! No sooner did the bait hit the water than Todd was hooked up! Turns out that fish was the first of many Todd caught that day. He ended up taking his limit of four fish as most did that day.

Charlie Gross and his wonderful wife, Trish, found their way down to a trout filled pool of water in anticipation of an enjoyable day on the river. Before you know it Charlie was holding up his stringer of beautiful trout with a proud smile on his and Trish's face. Awesome!



Dan Brown helps Trish and Charlie Gross show off Charlie's stringer of trout.

Roger Duckworth volunteered to clean fish for anyone who wanted help getting their fish cleaned and bagged.

There were over 50 people there before noon and the river bank was full of fishermen, women, children and family members of all ages laughing and enjoying the Poudre River loaded with rainbow trout and the best fall day ever.

The smell of grilled sausage, brats and burgers permeated Stevens Gulch campground as Dave Thums grilled up some great food for everyone to enjoy.

Penelope Sanford volunteered to help with lunch and got help from George Carter's great granddaughter, Lilly, who was the first to eat watermelon.

US Forest Service Ranger, Lenora Arevalos, stopped by on her rounds to see how everything was going. Lenora mentioned that she always enjoys seeing Outdoor Buddies each fall for our annual Poudre River fishing outing and see all the families having such a fun time with a well-organized day on the river!

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Penelope Sanford helps with lunch preparations.



Chef Dave Thums did a masterful job with the brats and burgers!



Lilly Carter enjoys some watermelon!

The US Forest Service has done a great job keeping day camping areas like Stevens Gulch in such great shape which makes them accessible to everyone who wants to use them throughout the year.

Everyone had a chance to test out some of Dave’s grilled hotdogs; which passed with flying colors!

Outdoor Buddies extends our thanks to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for their help with this outing. CPW representative stocked the Stevens Gulch river area with trout prior to this event.

Our CPW does a great job keeping fish stocked in our waters so that sportsmen and women can catch a mess of fish for some of the best table fair around. I will mention it again, “The River was loaded with trout”!

This Outdoor Buddies fishing event was a great success again this year thanks to our awesome team of volunteers and all of the participants.

For those of you who have not made it out to this fishing event, to either volunteer or to participate for a fun day of fishing, fellowship and great food; you need to get it on your calendar for next year! September 12, 2020.



Blind Hunter Experiences

By Terry Gleason and Lynn Janssen

Terry's experience...When I was notified by the Outdoor Buddies Hunt Committee that a blind hunter had been selected for an antelope hunt near Craig Colorado, I could not imagine how that might work!! We would be hunting on the Villard Ranch with Albert Villard, the ranch manager as our guide.

I had met Lynn Janssen, the hunter who was selected, at the 2019 Outdoor Buddies Banquet and he seemed like a great guy, eager to hunt so that was a big plus. I spoke with Tony Hodges, an Outdoor Buddies board member who is also blind, and Larry Sanford who has lots of experience with blind hunters. They both assured me that they could help Lynn and I get ready for the antelope hunt adventure.

Larry had purchased a Benelli 300 Winchester mag with a Leupold scope that Outdoor Buddies would make available to Lynn. Also Larry provided a sighting device that would attach to the scope. Lynn and I met Larry and we took the rifle to a range to practice. Much to my amazement, Lynn with a little help from me was able to hit the target multiple times!

We are all thankful for a great hunting experience and grateful to the Villard's for providing the opportunity. I came away with my feeling reinforced that there is nothing that disabled folks can't do if given a chance and a little help from Outdoor Buddies!

Lynn's experience...When Sunday morning, October 6th finally came, I was very excited for the trip to Craig and the antelope hunt for the following day. Terry arrived at our house and we packed up our car with Terry's gear and the new rifle. We had practiced with the new 300 mag a few weeks before and I was very confident with the rifle, Terry's guidance and our ability to make a great shot. It was very nice of Terry to drive our car, which gave my wife, Esmer a chance to view the amazing fall colors along the mountain drive. We were very blessed with great weather and a beautiful drive to Craig and that night, we had a wonderful dinner with Albert Villard, his wife Melody and his three daughters. It was very interesting to hear about their lives on a sheep ranch.

Monday morning was a very cool 17 degrees with a promise of a warm day with very little wind. I settled in the back seat of Albert's truck and Terry gave me a great description of the country side we were driving through. I had an image in my mind of rolling hills of sage brush as far as you could see.

We passed many groups of deer and antelope on the way to Albert's ranch and I felt more assured that we would be able to get a shot at one. When we finally got to area 301, it didn't take long to see groups of antelope. Most of them were too far away, so we continued on the dirt road till Albert saw a group that we could take an off road trail to maybe get a shot.

Terry got in the back seat with me and we prepared our shooting position by lowering the back window to just the right height and put on the noodle for a gun rest. Terry loaded the rifle with two rounds in the magazine and I made sure the safety was on and got into my shooting position.

We got within 200 yards of the group, but Terry was having trouble with the I phone staying in focus and the sun glare coming in the window behind us.

The group of antelope slowly moved away without us getting a shot, so we continued down the road to find another herd.

I was a little disappointed, but was still very confident we would get another chance. We drove around for about an hour without seeing any more antelope, so Albert stopped his truck on the top of a small hill and he and Terry got out to glass the area. Not seeing anything on the adjacent hills, Albert heard a barking noise and looked down to see 5 antelope only 100 yards away. By the time they got back in the truck, the small herd starting running away, but soon slowed to a trot.

We continued up the road to head them off and finally spotted them again about 185 yards away. I was in position, but Terry was having trouble with the I phone again and then said the battery was low.

The antelope were stopped and just looking at us, so it gave Terry a chance to attach the I phone charger and soon we were in business again. Terry gave me instructions to move the rifle left and then back a little to the right. And a small adjustment down and I was surprised when he said "squeeze!"

I let out a little breath and squeezed the trigger. I tried to keep the rifle in the same position in case we needed a second shot. I was very thankful to have the Benelli in an automatic, so I didn't have to reposition to use a bolt action.

No more directions came from Terry and finally Albert said the antelope was down! Terry yelled "All right" and I let out the rest of my breath.



Albert Villard & Lynn Janssen pose with Lynn's pronghorn.

We had taken a great shot! Soon we were off back to town to get my cooler and stopped at Albert's house to clean the carcass. I heard the sound of bells clanging and knew it was some of Albert's sheep he had penned up close to the house. We came back later with Esmer and she had fun petting and talking with the rams.

On the way back home on Tuesday, I ran the hunt through my mind and did my best to imagine all the different parts of the hunt. All though I cannot see what all transpired during my time on the hunt, my image that I have created in my mind will always be with me. Thank you so much Albert Villard for giving me this great experience and Outdoor Buddies for the opportunity for a great hunt!

Outdoor Buddies is managed by its Board of Directors.

Board Members are shown below:

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Cataract
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Wyoming Antelope Hunt

By Roger Duckworth - Outdoor Buddies Member and Cancer Survivor

I want to thank Outdoor Buddies and Garry Woodman from the Monaghan Ranch for the opportunity for me to hunt antelope in the 2019 Wyoming hunt season on September 26, 2019. I was joined on the hunt by Outdoor Buddies member, Earl Moffitt.

The day started early in the morning right at sunrise and we were met by a ranch hand who took us to the ranch house where we met up with Garry, the hunt coordinator. Garry checked our hunting license and shoot from vehicle permit. Next we headed out to check our rifles on a metal target set up at a good distance and I'm proud to say my shot hit dead center.

After that, we went in search of a good antelope. We looked over several and quickly spotted a good one with a bunch of does. He was ranged at 300 yards. I shoot a Weatherby magnum and that distance is no problem for me.

I waited for antelope to stop and squeezed the trigger.

The bullet hit its mark with a thump in the shoulder and the buck dropped in his tracks. Usually, with a lot of animals you get ground shrinkage, but with this one, as we got closer he got bigger to a point it was jaw dropping,



The antelope was bigger than we thought!



Earl and Roger pose with their beautiful antelope.



Roger poses with his "wall hanger" antelope!

WOW! The antelope was bigger than we thought and definitely is going on the wall in my trophy room.

I'm very proud of this pronghorn and it's the biggest one I have ever seen or had a chance to hunt.

Afterwards, Garry gave us a tour of this beautiful ranch and some of the history from way back.

After a short visit to an old barn with an owl inside it we headed back to the ranch house passing by herd after herd of antelope!

This was truly a memory that I will never forget!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.

Belated Elk Hunting Story

By Brandon Fagley

The day was last December 27th, in the year 2018. I had a wonderful Christmas with my family and I was so thankful for Jesus and what He had done for us. This year I was able to have my entire family together in one place. It was a Christmas we would never forget. My dad and I had no idea how God was going to bless our hunt. It could have come straight out of the Outdoor Channel Hunting Show!

The day started off looking like maybe it would be slim pickins at getting a shot off on an elk. To start, it was snowing and foggy; just enough to keep us from being able to see where they were, also windy enough to cover the tracks of any elk that might have possibly been traveling through.

We just had so much area to cover! We were hunting at a large ranch just out of Westcliffe, Colorado. The Navajo Indians had just purchased thousands and thousands of acres, and they used the property to raise buffalo and cattle. We felt blessed for them to let me (Brandon Fagley) and my dad (Randy Fagley) hunt on the property, where we hoped to get a shot at the giant herd of elk that was competing against the buffalo and cattle for food.

Rob Adams and Patrick Nichols were our Outdoor Buddies guides for the weekend and we were allowed to go almost anywhere we wanted to locate the elk herd and hopefully get a shot.

But there were thousands of acres in every direction to explore. We decided to head towards the main road and leave for some lunch. Suddenly the sun started breaking its way through the fog and the snow stopped. The wind died; it was like a beautiful painting. For some reason, I decided to take my eyes off of the mountains and beautifully lit up snowy peaks.

I started looking at the ground, and as we came around the corner of a bend in front of a big hill, I saw what looked like a stampede of horses had come running through. They crossed the road and I could see the tracks going up over the hill! I said "Hey dad, I see a ton of tracks. It was elk tracks and they crossed not too long ago!" They looked fresh in the new layer of snow, and, wow, there must have been hundreds of them. It looked like a large herd of elk had just finished moving through. Rob and Patrick decided to drive slowly around the hill just in case they might have stopped for a rest. Sure enough, as we came around the bend there was a giant herd of elk, there were hundreds of them just standing there grazing about eight hundred yards away.

Rob and Patrick looked at each other and I could tell in the look in their eyes that their adrenaline was flowing through their veins.

So, Rob told me, "Brandon be ready to shoot, we will try to creep up on them as slowly as we can without them noticing, and then you will be able to take a shot". As the truck moved from 800 yards to about 600 yards from them, the large bull that was kind of on the edge of the right side of the herd had gotten spooked. He must have been the wise one of the herd, there was no fooling him. He looked up at the truck and started sprinting away and was leading the herd away. It was an amazing site. The elk looked like a wave as they ran.

We were about 600 yards away and you could literally see the energy waves (almost like heat waves) coming out from the legs of all the kinetic energy that was being produced by the fast-moving legs of so many elk.

It was amazing to see how fast and powerful a herd of elk can be. I looked at Rob, and Rob looked at my Dad, and my Dad looked at Patrick, and all of sudden Rob said, "Hold on to your gun, we are going to the other side of the hill and hopefully we can get there before them!" Then Patrick said, "Let's go!"

I looked at my dad, I have never seen his eyes so big and wide open, and he had the biggest smile on his face. I looked forward and then we were on the move. The elk came over the hill and we were waiting for them. They ran right at us! As one elk came through the trees, then there was another, and another, and before we knew it there were 150 elk, cows and bulls coming at us and then coming to a halt.

Patrick and I moved away from the truck and I watched more and more elk come through the trees right toward us. They were about 200 yards away. When we were set, Rob took my Dad to get set up on the other edge of the hill to hopefully get a shot.

I pulled up on my scope and the elk were confused; kind of like dancing in circles trying to decide which way to run. So, as I got a cow elk in my sites, she started to act like she was going to run back up the hill back into the trees. I took a deep breath, let the air slowly out of my lungs and slowly squeezed my trigger, from a kneeling stance. By that time, she started walking away from me up the hill, so she had a lot of body for me to aim at. My sites started to shift to her front left shoulder and suddenly BOOM!

I had fired the round and I saw the bullet hit exactly where I aimed. The cow elk dropped instantly. One shot, one kill! It was a beautiful shot at 214 yards.



Patrick and Brandon prepare to load the first elk.

Meanwhile, my Dad and Rob had moved around to the other edge of the hill. The herd moved after my shot and ran right at them. They were positioned in a great spot; the elk were only 75 yards away from them. Total shots that day were 2 and 2 elk were taken to the processor.

I had the time of my life with my Dad, Rob and Patrick!

I want to thank the Outdoor Buddies, Rob, Patrick, as well as the ranch owners. They allowed us to appreciate the beautiful countryside God has created. I will never forget the time I had, the emotions, and excitement I shared with the men I hunted with that day.

Thank you, Outdoor Buddies! My Dad and I had the hunt of our life that day!

Outdoor Buddies Warriors on Cataract Canyon

By Dr. Frederick Solheim



Our Warriors on Cataract group prepares to launch for the four-day raft trip on the Colorado River.

The Outdoor Buddies Warriors on Cataract Program takes our disabled military veterans on multi-day whitewater raft trips. We conduct four such trips each year from Moab, Utah to Lake Powell on the Colorado River, through Cataract Canyon in beautiful Canyonlands National Park.

This is our ninth year, having provided this service to about 500 veterans to date.

The mission of the Warriors on Cataract Program is:

- To aid in reintegrating Wounded Warriors back into civilian life
- To show appreciation for their service to our country
- To offer a venue wherein they can communicate, share experiences, and support other Warriors
- To spawn lasting camaraderie and connections with other Wounded Warriors, thereby generating an enduring support network
- To raise public awareness of Wounded Warriors challenges and sacrifices
- To inspire others to join in helping rehabilitate and reintegrate these Wounded Warriors

Each trip can accommodate about 25 disabled veterans and caregivers. The trips are conducted by National Park Service licensed outfitters and can accommodate most any disability above being bedridden.

This includes wheel chairs, service dogs, multiple amputations, severe burns, blindness, gunshot wounds, severe PTSD and TBI, and other debilitating injuries. The more disabled, the more we welcome them, as they generally get the most out of the experience.

VA therapists accompany their veterans on the raft trips. This is not an active role, but just a presence in the event a veteran wants to talk.

We are told by the VA therapists that veterans will seek out the therapists in the evening camps and talk on a level that the therapists cannot attain in the sterile VA Hospital setting.

In addition to VA therapists, licensed professional volunteer therapists accompany the trips. Our lead therapist, Karen House, has two degrees in counseling, has a Secret Clearance and is embedded in the Air Force as a counselor, has rowed the Grand Canyon a dozen times, and is a Gold Star Widow. She is often deployed to far reaches of the globe to counsel soldiers, currently being deployed on several months of TDY to Djibouti Africa with Tier 1 soldiers (SEALs, Rangers, Pararescue, Green Beret, and the like).

These activities are free of cost to the veterans.

Because many of our female veterans have been assaulted (2 in 3) and raped (1 in 3), they would be uneasy participating in a multiday camping expedition with male soldiers. We therefore dedicate one of our four yearly whitewater trips for female disabled veterans only. The outfitter crews are largely female.

We launched our four day All-Female whitewater trip for twenty-four disabled veterans on September 26th.

This trip launched on the Colorado River from the Moab area, going through Canyonlands National Park, and finished on the upper reaches of Lake Powell at Hite Marina/North Wash.

The weather was pleasant, the water warm, and the beaches wide.

Outfitter Sheri Griffith River Expeditions ran three paddle boats (a hit with the women); two oar rigs, and a twenty-two foot J-rig.

They are a great outfitter; the guides are wonderful and love doing these veterans trips. Service dog, Tango, came along. Our doggie life preservers are Outward Hound brand!



One of the paddle boats heads downstream with Tango on watch duty.

Three Brits came over to join us. As NATO troops they have fought in our conflicts. So we flew the Union Jack as well as the Stars and Stripes.

Several of the women got tossed overboard in Big Drop Rapid and got to swim a bit. This was a scary experience, then a challenge, and then an accomplishment and confidence builder.



The group pauses for a photo before starting through the Cataract Canyon rapids.

We get great support from the Moab outfitters, the motels, the restaurants, the local VFW, and others.

Following the raft trip, Raven's Rim Zip Lines treated many of the women to a 6-leg zip line course. Two of the legs are over 1300 feet long.



Following the raft trip, Raven's Rim Zip Lines treated many of the women to a 6-leg zip line course.

Then they were given an overland tour in Arches National Monument by Navtec Expeditions.



Following the raft trip, Navtec Expeditions provided an overland tour of Arches National Monument.

We are finished rafting for this year and in February will set the dates for the 2020 trips.

Dr. Cristal McGill, Cheyenne VA therapist, Kristi Ruben, and I will convene two sessions in mid-November at the Nature's Grace Symposium in Salt Lake City. The Symposium is on the benefits to our veterans from outdoor activities with comrades.

Our two sessions are on how to recognize veterans at risk to suicide, how to engage them, and how to pull them back from that brink.

We know from the VA that our river trips have saved quite a few from suicide, and have greatly helped others who were in difficulty.

Upcoming Events Calendar

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

Date	Event/Location	Description	Contacts
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 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
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 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
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 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
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 geopros@q.com
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 popslarrys@gmail.com
April 18	Outdoor Buddies 2020 Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center located at 13200 East 14 th Place in Aurora.	<u>Mark your calendar.</u> Annual fundraiser banquet at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center.	Nick Filler (719) 359-3641 nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org
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 popslarrys@gmail.com
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 geopros@q.com
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 popslarrys@gmail.com