



# NEWSLETTER

November 2019

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## Contents

- 1 – Adventure of a Lifetime
- 3 – November Deer Hunt near Durango
- 4 – Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors
- 4 – Antelope Adventure on the High Plains
- 5 – Outdoor Buddies Pronghorn Hunt
- 5 – Warriors on Cataract at Forum on Prevention of Veteran Suicides
- 6 – Some Venison for the Table
- 6 – Outdoor Buddies Shooting Program at Green Mill Sportsman's Club
- 7 – Understanding the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign
- 8 – Upcoming Events Calendar



Outdoor Buddies Newsletter  
Publisher:

**Outdoor Buddies, Inc.**

Editor: **Dwaine Robey**

**The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation's Spirit Campaign is underway. Would you like to make a year-end tax deductible donation to Outdoor Buddies via the Spirit Campaign where your donation will be partially matched? Please see Page 7 for more information.**

## Adventure of a Lifetime

By Gabriel Nissen

Last January I submitted a big game hunt request via the Outdoor Buddies website. I was subsequently selected for a mule deer buck hunt. Little did I know what I was in for!

My mom and dad and I traveled from Butler, Missouri to the Westcliffe area where we arrived at our cottage at Hillside, Colorado near Westcliffe. We traveled through some of the most beautiful country I have ever seen. There were about thirty mule deer in the front yard of the cottage and I thought this would be an easy hunt.

Dwaine Robey and Rob Adams met with me and my parents to discuss the hunt. I had no idea how difficult this hunt would be.

Rob, my parents, and I hunted for three hard days; at times the temperatures were in the single digits and snow on the ground. We never saw any mule deer on the land we were hunting and we were getting a little frustrated.

My guide, Rob, always had some good homemade food for us and was also very entertaining.

Well, after three days we had to go back to Missouri because of some business my parents had to tend. We asked Rob and Dwaine if it was possible to come back the next weekend. They said that would be fine so we went back to Missouri hoping the weather would straighten up and I could get a shot at a buck.

When we came back, my mom decided to stay back in Missouri and my brother, Hunter, came with my dad and me to Colorado.

We had the privilege of having Rob for our guide again. Dwaine was also guiding another disabled hunter for a mule deer doe hunting in Dwaine's truck.

The first two days we hunted at Bear Basin Ranch. The people were very friendly and we saw some beautiful country. We saw lots of does and even three big bull elk. We saw another guy with the buck he had taken at Bear Basin Ranch and that got our hopes up.

On the second day we hunted Bear Basin Ranch again and we met up with Dwaine and the other hunter, Jerry, in town. Dwaine decided to wash his truck, but when he tried to start it, it would not start. My dad, brother and Rob pushed it out of the wash bay. Luckily his truck started shortly after.

That afternoon Dwaine mentioned that if we didn't have any luck by the third day we would go to some property where Sangre de Cristo Outfitters had permission to hunt. Bill Schulze from Sangre de Cristo Outfitters would be our guide.

At the end of the second evening we still had not seen a legal buck, but Jerry had shot his doe near Wetmore with Dwaine and help from Travis Schulze from Sangre de Cristo Outfitters.

My family along with Rob went to Dwaine's house to help work up Jerry's deer. When we were done, we were getting ready to go back to our motel, and Dwaine's truck decided not to start again so we said we could take Jerry back to his room. On our way to town Jerry informed us that he had seen lots of deer where he had gotten his deer near Wetmore.

This got my hopes up because this was going to be our last day of hunting regardless.

On that last day we got to sleep in because Bill said not to show up until 9:00am. He said the deer would be bedded down by then and would be easier to hunt.

We got there at 9 and my dad, Hunter, and I loaded up in Bill's big Dodge Ram truck.

Bill is a big man and told us we should see some buck deer going down a path with some big dead weeds on both sides. We had already decided we were going to take the first legal buck we saw.

We started down the path and about 150 yards in front of us we saw several mule deer with what appeared to be a large elk in the middle of them. We then realized that was no elk, but the biggest mule deer we had ever laid eyes on.

My dad asked Bill if he was too big to shoot. Bill looked right at my dad and said, they told me you would be happy with a cull buck.

He then abruptly swung the truck to the side while saying; and I'll probably get fired for this. He then told me to shoot the huge buck.

I was so nervous! My brother said my gun barrel was moving like crazy while I was aiming, but after three shots the giant buck went down.



**Gabriel and Rob Adams are shown with Gabriel's buck.**



**Gabriel poses with his monster mule deer buck.**

I couldn't believe what had just happened! He was enormous. We got out of the truck and Dwaine and Rob pulled up and appeared to be equally surprised. We got a lot of pictures and loaded the brute in the back of Dwaine's truck.



**Gabriel with his support team: Dwaine Robey, Bill Schulze and Rob Adams.**



**Left to Right: Gabriel, Hunter, and Jimmy Nissen.**

After loading the buck into Dwaine's truck we headed to his house to get the buck ready for our trip back home. Hunter did most of the work of gutting and skinning the deer with some help from Rob and my dad.

We were soon ready to travel and headed for home on Sunday afternoon. What a day!

The buck weighed 300 pounds and had a 29-inch inside spread.

This was the absolute best hunt I have ever been on and never dreamed it would have ended like it did.

I want to thank Outdoor Buddies for everything they did to make this hunt possible. I want to thank Dwaine Robey for everything he did for us and also Rob Adams for taking six days of his life to help me get my buck. Rob always had a way of keeping us entertained when it was slow.

We also want to thank Bill Schulze and Sangre de Cristo Outfitters. Bill went above and beyond for me!

**This was truly the adventure of a lifetime!**

## November Deer Hunt Near Durango

By Derrick Riley

I want to thank Outdoor Buddies for the opportunity for a November doe hunt just south of Durango this past weekend. My son, Daniel, and I feel so fortunate to be allowed to attend this annual opportunity.

The land owners, Ken Beck and Kyle Beebe, were so gracious in allowing this hunt and their support to the disabled and mobility impaired should not go unrecognized.

As suggested by our guides, the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio, Colorado is a great location to stay. Imagine staying in a resort hotel less than thirty minutes from our private land hunting area. As you can see from the photos, we had a successful hunt and a great time.

Our guides, Cole Davis and Brad Harper, are very knowledgeable and patient when working with these types of hunters. Cole assisted hunter Ray Park and his friend Tom Boesch. Ray filled his tag just thirty minutes after sun up. A shot of approximately fifteen yards from their vehicle was an excellent way to begin their day and left Ray with plenty of time to return to his elk hunting efforts with Tom.



Guide Brad Harper (left) with Derrick in the hunting blind.

The doe failed to make it within shooting range before they returned to the forest, but this was not disappointing to us as the experience is what mattered most.

We decided to return to the hotel and come back in the evening when the doe should return to the fields.

As Brad had expected, the doe came out just as the shadows began to cover the fields in the early evening light. This time, choosing to use my Buffalo Bill Commemorative Lever Action 30-30 (wall hanger), my doe tag was filled.



Tom and Ray pose with Ray's deer.

Choosing to hunt with a bow, my hunt required a little more time which made my morning even more enjoyable.

As the sun came up in the early morning, well over twenty quality does entered our field. Brad was very helpful in ranging the doe and patient in waiting as the doe approached our blind and I fidgeted in my seat.



Derrick and his son, Daniel, are shown here with Derrick's deer.

This experience is just what I needed after having to forego my previous bow season hunt due to medical problems.

Thanks again and I look forward to my next opportunity to hunt with Outdoor Buddies.

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

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

## Antelope Adventure on the High Plains

By Earl Moffitt

My adventure began with notification in January 2019 from Outdoor Buddies' Nick Filler that I had been selected to hunt antelope in Wyoming at the Monaghan Ranch in September. To do this, I needed to draw a Wyoming antelope license for the area.

In June, I was happy to hear that I had drawn a license from the state of Wyoming and I would be able to hunt antelope with Outdoor Buddies in the fall.

The Monaghan Ranch is located about 7 miles south of Laramie, Wyoming, about 2.5 hours from my house. Anticipation was building through the summer months as I was preparing for the hunt, getting gear ready and sighting in my rifle.

Finally, it was September 21 and we were at the Monaghan Ranch for the hunt. The weather was good and we were ready for a great hunt.

My good friend and fellow Outdoor Buddies member, Roger Duckworth, had also drawn a tag so we were hunting together. We would be hunting with Garry Woodman, the very experienced and knowledgeable ranch hunt manager.

The first order of business was to assure our rifles were still on target at 100 yards, we each checked our rifles by shooting a steel plate at 100 yards, our rifles were fine and ready for the hunt.

As our hunt began, we saw numerous antelope; it was like the good old days when game was abundant everywhere on the plains. We passed up several very good 14 inch racked bucks. We really enjoyed having the opportunity to look over many antelope and see them in their natural habitat.

At about 9 am, Roger harvested his Antelope with a 300 Winchester Magnum at 300 yards. Success! His buck was fantastic and turned out to be a trophy animal.

We continued on with the quest for my buck. It had gotten cloudy and the winds had picked up to 40 mph or so. Nick Filler from Outdoor Buddies had joined us by this point in the hunt. We saw orange rock formations rising from the prairie that were beautiful to behold.

We continued to see numerous antelope in search for the buck I wanted to harvest. About 11:30am, I mentioned to Garry Woodman that I would be happy with an 18 inch world record buck; he said I don't think that is going to happen. I told Gary and Nick that if I couldn't have the world record, then I would be very happy with a non-typical racked buck.

At that moment, made to order, Nick said "There is your non-typical buck right there!" I looked and saw the non-typical antelope buck of my dreams standing at about 100 yards!

Needless to say, I settled the cross hairs of my rifle scope on the buck and he was mine in an instant! Success again!

This hunt was not only about the success of harvesting our antelope, it was about being with old and new friends, seeing so many antelope roaming the plains, observing coyotes catching prairie dogs and golden eagles soaring overhead. We were able to tour a barn that was built in the 1800's and saw a couple of barn owls as well.

This was a fantastic adventure and I want to thank Garry Woodman and the owners of Monaghan Ranch, Nick Filler, and Outdoor Buddies for making this hunt possible.



Earl poses with his non-typical Wyoming buck antelope.

## Outdoor Buddies Pronghorn Hunt

By Jake Filler

Each and every year, I look forward to hunting and count the days until my tag starts, but this year was different.

The week before my antelope hunt, I was elk hunting in northwest Colorado and came so close to getting one. Many elk were in my crosshairs, but I never had the chance to pull the trigger.

The week after that hunt, we drove to Cheyenne on a Saturday for a Sunday morning hunt. I was so excited because I hadn't got an animal in two years and I had a very good feeling we would see some and get a good shot.

I couldn't sleep that night due to the adrenaline in my body. That morning, we drove from Cheyenne and arrived at camp just before dawn.

We met Nick Filler and Larry Sanford there and decided to start moving toward the south part of the Meadow Springs Ranch.

About fifteen minutes into the hunt, we spotted a group of twenty or so over the crest of a hill, about 400 yards away.

Nick had brought a red-cow decoy to sneak behind as we put a stalk on them.

I was more than ready to take a 400 yard shot, when I look to our left and there are two antelope standing at 100 yards, behind an electric fence.

I drop to the ground in order to get a prone shot. From Nick's perspective, I had a clear shot, but he was standing up. From my perspective, I had to move up to the crest of the hill.

I finally had a good shot, so I put my reticle directly in the vital area, exhaled, and squeezed the trigger.



Nick and Jake pose with Jake's antelope along with the cow decoy.

The animal dropped like a rock, as I racked another bullet just in case.

It has never felt so good to get an animal and I couldn't have been any happier with the size. A "trophy doe" Larry called it. We had an animal down by 6:57 AM.

Thanks to the Outdoor Buddies Youth Outreach Program for providing this opportunity to me.

One of my favorite hunts ever!

## Warriors on Cataract at Forum on Prevention of Veteran Suicides

By Dr. Frederick Solheim

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. Each trip can accommodate about 25 disabled veterans and caregivers.

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.

Two of our therapists, Dr. Cristal McGill and Kristi Ruben and I, Fred Solheim, attended a two day conference in Salt Lake City in mid-November on healing our veterans, and co-chaired two break-out sessions on preventing veteran suicides.

Our two sessions were on how to recognize veterans at risk to suicide, how to engage them, and how to pull them back from that brink. They tend to withdraw, are not visible, often do not manifest symptoms. And after we find them, how do we get involved in healing outdoor activities with other veterans. They tend to be reclusive and resist coming out even when combat buddies go to them.



This is a scene from one of the break-out sessions.

The information and findings from the conference are to be published in the book that will come out of the Symposium, along with contact information on assets and agencies that support those at risk. The break-outs were very informative and productive.

We generally do quite well healing and reintegrating the veterans who come on our trips. However over 8,000 of our veterans die each year by their own hand, more than we have lost in 18 years of combat in the Middle East.

We have not lost any of the 500 plus veterans who we have had on our whitewater adventures. We have been told by VA therapists that many of their vets on High Risk Suicide Watch who have rafted with us have been graduated off Watch as a result, that the raft trip is worth years of therapy, that these soldiers, among themselves, are often better healers than what the VA is accomplishing. The trips tend to regenerate the camaraderie they knew in their service, and they spontaneously form up support networks.

Initial planning and coordination for the 2020 raft trips is underway.

## Some Venison for the Table

Jerry (Chris) Huerta has been an avid outdoorsman his entire life. He was born in Berthoud, Colorado in 1935.

After his retirement, he and wife, Anita, moved to Montana to be close to Anita's family. Jerry and Anita managed a farm in Montana where they grew a wide variety of vegetables and other produce. They also managed a small menagerie of animals including chickens, turkeys, rabbits, goats, and a few others.

Jerry continued his pursuit of outdoor activities taking advantage of the Montana's abundant wildlife in his fishing and hunting activities.

However, about fifteen years ago Jerry suffered a stroke that left the left side of his body paralyzed.

About a year and a half ago, Jerry and Anita moved back to Colorado and now reside in Monument. Soon after their return to Colorado, Jerry registered as a member of Outdoor Buddies and is now an active member participating in fishing and hunting activities and even attending Outdoor Buddies board of directors meeting when possible.

He says that he has a preference for wild game meat over what is available at the grocery store and wanted an opportunity to harvest a deer for his freezer.



**Jerry was able to claim a mule deer doe for his freezer with the help of Outdoor Buddies and Sangre de Cristo Outfitters. He is shown above along with Travis Schulze of Sangre de Cristo Outfitters.**

## Outdoor Buddies Shooting Program at Green Mill Sportsman's Club

Comments by Pete LaBella



I want to thank Wally Hunt for all the help he gave to me and our great Green Mill volunteers running and organizing the shooting at the fabulous Green Mill's range.

I remember when Outdoor Buddies' excellent director, Richard Cori, and I started this program twelve years ago.

Wally got all the Outdoor Buddies members who wanted to shoot at our range organized and also bought refreshments. He really did a great job!



**Richard Cori**



**Wally Hunt**

Richard also helped Wally and did a great job in getting CBS News reporters to come up to the range to see what all the fun and friendships were all about. They did a great job on reporting this fun day and it was shown on the CBS evening news.

I managed to arrange for some great door prizes donated by Cabela's over the years, thanks to Brett Lococo, Cabela's store manager. He donated some really excellent door prizes. Everyone was excited because everyone went home with a great prize. Thanks again good friend Brett.

We also had the local newspapers attend the shoot and report about it with some excellent photos.

Wally has since retired, Richard has passed, and I had to give it up for health reasons.

This great program is still going on as good or better because of all the great volunteers from Green Mill and the Outdoor Buddies directors. The improvements that our great Green Mills Board of Directors have made at the range have made things very easy for the "Buddies". They installed bathrooms with water and heat, more and easier parking, and electricity and easy access inside the range. Every shooter has a Green Mill volunteer by their side helping them. And attendance is increasing.

What a great place to shoot, what a bunch of great people who volunteer to help out, and what a great group of people who still love to shoot, hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors. Special thanks to those volunteers who make this happen.

On a personal note - The happiness and smiles inside that range on that day just makes me want to say - Thanks Wally & Richard for starting this.

God Bless to everyone and God Bless America!

## HOW IT WORKS

### Understanding the 2019 Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign, which runs through December 31, has become one of the most important and widely recognized activities of the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation. Individual contributions are enhanced by matching funds to provide crucial financial support for our community's nonprofits. The rate of the match gift from the Matching Fund varies each year and is based on our Matching Fund income and total donations. The match percentage is determined in January, after all donations have been collected. Once determined, we apply that rate to the first \$1,000 per donation, per family. If you donate more than \$1,000 to one or more nonprofits, the match amount will be equally shared among the nonprofits you have designated.

For more information about the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation please go to: <https://www.wmvcf.org/>

Please clip the coupon on the dotted lines, fill out the form, and send it along with your check to the address shown below.

Please distribute my donation to the following Custer County nonprofit organizations in the amounts shown (use separate sheet if necessary):

| <b>Donation to Matching Fund (Benefits ALL Nonprofits)</b> | <b>Amount: \$</b> |
|--|-------------------|
| Nonprofit Org: <b>Outdoor Buddies</b>                      | Amount: \$ _____  |
| Nonprofit Org: _____                                       | Amount: \$ _____  |
| Nonprofit Org: _____                                       | Amount: \$ _____  |
| <b>Total Amount: \$</b> _____                              |                   |

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 2019

**IMPORTANT:**  
Please make **ONE CHECK** for your total donation payable to: **WMVCF** (or **WMV Community Foundation**)

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

## Upcoming Events Calendar

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

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Event/Location</b>  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Contacts</b>   |
|--------------|--|--|---|
| 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<br>(303) 877-8584<br><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<br>(303) 877-8584<br><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<br>(303) 514-8944<br><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<br>(970) 218-5356<br><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><br>Annual fundraiser banquet at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center.  | Nick Filler<br>(719) 359-3641<br><a href="mailto:nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org">nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org</a> |
| April 25     | Hunter Sight- Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club   | Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:00 AM.   | Bill Gowdy<br>(303) 489-9411<br><a href="mailto:billgowdy@msn.com">billgowdy@msn.com</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<br>(970) 218-5356<br><a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a>                           |
| July 25      | Hunter Sight- Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club   | Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:00 AM.   | Bill Gowdy<br>(303) 489-9411<br><a href="mailto:billgowdy@msn.com">billgowdy@msn.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<br>(303) 514-8944<br><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<br>(970) 218-5356<br><a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a>                           |