

Summer 2016



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education Magazine

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President's Message

“ ... there are endless requests for current information relative to firearms regulations. ”

By Robert A. Gruszecki



Robert A. Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

How can 2016 be half over already? The year began in a whirlwind that seems to have no end in sight. And despite yet another year of economic turmoil, AHEIA remains very busy. Between adding the new programs, meeting with instructors to keep them informed of changes to program delivery, weathering the economic storm, and chasing funding dollars, we have our hands full! AHEIA's work is never done; thankfully, the support of our faithful membership and dedicated partners makes that work possible.

AHEIA's newest program, the Canadian Boating Safety Course, is now operational with a total of 10 instructors certified in its delivery. There is quite a lot of behind the scenes work that goes on to make a new program, as well as while it is up and running, and we are looking to add instructors. This is a nationally recognized certification course that is required in order to pilot watercraft, and there is a great demand for quality education in our province. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a boating safety instructor with AHEIA, please contact Allan Orr at the Calgary office and he will walk you through the process. If you know someone who wants the course itself, please connect them with any of our offices.

With a couple of shoots already behind us — like the Brian Burke Targets for Kids fundraiser, which was a huge success — and many more to go, the Calgary Firearms Centre is a very busy place this year. Our hardworking crew continues to repair, upgrade, and generally spruce up the facility and grounds as we strive to provide a world class range with top of the line equipment in a comfortable, welcoming environment. Come try our new skeet machines — the result of a long planned renovation, partially paid for by a membership funding drive. Thank you to all who have supported this initiative through donations, sweat, and tears (the tears were mostly ours). There are many more plans in the works for improvements; make sure to visit throughout the year to see them unfold.

The Ladies Trap League is in its second year, and has grown so much in popularity that we had to schedule three different sessions! This year, women with all levels of ability — including never having handled a firearm before — are enjoying camaraderie, coaching, and learning new skills. Many have become competitive and are joining the registered shoots. Join us for the

July-August or the September-October sessions, or both, each ending in a wrap-up BBQ social with prizes for all. AHEIA is very proud to be a part of this movement. Keep up the great work ladies!

The 3rd Annual Spring Fling banquet, held June 2 in Edmonton at the Taliani Palace, was a great success; yet another example of our staff's hard work and the membership's devoted support. Many compliments were received on the dinner, prizes, and evening as a whole, although the smiles we saw were proof enough of its success. We thank the donors for their generosity and attendees for their enthusiasm and support. Together we make a difference — why not have some fun while we do it? Next year's Spring Fling is already being planned; we hope to see you there.

As many of you know, the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) has been updated and use of the new materials will begin on July 1. All previous versions of the manual and tests will no longer be valid as of this date. For the past few weeks I have been travelling around the province and meeting with instructors to unveil the new teaching materials, answer questions, and make sure the Chief Firearms Officer's (CFO) paperwork has been completed. AHEIA will not be able to provide any of the new CFSC materials to instructors who have not attended a meeting and signed the new documents. If you are an instructor who has not met the CFO's new requirements, please contact Glenn McKay at

the Calgary office (403-252-8474) to arrange a meeting time. We look forward to getting past these “growing pains” and returning to the quality delivery of this important safety education for Albertans, as quickly as possible.

Continuing in the firearms theme, there are endless requests for current information relative to firearms regulations. So much so, that we have launched a new website that answers your questions on use, transportation, storage, and so much more! Check it out; we would love to hear your feedback. Please feel free to pass it on!

Fundraising as a whole continues to be a challenge. Albertans are losing their jobs, costs are increasing across the board, and we are competing with major catastrophes and other worthy causes for the hearts of donors. AHEIA's costs also continue to rise with the US dollar. All of this and more puts pressure on us to find funding sources that don't tax our membership to death. It's to the benefit of all Albertans that we provide the services we do, and fortunately the passion and dedication of our staff and volunteers keep programs going. We are lucky to have generous supporters donating whatever they can — money, clothing, equipment, services, etc. Wondering how you can help in tough times? There is always need of a helping hand with carpentry, electrical, plumbing, gardening/landscaping, donation solicitation and collection, envelope stuffing, event prep (set up and tear down), and so many others. If you have a special talent or skill, we would love to hear from you! As well, AHEIA is hiring to fill a number of positions in Calgary and Edmonton; if you or someone you know is looking for a rewarding career making a difference in the lives of Albertans, please see the job postings at www.AHEIA.com.

As always, thank you to the many, many volunteers who come out to the different AHEIA facilities and events and assist in a million different ways. You are the backbone of this organization and Alberta would not be the wonderful place it is without you. Nowhere else can boast of civic-minded citizens like we can, and we are so proud of that. Together we keep this organization strong; I look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Sincerely,

Robert A. Gruszecki, President

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2016 Spring Fling Banquet and Fundraiser

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

2016 marked our 3rd Annual Spring Fling fundraising banquet.

The event was very well attended and it was nice to see old and new friends getting together to celebrate Conservation Education. It seems like this event has become more of a family event rather than the average fundraiser. If you were unable to attend, I would really encourage you to make it to next year's event. Our 2017 Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, June 1 at the Taliani Palace in Edmonton. More details will be available soon.

Those attending had a bevy of "goodies" available to tempt them, including a live auction, specialty packages, buckets, silent auction items, and a Beer for a Year raffle. There were lots of smiling faces and happy people enjoying themselves.

An event like this would not be possible without the support of numerous businesses and organizations. In the current economic climate, it is extremely difficult to obtain the donations required to make this event viable. A heartfelt thanks to all who stepped up. Your continued support is very much appreciated indeed.

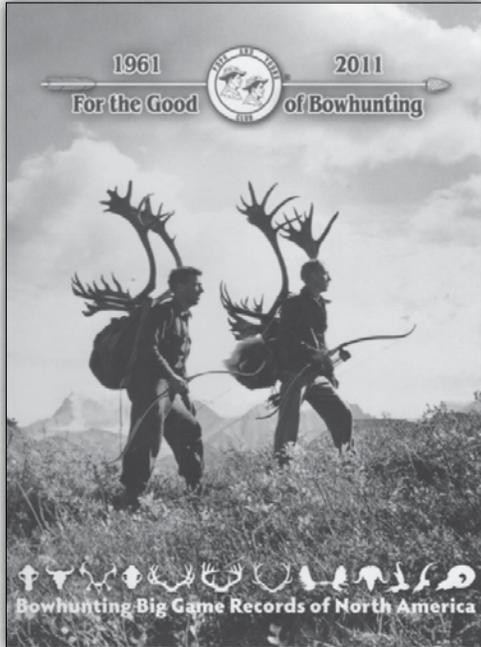
Thanks to Marvin Kleinbert who once again did a great job of anchoring the live auction as our auctioneer. Thanks also goes out to our MC, Eric Moland, who helped make everything run smoothly. Recognition also goes out to all the staff and volunteers who helped make this event a big success. I would also like to thank Doug Urichuk for all the work he did on rounding up numerous donations.

A special thank you to the Taliani family, who run the Taliani Palace which has hosted our event since its inception. Their friendly family attitude and dedication to detail really help to make this event a huge success. The food is always a treat and my favourite item is their fried fish ... wow!

*Thank you for your support.
Hope to see you next year!*







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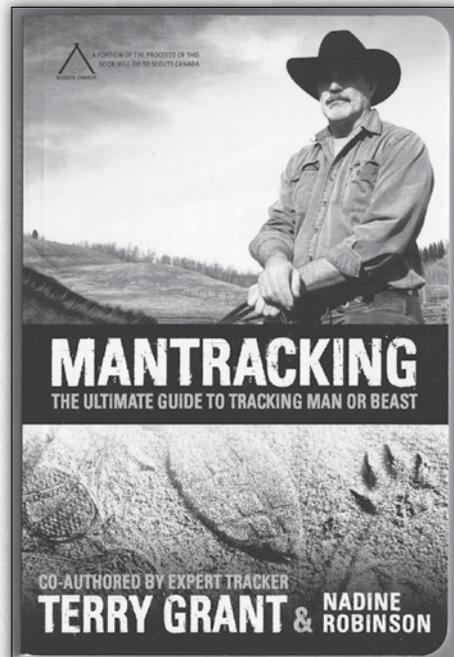
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Firearms Education Report

“ Instructors will note the difference, but students will not see or hear anything new. ”

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

As of July 1, 2016 both of the Canadian firearms programs will have a new look. Not only have the manuals changed, but there are new written examinations and a new practical examination. Instructors will note the difference, but students will not see or hear anything new. The method of delivery will be enhanced via the new

(and only) Power Point presentation, but the basics of the courses will remain the same. There has been considerable discussion on the material, but at the end of the day, this will be the course going forward.

Key Changes:

- Power Point presentation.
- There is no video, but there are video segments within the Power Point presentation.
- The manuals are combined (non-restricted and restricted).
- New written exams, new marking templates.
- New practical exam.
- Only one course per day, eight hours for non-restricted and four hours** for a restricted course (**if taught within seven days, six hours if after seven days).
- Maximum of 12 students for each course unless you have another certified instructor.
- Only certified instructors allowed to teach and mark exams or assist in teaching of the class.

So as you can see, there are changes on the way. The students know no difference; they are obtaining a course because the instructor knows what is required. All instructors will have had the opportunity to attend a meeting to go over all the changes. Instructors who have missed the meetings will have to contact AHEIA to obtain instructions and/or information on the programs. At the very end of the day, the program continues, students are taught using one method, tested using the approved methods and sent on their way with a basic knowledge on firearms safety.

Contact Glenn at the Calgary office,
403-319-2282 (direct line) or
via email at bgm@aheia.com.



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Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association
**Conservation
Education**
Magazine

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Edmonton Report

“ Paying it forward has great personal benefits and rewards. The more help we get, the better for everyone. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

The 2016 Youth Hunter Education Camps are now sold out. If you missed getting your youngsters enrolled, you can take advantage of our 2017 Advance Notification listing. Just email us at edmontoninfo@aheia.com and we will take care of the rest. Typically, those on the list get about a three week jump on the registrations being made available to the general public.

The 2016 Outdoor Youth Seminar is slated for August 19-21. At the time of this writing, we still have limited space available. Registration forms are available for download on our website.

Mark your calendars for Provincial Hunting Day on September 24. Matt Shaw and I will be organizing an event at Alford Lake. Look for registration forms on our website soon. The event will be open to all adults and youngsters and, best of

all, it is FREE. Numerous experts will be available to impart their wisdom on a variety of pursuits. Choose the sessions you are most interested in. For example, shooting a firearm (.22 rimfire, centrefire, shotgun, and black powder); learn about shooting a bow and arrow, and even a cross-bow; game calling; tree stand and ground blind utilization; and much more. Don't miss out as we fill up quickly.

Another date to remember is June 1, 2017. We will be holding our 4th Annual Spring Fling fundraising event. Now you have lots of notice.

Watch for other workshops coming soon; sausage making, hunting for hipsters, the art of taxidermy, "bug-out" (making your own emergency exit kit), and firearms maintenance.

We continue to look for volunteer assistance for all of our courses, camps, events, etc. If you or any of your friends or family members wish to become part of something larger than sitting around watching TV, please let me know. Paying it forward has great personal benefits and rewards. The more help we get, the better for everyone.

There are still numerous Canadian Firearms Program instructors out there who need to teach courses to comply with their commitment with the CFO, especially with the launch of the new program. If you are having difficulty teaching the required number of courses, we can help. Contact the Edmonton or Calgary office and we will get you to assist with one of our in-house courses. You may also like to attend one of our classes as a refresher. Either way, we could use the help and would love to have you.

Until next time.

*Take Care and
Enjoy the Great Outdoors!*



Edmonton Volunteer of the Year



Ken Bodden



By Len Gransch

Every year, as part of the Spring Fling celebrations, AHEIA is pleased to present our Edmonton Volunteer of the Year Award. This year's Volunteer Award was presented to Mr. Ken Bodden. Ken has been a friend of Conservation Education for a very long time. I first met Ken about 16 years ago when he worked for Fish and Wildlife. Upon his retirement, he decided that he wanted to become more involved with AHEIA and started volunteering. He has helped at numerous camps and events, and continues to teach our Conservation and Hunter Education courses and assist with firearms handling and training. Congratulations to Ken on a job well done.

Ken Bodden was born in Kamloops, British Columbia in 1953, one of four boys in the family who spent most weekends hunting and fishing. He moved to Alberta in 1976 to work on a Master's degree in the economics of native natural resource harvesting in the Great Slave Lake area of the Northwest Territories. Ken went on to join the Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta where he worked as a fisheries biologist. Ken retired in 2012 after 30 years. He has been involved with AHEIA since 1978 when he was certified as a hunter education instructor. He took the International Bow Hunter Education course from Bill Wadsworth in 1979 and has been a Master Instructor for 20 years. Currently, Ken is involved with bowhunting courses, hunter education, fishing education and the Canadian Firearms Safety courses. He is also involved in the work of the Alberta Fish and Game Association and other conservation and trout associations in Alberta and British Columbia.

The process for selecting our annual volunteer award is straightforward. Every time anyone volunteers their time at any of our events, their name gets recorded. When it gets close to the time of presenting the award, someone is randomly picked from the database. The more times you volunteer, the more opportunity you have to receive the award.

Congratulations to Ken Bodden, AHEIA's Edmonton Volunteer of the Year.

AHEIA's National Archery in the Schools Program

AHEIA NASP Provincial Archery Tournament

"Our Alberta NASP archers are very close to pushing the top student NASP archers in the world."

By Dave Paplawski



Dave Paplawski
AHEIA Vice President
& Provincial Program
Coordinator

The AHEIA NASP Provincial Archery Tournament took place in Drayton Valley, April 27-30, 2016. A total of 45 schools from Alberta participated, with 1017 student archers registered to compete. Many thanks to Judy Sweet who allowed the tournament to take place in her facility, Wellhouse Supply Warehouse in Drayton Valley. The Drayton Valley Safari Club International Chapter and Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club did an amazing job supporting and hosting the tournament. Thanks to all the volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours of their time to make this event possible:

Jonathan Park
Shirley Mahan
Terry Willoughby
Fayrell Wheeler
Jody Smith
Melinda Senkin

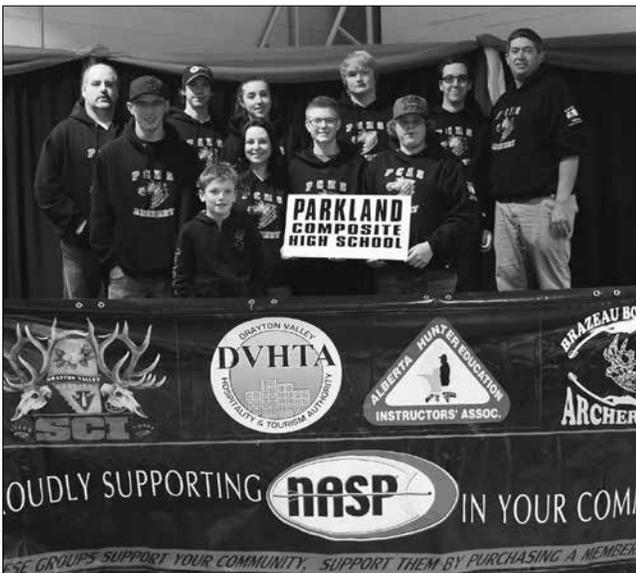
Rob Kubi
Aliasha Sullivan
Marc Gressler
Lorna Thompson
Leonard Claffey
Paula and Cody Mahan

Jayson Ness
Marc Andre
Desiree Janzen
Stan Schumun
Greg Hartman

A special recognition to Jean Anne Teliske who coordinated all the volunteers, set-up, and facility details!

The teachers did a great job coaching and preparing their archers for the competition. Many individual, provincial and national team records were set. Our Alberta NASP archers are very close to pushing the top student NASP archers in the world.

This was our fifth Provincial Tournament in the seventh year of the NASP program in Alberta. Watch out world!



AHEIA NASP Provincial Archery Tournament Results

Elementary Division

Team

H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	2584/3600
St. Anthony's, Drayton Valley.....	2413
Aurora Elementary, Drayton Valley.....	2392

Male

Ben Pittman, Warner School, Warner.....	263/300
Zaiden Connolly, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	263
James Leishman, Mountain View, Mountain View.....	250

Female

Heather Ziprick, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	256/300
Cali Magee, Turner Valley, Turner Valley.....	250
Jehlyn Sterling, Gus Wetter, Castor.....	248

Middle School Division

Team

H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	3197/3600
Mountain View, Mountain View.....	3154
Gus Wetter, Castor.....	3038

Male

Braxen Scott, Mountain View, Mountain View.....	279/300
Nickolas Zaft, Edwin Parr, Athabasca.....	278
Ryker Closs, Mountain View, Mountain View.....	278

Female

Hailey Ashton, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	290/300
Bryn Boykiw, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	283
Kayla Bruce, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	282

High School Division

Team

Cardston High, Cardston.....	3295/3600
H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	3276
William E. Hay, Stettler.....	3183

Male

Zach Tychkowsky, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	292/300
Adam Verspeelt, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	289
Wyatt Olsen, Cardston, Cardston.....	288

Female

Emmalee Connolly, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	286/300
Tori Pritchard, H.A. Kostash, Smoky Lake.....	281
Brooke Glacier, William E. Hay, Stettler.....	281



Lastly, farewell and thanks to Ken Cook who retired from AHEIA and NASP on May 20, 2016.

Thanks for ALL you did for AHEIA and the NASP Program!



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Completed Careers



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Robin Leech in the early morning of June 17, 2016. Dr. Leech, affectionately known as "Spiderman", was a founding member and long-time supporter of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists.

Having an entomologist for a father, Dr. Leech could say the family names of many insects before he could speak in full sentences. From then on, Robin had a keen interest in all aspects of plants and animals. Throughout grammar school he collected beetles, butterflies and nymphs, but he soon developed a fascination with spiders. Robin completed his Masters thesis on the spiders of the Lake Hazen area, NWT, and his PhD thesis was a taxonomic study of the spider family Amaurobiidae. Robin worked as a



Robin Leech

professional Biologist in research, as a consultant, and as an instructor. Over the years he visited Africa, Antarctica, Alaska, Greenland, Mexico, South America, Indochina, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, western and much of the northern United States; on all these trips, he was collecting spiders. Dr. Leech enjoyed working on projects like the WildFiles that "push kids' buttons" and make them curious about the world around them. Dr. Leech was a great friend to AHEIA and will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this very difficult time. Robin had requested that funeral arrangements be simple and private.

Sadly, we report that Dave Fuller, a long time friend of AHEIA, passed away on Monday, June 20, 2016.

Dave was an avid shotgun shooter, and in his lifetime registered 29,000 singles, 22,275 handicap, and 5,700 doubles targets with the Amateur Trapshooting Association. While he enjoyed the shooting sports, he equally engaged and excelled at firearms repair. Most shooters in the Alberta firearms community have used Dave's gunsmithing knowledge at one time or another. Dave cared about shooting and shooters and, while he kept the AHEIA arsenal operational for many years, he refused to be paid for his services, saying simply, "It's for the kids." He constantly volunteered at our centres and shared in many of our events.



Dave Fuller

Dave will be missed at our events and the lack of his presence at the Calgary Firearms Centre is a loss for all of us who knew him well. I considered Dave a friend and had thought of him as a member of the "AHEIA Senate". If you ever wanted his advice, or if you ever wanted to know his thoughts on any subject, all you had to do was ask!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean and his family. As per Dave and Jean's wishes, donations in Dave's memory can be made to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association at 911 Sylvester Crescent SW, Calgary, Alberta, or by phone at 403-252-8474.



Robert A. Gruszecski, President

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
would like to thank
Wildlife Habitat Canada



The Mentored Hunt Program Materials project was undertaken with the financial support of:
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Teach Your Children Well

" Seeing this through the eyes of a child may open our own eyes just a bit more!"

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

During a recent non-restricted firearms safety course, I was asked a question from a person who was from a "non firearms background". He had never been exposed to firearms as a youth, never touched nor fired a long gun of any type, but wanted to learn as much about the "firearms world" as possible. Although this was not the first time I have had students taking part in a class for the educational value, it was a good opportunity to explain what is meant by "Explain Firearms Safety to Every Member of your Household" to a person who has never been around firearms.

Growing up, ACTS and PROVE were simply a matter of making your gun safe. Pull the bolt out, look down the barrel (chamber to muzzle) to make sure it was not fouled, grab the right ammunition and away you go. The only ammunition that was available was the "correct ammunition", as it was the only rimfire ammunition we had! If, by chance, a step in making your gun safe was missed, you usually felt the result. Being the smallest and youngest in the family, I learned very quickly not to miss a step.

Now, going forward, to families not from the firearms world, how do we explain firearms safety? We teach those interested in obtaining a firearms licence the correct, by the book, method of ACTS and PROVE, along with the other nine chapters contained within the manual. The long term theory is that what we see, we can usually follow, and what we do with others watching, they pick up. So, in reality, not only do we teach the person in front of us, we teach those who are watching the student!

This was pointed out in a small survey completed in Texas (<http://town-hall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2016/02/29/shocker-kids-with-guns-in-the-home-know-not-to-pick-them-up-unattended-n2126356>) which pointed out that those who taught their children about firearms had children who were better prepared when finding a firearm with no adult present. I witnessed a similar incident in my own home where my son was playing a game with his best friend. The other youngster said, "Let's look at your Dad's guns", and the reply was, "They are just Dad's guns and we can't



touch them without him being here." Simple reply, but very effective. I then took that as an opening to have the parents of the playmate allow me to teach firearms safety to their family, if so required. Interesting part here was that this was well before our current firearms programs were drafted.

So when I explained this to the student, it became clear that firearms and firearm safety is really a total method of learning. Theory, practical, and then demonstrating the new skill, goes a very long way in teaching a new person the mystery of firearms and gun handling.

AHEIA has developed a program to assist those who wish to teach their families and others about firearms safety. Please go to www.kidwisetraining.com and have a look at this informative program. Seeing this through the eyes of a child may open our own eyes just a bit more!



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You know when you're the third kid in the family and all the fun and cool stuff has already been done by your older siblings, how the things you want are not happening because you're too young, too small, last in line or, well, just overlooked ... ?

Well, this October I broke that cycle and did what no one else in the whole entire planet has done. That's right, out of the ~108 billion other people who have walked on this planet, I know for a fact that I put my foot where no other human in human history has.

Dad has been pushing me for years to take my Hunter Ed and come hunting with him. This year I turned 12 and I am sure he hoped that I would follow in my sister's and brother's footsteps by going to camp, getting my hunting licence and joining in on the family hunts. But, I want to be me; I don't really want to kill an animal. I have — gophers — but it isn't my thing.

I love being outside. I remember when I was a kid going fishing with my dad on his birthday and having tonnes of fun helping to catch fish. You can watch us fishing on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfFbqZAW0LY>. That's me: "He's a fast little bugger"... But as much fun as it was, I remember I wanted to get away from the pathway. I have hiked up to Troll Falls, Big Hill Spring Falls, tromped around Banff and the parks and trails around Calgary, but they are planned and, when the trails are busy, sometimes like walking in a line like at school.

The best memory I have of being where no path existed was on a pheasant hunting trip when I was ~six years old, on a frozen cattail slough. The ice creaked and groaned as we walked and was so slippery I could slide and crash through the cattails better than our dog, Jack.

I have hunted with the family before and rattled, called, spotted and flushed and all sorts of other outdoor adventures, but this fall I got my turn. Dad ditched Kayleigh to go bow hunt on her own along the river and I got to go on a "No Path Hike".

Packed and ready, we went up ... seriously. I don't think dad was listening; I said "no path hike" not "straight up a mountain hike"! Every step was up, dad was panting and I felt like lead. Every few steps we stopped so he could catch his breath and then we went up some more. We could see everywhere; I even spotted Kayleigh stalking along a patch of trees way, way down.

When we finally got to the top, it wasn't ... it was a ridge that continued to climb. We startled a few deer and watched as a doe and her fawn snuck away through the trees. We continued up to a big boulder that looked like a head. We spotted more animals — elk, mule deer — and even wolf and cougar prints. I'm sure bears were not far away.

We went up higher than I think I have ever hiked before. I could see the entire place at my feet. I could see past hunting spots where we got Lookout, Snow, Jr and Spot. I finally saw what a funnel point was and why animals create paths staying hidden along the tree lines.

The ridge was amazing: three steps to the right it was hot and calm, three steps to the left it was cold and the wind almost blew you away. You could see why animals would work their way up to the top and tuck in behind the edge. We sat and had lunch at the top, basking in the warmth.

After a few more kilometres, we tucked back over the ridge to a spot where some geological mumbo jumbo thingy dad spotted was and also where we found the perfect spot that was "my" footprint on the earth.

Walking back was way easier. Working our way down off the mountain, I wondered who else has been here and seen what we did? It's weird, you want to share the place because it is so fun and others should have the experience, but at the same time you want it to be yours.

Something as small as a footprint defines me more than people could guess. It is a statement that very few of the ~108 billion people who ever walked, hunted or lived on this earth can say: "I am unique at 12!" I can go for nature walks where there is no path, railing, people, cell service or noise other than nature around you. Canada is cold and it is big, but if you step off the path you will find gems that cannot be found anywhere else.

I may not be a hunter, but I am a carnivore who loves to be outdoors!

My next goal is to convince Dad to take me on the Crypt Lake hike past Hell Roaring Falls. Although there is a trail, it sounds just too cool to miss.



No Path Hiking

"I know for a fact that I put my foot where no other human in human history has."



By Brenna Weaver





Take a Summer Road Trip: Cody, Wyoming

“Named after its founder, William Frederick Cody, better known as “Buffalo Bill” Cody ...”

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Assistant Conservation
Education Program
Coordinator
AHEIA - Calgary

As summer vacation approaches, the question of what to do may be on your mind. How about a road trip? Yes, no planes or crowded airports; just the car, some snacks and a destination. Ok, we're heading south, so make sure you have your passport, as we are driving to Cody, Wyoming.

Cody is a small town located on the east side of Yellowstone National Park. Named after its founder, William Frederick Cody, better known as “Buffalo Bill” Cody, the town was established in 1896.

Among other things, Cody is known as the rodeo capital of the world. From June 1 to August 31, the “Cody Nite Rodeo” runs nightly.

Not the rodeo type? How about the “Buffalo Bill Center of the West”, a complex housing five world class museums.

The Buffalo Bill Museum offers a look into the life and times of William F. Cody and the characters he created with his “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show”. The exhibits also reveal an intimate look at one of America’s iconic figures.

The Plains Indians Museum depicts the stories and artifacts of the Plains Indians people, their culture, traditions, values and histories. Of interest is the Paul Dyck Plains Indian Culture Collection, which is recognized as the most historic and important privately held collection in the world of Plains Indian art work and artifacts.

Do you like art? The Whitney Western Art Museum should fit the bill. This museum houses an extensive collection of paintings and sculptures depicting the American West.

The Draper Natural History Museum offers interactive exhibits highlighting geology, wildlife and the human presence in the Yellowstone region.

The Cody Firearms Museum (this is my favourite ... and usually when my wife goes for lunch) holds the most comprehensive collection of American firearms in the world. Ever wonder where the Winchester Arms Collection is? It's

here in Cody, along with firearms from Marlin, DuBiel and L.C. Smith.

Need some light reading? How about the Harold McCracken Research Library. This library houses a collection of 30,000 books, over 400 manuscripts and more than a half-million photographs.

Still have some time on your hands? While in the area, head to Yellowstone National Park, the home of “Old Faithful”. Remember, the buffalo have the right of way on the Park’s roadways.



Photos courtesy: centerofthewest.org, yellowstonecountry.org and wikipedia

Part 3 of a 4 Part Series

How to Take Your Best Shot: Sight Picture and Breath Control

"All of these sighting elements are important, and more challenging, in positions other than prone. For normal hunting distances, a little bit of compromise goes a long way."

By Linda K. Miller
MilCun Training Center



Linda K. Miller
MilCun Training Center

Everybody has heard of marksmanship principles, few have heard what they really mean. Here are the ones we use when we teach our rifle marksmanship courses.

The slide we show at the beginning of the marksmanship lecture says it all:

Marksmanship Principles

Position and holding pattern

Alignment - natural body alignment

Sight picture and breath control

❖Mental program

Trigger release & follow through

But the devil is in the details and we take our time going through the marksmanship principles, first in the classroom and then out on the range.

Last issue, we talked about "Natural Body Alignment". Now, we move on to the third marksmanship principle.

PAS*T: "S" is for Sight Picture and Breath Control

Sight picture with a modern scope is a pretty simple matter. Two elements are already taken care of during the rifle fitting: centering your eye in the scope and having the correct eye relief. Now you just need to get the crosshairs on the target. For the coarse adjustment (in prone), we

use the shape of the ground and place the rifle so it is pointing generally at the target. Then, for intermediate adjustment, we move our rear bag along the corporal line of the butt (angled line of the stock from pistol grip to toe), setting up the crosshairs to be slightly above the point of aim. Finally, we use a little squeeze on the rear bag to lower the crosshair onto the point of aim.

Another critical element of sight picture is cant. Cant is letting the rifle lean a little, instead of keeping it exactly vertical. We demonstrate the effects of cant in the classroom by keeping the crosshairs on the target while canting the rifle. It's easy to imagine that when the muzzle moves from its usual 6 o'clock position to 3 or 9 o'clock, that the shot will also go that way. What's a little harder to picture is the bullet trajectory. So, on the range, we have our shooters shoot at a target at 100 metres ... it varies from rifle to rifle, but generally a 90° cant results in about 6" of shot displacement. This multiplies when firing at longer ranges, so even a 5° cant is significant at 300 metres.

All of these sighting elements are important – and more challenging – in positions other than prone. Ideally, you'll have your eyes level and your head erect in all positions ... but to do this AND keep the rifle upright (not canted) is not always possible. For normal hunting distances, a little bit of compromise goes a long way. The most important thing for iron sights is to keep the front and rear sights aligned because an alignment error is magnified by distance. For a scope, the most important thing is to keep it level because a cant error is critical when your sight is high above the bore.

Breathing is a fairly controversial topic, and for no apparent reason. As Keith is fond of saying, "If you're breathing, you're moving." So you do have to hold your breath for a short period of not more than 8 seconds and usually only about

2-3 seconds while you are actually squeezing the trigger. This is known as using the "respiratory pause" and is broadly accepted as a good technique for the accurate shot.

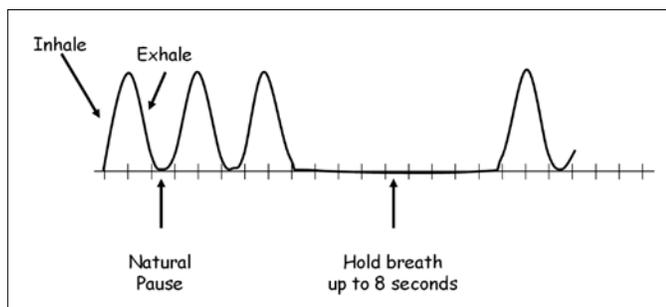
The controversy is usually about how much air you have in your lungs while you're doing this. The answer is, "It depends." When you are shooting a nice relaxed prone shot, you'll be somewhere near the bottom on your normal exhale. In positions, you'll use the amount of air in your lungs to support your position: kneeling usually requires a complete exhale whereas standing usually requires half-full lungs.

Another important variant of breathing is what we call the "gulp of air". This is used when you're physically stressed. You've been running and your blood is pounding and you can't catch your breath, much less find a respiratory pause. Just before you settle your sight on the target, you take a big gulp of air and the body is momentarily satisfied ("Ahhh, oxygen!") and you fire the shot immediately.

When dealing with mental stress, we teach combat breathing, also advocated by author Dave Grossman. It is controlled breathing: in for a count of 4, hold for a count of 4, out for a count of 4, hold for a count of 4. This signals your body that now is the time for calmness. It is a brilliant tool that helps shooters who are nervous or having trouble concentrating.

Next issue, we continue with the marksmanship principles, focusing on Mental Program as well as Trigger Release and Follow Through.

Linda K. Miller and Keith A. Cunningham are the authors of *The Wind Book for Rifle Shooters* and *The Secrets of Mental Marksmanship*. Both books are both available at www.amazon.ca and <http://theshootingedge.com>.



When possible, use the respiratory pause (illustrated at left). When you can't catch your breath, take a "gulp of air" (pictured above).

Part 2 of a 3 Part Series

Firearms Ballistics: A Look at External Ballistics

“... or what happens with the bullet as it flies through the air.”

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr

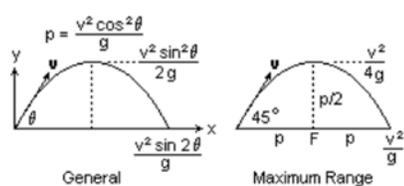
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

In the last issue, we took a look at internal ballistics, or what happens to the bullet and cartridge inside the firearm. This issue we'll take a cursory look at external ballistics, or what happens with the bullet as it flies through the air.

Upon leaving the muzzle of a firearm, the projectile travels in a parabolic trajectory.

It does not, as some may think, travel in a straight line. This parabolic trajectory describes a path where the drop increases as the velocity decreases and the distance grows.

This is how a physicist would see it ...



Parabolic Trajectory Formula

<http://folegattiadvocacia.com.br/css/projectile-motion-parabola>

“With all of these different factors in play, it's a wonder anyone has ever shot anything!

The key is to practice, practice, practice!

Practice in varying conditions and with different loads to get to know your firearm(s). Once you are confident in your shot placement and you understand the basics of external ballistics, you will be an efficient and effective shooter.”

Although there are many, many forces acting on a projectile travelling through the atmosphere, we are going to focus on the four force factors discussed in the Canadian Firearms Safety Course: velocity, air resistance (drag), gravity and mass. I will also briefly discuss some of the more impactful external factors.

Velocity

Velocity is simply the speed at which the bullet leaves the muzzle of the firearm. Sometimes referred to as muzzle velocity, it can be measured accurately by the use of a chronograph. Velocity is the product of several factors, but the main factor is the amount of gunpowder in the cartridge being fired. More gunpowder means more gas expansion, which leads to more velocity. This is only true to the point where all of the gunpowder is burned at the exact moment when the bullet leaves the barrel. Too little powder will result in a short burn, which will reduce velocity, and too much powder will result in unburned powder being expelled from the firearm, basically wasting it.

In order for a hunter to achieve maximum velocity, he must try a variety of powder volumes in his bullets. Pay close attention to the number of grains of powder in your loads when you buy them and see the difference each makes at the range before taking them hunting.

Air Resistance (Drag)

Drag is created when a body moves through the atmosphere, pushing air out of the way. The drag effect is caused by a low pressure area created behind the object and characterized by whirlpool-like turbulence which slows the projectile as it moves forward. Larger diameter projectiles will have a larger drag coefficient and will be affected more than smaller ones.

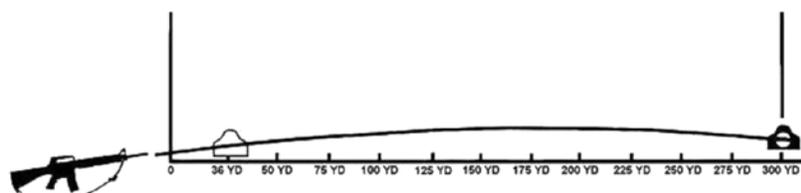
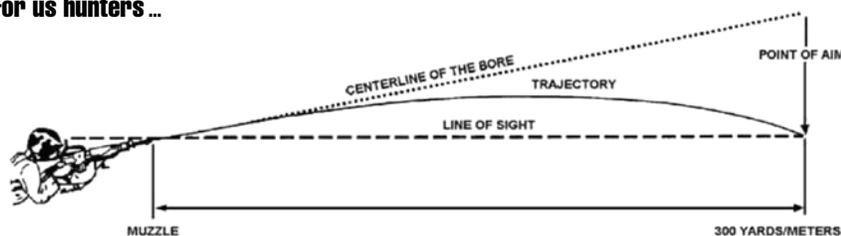
Gravity

Gravity begins to work on the bullet immediately upon its exit from the firearm. The gravitational pull is constant, but as the object's velocity slows due to drag, gravity will have a greater effect and will produce the parabolic trajectory discussed earlier.

Mass

Each of the above three forces is affected by the object's mass. A greater mass greatly affects velocity and the effect gravity has on that object. Air resistance could be affected only in that

For us hunters ...



Firearms Physics

http://fden-2.phys.uaf.edu/webproj/212_spring_2014/Leif_Olson/Leif_Olson/template/Simple_Beauty/trajectory.html

greater mass usually indicates a larger surface area. In bullets of identical calibre, mass has little or no effect on drag.

Together with these four basic force factors, three other external factors can come into play.

Wind

The addition of wind to the equation creates an adjustment in the direction that the drag effect is having on the bullet. A cross wind creates drag on the downwind side, in effect pulling the bullet in that direction. A head wind increases forward drag and a tail wind decreases it. More drag = a greater rate of velocity loss, less drag = a reduced rate of velocity loss.

Elevation

Just as wind is to drag, elevation is to gravity. Gravitational pull is greatest in a line parallel to the earth. So when we shoot a bullet that deviates from that parallel line, gravity has less of an effect, whether shooting uphill or down. The effect on the bullet can be calculated using the Rifleman's Rule which uses the formula

$$R_S = R_H (1 - \tan(\delta\theta) \tan(\alpha)) \sec(\alpha).$$

A much easier method is to buy a good quality rangefinder with angle compensation! Either way, a shooter will need to aim lower than normal when shooting either uphill or down because of the decreased gravitational pull.

Air Density

Air pressure, humidity, and temperature combine to give air its density; this changes as often as the weather patterns change. Of the three, air pressure has the greatest effect on a bullet. Less dense air caused by low barometric pressure or altitude gain can have a significant effect on your shot due to the reduced drag on the bullet. As well, cold air is less dense than warm air, so the same effect applies here. Lastly, although it doesn't have much of an effect, relative humidity can play a role in external ballistics. Counterintuitively (at least to me), highly humid air is less dense than dry air. This is because a water molecule is less dense than the nitrogen molecule it is replacing. Of course, when it rains, the rain drops would cause problems, but that is not due to the humidity. So a cold, dry day at sea level will require a different aim point than a warm, humid day in the mountains.

With all of these different factors in play, it's a wonder anyone has ever shot anything! The key is to practice, practice, practice. Practice in varying conditions and with different loads to get to know your firearm(s). Once you are confident in your shot placement and you understand the basics of external ballistics, you will be an efficient and effective shooter.



**Look for Part 3,
the Conclusion to our
Firearms Ballistics
information series,
in the AHEIA Fall Newsletter.**



Great Meals

from the

Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Moose Steak Strips

1 pound moose round steak - tenderized	2 large eggs
1 1/2 cups flour for dredging	2/3 cup canola oil
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 cup milk	1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon onion powder	

Tenderize the meat by pounding with a mallet or other meat tenderizing tool. Cut into 3" long strips.

Combine eggs, milk, salt, pepper, onion powder, and garlic powder in a shallow dish. Whisk until well blended.

Coat meat strips in flour and shake off excess. Dip in egg mixture and dredge again in the flour. Shake off excess.

Fry the strips in the hot oil until golden brown (about 2 minutes or so). Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel to absorb the excess oil. Keep warm in a medium oven while you complete frying all the strips.

These strips are just crying out for some home cut fries, a tossed green salad, and a cold beer. Enjoy!

Alberta Fish Bake

1 1/2 pounds pike filets (or other white flesh fish)	1 small onion - sliced into rings
1 teaspoon flour	1/4 teaspoon white pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt	3 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
3/4 cup milk	2 tablespoon dry parsley flakes
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder	1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
Dash of hot sauce	4 medium potatoes - peeled
1 tablespoon lemon juice	

Boil potatoes until tender. Drain and allow to cool to room temperature. Slice 1/8" thick.

Place a layer of potatoes in a greased, shallow 2 quart baking dish. Sprinkle with the flour. Top with onion. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, hot sauce and garlic powder. Pour half the milk over the potatoes.

Place the fish on top of the potato mixture, then pour the remaining milk over the fish. Sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese.

Bake covered at 375°F for 20-30 minutes until the fish flakes.

Sprinkle with the paprika and parsley. Finish with a drizzle of the lemon.

Serve with your favourite vegetable and a baguette. Enjoy!

Congratulations!

AHEIA Raffle Winners

Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

3 Gun Raffle

Drawn April 8, 2016. License #425670.

First Prize:

Browning
X-Bolt Eclipse Varmint
.22-250 Remington.

Won by:

Dennis L.

of Sylvan Lake, Alberta.



Second Prize:

Browning A-Bolt III.

Won by:

Scott M.

of Edson, Alberta.



Third Prize:

Browning BL 22 Grade II Rifle.

Won by:

Marty M.

of Edmonton, Alberta.



Specialty Shotgun Raffle

Drawn May 30, 2016.
License #425794.

Benelli 828 U 12 Gauge Shotgun.

Won by:

Victor M.

of Calgary, Alberta.



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“In Alberta, you need a permit to pick up any antlers or horns with a skull attached, but shed antlers can be picked up without any paper work ...”

Shed Hunting Basics

By Glen Pickering



Glen Pickering
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

One of the most difficult challenges for first time hunters is obtaining permission to hunt on private property. Shed hunting is a good way to break the ice with land owners, and helps to prevent antlers from going through expensive machinery or tractor tires.

Whitetail deer and moose are the first to drop their antlers and most will be lying on the ground by February, while mule deer and elk can hold on to their antlers until late April. Timing is everything, so entering prime areas too early can move game to other areas before they drop their antlers. Also, snow cover can conceal

a potential find as well as make the going difficult. In Alberta, you need a permit to pick up any antlers or horns with a skull attached, but shed antlers can be picked up without any paper work, except in parks or sanctuaries where they must be left for the rodents to claim.

Like any hunting, there are some tricks of the trade which will increase your odds, but sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. Concentrate on bedding areas near food sources, as this is where deer, elk and moose will spend most of their time. Finding travel corridors in the snow will lead to their bedding areas and trail cameras can be used to see when the bucks are dropping. Take binoculars and scout south facing ridges where the snow melts and blows off. Check fence lines or any areas where big game animals are jumping over obstacles, as a lot of times they will lose their antlers when they hit the ground. Walk slowly and let your eyes, rather than your legs, dictate your speed. Scan for tips glistening in the sun or parts of a main beam, rather than a whole antler.

When you find an antler, usually the other side is not that far away, as an imbalance occurs and big game will usually shake their heads to rid themselves of the other side. Walking through a high mountain pass, we were able to find these two moose antlers and it was like the moose had carefully placed them there for us to find. Normally you will have to come up with some type of search pattern to locate the other side.



Searching for antlers is a good way to see which males have survived the winter and hunting seasons. As well, you can clearly identify the same animal year after year, monitoring the growth and changes that may occur. Using a GPS or mental notes can make it easier to locate antlers, as big game animals tend to return to the same winter range.

Shed hunting is a good way to extend the season, promote good landowner relationships, and keep yourself in good condition for the upcoming season. More importantly, it is a good way to introduce youth to the outdoors, and keep your family and friends connected to nature.



“Shed hunting is a good way to extend the season, promote good landowner relationships, and keep yourself in good condition ...”

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