



Lehigh Valley Chapter  
Of  
Safari Club International  
Website: [www.lvsci.org](http://www.lvsci.org)



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## President's Message

Finally, fall has arrived. The green leaves of summer have turned to red and gold. The smells and colors of autumn are here at last. Mornings are frosty with the promise of rutting bucks as we wait in our favorite tree stand. Others of us listen for the whistling of wings as we wait patiently in the duck blind as dawn breaks around us. Still others of us enjoy breaking brush with our favorite pointer or retriever in hopes that soon a rooster will erupt from the cover at our feet. This is the time of year that we as hunters live for.

I have just returned from a weekend hunt with my grandson in our youth season. This year for the first time we were able to transfer an antlerless deer tag to a mentored youth. Although Colby (now 10 years old) and I were unsuccessful in our attempt to harvest a doe, the fact that we were able to spend several mornings and evenings together in a tree stand in Potter County was a wonderful and memorable experience for both of us.

Remember "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" when you empty your freezer this fall and if you are one of the fortunate hunters who is able to harvest more deer than he can use for the table at home. "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" is a Pennsylvania based organization that was set-up to distribute donated venison from the hunters in our state. You can find the state network of processors by visiting [www.sharedeer.org](http://www.sharedeer.org). If you decide to donate please let John Kleckner our Humanitarian Chairman know that you donated so that the Lehigh Valley Chapter will get credit at the national level of Safari Club.

This year our chapter again sponsored a veteran's antelope hunt. This year was different than others as for the first time we sponsored a wounded warrior who was a woman wounded in Iraq. It is sponsorships like these and many others that make me proud to be involved with the Lehigh Valley Chapter and it is what makes donating my time to our great organization worthwhile.

Whether we share our venison, use the funds from our fundraiser to sponsor hunting trips for those far less fortunate or accompany a family member into the field, we as hunters need to try to make a difference in our communities while promoting our sport. I encourage each and every one of you to get involved in our chapter and become a larger part of the voice that speaks for hunters. If not our chapter, join a conservation organization, introduce someone new to hunting and become a part of the driving force working to save and perpetuate our hunting heritage.

Don Detwiler

# **\*\*2012 Annual Banquet & Fundraiser\*\***

## **WANTED**

### **Articles and Pictures of Your Outdoor Adventures**

As you go into the field to hunt this upcoming season, please write a few words about your experience and take some quality photos! Send us your story to be published in the Lehigh Valley Chapter Annual.

We are always looking for pictures of our members in the field. Help us expand the Hunters Afield section.

**The deadline for submitting  
your stories and pictures for  
the 2012 ANNUAL is  
01/29/12.**

Digital and emailed submissions are preferred.

Call or email for information  
Ed Mehlig  
484-550-4178  
mehligs4@verizon.net

## **2012 Award Submission**

To streamline the Award submission process, **ALL** awards need to be sent to the Annual Chairman. This will allow for better placement in the Chapter Annual. Please follow these guidelines for submission.

- Official SCI Score Sheet (Copy OK)
- 2 Pictures of animal
- Please send via Email (if possible)

Electronic documents will give the best quality picture for the Annual and will save your club money in production.

**The deadline for submitting your Awards Score Sheet and Photo for the 2012 ANNUAL is 1/29/11.**

**We will be happy to carry over any animal that cannot be submitted by the deadline to the following year.**

Call or email for more information.

**Ed Mehlig**  
310 Sexton Road  
Wind Gap, PA 18091  
484-550-4178  
mehligs4@verizon.net

## **PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE 2012 LEHIGH VALLEY HUNTING ANNUAL**

The January 29, 2012 deadline is fast approaching to advertise in the two time, Safari Club International Award for Excellence, Lehigh Valley Hunting Annual. This Annual circulates throughout SCI International and is carried world wide by our traveling hunters.

Advertise your business or just show your support with a patron ad. Remember that you are sending a message to members of one of the largest chapters in the world and everyone who attends the March 2011 banquet! Stand out from the crowd and show that you and your business share SCI's values of conservation, education, responsible hunting management and compassion for those less fortunate who benefit from our humanitarian efforts.

**Call or email Ed Mehlig today and help us do the right thing!**

**T: 484-550-4178 E: mehligs4@verizon.net**

### Advertising Rates for 2012 Chapter Annual

Patron	\$ 25.00 per placement	Business Card	\$ 75.00 per placement
¼ Page	\$ 150.00 per placement	½ Page	\$ 300.00 per placement
Full Page	\$ 500.00 per placement	Inside Back Cover	\$ 750.00
Back Cover	\$ 1,000.00		



# Lehigh Valley Chapter



## Safari Club International

### November 15<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting Announcement

**Guest Speaker: Mark Lonczynski, Gunsmith**

*Presenting on Shotgun Fitting, Rifle Preparation, and Firearm Restorations*

Join us November 15<sup>th</sup> for insight on the finer points of shotgun fit, rifle preparation, firearm restoration and customizing. Mark Lonczynski, Gunsmith, with decades of experience working on sporting, collectible and tactical firearms will be on hand to discuss the technical aspects of preparing and restoring "Old Faithful" for enhanced performance and/or good looks!

Shooting enthusiasts of all ages will appreciate this presentation that will include examples of Mark's work. The floor will be open to questions, so be sure to take a look at your "Old Faithful" or think about your next "New Old Faithful" and come ready to learn something.

**Join us on Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> to learn more about:**

- Stock making and recoil reduction systems
- Stock refinishing & Checkering
- Barrel Work
- Choke systems
- Sights
- Custom Trigger Work
- Rib Repair
- Bluing
- General repairs
- Accurizing, Stock Bedding, Muzzle Brakes

## Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

At the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Fogelsville, PA

**Contact:**

Don Detwiler  
dondetwiler@comcast.net  
215-723-6305

**Agenda:**

6:00 p.m. - Cash Bar  
7:00 p.m. - Dinner  
8:00 p.m. - Program

**Cost of Dinner is \$30.00 Per Person**

**REQUIRED: RSVP to Don for this Special Dinner Meeting on or before November 8<sup>th</sup>!**

[www.lvsci.org](http://www.lvsci.org)

## Wyoming Elk & Antelope Hunt

I guess elk fever started several years ago with the persistence of my Father to hunt elk. My Father has since perished from this Earth to sit upstairs with the Big Guy, who calls all the shots down here. My Father never did get elk hunting, so we decided to carry on his wishes to hunt the Royal One.



After six long years of applying for a coveted elk tag in Wyoming, my Son Chadd and I finally drew Area 5 permits. It was a long and frustrating wait. Last year we had applied and found out that there was only a 65% draw rate for those with MAX preference points in Area 5. We thought WoW, that means that there would be 45% of those that did not draw last year applying for

tags in Area 5, plus the new applicants. Not a sure thing. As February approached and the results were posted, Chadd and I were elated to find that we had been successful. Now the planning would start. A few phone calls to our Special Friends in Wyoming to do some scouting for us were in order. Next was the decision on what rifles to use. Chadd choose his Pappy's 7mmRemMag BDL to complete my Father's and the rifle's mission. Some customizing was in order to lighten up the rifle's weight. First went the stock which was replaced by a new over molded rubber non-slip stock. Next was the bright blue finish. Took off the iron sights and teflon coated the entire rifle making it waterproof so to speak. It was fitted with a Bushnell 3-9X40 BDC scoped and a dial suitable for 140grain bullets at 3200 feet per second.

My choice of rifle was a Clymer's Utralite Hunter Series in 264 WinMag. that I had been working on for some time. It featured a striped stainless steel Savage Action, fitted with a 22" stainless steel, Douglas Supreme Featherweight Barrel. Of course everything diamond lapped, honed and squared. I topped it off with a Burris 4.5-14X32 Ultra Compact Rifle Scope with a Precision Plex Recticle. I would be shooting 130 grain Barnes X Bullets in 110 Copper Alloy. An all copper bullet which I had helped Randy Brooks develop back in 1997. A bullet that I feel is far superior to the bullets being manufactured today.

We set our date clock for October 1st. 2011. Airline tickets had to be arranged, motel and all the common things associated with a Self-Guided Hunting Trip. Every time we go hunting, it is the three of us, my Son, Chadd, Wife, Angie and myself. Which reminds me, that as an after thought, Angie decided to apply for an Area 42 Antelope Permit around the Rock River, Wyoming Area. She too was successful in that draw. Happy Day! Now, we had our hands full. Elk in one Area and Antelope an hours drive away in another Area. The Antelope Area opened the week before the Season opener for Elk, which made it very nice on our time schedule we had allotted for ourselves.

There were many rifle range visits completed during the early Spring and Summer Months to deaden our eyes (although we build rifles, you have to be able to shoot them accurately) and I had to break in my barrel even though it was diamond lapped. Angie would be using my rifle for Antelope so, she too was a part of the barrel breaking procedure. Being my rifle only weighs in at 6.75 lbs with scope and no muzzle break, it does have some recoil.

Finally, September 30th. has come. Packing had been completed the week before and the reservations had been made months ahead of time for the airline and motel. Scouting maps had been gone over and re looked at, compliments of Nathan, our Very Good Friend in Cheyenne, who did our early Season Scouting. We were very knowledgeable about our



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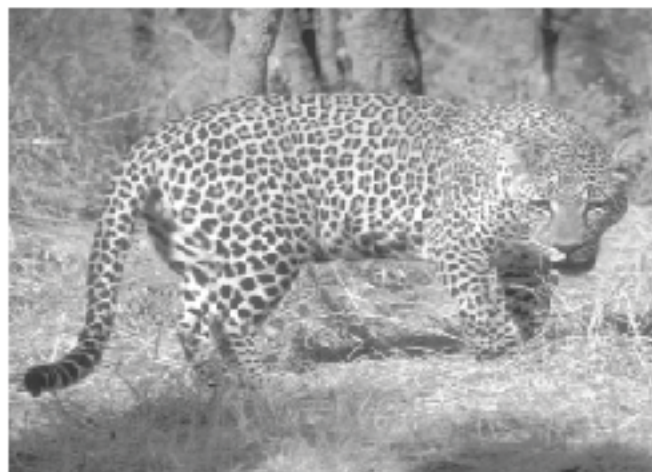
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hunting Area as we had hunted that Area several times in past years. The maps were a bonus as they contained information on movement, feeding, watering and bedding habits.

Upon arrival in Denver, we rented a Ford F150 4X4 pickup and started the 2 hour drive to Vimbo's in Wheatland, Wyoming, where our hunting operation would be based. After unpacking and getting equipment ready for the next days opener, we decided to give a quick look-see

at the hunting area. We only hiked in about a mile before we ran into elk. Oh Boy! they were still in the Area. We backed out and left them undisturbed excited about the next morning. That evening we had dinner with Nathan, Jim and Donita who helped considerably with our hunt planning. We were in bed early that evening but sleep was hard to come by in anticipation of the next mornings opener.



Well, 4AM rolls around pretty quickly and we were up and moving. Equipment loaded in the truck and off we go. We were in hunting position by 6:30AM and could hear elk bugling all around us. What an amazing sound. By daylight, we were surrounded by elk. In fact,

so many elk that it made movement impossible. We were pinned down! Now what? After what seemed forever, we were able to continue our search for a good bull. We looked at several bulls but not quite what we were after. Chadd and I did see a great looking 6X6 bull that kept our eye. As he did not present a suitable shot we decided to follow his movements and try a stalk on him later in the morning. He was with a few other 5X5 bulls and some cows. They all had holed up in a bowl about a quarter mile from us. The stalk was on. PROBLEM! Being we were hunting public land, there are other hunters in the area sometimes. Such was the case here. Before we complete our stalk, some rifle shots were fired and two dead 5X5's lay in the bowl. Chadd and I learned that the 6X6 had made his escape without a shot being fired at him. LUCK!

As the morning wore on and the heat index rose to the mid 80's, we decided to switch focus and drive over to the Antelope Area that Angie had drawn and do some scouting and perhaps get a shot at a speed goat. We did see a considerable amount of antelope...all buck. Angie had a doe tag. It was getting dark when we decided to make the hour drive back to the motel. After eating dinner and discussing strategy with my Brother Dale, over the phone, we called it and evening and went to bed.

Up early again the next morning found us on our way back to our hunt area. As daylight dawned, it became obvious that the elk had been spooked out of the area by the prior days activities. We did hear some bugling down in the meadow but it soon subsided without a sighting of an elk. We had seen one bull on the way into the hunt area before shooting time. That was it. I thought to myself, oh no, this can't happen. But it was. At about noon time we decided to focus on Angie's Antelope.

When we arrived at the antelope hunt area, it was overcast and raining making travel on the high prairie "sticky". We spotted some antelope about half a mile away and decided to try a stalk. After cresting the rise on our hands and knees, we discovered that the antelope had moved out of rifle range. However, Chadd spotted two incoming does. I ranged them at 311 yards and Angie unleashed one of the 130grain Barnes Bullets at one of the antelope. It was DOA. Dropped in it's tracks. A perfect shot. Now some work. We skin and bone the antelope in the field. It is then packed in a cooler iwth ice to draw the blood from the meat thus making it much tastier. Chadd was given the duty of packing out the boned meat, the half mile back to where we had parked the truck. It was dark by the time we reached our motel. After a

shower and a quick meal it was strategy planning time.

Another phone call to my Brother, Dale prompted some revisions in our plans. We would wait until shooting time to enter our hunt area. This way if we did spook and elk, chances are we would be able to stalk it and get a shot.

The next morning we were on our way out to the hunt site and were within a quarter mile of our pull off, when a huge bull elk jumped the fence next to the dirt road and almost landed on our hood. Chadd was driving and as he swerved, I caught a glimpse of the elk about two feet from the left fender of the truck. I was thinking, this is not the way we want to take our elk! It did give us hope



though, that the elk had moved back into the area. We drove the remainder of the way to our parking spot, got out and hiked to our lookout. Chadd and I decided to glass the steep canyon next to the one we were overlooking and started hiking over the ridge, leaving Angie to command the lookout. Chadd just crested the top and immediately turned around to me and halted my progress. ELK!! You're kidding!? As we peered over the edge, walking across the top of the adjacent canyon was a small herd of 8 elk. Three being bulls. One in particular being the 6X6 Ivory Tined Bull we had seen the first day. I told Chadd to get ready for a shot. He opened the bipod and got into a prone position. I in the meantime put the range finder on the big 6X6, 311 yards! The same distance that I ranged on Angie's antelope. Chadd asked how far, I told him set your BDC for 300 yards. BANG! The bullet was off striking the bull, just a tad high in the left front shoulder. It went down but was immediately up and moving across the canyon. BANG! Another shot off. This time it was all over for the big bull. He crashed in a meadow near the bottom of the canyon. HEY! What about me? I ran back to where I had left my rifle, chambered a round, quickly took a range reading (321 yards) and steadied my trigger finger. Thinking to myself second pin down. SQUEEZE. With the crack, the 130grain Barnes X was on it's way. Holly Smokes. Direct hit. The bull a 4X4 was DOA. Crumpled instantly and nose dived into the steep canyon below. Yup, 700 pounds of elk crashing down 250 yards to the canyon floor below. Uh Oh! Realization of what had just happened hit my brain. Chadd, had just taken a 6X6 Royal Elk with his Pappy's rifle. Some Hunters, hunt a lifetime for a bull like that. He and I had just taken a bull elk within 30 seconds of each other. What a fantastic and memorable hunt. The images will forever be etched in my brain. Angie dropping her antelope with one shot at 311 yards. Chadd ironically, dropping his 6X6 Royal at the same range 311 yards and finally my quest for an elk ending with a very nice bull.

Now the work begins. Note: before you go on a do it yourself elk hunt, make sure you have a six foot one inch, 19 year old Son with you. We were able to load Chadd's bull on the back of the pickup after field dressing it but it sure was a wrestling match. Strained every muscle in my body. Mine as I mentioned dropped into the steepest part of the canyon. We hiked in, quartered it, sawed off the antlers and of course....Chadd packed it out. Amazingly, he carried the front shoulder and a hind quarter in the oversized pack at one time. I guessed the pack weighed in at 140 pounds, one quarter of a mile uphill. Sure amazed me! What a great Son.

We would like to thank my Brother Dale for all his generosity, knowledge of elk hunting and his time in helping us with our hunt. Hopefully, Dale and Angie will draw tags next year. They started applying the year after Chadd and I did.

Till next year. Wishing everyone a successful Hunting Season.

## Calendar of Events

November 15, 2011

**Chapter Dinner Meeting**

December 13, 2011

**Board of Directors Meeting**

January 17, 2012

**Chapter Dinner Meeting**

## **Is your Business looking for a way to reach our Chapter Members?**

**The Chapter Newsletter is published (4) times per year.**

### **Newsletter Advertising Size / Rates:**

Business Card.....\$ 25.00 per placement

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Rates quoted effective 11-09 and are subject to change w/o notice

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## West Texas Aoudad Donation Hunt with Wildlife Systems

Don Detwiler

They say that hunters either love or hate mountain hunting.....well I do admit that I have the disease! From the day that Tim Reiger secured an Aoudad donation from Wildlife Systems, I knew that I would be a bidder with intentions to win. As it turned out I was the last one with my hand in the air when the bidding ended and a short few weeks later I was on an airplane in route to Midland Texas.

After arriving in Texas, I spent the night in Midland and drove to Marathon the following day where I met my guide Jackie Murphy for lunch. During lunch Jackie asked what I was looking for in an Aoudad. I smiled and said "well 30 inches is the magic number." Jackie's response was a wince and I knew that he was concerned about client satisfaction. I assured Jackie that I would be happy with a good representative of the species and that I was on the hunt to have fun but that after all; he had asked the question.

Our hunt started the afternoon of my arrival and after several shots at the range we were ready to go. The day was extremely windy and by the time that we got to the nearby mountains the Texas wildfires were visible in the distance around the town of Alpine. By the time I left several days later tens of thousands of acres had burned.

We started spotting large groups of sheep almost immediately but they contained ewes, lambs and small rams.....we needed to find where the big boys were hanging out at. After several hours of glassing we moved back into the mountains and started glassing a canyon. We glassed for 15/20 minutes and we were getting ready to leave when Jackie excitedly exclaimed "Rams, I just saw a horn turn down there in the brush!" As we continued to glass more and more sheep continued to materialize, Jackie just kept shaking his head and saying "I can't believe it they are all good rams, I have never seen this many in one group!" Jackie and I discussed our options and he decided that the best approach was to continue around the access road that we were on and climb the mountain behind them in order to get ahead of them. We were successful and soon we were within 200 yards looking down on the band as they fed in the oak brush below our position. Jackie kept whispering excitedly "I'm not sure which one to take, they are all good!" Finally, Jackie said, "do you see the one walking toward us with the long chaps? Take him!" I waited until the ram turned to feed on some oak brush and my finger found the trigger. Several shots broke the evening quiet before my ram was down next to a pine tree.

My ram exceeded my hopes and expectations with 30+ inch horns and a beautiful 16 inch long mane. The balance of my time in the Marathon area was spent Javelina and Hog hunting along with sightseeing and glassing more sheep in the Glass mountains. Many thanks to Wildlife Systems for providing this wonderful donation for our Chapter Fundraiser and to Sorber Taxidermy for donating a shoulder mount which was upgraded to a beautiful wall pedestal mount.





*Send Address Corrections to:*  
Butch Kramer  
2050 Ziegler Road  
Pennsburg, PA 18073

## **Don't miss in this issue:**

- ***Info on the Chapter Dinner on September 27, 2011***
- **News from the PA Game Commission**

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