

Spring 2012



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education



The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



2012 W.I.S.E. AWARDS

Honouring Special Albertans

AHEIA's Mission is to Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan

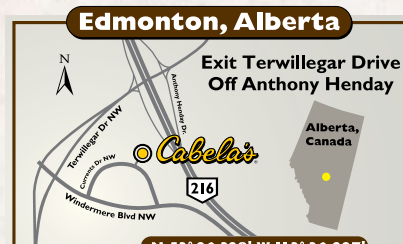
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Honouring Special Albertans

10th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards

February 11, 2012

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.
Chairman - WISE Foundation

The 10th Anniversary Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Awards were held on February 11, 2012 in Calgary. Approximately 350 people attended and helped to make this one of the most successful award banquets ever! Four outstanding Albertans were recognized for their achievements in the field of Conservation Education. Our intent is to profile these individuals to increase the level of public commitment to the conservation of wildlife and wild places and to inspire others to reach the level of achievement attained by these four individuals.

Stringent criteria for these awards have been established and the bar is set high. Recipients of the W.I.S.E. Awards are recognized as a part of a coalition that is committed to making wildlife and fish part of the value system of every Albertan.

This year's recipients are Pat Dunford of Edmonton, Mike Ewald of Grande Cache, Kelly Lewis of Hanna, and Laurie Paetz of Calgary.

Public Service Conservation Award: Pat Dunford

Pat Dunford of Edmonton is the recipient of the Public Service Conservation Award, which recognizes achievements in public relations, conservation ethics and community leadership by federal, provincial or municipal employees who devote time to educate Albertans in the area of fish and wildlife resource use. Pat Dunford has been an exemplary employee of the Fish and Wildlife Division for over three decades. He is well known to many Albertans through his involvement on committees such as the Multi-Stakeholder Committee chaired by Hunting for Tomorrow, the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group, the Fishing Roundtable, and others. Pat has been described as approachable, knowledgeable, helpful and friendly. His depth

of knowledge on all matters related to fish and wildlife legislation ensures that his opinions are well thought out and spoken in a manner that is easily understood by anyone. Pat is the "Go To" guy for any individual or organization looking for an explanation of Alberta's hunting or fishing laws. Pat is also a Past President of the Alberta Game Warden Association and has contributed over 50 articles to their magazine.

Fish and Wildlife Officer Conservation Award: Mike Ewald

Mike Ewald of Grande Cache is the recipient of the Fish and Wildlife Officer Conservation Award, which recognizes achievements by a Fish and Wildlife officer in public relations, conservation ethics and community leadership, and who devotes time to educate Albertans in the area of fish and wildlife resource use. Mike has been a Fish and Wildlife Officer for 20 years, serving

Continued ➤

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

Feature Articles

- 3 ■ 10th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards
- 9 ■ A.H.E.I.A. Offers Teachers' Workshop
- 13 ■ Trophy Bighorn Sheep Management in Alberta
- 14 ■ NASP Donation
- 16 ■ Become Involved as a Mentor
- 17 ■ Kate's Story

Our Regulars

- 6 ■ President's Message
- 8 ■ Edmonton Report
- 9 ■ Letter of Appreciation
- 12 ■ Great Meals from the Harvest
- 14 ■ Law of the Wild
- 14 ■ Funny Caption Contest Winner
- 15 ■ Look Who's All Grown Up!



in Ponoka and Grande Cache. He is a regular visitor to schools in Grande Cache, teaching the Conservation Education Program and, when the opportunity presents itself, teaching students how to field dress a deer or do a post mortem on a freshly killed cougar. Mike is a big promoter of programs such as Bear Aware and Stream Watch in Grande Cache. He was instrumental in raising over \$80,000 from local resource based companies for caribou conservation programs such as the Caribou Cowboy. Throughout his career, Mike has focussed on the public education aspect of his job. Whether that means explaining the value of wildlife to a landowner who has suffered financial losses from wildlife, or educating children and adults on bear aware, hunter education, stream watch and caribou conservation,



Dave Paplawski (A.H.E.I.A. Vice President), Pat Dunford and Bob Gruszecki (A.H.E.I.A. President).

Mike knows that the key to wildlife conservation is education.

**Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award:
Kelly Lewis**

Kelly Lewis of Hanna is the recipient of the Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of conservation education. Award recipients in this category demonstrate a passion and commitment to deliver conservation education programs to Albertans of all ages. Kelly Lewis is the vice principal and a teacher at J.C. Charyk School in Hanna, Alberta. For the past 20 years, Kelly has been teaching outdoor education to

his students. With support from the school administration, Kelly began teaching the Career and Technical Studies Wildlife program, which included camp excursions to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association's (A.H.E.I.A.) Alford Lake Camp and to the Calgary Firearms Centre. The school board realized that proper instruction in firearms and recreational shooting were beneficial to the students and they supported it at every turn. In 2008, Kelly was selected by Alberta Education as a member of the committee which reviewed and rewrote the CTS Wildlife curriculum. In 2009, he made a presentation to the International Hunter Education Association on the importance of the CTS Wildlife curriculum and the important role that A.H.E.I.A. plays in its delivery. Kelly has introduced the Na-



Dave Paplawski, Mike Ewald and Bob Gruszecki.



tional Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) to J.C. Charyk School and his students have won recognition at events at both the provincial and national levels. Kelly is also heavily involved in Ducks Unlimited at the local and provincial levels. Kelly is currently the Provincial Chair of Ducks Unlimited for Alberta. Kelly is also an active Conservation and Hunter Education Instructor and a Canadian Firearms Safety Program instructor.

**Alva Bair Memorial Conservation Award:
Laurie Paetz**

Laurie Paetz of Calgary is the recipient of the Alva Bair Memorial Conservation Award, which is presented to the volunteer that most exemplifies that which Alva Bair represented during his life: true conservation and resource perpetuation. Laurie grew up in a hunting and fishing family, living in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. That tradition continued after her marriage until she moved to southern California. In 1999, she moved the children to Calgary and accepted a job as Show Manager with the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows (CNSS). It seemed like the perfect opportunity to be involved in the hunting and fishing industry and, since CNSS is a non-profit society, to give back to the community. In her eight years with CNSS, Laurie has increased the profile of non-profit organizations such as the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.) and the Alberta Fish and Game Association. Under her guidance, the Sportsmen's Show has become a family oriented event with many activities for children, including archery and fishing. She formed a conservation collaboration by adding other hunting and fishing related organizations to the show. Laurie continues to make adjustments to the shows in Calgary and Edmonton to increase our exposure and to promote outdoor pursuits in general. She is an outspoken proponent of hunting and fishing and is always willing to push the envelope to increase the public's exposure to these traditional pursuits. In 2010, she helped organize the first ever provincial National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), which saw 163 students compete. In addition, she saw an opportunity to increase public participation in traditional archery. Over 5000 people tried their hand at archery, sparking an increase in the NASP program and archery in general. Because of Laurie's efforts, over 60,000 people each year are exposed to hunting and fishing at the Edmonton and Calgary Boat and Sportsmen's shows.

The title of the bronze that each recipient received is simply ... "Who". Once again, it's time to go in search of Who. Who is next? The standard of excellence has been set. Our work begins as we search for the next set of heroes to profile. Until then, the task of emulating the work of this year's recipients falls on each of us.



Dave Paplawski, Kelly Lewis and Bob Gruszecki.



Dave Paplawski, Laurie Paetz and Bob Gruszecki.

President's Message



“ Duty of care is a legal principle that is designed to protect vulnerable individuals from manipulation or harm. ”

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.

Effective July 1st, 2010, almost 20 months ago, the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association implemented a policy to ensure that we are doing our level best to stay current with the ever changing needs of students, volunteers and staff to provide safe and responsible learning environments. We are following the lead of other agencies and employers who have long since implemented a screening process of volunteers and staff before they can serve their clientele. While the majority of the volunteers have taken the action necessary to become compliant, there are still a few stragglers out there that haven't read about this mandatory requirement or still don't understand it.

In the past few years, the news has helped us all be aware, in a very public way, of indiscretions and liberties taken by people in a position of trust with children in the care of certain agencies. I am happy to report that our organization has had no such occurrences, and our nearly 48 year history of program delivery remains totally unblemished. We have successfully trained over 1.2 million men, women and children of all ages, and we are proud to keep that tradition alive as we progress to the next milestone of two million students!

In today's society, we are faced with many challenges and responsibilities as we deliver the programs within the umbrella of conservation education. There are numerous occasions where students are left in our care as we provide the services necessary to ensure that they are adequately trained and appropriately licensed to enter the outdoors. Students of all ages and both sexes are left in our care during exams, survival camps, classes, lectures and any number of other training scenarios. These scenarios can take place in classroom or field environments with many people present or one-on-one with an instructor.

While the students are in our charge, we have a specific duty of care. Duty of care is a legal principle that is designed to protect vulnerable individuals from manipulation or harm. We, as an Association and as individual instructors, have an obligation to take reasonable measures to protect our students and to provide an appropriate level or standard of care.

Additionally, in many of our training and supervisory functions we are deemed to be in a position of trust where we have a significant degree of authority or decision making power over those left in our care. Often times we have unsupervised access to our students and their property.

With these principles in mind, and with the singular objective of serving the community in the best and most appropriate way possible, we have implemented a volunteer screening process.

What is Screening?

It is a process that is designed to identify any person — regardless whether paid or unpaid, staff or volunteer — who might harm children or other vulnerable students. Screening lets people that come to us for the services we offer know that we care about the people we serve in our communities. Screening also allows us to ensure that we correctly match the abilities of the volunteer/staff to the work that needs to be done. Our ability to effectively screen plays a vital role in our ongoing mission of making wildlife and wild places part of the value system of every Albertan. Screening includes a police record check, an interview with staff member(s), follow up with the references you provide, an orientation and training session, supervision and evaluation during program delivery, and then follow up with our program participants. Screening is completely voluntary, but anyone wishing to volunteer with our organization must submit to the screening process if they wish to continue to participate in the achievement of our goals. I prefer to describe this process as we are "Screening people in, not screening people out." There is no connection between an A.H.E.I.A. membership and a police check.

A.H.E.I.A. has been involved in screening to some degree for quite some time. However, like the many groups such as Scouts Canada, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Meals on Wheels, the private and public school system, and numerous other agencies as well as numerous employers, we have come to understand the need for a more formalized and stringent process.

As an example, relative to the Canadian Firearms Program, our instructors submit themselves to certain ongoing screening as they accept the responsibility to deliver the Canadian firearms restricted and non-restricted courses. All firearms licence holders are subject to continuous eligibility checks. These checks are done by the Firearms Program, and the Chief Firearms Officer investigates any eligibility issues raised from these continuous eligibility checks.

Our process, while more stringent, should not change the manner in which you currently deliver our programs. Hopefully it will result in more face to face time with members of our staff and more communication with each of you as it relates to the tasks you are performing. As it relates to your police criminal records check, we have made application to allow our volunteers to obtain police checks from their local police services at a reduced fee or free. Our Association is

assigned a VOAN number which entitles people, delivering our programs under the auspices of our policies, certain benefits. These benefits may include a reduction or an elimination of the fee to do the police records check. Depending upon where the volunteer is located and the ability of the local police department to do the search, your police check may very well be accompanied by a nominal fee paid to the police agency that provides your police check. Regardless of the processing fee, the check is a requirement, as well as the completion of the instructor application. At this time, we are doing this process for every instructor/volunteer delivering our programs. It is the responsibility of each candidate to let us know if there are any changes to their status during the period covered by their confirmed check. Additionally a signed and completed instructor application is a requirement. For your perusal, a copy of that application can be seen opposite this article.

Further Information?

If you have questions or concerns about the process I have described, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at the Calgary office at 403-252-8474 or electronically at Robert_gruszecki@ezpost.com. Additionally, you can speak to Dave Paplawski, our Provincial Program Coordinator, at 403-252-8474 or via e-mail at dave@aheia.com. In addition, any of our assistant program coordinators at Alford Lake, the Calgary Firearms Centre, the Edmonton office or the Calgary office will be more than happy to assist you with this important part of what we do.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as together we deliver Conservation Education programs to an ever expanding audience. It continues to be both a pleasure and an honour to be associated with each of you in this important community service.

President - A.H.E.I.A.



Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

911 Sylvester Crescent S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2W 0R8
Telephone 403-252-8474 • Fax 403-252-3770
Toll Free 1-866-852-4342



Application

to become a

Conservation Education Instructor &/or Volunteer to Assist in Program/Event Delivery

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

POL/PAL License #: _____ POL/PAL Expiry Date: _____

Personal References: (Name & Contact Information)

This is for new applications only. If a family member is used as a reference, only include one family member. If we have difficulty contacting your references, we will ask you to provide additional references.

1. _____ Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

2. _____ Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Applicants Agreement:

- I will subscribe to and actively promote the mission of A.H.E.I.A.
- I will abide by the program delivery policies and procedures of A.H.E.I.A. and am aware that they are available to me at www.aheia.com.
- I agree to submit to and provide a police records check, clean of any criminal convictions.
- I understand that the participation in A.H.E.I.A. program delivery is voluntary and there is a degree of risk in some of these activities. After carefully considering the risks involved, I will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety and well being of participants entrusted to me and my personal safety.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Edmonton Report



“ ... we continue to look for volunteers who may be able to assist at these events, camps and seminars. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.
Red Deer - North

The 2012 Youth Hunter Education Camp registration/information packages are now available for download at our website or you can also pick up a copy at any of our facilities.

Due to the continued success and popularity of our Youth Hunter Education Camps, we will be holding four camps this summer.

Camps will run July 1-6, July 8-13, July 15-20 and July 22-27. All camps will offer the same courses and certifications. Register for the one that suits your schedule best. The camp is open to all boys and girls age 12 to 17 (all participants must turn 12 years of age by December 1, 2012 to qualify to attend the camp).

The 2012 Youth Hunter Education Camp is a five-day event of fun-filled learning activities. Experts will be sharing their knowledge and providing instruction in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program, the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and much more. Upon successful completion of the appropriate exams, students will be certified in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program and the Canadian Firearms Program. They will then qualify to apply for their Wildlife Identification Number (WIN card) through any private licence issuer and be able to apply for their Minor's Possession Licence for firearms.

The camps will be held at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence. The Alford Lake Camp is located 24 km west of Caroline.

If you have attended our Outdoor Youth Seminar with your children over the years, you know how much fun this event is. This year the seminar runs August 17-19, also at our Alford Lake

facility. Registration forms and more information can be downloaded at our website or picked up at our offices in Calgary and Edmonton. Many participants only come for our famous whole pig roast supper; the activities are just a bonus, so to speak.

As mentioned, we continue to look for volunteers who may be able to assist at events, camps and seminars. If you have some spare time and would like to help, please contact me at len@aheia.com. Any assistance is always very welcome indeed as we are continually searching for help.

The 2012 Resource Materials and Kit CD is now available. This useful disc contains an up-to-date listing of all the resource kits and materials available to A.H.E.I.A. instructors and members. To get your copy, simply contact our Edmonton office and we will send you one.

Enjoy yourself in the outdoors and make sure you take a youngster along with you. Spring is just around the corner!



For a complete listing of courses and challenge dates at the Calgary and Edmonton Conservation Education Centres for Excellence please visit the A.H.E.I.A. website at www.aheia.com

Letter of Appreciation



“ I have found this course very professional and empowering to the learner. ”

Received via email
March 27, 2012

I just have to comment on the A.H.E.I.A. Hunter Education course you offer online. I am currently halfway through it and am very appreciative on how it is done. I find many courses such as this — in particular safety courses — often come off petty, even condescending. I have found this course very professional and empowering to the learner. Thank you for informing us in a respectful manner, especially considering this is directed to a population of people who particularly appreciate the freedoms our country offers. I'm sure it only further encourages hunters to hunt with appreciation and integrity.

God bless.

Jesse Rau

Hello Jesse:

Thank you for taking the time to write regarding our on-line Conservation and Hunter Education Program. Your kind comments are gratefully received and will be passed on to the team responsible for the creation and upkeep of this program. We are proud of the program, take it very seriously and work to continually update and upgrade it. It is extremely gratifying to hear that you are finding it to be of value to you.

Please stay in touch with us as you complete the program, and if we can assist you in any way, including connecting you with a mentor upon completion of your program or directing you to other programs we have, we would be happy to do so. Our goal is to connect people to wildlife and wild places through our programs. We firmly believe that our lives are better because of the tremendous resources Alberta has to offer and in that regard we are doing what we can to protect and preserve these opportunities for generations to come.

Wishing you all the best of luck with your activities. May all your wilderness experiences be both safe and rewarding.

Cheers!

Robert A. Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.

A.H.E.I.A. Offers Teachers' Workshop

July 20-22, 2012

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple
Executive Director
Hunting for Tomorrow

In 1964, the Alberta Government, together with Alberta outdoorsmen, created a hunter safety program. This program later became the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education program. Each year, approximately 15,000 students complete the Conservation Education program and 6,500 students complete the Fishing Education program. On October 15, 2006, the 1,000,000th student graduated from the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association's (A.H.E.I.A.'s) Conservation and Hunter Education program.

Since April 1, 2010, it is a legal requirement for all first-time hunters in the Province of Alberta to complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education program or an equivalent hunter education course.

The Conservation and Hunter Education and Fishing Education programs are offered in Al-

berta schools through the Alberta Education curriculum, within the Careers and Technologies Studies option called the "Wildlife Strand." A.H.E.I.A. has developed a workshop for teachers related to the Wildlife Strand. Part of the A.H.E.I.A. Teachers' Workshop will offer the certification that teachers require in order to teach the Conservation and Hunter Education and Fishing Education programs. An additional session of the workshop will familiarize teachers with outdoor activities related to Outdoor Experience I and II, including hands-on participation in the Survival and Camping Program, the Shooting Program (shotgun, small bore and large bore rifle), the Compass Program, the Fishing Program, and the Archery Program.

A.H.E.I.A. is hosting the Teachers' Workshop from July 20-22, 2012. The workshop takes place at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, which is located 24 kilometres west of Caroline, Alberta.

The workshop registration fee is \$150.00 per person, plus GST. This fee includes all accommodation, meals, resources materials, instructor certificates, and a one-year membership to A.H.E.I.A.

For more information, teachers interested in the workshop should contact A.H.E.I.A. at either the Edmonton Conservation Education Centre for Excellence at edmontoninfo@aheia.com, 780-466-6682 or 1-866-282-4342, or Dave Paplawski at dave@aheia.com, 403-319-2277 or 1-866-852-4342. See www.aheia.com for the registration form. Registration is limited and must be submitted by July 5, 2012.

Kelly Semple, Executive Director
Hunting For Tomorrow
#87, 4003 - 98th Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6M8
Phone: 780-462-2444
Fax: 780-431-2871

Email: ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com
www.huntingfortomorrow.com



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www.pheasantsforevercalgary.com



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NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE! Alberta's Conservation Collaboration ALBERTA MINISTER'S SPECIAL LICENCE RAFFLE TICKETS



Alberta Minister's Special Bighorn Sheep Licence:

Licence # 327219

Tickets are \$10.00 each and there are 15,000 tickets printed.

The draw will take place on Sunday August 12, 2012 at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

Only Alberta residents are eligible to purchase these tickets.

Raffle tickets may not be sold to a person under 18 years of age.

See reverse for additional rules and licence details.



Alberta Minister's Special Mule Deer Licence:

Licence # 327222

Tickets are \$10.00 each and there are 2,500 tickets printed.

The draw will take place on Sunday August 12, 2012 at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

Only Alberta residents are eligible to purchase these tickets.

Raffle tickets may not be sold to a person under 18 years of age.

See reverse for additional rules and licence details.



Alberta Minister's Special Elk Licence:

Licence # 327221

Tickets are \$10.00 each and there are 2,500 tickets printed.

The draw will take place on Sunday August 12, 2012 at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

Only Alberta residents are eligible to purchase these tickets.

Raffle tickets may not be sold to a person under 18 years of age.

See reverse for additional rules and licence details.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:



The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association Offices:
 Calgary: 403.252.8474 or 1.866.852.4342 &
 Edmonton: 780.466.6682 or 1.866.282.4342
 The Hunting For Tomorrow office: 780.462.2444



Alberta's Conservation Collaboration

ALBERTA MINISTER'S SPECIAL LICENCE INFORMATION

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Since 1995, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development has offered these special permits, in partnership with Alberta Conservation Organizations. Funds raised from both the sale of the auction and raffle permits are managed under a segregated fund. Each year, applicants (individuals or organizations) apply to this fund for financial assistance for their conservation projects. Categories include wildlife management, habitat improvement or conservation education. A Program Advisory Committee (PAC), comprised of representatives from various conservation organizations within Alberta meets to review, rank and allocate funding. Since the introduction of these permits, nearly \$6 million dollars has been raised and re-invested in Alberta for wildlife, habitat and education programs.



ALBERTA MINISTER'S SPECIAL BIGHORN SHEEP LICENCE

Licence # 327219

The raffle winner of this licence has an extended season, including the entire month of November and the first two weeks in December 2012 to hunt for a record ram. Sunday hunting is permitted in the majority of WMUs in Alberta. In addition to the trophy sheep seasons in the 2012 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, this licence is also valid: From November 1 to December 15, 2012 in wildlife management units; 302; 303; 306; 308; 400-406; 412-428; 430-437; 439-446, from December 1 to December 15 in wildlife management units 408 and 438, and from November 1- 30 in that portion of WMU 408 that is east of Highway 40. The buyers and raffle winners of this licence have experienced unprecedented success, with rams scoring 208 3/8 (Guinn Crousen -current World Record), 205 (Gary Hansen), 199 (Billy McClelland), 197 5/8 (Denis Dale). These are representative of the rams that can be hunted in Alberta.



ALBERTA MINISTER'S SPECIAL MULE DEER LICENCE

Licence # 327222

Alberta has consistently produced some impressive mule deer and remains the home of the world record non-typical mule deer taken by Ed Broder in 1926 with a SCORE OF 355 2/8 B&C. This permit is authorized to hunt one antlered mule deer and is valid anywhere in Alberta during a general or special Licence antlered mule deer season as identified in the 2012 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. This special Licence is also valid until December 31, 2012, anywhere in Alberta that has a general or special antlered mule deer season identified in the 2012 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. (* Not valid in WMU's 728 or 730 (Camp Wainwright). Sunday hunting is permitted in the majority of WMUs in Alberta).



ALBERTA MINISTER'S SPECIAL ELK LICENCE

Licence # 327221

The raffle winner of this licence is authorized to hunt one antlered elk, in accordance with all provisions of the Wildlife Act and Wildlife Regulations. This special licence is valid anywhere in Alberta during a general elk season and a special licence antlered elk draw season identified in the 2012 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. This special licence is also valid until December 31, 2012 anywhere in Alberta that has a general or special antlered elk season identified in the 2012 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. This licence is also valid in select WMUs in January and February 2013. This licence is not valid in the WMU's 728 & 730 (Camp Wainwright), WMU 624 (Cypress Hills Park) and WMU 936. Sunday hunting is permitted in the majority of WMUs in Alberta. Alberta has produced some impressive elk across the province and currently holds the #1 Canadian record Pope & Young elk (Huppertz 402 5/8).



Conservation Education WISE Foundation

Mr. Bob Gruszecki

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E-mail: robert_gruszecki@ezpost.com



Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

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Hunting For Tomorrow

Ms. Kelly Semple

(780) 462-2444

E-mail: ksemple@huntingfortomorrow.com

Alberta's Conservation Collaboration

For Detailed Information on the Minister's Special Permits Please Visit Our Website at: www.huntingfortomorrow.com



Great Meals

from the

Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer – North

Indian Style Sheep Kebab

- 1 lb. lean ground sheep meat *
- 1 medium onion (finely chopped)
- 2 tbsp. parsley (chopped)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/4 cups fine dry bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 2 tsp. ground coriander
- 2 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1/2 tsp. each ground cumin seed, turmeric & ginger
- 12 skewers (presoaked in water)

In a large mixing bowl, mix together thoroughly the ground sheep, onion, garlic, parsley, bread crumbs, egg, cayenne, coriander, cumin, turmeric, ginger and salt. Using your hands for this job works very well.

Divide the mixture into 12 equal portions. Next roll into a thin cylinder approximately 6" long and string onto the skewers. Using your hands, press the meat securely over each skewer to form a smooth sausage-like shape evenly over the skewer. Set aside.

Cook either on the barbeque or use the broiler in your oven until browned and cooked to your preference.

There are many prepared fruit chutneys that work well as a dipping sauce. Combining chutney with yogurt also works well. Serve with rice pilaf and a flat bread or pita bread.

** Also works well with other ground wild game meat.*

Fruit Cocktail Cake with Goopy Topping

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 1/2 cups granulated white sugar | 2 cups flour |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 2 eggs | 1/4 tsp. ground cloves |
| 14 oz. can fruit cocktail (with juice) | 1/4 tsp. ground allspice |

Combine all ingredients except flour. Mix well, then blend in flour. It works best if you do this by hand rather with a food processor. Grease a 9"x13" metal cake pan. Pour batter into cake pan and spread out evenly. Tap pan on counter top to set batter. Bake at 350° F. for approximately 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Try a variation by adding raisins or nuts.

Goopy Topping

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/4 cup granulated white sugar | 1/2 cup evaporated milk |
| 1/2 cup margarine or butter | 1 tsp. vanilla |

Bring sugar, evaporated milk and margarine to a boil. Reduce heat immediately and simmer for one minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add vanilla and stir. Pour evenly over the top of the cake. The topping will soak in. Allow to cool before serving. Serve straight up or try a little whipping cream and shaved chocolate on the next piece.

Did You Know?

Bighorn Sheep

Size

Bighorns are the largest of all North American wild sheep. Adult rams weigh up to 135 kilograms (300 pounds), but adult ewes are much smaller, averaging 70 kilograms (150 pounds).

Appearance

Bighorn sheep are brown to greyish brown in colour, with light underparts and an obvious, light rump patch. The muzzle is white. Bighorn rams have distinctive, large, spiralled horns. Ewes and young rams have spike-like, curved horns. All bighorn sheep have soft hooves with hard outer rims that give them good footing on precarious ledges. The two parts of a bighorn's hoof are not independently movable. Thus, bighorns are not as agile as mountain goats on difficult terrain, though they can move quickly over rocky mountain slopes when alarmed.

Distribution

Bighorn sheep populations range from the southwest Alberta and west-central British Columbia alpine regions east through Montana and south through California and New Mexico to northern Mexico. There are approximately 35,000 bighorns in North America, ranging from northern Alberta to New Mexico. Alberta has the largest population with over 10,000 animals.

Habitat

Bighorns spend their summers high in the alpine zone on grass-covered slopes. In winter, they may migrate a considerable distance to reach south or southwest-facing slopes where snow cover is minimal.

Food

Bighorn sheep graze on grasses and forbs, and may also browse on alpine willows. They make frequent use of mineral or salt licks.

Breeding Behaviour

The rut occurs from November to December. Lambs are born the following spring.

Status

Bighorn sheep are classified as Secure in the *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report.

Current Management

See details in the *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations* (visit the My Wild Alberta website at Hunting: Regulations).

Sharp-Eyed Bighorn

Bighorn sheep can detect movement over a kilometre (0.62 miles) away.



Trophy Bighorn Sheep Management in Alberta

" There are no immediate regulation changes planned, but we clearly need to work with provincial hunters and outfitter/guides to achieve a better balance with our objectives."

By Jim Allen

Head of Game Management
Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division

In response to stakeholder concerns of a decline in the quality and quantity of trophy rams available in some areas, SRD has completed an assessment of 35 years of trophy sheep registration and aerial survey data for bighorn sheep. The assessment indicates the harvest levels need to be adjusted to bring them into line with the management guidelines in the Management Plan for Bighorn Sheep in Alberta (1993). There are no immediate regulation changes planned, but we clearly need to work with provincial hunters and outfitter/guides to achieve a better balance with our objectives. To achieve that balance, we're looking for discussion and input from stakeholders about the information contained in this discussion paper. Send your comments to me at james.allen@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife collects several sets of data on bighorn sheep, including horn measurements, when bighorn sheep are registered. Information from aerial population surveys, over 8000 sheep registrations, and the collection of DNA have been used to do an analysis of the data to evaluate management areas, population and harvest trends, and to give direction for future bighorn sheep management.

Licence Sales and Harvest

Hunting licence sales over the past 35 years peaked at over 3,000 in the mid-1980s and, like most other hunting licences, experienced a decrease through the 1990s. More recently, the number of bighorn sheep licences purchased has averaged around 2,200. Provincially, ram harvest has declined since the 1980s. North of the Brazeau River, ram harvest has been relatively constant; however, south of the Brazeau River the declines in harvest are more pronounced.

In Alberta, there is a limited entry draw for non-resident Canadians with only two permits per year issued. There are currently 88 allocations that are held by outfitters for non-residents or non-resident aliens. Not all of these are purchased by hunters each year; in fact, the average number of NR and NRA sheep hunters in Alberta annually is 83. Alberta's Management Plan for Bighorn Sheep allows 20% of the harvest for non-residents at a provincial scale. The long term average has fluctuated very close to that number for the last 20 years. In 2011, non-residents harvested 34 rams, 20% of the total combined provincial harvest of 168 rams.



Hunter success for residents who purchase trophy sheep general licences and special licences averages about 7% over the last 20 years. Non-resident and non-resident alien (combined) hunter success averages about 49%. The higher success can be attributed to being guided during the hunt.

Bighorn Sheep Aerial Survey Data

In 2011, plans were made to survey all sheep wintering ranges in the province including the national parks (thanks for assistance from the Wild Sheep Foundation, Hunting for Tomorrow Foundation and Alberta Conservation Association). The intent of this survey was to determine the spatial winter distribution of the provincial sheep population, provincial population trends and the proportion of trophy rams that were in the post hunting season population. The pre-hunting season population estimate was calculated to be 6,466. The total bighorn population has not changed much in the last ten years, however there have been some Sheep Management Areas (SMAs) which have experienced overall declines in bighorn sheep numbers, such as Nordegg-Chungo and Ram-Shunda sheep management areas. Populations are growing in sheep management areas north of the Brazeau River.

Age of Harvested Rams, Horn Length, and Basal Circumference

The registration of harvested trophy bighorn sheep started in 1971 and the database holds over 8000 entries of trophy rams with age and horn measurements. This analysis covered data collected between 1974 and 2009. The intent of the analysis was to see if there have been any changes over time in age, horn length or basal circumference of harvested trophy bighorn sheep.

Provincially, the age of harvested rams has been increasing and this trend is also evident in many of the individual SMAs, which means that by the time rams acquire legal-sized horns, they are significantly older than earlier populations. The proportion of young rams (four and five year olds) in the harvest has been declining. Rams now need to be older to reach trophy size, likely due to lower horn growth rates than in the past. These results indicate that fast growing, larger rams are being shot at a young age and are being removed from the population before breeding age.

Analysis of sheep harvested by hunters did show that horn growth (basal circumference and horn length) has decreased over time when the age of sheep is taken into consideration. Over time, horn length and circumference have declined provincially since the mid-1990s, but this trend is not consistent throughout the province. For example, the rams in Kananaskis, Bow Valley-Ghost, Clearwater-Ram and Nordegg-Chungo have exhibited a decrease in overall horn length and circumference, while ram horns in other SMAs, such as Cadomin and Torrens, have increased.

Factors that affect horn growth are complex. It has been shown that climatic conditions, habitat quality, high sheep densities and genetics can all contribute to this decline.

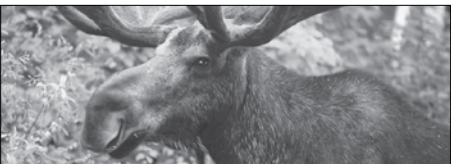
Management Options

The Management Plan for Bighorn Sheep in Alberta (1993) lists several options that could be considered to increase the number of rams available. They include the following:

- Longer waiting periods for purchasing a trophy sheep licence following successfully harvesting of a ram;
- Increased licence fees;
- Limited entry draw (special licences); or
- A limit on the number of trophy rams per hunter in a lifetime.

All of these options have advantages and disadvantages and will have varying effects on hunting opportunities. We believe it is important to keep recreational hunting opportunities for residents as liberal as possible, but hunting opportunities must be in the framework of maintaining quality hunting and conservation management. There are no regulation changes planned for trophy bighorn sheep in the immediate future. This paper is presented to the Alberta public for discussion and to encourage input for consideration in management planning for the future.

Law of the Wild



“ It takes patience to observe a ram, waiting until you've had a chance to view the horns in profile. ”

By Ben Branscombe
Regulations Officer
Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch

Q. How can I tell whether a bighorn sheep is legal to harvest?

A. A hunter should first check the Alberta Hunting Draws booklet in order to tell whether a bighorn sheep hunting season is open in a particular Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) and whether the season applies to the whole WMU or a portion of it. A hunter needs to establish whether the WMU has a hunting season for “trophy sheep”, “full-curl trophy sheep”, or “non-trophy sheep”. In certain WMUs a resident hunter may be able to obtain a general licence to hunt a category of bighorn sheep that has an open season, whereas in many WMUs the hunter must obtain a special licence through the draw process.

Each province or state may have different requirements related to sheep harvest. When hunting in Alberta, the hunter must view the ram's head from a horizontal plane and in profile (with the front of the right and the left horn bases aligned)

in order to accurately judge whether a ram is legal to harvest. It takes patience to observe a ram, waiting until you've had a chance to view the horns in profile. On page 40 of the 2011 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations (available at www.albertaregulations.ca), there are diagrams showing how to identify the three categories of sheep.

Male bighorn sheep that are over the age of one year are subject to compulsory registration at a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch district office. The complete unaltered skull must be submitted with horns and eyes intact (within 14 days following the kill or within seven days of the close of the season, whichever occurs first). This registration requirement (for male bighorn sheep over the age of one year) also applies if the sheep was harvested under a constitutional right to hunt for food.

If you have any further questions relating to hunting, please contact the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch district office nearest where you live (or where you intend to hunt), dialling 310-0000 for toll-free directory assistance within Alberta.

Q. Is there still a minimum cartridge length requirement in Alberta?

A. At one time a person could not hunt big game in Alberta using ammunition having a cartridge case with a length under a specific measurement (1.75 inches) and to be legal it also had to be of a calibre that was .23 or larger. Currently in Alberta there is no minimum cartridge length, but legal ammunition for hunting big game remains at .23 calibre or larger, or for muzzle-loading rifles, the minimum is .44 calibre. Provided the ammunition is legal to use for hunting big game (e.g., not a full-metal jacketed round, and firing bullets of .23 calibre or larger), then the cartridge length can be of any size. This regulation change has increased the popularity of some short range rifle ammunition such as the .44 magnum or the 7.62mmx39mm cartridge.

If you observe a hunting or fishing violation, please contact the Report A Poacher number of 1-800-642-3800 or your local Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch district office, dialling 310-0000 if within Alberta. Officers rely on your observations in the field.



NASP Donation

This past year saw the Alberta archery and bowhunting community lose three great people:

John Wuin
Red Deer

Craig Reed
Calgary

Dennis Hooey
Lethbridge

Many of you likely knew them in one way or another, and had them impact you as an archer and a bowhunter. In their memory, and to honour their contributions, the Alberta Bowhunters Association has donated \$1000 to the Alberta National Archery in the Schools Program (administered through A.H.E.I.A.). A plaque and cheque is presented to A.H.E.I.A. President Bob Gruszecki (left) by ABA Regulations Director Tom Foss (right). Individual plaques have also been presented to the family of each individual.

Winter 2011 Funny Caption Contest Winner



Congratulations to our winner

Austin Ball

for the funniest caption.

We hope you enjoy your prize, a pair of 10"x25" binoculars!
Thank you to all of the participants of the funny caption contest for all the laughs!
Here's the Winning Caption:

“Ah yes, they are swollen.”



Look Who's All Grown Up!

Be the first person to guess the identity of this A.H.E.I.A. staffer to win a pair of 10"x25" Binoculars

Contest rules state that you must have fun!

Entries must be received by May 15, 2012.
Contest open to all A.H.E.I.A. members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

This little guy is: _____

You will be notified by letter. Send your entry to us via email at info@aheia.com, fax 403-252-3770, or mail to A.H.E.I.A., 911 Sylvester Crescent S.W., Calgary, AB T2W 0R8.

For additional information please contact Dave at 780-466-6682 or email dengland@aheia.com.



The APOS Hunting Heroes Program

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LOST

A green A.H.E.I.A. backpack containing a variety of elk calls. Last seen on Sunday afternoon at the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show.

If you know where the backpack may be, please contact **Matt Shaw** at **403-831-5359**.
Your reward will be a free elk calling lesson from Matt.

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“... the rewards to both you and your student will be well worth the time and effort.”

By Len Gransch

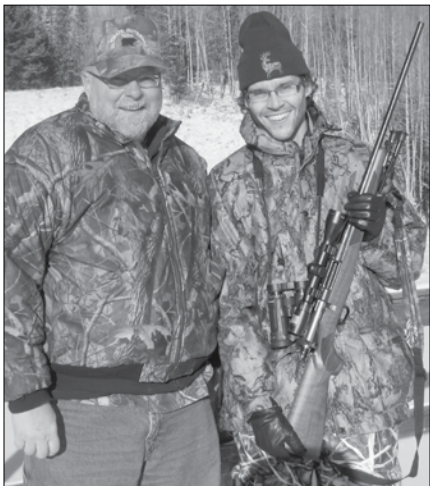


Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.
Red Deer - North

If you have followed my articles over these many years, you know that mentorship has always been an extremely important part of my life. I repeatedly participate in mentoring, and continually try to get friends, acquaintances, instructors — anyone who will listen — to become a mentor.

Hunting for Tomorrow and the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association offer numerous opportunities for both mentors and mentees to get involved in numerous and varied programs.

I have been very fortunate to be involved with the annual mule deer hunt co-sponsored by A.H.E.I.A. and the Big Country Rod and Gun Club out of Oyen. This year, the four participants joining me on the trek south from Edmonton were Kate Siddle, Teara Fragoso, and Mark and Brenton Field. We rendezvoused with the participants from the Calgary and Oyen areas. Special thanks to the Oyen crew and mentors who continue to do a remarkable job and continually raise the bar when it comes to mentored hunts. They constantly instill the proper values and emphasize that fact that there is more to hunting than just harvesting an animal. Look for Kate's story following this article.



Doug Urichuk (left) and Goetz Dapp (right).

Once again this year, I was responsible for coordinating our mentored hunts at Alford Lake. The mentors were Jim Ford, Doug Urichuk and Matt Shaw who mentored Goetz Dapp, Hasan Razak, Horatiu Muresan, Tim Frances and Mounir Rifai. It is always a pleasure to see the interaction between mentor and participant, and especially when the participant gets it. The entire experience is what is emphasised on these hunts. Harvesting an animal is just icing on the cake.

When I talk to potential individuals about becoming mentors, they often indicate that they do not have time to take someone out during their hunting time. If one takes this attitude, I wonder if most hunters would have actually become a hunter at all. I agree that it can be a bit of an inconvenience, but the rewards to both you and your student will be well worth the time and effort. You will be happy you took the step to become involved ... I guarantee it.



To register as a mentor or mentorship participant, please visit the Hunting for Tomorrow website at

www.huntingfortomorrow.com

for more information.



Mounir Rifai

“
You will be happy
you took the step
to become involved
... I guarantee it.
”



Kate Siddle

Dear Len (AKA hey Zeus):

As per your request, here's my story (what hunter doesn't have one), so if you are sitting comfortably, then I'll begin ...

First of all, I got to hear of the mentored hunt while attending the Outdoor Women's Program in 2010. While all the ducks didn't quite get in a row for that fall, they definitely came up trumps for this one. I would like to say that the story starts with it being a sunny day, but it's Alberta in November, so regrettably that would be a no then. In reality, it was freezing rain in my neck of the woods, and so delayed the start of what was a great weekend.

The journey commenced from A.H.E.I.A. HQ in Edmonton, and while I didn't really know the rest of the inmates, trust me, by the time we reached Oyen I think I knew their boot and bra size ... (Don't worry Len, I'll not tell anyone yours, lol.) We reached the town for lunch (a lovely Chinese restaurant, food was great and service was so very friendly), then on to the range and meeting the mentors. I had the great honour and pleasure to be paired with Kevyn Parker and had what can only be described as a BLAST. She had me ranging in her Rifle (7mm) and dingy gongs like they were going out of fashion until the setting of the sun. Then on to the camp which would be our home for the next couple of days. Great set up, women's tent, men's tents, a communal dining tent and, okay I'll say it, a Loo (washroom for Canadians). Cannot quite remember if I ate anything else that night, but apparently my scales say I did. I hit the sack in readiness for the forthcoming day ahead ... eeeeeeeh! I was so excited I don't know how I slept, but must have because apparently, at one point, one of the girls did check my pulse as they feared death because I didn't move, but woke bright eyed and bushy tailed the next day.

We had an early start the first morning. Woke, grabbed a buttie (breakfast sandwich) and 1/2 tonne of chocolate bars, and away we went. Kevyn had already done the spotting and, true to her word, we alighted upon some mule deer. There were a group of three (sorry if the word isn't group, but hey I'm learning and it's my story) — a doe, a fawn and a buck.

We pulled past the group and quietly got out of Kevyn's truck, safely loaded the rifle and snuck through the bush. I think they could have heard my heart beat, as I would have sworn that it was up near my throat.

To get a better shot, we did the action man/commando thing (crawl). We were in camouflage and didn't want to waste the opportunity. I lined up the crosshairs on the doe, with encouraging words from Kevyn ... What can I say? She rocks. Then bang; a hit? Oh no, knew I flinched and unfortunately hit the doe in the front leg. At this point the doe took off to the south over the brow of the hill and didn't come up on the other side, so the tracking commenced. We looked all around for quite some considerable time, playing back everything in our heads and my flinch. What can I say? I do guilt really well; just knew that I'd hit the doe and didn't want to see her suffer.

After a while we approached the landowner to the north across the road, who gave us permission, which is just as well because the first slew we encountered, you've guessed it BINGO. A group of five, a mix, the first four came out, and then the last, a doe, and she was limping. I was so relieved, we'd found her. The group seemed to part and, like in slow motion, there was my doe standing broadside alone in the middle of the parted group. I took another standing shot this time and they all took off to the west and then to the south, but only four crossed the road to the south. We walked in the general direction of their initial run and there she was. It only took us moments to reach her and she had already passed away. What mixed feelings; relieved that we'd found her after the original hit, thankful that she would provide the meat, and sad that she'd passed — fairly hard to explain really.

Kate's Story

“
... the weekend was
life shaping ...
Everyone who is
interested in hunting
should experience
an environment
like this.
”

After some documentary evidence was collected (that's photos; have to say she was a stunner, not me, the doe), the gutting and skinning commenced. Would have to say in my own personal experience, never let your friends sharpen your hunting knife; it was as sharp as a spoon. Again, Kevyn stepped in ... told you, an absolute star ... and let me use her knife. We had a slight little accident with the old gut pile ... sorry Kevyn, still owe you a truck wash (but that's a different story). Well, a very successful day and it wasn't over yet. After a bite of lunch and some groveling for a white tail deer tag from the hardware store and then the insurance office, then back spotting for the others in the group. I have to do a couple of special thanks here at this point. To the lady who went out of her way at the hardware shop: She was actually closed and had even stopped selling tags. After one phone call, or should I say magic wand, the insurance office, which was also closed, opened faster than you could say open sesame and a tag was produced. So, to the lady, and I believe her son, a big thank you, and to anyone reading this, the insurance office now sells the tags and they are

not normally open on a Saturday, or a Remembrance Day Friday either.

That afternoon was spent touring the countryside and we saw another two bucks, a doe and a fawn on the crest, dare I say a summit, of a hill. Here we spotted another pair from our group stalking the deer. They did get within 400 yards, but the wind changed. More stalking did ensue down the lea of the hill, but the wind had started to circle, which made things ever so tricky.

Returning back to camp, we did see six white-tailed deer, the first ones I saw down there, granted in the distance, but at least in this case we could actually recognize them as white-tailed and not just a brown blur with a white exclamation as they bound off doing mach four in the opposite direction. Let's call them very skittish. Anyway, they were all does and I needed a buck for my tag. More food was consumed on our return back to camp, and lots of stories of the day and previous days ensued. Guess you had to be there; there was a lot to say and a lot of laughing and huge quantities of chili. Yes, it tasted great and it did half warm the tent later too, lol. Again, another relatively late night to bed and we all took turns stacking the fire in the tent to maintain our own ecosystem.

Next day, a small amount of rearranging and one of the other girls that hadn't filled her mule doe tag went out with Kevyn and I went with another mentor, Ken, and his apprentice. Throughout the day we saw deer and stalked, ate chocolate, drank coffee, talked, laughed, saw the countryside and covered vast quantities of questions about hunting and deer habits and techniques, and while we didn't get a deer the next day, it was still very worthwhile and an awesome experience. Thank you to Ken who answered so many questions that he was almost hoarse and thinking that he'd been captured by the Gestapo. What a good sport!

Then it was back to camp and packed and tags done for the heads and trucks packed, and away we went. We stopped for munchies and coffee and a great supper. Len, I would have to say that I so owe you a coffee. We actually did get back a bit earlier than we first anticipated, but it was still a bit of a late night.

I would have to say that the weekend was life shaping and a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I would like to thank everyone that made this possible and so special. Everyone who is interested in hunting should experience an environment like this. It was educational, safe and fun, and hopefully I have met some people during this adventure that will remain in contact.

Well Len, you didn't say that it had to be short, you just said that I was short, lol. Thanks for the banter and again thanks for waiting, would have hated to have missed it. Now after sitting for so long reading my epic journey, I reckon you'll have a numb bum too. Got you, lol.

When the bell rings ... round two please.

Thanks again.

Kate Siddle



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