

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



Fall 2014



**Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association**

Conservation Education

The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine

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President's Message

A Legacy of Opportunity – An Opportunity for Excellence

By Bob Gruszecki



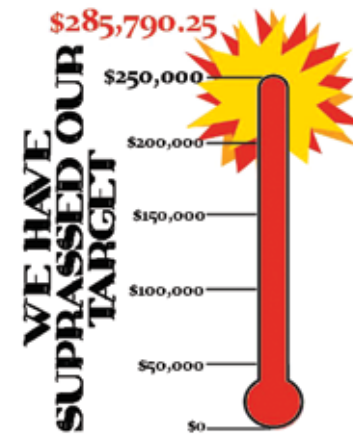
Bob Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.

On May 2, I sent out a press release describing how an important component of our funding had been drastically reduced by what had been traditionally counted upon sources. As a result we had launched a number of programs and efforts to replace much needed funding to ensure that our programs continued uninterrupted.

We continue to be determined to ensure that our world renowned programs are made available to men, women and children of all ages.

We went to the membership, the public and numerous agencies and asked for help. I am very pleased to report that we have been overwhelmed by the positive response. It is clear that people want us to survive and will reach out and assist when asked to do so for this great cause. We launched the "A.H.E.I.A. Annual Campaign for Conservation Education" that went from May 1 through to August 31, 2014. Our goal was to raise \$250,000.00.

Through the help of a great many people, including corporate sponsors, anonymous donors, members, students and others, we are able to announce that the final tally has been completed and we have surpassed our original goal and raised a total of **\$285,790.25**.



Thank you to each and every one of you for your efforts. The cause of conservation education has never been bigger and our vision continues to grow as does the need for our program delivery.

A special thank you goes out to two of our corporate sponsors who went above and beyond during the campaign. Vortex Canada donated \$3000 worth of optics to the campaign raffles including: Razor 10x42 Roof Prism Binoculars, a Viper HS 4 16x50 Rifle Scope and a Vortex Ranger 1000 6x22 Rangefinder. The winners of these fantastic prizes donated by Vortex (Rye-Patrick Flanagan, Mark Paffrath and Dan Walchuk respectively) can be seen on page 14 of this



magazine. Wholesale Sports managed to raise \$20,000 for the campaign by accepting donations at the tills of their stores during the month of July which they declared to be "Conservation Month". During this month A.H.E.I.A. members were also given special discounts on merchandise in stores across the province and Wholesale Sports assisted us in spreading the word of our programs. At the conclusion of Wholesale Sports' Conservation Month, employees of the winning store, Wholesale Sports North Edmonton, were awarded prize packages compliments of A.H.E.I.A. We are extremely grateful to our corporate sponsors and every single donor, small or large, for stepping forward when asked. I can assure you that every single dollar raised is gratefully accepted and will be faithfully applied to our programs.



Everyone's faith and efforts on our behalf "fuels our fire" and provides a reassurance that the work we do together in the pursuit of making wildlife and wild places part of peoples' value systems is a challenge worth pursuing indeed! It continues to be both a pleasure and an honour to be associated with each and every one of you!

THANK YOU!

Yours in Conservation,

Conservation Education Magazine

Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

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Cover Photo: Volunteer Jim Ford of Calgary.

Photo courtesy:

Len Gransch

A.H.E.I.A. Program Coordinator



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Over the last 50 years we have learned a lot.
So have our students.



Happy **Golden** Anniversary!



www.aheia.com



The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors'
Association

would like to thank the

Alberta Conservation Association



for financial support of the following 2014/2015 AHEIA programs:

- Youth Hunter Education Camps
- Outdoor Women's Program
- Outdoor Youth Seminar
- Essential Series Mobile Apps Development
- Mobile Shotgun Safety Trailer
- Outdoor Bound Mentorship Program
- 4H Program Coordination
- Army Cadet League Camps Program
- OWL Day
- Provincial Hunting Day
- Urban Fishing Initiatives
- Youth Fishing Initiatives

Making wildlife and fish part of the value system of all Albertans.



The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors'
Association

would like to thank

Wildlife Habitat Canada



for financial support of the following 2014/2015 AHEIA programs:

- Youth Hunter Education Camps
- Outdoor Women's Program

These projects were undertaken with the financial support of:
Ces projets ont été réalisés avec l'appui financier de:



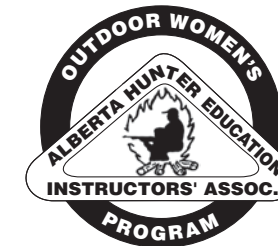
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Canada

Environnement
Canada

Since 1985, Wildlife Habitat Canada, a national, non-profit, charitable conservation organization, has invested over \$50 million to support hundreds of conservation projects on private and public lands across Canada, through its granting program. Wildlife Habitat Canada works through partnerships with communities, landowners, governments, non-government organizations, and industry to conserve, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat. To learn more about the projects that Wildlife Habitat Canada has funded or to see our annual report, please visit www.whc.org.

Without habitat ... there is no wildlife. It's that simple!

Making wildlife and fish part of the value system of all Albertans.



21st Annual Outdoor Women's Program

August 6-10, 2014

By Jessica Holt



Jessica Holt
Administrative Assistant
A.H.E.I.A.
Edmonton

We are pleased to share with you some new, exciting news. Effective May 1, 2014, Kelly Semple has assumed the position of Director of Fund-raising and Donor Relations for A.H.E.I.A. Mr. Dave Paplowski will take on the role as Chairman for the Outdoor Women's Program. We would like to give a big thanks to Kelly for making this program outstanding year after year. Thank you for the last 12 years of being an influential Chairperson for this program! We wish you best of luck in your new position and look forward to still having you involved in the Outdoor Women's Program.

On August 6-10, 2014 A.H.E.I.A. celebrated our 21st Anniversary of the Outdoor Women's Program, with 177 participants and 65 instructors. Over the five day period, 30 different sessions were held.

Many thanks to the 65 instructors who came out and donated their time for the Outdoor Women's Program. Without your assistance, this program would not be possible.

**Mark your calendar for next year's
Outdoor Women's Program
August 5-9, 2015!**

Registration forms will be available on-line at www.aheia.com or www.huntingfortomorrow.com by April 2015. Email edmontoninfo@aheia.com to be put on the express notification list!

For more information, contact Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association 1-403-252-8474 or email dave@aheia.com.



**"Thanks for all
you do
to empower
women
and make
them feel so
special."**

Photos courtesy Jesse Dupont, Matt Shaw and Val Walsh.

Continued ➤



**“ Wonderful opportunity to learn new things
at your incredible facility. ”**

Program Sessions:

- Advanced Hunting - Big Game Animals
- Advanced Hunting - Upland Game Birds and Waterfowl
- Archery
- Building a Survival Bracelet and Learning How to Use It
- Canoeing - Basic
- Canoeing - Advanced
- Canadian Firearms Challenge
- Chainsaw Basics
- Crossbows - Getting Started
- Field Techniques
- Firearms Basics - Guns, Guns, Guns
- Fly Fishing
- Get Out Alive!
- Geocaching
- Handguns
- Introduction to ATVing
- K-9s at Work
- Let's Go Bowhunting
- Making Leather Moccasins
- Predator Awareness
- The Real Mantracker
- The Science of Fishing
- Trailering
- Walk on the Wild Side
- Where Am I? Where Should I Be?
- Wilderness Cuisine
- Wilderness First Aid
- Wilderness Identification
- Wilderness Survival (Basic) - Part 1
- Wilderness Survival (Basic) - Part 2

Evening/Morning Sessions:

- Alford Lake Olympics
- Building a Survival Bracelet
- Campfire Evenings
- Fly Tying
- Game Calling 101
- Knife and Axe Sharpening
- Rope Making
- Nature Power Walk



“ All instructors were amazing, extremely knowledgeable, so kind and patient. ”

2014 Outdoor Women's Program Statistics:

Average age of participants – 42 years old.

Oldest Participant – 82 years old.

Youngest Participant – 14 years old.

52% of the attendees were first time registrants.

Participants came from across the province, as well as British Columbia.



2014 Outdoor Women's Program: Profiling the Participants

" ... I could hear the enthusiasm in their voices and their eagerness to come back."

By Jessica Holt



Jessica Holt
Administrative Assistant
A.H.E.I.A.
Edmonton

The Outdoor Women's Program began in 1994 and it was designed to encourage women to enjoy the great outdoors by providing opportunity to gain confidence, increase competence, acquire experience and promote personal growth. Not only can this program be educational, but it is also an excellent way to spend time with family or friends who are attending and meet new people from all across the province. I asked a few of the 2014 Outdoor Women's Program participants about their experience at this program and their motivation for wanting to attend. All of these ladies I spoke to had many amazing stories, whether it was stories about the experience at the camp or the skills they learned from the program and brought out to the real world. As I spoke to them I could hear the enthusiasm in their voices and their eagerness to come back. The eldest, and 19 time attendee, Wanda Batog loves that this program gives people the opportunity to try things in a safe environment that they may never have done before, let alone

heard about. Her primary motivation for attending is the enjoyment she gets from the sessions and being able to see all the familiar faces, along with befriending new ladies throughout the province. When asked about attending for the first time 19 years ago, Wanda reminisced about a small group of ladies at the camp facility with a different experience as compared to today. She pointed out how the camp used to look back then: no showers, no cabins, no dining hall, etc. As she mentioned, the growth of both the program and the Alford Lake camp has been a unique experience for her to see. The outdoor skills that Wanda gained from attending this program include being inspired to partake in fishing after participating in the Fly Fishing session. With a number of available sessions, Wanda shows interest in the Introduction to ATVing the most. She hopes to continue to attend this "wonderful outdoor experience" for years to come.

Lindsay Schroeder signed up for the Program for the first time with one of her best friends, Mandy Hampton, in the hopes of learning new skills together and further bonding with each other. With all the new things that Lindsay has learned, she mentioned that successfully building a fire in the Outdoor Olympics was one of the skills that she has since demonstrated outside of the program. While camping with family, she wowed them with her fire starting skills. Lindsay men-

tioned that not only is she leaving with a stronger bond with Mandy and an everlasting memory, she is leaving with a brand new outlook on the outdoors and the skills accumulated within five short days.

Dawn Stewart tells of her experiences: "The 2014 Outdoor Women's Program (OWP) was my ninth time attending. I can't pinpoint a specific reason as to why I continue to come to OWP — from the amazing instructors, to the exciting new things I have learned, to the wonderful friends I have made over the years, there isn't one thing that stands above everything else.

"The first year I came I had never thought of myself as an outdoorsy person; I mean, I hike and have done some canoeing, but that was pretty much it. A friend (Hi Angela!) told me I needed a break from everyday life, and to come out and try something new. And where can you go for five days at such a reasonable price, right? So, I was a little reluctant — scared to do some of the things that I was told we would be learning. That year I did the serene nature type stuff ... and then I heard the girls come back from the ATV course and the guns ... and — yep, pretty much hooked from there!!

"Some of my favourite classes I've taken ... hmmm ... so many to choose from — but the canoeing is always a good one (I take my boys



Wanda (right).

**" Opportunity of a lifetime!
Couldn't ask
for anything better! "**

**" With the low cost of
what you pay to attend
and with what you get
out of the program,
where else could you
get value for your money
in this day and age! "**

~ Wanda Batog



Wanda (centre).



Left to right: Mandy Hampton, Pat Jensen, Clayton Jensen and Lindsay Schroeder.



Mandy and Lindsay.

out every once in a while so it's good to know how to handle a canoe in rougher situations), the guns ... oh the guns!! And if you haven't taken a Mantracker course, then well — I can't talk to you yet.

"I used my canoeing skills learned from last year to traverse around the Sechelt Inlet with my boys in a canoe (out in the bay), using the techniques I learned. If I hadn't learned the rescue skills, I wouldn't have gone out there.

"The instructors are awesome. I don't want to single out anyone specific (have to though, Glenn!!), the camp managers and staff are awesome (Matt, Donna, Holly, Kavi, Jessica, plus many more!!), and every year I come back to my

**" I have learned so many
new things from this program.
One of which is Fly Fishing.
I am so excited to go out and
use the fishing rod I just got
now that I have
learned this new skill!! "**

~ Lindsay Schroeder

**" Had no idea this type
of program would
captivate the interest of
so many women! "**

city life wanting to try more stuff, or improve on what I learned before (right Glenn?).

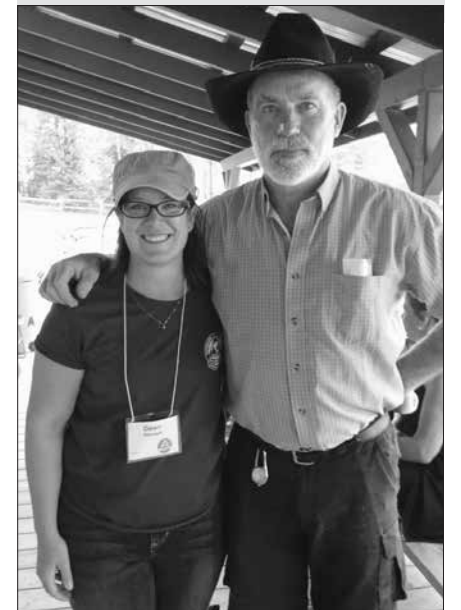
"I always have a philosophy about coming to OWP. I will try everything at least once. If I don't like it, at least I know I tried it — a lesson I try to teach my boys at home.

"Not to mention the fact that so many of us women do a LOT of the stuff around the house ... so it's kind of nice to get the other half to take on some of those duties as well!! They always have a little more appreciation when I come back for how to manage the everyday workings of the house.

"Am I coming back? You betcha — as many times as they'll let me."



Dawn (left both photos).



**" ... every year I come back
to my city life
wanting to try
more stuff,
or improve on what
I learned before ... "**

**" Am I coming back?
You betcha —
as many times
as they'll let me. "**

~ Dawn Stewart

**Mark Your Calendar for Next Year's Outdoor Women's Program
August 5-9, 2015!**

Edmonton Report



“ ... you may not be aware of what is available and how to access these materials, so let's review. ”

By Len Gransch



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

Our 2014 Youth Hunter Education camps and Outdoor Youth Seminar were a resounding success again this year. When it comes to the Youth Hunter Education camps, we have a bit of an issue; namely, the demand always exceeds the available spots and we have to turn away many youngsters each year.

Don't miss out on the 2015 camps: request to be placed on the Advance Notification List for 2015. Simply email your request to edmontoninfo@ahcia.com and we will look after the rest. Those on the notification list will receive an emailed registration package approximately two weeks prior to it being released to the general public. Registration and information packages will be available early in the New Year.

I would like to take a moment to review what is available to all A.H.E.I.A. certified instructors and members when it comes to your A.H.E.I.A. membership, available resource materials and training aids. These resource materials and training aids tend to be underutilized. I feel it is partly because you may not be aware of what is available and how to access these materials, so let's review.

Membership benefits:

- \$5 million General Liability Insurance covering all approved activities for Certified Instructors.
- Conservation Education magazine four times per year.
- Access to A.H.E.I.A. training aids.
- Hunter's Handbook.
- A.H.E.I.A. lapel pin.
- Pocket calendar.
- Window decal.
- Special events for members.
- Special discounts on A.H.E.I.A. products.
- Discounts at miscellaneous merchants.

Available resource materials and training aids:

- **Firearms Kits.** Contain disabled firearms and ammunition that can be utilized for safe firearms training or handling (require a valid PAL and an ATT for the restricted kit).
- **Fur Kit.** Contains a variety of different pelts of various Canadian wildlife species. Perfect for hands on training.
- **Antler/Horn/Skull Kit.** Contains samples of various horns, antlers and skulls found on Alberta ungulates, carnivores and fur bearers.

- **Making Tracks Kit.** Designed for younger children. Comes with a formula for making your own molding clay which is the medium used to transfer the animal tracks.
- **Fishing Rod and Reel Kit.** Contains 12 spinning/spin cast rods and reels with line and practise plugs.
- **Fly Fishing Rod and Reel Kit.** Contains four rods and reels complete with fly line.
- **Fly Tying Kits.** One kit has 12 vices and the other has six, plus both have all the materials required to put on a fly tying demo or course.
- **Laser Shot.** Comes with a Daisy laser powered firearms simulator and VHS tape. The video features different game animal scenarios simulating shooting at the vital areas.
- **Book and Magazine Library.** Numerous reference, instructional and topical publications are available.
- **DVD Library.** Various titles from instructional to hunts.
- **VHS Library.** Old technology, yes, but there are many valuable titles available.
- **Film.** Still older technology, but there are some rare and hard to find titles.
- **Slides.** These slides were part of the old Fish and Wildlife Flora and Fauna series.
- **LCD projector.**
- **DVD player.**
- **VHS player.**
- **Slide projector.**
- **16 MM film projector.**
- **Overhead projector.**

All of these resource materials are available free of charge to all qualified A.H.E.I.A. certified instructors and A.H.E.I.A. members. The materials can be accessed by contacting our Edmonton office directly to make the arrangements.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of our DVD, VHS, film, slide and book/magazine listings, please email your request directly to me and I will send one to you.

Finding new volunteers is always a bit of a struggle. In this day and age most everyone is busy with their own work, pastimes and hobbies. It is nice to see that Alberta has among the highest numbers of volunteers per capita in Canada.

There are still some Canadian Firearms Program instructors out there who need to teach courses to maintain their status. We can help! Simply volunteer to teach one of our in-house courses. This does two things: firstly, you get credit for teaching and, secondly, we get the much-needed assistance with our in-house courses. This is also perfect for those who might want a refresher course to get up-to-date on techniques, aids and materials. In Calgary contact Glenn McKay and in Edmonton contact Len Gransch.

We also continue to look for new volunteers who are able to assist with our varied courses, camps and events. If you have a bit of spare time, you might consider lending us a hand. Perhaps it is time for you to pass on your knowledge to the next generation. You will find it extremely rewarding and fun filled. Also we could really use your assistance. If you are available or have questions about what this might entail, please contact any of our delivery team: Chuck Strong at chuck@ahcia.com, Ken Cook at ken@ahcia.com or myself at len@ahcia.com.

To all our volunteers, I want to thank you for your continued support. You are the BEST!

I hope all of your outdoor adventures are rewarding this fall. Remember to have fun in the Great Outdoors and take a kid or two along with you.



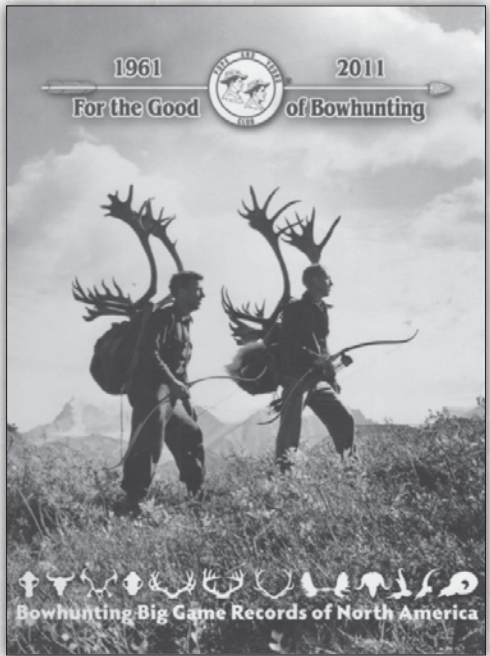


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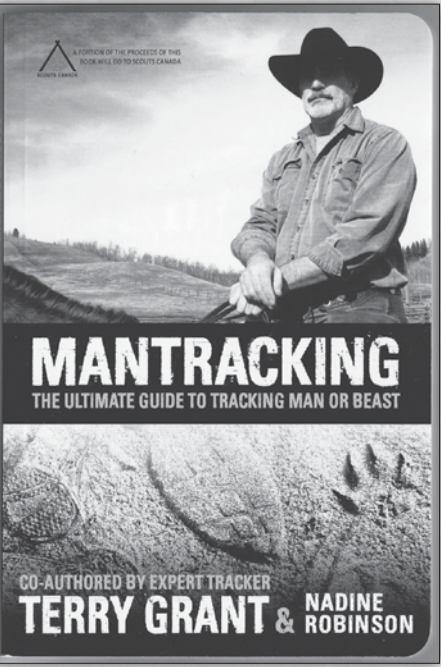
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2014 World's and All-Star Archery Competition: Smoky Lake heads to Madison, Wisconsin!

By Taylor Heidinger
Team Canada Archer

Call it a privilege, call it a trip of a lifetime, call it whatever you please, but our trip to Madison, Wisconsin this past summer for the 2014 World's Competition and the All-Star Championship was beyond amazing. We met so many new people from all across the United States and South Africa.

The experience all started for us when we flew out as a team to Madison. Bags and bow cases in hand, we arrived in Madison late on July 10. Our hotel was actually in the same parking lot as the competition venue. Talk about convenience! We all settled in and went to bed, for we had a busy couple of days ahead of us.

The next day we travelled to Milwaukee to spend the day exploring. We had a tour of Miller Park Stadium and then we went to the Brewers baseball game later that evening.

Saturday we had an early morning. First, we headed to the venue to watch the opening ceremonies and then we met the South African team. We quickly became very close with them. They were very kindhearted people and our conversations were all about the many similarities and differences between Canada and South Africa. We watched the South Africans shoot and then we did some shopping around the venue at the many different archery booths there.

Our team then headed back to the hotel to get ready because we were going for a team supper. We all got dressed up in fancy clothes and went to the Madison government building to take team pictures. After that we enjoyed our fabulous meal.

Sunday was the day! The day we had been practicing for for months. We all had mixed feelings of the day; some were super nervous, some were excited and some were just ready to shoot. We had a team breakfast, then headed to the venue. We watched the opening ceremonies, and then had some time to get our equipment ready and get our mental game on.

Some of the team scored well, some scored their average, and some just had nerves get the best of them. Overall as a team, we shot very well. We set a new Canadian record and placed eighth out of 44 teams. We were so proud of ourselves because of the accomplishment we had made

together as a team. We made some amazing memories and new friendships with, not only each other, but the other people we met, that will hopefully last forever.

Monday came and that was the day when our team split. Eight members of the team had the privilege to compete in the All-Star Competition along with eight other Canadian archers. So,

“ We made some amazing memories and new friendships with, not only each other, but the other people we met, that will hopefully last forever. ”



early Monday morning, the eight archers packed up along with our coach and a couple of parent chaperones and headed to the University of Wisconsin. We got to pretend we were university students for a week. We stayed in the university dorms, which was really fun. We left our luggage and bows at the university and got on a bus. The three teams that were competing in the competition were given the opportunity to go together to Wisconsin Dells, the waterpark capital of the world. We spent the whole day at Mount Olympus Water/Theme Park. There was some major team bonding for some of the team Canada members. That evening we went back to the university for supper and then had a team meeting to meet the rest of Team Canada. All members were either from Alberta or Saskatchewan. Once we all met, we bonded like glue. We all got along so well and had so much fun together. Our team was always outside playing football or frisbee or just hanging out in the lounge.

Tuesday was day one of the competition. The three teams walked to the venue where we had the opening ceremonies. Each team walked in to their country's national anthem with their country's flag. It was very cool! The competition started immediately after that, with 48 shooters on the line. The first round was to split each of the three teams in four teams of four. Each team would then compete until there was one left. The competition was stiff and the range officers, coaches and spectators were all in utter awe when all 48 archers were on the line and shooting near perfect rounds. With grouping that tight, we knew we would have to step up our game. The first day alone had six rounds of shooting; each team was guaranteed three rounds for sure, and then after elimination you had to shoot more. Canada 1 shot six rounds, Canada 2 shot five rounds, and Canada 3 and 4 shot four or five rounds. By the end of the day we were exhausted and our fingers were blistering, but we pushed through and ended the day well. Canada 1 made it to the next round on Wednesday, but the rest had not.

We woke up early on Wednesday to head down and finish the competition, had opening ceremonies again and then Canada 1, South Africa 1, and USA 1 and 2 competed for the overall title. Canada and South Africa lost their rounds by a couple points and USA 1 and USA 2 moved on to the finals. USA 1 ended up winning the whole thing, becoming the 2014 All-Star Champions.

The South African team was known for being really outgoing and fun. So they decided to teach everyone the Monkey Dance. While waiting for the results of the competition, we passed the time doing some line dances. The Monkey Dance (South Africa), the Chicken Dance and Cadillac Ranch (Canada), and the Cupid Shuffle (USA). Each team took turns showing everyone their home country dances and we all had fun, laughing, dancing and just having a good time.

With the competition done, many archers went home and we had to say goodbye. It was hard, even though we had all just met; it had felt like we had known each other for years. We all hope to see them again next year at the 2015 World's Archery Tournament!

Eat, Sleep, Shoot!



“ The competition was stiff and the range officers, coaches and spectators were all in utter awe when all 48 archers were on the line and shooting near perfect rounds. With grouping that tight, we knew we would have to step up our game ... By the end of the day we were exhausted and our fingers were blistering, but we pushed through and ended the day well. ”





Ken Cook (left) presenting second prize to Shane Nelson.

Firearms Raffle III

First Prize:
Savage Model II Rifle
won by

John Whittleton

Second Prize:
Weatherby Vanguard Series 2 Rifle
won by
Shane Nelson

Congratulations! **A.H.E.I.A. Raffle Winners**

Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

Annual Campaign for Conservation Education II

First Prize:
Razor 10x42 Roof Prism Binoculars
won by

Rye-Patrick Flanagan



Rye-Patrick Flanagan.

Second Prize:
Viper HS 4 16x50 Riflescope
won by
Mark Paffrath



Mark Paffrath (left), presenter Glenn McKay (right).

Third Prize:
Vortex Ranger 1000 6x22 Rangefinder
won by
Dan Walchuk



Dan Walchuk (right), presenter Chuck Strong (left).

Firearms Raffle I

First Prize:
Beretta A300 12 Gauge Shotgun
won by

Greg Roberts

Second Prize:
Tikka T3 Lite Rifle
won by
Phil Cross

Third Prize:
Winchester Super X Pump Action Shotgun
won by
Marcellus Sanders

Specialty Shotgun Raffle

Browning Cynergy Classic 12GA Trap Shotgun
won by
Ian McDonald



Summer Quad Raffle

2013 Polaris Sportsman 400 ATV
won by
Terence Duriez



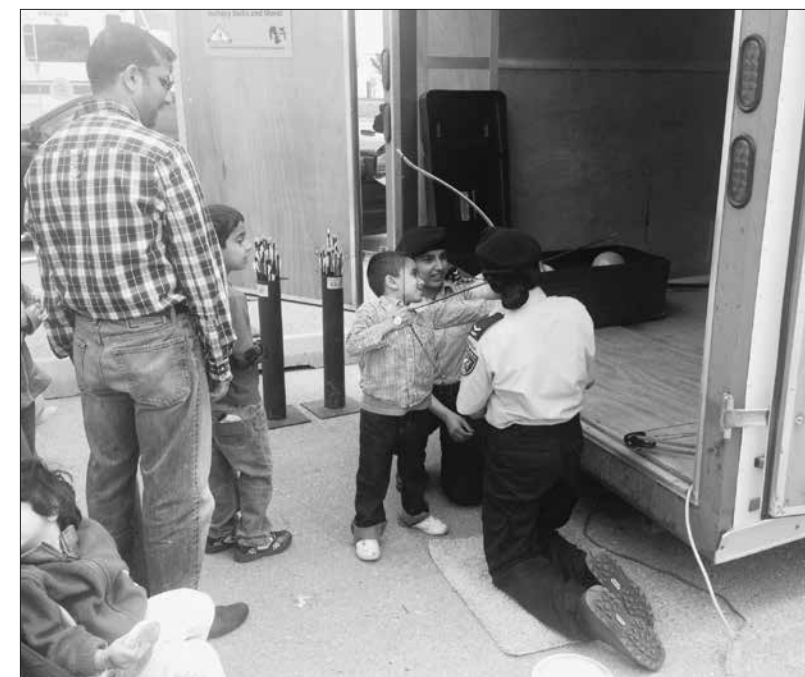
Calgary Police Service Big Event

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.

On June 14, A.H.E.I.A. was asked to participate in the first ever Calgary Police Service Big Event. This event was a showcase of all the Police Services units including Tactical Unit, K-9, Mounted Patrol, Traffic Investigations, and Youth and Community Units. A.H.E.I.A. volunteers augmented the CPS cadets who manned the shooting simulator and archery displays for the day. If the smiles of the participants who went through the displays are any indication, it was a major success. It was also a great learning experience for the cadets as they were working one-on-one with people of all ages, sizes and abilities. From the comments made by the rank and file members who wandered through the displays, it was clearly indicated that they were very supportive of showing proper use of a firearm in this type of forum. At the end of the day, the message of safer communities through education was clearly understood by those who participated in this event!



2014 Outdoor Youth Seminar

"It is nice to see that new people are finding out about this event."

By Len Gransch



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

Of all of my A.H.E.I.A. responsibilities, the Outdoor Youth Seminar is my favourite.

Once again this year, the Outdoor Youth Seminar was a resounding success. For those of you who might not be aware, let's take a moment to discuss what this Seminar is all about.

2014 was the 12th anniversary of the seminar. The premise behind the event is to allow parents, grandparents or guard-

ians to participate along with their children, grandchildren or wards in a variety of outdoor themed sessions over a weekend. It has evolved from simple beginnings into a more refined event with varied numbers of sessions and special events. The goal is to have sessions that will be of interest to all ages and genders.

Some of the sessions offered were:

- making primitive shelters
- trapping basics
- centrefire rifle shooting
- crossbow fundamentals
- archery
- rimfire rifle shooting
- handgun for beginners
- outdoor cooking
- surviving the wild
- fly fishing
- sausage making
- black powder shooting
- shotgun for beginners
- intermediate shotgun
- blood trailing
- GPS/geocaching fundamentals
- game calling
- making rattling antlers
- making moose calls
- making dream catchers
- making survival kits
- survival walk
- knife sharpening

This year we had 110 participants and, from the reviews, everyone was pleased and the majority are looking forward to coming back again in 2015. Normally we are around the 65% repeat, but this year we were at a 50% repeat. It is nice to see that new people are finding out about the



event. I had occasion to discuss these numbers with some of our "old time" repeat participants. It seems as though they keep coming back until there are no more children left at home that qualify. I can't wait until the next generation of kids are able to bring their children to camp.

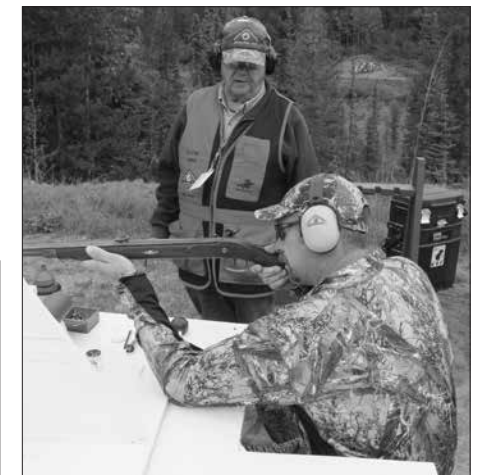
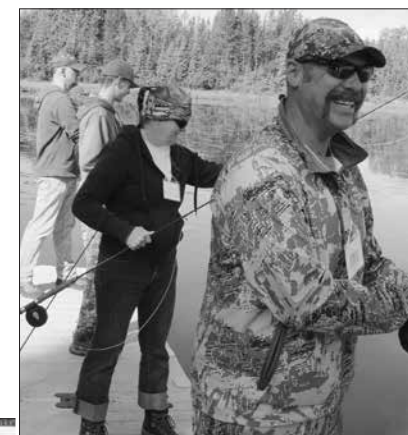
One of the highlights of the seminar is the whole-pig roast with all the fixings. People like to pose with the pig like it is one of their long-lost relatives. Once again Jim and the crew from Coal Trail Catering did a great job that was enjoyed by all.

One of the most critical areas for the Outdoor Youth Seminar is instructor and volunteer help. I have been extremely fortunate in having a crew of instructors and volunteers who continue to show their support and tirelessly commit to this great event. Thank you!

We are currently working on a new and improved version for the 2015 Outdoor Youth Seminar. We will be modifying some sessions and coming up with brand new activities as well as refining others. I always welcome input from the participants and anyone else who might have suggestions on different sessions or activities. Please feel free to contact me directly.

Have a great fall.

"The goal is to have sessions that will be of interest to all ages and genders."





Great Meals

from the

Harvest

with Len Gransch

Elk Chili

2 pounds. ground Elk (or any wild game)
 1 - 29 ounce can tomato sauce
 1 - 46 ounce can tomato juice
 8 ounce package medium egg noodles
 1 - 15 ounce can kidney beans (rinsed and drained)
 1 - 15 ounce can pinto beans (rinsed and drained)
 1 1/2 cups onion (chopped)
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 cup parsley (chopped)
 1/4 cup green bell pepper (chopped)
 1/4 cup brown sugar
 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

1/4 cup chili powder
 5 cloves of garlic (minced)
 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
 1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper



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

Brown ground meat in large deep skillet over medium high heat. Drain and set aside.

In a large pot over high heat combine drained burger and the balance of the ingredients less the parsley. Stir well and reduce to a simmer. Simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Stir frequently to prevent burning. Remove from heat, stir in parsley and serve.

This is just crying out for some garlic bread and a cool beer!

Ground Venison Casserole

1 pound ground Venison (or any wild game)
 Salt and pepper to taste
 8 ounce package medium egg noodles
 1 large sweet Vidalia onion (diced)
 3 ounce package cream cheese
 2 - 15 ounce cans of your favourite tomato sauce

1 teaspoon white sugar
 1 teaspoon garlic salt
 1 cup sour cream
 1/2 cup old Cheddar cheese (shredded)
 1/2 cup parsley (diced)

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook burger until browned and somewhat crumbly. Drain and discard the fat. Mix sugar, salt, pepper, garlic salt and tomato sauce in with the burger. Mix well and simmer until well blended. Set aside.

Bring a large pot of slightly salted water to a boil. Cook egg noodles until they are slightly underdone. Drain and set aside.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9x13" casserole dish. In a bowl mix sour cream, cream cheese and diced onion. Place half the noodles on an even level in the casserole dish. Spread half the sour cream mixture evenly over the noodles. Layer half of the burger mixture on top of the sour cream mix layer. Repeat the process and top with the Cheddar cheese.

Bake for about 25-30 minutes until browned. Allow to cool a bit before serving. Top with chopped parsley. Try with a green salad and some Ciabatta bread.



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Firearms Education Report

“ The debate on the eight points outlined ... will continue for some time, or at least until the bill is actually tabled ... ”

The Common Sense Bill

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
 Firearms Education Coordinator
 A.H.E.I.A.

In early August, the federal government released information on the proposed Common Sense Bill. The information contained in the press release gave some insight into the direction of the current government as it relates to the rules which currently govern the firearms community. The debate on the eight points outlined in the press release will continue for some time, or at least until the bill is

actually tabled, which is rumoured to be in early 2015. As this bill will change the Firearms Act, it will have to go through a full three readings and then a vote, so it is a long way from being accepted as reality. Currently, the Common Sense Bill is simply nice information. It does not change the way instructors should approach a course or challenge, nor should it change the information

we give out to students. We have heard from a number of instructors who are concerned with the idea of no challenges being offered to students. Once this is voted upon and passed, then we will be able to see the effect that this will have on the instructors and their students. Until then, keep calm and teach on!



“ As this bill will change the Firearms Act, it will have to go through a full three readings and then a vote, so it is a long way from being accepted as reality. ”



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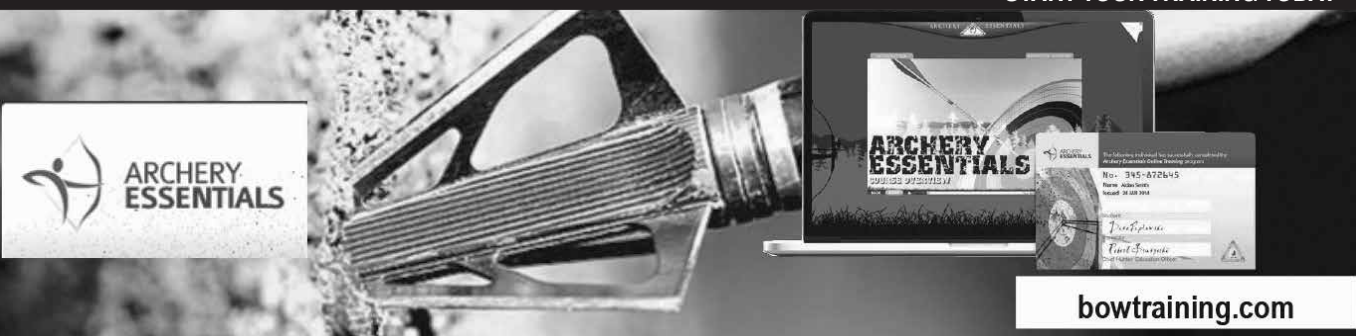
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Today's Rimfire Cartridges

A brief look at the cartridges available for today's rimfire shooter.

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Assistant Conservation
Education Program
Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. - Calgary

When we think of rimfire cartridges, the first that may come to mind is the 22 calibre Long Rifle cartridge. First introduced by the J. Stevens Arms and Tool Company in 1887, the 22 Long Rifle cartridge was developed by combining the case of the 22 Long Cartridge with the 40 grain lead bullet of the 22 Extra cartridge. To say the 22 Long Rifle cartridge remains one of the most popular cartridges that is used worldwide would be an understatement. Today's 22 Long Rifle cartridges can be purchased generally in four velocities: Subsonic, below 1,100 FPS; Standard, 1,200-1,135 FPS; High Velocity, 1,200-1,310 FPS; and the Hyper-Velocity at over 1,400 FPS.

Not to be forgotten, and still available, is the 22 Short cartridge. Introduced in 1857, the 22 Short was America's first metallic cartridge and was originally intended to be used as a self defence round in the, then new, Smith and Wesson revolver. Today's 22 Short cartridges may also be found with the BB or CB designation. As these cartridges were designed for indoor gallery shooting, or clearing pigeons out of the barn, they have a 29 grain lead bullet with a relatively low velocity of 710 FPS.

In 1959, Winchester introduced their very popular Winchester Magnum Rimfire cartridge (WMR). At the time of its release, the WMR cartridge pushed the limits of pressure that were possible with a rimfire cartridge. With an advertised muzzle velocity of 2000 feet per second, pushing a 40 grain full metal jacket bullet, the WMR was the fastest rimfire cartridge in production. The newer production WMR cartridges can be purchased with bullet weights ranging from 30 to 50 grains, with muzzle velocity of 1910 feet per second with the 40 grain jacketed hollow point bullet.

Recent rimfire development has moved toward lighter, smaller calibre bullets that can achieve higher velocity within the existing pressure limits. In 2002, Hornady introduced the 17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire (17 HMR) cartridges. With bullet weights from 17 to 20 grains, this necked down Winchester Magnum case produced velocities of 2550 FPS. Given its speed and flat shooting trajectory, the HMR has become very successful.

On the heels of the popular 17 HMR cartridge, Hornady introduced the 17 Hornady Mach 2 (17 HM2) in 2004. The 17 HM2 is based in a necked down CCI Stinger case, which is slightly longer than the 22 Long Rifle case, to accommodate a 17 calibre bullet. Launching a 7 grain bullet at 2100 FPS, the 17 HM2 outperforms the traditional 22 Long Rifle cartridge, but is still well below the performance of the 17 HMR, its predecessor.

Not to be overshadowed by the success of the Hornady cartridges, in 2013 Win-

chester introduced the 17 Winchester Super Magnum cartridges (17 WSM). With the ability to launch a 17 calibre, 20 grain bullet at an unheard of muzzle velocity of 3000 FPS, the 17 WSM is now the fastest rimfire cartridge available. As the previously released 17 calibre rimfire cartridges were designed around existing 22 calibre cartridges, Winchester took a new approach and designed the 17 WSM based on a 27 calibre power fastener cartridge. Winchester initially produced the 17 WSM with the 20 grain bullet at a muzzle velocity of 3000 FPS, and the 25 grain at 2600 FPS. This now puts a rimfire cartridge in the realm of a centrefire varmint cartridge. On the range, the 17 WSM outperforms the 22 WRM, as well as the popular 17 HMR, in both wind drift and trajectory.

Well, there we have it, a brief look at the cartridges available for today's rimfire shooter. Although the new and improved rimfire cartridges show a clear advantage over the old 22 Long Rifle cartridge, not every firearms manufacturer makes a rifle for the newer, faster rimfire cartridges. On the other hand, I cannot think of a firearms manufacturer that does not produce a rifle chambered in 22 Long Rifle. Given its 127 year history, we may have the 22 Long rifle with us for another 100 years.



Age vs. Dilated Eye Pupil Size

Factors to Consider Regarding Your Eyes and Binoculars Used for Biological Research, Birding and Hunting

By Robin Leech
BSc, MSc, PhD, P.Biol.



Robin Leech

Basics of Age vs Pupil Size

It is important that before you purchase a pair of binoculars, or have a pair of binoculars purchased for you or given to you by your agency, whether new or used, you should read this article carefully.

Borrow a pair of binoculars from a friend. It is better if the specs are similar to the binoculars you intend to use, but this is not essential. Go outside when it is dark, no moon, little if any ambient light (starlight only) for 30 minutes or more before you do the tests suggested below. Do not look towards any light source before or while you are doing the tests.

After at least a 30 minute adjustment period, your eyes should be dark-adjusted or dark-adapted (Caruso, 2007). When you were 10 years old, your eye pupils dilated to about 8.3 mm. When you were 20, they dilated to a diameter of about 7.5 mm. If you are 40, your pupils will dilate to a diameter of about 6.4 mm. If you are approaching 60, your pupils will dilate to no more than about 5.5 mm. At 80, under dark conditions, your pupils may not dilate to more than 5 mm (see Figs 1-2). These figures show graphically a natural changing and aging process for everyone's eye pupils.

Fitting You to Your Binocular Needs (or Wants!)

The conditions discussed above and below are designed for use in darkness, at night, and NOT for binocular use during the day. During daytime you can get away with using binoculars that have almost any specs. You can satisfactorily use a small pair that can be folded and fitted neatly into your shirt pocket without problem, for example, any of the smaller Leitz Trinovid roof-prism binoculars designated as 6X24, 8X20 or 10X25, or the Bushnell roof-prism 8X21.

What is going on? Why does all this happen to us as we age? These changes are part of the natural aging process for all of us. You may know of older people who have trouble driving at night, or other older people who are forbidden to drive at night because oncoming vehicle light tends to blind them. The question is this: What is the significance of the diameter of our dilated pupils, in low

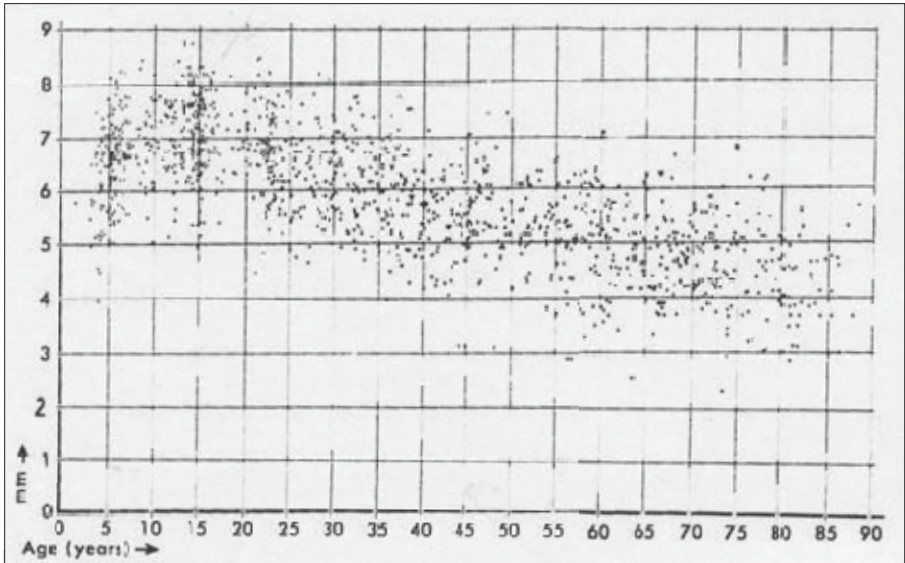


Fig. 1: Scatter diagram of age (in years) vs. fully dilated pupil size (in mm).

Source: Kaufman et al. (2011)

light conditions, relative to the exit pupils of the binoculars needed (or wanted)? Yellow-coloured night glasses can help everyone by increasing the contrast between objects, by removing some of the green and blue wave lengths, and by removing glare from oncoming vehicles.

Fig. 1 above is a scatter diagram comparing the variation found in age in years vs dilated pupil size in mm. Fig. 2 below shows the least squares regression line derived from raw data similar to those in Fig. 1, and permits a quick and easy interpretation of the trend to smaller dilated pupils as we age.

No matter who you are, when you are out in the dark of night (not the twilights of dawn or dusk!) as a biologist doing research on birds or mammals (if you are hunting in dark conditions,

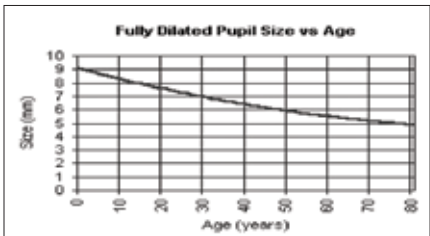


Fig. 2: Regression line derived from data similar to those in Fig. 1.

Source: Loewenfeld (1979)

I am sure AF&WL will want to know more about you), the iris of your eye shrinks and the pupils enlarge, or as stated in good ophthalmological speak, become dilated. We can now interpret and use the data from Figs 1 and 2 regarding our age in years, and what might be our expected dilated pupil size in mm, to figure out what binoculars will be best for our needs (or wants). Sometimes I think it is difficult to distinguish between needs and wants.

Fig. 1 shows the wide variation between age of individuals in relation to dilated eye pupil size, starting when we are very young, continuous to when we are very old. The gradual change is a trend to a smaller dilated pupil that occurs in all of us as we age. The line graph of Fig. 2 has been prepared from data similar to those in Fig. 1 and gives us a clearer view of the trend of the changes that occurs during our lives as we age in relation to dilated pupil size.

Suppose you are age 30 and have binoculars that have the designation 8X56, and you are dark-adjusted. Divide the smaller number (power, 8X) into the larger number (objective diameter, 56) to get 7. This means that the exit pupil of the binoculars is exactly 7.0 mm. The exit pupil in binoculars is that small, brighter area that you see in the centre of the eye pieces (oculars) when you hold the binoculars at or near arm's length away from your eyes. As the dilated eye pupil is about 7 mm, you and the binoculars are matched.

If you use these binoculars in daytime or dawn/dusk light, you will find that they are very bright. Your eye pupil is no longer dilated, but the exit pupil of the binoculars is the same 7 mm. Warning: If your pupil closes to about 1 mm when you use optics, you should make an appointment with an optometrist or ophthalmologist asap.

Keep supposing you are age 30 and that you are dark-adjusted, that is, you are where it is very dark and have been there for at least 30 minutes. If you are testing a pair of binoculars that have the 8X64 designation (yeah, I know, ones that size will be very expensive!), then the exit pupil will be 8.0 mm. However, you will NOT notice that this pair of binoculars seems to be brighter at night than are the 8X56 because your eye pupil will not dilate larger than 7.0 mm. There is an extra 1.0 mm exit pupil diameter from the binoculars, but your eyes will not be able to see this "extra" size as light. You will find that when the normal moving of your head occurs, slightly to the right and left, you will still see the entire field of view without having to place your eye pupil exactly in line with the binocular exit pupil. This is how and when the "extra" exit pupil size is used.

If you have a pair of binoculars designated 8X40, you will find that they have an exit pupil of 5.0 mm, and that they are a bit "darker" during dark-adjusted testing than is either the 8X56 or the 8X64. In order to use the full field of view in the 8X40s, you will have to use them in daylight situations (when your eye pupil diameter is less than 5 mm). Your eye pupils will easily "centre" in the binocular's exit pupils, and you can move the binoculars slightly to the right and left without interrupting the field of view. The reason for this is that the binocular exit pupil is constant at 5 mm, but this is more than your eye pupil diameter, which has changed in daylight conditions to 4.0 or 4.5 mm. It may not seem like much, but that 0.5 to 1.0 mm is significant to your viewing comfort. It is when your eye pupil diameter is larger than the binocular exit pupil that you become aware that you need a "better" pair of binoculars.

Other Important Topics or Issues

There are some important topics or issues involved that I should mention, but they are beyond the scope of this article, and they do not usually become problems with normal binocular use. They are:

1. The resolution capability of eyes at different eye pupil diameters;
2. The depths of field at different eye pupil diameters; and,
3. The depths of field at different distances.

The image brightness viewed is dependent on four primary factors (Paul, 1964:52):

1. The *intensity* of light coming from the object being viewed;
2. The *diameter* of the objective lenses;
3. The *magnification* applied to the image by the eyepieces; and,
4. The transmission and reflection *loss of light* in passing through the binoculars.

Other important issues are the size and quality of the prisms. In Porro Type I and roof-prism binoculars, those with BAK-4 prisms are excellent; those with BK-7 prisms are inferior, as are those with PSK-3 prisms. This is relative to the sizes of the objectives, and the quality of the oculars (e.g., the more expensive Erfle eye pieces, or the special eye pieces that were designed just for the ELCAN 7X50 roof-prism binoculars). The SARD 6X42 12 wide-angle, the B&L 7X50 10 wide-angle, and the Bushnell 7X35 10 wide-angle all use Erfle eye pieces. If the prisms are too small for the optics, or of poor quality, you will notice one or more grey lines around the perimeter of the exit pupil when you hold the binoculars at or near arm's length (compare images in Fig. 3). This means that even if the binoculars have "wide angle" written on a prism cover, and even if the binocular's prism plate reads 7X50, the effective exit pupil may be only 5 or 6 mm, or less, in diameter.

If you see a pair of Chinese-made binoculars advertised with BAK-4 glass, the glass is not the Schott BAK-4 glass, but a lower quality and cheaper Phosphate Crown glass, known

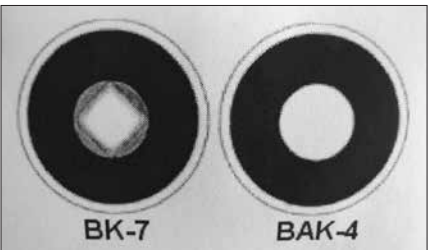


Fig. 3: BK-7 shows four greyish areas inside the exit pupil. The prisms for BK-7 are made of a Borosilicate Crown glass. The prisms for the BAK-4 are made of a Schott Barium Crown glass.

Image Source:
Birding Binoculars Guide (2005)

as Schott PSK-3). PSK-3 has a lower refractive index than does BAK-4, and is similar in quality to the BK-7 glass. The Latin expression *Caveat emptor* (buyer beware) is applicable here.

You cannot go wrong with a brand name you know, such as Leitz, Zeiss, Swarovski, Fujinon, Nikon, Pentax and a few others. Many of the post-WWII binoculars up to the early 60s are good, especially B&L and Bushnell. Do not be afraid to purchase older binoculars, roof prism, Porro Type I or Porro Type II. WWII Porro Type II binoculars are available, but they are rare and very expensive if in good condition. If you are really lucky, you will find a pair of ELCAN 7X50 binoculars with roof prisms that were made in 1974-77.

History of Binoculars and Related Information

There are many sources of information on binoculars, who made them, where they were made, etc. For the history of military binoculars and telescopes, one of the best sources is Abrahams (2008/2009). For types of oculars, see McNish (2007), even though the title suggests telescopes only. McNish lives and works on things optical in Calgary, Alberta, especially telescopes. Paul's (1964) book is loaded with information.

Conclusions

Be sure that you and the binoculars are matched to your needs. Know how to evaluate binocular specifications. Always invoke the axiom, "buyer beware", for binoculars.

Editor's Note: The author provided acknowledgements and a list of references that were removed due to space constraints. If you wish to see either, please contact the editor at dengland@aheia.com.

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Chronic Wasting Disease Management in Alberta

"There is no evidence that CWD will disappear or be controlled without management intervention. But any attempted intervention is certain to be controversial ..."

Many wildlife managers and stakeholders across North America agree that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is the most significant disease concern facing big game populations across the continent.

Program reviews in various jurisdictions with CWD indicate that managing the disease is desirable in order to avoid a number of negative effects. These include a decrease in perceived value of wild cervids associated with uncertain risk to humans and domestic livestock; an added mortality factor that reduces cervid populations and changes their influence in functioning ecosystems; a threat to hunting traditions; and a risk of spread to new areas and species.

There is no evidence that CWD will disappear or be controlled without management intervention. But any attempted intervention is certain to be controversial: Scientific knowledge about many aspects of CWD ecology provides only limited guidance. Thus, management of CWD must be experimental and adaptive; it must integrate research, management and surveillance programs to enhance the capability to control this disease. The best available scientific information can be used to plan management actions and assess the effectiveness of such management (Peterson et al. 2002).

Why is Alberta Different?

- Limited risk factors (few US imports);
- One expanding edge, low prevalence (<5%);
- Early long-term surveillance with good sample sizes;
- Strong landscape patterns underlying spread;
- Incorporates hunting public for support.

Guiding Principles for Alberta

Principle 1: Alberta is on the edge of invading CWD, but the disease also is enzootic (self-

sustaining) in the Battle and Red Deer / South Saskatchewan river drainages.

Principle 2: Knowing the effects of hunter harvest on CWD transmission and spread is necessary to manage deer populations in the presence of CWD.

Principle 3: Long-term experiments must "learn by doing" to understand harvest effects on CWD. There are few similar examples, yet such actions are advocated by Canada's National CWD Control Strategy and the Peer Review of Alberta's ongoing programs. Such experiments can only exist with long-term political and public involvement and support.

Principle 4: Harvest management will still be a component in disease management even if a CWD vaccine is developed.

Based on general principles and Alberta's previous surveillance and research, the most promising approach to controlling CWD is to remove (1) the population segment with the highest prevalence (adult male mule deer in Alberta), and/or (2) "selectively" remove infected deer such as members of infected female social groups.

Practicing wildlife managers over the years have gained considerable understanding about how sex/age structured harvests influence population growth, but have little understanding of the effects on disease transmission. "Naïve" (uninformed) harvest management may alter population structure and related host behaviours/genetics, which could result in ineffective control of CWD or increased disease transmission to other species. Fortunately, we have an abundance of information in Alberta.

Research and Monitoring

- **Alberta F&W Data:** Deer densities and composition, harvest composition, disease surveillance, age/sex structure, and reproductive potential of deer.

University of Alberta Research:

- 2006-2010: Local field information on deer in "North border" area.
- 2009-2011: Modelling disease to investigate:
 - (1) Previous Management: Effect on CWD?
 - (2) Disease Spread: Deer behaviours influencing transmission.
 - (3) Population Models: Assess transmission relating to harvest strategies.
 - (4) Risk Assessment and Prediction: Spatial distribution CWD +ve and -ve in Alberta.

Other Management "Experiments"

Wisconsin and Illinois (Manjerovic et al. 2014, Prev. Veterinary Medicine 113:139) [directly analogous to Saskatchewan and Alberta].

- Both states banned translocation and baiting in CWD areas.
- Small CWD affected area in Illinois due to spill-over/invasion from larger area in Wisconsin.
- 2003-2007 both states had active culling: No difference in prevalence rates between states.
- Wisconsin stopped culling in 2007: Annual prevalence steadily increased 0.63% over next five years.
- Illinois continued targeted management: No increase in CWD prevalence over time and no decrease in deer hunter harvest over this period.

Article courtesy Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

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