

Member Trophy Board



Conor Harrison, all smiles after landing a lucky shot on this mediocre bird. Conor's response, "hey it was great with gravy & dressing."



Ward and Sherri Jones with Sherri's trophy gobbler and bobcat taken with Clay Pope of Pope Brothers Outfitting.



In This Issue...

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Reflections 1

MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE
Newsletter Info 2

FTW EVENT
Overview of Event 3

2009 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
Winner's Bio 3

MEMBER TROPHY BOARD
Photo Gallery 4

GET INVOLVED...

FTW EVENT



President's Letter - Reflections



*Ward Jones, III
President*

At my age, I have a lot more to look back on than many of you. Hence, the name of the title of this column. However, I will not just be fondly looking back in the months to come. I'll also be looking forward to new challenges, new friends, and new successes. Welcome to the Texas Hill Country Chapter's first newsletter. I know that you will enjoy Conor Harrison's efforts as its editor and the many articles and hunt reports contributed by members of our Board, various committee Chairs and members, and members just like you. That's right. We want and need your contributions to make this the most interesting, entertaining, and informative communication possible.

Your Chapter is off to a fantastic start since its chartering by Safari Club International last August. Since August, we've had a wonderful Trophy Room Social, graciously hosted by Maggie and Andy Phillips at their home in Kerrville. "Texas Hunt Night" was enthusiastically supported by many of you at the YO Hotel last Fall. Several outfitters and hunting ranches in the area presented the opportunities available for great hunts at their facilities around the Hill Country and beyond. January 31st saw a sell out at our first fundraiser "Campfire Memories," held at the YO Hotel. Over 235 people and 25 exhibitors from all over the world packed the ballroom for a night of fun, auctions, raffles, and fellowship. The night was special in its recognition of two of our incredible wounded warriors from Iraq. They were presented hunts, taxidermy, rifles, and a plaque courtesy of your Chapter and several of its outstanding members. Don't miss next year's version of "Campfire Memories" to be held at the Inn of the Hills Conference Center in Kerrville on

Cont. on Pg 2

Feature...The Big Shoot

On April 25th the Texas Hill Country Chapter of SCI hosted its First Annual Big Shoot Shooting Festival at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center in Kerrville, Texas. The day's venue offered many fun and challenging events for both the experienced and novice shooters. An old fashion style shooting gallery was set up for both the youth and adult for endless fun trying to accurately shoot moving and stationary steel targets as well as a 100 yard 22 cal Marksman Range to further challenge the shooters. We also offered a wide variety of clay shooting events such as, American Trap and Skeet, International Bunker Trap and five stand. The fun didn't stop there, we also made available a Pistol Steel Challenge and how could I not mention the Big Bore African charging Lyon. Many a shooter came back from that adventure with a new appreciation for Big Bore Shooting with an added touch of adrenaline. The morning of the 25th was overcast and I believe it may have discouraged

Cont. on Pg 3

Calendar of Events

Trophy Room Social

@ Byron & Sandra Sadler's Two Dot Ranch @ The YO Ranch
Open To Public Aug. 15

African Night

@ Comanche Trace Country Club in Kerrville
Open To Public Oct. 22

"Campfire Memories"

2nd Annual Fundraiser - Inn of the Hills Conferenc Center
Open To Public Jan. 29-30

1000 Hometown Drive • Kerrville, TX 78028



President's Letter - Reflections (cont. from Pg 1)

the 29th and 30th of January. You will see a lot more about that in the near future. The weekend of the 27th of March will see a special Youth Shoot and Hunt at the FTW Ranch near Barksdale. Eight outstanding, yet disadvantaged young people will get to spend 4 exciting days learning to shoot and hunt. An article in this news letter talks more about this fantastic event.

All of this has taken an incredible amount of work by a very dedicated and talented Board of Directors and group of officers of THCC and some very special member volunteers. We have over 120 members of the Chapter already. But, we need to double that number by the end of the year. We need volunteers for every committee. We need help for every event. I want you to call me if you want to volunteer, and I hope

my phone rings off the hook! Never before has our hunting heritage been so endangered as it is now! The present administration in Washington, the liberal media, the liberal court system, and the anti-hunting animal extremist groups all pose a very serious threat to what we love and fight to continue. There is strength in numbers, and SCI needs the numbers to continue the fight as the #1 advocate for hunters' rights around the world. So sign up your best hunting buddy to the Chapter and his/her best hunting buddy. We need to grow to better fight this battle that is here right now! More about this in later columns. For now, thank you for being here for all of us. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each one of you!

And now, a reflection. I started hunting at age 9 with my Dad. He was 36 at the

time. He got a late start (for those times) on a family while spending 5 years in the service during World War II. He died at 80. In those 44 hunting seasons, we only missed 3 seasons where we did not get to hunt together at least once. Thanks, Dad!

God bless & good hunting!

Ward Jones, II

President
Texas Hill Country Chapter
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Check out our trophy photos on page 4 and be sure to send yours in for the next installment of our newsletter.

SCI Membership

By Patty Curnutte - membership director

Welcome to our first newsletter for the Texas Hill Country Chapter. In September of 2008 when we started the chapter we had 32 members. Today we are at 140 members! So thanks all to who worked hard to get our chapter up and going. Please remember when you sign up a new member to SCI National and THCC you receive a \$50 gift certificate from Cabela's - that is a wonderful win-win deal for you and your friend.

Our website is: www.texashillcountrysci.org and the membership form can be downloaded from the site. So sign those friends up. Any questions please contact me at our chapter email: thcc.sci@live.com

Here is a review of the pricing for membership:

The basic individual membership into Safari Club International based in Tucson is \$55

• Annual membership for our local chapter

\$20 (what a bargain!) In order to become a member in the local chapter you MUST be a member of National so total cost is \$75 annually to be a local and national member.

• Family membership is a great deal for husband and wife and kids (ages 1-17) to all join SCI. For \$75 you can sign up the whole gang and then add \$20 for each member to become a local member. So a husband and wife can sign up for the local and national membership for \$115 that is significant savings than two individual memberships.

• If one spouse is already a member of National and local - the other spouse can be added for a mere \$20 to National and then \$20 to our local chapter for a total of \$40 to upgrade to the family membership.

• Young hunter age (1-17) membership is \$15 for National - this membership was created for our young hunters to give them more recognition within SCI National. They can become a local mem-

ber for \$20.00 more. Total \$35

• Life Membership is an individual membership only - the cost to National is \$1,500. No spouse can join up on the life membership, they will have to maintain their own individual membership. Senior Life Membership (age 60 and over) is \$1,250.

• There is a 3 year membership available to National for \$150 - the local fee of \$20/year stays the same.

I hope this clarifies SCI's membership possibilities for everyone. We are very proud of the growth of our chapter. This means as we grow we would love to have more volunteers to help this chapter serve our community and young hunters.

Now isn't it great to be part of such a powerful organization that upholds our hunting beliefs? You betcha! So sign up your hunting buddies and relatives. Looking forward to our Fund Raiser in January!

The Big Shoot (cont. from Pg 1)

a good many shooters from coming out, but the ones that did seemed to have a blast. I would like to thank Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, Jack Burch, Jerry Kenney and all his staff as well as the many THCC Board members and members that helped to make this possible. I challenge each member to come out next year and support your chapter; we have many new ideas for next year's shoot that I believe will make it a time to remember, you can never have too much practice to get ready for your next hunting adventure.

See you at the range,

Duane Shortt

Chairman, Big Shoot Committee

Terry Erwin - SCI 2009 Educator of the Year

Washington, D.C. - Safari Club International Foundation is pleased to announce Terry Erwin is the recipient of SCI's 2009 Educator of the Year award.

Mr. Erwin spent 24 years in the medical profession before joining the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's hunter education staff. He had previously served as a volunteer when the state mandated the program.

A seasoned educator, Erwin has served on numerous committees of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA), and is the immediate Past President and current chair of the Awards and Nominations Committee of IHEA. He also helped develop the first hunter Home Study program including a video and workbook sponsored by Outdoor Life, the first on-line hunter education program in Texas and the current IHEA on-line course.

Additionally, Erwin has traveled to South Africa to assist with the South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association's hunter education program, and has visited Lima, Peru where he held the first student and instructor course - making Peru the first South American country to have a hunter education program.

Erwin has also worked in Mexico to assist with developing their hunter education program, and in the past two years, has held three training workshops for various states and NGO's to train new instructors to return to Mexico and continue their program.

"Terry Erwin is truly committed to outdoor education" said SCI Foundation President Merle Shepard. "Terry is helping to continue the heritage of hunting by developing safe and responsible hunters. I am proud that SCI has recognized such a deserving individual for this prestigious award," concluded Shepard.

FTW Event

By Connor Harrison - Reprint from Kerrville Daily Times

Eight underprivileged youths got a taste of the outdoors earlier this week when they were treated to a four-day, long-range shooting school at the FTW Ranch near Barksdale.

Four of the youths made the trip from Happy Hill Farm Academy, and four were locals from Kerr County 4-H, sponsored by the Texas Hill Country Chapter of Safari Club International.

They were taught extensive long-range shooting, ethics in the outdoors and were taken on a hunt where many got to harvest their first animal in a hunting situation.

The shooting course, known as S.A.A.M - sportsman's all-weather all terrain marksmanship - was taught by former Navy Seals and special forces veterans.

According to ranch owner Tim Fallon, the course consisted of four days of instruction with a heavy emphasis on safety.

Day one was a classroom day with time spent teaching weapons orientation, safety, effects of the environment on bullet placement, scopes, weapon cleaning and

principles on marksmanship.

Day two was spent at the shooting range learning to properly hit a target out to 500 yards.

Day three was all about practicing under real field conditions that included shooting from sticks, kneeling, sitting and shooting out of a blind. The group got to go hunting in the afternoon and many of the participants got to shoot an axis doe for dinner.

"I cannot explain to you how excited they were to share their accomplishments, what they learned and how much fun they had," said Laurinda Boyd of Kerr County 4-H on her blog. "This was truly a great experience for them that they will remember for a long time."

Day four was more shooting based on realistic hunting scenarios out to 700 yards.

"This is a lot of fun," said Mel, 17, from Happy Hills. "Shooting out to 500 yards was awesome, and shooting my first deer was great."

On the last afternoon, Mel was shooting tight groups at 700 yards after picking up a rifle for the first time in her life the first

day of the course.

"I killed a sheep at 285 yards," said Jeremy. "It's a lot of fun, and I'm learning to shoot a lot better than I ever have before."

Alongside the youth group were the stars of the outdoor television show "The American Huntress," Carol O'Day and Linda Donaho. The entire week was filmed for an upcoming episode.

"Neither one of the girls had ever picked up a rifle before this week," Donaho said. "They've done amazingly well. It's kids in the outdoors - what could be better?"

"My favorite part of the week has been getting outside more," said Kerr County 4H member Trapper. "I've learned to shoot a whole lot better, especially at long distances."

"To see the smile on these kids faces and watch them take their first animal is indescribable," said director David Fallon. "With the shrinkage in our industry, watching these young people gives me hope for the future. It's a good sense of accomplishment to see these kids walk away from this week with a smile. We get to pass on what we were taught, and that is awesome."