While hunting brown bear in Alaska during the fall of 1985, Randy Brooks conceived the idea of an expanding, all-copper bullet. In the Spring of 1986, Randy took his first brown bear, and the first animal with an X Bullet.

When the Barnes X Bullet entered the market in 1989, it opened the door to the first all-copper, expanding bullet. From the very first shot, the X Bullet shattered bones and records with its one-shot stopping power. And it opened eyes, too – with four razor-sharp petals peeled back to create the signature “X” that gave the bullet its name, as well as worldwide recognition as the deadliest, most dependable bullets available.
CDA President’s Message
You’re Simply The Best!

You’re tired and exhausted but you have a smile on your face as you walk to your vehicle. It’s late and you have spent a long day, starting early in the morning, setting up for what turned out to be a fun and successful CDA fundraising banquet. The icing on the cake and what made it all worth the effort are the comments like, “I’ll be back next year,” and “This was the best event I have ever been to!”

There have already been a lot of those CDA Banquets this year and once again that bodes well for funds we will be able to invest in projects for California’s deer herds.

They are Pete, Kevin, Bill, Susan, Sean, Margo, Kurt, Mike, Dave, Michael, Bob, Frank, Anthony, Clem, Phil, Manny, Mark, Tim, Trent, Heath, Ronnie, Brian, Rick, Doug and so many more! But what makes people volunteer their time and effort to be on a CDA committee? Just like the issues facing our deer herds, there isn’t just one answer. Some do it because their buddy is on a committee, others do it because it is a family effort, they may do it because of the satisfaction of pulling off a successful event, maybe it is because they like getting the compliments of a job well done, it could be they enjoy and like seeing the laughter and excitement from the results of being the high bidder or lucky raffle winner, then there are those that do it because they hope it will make a positive difference for our deer, and maybe it’s just because they really want their children and grandchildren to be able to experience the outdoors and wildlife like they have. Whatever the reason, CDA volunteers, you’re simply the best!

Jerry Springer
President

California Deer Association
Spring 2014

The California Deer Association is a nonprofit, tax-exempt wildlife conservation organization whose principal goal is to improve our California deer herds and other wildlife through direct financial support for habitat improvement and research projects. Seventy-five percent of the net profit from fundraising events goes to projects benefiting deer and other wildlife within California.

Founder - Alex Ramoz

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Jerry Springer — President
Donn Walgamuth — Vice President
Matt Rogers — Past President
Doug Brown — Director
Rennie Cleland — Director
Ron Lara — Director
Larry Smith — Director
Ryan Smith — Director

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Please Accept an ENORMOUS Thank you!

We are getting close to the end of our 2014 Banquet Season and things are really cranked up for our chapters that have banquets still to go. If you are looking for a great time and want to meet up with some wonderful folks that share your outdoor passion, check out the banquet schedule in this magazine or on our website for the remaining events. If you have already attended your local banquet, THANK YOU for your support of CDA! We are having a fantastic banquet season — most chapter banquets are up in revenue from last year and it looks like we are going to have another record year!

It takes hard work to coordinate a fundraising event and our committees should be congratulated for their efforts. Without a strong team of volunteers, CDA would be in the poorhouse because we generate most of our income from fundraising banquets and these events are managed and organized by volunteers. Without our backbone of volunteers we wouldn’t have the project dollars that are so needed to fund the wildlife habitat projects that benefit wildlife, both game and non-game animals. The CDA has spent over $4 million on projects within the boundaries of our great state since 1996. This couldn’t have happened without our volunteer committees working so hard for the benefit of deer and other wildlife.

Hunting is conservation and the California Deer Association supports hunting. I encourage our members to take great pride in our hunting legacy by doing what you can to pass the torch to others and to spread the word that hunting is good for wildlife. Since man first walked the earth, every early culture relied on hunting for survival. Through hunting, man forged a connection with the land and learned that stewardship of habitat went hand-in-hand with maintaining wildlife and human survival.

In the first half of the 20th century, leaders like Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold shaped a set of ideals that came to be known as the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. This model states that all wildlife is publicly owned, that we will manage habitat and wildlife for the public, and all U.S. citizens are entitled to hunt and fish. This model states that ethical and regulated hunting is the driving force that maintains abundant wildlife. I suggest that all CDA members google this model (Wikipedia and the Wildlife Society have good definitions and history) and be ready to explain it to nonhunters. Over the years and outlined by the model, hunting became regulated and guided by scientific research.

The Pittman-Robertson Act was passed in 1937, through which hunters voluntarily imposed a tax on themselves, ensuring that a portion of the sales of firearms, ammunition, and hunting-related sporting goods would be dedicated to managing wildlife. This important act alone generates approximately $700 million annually, which is distributed to the state fish and game agencies across America. All the revenue generated by it from hunting licenses, tags, stamps, and donations and support from conservation organizations like CDA, add up to billions of dollars each and every year for wildlife management.

The United States of America has the most successful wildlife management system in the world, and hunters and anglers have contributed more financial and physical support to that system than any other group. The California Deer Association thanks you for being a member, for supporting CDA, and for simply being a hunter. You prove every day that hunters are the champions and driving force of conservation.

Best regards,

Pat Fitzmorris
CDA Field Director

Maximus! That is name given to this issue’s cover buck. This buck’s antlers have both character and mass.

Photograph by Ben Nuckolls.
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<td>Bob Van Horn (530) 941-1663</td>
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<td>Mike Deas (707) 756-2045</td>
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<td>Turlock</td>
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<td>Michael A. Sealy (209) 605-0014</td>
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<td>North Valley</td>
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<td>Pat Fitzmorris (530) 632-2091</td>
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<td>Woodland</td>
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<td>Kevin Bottimore (530) 908-0716</td>
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<td>Rodney Torres (209) 769-1088</td>
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<td>Mark Dalrymple (530) 531-5437</td>
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<td>Heath Wright (530) 567-5774</td>
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<td>Frank Lopez (559) 232-5673</td>
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<td>Chico</td>
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<td>Kurt Steindorf (530) 570-5229</td>
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<td>Diablo Blacktail</td>
<td>3/21/14</td>
<td>Dave Hunter (925) 200-0449, Phil Buscaglia (925) 766-0538</td>
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<td>Clem Albertoni (831) 678-3297</td>
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<td>Lodi</td>
<td>4/05/14</td>
<td>Pete Reed (209) 329-6920</td>
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<td>Stan Aikman</td>
<td>4/05/14</td>
<td>(858) 204-5209</td>
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<td>Doug Brown (760) 937-7963</td>
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<td>Western Sierra</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Ronnie Hobbs (209) 984-3015</td>
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TULE BULL ELK HUNT
RAFFLE AND DRAWING
MAY 10TH, 2014
FUNDS SUPPORT THE
CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA DEER ASSOCIATION &
CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST

2013' WINNER NICE BULL

1ST PRIZE BULL ELK HUNT FULLY GUIDED ( INCLUDES TAG )
2ND PRIZE CANNON SCOUT 36 GUN SAFE WITH CAMO HANDLES
3RD PRIZE SAVAGE RIFLE IN 300 WIN MAG W/ VORTEX SCOPE
4TH PRIZE VORTEX 10X42 HD BINOCULARS
5TH PRIZE 1 DAY PIG HUNT FOR 1 PERSON

TICKETS $100 EACH
( ONLY 350 BEING SOLD )

DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT
CALIFORNIA DEER ASSOCIATION
BANQUET
ON MAY 10TH, 2014
AT PASO ROBLES EVENT CENTER

CONTACT
LARRY SMITH
(805) 423-5925
( DON'T HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN! )
Don’t Miss Out!
CDA Remaining 2014 Fundraising Banquets

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<td>Ryan Smith (805) 423-5929</td>
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<td>Redwood Coast (Eureka)</td>
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<td>7/26/14</td>
<td>Ronnie Hobbs (209) 984-3015</td>
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How Do You Win
Member Appreciation Rifles?

The answer is easy, just be a current CDA Regular or Life member.
Four times a year one lucky CDA member’s name is drawn at random.
That member is given a new rifle.
If you are a current member, your name is automatically entered in the drawing.
The second-quarter winner was Steve Cincera of Rohnert Park. Steve is a member of the Mount St. Helena Chapter.
Steve will be receiving a Weatherby Vanguard Series 2 synthetic rifle in .300 Wby Mag.
Cross your fingers that we call you as our next winner, and thanks for being a CDA member.

Travis Stoughton holds his new Weatherby rifle that he won just for being a CDA member in the 2014 first-quarter drawing.

$$$ For Education

Time to Apply
2014 CDA Scholarships

Each year CDA selects students who exhibit academic promise and leadership in the fields of Resource Management or Wildlife Biology.
To apply for this year’s scholarships, visit the CDA website to download your scholarship application and other information. http://www.caldeer.org/scholarship.htm
Deadline to apply is August 31, 2014

California Deer
Lee and Tiffany do! Lee and Tiffany Lakosky have become two of the hottest outdoor celebrities in the country. Lee and Tiffany are hosts of their own TV Show on the Outdoor Channel - *Crush with Lee & Tiffany*. They can also be seen in *Whitetail Freaks* on the Outdoor Channel.

**Send us a photo of you or your friends reading California Deer.**

Will (left) and Jimmy Primos do! First started as a company that made duck calls, the brothers have built the Primos brand into a company that now makes calls for every category of game species hunted in North America. Primos Hunting Calls manufactures calls for elk, deer, turkeys, predators and waterfowl as well as clothing and accessories. They also produce the ever-popular video series *The TRUTH* and the television show *Primos’ TRUTH About Hunting.*
I was born into a hunting family so it is not a big surprise that at the age of 13 I took an interest in hunting myself. Both my dad and brother are hunters and last year I decided that it was my turn.

At the time I started talking with my dad about hunting, it was turkey season. He asked me if I wanted to hunt turkeys and I quickly responded, “No! I want to shoot a buck.” I asked my dad if I could hunt deer this fall. He got so excited when I asked that he immediately got me signed up for my Hunter Safety class and was the lucky bidder on two hunts during the live auction at the California Deer Association dinner in Chico.

This past October I hunted the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. It took me two weekends, but on the last day of the G-1 season I got my first buck. I hunted with Kurt Steindorf and my dad the first weekend but came home empty-handed because the weather was just too nice and the deer were not moving much. Because of a slow start, my dad and Kurt had the chance to talk to me about the highs and lows of hunting. The following weekend my dad took off to Colorado on his deer hunt so I went with Andy and Margo Wood and my brother, Bryan. We hunted all day Saturday. We saw a nice buck, but before I could find him in my scope he jumped into the brush. Darn!

Sunday morning I harvested my first blacktail deer. He was a beautiful buck! My rifle was a .243 Weatherby Vanguard Youth Model that my mom had won at the same CDA dinner a few years earlier. I was proud of myself and so were Andy, Margo and my brother. We texted pictures to my dad right away and he was excited to hear that I got my first buck.

Two weeks later I hunted the Soper-Wheeler property with Ron Lara and guide Clay Fragulia just above Bangor, California. My dad was with me on this hunt and once again I was able to bring home a beautiful buck. Western Wildlife Adventures and Ron have a great hunting program on this property and I saw several bucks during my hunt. This was a great hunting season for me. I learned so much!

I would like to thank CDA for helping to introduce kids to hunting. I would especially like to thank everyone who was part of my first year of hunting.

CDA has made a concentrated effort to introduce young people to hunting in its youth programs. From our perspective, seeing their excitement and enthusiasm for the outdoors and hunting is well worth the time and effort it takes to get them there. We have been fortunate to hunt with both of the Wilson children and it was our pleasure. Their parents can be very proud!

Margo & Andy Wood
Mike Thornton (right) and his son Zack Thornton (below) both took nice blacktails during the 2013 season in the B Zone.

Attention CDA Members!
Share your days afield with other members by emailing your photos to Jerry@WesternHunter.com.

Derrek Bailey was hunting the C2 Zone on October 5, 2013 when he took this very nice buck. A Winchester Model 70 in .300 WSM did the trick when the buck appeared in his Leopold VX3. Inside spread was 18 3/4 inches and it scored 152.
Zone X9A was the right place to be for Tyler Moore on October 12, 2013. He was hunting near Copper Mountain when he took this buck with a .300 Win Mag at 100 yards.

Ed and Lisa Thompson hunted the opening week of the X6B season in 2013 and were both able to tag bucks. Lisa took her forkhorn at 30 yards with a .270. Ed had to spend most of the week searching for a buck but he was able to knock down his 4x4 at 150 yards with his .30-06.

Most deer in California are taken with rifles but Luis Aceves bagged his 3x2 with a shotgun during the G-10 hunt. It was October 26, 2013 and he used a 12-gauge slug to drop the buck.
Ten years ago the California Deer Association and the Tejon Ranch jointly embarked on a trial junior hunting event with 10 junior hunters. It has since turned into an annual event. During the past 10 years the program known as *Sharing the Tradition* has touched the lives of 179 junior hunters, their mentors, Tejon staff, and sponsors in ways not imagined in 2004.

Though the number of juniors hunters participating annually reached as high as 25, in the last few years it has leveled off to 15. Each of these juniors has been selected through a free, random drawing open to all junior hunters in California.

In addition to going on a one-on-one fully guided hunt accompanied by their mentor (father, mother, grandfather, uncle, or friend), the junior and their mentor were also housed in one of Tejon Ranch’s first-class lodges and had first-class meals. All of the hunts took place on the 270,000-acre ranch located just south of Bakersfield in the Tehachapi Mountains.

Juniors experienced more than just the hunt as many had a chance to see deer, pronghorn antelope, wild pigs, elk, turkeys, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, bald eagles, and even condors and more.

Hunting conditions during the 10 years ranged from beautiful, warm sunny days, to rain, and even snow. Throughout it all, those hunting for antlerless deer had a success rate of...
99+% and the new pig hunts have had a success rate of 90%.

As the number of wild pigs increased on the ranch, it had a negative impact on the deer numbers. During the last two years, therefore, the number of juniors hunting deer was changed to five, with the other 10 juniors hunting pigs. The overall reduction in deer hunts on the ranch coupled with an increase in the harvest of pigs is beginning to show an increase in deer numbers. But whether the juniors are hunting deer or pigs, these Sharing the Tradition hunts have turned into an experience of a lifetime for both the juniors and their mentors.

In addition to the sponsorship of the hunts by CDA and the Tejon Ranch, other sponsors have added icing on the cake by giving each junior ammunition (Barnes Bullets), binoculars (Alpen Optics), hunting accessories (Hunter’s Specialties), knives (Z-Blade), targets (Birchwood Casey), and this past year, a former mentor/father (Ryan Olsen) donated a European Skull Mount to each junior.

Now 10 years since the first Sharing the Tradition hunts, a number of the juniors who participated in the early hunts are now in their 20s. CDA hopes that their experience at Tejon Ranch has resulted in their continued interest in California’s deer herds.

Look for information on the 2014 Sharing the Tradition hunts in the Summer issue of California Deer, or on the CDA website www.caldeer.org.
Proposal to List the Gray Wolf as an Endangered Species in California

On April 16, 2014, the California Fish and Game Commission met in Ventura and one of the agenda items included was whether or not to list the gray wolf as a threatened or endangered species in California.

CDA President Jerry Springer was present and addressed the Commission regarding this subject with the following statement:

Good Morning Commissioners

I am Jerry Springer, the president of the California Deer Association and a member of the Wolf Stakeholders Working Group. The California Deer Association is one of the leading conservation organizations in California and our members have raised millions of dollars for the benefit of California’s deer herds and other wildlife. We have provided funds for wildlife habitat, research, education and law enforcement. Here are just a few of our hundreds of projects.

We helped fund the purchase of the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve which saved 4,000 acres of habitat from development and now provides a place not only for wildlife but for research and education for students from K-12 through college. We invested more than a quarter million dollars to help the Department of Fish and Wildlife secure and improve the 5,100-acre Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve near Morgan Hill. We are investing thousands of dollars along with our members’ time, repairing the water systems in one 30,000-acre section of the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve for the benefit of wildlife from the ground squirrel to the tule elk.

Our members don’t just sit back and donate money, they get dirty too – they install guzzlers to supply needed water for wildlife throughout California and they have helped restore burned areas by planting thousands of bitterbrush plants.

We also work with private landowners to help improve habitat for the benefit of the wildlife on their lands. If you look at our annual project reports you will see that our members just don’t talk-the-talk but they put their money and their backs into helping conserve California’s wildlife.

I am proud to say that we have accomplished these things by working cooperatively with landowners, agencies and the public — not by lawsuits or threats of lawsuits.

Today I am here not only representing those thousands of California Deer Association members, but also the thousands of members of the Mule Deer Foundation which is also a member of the Wolf Stakeholders Working Group.

As a member of the Wolf Stakeholders Working Group, I have spent more than a year working with others in this room in a collaborative effort to develop a wolf management plan — this represents thousands of hours of our time. Because of this I would like you to consider the following during your decision process.

First, wolves are already afforded Federal protection.

Second, the California Director of Fish & Wildlife has already outlined the protection his department can provide any wolf that enters California. This gives wolves both State and Federal protection, now.

Third, there are no wolves at this time in California, only a single wolf that on occasion crosses the border into California then returns to Oregon.

Next, as we move forward we need to make sure the decisions we make today consider the potential for unintended consequences. I know that there are many here who will later participate in the coyote contest discussions, I wonder if they have been told how detrimental the introduction of wolves has been to coyotes? It is known that where there are wolf packs, coyotes are almost nonexistent. Wolves have had a negative effect on elk and deer herds. For example: Idaho’s Lolo elk herd has been decimated — what was once a thriving population has seen an 80% reduction after wolves were introduced into the state. In California the deer herds are already struggling and a major effort has been undertaken to reestablish elk herds in California. What will the effect in California be?

And finally, as a member of the Wolf Stakeholders Working Group, I can tell you that the members of the group and members of the Department of Fish and Wildlife have already spent thousands of hours of our time working on the development of a Wolf Management Plan for California. There are no regulations or policies that require you to list the gray wolf before we complete this management plan. We are still at work on the plan and the members represent the interests of pro-wolf groups, ranchers and agriculture, and conservation groups which include sportsmen and women.

In addition to the reasons I have already stated I am asking that you respect the time and effort already invested by the Wolf Stakeholders Working Group and let us continue our work so we can have a plan in place before you make a decision on whether it is even necessary to list wolves as an endangered species.

I strongly urge you at this time to not list the gray wolf.

Thank you.
2014 CDA Banquets!

Redding Chapter
Photos by Melissa Wulgamuth

California Deer 15
CDA Southern California Chapter Sponsors Deer Hunting Clinic

On April 5, 2014, CDA’s Southern California Chapter and Alpen Optics sponsored a deer hunting clinic which was hosted by the Apple Valley Gun Club (AVGC).

DFW Lt. Dan Lehman, who is in charge of all the Advanced Hunting Clinics in California, coordinated this clinic. CDA members Lyle Drenth, Don Shackleford, Christian Guntert and Tom Barton, plus Hunter Education instructors David and Tom Birch, Thomas Davis and John Scruggs, assisted Lt. Lehman.

AVGC member and National Muzzle Loading Rifle California Regional Representative James Madry assisted at both being the BBQ Chef and muzzleloading rifle instructor. Ben Smith, a representative and biologist from the Institute for Wildlife Studies, gave a presentation on deer biology and later a live demo of lead-based vs. non-lead ammunition using water jugs and ballistic gelatin.

The day started for the 28 attendees with Lt. Lehman giving a presentation on game laws and common violations. Smith also presented information on deer biology and while he did his presentation, a big “meat” goat was dispatched and made ready for the class to have hands-on instruction on traditional field-dressing, skinning, meat preservation in the field, as well as meat processing.

Following lunch there was a raffle drawing for an Alpen Optics Spotting Scope. Other items were also included so that everyone won something with their lunch ticket, including the goat meat!

Thanks to Guntert, a special raffle was also held for two knives — a handmade (in America!) Battle Horse drop-point knife and an SOG knife! Runners-up in this raffle received a Z-Blade Field Dressing Kit donated by Drenth and Lt. Lehman.

The afternoon activities featured a lead-based (Nosler Partition) vs. non-lead (Barnes Copper TSX) bullet demonstration by Smith that was very interesting as it showed how small lead-particles can be distributed in the meat of the game that we harvest.

The class then broke into groups for a “round robin” instruction at different stations that consisted of an Optics Use by Guntert, Blood Trailing and Tracking by Drenth, Archery by Tom Birch and George Ellison, and lastly, Muzzleloading Introduction by Madry and David Birch. The muzzleloading station was very popular and the students got quite a “kick” out of loading and shooting the muzzleloaders.

Afterwards the class concluded with a final Q&A and quite a few participants stayed around to talk about deer hunting and to shoot the muzzleloaders one more time!

Thanks to DFW Lt. Dan Lehman for coming to Southern California and giving us the opportunity for this clinic. We hope to see him again next year.

Field of Dreams!

In 2013, this young lady was able to experience the outdoors through the Field of Dreams project that provides an outdoor experience for special needs children. You can see the excitement on her face the evening before the event as she holds her new fishing pole and tackle box. CDA and DFW SHARE funds help to sponsor this project.

Like us on Facebook!
Have a nice photo of California bucks? Share it with other CDA members in California Deer by emailing it to Jerry@WesternHunter.com.
**Coyotes Become Fish & Game Commission Topic**

At the April 16th meeting of the California Fish & Game Commission in Ventura, the following item was on the agenda: Discussion and Possible Authorization to Publish Notice of Intent to Establish a Prohibition on Inducements for Predator Hunting Contests, Tournaments, or Derbies.

Even though the agenda item was listed as predator hunting on the agenda, the draft proposed regulatory language stated:

New Section 250.1 Prohibition on prizes or inducements for hunting contests involving mammals.

It is unlawful to offer any prize or other inducement as a reward for the taking of any mammals in an individual contest, tournament, or derby.

The wording of the draft would make it illegal to have Big Buck or similar contests and/or awards/plaques given by Safari Club International, Boone and Crockett Club, Pope and Young, or other organizations. After discussion by the Commissioners and the public comments made by those in attendance, an amendment was made to change it to just predatory mammal hunting contests. It will now start through the regulation process before reaching a vote by the Commission to adopt or not adopt this proposed regulation.

During the Public Comment period, CDA President Jerry Springer participated on behalf of CDA members.

For those who would like to see the video recording of the meeting via the Internet, go to the Commission website at www.fgc.ca.gov, click the Meetings drop-down menu, select 2014, scroll down to the April 16 meeting, and click Video. You will then be taken to the web page with all the recorded Commission meetings.

**Doggone Good Job! K-9 Helps at Deer Poaching Crime Scene**

A good tip on the Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters (CalTIP) hotline — combined with the well-trained nose of a K-9 wildlife officer — led to the recent conviction of a deer poacher in Susanville.

In June 2013, Warden Nick Buckler received a CalTIP lead from a concerned citizen regarding dangerous shooting activity southeast of Susanville. Suspecting a possible poaching incident, Warden Buckler searched the area and located a dead doe near a Susanville property. The condition of the carcass suggested the deer was killed by a shotgun blast.

Based upon the available evidence, Buckler obtained a search warrant to further search the property. With the assistance of fellow wildlife officers, including Warden Paul Cardoza and his Warden K-9 Kilo as well as deputies from the Lassen County Sheriff’s Department, Buckler systematically searched the residence and surrounding property. While serving the warrant, the search team gained information to suggest the landowner may have disassembled the shotgun and hid it in heavy vegetation among several acres of dense vegetation on the property.

Warden K-9 Kilo stepped up to do the job he was trained for. In addition to apprehending dangerous criminals, Kilo is trained to alert on several scents, including gunpowder and firearms. Kilo went to work on the property surrounding the residence. Not only did Kilo find every piece of the disassembled shotgun, he found the spent shotshells and shotshell wads that were used in the commission of the crime. By finding all the pieces, Kilo allowed Buckler to perfectly reconstruct the poaching crime scene.

“Warden Cardoza and K-9 Kilo were able to locate very small but very important items of physical evidence over a very large and difficult search area,” Buckler reported. “Without Kilo, our chances of locating all the evidence were slim.”

Wardens and deputies awarded K-9 Kilo with lavish praise and his favorite rubber ball for a job well done.

On February 8, 2014, the poacher pled guilty to unlawful take of a deer out of season and unlawful discharge of a firearm within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling. He was fined $1,500 and was placed on two years of probation, during which time he cannot hunt or fish.

Warden Buckler thanks the Lassen County Sheriff’s Office and District Attorney’s Office for their assistance throughout the investigation. He also credits the citizens of Lassen County, who continue to protect their own wildlife and habitat by reporting poaching and pollution activities to CDFW through the 24-hour CalTIP hotline at (888) 334-2258. Callers may remain anonymous if they so choose.

The most useful information from witnesses typically includes time and location of the suspected crime, the suspect’s specific activity, suspect and vehicle descriptions (approximate style, size, color, age and especially unique characteristics), vehicle license plate number and last known direction of travel.
In mid-February 2014, the Water for Wildlife group headed by Cliff McDonald had a three-day project to repair two drinkers in the thirsty desert of southern California. A total of 28 volunteers worked on the project, with some staying the entire three days and others driving out for a day.

In McDonald’s words, “We managed to totally complete two drinkers along with tortoise ramps. On another we removed tar from all the cracks, then applied the rapid-set mortar as well as removing all the cracked concrete from the tank cover just as the cover was about to cave in. Later we will return to this drinker and construct another cover consisting of rebar, concrete wire and about 60 bags of concrete — lots of work.

“The volunteers also cleaned out two holding tanks, which consisted of grinding and cleaning all the cracks, patching them with rapid-set mortar, and then coating the entire tank with the Ames Blue Max product, which works excellently in preventing any further leaks in the holding tanks. Four volunteers put in more than 40 hours each during the six days they were on site accomplishing just part of this WFW project. Total hours for all volunteers was 500 hours of on-the-ground labor. Thank you guys!”

Water for Wildlife projects are supported in part by CDA project funds.
2014 Phil Bassetti Life Member Rifle Winner

The winner of this year’s Phil Bassetti Life Member Rifle is Steve Iverson, Life Member #L0112. Congratulations, Steve! In honor of Phil Bassetti, CDA’s third president, each year one Life Member is drawn at random to receive this special rifle. The drawing is held at the Salinas Valley Chapter’s banquet, Phil’s home chapter.

CDA Life Member Rooster

Join the growing list of CDA Life Members!
Your Trail Camera Photos

We would like you to share your trail camera photos with everyone in CDA. Please email your best photos (highest res) to Jerry@WesternHunter.com with the subject of Trail Cam Photo. Please include the type of trail camera you are using.

Tony Straw’s photo of three mountain lions.

Monte Rudnick’s Bushnell trail camera photo.

A young black bear caught on Dan Forthuber’s trail camera.

Another Ben Nuckolls’ trail cam photo - nice buck.

A black bear watches a raccoon on the tree - Ben Nuckolls submission.

A Primos Truth Cam catches this buck checking the air during the rut.
Protecting Your Prize
By August Healy

Editor's Note: In the last few years the cooler or ice chest business has changed. The advent of the heavy-duty rotomolded ice chests is now promising longer periods of time that the contents will be kept cold and fresh. Manufacturers like Yeti, ORCA, Engel, Pelican and others, plus new names every year, are finding their way into your hunting vehicle, whether it is just for a hunting trip to the Sierras or a longer drive to Wyoming. If you have considered a rotomolded cooler, you already know that they are not cheap — I mean in price! But if you have purchased one or are thinking of purchasing one, August Healy has some tips to help you get the most out of your purchase and protect your game meat at the same time.

Taking care of the game we kill is essential, and the tools we use are critical to preserve our efforts.

I used to haul game back in an old ice chest that had some sentimental value, but other than that not much else. It would keep my game cold, but the ice melted quickly so I had to burn the roads up to get home.

I've recently caught on to the rotomolded ice chest craze.

Are they really worth the money you spend on them? I would answer with a resounding YES! My 75-quart ORCA Cooler is a lifesaver. I've hauled ducks back from local ponds, an elk and two bears back from Canada, and this deer was surely going back home in this thing.

There is some work to be done before just throwing a critter in the ORCA, though. To do this rotomolded-cooler thing correctly, it is important that you follow proper steps to ensure your trophy is safe for the duration of the hunt and the ride home.

Prepping the ORCA

It may sound funny to cool the cooler, but it will help you in the long run. Place the cooler in the coolest place you can find or place two bags of ice in a couple days before you plan on leaving. Drain the water from the cooler before use. When you are ready to use the ice chest, remove any water and ice from the cooler. Replace any ice in the cooler with fresh ice that is truly frozen and is not in the thawing process. Ice that is already dripping water won’t last long in any cooler.

The Harvest

More importantly than prepping the cooler is how you care for the tasty morsels that you’ve shot. Refrigerate and/or freeze as many of the items as possible that you plan to put in the ORCA cooler before actually loading the cooler. This makes the ice last longer and helps the cooler to better do its job.

Ice and Pack

I typically use whatever ice is at the local convenience store, which is cubed. That is great for shorter trips, but for longer trips look at using dry ice or even block ice. Dry ice is the best option for extreme trips like the one I took to Canada. Thirty-five hours in the car will do a number on meat if it isn’t cooled properly.

Packing the game in the cooler is pretty simple. It is essential to start with block ice in the center and pack the items or meat that will be last out around that. Cover those items with cube ice and then add another layer of items; add another layer of ice and so forth until you fill the cooler to the top. If you run out of layers, just go ahead and fill the cooler to the top with ice — dead air space is a cold killer and will cause ice to melt much faster than it normally would.

Other Cooling Tips

I learned this one from an old butcher up in Canada... When transporting your game back in your ice chest, keep a couple of spare 2X4's handy in the vehicle. Place them under the cooler before loading it up. These boards will keep air flowing around the cooler and the heat from the road and truck won’t melt the ice.

Your father probably told you more than once while you were growing up to shut the door in the summer because he didn’t want to cool the rest of the neighborhood. It’s the same with a cooler. Keep the lid to your cooler shut and latched as much as possible. The ice in your cooler will last longer, often days longer, by using this simple tip.

Drain the water as ice melts. While the water may feel “ice cold,” it’s not or it would still be ice. Drain it and your ice will last longer.

One misstep on the hunt might ruin the chances at a trophy, but that kind of stuff will happen on the hunt. However, once that trophy is obtained, don’t you owe it to yourself to ensure the meat gets to the table safely?

It doesn’t matter if you are 15 miles or 1,500 miles from the house. You owe it to yourself to invest in the proper tools to get your trophy home safely and one tool to consider adding to your hunting equipment is one of these rotomolded coolers.
Trail Camera Tips by Jerry Springer

Swamping

In wildlife biology the term swamping can refer to the situation where most animals of a certain species will have their young around the same time, producing more prey than their predators can possibly take, thereby ensuring that a number of young will survive predator attacks.

I now use the term swamping a little differently when applied to trail cameras. When I find the right location, I “swamp” it by placing multiple trail cameras — maybe as many as six or seven — in close proximity. Doing this helps capture animals that a single camera setup might miss.

For example, in one location last summer I had a trail camera aimed at a water tank in the belief that because of very limited water in the area, every animal that came into the area would stop to get a drink. One day I decided to place six trail cameras around the area to try to determine from which direction a certain buck was coming.

What I learned instead was that not every animal in the area went to the water tank. I got photos of a number of animals walking behind the trail camera I had aimed at the water tank and still others of animals passing by in directions away from the water tank. In fact, some animals were only captured on one trail camera and not on multiple trail cameras even though the swamped area covered no more than 60-70 yards in any direction from the water tank.

What this proved to me was that just because your trail camera may not have captured a photo or video of an animal at that location doesn’t necessarily mean there weren’t animals close by, in fact very close by. I also realized how many more animal photos/videos I was able to capture when I swamped certain areas.

If possible, try swamping this year and you might just be surprised what you see.

What’s New

All year round I have trail cameras operating. Not only do I continue to test some older models but also the latest models to come on the market. Currently Bushnell, Cuddeback, Eyecon, Leupold, Moultrie, Primos, Simmons, Stealth Cam, Tasco, Wildview and Wildgame trail cameras are in the field watching for deer, bear, turkeys, mountain lions, bobcats, foxes and more.

The new trail cameras that I have just recently mounted on trees include the Stealth Cam G42NG, Eyecon Extreme Storm, and Wildgame Micro Crush Cam10. Coming in May, the new Bushnell Trophy Cam HD Wireless will find its way to our woods. Look for both written and visual results in upcoming issues of California Deer and on the CDA Facebook page.
Membership Drive
JOIN TODAY!
If you are a deer enthusiast, this could be the best $30 that you have ever spent. The deer of California need your support!

Membership Application
California Deer Association

CHAPTER: ______________________ DATE: ________________
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☑ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ CHECK ENCLOSED
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MEMBERSHIP FEES  ☐ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL # _____________
☑ $30 Full Membership: One year, decal & newsletter
☑ $5 Junior Membership: Same as full membership
☑ $1,000 Life Membership: Installment option $250 per year.
☑ $500 Corporate Sponsorship: Per year.
Mail To: California Deer Association, 820 Park Row, PMB 671, Salinas, CA 93901-2406