

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

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PERMIT No. 5
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Volume 17 Number 4

NOVEMBER, 2007

The Newsletter of The Texas Sportsman's Association

"Dedicated to educating the public about the need for protection, conservation and improvement of fish, game and other wildlife, grasslands, and forests and to safeguard the freedoms that enable these pursuits."

President's Corner

By Doris Rinn
President,
Texas Sportsman's Assn.

The geese are flying south, the leaves are falling, the pecans are falling, and the air is crisp and cool!

Fall has arrived. Deer hunting season is here and don't forget the holiday season is fast approaching. Where has the year 2007 gone to? It seems like only a month or two ago that we put up the heavy coats and Christmas decorations.

The past year has been good for TSA. We had a well-attended business meeting back in March followed by a very successful Fall Fund Raiser in September. The highlight of the year was the presentation of a \$1,000 check to Amanda Hurst. The check was in appreciation for what her husband had done for sportsmen. Game Warden Gregg Hurst was shot and killed while performing the job he loved.

This being the last newsletter for the year, please be careful as you hit the fields and woods in hopes of getting that trophy buck. And, best wishes

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A HELPING HAND — Amanda Hurst, shown holding her son, Kyle Hunter Hurst, received a check for \$1,000 from the Texas Sportsman's Association at the organization's recent Fall Fundraiser. Amanda is the widow of Game Warden Justin Hurst, who was shot and killed in the line of duty last March in Wharton County. Also pictured are TSA President Doris Rinn and Treasurer Terrel Maertz.

Gathering data is critical in process of evaluating deer antler regulations

By **BOBBY EICHLER**
Dist. 7 Technical Guidance
Biologist-La Grange

Well, it's that time of year again.

The 2007-08 season marks the sixth year of the Special Antler Regulation that went into effect in 2002. The counties of Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, Lee and Washington were the original

counties that took the lead and put the proposed antler regulations into reality.

This year, there are now 61 counties that have changed for the better by implementing the same antler regulation.

The landowners, land managers and hunters within the original six-county area should be commended on making the antler regulation

work.

Through the years, most comments have been on the positive side and citations have been relatively low.

This year will likely be the last year that biologists throughout these original counties set up check stations. Please remember that if you harvest a buck, we would like

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TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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Visit TSA On Line!

The TSA web site is up and running, and members are encouraged to visit:

<http://www.texassportsmansassociation.org>

The website is maintained by TSA Director Leslie Heinsohn.

TSA County Officers

Austin County

President — L.J. Rinn
Vice President — Duane Dudensing
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Treasurer — Charles Abel
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Colorado County

President — Terrel Maertz
Secretary-Treasurer — Ruth Poncik
Committeeman — Walt Glasscock

FALL FUNDRAISER

2007

Raffle		\$5,426.00
Guns	-\$2,190.00	
Quilt	-\$265.00	
Rod & Reel	-\$85.37	
Meal		\$1,143.00
Fishbeck's	-\$1,187.50	
BBQ Sales		\$103.00
Membership (68)		\$340.00
Auction		\$1,759.00
Quilt	-\$225.00	
Penny Raffle		\$542.39
Feeder and Binoculars	-\$303.08	
Silent Auction		\$381.00
Sales (T-Shirts and Caps)		\$108.00
Advertisement	-\$285.00	
Hall Rent	-\$217.00	
	-\$4,757.95	<u>\$9,802.39</u>
Profit		\$5,044.44

Top Ten Check List from Texas Game Wardens

1. Review the Outdoor Annual and check for open season dates and bag limits for the county in which hunting is planned.
2. Check for legal means and methods in that county.
3. Carry a current hunting license.
4. Clearly identify the target before pulling the trigger.
5. Carry a sharp knife; cut out the date (month and day) of kill on deer and turkey tags and immediately after kill, attach appropriate tag to the deer or turkey.
6. Carry a ballpoint pen; fill out ranch and county name on back of deer and turkey tags.
7. Carry a hunter safety certification card, if applicable, in the field.
8. Carry a state driver's license or state personal identification certificate if 17 years of age or older.
9. Fill out a Wildlife Resource Document to accompany any part of a deer or turkey that is given to someone else.
10. Keep all game animals and game birds in edible condition.

Keeping a wary eye on House Bill 2328

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

Prelude:

House Bill 2328 came to the attention of most the outdoor community via an email through the newly formed coalition of Texas Outdoor Partners. First thought to be an attack on the outdoors and agriculture community, the bill's main author, Representative Beverly Woolley, assured registered lobbyist and TOP chairman Kirby Brown that HB 2328 would not affect hunting, fishing, trapping or animal husbandry in agriculture.

Brown said, "Representative Woolley is adamant that despite the language of the bill it was not her intent to infringe upon anyone's hunting, fishing or trapping. However, at this time she is not changing the language — so it must be our position to oppose the bill."

During ongoing correspondence and meetings Brown offered numerous amendments clarifying discrepancies. However, HB 2328 progressed through the House Criminal and Jurisprudence Committee without change.

Then it was scheduled for

first reading and debate on the House floor on April 18. On April 17, a message went out from Brown's office relating that it was time to "call off the dogs." Sportsmen's phone calls and emails to representatives had outnumbered the proponents for the bill by 10 to one. The desired amendments would be added and the sportsmen and agriculture communities would be satisfied.

Passage by the House of Representatives:

On April 18, 2007, during the 80th session of the Texas Legislature, Representative Beverly Woolley, from Houston, introduced HB 2328 relating to the offenses of cruelty to livestock and nonlivestock animals.

Representative Carl Isett, from Lubbock, who is also the Chairman of the Sportsmen's Caucus, debated the bill asking for clarification on many points.

Isett: Why do we need broad

expansion of animal cruelty laws, don't we have laws?

Woolley: Livestock, hunting, fishing, and trapping are exempted.

Isett: What about non-native hoofed stock. Do exotics animals used for hunting become livestock?

Woolley: Yes, but I've got an amendment to change that.

Isett: Does this bill shift the burden of proof onto the accused and away from the state?

Woolley: No, it doesn't.

Isett: I believe it does. I'm afraid that this language turns hunting exotics into hunting livestock. And, that highfences will come into question from the anti-hunting crowd. Then, what do you do in times of drought?

Representative Isett related a scenario of a highfenced 1,000-acre property with no water due to drought.

Isett: There are no cattle on this property, but there is no water. Is the landowner now

prosecutable if he can't provide water to the exotics on that property?

Woolley didn't comprehend the situation of landowners during drought conditions.

Woolley: Don't you think you should prosecute that? I think you're bringing up remote possibilities.

Isett: You have an entire new classification of prosecutable offenses.

Representative Harvey Hildebran, from Kerrville, Chairman of the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee offered two amendments for adoption.

Hildebran: The first amendment addresses allowing pen raised-fowl for hunting. The second amendment allows for present wildlife management practices and practices on game preserves.

Isett: When you put up a highfence around 1,000 acres, are those animals within that area now considered "captured"?


Hildebran: None of us are for caged kills or canned hunting — but we're not addressing

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In memory of
Edna Krenek, Austin County

NAME _____ <small>last first</small>	COUNTY _____
(PLEASE PRINT)	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change
ADDRESS _____	EXP. DATE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____	
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I AGREE TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION	
SIGNATURE _____	
SPONSOR SIGNATURE _____	

Texas Sportsman's Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES: Annual	\$ 5.00
Life (Onetime)	\$200.00
DONATION TO:	
TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSN.	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	\$ _____
DUES PAYABLE TO:	
TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION	
P.O. BOX 26	
COLUMBUS, TEXAS 78934	

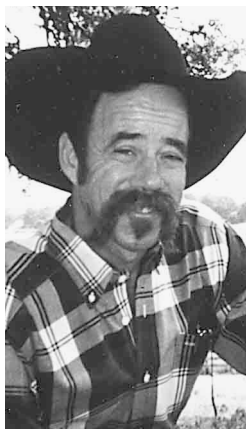
Looking Down from the Saddle

By

HERMAN W. BRUNE

Zip trotted around the horse corral growling. The moonlight sifted through thin clouds and an occasional flurry of airborne snowflakes sparkled until they lit on pine trees and accumulated into a moist white sheet on the ground. A breeze lifted the saddle fly, grew stronger and shook the tents, and then settled back into nothingness. The weather was uncertain.

But Zip knew there were intruders about and the Border Collie's teeth glistened in the night. The dog bolted past the cook tent, down the trail past the crew tents, past the outhouse tent, beyond the hunters' tents, and then jerked to a stop. For a moment, its eyes narrowed and every sense



was piqued. Then a clatter of hooves on river rocks sounded the approach and a panic-stricken cow elk lunged towards the encampment. It was followed by a pack of hunters more blood thirsty and efficient than the men in the tents. The canine watchman inhaled all the air it could muster and bellowed the alarm.

"There's wolves in camp! There's wolves in camp!" and Zip didn't quit. The barking continued until the cow was downed, disemboweled and the savages ate their fill. Then they snarled at the menacing mongrel and slunk back across the river and into the forest. But Zip never let up because after the killers came the scavengers, and a couple of coyotes materialized from the shadows to pilfer morsels. The dog knew its job, it wouldn't relent, and it wouldn't tolerate these fanged predators near its masters. The call to arms echoed down the canyon, and Zip stood transfixed yapping within yards of the hunters' tents.

Bone-weary and incoherent the guides pulled tarps over their heads and burrowed deeper into their sleeping bags. Their wilderness careers were wearing them to a frazzle and they just wanted to eliminate the noise from their scant few hours of sleep. Then, a voice in my head spoke.

"It's time Herman – midnight!"

The oldest guide, Carol Johnson, snored

Christmas 2007

as I slid back my covers and eased my feet to the floor. Gingerly and quiet I slung on my jeans, my gun belt, a jacket, and my hunting cap. Then easing into my teepee creepers, I slipped from the cramped canvas quarters.

Once in the fresh air, the catastrophe at the end of camp came into perspective.

"Dadgum, a whole herd of grizzlies could be eating the clients and we'd sleep through it," I muttered to myself. But the guests' area appeared safe. There was no movement or signs of life, only Zip's incessant chorus that was beginning to have the effect of a smoke detector that won't shut off.

My breath blew gusts of vapor into the cool moonlit semi-darkness as my gaze swiveled to inspect the rest of my surroundings. Then a small flicker of a campfire shined from several hundred yards away.

"Ah, it is time," and I grinned.

Now, my steps were hurried and I kicked into a run passing the corrals. The distance was traveled in the time of a thought.

"Hello, the camp!" I called, and there were several figures jostling around the fire.

"Hey cowboy! Get in here! There's fresh coffee and plenty of grub!"

My old pard caught my paw in his fist and gave it a hearty shake. Then he grabbed me in a bear hug and lifted me from the earth mashing all the air out of me. His long beard was flecked with wood scraps and kindling but his clothes smelled like a kitchen at Christmas time. His smile spread broad as Texas and his eyes twinkled with happiness. He seemed bigger, taller, and wider than I ever remembered. And suddenly I felt more secure than I had for quite awhile.

"How you been doing cowboy?" he guffawed.

"I'm okay, who all is here?" and I tried to peer around him.

Then the Missus stepped forward with

a steaming mug of coffee.

"Hello Mr. Brune," she said. "Boy you're looking skinny, let me feed you. Jingles, bring this man something for his coffee."

The cute little female elf I'd met years ago in the Beartooths shuffled towards me with a jug and I held down my mug. My grin was permanent and I gave her a wink. "Now don't be stingy honey." She giggled, splashed some of the jug's contents into my cup, and scurried back to her chores tending a Dutch Oven.

Some of the old man's legendary team was tied to the sleigh and others were picketed nearby.

"Mr. Brune," said the Missus, "weren't you scared walking out here in this wild country?"

"No ma'am," and I cocked my head, "I don't reckon I remember the last time I was scared of anything. But I tell you what, I'm sure proud that all of y'all decided to visit this year."

You've turned 50, and you did it with less fuss than when you turned 40. Look at you, you have almost as much gray in your beard as Papa. Tell me, do you still have inclinations to save the world or did you give up politics? And what about the writing business?"

"I don't reckon anybody in Austin wanted to see how a cowboy fixes things. As for my writing, well, it's like I always said. I'm about as good a writer as I was a bronc rider, just good enough to be entertaining but not good enough to make a living."

The North Pole crew looked at me knowing there was more.

"Okay, here it is. I don't believe in writing to a niche market. That's like limiting yourself to chewing jerky and never eating a rib eye. Besides, there's information that the outdoor crowd takes for granted that should be related to mainstream society. That's why I write camp stories. Anybody should be able to relate. One of my biggest compliments was when I was asked to do a reading to a literary crowd of Rice and University of Houston professors and poets. They thought my foolishness was just fine.

"I'll tell you who I use as a model. My

(Continued on Page 8)



TSA MEMBER KEVIN HENNING of Boerne with his his young 6x6 archery elk taken in September in Wyoming's Washakie Wilderness.

Colorado County Unit plans Christmas Party

The Colorado County Unit will hold its Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 8 at St. Roch Hall in Mentz.

A Social Hour and games will start at 4 p.m., with the meal to follow about 6.

Members are asked to bring sides or desserts.

Please RSVP to Terrel Maertz at 979-732-5839 by Dec. 4 so we will know how much chili to cook.

Austin County TSA Unit Christmas Party Dec. 2

The Austin County Unit of the Texas Sportsman's Association has scheduled its annual Christmas party for Sunday, Dec. 2 at the New Ulm Firemen's Park.

The fun and fellowship will begin at 2 p.m., followed by a fried chicken meal with all the trimmings to be served at 5.

Watch your mail box for an invitation with all the details!

2007 Fall Fundraiser Raffle Winners

1. Anthony Lichnowsky — Weatherby Vanguard Sporter 270, TSA
2. Blake Schramm — Remington SPR 310 20 ga. over & under, TSA
3. Clint Barrett — Savage 116 243 Accutrigger, TSA
4. Marvin Schneider — Electric Butcher Saw, Heinson's Store
5. Tommy Wise — Remington 870 Express 12 ga. 3", TSA
6. Owen Krause — Hand Made Quilt, TSA
7. Henry Kunz Sr. — Savage 93 17 HRM
8. Randy Huebel — Leopold 3x9 Vari-X 1 Scope, TSA
9. Brian Supak — Ruger 10-22, TSA
10. Raymond Foerster — Pinnacle Pro Rod & Reel Combo, TSA
11. Anthony Lichnowsky — \$200 Savings Bond, Col. & Mrs. Robert A. Kubena-Lavaca County
12. Chad Brune — \$100 Savings Bond, Columbus State Bank
13. Loran Von Minden — \$100 Savings Bond, First State Bank-Columbus
14. Gary Bravenec — \$100 Gift Card to Academy, TRAFCO-Eagle Lake
15. Wayne Walla — \$100 Savings Bond, First National Bank-Bellville
16. Joe Krause — \$100 Gift Card, Industry State Bank
17. Ernest Prihoda — \$100 Savings Bond, Carmine State Bank
18. P. Tippie — Weber BBQ Grill, Round Top State Bank
19. W.D. Kollman — \$100 Gift Card to Bass Pro Shop, Citizens State Bank-Sealy
20. Molly Smidovec — \$50 Gift Certificate, Lindemann Store
21. Chance Kansteiner — Set of Dominoes, Buck & Ora Dell Kollmann

(Editor's note: The following card of thanks was sent to the TSA by Amanda Hurst, widow of Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst, who was killed in the line of duty March 17 of this year. TSA made a \$1,000 donation in Justin's name.)

*My sincerest thanks
for your love ...*

I can never thank you enough for your contribution in Justin's memory. We all have God-given talents, and you have shared yours with me and my family. Justin touched so many people's lives, and it was never as evident to me as it is now. Thank you for being a part of our lives, and thank you for all your love, prayers and support.

May God bless you,

Amanda Hurst

Thank You! Thank You!! Thank You!!!

We would like to thank everyone that helped make the TSA Fall Fund Raiser a huge success. To all of you that donated raffle prizes, attendance prizes, penny raffle prizes, silent auction items, or a dessert, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The help of all the members made everything move so smoothly. All you supporters of the Texas Sportsman's Association made this fund raiser what it was. Thanks again!!

The Directors & County Officers

Fall Fund Raiser Donors

Auction

Deck of Dominoes — Jaeger's, Inc.-Giddings
 10-50 lb. bags Deer Corn — Leopold Grain-Nada
 Barbecue Set — L.J. and Doris Rinn
 Carved Wooden Duck — Bellville Shoe & Saddle Repair
 Carved Wooden Duck — Kenneth & Barbara Huebner-Bellville
 Cutlery Set — R.W. & Marcella Maertz
 ATV Cover — Columbus Cycle Shop-Wade Whitley
 TSA Sign — R.W. & Marcella Maertz
 TSA Sign — Trafco
 TSA Sign — Trafco
 Camo Bag Chair — L.J. & Doris Rinn
 Bird Bath — Class Concrete
 St. Francis Bird Feeder — Class Concrete
 Bedding Plants — Terrel & Robin Maertz
 Cookies in Decorative Tin — Alton & Lynn Ehler
 Ceramic Plate — Alton & Lynn Ehler
 European Mount — Bradley Polasek
 Horseshoe Candle Holder — Oliver & Lynette Weishuhn
 Hummingbird Cake — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Picture Frame Cross — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Iris Pot Plant — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Australian Fern Pot Plant — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Fern Hanging Basket — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Italian Cream Cake — Raymond & Jo Ann Foerster
 "Mr. Polka" KULM Pen — Friend of TSA
 Deer Horn Pen — Robert Bullard

Silent Auction

1987 Collector's Beer Stein — L.J. & Doris Rinn
 Pair of Candle Holders — TSA supporter
 Variety of Plants — Alexander Plant Farm
 Brownies — R.W. & Marcella Maertz
 Vining Plant — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Cross Windchime — Dustyn Tiemann Hay Hauling
 Crystal Candle Holder — Randy & Judy

Tiemann

Book Holder — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Bird House — Frankie & Jeanie Peters
 Fish Candle Holder — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Wall Decoration — Ramsher Cottage
 Perpetual Calendar — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 Crocheted Doily — Mike & Dorothy Wostarek
 Wooden Candle Stand — TSA supporter
 Fondue Pot — Otto & Joyce Loessin
 Goodie Basket — Black Creek Drilling
 Homemade Bread w/Dish — TSA supporter
 Horseshoe Candle Holder — Oliver & Lynette Weishuhn
 Horseshoe Candle Holder — Collyn Tiemann, Kaylee & Rylan Frobel

Raffle Ticket Printing

Eckermann Meat Market-Shelby
 Ryan Ford Mercury-Sealy
 Texas Star Café-New Ulm
 Colorado Feed Co.-Columbus

Penny Raffle

R.W. & Marcella Maertz — Rod & Reel

Combination

Attendance Prizes

Courting Candles — Kenneth & Barbara Huebner
 Igloo Cooler — Thomas & Dorothy Brune
 Mounted Blackbird — Kenneth & Barbara Huebner
 Playmate Cooler — Brookshire Bros.
 Caps & Koozies — First National Bank
 Plants — Alexander Plant Farms
 Caps & Koozies — Navasota Concrete
 Spools of Fishing Line — R.W. & Marcella Maertz
 Caps — Columbus Tire Center
 Caps, Koozies & Change Purses — First National Bank
 Gift Bags — Dick & Carolyn Tipp
 T-Shirts — TSA
 Windbreakers — TSA

Send us your deer pictures!

Early reports show that some nice bucks are being taken this season. Send us your deer pictures, and we'll be happy to run them in the next edition of the Newsletter. Send your photos and information to: TSA Newsletter, c/o New Ulm Enterprise, P.O. Box 128, New Ulm, TX 78950, or email them to editor@industryinet.com.

Did you know ...

- The gestation period of a deer is approximately 210 days.
- A doe will have multiple (10+) viable embryos in her reproductive system and slough off all but those that grow to birthing age.
- Most does will give birth to a single fawn her first year and twins from that point forward if habitat conditions are favorable.
- There are known reports of 20-year-old does giving birth to two fawns in captive situations.
- A fawn can go into heat and give birth to another fawn at one year of age.
- Often, a doe gives birth to two fawns from different sires.
- If a doe comes into heat and is not successfully bred, she will cycle back into heat 28 days later.



Take a child hunting or fishing!! It will be the greatest gift he or she ever receives!

HB 2328

Continued From Page 3

that.

Hildebran and Isett then entered into a discussion on highfences and white tail deer. Isett was under the impression that deer within a highfence were "owned" by the landowner. Hildebran explained the law concerning the status of white tail deer as wildlife and that putting up a highfence didn't constitute "captured" animals. Then they discussed the status of exotic animals that escaped from a high-fenced property, and Hildebran likened them to be like maverick longhorns from days gone by.

Isett: I'm still worried that exotics are included as livestock. Why do we need to expand laws more than what we've got on the books today?

Representative Robert Talton, from Pasadena, offered an amendment that included the definition of "depredation" in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

Isett: Would this bring someone with a disease within a wildlife population, that is untreatable, open to prosecution?

Talton: No, I just offered a definition — whatever is legal now will be legal after the bill is passed.

Representative Sid Miller, from Stephenville, and Chairman of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee took the podium with Woolley to give some answers.

Isett: What about varmint control?

Miller: Normal practices are not open to prosecution. Current laws for livestock animals are unchanged, concerns about rodeo are taken care of, and actually livestock laws will be less egregious. We're not effecting any laws for livestock,

or wildlife, or scientific research, or shooting feral dogs, cats, hogs, etc.

Representative Fred Brown, from Bryan, College Station, stood with Isett and offered a bit of levity to the proceedings.

Brown: Will the criminal penalty apply if the Aggies capture BEVO next year and saw the steer's horns off?

Woolley: That is excluded.

Representative Mark Homer, from Paris, capsulated the concerns of the agriculture and outdoors constituents and representatives.

Homer: We fear the law will have unintended consequences.

Speaker of the House Tom Craddick called the debate to an end and asked for a recorded vote. The bill passed with 136 in favor and two opposed. There was one abstaining vote.

Kirby Brown commented on the final outcome.

"In the end, I'm not sure we can fix this. My board still opposes this bill and we're probably going to oppose it in the Senate. Then again, I'm not sure that we may be in better shape now than we were before. We're just going to really have to look at this thing. One thing is for sure — this bill still raises penalties to Class "A" Misdemeanor and jail felonies, and that's tough."

The legislative nuances occurring with HB 2328:

Representative Woolley is the Chairman of the Calendars Committee. This committee works intimately with Speaker Craddick and schedules when bills are brought to the House floor. HB 2328 came to legislative life on March 3. It went through the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, without amendments, and made it to the House floor by April 18.

At this point, due to the uproar of constituents and efforts of wildlife lobbyists, Rep. Sid Miller, Rep. Robert Talton, and Rep. Harvey Hildebran tried to help Woolley patch up the bill.

According to political professionals, a state representative's desires to get their own bills passed makes it hard to vote against the chairman of the calendars committee. Especially, when the chairman of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee and the Chairman of the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee are also trying to make the bill passable. Then remember that this bill has already passed through the Criminal and Jurisprudence nine-member committee.

A bill that seems bad or full of irrelevance to a constituent — takes only a simple chess move from getting passed in the legislative process.

One side note: Despite Representatives Hildebran and Isett's exchange, according to practicing game wardens, an exotic animal that escapes a high fenced property still belongs to the landowner if that animal is tattooed, ear-tagged, branded, etc.

If the animal has no man-made identification, it becomes free-roaming wildlife.

To cull or not to cull

Deer hunters and biologists have wrangled over whether to cull spikes for years, but the consensus now is *not* to shoot immature spike bucks. (An oddball "cow horn" spike that is 2 or 3 years old is another matter, and should be culled.)

Biologists liken spikes to 10- to 12-year-old boys — who knows how they will develop?

Studies have shown that many spikes grow into 8-point shooters at age 3 or 4. Focus on harvesting the legal limit of does to improve the ratio of your herd. This is vitally important since you have so many twins and triplets.

Also, improve the feed on your land. The better the nutrition, the more rack bucks you'll see as yearlings, and the better the chances the spikes will grow large racks.

— Mike Hanback,
Whitetails Editor

TSA welcomes new members

The Texas Sportsman's Association welcomes new memberships. Dues are only \$5 per year, and memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year except for lifetime memberships. All TSA memberships expire on Dec. 31 each year.

Simply cut out the application form on page 3, enclose the fee, address an envelope to TSA, P.O. Box 26, Columbus, TX 78934, stamp it and put it in the mail! You may also sign up online at <http://www.texassportsmans-association.org>.

NOTICE:

Editorials published in the TSA newsletter may contain opinions of the author and are not to be taken as a position of the Texas Sportsman's Association. Members of TSA may submit stories, a photo or editorials for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Looking Down from the Saddle

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daughter, Sam, has a grandma that was born in London, raised in Norway, moved to New Jersey, then to Chicago, got married in Milwaukee, and wound up in Dallas. When she enjoys my tales and condones the way I fill my freezer – then I know I’ve done my job as a writer. I think that same ideology should hold true for mainstream America. The guys that call themselves outdoor writers should measure themselves against Jack London, Mark Twain, Ernest Hemmingway, Robert Ruark, and Jack O’Connor. Every one of those guys were great novelists and wrote stories that drew mainstream readers closer to the outdoors. Unfortunately, I’m not as talented as those master wordsmiths. But I understand the concept that to protect our 2nd amendment rights, as well as, our hunting, fishing, and trapping rights, we must link the Teddy Roosevelt model of conservation to the mainstream. What damn good does it do to preach to hunters and fisherman that already understand the natural order of the way wildlife populations thrive and survive? As writers, we must provide avenues so that the uneducated and uninformed may feel like they are a part of a system that works. Otherwise, the government must regulate all aspects of our life from cradle to grave, we can forego any God-given rights.” I grabbed the jug from Jingles and took a hefty swig. “And I’m going to shave Perry’s head, go to Mexico, claim that whole darn country for Texas, secede from the Union, and declare myself King!”

Everyone around the fire posed wide-eyed and slack-jawed like they’d been shot in the head with a .22 short. Then finally the Missus blinked.

“See Papa, I told you he’s not through with politics. But Herman, what about Sam?”

“Good Lord, if everybody was doing as well as her we’d all be doing our duty in high cotton. I just need to last a few more years in case she turns out as mean as me. But, I may have another year of bronc-riding left in me. I certainly want to spend a few more years in the mountains. And then, what happens if I’ve got grandkids that drift down the rodeo trail? I think I better be around.”

The old man whooped and stomped away from the fire. He’d been standing in one spot while the back of his pants and boots got too hot. Then he gazed at me and laughed.

“Are you ever going to mellow out?”

“Well, my old Sheriff buddy Harvey Lee never did. And this year I lost my friend Wiggie. He was 85 and left us a few days after I fished with him at Slaughter Lake, in Maine. He’d hunted, fished, and trapped the Maine North Woods all his life. His last words were to never stop fighting the people that would strip us of our heritage and rights. So no, political correctness is just another socialist agenda as far as I’m concerned. I like a good fight, and I don’t give a damn if you want to use the sword or the pen.”

Jingles opened a Dutch Oven full of Apple Cobbler and the Missus handed out bowls. Zip trotted into camp wagging her tail looking for petting and whatever Jingles offered for leftovers. Then Jingles opened a can of my favorite cookies – schnickerdoodles. The time for worry was over. The Old Christmas Man said a prayer and we enjoyed stew, cobbler, biscuits and cookies that the Missus and Jingles prepared.

Conversation delved into the personal aspects of being a single cowboy, and then degenerated further if that’s possible. Finally, we said our good byes and the troupe headed North.

Upon re-entering the crew tent, Carol Johnson snorted and queried, “Been talking to Santa?”

“Yep.”

“Good!” Then he went back to snoring.

Deer Season

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for you to check them into one of the local check stations.

The data gathered over the past few years has been critical in evaluating the antler regulations. Just a few quick numbers: since 2002, over 3,600 bucks have been checked.

For the most part, the number of bucks checked has increased annually, with the exception of the 2004 season. The highest number checked was last year with 923 bucks checked in.

The number of bucks checked in that were at least 3-1/2 years old has increased greatly since inception. During the 2002 season, only 213 bucks 3-1/2 years and older were checked in and this has risen to 504 during the 2007 season. The numbers should be reflective of the overall harvest within these counties.

(This article originally appeared in the Oak Prairie Wildlife Management Association’s Wildlife News in October of this year.)

REGISTRATION STATIONS

Austin County

Bellville -Bellville Quick Stop
Sealy - Shell Station (Hwy. 36)

Colorado County

Columbus - Edward Jones office, 526 Spring St.
Columbus - Mr. B’s Food Market, Hwy. 71 Bypass
Sheridan-Rock Island - Sandy Creek Drive, Hwy. 90A

Weimar - Wildcat Express
Exxon

Fayette County

Carmine - Felder’s Filling Station
Cistern - Cistern Country Store
La Grange - Mueller Feed,

3105 E Hwy. 71

La Grange - Texas Parks & Wildlife office, Fayette Savings Bank, 111 E. Travis Schulenburg area - Willie Joe’s Processing, High Hill
Warda - Rose Warda Store

Lavaca County

Hallettsville - Morton’s Drive-In Grocery, Hwy. 90A E.
Vienna - Lazy-J-Bar, FM 530

Lee County

Dime Box - Gunters Grocery
Giddings - H.W. Doyle Processing Plant, Hwy. 77

Lexington - Herk’s Country Store

Washington County

Brenham - Buccaneer Food Store

President’s Corner

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to each and every one of you for a very merry and safe holiday season.

You’ll be hearing from us in 2008!! If you have any issue we need to address, feel free to call me or any of the directors so that we can try to help you.