

TEXAS SPORTSMAN'S NEWS

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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."

Mexican violence vs. sportsmen In Texas

By HERMAN W. BRUNE
TSA VICE PRESIDENT

(First of two parts)

Stray bullets spun across the river striking the Recreation, Education, and Kinesiology building, and a car at the Life and Health Sciences building on the University of Texas at Brownsville campus, Sept. 4, 2009.

On June 30, 2010, stray bullets hit El Paso's City Hall punching a hole through a window of the city manager's office.

The spillover of Mexican brutalities incited by drug cartels worries many Texans. The volatile situation has sportsmen concerned about becoming collateral damage.

One example is an instantaneous decline in the number of fishermen at Falcon Lake near Zapata. The lake straddles the Rio Grande and is touted for world-class bass fishing.

But many fishermen have avoided the waters and at least one tournament has cancelled due to "pirates" and rumors that the Zeta Cartel intends to blow up the dam. While all threats must be investigated, the possibility of a dam attack has some lawmen shaking their heads.

"We hear that sort of stuff every week," said a U.S. Border Patrol agent who wished to be unnamed. "I can't believe the cartels would strike an institution."

Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden Captain Fernando Cervantes elaborated.

"There have been three incidents on Falcon Lake. The first was a robbery in which an American fisherman was accosted and relieved of his cash. The second incident was with another U.S.



FAIR PARADE — Three generations of the Scherbig family, all TSA members, represented the organization in the Austin County Fair Parade on Oct. 14 in Bellville. Seated are Gary Scherbig and son Shane, while standing is grandson Dustin.

fisherman that was held up, but he had no cash. So instead, the robbers took the memory card out of his camera.

The third incident involved a fishing guide that saw a suspicious boat approaching while he was fishing near the seven-mile marker. He pulled away and

went to another spot near the 14-mile marker. In a little while he noticed the boat approaching again and decided to quit for the day. So he headed back into Texas waters and the suspicious boat stopped following him.

(Continued on Page 7)

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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

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**A note from
the President**

Howdy Members,

Our TSA Fall Fund Raiser was held on Sunday, September 26, 2010, and it turned out to be one of the largest crowds in attendance and one of the most successful fundraisers in regards to donations.

Our success is due to the generous donations from our sponsors who continue to support our organization, even in these difficult and challenging economic times. We cannot thank them enough for their generosity, so please remember all our local supporters when shopping for merchandise. Or, just drop by their businesses and say thanks and let them know they are appreciated! Their support allows us to continue our support of our youth through scholarships and outdoor youth camps. The list of sponsors and donated items are listed in this newsletter.

One-hundred and twenty-five meal tickets were sold at the 2009 fundraiser. We considered the fact that there are many events going on in this area during this time of the year, but we were optimistic and planned for 160 meals. Over 160 were sold and we hope everyone enjoyed the meal and the opportunity to visit with members and their families. We also provided everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion on what they would like to see next year. We did receive some responses and the board will consider all your ideas.

I would also like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who planned and organized our 2010 event.

Upcoming Events:

Regular Business Meetings start in January, 2011, Spring Business Meeting with Stew Lunch on March 6, awarding of Scholarships, election of Treasurer and Vice President, guest speakers.

DAVID GOHLKE

**Spring Business Meeting set
Sun., March 6 at Mentz Hall**

Make plans now to attend the annual Spring Business Meeting of the Texas Sportsman's Association on Sunday, March 6 at Mentz Hall.

A hearty Beef Stew will be served beginning at 11 a.m., followed by the meeting, which will include the election of officers.

The guest speaker will be Dawn Vollmer from the Texas Forest Service of the Texas A&M University System. She will give a presentation on trees — how they help the environment, etc.

Get involved in TSA!

Looking Down From the Saddle

By HERMAN W. BRUNE

This article is transcribed from an interview with Texas Department of Public Safety Sergeant Gary Chandler on "The News From The Camphouse" on KULM 98.3 FM.

Brune: Is there a task force or law enforcement operation along the Mexico border that includes local DPS officers?

Chandler: Absolutely! There is a program in place called "Border Star." It pays for troopers to go down and saturate an area to patrol. That takes place from Brownsville to El Paso.

Brune: Is there anything special that your troopers must be versed in, other skills than normally used in the local area?

Chandler: They're looking for things pertaining to criminal activity. Every trooper is trained to know the law and traffic law. It is a saturated patrol creating a defense making it difficult for people to cross the river or border. There is a briefing that is held with local law enforcement to show what to look for and watch. The "Border Star" program also includes Parks and Wildlife, The Texas Rangers, and federal agencies.

Brune: Folks wonder why more isn't being done to arrest illegal aliens. If you know where they are why aren't you picking them up? Why aren't they arrested when you run into them?

Chandler: To start with it's a complicated issue. As it stands, to be undocumented is a federal violation. That means state officers can't enforce that law. So when state officers run into someone that they believe isn't here legally, our option is to contact the Immigration Naturalization Service (INS). They're in Houston and we inform them we have someone with a questionable background. It's up to them to decide whether they're coming out to take over. In the meantime, our officer is tied up from four to six hours. Usually, the INS is too busy to respond to our area. So ... in plain terms, we wind up letting the persons in question go.

Brune: So if you stop an illegal alien and they don't have a Texas Driver's License, now what?

Chandler: First off, we're not trained to look at someone and know if they're legal or illegal. That is part of the federal argument. There are federal agencies trained in those procedures. Secondly, if someone commits a traffic crime — I can enforce that. If someone is driving without a driver's license I can take that person to a Justice of the Peace and place that person in custody. INS has agreed that if we place someone in custody over a state crime they will pick that person up in a certain amount of time. And that's not a bad program, but if you overrun Sheriff Weid's jail with illegal aliens for no driver's license, and INS says they won't pick them up with state charges pending, then you must dismiss the charges and the INS will take them off your hands.

Brune: So the big problem is that under state law you're not allowed to discern whether someone is a legal citizen or an



illegal alien. Is that correct?

Chandler: I would say that's probably the main problem. There are some state agencies that have received cross-training to discern legal status, but for us, discerning whether someone is an illegal citizen is a federal law that we can't enforce.

Brune: Would you explain what y'all are seeing concerning smuggling drugs and smuggling humans or illegal aliens?

Chandler: Absolutely! The interstate highway is a major thoroughfare and the drug traffic organizations and trafficking in undocumented workers use it heavily. What we're seeing is that when

we stop a violator, they pull over onto a feeder road and then look for a pasture. Then they'll drive through the fence, out into the pasture, and pull into the brush. They'll do it in such a way that they know we won't follow in a patrol car. Usually, the vehicle is a 3/4-ton pickup and when the officer gets to it all the occupants are gone. However, if we do catch them and the vehicle is hauling narcotics, I can arrest everyone around that vehicle for narcotics. But if I find the vehicle and there's nobody there but people, then we're getting back into the immigration problem. The coyotes are getting about \$1,500/person for hauling illegal aliens. So with 10 people that's a large sum, plus if you get caught you may not get arrested. So, it's all about profit and the risk involved.

Brune: Have you seen the illegal traffic for drugs and human smuggling increase?

Chandler: Absolutely! I've been doing this for 30 years and it's shocking how bold some of these activities are. Most of the vehicles used for illegal activity are stolen and for instance are driven from Houston to Del Rio and back to Houston and over and over again. That's pretty brazen to be operating with a stolen vehicle.

Brune: Have you seen a rise in violence against law enforcement by illegal aliens or drug traffickers?

Chandler: No! Fortunately, we haven't seen an increase in violence against our troopers.

Here comes Santa Claus ...

Maybe the Austin County TSA Unit can beat WalMart!

WalMart is always so early with Christmas goodies and decorations, so the Austin County members plan to get an early start.

Their Christmas party will held on Sunday, Dec. 5 at New Ulm Firemen's Park. The afternoon of fun and fellowship starts at 2 p.m. with a turkey and ham meal with all the other good stuff to be served at 5 p.m.

You Austin County members don't want to miss this one. Mark your calendar, and we guarantee you will go home with holiday cheer and spirit ready to share.

A cadet's summary of the Buckskin Brigade Leadership Camp

Only in the Texas Brigades will a young person learn about Bobwhite Quail and their habitat. The Texas Brigade hosts three choices of camps you can apply for and attend. They are Bobwhite Brigades, Bass Brigade, and Buckskin Brigades. Each Texas Brigade is a five-day program for students ages 13 – 17 years.

The camps are held in June and July each summer. Texas Brigades allows you to sharpen your communication skills, increase your critical thinking skills, and it promotes team-building and leadership development. The Texas Sportsman's Association sponsored my trip and I am very grateful for their interest and support of the Brigades programs.

I am Charlie Neuendorff and this year I was enrolled in the Bobwhite Brigades camp held at the 74 Ranch, a 27,000-acre ranch in Cambellton, Tex. During my five days at



Charlie Neuendorff

the camp, I learned about the preservation of quail and their habitat, what they eat, what eats them, and how they survive. I also learned leadership skills, how to work together,

and how to create and give a presentation.

My favorite part about the Bobwhite Brigades camp was tracking my quail. I had to put a radio collar on a live quail, release it and track it three to five days later.

One of my other favorite activities was the skeet shooting. My covey, which was one of six "coveys" of cadets at the camp, won first place in skeet shooting.

Another interesting thing about Brigades is that you are introduced to taxidermy. We each "stuffed" our own quail and created a habitat presentation.

I also had the opportunity to complete the Hunter Safety Education Course. I arrived earlier than the other campers and completed the necessary hours at camp. I passed the course and now have my certificate.

The camp was life chang-

ing; it was the best experience of my life. I made wonderful friends and I am excited to hopefully see them next year when we all return as Assistant Covey Leaders.

The Texas Sportsman's Association sponsored my trip and I am very grateful for their interest and support of the Brigades programs.

Home Remedies

Sunburn — Empty a jar of Nestea into your bath water.

Minor burn — Colgate or Crest toothpaste

Bee stings — Meat tenderizer

Chigger bites — Preparation H

Athlete's foot — Corn starch

Grass stains — Karo syrup

Fleas in your carpet — 20 Mule Team Borax: sprinkle and let stand for 24 hours

Arthritis — WD-40. Spray and rub in. Kills insect stings, too.

TSA cannot vouch for the effectiveness of these remedies, but some might be worth a try.

Many Thanks

The Texas Sportsman's Association is very fortunate to have so many strong supporters. Without your continued help, we would not be where we are today. Our "Thanks" go out to the following supporters:

RAFFLE DONORS

Trafco-Eagle Lake (Mr. Lonny Daley)

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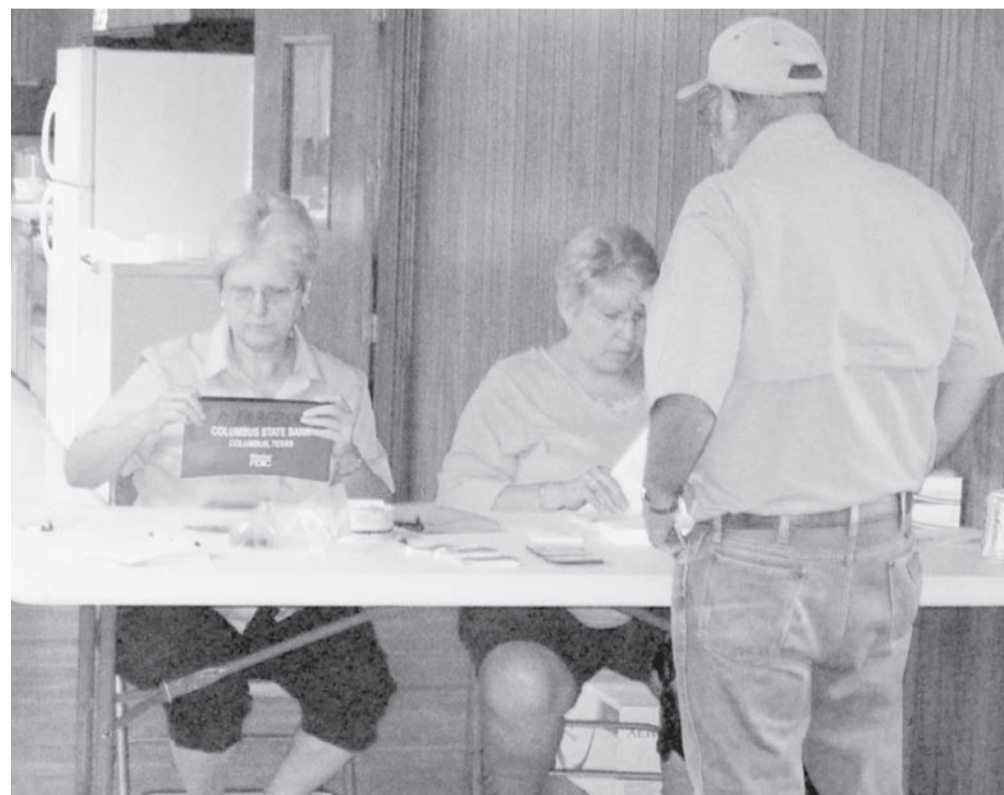
Bellville Shoe & Saddle Repair

Editorial policy

Editorials published in the TSA newsletter may contain opinions of the author not necessarily endorsed by the Texas Sportsman's Association.

TSA members are encouraged to submit stories, a photo or editorials for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Scenes from the 2010 Fall Fund Raiser



Prospects looking good for Texas deer hunters

Texas deer hunters could be blessed with too much of a good thing this fall, at least early on, as excellent range conditions throughout the state have set the stage for what could be a season to remember.

The Texas deer hunting season opened Saturday, Oct. 2, for bowhunting and Nov. 6 marks the beginning of the general gun season. A special youth-only weekend season was held on Oct. 30-31.

The general season runs through Jan. 2 in North Texas and Jan. 16 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for Jan. 3-16. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities, consult the 2010-11 Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists equate good habitat with healthy wildlife populations and sug-

gest you don't have to look hard to find plenty of both this year. Despite recent dry conditions, timely rainfall that began last winter and continued throughout the first half of 2010 has helped maintain range conditions and provide an ideal environment for deer to flourish.

Estimates of high fawn production in most regions of the state with upwards of 100 percent fawn survival on some intensively managed ranches, coupled with quality native food supplies, should give hunters a lot to look forward to this season. It also means that like last year, hunting over corn feeders may not be as productive because of the abundant natural forage available.

"Acorn crops have been pretty good and there is plenty of vegetation in South Texas, so the deer have plenty to eat," said Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer

program director. "That's going to make it difficult for bowhunters to attract deer to supplemental feeding locations."

At the onset of the archery season Cain said most deer are still in a summer pattern, especially in South Texas where the rut is still a couple of months away. Bowhunters might consider focusing their efforts along heavily traveled game trails or near acorn producing trees.

He also suggests hunters take advantage of opportunities to harvest antlerless deer this season, too, in order to offset high fawn production. "Folks need to keep deer numbers at a level the habitat can sustain during lean years," said Cain.

TPWD field biologists are concerned last year's drop in overall deer harvest could carry a double-edged sword into the 2010-11 season. Nearly half of all deer taken by Texas hunters occurs in the Edwards Plateau and last season marked the lowest harvest in 10 years, attributed mainly to reduced deer movement.

The upside is there should be a greater percentage of older-aged bucks in the population due to the carry-over of bucks that weren't harvested last year. The downside is there likely are more deer in the population than the habitat in many areas can adequately support without being degraded when range conditions return to normal.

One aspect biologists are not concerned about this season is the overall health of

(Continued from Page 8)



NICE CATCH — A neighborhood fishing tournament at Seadrift the first weekend in October produced this nice mess of fish. L.J. Rinn (far left) didn't finish "in the money," but he did land a 37-inch, 18-1/2 pound jack cravelle after a 30-minute tussle.

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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	

Mexican Violence vs. Sportsmen In Texas (Continued from Page 1)

“All the incidents happened on the Mexico side of the lake. We’re telling people that if they stay on the Texas side they’re safe. The lake has concrete pillars that mark the Rio Grande channel and those pillars are lighted at night. So, we tell people not to go into Mexico. Once they cross that line they’re on their own. We can’t crossover to help them. Second, when you go fishing leave a float plan. Let somebody know where you mean to fish so we have a starting point if we must look for you. And thirdly, if an incident occurs report it immediately. That may give us an opportunity to intercept the perpetrators.”

“As far as hunting is concerned, we’ve had no reports of hunter’s vehicles being stolen or hunting camps being broken into. We work closely with the Border Patrol, DPS, and Sheriff’s Office. For the most part, the illegal operators don’t want to be noticed.”

Farther up the Rio Grande is Lake Amistad nestled in the hills above Del Rio, Texas, and Acuna, Mexico. The lake’s primary source is the Rio Grande but it is also filled by the Pecos and Devil’s Rivers. Buoys mark the Rio Grande channel dividing Texas and Mexico. Officials there echo Capt. Cervantes’ sentiments but would also like to dispel rumors. “We’re not shy about sharing information,” says National Park Service Chief Ranger Regina Klein Dissler. “If you ask questions we’ll tell you what’s happening. But so far there has been no Mexican violence against sportsmen on Lake Amistad. We have three agencies with marine units: The National Park Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the U.S. Border Patrol. There is no sense in communities being hurt based on false rumors. And much like U.S. Fish and Wildlife never reintroduced timber rattlers to East Texas we have no record of fishermen’s boats being confiscated by Mexican shakedown artists on Lake Amistad.”

One fact that is agreed upon by law enforcement — more drugs come across Lake Amistad than Falcon. Illegal operators may bypass Falcon, cross the river, and access a smuggling corridor. But at Amistad the corridors are adjacent to the lake, lest the drugs must be backpacked cross country.

Then note that U.S. Border Patrol statistics show illegal alien apprehensions dropped 75 percent, from 68,500 to 17,000, in the Del Rio district from 2005 to 2009. During the same time span, marijuana seizures rose from 49,261 pounds to 63,209 in that district.

Retired U.S. Border Patrol Chief Agent and current U.S. State Department Terrorism Consultant Billy Kring addresses the problem of Illegal aliens moving across the Texas countryside.

“What are we finding along the illegal trails? We’re finding Korans, Muslim prayer rugs, martyr patches from suicide bombers, evidence of aliens from 113 different countries. Traditionally during hunting season human smuggling traffic slows down. But, marijuana smuggling goes up — just in time for the holidays. In the springtime all the drugs and alien numbers go up again.

“We’re looking for people dressed in fatigues and armed. But, sometimes they’re Anglo, blonde, and wearing slacks and shoes. Chechnya plays a part in Al Qaeda and they’ve said they’d be sending somebody across the Southwest Border.

“It’s hard to believe that groups of 10 to 30 can walk from Mexico to San Antonio, but they can. Most of what the Border Patrol apprehends is away from the public eye. That’s why there is usually no word about armed aliens being apprehended.

“On a ranch a sportsman should be in relative safety if running into illegal aliens. The danger zone is in cities. If you’re hunting just let them pass. Don’t holler at them, if they’re not messing with you don’t mess with them. If I’d be a hunter or fisherman, I’d be aware but it wouldn’t stop me from having a great time.”

TPW Big Game Director Clayton Wolf says that there is no exact tabulations showing whether or not hunting and fishing has declined in South and West Texas near the Mexican border. However, from the warden’s field reports there are no reasons to believe that sportsmen are abandoning the region.

(Next: Is it safe for Texas sportsmen in Mexico?)

TSA Raffle Prize Winners

1. Savage 116-243 rifle Juriuz Zickurh
2. Mossberg 20 gag. shotgun Jeremy Gohlke
3. Weatherby Vanguard 270 Steven Jackson
4. Barrett Wildcat Crossbow Larry Wolff
5. Remington 870 Express Harold Remmert
6. Savage 93 17 HMR George Henneke
7. Leupold Vari-X Scope Joey Pekar
8. Hand-Made Quilt Tony Bisbaro
9. Ruger 10-22 Jimmy Grawunder
10. Rod & Reel Combo Richard Holland
11. \$100 Gift Card-Academy Otto Krause
12. \$100 Savings Bond Ernest Moore
13. Lifetime TSA Membership Mary Rinn
14. \$100 Savings Bond Cheryl Leyendecker
15. \$100 Savings Bond Rhonda White
16. 4 Bag Chairs Carolyn Meadows
17. \$50 WalMart Gift Card Larry Wolff
18. 2 Sets of TSA Dominoes Mark Boles
19. \$50 Bass Pro Gift Card Terry Carter
20. 2 Bag Chairs Patricia Wubbenhorst
21. \$25 Gift Certificate Earl Wolchik
22. Assorted Tools Carol Schmidt

Don’t miss your chance ...

Did you take a child fishing this summer?

Why not?

The fishing or hunting trip you make with a child will leave a lifetime memory!

REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS:

Texas: 1-800-792-GAME

Nationwide: 1-800-800-9273

Deer season promising

(Continued from Page 6)

Texas' deer herd. The abundance of acorns during the fall and winter of 2009, combined with the flush of cool-season and warm-season herbaceous plants produced from the rains provided high-quality forages for deer that helped them come through the winter in good condition and were adequately available to the deer throughout the early stages of antler production, throughout pregnancy, and during fawn-rearing.

In parts of the state having special antler restriction, landowners and hunters should reap the rewards of above average antler growth this season as more bucks meet the requirements for legal harvest, said Cain. "It may be tough spotting those deer because they won't have to move much, so hunters need to keep that in mind. In East Texas, the antler restrictions coupled with good rainfall should mean good quality bucks."

On intensively managed ranches under Level 3 of the Managed Lands Deer Permit program, Oct. 2 is the "soft" opening day of the general deer season. Hunters on Level 3 properties have the flexibility to utilize issued permits from the archery season opener through the last day in February by any legal means

and methods. MLDPs are used instead of deer tags, which means deer taken under the program do not count against a hunter's annual bag limit.

The MLDP program is a multi-tiered incentive based and habitat focused initiative that allows landowners involved in a formal management program to have the state's most flexible seasons and increased harvest opportunities. Higher levels offer additional harvest flexibility to the landowner, but also have more stringent requirements.

Some in South Texas already have their sights set on a specific buck they've spotted during deer counts or captured on trail cameras, according to Cain. "There are some landowners down here that have already got some huge bucks located," he pointed out. "We're talking bucks that will score 200 or better. Now those don't grow behind every tree but these bucks were able to recover from last year's rut and develop better because of quality range conditions."

This could also be a breakout year for the Class of 2004. That was a peak year for deer productivity and range conditions, which means the odds of seeing a mature 6½-year-old buck this season are pretty favorable.



HANG IN THERE, RUPERT — Meet Rupert, a very small and very lucky deer. Rupert was delivered by Caesarean section at a wildlife hospital in England after his mother was killed by a car. Rupert was only six inches tall and weighed only one pound. The hospital's founder predicts Rupert will make a full recovery. "He's an extremely feisty little guy, and quite pushy," he said.

Thank You!

The Austin County Unit of TSA would like to thank Wilderness Kawasaki for the use of their four-wheeler for the Austin County Fair Parade. At the same time, the state TSA appreciates these same folks for displaying one of their four-wheelers at the Fall Fund Raiser.

Our hats off to Wilderness Kawasaki for their support. Thanks!!!

2010 Fall Fund Raiser Report

Income

Meal Tickets	\$1,414.00
Penny Raffle	\$340.13
Silent Auction	\$813.00
Raffle	\$6,968.00
Memberships	\$415.00
Caps, Bags, T-Shirts	\$227.50
	\$10,177.63

Expenses

Penny Raffle	
(Heater, Thermocell, Fillet Kit, Fillet Knife)	\$162.33
Meal (160 plates at \$6.00)	\$960.00
Raffle	
Guns	\$2,702.00
Rod & Reel	\$102.83
Quilt	\$250.00
Ticket Printing	\$328.00
Hall Rental	\$212.75
Drinks & Supplies	\$145.57
	\$4,863.48

Profit from Fund Raiser **\$5,314.15**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The directors of the Texas Sportsman's Association wish each and every one of you a merry and safe holiday season. This will be the last newsletter for 2010.

If you're lucky enough to get that special buck you have been watching, send us a picture and show him to all of us in our next newsletter. We can always use pictures and news for our publication.

Merry Christmas and you will hear from us in 2011.