NEW TACTICS FOR THE LATE DEER RUT
THERE’S MORE BREEDING IN DECEMBER THAN YOU THINK

USA UNVEILS NEW LOGO
A NEW ORGANIZATION - A NEW LOOK

FALLING FOR BROWN TROUT
FALL FISHING IS TOUGH BUT REWARDING

BIG WATER, BIG DIVER ACTION
THE METHOD AND MADNESS BEHIND IT
November 2010

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Reflecting on the Past - Looking to the Future

Life is full of surprises, opportunities and fascinating people and, sometimes when they intersect, wonderful things can happen. Whether you call it fate or luck, it sure played a role in establishing the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance.

There was no master plan or vision for the USA; it was born through a chance meeting and a number of people who recognized a great opportunity and acted on it.

It all started at a dinner; one of those functions that takes place every night across the country. I was at this dinner to represent the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). Looking around the room, I didn’t see a single person I knew, but I noticed a guy who looked as lost as I. I introduced myself, and we sat together. That man was Steve Kelly with the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters (UA) and, before the evening was over, he invited me to meet Bill Hite, now President of the UA.

The UA and other building trades unions were looking for a conservation organization to get involved with. The union leaders knew that nearly three-quarters of their members hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors. The TRCP seemed to fit the bill with its efforts to guarantee every American a place to hunt and fish. By the end of the meeting, the UA committed to coming on board as a TRCP partner and asked if I would address a meeting of other union presidents in the building trades.

I told Jim Range, the charismatic chairman of TRCP and a life-long Republican, about the UA and the potential of other unions joining the partnership, not knowing how he’d react. Many of Jim’s associates weren’t friends of the unions by any stretch of the imagination. A smile spread across his face, and I could see the wheels turning in his head. He recognized immediately what a partnership between the TRCP and unions could mean for conservation. Jim was a Republican but, first and foremost, he was a conservationist and well-known in Washington circles for his ability to bring people from all sides to the table to get things done. The man could herd cats!

He quickly concluded that the unions could be a game changer and an enormous asset in helping set and direct conservation policy at the federal level. Jim was a lawyer and a lobbyist who often worked for people and interests that disliked unions, but that didn’t deter him for a second; he welcomed the unions with open arms.

More unions joined the TRCP, and Bill Hite, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Tom Buffenbarger, President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, accepted positions on TRCP’s board. None of this would have happened were it not for a chance meeting and people like Steve Kelly, Bill Hite, Tom Buffenbarger and Jim Range, who chose to grasp the opportunity before them.

Sadly, TRCP, the unions and America’s sportsmen and women lost one of their finest champions and most effective strategists in January 2009 when Jim Range died unexpectedly. After the initial shock of losing Jim, it was time to reassess the situation and decide on a course of action.

A year after Jim’s death, the USA decided it was time to leave the nest and strike out on its own. It took from its mentors and friends at TRCP a strong conservation work ethic and a desire to combine it with the strength and experience of the unions.

The USA was born out of a chance meeting, the vision of a handful of charismatic leaders and the support of thousands of union members. With a growing membership, a new TV show in the works, an expanding events schedule, a magazine, conservation program and a new logo, the USA is off to the races. I, for one, can’t wait to see what comes next.

Fred Myers
Executive Director, Union Sportsmen’s Alliance
Boilermaker Tim Smith gets a feel for the Triton boat he won in the USA’s Triton Boat Giveaway.

USA Member Wins Triton Boat

*Prize Package Included a Day of Fishing With Founder Earl Bentz to Boot*

**By Kate Cywinski**

Tim Smith, a superintendent with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 13 in Bangor, Pennsylvania, shuffled an application for the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance around his desk for a year before mailing it. Though he took his time to join the USA, it took no time at all for his membership to pay off. About six months after joining, he received a call from the USA and was told he won a brand new U.S.-made Triton TR-18 bass boat with a union-made Mercury engine worth more than $22,000.

Skeptical, Tim waited for the “but” or the “ask,” but it never came. Slowly, his skepticism gave way to excitement, and he was surprised again when he received a call from Boilermaker’s International President Newton Jones to congratulate him.

Once or twice a year, Tim heads to Canada to fish for northern pike, muskie and walleye, but in Pennsylvania, he fishes primarily for bass. And as part of his Triton boat prize package, he received an all-expenses paid trip to Tennessee to spend a day bass fishing with Triton founder and CEO Earl Bentz on his private lake.

“He was more than what I expected,” Tim said. “You could talk with him about anything – he’s a very knowledgeable person.”

Tim’s lucky streak continued when he arrived in Tennessee to perfect weather. The temperature was mild with blue skies and a little breeze as they reeled in some nice bass, including the six-pounder Tim landed.

“Even the little ones put up a good fight,” Tim said. “We saw a bald eagle flying around one end of the lake and some turkeys and deer. We couldn’t ask for a better day.”

Union fisherman not as lucky as Tim can take advantage of a special offer from Triton. Bentz, a former race boat driver, is as patriotic as he is competitive, and he recognizes the loyalty of his union customers and the sacrifices they’ve made to keep jobs in America. As a special thank you, Triton is working on a 2011 offer that will sweeten the deal for any union member who purchases a Triton boat. Details will be announced next spring.

“Mr. Bentz went above and beyond to not only donate a boat but to also take a day out of his busy schedule to spend on the water with one of our members,” said USA Deputy Director Mike d’Oliveira. “Partners like Triton Boats bring great value to the USA, and we look forward to our continued relationship.”
USA Unveils New Logo

Last spring, the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance cast a new line to become a stand-alone, non-profit organization. This fall, we've landed a new logo. And just as patience can pay off when fishing, we think it has paid off with our new logo – we hope you like it as much as we do!

After establishing our mission of expanding and improving hunting and fishing access and habitat for all, now and in the future, the next step was to develop a logo to embody the outdoor interests of USA members and their desire to protect the places where they spend time hunting and fishing.

While it would take a logo the size of a billboard to incorporate every species of game and fish union sportsmen and women pursue, we know that a majority of our members hunt big game, particularly whitetail, and fish freshwater species, especially bass. Many of our members also enjoy waterfowl hunting. So we incorporated a buck, a bass and a duck in our new logo.

We also know that USA members are concerned about access. In fact, 89% of respondents in a recent USA member survey said they are “very concerned” with the loss of quality places to hunt and fish. Protecting, improving and creating access and habitat are at the core of the USA and the heart of our new Boots on the Ground program, which utilizes the diverse skills of union member volunteers to tackle conservation projects in desperate need of manpower.

With that in mind, we chose a circular design and a color scheme for the new logo to represent the earth and the woods and the water that we strive to protect.

The history of the union movement shows just how much working men and women can accomplish when they stand together to fight for a cause. We chose to encircle the images of the wildlife, woods and water with the words “Union Sportsmen’s Alliance” because, together and unified, USA members can help preserve the hunting and fishing traditions that we all hold dear and ensure that habitat, wildlife and access are there for generations to come.

The USA and Chevy Team Up for Sweet Gobbler Package

With turkey on everyone’s mind this holiday season, the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance and Chevrolet are teaming up with the National Wild Turkey Federation to send one lucky union member on a 2011 guided turkey hunt on a 160,000 acre ranch in New Mexico. Thirty-one additional union members will win fantastic secondary prizes.

The grand prize, worth $4,000, will include airfare, ground transportation, accommodations and meals for the winner and a non-hunting guest along with a 2-day guided hunt in one of the premier hunting destinations in Northeastern New Mexico. And our friends at Cabela’s and Ol’ Tom Technical Wear are topping off the package with a $250 gift certificate and a complete turkey gear package worth $250.

Those not drawn for the dream turkey hunt have additional chances to get geared up for the spring turkey season. Five first prize winners will receive a $100 Cabela’s gift card, one second prize winner will receive an Ol’ Tom Time & Motion vest valued at $85, and 25 winners will receive a Chevy camouflage hat valued at $20.

There is no cost to enter, and the promotion is available to all eligible AFL-CIO members. To learn more about the promotion and for the full rules, visit www.unionsportsmen.org. USA members are not automatically entered to win.

USA Partners with Sportsman Channel

Beginning in July 2011, Sportsman Channel, the leader in outdoor TV for the American Sportsman, will become the exclusive home of USA's Brotherhood Outdoors, a series that celebrates union sportsmen who work hard building America and are passionate about hunting, fishing and preserving our outdoor heritage for generations to come.

The Brotherhood Outdoors series offers union members the chance to either join host Tom Ackerman for an outfitted hunting or fishing trip or invite him to participate in their local outdoor pursuit. Viewers will get to spend a day in the life of the union guests to learn why their union backgrounds and their outdoor lifestyles are so important to them. The USA is actively seeking union members to participate in Brotherhood Outdoors. You can apply to be a guest of the show at www.unionsportsmen.org/brotherhoodtv.

Sportsman Channel is just one component of InterMedia Outdoors (IMO), the largest outdoor media group in America. Other areas of their extensive communications network include national and regional magazines, websites, on-demand, radio shows, social media and sportsmen's events. This powerful combination of assets represents much more than just a television network to the USA.

"InterMedia Outdoors is extremely excited about this multimedia partnership with the Union Sportsmen's Alliance," said InterMedia Outdoors CEO Jeff Paro.

"It is beyond just extending exposure to USA in our magazines and on our digital platforms; it's working together to push and advance conservation awareness and efforts to ensure our outdoor access, habitat and heritage. "We are honored to begin working with USA in a partnership that goes above and beyond anything in the outdoor media category," said Gavin Harvey, CEO of Sportsman Channel.

Ullico & UIG Become USA National Sponsors

The USA magazine, giveaways, shoots, dinners and conservation efforts—none of it would be possible without the support of our loyal union and corporate partners who recognize how important our outdoor heritage is to so many union members. So we are very proud to welcome Union Labor Life Insurance Company (ULLICO) and UNION Insurance Group (UIG) as two of the USA's newest national sponsors. Both companies have a long history in the union movement and are committed to serving the specific needs of union members.

ULLICO was formed by labor leaders in 1927 to provide financial security to union members and their families. At the time, life insurance was not available and workers could see a lifetime of hard work wiped away in an instant. ULLICO created a new level of stability for workers, increasing the standard of living for millions of Americans.

Eighty years later, the company brings a renewed sense of purpose and financial responsibility to its mission, recognizing that unions and union employers are integral parts of the workplace and must be able to compete with non-union employers to succeed. Like the unions it serves, ULLICO applies a solid work ethic to the insurance and investments business to provide the best possible coverage and help build the future for the people who make America work.

UIG is equally committed to labor, as the only 100% organized property and casualty insurance agency in the country. They provide business insurance specifically designed to meet the unique needs of labor organizations and their members with collective buying power to provide significant savings on premiums, while enhancing coverage.

UIG’s exclusive labor organization commercial insurance program is the only one of its kind to support capital stewardship by guaranteeing your right to hire a union contractor in the event of a claim. By doing so, they put millions of dollars back into the labor community and add thousands of man hours of union work.

"UIG and ULLICO share union values both on and away from the workplace, which is further demonstrated by their commitment to support the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance," said USA Executive Director Fred Myers. "We are thrilled that these highly respected corporations have stepped up to the plate and hope many other union-centric companies follow their lead to help the USA extend union member benefits beyond the workplace while preserving our outdoor heritage for future generations."
Give the Gift of a Union Sportsmen’s Alliance Membership

Whether you’re ready or not, it comes every year toward the end of big game season—the holidays. And if you’re like many sportsmen, you’d rather sit in the woods until your fingers and face go numb than set foot in a shopping mall near Christmas.

So forget big crowds and the hassle of figuring out what to get the hunter of fisherman on your list - give the gift that keeps giving through every fish and game season - the gift of a USA membership.

With a free Buck knife, an outdoor magazine, four issue of the USA journal, a Beretta gift certificate, an online mapping subscription and a whole lot more, you’re giving a gift worth more than $130 for a price of just $25! Plus, your gift is helping get the USA’s new Boots on the Ground program up and running to expand and improve hunting and fishing access and habitat for all, now and in the future.

Whether you’re looking for the perfect present for the sportsman or woman in your life or need to let someone know what you’d like to see under the tree this year, a USA membership is the perfect, hassle-free gift that’s jam-packed with value.

To order a gift membership: Call 1-877-872-2211 (toll-free) or visit: www.unionsportsmen.org/gift
John Sferazo, a retired Local 361 Ironworker from Brooklyn, N.Y., was a first responder in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy. Working amidst the devastation alongside firefighters, police officers, reservists, national guardsmen and fellow union members, Sferazo suffered psychological and physical afflictions, including the loss of much of his breathing.

But adversity has not slowed Sferazo. Instead it spurred his personal mission to secure medical compensation for the men and women who risked their health and safety after 9/11 and to create the number one rated wildlife improvement program in Maine, which he has opened to disabled veterans and responders for hunting.

“As an Ironworker who has worked in any kind of inclement weather doing the work nobody else wants to do—going up hundreds of feet in the air attached to some imaginary sky hook—why would I ever give up when 37% of my breathing has been taken from me?” Sferazo said.

The year before the twin towers fell, Sferazo purchased a parcel of land in Maine known as Owen’s Marsh. A former asphalt plant, the site had gone through some reclamation that included the construction of a dam, which created a deep water marsh. Just five weeks after Sferazo purchased the property, the dam breached, releasing 73 acres or a “wall of water” as described by a newspaper delivery man who scarcely avoided the rushing water.

“I can’t explain the amount of waterfowl—ducks, herons, egrets—that were utilizing this body of water,” Sferazo said. “So the breach ripped my heart out. The reason I purchased the property went down the highway, more or less.”

Thus began Sferazo’s work reclaiming the site to create prime habitat for a diversity of wildlife. Because the topsoil had been washed away, he first worked with his contacts at the State University of New York to secure organic matter. Sferazo then began planting fauna that only exists today in small pockets of Maine, such as Swamp White Oak and the American Chestnut, which provide a good...
USA’s Boots on the Ground is Rolling On
Projects are in the works from Alaska to Nevada to Michigan

The USA’s Boots on the Ground (BOTG) program is just getting started, but we have several potential projects lining up, in addition to the Wisconsin deer trap construction you read about in the last issue.

In Maine, the BOTG program will support retired Ironworker John Sferazo’s efforts to create a 2,300 acre memorial forest for handicapped first responders and veterans to use for recreation and hunting. Volunteers from the Operating Engineers, Ironworkers and others will help build roads, bridges and trails.

The South Dakota State AFL-CIO executive board met with members of the state Game, Fish and Parks Department in October and agreed to plan one or more BOTG projects, which could include Walk-In access signage replacement, boat ramp and access construction at a central S.D. lake and young evergreen tree thinning in the Black Hills.

Unions in Alaska, led by the Anchorage Building and Construction Trades Council, are planning a fundraising dinner for BOTG in early 2011. By that time, we will have one or two volunteer projects approved in Alaska. One may involve repairing remote access cabins operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

In addition, we are talking to the Nevada Department of Wildlife about building and repairing desert wildlife watering systems and to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources about upgrading park facilities around the state.

We are in discussion with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs about helping renovate a youth outdoor camp, and we may assist the National Park Service with waterway and trail projects along the Mississippi River corridor.

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At first, I figured a guy on the next ridge had spooked the jittery doe that dashed past my stand, but then I questioned the doe's motives. Was something more happening here? I readied my .270 just as the 9-pointer prowled forth, grunting with his nose to the ground. Easy shot.

That would have been your classic rut hunt, except for one thing. I killed that gnarly buck on a cold day in mid-December, a month after the breeding season had peaked in Virginia.

Understanding the December Rut

Many hunters think the rut is cut and dry and confined to two or three weeks in mid-November, but it's not. There is more "trickle breeding" going on into early December than you might think.

Bucks cannot possibly impregnate all does during the main November rut, especially in places where the sex ratio is out of whack—say one mature buck for five or more does. Does missed by the bucks enter a second estrus cycle in mid-December some 24 to 28 days after the peak rut.

Contribution to the "late" or "second" rut is the puberty of doe fawns. In regions where food is abundant and nutritious (i.e., Midwest farm country) some 6- and 7-month-old does may be ready to breed in December.

When all those recycling does and fawns begin swirling a second wave of estrus scent, the woods will once again erupt with wild-eyed, tongue-lolling bucks, right? Wrong. As compared to the frat-party atmosphere of the main rut, the late show is like a black-tie affair. Males and females commingle but in a more subdued manner. Heck, many years you won't see any visual signs of late-rutting activity. But it's happening.

Go Back to Scrapes

Check the biggest, most active scrapes you found in late October and November. Some bucks re-check and hang around scrapes where they hooked up with hotties in the first rut.

But now work a key ingredient—cover—into your strategy. Any big deer that survived a hail of arrows and bullets will reactivate scrapes located in or around thick security cover. Don't hunt over the scrapes per se, but hang a stand and watch the edges of thick cover where you might catch a buck prowling around scrapes.

Hang with One Doe

In December in Kansas, Jim Riley spotted a doe being dogged by three bucks, but the brush was too thick for a shot. Jim returned the next morning. The doe came back, followed by five bucks though none were shooters. Jim hung tough in the stand and, on the third morning, the doe was back with only one buck. Jim nailed the giant 8-pointer.

The lesson: In December, just one hot

Just as hunters rely on camouflage in the duck blind or woods, anglers are acquiring a camouflage of their own—and it starts with the most basic piece of equipment every angler must own—the Ardent reel.

Ardent, the only manufacturer of Made-in-the-USA freshwater fishing reels and accessories, has a new look and feel known as Fishouflage™. The award-winning reel manufacturer recently adopted the modern 3-D camouflage patterns with species-specific habitat settings to give their reels a “real” outdoor identity.

The habitat settings incorporate bass, walleye, crappie and musky fish “hidden” within the design of their natural habitat. Presently Ardent offers the Bassouflage™ pattern for the C400 casting reel, the F500 Flip-N-Pitch™ reel and the S2000 and S2500 spinning reels. Ardent also offers the Walleyeflage™ pattern for the C400, the S2000 and the S2500 reels.

“We are pleased to be the exclusive casting and flipping reel manufacturer for Fishouflage™,” said Ardent President and CEO Michael J. Brooks. “For a growing number of anglers, Ardent is the reel of choice for performance and innovation, and the inclusion of Fishouflage™ reels to our line-up is yet another example of Ardent’s commitment to provide anglers with state-of-the-art equipment.”

Ardent reels with Fishouflage™ are familiar in feel but unique in design, created not to hide anything but to make things more obvious. So many anglers fall back on hunting camouflage to be identified with the outdoors. However, those patterns don’t suit the true environment of an angler. With Ardent’s new line of Fishouflage™ reels, there’s no mistaking the identity of an angler who is out to hunt fish.
Alaska Hunter Survives Triple Bear Attack

UA Local 262 Business Manager Max Mielke fortunate to make it through ordeal

By Jim Shine, Jr., edited by Tammy Randolph (USA)

He wakes suddenly. Sitting straight up in bed sweating, his heart pounds as he gasps for air. Max narrowly escapes the beast, a monster with razor sharp claws and a lust for devouring its prey. This time it's just a dream, one of many. But what happened to Max Mielke, the Business Manager and Financial Secretary of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 262, on November 8, 1998, will forever remain a nightmare.

With winter approaching, the weather in Alaska was changing rapidly, a clear sign that it was that time of year again—deer season. Max and his hunting buddies, including his nephew and brother-in-law, headed to Max's cabin on Admiralty Island off the coast of Southeast Alaska.

As soon as they unpacked their extra gear at the cabin, Max, his nephew and brother-in-law headed to the beach where they quickly picked up a set of deer tracks in the sand. They followed them into the timber and split up with Max heading north towards the base of a mountain.

He didn't go far before he spotted a big, beautiful forked-horn deer. He aimed, calmly squeezed the trigger and watched it fall to the ground. He quickly field dressed the deer and began the arduous task of dragging it out of the woods.

He took a breather in the meadow, where the wind obscured the noises around him. When he got up, he was overcome with the feeling that he should look behind him. Dragging the deer with his right hand and carrying his rifle in his left, he turned.

He saw something big and blurry not 25 feet away and knew instantly what it is. Moving with raging speed, the bear was on him in an instant.

The force of the collision sent Max flying down the hill, but before he hit the ground, the bear grabbed him by his back and thrashed him like a rag doll. Max was frantic but knew he must protect his vital organs, so he struggled to stay on his stomach.

While Max screamed for help, the bear tore at the flesh only inches from his spinal cord. Even in the midst of the attack, Max couldn’t believe it was happening. As the bear threw him down, Max watched his rifle go flying. When the mauling finally ended, Max played dead but peeked around for the rifle he would need if the bear returned.

After what seemed an eternity, Max crawled towards the rifle, grabbed it and looked up in horror to find the mountain of fur standing on his hind legs, roaring. Placing the rifle under the bear's chin, he pulled the trigger, but his rifle failed. The bear pushed down on Max's back, tossed him around and ripped at his shoulder with razor sharp claws. Finally, the bear bored of the game, so again Max played dead, thinking about his kids and wondering if he'd make it out alive. Suddenly, he remembered the VHF.
radio and fire department pager in his pocket. He turned on the radio and felt a glint of hope which turned instantly to terror when the bear, triggered by the human voices, headed for him. He attacked with renewed force, hitting Max from behind, burying his face in the ground and chewing on his head. Max blacked out to the sound of crunching bones.

Amazingly, Max woke up and attempted to make it to the cabin, but he was hurt too badly to make it far. Again he pulled out the radio and called for help. A nearby fisherman heard his call and contacted a local charter flight company, which in turn, notified emergency personnel. Covered from head to toe in blood and shaking uncontrollably, Max was rescued and transported to the hospital where he spent the next eight days.

Surgeons spent two and a half hours sewing 49 puncture wounds from the bear's teeth, including 13 that were so deep they had to be inserted to drain the fluids. In all, Max's surgery required more than 200 stitches, but somehow, he didn't have any life threatening injuries.

While being attacked, Max fought back with his knowledge of the outdoors and an overwhelming determination to live. He made a full recovery and still loves with hisSCUBA diving skills.

Late season deer calling can work. Deer are focused on eating, so find the main food source and the staging area where bucks are entering it. Contact grunt once or twice every 15 to 20 min. in the staging area, so the buck thinks others are heading in to feed.

- Rod Madison, IAM 1833

To prepare your dog for the pit or layout blind, take him to a park with ducks and geese. Throw popcorn on the ground and work on keeping your pup still as the birds come flying and walking in. – Randy Hill, IUOE Local 150

All squirrel hunters probably have a forgotten squirrel buried deep in their freezers. Old squirrel meat makes great catfish bait. Instead of throwing out last year's game, cut it into medium-size chunks and head to the lake. The catfish go nuts.

- Greg Porter, UA Local 440

Don’t have your kids pack your hunting gear or you may end up walking around the woods with two left boots. – Bob Long, IUPAT Local 826

Knife Maintenance Tip:

When sharpening a knife on a stone, hold the proper edge angle consistently and make sure your strokes are cutting into the stone. Train yourself to maintain the correct edge angle; use a black felt pen to blacken the bevel of the edge on the blade (ground angle that creates sharp edge). Take a pass or two on the stone and look at the knife blade to ensure the strokes are uniformly removing the ink from along the entire length of the bevel of the edge. Recolor and keep trying until you achieve the correct edge angle.

Send your camo calamity story to: USAmembers@unionsportsmen.org.

T
ommah Jefferson once said, “I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.” Most people wouldn’t consider themselves lucky to dig their Suburban out of 3-foot snowdrifts in freezing winds, but we couldn’t have asked for better luck during our do-it-yourself Kansas pheasant hunt.

Three a.m. came early Monday, Dec. 7; I didn’t sleep a wink. Part of the problem was the weather forecast for Central Kansas—snow, and lots of it. As much as I love hunting, I really love hunting in the snow.

Planning a Great Plains pheasant hunt requires attention to detail, since the weather in December can vary drastically. The harder you work (plan), the more luck you’ll have. In this case, bringing the right equipment for the conditions was key not only to our success but to simply being able to hunt.

Vinnie’s house was dark when I pulled in but, as firemen, we’re used to getting out the door quickly. While we loaded his gear, he noticed I had packed a grain shovel.

“In all the years we’ve hunted in Kansas, I never brought a shovel,” he said.

This was his polite way of telling me I over packed, but he entertained me and threw it in. Then we headed to the firehouse to pick up the third member of our party, Glenn. This would be my first pheasant hunt in real pheasant country. The wild pheasant population has declined in Northern Illinois since changes in agricultural practices removed much of the pastureland and fencerows. Kansas has the habitat pheasants need, and the population shows it.

We were on the road by 0500, and the 10 hours passed quickly as we tracked our route in the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks 2009 Fall Hunting Atlas. This publication shows the location of public land available to hunt. Most of the pages are covered with yellow blocks of land indicating WIHA, Walk in Hunting Areas.

The snow hadn’t begun to fall when we settled into our motel that evening and searched for The Weather Channel. They predicted 8-12 inches overnight with an additional 2-4 on Tuesday. The temperature was to be on a steady decline coupled by a wind chill below zero. The forecast was unusually accurate.

Traveling became more difficult, but our desire to push on was fueled by our success in the field. Due to the deep snow, pheasants were holding tight in any bit of cover above snow level. They rose in intervals reminiscent of popcorn kernels. We picked out a rooster, marked where it fell and watched as more birds rose in all directions.

Our Wednesday plans were slowed by a frozen starter on the Suburban. Its undercarriage was packed with snow that froze into a solid mass of ice. Luckily, there was a garage nearby with a heated wash bay and a friendly owner. Forty-five minutes of 190 degree, high pressure water had us back in service.

We packed plenty of water and food and headed out with our phones fully charged in case of trouble. The well-traveled highways were relatively clear, but the side roads—where the pheasants would be—were another story. Powdery snow created large drifts in the ditches and across fencerows making movement more time consuming.

Several times, the Suburban rode up on a snow drift, and we deployed the shovel, but one drift took a bit longer to dig out of. A local stopped to help but couldn’t get close enough to reach us with his 20 ft. chain. He offered to drive around the block, which would take 15 minutes in good conditions, and come in from behind. We were sure we could dig ourselves out more quickly, but he took it as a challenge.

Just as we were finishing, we saw him appear over the hill behind us only to get stuck in the same spot we just dug out of. This time, we were able to back in close enough to hook the chain up and pull him out.

Wednesday ended with tired hunters and a tired dog but a full bag of 12 pheasants and a few quail. Pheasants that fell were nearly impossible to see until we located the tell-tale hole where they had fallen into the snow. Retrieving was more difficult, but cripples weren’t able to run. On Thursday morning, we decided to call it a successful trip and head home.

A bit of planning can provide a successful “on your own” Kansas pheasant hunt for minimal costs. The adventure is ready for the making.
“You gonna set the hook on those fish, Beau?” Eric Stroup asked me sternly. Stroup, author of Common Sense Fly-Fishing (www.sprucecreekflyco.com), had asked me to fish Spring Creek in central Pennsylvania, a stream famous for its brown trout. We’d already changed locations twice, going farther upstream each time, and still the browns weren’t eager to cooperate.

“What fish?” I asked incredulously.

“Well, for starters,” Stroup replied patiently, “the one that’s hit your line at least twice since we’ve been fishing here the past few minutes.”

We’d cast a few dries downstream and a small BWO hatch began to lift off the water. Unfortunately, I’d been unsuccessful at my dry fly attempts but had managed to sting one pretty well. Stroup had suggested we try nymphing, and I’d been casting along a likely looking bank with a nice set of riffles. I saw a tiny twitch with my leader and set the hook—and came up with nothing for my trouble. Again with the hits and again with the goose eggs.

Fishing for brown trout in the fall, even with the help of a guide as adept as Eric Stroup, can be tough, but it’s also rewarding. Though browns are not generally known for vicious strikes during the day, fall weather patterns are more to their liking. Like most trout, browns start out feasting on tiny aquatic insects. They move on to small fish as they mature and their caloric intake increases. Like teenage boys with their heads stuck perpetually in the refrigerator, growing brown trout yearn for the filling meal. These guys really put on the feedbag as winter approaches, so targeting them in the fall might earn you the largest catch of the season.

I approach fall browns in one of three ways. First, I cast dry flies. They’re fun, of course, because I get to watch the take, when there is a take. But as brown trout are notoriously shy, one must try something new when dry flies aren’t working.

Next, I try nymphing, which is what Stroup and I were doing on Spring Creek. Nymphing can bring home the bacon, but you must control your line. Keep as much slack out of the line as possible or you’ll miss subtle strikes. Trout can sip a fly in and spit it out again in mere seconds, so you need a relatively tight line to feel and respond to the slightest twitch in time.

Finally, I reach for the large streamers. I admit that chucking big streamers along shorelines and good structure like rocks and logs requires a lot of patience because you may go for long stretches without a nibble. What’s the upside? Browns that hit streamers are generally much older and, therefore, much larger. The hook-jawed browns you see on the cover of fly fishing magazines are almost always caught on streamers.

Fall fishing tackle begins fairly close to home; being comfortable means you’ll stay long enough on the water to discover what the fish are hitting. So wear warm clothes, breathable waders and warm, wicking socks. Cold feet have probably ruined more fall trout fishing trips than tight-lipped trout ever have. Take along a good wading staff to prevent the unintended swim. Should you take a spill anyway, you’ll wish you had packed a spare set of clothes in the car. Go ahead and pack a bag now, so you don’t forget later. I’ll wait.

Aside from your personal outfit, give some thought to your gear. Most anglers use 4- to 6-weight rods in the 8½- to 9-foot range and floating fly lines, though sink-tip lines will work if the water is deep or has significant current. Patterns can range from standards like Barr’s Copper Johns and Coburn’s Cress Bugs in sizes No. 16-20 to large streamers like Clouser Minnows or standard crayfish patterns that can easily reach No. 2. Finally, effective fall surface patterns include terrestrials like hoppers and crickets in sizes No. 6-10 as well as old reliables like Blue Wing Olives and stimulators in No. 14-18.

Load up that fly box with a variety of patterns so you’re prepared no matter what your quarry is after that day. After all, if those wily fall browns skunk you, you’ll have to explain to your spouse that you packed an overnight case for a day trip and spent nearly $10 per foot on specialty socks—and landed nothing to show for it.

Beau Beasley (www.beaubeasly.com) is a career captain with Fairfax Country Fire and Rescue Department and a member of Local 2068. His second book, Fly Fishing the Mid-Atlantic: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters, will be released January 2011.

USA
Made in the U. S. A.

Flambeau T4 Multiloader

A fisherman without a tackle box is like a pipefitter without pipe, a fireman without a hose, a painter without a brush. Tackle boxes house the key ingredients to landing that next lunker, and that makes them pretty darn important. So you need one that is durable, efficient and easily portable. You can find all those qualities and more in Flambeau’s new T4 Multiloader – the biggest little tackle box on the market. The T4 features (2) 3003 and (1) 1002 front-loading Tuff Trainer compartmented boxes and (2) 4007 top-loading Tuff Trainers. All include Zerust rust inhibitor dividers to protect your gear in both fresh and saltwater environments. The main cavity of the box provides plenty of space for your large tackle, and four external line-dispensing ports make spooling-up a breeze. A see-through, impact-resistant lid caps off this latest design in tackle storage. Just like your tools at work, the T4 Multiloader is built to get the job done.

www.FlambeauOutdoors.com

Field Logic IQ Bowsight

Made in Superior, Wisconsin, Field Logic’s revolutionary IQ Bowsight will make you a superior shooter – with or without a peep sight. While we all strive for consistency when shooting, there’s more to accuracy than properly placed pins. Something as simple as changing grip pressure can cause bow hand torque, while bulky clothes, cold weather or adrenaline can alter your anchor point. The IQ combats all that with its Retina Lock Alignment Technology, which automatically alerts you to a flaw in form before you release your arrow. What makes the IQ unique is the small lens in the top of the sight housing. Fiber optics illuminate a green dot inside this lens, and you just center the dot behind a small black dot on the lens itself. If you move your anchor point or torque the bow, the dot moves out of alignment. And since just a quarter inch of left or right bow torque or high or low anchoring will put you five inches off target at 20 yards, that feedback can make all the difference.

www.iqbowsight.com

Ruger M77 Rifles

Just when you think you’ve found the perfect gun, it gets better. This year, Ruger introduced its M77 Hawkeye bolt-action rifles—a refinement of the popular Ruger M77 Mark II rifles. New features include the smooth and crisp Ruger LC6 trigger for improved out-of-the-box trigger pull and a new red rubber recoil pad that provides more effective recoil reduction. The design of the steel floorplate provides easy unloading and eliminates accidental “dumping” of ammunition. There are several models available including a standard version with Hawkeye matte blued barrel and receiver and a newly designed, slimmer walnut stock with wrap-around cut checkering on the forearm and more rounded contours on the bottom of the stock and top of the pistol grips. Those looking to lighten the load should look at the Ruger M77 Hawkeye Compact rifle, while those chasing big game may find the Ruger African and Alaskan rifles more appealing. And if you purchase a new, Ruger bolt-action rifle by December 31, 2010, you will get a free Ruger-branded Carhartt® jacket. You can get a redemption coupon at your local firearm retailer.

www.ruger.com

www.FieldLogicIQBowsight.com
The Inferno by Team FowlFighters & Lynch Mob Calls

This waterfowl season, you can hunt with the brotherhood using a new call designed by George Lynch of Lynch Mob Calls and Team FowlFighters, seven IAFF Local 1101 fire fighters with a passion for waterfowling. Fittingly named the Inferno, this call features X-Factor guts to heat things up in the field or on stage. The X-Factor and this call is a culmination of everything George has done in his years of hunting, guiding and making calls. The insert has a tighter bore dimension that tapers quickly allowing more back pressure for great low end, sharp clucks and extreme volume when needed. And because it blows easier than most short reed goose calls on the market, even novice callers can get enviable speed. Not only is the call easy to use – it’s also consistent. This is neither a big call nor small call, it’s a one-call-does-all. The Inferno is sold directly through www.FowlFighters.com. If the Inferno look isn’t your style, you can order its brother model, the Law Maker, at www.lynchmobcallsinc.com.

Practice is Key to Successful Shooting from a Layout Blind

By Brett Graham, IAM 839, Owner of Liberty Chesapeakes

Goose hunting equipment has changed a lot since I began hunting waterfowl 25 years ago. One of the biggest changes has been the advent of the layout blind. Layout blinds allow you to move to any field the geese are feeding in, while staying concealed. But some hunters have a very hard time shooting from them. This is understandable as there’s a lot going on.

The trick to shooting successfully from a layout blind is practice. Whether or not you own your own layout blind, you can work on the techniques needed to be successful with these exercises.

If using a full frame blind, stack pillows on your living room floor and lay back on them with your shoulders 16” to 20” off the floor. Lay your empty shotgun on a pillow or two between your knees (at the same height as the one you are laying on). Lay back and practice raising yourself up using only your core muscles, while you raise your gun in your hands. At the same time, keep your eyes fixed on a spot on the wall that represents the “bird” you plan to shoot.

If using a blind without doors, do the same thing except lay your empty shotgun on the floor next to you with the barrel lying across your leg and the muzzle several inches beyond your feet.

Practice these techniques slowly, focusing on your gun mount. It may feel awkward at first, so repeat the process until you’re comfortable. Then work on your swing by tracking the barrel at the point where the ceiling and the wall meet, keeping the bead of your gun right in the place where they join, which will help you with any crossing shots. To practice shooting rising or descending birds, use the corner of your living room and swing your gun up and down from this position.

Don’t worry about opening the doors on the full frame blinds as your shoulders will do it for you. As for blinds with a lid, right-handed shooters should use their left hand to open it while reaching for the gun and left-handed shooters should use their right to open it.

If you have a place where you can shoot trap, I recommend you practice shooting from your blind or at least from a layout position, if you don’t own a blind.

These techniques will improve your shooting dramatically. Focus on being smooth when you practice, and speed will follow.
Like so many of us, Kinsey Robinson, President of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, began fishing, shooting and hunting by tagging along with his dad. He progressed from a bb gun to a .22 at age seven or eight and then to a bolt action .410 before getting his first real bird gun, a 20-gauge pump, when he was 12-years-old.

He took to it all like a duck to water and remembers the days of hunting wild pheasants in the Palouse Hills near Spokane, Washington, with his father and grandfather as pure heaven. His father, now 88, shot his last pheasant at age 85; may we all be so lucky.

Years later, when Kinsey began dating his better half, Mona, they spent weekends in Spokane, where Kinsey would sometimes disappear for an entire day with his bird hunting buddies. Mona told him in no uncertain terms that she wasn’t going to sit around all day waiting for him to return, even if it meant learning how to use a shotgun. The die was cast and, before long, Mona was busting clay birds with unsettling regularity. It didn’t take Kinsey long to realize he’d found his life partner and someone who shared his passion for hunting, shooting and the outdoors.

Both Kinsey and Mona Robinson are serious and competitive sporting clays shooters, having won numerous competitions and awards. Kinsey regularly breaks 90-plus, and Mona averages in the mid-80’s on sporting clays courses across the country. They are strong supporters of the shooting sports, and Kinsey sits on the board of USA Shooting, which has a mission to prepare American athletes to win Olympic and Paralympic medals, promote the shooting sports throughout the U.S., and govern the conduct of international shooting in the country.

Not content with just serving on the board, Kinsey has been a big part of USA Shooting’s Bunker Club and helped raise funds to rebuild the bunkers at the Fort Carson, Colorado shooting facility. For those not familiar, bunkers are to regular trap what a Ferrari is to a Ford Taurus. Clay targets emerging from a bunker travel approximately 50% faster than at your local trap range.

But Mona and Kinsey are more than just shooters; they have traveled the world in pursuit of game birds, big game and dangerous game. Argentina and Africa are two of their favorite destinations outside the United States. Each has taken the Dark Continent’s Cape buffalo, commonly referred to as black death, as well as many species of plains game like kudu and impala.

Knowing that thousands of members of the Roofer’s Union share their passion for hunting and shooting, Kinsey and Mona have been big supporters of the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance from its earliest beginnings. Kinsey played a major role in founding the USA and now serves on the USA Board of Directors.

This modern version of Doc Carver and Annie Oakley, noted shooters from the golden age of exhibition shooting, are true friends to all of us who love to hunt and shoot—especially to members of the USA and young competitors training to represent the U.S. in Olympic shooting events. You’ll not meet a nicer or more dedicated couple, but beware if you meet them at a clays competition.

Though Kinsey has been around the world and back pursing big game and small, his favorite hunting remains wild pheasants in the Palouse Hills. You can take a boy out of the Palouse Hills and send him to the Roofer’s Union offices in Washington D.C., but you can’t take the Palouse Hills and wild pheasants of Eastern Washington state out of the boy.
Big Water, Big Diver Action

There's something special about these waterfowl.

By M.D. Johnson

I make no apologies to the mallard purists when I say there's nothing wrong with greenheads, but there's just something about divers. Perhaps it's where they live—the huge expanses of untamed water the likes of which swallowed the Edmund Fitzgerald. Or the swells near the mouth of Washington's Columbia River, where more than 2,000 broken hulls festoon the shifting sands.

Maybe it's the men—the diver-men—who epitomize waterfowling in its most traditional form. Or maybe it's the birds themselves, those brutish, brawling, big-chested avian knaves that bore into a spread with a ferocity nothing short of intimidating or just as easily ignore even the finest of hand-carved and painted creations.

It's true; I was raised a puddle duck hunter by a puddle duck hunter, cutting my 'fowling teeth during the mid 1970s on beaver swamp mallards and late-season river blacks. But over the course of the past decade, I rediscovered the art of waterfowling via the diver clan and their big-water haunts. And I've found there's quite a bit to learn when it comes to making the switch from greenheads to redheads.

The Boats and Blinds

Over the course of my diver education, I learned the boats and blinds used to hunt these species are as varied as the birds themselves. Combination boat blinds—a powered hull with a camouflaged blind constructed atop—are the more commonly-seen watercraft employed for both getting to the birds and hiding from them. Hunters gunning from layout boats—small, no-motor, low-profile skiffs such as Tony Smith's Lake Bonneville Layout Boats (lakebonnevillelayoutboats.com)—will use a second larger tender boat. It's the motorized tender's responsibility to set the layout, rig and retrieve the decoys and pick up any fallen birds.

The Decoys

Diver decoy variables, numbers, arrangements, anchors, cords, and so on, are often based primarily on location and species. However, the standard rule of thumb is big water equals big numbers, big decoys and bright colors.

Big water often presents visibility problems. That is, the birds can, due to elements such as distance or waves, have a difficult time seeing a decoy spread. Big numbers of oversize (magnum or super-magnum) decoys coupled with the eye-catching white of the drakes of species such as 'cans and bluebills, help to ensure the rig is seen.

Today, most diver-men, myself included, rig their decoys using what's known as a longline method. Each decoy is rigged with its own dropper cord. In the case of my divers, a 36-inch strand of heavy tarred cord. A large stainless steel clip called a gang clip is attached to the dropper, and is used to quickly clip each decoy to the mainline.

My mainlines consist of 90 feet of mushroom anchor, aka head weight; a second brass clip at the opposite end is used for a 1.5-pound grapple style tail weight. Once in position, I attach the head weight and drop it over while backing the boat, by current or motor, down. As I back away from the head weight, I clip individual decoys onto the mainline, usually a dozen or so per line. Then making sure I have enough line at the end to reach and hold the bottom, I snap the grapple weight and toss it over. This method allows large numbers of decoys to be set out and picked up quickly.

The Guns

For divers, I shoot the same Winchester MAXUS with a modified choke that I shoot for puddle ducks and geese. In terms of ammunition, 3-inch steel No. 1s or No. 2s are fine in most situations. High-velocity steel is even better, particularly on windy days. Better yet are any of the non-steel/non-toxics, with my favorites being 1-3/8-ounce Winchester Xtended Range No. 4s. Divers, particularly cold-water divers, are big, strong, well-feathered and heavily muscled birds, so light loads won't cut it.

The Table

Anyone who doesn't hunt divers because "divers aren't edible" hasn't had them fixed properly. As I've discovered, there are four keys to good-eating divers: (1) clean them as soon as possible after harvest, (2) remove all the fat, (3) soak the breasts or birds in saltwater or buttermilk overnight, and (4) cook them rare.
USA Green Bay Tailgate Party Packed the House

Combine good food, drinks and prizes galore—including firearms and outdoor equipment. Then throw in a bunch of union sportsmen from around Wisconsin and you have the makings for one heck of a party. Add a Monday night football game featuring the Green Bay Packers vs. the Chicago Bears on three Jumbotron screens, and we're talking something close to cheese head heaven!

The Packers didn't bring it home on September 27, but spirits were still high as more than 300 attendees cheered for their favorite team and for fellow union sportsmen and women who were drawn for fantastic prizes at the first-ever USA sportsmen's tailgate party. Each quarter and at half time, the USA drew winners for a host of outdoor gear including guns, a bow, knives, reels and more. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka joined the fun and got the crowd pumped up about the USA's new Boots on the Ground program, which was introduced at the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO convention earlier in the day.

The event was a huge success, raising nearly $20,000 to help build the USA and support its mission to expand and improve hunting and fishing access and habitat for all, now and in the future.
Our ears are still ringing from all the recent USA shoots in Northern and Southern Illinois, Kansas City and Las Vegas. But who needs to hear when you can see how much fun union members had at our events – check out these pictures!

### Kansas City
**Hosted by the Boilermakers Intl. and BBS Benefit Solutions**

![Kansas City Shoot](image)

### Las Vegas
**Hosted by the Elevator Constructors Intl.**

![Las Vegas Shoot](image)

### Northern Illinois
**Hosted by the Painters Intl.**

![Northern Illinois Shoot](image)

### Southern Illinois
**Hosted by Electrical Workers Local 702 & ULLICO**

![Southern Illinois Shoot](image)

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.unionsportsmen.org/events](http://www.unionsportsmen.org/events)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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| Dec. 3   | Northeast Ohio | Sportsmen's Dinner         | Borally's  
|          |                |                            | 27227 Chardon Rd.  
|          |                |                            | Richmond Heights, OH 44143  
|          |                |                            | Doors open at 6 p.m.  
|          |                |                            | Dinner at 7:30 p.m.  
|          |                |                            | Guest speaker:  
|          |                |                            | NFL player Joe Jurevicius |
| Dec. 11  | Southern California | Sporting Clays Shoot    | Mike Raahauge Shooting Ent.  
|          |                |                            | 14995 River Road  
|          |                |                            | Corona, CA 92880  
|          |                |                            | 7:30 a.m. registration  
|          |                |                            | 9:30 a.m. shoot |

Watch for details for the following events at: [www.unionsportsmen.org/events](http://www.unionsportsmen.org/events).

**Jan. 2011** Miami Sporting Clays Shoot  
**Feb. 2011** Houston Sporting Clays Shoot  
**March 2011** Dallas Sporting Clays Shoot

Interested in sponsoring or helping organize a USA event near you, contact the USA Regional Coordinator in your area:

- **Atlantic Flyway** - Randy Mayhew  
  410-757-2529 • 618-407-4823  
  randym@unionsportsmen.org

- **Mississippi Flyway** - Nate Whiteman  
  440-867-8229 • 440-867-2732  
  natew@unionsportsmen.org

- **Central Flyway** - Jim Klatt  
  612-331-0270 • 952-221-9787  
  jimk@unionsportsmen.org

- **Pacific Flyway** - Tim Bindl  
  608-397-1023  
  timb@unionsportsmen.org

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**Finished with your USA Magazine?**

Leave it in the breakroom for others to read.
The USA Photo Contest Has Gone Weekly! Share your best shots with your brothers and sisters of the USA, and you could win a Buck knife engraved with the USA logo. Visit www.unionsportsmen.org/photos to check out additional photos and submit your own for a chance to win.

Doug Russell (IBEW 83), Mike Lutz (IBEW 966), Danny Addy (IBEW 83) and Tom Addy caught this sickle hammerhead shark while deep sea fishing in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Bruce Giese, a member of Electrical Workers Local 965 from Baraboo, WI, took this 4x4 mule deer on his property in western South Dakota in November 2009.

Chip Hutchcraft, a member of Electrical Workers Local 702 from Marion, IL, harvested this 11-point buck on private farmland in Hamilton County in November 2009.

David Sturgeon, a member of the Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Local 78 from Bardstown, KY, harvested this 10-point buck in full velvet with his bow in Kentucky.

Erick Gerritson, a member of Fire Fighters Local 400 in Fond du Lac, WI, harvested this black bear in Phillips, WI. It took 10+ years of preference points for the chance to hunt bear.

Fire Fighters Local 15 members enjoyed a great day of fishing at Grand Lake, Oklahoma. (left to right) Joe Mass, Henry Hinkel, Dave Hyde, Hank Hinkel and Dave Anderson.

Terrence Turley, a member of Electrical Workers Local 466 from Hurricane, WV, shot this 52” kudu in Limpopo, South Africa, with Motsomi Safaris.

Randle Christensen (center) of Sheet Metal Workers Local 103 enjoyed a successful Merriam’s turkey hunt in Idaho with son Shawn (left) and grandson Kyler (right).

Timothy C. Adams, a member of Railroad Signalmen Local 161, caught this 6 lb. largemouth while fishing with friends at Falcon Lake in Zapata, TX.
Liberty Moeller (8), left, and Mia Moeller (6) went fishing for the first time with their father and grandfather, Dale Broadsword of USW local 338, and were very proud of the bluegill they reeled in.

Crossword Challenge

Across:
2. Chopped fish used to attract gamefish
3. Buck sign on the ground
5. Another name for a bullet
6. Immature male turkey
7. Whitetail buck with irregular points
11. Pointing spaniel
12. Largest member of deer family
13. Fastest fish
14. Ursus arctos horribilis

Down:
1. Sound made by a bull elk
3. Anadromous fish
4. Magnifying glasses
8. Another name for a gun
9. Male pheasant
10. Type of trout fly

Congratulations to Brianna Roberts (age 13) on winning the Mossberg shotgun as part of our Kids Quiz last issue and thank you to everyone who participated!
WIN THIS HUNT!
Available to ALL Active/Retired AFL-CIO Members

Prize Package Includes:
- 2-day turkey hunt in New Mexico
- Airfare and Lodging
- $250 Cabela’s Gift Card
- $250 Ol’ Tom Gear Package

Approximate Value of $4,000

The Union Sportsmen’s Alliance and Chevy want to help you win this all-expense paid trip to hunt turkey in New Mexico. The Grand Prize winner will also receive a $250 gift certificate from Cabela’s and a $250 merchandise package from Ol’ Tom Technical Gear. Thirty-one other lucky winners will have a chance to get additional prizing and gear from Cabela’s, Ol’ Tom and Chevy.