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RHAK

Resident Hunters of Alaska

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RHAK 2nd Annual Banquet

March 24th, 2018

at the Egan Center in Anchorage

Mark it down on your calendar! RHAK will hold its 2nd Annual Banquet and fundraiser this March in Anchorage, with more raffles and auction items, as well as auction for three Governor tags (Nunivak Island Muskox, Etoilin Island Elk, & Chugach Brown Bear). We have reserved a larger room at the Egan Center and are looking forward to an even larger crowd this year and an exciting and fun night for all. Come join us!

Individual tickets are \$65. Tickets and tables can be purchased via the RHAK website residenthuntersofalaska.org



2018 ANNUAL BANQUET
A night of fun including live and silent auctions, raffles and cash bar

MARCH 24
EGAN CENTER
555 W 5th Ave, Anchorage
Doors open 5 pm • Dinner 6:30 pm

TICKETS/TABLES

Individual Ticket \$65

Silver Sponsor Table \$1,000
Table with 10 chairs, quarter-page ad in program, \$300 in raffle tickets.

Platinum Sponsor Table \$2,500
Table with 10 chairs, half-page ad in program, \$500 in raffle tickets, gun.

Vendor Table \$1,000

Bid on exciting Governor's Tags including 2018-2019 Chugach Brown Bear, Nunivak Island Muskox, and Etoilin Island Elk!

Purchase tickets and view auction items at www.residenthuntersofalaska.org
or mail payment to RHAK PO Box 60095 Fairbanks AK 99706

Click to print and display this RHAK 2018 Banquet Poster featuring Britt Larson with her first moose from Unit 20A, any bull.
http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/038ca3_6e5d51b7612a4bec9057137e300cod64.pdf

Board of Game Report

RHAK was a presence at the Statewide BOG meeting in Anchorage this past November, and we want to thank all the RHAK members who showed up to testify in support of our proposals. RHAK member Israel Payton, who is also a guide and Board of Fish member, said it best when he asked in his testimony why resident hunters continually have to work to go around guides, rather than guides and their clients having to work to go around resident hunters.

RHAK President Brad Sparks, Treasurer Rob Stone, and Secretary JR Gates gave impassioned testimony, with President Sparks stating on the record that it sure looked like the new board-generated nonresident allocation policy was drafted by the guide industry. RHAK Executive Director Mark Richards was also clearly – if perhaps overly – passionate with his testimony. (Mark will tone it down next time!)

Which brings us to a point where we must call out what is going on. Yes, we are all frustrated. We believed that we could work in good faith and respect to the process to institute change. We lobbied for one of our own to be appointed to the BOG. And we will continue to lobby for resident hunting interests for Board of Game seats, as well as support board appointees who demand we adhere to an open and by-the-books public process. But overall, right now the Chairman and Vice-Chairman completely dominate the Board of Game to the point we may as well call it the “Guide Board.”

RHAK Executive Director Mark Richards pointed out some of these issues and frustrations in a recent op-ed in the Anchorage Daily News, which we encourage you to read and pass on to others: residentshuntersofalaska.org/editorial

RHAK will attend the next Central/Southwest Board of Game meeting in Dillingham this February. We have two proposals before the board (#131 & #132) concerning expanding Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula brown bear hunting opportunities for residents. You can download the complete proposal book at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/2017-2018/proposals/csw_all.pdf

Comments on Central/Southwest proposals are due by February 2, 2018.

Legislative Report

The 2018 legislative session has just commenced, and RHAK will be there meeting with legislators and the administration on our RHAK agenda and legislation to secure a resident hunting priority. Lobbyist Frank Bickford continues to work on our behalf. Frank and Executive Director Mark Richards have a busy RHAK schedule this session. The RHAK Board of Directors will also (at their own expense) travel to Juneau during the session for a RHAK fly-in event and meeting with legislators.

The reality though is that Alaska’s current budget shortfall and disagreements among the administration and legislature – and among the Senate and House majorities – on solutions to fund state government continues to suck most of the oxygen out of the room and stymie bi-partisan cooperation. Not to mention this is an election year! RHAK strives for a bi-partisan agreement on a resident hunting and harvest priority, and our main focus is to continue to educate legislators and the administration on hunting allocation and wildlife management issues and why all Alaskans – Democrat or Republican or Independent, hunter or non-hunter – should support our mission.

Your continued support is what allows us to be a much-needed presence in Juneau. Thank you!



Collette Johnson, Afognak Bear Paw

RHAK in 2018 – Growing & Getting Stronger!

RHAK now represents over 1,400 Alaskans and their families and we continue to grow every week. We will be holding more member meetings in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas this year, so look for email updates.

RHAK will have a booth at the Great Alaska Sportsman's Show in Anchorage April 5-8 in the Sullivan Arena. We will also be at the Mat-Su Outdoor Show March 23-25, and the Fairbanks Outdoor Show April 20-22. Stop by and visit us, and if you have time, please volunteer to help us work the booth.

Our Facebook page [facebook.com/residenthuntersofalaska](https://www.facebook.com/residenthuntersofalaska) has grown and is getting lots of attention, with member photos and stories and links. A big thank you to RHAK members Brian Watkins (who is also a new RHAK board member) and Cynthia Jacobson for their time and energy making our Facebook page a huge success!



Kam St John, Kodiak deer

Proposed DNR Guide Concession Program (GCP)

For ten years now, the Board of Game has stated that there are “too many guides” on state and BLM lands and this is what is causing such high nonresident sheep harvests and crowding and conflicts and evermore restrictive drawing hunts for all. The Board continues to support a Guide Concession Program that did not pass muster with the legislature, via covert and underhanded methods designed to bypass legislative approval, in order to continue to avoid taking action to limit nonresident sheep hunters.

RHAK's position has always been that the problem is not too many guides, rather it is too many nonresident hunters who must be guided being allowed unlimited hunting opportunity by the Board of Game. Read our full statement on the GCP on the RHAK website residenthuntersofalaska.org/gcp



John Rhyshek, caribou from Alaska Peninsula

Federal Subsistence Board to consider permanent hunting closure to Central Arctic Caribou herd for non-federally qualified subsistence hunters

Once again (after it failed last year) the North Slope Regional Advisory Council (RAC) has submitted a proposal (WP 18-57) to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB), this time to permanently shut down all caribou hunting in Units 26A & 26B to non-federally qualified subsistence hunters on federal lands. RHAK will be attending the April FSB meeting in Anchorage to testify against the proposal. The new photo-census of the Central Arctic Herd shows that the population is stable. Harvest was low this past fall, and there is no biological reason to shut down hunting for non-local users. Look for future email notice on upcoming February North Slope RAC meeting, with call-in information, and how to comment to the full FSB in April.

Member Recognition

Founding Members **Lenny & Diane Jewkes** from North Pole have been volunteering to help spread the RHAK message, putting posters and sign-up sheets in locations around the interior, and in hosting member meetings at their house. They also donated airline miles last year to help with travel costs for Mark Richards. We can't thank them enough for all their help and inspiration!

RHAK member **Lucas Gamble** kindly volunteered to make room in his Anchorage garage for RHAK swag and to help mail out hats, shirts, and hoodies to new members. Lucas has also made swag runs to the Palmer fair and Anchorage events, and we can't thank him enough for his time and dedication.

And a big thank you to all the RHAK members – too many to name – who volunteered for booth shifts at the fairs this past fall. It's a great way to hone the RHAK message and meet fellow hunters. We could not have done it without you!



Lucas Gamble and son Benjamin



Diane and Lenny Jewkes

Renewals

Many of you will be receiving renewal notices via email. If you have received a notice but haven't yet renewed, please renew your annual membership at residenthuntersofalaska.org/renew

It is our membership numbers that will give us the clout we need in Juneau and elsewhere, so please renew your membership! If you are not sure when you signed up, drop Mark an email or call and he will look you up.

Volunteers & Air Miles Needed

We are always looking for volunteers to help us man our booth at shows and fairs. And if anyone has any Alaska Airline miles they wish to donate for Executive Director travel across the state, it would greatly help defray expenses. RHAK will reimburse for cost of transferring the miles. Please contact Mark Richards to get on our volunteer list or to donate air miles.

Corporate Sponsors and Business Members

Thank you to Soloy Helicopters, our newest corporate sponsor. Also thank you to Porter and Allison Inc CPAs, Roe Hard Guide Services (love the name!), and Guided Expeditions (an upcoming guide review service), our newest business members. All of these businesses are promoted in our newsletter and on our website. Write to Mark Richards for information on sponsorship levels, and please support our sponsors!

Corporate Sponsors



Business Members



GUIDED EXPEDITIONS, LLC
HOME OF
THE GUIDEX™

THE GUIDE TO GUIDES, FISHING CHARTERS, AIR TAXIS, AND OUTFITTERS. A COMPREHENSIVE SITE OF VERIFIED REVIEWS TO HELP YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT SERVICES FOR YOU! WWW.GUIDED-EXPEDITIONS.COM COMING IN EARLY 2019! EMAIL US AT ADMIN@GUIDED-EXPEDITIONS.COM TO LEAVE A REVIEW AND LEARN HOW TO GAIN FREE ACCESS TO THE SITE.



PORTER & ALLISON
INC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



**Salcha River
Property Owners
Association, Inc.**

Board Member Bio – Brian Watkins

A big welcome to our new RHAK board member Brian Watkins! Brian has been helping manage and update our Facebook page as well as organizing member meetings and events in Anchorage.

Brian was raised in a hunting family in Pennsylvania. Hunting was ingrained into his family's heritage and he decided to take it one step further. Chasing the dream of hunting and fishing in North America's greatest state, Brian made the move to Alaska from Pennsylvania with a suitcase, bow, and a rifle. His passion is do-it-yourself hunts throughout the entire state, and his latest was a tough hunt on Raspberry Island for Roosevelt elk. As you can see from his bio picture, he was successful! Brian believes it's important to give back to the state. He volunteers time and resources helping new hunters get started, advises fellow hunters on proper preparation, and believes wholeheartedly in continuing opportunities for future generations of Alaskans to hunt our vast state.

brian@residenthuntersofalaska.org



Brian Watkins

We Are Meat Hunters

Share your game meat cooking photos and recipes by emailing them to info@residenthuntersofalaska.org. Here's a link to the RHAK web page dedicated to wild game food: residenthuntersofalaska.org/recipes.



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RECIPES



Rolled Moose Rib Roast - Mark and Lori Richards

Cut moose rib meat away from each rib bone to form one large piece. Sprinkle both sides with salt, pepper, summer savory, garlic and onion. Roll tight. Tie with wide length of sinew from the back strap. Bake for approximately 2 hours. Cover with homemade highbush cranberry sauce. Serve with cabbage salad, potatoes, homemade sourdough bread, blueberry pie, and snow cream (ice cream made from snow).

Pan Roasted Rabbit or Beaver - Lori Richards

Cut rabbit or beaver into pieces with bones in and place in large heavy skillet. Add water to just about covering meat. Add 1/4 cup soy sauce, 1 teaspoon black pepper, and 1 or 2 cloves garlic diced. Cover and simmer on medium heat, stirring occasionally until water is almost gone (about 1-1/2 hours). Uncover and continue cooking on high heat several minutes until outside of meat and fat is crispy. Serve with your favorite noodle dish, garden fresh vegetables or a sprout (winter) salad.

Highbush Cranberry Sauce - Lori Richards

This makes a good glaze for wild meat, fowl, fish and even use as salad dressing. For each 4 cups high bush cranberries add 1 cup water. Place in heavy stainless steel pot and boil gently until berries are soft (about an hour). Mash berries and strain through cheese cloth or colander. Add 1 cup brown sugar to 1-1/2 cup strained juice. Add 1/2 teaspoon each allspice, cinnamon and cloves. Add 1/2 teaspoon each black pepper and salt. Add 1/2 cup finely chopped onion, 1/4 cup finely chopped green or red bell or hot pepper, 1 or 2 cloves garlic finely minced, and 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar. Bring to a boil and cook stirring occasionally until fine bubbles appear (about an hour). Cook on low heat for 10 minutes longer or until desired thickness. Use as is or process cranberry sauce in jars using a water bath method or freeze in small containers.



Snowshoe Hare Dinner



Beaver Butt End Rings Cooking

Cornd Meat Recipe - Douglas Malone



Making Sausage



Sausage Rolls



Lindsey Gizek on a Dall Ram Youth Hunt



Brad and Sayr Aho



John Wisniewski and friend Kellen with interior moose



Ryder Deschamp's 45 pound Kenai king



Frank Noska

RHAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brad Sparks | brad@residenthuntersofalaska.org

Vice President Doug Malone | doug@residenthuntersofalaska.org

Secretary JR Gates | jr@residenthuntersofalaska.org

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Board Member Bob Cassell | bob@residenthuntersofalaska.org

Board Member Brian Watkins | brian@residenthuntersofalaska.org

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