

FeedbAK

RHAK
Resident Hunters of Alaska



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RHAK's Second Year

RHAK formed in May of 2016 as the first and only Alaska hunting conservation organization to advocate for a resident hunting priority, and we've worked hard over the first two years to spread our message, recruit like-minded Alaskan hunters, and build relationships.

RHAK now represents approximately 1,800 Alaskan hunters and their families from across the state from all walks of life, and we finally have a voice in Juneau and at all the regulatory meetings where decisions are made that affect our wildlife populations and our hunting opportunities. We would not be where we are today without the continued support of our membership, both financially and in helping to spread the word. Thank you!



RHAK Second Annual Banquet Bigger & Better!

RHAK's 2nd Annual Banquet & Fundraiser was a resounding success! We reserved a larger room at the Egan Center and filled it with nearly 400 members and others interested in what RHAK is all about. It was great to see conversations at the tables, new friends being made, and everyone enjoying themselves bidding on auction items and helping to raise money to support our mission.

We could not have done this without the RHAK volunteer banquet committee, who took time out of their after-work hours to attend weekly meetings over several months in order to pull it all off. Our deepest appreciation to:

Chairman – Mark LaPorte

Check In/Check Out – Rick Rogers

Live Auction – Jennifer Strickland

Silent Auction – Marie Murdock

Bucket Raffle – Adam Harris, Grant Kopplin

Women's Raffle – Laura Sherman

Other Members – Brad Sparks, Tyler Loken

RHAK 3RD ANNUAL BANQUET MARCH 23, 2019

EGAN CENTER, ANCHORAGE

Purchase tickets & tables now at
residenthuntersofalaska.org

Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Scholarships



In cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game as part of our Governor Tag revenues, RHAK will be providing nearly \$4,000 in scholarships for BOW workshops, and members will also be involved in instruction. Look for future updates on how you can apply for a scholarship for the 2019 winter, spring, and summer workshops. Learn more about BOW and workshop and Hunter Education classes [HERE](#).

RHAK Legislative Fly-In

This past March RHAK Board members JR Gates, Bob Cassell, Doug Malone, along with Executive Director Mark Richards, did a “fly-in” to Juneau to meet with legislators and members of the administration. (RHAK board members paid for their own travel expenses.) RHAK lobbyist Frank Bickford set up meetings and the reception and attended meetings with us. We mostly split up in pairs to meet with various legislators, but in a few cases we were all invited to cram into one office for a discussion. At the end of one such meeting with all five of us in the office of a senator, he said to us: “I want to thank you guys for coming down here; until you started coming down here I had no idea what was going on.”

We've spent our first two years in existence having these conversations and spreading our message, and we hope to introduce legislation next year that will bring these issues out on the record in the wider public arena of committee hearings.

Let others argue why a statutory resident hunting priority is somehow a negative. Let's have all the economic arguments as well. We have answers that will show how a resident hunting priority, along with some changes to our existing must-be-guided law, are in the best interests of the state, resident *and nonresident* hunters, and our wildlife populations.

A rectangular flyer for the RHAK Legislative Fly-In. The top half features the RHAK logo, which includes a map of Alaska and the text "RHAK Resident Hunters of Alaska www.residenthuntersofalaska.org". To the right of the logo is a vertical column of four green boxes, each containing a statement: "A voice for resident hunters & wildlife conservation", "Fighting for our future hunting opportunities", "Carrying on our hunting traditions", and "Educating our youth". The bottom half of the flyer has a pink header with the text "RESIDENT HUNTERS OF ALASKA JUNEAU FLY-IN THURSDAY MARCH 1ST 5 - 7PM McGivney's Sports Bar & Grill Four Points Sheraton Hotel". Below the header is a photo of two men standing next to a large moose. To the right of the photo is text inviting people to meet the Board of Directors and eat at the event. Further to the right is another photo of a person sitting on a white horse in a mountainous area.

RHAK Board meets with Wrangell-St Elias Superintendent

This past May the RHAK Board and Executive Director met with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve (WRST) superintendent Ben Bobowski and one of his staff in Anchorage to discuss hunting access and other concerns related to a new [NPS Backcountry & Wilderness Stewardship Plan](#) that is currently under public review. The meeting was productive, and we thank superintendent Bobowski for taking the time to meet with us and to listen to our concerns. We will continue to stay involved to protect resident hunting access within WRST.

RHAK at the Fairs

The RHAK tent was a great place to stop to sit down for a spell, get in the shade or out of the rain, and talk hunting issues. We were a presence for 20 days at the Fairbanks and Palmer fairs and signed up nearly 100 new members and dozens of renewals.

Thanks to all the RHAK volunteers listed below who helped man the booth and spread our message. We could not do it without you!

Jeff Heard
Court Parret
Grant Kopplin
Mike Barnett
Cory Lee
Frank Bickford
Stan Tebow
Steve Cinelli
Lori Richards
Tyler Loken
Israel Payton
Jordan Sparks
Jed Weight
Rich Flanders
Mike Quinn
Ben Otis
John Wisniewski

Board of Game & Federal Subsistence Board Report

Executive Director Mark Richards sent out an extensive Board of Game report this past March after attending the Region IV Central/Southwest Meeting in Dillingham Feb. 16-23. That report can be viewed [HERE](#).

Mark also attended the Federal Subsistence Board meeting April 11-13 in Anchorage and testified for RHAK in opposition to yet another proposal (WP18-57) from the North Slope Regional Advisory Council (RAC) seeking to ban all non-local, non-federally qualified subsistence hunters from hunting the Central Arctic caribou Herd (CAH) in Units 26A and 26B on federal lands off the haul road.

These proposals are becoming more prevalent due to declines in north slope caribou herds, but at this time don't seem to be justified by valid biological concerns.

The CAH did dramatically decline according to a 2015 aerial census and in 2016 the Board of Game reduced seasons and bag limits for both residents and nonresidents due to biological concerns. (But the Board did not agree with RHAK's proposal to put the burden of any new restrictions on nonresidents, and last year nonresident hunters took 55% of the reduced CAH harvest!)

Aerial photocensuses conducted by ADFG since then show the CAH has stabilized or slightly increased, and the reduced harvests were allowing growth, but the North Slope RAC still pushed to ban all non-local hunters.

Mark continues to make the argument to various RACs that going through the federal process doesn't allow to only restrict nonresident non-federally qualified subsistence hunters, and when these bans on all non-local, non-federally qualified hunters are put in place it also prevents residents who used to live in Barrow, Nome, Kotzebue, or outlying villages, but have moved for whatever reasons to other parts of the state, from coming home to hunt on federal lands. When and where there are valid concerns, Mark told the Board and RAC representatives, nonresident hunting should be restricted or eliminated first. Use the Board of Game process first to adequately discriminate between your fellow Alaskans and nonresident hunters if you have valid concerns. Join us in asking the Board of Game to fix the real issue of allowing nonresidents to take the majority of the current CAH harvest that we all depend upon to feed our families!

The vote on WP18-57 was a 4-4 tie, so the proposal didn't pass. Many of our members hunt caribou on federal lands on the north slope and we are glad they were allowed to do so again this fall! RHAK will continue to engage with the federal processes that can hinder resident hunting opportunities and access.

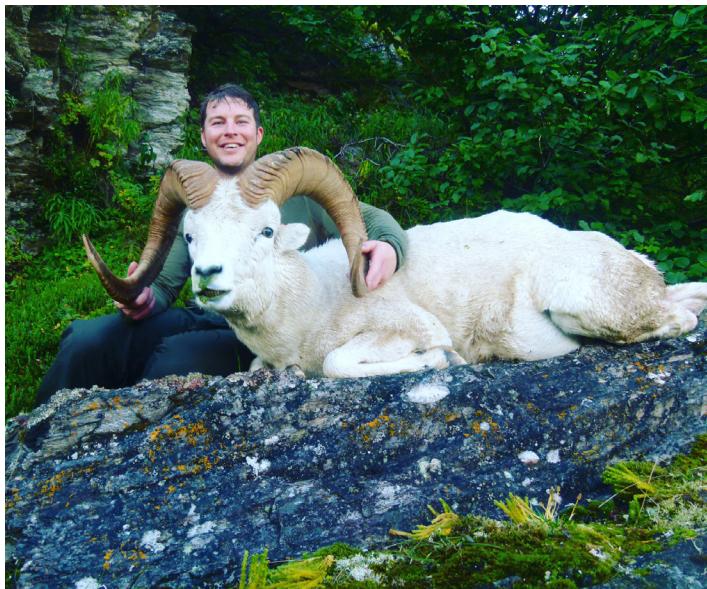


Otis family keeping it cozy at the RHAK booth.



Member Jeff Heard sporting custom made black bear hat at the RHAK booth.

Member Photos



Nick Muche ram.



Stephanie Muche's first caribou with bow.



Lenny Jewkes 2018 caribou.



Lance Johnson grizzly.



Matt Soley ram.



Diane Jewkes 2018 moose.



Nick Ploesser caribou.



Keane Richards and family meat bull.



Joshua Mark Miller caribou.



Grant Kopplin caribou.

Introducing RHAK's New Board Member

Tyler Loken

Born in Montana and growing up in the rural mid west, Tyler Loken learned his carpentry trade and his love for the wild. Tyler came to Alaska at 19 and for almost 20 years has learned, enjoyed and respected Alaska's wild. He sees high-dollar and look-at-me hunting eroding the true sense and responsibility that comes with hunting in our great state. "There is balance and room for all, but the Alaskans that live here, work here, pay taxes here, fill their freezers here, should not take second string to commercialized hunting." Tyler enjoys spending time with his daughters and bowhunting.

He serves on many building industry boards and committees and is a member of the Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee. RHAK is honored to announce Tyler as our newest RHAK Board member.
tyler@residenthuntersofalaska.org



Advisory Committee Meetings

Keep up on F&G Advisory Committee meeting dates and times on our [RHAK Facebook page](#). We will publish upcoming meetings there and we encourage all members to get more involved in the Advisory Committee process.

Corporate Sponsors and Business Members

Thank you to Rulien & Associates and MECA LLC, our newest corporate sponsors. All of the following businesses are promoted in our newsletter and on our website. Write to Mark Richards for information on sponsorship levels, and please support our sponsors!

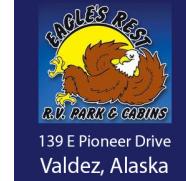
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Membership Renewals

Renewal notices are going out via email with a link to renew online. If you have problems or prefer a different way, contact Mark Richards at 371-7436 or info@residenthuntersofalaska.org. Renewal only takes a couple minutes and thank you for continued support!

We Are Meat Hunters

We have a new recipe from RHAK Founding Member Steve Stidham, known for his extraordinary campfire game meat and fish cooking skills. Share your game meat cooking photos and recipes by sending them to info@residenthuntersofalaska.org. Here's a link to the RHAK web page dedicated to wild game food: residenthuntersofalaska.org/recipes.



Steve Stidham

Mongolian Meat

by RHAK Founding Member Steve Stidham



Ingredients

2 teaspoons vegetable oil
1/2 teaspoon ginger, minced
1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup water
3/4 cup dark brown sugar
vegetable oil, for frying (about 1 cup)
1 lb Game steak
1/4 cup cornstarch
2 large green onions, sliced on the diagonal
into one-inch lengths

Directions

Make the sauce by heating 2 tsp of vegetable oil in a medium saucepan over med/low heat. Don't get the oil too hot. Add ginger and garlic to the pan and quickly add the soy sauce and water before the garlic scorches. Dissolve the brown sugar in the sauce, then raise the heat to about medium and boil the sauce for 2-3 minutes or until the sauce thickens. Remove it from the heat.

Slice the meat against the grain into 1/4" thick bite-size slices Dip the steak pieces into the cornstarch to apply a very thin dusting to both sides of each piece of meat. Let the meat sit for about 15 minutes so that the cornstarch sticks. As the meat sits, heat up one cup of oil in a non-stick pan. Heat the oil over medium heat until it's nice and hot, but not smoking.

Add the meat to the oil and sauté for just two minutes, or until the meat just begins to darken on the edges. You don't need a thorough cooking here since the meat is going to go back on the heat later. Stir the meat around a little so that it cooks evenly. After a couple minutes, use a large slotted spoon to take the meat out and onto paper towels, then pour the oil out of the wok or skillet.

Put the pan back over the heat, dump the meat back into it and simmer for one minute. Add the sauce, cook for one minute while stirring, add all the green onions. Cook for one more minute, remove the meat and onions with tongs or a slotted spoon to a serving plate. Serve over fresh rice, topped with sesame seeds and chopped green onions.

RHAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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