

FeedbAK

News of the Resident Hunters of Alaska • Issue 1 • March 26, 2016

Resident Hunters



FOUNDERS UPDATE

JR Gates, RHAK Secretary

We hope you enjoy this special first edition of our newsletter. Your investments in RHAK have already been put to use and we have much to report. **Without your support, none of the items below would be possible.**

RHAK currently has 50 founding members and over \$50k in the bank, with several enthusiastic donations above the requested \$1000. Not bad for under a month of effort and a BoG meeting to distract us.

We have met with both Republican & Democrat legislators, and also with Governor Walker.

RHAK kicked off the Board of Game meeting on March 18 by publicly submitting an ethics complaint against member Nate Turner's consistent conflict of interest as he nudges the BoG away from resident control and an allocative preference. Our detailed explanation outlined how it is improper for Member Turner to be allowed to participate in actions that take residents out of the hunt while advertising and pursuing commercial advancement connected to non-residents.

Click to read the RHAK Conflict of Interest Complaint

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/2015-2016/statewide/rcs/rco35_Resident_Hunters_AK_Mark_Richards_Conflict_of_Interest.pdf

Click to view exhibits for Nathan Turner Conflict of Interest Complaint

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/2015-2016/statewide/rcs/rco36_Resident_Hunters_AK_Conflict_of_Interes.pdf

Four of our board members, our executive director, and several new founding members of RHAK testified publicly before the Board of Game, to repeal 207 because the process cut out residents, and calling on them bring accountability and sanity to the sheep harvest allocation, and restore trust with the resident public by honoring the ACs and sensibly recusing themselves when there was a conflict.

RHAK has added a fifth board member: Bob Cassell from Wasilla. Welcome aboard Bob! Along with Bob, we have added his wife, Cynthia (the second female founding member of RHAK), who brings much needed expertise in graphic and website design, and can help us publish our newsletter.

Our lobbyist, Frank Bickford, and our executive director Mark Richards have been busy this week (March 21-25) in Juneau testifying in front of legislative committees and meeting with important officials who have expressed interest in helping us out. There is significant opposition from established interest groups that would see a resident-first group as a threat to their efforts. As long as we remain pure to our mission, the only thing the opposition can accuse us of is being unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS.**

We have seen the public forums begin to buzz with controversy about what RHAK is and speculate whether we are an enemy or an ally. One of our board members went for a walk in the woods, literally in the middle of the woods, several days ago and bumped into an old-timer who had already heard of RHAK and wanted a stack of our fundraising letters to help drum up some more support.

RHAK begun formulating a media strategy for when and how to announce our formal launch and get our message into as many living rooms as possible. Most casual resident hunters have no idea how much erosion has occurred for resident's opportunity. Just this week, BoG passed two APHA-proposals to:

- 1) Limit non-resident hunters to 1 ram every 4 years (Prop 30).
- 2) Force residents to punch their tags when non-resident next-of-kin harvest a guided species (Prop 51).

Both have a goal of limiting the competition professional hunters face from residents bringing their non-resident next of kin to the hunt.

We have published this, our first update newsletter, which we feel will be a collector's item for generations to come as RHAK grows into the largest force in the largest hunting state in the free world. That is not an understatement. The resident hunters in this amazing state, if organized and involved through RHAK, will drive the hunting and conservation policies for the beloved resource of wild game. We are the stewards, and we intend to rise up to the

challenge and opportunity of managing the hunt for the maximum benefit of Alaskan residents.

Keep up the strong work Founders! We are getting new members and donations via our website almost every day now. The board and staff are always available for a call or a text if you need backup in your conversations to recruit more founders.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH FUNDRAISING MEETING — **Monday, March 28 in south Anchorage**

Jambalaya will be on the stove and beer on tap as we discuss the major points of RHAK's mission and ask for more funding through donations. It will be a full house, so please contact us if there is a key person we need to add.

APRIL FUNDRAISING MEETING — **Early April, date to be determined at Campbell Lake**

FULL FOUNDER 100 SUMMIT — **Early May, date and location to be determined**

A chance to meet each other and discuss the full launch.

RHAKTIVISM

RHAKtivism will be tested very soon on our organizational depth, strength and power of the collective membership to bring around necessary political and social change. Short term RHAKtivism action items:

Block Nate Turner Re-confirmation to BoG.

RHAK members need to reach out to their legislators in the next 10 days to help them understand how member Turner's conflicts at best casts a pall on the difficult decisions BoG has to wrestle with, and at worst, may have contributed to several recent anti-resident decisions that have led to calls for BoG reform.

Rally around a Board of Game candidate.

RHAK is currently interviewing and elevating candidates for consideration and possible nomination. RHAK member Tom Lamal is currently in for consideration and would be a strong voice for residents. Stay tuned for additional suggestions.

Campaign to sunset the BGCS Board.

This regulatory board, originally intended to regulate commercial operators, is being used as a mechanism to regulate resident hunters. Rules regulating residents' ability to contract for hunting use of cabins or boats in rural Alaska have been forced to go through guides, were created by this board. If it sunsets, accountability for guide regulations will revert to the state's division of licensing, which the public does have access to through normal checks and balances.

Start thinking about what needs addressed in Region 3 as the "Call for Proposals" deadline is coming up quickly.

To be a RHAKtivist means to commit time to following RHAK's leads. This includes links to previous audio/video hearings, writing letters, sending email messages and testifying. You will get the basic and necessary "411" from RHAK's Board and our ED but make no mistake financial contributions are not enough. RHAK's success requires resident hunters participation in the public processes. And, there are many public processes.

REPORT FROM FAIRBANKS

Bob Cassell, RHAK Board Member

I went to the Alaska Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks 3/18/16 to testify and meet with Chairman Spraker to discuss sheep issues. My BoG testimony points were:

- 1) Repeal or modify Prop 207 to make it workable and get input from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers as they are

- the ones tasked to enforce it,
- 2) Set a 90/10 split for resident/non-resident on sheep harvest to alleviate crowding issues and competition from the non-resident hunters before any more restrictions are placed on resident hunters,
 - 3) Oppose restricting domestic dogs for hunting — yes this was a proposal,
 - 4) Oppose proposition 70 which would be proposition 207 for all big game in Alaska.

At the meeting I saw many people I already knew. I met Mark Richards the executive director of RHAK, Doug Malone a well spoken Homer Fish and Game advisory Committee member and RHAK director, Mike McCrary an informed RHAK founding member. These guys along with Brad Sparks, JR Gates and Rob Stone started RHAK

because of the bias from the Alaska Board of Game favoring the non-resident hunter and professional hunter industry. I really believe that the Alaskan resident hunter does not have a voice to influence this process based on my experience of testifying and contacting legislators about the professional hunters bias on the Board of Game.

I joined RHAK and believe with lots of effort from other motivated Alaska resident hunters this group can and will give voice to those issues. I volunteered to help, was offered and accepted a position on the board of directors. Now I realize how much the above mentioned guys have done so far to form a 501(c)(4), hire an executive director, hire a lobbyist, make review and comment on proposals, raise funds to pay for startup and keep raising money to run the organization.

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BOARD MEMBER BIO

Douglas Malone

Twenty-four years ago bought my first rifle, left a cul-de-sac childhood for the Great Land and never looked back. I spent a few years in Chitina River country re-programming myself into a self-sufficient subsistence user and falling in love with the northland. Relocated to Kachemak Bay and have based out of there most of the last 20+ years, with a year on Kodiak and three in Turnagain Arm sprinkled in the middle.



Like a lot of us, I've worked at whatever I could along the way: commercial fishing, ADFG tech, placer mining, auto repair, guiding skiers, hunters and fishermen, and most recently as builder specializing in remote sites statewide and managing my rental properties. Adventure is my main driving force and thus I never go hunting the same place twice. I consider myself a meat hunter (yes, for sheep too) and have not purchased meat from the grocer for 24 years due to the bounty of Alaska.

I felt that bounty ebbing and began to get involved in the Board of Game process a few years ago in an effort to turn that tide and also to put back to society; to help ascertain that future generations have similar opportunities that I have been so fortunate to have. I believe that RHAK is the most efficient vehicle for this purpose and I commit to fighting for Alaskans' priority for state resources.

<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">RHAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>President Brad Sparks brad@residenthuntersofalaska.org</p> <p>Vice President Doug Malone doug@residenthuntersofalaska.org</p> <p>Secretary JR Gates jr@residenthuntersofalaska.org</p> <p>Treasurer Rob Stone rob@residenthuntersofalaska.org</p> <p>Board Member Bob Cassell bob@residenthuntersofalaska.org</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">RHAK</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p>Mark Richards</p> <p>(907) 371-7436</p> <p>info@residenthuntersofalaska.org</p>
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