

Las Vegas Woods and Waters
Since 1991- 30 Years of Fun
GAMEBAG

"all we want to do is hunt and fish and talk about it"

Celebrating 30 years of getting together



August 2021, Issue 356

Lunch Program: August 12th Dan Zelna gunsmithing and stories Lake Fescue Fishing Tournament

August Angler of the Year Event

The Las Vegas Woods & Waters August 14, 2021 Angler event will be totally new: Casting - dry land style! This is a first time event that will add a little time to our desert drought plagued fishing season. No boats, no guides, not even water. No disappointments for weather, stocking density, lake level, etc. We will start early The park opens at 7:00 A.M. Sign-ups will be as soon as we get set-up, or as late as 7:30 A.M at Centennial Park 7101 N Buffalo Dr. Casting accuracy will be the order of the day. Distance, speed, and accuracy will be judged. There will not be time or location for practice. Do it before - now is a good time. Your first cast will be judged.... ya know, like the fish do. Rods will be provided, or bring the rod you know - up to 12 lbs. If you bring your own, have it rigged with a snap-swivel (There will be some provided). We will be using the same lures... ya know, so it's fare. (You can't bring a .308 to a .22 LR shoot). Yes, there will be a fly fishing station, up to 5 wt. Time to learn, get some pointers, and PRACTICE UP! Honcho Ralph Willits.

There will be five-six stations, maybe a shot gun start.

1. A 4 pound brookie under a ledge. This one is timed. 3 Minimum casts mandatory.
2. A finicky 5 pound large mouth getting shade under a dock. 3 casts.
3. Accuracy. 3 casts.
4. Distance. 3 casts.
5. Ice fishing - yup you heard right!
6. I lost my hat.

Aug 14 7am at Centennial Park 7101 N Buffalo Drive \$20.00 for Lewis

DIRECTIONS TO CENTENNIAL PARK

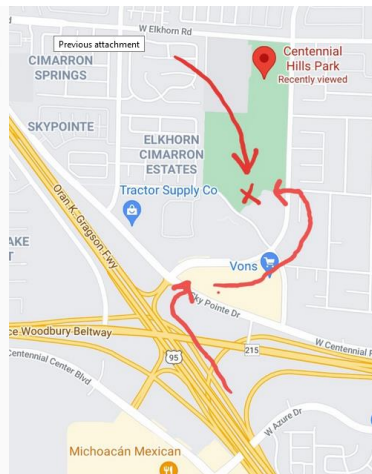
Address: 7101 N. Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas, Nv. [89131](#).
South end of the park behind the library.

North on U.S. HWY 95, Past the 215 (North) beltway, take next right/Exit 91B to Buffalo Drive. Continue on N. Buffalo past WMCA, library, and Deer Springs Way. Right after Deer Springs is a left turn that looks like you're turning into a dirt field. Take it. (It's at the end of the median/divider). Then left turn in the park at the round-about.

If you continue on Buffalo to the fire station, soccer fields, volley ball court, or dog park, you went too far. Turn around.

If you make it to the dog park you went too far or your map is upside down. Consider avoiding in the future: alcohol, driving, firearms, women or other humans, large farm animals, or anything pointy.

Simple version: It's the park at the SW corner of [N. Buffalo](#) Drive and Elkhorn Rd. Go to the south end.



Next meeting Thursday September 9th, 11:45 at LV National Golf Club located at 1911 E Desert Inn Road (near Eastern) price \$20



Presidents Message...Mike Reese

Hunting season has officially started for the 2021 seasons and some members of Woods and Waters will be headed to Yuma for the Sept 1st dove season! Who has a good recipe for Dove that they would like to share? Our August events will take place on August 14th so be sure to check out the details inside the GameBag! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Neil Dille, Brian Patterson, Mark Transue, Steve Peirce, Ron Stoker, Wayne Bliss, Robert Bobbett, Ryan and James Werner as they were out in force at the last wildlife meeting. The anti hunting crowd thought they would have the meeting to themselves and they were sadly mistaken as these members all spoke up to protect anglers and sporting families privileges

so tell them thank you when you see them. I have one meeting left unless I get re-appointed and I officially threw my name back in the hat for another term.

Myself and 4 other Woods and Waters members just got back from a salmon fishing trip to Alaska and was it ever productive!!! Unfortunately the Alaska fish and game changed to fishing regulations on August 1st and non resident sportfishermen weren't allowed to keep any king salmon and we each still came back with 100 pounds of filets that consisted of Coho, Halibut, Ling Cod and Rockfish. Not bad for 2 ½ days of fishing!! That was my 10th trip to Alaska and I'm looking forward to next years trip! By the way we had 23 members in our party so we had the lodge to ourselves. We fished with Catch-A-King out of Craig Alaska. Check them out on the internet. I will be donating one slab of Coho at our next luncheon and you have to be there to win it!



If you are wanting to learn how to reload then you need to be at the next luncheon as member Dan Zelna will be our speaker and he will cover that and talk about him coming from back east to the west and hunting mule deer.

I have a meeting on Tuesday August 10th with the Gold Coast to discuss going forward with our banquet that is scheduled for Feb 19th at the Gold Coast.

The Clark County shooting park did get a shipment of shotgun ammo in so you should be able to buy some for the upcoming Fall Feast event which is going to be held on Saturday Sept 11th. You will need to RSVP for that event as we are limited to 60 shooters unless I have prior knowledge of more shooters coming as I can only reserve 15 4-man golf carts. Send me an email to rsvp at mikereese224@gmail.com. Our speaker in Sept will be Billy Ray Fann who is the state representative for Ducks Unlimited. He will come down from Reno and talk with us about the status of duck hunting in Nevada and how they are seeing an increase of hunters and what Ducks Unlimited is doing to help.

Mike Reese President 2021, 2020, 2011, 2008 All we want to do is hunt and fish and talk about it.

July 22 Rifle Silhouette Shoot Results

It was a very HOT afternoon for the silhouette shoot. Even with the temperature hovering around the 115 degree range we had 16 shooters show up. The “pray and spray” 1st round consisted of unlimited shots from the table. “Honcho rule change, you could rest elbows on the table” Five chicks at 15 yards must be knocked down in 30 seconds. Everyone had no problem with this but some used MANY more shots than others who went one for one at the chicks. Side note Clayton Philipp had to use the buy back on this round not once, but twice. Thanks Clayton for donating the extra money to the Lewis Class pot.

Round two was 15 targets with 15 shots, 5 at 25yards, 5 at 50 yards and 5 at 100 yards. This round was not as easy, no one cleared the targets. Mike Taylor and Michael Reese had the best score with 13 knocked down each. Two had 12 down and 5 had 11 down. Very close shoot. Mike vs Michael Shoot off time was Mike Taylor showing us how to hit the 100 yard target.

Mike Taylor 1st \$70. Michael Reese 2nd \$45. and John Mitteness 3rd \$ 25. The second flight Lewis Class went to Steve Pierce \$70., Mike Lussier \$45., and Jeff Jorgensen \$25. Thanks to all who came out. Honcho Jeff

How to Use Bear Spray When it Counts

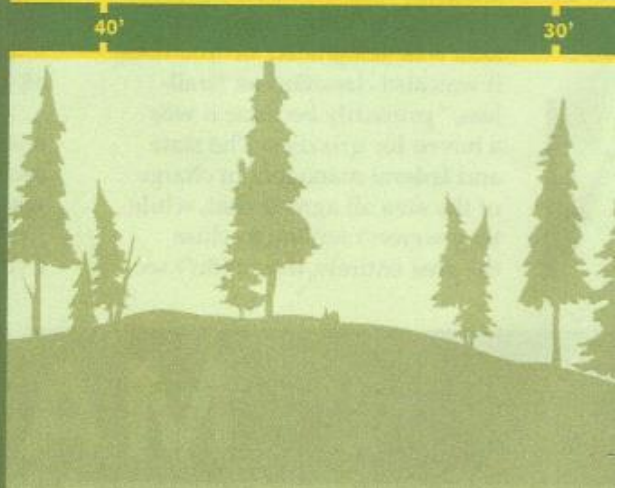
The critical technique for bear spray is to aim at the ground 10 to 40 feet in front of you, then spray it for a few seconds before the bear reaches that point. That way it's forced to pass through a fresh cloud-wall of pepper.

If you don't have time for that and the bear is closer, aim right for the face.

Don't worry about wind direction—it's way better to take a partial dose yourself than risk being mauled by an unscathed bruin. Bears tend to exit the area when sprayed, so even if you get a face full of pepper, it's a worthy tradeoff.

Leading bear spray maker Counter Assault warns that bear spray will not shoot as far when temperatures drop below freezing because of decreased can pressure. In extreme cold, they recommend carrying canisters inside your jacket but still readily accessible to keep it warm for emergency use. Another idea: use chemical toe or body warmer packets that have an adhesive to wrap around your spray holster. Several manufacturers, including Counter Assault, also make neoprene-insulated holsters.

Be sure to practice drawing the can from the holster and thumbing off the safety. If a bear is charging, you want those moves to be second nature. If you spend much time in grizzly country, buying an inert (no pepper) can and practicing with it is a worthy investment. They cost less than \$20.



Elk on a Shoestring Budget

Hunting elk can be a costly endeavor, but it doesn't have to be. Here's how to cut costs without cutting corners.

I have this recurring dream, call it a nightmare, where I wake up on a fall morning, and I don't live in elk country. Scary, I know, but we realize *Bugle* has many readers who live in places that have no elk or a very limited huntable population. Have no fear, though, we can help you get into elk country even if you're on a shoestring budget.

First, understand that there is absolutely nothing wrong with hunting cow elk on public land. Why? Cows are delicious, challenging to hunt and tags cost less than those for their antlered counterparts. In Colorado, where a quarter of all the elk in the U.S. reside, a nonresident cow tag/fishing combo license runs \$503. An either-sex combo will set you back \$670. In Wyoming, it's an even better deal at roughly \$300 for a cow/calf license; a shot at antlers will cost you \$700 more.

Next, convince two or three of your closest friends they should join you on an elk hunt and split the driving and travel costs. Hopefully you've all hunted together before the big trip, as everyone should be upfront about sharing the costs and duties of a hunt. If not, have some pre-trip

meetings where you go over expenses, meals, gear, hunt units and especially expectations—not just for the trip but for each other.

Driving rather than flying, even if you have to rent a rig to get to elk country, is by far the cheapest option—especially if you go with friends. If you each split time behind the wheel and can stand sleeping in a rig while your buddies take their shifts, you'll spend less time getting there and more time hunting, plus cut out motel expenses. If you don't like snuggling with your buddy on a bench seat, you can certainly find cheap or even free campgrounds along the way.

If you're lucky enough to already have a solid group of hunting companions, then you should be able to share gear or maybe pool your money to go in on the priciest gear, such as a wall tent and stove. Maybe someone is willing to hitch up their ATV to your rig, loan you an extra sleeping bag, whatever. While hunting with more than one person may feel like herding cats at times, there are real benefits that can pay off.

As for gear, don't overthink it. Hunters have been killing elk for a very long time with a lot less gear

than the vast array available to us these days. Nice gear is, well, nice, but it's not essential. Have a heart-to-heart with yourself about want versus need.

You'll need fuel for your truck and yourself—just don't get them at the same place. Those rotisserie hot dogs and jalapeno cheese corn dogs of questionable shelf-life can and will bring various unintended consequences. Work together with your fellow hunters and make a meal plan for both the road and camp. You'll be way ahead if you make the meals at home, freeze them and put them in that giant cooler that you'll need to be empty for all that elk meat you're going to bring home. Packing both a small, portable grill and stove and enough propane to fuel them is a good idea.

Don't be afraid to butcher that elk yourself. The internet abounds with how-to videos on this topic. Download a handful of them on your phone and watch them on the long drive to elk country.

If you know of other cost-saving measures that we overlooked, by all means drop us a line and let us know at bugle@rmef.org.



Oklahoma Quail hunt info contact Neil Dille 702 234-7215

Would you send out a notice of the upcoming Quail hunt in October?

Tulsa OK., Doc McCoy's ranch. Leaving Las Vegas October 22, hunting the 23rd, returning 24th. The hunt cost is \$650.00 and around \$400.00 for the plane. I have room for one more person at McCoy's ranch. There are motels and hotels available close by if you are interested.

Going as of 7-05-2021

Neil Dille, Joe Kesgomol, Jimmy Kesgomol, we are staying at the ranch, room for one more. Wayne Bliss and his son, they live close to McCoy's ranch. And I think Neal Van Acker, he is driving.

Doc McCoy is a past LVWW member who moved back to his home state of OK.

Southern NV Kayak Anglers Fishing Tournament



Oct 9th 6:00 am - Oct 9th 3:30 pm 2021,
Pacific

Next attachr

SOUTHERN NEVADA KAYAK ANGLERS

Searchlight, NV

Fish Types: Bass, SM Bass

Angler Entry Fee: \$30

The Facebook group is called Southern Nevada Kayak Anglers more info can be found there



The first Southern Nevada Kayak Anglers Tournament!!
Below is the link to get signed up!

This is the perfect introductory event for new anglers and seasoned anglers alike! Pay outs to the top 3 anglers and we are currently working on sponsors to sweeten the pot with raffles and other goodies!

Please follow the link to get signed up and consider donating to Southern Nevada Kayak Anglers, all donations will go towards building up this club even further and into next seasons events!

Any questions please feel free to reach out to me and if you or someone you know would like to have their business or company sponsor this event please email me at

SouthernNevadaKayakAnglers@gmail.com

Look forward to seeing you guys out there!!

-AJ

<https://tourneyx.com/leaderboard/standings/southern-nevada-kayak-anglers>

Contact member AJ Gagliardo at the above email address

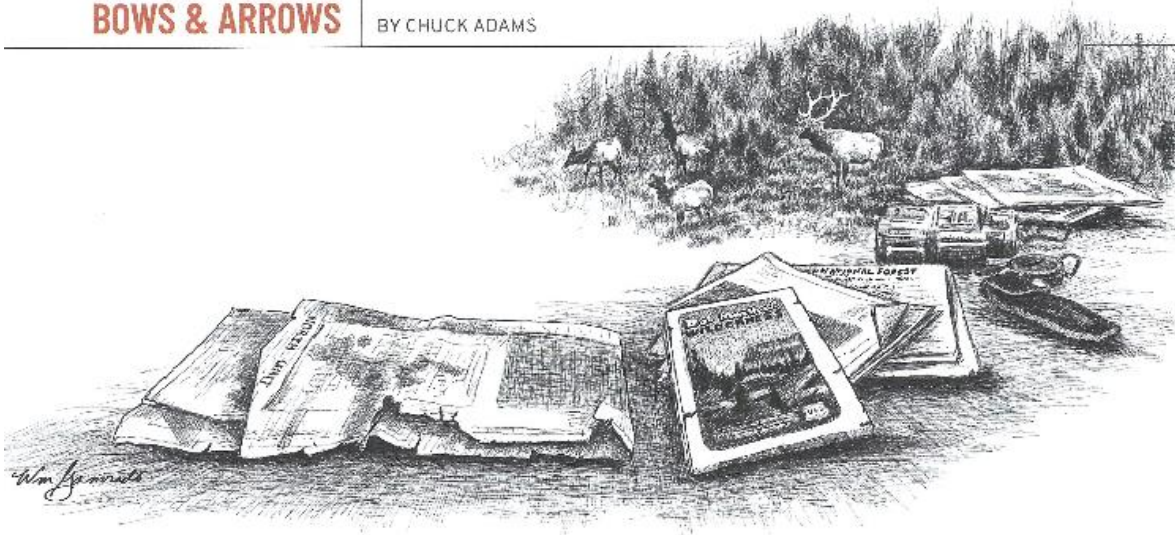
BUY – SELL - TRADE

Buyers & Sellers agree to obey all firearms laws and local regulations in all transactions and hold LVWW harmless. Hunting, Fishing Camping gear for sale. Anyone have some gear they aren't using and would like to pass on? And perhaps make some money at the same time.

New Members: We welcome new members: ??, make sure to get your free hat at lunch for joining.

BOWS & ARROWS

BY CHUCK ADAMS



How to Find Your New Honey Hole

Going to a new state to hunt elk or want to find a new spot altogether? Start planning now.

Great elk spots are hard to come by, and it almost never happens by accident. Sure, you might stumble into a pocket of animals and even a great bull or two once archery season begins, but the process of nailing down prime elk ground should start well before the hunt. This can be especially tricky if you plan to bowhunt a state other than your own.

The quest for a new elk honey hole should occur a good year before you plan to actually hunt it. The best time to launch the search is right after you finish hunting and before license application deadlines loom the following year.

Perhaps you imagine bowhunting elk in a single state like Arizona or New Mexico. But why limit yourself when opportunities also abound in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and other states? Information is power, and you should gather all the elk intel you can for an expansive search.

First step is going online to review elk regulations in various western states. This will reveal three important things—archery elk season dates, drawing odds in various hunt units and cost of licenses and/or tags.

September is the prime month for bowhunting elk, but seasons vary, starting as early as mid-August in some states like Wyoming and running through mid-October in states like Montana. Pick seasons that match your druthers and available vacation time and go from there.

Most states publish last year's drawing odds for various elk units. In general, the better the unit, the harder it is to draw. Areas managed for or known for producing big bulls are in high demand, and nonresidents are often severely limited compared to those who live in-state.

If cost is a factor, be sure to weed out elk licenses that might destroy your budget. Nonresident elk tags vary wildly in price from state to state.

After you study the regs, ride the phone and call game department offices in states that interest you. State elk biologists are generally accessible on the phone (in the off-season) and happy to answer basic questions. How abundant are elk in specific hunt units? What areas are known for large antlers? Where is hunting pressure heavy and where is it light? Is access to public and private land easy or difficult? Is habitat access limited to walk-in hunting, as is the case with most block management programs in Montana, or are there access roads galore?

You can also refine the search based on your physical condition and preference of hunting tactics. For example, some elk areas are arid with limited springs or stock tanks. Such places can be ideal for taking a stand. Other places might abound with water, requiring aggressive foot hunting and calling. Some habitat offers fairly gentle terrain—some requires near-vertical climbs through oakbrush

ILLUSTRATION: WILLIAM GARRAHY

Continued on page 12 after the jokes.....

www.LVWoodsandWaters.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVWW Marksman Angler Events

August 14th Lake Fescue Casting Competition 7am
Honcho Ralph Willits 423-7444

14th We have the 100yd range at CCSC Training Center to sight in guns from 6-9pm FREE to all club members. Bring your own supplies.

Sept 11th Fall Feast & Sporting Clays Shoot at CCSC Road Kill Grill BBQ
Honcho Mike & Scott Reese 400-6501

Oct No events **HUNTING SEASON** – Good Luck

Nov 13th 22 Rifle Turkey Shoot at CCSC 12-4pm
Honcho Jeff Bryant

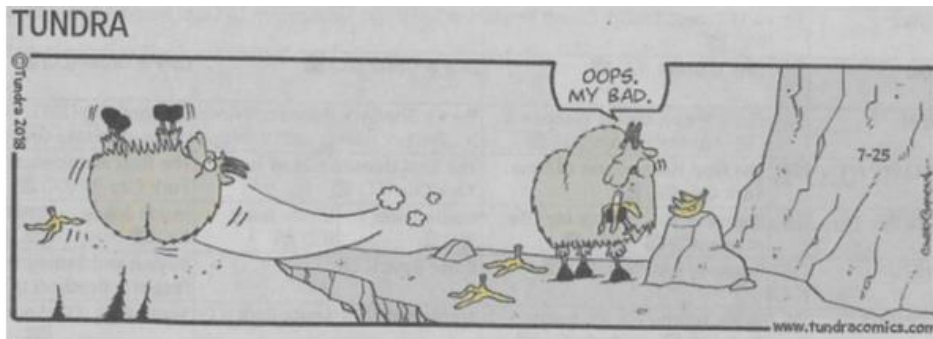


Stories or photos, contact GameBag
Editor Brian Patterson 715-2020

In the News/Coming Events

Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CAB)

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21st 5:30pm-9:00pm stay tuned for updates if it will be held BOTH virtually AND in person at Government Center, Pueblo room, 500 S Grand Central Pkwy. Main topic of discussion is Fishing Regulations Your involvement is needed please show up to support NV wildlife issues.



2021 Marksman & Angler of the Year Standings

Marksman of the Year
2021 standings after 7/10 events

Mike Reese	32 pts
Ralph Willits	31 pts
John Mitteness	28 pts
Larry Cusimano	26.5 pts
Jeff Bryant	23 pts

Angler of the Year
2021 standings after 5/6 events

Ron Stoker	30 pts
Brian Burris	23 pts
Ken Johnson	21 pts
Brian Patterson	17 pts
Robert Gaudet	15.5 pts

All Around
2021 Standings after 12/16 events

John Mitteness	39 pts
Larry Cusimano	34 pts
T.Perkins/R. Willits	33.5 pts
Mike Reese	32 pts
Ron Stoker	30 pts

**“Management is about arranging and telling. Leadership is about nurturing and enhancing”
Tom Peters**

The GameBag

Las Vegas Woods and Waters Club
P. O. Box 29081
Las Vegas, Nevada 89126-3081
[www. LVWoodsandWaters.org](http://www.LVWoodsandWaters.org)

Email: admin@lvwoodsandwaters.org
Editor: Brian Patterson 702 715-2020

2021 Officers

President	Mike Reese
1st VP	Steve Peirce
2nd VP	Dave Talaga
Treasurer	Mike Reese
Secretary	Ralph Willits
Warden	John Mitteness
GameBag	Brian Patterson
Social Media	Reese/Patterson

2021 Directors

3-Year Term

James Werner
John Quinn
Steve Scott
John Mitteness
Dennis Rusk

2-Year Term

Steve Peirce
Randy Peters
Ryan Werner
Duane LaDuke
Steve Reiter

1-Year Term

Rich Beasley
Ken Johnson
Gordon Warren
Bill Rocheleau
Dave Talaga

Lunch door hosts: Steve Reiter and Ralph Willits

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION—LAS VEGAS WOODS & WATERS CLUB

PO Box 29081 Las Vegas, Nevada 89126-9081

Email: admin@lvwoodsandwaters.org Website: www.LVWoodsandWaters.org

Name: _____ Amount Due with application \$25

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Payment: Check: _____ Cash _____ Visa _____ MC _____

Acct. No. _____ Expires: _____ CIP: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

“all we want to do is hunt, and fish and talk about it”

Jokes

POINTS TO PONDER (or not)

My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."

- > I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.
- > I thought growing old would take longer.
- > My bucket list: keep breathing.
- > Camping: where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.
- > Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say: "close enough."
- > Being an adult is the dumbest thing I have ever done.
- > I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!
- > At my funeral, take the bouquet from my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who is next.
- > Retirement to do list: Wake up. Nailed it!
- > Went to an antique show and people were bidding on me.
- > People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.
- > Retired: under new management. See spouse for details.
- > When you can't find the sunshine...be the sunshine.
- > I don't have grey hair. I have wisdom highlights.
- > Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.
- > I don't trip, I do random gravity checks.
- > My heart says chocolate and wine, but my jeans say, please, please, please, eat a salad!
- > My spouse says I have 2 faults. I don't listen and...something else.
- > Never laugh at your spouse's choices. You are one of them.
- > One minute you're young and fun. The next, you're turning down the car stereo to see better.
- > I'd grow my own food if only I could find bacon seeds.

- > Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now I'm going to concentrate on getting taller
- > Some people are like clouds, once they disappear it's a beautiful day.
- > Some people you're glad to see coming; some people you're glad to see going.
- > My body is a temple, ancient and crumbling, perhaps cursed or haunted.
- > Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.
- > I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.

Sunday Morning Sex

Upon hearing that her elderly grandfather had just passed away, Katie went straight to her grandparent's house to visit her 95 year-old grandmother and comfort her.

When she asked how her grandfather had died, her grandmother replied, "He had a heart attack while we were making love on Sunday morning."

Horried, Katie told her grandmother that 2 people nearly 100 years old having sex would surely be asking for trouble.

"Oh no, my dear," replied granny. "Many years ago, realizing our advanced age, we figured out the best time to do it was when the church bells would start to ring. It was just the right rhythm. Nice and slow and even. Nothing too strenuous, simply in on the Ding and out on the Dong."

She paused to wipe away a tear, and continued,

"He'd still be alive if the ice cream truck hadn't come along."

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says:

'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?'

Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'

'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?!'

'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year-old buddy:
'So I hear you're getting married?'
'Yep!'

'Do I know her?

'Nope!'
'This woman, is she good looking?'
'Not really.'
'Is she a good cook?'
'Naw, she can't cook too well.'
'Does she have lots of money?'
'Nope! Poor as a church mouse.'
'Well, then, is she good in bed?'
'I don't know.'
'Why in the world do you want to marry her then?'
'Because she can still drive!'

Three old guys are out walking.

First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?'
Second one says, 'No, it's Thursday!'
Third one says, 'So am I. Let's go get a beer..'

A man was telling his neighbor, 'I just bought a new hearing aid.
It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art.. It's perfect.'
'Really,' answered the neighbor. 'What kind is it?'
'Twelve thirty..'

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool.

After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.
The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?'
'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis'

See below article continued from page 6.....

jungles. Game officials can help narrow your options if you ask the right questions.

If you wish to bowhunt a single state, you may limit your short-term odds. For example, I have excellent resident elk opportunities every fall in my home state of Wyoming. I also apply each year for an elk license in neighboring Montana because I once lived there and know some great places to hunt. But current rules make it tough on nonresidents, and I only draw a coveted Montana tag every three or four years.

By contrast, one friend of mine in California applies for the elk draw in six to eight states every year. He concentrates on cherry, or low-odds units, where elk numbers and mature bulls abound. He counts on drawing an elk tag somewhere nearly every year because his name is tumbling in so many different lotteries.

One downside to multi-state applications is the risk of drawing more than one tag in a single year. This happened to my pal a few years ago, and he burned his entire annual vacation leave and a sizable wad of cash chasing bulls in three states. His wife was not pleased.

Another potential drawback is all the money you will shell out to apply in several states. Some states refund most or all the dough if you do not draw, but a few keep a healthy portion. Count your dollars, learn the facts and decide how much you can afford to do without temporarily or permanently.

Let's say you hit the jackpot and have a well-researched elk tag in your pocket. The next step is finding a true honey hole within the unit you plan to bowhunt.

As I've discussed in previous columns, you can almost always find a few places where elk are abundant and hunters are not. If you study maps of your hunting zone, think "outside the box"

about locations that might be special and comb such places once season begins, you will probably find a sweet spot with extra elk potential.

Here are several factors that might lead to such a magic honey hole.

Avoid Livestock

I am writing this column a few days after I killed a nice 6x6 bull in Wyoming. I had hunted the general area before, but most of the elk were always on an adjacent property where I did not have permission to hunt. The checkerboard of public and private land where I could go was excellent elk habitat—good grass, lots of water, shaded pockets of timber on north-facing slopes.

There was only one problem. In past years, local ranchers had flooded the area with sheep and cattle. Elk do not like the smell or sound of livestock. I have known this for many years. In the 1990s, when getting a nonresident elk tag was nearly automatic, I bowhunted Montana's Missouri River Breaks almost every year. The first thing I looked for were sections of block management land without cattle or sheep. Such vacant property always held most of the elk. An elk's abhorrence of densely grazing livestock is not debatable.

Things changed this past year in my Wyoming area. A rancher friend told me there were no sheep and very few cattle. I hiked the country for 12 days, encountered numerous elk and shot the biggest bull I saw. A lack of livestock made all the difference.

Find Overlooked Corners

Modern technology is a wonderful thing. Property lines in elk country can be tricky, with little zigs and zags between private tracts or private and

public lands. Some offbeat corners of public property hold elk but seldom see archers. A micro SD card like the onX Hunt will let you use a GPS unit to instantly identify property lines and overlooked places you can legally access. No card? No problem. You can also use an app on your Android or iPhone.

Take the area I bowhunted several years ago. Elk were wandering between two large ranches. I had permission to bowhunt one, but the other ranch did not allow hunting. I spotted a 6x7 bull the first morning, but he jumped the fence into the forbidden zone and vanished right after daylight. This was the bull I wanted, but he repeated his Houdini trick every single day for an entire week.

Then I studied onX. I was stunned to see a narrow, hockey-stick-shaped strip of public land that stretched across the no-hunting zone and hooked into the property where I could hunt. The big bull's routine took him across this public strip each morning about 9 a.m. before he bedded in heavy timber beyond.

Amazingly, neither landowner knew about the public land. They had been grazing it for years. The strip was only 150 yards wide, so I was afraid the bull might drop on the wrong ranch if I hit him with an arrow, since arrowed elk rarely go down on the spot. I called the owner of the off-limits property, a very nice guy who agreed I could retrieve an elk if it ran onto his land.

Next morning, I hiked the hockey stick before daylight and ambushed the bull along his predictable route. He galloped 100 yards with an arrow through both lungs, left a great blood trail and dropped 30 yards inside the no-hunting ranch. I called the owner on my cell phone to let him know and started packing meat. By researching land titles and planning ahead,

I shot a dandy bull in a completely overlooked place.

Let Others Go By

I could cite numerous examples of big elk taken amazingly close to campgrounds, roadside archery camps and even motels frequented by archers.

One such event occurred a few years ago. I was hunting with friends from a popular campground near a well-traveled road. There were more than a dozen other groups of archers in sight of our camp trailers, and everyone drove away for distant elk spots each morning. But one savvy guy in our group had been looking at a heavy strip of timber barely 300 yards from the RVs.

One morning, he started sneaking through the mile or so of trees at daylight and shot a 370-plus bull before lunchtime. The timber was littered with fresh

tracks and droppings of elk that were thriving a stone's throw from human activity. Everybody else overlooked this little honey hole, never imagining it would produce the largest bull taken by anyone in the area that year.

No Pain, No Gain

The nastier the area, the better hard-hunted elk like it. If you walk two or three miles away from roads and trails, human footprints vanish and fresh elk tracks appear. If you scale near-vertical slopes or crawl up steep bluffs to reach likely habitat, animals will usually be there. If you wade into old burns with waist-high deadfall every few yards, you'll see elk and no humans. Granted, you'll pay for it. But when it comes to heavily hunted areas, the painful places often produce best.

A friend of mine bowhunts an easily drawn, hard-hunted

elk area in a popular western state. Pickups and SUVs full of camo-clad archers clog the main roads. Quads and side-by-sides roar along numerous two-tracks. Bowhunting success on elk is low. But my pal takes a bull every year. His secret? He hikes two miles to a canyon so jammed with deadfall it's hard to see over the top in places. But elk are adaptable and peace-loving creatures, and they happily duck and weave through the mess to avoid distant human crowds.

My buddy always has a well-maintained chainsaw around and the phone number of a reliable meat packer with horses and mules. His honey hole might not be pleasant, but it always pays off!

RMEF Life member Chuck Adams has written 10 books about bowhunting—including Super Slam, detailing his adventures with all 28 species of North American big game.