

FROM THE EDITOR



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In this Issue

I've never been one for heroes. My friends would say it's because of my overinflated opinion of myself. But, nonetheless, since the last issue of *Fair Chase*, the world has firmly planted several heroes squarely in my mind.

First up, a Mr. James Hetfield, lead singer and songwriter for the American heavy metal band, Metallica. James narrated the wonderful History Channel program *The Hunt*. This show chronicled the saga of multiple brown bear guides and hunters on Kodiak Island. They did the hunter-conservation community proud because they did it right. Mr. Hetfield was rewarded with countless social media death threats toward both himself and family. Over 15,000 "likes" were delivered to a web page calling for Metallica's banishment from a Woodstock-like event in England. I reckon losing work beats death most days.

Seemingly, just days later, the Texas Tech cheerleader, Kendall Jones was pounded viciously against the social media rocks for her Facebook page containing photos of her African hunting successes. More derision and death threats were the ploy of the social media keyboard cowards. My heroin, Kendall, didn't even break a sweat as she launched her career in outdoor television with an emphasis on promoting hunting to young girls and women. A personal note to Kendall—you have an open invitation to come hunt deer

with me on my Kansas ranch. You name the date. A special thank you to Craig Boddington for his willingness to be interviewed by CNN, bringing much-needed clarification to Kendall's story. You too are a hero.

In our last issue, I hope you paid attention to the Club's new position statement on long-range shooting. We wanted to share this with you first. As I write this, the Boone and Crockett Club fashioned a national press release announcing our stance—a brilliantly crafted statement defining a difficult to "get your head around" problem. Three more heroes were born as Wayne van Zwoll, Bill Demmer, and CJ Buck stepped up to provide much needed leadership where few are willing to tread. As there is solace in being correct, they will rest well. Here the Club is catching spears on Facebook for having the gall to step forward and say what many are thinking: if your intention is to see how far you can snipe a big game target, you are not hunting.

A hearty thank you to Dr. Wini Kessler for serving so admirably these past 17 years as an assistant editor for *Fair Chase*. She has certainly earned a break from the action.

Next man up is Dr. John Organ. A fine introduction and biography is contained within these pages. John was recently appointed director of the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units. As such, Dr. Organ is the wildlife science guru in the United States of America. John is a dedicated hunter and enthusiastic B&C Professional Member. His passion for the hunter-conservation community will serve us very well through the coming years. ■



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