

# ASSOCIATES PROGRAM UPDATE

## Changing of the Guard



**George A. Bettas, Ed.D.**

Vice President  
Communications

**As with any organization,** changes in leadership and the organization come and go with the expectation that new leadership will bring new ideas and improved performance of the organization. This past December, I was elected Vice President - Communications for the Boone and Crockett Club. In order to take on these new responsibilities I have passed on my current responsibilities as Chair of the Associates Committee and Editor of *Fair Chase* to two very able individuals. Patrick Gilligan will assume the chairmanship of the Associates Committee immediately and Craig Boddington will take over the editorship of *Fair Chase* in a year or so when he completes his military obligation to the U.S. Marine Corps. Pat has been involved with the Boone and Crockett Club for only a year but he is a thoroughbred when it comes to getting things done. His volunteer work with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited is marked by a great deal of enthusiasm, dedication and attention to details.

Pat is ready to take the Associates Program into its second decade and beyond. Craig Boddington has been there from the start when we have needed him. Now, as his Marine responsibilities begin to taper off he is excited about taking the editorial aspects to *Fair Chase* to even higher levels. Craig brings a wealth of experience to *Fair Chase* from two of the premier publications in our country, *Peterson's*

*Hunting and Guns and Ammo*. Although it will be a while yet until Craig takes over all of the editorial responsibilities of *Fair Chase* as one of our current assistant editors, Craig's contributions will be integral to our continued excellence.

As I look back over the four years it has been a great ride. As I look into the future all I can say is "hang on" as it will be an even greater ride with the new team we have assembled.

### WELCOME TO BLOUNT, OUR LATEST CORPORATE SPONSOR

When I first came to the Palouse Country of Southeastern Washington nearly forty years ago one of the first places I visited was the Speer Bullet Company in Lewiston, Idaho. Jack O'Connor, Lolo Sporting Goods and Speer Bullets were the names that I had always identified with the Lewiston area. Each one of these places had its own special significance to a young, enthusiastic, reloader and hunter. That first trip through the Speer factory sparked a life-long love for Speer products. Along with Speer bullets it was a "natural" living in this area to use CCI primers as both were readily available at Lolo Sporting Goods in Lewiston, an old fashioned gun store that to this day looks and smells like a gun store should. It was also a place where Jack O'Connor occasionally sold a rifle or two over the years.

I am not exactly sure how I came to use RCBS loading dies and

equipment. It was early on in my reloading career that I bought an RCBS press and a set of dies. I have always had an eye for quality and was learning to use metal lathes, milling machines, and the like when I first became acquainted with the RCBS products. They were the top of the line 40-years ago and I have never bought another brand of reloading gear since as RCBS products have served me well.

Since those days Speer and CCI have grown and have been combined with RCBS, Outers, Weaver, Ram-Line and Simmons to form the Blount, Inc. As organizations grow they change and sometimes the products of the new organization bear little resemblance to the original. The example which comes to mind is Eddie Bauer. Years ago I was fortunate to spend a few November mornings in the duck blind in Central Washington with Eddie Bauer and developed a fondness for the quality of his products. All of my Eddie Bauer gear is at least twenty years old and they don't make any of it anymore. What you will find in an Eddie Bauer store today would not be what Eddie would have there if he were still alive and owned the outfit. The story is very different with Blount products. You will find the same quality and usefulness in the array of Blount products today as I did when I first visited the Speer factory nearly 40-years ago. We are pleased to welcome Blount, Inc. as our newest Corporate Sponsor. ▲▲▲



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