

ASSOCIATES PROGRAM UPDATE

Welcome Sturm, Ruger and Company - Corporate Sponsor of This Issue of Fair Chase



George A. Bettas, Ed.D.

Chair
Associates Program

You will be turning over a few new pages in this issue of *Fair Chase* as a result of our decision to include advertising in our magazine. This issue illustrates the use of "display" type advertising which we are including in *Fair Chase* to recognize our corporate sponsors: selected manufacturers whose advertising dollars will help us keep the cost of *Fair Chase* as low as possible while keeping the quality up to the level we have achieved to date. With this issue we thank Mr. Bill Ruger for his generosity and support as we kick off our Corporate Sponsor program. I trust that you will find our use of advertising in *Fair Chase* to be discrete and tasteful.

NEW MERCHANDISE FOR ASSOCIATES

We have had such a great response to the merchandise which we have made available to our Boone & Crockett Associates that we have decided to add items

on an incremental basis as we can afford to expand our inventory. We have found the following interesting new items.

SELKIRK PACK

Every once in a while you find a product that really works in the out of doors. When I do find such a product I have learned to always buy an extra as the really good "stuff" somehow always gets discontinued for whatever reason. Some years ago I had the opportunity to hunt ducks with Eddie Bauer on his duck hunting lease on Warden Lake in Washington's Columbia Basin. In those days the Columbia Basin had some of the finest waterfowl hunting to be had on the Pacific Flyway and Eddie had a place that was of equal quality to the gear he sold in his Seattle store and his Eddie Bauer Expedition Outfitters Catalog. On the occasions that I hunted with Eddie somehow the conversation always gravitated to quality and customer

service. As you probably know Eddie Bauer may well have been the founder of the customer satisfaction guarantee.

I was so interested in quality because as a youngster bent on spending time in the outdoors I most often had to "make do" with some piece of gear that was most always inadequate for what I was trying to do. I remember my brother and I backpacking a dozen railroad spikes up a mountain one time and using them as tent stakes for our Army surplus "pup tent." You may have seen the kind that button together. "Shelter half" was the Army terminology for these half-tents. We used the railroad spikes because they were all we had available and

they looked like they would make good tent stakes in spite of their weight. I also remember having very sore feet because of inadequate boots and spending some very cold nights afield in cotton sleeping bags. Anyway once I was able to put a few "hocks with my beans" and have a few extra dollars at the end of the month for hunting gear I always looked to Eddie Bauer for quality. We all know what happened to Eddie Bauer's quality. One can still find it but you really have to look these days with the numbers and kinds of outdoor gear on the market.

This past spring I made one of these "finds" when a hunting pal of mine, Larry Lathen. . . . some twenty-five years my junior invited me on a turkey hunt in Idaho. While on that hunt he outfitted me with a "prototype model" of a new hunting pack he had designed and had been testing in the backcountry of Idaho and Montana over the past two years. As the owner of some ten or twelve daypacks I could not imagine how this pack would outdo the ones I already had, some of which I had designed myself and had custom made over the years. Well, I was most pleasantly surprised when I tried the Selkirk Pack from Rocky Mountain Pack Systems. What a joy to wear and use! I have never been able to wear a "fanny" pack as for whatever reason when I load one up it cuts off the circulation on the outside of my hips as I am of the skinny type. The typical day pack, when loaded, tends to want to sag low on one's back and always gets caught in overhanging brush when you have to negotiate thickets... most of northern Idaho's elk country. The Selkirk Pack has shoulder straps which allow you to adjust the weight on your hips and fits in the small of your back so as to not hang up in overhanging brush. The hip



GEORGE BETTAS WITH A NICE BULL TAKEN DURING THE 1996 SEASON. HE USED HIS SELKIRK PACK THROUGHOUT THIS HUNT, AND PLANS TO USE IT ON MANY OTHERS.



"belt" is wide and well-padded so it does not cut off the circulation in my legs. The pack has two roomy pockets which are adequate for elk quarter bags, lunch, field dressing gear, and emergency items. It has straps on top to attach your jacket, etc. as you take off and put on layers of clothing while hunting. It even has accessory "possibles" pouches and a water bottle which attach to the outside of the pack or can be put inside the bag to help you organize your gear. Finally, it is made in several camo patterns in ambush cloth for quietness and durability.

The turkey hunt got me familiar with the Selkirk pack but three elk hunts in three completely different types of weather conditions and terrain really put the Selkirk pack to the test. The pack performed wonderfully on a backcountry elk hunt in Idaho where we had everything from hot weather to snow, on a rainy, muddy elk hunt in the oak brush of Colorado and on a sub-zero horseback hunt in Montana over Thanksgiving. Bottom line, this pack is the most functional pack I have ever used, meets my "Eddie Bauer" standard for quality and is a delight to wear! I hope you will like yours as much as I like the TWO that I have!

OTHER ITEMS

The Club will also be offering a couple new clothing items, available in the Summer '97 issue of *Fair Chase* due out in early June. The first item is a Dunbrook stone-washed denim jacket with leather collar and flannel-lined yoke. This jacket is of the highest quality and is sure to be a must for the cool summer evenings and crisp fall days to come.

We will also have available a long-sleeved henley in two colors, navy and ash. Both of these new items will feature our new embroidery design.

A TALE OF TWO ANTLERS

Some fifteen or more years ago Peterson's Publishing Company ran a photo of a non-typical mule deer on the cover of Peterson's HUNTING. The response to this photo was amusing to me because letters were written to the editor accusing the editor of confusing a photo of an elk with that of a mule deer. To anyone who had been around big mule deer and especially big non-typical mule deer this photo was an example of an outstanding non-typical mule deer. Since I was a great fan of mule deer and hunted them with a great deal of enthusiasm I admired the photo the minute I saw it. In fact the mental image of that buck was indelibly etched in my mind. I also saved that issue of Peterson's HUNTING and secured it among my most treasured books and magazines.

As time went on I found photos of the same buck in other issues of Peterson's HUNTING. I clipped these photos and saved them. Later, poster-size prints of the buck were available in local bookstores and print shops. I bought a print and put it away with my other memorabilia of the "elk buck."

In March 1982 I was amazed to see the antlers of this buck in the booth of "1875 Outfitters" of Fortine, Montana, at the Big Horn Sportsman's Show in Spokane, Washington. I immediately recognized the antlers and had my buddy photograph me holding the antlers as I doubted people would believe me when I told them that I had actually seen the shed antlers from this wonderful buck.

Sometime later in the year I sent a photo of the antlers to Peterson's HUNTING. The editor sent my letter and photo to the Michael Quinton who was the photographer who originally photographed the buck. Michael wrote me a couple letters as we attempted to locate the antlers again so he could photograph them as part of a photo essay on the buck. Unfortunately "1875 Outfitters" had disappeared and neither of us could find any trace of the antlers.

Michael related to me that he had photographed this buck near Gardiner, Montana in an area which was regularly hunted. He noted that the buck has miraculously survived hunters for many seasons. He photographed this buck on two different falls after the buck sported this interesting set of antlers.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL QUINTON