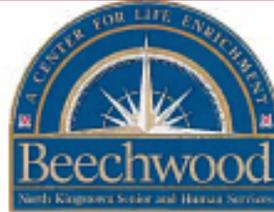


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NARRAGANSETT BOWHUNTERS

# CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 4, 2017

John Dexter  
Narragansett Bow Hunters  
PO Box 1355  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Dear Members of the Narragansett Bow Hunters:

On behalf of the Holiday Giving Program staff, the volunteers, and the families in need, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$140.00 and the abundance of toys to the Holiday Giving Program in North Kingstown. There is a significant need for holiday assistance this year, and your generosity will truly make a difference in the lives of needy families.

Your donations were used exclusively for a public benefit and no goods or services were received in exchange for this charitable contribution.

We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Marcotte". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marie Marcotte, Director  
North Kingstown Senior and Human Services



# THE GRIZZLY...

SQUIRREL??

The San Juan Mountains of the southern Colorado Rockies are generally regarded as one of the most rugged and inhospitable mountain ranges in the world. In the days of the old west, warring Ute frequently maintained sanctuaries within the buttressing folds of rock. In 2017 the Ute live on a reservation to my south and the buttresses shelter elk, mule deer, bear, mountain lions and base camp. Elk were my quarry but bear; they weigh heavy on a solo hunter's mind. In point of fact, not many years before and not far removed from my hunting location, the last known Colorado grizzly bear attack had occurred. That attack had involved a most unfortunate solo bowhunter who survived only by stabbing the mauling grizzly boar to death with a hand held arrow.

Books on bear encounters caution against moving silently through brush and to not go alone though bear country. Bowhunting elk on foot is never considered by the authors.

Not unexpectedly these books frequently feature photos of the "surprise" encounter: a fully erect bear suddenly surfacing within a few yards of the victim.



On this hunt I faced a solid wall of such bear hiding brush, the ground completely obscured from waist down and peppered with aspen deadfalls. On this hunt bear spray and a large caliber side arm featured heavily in the calculus of survival.

Some half mile or so to the west of camp lay a boxed in wallow holding meadow. Scouting of this meadow under sparkling dawn light, revealed fresh elk tracks ascending the northern bordering ridge along a well-traveled game trail. Substituting the trail favorably for nonexistent hiking paths, I climbed slowly traversing a shallow aspen bowl eastward to cling to the margin between the white barked aspen and a dark weathered pine forest.

The Surprise Encounter:

The morning was of a crispness, brightness and beauty only possible in the Rocky Mountains and the climb enjoyable. Then things began turning sideways. From the deep constant shade of interlacing ancient pine and fir boughs—the *black timber* a strange surreal musically suggestive sound emerged.

Careful scrutiny revealed the source of the melodic chant. Bounding within the shadows were a dozen or two blackish squirrels of a size suggestive of eastern reds. These little fellows played sociably, talking amongst themselves in that strange surreal musical manner. So enchanting were they that guarding my six became a forgotten caution. Fittingly, it was from that quadrant the attack erupted.

Suddenly a horrendous noise shattered the morning stillness. Freeze and drop or turn and attack? Bear confrontation options...

My right hand dropped to the bear spray on my backpack belt in the same instant my head pivoted. White teeth—many of them and fierce angry eyes encased in a fur face filled my vision; at eye level and only feet away. The bear spray can left its holster.

Wait! Something is wrong with this picture. Where a shaggy 600 pound body should be filling my vision were only twigs and leaves. Still the angry eyes and flashing teeth moved ever closer .



What the...???

We hunters live by cardinal rules: you don't pee into the wind; you don't pull the mask off the old lone ranger, and you don't stumble aimlessly into an animal's lair. Well, I had just violated the latter of those rules.

My musical friends and now the stern hairy face with teeth and eyeballs were all western chickaree squirrels—Colorado Pine Squirrels to be exact. A close relative of our eastern reds these little guys prefer up close and personal confrontation. Where a red squirrel will aggravate and bark safely at a distance these highly territorial fellows want to literally get in your face.

Well OK, the spray went back in the holster. There is a trick I learned to deal with disruptive red squirrels and I wondered if it would work here. The trick is to create the illusion you belong there. Generally I will stand absolutely still and make a deer grunt. Usually one or two grunts in direct answer to the squirrel's challenge are sufficient. Then totally ignoring the squirrel I use my best stalking footwork. I have spent entire mornings ground hunting in the company of once rowdy reds with no further confrontation—the squirrel happily doing his business sometimes within inches.

While thinking about all this my Colorado critter had crept to within two feet and was still strongly getting in my face. I deer grunted—he fell quiet. One second, two seconds. Again he started, again I grunted, again silence. And again, and once more; then silence. I took a slight step, paused—no barking. Off to my right the musical ensemble started up. The play resumed. As I eased upwards now along the game trail and slipped under the ancient boughs of the black timber my backpack bounced. It had become an accepted part of their play set.



GRRRR--IZZLY SQUIRREL

# **NARRAGANSETT BOWHUNTERS**

**P.O. Box 1355  
North Kingstown, RI 02852**



**[www.narragansettbowhunters.org](http://www.narragansettbowhunters.org)**

## **RIFAA INDOOR SCHEDULE**



**1ST COMPOUND BOW**

Sat. 12/30 @ 7 pm or Sun. 12/31 @ 10 am Narragansett BH - 450 round  
Sat. 1/6 @ 7 pm or Sun. 1/7 @ 10 am Manville - 450 round  
Sat. 1/13 @ 7 pm or Sun. 1/14 @ 10 am Buckley Family Archery - 450 round  
Sat. 1/20 @ 7 pm Tangy's - 300 round  
Sat. 1/27 @ 7 pm or Sun. 1/28 @ 9 am XSpot - 450 round  
Sat. 2/3 @ 7 pm or Sun. 2/4 @ 10 am Trader Jan's - 450 round  
Sat. 2/10 @ 7 pm or Sun. 2/11 @ 10 am Narragansett BH - 300 round  
Sat. 2/17 @ 7 pm or Sun. 2/18 @ 10 am Manville - 450 round  
Sat. 2/24 @ 7 pm or Sun. 2/25 @ 10 am Trader Jan's - 300 round  
Sat. 3/3 @ 7 pm or Sun. 3/4 @ 10 am Buckley Family Archery - 300 round  
Sat. 3/10 @ 7 pm or Sun. 3/11 @ 9 am XSpot - 300 round

### **US ARCHERY 2018 Events Schedule:**

Indoor Nationals:

January 19-21: Utah, Florida

February 2-4: New Mexico

February 16-18: Sacramento, California

February 23-25: Georgia, Ohio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Michigan

March 2-4: Texas, Minnesota, Virginia, and Chula Vista, California

Indoor National Championships Final: March 9 (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Arizona Cup: April 6-8 (Phoenix, Arizona)

Regional Outdoor Collegiate Championships

West: March 31-April 1 (Chula Vista, California)

South Central: April 13-15 (University of Texas)

South East: April 13-15 (Emmanuel College)

East: April 21-22 (Columbia University)

North: TBD (Michigan State University)

National Outdoor Collegiate Championships: May 17-20 (Newberry, Florida)

Gator Cup: May 11-13 (Newberry, Florida)

U.S. National Field Championships and World Archery Field Championships - U.S. Team Trials - June 7-10 (Darrington, Washington)

SoCal Showdown: June 15-17 (Chula Vista, California)

Youth Olympic Games - U.S. Team Trials: June 18 (Chula Vista, California)

JOAD National Target Championships: July 11-15 (Raleigh, North Carolina)

U.S. National Target Championships & U.S. Open: August 8-12 (Dublin, Ohio)

Buckeye Classic: August 24-26 (Dublin, Ohio)

Pan Am Team Trials - TBD

