



WEDNESDAY
VIP

2026 SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

» SECTION B - WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2026



RIGHT FROM RINELLA
Q & A with SCI Members on Thursday
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5000

Beretta Celebrates Its 500th and America's 250th Anniversaries

SEE STORIES INSIDE





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SCI
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The Merger LRF XT50 is a high-performance thermal binocular designed for serious hunters. It features a 1280x1024 HD thermal sensor with a 17.5° field of view, 2-16x digital magnification, and a 2,500-yard detection range.

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500 Years

Beretta Celebrates Its 500th and America's 250th Anniversaries

Beretta is celebrating 500 years of making firearms this year. It's the oldest continuously run firearms business in the world.

Fabbrica d'Armi Pietro Beretta S.p.A. was founded in 1526 in Gardone Val Trompia, Italy, by the Beretta Family. Members of that family have now been leading the company for 15 generations.

"This is not just a celebration of our family and our people, this is a tribute to every single hunter, shooter or outdoor lover that made Beretta what it is today, and to the ones that will make Beretta what it will be tomorrow," said Carlo Gussalli Beretta, who represents the 16th generation of the family.

Beretta is a premier international manufacturer of commercial firearms, military weapons and products designed for outdoor sports such as hunting, competition and tactical shooting.

The Italian company has many plans for celebration and special works that border on pure art, though you can use them at the range or on a hunt if you want to. While many firearms have not yet been revealed in February, a handful have.

Americans are glad to know that two amazing on-off firearms celebrate the founding of the United States of America 250 years ago this July.

The Pietro Beretta Selection arm of the company is marking the 250th anniversary with an exceptionally rare statement: A commissioned pair of SO10 EELL sidelock shotguns, one in 20-gauge, one in 12-gauge.

They are conceived as functional masterworks and heirloom-scale collector objects. The first of which, Gun One, will make its debut at the SCI Convention in booth 1401.

Beretta craftsmen created these works of art by narrating scenes and symbols that speak to the forces that created a nation: Fortitude, resilience, determination and the alliances required among people to become one people.

In this pair, the story of America is rendered in precious metal, hand engraving and layered iconography designed to be discovered slowly, over decades, the way all great objects reveal themselves.

Each shotgun carries a distinct identity through its inlay work: One executed in silver, the other in gold, a dual expression of liberty and permanence. The effect is deliberate: not "matching" twins, but companion pieces, different voices speaking to the same ideals.

Across their sideplates, trigger guards and top levers, the shotguns translate defining Revolutionary-era moments into a visual journey.

One sideplate shows George Washington in the first clandestine mission motif, his crossing of the Delaware River



The firearms are stored in custom cases that are works-of-art in themselves.



The flag of the United States lies over the top of the firearms' cases.



The "PB" on the Pietro Beretta Selection logo is engraved onto case latches.

Gala Coverage On The Way

Look for complete coverage of the SCI Foundation and Beretta Conservation Leadership Award Gala in the Thursday edition of the Convention Daily.

— a mission of calculated courage under impossible odds.

Another scene depicts the clash of the Revolutionary militia against British troops. It's an ode to citizens stepping forward, not for certainty, but for conviction.

Other scenes depict Paul Revere and the "Join or Die" serpent.

One of the pair carries a pair of deeply recognizable national tableaux: The signing of the Declaration of Independence on one side, and Independence Hall on the other, anchoring the mythology of freedom to the place where it was formalized.

"This is not just a celebration of our family and our people, this is a tribute to every single hunter, shooter or outdoor lover that made Beretta what it is today, and to the ones that will make Beretta what it will be tomorrow"

Iconography continues in discreet, high-impact details:

- On the silver-inlay gun, the top lever is engraved with the torch of the Statue of Liberty, with an eagle motif punched through the lever — strength expressed as quiet certainty.

- On the gold-inlay gun, the top lever carries the bald eagle, paired with the Liberty Bell, a symbol of resolve and consequence, inextricable from the American story.

- Both guns incorporate presidential seals at the swivel points of the action — subtle, authoritative punctuation marks, reinforcing endurance through generations.

There is a deeper symmetry here: America's 250 years reflected through the lens of a gunmaking house approaching 500 years, an atelier practice built on long memory, technical discipline and the belief that meaning belongs in the details.

According to Beretta, craftsmanship is the medium, but storytelling is the point in the Pietro Beretta Selection tradition. Motifs are chosen not to decorate, but to say something about people, sacrifice, unity and the price of liberty.

In addition to the USA Anniversary SO10 EELL's, Beretta has several amazing upcoming products to show and hint at in booth 1401 during the Convention.

A Part Of History

Buy A Beretta, Get A Commemorative 500th Anniversary Medal

Anyone who buys a Beretta firearm in 2026 will receive a keepsake of Beretta's 500th anniversary medal. The commemorative medal is designed in partnership and manufactured by the Istituto Poligrafico and Zecca delle Stato, the Italian State Mint, and it honors the world's oldest firearms manufacturer and its enduring "Made in Italy" heritage.

The medal features the Beretta 500th Anniversary logo on one side and the historic Beretta Villa on the other. It is presented in a custom display package designed to showcase and preserve the medal. It's available to customers who purchase a new Beretta firearm during 2026 and complete warranty registration following purchase.

Created to mark this historic milestone, the Beretta 500-Year Anniversary Medal represents a timeless legacy and enduring connection between Beretta and the generations of hunters, shooters and outdoor enthusiasts who have shaped the brand's past and will define its future.

For complete program information, visit beretta500.com/en/be-part-of.



Buy a new Beretta in 2026, and the company will give you a commemorative 500th anniversary medal.



The commemorative medal is designed in partnership and manufactured by the Istituto Poligrafico and Zecca delle Stato, the Italian State Mint. It honors the world's oldest firearms manufacturer and its enduring "Made in Italy" heritage.

Electronic Shooters Protection Displays Apex At Convention

Electronic Shooters Protection will highlight its custom-fit digital hearing protection, the ESP Apex, at booth 3236 at the SCI Convention.

Known throughout the industry simply as ESP, the company sets a standard of performance, protection and personalization for hunters in the field.

The Apex uses real-time digital sound processing to enhance natural ambient sound while also suppressing harmful impulse noise such as gunfire. The result: a 360-degree situational awareness paired with hearing protection.

Whether tracking game in heavy cover, sitting in a blind at dawn or communicating with a guide, the Apex delivers lifelike, spatially accurate sound that keeps you fully connected to your surroundings.

At its core is an omni-directional microphone combined with advanced environmental algorithms designed to reproduce sound naturally and clearly. Subtle game movement becomes easier to detect. Conversations remain crisp

and intelligible. Directional cues are preserved, allowing you to respond with confidence in critical moments.

For challenging outdoor conditions, the Apex features ESP's Dynamic Wind Noise Suppression system. This technology actively filters wind interference, one of the most common obstacles hunters face, ensuring clear audio even in harsh environments.

Each unit is custom-molded for a precise, comfortable fit, allowing for extended wear without

discomfort. ESP devices can be professionally tuned to your personal hearing profile, optimizing clarity and amplification based on your specific needs.

In addition to its advanced technology, ESP now offers expanded color options across all models. Alongside our classic colors of red, blue, black, green, orange, tan and brown, we are introducing clear, aqua, pink, purple and yellow.

For a free fitting and to learn more about exclusive show specials, visit booth 3236.



ESP Apex is a state-of-the-art hearing protection and enhancement aid that provides hunters with 360-degree situational awareness.

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**J. Alain Smith
Book Signing!**

Adam Clements-Safari Trackers Booth #822 @ 2:00 pm



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VISIT US AT BOOTH 3257

Beretta Booth Abuzz

Italian Company Reflects On Past, Launches Into Future

Beretta is celebrating its 500th anniversary and arrives with a presence in Nashville that reaches far beyond the Safari Club International Convention exhibit hall.

Booth 1401 will reflect the intersection of three defining forces: Conservation leadership, uncompromising Italian craftsmanship and a once-in-500-years collection that honors the past while shaping the future.

Beretta's role at SCI begins with its support of conservation, a longstanding pillar of the brand's identity. As a sponsor and participant of the SCI Foundation Conservation Leadership Award Gala, Beretta reinforces a shared belief that wild places endure because people choose to protect them. (See full coverage of the gala in the Thursday edition of the Convention Daily.)

On the show floor throughout Convention week, Beretta will transform its booth into a living workshop where the human hand remains the centerpiece of gun-making. Visitors will see members of the Pietro Beretta Selection team working live throughout the event, including master stock-makers shaping fine walnut, engravers demonstrating traditional and contemporary styles and case makers crafting the protective works of art that house Beretta's finest firearms.

These demonstrations offer a rare public view into the Old-World skills and meticulous handwork that define the pinnacle of the brand.

Selected clients at SCI will have the opportunity to discover more about Beretta's exclusive 500-year One-of-One collection, presented with the discretion and reverence such singular works deserve. Individually created and never to be replicated, these extraordinary firearms represent the highest expression of Beretta artistry, heritage and innovation.

Beretta plans to reveal the 10 unique, one-off firearms — four handguns, four shotguns and two rifles — throughout 2026. The guns are now under wraps by Beretta, but perhaps you can get a sneak peek at the Beretta booth.

Alongside this milestone collection, Beretta will present a special SO10 EELL USA 250th Anniversary Edition, honoring America's upcoming semi-quintennial with the elegance and performance expected from one of Beretta's most prestigious sidelock platforms. (See related story on these special firearms.)

Also, at the booth, Beretta will reveal the Garmin MARQ Commander Beretta Edition watch, a collaboration that reflects the shared values of precision, performance and adventure.



Master engraver Luca Casari will show how he creates his functional art at the Beretta booth during the Convention.



Stockmaker Scott Mays turns a blank into a work of art to grace a Beretta firearm. Beretta artists will be hard at work and available to talk with Convention attendees at booth 1401.

With Nashville as the host city, Beretta's participation also underscores its deep American roots. Just outside the city in Gallatin, Tennessee, Beretta USA manufactures a range of firearms, continuing the company's centuries-old commitment to craftsmanship through American-made production.

SCI attendees can explore the newest commercial firearms and accessories introduced earlier this year, fresh from the SHOT Show. A selection of firearms, as well as clothing and accessories, will



The Garmin MARQ Commander (Gen 2) Beretta Edition is on display at Beretta's Convention booth. The watch is limited to 500 individually crafted watches and represents the meeting of two brands defined by precision, performance and legacy.

be available for purchase at the booth, with all firearm purchases shipped to customers following the event in accordance with federal and state firearm regulations.

The 500th anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2026 with special product releases, storytelling initiatives and events honoring the brand's heritage and its forward-looking vision.

To stay current with anniversary news and special releases, visit beretta500.com.



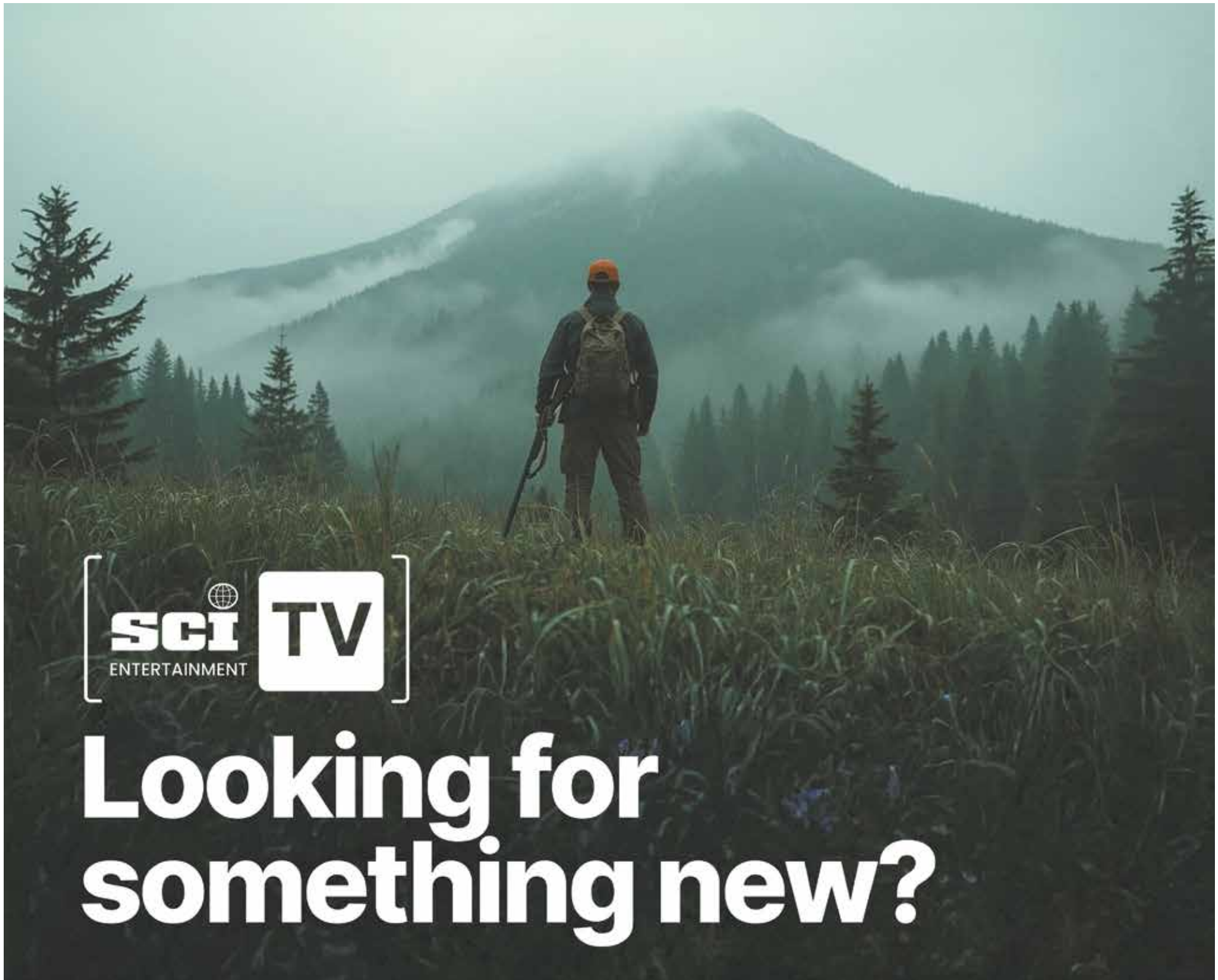
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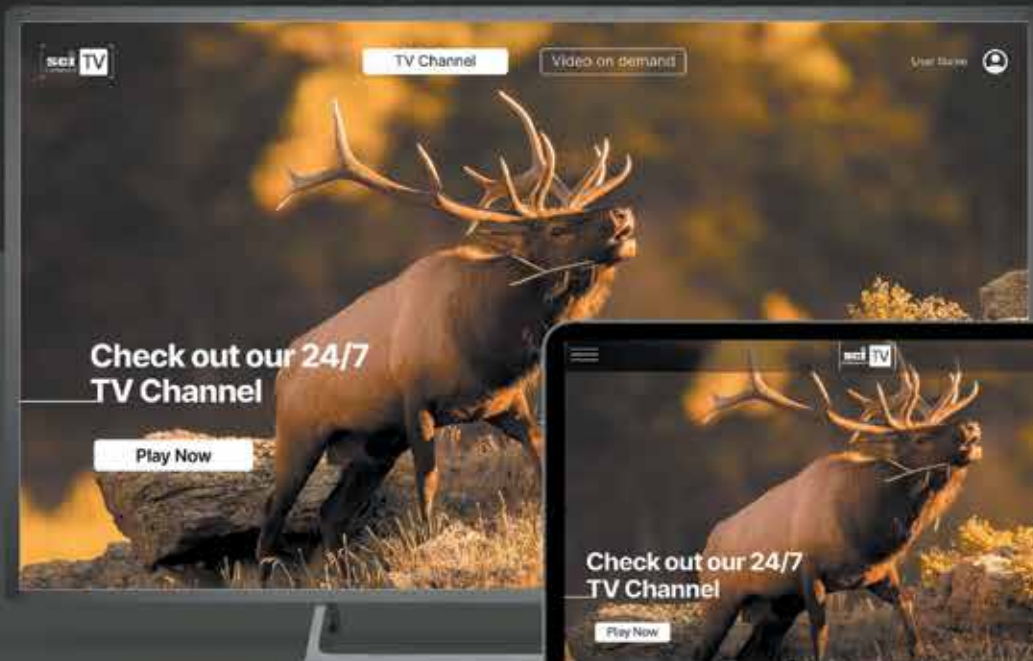
A Legacy Forged in Time

From the first sparks in 1526 to today's state-of-the-art factory, Beretta celebrates 500 years of passion, precision, and perseverance. Five centuries of craftsmanship have forged a legacy and the next chapter has only just begun.

BERETTA500.COM



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Adding just 4.6" to barrel length, the Nomad[™] Ti OTB advances over-the-barrel suppressor innovation. Delivering the recoil reduction and sound suppression of a longer system, it maintains optimal balance and keeps the rifle compact for fast handling and confident control in the field.

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Going, Going...

Auctions Abound Each Day And Night of Convention

If you're interested in auctions for hunts, firearms, art and anything a hunter might need, you're in the right place. From silent auctions to gala events, the SCI Convention has them all.

EVENING AUCTIONS

Wednesday, Live Auction at Goodnight Nashville

Thursday, Signature auction night at the historic Ryman Auditorium

Friday, Advocacy Night with special guests and live Yacht Rock

Saturday, Evening Gala featuring Little Big Town

Details of evening events and tickets are available at convention.safariclub.org

While auctions are going on in person in Nashville, you can also go online to bid on the same items. Visit onlinehuntingauctions.com/Safari-Club-International_ae1906 or scan the QR code below to register and see what's on the auction block.

Silent auctions take place at many luncheon events, such as the Sables Brunch on Friday.

Proceeds from all events directly support SCI and SCI Foundation mission programs in hunting advocacy, wildlife conservation, and humanitarian services.

Here are just a few of the amazing auction items on Wednesday evening.



WEDNESDAY EVENING AUCTION

WN001 Colorado 5-day Colorado Mountain Lion Hunt for One Hunter

Experience the thrill of hound hunting at its finest with outfitter Steve Biggerstaff as he guides you on a western state Mountain Lion hunting adventure. One hunter will delight in the comfortable lodge accommodations and hospitality Biggerstaff Guides is known for while enjoying a 5-day, 1x1 fully guided hunt. Method of take is the hunter's choice. With booking options from December 1 to March 1, 2026, or 2027; see outfitter for details. The winning bidder may choose if they would like the traditional Mountain Lion hunting experience on the snow or



Alaska brown bear hunt up for auction.

want to opt for the equally exciting and successful dry ground lion hunt. With millions of acres to hunt, you will get to enjoy some of the West's most unique and beautiful landscapes while trailing the elusive Mountain Lion through its home range. The lodge is located only minutes away from the Colorado National Monument and within an hour of Arches National Park. An hour in the other direction will take you to Aspen or Vail Mountain for world-class skiing. Hunters will fly into Grand Junction, Colorado, where they will be met by the staff. Licenses are available over the counter. Depending on dates selected, there may be other species available for additional costs; see outfitter for details. Not included are travel costs, licenses (\$160), tags (\$400), dip/pack/ shipping and gratuities. Non-hunters are welcome for \$2,000, and hunters contact the outfitter for more information.

The Arrival/Departure point is Grand Junction, Colorado.

For more information, contact Randi Biggerstaff at (970) 210-1032 or biggerstaffguides@yahoo.com.

Company's website: www.biggerstaffguides.com
Booth 322

Donor's Valuation: \$15,000

WN002 Alaska 6-day Alaskan Barren Ground Caribou Hunt for One Hunter

Hunt Alaska on this outstanding 6-day, 1x1 guided Alaskan Barren Ground Caribou hunt for one hunter donated by the Fithian Family of Alaskan Mountain Safaris. Method of take is the hunter's choice. Schedule a hunt with the outfitter for open dates in August 2026 or 2027, only. Contact outfitter for details. Bobby Fithian and Family DBA Alaskan Mountain Safaris have operated long term multiple specie safaris for the past 42 years from this same location in the Western Alaska Range known as Emerald Valley. The incredibly diver-

sified topography varies from outlying tundra, spruce forest and lake-covered valleys to rising tundra steppes with ascending glacier-clad alpine mountains. Elevations vary from 2,600 to 8,000 feet. Alaskan Mountain Safaris continues to produce some of the largest Caribou in Alaska as evidenced by numerous APHA/SCI awards. Included are accommodations, meals, 1x1 guide service, and field prep. Base camp is accessed by bush plane, with possible outlying spike camps which are ATV-supported. Hunt has many upgrade possibilities, and the outfitter recommends you take full advantage of these opportunities; see outfitter for details. Possible species upgrades include Dall Sheep, Grizzly, Moose and Black Bear. The hunt can be extended up to 30 days. Additional six-day Caribou hunters are welcome at \$15,000, and non-hunters are welcome for \$300/day. Not included are any before/after hunt expenses, licenses (\$185), tag (\$650), air charter (\$1,000), expediting, packaging/shipping or gratuities. Arrival/departure point is McGrath, Alaska.

For more information, contact Bobby at (907) 320-0228 or Cody at (907) 841-5602 or by email bobbyfithian@gmail.com.

Company's website: www.akmountainsafaris.com
Booth 2635
Donor's Valuation: \$17,000

WN003 British Columbia, Northern 10-day British Columbia Mountain Goat Hunt for One Hunter

Circle M Outfitters invites one hunter to Northern British Columbia for a 10-day, 1x1 guided Mountain Goat hunt. Schedule this rifle hunt with the outfitter for open dates in August – September 2027 only; no alternate dates available. Fraser and Krista MacDonald own and operate Circle M Outfitters, along with their daughter Ava, an exceptional guide crew, and a remarkable string of mountain horses. Their vast guiding territory spans over 3,000 square miles of Northern BC wilderness, with exclusive guiding rights to an area containing three separate mountain ranges and some of the most productive goat habitat in the province. BC is home to 90% of the world's Mountain Goat population, and Circle M's extensive network of backcountry cabins and trails allows access to remote valleys where trophy billies still die of old age without ever seeing humans. While Mountain Goat hunting is physically demanding, hunters in reasonable shape with a good mental outlook can position themselves for success. With a 90% success rate and

average horn size of 9-10 inches, many clients describe their Mountain Goat hunt as the most rewarding of their lifetime. Included are cabin accommodation, home-cooked meals, one best available Mountain Goat, 1x1 guide service, and field prep. Additional hunters welcome for \$20,000 plus fees and non-hunters for \$5,000. Hunt may be upgraded to include Moose, Elk, Black Bear and Wolf; see outfitter for details. Not included are before/after hunt expenses, firearm permit, license (\$189), tag (\$683), government fee, flight to/from Prince George, BC, two nights hotel in Prince George, taxidermy, shipping, and gratuities. Note: Backcountry horseback hunts require higher physical fitness levels; the outfitter can tailor the hunt to your physical ability. The arrival/departure point is Prince George, British Columbia.

For more information, contact Fraser MacDonald at (250) 517-0410 or info@circlemoutfitters.ca.

Company's website: www.circlemoutfitters.ca
Booth 663
Donor's Valuation: \$20,000

WN004 South Africa 12-day South Africa Leopard Hunt and Full Mount Taxidermy Credit for One Hunter and One Non-Hunter

JJ Hunting Adventures invites one hunter and one nonhunter to Namibia for a 12-day, 1x1 guided leopard hunt plus a \$10,000 taxidermy credit. Schedule this rifle hunt with the outfitter for open dates January–November 2027 only; contact the outfitter for complete details. JJ Hunting Adventures, founded by father-and-son team Johann and Jaco van Heerden, is built on their lifelong passion for hunting and nature. Both born and raised in Namibia, Johann and Jaco are qualified professional hunters with more than 25 years of combined experience, with Jaco also being one of the country's few licensed professional big game hunters. Operating primarily in the northern and central regions, they hold some of Namibia's best hunting concessions rich in both plains and dangerous game. Their areas include prime locations such as the Kavango along the Okavango River, the Zambezi Strip and other top concessions, offering a wide range of hunting opportunities tailored to each client's goals. Beyond the hunt itself, JJ Hunting Adventures also offers excursions throughout Namibia, delivering genuine hospitality and an unforgettable experience. Included are accommodations, meals, 1x1 guide service, taxider-

Continued to page 12B

AUCTIONS AROUND EACH DAY AND NIGHT OF CONVENTION *Continued from page 11B*

my credit of \$10,000, trophy fee for one leopard, ground transfers and field prep. Not included are before/after hunt expenses, airfare, rifle rental (\$30 per day plus \$8 per shot if needed), dipping/packing/shipping, flights to or from the hunting area and gratuities. Additional plains game hunters are welcome at \$450 per day plus trophy fees, additional dangerous game hunters at the daily rate per the price list plus trophy fees, and non-hunters at \$150 per day. The hunt may be extended for \$1,200 per day plus fees. The arrival/departure point is Hosea Kutako International Airport.

For more information, contact Jaco van Heerden at 264-81-273-6258 or jaco.vanheerden@gmail.com.

Company's website: www.jj-safaris.com.

Booth 3228

Donor's Valuation: \$42,500

We thank JJ Hunting Safaris for this 100% donation.

WN006 Alaska, Bristol Bay

10-day Alaska Brown Bear Hunt for One Hunter

One hunter will travel to Alaska for a 10-day, 1x1 guided hunt for two brown bears, donated by JD's Kniktuk Outfitters, LLC. Schedule this hunt for open dates August 20-29 or September 17-26 in 2027 or 2028; consult with the outfitter for exact details. Method of take is the hunter's choice. This incredible hunt will take place in Unit 17, Bristol Bay — an area renowned for its high concentration and impressive size of Brown Bears. JD's Kniktuk Outfitters specializes in Brown Bear hunting in Alaska's remote wilderness, located 300 miles west of Anchorage and based out of Dillingham. The region is home to one of the highest densities of Brown Bear in the world, offering hunters the rare opportunity to pursue two bears in one hunt due to the healthy population in Unit 17. The Fall hunt also presents the possibility of adding other game to your adventure. Included are accommodations, meals, field prep, and two best available Brown Bears. Hunt can be extended for \$2,500 per day plus

fees. Additional hunters are welcome for \$22,500, and non-hunters for \$5,000. The hunt can also be upgraded to include Wolf; see the outfitter for details. Not included are before/after hunt expenses, tag (\$2,000), license (\$160), dipping/packing/shipping, taxidermy, and gratuities. Arrival/departure point is Dillingham, Alaska.

For more information, contact Darwin J. Vander Esch at (907) 843-1715 or by email at darwinve@frontier.com.

Company's website: www.jdskniktukoutfitters.com.

Booth 563

Donor's Valuation: \$42,500

We thank JD's Kniktuk Outfitters, LLC, for this 100% donation.

WN005 Firearms

Longthorne 'Foxcote' Shotgun in 28 Gauge

The Longthorne "Foxcote" represents the pinnacle of contemporary British gunmaking, drawing inspiration from the timeless elegance of the classic Woodward design. Renowned for its unique one-piece machined barrels, Longthorne has elevated tradition with innovation: Each barrel is precision-engineered from a single billet of high-grade steel, eliminating welds and joints for unmatched strength, stability, and shot consistency. This seamless construction not only enhances accuracy and reduces recoil but also ensures exceptional durability, qualities prized by sportsmen and collectors alike. Exquisitely adorned with rich scroll engraving, the "Foxcote" embodies the grace and grandeur of a classic English game gun, while its meticulous balance and customizable features make it a joy to shoot. A masterwork of engineering and artistry, the Longthorne "Foxcote" is a true connoisseur's piece, equally at home in the field, on the range, or as the crown jewel of a collection.

For more information, contact Longthorne at sales@longthorneguns.com or visit their website

www.longthorneguns.com

Booth 811

Donor's Valuation: \$35,640

We thank Longthorne Gunmakers for this 100% donation.



WN040 Firearms

Griffin & Howe Highlander Safari Edition

Presented through the generosity of Griffin & Howe, this Highlander Safari rifle in .375 pairs classical safari ergonomics with modern barrel technology for a purpose-built hunting platform. Fitted with a Proof Research Sendero barrel — renowned for its high-performance, advanced construction — and set up with Griffin & Howe quick-detachable top-mount rings, the rifle retains a continuous sighting plane while offering the flexibility to fit optics rapidly. Iron sights are installed for immediate backup engagement in the field, and the complete package is protected in a fully outfitted Nanuuk case with custom foam for secure transport. Thoughtfully balanced for dependable handling, the Highlander presents a ready-for-use solution for serious fieldwork or careful collector stewardship—an intersection of heritage gunsmithing and contemporary precision. Buyer is responsible for all federal, state, and local compliance.

For more information, contact Donna Marshall at 908-766-2287 and visit www.griffinhowe.com.

Booth 916

Donor's Valuation: \$15,000

We thank Griffin & Howe for this 100% donation.

See the Day and Evening Auction Guide, available across from the Registration Desks in the Music City Center, for more info on auctions.

App Is Your Key To Convention



Make the most of your time at the 2026 Convention by downloading the SCI Convention 2026 app on your smartphone. Search "SCI Convention 2026" in the App Store or Google Play.

Find exhibitor booths, see an interactive floor plan of the Exhibit Halls, check for the latest "Buzz" notifications, connect to social media, a list of speakers and seminars and much more.

Stay connected. Stay informed.



Meet SCIF Conservation Director Dr. Chris Comer, Learn About Critical Projects

Stop by Safari Club International Foundation booth 3301 Friday from 10-11 a.m. and learn from Director of Conservation Dr. Chris Comer about the Foundation's commitment to promoting wildlife conservation efforts worldwide.

SCIF designs programs that address specific wildlife conservation challenges in various regions. By working closely with SCI Chapters and members, SCIF supports conservation initiatives at local, regional and international levels.

Collaborating with organizations focused on sustainable use and partnering with leading researchers from top universities in the United States and beyond ensures that our conservation strategies are grounded in sound scientific principles.

Currently, SCI Foundation's conservation team is actively involved in the field, executing programs in both North America and Africa.



Dr. Chris Comer is the SCIF Director of Conservation.

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Low Down On New Green Dot Turkey Sight

Vortex introduced the Vortex Viper Shotgun Enclosed Micro Red Dot last year, and this year is offering a green-dot option.

Green is easier for the eye to pick up in the brighter light of daytime, especially in woodland settings. That makes it better for quick-acquisition shooting. The downside is that the green emitter takes more battery life (but the CR2032 battery will last about 10,000 hours).

Also, red is known to be better in low-light conditions.

In the end, it's a personal preference between green and red.

One thing both sights have going for them is that they both mount directly to the shotgun receiver. That way, the sight's profile is as low as it can possibly be. It makes sure the recoil goes directly back and into your shoulder where it should. And by having it lower on the receiver, there's a much better chance you get a good cheek weld. That improves repeatability and accuracy.

We tried it out during the 2025 turkey season. It was good to shoot with such a low sight, and the cheek weld was solid. It's hard to judge and measure felt



The Vortex Viper Enclosed Green Dot mounts directly to the receiver to reduce felt recoil and improve cheek weld.

recoil accurately, but we were shooting the gun just to shoot it for fun, which is rare with a turkey gun. Most people shoot it once to make sure it's sighted in and once at a turkey.

The first thing a hunter might ask is, if you take your Weaver rail or Picatinny rail off your gun to mount this scope, how do I know it will fit my gun?

Most guns have their own pattern and

number of drilled and tapped screw holes on the receiver. And there are about five common screw depths among popular shotgun models.

But Vortex created the sight so that the mount is adjustable. They also include five different packets of mounting screws, so it's highly likely you can mount this sight on your gun.

All these makes, and most of their models, will accept this sight: Benelli, Beretta, Browning, Franchi, Ithaca, Mossberg, Remington, Retay, Savage, Stevens, Stoeger, Weatherby and Winchester, accounting for more than 50 models in all. You can go to vortexoptics.com to make sure your gun will.

The battery is easy to access on the side of the sight. The sight weighs 2.14 ounces and is 4.86 inches long, including the mounting base.

See Vortex products at booths 1545 and 1028.

Like the original red dot model, the Viper Shotgun Enclosed Micro Green Dot is available in two configurations: 3 MOA Green Dot and a Multi-Reticle Green. MSRPs are \$429 and \$499.

— John Geiger

40 Years experience. Visit Booth **#2025**

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THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN WORLD WIDE HUNTING

Hunt Barren Ground Musk-Ox in the Canadian Arctic!

SCI SHOW SPECIAL!!!

- 5 Day Spring Musk Ox Hunt based out of Kugluktuk, Nunavut.
- Reduced cost: **\$9,900.00USD** plus tax and license.
- Dates available are from mid March to mid April 2026.
- Highest success in the Arctic with many Record Book Bulls.
- Rifle or Archery Hunt.
- Ameri-Cana will assist you with all flight and hotel bookings.
- Many references are available upon request.

Visit our Website ameri-cana.com for details.

Call or text us in our booth now.
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RENATO BALLABIO
Outfitted by Kaan Karakaya - Shikar Safaris - Turkey

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PEDRO DE AMPUERO CASTELLANOS
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Steve Rinella Hosts Q&A

MeatEater Founder Takes Questions From SCI Members On Thursday

If you've ever had a question for Steven Rinella — writer, MeatEater founder and hunter who promotes ethical hunting and field-to-table cooking — now's your chance.

Rinella is scheduled to host a live question-and-answer event in the Broadway Ballroom at the Omni Nashville Hotel on Thursday from 2-3:30 p.m. Visit the registration desk at Level 2 in the Music City Center for tickets. Space is limited.

Rinella and Morgan Potter of Robin Hurt Safaris will share insights, wild experiences and behind-the-scenes moments from their adventures here and abroad.

This is your chance to ask questions, connect with fellow outdoor enthusiasts and get inspired by two of the most influential voices in the field.

An accomplished author, Rinella has written 10 books on hunting, wild game cooking and outdoor survival, including *American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon*, *The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine* and *The MeatEater Fish and Game Cookbook*.

His writing has appeared in many publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Outside*, *The New York Times* and *Men's Journal*. Rinella also appeared in



Steve Rinella, MeatEater media founder, hunted in Africa for the first time in 2025. "I cannot believe it took me 50 years to get here," said Rinella during his Tanzania safari.

the Ken Burns documentary, *The American Buffalo*.

He is the founder of MeatEater, Inc., a media company that produces hunting,

fishing and outdoor lifestyle content across multiple platforms, including television, podcasts and digital media.

As the host of MeatEater, a long-running series now on Netflix, Rinella takes viewers into the field, blending hunting adventures with education on wildlife, ecology and sustainable food sourcing.

A hallmark of the show is its authenticity. Rinella highlights the successes and the challenges of hunting, including the reality that not every hunt ends in a filled tag.

Each episode also emphasizes cooking and consuming wild game, reinforcing the deep connection between hunting and food.

In addition to the TV series, Rinella hosts *The MeatEater Podcast*, one of the most popular hunting and outdoor podcasts.

Beyond media, Rinella is a dedicated conservationist, advocating for public land access, sustainable wildlife management and responsible hunting practices.

Through his work, he has helped bridge the gap between hunters and non-hunters, fostering a greater appreciation for ethical hunting and its role in conservation.

Convention Attendees Get To Know SCI's Conservation Programs

The SCI Foundation supports science based conservation through collaborative research as well as through wildlife management initiatives around the world.

In Africa, SCIF works alongside governments and conservation partners to monitor big cat populations, inform wildlife policy and promote sustainable use.

Closer to home, a mountain lion research project in Texas is helping fill critical data gaps to guide future management decisions.

Stop by the SCI Foundation's booth 3301 from 9-10 a.m. or 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday to learn more about these programs. Experts will be on hand to answer your questions about these species and projects.

Big Cats, Big Impact

The African leopard is a remarkably adapted predator, admired by hunters and wildlife enthusiasts alike.

As one of Africa's iconic Big Five species appreciated worldwide, it holds particular significance within the safari hunting community.

Visit room 202A today from 12:30-1:30 p.m. to hear SCIF's Conservation Program Manager Dr. Daniel Scognamillo provide an in-depth look at the lives of these extraordinary animals and the research and conservation initiatives SCIF is leading across Africa.

Bring Your Questions To The State Wildlife Leader Forum

Hunters on Friday can speak with wildlife authorities from six U.S. states and two Canadian provinces at the State Wildlife Agency Directors and Commissioners Forum.

During the event, a panel of state agency directors and commissioners will answer questions about key wildlife management issues and hunting challenges.

This is a unique opportunity to have frank discussions with state wildlife agency directors or commissioners.

Get a nationwide view of how states are managing wildlife, conserving habitat and providing hunting opportunities, while balancing the many opinions of stakeholder groups, including federal and tribal governments.

Panelists include:

- Ben Mulligan – Alaska Department of Fish and Game Deputy Commissioner
- Tom Finley – Arizona Game and Fish Department Director
- Riley Peck – Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Director
- Jason Sumners – Missouri Department of Conservation Director
- Shannon Lott – Michigan Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director
- Jason Maxedon – Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Executive Director
- Todd Loewen – Alberta Minister for Forestry and Parks
- Wade Istchenko – Yukon Territory Minister for Environment

The forum is 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Room 202B of the Music City Center.

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