



SATURDAY VIP

2026 SCI CONVENTION

New SCI Chapter

Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter is SCI's 169th

PAGE 10B

» SECTION B - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026



SCI and SCIF CEO W. Laird Hamberlin explained the growth of the SCI family through recent acquisitions.

SABLES

Brunch Dazzles With Denim, Diamonds And Divas

STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE B3



Sables President Irene Dudley-Hanlon thanked everyone for supporting the mission of Sables.



In step with the theme, the Sables brunch featured Denim, Diamonds and Divas as far as the eye could see. The annual event helps raise funds for the Sables mission.



SCI President Jeff Meyerl thanked attendees for their staunch commitment to hunting and hunters.



Cynthia Fisher: SCI Artist Of The Year

Inspiration Comes from Love of Animals, Hunting

Safari Club International named Cynthia Fisher of Montana the 2026 Artist of the Year.

Fisher has been a professional artist for more than 35 years. She creates vibrant, colorful paintings and works in sculpture, glass mosaics and mixed-media sculpting.

The animals she paints are realistic due to her love of exotic species and college studies in zoology and wildlife management. She has been exhibiting at the SCI Convention for 34 years.

“I enjoy this crowd the most because I can paint wild exotic species — which I love — and only these people, in this room, know them, recognize them and love them like I do.”

Fisher has hunted on almost every continent and has taken an impressive number of game animals, which serve as invaluable references for her artwork.

Cynthia’s list of artistic accomplishments includes 19 duck stamp awards, cover artist for *SCI’s SAFARI Magazine*, and other awards and recognitions.

“Everything I do centers around ani-



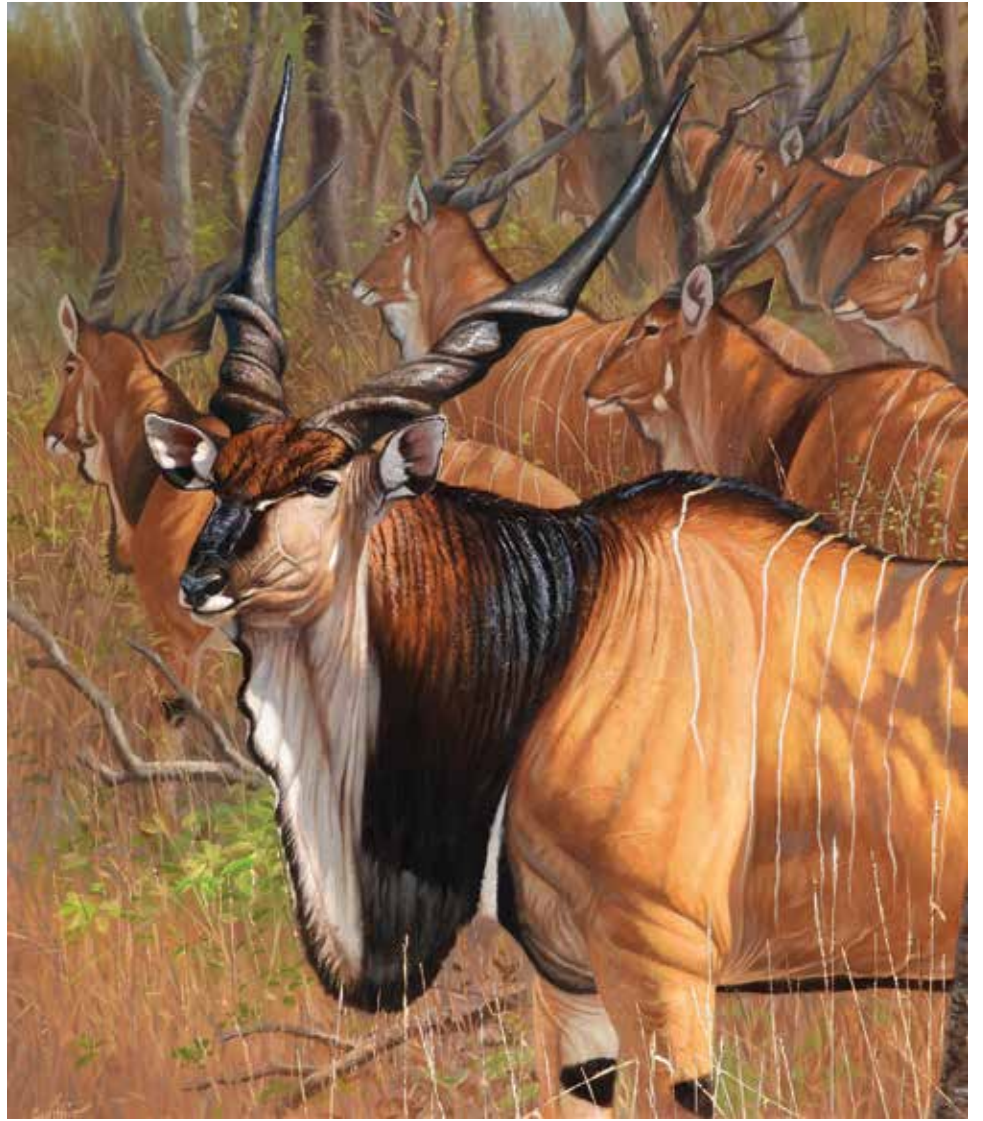
Taking her own Lord Derby on safari was the inspiration for her work “Lord of Central Africa.”

mals,” she said. “I strive to create realistic and accurate portrayals, some of which tell a story.”

Fisher does not merely copy photos but creates a unique composition that complements what she’s trying to depict.

“I believe my collectors are looking for one of two things: a piece of art that represents a memory or a wish. And I love being able to fulfill that for them.”

Visit Fisher at booth 1328.



One of Cynthia Fisher’s famous renderings of a Lord Derby eland called “Lord of Central Africa.”

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Sables Brunch Dazzles With Denim, Diamonds And Divas



The women of SCIF Sables brought down the house yet again this year during the Sables Brunch. Sponsored by Lucchese Bootmaker, the annual event was held on Friday morning at the Omni Hotel.

The event serves as a springboard for ongoing efforts and support, reinforcing the values of education, conservation and community that define Sables. Proceeds from this event support SCIF Education Programs.

This year's theme was "Denim, Diamonds and Divas," and members embraced it during a morning of fantastic auction items, great food, lively enter-

tainment from the band Bandlux and unforgettable fun.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has supported our fundraising and our auction donations, who have exceeded what I ever would have dreamed of," said Sables President Irene Dudley-Hanlon. "Let's celebrate each other and continue our mission."

SCI President Jeff Meyerl also thanked the Sables for their ongoing support.

"To all of you who purchased a ticket, volunteered, bid on auction items or purchased raffle tickets, thank you. Your commitment makes all the difference," said Meyerl.

Q&A With Dean Capuano Of Swarovski

Dean Capuano has been the Director of Communications for Swarovski North America for more than 25 years. He has hunted all over the world and is passionate about everything he does. Managing Editor John Geiger recently met with him between hunts.

Q: What have been some of your favorite hunts over the years that you booked at the SCI convention?

A: The two that really stand out is Alaskan moose and Australia for water buffalo.

The Alaskan moose was with Lane Kroneberger and Freelance Outdoor Adventures. Anyone who has ever hunted with Lance knows what awesome adventure he puts together, especially when adding in the fact of filming the hunts, he really has things dialed in. Alaska is such a special place for me; it truly is one of the last places on the planet that is so remote. The moose hunts for me have always been on a different level, they are just such an awesome creature, and I love all the physical and mental challenges that come along with hunts like that.

Q: Why is being at the SCI Convention so important for Swarovski Optik?

A: The SCI Convention has always been a very important springboard and barometer to our yearly business here at Swarovski Optik. First and foremost, SCI and its members are our type of customer. The organization itself and all that it stands for in the hunting community align with many of our own values as a brand.

Secondly, members are exactly the type of consumer for whom we do what we do. To make products for passionate hunters who believe in the traditional lifestyle that comes along with it. The members here are the best judges for how our product could be.

Q: What does Swarovski Optik NA have coming to market in 2026?

A: 2026 will be a very exciting year for us here at Swarovski Optik across North America. We are launching our AT/ST balance, which is our first image-stabilized product.

We are very excited to bring this product to market and set a new milestone in the world of premium compact spotting scopes with the AT/ST Balance. This is a spotting scope that reveals a shake-free image — even without a tripod. Its integrated image stabilization means that the system precisely balances out the slightest movements and even allows handheld observation at high magnification. The AT/ST Balance was developed for discerning users who don't want to compromise between technical performance and practical application. Compact size, light weight and stabilization will allow the use of a spotting scope virtually anywhere. The new spotting scope is available now at Swarovski Optik retailers and from the Swarovski Optik online shop.

We are also very excited to bring a new generation of our dS riflescope which has been very popular with the SCI members. The whole combination of digital to analog optics is the future.

Q: Have tariffs been a challenge?

A: Yes, for sure, the tariffs have been a challenge for us, like I am sure for many companies and businesses in the convention hall. Fortunately, this is nothing new for us, as with riflescopes we have been dealing with it for many years. For us, it is still about how we can best bring product, service and overall experience to our U.S.-based customers. We are continuing to grow our business here in the U.S., and we do some assembly on the products here in the U.S., so that is our main focus right now.



Dean Capuano had an amazing Alaskan moose hunt in 2025. "They are just such an awesome creature, and I love all the physical and mental challenges that come along with hunts like that," he said.

Q: How do you get most of your customer feedback? Is there an email or site in particular, or do you just check out FB and IG comments?

A: As many of us know, the digital world is changing by the second and for sure, as a brand, we are trying to keep up as we view it all as part of the customer journey. From the time a consumer starts until we have loyal customers for years, there are many different touchpoints that need to be handled in many ways. We love our customers' feedback, both good and bad. Bottom line is hunters, like many of the folks here at Convention, are very tough on their product, so sometimes things break. It is very important to us. We stand behind our product and our consumer, but also take that feedback so we can make new generations of products even better than they already are. We also feel this is a very important part of our process as an evolving brand because so many of our customers love our product and are so attached to it that this is our best sales tool for future customers.

Q: Can you tell us about your experience with hockey and being drafted by the Bruins?

A: Yeah, anybody who knows me knows that I am a huge NHL fan. I come from a very big hockey family.

Myself, my brother and two cousins all grew up playing at a high level. We all played Division 1 college, and we were all drafted by the NHL. My cousin Jack is the only one left in the game as the Associate Head Coach for the Minnesota Wild. It's pretty awesome to come down to Nashville over the last few years and see how excited this town is about their hockey club, the Predators.

Q: Is there anything else you want to add about SCI or the 2026 SCI Convention?

A: Well, all I can say is it's been very exciting the last few years to see how you guys have grown this show here in Nashville. I have been with Swarovski Optik for almost 30 years, and we have been a sponsor for SCI that entire time. I have spent many years involved with the organization, its people and its members. I have attended many of the trade shows in Reno, Las Vegas and now Nashville. I think I only missed one year in my tenure here at Swarovski Optik. Our two brands are such a natural fit for each other, and there is so much overlap in our consumers. It just makes things so easy and so much fun to work with you all.

Visit with Capuano and see the new Swarovski products at booth 1333.

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Swarovski Optik, Nightforce and Leupold scope packages are available from Arrowhead. A key highlight at SCI is its turnkey rifle-and-optic packages — professionally mounted, leveled and field-ready.

Arrowhead Rifles Brings New Precision Muzzleloader To Convention

Arrowhead Rifles is showcasing its patented muzzleloader technology, precision custom rifles and premium optics packages at booth 805.

“We’re excited to be exhibiting at SCI for the first time,” said Luke Horak, owner of Arrowhead Rifles. “SCI brings together some of the most dedicated hunters in the world, and we look forward to connecting with members who value precision, innovation and personal service.”

Arrowhead is advancing the muzzle-loader market with its patented Gen2 ignition system, designed to enhance reliability, consistency and ease of maintenance. Muzzleloader packages start at \$5,500.

Its performance-focused muzzleloaders are engineered for 500-yard and beyond capability, delivering extend-

ed-range precision while remaining capable of running smokeless powder (in approved configurations) or Blackhorn 209.

Founded in 2011 and based in Phoenix, Arizona, Arrowhead Rifles has also built a national reputation for designing and manufacturing high-performance custom hunting rifles engineered for demanding Western big game pursuits.

Specializing in modern long-range cartridges such as 7 PRC and .300 PRC, each rifle is purpose-built for accuracy, durability and real-world field performance. Every build reflects meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to delivering confidence when the moment of truth arrives.

For more information, visit booth 805 or arrowheadrifles.com.



Peter Hofer

Austrian gunmaker Peter Hofer is back at the SCI Convention this year, displaying an array of his creations that truly are functional works of art. Saying that Hofer’s guns are unique is almost an understatement. Whether one of his creations has one, two, three or four barrels, it is unlike anything else in the world. Stop by booth 809 to see these marvels that are made of wood and steel.

Steeper Learning Curve Yet Engaging



By Andrew McKean

Any discussion of applied optical technology has to include the fastest-growing, most energetic category of optics: thermal devices. These entirely digital products — including hand-held monocular viewers and weapon-mounted sights — use special lenses and software to convert small variations in a target’s temperature to a visual representation.

If that sounds next-level, it is, but for wildlife viewers and hunters, all you need to know is that they enable you to literally see in the dark.

Thermals got their foothold with Texas hog hunters, but they’ve become essential gear for coyote hunters everywhere.

They’re not for everyone. For starters, they’re expensive — the best scopes, like Pulsar’s Thermion 2, can cost upwards of \$5,000. And their learning curve is steep, especially for users who struggle to navigate their smartphones. But if you invest a little time, patience and deep study of the user manual, they open a world of opportunity for hunting and wildlife viewing once the sun sets.

Just as with daylight optics, you get what you pay for, so buy the best thermal you can afford. A good choice is Pulsar’s Axion 2 LRF, which has a powerful thermal core, connects to your smartphone so you can share videos and photos, and a built-in laser rangefinder.

Pulsar is in booth 437.

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 and connect to social media, a list of speakers and seminars and much more.

Stay connected. Stay informed.

Low Down On New Green Dot Turkey Sight



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

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 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 mount-

ing 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. Hunters can visit vortexoptics.com to make sure their gun will work with this site.

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

Spectacular Shotguns At William Larkin Moore Booth 1209



A beautiful F.lli Piotti 20-gauge side-by-side round-action shotgun will be among the many fine firearms at the William Larkin Moore & Sons booth.

Check out the new F.lli Piotti 20-gauge side-by-side round-action that will be on display at the William Larkin Moore & Sons booth 1209.

The fine shotgun has 30-inch barrels, double triggers, straight grip, splinter forearm and is engraved by the marquee engraver Muffolini. It boasts a beautiful exhibition Turkish walnut stock and weighs 5 3/4 pounds.

It is in stock now, prices starting at \$44,500. Other Piotti models are available.

William Larkin Moore & Sons have been U.S. importers of F.lli Piotti since 1976. They also import bespoke firearms from Armas Garbi, Chapuis, Grulla and Rizzini, and maintain a substantial inventory of new and pre-owned doubles from renowned gunmakers from around the world.

For more information, stop by booth 1209 or email info@wlmsons.com.

Hunter Action Fund Luncheon Rallies To Support Pro-Hunting Efforts

SCI members and supporters of conservation and the freedom to hunt converged on Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint on Friday afternoon for the Hunter Action Fund Luncheon.

Members experienced a fantastic barbecue lunch, live music and the opportunity to contribute to the fight for the freedom to hunt.

"We will keep working so you have the

right to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors," said Congressman Nick Begich of Alaska, who spoke at the event.

SCI's Hunter Action Fund is the only pro-hunting Super-PAC. In 2024, HAF invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in congressional elections and state ballot initiatives. The HAF luncheon is the main annual fundraising event for SCI's Super-PAC.



Congressman Ryan Zinke of Montana spoke about the importance of conservation and the freedom to hunt during the Hunter Action Fund luncheon on Friday at Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint.

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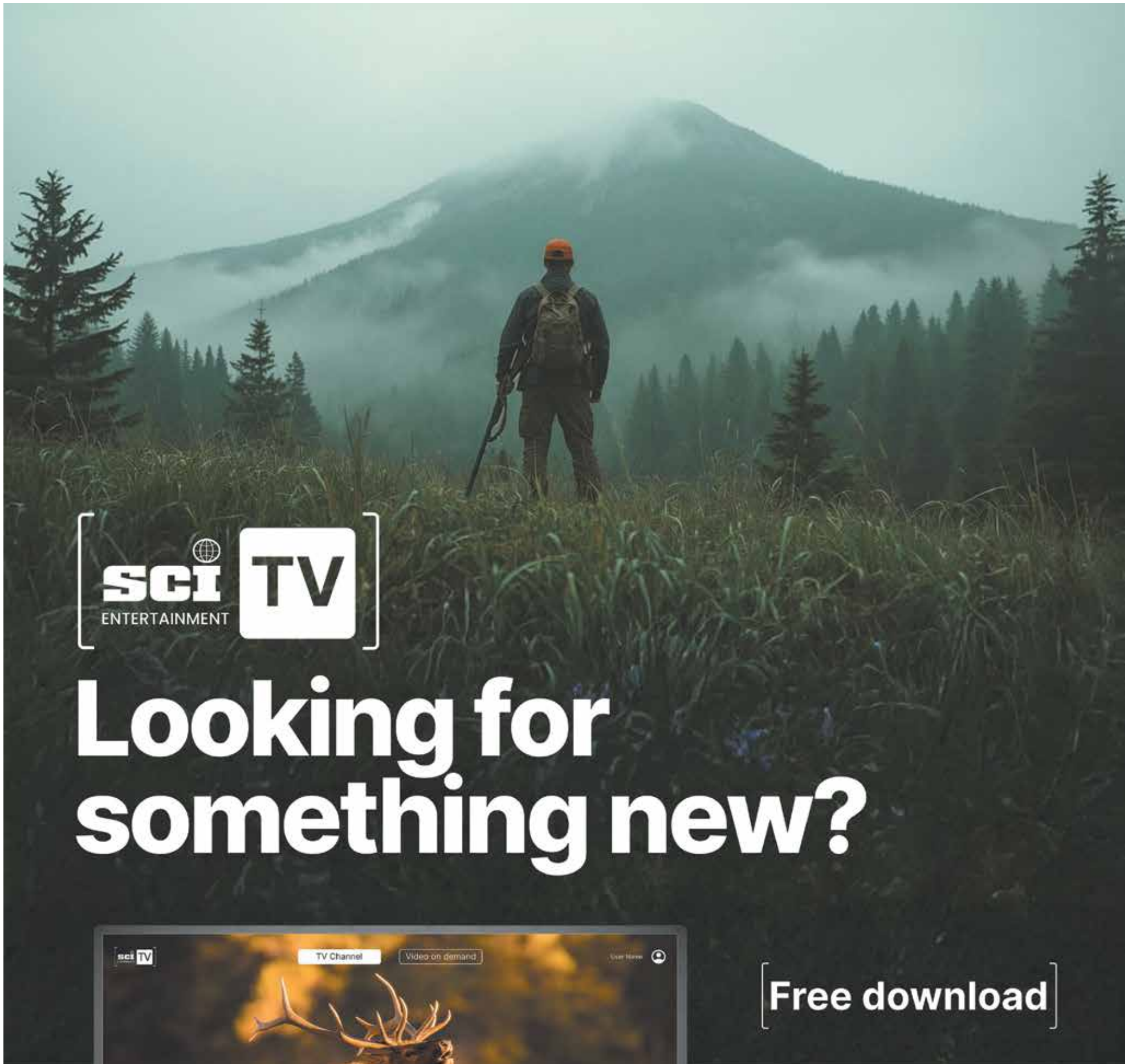
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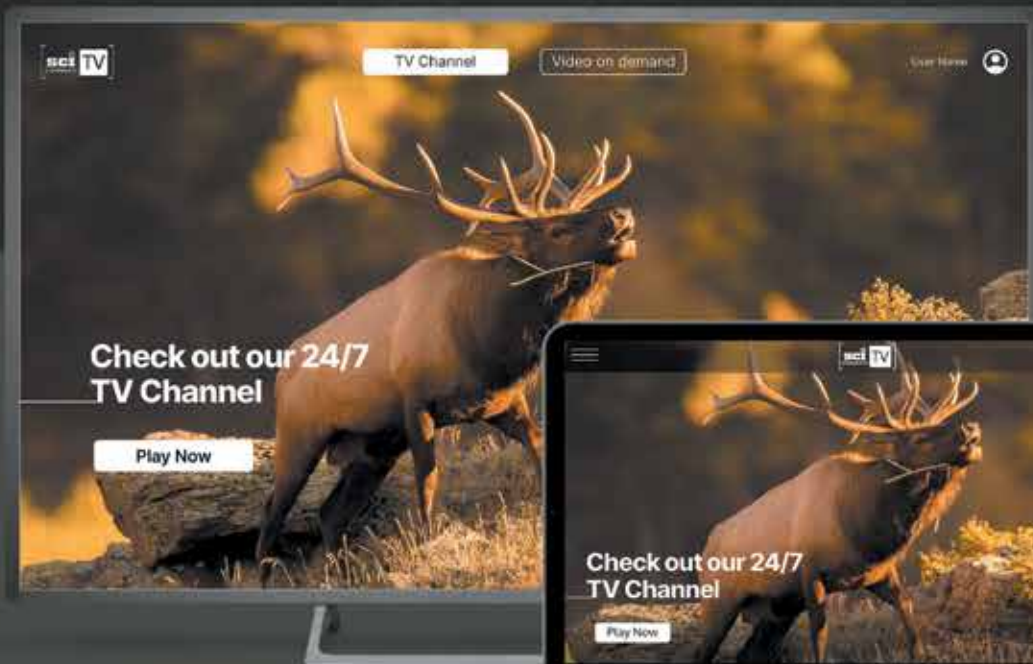
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SCI Adds New Chapter

Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter Is The 169th

The Safari Club International Board of Directors approved a new Chapter on Thursday: the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter.

Dean Crocker is the Chapter president.

This brings the total number of Chapters worldwide to 169, said SCI Director of Membership and Chapter Services Jason St. Michael.

“We are thrilled to announce the establishment of a new chapter in the region,” said St. Michael. “This development marks an exciting milestone as it ensures representation from coast to coast across Canada.”

St. Michael said it took years of discussion and collaboration with friends in Newfoundland and Labrador to make this happen.

The presence of local chapters not only provides essential funding for community initiatives but also unites all aspects of hunting.

“Unity fosters education and ensures the continued support for science-based conservation efforts well into the future,” said St. Michael.



The SCI Board of Directors added the 169th chapter on Thursday. Pictured here are, from left, Justin Crocker, Chapter President Dean Crocker, Jen Shears, Jason Moore and Jeremy Moore.

Kuiu Pro HD Flex Zip Waders Are Made To Last

Kuiu's new Pro HD Flex Zip Waders are breathable waterfowl waders designed with functional stretch from chest to boot.

Built with a premium waterproof, airtight zipper, it provides easy on and off access while keeping you dry. The molded 7mm EVA foam articulated knee pads extend from the knee to the boot, providing not only added cushion while kneeling but also enhanced protection while busting through ice.

The waders have a front zipper, bonded knee pads and insulated boots featuring their patented mud release tread. The boot is constructed with heavy-duty, insulating neoprene, a vulcanized rubber overlay for added durability, and an EVA sole for all-day comfort.

\$999 at Kuiu.com.

Kuiu is at booth 1800.



A New Load For Sweet 16S



Federal Ammunition has expanded its Premium Black Cloud lineup with new 16-gauge No. 2-shot and No. 4-shot waterfowl loads.

These loads bring Black Cloud FS Steel to 16-gauge shotguns, delivering devastating patterns and lethal energy for waterfowl hunters.

These new shells are now shipping to retailers nationwide.

Black Cloud FS Steel features the rear-deploying FliteControl Flex wad, and each shell is loaded with 40% FliteStopper steel pellets and 60% Premi-

um steel pellets, creating larger wound channels and increasing lethality.

The new 16-gauge Black Cloud FS Steel loads are available in No. 2-shot and No. 4-shot, ensuring waterfowl hunters have ideal options for any situation. They join an extensive lineup of 12, 20, and 28-gauge options, providing hunters with a full range of gauge choices to match their shooting preferences and hunting conditions.

MSRP for No. 2 and 4 shot, 2-3/4-inch, 7/8-ounce, 1,350 fps is \$40.99.

Visit Federal at booth 2914.

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.

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-quincentennial 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.

With Nashville as the host city, Ber-



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.

etta'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 be available for purchase at the booth,



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.

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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Women Hunters Find Success At Legends Ranch

Fourteen women were sponsored by SCI's Women Go Hunting Program to deer hunt this past December at the Legends Ranch in Michigan.

Many of them hunted for the first time ever. Others had hunted before but never harvested a deer. All 14 women took deer over the four-day event, which is part of the Legends Ranch Learn to Hunt Program.

The experience included conservation education at the Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch, firearms training at the on-site shooting range, two days of guided hunting on the 2,000-acre deer preserve and demonstrations on preparing and cooking venison.

Six of the participants won the hunt at the SCI Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, last January through the free Women Go Hunting Sweepstakes. The others were SCI employees who wanted to experience the thrill and passion for hunting enjoyed by the nearly 50,000 SCI members they serve every day.

Stop by the Women Go Hunting booth 3306 for information on new sweepstakes and other events and opportunities. The program's annual Ladies Mix & Mingle event is at 10 a.m., Saturday at the Nashville Omni Hotel.

For more information on WGH, contact Barbara Crown at bcrown@scifirstforhunters.org.

SCI Events Project Manager Augie Nobile participated through the scholarship program. Nobile had never been hunting before and had never been exposed to the hunting ethos until she came to work for SCI in 2022.

"When I was offered the opportunity to hunt at Legends Ranch with Women Go Hunting, I knew I couldn't pass it up," she said. "I had often felt like an imposter, working for a hunting organization without being a hunter myself, and this felt like a turning point."



SCI Sales Account Manager Lisa Neely took her first deer at the Legends Ranch at the end of last year. "Women Go Hunting is a perfect place to make friends, get support or learn to hunt," she said.

Nobile said accepting the invitation was her way of fully stepping into the experience and gaining a firsthand understanding about hunting.

"I saw it as an opportunity to truly connect with the mission and purpose of SCI at its core," she said.

Lisa Neely, SCI Sales Account Manager, said she always admired hunters but felt she wasn't fully connected SCI corporate sponsors, members and advertisers because she did not have any hunting experience of her own.

She started looking into beginner hunting options, but couldn't connect with something that felt like she fit in. That changed when WGH sponsored her trip to Legends Ranch.

"This is a perfect hunt learning experience for a woman," she said after tak-

ing her very first deer. "You not only get to learn how to hunt, but you learn all about deer, how to field dress and even how to cook your harvest. WGH is a perfect place to make friends, get support or learn to hunt."

Legends Ranch owner Robert Sergi is a strong proponent of conservation education, having provided more than 13,000 children with tours of the Wildlife Center at the Legends Ranch. He has also generously supported WGH, committing to donating another six slots to the Learn to Hunt Program for the upcoming WGH Sweepstakes to be held at the Convention.

"Women are important to the future of hunting," said Sergi. "At Legends Ranch, we want to help more women know the joys of hunting and become lifelong hunters."

Kenetrek Boots Are Made To Last



Kenetrek's 10-inch Mountain Extreme boots were perfect for a recent Coues deer hunt in Mexico.

Kenetrek's 10-inch Mountain Extreme boots feature 2.8 mm full-grain leather one-piece vamp uppers, eliminating stitching at the tongue that could come loose or let in moisture.

The uppers are paired with stiff yet lightweight nylon midsoles and high-traction K-Talon outsoles for stability and grip.

A Windtex membrane provides waterproof protection while its also breathable to keep your feet dry. The Mountain Extreme NI model is non-insulated, making it ideal for use in warmer weather.

I used them on a recent Coues deer hunt in Mexico and found them very comfortable and lightweight, which made them a perfect fit for my trip. —Jack Orloff



Federal's Custom Shop Turkey Loads are handloaded and are now offered with TSS payloads.

Dream Hunt Sweepstakes

Be sure to stop by the SCI Foundation booth before Saturday afternoon and sign-up as a monthly donor for a chance to win the annual \$100,000 Dream Hunt Sweepstakes.

At the SCIF booth 3301 at 3 p.m. on Saturday, TV host and Country music star Nick Hoffman will draw the winner.

By signing up as a monthly donor during the event, you'll also be automatically entered into our daily Tricer Bipod giveaway.

Stop by SCI Foundation booth 3301 and sign-up to win.



Nick Hoffman picks out a lucky ticket during last year's Dream Hunt Sweepstakes.

Everything About Black Bears

Learn about SCIF's fascinating work on North American carnivores and Louisiana black bears, 9 a.m., at booth 3301.

Join SCIF's Maria Davidson and state wildlife agency leaders for the event. Davidson works in the SCI Foundation's Conservation Department, focusing on science based management and conservation of large carnivores.

Stop by SCI Foundation's booth to meet her and learn more about current research, stage agency issues, and the future of North American carnivores.

6 New Federal Custom Shop Turkey Loads

Federal's Custom Shop Turkey Loads are handloaded shotshells built to order and offered in various Tungsten Super Shot payloads.

The company is now offering new loads: 3-inch, 12-gauge 2 1/2, ounces in No. 7 and 9 shot; 2 3/4-inch, 12-gauge 2 1/4 ounces in No. 7 and 9 shot; and 3-inch, 28-gauge, 1 11/16 ounces in No. 7 and 9 shot.

Check them out at booth 2914.

Hear Geese Not The Gun



Waterfowl AlphaShield by Tetra Hearing is made to enhance the noises waterfowl make but protect your ears from the violent sound of muzzle blast.

Anyone who has been in a duck blind when the action is fast and furious knows that swinging barrels and the sound of 3 1/2-inch shells have no mercy on our ears.

With AlphaShields, you can carry on a conversation while people are shooting all around you. Plus, get an edge by hearing ducks or geese before anyone else.

Noise reduction rating is -24dB with a universal fit, a pair goes for \$750 at tetrahearing.com.

Tetra is at booth 223.

Handling Variables For Your Scope

By Andrew McKean

Revic's opti-tech talents go way beyond its first "smart scope," a heavy but genius precision scope with a digital elevation turret and built-in weather system that turned my 800-yard rifle into a 1,500-yard rifle.

Revic is a Wyoming company and the optics arm of the semi-custom gunmaker Gunwerks. They now have a rangefinding monocular and binocular, as well as a precise Acura spotting scope. The Acura has an integrated reticle.

The components work best in tandem. Range a target with the rangefinder, then follow the prompts in the display that indicate what to dial the riflescope to, making sure you account for distance and wind. Get your buddy to call your shots through the spotting scope. Conveniently, the spotter uses the same reticle as the rifle scope, so you're speaking the same ballistics language.

Revic is among a handful of companies



— SIG's BDX system is another — whose families of optics have stretched our expectations of long-range hunting and shooting. Used to be, a 400-yard hunting shot was the limit of our gear. Now,

hunters are often comfortable nearly doubling that distance, assuming all conditions are correct.

See the Revic scopes at booth 1213.

Trijicon RCR Reflex Sight

The Trijicon RCR red dot represents the next evolution of the Trijicon RMR and is designed to be as durable as the Trijicon ACOG while improving precision and accuracy with any style or caliber of firearm in any environment.

The RCR does not require additional or new plates, as it can be mounted with the current RMR bolt pattern and direct mounts without the use of a dovetail.

The sight is 1x magnification and has a 3.25 MOA red dot. It is easily adjustable in 1 MOA per click increments, and no special tools are required.

Ruggedized battery contacts and electronics ensure the performance and survivability of the CR2032 battery, which can last six years of continuous operation at setting 5. \$1,019 at trijicon.com. Visit booth 937.



The Trijicon RCR has a 1x magnification and has a 3.25 MOA red dot.

6.5 WB RPM

The 6.5 Weatherby Rebated Precision Magnum, or RPM is based on a lengthened version of the existing .284 Winchester. The cartridge has a rebated rim, making it compatible with standard .30-06 bolt faces and reloading equipment.

Basically, you don't need a heavy magnum action to use this magnum cartridge. The large body diameter, low body taper and 35-degree shoulder mean that the case capacity is greatly increased and that leads to higher velocities.

The 6.5mm is highly efficient with less drop and wind deflection than many heavier calibers.

Weatherby wanted to create a round that would fit in their standard 6 Lug Mark V rifle action yet would take advantage of the full cartridge length that action is capable of chambering.

Weatherby is at booth 907.

— Jack Orloff



Weatherby Alpine CT



The Weatherby Model 307 Alpine CT is for hunters who want a light, accurate bolt-action rifle that they can customize.

Weatherby's Model 307 features a 2-lug, fully cylindrical action. The rifle complements the historic Mark V and Vanguard lineups yet is compatible with numerous modern aftermarket accessories, such as stocks, triggers, rails and mounts.

Weatherby teamed-up with the carbon-fiber experts at Peak 44 to make this rifle ultra-light for mountain hunters. Alpine CT's will have the option of Peak 44 Bastion stocks, which weigh just 24 ounces. Peak 44 puts a proprietary 3D-Hex recoil pad on that stock.

The barrel on the Alpine CT is a BSF carbon barrel, which is generally shorter than most other Weatherby barrels but is highly accurate. The lightest configura-

tion will start at 6 pounds. The rifle is offered in 13 chamberings from 240 Weatherby to 300 Weatherby, including 300 PRC.

Weatherby also adds its directional self-timing brake. This lets the shooter angle the direction of expelled gases emitted during the shot to reduce muzzle jump — an extremely effective way to increase accuracy.

Although I was not mountain hunting and was in a ground blind most of the time, I was very pleased with how light the rifle was and how easy it was to shoulder quickly.

The muzzle brake and 3D-Hex recoil pad made the recoil almost unnoticeable.

See the Alpine CT and other gear at booth 907.

— Jack Orloff



SCI and Botswana Wildlife Producers Association signed a memorandum of understanding that brings the two groups closer together to help sustainable use hunting in Botswana. The BWPA is the umbrella group of many outfitter associations in the African nation. Pictured here, front row from left, are SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin, Botswana outfitter Enge Smith, SCI President Jeff Meyerl and Executive Director of Botswana Wildlife Producers Association Leonard Metenje. Pictured in the back row from left, are SCI's Jeremy Clare, Everet Headley, SCI's Mpho Tijane and SCI President-Elect Mike Crawford.

Australia

Booth 1245

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