

# Ol' Goat Gazette

News of the International Order of Rocky Mountain Goats  
Summer 2021



Photo by Cristofer Maximilian

## Wadi Call 2021!

# IORMG Officers and Board of Directors

Grand Founder - Bill Burtness, 1927-2002

## Grand Herdsire

Bob Byron  
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## First Assistant Grand Herdsire

Vacant

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Chris (Skip) Skalet  
cskalet@gmail.com

## Grand Treasurer

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cskalet@gmail.com

## Assistant Grand Treasurer

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rdcarlson373@yahoo.com

## The Chaplin

Vacant

## The Elder

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## Board Member

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## Board Member

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## Board Member

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## Board Member

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## Board Member

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## Board Member

David (smitty) Smith  
smittyfire\_309b@msn.com

## Board Member

Jeffery (Jeff) Williams  
jw2willi@comcast.net

## Past Grand Herdsires

1966	Bill Burtness *	Founder	Denver	1995	Dave Sweezey	30th Wadi	South Park
1967	Pat Patterson *	Charter member	Salida	1996	Jack Barry		Colorado Springs
1968	Ralph King *		Salida	1997	Craig Woody		Denver
1969	George Oyler*	Charter member	Salida	1998	Glenn Montague*		Littleton
1970	Ted Riley *	Charter member	Salida	1999	John Evans		Littleton
1971	Ken Englert*		Salida	2000	Stan Ogilvie	Charter member	Salida
1972	Louis Coutu		Salida	2001	Bruce Hartel		Highlands Ranch
1973	Glenn Vawser		Salida	2002	Gary Lee		Woodland Park
1974	Stu Nadler*		Salida	2003	John Rold*		Lakewood
1975-6	Emil Knoepke *	10th Wadi	Colorado Springs	2004	Bob Carlson		Parker
1977	Jim McCormick	Charter member	Salida	2005	Joe Rosencrance	40th Wadi	Colorado Springs
1978	Lucky King		Denver	2006	Fred Aring		Littleton
1979	Tom Hyle *		Denver	2007	D. L. "Duke" Ellington		Federal Heights
1980-1	Swede Sansen*		Colorado Springs	2008	Skip Borham		Colorado Springs
1982	Bernie Barry		Colorado Springs	2009	Tim Jennings*		Littleton
1983-4	Will Thomas*		Salida	2010	Bruce Luckett		Colorado Springs
1985-6	Jack Mahay	20th Wadi	Colorado Springs	2011	Ed Snider		Littleton
1987	Tom Hoch		Denver	2011-12	Dan Doylen		Estes Park
1988	Glenn Weaver		Denver	2013	Ed Tuffield, Jr.		Denver
1989	Bill Johnson *		Littleton	2014	Treavor Morrison		Colorado Springs
1990	Arch Andrews*		Littleton	2015	Jeff Williams		Colorado Springs
1991	Ken Demming		Gunnison	2016-17	Kevin Harding		Firestone
1992	Lee Elling*		Littleton	2018-19	Rob Holley		Denver
1993	Mike Wynn		Salida				
1994	Paul Brent		Highlands Ranch				

\* deceased



International Order of  
the Rocky Mountain Goats

# 2021 WADI Application

**\*\*\*\* The easiest way to register is to log onto the IORMG website. \*\*\*\***  
**The website can be found at: iormg.org.**

**Please, carefully read the following and sign the agreement below:**

By choosing to participate at this year's Wadi, you are indicating your acceptance of these conditions. Emergency First Aid care will be provided at the Wadi site; you grant specific authority to the International Order of Rocky Mountain Goats, its agents and designees, to treat you, should the occasion arise, by providing emergency First Aid. Furthermore, you agree to hold the caregivers, the IORMG, and its designees harmless and exempt from any liability from claims that might arise from provision of such assistance. By signing this agreement, you assume all risk in connection with this Wadi or any other activity of the IORMG, and agree to waive any claim against it arising out of any other activity of the IORMG, and agree to waive any claim against it arising out of any injury to your person or material loss or damage incurred while participating in any activity promoted or conducted by the IORMG.

**I have read and understand the words in the box above, and agree to the terms and conditions as set forth therein. SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_**

First Name\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 1\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 State\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bus. Ph \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ol' Goat Sponsor\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Herd\* \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Your current, paid-up dues make you eligible to attend Wadi 2021, and must accompany this application if applicable. We'll also appreciate your payment of dues beyond 2021! TLKS must submit a membership app and a Wadi app.

\* Mandatory fields

**Dues: One Year: \$30.00 - Three Years: \$75.00 - Lifetime: \$400.00**

**Dues (2022 required)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**2021 Wadi Fee - \$150.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Saturday Only - \$35.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (includes lunch and dinner)  
**Name Tag (\$8)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Golf Fees (\$35 - includes cart)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Check Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Options - please check**

**Saturday Dinner Preference:**

Prime Rib ( ) Chicken Cordon Bleu ( ) Salmon Picatta ( )

**Activities:**

Golf Tournament ( )  
 Holey-Moley ( )  
 Horseshoes ( )

IMPORTANT: If doing Holey-Moley or Horseshoes, please list your partner name(s) here if known.

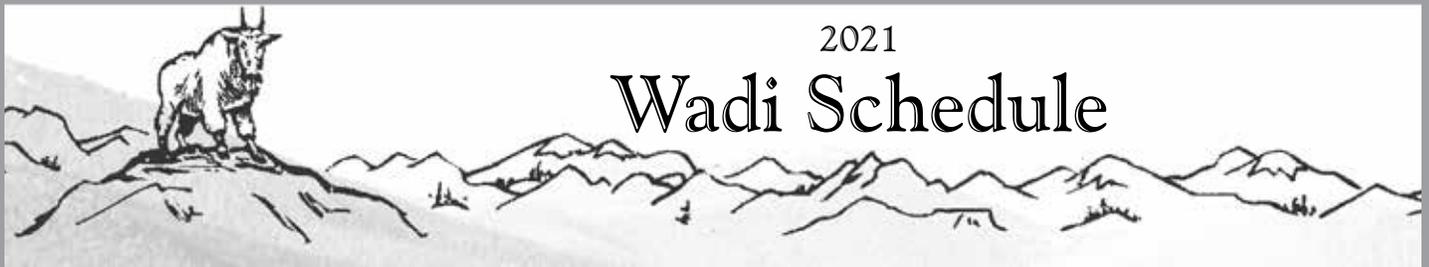
Wadi registration will close 1 week before the Wadi to allow us time to process all applications and get names into the hands of the Games Master and other officials who will be running the Wadi.

WADI FEES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REFUND ONLY IF THE CANCELLATION IS MADE BY THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE OF 5 P.M., SEPT. 1. REFUNDS MAY BE REQUESTED BY MAIL OR BY CALLING 720-234-0650.

Please mail this form with your check to:

**IORMG**  
 PO Box 2982  
 Parker, CO 80134

Please contact Chris Skalet with any questions:  
 720-234-0650, cskalet@gmail.com



2021

# Wadi Schedule

## **Thursday, September 9th**

Good Old Fashion Pig Roast

Pig will be provided (courtesy of Bob Deline)

Bring a side dish to share

Bar opens

## **Friday, September 10th**

Golf Tournament

Game sign up

BOD/General Membership Meeting

Silent Auction

TLK Indoctrination

Potluck dinner – bring a chili or side to share, dogs and brats will be provided

## **Saturday, September 11th**

Breakfast by Classic Catering Company

Games/Activities (Holy Moly, Horseshoes)

Lunch provided by Classic Catering Company

TLK Induction

General Membership Meeting

Awards ceremony

Scholarship awardee presentation

Live Auction (Herd donations appreciated) *Appetizers provided by Classic Catering Company*

*Dinner provided by Classic Catering Company*

## **Sunday, September 12th**

Breakfast provided by Classic Catering Company

Board Meeting

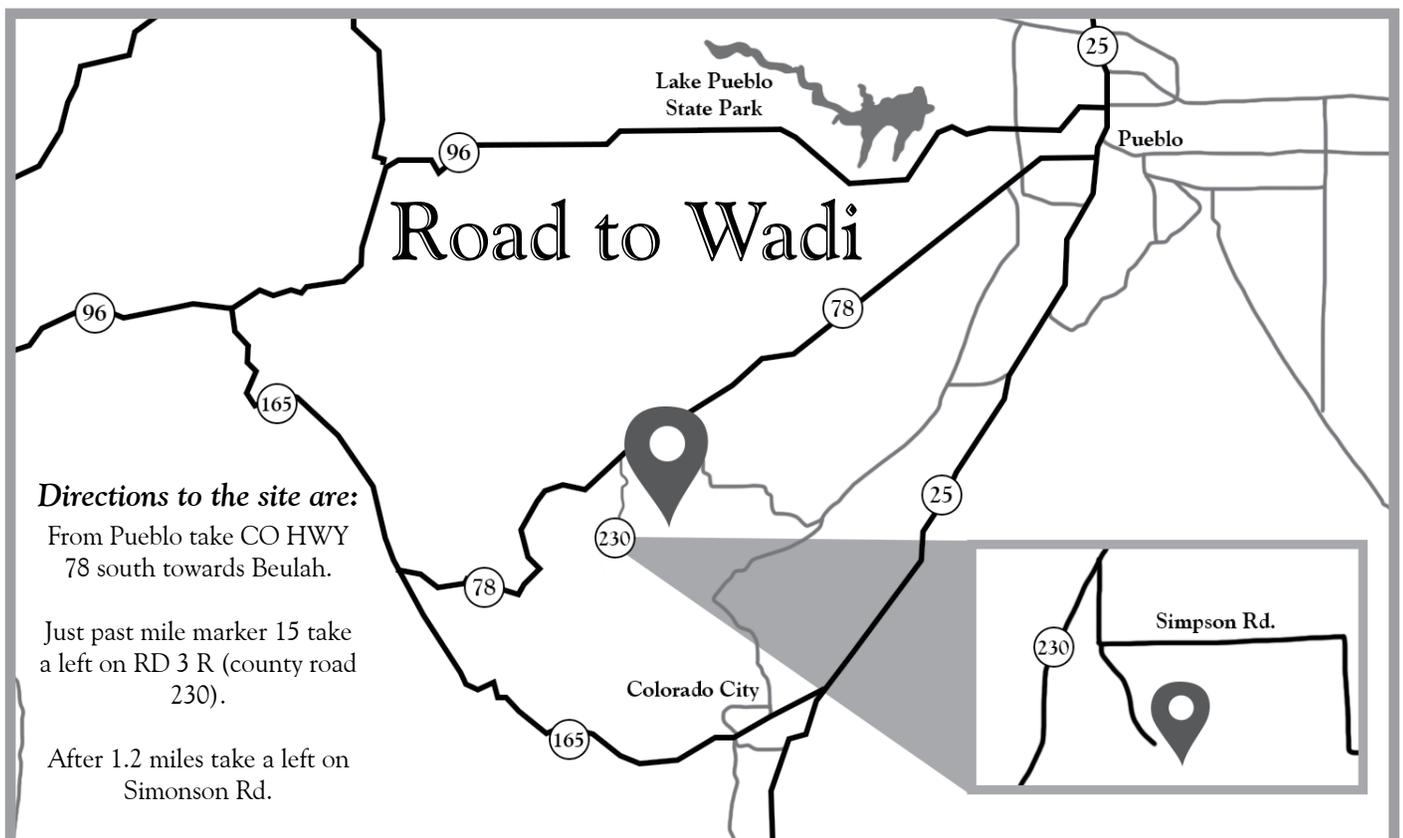
Break Camp

# Grand Herdsire



Grand Herdsire  
Bob Byron, IORMG

I hope all you old goats have come thru this COVID hellhole of a year intact. I hope the worst is behind us. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Wadi. It will be nice to start having live meetings and get together once in a while.





# FOUNDATION REPORT WADI CALL AUGUST 2021

Old Goat,

Since the Wadi is right around the corner, my report is going to mostly be about fundraising. The board had a meeting at the jamboree and the following items were discussed. Keith Coors reported that Rocky Spencer would be there to give his presentation that he would've given at last year's Wadi, this is scheduled for 5:30 PM on Saturday. Remember this is goat time.

Then we focused our conversation on fundraising. All herdsires have been emailed a cover letter and RMGF receipt. Please use these if you can to get donations for our auctions. Also make sure to take a photo of the receipt and email or text to me. My email is [wccjeff1@gmail.com](mailto:wccjeff1@gmail.com) my phone number is 970-389-0354. I intend to send thank you's to all our donors, and also I will have an idea of how many items we will have for the auction. If needed the board may choose to spend some of our money on buying some items for the auction. So please send this info to me as soon as you get it.

Also we discussed what membership might already have that would work at the auctions. Do we have a season ticket holders to any of our sports teams that maybe you could donate a couple tickets to the auction. Also how about rodeo ticket owners? Also do we have any condo owners in the mountains? The Gore range heard is going to try and get a four pack at one of the Keystone golf courses, if there was a summit county condo that we could package together it might make a nice auction item.

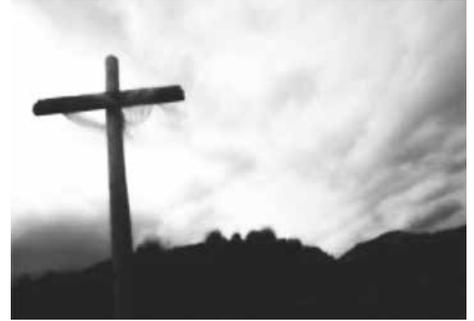
We also discussed about reaching out to businesses or foundations that donate money to organizations. If any of you know of such a business or organization and are comfortable asking please feel free to do so.

Also, at the Wadi, I hope to have an update on the Cheyenne Mountain zoo renovations of the Rocky Mountain goat exhibit. And if as an organization we are ready to vote on a donation to the zoo. We will have our normal Sunday board meeting and I encourage all membership to think about attending. We are 10 or 12 people making a decision on donating funds all of you have helped raise or donate. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's 2021 Wadi Jeff Schroeder



# Chaplains Corner

August 2021



From the Chaplain's desk,

It has been about one and a half years since our last Gazette. We don't have much in the way of activities to report because of the dreadful virus. Hopefully that is now in our rearview mirrors for the rest of our lives. Unfortunately, time never stands still and our heavenly creator continues to call us home. When our time has come we lose our footing, sometimes slowly and sometimes without warning, and we fall from the mountain. So has it been for a few of our Ol' Goat brothers. Those, I am aware of, are listed below.

Wandering Herd, Harvey Pratt;  
Denver-Mt Evans Herd, Charles Beamer, William Rossi, Wayne Teel;  
Old West Herd, Ryan Crawford;  
Bayou Billies Herd, Gary Jebsen;  
Stray Herd, Bret Koster;  
Longs Peak Herd, Jim Bendt;  
Gore Range Herd, Brent Kruger.

If you know of an Ol' Goat not named here please let the IORMG know.

## 2021 Wadi Golf Tournament

When: Friday 9/10/21

Where: Elmwood Golf Course  
3900 Thatcher Ave  
Pueblo, CO 81005  
719.561.4946

Time: Tee times start at 11:00 am

Format: 4 Person Scramble - 9 holes

Cost: \$35/player, includes cart

Note: All players must ride in a cart.

### Directions

From the Wadi site  
Take Hwy 78 back to Pueblo  
Turn North on Hwy 45 to Thatcher  
Turn East on Thatcher  
You're there.

### 2021 WADI GOLF TOURNAMENT FOUR MAN SCRAMBLE

1. Each player tees off
2. Pick the best shot and mark that position
3. All team members play their next shot from that chosen position
4. All team members can place their ball no more than one club length from the chosen ball and no closer to the hole. Note: You can't place your ball in a different turf condition. For example; you can't change from rough to cut fairway. If the chosen ball is in a hazard (bunker for example) then all shots must be made from that hazard
5. Play is continued that way through the green
6. Only one line score is necessary on the scorecard

# A Dream Comes True

by Randy Olson



The 2020 big game hunting season application process started off a bit strange. The Covid19 pandemic raised its ugly head just as the April 7th deadline was approaching. The question was do I or do I not put in for my usual hunting tags. Well I decided what have I got to lose. I had plenty of points for most of my choices but Big Horn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat had been the most difficult to draw. I'd been putting in for more years than I cared to remember. When I first started applying I was an able bodied hunter. All these years later I have to rely on power chair and walking shall we say is out of the question. I'm still able to do get out and participate in a sport I have loved since I was old enough to hunt but these two particular hunts seemed to be fading fast yet I still put in my application in the hopes and dream that I might get lucky and draw at least one. That being said I got the email telling me that yet again I was unlucky and did not draw either tag. I was disappointed to say the least after more than 16 years of applying and resolved that this would be my last attempt. At 65 years old I knew time was running out.

Fast forward to July 2020, I had no idea that God was about to intercede in my disappointment. I'm sitting at home when the phone rings and it's the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. I assumed that it was just another survey but answered it anyway. On the other end was John Flier who works in the big game licensing division. John asked me if I'd be interested in a Rocky Mountain goat tag for Unit G16. Seems that the person who had drawn the nanny tag for that unit had turned it in and lo and behold I was the next on the original draw list. It was mine if I wanted it. There was no hesitation about whether to accept it or not. It was probably my last chance so I completed the purchase. This is where it gets interesting. I'm in a power chair; the goats are at 10,000 to 11,000 feet on mountains. Terrain that's really not wheel chair friendly, what did I just get myself into. The first person I called was my neighbor Dan Fox, my hunting buddy, who was elated and very encouraging that I could do this. I then contacted the disabled hunting organization I have been with since 1991. They seemed to be on board to help so I was a bit relieved. Later Dan called and told me that Kevin, another hunting buddy might be able to help out in locating some goats. I had also talked with another friend. His dad and I were police officers together, different departments but hunting brought us together. Mike passed away on a hunting trip with his son Brandon. Brandon and I have stayed in contact since his passing. Brandon gave me some tips and with those from Kevin I was able to scout out a goat herd that just might be

accessible for me. Two weeks before the hunt the disabled group that was supposed to help backed out to help so I'm wondering what to do. Opening day was Sept. 8th and I had lost the help I thought I could rely on. God steps in again and another good hunting friend steps up to go with me. Well, opening day was the first snow storm of the season for G16 and conditions were not suitable for me. Friday the 11th was the first chance I had to try. So up to Georgia Pass we go to the goat herd we had scouted only to find after spending the whole day that goats had disappeared, nowhere to be found. Can't hunt the weekend due to regulations so I'm getting worried and not sure what will happen next. Ah, but God steps in again. Brandon stops by, unknown to me, he had contacted another hunter friend who had a G16 tag and they had set out trail cams in an area that would be accessible to me. Then, a CPW officer contacted me and offered his assistance. He had heard I was disabled and it hit home for him as his brother was paralyzed after getting hit by a car on his bike. Knowing how long it takes to draw a tag all these men came together to try and make my hunt successful. Monday the 14th arrives. Being the stubborn person I am I loaded up my 4 x 4 handicap van with no one to go along and headed up to the spot that Romon had found for me. 3.8 miles up Peru Creek Road from the Montezuma Rd. As I started up that road, in the dark, I started to question my judgement. Disable guy, all alone on what was probably the worst gravel road I had ever been on. I found my spot, got set up, and got a text from Romon and the CPW officer letting me know they knew where I was and they would check on me throughout the day. It was a long day but very interesting as I was able to watch Big Horn sheep, elk, deer, moose and even a bear. The goats were very high and didn't seem to be interested in moving my direction. As the day wore into afternoon at around 4:30pm I texted Romon and told him it wasn't looking good. The reply I got back was STAY! So I sat back and figured I'd be driving down that horrible road in the dark. Not 30 minutes later my heart was in my throat. Here come goats. Totally on the wrong side of where I was setup. Being disabled I have a shoot from vehicle accommodation but I wanted to be out of the van. That was not going to happen. They were on me so fast that all I had time to do was get repositioned, make sure I had identified a nanny and then prepare to shoot. Picking a nanny was more difficult than I anticipated but when she turned her back side towards me I was able to make it official. Horns and face were right but I had to be sure. When she turned broadside to me I was able to make a perfect shot. To my surprise she absorbed the impact of a 300 Win mag 180 grain round and started to walk. I knew they were tough and had been told the same in the orientation session. I chambered another round but it wasn't necessary. She walked about 10 feet and just collapsed. I was experiencing a gamut of emotions. The other goats came over and tried to get her up and when she wouldn't move they each came by nudged her and then walked back up and to the tree line. Once they were gone I sent a text to Romon and the CPW officer that I had a goat down. Romon said he'd be there in 35 minutes and the CPW officer came all the way from Hot Sulphur Springs. I got out of the van and was able to be over to her in my chair. I stroked her head and thanked her for her life and thanked God for the opportunity he'd given me. I was able to pick her up and held her in my arms and I'm not too proud to admit that I cried like a baby. Romon got there and I was about to learn that his best friend had just passed away from breast cancer. He was about to harvest his Billy but got this emotional feeling that he needed to be with me to help. Needless to say we spent some time crying again. We got some pictures and then started to cape and quarter her. Not too long after CPW officer Jake arrived to help with the process, do measurements and of course checked my license. Believe it or not here were three grown men still shedding a tear. I can't say I because it was a group effort for this to happen and the good Lord had his hand in it all the way. I never in my wildest thoughts would have imagined that being disabled, in a power chair at 11,000 feet and having a dream come true.

My Nanny scored very well but the heartwarming part was finding out that she was at the end of her maturity and that God led her to me to fulfill a dream.

That awful drive down Peru Creek Road that I was dreading earlier in the day didn't seem so bad with a dream fulfilled and God on my shoulder.



# Events Committee Report

Greetings all you Ol' Goat SOBs!

We are only a few weeks from this years Wadi and after the Jamboree I can't wait to see more members come together for the good of the Order. While Jamboree attendance was down, you'll see from Jeff's article that we still had a great time.

Thanks to Jeff Petersma and his crew we are looking forward to another great pig roast on Thursday night. And once again Bob Deline has donated the cost of the pig. Thank you Bob!

Friday night will be a little different from the past as far as the chili cookoff goes. The IORMG will still provide dogs and brats but instead of a chili competition we'll just be doing pot luck. For those of you that have competed in the chili cookoff in the past, please bring your best chili to share with the Order. We still hope to have a fair number of great chilis to have with our dogs and brats.

I know we have all been through a lot over the last seventeen months and I hope we can continue the trend towards normalcy, whatever that's going to look like. Getting back together as an organization felt really good at the Jamboree and I hope to continue that at this years Wadi. I know it won't be the same as past years but getting together to support our namesake, the great Rocky Mountain Goat, is what matters the most.

I thank you all for your continued support of the IORMG and RMGF and hope to see you at this year's Wadi.

Kevin P. Harding  
Chair, Events Committee



# Jamboree 2021

Old Goat, those who attended the 2021 Jamboree I'm sure would tell you they had a good time. After a more then a year it was good to see friends in person. We've all made many friendships belonging to the IORMG, and after what we all have gone through, I'm certainly looking forward to seeing all of you at this year's Wadi.

Jeff Schroeder and your events committee



# Menu

## Saturday, September 11th, 2021

**Breakfast Buffet:** - Southwestern Cheese Omelets with Ham, (Red and Green Bell peppers on the side) and Salsa, Plain Scrambled Eggs (Offer additional toppings on the side – Cheese, Sour Cream, Diced Ham, Green Chile, Mushrooms, and Spinach), Biscuits and Gravy, Potatoes O'Brien, Bacon, Link & Patty Sausage, Assorted Cereals & Milk, Assorted Danish, Muffins, and Cinnamon Rolls.

**Beverage:** Orange Juice and Coffee Service

**Favorite Mexican Lunch Buffet: 12:00 Noon** - Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Seasoned Ground Beef, Taco Shells, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Sour Cream, Black Olives, Shredded Cheese, Signature Tortilla Chips and Salsa.

**Beverage:** Iced Water and Iced Tea

### **Appetizer Menu: – 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

Sausage & Cheese Stuffed Jalapenos

Steakhouse Bruschetta – (Medium Rare Beef, Basil, Tomatoes, Bleu Cheese Cream Sauce.

**Prime Rib Dinner Buffet: - 7:30 pm** - Roasted and Served with Au Jus and Horseradish Sauce, Sautéed Regional Vegetables, Rosemary Baby Red Potatoes, Tossed Garden Salad with Dressings, Bread and Butter.

**(Optional) - Chicken Cordon Bleu**

**(Optional) - Salmon Picatta**

**Beverage:** - Iced Water and Iced Tea

**Dessert:** - Chocolate Snicker's Bar Pie and White Raspberry Cheesecake

## Sunday, September 12th, 2021

**Breakfast Buffet:** - Beef Fajitas Cheese Omelets with Strips of Beef (Bell Peppers and Onions on the side) and Served with Red Chile, Scrambled Plain Eggs (Offer additional toppings on the side – Cheese, Sour Cream, Diced Ham, Green Chile, Mushrooms, and Spinach), Biscuits and Gravy, Potatoes O'Brien, Bacon, Link & Patty Sausage, Assorted Cereals & Milk, Assorted Danish, Muffins, and Cinnamon Rolls.

**Beverage:** Orange Juice and Coffee Service

# And thats how the fight started

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year, I didn't buy her a gift.

When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please."

He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"

"Nah, she can order for herself."

=====  
My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have Sex?'

'No,' she answered.

I then said, 'Is that your final answer?'

She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, 'Yes.'

So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."

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My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. I asked her, "Do you know him?"

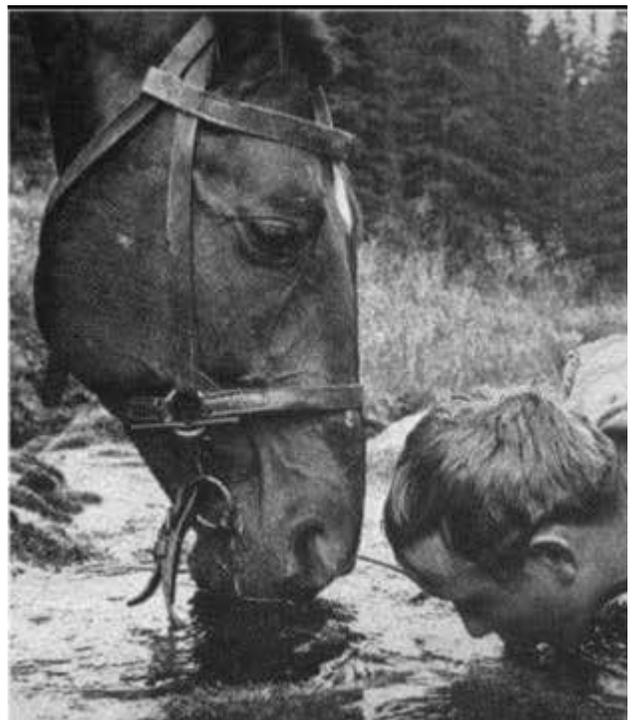
"Yes", she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

## Horse Water

Drink water from the spring where horses drink. The horse will never drink bad water.  
Lay your bed where the cat sleeps.  
Eat the fruit that has been touched by a worm.  
Boldly pick the mushroom on which the insects sit.  
Plant the tree where the mole digs.  
Build your house where the snake sits to warm itself.  
Dig your fountain where the birds hide from heat.  
Go to sleep and wake up at the same time with the birds – you will reap all of the days golden grains.  
Eat more green – you will have strong legs and a resistant heart, like the beings of the forest.  
Swim often and you will feel on earth like the fish in the water.  
Look at the sky as often as possible and your thoughts will become light and clear.

Be quiet a lot, speak little – and silence will come in your heart, and your spirit will be calm and full of peace."



# Hunting the High Country

by Jeff Williams

For the past dozen or more years I have had the pleasure of hunting the high country during the Colorado archery elk season with some old Army buddies of mine. We always look forward to the trip. The beautiful high-country scenery, the changing colors of a Colorado autumn and the sounds of bull elk bugling in the wilds have always enriched our souls. However, hunting the high country is not for the faint of heart. It is about a three-and-a-half-hour horseback ride straight up the mountain and into a wilderness area to our favorite spot. Camp is miles from the nearest town so there is no one to rely on except each other. I have seen it rain for 28 straight hours, woke up to a foot and half of snow on at least two occasions and have endured the smoke of nearby forest fires. This year would prove challenging as well.

It was challenging finding bulls this year as elk were unusually quiet for the end of September. Every day we got up at 0400 to grab a quick cup of coffee, a bowl of oatmeal and make last minutes gear preparations before our daily ninja treks through the wilds in search of bugles and big antlers.

The first day out one of my buddies got within 10 feet of a bear. Luckily, he was able to “wave the bear off” and the bear turned around and headed away. This got my other friend excited as he has an extra heightened fear of bears which I never really fully understood and I rarely missed an opportunity to tease him about it.

A few days later my friend with the bear-phobia was telling us about his “close brush with death”. He was exploring some new terrain and had apparently “walked past a bear den”. Now he has never seen bear den before and could not tell you what one looked like. All he knew is “that all of sudden a bear burst out from nowhere and began running away from him”.

The problem was, another one suddenly burst out from somewhere and started running right at him. Now I doubt that bear even knew my friend was there being all camoed-up, descended, and all but my friend was convinced that bear was charging him; after all he was running right at him.

Now my other friend let his bear get within 10 feet of him before he “waved it off”. Not this guy. He claims he jumped up on a rock, drew his pistol, racked a round in the chamber of his 115gr, 9mm jacketed hollow points. Hardly serious bear medicine but somehow it makes him feel better and tougher (I guess). At this point he began “yelling at the bear”. When I play this scenario out in my mind, however, it sounds more like a little school girl shrieking but at any rate it must have worked. The bear turned and tried to scamper up a tree.

Now my friend says that “bear was the clumsiest bear he has ever seen as it kept falling out of the tree and then scampering back up. Apparently, the tree was rotting a bit and pieces kept breaking away causing the bear to fall and then re-scamper back up.

To hear my friend tell the story “that was the closest I have ever come to death”. He must have said that 3 or 4 times.

Finally, I said “well hell, I’m glad I wasn’t there with you because that would have been the closest I had come to death too”.

“Why? Because that bear would have charged you too, he asked.

”No, because I would have died laughing watching that poor bear scamper up the tree and then fall back out after you screamed like a little girl and shit yourself”, I replied.

My friend was not amused but the point was made.

On the second to the last day of the season another buddy (the one that had not had any bear encounters) downed a 5x5 bull. Needless to say we were all ecstatic. By the time we got it quartered and back to camp the wind had kicked up and 90% of our tent had blown down. We put it back up, tightened the lines and got the rest of the elk out.

Later, back in the tent I reluctantly lit a fire in the camp stove (reluctantly because I was afraid the chimney would blow off). Sure enough, within minutes there goes the chimney. Quickly we reattached it and agreed to let the fire burn out: too dangerous. We all hoped the wind would die down but I knew better. Earlier I had made it high enough up to get a weather report. The winds would only get worse. Quick eats and try to sleep.

The outfitter would be up the next day to get the elk. We planned to hunt the next day, go after the bigger elk that got away and spend another night on the mountain and enjoy the wilds (and the rest of the brown booze). or so we thought. One thirty in the morning, I see a head lamp bouncing around the outside of the tent. The tent is losing it. Everybody out of the fart sacks; time to work. The wind is howling.

We worked hard putting it all back together again. Satisfied we did a good job, back to the fart sacks we went to try to sleep. I don't think I was in my bag for 2 minutes when I experienced what I felt like was an explosion. Am I dreaming, I thought? Was I in an airplane and there was an explosion? I felt like half my body had been sucked out of an airplane with head and shoulders hanging outside the fuselage.

Assessing the situation, I realized that I was not dreaming. A sudden gust of wind had blasted a hole in the tent around me and I was suddenly outside the tent from the waist up getting beaten by tent canvas.

"Hey! Are you guys tracking this?" I shouted.

Back at it. All hands-on deck.

The tent is violently shaking as the wind continues to howl. Another blast and another gaping hole. Now the center pole is losing it. Can't save it. The tent is going down. No hope to salvage it; not in this wind.

Widow-makers are crashing down all around us and throughout the forest. Some simply blow over roots and all. Others shatter in explosions spewing wooden shrapnel in all directions. The call was made. Drop the tent. Pile gear and dead elk on it to keep it from blowing away. Grab your cots, sleeping bags and anything you need to live. Move to the center of the meadow, away from the trees and try to ride it out.

Warm in my bag I imagine I am an arctic explorer with the wind howling around me wondering when it will end so I could continue the exploration. My next sensation is I am gob-smacked by the striking beauty of the heavens. The Milky Way sprawled out above me with remarkable clarity. Each star twinkling like bright crystals in the night sky. A shooting star, then another and still another. At least I thought they were shooting stars. It might have just been the wind blowing the stars across the night sky. Like I said, it was WINDY!

The morning proved to be too windy to hunt. Hearing a bugle would have been difficult to impossible and the elk probably would stay bedded down due to the wind. The wind would blow any arrow off its mark and the widow-makers remained dangerous.

The call was made via satellite phone to the outfitter. We will leave with the elk.

"Good" he said, "Wind is only going to get worse up there. Up to 70mph at lower elevations. Can't imagine what it will be like up there but too dangerous".

The outfitter showed up when he said he would. We then realized he had to cut through all the fallen trees the entire 3 hours up the trail. Horses were super spooky. They didn't like the howling wind or the sounds of the falling widow-makers. Time to go. I didn't ride out, however. I walked ahead of the horses with an ax in my hand along with a buddy with a saw. We re-cleared the trail of even more fallen trees. Trees that had blown down in the short period of time it took to ride up. We must have cleared another 20 trees over the next several hours just to get off the mountain and back to the trailhead.

I really punched my man-card on that hunt trip. Hunting the high country is special and it takes a special breed to do it. I'll be there again next year and with the same group of knuckleheads. I wouldn't miss a minute of hunting the high country.



International Order of  
the Rocky Mountain Goats

# Membership Application

**Note: The easiest way to pay your membership application is to log onto the IORMG website and make your renewal payment there. The website can be found at:**

[www.olgoats.org](http://www.olgoats.org)

The IORMG is a non-profit organization chartered in 1966, with headquarters in Salida, Colorado. It is governed by a board of directors that is elected, in part, at the Wadi each year. Its membership consists of law-abiding adults of good character, aged 21 or older, with an interest in wildlife conservation, and particularly that of the Rocky Mountain goat.

With annually paid dues, members receive periodic publications, emails, and web access. They also are eligible to make application to attend the annual fall "Wadi" (encampment) which is held the first weekend after Labor Day each year.

First Name*	_____	Home Ph*	_____
Last Name*	_____	Bus. Ph	_____
Address 1*	_____	Cell Ph	_____
Address 2	_____	Date of Birth*	_____
City*	_____	Ol' Goat	_____
State*	_____	Sponsor*	_____
Zip*	_____	Herd*	_____
Email*	_____		

\* Mandatory fields

Our non-profit foundation is dedicated to wildlife conservation and management, with emphasis on our namesake, the Rocky Mountain Goat. THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOATS FOUNDATION fund is supported through the tax-deductible donations of the membership. Your tax-deductible donation is optional, but appreciated.

<b>Dues</b>	\$ <u>45.00</u>	Note: this fee includes your first year dues plus a \$15 initiation fee
<b>RMGF Donation</b>	\$ _____	
<b>Total Check Amount</b>	\$ _____	

Please mail this form with your check to:

**IORMG**  
PO Box 2982  
Parker, CO 80134

Please contact Chris Skalet with any questions:  
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of Rocky Mountain Goats**  
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## YEARLY ANNUAL EVENTS

LADIES BRUNCH - First Sunday of May (Location to be announced)

JAMBOREE - Third Weekend of July (Fri. thru Sun)

WADI - First Weekend after Labor Day (Fri. thru Sun.)



## Obligation

*I do promise and swear:*

That I will personally uphold and abide by all wildlife regulations, and that I will encourage others to do so, also;

That I will take an active interest in the conservation of all wildlife and other natural resources;  
That I will encourage and promote good fellowship and mutual respect among sportsmen and landowners;

That I will uphold the American way of life and help to preserve our great American heritage;

That I will perpetuate, to the best of my ability, the future development of our organization, its goals and our namesake, the noble Rocky Mountain Goat; and,

That I will propose for membership in our great Order only those men who will seriously uphold this obligation.



**Our Founder  
Bill Burtness**