

Utah Taxidermists Association Competition Newsletter January 1, 2011

Happy New Year!!!

Howdy folks! Has it been a year already? Wow, how time flies when you're livin' the dream! I hope everyone had a healthy, safe, and prosperous year. I know the word "prosperous" is not really the word people think of with the economy the way it is, but like any other difficult time, I know we'll pull through it. Many of you may rely on taxidermy now even more since the bottom fell out of whatever it was you were doing before, and some of you may be full time guys who have felt the pinch. Whatever the case, I wish the best for each and every one of you who may be struggling in this difficult time. Chin Up!

The folks in charge of the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo were very impressed by our competition and display of talent last year. As such they are having us back again this year February 2nd through the 6th. Remington is sponsoring our event and will provide huge banners that will be hung above our area to direct people to our competition. Last year over 22,000 people walked through our show and the numbers this year I'm told are going to be even higher. The show has grown from last year and they are expecting a lot more people. (27,000) I'm also told our competition was a huge draw to people that would have otherwise not gone to the Expo. This is huge! You all can be proud that you helped make the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo a big success! Lets do it again!

Many of the things about the show will be the same as last year. Security at the show will be very tight and your pieces will be closely guarded at night and strictly off limits to grubby little hands during the day. We will have a big room to hold our seminars, which will be separate from the show. We will also have several vendors set up with their wares inside the seminar room, so come out and see what's new. This year our awards banquet will be at

the Downtown Marriott Hotel right across the street to the east from the Salt Palace on SATURDAY night. Remember, you must sign up and buy your ticket for the banquet no later than 8:00 pm Wednesday night the 2nd. The hotel chef needs to know how many people we will have coming and what menu choice you want so he can prepare. If you don't buy a ticket for the banquet and get on the menu list, you WILL NOT get in. Think of it as being run just like a Ducks Unlimited banquet. There will be two menu choices and the food will be awesome. We will have ALL DAY Wednesday the 2nd to set up. The competition backdrops and tables will be set up in the morning (Volunteers Needed!) and any big pieces that require driving right to our sight can be brought in at that time until Noon. After Noon you can still drive into the expo hall but your items must be carted to the competition area. They will have carts and people there to help. Last year this ran very smooth and went much better than I had anticipated. There will be no need to pre-register before the show. We will have a very well oiled, well-organized and COMPUTERIZED registration table set up ALL DAY on Wednesday the 2nd. Yes, I said computerized! We have acquired some brand new taxidermy competition software from the Wisconsin Taxidermists Association this year. We bought a laptop computer with a printer and everything including the banquet and awards ceremony will be run by computer program. Yee Haa!!! Welcome to the 21st century!!! Competitors can sign up for the competition, pay their membership dues, and buy their banquet tickets all in one place at one time. How nice is that! This software will enable us to print off registration forms, name tags, awards documents and receipts. Plus it has the ability to keep track of all the competitors, score sheets, categories, and organize everything so I can keep track of who gets what in the way of ribbons and awards. This part of my job has always been a NIGHTMARE for me and I can't wait to implement this new technology!

Hope to see all of you there this year and hopefully some more new faces!

Best Regards, Darin Gardner. UTA President