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For the Physically Challenged

Welcome to.....

"Life Beyond The Sidewalk"

Volume 3 Issue 12
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A TP Carolina Bear Story

by Roger Kirkman

It was the first week of October, bow season had just started in Virginia. I am a paraplegic and usually hunt by myself from my wheelchair but about 5 weeks earlier I had broken my leg in a handcycling accident so it was hard for me to get in the woods by myself. That day my brother had offered to take me back in the woods on his 4-wheeler about a mile and drop me off in an area where he had seen deer cross the day before. When we got there I got off the 4-wheeler and sat on my cushion and leaned up against a tree. I had left my wheelchair back at the truck. My brother broke a few branches and placed them around me to help me stay out of sight, it was a great hunting spot. Then he got back on the 4-wheeler and went about 1/2 mile down the trail to his hunting spot. The plan was to pick me back up after dark. So there I sat, it was a good afternoon for hunting, there wasn't much wind so I could hear if anything was coming in my direction. I sat there till almost dark, you could still see but I knew I had only about 5 more minutes of light. That's when I heard something to my right. I turned in that direction and got the surprise of my life. Not 15 yards away from me was a bear coming out of the woods in my direction. It shocked me at first because that was the last thing I was expecting to see when I turned around. The next thing that went through my mind was what I should do? I had always said if I ever see a bear I am going to shoot it, what a great trophy that would make. The problem was there was a tree to my right so I couldn't get a clean shot. The other thing that went through my mind was, all I have is one shot with my crossbow, and this was a huge bear. What if all I do is make him mad. So I decided just to sit there quietly and hope he either went in front of me where I could get a clean shot or just go on about his way and never see me. Instead this bear did the one thing I was hoping he wouldn't, he came straight towards me. I sat there frozen trying not to move a muscle, I didn't even want to breathe. He was 10 yards away now and he stopped and started sniffing the ground. I tried to slowly point my crossbow towards the bear but the tree to my right was so close that it was impossible unless I turned my whole body, and believe me that wasn't an option in my mind with a bear that close. So I did what all the bear encounter stories I have ever read says to do, I played dead. Next the bear stopped sniffing and pawing the ground and turned and came in my direction. My heart was pounding, the bear was now only 10 feet from me. Then I lost sight of it for a second as it passed by the tree to my right that had blocked my shot earlier. The next thing I saw was a huge black head coming from around the tree only about 2 feet from my broken leg that still had a cast on it. I sat there frozen, looking face to face with this huge bear. If I had an arrow in my hand I could have touched him on the nose. This only lasted a second, the next thing I knew he reared up on 2 legs and turned and ran faster than any deer in the opposite direction. I guess in looking back he was just as afraid of me as I was of him. I sat there for a few seconds, my heart was still racing, still not believing what had just happened. The next thing I saw was my brother's headlights from his 4-wheeler just now coming into sight. Man, did I have a story to tell him!!

West Texas' Main Event

The West Texas Chapter of Turning Point had "Thirty-Four" participants including staff, Point members and family, attending the second program at the Main Event on November 22. We started our hunting season with participants having a Laser Tag session where "humans" were the prey! After recovering from the "hunt" everyone enjoyed two games of bowling with strikes and gutter balls blasting down the lanes. A healthy lunch of pizza was followed with arcade games. We signed-up "Four" new physically challenged members and continue to have excitement for our growing membership.



Starting in January, 2009, Wes has scheduled three presentations at Outpatient Rehab Centers focusing on educating our area therapists about our organization and the benefits of participation in our programs. The West Texas officers and their family members are a fantastic nucleus committed to the organization's mission and growth of the membership.

Indian Nation goes Deer Hunting

Turning Point had its first rifle deer hunt near Atoka, Oklahoma. Butch Evans was the gracious ranch host who opened his ranch to us to hunt. It is 600 acres of prime whitetail country. We had 5 hunters come in for the hunt. Some were from Oklahoma and others from Texas came up to participate. We managed to get a few deer, 4 does and 1 small buck. Jon and Jonnie Bostic both shot their first deer. We still do not exactly know what happened out of the Swanson/Durkin blind, but there was a whole lot of shooting and they managed to drag a deer back to camp. Dan Froman was able to get two deer. It went really well considering it was the first organized hunt we attempted.

Like most hunting trips, it was not about shooting the deer as much as the comradery among the

TP members. We started off by gathering at the hotel in Atoka to watch the OU/OSU football game. We woke up and got everyone to their blinds to start the hunt and the that first morning turned out to be the most productive part of the hunt with Jonnie and Dan getting their deer, that afternoon the Swanson/Durkin deer came to camp and the following morning found Bostic got his just before we ended the hunt and headed back home.

It was a great way to end the year for TP Indian Nation. Everyone saw deer even though not everyone shot a deer. We would like to thank everyone for participating. We had a great time just hanging out with everyone and using the ranch. Thank you Butch for your help and generosity of your ranch and home.



Interested in Snow Skiing?

Turning Point Carolina is collaborating with Disabled Sports USA to snow ski at Beech Mountain Resort. The 'Adaptive Learn to Ski Event' will happen on January 19-23, 2009. Lessons available in mono, bi-ski and twin ski. Participants will be evaluated by clinic instructors for appropriateness of type of lesson. Adaptive equipment is on loan and will be free of charge. You will be responsible for own lodging and food. For further information email Al Kaye at akay@covhith.com or Dave Kiley at dk@turningpointnation.org.



Turning Point Carolina is arranging a winter trip to the Donner Lake region this winter for an Alpine, Nordic and Snowmobile adventure.. Dave Kiley, Carolina TP Director, is talking with Michael Byxbe and the Sierra Sit Skis. For more information, email Dave at DK@turningpointnation.org.

East TX

Duck Hunt

ANYONE??

TP is planning a duck hunt in January at Caddo Lake in East Texas. It will be cold and we will be in the blinds on the water before light, so you will need to dress appropriately. There will be a guide fee of \$50 per day, this will cover the blind and the ride out in the morning. If you are interested, please contact Jason at jswanson@turningpointnation.org or call 214-649-7146.

Tahoe Snowmobile Rally

Skeet in North Texas

Who would think that a 35 degree day with wind blowing and gray clouds would be a good day for a skeet shoot? Well, guess what? It was FANTASTIC! Yes, it was cold. Yes, it was a little dreary. And yes, we were all bundled up. But we had an amazing time. Turning Point North Texas went to Elm Fork Shooting Park in Dallas for a day of skeet shooting. There were about 25 of us there of all ages. We got to shoot a variety of different guns on the skeet range at the park to sharpen our new skills. What a fun time we had!

Special thanks go out to all who brought and shared their guns and those who helped instruct us on the proper safety and use of the shotguns. We were able to warm up a little bit during lunch, held inside the club house and then it was back to the range. We gave away a .12 gauge shot gun that was won by Casey. He was so excited! And what a shot! He was hitting targets all over the place. He said he was looking forward to going shooting again with his grandfather. Even though it was cold, we still managed to shoot at several hundred clay pidgeons. We plan on doing another skeet shoot in the February. Let us know if you would like to be involved.



Up Coming Events

Turning Point North Texas

- Jan 17-18 Jason's Kids Hunt
- Jan Duck Hunt
- Feb 8 Skeet Shooting
- Mar 8 Handcycling
- Mar 14 Athen's Fish Hatchery
- Mar 22 Lake Ray Hubbard Boating/Fishing
- Apr 11 Skeet Shooting



Turning Point Tahoe is having a fund/fun raiser party in the mountains and you can be a part of it!! We are putting together packages of hotel, flight, transportation, snowmoblie rental and any extracurricular activities to suit the needs of anyone who wants to join in on the fun from out of town. Please contact Candace Cable by January 7, 2009 to book your fun filled MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE.

Come ride the Tahoe National Forest Trails at Jackson Meadows, CA.

Feb 15, 2009 10:30AM - 6:00PM

Enjoy scenic trails, music, BBQ and prizes. For information and pledge forms go to:

www.turningpointtahoe.com

Join Our Mailing List!

Our Mission



"To develop self-esteem and confidence in the physically challenged population through participation in adapted outdoor adventures"

"Life Beyond The Sidewalk" is a monthly publication of Turning Point

- Apr 24-26 Arc Ridge Spring Camp Out
- May National Fishing Championship/ Juniors' Bream Tournament/ All Species Tournament
- May 24 Lake Ray Hubbard Boating/Fishing
- June 5 Texas Hold'em Fundraiser
- June 6 Dallas Extravaganza
- June 8-11 Fishing Camp

Turning Point Carolina

- Dec 13 Virginia Deer Hunt
- Jan 21-25 Beech Mt Adaptive Snow Ski Clinic
- Feb South Carolina Quail Hunt
- Mar 7 Lake Norman Striper Fishing Trip
- Mar TPC Fishing Tournament
- Apr 25-26 Kids Camp Out, Fish Derby

Turning Point Gulf Coast

- Gulf Coast is not sure if they will be able to have activities in 2009 due to the damages from the hurricane

Turning Point Indian Nation

- there will be no activities until Spring 2009

Turning Point Tahoe

- Snow Skiing - contact chapter for arrangements

Turning Point West Texas

- TBA

See our website for more info on upcoming events.

www.turningpointnation.org

Quick Links

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National. It is published the first week of each month.

If you have an article or event you would like us to publish please submit it to [Jason](#) by the 10th of the month. If we do not receive the information by the 10th it will go in the next issue.

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