



March 8, 2016

To BucksNag Hunting Club Members:

Dear Members,

Another great season has passed and your club management and its Board of Directors are already planning for another outstanding waterfowl hunting experience for the 2016/17 season.

**INCLUDED IN THIS MESSAGE IS INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING:**

1. 2015/16 SEASON
2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, REQUIRED DATES
3. MEMBERSHIP DUES
4. CLUB RULES AND RESERVATION SYSTEM
5. CLUB MANAGEMENT AND BOARD/OFFICERS
6. PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS/PURCHASES

**2015/2016 SEASON...** This year we again enjoyed a safe and enjoyable waterfowl season. Hunting was outstanding overall as evidenced in the reports you have previously received from Brian Center. Overall, use of the club by members and their guests increased compared to prior years. A number of our members have commented in survey responses that our hunting and food service continues to be at a high level and that our Club management, guides, chef and staff all worked very hard to make the Club a great hunting destination. During the past year approximately 1660 members and guests visited the club and utilized the club for hunting and entertainment and it is noteworthy that we also had a great youth season. Finally, the clubs financial situation is currently healthy and not under stress with an appropriate reserve for contingencies.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, REQUIRED DATES....** . The Board has decided that, we will continue with a target membership level of **86** members for this upcoming season. This number is based on consideration of a balanced use of the lodge facilities, available hunting locations, and on this past season's experience. We currently have approximately 28 people on our membership "waiting list" to join and as you are aware our policy is to invite existing members to renew before any new members are added. There will, no doubt, be some attrition in current members resulting from various changes in circumstances. The board and club management request that **IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**, please notify Brian Center via email as soon as possible please. **We will close membership renewals on April 30, 2016 and begin admitting new members on or about May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**To renew your membership you must complete the APPLICATION/AGREEMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP, ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER including accurate contact information and your signature indicating that you have read, understand and agree with the updated club rules. This form should be returned to:**

**Brian Center, club manager, PO box 382, Garwood, Texas 77442 or alternatively scan and e mail to [bucksnag@gmail.com](mailto:bucksnag@gmail.com). You should also include your check if mailed or request that Brian send you an invoice to enable you to pay by credit card. (Credit card charges for dues will include a convenience fee of \$50, which is below our cost.)**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES....** Annual dues for the 2016/17 season remain at **\$3,000** per member. The one time new member initiation fee will also remain unchanged at **\$500**. As a result of increased food and maintenance cost and our desire to maintain a high level food service the board voted to increase the daily room and board fee by \$10 to **\$120** per person, children remain at **\$50** per night. Late fees for dues will be assessed after May 1, 2016 and membership acceptance (both renewals and new members) will close upon reaching the 86 member quota established by the board.

**DRIVE IN HUNTING...**At the recent board meeting the directors voted to increase the fee for drive in hunters to **\$75** per adult hunter, children will remain at \$50. While the club discourages drive in hunting as this is not a day hunting organization, it is understood that sometimes it is necessary and warranted. This change will be effective for the 2016/17 season.

While the water situation on the prairie has improved, we expect a continuation of membership inquiries. Please note that any significant unknown increase in hunting lease or water costs may require a corresponding increase in our dues. Such costs will not be known until mid-late summer and will be reviewed carefully by the hunting committee and board.

**CLUB RULES and RESERVATIONS SYSTEM...** There are several changes to the Club House Rules for this coming year and include primarily the (1) Cost changes noted above and (2) The cancellation period for members booking 4 or more rooms on one night. The board changed this cancellation period to two weeks.

The club rules are located on the Club's website at [www.bucksrag.com](http://www.bucksrag.com) . You are being asked to sign an individual acknowledgement of these updated rules, as well as on behalf of your guests, as a part of your membership renewal. Our online room and hunting reservation system process will continue as in the past. Our Club manager will announce its availability date to members later this summer.

**CLUB MANAGEMENT, BOARD AND OFFICERS...** The board is pleased to report that club management will continue as last year and again thanks Brian and his staff on a job well done. With regard to the board, no new members were added during the year however several members were invited or will be invited to join committees like the house or hunting committee. If you have a desire to participate on a committee please let me, a board member or Brian know. Participation is needed and appreciated. At the board meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, the board asked me to continue as President for another year along with the current officers, all agreed.

**PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS OR ACQUISITIONS...** First, thanks again for participating in our annual raffle and congrats to the winners. These funds have and will continue to be used to improve and maintain our facilities and property.

You may be aware that we entered into a contract to purchase the adjacent lot and two metal storage buildings immediately south of the house. The plan is to use the buildings for storage, both members and the club, develop a nice gun cleaning room and enable us to tear down the old sheds behind the house and construct a cooking facility and kennel. Well, we have determined that there is a federal tax lien on the property so closing this transaction is unsure at present. We are attempting to work with the owner to help him obtain a clean title so stay tuned. We were unaware of this undisclosed issue when we started the process and are glad that the title company did their job. If the transaction fails we will develop a plan to construct new facilities on our property behind the house. Hopefully we will be able to obtain a clean title but if not will communicate our alternative plans and timing.

**Important Reminder**....As discussed above, renewals must be returned on or before April 30, 2016 after which new member applications will be reviewed and new members added until we reach the maximum of 86 members.

The Board of Directors and club management thank you for being a member of the Bucksrag Hunting Club. As a hunting club, we all have mutual goals for a safe, legal and enjoyable waterfowl hunting experience. Finally, an Annual Meeting of the members is now being planned for possibly the latter part of the summer, if member interest and participation is reasonably high. Look for an announcement from Brian Center at a later date.

Thank-you for your continued club membership and cooperation in helping us maintain the Bucksrag Club tradition and in getting the new season off to a great start.

Best Regards,

**Joe D. Koshkin**

**President**