

# Staff Tips

Submitting a Story or Photos

—by John Petersen



There are several exciting changes here at *The Huntin' Fool* and we are excited to launch Web Stories and the new 2011 Story Contest. Hopefully you have enjoyed some successes this fall and are ready to share your stories and photos with fellow *Huntin' Fool* members. With the addition of Web Stories you've got an even greater chance at getting your stories published and winning something in our 2011 Story Contest. Seeing and sharing your successes through trophy photos and stories is one of the most rewarding parts of our job. If you enjoyed a successful hunt, we'd love to see your stories and trophy photos and share them with all the *Huntin' Fools* out there.

## WEB STORIES

We are excited to launch the Web Stories section on our website ([www.huntinfool.com/stories](http://www.huntinfool.com/stories)). Each year we have dozens of great member stories that we are unable to share with our members due to a lack of space in our magazine. Each month we will post additional member stories online. Unlike the magazine this format also allows us to publish these stories "Un-Cut" in their full version so you can hear everything the author had to say about the hunt. In 2011 these stories will also be eligible for our Member's Choice Story Contest and over time will be a huge resource to our members in deciding where to apply and what to expect on a hunt. These hunts will be searchable by location and species so if you draw say a Nevada deer tag you can pull up and read all of our Nevada deer Web Stories!

## 2011 STORY CONTEST



For 2011 we have some big news in our Story Contest! Zeiss is stepping up to be the Story Contest Title Sponsor. If you are lucky enough to make one of our 12 covers in 2011 you will receive a pair of Zeiss Victory FL 10x42 T\* FL Binoculars. These binoculars retail for \$2,300 and are a perfect all-around hunting binocular. My two favorite features are its

FL glass and LotuTec® coating. The ultra high performance FL glass produces extremely bright, sharp and vivid images, giving you a clear advantage in challenging low light situations. The award-winning LotuTec® water-repellant coating ensures a clear image, even in the rain. The 10x42 T\* FL is powerful with a wide field of view, yet lightweight and compact enough to comfortably use all day. I personally use a pair of Victory binoculars and love them—if you are lucky enough to make it on our cover you will too!

In 2011 the Member's Choice Story Contest will be expanded to include Web Stories as well as stories printed in the magazine each month—even if your story doesn't make the magazine you could win BIG! The first place winner will receive their choice of either a your choice of either a Remington rifle or a Mathews bow! The second place winner will receive a *Huntin' Fool* Hat and the New *Huntin' Fool* Classic Folding Knife. Go to [www.huntinfool.com/vote](http://www.huntinfool.com/vote) to vote for your favorite stories each month.

## SUBMITTING A TROPHY ROOM PHOTO

You can either email or mail your photos to us. When submitting a trophy room photo please send high resolution photos or prints and include the following information:

- Hunter's Name
- Name of each person in the photo (Left to Right)
- Size (optional)
- Species
- Year Taken
- Location (State or Province)
- Weapon (if other than rifle)
- Name of outfitter (optional)

## WRITING AND SUBMITTING A STORY

If you've just returned from a memorable hunt where you were lucky enough to harvest an animal, think about capturing the adventure and submitting a story to us. Besides being a great way to preserve your hunting memories, you could win big in our Story Contest!

Most people don't see themselves as writers and sometimes the task seems so daunting it's procrastinated until most of the details are forgotten. Don't let the task overwhelm you, just keep it real and tell it like it was. Start with the facts and a basic outline then fill in the details.

Things you may want to cover in a story:

- Why you chose the hunt or unit and how you got the tag
- How we helped you (if applicable)
- Any history you have had with the animal or the area (scouting, etc.)
- Type of hunting or techniques used
- Anything interesting about your camp, the terrain, or transportation
- Story of the hunt
- Score of the animal (if scored), official or unofficial
- Member Tips (Information you think would be helpful to other members on a similar hunt. What worked and what didn't.)

Be specific with details and exciting moments. It's always a nice touch if a little of your passion for hunting shows through.

The most challenging part about writing a story is editing it down after your initial draft. You don't need to chronicle each day, but it's a good way to start. Then cut out details that aren't important, entertaining, or teach something about hunting that unit or species. Instead of writing a novel for each day and detailing how many bulls and cows and rabbits you saw, combine days that were similar or unproductive into one or two paragraphs. For example: "Days 2 through 5 were very hot and game activity seemed to decrease substantially. We saw a total of about 5 bulls and 15 cows. At the end of a few hot days the storm clouds were a welcome sight."

As you read through your rough draft think if I cut this or that is the story just as good. Boil your story down to the important parts. Your story should be anywhere from 500 to 1,500 words or about 2 1/2 pages in a normal word processing document.

In Microsoft Word you can check the word count of a story by clicking on Word Count in the Tools menu. If you only have 1 or 2 photos your story will need to be short. If you have a lot of good photos you will want to shoot for the 1,500 word range.

You can send as many pictures as you would like and I will choose the ones I need. If you took digital pictures I need the largest digital files you have, either on disk or by email (I can receive up to 10MB emails).

If you send me more than 20 photos *please indicate your favorites, especially the kill photos*. Also make sure you identify other people in your photos at least once—it's difficult to guess who's Tom and who's Bill. If you took a lot of photos with a digital camera it's best to burn a disk and mail them all to us. If possible please include a copy of your story on the disk as well as a printed copy. If you took

regular film pictures I prefer actual prints or negatives.

When emailing your stories to us type the location of the hunt, species, and author's name in the subject line. In the body of the email please include your name, address, and phone numbers with area codes (home, work, and cell). This allows me to easily contact you if I have questions about your story. If you don't get a reply to your email within about 15 days, call to make sure we got it.

Generally the stories with the best photos and largest animals are printed first then other stories as space permits usually in the last 6 months of each year. Shorter stories have a better chance to make print as they are easier to find space for.

### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Due to the amount of information covered in the first 6 months of the year we print fewer stories in those issues, but if you hunted in Wyoming or Arizona try and get your story in early enough to be considered for the January issue and so forth. The earlier you submit your story the better chance you have of getting printed. Stories are generally chosen almost 2 months before each issue is printed. Here's our yearly schedule:

STATE & SPECIES	DEADLINE	HF ISSUE
Wyoming, Arizona (Elk & Antelope), & New Mexico Oryx	As soon as possible	January
Oregon & New Mexico	December 1	February
Colorado, Idaho (Sheep, Moose, & Goat), & Kansas	January 1	March
Utah, Nevada & Montana (Sheep, Moose, & Goat)	February 1	April
Arizona (Deer & Sheep) & Idaho (Elk, Deer, & Antelope)	March 1	May
California, Iowa, Montana (Elk, Deer, & Antelope) & Washington (Sheep, Moose, & Goat)	March 5	June
All western states and species plus Alaska, Canada, and Mexico	As soon as possible, before July 1	July through December

### EXCLUSIVITY

If you wish to be entered in our 2011 Story Contest, sign and return a copy of the 2011 Story Contest Exclusivity Contract to us with your 2010 story. You can find a copy of the contract at [www.huntinfool.com](http://www.huntinfool.com). You could be one of the lucky winners. Good luck throughout the rest of this year, we can't wait to see your photos and stories!

**EMAIL PHOTOS AND STORIES TO:**  
submit@huntinfool.com

**MAIL PHOTOS AND STORIES TO:**  
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