

I'd like to start off my first President's message by thanking the outgoing officers Bob and Deb Stallman, and Jo Dean Peters for the outstanding job they have done for the past year. Bob Stallman left our Chapter in good shape and our Board is strong and fiscally responsible. I would also like to thank the new board members who have stepped up to take their places. Everything this Club has is a result of the hard work of our members. Whether it is serving as a Club Officer, working one of our events, or making Auction contributions and purchases, our membership is still our greatest asset.

For those members that I don't know personally, my name is Chip Emmons. I'm 47 years old, I'm a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel, and I live in Seattle. I graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point and served over 20 years in the Army. I saw the World and had some great adventures. My wife, Deanne, and I have two sons, Hap 17, and Art 14. We are all hunters. I started out hunting quail and jackrabbits in the Mojave Desert, not that long ago, and since then I've managed to do quite a bit of hunting in Europe, I've taken a few animals around here, and my wife and I hunted Africa for the first time in 2010.



The first I heard about SCI was on a stag hunt I tacked on to the end of a trip to New Zealand. My guide was a very fit 78 year-old Kiwi named Murray Cameron. When I told him I was from Seattle he got pretty excited and told me, "I got my Grizzly Bear full-body mounted at Klineburger's. Do you know him?" Well, I do now. Not long after that I was in Iraq and I was reading the Safari Magazines that someone was sending to deployed Soldiers. I liked what SCI was about, so I joined and sent out emails looking for my local Chapter. The welcoming response I

got from Mike Price convinced me to join the Northwest Chapter. I started showing up at board meetings and... here I am.

I am passionate about SCI and its unique role in protecting hunting and wildlife world-wide from those who want to end hunting. I am proud of SCI when our DC Office does things like successfully fight anti-hunting legislation at the National and International levels. I am proud to say our SCI chapters in this State have been the main financial muscle behind the WA Hunters' Heritage Council and its fighting lobbyist in Olympia. I was really impressed with the goal-oriented can-do spirit of our sister-chapters in Eastern Washington for their role in by-passing obstacles to reintroducing Pronghorn Antelope to Washington State and get "goats on the ground" this year. I want to help "move the ball forward."

I believe that SCI Chapters can do more in the fight for hunting at the State and local levels in the media and public opinion arena. I want our Chapter to identify and

pursue some high-impact, mission-oriented projects in addition to our traditional SCI Education and Humanitarian projects, within a fiscally responsible budget and all-the-while have fun and hunting camaraderie at our banquets, events, and meetings. With your continued support, we can do all of this.

This will be an exciting year with a larger banquet at the Airport Hilton featuring Jim & Louise Shockey 24/25 February. As the new President, I am seeking feedback on what you would like to see our Chapter do in the future. Feel free to call me, email me, or chat with me at our next events. I would also like to encourage all members, especially new members, to attend one of our board meetings and see what goes on. We meet every second Wednesday of the month at the SEATAC Double Tree Suites at 6 PM, but most of us arrive at 5 PM to have a drink and socialize.