



# The NAPgA Bleat!

The Official Newsletter of the North American Packgoat Association

January 2015

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## From President Charlie

Dear NAPgA Members --

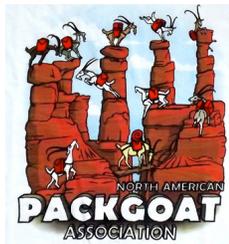
2015 is only a few days away! Hopefully you are planning your hikes, overnight trips or extended trips for this summer. I am planning at least one extended trip into the Winds, and one into the High Uintas, both will be headed to lakes with monster Brook Trout!

Many thanks to those of you who have donated so generously to NAPgA in 2014! Your dollars have been put to good use... challenging closures throughout the West. You have helped us raise over \$10,000 dollars in 2014... **LET'S DOUBLE THAT IN 2015, CAN WE???** Every penny is still badly needed.

We have some huge plans for 2015. We have the absolute finest attorney in the nation representing NAPgA. He is donating generous amounts of time to our cause in keeping the Forests open to recreational Goat Packing. Now is a very critical time in goat packing. We have to keep the throttle pressed to the floor.

Spread the word! Please ask your friends and family to join NAPgA in 2015. Only \$20 for a family membership. If you donate \$40, you receive a beautifully designed NAPgA T-shirt. High quality cotton, not the cheap stuff.

Happy Trails,  
Charlie Jennings



[Link to Actual T-Shirt Pictures](#)

## Dues!

Yes, it is *'that'* time of the year again. No organization operates solely on 'love', and although this particular organization gets more than its share of that value, we still need funds to operate, and those naturally have to come from you.

And while I am intimately aware that many of our members have given until it hurts, the expenses are ongoing, and the battle still rages.

You could save NAPgA a lot of money by sending your dues update without a reminder letter. To transmit funds via PayPal, send them to: [nappa@napga.org](mailto:nappa@napga.org)

The NAPgA snail mail address is: POBox 170166, Boise, ID 83717.

Single: \$15

Family: \$20, Donations optional, but welcome!!

## Go Fund Me

A great way to make donations to NAPgA!  
(<http://www.gofundme.com/packgoat-access-in-forest>)

## The News as it Is

It has been a bit of time since the last newsletter, but there just hasn't been much newsworthy to report since the last NL. Most of what is relevant to our situation in the Winds was in the November NL. If you haven't read it, please do so, as there is a wealth of information vis-à-vis our meeting in Cody, and my analysis of where we are at the present time re: our travails with Shoshone Forest Service and WY Game & Fish.

Where we are legally at this point, is that we're waiting for the final decision from the Shoshone. We received the Shoshone's responses to our objections and it was more of the same, i.e., no significant changes to the Shoshone's position. We're considering our options, including litigation, while we await their final decision. We're upset about the direction the Shoshone is taking, and troubled by their failure to follow proper process and by their failure to adequately respond to our comments and objections.

## NAPgA Membership

One thing that comes up with regularity at the NAPgA BOD meetings, is discussion re: the need to increase our membership. *And we do!* The number of folks that we represent directly affects our ability to impact the decisions of land managers. Numbers, quite simply, is power.

But it is my express belief that the only way to do that is by individual contacts. Happy NAPgA members and goatpackers telling anyone that will listen the benefits of belonging to NAPgA.

Need a handout? We can provide a PDF to print, or can print some and send them to you.

Regarding dues, our dues are probably as low as any other organization that exists.

**Bottom line?** *We need the support of those who desire to not have the forests closed to us. We have been fighting that action to 2011, and will apparently have to continue for the foreseeable future.*

## Rendezvous 2015!

June 25-28

Near West Yellowstone, MT

(<http://www.napga.org/rendezvous/2015/rendy2015.html>)

## In Memoriam

*Saul Smithson -- Napsa & Goatpacking has  
lost a good friend*

Saul was a professional licensed caregiver in Arizona for 25 years. He took care of mentally and physically handicapped young adults as well as senior citizens with Alzheimer's disease. He was specially certified to work with Alzheimer's patients. The clients loved him and often demanded him as their favorite, and the families of clients loved him too. He also performed hospice work, sitting at the bedside of the dying. With his special needs clients, he did everything from feeding them, dressing them, helping them with toileting, changing diapers, bathing, preparing their meals, and sometimes taking them on outings. One adult client with the mental capacity of a six-year-old insisted that Saul tuck him in bed every night with a teddy bear.

Another of his senior citizen Alzheimer's clients was the Secretary of Transportation under the Reagan Administration, and three other of his special needs adult clients were Hopi elders. Due to his care of these elders, Saul was one of very few (*maybe the only*) white person allowed at some of the ceremonies that were closed to non-Native people because he was so well-liked and accepted as the caregiver to these three Native American elders. One Hopi grandmother gifted him a stone from a kiva.

When his passing was made known by eMail, one son of an adult senior client of his wrote, "Saul was an angel to my father." This was written by Bill Lannelli. Saul took care of David Lannelli, Bill's father until Mr. Lannelli Senior died right before we left Arizona for Colorado. Mr. Lannelli was a brain injury victim, which resulted from an auto accident.

It was noteworthy that some of Saul's clients would even throw a tantrum unless it was Saul who was assigned to them!

Saul once told me that somehow this work helped to heal his trauma from his experiences as a child when he spent a year escaping from Nazi occupied Europe with the help of the Dutch and French partisan resistance. Saul was 4 at the time and was 5 when he got back to the USA. Even after many years, sometimes he'd have bad dreams from PTSD, but this caregiving work, though very demanding, was very rewarding and therapeutic to him. Saul wrote a few years ago that he was with a group of children and was taken from Luxembourg through England and France and over the Pyrenees to Portugal and then back to the US where he landed in a Japanese internment camp where his Japanese foster father and extended family had been imprisoned. Saul was born in Glendale, CA, but he was of Jewish descent and his father was in Europe illegally at the time when the US entered the war with Germany.

Meanwhile, his real father had made it back to the US in

only three months, but it took Saul an entire year. He and his father were separated, and that is why they got back to the US alone. It's all in his book, which I hope to finish editing and publish, after I publish our children's stories inspired by our goats. Incidentally, that's where his martial arts training started (the Japanese internment camp)... which he put in a manuscript called: Postscripts of a Happy Warrior. I have yet to edit it and add pictures, which he ironically found just a couple of months before his passing.

There were so many clients and families who loved Saul as a caregiver, but the Lannelli people are the only ones with whom I am still in contact. I feel it is okay to use the Bill Lannelli quote if you wanted, as it was published and added to his memorial slide show.

Dina



*Suppose Saul's Goats Loved Him?*

## In Memoriam

*George Bogdan -- Napsa & Goatpacking has  
not only lost a great supporter, but the man  
who introduced Idaho and the northwest to  
goatpacking as well. It is with great sadness  
to see him end his earthly residence!*



George was a consummate outdoorsman, and is seen here hiking into Lynx Creek lakes, a destination he'd wanted to access for a lot of years. His passing came

too sudden for me to get a good write-up in this newsletter. I will have a better description of the life that was George in the next issue.