



# WILDERNESS UNLIMITED

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**Spring Turkey Issue**  
**29th Annual Fly Fishing Clinic**  
**New Member Cards**  
**WUF Camps**



## The Most Misunderstood Name in Hunting – Safari Club International

*By Jerry Springer*

I have never been to Africa – and I'm not planning a hunt there anytime soon – yet I was at the Safari Club International's (SCI) 2016 Convention in Las Vegas, held February 3-6. This was the fifth time I have attended this annual convention. You might question, if you haven't been to Africa and are not planning to go hunting there, why go to the SCI Convention?

Let me start by explaining the confusion SCI has with its name. SCI is an organization for hunters and hunters' rights. When SCI was started many years ago, a number of its members had taken hunting trips or were interested in going to Africa, but they also hunted a lot in the U.S. and Canada. Because of its name, SCI mistakenly became associated primarily with hunting safaris to Africa and just those hunters who had lots of money to spend on those trips.

The fact, however, is that many of SCI's members are like me and have never been to Africa to hunt – even though as hunters growing up we dreamed of one day going on our own African safaris as we flipped through the pages of *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life* and *Sports Afield*, and gazed at the photos of hunters with their African big game animals. Being an SCI member, though, provides you with many opportunities that are not African safaris. Let me share some of the ones I have discovered.

First, all hunters are concerned with the attempts to take away our rights to hunt in both the U.S. and around the world. SCI is fighting every day to stop the efforts of those who want to stop all hunting. In fact, SCI is one of only a few organizations that have full-time attorneys working in Washington D.C. to protect hunting/hunters' rights here and around the world, too.

Each year SCI holds its 5-day convention, which attracts 20,000 hunters. This year the convention floor covered over a million square feet. More than 1,200 exhibitors came from 33 countries. Its auctions during the convention had 1,150 items worth more than \$10 million. In addition to the convention's auctions, auctions are also held at local SCI chapters and the funds raised go toward protecting hunters' rights,

education and for projects to provide better habitat and sound wildlife management around the world.

If you haven't been to an SCI Convention, here is some of what you have been missing: Placed throughout the convention hall are some of the most incredible animal artistry by 110 of the world's finest taxidermists. Nowhere else will you see such outstanding pieces of wildlife – they more than rival those in the world's best museums.

If you have an interest in hunting mule deer, white-tail, blacktail, antelope, elk, moose, caribou, black bear, grizzlies, brown bear, sheep, mountain goats, mountain lion, wolves, bobcats, coyotes, waterfowl, and upland game, you can skip the hunts from other countries such as Africa, New Zealand, South America, Europe and Australia, and just concentrate on the numerous outfitters and guides from the U.S. and Canada.

When you are tired of walking the miles of aisles in the convention hall, take a break and go to one of the numerous seminars held each day that provide terrific information on Hunting Coues Deer, Long-Range Shooting, Improving Your Wingshooting, Introduction to Reloading, How to Find and Shoot Elk, Archery Hunting, Tips and Techniques for Using Trail Cameras, Your First Safari, and more.

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In addition to outfitters and guides, the SCI Convention floor has an unbelievable display of art and sculptures of wildlife from around the world, done by 55 world-renowned artists.

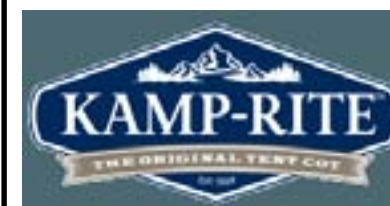
The finest gun makers in the world are in attendance – 67 were there this year. Fine jewelers and furriers display and sell their wares and you will see lots of other unique items as well. You will also find knives, boots, clothing and many other hunting-related products that you won't find at sport shows.

You have a chance to meet many people who all have the same love of hunting and wildlife that you do. They understand the importance that hunting has in wildlife management. While it may be difficult to find many people in our day-to-day activities that have our kind of love for the outdoors, the SCI convention hall is filled with them.

So, whether you are a rabbit hunter or deer hunter, being part of SCI doesn't mean you are only interested in going on safaris to Africa. It's much more than that! Forget about SCI's misunderstood name and don't miss your chance in 2017 to experience the Safari Club International Convention. You will be amazed and glad you went.

For more information on SCI, visit [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org) and for information on the SCI Convention visit [www.showsci.org](http://www.showsci.org).

*Note: This is one convention you will have no trouble getting your spouse to jump into the car/plane to attend with you!*



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