

World Elk Calling Championships crown three from Oregon

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Amateur and professional elk callers from four states--Arizona, California, Oregon and Utah--have been crowned new world champions.

The Leupold/Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation World Elk Calling Championships concluded March 7 in Fort Worth, Texas. The event was held as part of the Elk Foundation's 25th Annual Elk Camp & Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Expo.

Results:

Professional Division 1. Al Morris, Payson, Utah
2. Rockie Jacobsen, Kamiah, Ida.
3. Joel Turner, Eatonville, Wash.

Men's Division 1. Bryan Langley, McMinnville, Ore.
2. Patrick Whitaker, Lebanon, Ore.
3. Cody Rich, Dallas, Ore.

Women's Division 1. Audrey McQueen, Eagar, Ariz.
2. Misty Waggener, Priest River, Ida.
3. Crystal Hulsey, Luna, N.M.

- Natural Voice Division 1. Greg Hubbell Jr., Belmont, Calif.
2. Samuel Valentine, Springer, N.M.
3. Michael Hatten, Elko, Nev.

Youth Division 1. Ross LeValley, Hotchkiss, Ore.

2. Morgan Love, Salida, Colo.
3. Jared Hansen, New Harmony, Utah

- Pee Wee Division 1. Brayden Langley, McMinnville, Ore.
2. Wyatt Schearer, Great Falls, Mont.
3. Cole Burford, Fort Worth, Texas

In the competition, amateur-level callers have 30-45 seconds to mimic cow elk sounds, followed by bull sounds. Professionals are required to make specific calls such as barks, whistles and screaming bugles. Most callers blow across a latex reed placed inside the mouth. In the natural voice division, however, no reeds are allowed. A variety of plastic tubes are used like megaphones, giving the sounds realistic resonance. Judges score each competitor anonymously.

The annual event helps raise awareness of elk, habitat and conservation initiatives of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Over the past 25 years, the organization has helped protect or enhance more than 5.7 million acres.

Winners received prizes and cash ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

Prize sponsors included Blacks Creek Guide Gear, Cabela's, Hoyt, Kershaw Knives, Knight, Montana Decoy, Remington and Schnee's.

About the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation:

Snowy peaks, dark timber basins and grassy meadows. RMEF is leading an elk country initiative that has conserved or enhanced habitat on over 5.7 million acres--a land area equivalent to a swath three miles wide and stretching along the entire Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico. RMEF also works to open, secure and improve public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation. Get involved at www.rmef.org or 800-CALL ELK.

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