

**WESTERN**



# BOWHUNTER



THE WESTERN ARCHER'S NEWSpaper

Monthly Publication Since 1955 P.O. Box 501 Squaw Valley, CA 93646 Office (209) 332-2535

VOLUME XXVII

AUGUST 1981

\$1.25



*Alaska  
Bowhunt  
Page 13A*



*Down Wind  
Page 5A*



*Best Of  
Two Worlds  
Page 3B*



*The National  
Scene  
Page 1B*



*Bowhunter  
Optical Aids  
Page 17A*



*Laguna Mountain Buck  
Page 11A*

**Editor's note:**

started my first bowhunting publication, *The Western Bowhunter*, in 1979. When Bob Fromme's story hit my desk, I couldn't help but notice this young man's enthusiasm and ran his picture (above) and story.

Unknown to either of us, this was some nearly 30 years ago and started Bob on his way to his Super Slam. I later changed the name of *The Western Bowhunter* to (as you have seen it over the years) the *National Bowhunter*. So read on...

# BOB FROMME'S SUPER SLAM

By Doug Walker, Editor

**W**hen I first met Bob Fromme, it was by letter and a picture of a young bowhunter from San Diego, California. One look at the picture and I could tell that this ol' bowhunting world was going to hear and see a lot about this very exuberant bowhunter. Bob kept piling up big game animals, but I was also following his association with the California Bowman Hunters and State Archery Association. Bob knew his ability to handle a bow and arrow. Bob made knowing his tackle and how to shoot it and hunt a way of life and it showed as he was winning tournaments all over the western states and went on to become a four time state broadhead champion of California.

Bob soon tackled the business end of bowhunting and championing himself as one of the west's top archery shop owners. The meaning of Super Slam is truly a bowhunters greatest accomplishment.

I wanted to do an interview with Bob and see if I could capture with words and pictures how big an accomplishment it is. I honestly don't think a lot of the bowhunters realize just what a "Super Slam" amounts to, so when Bob completed his Super Slam, I wanted to do something special. So what could that be? Something that would exemplify just how great of an accomplishment this is. Well, take a look at the next page and then the following pages of my interview with Bob. What is even more impressive is that Bob has a record class animal in all 28 of his species.



## Doug Walker's interview of Bob Fromme — 28 and still going strong

**Question 1: When you sent me that picture of your first deer, and I put it on the cover, did you ever imagine it would lead the way for a Super Slam?**



*One of Bob's latest trophies*

**Answer #1:** Not in my wildest dreams. I had shot a few local deer with a rifle and wanted to spend some more time in the woods hunting large game. I purchased a used Jennings 4-wheel compound and made a trip over to Catalina two weeks later. I had no idea how I was going to get close to those wild goats but figured out pretty quick that they felt safe in the death defying cliffs on the southend of the island. After lots of sweat, blood and quite a few cactus needles I ended up arrowing a real nice Billy. That really got me hooked on bowhunting. I took my first North American species the next season, a real nice local buck. **That's the picture that I sent to you and ended up on the cover of the Western Bowhunter about a million years ago, actually closer to 28.** I have always enjoyed the adventure of hunting new places. With a lot of help, planning, preparation and determination the years went by and before I knew it I had about 15 species. It still seemed like an unrealistic goal for an average guy with an average income. I figured that I would be able to have a chance at most of the animals except for the polar bear and desert sheep due to the ridiculous cost. Over the years I had established some business relationships with some of the finest manufacturers in the industry. By selling lots of their products, writing, putting out a video series, doing some TV and helping them with product testing and development some of the real big hunts became a reality.

**Question #2: I know you have made a real study of shooting a bow and arrow, so tell us a little about what you feel is the most important part of shooting accurately?**

**Answer #2:** There are several important factors that go into shooting a bow accurately under pressure. Number one the equipment has to be matched to

*Continued on page 44*





Yes!! This is what it takes for a bowhunter to achieve a **SUPER SLAM!** Pictures are not in order of taking the 28 species, but truly represent the makings of Bob's Super Slam.

the shooter. That's where a good pro shop comes in. Then you need to practice good form over and over and over again. The only way you will learn good form is from someone that is qualified to teach you. There will be quite a few people with good intentions that will go out of their way to give you advice but I highly recommend seeking out a professional. If your body only knows how to shoot a quality shot that's all that can happen even under pressure. I learned early on that I was going to get lots of opportunities, so the better I shot and the further my effective range was the more successful I was going to be. You don't have control of the animals, weather or other conditions but you do have control of your equipment, planning, physical fitness and preparation. I went to every tournament I could to sharpen up my shooting skills. We didn't have laser rangefinders so shooting as much as possible at unmarked ranges was really instrumental in my hunting success. I beat quite a few guys that were better shots than I was because of my ability to estimate yardage.

**Question #3: Talk about equipment, tell us a little about your archery shop and some of the things you do there that has made it one the most successful archery shops in the southwestern states?**

Answer #3: To take all 28 big game species you have to encounter some extremely adverse and hardcore conditions. Having the best equipment is mandatory to your success and survival in quite a few situations. This is where preparation comes in, from being in top physical shape for a 20 day back pack in the Yukon for stone sheep to surviving 40 below zero in the arctic for ten days trying to track down a Polar bear. When a shot opportunity arises you have to have the confidence in your equipment to close the deal. You also have to stay optimistic that a shot is going to present itself all the way up till you get on the plane to go home. There is a multitude of quality equipment available in today's market. We stock a huge inventory of the finest brands available in all of the price points. The majority of our customers want high-end products and appreciate the great service we try to extend to everyone that walks in our door. I am able to keep my prices extremely competitive by buying right. I am in the NABA buying group which enables us to buy at the best prices. You have to make reasonable margins to have a quality business. Probably the biggest reason for our success is that we offer what no catalog or internet site can, hands on technical service from bow tuning to teaching them how to shoot properly. If someone has an archery problem we will go out of our way to fix it. They know that we are going to recommend products that have worked in the situation they are going to be in. Lots of people come in just to see the mounts and talk a little archery also.

**Question #4: What was your most serious or scariest animal of your Super Slam?**

Answer #4: There have been quite a few scary animals that could have proven to be life threatening like the brown bear that I stalked up to 18 yards and arrowed, he whirled and ran right at me, passing at an uncomfortable 20 feet; or the Polar bear that I was 20 yards from when my guide notified me that he left the backup gun in the sled a half-mile away. The Cape Buffalo that charged and stopped at 30 yards got me a little tingly, but the closest that I came to getting killed was while I was in pursuit of the wily mountain goat. The animals themselves are not very aggressive to man, but the country they inhabit is not forgiving at all to any mistakes. While packing out an absolute monster goat (bigger than the world record at the time) the strap on my backpack (that weighed 114 pounds) broke, cart-wheeling me down the side of a very steep mountain. I slammed into a tree after three full endos, which stopped my decent and almost broke my leg. If that tree wasn't there it would have been very ugly, if not fatal. I have had a few rodeos on horses in the middle of the night and a couple of bush plane flights that almost went bad. I recommend dating redheads and driving in

southern California traffic to steel up your nerves for dangerous game situations.


**Question #5: What's your new bride say about all of this?**

Answer #5: I couldn't have found a better women as a partner in life. God knows I tried for 44 years. I like to joke with her about waring me down and caving into her marital wishes so her father's ulcers would heal but the truth is that she really is the best thing that ever happened to me. I have a very active lifestyle, between running a business, tennis, surfing, fishing, shooting my bow, editing video and hunting all over the world it takes a very secure and loving person to stand by you and support the activities that make you the person that you are. I am also very supportive of any and all of her projects and help raise our two Chihuahuas and cat that have it even better than I do. She is more artistic than I am — we built a clay studio and she loves to nurture her garden. She also runs a very successful medical supply company. So while I am away she keeps very busy and says she misses me. Everytime we fish together she catches the biggest fish, which she absolutely loves. We hunted South Africa several years ago where she arrowed a real nice warthog. Then we traveled all the way down to Capetown to dive with the Great White sharks. We both got in a very small shark proof cage (or so they told us) and had 9 different sharks swim by as close as five feet. Africa is a great place to take your wife, quite a few of the other hunts that I do are less than comfortable for a normal person.

**Question #6: Just because you have now accomplished your Super Slam, that's not the end of bowhunting — going back over all your big game animals what was your favorite hunt and what's your next hunt going to be for?**

Answer #6: Bowhunting will always be my first passion. To take all 28 species you have to be goal oriented but I didn't let it consume my every thought or worry if I was the 5th guy to accomplish it or the 25th, I did it at my own pace made every hunt enjoyable not a job or a race. I have taken record class animals in every species but am going to go back and hopefully upgrade my Quebec caribou. I absolutely love hunting sheep and will continue applying in several states that I have bonus points built up in. A really big non typical mule deer is also on my hit list. As far as exotic destinations Mongolian Ibex may be in the future. Africa can get very addictive, there is nothing more majestic than a sable. A free range Himalayan Tahr hunt in New Zealand also has my attention.

**Question #7: As with all my interviews, I leave the closing for the person being interviewed to say whatever he would like to say, so have at it:**

Answer #7: I am the first to admit that my life is so good that it is almost illegal. But as the years fly by, the people and relationships that are cultivated on these adventures are just as rewarding as the hunt itself. I have been blessed with some great friends, extremely reliable employees, a very understanding wife and truly enjoy dragging my 65 year young cameraman Jerry Morrison all over the world. We have an absolute blast and usually get some good footage also. To be consistently successful you have to hunt hard and be determined but a huge part of being mentally tough is by having a good time while you're doing it. 

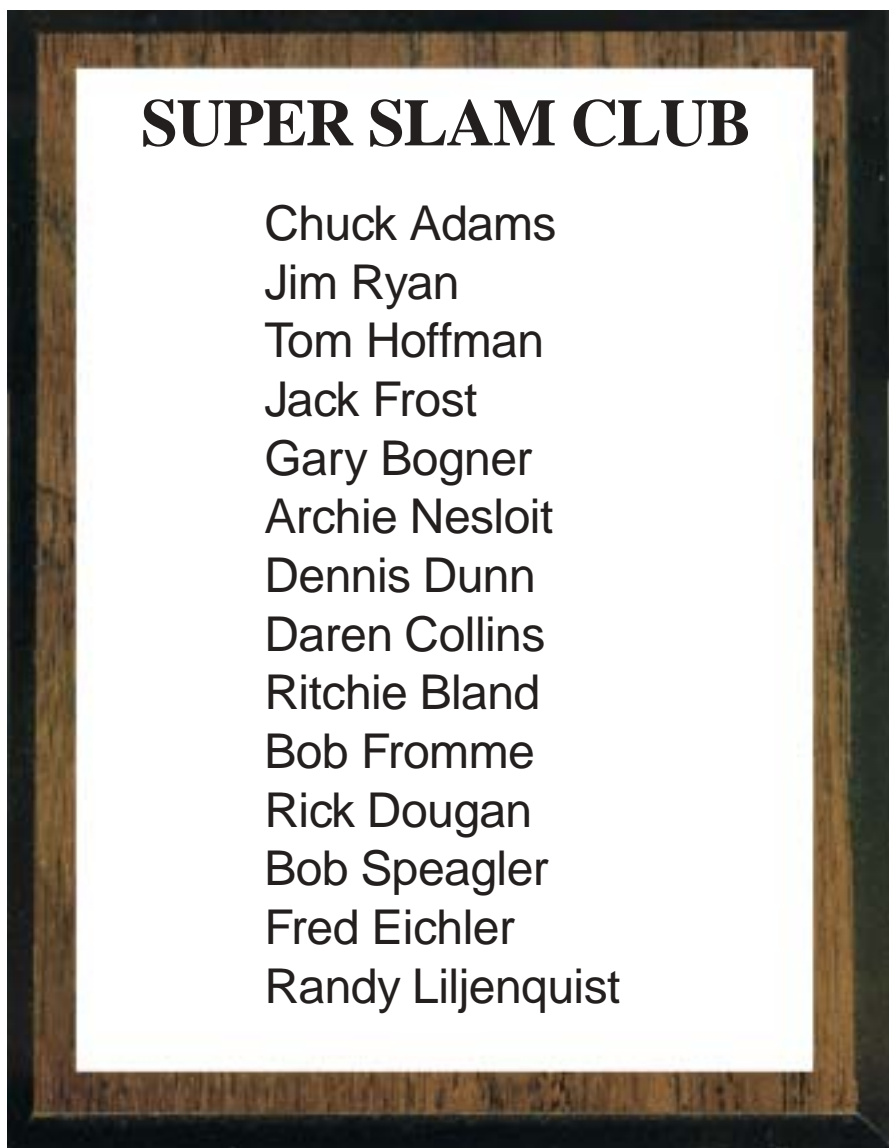
I highly recommend Bob's Performance Bowhunting DVD series. There are five titles with over 60 real bowhunts. The action is non stop and the quality of the animals and shots is the best I have viewed. Go to [www.performancebowhunting.com](http://www.performancebowhunting.com) and view some of his best video clips and you will see what I am talking about. Or call Bob at Performance Archery (858) 450-9454 to order. He can also help you book the best bowhunts on the planet.

*Doug Walker*

**Y**ou can't talk about the Super Slam without saying it was all put together by one of our most successful bowhunters, Chuck Adams. Yes, and that was back in 1990. Since then Chuck's book "SUPER SLAM" pretty well tells it like it was and is, and relates all of his accountings with pictures for all 28 of his big game species. Chuck's "Introduction page within that book" reads like a bowhunters bible on how it all came about.

Others picked up the flag and carried it on. I hate to get started with the naming of all the other hunters who have completed their Super Slams, but **Bob Delaney** did a nice job for *Bowhunter Magazine* and listed a total of eight (8) bowhunters, at that writing, who had completed their Super Slams.

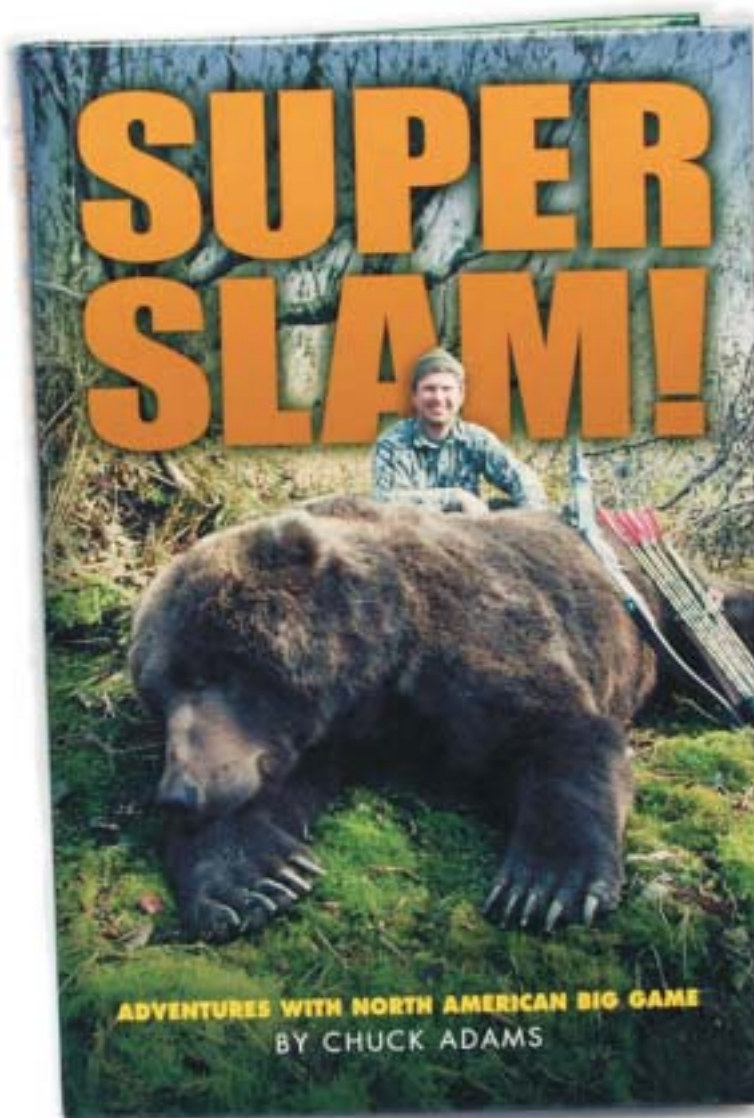
I know there could be a few others and if you're one of them, let me know so I can update the list.



## SUPER SLAM CLUB

Chuck Adams  
 Jim Ryan  
 Tom Hoffman  
 Jack Frost  
 Gary Bogner  
 Archie Nesloit  
 Dennis Dunn  
 Daren Collins  
 Ritchie Bland  
 Bob Fromme  
 Rick Dougan  
 Bob Speagler  
 Fred Eichler  
 Randy Liljenquist

| All 28 Species are recognized by Pope & Young Club |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Columian Black Deer                                | Bison                   |
| Black Bear   | Desert Sheep            |
| Mule Deer  | Muskox                  |
| Canada Moose                                       | Shiras Moose            |
| Whitetail Deer                                     | Woodland Caribou        |
| Pronghorn Antelope                                 | Grizzly Bear            |
| Alaska-Yukon Moose                                 | Coues Deer              |
| Rocky Mountain Goat                                | Polar Bear              |
| Yellowstone Elk                                    | Quebec-Labrador Caribou |
| Barren Ground Caribou                              | Roosevelt Elk           |
| Sitka Blacktail Deer                               | Alaska Brown Bear       |
| Dall Sheep   | Mountain Lion           |
| Mountain Caribou                                   | Central Canadian Barren |
| Stone Sheep  | Ground Caribou          |
| Bighorn Sheep                                      |                         |



To order Chuck Adams's SUPER SLAM! book, phone: 800-916-2575. Cost \$19.95 plus \$3.00 S/H. Will autograph if requested.