

President's Message

by Kevin K. Anderson

Safari Club International Is The Leader



President Anderson meets with the President and Vice President of the SCI Georgia Caucasus Chapter

Reflecting on my just completed whirlwind trip to Spain and the Republic of Georgia, 14 separate meetings/events in under five days, it was obvious from the beginning, whether meeting with high level government officials, or representatives of various hunting groups, SCI is truly the leader. When considering the opening of sport hunting, who motivates the process and who is viewed as the authority on such? SCI is. When other groups of hunters want to raise their stature and influence in the global sport hunting arena, who do they look to? SCI.

It is an honor to represent SCI in these overseas regions, among old friends and new. The opportunities to expand both hunting and the concept of sustainable use conservation are there for SCI to take advantage of. Spain is a country

with a rich tradition of hunting, dating back many hundreds of years. The Spaniards have been managing game populations longer than most realize. They do an excellent job.

Our host in Madrid, Dr Marcial Gomez Sequeira, presented SCI with the "Defense of Hunting" award from *Caza y Safaris* magazine. A great honor for SCI, likewise a great honor to be a guest in his trophy room. It was truly impressive. Thanks to Dr. Sequeira for his friendship, hospitality and recognition of SCI's stand defending hunters and hunting worldwide.

The opportunity to spend time with our chapter Presidents from Spain and Portugal was also an added bonus. Chapter Presidents I met with included Jose Castresana, Balearian Chapter; Jose Revert, Catalunya Chapter; Rafael Ragero-Rey, Castilla Chapter; Antonio Girona, Levante Chapter; Fernando Jordao, Lusitania Chapter; Enrique Grande, Occidental Andalucia Chapter; Salvador Ruiz, Oriental Andalucia Chapter; together with representatives of Chapters being formed as I write -- Fernando Blazquez, Extremadura Chapter; Dr. Jesus Caballero, Castilla La Mancha Chapter; and Dr. Eduardo Romero, Leon Chapter.

Chapters are the backbone of SCI, and I can't thank them enough for all they do on our behalf. Also attending were two Honorary International Directors -- Dr. Nicolas Franco and Jose "Pepe" Madrazo.

On to the Republic of Georgia. When you plan your trip to Georgia, remember all flights seem to arrive and depart in the middle of the night. Can't tell you why. Despite a delay, and arriving at a time when most people are asleep, we were greeted at the airport by the President and Vice-President of the newly chartered SCI Caucasus Chapter -- Teimuraz Tkemaladze and

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Here, President Anderson and Norbert Ullmann meet with Dr. Zaal Gamtsemlidze, Member of Parliament of Republic of Georgia; and First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.

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During the recent trip to Spain SCI President Kevin Anderson met with the President of the Royal Spanish Hunters Federation, Andrés Gutierrez Lara, left. This Federation represents the interests of the 1.4 million hunters in Spain.

Gocha Koberidze. Their hard work has made it possible for sport hunting to open in the Republic of Georgia. They arranged meetings with top Government officials, where respect for SCI's standing was very apparent. I am optimistic hunting will open in Georgia very soon, thanks in large part to our new Chapter's officers. Their hard work was only exceeded by their hospitality.



SCI President Kevin Anderson, center, receives the "Caza y Safaris 2011 Award for activities to defend the right to hunt." At left is Caza y Safaris founder Dr. Marcial Gómez Sequeira, and at right is Caza Y Safaris co-owner and CEO, Alberto Nuñez Seoane.

Special thanks to SCI's region 41 rep, Norbert Ullmann. Arranging all the travel and meetings, he is directly responsible for SCI's expansion in Europe and Asia. Thank him when you see him at the convention.

Speaking of Convention—Make plans NOW for SCI's 40th annual convention in Las Vegas!

Now—time to go hunting. See you in the field.