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**28th ANNUAL CENTRAL WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN SHOW
AT THE SUNDOME IN YAKIMA**

The 28th annual Central Washington Sportsmen Show is set to open Friday, February 17th at the Yakima Valley SunDome and runs through Sunday, February 19th. This always popular event brings area outdoor enthusiasts together, all under one roof to see the latest in hunting and fishing gear, outdoor displays and exhibits, fishing boats, campers, camp trailers, and much, much more. It's easy to see that this is a must-attend event for area hunters, anglers, and others who plan to make this show part of their weekend plans.

"The Central Washington Sportsmen Show has been a part of the Yakima Valley activities for the past 28 years and has grown into one of the most popular events in the SunDome," according to show producer, Merle Shuyler. "Each year we fill up the Dome with quality exhibits, displays, and presentations, with lots of things to see and do for the entire family."

This year's event will feature, for the first time at the show, the amazing animal display, *A Walk on the Wild Side* from Canby, Oregon. The always awesome NW Big Game Display returns to the 2017 show and the popular Horn and Antler Competition will once again fill the east side concourse of the Dome and is again sponsored by Hammer's Precision Outdoors. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Poaching Trailer will return this year with several new trophies that were harvested

illegally and collected by WDFW. Each year, the WDFW adds these poached animals to their collection and displays them for the public to see.

A Walk on the Wild Side, an animal rescue and preservation establishment from Canby, Oregon, will set up an amazing animal display at this year's Central Washington Sportsmen Show. Depending on what's available at show time, you can expect to see tigers, a cougar, bobcat, and a Canadian lynx along with some reptiles. Plus, you can have your picture taken with a live tiger cub. These animals will be on display all three days of the show with handlers on hand to explain more about the animals and this travelling wildlife exhibit.

This year's sportsmen show will also be a place to learn and the 2017 Central Washington Sportsmen Show has a full slate of hunting and fishing experts willing to share their knowledge each show day. Speakers at this year's show include: fishing expert, Rob Phillips covering what is catching kokanee and rainbows at Lake Roosevelt as well as spring Chinook fishing; Columbia Basin guide, Shelby Ross on fishing for walleye and the Potholes Reservoir; WDFW District Fish Biologist, Eric Anderson presenting the fishing opportunities in south central Washington; big game hunter, Brian Robertson covering elk hunting in the Yakima area and how to use pack goats while hunting big game; and WDFW's Aaron Garcia will cover the game department's "Private Lands Access Program."

The 2017 Tour of the NW Big Game returns to the SunDome at the Central Washington Sportsmen Show with an impressive display of big game trophies taken in the northwest. This year's display will include some of the largest elk and deer ever taken in the State of Washington. Also, the fourth edition of the Record Book for

Washington Big Game Animals will be available to purchase at the display at this year's show.

There's always something for the kids to do at the show and this year is no exception with lots of activities planned all weekend long plus a special Kids' Day on Sunday. Kids can test their shooting ability at the On Target Air Rifle Range and the Naches Valley 4-H Club Archery Range, fish for hungry trout at Lunker Lake, then learn to tie a fly at the Fly Tying Theater, or cast a fly at the Kids' Fly Casting Clinic held Sunday at the Casting Pool. Also on Sunday, every kid will be admitted to the show at a reduced rate and on Sunday only, they can fish all day long at Lunker Lake free of charge courtesy of Cabela's Outpost, Oak Creek ACE Hardware and the Central Washington Sportsmen Show. Add to that the Cabela's Kids' Journal, several drawings just for kids and activities at the Kids' Korner and it will be easy for the kids to find something to do at the 2017 Central Washington Sportsmen Show.

The 28th Annual Horn and Antler Competition is always a big part of the show and it is the only competition in central Washington where hunting trophies are scored, then displayed for all to see. The highest scoring trophies entered in the competition taken by archery, muzzleloader, and modern rifle during the 2016 hunting season, will have a chance to win a gift certificate from Hammer's Precision Outdoors. Also, the top scoring entries will be eligible for special prizes that will include Bushnell binoculars, Primos hunting gear, and a chance to win a new Savage rifle.

The 9th Annual TownSquare Media Trout Races will take place again at the show's Casting Pool in the middle of the Dome. This entertaining race will have several contestants paired with a trout in the qualifying races with the winners of each heat

moving on to the finals. The participating fish are released in a specially built trout track and the first fish past the finish line is the winner. TownSquare Media, sponsor of the competition, will present a special prize to the winner of the finals. The qualifying races will be held Saturday only at 3:00, with the finals to follow at the Casting Pool.

Returning this year and also at the Casting Pool is the KXDD Casting Contest. This open competition will test the skills of all the contestants while using a push button spin cast rod and reel. A target will be set up at the dry end of the Casting Pool and each participant will be given three casts with the highest score winning. If there is a tie, a cast off will be done to determine the winner in the kids and adult categories. KXDD will pre-qualify the contestants and will furnish prizes to the winners at this year's show.

Outside the SunDome on Saturday and Sunday only, the Central Washington Weight Pullers will once again host a dog weight pull sanctioned by the International Weight Pullers Association. The dogs are split up into six different weight classes and are judged on their performance and ability to pull a weighted wheeled cart a distance of 16 feet within a 60 second time limit. The Central Washington Weight Pullers have been a part of the Central Washington Sportsmen Show for over 20 years and continues to attract quality competitors at each event. Since the pull is held outside at the south side of the SunDome, anyone can come and watch this event free of charge.

For fly fishing enthusiasts, there will be plenty to see and do at this year's show. Paul Anderson of Fly Fishing Strategies Fly Shop in The Dalles, Oregon will be doing several fly casting demonstrations each day at the Casting Pool. These presentations will cover beginning as well as advanced casting techniques each day of the show. Experts will also be teaching how to tie their favorite flies at the Fly Tying Theater, plus anyone

can sit down during the Fly Tying Clinic and, with expert instruction, learn how to tie their own fly from start to finish. Members of the Yakima Flyfishers Association will be tying different types of flies at the Fly Tying Theater during hourly presentations and they will also host the Fly Tying Clinic each day of the show.

As always, sportsmen show attendees will be able to save money on general admissions as well as have a chance to sign up for one of the many door prizes given away hourly all three days of the show. The special return policy of pay the admission price once and get back into the show all weekend is very popular for those wanting to spend more than one day at the show.

General admission is \$9.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children 6-12. Children under 6 are admitted free all three days of the show. Friday is Seniors' Day with everyone 60 or older getting into the show for \$4.50 and Sunday is Kids' Day, where all kids ages 6-12 are admitted for \$1.00 off the normal admission price. There is also a discount for all members of the military, which is \$1.00 off any admission all weekend with their military ID.

For those willing to come early, a special prize awaits on all three days of the show. On Friday, the first 150 adults through the door will be given cash in an envelope with someone walking away with a \$100-dollar bill. On Saturday, the first 150 people will receive a bag of stuff from Hammer's Precision Outdoors, and on Sunday, Kids' Day the first 100 kids will receive a goody bag courtesy of Oak Creek ACE Hardware from Naches.

Show hours are Friday 1:00 to 7:00; Saturday 10:00 to 6:00; and Sunday 10:00 to 5:00. And remember, parking is at a reduced rate of only \$3.00 all three days of the show courtesy of Shuyler Productions and the Central Washington Sportsmen Show.

This year's show should have something for everyone to enjoy and is a "don't miss" event for anyone who loves the great outdoors.