

Summer 2009

# California Deer

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Photos by Jerry Springer

## Field of Dreams 2009

In 2006, Tom Dermody had an idea about how to get youngsters into the outdoors who were facing serious medical issues. Dermody, working with CDA Director Scott Jones and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter and promoter Cal Worsham, kicked off the first Field of Dreams event near Colusa, California.

With project funds from CDA chapters and celebrity participation, that first event consisted of a hog hunt, a special dinner with the celebrities and concluded with a salmon fishing trip the next day.

The celebrities were actor Rob Schneider, actor Jim "Cody"

Williams, MMA fighters Cal Worsham and Don Frye, three-time world arm wrestling champion Gary Goodridge and Purdue University wrestling coach Tom Erikson.

All of these celebrities have continued to return each year as the event has grown in the number of participants and sponsors.

Two more celebrities joined the ranks in 2009, actor Tim Abell of movie and TV fame, and 2008 Beijing Olympic Gold Medalist in the women's discus, Stephanie Brown Trafton.

In addition, the event has been expanded to include children from the Guide On organization, which spon-

sors children who have lost a parent in either the Afghanistan or Iraq wars.

The 2009 event started with the Friday dinner celebration and on Saturday the Stonyford Ranch provided the location for fishing, swimming, horseback riding and a BBQ. A number of other organizations and companies are now helping sponsor this growing event, and Pat Boyer of the TV program "Northwest Hunter" attended to film the celebrities on a hog hunt.

It was easy to judge the success of this event by the smiles on the faces of the children and adults as they enjoyed an outdoor Field of Dreams.

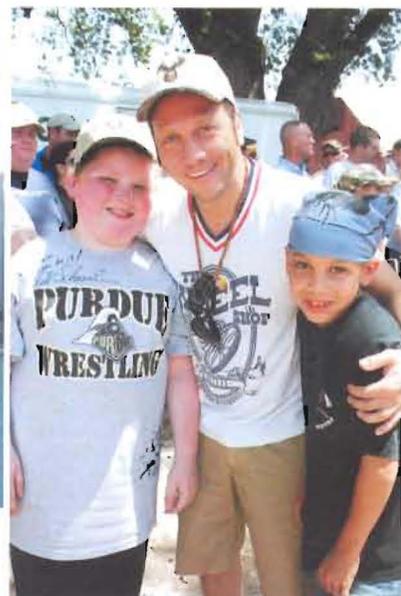
(More Field of Dreams info on page 19.)



For four years Tom Dermody has taken the lead in supplying outdoor dreams for children with special needs.



Tom Erikson (far left) and Gary Goodridge (far right) pose for a photo with Daniel (center left) and Tony Bertalino before Friday evening's dinner/reception at Granzella's Banquet Hall in Williams.



The celebrities made it a point to engage the kids, sign autographs and give them items like t-shirts, pictures and DVDs.



Steve Marks Sr. (right) hosted Saturday's activities at his family's Stonyford Ranch. Below are some of the buffalo on the ranch.



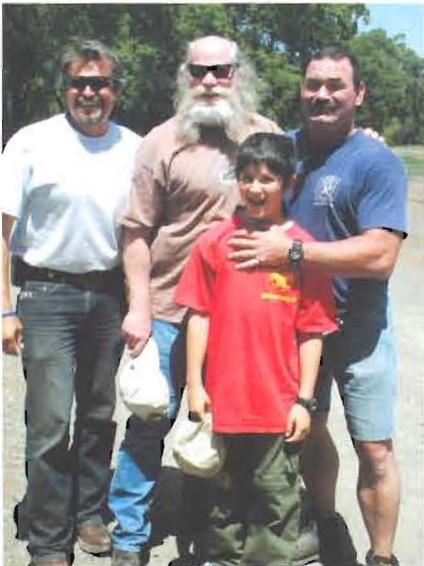
Liz Marks (right) helped the kids with horseback rides.



The ranch has more than one lake stocked with fish.



Don Frye gives his t-shirts to two young brothers.



From left, actors Tim Abell, Jim "Cody" Williams and MMA fighter Don Frye pose for a photo after lunch.



Sherrie Velazquez (left) and daughter Nikki.



An excited young lady waits for Rob Schneider to finish autographing a photo.



Steve Marks Sr. (left) gave Jason Bertalino a chance to drive a side-by-side utility vehicle with his brother Tony.



The ranch's lakes provided a chance for everyone to fish, take a boat ride or swim.

