

# Union Sportsmen's Alliance sponsors NASCAR giveaway

Buck hunting season starts Oct. 4 in Oregon, and as attention turns to hunting, union members have a new reason to join Union Sportsmen's Alliance — a union hunting and fishing group.

On Oct. 17, one randomly-selected member will be given a weekend for two of NASCAR racing at Texas Motor Speedway. The trip is sponsored by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance and Beretta-USA, and includes airfare, three nights lodging, two tickets to the fall 2008 Texas Motor Speedway races, plus VIP passes to the Beretta private suite and pit passes, and a brand-new U.S.-made Beretta American Citizen shotgun.

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance was formed last year as a project of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) for conservation-

minded union members, retirees and their families who hunt, fish and appreciate the outdoors. Members of AFL-CIO affiliated unions and their families can join online at [www.UnionSportsmen.org](http://www.UnionSportsmen.org) or by phone at 1-877-USA-2211.

Thus far the group has 6,000 members nationwide, including 58 in Oregon and 146 in Washington.

For dues of \$25 a year, members get discounts on outdoor gear and services; a year's subscription to Petersen's Hunting, In-Fisherman, or Guns & Ammo magazine; full access to [MyTopo.com](http://MyTopo.com); and a \$25 gift certificate for Beretta field gear. Members also can access the members-only portion of [UnionSportsmen.org](http://UnionSportsmen.org), where they can buy, sell, and trade gear and share tips on techniques and spots to hunt and fish. And member-

ship dues support the TCRP, a nonpartisan advocacy group that works to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing by expanding access, preserving habitat, and ensuring funding for state wildlife programs. Members are automatically enrolled in TCRP and get e-mail updates about the group's campaigns.

This year, the group helped win an "Open Fields" provision in the Farm Bill that Congress passed. That will provide \$50 million in incentives over the next four years to get private landowners to allow public hunting and fishing access on their land, and requires them to utilize best management practices for fish and wildlife.

Two labor leaders sit on the TRCP board — International Association of Machinists (IAM) President Thomas Buffenbarger and United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters President William Hite. And nine unions are charter members of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance: United Steelworkers of America, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IAM, International Association of Fire Fighters, United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters (UA), Sheet Metal Workers International Association, International Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, &

Allied Workers, and Communication Workers of America. Oct. 15 is the

deadline for joining the group to be eligible for the NASCAR giveaway.

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*Paid for by the Carrier for Senate campaign*

## IN MEMORIAM

**Nick J. Mikatich**, a union activist from Pueblo, Colorado, died Sept. 11 of pancreatic cancer. He was 65. "Big Nick," as Mikatich was known, was a familiar figure to many in the Portland labor community for his efforts as a "road warrior" during a six-year-long United Steel Workers labor dispute at Colorado Fuel & Iron — a subsidiary of Portland-based Oregon Iron Works.

Mikatich spent 39 years at the rail plant in Pueblo as a machine operator and rank-and-file union member. He and 1,100 co-workers went out on an unfair labor practice strike in October 1997; three months later, it became a lockout after the company refused an unconditional offer of reinstatement.

Mikatich joined one of several teams of workers that travelled the country drumming up support for the

strike. He spent a lot of time in Portland, where the company was headquartered.

When the labor dispute ended in 2004, the company agreed to full reinstatement of the workers, and \$100 million in back pay. Instead of returning, Mikatich accepted an early retirement offer. He then went to work for the union and travelled across the country fighting for the rights of workers, including striking copper miners at ASARCO in Hayden, Ariz., locked-out pharmacy technicians at Medco in Las Vegas, Nev., and striking nurses at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Jersey.

Mikatich is survived by his wife Kitty of Pueblo. His remains were cremated and interred at Roselawn Cemetery in Pueblo.

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