

Local 839 Member to Star in New TV Show

Local 839 member Brett Graham, a machinist at Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita, loves waterfowl hunting, and he knows central Kansas wetlands like the back of his hand. Graham is also an outfitter and guide. Aware of the importance of protecting the wetlands, he donates a hunt each year to raise funds for wetlands conservation.

So when he heard about the new Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) TV show, *Brotherhood Outdoors*, he invited host Tom Ackerman to visit him for a hunt. In some episodes of this new show, Ackerman will take union members on an outfitted hunting or fishing trip in

North America. In others, the tables will be turned as union members take the show's host to their favorite hunting or fishing spot.

Brotherhood Outdoors will air on the Sportsman Channel beginning this July. Graham's episode has him guiding Ackerman and two union buddies to Graham's favorite haunts, the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the Cheyenne Bottoms.

Family Man

While Graham is very grateful for the outdoors and his work, Graham's first love is his family. Married 27 years, he and his wife, Dana, have three children. In 1994, Dana was diagnosed with

debilitating multiple sclerosis. Graham learned firsthand the importance of his IAM-negotiated health care.

It took Dana nearly a year of physical therapy to learn how to walk again, and from the start, the cost of her treatment has been astronomical. Sixteen years later, it still is. Dana takes a monthly drug given intravenously at the hospital at a cost of over \$7,000 per month.

Yet, all told, through the many hospital stays, therapies and medications, Graham hasn't faced the worry of bankruptcy or foregoing needed care because of cost. Without IAM-negotiated health benefits, says Graham, his wife would not be receiving the medical care necessary for a good quality of life.

"That's why I am a committed union member," said Graham, "because without the IAM looking out for me and my family, there is no doubt in my mind that the love of my life wouldn't be able to do all the things she now can."

To learn more about USA and/or to apply for a chance to star on *Brotherhood Outdoors*, go online to www.unionsportsmen.org.



Local 839 member Brett Graham, left, and IAFF member Brad Blue of Wichita, KS, will appear on the television show *Brotherhood Outdoors*, which features union members on hunting and fishing trips of a lifetime.