

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Victoria Range North Westland

SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

APRIL 2016

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

Branch website <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/>

Next Meeting Club Rooms Long Bush Hall

Wednesday 20^h April 8pm

Executive Meeting at 7.00pm

Guest Speaker Colin Bishop Department of Conservation



Presidents Report

Hard to believe we are into another month, and with daylight saving it will now be getting darker in the evenings.

TROPHY COMPETITION – All entrants must be financial when trophy was hunted and also when entering the competition.

Another hunting death this year, shot by another hunter, as there is little we know about this incident we shouldn't be quick to judge. The media will no doubt put a negative spin on recreational hunting. A report HFEX has been released and should be read by us all, by doing this we can start to understand how these accidents happen, after all not trying to understand such things would be negative in itself.

Moving on to a brighter note. Some reports from hunters are that they have seen a good number of deer, so best of luck on your hunting trips, make sure you enjoy yourselves and return safely.

SLR

P.S. a Hyper link of interest

<http://www.huntersafetylab.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/mistaken-for-game-hunting-accidents-a-human-factors-review1.pdf>



Editorial

Recently on Seven Sharp, I caught something about a young hunter up Otago way getting a bill from the local Fire Authority (I think), for \$62,000.00. They believe he started a fire from a ricochet of a rock while rabbit hunting.

Interestingly the presenter mentioned that he would not have a problem, if he had been a NZDA member as they have fire insurance.

I heard the next night that several firearms experts were prepared to testify in his defence as to the odds of this happening. Which I believe is less than someone struck by lightning winning lotto, Power Ball.

What can be taken from this? Well power goes to people's heads and they look for convenient, ways to re-coop costs. At least one Auckland TV presenter has a kind word for the NZDA. Which is a surprise when I hear Auckland may have less gun licences than Southland. Firearms users need to stick up for each other.

New Members please welcome them

Thomas Mead, Shayne Stronach, Shaun Waddel, Lyndai Gill, Kevin Thompson

A big thanks to Yunca for their recent support



MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

As the Branch now operates through the centralised membership system ALL new and renewal subscriptions must be made through the national office not the Branch.

Postal payments to NZDA PO BOX 6514

MARION SQUARE

WELLINGTON 6141.

Electronic payments to NZDA HQ ACCOUNT

03-0558-0139562-04 ..

Please ensure that the correct details are entered when renewing IE name and address on postal and Name and Branch on electronic payments .and the CORRECT BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER IS ENTERED

This reminder is being put out as some members have paid direct to the branch account, as the account is not now checked on a regular basis for membership renewal a time lag will occur before any incorrect payments are picked up, and then forwarded onto Wellington.

Notice for members

If you change your address or your contact details like email address you must notify the branch and the national office.

If we do not have correct contact details how can we keep you informed from the branch, and national office cannot send out membership cards or the magazines, so it is important to have correct Postal as well as Email Addresses.

Silhouette Shoot

The annual Silhouette shoot was held on the morning of Saturday the 19th of March. The six shooters that turned up had an enjoyable morning of it. The event was over by lunch, so I had to take my lunch home to eat it.

Bevan McNaughton came out on top, runner up Leighton Sparks.

Women Andrea Sparks and Georgia McNaughton 1st equal



Members at the shoot

Freeze Dri

BACK COUNTRY *Cuisine*

Still available at a great price to Branch Members

Contact Gus Ronald gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz 03 213 0351 For a price list

This Month's Quiz

Match the names to the Descriptions

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Allan Miller | Venison processor |
| • Allan Duncan | Firearms Lawyer |
| • Doug Jones | Early Trophy Hunter |
| • Bob Hawkless | Gunsmith |
| • Chaz Forsyth | Deer Culler/ Helicopter Pilot |
| • Nicholas Taylor | Editor NZ Hunting and Wildlife |
| • JP Brooking | Charter Boat Operator |
| • Lloyd Vent | Hunting Book Author |
| • Ross Curtis | Hunting Guide |
| • Mike Bradstock | National Secretary NZDA |

AGM & Trophy night

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 18th of May at 7.00pm.

Entries in trophy competition Sunday the 15th of May 1pm at the Clubrooms

Heads must be clean or they may not get scored [No Maggots]

Remember all heads are up for the spot prize so bring your trophy along, spikers to 18pointers, goats ,sheep, pigs, thar ,chamois, any wild animal that fits in the branch AHT ,antler ,horn and tusk lists .

REMEMBER ALL ENTRIES GO IN FOR THE SPOT PRIZE DRAW SO BRING ALL THE HEADS YOU HAVE SHOT IN THE LAST YEAR [MAY 2015 TO MAY 2016]

.Photo competition entries to Doug Gordon 254 Centre St Invercargill 9812 by 5pm Wednesday the 11th of May.

Photo Categories are

Game Animals: Living Deer, Chamois, Tahr, Goats and pigs

Other Wildlife: Any other living Animals

Scenic: Preferably Hunting Country

Topical: Should contain some evidence of human activity and hunting related. eg. hunter and his kill.

Photos must be taken from land not air or boats and must be 6x4 size

A spot prize on the night for all entries

Remember you must be a financial member when you took your trophy/ photo and to enter.

Situations Vacant

There are several vacancies on the Executive to be filled at the AGM, needed, a Secretary, Vice President, Hunts Convenor and other Executive members. The branch needs some good keen men (or women) to put their hands up at the AGM, the current executive has shrunk, needs fresh ideas. If interested talk to the current executive before the night.

For Sale

18 Decoys

Some new some used \$60.00 for the lot

Contact Ray 03-2163751



Last Month's Quiz

1. Who Wrote "The Traveling Hunter"? **Vern Wilson**
2. Wet Jacket Arm and Herrick creek relate to hunting for what species of Deer? **Moose**
3. Which is the most northern in Fiordland Long Island or Long Sound? **Long Island**
4. Where are SVÖRD knives made? **New Zealand**
5. Who feature in the NZ Hunter Adventures TV programmes? **Greg Duley**

For Sale

New Alloy Pontoon Dinghy on trailer, 4.2 metres, \$5,800 Contact Steve Robinson 0277478109



Coronet Peak Weekend.

Pete, my hunting mate, had arranged a goat hunt to the back of Coronet Peak station for the club, and as a suggestion from an aging hunter, had arranged to fly in by helicopter. Advertising in the club mag. produced only one reply, so after a phone around and some fast talking from Nathan, we managed to arrange 11 hunters for the weekend, a number which made the chopper trip viable.

Saturday morning saw us all at the chopper hangar about 8 am. The skies looked promising, but Coronet Peak and the tops were all shrouded in fog, making our proposed flight somewhat dicey.

About 9 am, the chopper pilot told us to load up as much gear as we could into the helicopter, and five guys would fly out from the airport, the other six were to drive to the Skipper's saddle, where the helicopter would return and shuttle them to our hunting area.

We took off from the airport and flew over the Skipper's saddle, down Long gully, round Greengates and on up Deep creek, dropping down to the 8 mile creek and landed on a small terrace just above the creek. Dumping our packs and tents, we boarded the chopper again and were ferried up the side of the hills above Eight mile creek, landing on a small flat about 3500 ft, just at the fog line. We piled out of the chopper, and it took off back to pick up the other crew.

Within a few minutes the chopper was back, landing to disgorge the other six members of the party.

By 10.15, we were ready to hunt goats, and split up into 4 groups to cover the ground. The fog was just starting to lift, and we could see a small group of goats about 600 metres away, towards the Macetown road. Nathan and swampy went after them, while two other groups climbed up the hill in different directions to traverse the gullies. Pete, Doug and I, being the older members, decided to hunt back towards our campsite at the level we were on (cunning eh) and proceeded to wend our way around the side of the hill. Shots could be heard from Nathan, and we heard the sound of goats bleating from somewhere below. Suddenly, three goats appeared from below and we were firing at them. They disappeared round the hill and we chased them over a ridge, only to find they were out of range. A war was going on over the next ridge, several barrages of shots being fired. Alec, Stefan and Kent had got on to a fair sized mob, and had taken out about 25, though a number had got away.

The next two hours saw us walk a number of gullies, shooting a small number of goats, but seeing animals ahead just out of range. We stopped for lunch, and shortly after spied a small mob of billies feeding their way up the hill. Stalking our way closer, we prepared to attack, but the goats saw us and took off. Some average shooting dropped three goats but the rest got away. We carried on round the hills, dropping the odd goat here and there, until we came over a ridge and saw some 15 goats in a small gully way below us. We managed to stalk closer and lined up on a ridge above them. When a shot rang out, I squeezed the trigger on a billy and saw him topple over, then swung on to another running down the hill. Down he went, another took his place and was also hit. Shots were being fired in quick succession by all, and after the shooting died down, goats could be seen crossing the creek at the bottom of the valley. Some of the boys took off after them, bringing down a number on the opposite side of the creek. We made our way back to the campsite, setting up camp before it got dark.

Two goats were seen further up the creek, and Alec and Stefan decided to go after them. After about 10 minutes, three or four shots were heard, and we all thought that was the end of it, however after a small break, another volley of shots rang out, being repeated on a regular basis, though getting further away each time. About 11/2 hours later, two elated hunters returned, out of ammunition, but having bagged 42 goats between them. The final tally for the first day for all hunters was 200.

The next day was my birthday, and I was suitably ribbed about being an "old bugger". Needless to say, I told them they would keep, and we set off again after a good breakfast. Five of us went up the valley floor, while the remainder climbed up towards a promising looking gully on the Deep creek side. As we passed the spot where Alec and Stefan had stopped the previous evening, two goats were seen about 100m away, they were soon dispatched. Climbing further around, we sat down and glassed the opposite faces, spying some 30 odd goats on a steep ridge and around rock pinnacles. We discussed going after them but then saw a lone goat coming down the creek. The boys told me to have first crack at him as it was my birthday, and at about 80 m, one clean shot put him down. Two of the other group were sighted on the skyline, and we shouted directions to them until they came down to where the mob of goats were.

When they started firing, all hell broke loose. There were goats running in all directions, too far away for us to shoot, but the boys at the top were having a ball. Barrage after barrage was heard, and goats could be seen dropping off rocks, down tussock faces and over sheer rock walls. One of our group, Doug, had gone further up the valley, and shortly after we heard a volley of shots from his direction, followed by several more shots on the other side. Alec, Stefan and I decided to head around towards Doug, but saw some goats just below us and fired on them, taking several out. Three more appeared above us and were dispatched, along with two on another face. We spied another three high above us on a ridge and climbed to intercept them. They disappeared around a rock outcrop and we split up, Stefan climbing up to the top of the rock. Just then, the fog closed in again, and I couldn't see a bloody thing, however three shots from Stefan's rifle put paid to the goats.

It was now getting cold, and after donning jackets, we headed back towards the camp again. Reaching the valley floor, we heard goats bleating, and after sighting two, polished them off with a couple of nice shots. We arrived back at the campsite about 2.30pm, and packed up tents and packs, as the chopper was due around 4.15 to 4.30. Swampy had a ball today, clocking up some 70 goats, and his companion 55. Nathan had shot over 50, and all the others had contributed to a lesser degree. All up, the tally for the day was about 248, giving a total for the weekend of around 450. The station manager should be pretty happy with that number, as for every goat shot, .7 of a sheep unit can be put on the same country.

About 4.20, the chopper could be seen flying down the valley and after landing, was loaded with the boys for the Skipper's saddle, along with most of their gear. Some of Doug's gear was offloaded as he is a big boy!!!! The chopper took off and returned in about six minutes. We loaded our gear in the chopper, squeezed into the seats hugging the excess gear from the first flight, and took off down the valley to gain some speed and altitude before climbing to the top of the range and winging our way back to the airport once again. The ride in the helicopter was exhilarating, especially after cresting the top of the range, as the ground dropped away almost immediately, leaving you with your heart in your mouth!, and was, for me, one of the highlights of the trip.

We will certainly be planning another of these trips, using the chopper, for the spring or summer months, as you can reach the more distant country where the animals are without having to expend half your time and energy walking in.



Young Hunts Course 2016



**This course is for anyone young or old.
Includes Firearm safety, Navigation, First Aid, Bushcraft,
Equipment and trip planning, Meat processing and more
Includes 8-9 Tuesday evenings at the Clubrooms and 2
weekend hunts / bushcraft skills as well as sighting rifles
and river crossing.**

**Starting Mid July, maximum of 12
Contact Nathan Dawson 0272358063**

nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz or

Steve Robinson 0277478109

sldgrobinson@woosh.co.nz



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Stewart Island Flights

Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora

Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654



email nandc43@gmail.com

43 Bain St Invercargill

Deposits for any bookings to be received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.

Club Office Bearers

President: S. Robinson 215 7897 **Vice President:** B. McNaughton 216 3365

Jnr Vice President (vacant) **Secretary:** D Howden (Acting) 213 0962

Treasurer T Smalley **Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383

Immediate past President N Dawson 235 8852

Executive: N. Miller (Huts) R. Phillips (Membership)

