

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

April 2015

Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Next Meeting Wed 15th 8.00pm

Executive meeting 7pm

Guest Speaker

Alan Munn of Doc



Presidents Report

Our sincere condolences go out to Steve and Helen Long.

The 2015 roar is here with many hunters out searching for a possible trophy or just out for the experience of roaring in a stag.

With the recent fatal shooting we are once again reminded of our responsibilities as hunters. For myself and others

I have spoken to in the recent weeks we also have the obligation to understand why this happens, and not be so quick to judge. The wearing of blaze clothing has served us well for many years but we cannot rely on this alone.

We must also act in ways that keep ourselves safe.

Last month we had a club hunt with only three members willing to go on a four day tahr hunt in some relatively easy country. It was great to have two join me from last years hunts course we had a great few days, a story will be in next month newsletter.

Be safe during the roar, remember to identify your target.

Steve Robinson

AGM & Trophy night

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 20th of May at 7.00pm.

A spot prize on the night for all entries

Entries in trophy competition Sunday the 17th of May 1pm at the Clubrooms

.Photo competition entries to Doug Gordon 254 Centre St Invercargill 9812 by 5pm
Wednesday the 13th 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

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

All cup holders (last Years) please return trophies by the April meeting

SUBS etc.

You should have your account for this year's sub by now. These need to be paid before you shoot that trophy or take that photo. The trophy evening is in May time is flying, all entries must comply with branch rules.

If you have paid your sub and not getting the newsletter (or you know of someone in this situation) Please get in touch with the Executive we can't fix what we don't know of. There has been and there is still problems with the address list.

Editorial



Good on the few that turned up to the March meeting to hear out National President Bill O'Leary speak.

What he had to say about firearm safety was very interesting, more so in light of the recent tragedy. One of the things he talked about was that hunters go out hunting very intent on seeing a deer. Whereas we should be thinking of everything we see as a (possible) human being. Only thinking of shooting it when it is identified as **not a human being** but a deer. He went on to talk of the pressure hunters are under to succeed and shoot a deer, and how it makes them inclined to think everything is a deer.

That is something to think on. When I started hunting success when hunting was all about the number of deer shot, which is what my peers talked of. The more I think about it I think

Bill is right, in that it is this pressure that can make us see/ hear what we want to see/ hear. Perhaps we (and our friends and families) need to look at the social pressure we put ourselves under to succeed and shoot something when hunting. Because we are told that is the main reason for hunting! (After all why would someone go hunting if not to be intent on shooting something the logic goes?)

How often is the first thing a hunter is asked when returning from a hunting trip is “did you get one”, or “did you shoot one this time”? Perhaps we should be asking did you have a good trip. How many of us while on a hunting trip, having been successful in shooting an animal, brag of our success to our fellow hunters, in a way that puts them under pressure to perform, and keep up.

When I think of it I did not start hunting because I wanted to see how many deer that I could shoot. It was because it combined two interests that I had, shooting and the outdoors (tramping). I too have at times felt this pressure to keep up and shoot my share. Hopefully something I have put behind me, more so especially in the light of Bills talk.

Just a pity so few turned up to listen, he was worth listening to. He got me thinking.

LandSAR

It's been a busy couple of months for some of the Southern Land Search And Rescue regions, with the search for 'Tina' in Manapouri, to the vast spread of roads and coastline towards the Catlins for the Zhao-Beckenridge search.

The Tina search was a good example of how even vague plans if not held together can turn pear-shaped without need. Although the tourist was fine and oblivious to what had happened, the plans she had made with the water taxi to pick her up caused a series of events to unfold when she never re-appeared for her pickup. She instead from what I gather met up with someone who offered them a ride back over the river to Manapouri proper.

For that search alone up to 3000 volunteer hours, a lot of helicopter time and distances of members were travelled to rally for the search. Some areas to be covered were thick enough to take about an hour just to move tens of metres and after the 2nd to 3rd day the physical fatigue on some of us was starting to show.

The Zhao-Beckenridge search is now pretty much back to being entirely police since the majority of the initial tasking being completed by a diligent team at Tokanui and surrounds has wound down. Our initial tasking was to search roads and coastline to try to find them and/or the vehicle as well as any belongings. I'm pretty sure that the media has given a pretty clear picture of what's been happening with many of the field members ducking for cover from the cameras to keep tasks at hand. Of course there are 2 trains of thought in regards to what has happened - they are in the vehicle or not. I respect the strength and skill needed by the Police Divers with their attempts to recover any further evidence from the vehicle.

Although I now spend more time in Operations/IMT rather than in the field, it always impresses me how many of our peers will turn up at short notice and at personal cost to help those in need - even if there is initially little to go on. Over the years LandSAR has become a lot more professional in the way we work. Although the help of the general

public (locals to an area) is still used, a lot of the key values and methodology has been refined. Now we ensure that the main members of our groups know at least first aid, search methodology and some have tracking skills, with the more experienced ones being more skilled up on higher end tracking skills, site & clue processing and Team Leadership, to the key members in areas such as Alpine Cliff Rescue, Swift Water Rescue and so on.

On an active search we effectively become as what can be seen as employees of the Police and as such must now adhere to ensuring our own safety as well as those of our teams. The no-worries attitude and more roughened bushcraft skills that we as hunters have can sometimes be of detriment rather than assistance as a team you are paired up from say a dog tracker from Dunedin, a medic from Tokanui, or a local farmer who is also in SAR. The uniformity of training and skills assists in us fitting together and working as a team, and to be honest skills gained such as tracking and foundation ropes courses come in bloody handy in the bush during the roar too!

New members to SAR groups are not readily turned away, but expectations of prior skills are there. As most workplaces do first-aid training that is usually one of the prerequisites dealt with.

Certification-based training is at least one evening a month with a few weekend to week-long courses throughout the year depending on how far through training you are.

If you're interested there is more info available here:

<https://www.landsar.org.nz/become-a-volunteer/>

Bevan McNaughton
Southland LandSAR Committee Member

MY FIRST ROAR

There's something special about your first stag, although not a trophy by size my first stag's head is still proudly mounted on the fence outside my house. It was the first week of April round 2003 I had a long weekend off so was all packed up and on the road leaving from Edendale as soon as I finished work. Heading up to Cromwell to spend the night at a friend's place and meet up with Charlie who had organised the trip. We had a few rumz and spent the night chasing rats off the deck as the farm we were staying at had grain Silo not far from the houses, there were heaps of the buggers.

It was a reasonably early night as we were up well before the sparrows 3am we headed off for Jacksons bay as far south as the road takes you on the West Coast, we arrived just before 7 am, meeting possum (Charlies mate we were staying with). Soon as we arrived, we were asked if we were ready to go. "Yea gun, bag, boots, and knife, " yip we're ready, what's the plan?

Possum loaded us in his Ute and away we went down the road an up an overgrown driveway, and there's a helicopter being pulled out of the hanger ". Shit we goin in a chopper Charlie " yea did bit of work for a fella while back, got us some chopper time. Bloody awesome I thought within 15 min we were hovering above the open tops of the Jackson river valley, in the little r22 with door off was pretty cool.

Then silence as the helicopter dropped away back down the valley to pick up possum and drop him in another valley, we sat down for 5 min had a muesli bar waited for things to settle then headed off



down the valley. Working our way down slowly roaring as we went, we never heard any roars that day. Though we did find a large wallow that had been recently used but the occupants were nowhere to be found. So we carried on, spooking a hind further down. This was one of those ones probably could've, should've, shot it. But I was a bit slow of the mark and ended up watching its white rump crashing away through the bush. You win some you lose some, we made our way back down to where possum had left the truck for us and headed back to Jacksons bay for a few beers.

The next morning we were up early again and away on foot, off the Jackson road straight up. It was something I'd never experienced before, the west coast bush at its best. We climbed over under through all sorts of crap two hours later and after a few stops we made the ridge line things were a bit more open. There Charlie let out a roar. We could hear a couple going but nothing close so following the ridge along roaring as we went. It sounded as if we were getting closer to one, I found it quiet deceiving trying to judge distance in the bush but then he came in to probably 200 yards and roared.

Shit we knew he was there, but that first roar in close proximity is something else. Charlie stayed back and roared while I snuck forward to try close the gap and get a bead on the worked up stag I only made it about 50 metres when I heard crashing breaking branches from down to my right I had almost gone past him. I could hear him coming up a small gut, perched beside tree rifle at ready I waited. As soon as I saw him walking stiff legged head held high steam rising from his back nostrils puffed out, in search of sight or smell the intruder who had entered his domain. From then it was probably only a couple of seconds from when I had seen him till when I shot. Although it seemed like a lot longer than that. He was only about 20 metres away when I fired he dropped instantly at the shot. I gave Charlie a yell and we went down to have a look at the fallen beast.

He was in fairly average condition had obviously been working pretty hard on finding a mate he definitely smelt like a stag. We took some meat which we tried frying the next night and ended up spitting out after we got sick of chewing it. Note to self always hang venison I took the head out a nice wide 4 pointer. Though most probably wouldn't have bothered carrying it the couple of hours out, but to me it was an always will be a trophy.

By Shaun McKelvie

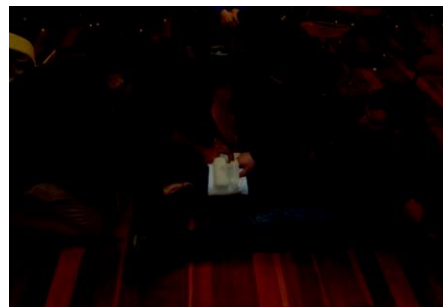
Safety with Shots guns for duck shooting

A hyper link on the dangers of steel shot in some old shotguns

<http://www.themancave.tv/video/4JXr0yY0BcA>

To give away to a good home two mixed age wapiti cross hinds, these have been hand reared and are big girls, contact Ray on 2163751 in the evenings

Young Hunts Course 2015



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**



THIS YEAR WE HAVE DONATED THE FWF ETHICS TSHIRT WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE FOUNDATION.



FWF Foundation

VISIT THE STONEY CREEK WEBSITE TO SUPPORT THE FIORDLAND WAPITI FOUNDATION.

Stoney Creek instinctively wants to help keep this natural resource for the future generations of hunters. Check out our website under the "FWF" tab for more information.

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W: www.stoneycreek.co.nz



<http://www.facebook.com/StoneyCreekNZ>

NEW Members Please welcome them

- Darryl King Tuatapere area
- Jamie King Tuatapere area
- Scott Egerton Tuatapere area
- Graeme Manley Invercargill
- Myah Popham Invercargill
- Cohen Stewart Invercargill
- Kenneth Stewart Invercargill

REMINGTON: Product safety warning and recall notice

Remington Model 700TM and Model SevenTM rifles

The Remington Arms company is voluntarily recalling Remington Model 700TM and Model SevenTM rifles with X-Mark Pro® ("XMP®") triggers, manufactured from 1 May 2006 to 9 April 2014.

Remington has determined that some Model 700 and Model Seven rifles with XMP® triggers, could, under some circumstances, unintentionally discharge.

To determine if your rifle is subject to this recall, visually inspect (look) at the trigger. If the face of the trigger is ribbed, your rifle does not have an XMP trigger and is NOT subject to this recall.

If the face of the trigger is smooth, your rifle has an XMP trigger and IS subject to this recall.

STOP USING YOUR RIFLE IMMEDIATELY

Contact an authorised Remington dealer for immediate inspection, and possible repair. Contact details for overseas distributors are available by visiting <http://xmprecall.remington.com> and selecting New Zealand. (This is excerpted from a five page hardcopy report from www.remington.com)

Quiz

Match the following list of hunting personalities with the appropriate description. As to what they were known for.

Jim Muir	Wapiti Hunter and Author
Philip Holden	Forrest Service Ranger
Barry Crump	Forrest Service Culler /Ranger/ Trophy Guide and Author
Graeme Marshall	Pioneer of live Recovery with Helicopters
Rex Forrester	Early Hunting Guide
Evan Meredith	Forrest Service Culler and Hunting book Author
Dave Saxton	Forrest Service Culler and Fiction Author
John Von Tunzelman	School Teacher and Hunting & Fishing Author
Goodwin McNutt	Forrest Service Culler and Venison Recovery Helicopter Pilot
Ray Tinsley	Venison Industry Pioneer

Last Month's Quiz

1. What deer Species was released in Dusky Sound in 1908? The Axis or Chital Deer.
2. What three species of rat are found on Stewart Island? The Brown rat (Rattus Rattus) The Ships Rat (Rattus Norvegicus) and the native rat the Kiore (Rattus Exulans)
3. What 5 Minerals have been found in the Longwoods? Answer Gold, Platinum, Copper, Zinc & nickel
4. Can you chamber a .243W round in a .270 Winchester chamber? Answer Yes It would rattle down the barrel id the extractor held it in place when the firing pin hit the primer. The damage would be a lot less than if you did the same with a 308W round
5. Who Wrote "The Sharp Shooter"? Answer Matt and Bruce Grant

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

Wapiti Lodge & 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.

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T. Smalley R. Phillips H. Williams