

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

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Next Meeting

Wednesday 20th August at Long Bush Club Rooms

Executive meet 7pm

General Meeting 8pm

Guest Speaker Greg Huston from H and J's Outdoor World is now to be the guest speaker at the August meeting, as he was unable to make the July one due to some winter health problems. So fingers crossed for this time as he is worth listening too. He will be talking about his outback experience in Australia.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY 17th

A SILENT or Blackboard Auction IS BEING HELD

So sort out your surplus hunting, fishing, or other outdoor gear and bring it along.

Details in Septembers Newsletter.



Presidents Report

Election year is upon us. Where's your vote going.

There is some very good reading in the August issue of Fishing and Outdoors, free at Hunting and Fishing store, good time to sit back and have a read is while out white baiting this year.

1080 – DOC is dropping 1080 around areas in Southland. Make sure you check before you harvest animals from these areas. Waitutu part of Fiordland is due to have a drop of 1080 from the 1st August onwards, weather permitting.

ZEBRA – Interesting article in the Southland Times last week with the Crusaders team members posing with a shot Zebra, this drew some negative response from some opportunist who don't like hunting, if they had their photo taken with a Kingfish or snapper with their tongue hanging out nothing would of been said, so we all need to be proactive in the sport of hunting.

YOUNG HUNTS – This is well under way with final dates now set for the rest of the course. The trip into MT Nicholas being the highlight for them.

BLACK BOARD AUCTION – The club will be having a blackboard auction on 17th September so if you have anything you wish to bring along on the night do so.

GOLD – A big thumbs up and congratulations to Sally Johnston for her winning performance at the Commonwealth Games, well done.

I know there are a few of our members who shoot competition who can use Sally's effort to inspire them to a higher level.

Remember to identify your target.

Steve Robinson.



Editorial

Hunting books most hunters read then at some time or other. (Unless ultra-modern and only do DVD's). To me there are several types of hunting books. Firstly these are those that tell us how to hunt, Then there are those that tell us about their hunting success whether for trophy or for meat. There are some that tell us the history of the herds that we hunt. Another big group are those about the commercial (professional) venison industry. Plus a few on the history of Recreational hunting. Lastly there are the humorous hunting books Barry Crump started these off. For my money Big Al Lester is the pick of the current "**story**" tellers

While most fall into one type or another there are again some that try to cover more than one or all aspects of hunting. Over the years I have collected a lot of hunting books of which some fall into all the types above.

We all have our favourite hunting books, a bigger group of what were alright hunting books and a few for which we would not mind our money back. What books we generally like or

don't like depend on who we are and our back ground in hunting. As a group the ones I value less are the ones about going hunting some where the other side of the black stump in an area that you cannot relate to i.e. a nondescript patch of bush somewhere north of here that you have never been to. A good example of an exception that I enjoyed was "Pikau & Rifle" by Daryl Marshall due to the areas hunted.

One group I value highly because of my back ground are those on the hay day of the commercial venison industry. But there are exceptions, "Deer were there Lives" deals poorly with some of the South's Venison hunter's a lot of the pictures don't relate to the story as told. Whereas my first edition of Mike Bennetts "The Venison Hunters" is a prized book that I have re-read and re read. It is now on DVD after being produced as a Video.

I think I have well over 50 books (just had a count up closer to 100) in my collection by now with at least a couple out on loan to hunting friends at any given time. As for my favourite hunting book hard to say but I would not like to part with most of my collection.



A Weekend Goat Hunt. DAVE HOWDEN

Friday morning, and Alec. Butters arrives early at home complete with pack, rifle and ammo. After throwing a few things in the pack, the Isuzu is loaded with gear for 3, and we pick Pete up from his place and set off for Queenstown. At Centre bush, we stop and pick up Matt, a new member from Sweden. Some 2 hours later, we are heading down the Skippers road, dusty as ever. Arriving at our destination, the truck is parked up and after donning packs, filling water bottles, and carrying rifles etc, we head up the track through the forest to the Greengates saddle. Half an hour later, we stop at the top for a breather as I for one need it. After looking around, and seeing no animals we set off for the Greengates hut arriving about half an hour later. Packs are quickly stowed, a quick feed is had and we split up to cover the immediate area.

Some three hours later, Alec, Stefan and I still haven't seen any goats but decide to have a look up a gully behind the hut on the way back. Rounding a corner, we see three goats at long range, and stalk up closer. At some 300 metres, as close as we can get, we start firing, hitting two but the other one sprints away out of range. Back to the hut, where we organise tea and sleeping bags.

We are sitting around yarning after dark when we suddenly see a light moving. It's Nathan, who has tramped in to the hut for Saturday's hunt.

45 minutes from the car, mainly in the dark is good going, especially with his pack which is damned heavy!

The next morning we are up fairly early, eaten and ready to go by 8 am. Walking up the track, we pass the old ruins and carry on up Deep Creek. Suddenly, Nathan spies a couple of



goats ahead, we spread out and they are quickly dispatched. Three more are seen on the other side of the creek, and a few shots see them downed. Carrying on, more goats are seen above us, Nathan and Matt chase after them but they get away.

We walk further up Deep Creek towards Parkers creek and spot goats on the skyline some 800 metres ahead. Shortly after, we are joined by Nathan and Matt who have seen them too. We decide to split up and approach them from different angles, Pete going with Matt and Nathan while I take Alec and Stefan and work our way round the spur by the creek. We come across a small mob close to the creek and manage to nail most of them, two getting away over the next hill towards Parkers creek. Rifle shots echo from further up the hill and we can see the others climbing steadily towards the leading ridge. The boys and I cross the creek and follow a trail leading around to the next gully, Parkers creek, where there is usually a number of goats. Some 30 minutes travelling saw us part way up the valley, and a few minutes with the binos spotted a small mob about 600 metres distant. We stalked to within 100 metres, and after positioning ourselves, opened up on the mob. Goats ran in all directions, and some good shooting, saw 11 goats downed. We finished off one or two that were wounded and looked around. More goats were seen moving into the creek ahead, and

after reloading, we rapidly closed the gap between us and the goats. Coming to the brow of a hill overlooking the creek, we could see a number of goats on the other side of the creek. Spreading ourselves out to cover their escape route, we started firing. I dropped three on a gravel scree and two more climbing a steep ridge. Looking around, I could see Alec working the bolt on his 30.06 and further down the ridge, Stefan's 243 was barking out its message of death. All went quiet for a few minutes, then a goat would be seen trying to get away, and the boys would open up again. After about 30 minutes, there were no more goats to be seen, and a count up of dead goats totalled 16. Not a bad result really. Our tally for the day now was 33.

We sat down and ate lunch, then decided to head back, climbing slowly out of the valley. Alec was below Stefan and I, and Stefan could hear a goat bleating. We climbed over a rocky outcrop, and on looking up, saw a mob of 15 some 400 metres away. We signalled Alec to join us, and then proceeded to chase the mob. The goats were by now moving across the face, still out of range and getting close to the ridge above.

Then, out of the next gully came a barrage of shots, the goats disappeared over the ridge and we had to climb out to the ridge, hoping to see where the goats had gone. No such luck, but in the creek bottom was Pete and Matt, taking out goats as they wended their way down the creek. We waved to them, indicating we would go down the ridge, and proceeded to follow a sheep track. Part way down the ridge, we spotted 4 goats in a small basin some 300 metres below us. I centred the scope on a big billy and squeezed the trigger of the 270. Down he went and the 3 other goats soon followed, the boys were really on the ball. Down the ridge we went, shooting goats as we descended until we finally came out on the flats of Deep creek. We climbed up a steep pinch on to a terrace and saw 3 more goats, which were promptly dealt to. From here it was a 1 1/2 hour walk back to the hut, no more goats being seen.

Just on dark, Matt and Pete walked into camp, they had seen a number of goats and had a good shoot. Nathan had climbed almost to the Coronet Peak ski lift before returning to the hut and walking back out to his car, his tally for the day was 55.

The next day was Sunday, and after breakfast and packing up, we wound our way back to the top of Greengates pass again. There we dumped our packs and headed off up a track towards some steep peaks overlooking the Greengates hut. Alec wasn't feeling too well so he went back to the packs while the rest of us climbed onto bluffs above Deep creek. More goats were spotted and shot, our tally for the weekend amounting to 170. We returned to where our packs were laying, and after a quick drink and chocolate bar, made our way back to the truck, loaded up and departed for home. All in all, a good weekend with plenty of exercise and a good number of goats taken.

QUIZ

1. Where and when were Wapiti released in Fiordland?
2. 7.62 Nato is also called?
3. Who wrote Eye of the Hunter?
4. From what does 12 gauge get its name?

5. Who is the largest Deer Farmer in New Zealand?

July Quiz Answers

1. Who wrote "The Venison Hunters" *Mike Bennett*
2. Name the four deer species released in Fiordland? *Red, Wapiti, Axis (Chital), and Moose.*
3. How old is a red deer when it becomes full mouth? *Approx. between 1 Year nine months and two years three months.*
4. Can Deer get Foot and Mouth? *Yes*
5. Why, when & where was, the" 30-06 Springfield" round developed? *Because when the USA fought Spain in Cuba (Spanish –American War late 1800's) they may have won but the got the shit shot out of them at long range by the Spanish 7mm Mauser. Thus USA decided on a new bolt action rifle and better ammo. The round had to be a minimum of .30 Cal with the same ballistics as the 7mm. Thus at Springfield Arsenal the Springfield rifle was developed along with on the second attempt a satisfactory round in **30** Cal the year **1906** thus 30-06 Springfield. (In passing USA never paid Mauser for the patent for the rimless head of the cartridge case they copied, but using it did shooters and hunters a big favour as a large number of rounds have been formed from the 8mm, Mauser and 30-06) (the 7mm is after all only a necked down 8mm as originally developed in Germany)*

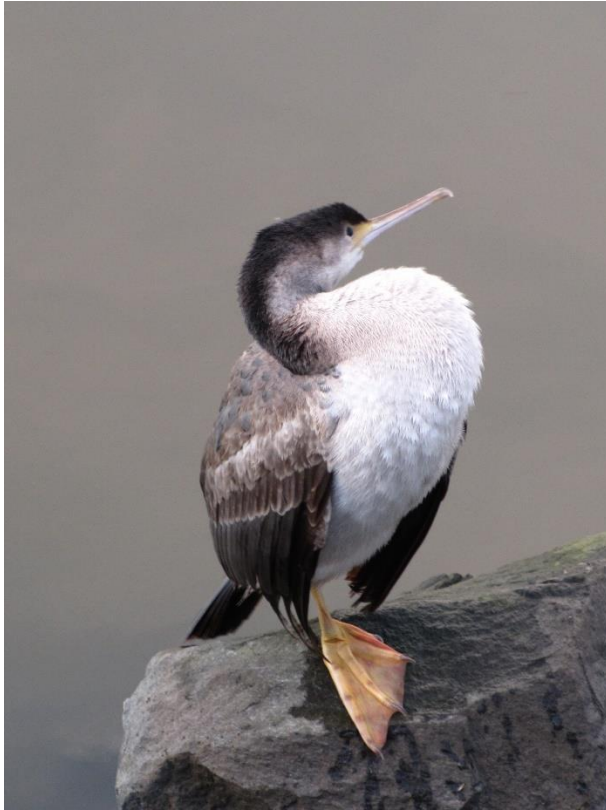
1st Place PHOTOS BRANCH PHOTO COMPETITION

1st SCENIC Section



Duan Zhao

1st WildLife



Doug Gordon

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