

The southern hunter



2010

Southland branch
NZ deerstalkers association

Noticeboard:

Executive Meeting: Wednesday 17th February 7.00pm

General Meeting: Wednesday 17th February 8.00pm

Executive and committee members (2008-2009)

President	Jim Ridley	2159649
Vice.	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Jnr. Vice	Murray Barkman	2362730
Secretary	David Howden	2130962
Treasurer	John DeLury	2131430
Immediate	Roy Sloan	2352813
Huts	Neville Miller	216 8654

Newsletter Editor Nathan Dawson

Executive:

Roger Stratford, Steven Long, Brendon Bell, Ray Phillips,
Murray Colson, Euan Butters, J. Hogg, D. Craig, G. Ronald.

WA (Bill) Bell - Life Member

Branch email is southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

Guest Speaker for February

Just waiting to hear back, if not will be a hunting dvd and general catch up after the Christmas break to see if anyone has any ideas for the club for the coming year, see you at 8pm.

New Members

A warm welcome to new members

Roger Foote, Bradley Young, Stefan Beeching, Michael and Nicolas Sutherland, Myles Maheno, Paul Brown, Ryan Grant and Ronnie Mitchell

SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS

General Committees were formed for this year.

Hall:	B. Bell, M. Colson, M. Barkman, D. Craig.
Huts:	N. Miller, J DeLury
Young Hunters:	M. Colson, G. Ronald, N. Dawson.
Branch Hunts:	N. Dawson, D. Howden.
Speakers:	N. Dawson, S. Long.
AGM:	President.
Trophy Custodian:	G. Ronald.
Poisons/Toxins:	R. Phillips, D. Howden.
Stewart Island:	R. Phillips, J. De Lury.
Longwood/Hokonuis:	J. Ridley, R. Stratford.
South Coast:	R. Phillips, D. Howden.
Fiordland:	R. Sloan, E. Butters.
Caples/Mavora:	J. De Lury, N. Miller
Blue Mountains:	S. Long, M. Colson.

Animal Skin Tanning Service

Adam Cowie

Hm:03 2182977

Mob: 0276314462

E-mail ajcowie@woosh.co.nz

Hunts /Update

There is a goat hunt organised for the 6th/7th of march into Coronet Station, anyone wishing to go please contact Nathan 03 2358852.

Also need more photos for newsletter so please send them through.

For any other inquiries or if you have something to put in the newsletter please contact Nathan Dawson nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz

Important Notice

Due to other commitments we require a new newsletter editor for the coming year to take over after the AGM in May (or earlier if you want). Involves collecting emails from execs and members and putting it all together, emailing to members and getting it printed and posted from the officeshop. Only a few days out of each month, 10 newsletters a year. Please contact us if your interested on Nathan.Adrienne@xtra.co.nz or 03 2358852.

Editors Comments

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and new year and didn't eat too many creamy things, hope you're all sticking to your new years resolutions! There will be another busy year ahead with the roar approaching fast and the duck shooting not far behind, can't wait, look forward to seeing you all on some of the organised hunts and events during the year. We were involved in the Waimumu Field days, I was out on Thursday and had a great day talking to all the hunters and scoffing venison off the bbq.

I think it'll have good flow on effects for hunting clubs in Southland with lots of people grabbing info on joining clubs.

Wishing you all safe and great hunting for 2010

Just remember the AGM in May so get out there and get snapping and bag those trophy heads for the competition on the night.

SETTING UP YOUR OLDER GPS FOR TOPO 50 MAPS

There is no need to obtain a complete set of the new Topo 50 maps to replace all your old Topo 260 ones. Your GPS settings can be easily changed to suit the old or new map you are using at the time.

To change your GPS for Topo 50 maps:-

Select Menu Page, highlight Setup, then Enter it. Highlight Units then Enter it.

Highlight Map Datum then enter it. Highlight NZTM2000, if it is not available highlight WGS84, then Enter it. Your GPS is now set up for the new Topo 50 maps.

To return to Geod Datm 49 for Topo 260 maps:-

As above, reselect Units and highlight New Zealand then enter it. Highlight another country then Enter it. Push Enter again. Highlight New Zealand then Enter it.

You should be back to Geod Datm 49 for the old Topo 260 maps.

This is the way I have to do it with my eTrex GPS.

Alex Kidd

Club Goat Trip Deep Creek 09

Early Friday morning found me getting picked up by Ant and the crew at Five Rivers, in a southerly and rain, not the best for going hunting. Another Southland Branch Goat trip was under way. Hopes for the day improved as the weather cleared as we motored in the direction of Queenstown. Some phone calls confirmed that Big Doug was already at the meeting point having motored in from Dunedin.

Once we arrived at the Helicopter landing pad off the Coronet Peak road it was into one vehicle for the trip to the Ski Field car park. Here the walk in started up and over the ski field. The track up the ski field was about fit for two wheel drive let alone our four wheel drive but as we did not have permission to drive on what was in places a construction site we walked.

We normally fly in and out of Deep Creek but with there now being only five of us it had been decided the economics not longer stacked up as there would be only one load. The climb sorted out that the Fiordland types, Gus and Jason were a lot fitter than the rest of us. Cloud had descended so the climb was made in limited visibility. We all made it though in time for lunch and a view near the top as the cloud cleared. Camera came out for a few photos.

We then split up and shot our way down to the camp site at the mouth of the creek above Parkers creek. Ant having the best tally as he had set himself above the local goat hotel at the waterfall in the creek and shot all the goats the rest of us scared in to him. After setting up camp a few of the goats around the plateau were despatched before it was time for tea and bed.

Next morning there was the debate on where to shoot. Jason and Gus had seen some tempting goats in Parkers, so that was them sorted. Big Doug had pulled up lame so decided to stay and defend the camp. He just succeeded in keeping the goats out. The closest one got was about fifty metres from the camp. Unfortunately the wind was another story, some fly's getting flattened.

That left Ant and be who after debating the Vanguard headed up the head of Deep Creek. Here we found a few big mobs and lots of small groups. Our best effort was mid afternoon high up were we shot about 21 out of a small basin, well we could have actually shot more but I forgot to count as I shot. Of more satisfaction was some doubles on pairs of longer range goats. Were for a shot each we despatched the pair.

When things were tallied at the end of the day we had reached about 200 kills for the trip. Saturday night found the weather packing up with rain on dark. This caused Ant and me some problems as the rain blew in both ends of the fly. That will be the last time I use that fly to sleep under.

Sunday morning found stiff and sore hunters looking for a few more easy goats. One obliged Jason walking across the face opposite the camp. Well we managed to round up about another fifty. With Ant poaching 17 off Big Doug's perch on a point over looking Deep Creek and the camp.

The trip out was uneventful, the chopper turning up on time and soon had us back at the vehicles. It was just a good job the wind was not as bad as on Saturday otherwise we might still be there living on goat. As the food supplies were beginning to get a bit low.

NEW ZEALAND FALCON (Karearea)

I have seen many falcons in my lifetime, but only two sightings are logged in my brain's special events file.

The first was on Sunday 14 July 1996. Jeff and I were fishing in Lake Monowai and were trolling past Shallow Bay when I saw a wood pigeon flying high across the lake from the East side. While I watched it a falcon dived down from above and grabbed hold of it. They both dropped out of the sky with a flutter of wings and hit the lake. Soon the pigeon's wings were still and the falcon changed her grip on it and started towing it to the shore which was more than 100 metres away.

I stopped the auxiliary motor and we wound in our fishing lines. Then I started the main motor and idled over to have a closer look. The falcon was an adult female and was using her wings in a butterfly swimmer's action, but they were held out more like oars. She was making good headway towards one of the drowned trees at the edge of Shallow Bay. When she got there she dragged the pigeon up onto the tree roots and after plucking feathers from it, started eating it. She showed no signs of worry about us watching her close-by from the boat.

I regret leaving my camera at home that day.

The second event was on Friday 24 April 2009. I was driving along the road near the Microwave repeater on top of the Blue Mountains. I drove round a bend and a juvenile female falcon was on the road. It took off and flew along just in front of my van at windscreen height. About three times it landed on the side of the road, took a look at us, then flew in front again. The last time she did this, the van was beside her before she flew in front again for a while, then flew away. Around the next bend, a fallow deer was standing on the road.

This time my camera was in the van but I did not think about trying to use it.

Alex Kidd.

Chamois By Stuart Laing

Stuart needs to be congratulated, on being the first person to write a book devoted entirely to this species. The best effort prior to this is Alpine Hunting in NZ by Roger Lentle and Frank Saxton, which splits a book between Chamois and Tahr, not a bad idea? I found the book interesting and a worth while read. Definitely as described on the cover "A New Zealand Hunters Handbook" This is a book that I will go back to and use as a reference, from time to time.

Stuart has done some work on the disease status of the species which is good and rarely mentioned in most hunting books. What was disappointing though was that no mention was made of the presence of absence of TB in this species. I have seen the abscess resulting from CLA infection in chamois (confirmed as such by Lab diagnosis). These could be easily mistaken for TB. I do not know of any TB in the species. It would have been interesting to know if Stuart had looked into this during his research? Being TB free must be a plus for keeping a species, (for hunting).

This book is a worth while read for chamois hunters and aspiring chamois hunters.

Mossburn Smallbore 2009 Simulated Field Shoot

Once again the Mossburn Smallbore rifle club organised a field shoot as the main activity on the day of their season wind up and trophy presentation. The venue remained Dunrobin Valley Stn, and the date was Sunday the 6th of December. This year for the first time an invitation was issued to members of other clubs, the Southland Deerstalkers and some locals.

Unfortunately this did not increase the size of the shoot though several new persons turned up and entered. Some of whom don't want to wait until next year for the next shoot. They want more of the experience.

This year's shoot was shot over six ranges five targets each range, with ten points max up for grabs for each target. So the possible was 300 points. The targets were a mixture of metal (where one got 10 points if hit first attempt 8 if successful on the second attempt down to 2 if successful on the fifth and last attempt.) and cardboard animal targets which had scoring rings on them. The size of the targets varied as did the shooting range, and the shooting positions which included standing, sitting, kneeling, prone and using a fence as a rest.

When the smoke cleared young Blair Ussher was the top shot with 270 points, (and top Jnr) followed by Graeme Johnston with 261 and then John Davey, Rob McBride, and Grant Reid on 257. Sarah Campbell was the top women on 243 points.

Clay targets and Neil Bates with his muzzle loaders provided a side show before the presentation and BBQ.



A metal Stag (swinging)



Metal Rabbit



A well shot goat



Alister Campbell marking Targets

AERIAL HUNTER
(the Dick Deaker story)

By Graeme Marshall

When I saw this book advertised it immediately went on to my desired present list. The family delivered the book. I enjoyed the read it did not disappoint, Graeme Marshall you have done a good job writing this book.

This book is yet another on the venison industry that slips into the same category of book as The Venison Hunters, Hurricane Tim, An Era Gone and The Helicopter Hunters, to name a few. It is the biography of one of the Venison Recovery Industry's successful pilots. Thus it is a worthy read if you are interested in such stories.

For me reading this has at times been something more I have known Dick for over thirty years through my job. No doubt first meeting him at one of "Tim's" famous Xmas parties of the 1970's era. Over the years, especially when he was suppling the Mossburn plant as an independent operator, I have come to know and respect him as a person, and venison recovery operator. Like wise I also know a lot of the other persons featured in the book. Thus reading this book has been a trip down memory lane for me at times.

Times have changed the era is over replaced by another. It is good to see Graeme put pen to paper and record some of it. I hope it is a successful sell, and will motivate Graeme to write the second volume on a great partnership in venison recovery the Jeff Carter story.

Doc