

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



FEBRUARY 2013

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE BOARD

Club Executive Meeting: Wednesday 20th February at 7pm

Club General Meeting: Wednesday 20th February at 8pm – **All Welcome**

(Clubrooms – Longbush Hall, McKerchar Road, Just off SH1 between Woodlands & Kennington)

Guest Speaker this month is Richard Beaumont from Environment Southland who will be talking to us about the pest plan that is going to be put in place for the next 10 years in the South. Come along and listen in, you may have some questions for him also...

Welcome to our newest members...

**Matthew O'Brien, David Smith, Rob Cleary, William Rodgers,
David Kieser, Kassian Rauber and Zachary Andrews**

Membership numbers continue to grow!

WALLABY HUNT

23rd/24th February, there is a wallaby hunt up around Waimate on a new station we haven't been to before (jacked up by one of our members in Oamaru) if you're interested please email Nathan nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz first in, best dressed

Be in quick!

Jackson & Wills – Locator Beacon Specials

Jackson & Wills have a deerstalkers special on through February and March for personal locator beacons, GPS navigation equipment and handheld radios. Call in to see what they have on offer.

Located at 239 Dee St, Invercargill.

2 x Labrador Puppies for sale – 1 x Black Bitch, 1x Black Dog

Both parents are good game bird dogs and are used for open water hunting. Father a Chocolate Lab, Mother a Black Lab. They come from a litter of 8. Rest already sold. Vaccinated and wormed. \$350 each with a portion being donated back to the NZDA. Contact **Roger** on **2313 555** after 7pm

Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

Newsletter Address is: newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz or gregandsonya@woosh.co.nz



NATHAN DAWSON

PRESIDENTS REPORT...

Well we're into another year and the roar is getting closer. I hope you've all got your blocks sorted! I hope everyone had a great break and got out for some fishing and hunting.

Remember the AGM is in May, so take lots of good photos and keep an eye on the newsletter for details on when to bring your heads in to be measured.

I've just got back from Tahr Survey/hunt in the Landsborough with the TIG. What a great trip! There were 10 club members on this trip and for a lot of them it was their first time tahr shooting. We had three days of great weather and one of rain and that day the chopper could not get in to get us. So at 4pm we were off hunting again, great as they all come out after the rain! We got out the next morning and it was great to hear some of the stories from the people how had not been in there before. And I know that some of them have some great tails to tell about the trip!!!!Tahr hunting not easy!

Not much from me but will more next month also keep an eye on emails for Club hunt too..

Hope to see you all at the meeting

Regards
Nathan.

ALEX KIDD

DOUBLE SUCCESS

I needed a change from the Longwoods Forest so on Thursday 3 September 1998 I left home at 5.50am and headed for the Lillburn Valley Road and parked the Lada Niva on the South side a few kilometres from Lake Hauroko.

The weather was fine but cool and there were hailstones cupped in the ferns from the storm the night before. Creeping along into the light Southerly breeze I moved into a nice area with enough deer sign to keep my interest up. I was now stopping frequently and looking thoroughly to see if there was anything that could be part of a deer.

Was that an ear behind those ferns ahead? I slowly raised the Leupold to my eye. There were two ears, two eyes and a nose pointing my way, but I could not see anything else of it. I closed the bolt and centred the crosshairs on a position that I guessed would be about 50mm below the lower jaw bone, then squeezed the trigger. The BRNO 308 kicked and the deer disappeared. I quickly reloaded and moved to a high spot and watched, but there was no sight or sound of the deer. Carefully moving forward I found a spiker stag with a hole in his neck.

Now I had a whole lot of prime venison and the time was only 8.50am, so I was not going to waste any of it. I boned it out and put the meat into cotton flour bags which were put into a large plastic bag and then into my canvas pikau which has 50mm wide leather straps.

Back at the van at 12.02pm I was surprised to see Neville Millar's van parked on the other side of the road. That night I rang Neville and he told me he had checked out my footprints and then stalked the other side of the road, and that he had also shot a stag that day.

BEACONS IN THE BUSH..

As we have seen time & time again in shows like High Country Rescue, the use of Beacons are a wonderful device for ensuring prompt rescue when in trouble. We have heard lots of stories of use from hunters and trampers who abuse them as an easy-exit strategy, get a bit misplaced and unable to get out to those who are in the utmost need of medical assistance.

The old 121.5MHz Beacon satellite monitoring is all shut down now meaning that only the later 406MHz frequency is monitored.

All new beacons do however still transmit on 121.5MHz, which is the frequency that you may have seen on TV that Helicopters use to hone in on. It sends out a weak powered quick-cycle pulse for the trackers to follow, whereas the 406MHz signal which transmits at a higher power sends out bursts at a much slower rate, but has the ability to send out extra details such as GPS co-ordinates if the device supports it.

What many aren't aware and take for granted is that although many rescues seem to be reported of help arriving within tens of minutes - in reality it could be hours before help arrives. It is not uncommon for more than one emergency to be responded to at one time resulting in emergency services to be tied up, or as many are familiar with the weather in the likes of Fiordland even stopping the most experienced helicopter pilot in their tracks.

The biggest thing to remember with Beacons are the following:

- * Test annually - some units have a beacon self-test and a GPS self-test. As the batteries are guaranteed for about 6 years, the testing capability before causing battery issues will be easily twice that.
- * The clearer the view of the sky - the better the rate of pinpointing your location. Dense obstructions or steep valleys can hinder the signal.
- * It is still a point of failure. Leaving it at camp, losing it in the bush or having it receive damage can make it useless. If you cannot be promptly rescued due to weather or other circumstances then it can mean that you are still as vulnerable unless you ensure you're self-prepared.
- * Abuse of it could cost someones life. If emergency staff are on a wild goose chase then it means they can't answer a real callout. It can also mean a prosecution against you.

A good PLB/Beacon can cost easily up to \$600+ depending on what you're after. ACR ResQLink as one example make a relatively compact unit with inbuilt GPS and long battery life.

ALWAYS buy a NZ based PLB. I have had discussions with the Rescue Co-ordination Centre and this was their advice AGAINST buying a unit say from the U.S directly.

Before you can register a beacon purchased overseas you would need to take it to one of the local agents who can make arrangements for it to be recoded to new Zealand usually at a cost of about \$200.

Response time to an activation of a foreign beacon in new Zealand could lead to delays in the response as dependant on where it is activated we may not even get advised of the initial detection unless it has a New Zealand Position, we often get UNLOCATED alerts and use the contact we have for registered beacon to establish where it could be in use.

An un-located alert for a foreign beacon would go to the country the beacon has been purchased in. If people are going on a holiday to the overseas they can purchase a beacon in New Zealand and take it with them as long as it is properly registered in New Zealand and the contact have details of the

travel plans.

Simply planning to purchase a beacon in a foreign country because it is cheaper may not be the best option. In the US unless you have a permanent address in that country they will not accept a registration and response to an unregistered beacon in some countries is/can be somewhat delayed.

Bevan McNaughton
Southland LandSAR.

CONTACTS...

EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2012-2013)

President	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Vice	Steve Long	235 7035
Junior Vice	Steve Robinson	215 7897
Secretary	David Howden	213 0962
Treasurer	John De Lury	213 1430
Immediate P.P.	Jim Ridley	215 9649

EXECUTIVE

N. Miller, B. Bell, R. Phillips, J. Hogg, D Craig, J. Ridley
G. Ronald, S. Byrne, K. Watson, B. McNaughton, G. Herbert

PRELIMINARY SUB COMMITTEES FOR 2012-2013

Hall	N Dawson, J Hogg	Huts	J De Lury, N Miller, K Watson
Branch Hunts	G Ronald, J Hogg	Young Hunts	N Dawson, S Long, S Robinson
AGM	N Dawson	Trophies	G Ronald
Poisons & Toxins	R Phillips	Stewart Isl.	J De Lury, R Phillips
Hokonuis	K Watson	Longwoods	S Long
Sth Coast	R Phillips, S Robinson	Fiordland	B McNaughton
Caples	J De Lury, N Miller	Blue Mtns	S Long
Rifle Range	D Howden	Newsletters	G Herbert
DOC Liason	N Dawson		

LIFE MEMBER(S)

WA (Bill) Bell (Branch) Ray Phillips (Branch)
Neville Miller (Branch) John De Lury (Branch)
Roger McNaughton (National)