

The southern hunter



2009

Southland branch
NZ deerstalkers association

Noticeboard:

Executive Meeting: Wednesday 15th July 7.00pm

General Meeting: Wednesday 15th July 8.00pm



A photo of Euan Butters in Fiordland Country looks like he could do with some new polyprops photo by Roy Sloan

Executive and committee members (2008-2009)

President	Jim Ridley	2159649
Vice.	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Jnr. Vice	Murray Barkman	
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.

Branch email is southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

Guest Speaker for July:

Colin Bishop and Dave Taylor will be updating members on
the DOC Waitutu Project

A warm Welcome to new Members:

Sam Beaufill, Raymond Winter, Michael Pritchard, Andy Carpenter, Kieran Henshaw, Adam Kennedy and Tom Rouse

Life Member

Congratulations to WA (Bill) Bell

Apologies for the mistake in the last Newsletter regarding
Trophy Results at AGM

The first place for the red deer at the AGM was Graham Johnston scoring 254 DS
And Roger Stratford was 2nd

Query

The hut committee would like to know who ordered a new fire extinguisher for Wapiti Lodge. If this was you please contact Neville 2168654.

Weaned calves wanted.

The club is looking to continue this fundraising project. If you have a weaned calf you would like to donate please contact Roger Stratford phone 2304388. Roger has a number of properties who will then take these animals through to sale as a fundraiser. thank you.

MASON BAY RAT PROGRAM.

All six trips to kill rats (and have a wee hunt at the same time) are now full. Thanks to all the members who put their hands up for this project.

A SAD DAY.

Earlier this month the old hunting hut at Martins Creek block at Mason Bay was demolished. Several members of the branch had spent a fair bit of time extending and upgrading the old hut but in reality it was passed it's best use by date and a new hut was built on the same clearing by some of our members late last year.

Mountain Safety first aid course

Course runs from Friday 7.30pm -9.30pm, Saturday 8am - 9pm and Sunday from 8am - 4.30pm at a cost of \$25 per head, food supplied. Dates have not yet been set any inquiries to Jim Ridley 2159649

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.
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, G. Ronald.
Blue Mountains:	S. Long, M. Colson.

Animal Skin Tanning Service

Adam Cowie

Hm:03 2182977

Mob: 0276314462

E-mail ajcowie@woosh.co.nz

Hunts and up and coming hunts

On Saturday July the 4th, there was a club hunt into Coronet Station, 4 members of the club braved the weather and went in for 1 day. They had good fun was a bit cold and shot 102 Goats. Good effort considering the weather wasn't that brilliant for the weekend, keep your eyes out for the next goat hunt in Spring.

Rabbit and Pest shooting night has been arranged on Saturday the 1st of August on two Blackmount Stations, great for young members but all welcome to attend. We require 2 4WD trucks with crates on the back and if you've got access to a 4 wheeler bike let me know because there are places only the bikes can go. Limited Numbers so appreciate if you let me know numbers/ vehicles

Accommodation in the woolshed electric range and running water, need sleeping bag/stretcher etc. also you need to provide your own Tea and Breakfast. Any Enquiries email me on nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz
Or phone on 03 2358852

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

Some of the hunts are organised after the newsletter goes out so for those that get the newsletter by mail if you want to be contacted about these extra hunt let me know your phone number.

Duck Shooting ends at the end of this month so get out there and get them.

WE WANT YOU



ON OUR V.I.P. LIST

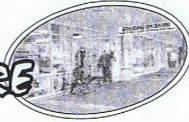
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- ★ VIP Customer Nights
- ★ VIP Discount Cards

*By joining this database you are giving us your consent to receive email messages from time to time concerning specials as above. If for any reason you no longer want to be on the VIP contact list, you will need to contact us and your name will be removed. (Information gathered will be kept for use by Southern Adventure only.)

**SOUTHERN
ADVENTURE**

31 Tay Street, Invercargill



(Please fill out the following contact details and send to us by any of the contacts below):

Name _____ signature _____

I would like to be informed by: Post (address) _____
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31 Tay Street, Invercargill Tel. (03) 218 3239 Fax: (03) 214 6038
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WAPITI BALLOT RIGGED.

by Roy Sloan

In a Southern lakes news paper it had headlines reading "DEER HUNTERS UP IN ARMS" It was a story with quotes in it from a Wapiti hunter going by the name of Chris Cameron.

Now Mr Cameron said in the story that the ballot had been rigged for years and he has been trying to clean it up for years.

The funny thing about this quote is, I have been involved with the Wapiti ballot for a number of years now and this is the first time I have heard such rubbish from him.

Chris has been appointed by his club. The Central Otago deerstalkers to sit on the Wapiti area management team. Chris has sat at the table with us and agreed with most things we have been doing. That when we could get him there. He has been asked to help with the ballot but never turns up.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out how the ballot is run. Starting with the post box

- Ballot applications are pickup. Donation are bank and paper work done
- Ballot applications are numbered. First one received gets number one written on the form, second one get number two and so on. They keep that number for the whole process of the ballot.
- The day of the ballot. Committee look over ballot forms to see if they are filled out correctly.
- Ballot is drawn in at a public meeting. Forms are laid out on table in piles of 10 to 15. Members of the audience are invite to over see a pile. First person has pile 1-10, person beside them have 11 to 20 so. All this is done for transparency.
- The numbers are drawn by a system call easy draw. it is a disc that is used for lotto,bingo etc any thing that need to be very transparent.
- A local policeman does the draw. Doc are involved. The media are there filming it.

I think the story in the Queenstown Mirror was just a smoke screen. The truth behind it is a survey that the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation(FWF) done about pre rut hunting and instead of Chris being involved with the survey he has gone off half cocked and start to spread rumours to try and discredit the Foundation. Now one thing the Foundation want to make clear is this is only a survey.FWF are charged with managing the Wapiti area and they get hunters from both sides of the fence moaning about pre rut hunting and the survey was done so they could find out what the true users of the Wapiti area wanted. Nothing more.

So if anyone out there want to know anything about the ballot/survey please ask as stories like these from hunter about hunters and good for no one.

Thanks Roy Sloan. roy.sloan@woosh.co.nz 021 900 423

DEER HUNTERS

FROM Page 1

By BROOKE GARDINER

IT'S not rigged.

That's what Fiordland Wapiti Foundation vice-president Ron Peacock has made clear after accusations from deer hunters that the annual ballot system to shoot Wapiti in the bugle season in the Fiordland National Park was unfair.

"There's no way that it can be rigged," he said.

"It is definitely as legitimate as it can be."

The ballot is drawn under police supervision using an electronic system and entrants are numbered as payment is receipted, he said.

When asked how it could be possible that some people were getting "randomly drawn" for the same blocks year after year, Mr Peacock laughed and said: "Yes that happens actually and that's random."

He went on to confirm one foundation committee member had drawn the same block for the past three years.

This year more than 1000 applied through the ballot but a maximum of only 300 hunters get to shoot on the 25 blocks of land.

Veteran Alexander hunter Chris Cameron said he and a friend, who he describes as another foundation agitator, both drew their first choice in the ballot this year.

He said he didn't think it had anything to do with coincidence.

"Out of the 300-odd parties going



Caption: Ron Peacock, left, and Chris Whyte from the Wapiti Foundation checking out antlers taken from the Wapiti area in Fiordland.

Photo: BARRY HARCOURT.

in there – how do the two agitators get a block?"

Mr Cameron said he had been pushing to "clean up" the ballot system for a number of years.

"A lot of guys want to see a manual system used," he said.

Fellow hunter Gareth MacRae supported the notion of using a

manual system and said he would be happy to see names drawn out of a hat, regardless of how long the process took.

Mr McInnes said it was "too unique" that certain hunters were being drawn consistently in the same block, year after year.

"I'd argue there is a formula that

isn't above board. People are sick of it. Emotions are running high," he said.

Mr Cameron said he would sooner miss out on a block and have the ballot drawn fairly.

If the issue couldn't be sorted he would consider starting a second user group, he said.

► BALLOT

FACTS:

■ The ballot period refers to the bugle, which is divided into two fortnightly periods.

■ This year they were: March 16 - March 29 and March 3 - April 12.

■ Hunters pay to enter into a random ballot in the hope of being allocated a block of land in the Wapiti Area to hunt during the popular bugle period.

■ There are 25 blocks in the Wapiti area and a maximum of six hunters are permitted to hunt on a block at any time during the period.

■ The only time the Wapiti area is closed for all hunting is from March 1 until the start of the first ballot period each year.

■ The Wapiti Ballot Committee comprises representatives from DOC, NZ Deerstalkers

Association, Safari Club

International, Southland

Recreational Hunters Club,

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation

and the Fiordland Wapiti Trust

(which comes under the

Foundation umbrella).

UP IN ARMS

By BROOKE GARDNER

WILD deer hunters in the south are angry and they want some answers.

They're concerned they could be squeezed out of shooting in the Fiordland National Park and they also believe an annual ballot system to hunt the prized Wapiti herd is rigged.

The ballot has been held since the 1930s and it allows hunters to shoot the Wapiti over two fortnight-long periods during the popular March-April bugle season, which is commonly known as the "war".

Winning a ballot is sought after nationally and internationally because the Fiordland Wapiti is the only wild herd of its type in the Southern Hemisphere.

This year more than 1000 applied through the ballot but a maximum of only 300 hunters ever get to shoot.

Alexandra's Chris Cameron has been hunting in the area for more than 30 years and has major concerns with the ballot.

"It's meant to be random but there's some pretty hard evidence that it's being unfairly drawn," he said.

"One chap's had the same block five years in a row."

On top of the balloting worries, Mr Cameron is also leading a petition against an idea to close the national park to hunters in the months leading up to the ballot period.

The Te Anau-based Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, which is responsible for managing the impact of deer in the Wapiti area of the park, has conducted a survey with hunters on whether to close the area off earlier.

An application to close it earlier



Happy Hunters: Te Anau hunters Roger Footes, left, and Clinton Shefford with their L1st trophy heads from last season's bugle. Mr Footes' Wapiti-red deer hybrid was shot in the Wild Natives area of the Wapiti area, Sheffords, in the Kapiti Mountains.
Photo: BARRY HARCOURT

would have to be to the Department of Conservation.

Mr Cameron said he wasn't sure about the foundation's intentions.

"It's our public and legal right to have access," he said.

"They haven't got the bloody right to tell you and me when we can and can't go hunting."

"I don't see how closing a national park to recreational hunters benefits anybody - it just doesn't stack up."

Mr Cameron said he had "most of Te Anau on board", adding that "local hunters can't have their pork shot".

"I don't believe DOC will even entertain the idea of closing a National Park," he said.

The Department of Conser-

vation hadn't replied to questions put to them by the Mirror at the time of print but Fiordland Wapiti Foundation vice-president Ron Peacock said there would have to be strong support for change.

"We've got no agendas to keep anyone out."

He said the foundation was

"neutral" on the issue so conducted a survey, which he said had "created some confusion" among hunters.

Mr Peacock said the recent survey closed at the end of last month and the results had not been collated. He expected to know the results within the next week.

► YOUR SAY?

Do you have concerns about the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation's ballot system, or the potential early hunting closure of Fiordland National Park? Let us know at: communities@stl.co.nz

Dear Queenstown Mirror

My heart sank with disbelief when reading your May 13 article regarding concerns raised over the current Wapiti hunting administration.

Seems that whenever a recognised resource is formally managed in some way, there is always someone ready to cast stones and excite conspiracy theories.

I live in Wellington and passionately look forward every year to travelling south to enjoy the hospitality of southland (notably TeAnau) and the scenic wonders of Fiordland in pursuit of an adventure which includes tramping, hunting and photography in an absorbing area which is truly a New Zealand treasure.

To me and what I've noted as the majority of outdoor & environmental enthusiasts out there that enjoy Fiordland, the Wapiti Foundation exists to preserve a precious animal from exactly the "live-for-today" type characteristics Chris Cameron seems to exhibit. This year, I missed out on the electronic ballot for the small 6 week hunting window managed by the Foundation (outside of that specific Wapiti mating period hunters can freely enter the park whenever they like), accepted that outcome and simply booked my trip into the area after that time and had an absolute ball !.

I suspect Chris Cameron has an alternative agenda, maybe a commercial interest or is simply ignorant to the big picture which is to carefully manage the Wapiti for people to enjoy for years to come. His attempt to sew doubt into a police witnessed ballot system seems like an immature attempt to get numbers on side so he can freely plunder a world recognised hunting resource from his back door.

He is complaining about the potential to miss out on 6 weeks of access throughout an entire year – I say to you Mr Cameron "GET OVER IT!"

I am not involved with the Wapiti Foundation in any way yet fully support their self-funded deer culling program which, like the their stoat trapping program is run in collusion with the Department of Conservation – a stunning (and award winning) example of environmental collaboration between hunting and conservation interests.

I guess we should perhaps welcome Mr Cameron's comments though, they serve to remind those with half a brain that narrow minded folk exist out there who's mantra is to live for today, who embrace anarchy by dismissing formal resource management with wild conspiracy claims to anyone foolish enough to listen.

Contrary to Mr Cameron's ramblings, he and any who concur with his divisive sentiments, care more for themselves and little for TeAnau and its iconic and internationally recognised resource, the mighty Wapiti.

Regards

Gary Johnson

Wellington

In reply to the article (deer hunters up in arm) by Brooke Gardiner in the Queenstown Mirror.

It is a shame for Brooke, she didn't do a bit more homework prior to printing. The issue of an unfair Wapiti Ballot System is a smoke screen for a minority of

selfish, money hungry hunters with undisclosed agenda's.

Lets look at the issues.

1. All parties in the Ballot are now drawn out Electronically by the EZI-DRAW system. This same system is used Internationally in Australia, U.K. and U.S. to run Lotteries and Bingo draws. (manual systems can be manipulated, this can't)
2. Nobody has had the same block to hunt legally 5 yrs in a row through this system as stated. (but it is possible).
3. Hunters do not pay to enter the Ballot as stated (Donations are ASKED for. That money is used solely to control deer numbers in the Wapiti area).
4. Nobody has been refused entry for not donating.
5. The Ballot is drawn early January
6. The minority wish to hunt Wapiti Blocks, at the end of January and all February if they miss out on a Ballot in January.
7. There has been a survey of all hunters who have entered the Ballot in the last 5 yrs (results unknown)

This is the main issue, Mr Cameron does guided hunting and he and a minority of others wish to increase their chances over others of hunting in the area if they themselves miss out on a Ballot. They have no morals or respect for those that have won a Ballot in January. They want to shoot Wapiti Bulls, before they get a chance to pass on their gene-pool and while they still in velvet (although the antler is hard, and they can strip it off for their clients).

What they are trying to do here, is make a lot of noise (as minorities do) to undermine a management plan in place, "that is working" backed by the majority. They are hoping the Department will back away from controversy.

8. The Wapiti blocks are open for 8 other months of the year. (why don't they hunt those months)
9. Nobody is trying to stop public legal access to any National Park (thats just hype).
10. And Mr Cameron is "wrong", the Department does have the right to say where and when he can hunt in certain area's.
11. Please make any so called hard evidence of wrong doing by anyone public. A fair system is transparent, as is all parts of the Wapiti Ballot System. "However your comments are not" !

Because the profile of the Wapiti has lifted, more hunters are applying to hunt them. Over 1000 applied this year, for under 300 positions.

As these numbers increase, less of the locals on average will win a Ballot. THAT IS FAIR !

As I see it, Mr Johnston Wapiti hunter in the North Island who donates to control deer numbers in the Wapiti area of Fiordland, should have a right to hunt a Wapiti Block (which he has won the right to in the January Ballot) free from the Mr Camerons and Mr McRaes of this world shooting the block before he gets there.

Regards Jim Ridley