

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



8pt Whitetail Buck – Stewart Island April 2012 (Courtesy – John De Lury)

JULY 2012

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE BOARD

Club Executive Meeting: Wednesday 18th June at 7pm

Club General Meeting: Wednesday 18th July at 8pm – **All Welcome**

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

Guest Speakers this month are **Colin Bishop** and **Jessyca Bernard** from DOC doing a summary on the chamois hunt we held and where to from here. Also any other issues that may come up from around the Southland area. Please get along to have any questions you may have answered.

Mountain Safety Council Courses: 28th July – *Introduction to Alpine*

28th / 29th July - *Avalanche Awareness*

11th / 12th August – *Basic Alpine*

25th / 26th August – *Snow Shelter*

Contact: Mountain Safety Council Southland, Ph. 03 216 3555, southland@mountainsafety.org.nz

Welcome to our newest member...

Colin Ferguson

We look forward to meeting you some time

National Office are short of pics of kids “out there doing it” for the Hunting & Wildlife Magazine

Send through a photo of your grandchild, child or yourself and be in to win a Kilwell prize pack

Submit to deerstalkers@paradise.net.nz

Interesting YouTube Clip...

‘How to remove a deer jaw for research purposes’

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ax-l2a79bw

Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

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



NATHAN DAWSON

PRESIDENTS REPORT...

I hope everyone's been keeping warm in this cold weather.

It's been great to talk to a few people in the club that have been getting out for winter hunts and bagging a few animals. I recently spent a week in tahr country myself looking for a trophy. Ended up shooting a couple of nice 13 inch bulls, 1 in particular was wearing a Steinlager scarf so we thought we better nab it so we could keep warm!

Anyone interested in heading into this area for chamois or tahr let us know as we can put you onto people who know where some of these animals are. It's beautiful country.



National conference is Friday 13th – Sunday 15th July in Masterton, will be interesting to see what comes out of it.

The young hunts starts on the 24th July, we are all full up so looking forward to working with them on the course.

Club hunts we have been tracking down stations and other DOC areas that we can shoot on, some we are still working on, others are confirmed and we will look at organising weekends, late Sept / early Oct. These are a great way to meet other members and see a bit of different country. If anyone else has places where the club may be able to shoot for a weekend please let us know.



Will keep you all informed via newsletter about these hunts as we look at new areas to hunt this year.

Cheers
Nathan.



GREG HERBERT

FROM THE EDITOR...

Just a note to say THANKS to those who have helped and contributed to the recent newsletters, this is appreciated as will be future contributions, so please don't be shy. I will try to keep a distinctly 'local' feel to the newsletter to keep it interesting and informative but don't expect a 'hunting magazine' showing you pictures and articles from all over the country. Most of the important information and reminders will be included on the second page entitled '**Noticeboard**' so be sure to read important dates for meeting and events coming up.

For those who don't know me I am a dairy farmer at Centre Bush who has called Southland home since 2004. I grew up pig hunting and goat shooting in Taranaki and have since hunted deer in the Central North Island, Te Ureweras, Fiordland and Stewart Island. I predominantly hunt in Western Southland nowadays which despite having plenty of deer still provides a challenge as the regenerating bush, logged many years ago, can often be more in their favour than mine. I hope to change the fortunes however with a young Hungarian Vizsla pup in training. He has seen a few deer so far and seems at home in the bush but at 7 months old is still quite young and can't be called a deer dog just yet!



I have just returned from a trip through the Waitutu Forest walking from the Waitutu Hut back out to our vehicle at Blue Cliffs (Waitutu hut -> Slaughterburn hut-> Wairaurahiri hut -> Percy Burn Hut -> Port Craig Hut). We were dropped in by Hannibal from Southern Lakes and had 5 days of solid frosts, but nice sunshine with little wind. There was enough deer and pig sign through here to keep us interested but perhaps not quite the numbers of our last visit in 2010. We saw quite a few kaka, mainly around the Waitutu River, and several times they would leave to fetch their mate returning to watch the hunter from a handy tree.

The trip gave me the idea to include a segment in the newsletter on local huts and places to stay to perhaps inspire people to try different areas or give a point of contact for those wanting to know more. I will be calling on 'local experts' to contribute to this in future newsletters so I suggest you start thinking. Until then, hunt safe...

Greg.

ALEX KIDD

CHECK IT OUT...

One day a relative of mine was following a short distance behind me while I was stalking in the bush at Lake Monowai. He told me that he thought I was seeing lots of deer because I kept lifting my rifle to my shoulder. I explained to him that I was always looking about for anything which looked remotely like a part of a deer, and when I saw something I would check it out through the rifle scope. 97% of the time it was not a deer, but the other 3% made the effort worthwhile.

On 23 March 2003 I was stalking by myself in the Longwoods bush. There were a lot of wood pigeons feeding in the trees and they would take off in front of me then land a short distance away. When I caught up on them they would repeat the process. With the noise they were making, I thought that I was wasting my time, but it was a sunny day and I like being in the bush so I continued walking quietly along.



I dropped down to a creek and had some food and drink. From the creek I angled up the side of the hill. I had not gone very far when my eyes were drawn to a bright, sunny spot above me. I lifted the rifle to my shoulder and looked through the scope. There were two of those orange-covered rocks in that sunny area, but were they rocks? I put the rifle down and crept closer. Again I put the scope to my eye and again they looked like rocks. I crept forward three times and on the fourth look through the scope I could make out a neck and head. I closed the bolt, centred the cross-hairs on the neck and squeezed the trigger. That deer stayed there; the other one jumped up and ran towards me. I let it go past me because I now had enough meat to carry out.

I was pleased that I had not given up and that I checked out the bright area.

Alex.

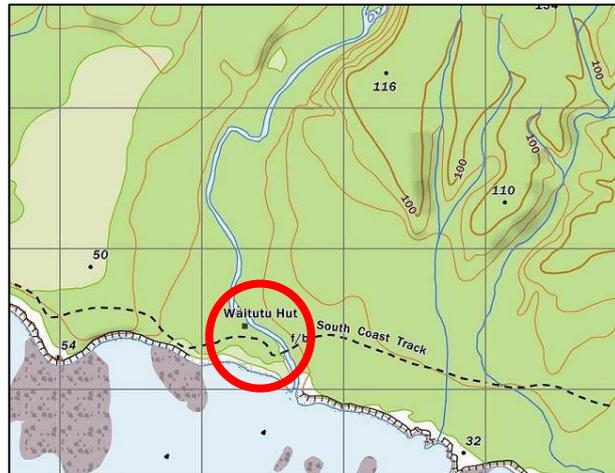
WAITUTU HUT

HUTS AROUND THE SOUTH...

Grid Reference: Topo50 map sheet
CG06, E1142426, N4862469

The Waitutu hut is a 12 bunk DOC hut on the West bank of the Waitutu River some 50m from the river's edge and approximately 300-400m inland from the sea.

Access to the hut is via the South Coast Track on foot, however can be reached by both jet boat and helicopter. An experienced operator is required for the jet boat option as it involves navigating the Wairaurahiri River to the East and travelling the open ocean along the coast to reach the Waitutu River.



Walking access to the hut from the Wairaurahiri River is a 12km trek along the South Coast Track which can be quite muddy in winter and includes swing bridges and a 3 wire bridge. Allow a full day, especially if you detour out to Long Point where an unmanned lighthouse sits amid plenty of deer sign on open cliff tops. Apparently there are plans to predator fence this area and create an albatross colony.

Hunting around the Waitutu hut is quite good for deer with a mix of bush type, from tight coastal vegetation running to the open native of beech and crown fern as you go further inland. As always the deer travel and browse the coastal fringe and marks are a frequent appearance on the beach and around the hut. The use of the South Coast Track makes it easy to travel to places not previously hunted and a large swingbridge near the hut gives access to the East side of the river.



There are stoat traps in place all along the South Coast Track and also up both sides of the Waitutu River towards Lake Poteriteri and the Slaughterburn. There is no permanent cut track up the river however stoat lines are well marked on both sides and lead back to the South Coast Track, thus making navigation easier for the less experienced.

CAPS & BEANIES...

The Southland Branch has sourced a supply of caps and/or beanies that will have the Southland branch logo printed on them.

Available are:

Caps: Dark green with a yellow logo on the front. Peaked front to keep the rain off.

Beanies: Two types available - the standard type of beanie, and one that pulls over the ears (good for the cold days).

Both caps and beanies will have the logo printed on them.

If anyone wants them, they will need to pay up front, as the order will not be sent in until we have a reasonable number to purchase. The cost is \$15.00 for either the cap or the beanies. Cheques can be made out to Southland Branch NZDA, or cash is more than welcome.

For orders, please see R. Phillips on a meeting night, or mail to:

Southland Branch New Zealand Deerstalkers Association
P.O BOX 1588
Invercargill 9840



THE FIREARM SAFETY CODE

1. Treat EVERY firearm as loaded.
2. ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction.
3. Load a firearm ONLY when ready to fire.
4. **IDENTIFY** your target. **IDENTIFY** your target. **IDENTIFY** your target!!!
5. Check your firing zone.
6. Store your firearms and ammunition separately and securely.
7. Alcohol impairs judgment.

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	214 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)