

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



SOUTHLAND BRANCH

NZDA

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Branch website <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/>

Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th July 8pm Long Bush Club Rooms

Executive meeting at 7pm

Guest Speaker

Greg Huston from H and J's Outdoor World is confirmed for this meeting, and he will be talking about his outback experience in Australia.



Presidents Report

The beginning of July has certainly given us a taste that winter is on its way.

In the wake of the fatal shooting of a local hunter earlier this year, I was interviewed on talk back radio on 25 June 2014 regarding the sentencing of local man Wayne Edgerton, so winter may be a good time to reflect and talk amongst our hunting mates and just to refresh our knowledge of safe, hunting practices, how are you going to respond when you come across another hunter in the field, we cannot rely on the HI VIS alone being 100% safe.

The most active time in the hunting calendar is the roar. This is the time when new and experienced hunters are out enjoying our great sport.

Maybe we should consider having preseason hunter safety courses. These courses are run in most states in the USA and are believed to be the reason why accidental shootings have been declining in the last 10 years, something to think about.

Later this year the club is considering holding a blackboard auction, so if you have some pre loved items that you think may need a new home, clean them up and get them ready, details and dates to be confirmed.

Keep warm, be safe on the roads as condition can change quickly.

If your heading out for a shot be prepared for weather conditions and always identify your target.

Steve Robinson

A good link that I have been given to make one think about pig hunting

<http://www.nzblokes.co.nz/hunter-becomes-hunted-video/>

Click on the following below I hope it opens and you can enjoy.

<http://southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/images/NoKidCanResistaMudPuddle.wmv>

Now a link on Wapiti

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Wapiti-tracking-project-launched-in-Fiordland/tabid/423/articleID/348566/Default.aspx>



Editorial

It's July and the shortest day is over, we are now in that long slow trip to spring and summer. As I have found out again lately time tide and the weather wait for no man. My plans for a near mid-winter hunt coming to grief in the North Otago rain which produced wet slippery tracks. So I am back to trying to think up new plans and hoping. Meanwhile one gets out for some exercise when one can, then retires to a warm fire for more planning and hoping (that the weather will be kind next time).

I trust that some of you have had better timing and have got out there, and done this and that. In the mean time I need to get this newsletter thing running as smoothly as I would like.

To which end you can help me get writing I need articles , good jokes, photos, Quiz Questions, Classified adds (relating to hunting), what ever this newsletter belongs to us all.

Feed back welcome i.e. letters to editor. The Hunters Trust has a questionnaire Take the time fill it in.

July Quiz

1. Who wrote "The Venison Hunters"
2. Name the four deer species released in Fiordland?
3. How old is a red deer when it becomes full mouth?
4. Can Deer get Foot and Mouth?
5. Why, when & where was, the " 30-06 Springfield" round developed?

Answers to last month's Quiz

1. Which is the largest Elk, the one found in North America or the one found in Scandinavia? *The one found in Scandinavia which most of us know as Moose, where as the North American ones are correctly Wapiti. (Google "Elk Deer Difference")*
 2. Who wrote "Pack and Rifle"? *Philip Holden*
 3. What is Dama Dama? *Fallow Deer*
 4. What is a Mountain Mule? *A brand of framed pack common 40 years ago*
 5. Where would you find Elaphostrongylus Cervi in New Zealand and what is it? *In deer in Fiordland it is the tissue worm found in deer, produces greenish yellow discolouration of the connective tissue. (Does not affect human health.)*
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For Sale

Ammunition oddments

20 x .222 Rem

20 x .223 FC

18 x Winchester Silvertip 30.06

Box 50 x 7.62 ball

Box 64 9mm parabellum

40 assorted .308

Offers to wtd243@xtra.co.nz

John.

Subscriptions

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PLEASE PAY NOW!**

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**Membership form is available on line in our web site or
contact the Treasurer.**

**Craig Stevenson 027 415 4633 or
craig-stevenson@hotmail.com**

2014 Tahr hunt into the Landsborough (upper Baker creek block)



With *Nathan Dawson*

Picked up my mate Dale at Winton and headed for the coast. We stopped in at Frankton to get fuel and food and I called the backpacker to let them know where we were and that we would be late and to leave the door open for us. He was cool with that but gave us the bad news that the Haast pass road closed at 4. 30pm. Shit we had hour and a half to get there. Called the Brother who was coming from christchurch to let him know the go. He called AA and they said that roads were all ok.

That was alright, so we carried on up.

But the AA was wrong and the backpackers were right the gate was Locked.

Well here we were standing on the Haast pass road with no way through think what to do next. We come up with lots of not so good ideas.

In the end we turned around and headed for home (NOT EVEN MAN) we went around the long way!!!

So 9 and half hours later we got to Fox Glacier and we got 2 hours sleep before we had to get up and get ready to catch the chopper. What a trip we saw two deer on the road too.

We flew in with James Scott on Saturday morning with great weather. The four of us started setting up base camp and then we went for an evening hunt.

The next couple of days we made the most of the good weather and got out of Bakers and fly camped for a night. We saw some nice animals but unfortunately we could not quite get to them.

But we got on to some with my mate shooting a 12 inch bull.

Weather turned on us so we headed for base camp.

Next three days my mate and I headed south to find the big one.

We climbed out of Bakers creek which was not easy (Ask my mate about that bit of the trip) and got to some good going.

We hunted down the Landsborough above the bush finding tahr all the way down but not the big one.

We had planned on staying in the bush that night with our Hennessey hammocks, but we ran out of light and could not get across the creek down low.

So for the second time this trip we talked about our options.

There was only one and that was to find a rock to sleep under. There was a few around but some of them were not great. We found one and made some building alteration to the floor, cooked tea and then straight into sleeping bags as it was F... cold. We survived the night and wake up to sun and hot brew. We had seen 6 chamois the night before that we didn't disturb. So headed back up to where we had seen them. We stopped for Breakfast and mate and I turned on radios as I went down south more chance of tahr and he headed up after the chamois.

I was watching this nice tahr when I walked onto a Chamois, about 40 meters away. I thought, got you and must have oh shit. Bang got it. It's mate headed down toward my mate. So I got the radio and said keep eye's open coming your way at 90. He never seen it.

So then out with the tape to see how big this chamois was 9 and a bit .Nice one.

Photos and skin him out and meet up with Dale again and we made our way back to base camp. We needed to be at the hard bit BEFORE it got dark. Yes you guessed it, it got dark half way down which made it harder. Then came the last bit.

Let's just said DO NOT COME TAHR HUNTING WITH ME UNTIL YOU TALK TO DALE AY DALE!!!!

We got back slowly and safely to base camp and put on a hot brew and cooked a feed.

The other two got back the next day and that night the stories come out.

Got picked up a day late because of bad weather, Great to get out but sad to leave such beautiful country as I didn't get to look everywhere I wanted too.

Next time

We shot 19 Tahr and 2 Chamois we all got home with no road closures this time too. We got through the Haast pass and looked at each other and said

Great trip and great guys to go with Until next year you big Tahr



Reward for leaving a Deer (Hind & Fawn)

After missing a deer in the area in late 2009, early 2010 found me back in the same country still looking for a deer for that deep freeze. On the evening of the fourth of January, prior to heading back to work for yet another year.

The Suzuki was driven as far up the four wheel drive track as it was safe to take it, without risking bellying it on the ruts left by people with more ground clearance than me.

The walk from there to hunting country took the best part of half an hour.

This had me on terraces above and on the south side of the river. Swampy land heading up river in the direction of the bush. Looking out over where I had previously shot a stag on the base of a slip which reached down from the bush and out onto the grass covered flats.

Back to my left and behind me I could see in the distance, a Ute parked. No doubt they would be keeping a close eye on that bush edge.

With nothing out where I had recently missed the deer I climbed up a terrace, to the bush edge. Working along this I came to a gap over a bluff that looked out on a clearing on the other side of the river. Her I spied at a distance a bit over 200 metres a hind with a young fawn. I thought about it as I studied them and decided to leave them the fawn would have gone and hid if I shot the mother only to die a slow death later.

Heading across the swamp to a knob I checked over the bush edge next the neighbouring block. Nothing but I could wait, one might come out. Bang from the direction of the Ute. That has torn it for that area, anything as close as I am will be hiding.

So I headed back across the swamp for a last look at those river flats.

As I to the terrace overlooking them I spy a yearling deer out grazing. I quickly drop over the skyline. While it isn't looking. Now it is a matter of getting closer using some scrub and the lower terraces for cover.

Presently I am something over 200 meters away and as yet unseen. To get closer is going to be difficult. So I use the day pack as a rest, close the bolt and line the rifle up high on the deer's shoulder then squeeze of the shot. The deer collapses and is still.

Soon I am across the river and at the downed deer, which is dead. Once gutted it is on to shoulders, (something my left shoulder would later regret for the struggle back to the Suzuki, in the gathering darkness.

Happy that I have got a deer yet have left the hind and its fawn.

DOUG G



For Whitetail Deer Hunters

Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust is keen to find out the value of whitetail deer on Stewart Island to Southland Branch members.

If you hunt whitetail please take a couple of minutes to email the answers to these questions to huntercamptrust@hotmail.com

1. Did you hunt whitetail during 2014
2. What year did you undertake your first Stewart Island hunt
3. How many times have you travelled to the island to hunt whitetail.
4. How many times have you hunted a DoC block
5. How many times have you hunted a Rakiura Maori Land Block
6. How many times have you hunted the "Open Area"
7. Have you stayed in a hut managed by the Hunter Camp Trust
8. Do you have ideas about location of future huts.
9. Are you happy with the online permit system
10. Where do you rank whitetail compared to Red, fallow, I wapiti
11. What do you think of the Graeth Morgan proposal.
12. any other comments

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Hall: B.McNaughton, S.Robinson.

Young Hunts: N.Dawson, S.Robinson, S.Long, D.Gordon.

Club Hunts: S.Long, N.Dawson.

AGM: S.Robinson, D.Howden.

Trophies: N.Dawson.

Poisons/Toxins: R.Phillips.

Hokonuis:

South Coast: R.Phillips, S.Robinson.

Greenstone/Caples: N.Miller.

RifleRange: D.Gordon, D.Howden.

Doc Liaison: S.Long, S.Robinson.

Newsletter: D.Gordon.

Library: Sam Long

Blue Mountains: S.Long, Sam Long.

Fiordland: B.McNaughton.

Longwoods: S.Long, Sam Long.

Stewart Island: R.Phillips, S.Long.

Guest Speakers, H.Williams.