

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



(Winning Photo topical Section)

SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

June 2015

Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Next Meeting Club Rooms

Wed 17th June 8.00pm

Guest Speaker we hope to have Colin Bishop of Dept.
Of Conservation, On Saving the Birds

Executive Meeting 7.pm



Presidents Report

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AGM

After the AGM we are embarking on a new year for our branch. With the National Conference on at the end of this month. I will be hoping to meet and chat with other branch representatives about their branches.

This year's trophy entries were on the light side but it was good to see some.

Congratulations to those winners in each section.

Once again this year we have had some poaching actively around Southland. This is a very risky past time and should be avoided by members, there is a lot to lose if you are caught.

The branch or the Association will not help you if become involved in any illegal activity.

There is a hunts course starting in July again this year. If there are any new members wishing to join time is running out. Contact Nathan Dawson or myself if you are interested.

Winter is fast approaching so take care if you are travelling around.

Remember if you are going out for a hunt to identify your target, we want you all back safely.

Steve Robinson



Editorial

This is the first newsletter for the New Year, after you mob having re-elected me at the AGM.

It is going to be a challenge to grow the newsletter from last year or even maintain it. This is something the Editor should not be doing on their own. So hands up you members and contribute. I need articles, photos, questions (if the Quiz is to continue much longer, do you want the quiz?) adds, messages etc. Thanks to the few that helped last year much appreciated, much more is needed though.

The Editor is not the only one that needs your help, the whole executive does. We need guest speakers that will hopefully draw the members along to meetings. Suggestions/access for branch hunting trips. Even notification of changing e-mail address would be useful.

So come along to the meeting and put your hand up or if shy ring one of the executive as found at the bottom of this news letter or e-mail me douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz and I will forward the message to the appropriate executive member

SUBS etc.

You should have your account for this year's sub by now. These need to be paid before you shoot that trophy or take that photo. Or have an accident hunting for which some public liability insurance would have been useful.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

As the Branch now operates through the centralised membership system ALL new and renewal subscriptions must be made through the national office not the Branch.

Postal payments to NZDA PO BOX 6514

MARION SQUARE

WELLINGTON 6141.

Electronic payments to NZDA ACCOUNT 03-0558-0139562-00 ..

Please ensure that the correct details are entered when renewing IE name and address on postal and Name and Branch on electronic payments .and the CORRECT BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER IS ENTERED

This reminder is being put out as some members have paid direct to the branch account, as the account is not now checked on a regular basis for membership renewal a time lag will occur before any incorrect payments are picked up, and then forwarded onto Wellington.

Remember you must be a financial member of the branch to be entitled to the branch facilities and the NZDA public liability insurance, this means you must have your membership card for the current year which will only be sent out when National Office receives your subs...Payment

New Members Please Welcome Them

Peter Birch Tuatapere, John Beaufill Invercargill, Boyd Frame Invercargill, Henare Baker Riverton, Jaycob Brown Invercargill, Ivan & Peter Hooper Invercargill, Connor Singh Invercargill, Sam Wallace Invercargill

Annual Trophy Competition Results

Red Deer

1st Penny Stratford DS score 242

2nd Roger Stratford DS 232 $\frac{5}{8}$

3rd Russell McCammon DS 219 $\frac{7}{8}$

Fallow

Taylor Graham 207 $\frac{1}{2}$

Tahr

1st Russell McCammon 40 $\frac{1}{2}$

2nd Nathan Dawson 37

3rd Doug Gordon 35 $\frac{1}{2}$

Chamois

Nathan Dawson 25 $\frac{1}{4}$

Photo Competition

Scenic

1st Steve Robinson 2nd Steve Robinson 3rd Steve Robinson

Game Animals

1st Doug Gordon

Topical

1st Steve Robinson 2nd Doug Gordon 3rd Doug Gordon

Wildlife Section

1st Wildlife

1st Doug Gordon 2nd Steve Robinson 3rd Doug Gordon

(Winning Photos to appear in this and future issues)

Spot Prize for entering won Bevan McNaughton



Matt & Willie Joint winners of the trophy for the last Young Hunters course.

RED STAG HUNTERS CLUB

ON FIORDLAND

An hour long special

Monday June the 15th Sky Sport 1 5pm Sky Sport 2 7pm

At Last a Tahr

Friday dawned fine, so it was off up the hill after breakfast in search of a Tahr. Progress was good and the track dryer than expected. So we were soon through the gate that gave access to the first bluff system. Here we left the vehicle.

Here it was out with binoculars and look then look some more. Sometime later (perhaps half an hour or so). Peter finds a Tahr a nanny which has come out onto a saddle on a bluff next a creek across the valley. Soon I too have it in focus. Taking Peters advise we wait to make sure it doesn't reappear, and for the breeze coming up from the bluff to freshen and hopefully steady. A while later we move off across to basin and down in the direction of the bluffs. Taking our time keeping quiet.

Presently we reach the ridge just above the saddle. I sidle right so as to look as far under the bluff as I could. After checking for the tahr in the gut to my right and above me. Nothing in any direction.

So I descend onto the saddle with Peter behind me. Look over as far as I can still nothing. I drop down the face to the next nob on the bluff system and look some more. Again nothing is seen then there it is trotting out of the bluffs below me, it looks like a young bull. I raise the rifle closing the bolt, as it pauses I look through the scope (still being on seven power) I see Tahr fill the scope. I touch of a shot. The tahr (it's a bull) makes a break for it. I get away another shot which I know has missed as it dances down the bluffs to the creek below. As it comes up the far side about five meters up. I lead it the shot looks good as I fire and the Bull drops and rolls over half disappearing into some bushes.

I sit down and cover it in case it moves again. Peter comes down and joins me. He had dropped a rock over the bluffs unbeknown to me. That is what has likely disturbed it. Or was it our scent. After waiting several minutes during which no movement is seen, we start to make our way down the side of the bluffs in the direction of the creek.

I lead the way, and once across the creek at the bottom climb up to where I think the tahr is. No sign of it, I look further in and under bushes still nothing. Peter is just across the creek and about to join me. When I spy through a bush what I take to be a funny coloured plant leaf. At a second look this turns out to be the hind leg of the upside down carcass. I have my Tahr, Pete joins me and we pull it out of the bush. It's a young bull tahr a six tooth. The horns look good but they are too small for it to be a good trophy.

Though for all that it's a trophy for me it's the first tahr that I have ever shot.

We drag it clear of the scrub, camera comes out for a few photos, then the legs back steaks, and head are removed. On examination I find two bullet holes in the carcass. The first rushed shot, has hit it too far back, the, the last was through the chest, where the first one should have gone. It would have been a far tougher recovery if the first shot had dropped it. There was a jungle in the bluffs below where it was when I fired that first shot.

Put in packs now for the long struggle back up the hill. It takes time so long it is lunch time by the time we get back up to the vehicle.

Fed and rested we try to drive further up the track to find out where is washed out. This we discover sooner than expected. The soil has been washed off the rock on a slope exposing dangerous sharp rocks. We back off and park up then walk on. Uphill was now slow going, but in time we made the second lot of bluffs.

We settle in and start using the binoculars only to find cloud streaming into the country from the east over the ridge. In time it becomes a lost cause. We pack up and head down of the mountain to the Hut.

Doug Gordon



Young Hunts Course 2015



**This course is for anyone young or old.
Includes Firearm safety, Navigation, First Aid,
Bushcraft, Equipment and trip planning, Meat processing
and more**

**Includes 8-9 Tuesday evenings at the Clubrooms and 2
weekend hunts / bushcraft skills as well as sighting rifles
and river crossing.**

**Starting Mid July, maximum of 12
Contact Nathan Dawson 0272358063
nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz or
Steve Robinson 0277478109
sldgrobinson@woosh.co.nz**

This Month's Quiz

Match the huts to the locations Southland Otago

The Shepard's	Wapiti River
Army	Gow Burn
Rodger Inlet	Deep Creek
Cavalier	N Mavora
Green gates	Eyre Creek
Kintail	Upekerora River
Hankinson	Monowai
The Rats Nest	Masons Bay
Kerry's (Carrey's)	The Greenstone
The Junction	Seaforth River

Last Month's Quiz

Match various Burns with their Mountain Ranges.

Iris Burn	Kepler Mts
Garnock Burn	Hunter Mts
Mid Burn	Stuart Mts
Spence Burn	Takitimu Mts
Caroline Burn	Princess Mts
Billy Burn	Franklin Mts
Trench Burn	Thomson Mts
Route Burn	Humboldt Mts
Ashton Burn	Eyre Mts
Windon Burn	Livingstone Mts

Freeze Dri

BACK COUNTRY

Cuisine

Still available at a great price to Branch Members

Contact Gus Ronald gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz 03 213 0351

For a price list

Wapiti Lodge & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



.Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654

email nandc43@gmail.com

43 Bain St Invercargill

Deposits for any bookings to be received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.

Club Office Bearers

President: S. Robinson 215 7897 **Vice President:** B. McNaughton 216 3365

Jnr Vice President: S. Gainford 03-234-8487 **Secretary:** D Howden (Acting) 213 0962

Treasurer Magazine Editor: D. Gordon 216 6383

Immediate past President N Dawson 235 8852

Executive: N. Miller T. Smalley R. Phillips