

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



How the Great White Hunter puts up his tent on one of the goat hunts last year.
Photo courtesy of G Ronald.

November 2011
Southland Branch
NZ Deerstalkers Association

Noticeboard:

Meeting: **Thursday** 17th November at 7pm**
Executive Meeting: Wednesday 16th November at 7pm

Executive and committee members (2011 - 2012):

President	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Vice	Steve Long	235 7035
Jnr. Vice	Bevan McNaughton	216 3365
Secretary	David Howden	213 0962
Treasurer	John DeLury	213 1430
Immediate P.P	Jim Ridley	2159649

Sub committees for year 2011-2012

Hall:	N. Dawson, J. Hogg
Huts:	J. De Lury, N. Miller, K. Watson.
Young Hunts:	N. Dawson, S. Long, S. Robinson.
Branch Hunts:	G. Ronald, J. Hogg.
AGM:	N. Dawson.
Trophies:	G. Ronald.
Poisons&toxins:	R. Phillips.
Stewart Island:	J. De Lury, R. Phillips.
Hokonuis:	K. Watson.
Longwoods:	S. Long.
South Coast:	R. Phillips, S. Robinson.
Fiordland:	B. McNaughton.
Caples:	J. De Lury, N. Miller.
Blue Mts:	S. Long.
Rifle range:	D. Howden.
Newsletters:	B. McNaughton.
DOC liaison:	N. Dawson.

Executive:

N. Miller, B. Bell, R. Phillips, J. Hogg, S Robinson,
D. Craig, G. Ronald, S. Byrne, R. Sloan, K. Watson.

Life Member(s):

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

Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com
Newsletter Address is: newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

Postal address:

P.O Box 1588
Invercargill 9840

Presidents Report For November:

This is our last meeting for the year,

This will be held on THURSDAY the 17th Nov**. at the Invercargill Army Centre on the corner of Fox & Arena Ave. at 7pm.

Our guest speaker SSgt Evan Windleburn will talk about his experience overseas and show us around the weaponry that is housed at the complex (e.g machine guns, grenade launchers etc.)

As it's our last meeting for the year pop your wallet in the back pocket as the bar will be open.

This will be a great night to have a catch up and chat about how fast this year has gone and to put in suggestions for next year.

Congratulation to all who got into the chamois hunt on the 19th Nov, hopefully the weather is fine and you have a great hunt and look around at the area.

Big thanks to John Broughton for last months meeting and his talk about chopper dogs and the live capture of pigs in the Auckland islands, it was very interesting with some great footage, if anyone is looking for a DVD, please contact Ray Phillips as he has a small supply of them.

Our young hunts program is all but finished for 2011, all we have left is our hunt, which looks like it will be held at Mt Nicholas Station, just has to be confirmed.

The guys we've had on the course this year have been great and the feedback we have received has been good.

Keep an eye out for the Ballots for 2012 for different areas, eg. Caples, west coast blocks, they always close early (around Dec/Jan) if you interested contact DOC asap so you don't miss out.

I hope you all read the article in the Southland express last week about the game animal council. There is a lot of opposition out there and I think as hunters we need to get in behind it to help support it for the good of hunting.

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2011/0347/latest/DLM4105024.html>

That's all from me for 2011, Be safe out there over the Christmas period and have a great Christmas and a happy new year and we will see you back in February.

Upcoming Hunt

There is an upcoming Goat/Rabbit Hunt on the 9th - 11th Dec. It is restricted to the first 12 and we already have 7 going so you need to be in fast.

Basically we are staying at the Cairmuir Camping ground at Bannockburn and hope to at this stage go Rabbit shooting on Fri & Sat nights and Goat shooting on the Sat. I will let those that are going all the other details.

Drop Gus an e-mail (gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz)or phone 0274 479 593.

Welcome new members:

Brett Smith

Matthew Keenan

NZDA Caps & Beanies

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

The ones 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



Joke for the month

One fine day, brave Captain Smith and his crew of sailors were sailing the ocean blue. Suddenly, on the horizon, there loomed a ship with a skull and crossbones raised on the mast. The crew was frantic, seeking refuge and asking the captain what to do. Brave Captain Smith looked at the approaching ship for a moment and said, "Bring me my red shirt." The call was taken up at once by a cabin boy. As soon as Captain Smith had the shirt in his possession, he ordered the man at the wheel to head straight for the pirate ship. In the ensuing fight, the pirate ship was all but destroyed.

The sailors were recounting their individual triumphs afterwards when someone asked Captain Smith why he had asked for his red shirt before the battle. He responded: "If I was wounded, I did not want your confidence to wane. This way, you would keep fighting no matter what happened to me." The crew had a new found admiration for its captain, and they talked all night about his bravery.

About a week later, there loomed on the horizon 10 pirate ships. Once again, the crew looked to its captain for leadership.



Calmly, Captain Smith said, "Boys, bring me my brown pants!"

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

Guest Speakers

If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in being a guest speaker at the meetings please contact

Ray Phillips, (rkphillips@xtra.co.nz)

Dave Howden (davidandlorraine@xtra.co.nz)

or Neville Miller (nandc43@xnet.co.nz)

Chairs:

We have to give away a number of stacka chairs, pipe frame wooden seat and back the same as the ones at the clubrooms. These are surplus to our needs at the hunter camp trust, could be ideal for duckshooters mai mais, enquires to Ray Phillips.

ON THE WAY OUT

On 6 April 1991, Bruce and I were hunting in the Longwoods bush. We had hunted our usual beat with no luck and were stalking our way back to the van.

I noticed a greener area to my left and stopped to look at it, while Bruce kept walking on. I moved forward for a better look and saw movement at the far edge of the ferny glade. Through the Leupold on the BRNO 308 I could see two hinds, one behind the other, pushing through the ferns towards me. I closed the bolt and centred the cross hairs on the chest of the front deer and squeezed the trigger. The rifle recoiled and the two deer disappeared. I reloaded the rifle and wound the Leupold up to 7 power but could not see them.

I moved to a higher spot and looked with the scope again. A stag stood up in front of me and pranced about in an agitated state. I put the scope on him and he looked huge. The scope was still on 7 power and the stag was so close that he nearly filled it. I centred the reticule on his chest and squeezed the trigger. After the blast from the rifle I heard the thud of the 150 grain Speer, Spitzer projectile hitting the stag. To my surprise he took off and ran flat out through the trees. I quickly reloaded and fired another shot which did not get through to him, so I reloaded again and fired a hopeless shot because he was now a small target with a lot of trees between him and me. I kept the scope to my eye and tried to follow his progress, which was getting more difficult the further he went, then I got lucky and saw him stop and drop from sight.

I now had two deer down in different directions that I could not see, so called on Bruce to come and help me. When he arrived I explained what all the shooting was about, then sent him off, and with my directions he found the hind. I then headed for the stag and found it a long way from where I shot it. If I had not seen it drop I would have had to spend a lot of time tracking it. This was the third stag I had shot in the chest that had run a long way before it bled out.

After we removed the meat we wanted from the two deer, I looked for signs of where the third one had disappeared to and found its tracks in a depression in the ground which allowed it to run away hidden from view. We had used up a lot of time and now had heavy loads to carry out, but made it to the van in the semi-dark at 7.00pm.

The first moral of this story is:- To stay focussed on the way out, because I have met many deer while walking back to the van, but most of them were more alert than I was.

The second is:- To never assume that you have missed a deer that ran away, because some mortally wounded deer can travel a long distance before they drop dead.

Alex Kidd.

A couple of photos from young hunts bush skills weekend in Lake Hauroko



For those who missed the article in the Southland Express last week.

Legislation fair game

BY LEEANA TAMATI

AN environmental activist group is concerned a game animal statutory group proposed by the government will undermine conservation work, a claim which is rejected by Southland hunting authorities.

The government introduced legislation to establish the Game Animal Council, a statutory body which would manage game animals, last month.

Conservation organisation Forest and Bird is concerned about the outcomes of having a council which would be funded by the export of trophies managing game species.

The council would have the responsibility of managing animals including deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs.

Conservation advocate Claire Browning said instead of treating the species like the pests they were, the council would manage them for hunting, which would conflict the work the Department of Conservation was doing around the national parks and public conservation areas.

"The council won't be looking at these animals in terms of pests, they will be looking at them in terms of hunting purposes.

"That comes with a risk that we are worried about."

Ms Browning said the council would need to sustain the number of game animals to be able to maintain funding.



Tahr

Photo: Supplied

"It is a conflict of interest in a sense that its money comes from a trophy export levy.

"It has a fiscal interest in sustaining those herds of pest animals."

However, Southland Deerstalkers Association president Nathan Dawson said managing the number of game animals effectively was beneficial both for the environment and for hunters.

"If there are a lot of animals in an area, they don't have enough food to eat and they are weak and thin.

"If you take those animals out of there, you will get better herd trophies.

"We'll try to manage them at a sustainable level, so it is good for us hunters, and better for the environment."

Mr Dawson said hunters did have an environmental conscience, despite many people thinking otherwise.

"A lot of people have a bad perception of hunters, but we are not just blood-thirsty hunters who want to shoot everything — we also care about the environment.

"Most of us have families and we have to live here too, so we like to look after it."

Volunteers from the association travelled to Mason Bay in Stewart Island for five months of the year to set and empty rat traps.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, a private game management organisation, also took steps to protect conservation land by setting 70 kilometres of stoat traps in Fiordland, as well as helping to save the endangered whio, or blue duck, he said.

Mr Dawson said the council would help hunters to manage game in their areas.

"It will be safer for hunters to control species in their area, but if there's a problem with the number of game, the council will step in and say 'hey you haven't been controlling this properly' and help us to reduce the numbers.

"It will be good for hunters."