

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

October 2014

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

**Next Meeting Wednesday 15th October At the Branch Club Rooms
8pm, Guest speaker see Presidents Report. Executive meeting 7pm**



Presidents Report

Hi Members,

After living and working in Australia, it has made me appreciate how great New Zealand really is.

This was reinforced by our latest trip to Brisbane. I was talking to some of the local hunters/shooters. We chattered about the difference between our firearm laws and what we have available to us. Suppressors, semi auto's and the like. But above all our game animals, rivers, lakes and terrain which is so close to us to enjoy. We can hunt in National Parks, State forests, without too much trouble, long may that continue.

1080 DROPS still going on, so please remember to check where and when before taking game from these areas.

Good to see some of our members out there doing it on Hunting Aotearoa earlier this month. Was a good watch, but couldn't understand why Matua thought that a pair of back legs on a stag would float. Must be a North Island thing. Well done guys it's a great part of New Zealand.

Working bee Sunday 30th November 2014 at 9am to finish off outside of hall, many hands make light work and will get job done a lot quicker.

Guest speaker, we are trying to get hold of a photographer to talk about taking that good picture when out and about. Remember to be safe and check your target now the good weather is with us, there may be more people out and about.

Steve Robinson

President

OBITUATORY

It is with regret we record the death of William (Bill) Alfred BELL - BDS (retired dentist) Life Member of Southland Branch NZDA on 22 September 2014, in Invercargill, aged 88 years. "Off to hunt and fish in his favourite Fiordland for one last time." Bill was an orator and wordsmith who held various positions on the executive in his earlier years. He was instrumental in gaining the branch access to a site at Mavora Lakes to rebuild Red Stag Lodge. He was passionate about Fiordland and well known for going to sleep at meetings in more recent years.



Editorial

It was great to see the tables full of gear for sale, at the Silent Auction. Not so great the numbers of buyers present. There was some bargains had by those who turned up, but a lot more bargains went home to where they came from, a pity. Some of it was near new if not new gear to.

Have you been for a hunt lately? Did you have some success? Any chance of a short story on the trip. I am working on putting something together on my recent hunting successes. But you don't want to hear about me all the time so come on and give me your stories.

Or how about some questions for the monthly Quiz! You all must be getting sick of my slant on things by now? So come on think up some better questions.

How does every one feel about 1080? aprox. 810 voted for the Ban 1080 candidate in Southland Clutha electorate. What about the affect of 1080 on our trout? Sure it may not be enough to poison you but. If I offered you a choice of two cooked trout to eat. (Both naturally big enough to have eaten mice, 1kg plus). One caught at the mouth of the Iris burn the other from the upper Oreti. Both clearly labelled as to where caught. So than one knows which one has the chance that it may have a trace of 1080. Which one would you eat? I bet those promoting the use of 1080 would want a bit of the same fish, if offered the choice!!

Letter To Editor

Mice/1080

So far no mice seen while fishing in the upper Oreti Mavora area. Even left some food out over night and it was still there the next morning. Have anyone else seen mice yet or is it just another hoax.

Tam

HUNTING BALLOTS

Caples and Greenstone—November for applications

Stewart Island Blocks:

If you are after any information about some of the hunting blocks at Stewart Island, try www.manacharters.com

More content is slowly being added monthly but it includes a lot of photos and brief descriptions on each DoC Block.

There is also a Google Earth map which can show the block boundary overlays too.

Octobers Quiz

1. What is the major difference between Caribou and most if not all other deer species?
2. Who wrote "Call of the Moose"?
3. Name the large stream between the Timaru and Hunter Rivers?

4. Sako Produced the Finwolf Rifle what was different about it?
 5. Where would you find Clark (or Clarke) Hut.
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Last Month's Quiz

1. How much bile in a red deer's gall bladder? **None they don't have one.**
 2. Why do fly fishermen like to use deer hair in fishing fly's.? **Because the hair being hollow floats.**
 3. Pick the odd one out Worsley, Doon, Stillwater, Wapiti? **Stillwater it flows into the sea, the rest lake Te Anau**
 4. Who painted " Monarch of the Glen"? **Edward Lanseer**
 5. Why do projectiles in commercially loaded 30-30 ammo have flat tips? **Because most 30-30 rifles have tubular magazines where the tip of one bullet rests against the primer of the one in front of it.**
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Something from America on the Moon & Hunting

John Phillips | November 19, 2012



Editor's Note: Moon phase can affect your deer hunting, but probably not in the way you think. New research may change your opinion about when to hunt and when not to hunt according to moon phase. Many hunters believe that moon phase is the critical ingredient to determine when deer move and have believed that on the day before a full moon, the day of a full moon and the day after a full moon that deer don't move as much. We've always thought that on bright nights deer feed, and on dark nights deer don't feed. But 20 years of research by Dr Robert Sheppard with more than 35,000 hunters at Bent Creek Lodge (www.bentcreeklodge.com) in Jachin, Alabama, may change your opinion.

Bent Creek Lodge puts out 25 hunters for the morning hunt and 25 hunters for the afternoon hunt, every day during Alabama's entire deer season. For 20 years, when the hunters returned from the woods, they gave us the information they had gathered, the number of bucks and does seen, and the number of deer taken - both bucks and does. Once we gathered that information, we did an overlay with the information from the National Weather Service that recorded moon phase, wind direction, temperature and many-other weather-related factors. We matched-up the data these hunters brought in with the weather information we received from the National Weather Service.

Then, we looked at each weather indicator one at a time to see how the moon phase, barometric pressure, wind direction, wind speed and sky conditions (rainy, cloudy, overcast and many-other variables) impacted deer movement. One of the variables that we studied was the likelihood of a hunter taking a deer during certain moon phases

The first 2 years that we did the study, we found information that was exactly what we thought we would. The day before the full moon, the day after the full moon and the next day were not productive days to hunt. Hunters weren't seeing many deer or taking many deer on these days. There were exceptions of course, but not many. However, we ran into problems the next 2 years. The results were exactly the opposite. The day before the full moon, the day after the full moon and the next day seemed to be some of the best days you could hunt deer. So, we had 4-years worth of conflicting data as to when deer moved according to the moon phase. We went back and did a multivariable analysis. We found that the moon phase was a marker, but not the actual cause and effect that made the deer move. The actual cause for the deer to move was the temperature - not the moon phase. Temperature had a greater bearing on deer sightings than moon phase did. In other words, if a cold front hit, and there was a bright moon, then the deer would move. But a bright moon phase and warm weather meant hunters wouldn't see many deer. We learned there were many factors causing deer to move, but temperature the overriding factor. The temperature - not the moon phase – was and is most responsible factor determining when deer moved.

To learn more about Dr. Sheppard's research and hunting tactics and to order his book, "Whitetails," go to his webpage www.bobsheppard.com.

Nov 20, 2012

Young Hunts Course 2014

This year's Hunts course was another successful hunts course.

We had some great participants who gave it 100% throughout the course. A big thank you to Mount Nicolas Station for letting us on there again this year for our weekend hunt, which was the highlight for a lot of the guys. Also a big thanks to all the guys that I called on for assistance throughout the course, Tuesday nights and weekends away.

Thanks to Steve Robinson for your help again this year, a great asset for the course.

Our course ran for 9 weeks this year, 9 Tuesday nights doing a range of activities as you see on the photos. We also had 2 weekends away, one being a bush craft weekend and one away to Mount Nic Station.

The big change on this year's course was that we included the River crossing into the Mount Nicolas weekend.

The river crossing has always been the awkward one to organise to get everyone there but we found a good spot. The highlight for me was that everyone participated in the river crossing, including the pack arrest which was nice and refreshing.



Also the positive comments about the how the river crossing was well worth doing. There were also a lot of other highlights in the course too, there were friendships built over the duration of the course. Also the feedback from instructors on the hunts weekend was also good.





It was great to see some of the photos taken over the course and I look forward to seeing some of these in the competition.

Some of these guys are already planning their next trip which is great to hear.

Thanks again to everyone who helped out on the course, we will be running another course next year about the middle of the year.

If you want to know anything about it contact me or Steve Robinson.

Hunts Instructor

Nathan Dawson

A young Hunter on Mt Nic

Time was running out with less than an hour until dark, when Dave and I hit the terrace on which the track that we had started days hunt was located, still in hunting mode. His father was following us hoping his son could finally get his first deer. After all we had seen the best part of 60 fallow deer so far. So we were still looking for a deer to shoot. One fallow hind or spiker to become Dave's first deer, Stags were not allowed

Dave had stalked three lots of Deer so far during the day. He even had a couple of hard chances but had been unable to connect. The deer had been hard to stalk close to, they had been in large groups the wind inconsistent and to put it plainly fickle. Our hunting had nearly taken us to the top of the mountain and now nearly back down again.

We had just watched from above the neighbouring party who had arrived back at the vehicle stalk then miss a hind out in the middle of the terrace.

On reaching the terrace ourselves the easy thing to do would be to call it quits and head to the vehicle. But with nothing else to loose we headed for the other part of the terraces to see what was over the edge and beneath them.

A good clearing is sighted at the bottom of a large bite, no sign of a deer though so we move on. To look over more terrace edge. Nothing there, though on looking back I see a couple of the other party at the other side of the bite. Then a deer climbs out of the bite where we had just been looking down. I start to tell David to get organised for a shot when I realise it's a young Buck with better antlers than a spiker. We watch it head out across the terrace and disappear into the scrub on the other side.

We now head to a small gut which I look down a lot of scrub, but there in a gap is a deer looking in our direction. It's either a hind or a spiker hard to tell in the poor light. I quietly point it out to David and get him to close his action. It moves a bit more side on. He lines it up, it's only a bit over 20 metres away. The awaited Bang does not happen, only a dull click. A misfire, David ejects the dud carefully, trying to be quiet and loads another round. Then again lines the deer up, I see it just start to move when the shot goes off.

I head down through a gap in the scrub to try to reach the clearing. David with me, I tell his father to remain up top so that he can tell us when we are in the right spot. Down the gut as I am about to try to get through some thick stuff I come face to face with the deer coming my way but on the other side. It quickly retreats out of sight its movements give it the appearance of being hit. David and I go down through the thick bit into the clearing. No deer. We head on down to the bottom of the small clearing. Where we pitch up a blood trail that goes across a small trickle of water around a bush and back to the bottom edge of the clearing.

We look around and further down the Gully going as far as the next clearing. No sign of the deer.

Back to the blood trail, it appears to stop dead, is it only a superficial wound? We search some more without luck. I have no sooner told David that it's a lost cause than he yells that he thinks he's found it. I move to him and he points to what is the deer in some scrub bushes up the wall of the gut at the side of the clearing. I try to grab it, it moves off around a larger bush I try to cut it off but can't hold it safely. It is now staggering in the clearing. I tell David to shoot it which he quickly does ending the performance. It turns out to be a spiker. Shot through the wrong end, no doubt the result of the movement I had seen just prior to hearing the shot.

Congratulations are in order as Dave from the neighbouring party and his father join us. Some photos are taken by flash in the semi darkness then the carcass is dragged up onto the terrace where I gut it by vehicle head light.

On reflection afterwards the blood trail at the bottom of the clearing around the Bush that we had found. Is likely to have been made before I sighted the deer the second time when we went down to the clearing. It had then gone and hit in the bushes were David found it, not taken off downhill.

Whatever it has all worked out for David he has his deer, it will be one for him to remember with a misfire, and, his finding it wounded in the bush, but most of all because it is his first deer.



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

Sighting in Rifles

With the start of daylight saving the Invercargill pistol Club range will be again available to Financial Members for the sighting in of Rifles on Wednesday nights from 5.30 pm finishing 7pm. At the cost of \$10 per person

To use this facility you **MUST** contact the roistered person in charge no later than the previous Sunday night.

Roster Oct 22nd Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

Oct 29th Steve Robertson 027 747 8109

Nov 5th Doug Gordon 03 216 6383 /027 637 2206 after 4pm if on weekdays

Nov 12th Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

Nov 26th Steve Robertson 027 747 8109

Dec 3rd Doug Gordon 03 216 6383 /027 637 2206 after 4pm if on week day

River Safety course, Sun 2 Nov.

Contact for more details

Louise Craig

Administration Officer

New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Southland branch

Tel: 03 2163555

Email: southland@mountainsafety.org.nz

Address: PO Box 1239, Invercargill, 9840

Hunts, Goats, and Wallabys are being planned.

More info and at October meeting, so be there if interested.

(There has been hold ups on finalising the dates.)

Hunts sometime from mid November onwards.

Red Stag Lodge



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.

Wapiti Lodge Xmas Ballot

20th December 2014 TO 31ST January 2015

Intensions for your bookings (period 7 nights only)

Bookings for this period to be in writing from 15th to 30th September 2014 to the above address

Deposit is required to confirm your bookings

Minimum Xmas daily rate per night applies

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