

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



(Winning Photo Game Animal Section)

Taken Mt Nicholas

## SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

### September 2015

Branch email is: [southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com](mailto:southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com)

News Letter [douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz)

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

## Next Meeting Club Rooms Long Bush Hall

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> September 8.00pm

## Guest Speaker

Johan and Joyce Groter from Wairaurahiri Jet are guest speakers this month.

They have an intimate knowledge of the Wairaurahiri region, a love of the outdoors, and a keen interest in protecting the environment

## Executive Meeting 7.pm

**We have a \$50 voucher from Hunting and Fishing up for grabs at this month's meeting \$2 ticket as you walk in the door, great prize to get your hands on.**

**Thanks for your amazing support, Hunting & Fishing Invercargill.**



## Presidents Report

With the reporting of 4 Takahe being shot by NZDA members recently, this would lead many to thinking WHAT THE, how did this happen, did they think they could fly, etc. There will be a report come out later so we will know. This is an example of how the media and anti-hunting groups can try and use such an event to damage our recreational sport. The person or persons who had shot the birds were representing themselves more than NZDA. But the backlash is that the media have something to flap their gums about, which seems to always be in a negative manner for us. So when we are out there doing it remember you are representing yourself and NZDA for the future, so play it safe and sensible.

### Red stag Lodge

We now have a new multi fuel burner in our Red stag lodge hut, this replaces the very aged coal range. Thanks so much to the team who took time out of their busy lives to help with this project.

### Rifle Range.

Daylight saving is just a few weeks away so we once again have access to the Invercargill Pistol Range for sighting in only.

### Hunts Course.

Nathan and myself are almost to the end of yet another successful course. With only butchery night with Nelson left to do. Then away to Mt Nic station where some if not all course members may secure an animal to take home. For some it may be their first deer. Best of luck guys.

**Remember keep it safe. Identify your target.**

Steve Robinson



## Editorial

September and officially the start of spring, though it will be a while yet going by the current weather, before the grass grows and things happen.

The gestation period of deer is back dated from this spring growth in the mountains, (mid to late November). (Which is the time of fawning.) To the mating period for deer (the Roar). This is why the larger deer (who have longer gestation periods) mate first.

The spring is also the time when hunters tend to become more active and chase the newly weaned young stags for something for the pot (deepfreeze/ then BBQ).

With a bit of luck a couple of trips that I have planned for the next few months will come off and I will have a couple of spare stories for the newsletter. To which end it has been good to have some stories coming in for the newsletter over the last few months, thanks to the authors. Keep them coming, don't be shy. If not an article is there anything else that you would like to contribute. A buy sell or swap add, short a member for a hunting party? Advertise.

As I keep telling the Executive, the newsletter belongs to the branch, not the editor. So put pen to paper.

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## High Country Helicopters Fiordland

Pilot Dale Green 0275688204

This company fly's out of 17 Findlay road Orawia operating two Helicopters one 500 and one B3 Heavy Lift.

They service the South Coast, Fiordland and Stewart Island, offering a choice of options, like combining helicopter and jet boat ride down Lake Hauroko to the coast and fly out, phone Dale in the evenings to work out your trip.

A big thanks to Yunca for their recent support



## 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.

## Notice for members

**If you change your address or your contact details like email address you must notify the branch and the national office.**

If we do not have correct contact details how can we keep you informed from the branch, and national office cannot send out membership cards or the magazines, so it is important to have correct Postal as well as Email Addresses.

## Sponsors

Southland Branch would like to thank its regular sponsors and recommend them to its members.

Hunting and Fishing Invercargill

Southern Adventure

H&J's Outdoor World

Stewart Island Flights

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## Young hunts 2015

The hunts course that we have been running through the club is about 3/4 of the way through. We have 11 participants on the course and are getting on good. We cover a number of topics throughout the course.

Ethics /food and equipment / navigation / trip planning and risk management / first aid /firearm safety and selection /rifle range work with .22 and centre fire rifle's/ butchering of animals, knife skills and more..

We have a bush craft weekend into Hauroko where we go over our navigation skills and see who can get a fire going on the beach to keep every one warm while stories are told.

We have had our day at the range and got the rifles sighted in for the big weekend at Mount Nicolas Station and every one left the range happy with where there rifles were shooting so its fingers crossed for some meat at Mount Nic Station. I just hope that the weather changes for us and we get some sun shine up there and not the cold snow that we have been getting!!!!!!

Here are a couple of photos from the first aid night and the day at the rifle range. I will let you all know how we get on at Mount Nic Station and hope to get some more photos for you to look at.

A big thanks to all that have given up time to come along and talk to the guys this year it has been much appreciated.

On that note we will talk next month and hope to have lots of success stories of the big hunt weekend.

Cheers

Nathan





## Rifle Sighting In

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. Ear & Eye protection required

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

30<sup>th</sup> Sept Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

7<sup>th</sup> Oct Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

14<sup>th</sup> Oct Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

28<sup>th</sup> Oct Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

4<sup>rd</sup> Nov Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

## **Deerstalkers Hut at Pleasant Valley, Haast.**

Central Otago Deerstalkers are currently trying to boost use of the hut to ensure its ongoing viability. Are you able to put the opportunity to use this hut on your next meeting agenda? It provides an excellent & comfortable base for hunters looking to access the Landsborough, Haast, Clarke etc.

# **Pleasant Valley Hut**



## **South Westland National Park**

Easy road vehicle access.

Sleeps 13, comfortable living

Access to Landsborough, Haast, Burke, Clarke etc

Phone Tony on (0274) 479-398 or [tony.alexander@fultonhogan.com](mailto:tony.alexander@fultonhogan.com)



*Central Otago Deerstalkers, Alexandra.*

## **This Month's Quiz**

1. Who is Simon Gibson?
2. What year was the first legal trophy Moose shot in New Zealand?
3. Who wrote "Hell For Leather"?
4. Alexto was the brand name for what company?
5. Where is GD O'Rourke & Sons located and what is their business?

## Last Month's Quiz

1. Who wrote "You'll Learn No Harm From The Hills"? **Newton McConochie**
2. What is the highest mountain in Fiordland? **Mt Tutoko**
3. What is Moir's Guide Book and when was it first published? **a guide to the tracks and trails of Southern Lakes and Fiordland in 1925 ( ninety years ago now)**
4. As regards rifles what does "Fly Buster" refer to? **A very accurate rifle capable of hitting a fly at 100yards (I have seen a marksman aim for a fly at 20 yards and hit it)**
5. What is a "Wild Cat" Cartridge? **One that is not or has not been commercially produced**

## Ahuriri Valley Hunt August 2015

I am proud to be an New Zealand hunter, when I first was contemplating a solo chamois/Tahr hunt. I was amazed to find so much information freely given out by our communities both locally and on the internet that it gave me plenty of confidence to book the time off and plan the track and go after my first ever Chamois.

I got to the road end of the Ahuriri Valley later in the evening than planned but that gave me an opportunity to scout the main valley on last light before turning in at the Shamrock Hut for the night. With no animals spotted and the hut all to myself it was an early dinner and bed for a big day the next day, until about 10:30pm when three blokes from Canterbury turned up. Introductions made over a cup of whiskey and game plans gone over they offered me to go with them. This was perfect because it was my first time hunting Chamois and first time up this valley. I accepted.

Stu and Grant were school teachers and Mark a refrigeration technician. They had some impressive canons to boot. Stu in his spare time makes carbon stocks, they were light.

Up the next morning before the geese started to wake up and we were off up Watson Creek, Arrived up the hill on some flats just a dawn began to shine hoping to pick up an deer to hang for the way back. No luck there so we continued along the scree and through some bush along the river before popping out at the top end where it opens up to where we had the valley to ourselves.



It was a still day with the clouds covering the top third or so of the hills, warm enough to be pleasant but cool enough for the hard slog.



Bino's came out, a seat and four sets of eyes stalked the hills. After a few shifts down the valley I spotted a bull Tahr standing out on the silhouette of a bluff as proud as could be only 1.5km away. So we put the bino's away and started off after him. Not long after we headed off as quiet as he could, Grant from behind yelled "Chamois get down" about 200m on the hill beside us running up.

Excitement took hold that was for sure. I looked at what these blokes were going to do while I had the scope on the 6 fuzzy and surprisingly small animals make their way up the hill. Stu and Grant got their canons out. Stu a 7mm RUM and Grant had something with a fat as hell short action case. iPhones came out range finders data loading all the tech stuff while I was just sitting there with the cross hairs on animals the whole time but knowing I needed to be no more than 200m for an accurate take due to a last minute ammo change. It was frustrating for me never had of hunted like this before.

Stu knowing I was not going to shoot with my rifle because of distance and never taken a Chamois before he asked if I wanted to use his rifle, absolutely stoked with these generosity I accepted and took a comfortable aim on a good looking animal. Everything felt great when I pulled the trigger but was not a clean take hitting it low in the leg, it made its way around a rock onto a slip, I chambered another round and smacked it perfectly. With a wheel stand and a slide I had taken my first Chamois. Such a feeling when a plan comes together and you achieve what you set out to do.

Stu and I headed up the hill with Grant and Mark heading up the valley for a search on some more animals.

A short 500m trip up the hill we found her, took some time to take in the amazing place and had the all important photo session.



Getting a bit rooted after the retrieve then up and over another ridge to get within reach of the bull Tahr. We found them another half km around on another bluff. There were 5 of them 2 juveniles and 3 more mature bulls none with serious length to them. Back out with the iphone and set up the rifle on a rock between snow and spaniards. Stu had first crack taking the engine room of a juvenile then the 3 more mature bulls appeared and the next shot was mine. Lined up on one and let it rip. Unsure of where the bullet struck I got one more chance which unfortunately missed. We left the bulls alone from then but got to watch one run full noise across a snow slope in front of us 500m up. The funny thing was watching the hare 20m above the Tahr run with him, those hares are incredible but everywhere.

We each grabbed a knife and a hard pill to start the recovery but after the slow climb then a good half hour or more searching and light was getting low with a 3+ hour walk back to the hut we abandoned the search and came back empty handed. On reflection of the video on Stu's camera showed I shot just above the Bulls back with perfect windage and Stu's animal may have been lower than we suspected.

The trip back was hard and dark for the last hour but another generous offer in the way of a Barley Sugar gave us all a huge boost in energy if only the mental energy to haul comfortably back to the hut where more whiskey and reflection was enjoyed.

Like I said at the start, Proud to be a NZ hunter, the generosity of the people whom freely give up their time, information and advice is truly humbling and I will pay it forward to any hunter I can.

Another big thanks to the Canterbury Blokes, Stu, Grant and Mark.

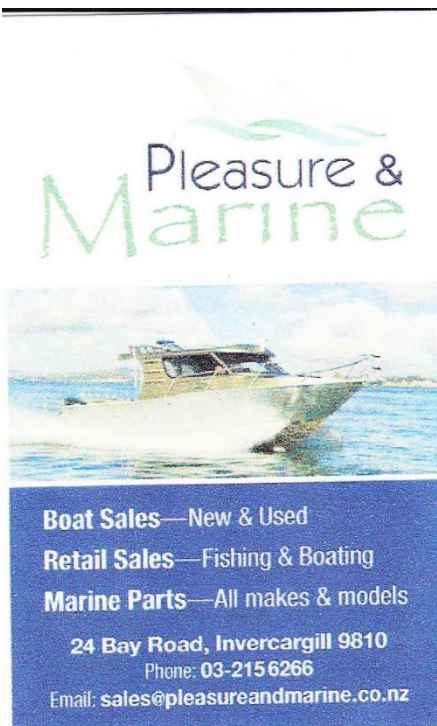
Cheers

Shaun Gainford

## 2016 Wapiti Ballot Applications

This is now available at <http://www.fwf.net.nz>

Applications close 11th October 2015.



Pleasure and Marine

23 Bay Road Invercargill

Phone 03-2156266

Offer a very good range of fishing supplies ,both fresh water and salt water fishing .

Also supply Image Boats and Suzuki outboards ,also carry out repairs on all makes of boats and motors

They are the Southland agents for Boating and Outdoors

## Southland Fish & Game Council Elections.

The elections for the Southland Fish & Game Council are here for another term.

Voting opens on Friday 18th September and closes at 5pm on Friday 9th October 2015.

Those stated as voters on your current Gamebird and/or Fishing licence will get a voting pack in the mail shortly.

This year I have opted to stand for the local council after some convincing by peers. There are 12 positions in Council and I would be grateful for your vote for one of the positions. This way I can stand not only as a voice for the branch but also as one of the recreational users of what our province has to offer.

Bevan McNaughton.

Vice President, Southland NZDA.

Freeze Dri

## **BACK COUNTRY** *Cuisine*

**Still available at a great price to Branch Members**

**Contact Gus Ronald [gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz) 03 213 0351 For a price list**

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## Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



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

email [nandc43@gmail.com](mailto:nandc43@gmail.com)

43 Bain St Invercargill

Note

### **Wapiti Lodge Xmas ballot**

**Bookings for this time must be in writing between 15th to 30th September to Neville & Carol Miller**

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** T Smalley **Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383

**Immediate past President** N Dawson 235 8852

**Executive:** N. Miller ( Huts) R. Phillips ( Membership)