



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

APRIL 2009 **ISSUE 3**

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

I hope everyone has had the chance or two to get out and chase some of those stags around the bush over the last few weeks, and get onto some nice timber.

From my own perspective I thought the club's Easter hunt was a success. There was a good turn out of Hastings NZDA members and HB Pig Hunters with about 50 people attending the prize giving. I believe 31 tickets were sold with committee considering 30 should be our break even. This was a great turnout for our members and succeeded in doing what the event had intended to do, by offering something back to our members for their support over the years.

Another great thing to see was the number of young fellas who were both competing and winning a lot of the categories. I think this bodes well for the club and hopefully will encourage more of these guys (and girls) to come along and join up.

From the number of Sika entered there were a few pointers there for even some of our senior members to note. First a spiker can win!! Also the Sika were obviously not fully wound up so by the time you get this it could be too late but there should still be some great opportunities to sneak up on one of these wily deer during one of the most exciting times of year.

Finally I would like to thank a few people.

Jeremy and Hamills, thank you again for all your support both financially and your assistance with this event.

Stichbury Automotive Care with some great (unexpected) prizes. Thank you very much. Guy and Jan Te Kahika for running things back at the club as well as Robert Underwood and Wendy & Grant Richards for their assistance.

Finally I would like to thank Graham Brooker for all he has done for the club over the years as our newsletter editor.

We now have a new editor in Steve Shaw. Steve has volunteered and I am sure he will keep up the good work.

If you don't know Steve hunt him down at the next meeting and buy him a beer and maybe chew his ear if there is anything you may think could be of value in the newsletter.

We are still looking for good ideas for club activities so if you can think of a good one (that won't get most of us divorced) feel free to bounce the idea off me. You can get me on the phone 021 765335 or email jamesquillford@clear.net.nz.

Hot barrels,

James



AGM '09

Our *Club's AGM* is on Wednesday the 6th of May 2009 at the clubrooms— 8.00pm start.

Happy Hour SHOUT!

After the meeting!

Please make the effort to attend as the committee needs input from you or at least your support. Those wanting to see a change need to put their hands up and get involved. New faces on the committee are wanted, so if you can contribute a little time and effort stand up and be counted. See you there!

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EDITORS CORNER

FROM STEVE SHAW & LYNNE ELLINGHAM

WE ARE TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES AS THE NEWLY APPOINTED NEWSLETTER EDITOR & PUBLISHER.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INTERESTING STORIES OR ARTICLES, WE WOULD LIKE TO USE THEM IN FUTURE ISSUES. EMAIL OR SEND THEM THROUGH TO US AND YOU'LL GO INTO THE DRAW FOR NEXT YEARS OTUTU ISLAND TRIP! WE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO GET THEM ALL PUBLISHED, EVEN IF THEY NEED A LITTLE POLISHING. WE TRUST YOU ENJOY THIS NEWSLETTER AND VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK SO DON'T BE SHY IN TALKING TO US ABOUT IT.

HASTINGS DEERSTALKERS EASTER HUNT 2009



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Stichbury Automotive Care is offering a 10% discount to NZDA members.

Please support the sponsors who made this event possible !

The event was held at our Hastings clubrooms on Monday 13th April 2009, the gates opened at 11.00am and entries closed at 2.00pm. A total of 31 entries were purchased for the competition with a fairly good club turnout. There were 15 spot prizes, which were only awarded to Hastings NZDA members .

Prize Sponsors of the event were Hamills and Stichbury Exhaust.

The following were what was entered: 3 x Boars, 5 x Red Antlers,
 1 x Sika Antler (Spiker), 7 x Red Hindquarters,
 3 x Sika Hindquarters.

Congratulations to the following people:

Winners of Antler Competition

Reds - 1st Callum Murphy (9x11) 20 pointer
 2nd Ben Dingle (6x5) 11 pointer

Sika - 1st Kevin Berkahn (Spiker)

Winners of Hindquarter Weigh-In

Reds - 1st Ben Dingle (96lbs)
 2nd Ivan Thompson (84lbs)
 3rd Callum Murphy (74lbs)
 Sika - 1st Kevin Berkahn (44lbs)
 2nd Peter Monteperto (40lbs)
 3rd Paul Monteperto (37lbs)

Winners of Heaviest Boar Weigh-In

1st Bruce Flett (202lbs)
 2nd Ben Davis (150lbs)

Winner of Average Weight Boar

Ben Davis (152.3lbs)

Winner of Best Jaw

Bruce Flett



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Ruahine Club Hunt

No Mans Hut Report. By James Guilford

The club hunt into the No Man's area was over the Easter weekend with 9 of us getting into the Ruahines and amongst the local Red deer population.

Our party was able to acquire the No Man's hut, and hunting in general was pretty good.

The party consisted of Malcolm and Tony Ingpen, Paul Snell, Martin Harkness and myself.

Paul and Martin fly camped out toward Herricks spur, whilst Mal, Tony and I hunted from the hut.

There were good numbers of animals roaring but the stags were not very confrontational, often melting off into the bush once you got within 100m only to roar again about 2-300m away. Malcolm and Tony reported getting very close to one stag in particular but it kept trying to get around them and eventually caught onto their game. Over the course of the long weekend our group shot 4 animals with the best being a 10 point red stag.

Returning from this trip we were straight into the Club Easter Hunt making it there 15 minutes prior to weigh in closing.

Ruahine Hut Report. By Grant Richards

Two of our party, Paul Condon & his mate Sam went through to Dianas hut, but it was occupied by others, so they continued on to stay up at the Taruarau Biv. They got onto animals but none were shot.

The remaining two of us, Hector Crawford-Flett & myself, stayed at the Ruahine hut. We heard plenty down toward Dead Dog but none were seen. Hector and I hunted out along the Shutes track, seeing plenty of pig sign.

During our travels we spotted two Moreporks sitting together on the same branch, which is not a very common sight. The weather was fine and very hot! Many thanks to Helicopters HB for the use of No Mans hut.



Hastings Aerodrome, PO Box 2545 Stortford Lodge, Hastings 4153. Phone 06 8799 242 mobile/field 021 773 426
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OTUTU ISLAND REVISTED - BY GRAEME WITHEY

On Thursday the 19th March, Steve Shaw and myself flew into "Otutu Island block" with Gus from Helisika. For Steve it was his 4th trip, in exactly 3 years and for me my 2nd, the 1st being in the early 60s with Max Motley & Jack Wire plus two young budding hunters, one Gary Wenman and myself. The 1st trip to Otutu, not called "Island" then, was started from the roadman's house past Timahanga Station on the Taihape Road. The resident roadman being Mr Oppet and his wife, later on both his sons did the job for a while. Bacon and eggs for breakfast was the welcome we got, then farewells and on up the road to the right of way through Boyds Bush (Kaimoko) and up onto the Hogget (Tahuhunui Range). We followed an old horse track through to Rocky Point basin, then a climb up and past Mount Meany and onto Otutu bush line. A long trek in of well over 18 miles. Max and Jack had built a log-slab hut on the edge of a small creek, 80 yards or so in from the bush edge. I photographed myself at this old hut site on this trip (2009) and beside it is a 1964 photo of the original hut, with Max standing at the front door. The third picture is of a 12 point red that I shot to the west of the old hut on that 1st trip. I still have that set of antlers at home, mounted as a clothes rack. The pipe frame in the 2009 photo was from an aircraft that crashed around 1967 at Otutu, and Max used to sit in front of the fire on it on his later trips.



On this trip Steve hunted out to the southern end of the block and saw approx. 40 animals - including 15 stags. He took some photos of a few velvet stags that were not yet at trophy standard, while I pussyfooted around in the western bush edges, spooking one stag. Steve saw the same animal later in the trip, early on a slightly foggy morning and he was a fairly reasonable 8 pointer in hard antler.

The time came when trophy hunting gave way to getting some meat for our trip out. I had seen two stags across a gully to the southeast, so Steve detoured around to come in above them, which he did and shot both of them on the afternoon of our fourth day there. The larger stag having the most fat on his rump and sides I have ever seen on a high country animal. We think he probably was an outcast from the lower (lush) areas, seeking a patch for himself to rut in.

We had clear weather except for a light snowfall near the end of our trip and flew out on a fine day.



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Hall Caretaker.....	Robert Underwood	8788792

Hastings Deerstalkers Branch Clubrooms

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Just Kidding

3 guys went out hunting—a pro, an average guy and a half-wit. The pro went out and came back with 7 deer. The others said how'd ya do it, how'd ya do it & he said "found some tracks followed the tracks BOOM, shot some deer". So the average guy went out and came back with 3 deer. The others said how'd ya do it, how'd ya do it. He said "found some tracks followed the tracks BOOM, shot some deer". So the half-wit goes out & comes back with no deer, a broken arm, a broken leg & a black eye. They others said what happened, what happened. He said "found some tracks followed the tracks BOOM, got hit by a train"!