



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

JULY 2009

ISSUE 6

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

Another month has flown on by again, I'm sure I was just writing my last report the other day.

I have only heard of limited hunting being done by a few this last month and with mediocre results. As I write this though, our secretary is away in Rusa country and I am waiting with baited breath to hear how he gets on. The Rusa deer is one of the lesser known big game species that our forefathers were forward thinking enough to introduce to our shores and those of you who have hunted them would surely appreciate the challenge they offer.

Another introduced species to our shores is the humble rabbit. A true pest on our farming community. Over the weekend of the 11th and 12th our branch was invited to join in on a junior hunt at Waitere Station. The station is a Landcorp farm and has a very large population of rabbits. Trevor Chambers of Tutira branch was kind enough to jack up the event and a good number of their juniors attended. The short timing of the event meant only one of our Hastings juniors was able to attend, Hannah Wakeford and her Dad Aaron, so I tagged along to make up numbers. We must have shot over 60 'wabbits' on the day without travelling any more than 1 kilometre along the farm track. We would like to make this a more regular event and the farm manager is more than keen to get as many rabbits off the farm and into the big warren in the sky.

These cooler months are typically a good time to get everything in order for the coming spring hunting. I have found it is a good time (usually) to look at possible new load development for different rifles I own. Also a good go over of the gear I have like tents and other kit is always worth the effort as it is often put away needing some repair or replacement with gear that has worn or been lost. There is nothing worse than putting a pack together only to find your gear is in need of repairing on day one of a 5 day trip.

NZDA 61st Annual Conference was held in Oamaru this month with some very commendable competition entries from the Hawkes Bay region. Daniel Herries won the Mel Larritt trophy with a 357 5/8 DS Red deer head and Isaac Te Kahika was rewarded with the Leithen Award for his outstanding Sika hybrid head submission, both these members are with the Tutira branch.

The Napier branch also won two of the photographic sections with Beccy Lumsden winning the Veronese Trophy and Mike Marston taking the Jock McQuilken Cup.

Hot barrels,
James



Upcoming Events for August 2009!!

Committee Meeting-

Mon 3rd August

- 7.30pm

Club Meeting -

Wed 5th August

- 8pm

Junior Hunt -

Sun 9th August

(Details Page 2)



NEWS FLASH!!!

NZDA Conference in

July 2010 is to be held in Palmerston North.

-Details and a brief conference roundup is on Page 2

Land Information NZ

(LINZ) will soon be launching a new topographic map series called Topo50.

-Further Details are also on Page 2

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EDITORS CORNER

THANKS TO MARK WHITE, THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AMPRO NZ, FOR BRINGING ALONG VARIOUS PRODUCTS TO SHOW US AT LAST MONTHS CLUB MEETING. ALL OF THE AMPRO NZ PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH JEREMY AT THE HASTINGS HAMILLS STORE AT CONSIDERABLE DISCOUNT TO ALL HASTINGS NZDA MEMBERS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME A **NEW MEMBER – MARK SNELL**. PLEASE ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS FEEL WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE CLUBS ACTIVITIES. YOUR **HUNTING STORIES & CLUB ACTIVITY PROPOSALS ARE WANTED**. REMEMBER THAT **ALL PUBLISHED EDITORIALS GO INTO THE DRAW FOR A TRIP TO OTUTU ISLAND IN MARCH 2010**. INSTEAD OF OUR USUAL EDITORIAL STORY THIS MONTH WE HAVE A SPECIAL CARTRIDGE RELOADERS ARTICLE. WE HOPE YOU FIND THE READ INTERESTING.

Junior Club Information

The Hastings NZDA Junior Club is active again thanks to Brad Pinker who has offered his time to organise the various activities that will be on the agenda for the coming year. Each month in the newsletter we will be outlining a junior club activity for the following month.

Our Junior Club is open to family, student and prospective junior members from ages 12 through to 18 with their parents or caregivers approval and attendance if they are unlicensed (firearms). Brad welcomes any ideas for activities or opportunities that you may know of to give our juniors an enjoyable and exciting time, so please contact him on one of the numbers below.

August Junior Hunt

On **Sunday 9th August** there will be a Junior goat hunt at Tutira.

Please contact **Brad Pinker** for meeting time/venue and to register numbers.

(06) 8734344 or 027 662 5625.

NZDA Conference

The conference for 2009 held in Oamaru was a great success. A letter from United Futures Peter Dunne as well as the speeches from the national president & government conservation minister mentioned the Big Game Hunting Council establishment committee & forming closer workings with DOC. The minister only briefly mentioned the WARO / heli-hunting issue. The next conference, in 2010, will be held in Palmerston North, by the Taihape and Manawatu branches. For a full copy of the conference speeches & the national competition results go to: <http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz>

LINZ :Topo50 Maps

Land information New Zealand (LINZ) will be launching a new 1:50,000 topographic map series later this year called Topo50. From September 2009, the entire Topo50 map series will be available from map retailers. Topo50 will replace LINZ's existing 1:50,000 scale NZMS260 series while still providing the same representation at 1:50,000 scale. A new datum (NZGD2000) and map projection (NZTM2000) are being used for the Topo50 maps. This means that the latitude, longitude and grid coordinates (eastings and northings) will be different from what is on a NZMS260 map. LINZ has changed the datum to one that is for all practical purposes the same as that used in modern navigational systems, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS). The Transverse Mercator projection is one that is commonly used internationally. The Topo50 section of the LINZ website now includes a separate page relating to GPS & Topo50. <http://www.linz.govt.nz/topography/projects-programmes/topo50-project/gps/index.aspx>

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RELOADERS SPECIAL :HEAD SEPARATION- by Neil MacLean

I have just been out in the shed full length sizing a batch of 7mm-08 cases. When full length sizing I also trim to length and check for incipient head separation. I had to toss about 10 cases from the batch, the first that I have had to discard for about 15 years. There is not much in the reloading manuals about head separation so I thought a few notes could be useful in the newsletter.

The first obvious sign of head separation is when you open the action, after firing a cartridge, and only get back a quarter of the cartridge case that you put in.

If this happens a long way back in the mountains there can be much wailing and gnashing of teeth if you can't get the rest of the case out. It is easy enough to prevent. Head separation is caused by repeated firing of a cartridge case in a chamber that is too long for it. It generally has nothing to do with pressure. When a cartridge is fired in a rifle first the cartridge is driven to the front of the chamber by the blow from the firing pin. As the powder ignites the front of the case expands and grips the chamber walls. As the pressure builds the base of the case, which does not expand, is forced back to the bolt face. All the stretching takes place about 10 - 15 mm up from the base of the case and this is where the case breaks if not detected. The stretching can show up as a bright ring on the outside of the case but it is most obvious on the inside where you can't see it. The stretching is worse in rifles with excess head space, in rifles with springy actions, read Lee Enfield 303's and lever actions, and can be a problem with belted cases. That's the bad news.

The good news is that it is easy to either prevent or detect incipient head separation. Prevention involves ensuring that the case fits the chamber well. Most factory chambers are cut toward maximum size to ensure that all ammunition chambers freely. Full length sizing dies tend to be cut toward the minimum cartridge size so that the sized cases fit all rifles. This results in a loose fit between the sized case and the chamber and eventually a two piece case. There are two main techniques that can be used to improve the fit, neck sizing and partial sizing. I mostly neck size. This requires a special die and there are a number of types of neck dies. Most of mine are RCBS and are specific to the cartridge. Neck sizing sizes only the neck of the case leaving the body of the case as it came from the chamber.

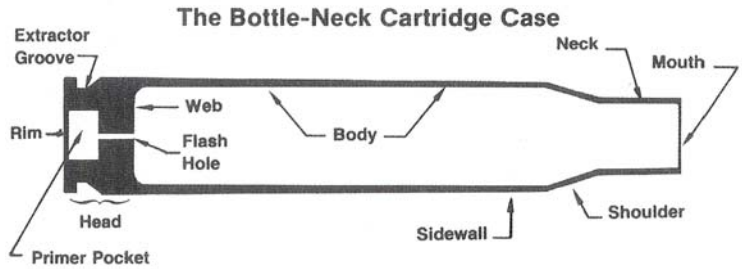
Partial sizing uses the full length sizing dies backed off about a turn so the neck and body of the case are sized but the shoulder is not touched. This works best on the more tapered cases such as the 22-250. Both of these techniques requires proper setting of the dies so its best to get one of the club hand loading guns to help you at first.

If this all sounds a bit over complicated, especially if you don't do much shooting on the range, detection may be a better option for you. A special tool is required, but this can be made from a paper clip. Take a metal paper clip of medium to large size and straighten out one of the legs so that it can reach the bottom of the case with some to spare. Sharpen the end of the leg to a chisel point and bend the last 4 - 5mm at right angles so the chisel is parallel to the bottom of the case. Your special tool is now complete. To use run the tool into the case through the mouth to the base and drag the chisel point along the inside of the case wall toward the mouth. You are trying to detect a groove that is forming on the inside of the case wall at the point at which it will eventually crack. Do this a few times while rotating the case as the groove does not always go all the way round the case. The groove will feel like a tug or hesitation and is easy to feel once you get the hang of it. Cases that have seen a bit of use will feel a bit gritty from carbon build up but this will extend from base to shoulder.

If in spite of best intentions the worst happens and you wind up with a broken case stuck in the chamber, try running a tight patch on a cleaning rod, or even a pull through, down from the muzzle will often dislodge it. Even a few sharp taps on the floor with the butt may do the trick if nothing else is available, but it is better not to get into this pickle in the first place.

As for the problem rifles if you want to shoot Granddads 303 that laid waste to deer in the 1950's or Great Granddads 44 WCF that piled up heaps of pigs during the depression a combination of light loads, neck or partial sizing and careful checking should keep you out of trouble.

(The photos and diagrams in this article were taken out of NZ Hunter Magazine, Issue No. 3, March / April 2008. "Thanks Greg!" - from the Hastings Newsletter Ed.)



If you look closely on the top case inside the black circled area, you'll see a crack running around the case where the head is about to separate. In the sectioned case, you can see what's causing the crack, the thinning out section highlighted with the black pen. You can also see how to feel for this groove with a dental probe or a bent paper clip

Department of
Conservation
prizes

SIKA SHOW
26/27 September
2009

Judge's choice - Best representative sika head shot on public conservation land

Best photo - of Kaimanawa/Kaweka Forest landscape, flora or fauna.
Please send photo's to kturia@doc.govt.nz, phone Kim 07 386 9263
Entries by Wednesday 23 September

For full entry details and show information go to
www.nzsika.co.nz



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Just Kidding !!!

A group of friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned back to camp alone, staggering in under the weight of a large carcass and magnificent eight-point Sika trophy head.

The others asked "Where's Henry?"

The hunter replied "Henry had a nasty fall and broke both of his legs. He's a couple of miles back up the trail". The others astonished, questioned "So you left Henry laying out there and carried that deer back?!". "A tough call", nodded the hunter, "but I figured that no-one was going to steal Henry!"

Recipe of the Month

Meatball Stew (SERVES 4-6)

- 500 grams venison mince
- 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh coriander, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 1 green capsicum, cored, seeded & chopped
- 1 small bunch parsley, chopped
- 1 kg tomatoes, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt (or to taste)

Combine the first six ingredients well and form into 2cm meatballs with wet hands. Heat a large heavy based fry pan or casserole dish and add the olive oil. Brown the meatballs in the oil and then remove, leaving the oil in the pan. Set the meatballs aside and keep covered. Add the garlic cloves, 2 chopped onions and capsicum to the oil in the pan and sauté until the onion is clear. Add the chopped parsley, tomatoes, cumin, black pepper, cinnamon, lemon juice, cayenne and salt and simmer, covered until the sauce has reduced down to a thick gravy. Return the meatballs to the sauce and simmer, uncovered for 10 minutes more. This dish makes a great casual meal served with pasta or crusty hot bread to mop up the sauce.

Taken out of Andy Lyver's book- *'Wild and Wonderful Everyday Venison Recipes for all Seasons'* (available from all book stores)

Committee Officers

Patron.....	Max Motley	
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