



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

OCTOBER 2009

ISSUE 9

PRESIDENTS REPORT



Giddy all,

The good dump of snow over the last month has meant for some tough hunting conditions but some neat experiences. I took my pregnant wife and 2 yr old daughter for what was to be a quick family walk around the twin lakes up at 'Kuri' but finished up with an extended bush bash out via Dads shortcut. Needless to say I was not too popular for the rest of the evening after forgetting to note the recent 2 foot deep pine tree prunings under the 6 inches of snow!

Other than that I had been doing some range work that all turned to custard trying some new powders and pills so I have sent my gun away to have a suppressor fitted in a desperate attempt to recover some accuracy. This has made it a rather uneventful month for me as far as hunting or related things go.

One of the few things I had found disappointing this year, as president, was the number of complaints that I received regarding the competition judging. Some of the issues arose from our branch competition, but the majority eventuated out of the Hawkes Bay event. Views were expressed from both the Hastings and the Napier NZDA members, many of which appeared to have merit and due cause.

It only seemed right to examine our current situation and propose a solution that could continue to embody the past, as well as updating our rules to suit the needs of modern competitions and also ensure they are aligned with the current NZDA national rules.

As a committee we decided to review the current copies of our rules first and then revise them to hopefully resolve some, if not all, of these problems.

A sub-committee was formed and the job of re-writing them has been started, with the relevant revision and rewording necessary to comply with the above. So far, the Antler, Horn and Tusk section has been tabled as a rough draft copy, along with a preliminary draft of "The Withey System for the conformation of a Sika skull and antlers". This Sika identification system was trialed at the Sika show a couple of weeks back and was received well. It also gained some valuable input from a couple of key members of the NZDA judging panel in the process. Currently the Napier branch is considering our draft copy for Antler, Horn and Tusk and has agreed to review the photography rules in due course. They should similarly submit a draft for the Hastings branch to consider in the near future.

I also believe that the concept and constitution of the Hawkes Bay Branch should be once and for all put to rest. The Hawkes Bay Branch has long since been deleted by our national body and its retention in its current guise has interfered with the camaraderie of the three now individually recognised branches. I certainly do not wish to see the competitions between the three branches diminish, quite the contrary. With a clear set of objectives put in place there should be no reason why a Hawkes Bay competition, reinvented as an inter-branch event, can't retain all of the original Hawkes Bay Branch history, cups and memorabilia, whilst making it relevant to the present situation. We have requested that the other clubs, who previously fell under the blanket of Hawkes Bay Branch, to also assist with the overhaul of the competition format. A joint effort from all the branches is the only way we can make this work, as it would be of little use to update Hastings rules without having parity in any inter branch competition; to not have all branches onboard would not only put us back to square one but more than likely spell an end to Hawkes Bay competitions. I have made contact with and expect that all of the branches will be keen to sign up to a new inter branch initiative.

Happy hunting & hot barrels.....James

Events Calendar for November 2009

(Details on page 2 & 3)
Taruarau Shoot
Sunday 1st November.

Hastings Branch Prizegiving Dinner-
Wed 4th November,
gates open @ 5.30pm.

Competition Judging Workshops for-
- the 'Withey System'
Saturday 7th November
2.00pm to 5.00pm.
- the 'Douglas Score'
Sunday 8th November
8.30am to 4.30pm.

SAREX '09- Search and Rescue Exercise
Sat 7th & Sun 8th Nov.

Taupo Prize Shoot-
Saturday 7th November.

Club Hunting Trip-
Friday 13th to Sunday
15th November to
No-mans & Ruahine huts.

Committee Meeting-
Wed 18th Nov @ 7.30pm.

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UP COMING EVENTS—IN DETAIL

Hastings Branch Prizegiving Dinner

Our main social event for the year is here again and this years event is predicted to be a real ripper. The evening will be fully catered for and all drinks are on the house this time. There will be raffle & door prizes, sponsored by Ampro NZ & Hamills Fishing and Hunting, Hastings. There is to be no cover charge for financial members of the club, their partners and children but any other relatives or friends who would like to attend are welcome, but a \$10 charge will apply to them. This event replaces our usual club night format, so the gates & bar will be opened at 5.30pm and dinner will be served at 7.00pm, followed by the prizegiving awards.

Antler Horn & Tusk Competition Workshops

Withey System Workshop—Saturday 7th November from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Held at the Napier NZDA clubrooms at Thorn Place, Onekawa. The course co-ordinator is Graeme Withey and the format will include a collection of Sika type heads that are to be used to demonstrate the application of the system. This workshop is to be an interactive and relatively informal demonstration and discussion. No fees — just bring along a pen and pad. The intention is to implement this system into our branch competitions next year!

Douglas Score Workshop—Sunday 8th November from 8.30am to 4.30pm. Held at the Napier NZDA clubrooms at Thorn Place, Onekawa. Both Level 1 Cert. & Level 2 Cert. requirements will be covered. The course co-ordinator is Mark Sarjeant, the national competition manager. There is a mandatory registration fee of \$20 which covers the courses reading material. You must bring along a Douglas Score handbook & Douglas Score measuring tape to participate. You must be registered with national to attend this course so let Steve Shaw know by Wednesday 4th November at the latest and we will complete the registration process for you. Contact Steve on 8775275.

SAREX—Search and Rescue Exercise—Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November.

The base for this years exercise will be at the Whittle Farm on Whittle Road, Puketitiri. There will be a refresher course on track and clue awareness. The exercise itself will be in the Kawekas. Anyone wishing to participate in this years exercise will need to be at the base for a briefing at 8am on Saturday 7th November. It is anticipated that the exercise will run overnight and until approximately 12pm on Sunday 8th November. Lunch and refreshments will be available for all participants at the conclusion of the exercise. Club members who wish to participate in this SAREX should confirm their willingness to attend by advising Grant Richards on 8784467 or alternately contact Guy Tekahika on 8799598 before the 4th of November.

Club Hunting Trip—Friday 13th to Sunday 15th November.

A drive in trip to No-mans & Ruahine huts via the “Big Hill” station access up onto the Northern Ruahine tops. The access permit only allows for 8 people to go on the trip, so those interested in going need to get their names on the list pronto! Preference will be given to any new members wishing to go and those current ones who weren’t on the last trip up there in April. Please contact Grant Richards on 8784467 to register your interest.

EDITORS CORNER

JIM BROADBENT, OUR SPONSORING GSP DOG BREEDER, CURRENTLY HAS TWO MALE PUPS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT HIM IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING INVESTING IN A NEW HUNTING DOG OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES. OUR APOLOGIES FOR THE DOUBLE UP ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 7TH AND 8TH WITH BOTH THE SAREX AND THE COMPETITION JUDGING WORKSHOPS BEING ON, THEIR PROGRAMMING WAS OUT OF OUR CONTROL! PLEASE MAKE YOUR DECISION CAREFULLY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BOTH. COULD ALL CLUB MEMBERS WHO JUDGE AT ANY LEVEL IN OUR COMPETITIONS PLEASE ENDEAVOUR TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS TO REFRESH THEMSELVES WITH THE DOUGLAS SCORE SYSTEM AND TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE NEW “WITHEY SYSTEM”. A FEW MORE OF YOUR **HUNTING STORIES** ARE NEEDED TO **PUT INTO THE DRAW TO WIN THE MARCH TRIP TO OTUTU ISLAND**. WE WILL BE DRAWING THE WINNER AFTER THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN PRINTED.

The Club Notice Board

(please check the noticeboard at the Clubrooms for full details)

Hastings Libraries

"Good Keen Man"

50th anniversary was unfortunately postponed until further notice.

Taupo Prize Shoot is also being held on Saturday the 7th of November at the Taupo NZDA range.

Kaweka Mountain Beech

Project has given us mapping that shows the areas where the deer pellet counts have been collected over the last year. This information shows where the higher animal numbers have been recorded, so the information should prove helpful for planning your spring & summer hunts.

Sika Show Competition


Results Congratulations to those members of our club who managed to win a prize through either their skill or with just a good dose of luck! It goes to show that you've got to be in the draw to win!!

The Taruarau Shoot is on again! It will be held on 1st Nov / same venue as last year, on the true right bank of the Rangitikei river, up stream of the old Springvale bridge, on the Napier - Taihape Road.

RECIPE -(serves 4) Chilli Venison Pie

450 grams venison mince
3 tablespoons oil
3 large onions, chopped
1 can of tomatoes (450 grams)
1 fresh chilli, chopped
1 teaspoon chilli powder
2 medium potatoes, thinly sliced
175 grams tasty cheese, grated
Salt, pepper & paprika
Preheat the oven to 180°C.
Sizzle the mince in the oil. Add the onion and cook until they are soft. Stir in the can of tomatoes, chillies, chilli powder, salt & pepper and cook together for another 5 minutes. Spread into a flat oven dish and layer the sliced potatoes over the top. Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes. Remove foil, sprinkle cheese over the potatoes and dust top lightly with paprika. Put dish back in the oven & cook for about 15 minutes more till nicely brown.
From Andy Lyver's cookbook *'Wild and Wonderful Everyday Venison Recipes for all Seasons'*
(from all good book stores)

German Shorthair Pointers



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Just Kidding !!!

Two mates were hunting the fringe country near Galatea, quite close and within earshot of a local roadway. A large stag was spotted and one hunter quickly lifted his rifle for the shot, but just before he had taken aim, his friend stopped him, pointing toward a funeral procession passing on the road nearby. The hunter gracefully lowered the rifle, took off his hat and bowed his head. His friend was amazed. "That is the most thoughtful thing I have ever seen, you are the most respectful man I have ever known". The hunter shrugged, "Yeah, well, we were married for 35 years".

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FISHING & HUNTING

SPECIALISTS

A Dogs Learning Curve

by Paul Condon

After many years of hunting alone, along came Ted, my new four legged friend. He was a small, black Labrador pup, a right little bundle of joy, who just happened to turn up on my birthday. Ted flew through puppy preschool with ease, obedience was an obvious natural strong point for him... Yeah right! A few months on and after a lot of fun training games like finding the deer skin, tail or hock that I had trailed around the property and hidden, he was starting to show he had a great nose and might just be of some use in the bush. Our first few adventures into the hills were reasonably easy day walks. Then we had the odd overnight trip, in which we managed to get squealed at and only just catch the odd glimpse of a deer on the run. Those trips, although a little frustrating for me, were fun and very exciting times for Ted.

Finally the eventful day arrived when we would have our first successful hunt together. After spending a cold night tucked up in a bivvy in the Kawekas, we set off early for our days hunting. As we sneaked around through some nice handy country that has been quite fruitful for me in the past, a lot of good sign was keeping us very interested, but there was not to be any easy meat this close to camp. Now after a while Ted must have thought he had done enough work for the morning and decided to go and reward himself for his efforts. In a flash he was gone, returning five or so minutes later wet from clowning around in the stream below us.

Following a second some what similar episode, that I curtailed with yet another stern growling, it was obvious that the obsession he has with playing around in water was certainly beginning to test my patience! We continued on our way and climbed up into a nice bush gully that I hoped hadn't yet been disturbed by our antics. Slowly as we sidled up towards a grassy clearing in the head of the gully I caught a glimpse of a deer! I got Ted to sit and stay as I moved forward a metre or two. There I could make out that there were actually two deer feeding up through the bush surrounding the clearing. After a while one of them presented me with the opportunity of a reasonably clear shot so I squeezed off a round. The deer collapsed and slid down the hill side just out of sight. Sweet! I thought to myself, this will be a good chance for Ted to follow up on his first deer. We started to drop down to where the deer had fallen. After not having gone far, I could see the deer was down, but still very much alive with it's head up looking around. It was about now that Ted decided he'd give an excited bark to add a little something to the situation. It was obviously time for a quick finishing shot before young Ted contemplated the possibility of playing chase! A quick shot connected with the deer's head and the result was final. We had achieved our first kill together, a good sized Sika hind and all considered, not a bad effort for a 9 month old pup!

It was like Christmas time for Ted as he played with the bits of skin and chewed on the discarded bones as I processed the meat from the carcass, but soon enough it was time to carry our prize back to camp, then pack it up and head back to town. It's been a real challenge and a huge learning curve for both myself and Ted, but, with some more time, patience and training I know he will become a hunting mate I wouldn't want to be without.



Committee Officers

Patron.....	Max Motley	
President.....	James Guilford	876 5334
Vice President.....	Jeremy Hanaray	873 3948
Treasurer.....	Neil MacLean	874 3018
Secretary.....	Stephen Shaw	877 5275
Newsletter Editor..	Lynne Ellingham	877 5275

Hall Contacts

Hall Bookings.....	Guy Te Kahika	879 9598
Groundsman.....	Grant Richards	878 4467
Trophy Custodian...	Graeme Withey	878 6161
Hall Caretaker.....	Robert Underwood	878 8792

Hastings Deerstalkers Branch Clubrooms

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