



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

SEPTEMBER 2010

ISSUE 9

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

The options were; a short notice offer of quick evening hunt, and incur the wrath of the editor (and wife, and daughter and in-laws) or stay home and let peace prevail last night. Pretty easy to guess which option I took eh. With swirling wind and falling light we managed to skittle one spiker ('we' being a mate) with two clean misses chalked up for me. Gutted!

It's good to see the daylight hours are stretching out again with the arrival of spring. This should herald the hunting I know I enjoy most. The hinds will soon be dropping and a bunch of dopey spikers and yearlings will start to fatten up to their tastiest with this spring growth.

All plans of making an improvement on last years club shoot are beginning to evaporate away rather quickly with my kneeling shooting needing some improvement. The next club shoot has been set for the 10th of October at Ben Lomond Station. This is on SH50 which is signposted as HB Sporting Shooters. For those of you who could not make last years shoot its well worth the effort as it is a fun afternoon. We will be shooting for the 'E. Richards 'mini trophy'. The Napier branch is holding its J.M Wilkinson postal and a long range F-class shoot at the Poraiti range on the 17th Nov. (our J.M Wilkinson won't be held until Feb) and it also looks like the interbranch Taruarau shoot is coming up in early Nov. as well. Our Hastings branch 'E. Richards Aggregate Cup' will be awarded for the best shooter over all three of these competitions ie; E. Richards 'mini' + 1 of the J.M Wilkinson's + the Taruarau will qualify you into the aggregate comp. Yet again I was not able to make it to Sika Show in Taupo, which was probably a good thing, as a fool and his money are easily parted. I did hear though that Robert Underwood won two sections of the photo competition.

The club hunt to Tatarakina sounded like it was an exhilarating event. Some pretty wild weather made for some wet hunters and the wind was a lot less than ideal! Mind you reports were that five animals were taken and the weekend saw some good effort and was a worthwhile escape into the hills.

We are planning to run a juniors hunt in the very near future. The hunt will be up past Wairoa way chasing goats in the mid Ruakituri valley. Anyone who has a junior or prospective junior hunter who wishes to come is more than welcome. Contact either myself or Mal Ingpen for further info. and we will set a date as soon as we get enough numbers.

See you next Wednesday.....**James**

Events Calendar

October 2010

SAREX 2010 Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd Oct to be held up at Kuripapango.

Club Night Wed 6th Oct 8.00pm. Daniel & Eddie from DOC will be explaining the Sika tracking program to us.

E. Richards Shoot Sun 10th Oct starting at 10.00am -Ben Lomonds. (details Page 2)

Napier Branches J.M Wilkinson on 17th Oct.- 9.00am at Poraiti range.

Committee Meeting Wed 20th Oct 7.30pm
Agenda: sort out the Jnr.hunt & planning for a club hunt fly-in trip.

Other Future Events
Taruarau Shoot
Annual HB vs Taihape to be held on 6-7th Nov.

EDITORS CORNER

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THE SIKA SHOW IN TAUPO. A LOT LESS HEADS THAN LAST YEAR WERE ENTERED, PROBABLY LESS THAN HALF THE AMOUNT. IN THE SIKA THERE WERE SOME NICE HEAVY HEADS, BUT NOTHING OVER 200 DS. I ENJOYED TALKING WITH A FEW OF THE 'NAME' NZ EXPERIENCED SIKA HUNTERS, AS WELL AS THE YANK FROM JAPAN AND SEEING THE 3 BIG (232, 229 & 226DS) MOUNTED HOKKIDO SIKA HEADS THAT HE HAD ON DISPLAY WAS ONE OF THE MAIN HIGHLIGHTS THERE FOR ME.

WE HAVE OUR E.RICHARDS COMP COMING UP ON SUN 10TH OCTOBER, ALSO THE TARUARAU SHOOT, SO GET SOME SHOOTIN PRACTICE DONE IF YOU CAN. I'VE HAD A RESPONSE BACK FROM TWO OF THE MP'S THAT WE SENT OUR GAC PETITION TO AND THE REPLIES WERE POSITIVE. THEY HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO THE MINISTER OF CONSERVATION. I WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON THIS ISSUE. REMEMBER YOU MUST WRITE A STORY TO GET IN THE DRAW FOR THE **STICHBURY EXHAUST SPONSORED FLY IN TRIP** NEXT MARCH, SO TRY AND PUT SOMETHING TOGETHER FOR US AND I'LL SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT CLUB MEETING.

Junior Goat Hunt in Nov or Dec, Contact: James on 8709301 or Malcolm on 8787795.

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Annual Dinner & Prizegiving

We would like to thank the members who took the time out of their busy lives to come along for our clubs annual dinner and prizegiving.

Triple Peak Enterprises created another great dinner courtesy of chef Brad Pinker.

A great night was had by all and now trophy's, cups, photo albums and certificates are in the hands of deserving members for them to enjoy for the upcoming year.



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**Our Website will be up and running very soon, we will let you know as soon as it is properly sorted!
The web address is www.nzdahastings.org.nz**

Hastings Club E. Richards Shoot

To be held on Sunday 10th October at Ben Lomond Station, SH50, Maraekakaho .

The venue is signposted as HB Sporting Shooters. The comp. starts at 10.00am there is an entry fee of \$2 per person. There will be no catering this year so BYO food. Entry into the comp. is open to current financial members. We will be shooting for the E. Richards 'mini trophy' on a different format than last year, ie; 5 prone, 5 kneeling & 5 standing, shot over the 100mtrs at 325mm on round targets. Kneeling rolls, shooting slings & spotting scopes are all allowed, using any centrefire rifle and any scope. We look forward to seeing as many members there as possible to make this an enjoyable occasion.

Just Kidding!!!



I hope my tree stand works better than this one. There's something wrong here, but I just can't put my finger on it

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— mark@reelnrifle.co.nz —

On Our Club Notice Board

Fiordland Wapiti
Foundation
Ballot forms & information

Taupo Branch Prize
Shoot & Big Balls Shoot
Sat 6th Nov. Contact:(07)
3789630 Margaret Seal.

Interislander - NZDA
Group Rates
Info & full list of all prices

National NZDA Results
2010 photography and
antler, horn & tusk comps

Tataraakina Hunt Report -Rodney Knight

I was starting to doubt my mental state as the rain was being driven into my windscreen. I rounded a bend in the road and was hit by a gust that lifted my wipers off the windscreen.....now I knew I was nuts. I was driving up to join the other members on the club trip into Tataraakina.

They were all safely ensconced in the woolshed when I arrived having already seen 2 deer for an evening hunt despite the storm. Wet gear hung everywhere around the wood burning stove. The plan to use the huts on the block had been abandoned due to the risk of someone getting a vehicle marooned out there with a slip or washout.

Saturday morning everyone was keen to get out there despite the rain drumming on the roof. A deer was spotted briefly on a slip on the drive to our blocks and was a welcome stop for the boys on the quad's to breath warmth back into frozen hands.

I farewelled the others and headed off looking for some nice bush to sneaky Pete through. Climbing a spur I was disappointed at the lack of sign but I consoled myself that it was the wrong type of bush anyway. After an hour I struck fresh hoofprints so followed them off the side and immediately spotted the back end of a yearling poking out from behind a tree. Waiting for a better shot the wind changed and that as they say, was that. I carried on and gained some height before turning off and starting a slow sidle through a series of head guts. Half an hour on I dropped into one that was more open than the others I'd hunted and soon feed tree's started to dominate the landscape and fresh sign was heavy. Standing there scanning the nooks and cranny's I spotted another yearling and keen to nail something and get back to the shelter of camp, I shot it. Whew.....now the pressure was off. I haunched it, making a pack out of the back end and after shouldering it I decided that it was sitting comfortable enough to let me hunt my way back down to the creek. I dropped over the next ridge and this gully was as nice as the one I'd just been in. Lo and behold, after 200m I bumped into another yearling standing under a tree with it's head down against the rain feeling miserable and totally unaware that "man" was in the forest. What's better than 1 deer on a snotty day? Yeah that's right, two so I loaded the hindquarters from that one straight on top of the other and gapped it back to the truck. Well actually, slipped and slid, and huffed and puffed my way back to be more the truthful, but somehow I managed to trip over another hind and yearling on the way!

Back at the woolshed and Jarad Whittaker (Member to be) was hanging up a set of hindquarters off a spiker he'd shot by knocking on the back door of the deer's living room whilst quietly bush stalking.

The rain and wind fair rattled the woolshed all Saturday night and was still doing the same at dawn on Sunday. While the wimpy one's amongst us and the successful one's, who didn't really need to get wet again, slept in, 3 hardy souls donned wet gear and headed out into the elements. I doffed my hat to them and wished them well. They deserved success, and it came, with visitor Gus Ellingham picking up 2 yearlings as well. So despite a storm the size of Australia hammering the country into submission, just cause their rugby team can't, the club trip that had more visitors than members, still came up with 5 deer. Not bad goin' for the tough!



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A Sika Saga - by Leigh Montaperto

Well it was quite a few years ago, but one Saturday night after having a few beers, a mate and I decided to go for a hunt the next morning. About 5am the next morning, off we went in the old Cortina heading for the Lotkow area at Puketitiri Road.

It was just before the roar and we'd had a bit of drizzle up in the hills. We got to our spot and started to get our gear together. "Great" I thought to myself, I'd gone and forgotten the mag for my rifle, so my only option was single shot loading for the day. We set off up the track and split up after about ½ an hour. I dropped down to the creek in the gully and headed up the ridge on an old track. About half way up, the bush opened up a bit with the odd clay pan and you could see out to the ridge on the other side. There was a bit of sign about and the morning was still. I had hunted this spot a few times and knew of a good place to get to sit and watch, but the shot, if I was lucky enough to get the chance, was over a range of about 250 metres.

I sat down looking around for about 15 minutes and saw a bit of movement across the gully, lifted my rifle and had a look through the scope (as I didn't have my binoculars), saw it was a Jap stag feeding. It looked like the usual scrubber, but I was always after meat to eat or sell. I got myself into a good position and got a spare bullet ready. I waited until he stood side on and squeezed off a shot. It didn't look good, he just ran off and a hind appeared. I managed to get the second bullet in and missed her too. I waited a while but all had gone quiet. I decided to carry on up the ridge, cut across at the top and head down where the deer had been feeding. On heading down the ridge, I started seeing lots of sign and looked for a bit of blood, but saw nothing. Just when I was about to give up, the stag jumped up in front of me but I had no time for a shot. However, I did find some blood, so he had been hit. I started to move a lot slower, the bush got thicker and steeper, no more sign of blood so I was just following hoof marks. Suddenly saw an antler below me, but it was steep and I could only see his head. I leant out sort of holding my gun in one hand, took the shot and bloody missed, but he still just stood there. It was really hard trying to get a bullet into that chamber in a hurry and just as I did, he took off. I thought that was probably my only chance and I had just stuffed it up!

As I moved down in the direction he had disappeared, I could see the terrain flattened off a bit, and right on the end of the bench was the stag looking straight at me. I aimed at his neck and he went down. On closer inspection, the head wasn't so bad after all and my first shot had hit him behind the shoulder, but wasn't a good killing shot. I cut off the head, gutted the deer, put him on my back and set off. I lost count of how many times I fell over, and about 4 hours later got back to the last small hill before reaching the car, but I was stuffed and couldn't make it carrying that carcass any further. I left the deer beside the creek and came back with my mate who carried it for me up that last hill. He had seen a stag and a couple of hinds, but hadn't got the chance for a shot.

I ended up getting the head mounted, and haven't shot a better one since. It measures about 169 DS.



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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