

THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

MARCH 2013 | ISSUE 13



See Brent's story on back page.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

Well it's that time of year again and I am hoping that this roar is going to be a ripper.

It will be interesting to see how the recent drought is going to influence things this time around. I remember a few years back after back-to-back drought the stags did not appear to be keen to engage. A few half hearted moans was the best I could get up in the Ruahine but nothing to really get the blood pumping, with heart in your mouth stuff. A mate of mine thought that the condition of the animals was too poor to take on board some serious sparring. Right or wrong it certainly was not a roar to remember.

I did catch up with Rob Beard earlier though, and by all accounts the animals coming in to him are mud fat so hopefully this time around will be the opposite. Amped up stags with plenty of reserves to take on all comers, including us charlatans!

A couple of weekends back we had one of our Wilkinson shoots at Ben Lomond Station on the rifle range they have. This is always a fun shoot but was a little low on numbers. If you're worried you might get shown up, don't, Ill always be there to make you look good! I think on average I have been getting worse over the years, not better.

The newsletter is one of my biggest concerns at the moment. I think it is our most important tool for communication within the club. We have sat down at committee and thought of a few more ideas we can use to both get the newsletter out as well as have some "guts" to it.

Ultimately we need our members to make this their own vehicle. Tom and I can only tell you so much as well as relay on what is available from National. We need members to make a bigger contribution to keep the newsletter fresh and relevant for the future.

I would also like to get a bit more momentum in the website. Does anyone regularly use it? From the admin page it is more of a chore at the moment just to keep the spam under control and I don't think I have moderated a single relevant thing in it for quite some time.

If anyone has some ninja web master skills don't be shy. I would really like to hand it over to a member who has a bit of time and passion to do this. It is our most relevant external advertisement (especially for the next generation of member) that we have. I would think we could make a bit more hay out of this feature of the club.

This will also be my last year I will be run as President. We have our AGM in May and I would hope we could get a member with a bit of free time to put their hand up for the position. I have had a good run, but as with anything you get a little stale after a while. I think a fresh front man for the club is needed. I do plan to remain involved with the club and try to be as useful as possible just not at the level a good President needs to be at.

I am quite excited about the new article I will be writing for the newsletter too. I have been often accused of being a bit of a gear head so I figure a brief write up with some of the useful (and not so

EVENTS CALENDAR UP COMING EVENTS 2013 - 2014

MONTH	CLUB NIGHT	COMMITTEE MEETING
April	Tues 3	Wed 17
May	Wed 1-AGM	Wed 22
June	Wed 5	Wed 19
July	Wed 3	Wed 24
August	Wed 7	Wed 21
September	Wed 4	Wed 18
October	Wed 2	Wed 23
November	Wed 6	Wed 20
December	Wed 4	None
January '14	None	Wed 22

COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Patron	Max Motley	
President	James Guildford	876 5334
Vice President	Malcolm Ingpen	878 7795
Treasurer	Neil Maclean	8743 018
Secretary	Angus Richards	876 2742
Newsletter Editor...	Tom Allan - 'Band'	833 6671

HALL CONTACTS

Hall Bookings.....	Guy Te Kahika	879 9598
Groundsman	Grant Richards	878 4467
Trophy Custodian ..	Graeme Withey	878 6161
Hall Caterer	Brian Salisbury	02121350027

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useful) gadgets that have caught my eye over the years for you to check out.

Anyway, I'll leave you with that but please do be careful this roar. I heard an old saying that is just as relevant today "better no meat, than no mate".

Go rark up some stags, make some great memories with your mates and have some fun.

Hot barrels, James

EDITORS CORNER

This newsletter has been loads easier to pull together with people contributing which is great. Still lacking in pics and any small write ups of hunts people have been on, so don't be shy in send things in - tom@band.net.nz

I hope your getting out there! I'm off now for 4 days so hopefully this forecasted southerly will get things cranking.

Cheers Tom

Hand Loading Press

By Neil MacLean

Our President has asked me to write a series of short articles about hand loading for our newsletter. Here goes.

First we should look at the difference between a re loader and a hand loader. This may seem a trifle pedantic but there is a reason which we will see a little later on. Most of us start out as re loaders to save a few bucks on keeping our rifles fed.

To re loaders loading cartridges is a journey that must be taken to reach a destination ie a supply of ammunition. For hand loaders the journey is just as important as the destination. All steps are taken that will or may result in better ammunition. The important thing for re loaders is to cherry pick the steps that are important in producing good quality ammunition in the actual rifles we own from the ones that just fill a re loaders heart with joy.

GETTING STARTED

For the absolute novice it is best to start with coaching from an experienced re loader. They will probably have or can borrow dies so initial costs are limited to a few components and if you decide its not for you then you are not left with a lot of expensive gear.

For those that do a bit of re loading the following may be of use:

CASES

Most re loaders start out with cases from cartridges they have fired often with small numbers of different manufacture. The problem is that different makes often have different capacities and hence different velocity and pressure when loaded. This can result in different points of impact and big ragged groups when mixed. Cartridge manufacturer only load their own cases so don't have this problem. For re loaders it is best to sort cases by head stamp.

For the beginner it is best to steer clear of military cases. These can be excellent quality but mostly have crimped in primers which need extra preparation steps and gear. Military cases also often are much thicker and have less capacity. If you have some put them away in a box and stick to commercial cases for now.

One last thing about cases. Give them all a good look over for dents, cracks and corrosion and flick any that have any or all of these defects. You don't want 65,000 psi (448Mpa for those who are metricated) bouncing around in a dodgy case right next to your cheek believe me. That sort of pressure can cut through steel.

Next month Case Prep.

GEAR HEAD CORNER

By James Guilford

To add a bit more to our newsletter we figured a new section with a bit of tech gear is something most of us can't walk past.

I have carried a liquid fuel stove and billy for quite a while now. It's a good cooker and will run on diesel at the top of Everest and I guess there could be a few Tahr around there but really I'm never going to be in that sort of country on a regular basis, am I? It is also bulky and heavy so I decided to indulge myself and buy a little MSR titanium gas cooker and a Primus EtaPower pot.

The pot is light and holds just under a litre but the real clever bit is the flux ring around the base. How it works is beyond me other than I guess it adds a bit more surface area to the pot base, which aids the heat transfer but what I do know is it certainly is no gimmick. This thing cranks! I can boil a full pot of water in around 3½ minutes.



A back country meal or my favourite, a Kaweka meal is ideal in this pot with a bit of water left over for a clean up or another cuppa tea. Because it boils so quickly I have found the amount of gas I need to carry is much less so another weight saving in fuel carried (and weight on my back). It will fit my mug and cooker inside and comes packed up in a tidy stuff sack.

This is similar I guess to the Jetboil range of equipment and come in a different range of sizes. I would rate this as one of the best pieces of kit I have bought in the last few years.

WILKINSON SHOOT RESULTS:

Held at Sporting Shooters Range, SH50, 10 March 2013

Rob Underwood	115.3
Tom Young	101.5
Neil Maclean	89
Richard Griffiths	79.1
Stuart Sinclair	73.3
Ian Jarret	63.2
James Guilford	53.1
Hector Crawford Flett	41.1



NO HUNTING DEATHS THIS ROAR

PRESS RELEASE - MARCH 20 2013

This is the sincerest hope of Bill O'Leary, Vice President of New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association (NZDA) and national coordinator of the association's hunter training scheme HUNTS.

The recent release of the coroner's report on the accidental shooting of a Rotorua hunter last year is an unwelcome but timely reminder to hunters that a wrong decision can have deadly consequences. The extensive media coverage of the report has given cause to deerstalkers to take care especially over the next month as the roar takes a large part of the country's hunters into the bush in pursuit of stags.

Deerstalkers feel gutted when ever there is a fatality according to O'Leary and his organisation urges hunters to be pro active in taking steps to make this roar fatality free.

Read and understand the seven basic rules of firearm safety and commit to observing them faithfully. They are simple but comprehensive and have stood the test of time.

Follow the NZDA hunting guideline to wear clothing that contrasts with the environment and the animals. If you don't want to wear hunter orange (hi viz) then try the alternative blaze blue that has recently become available.

"If you hunt with a mate and loose sight of each other please, please, please stop hunting until sight contact is reestablished." Bill O'Leary emphasises that continuing to hunt without sight of one's mate is like playing Russian Roulette.

Positively identify the target by seeing the head, neck and shoulder of the deer clearly and use both eyes to do this. O'Leary is uncompromising, "Don't use the telescopic sight; this narrows the field of view to a restricted tunnel and psychologically once the rifle is at the shoulder you are semi committed to pull the trigger."

And consider the firing zone. A bullet goes a long way and in the bush can go well beyond one's field of view. Know your hunting territory and know the direction of tracks and camping sites huts and houses.

Deerstalkers should have two mantras says O'Leary, The seven basic rules and the old forestry safety message 'No meat is better than no mate'.

For further information contact:

Bill O'Leary 0274 305 008

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At some point in a guy's life . . . it comes down to this:

Four guys have been going to the same fishing trip for many years. Two days before the group is to leave, Ron's wife puts her foot down, and tells him he isn't going. Ron's mates are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do?

Two days later the three mates get to the camping site, only to find Ron sitting there with a tent set up, firewood gathered, and dinner cooking on the fire.

"Shit Ron, how long you been here? How did you talk your missus into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since last night. After dinner at home yesterday evening, I was sitting in my chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and said, 'Guess who?'

I pulled her hands off, and she was wearing sexy brand new lingerie. She said had been reading 'Fifty Shades of Grey' and she had a devilish look in her eyes!!! She took my hand and led me to our bedroom. The room had candles and rose petals all over. On the bed she had handcuffs, and ropes! She told me to tie her up and cuff her to the bed, so I did.

And then she said, "Do whatever you want." So here I am!

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DOC VEGETATION & PELLET COUNT

By Brent Flynn

When approached by Dan Harris from DOC to volunteer for a vegetation and pellet count I was a bit unsure. But with only a little thought I figure - yeah, why not - 5 days in the bush, my first helicopter flight, an insight into DOC operations, and being able to take my riffle there was also the opportunity to shoot my first Sika.

We meet up at DOC HQ and after lending a hand to pack up the last of the gear and food we headed over to the helicopter. The short flight in was a highlight - definitely a great way to get in and out and to see the beautiful bush from the air.

After arriving and meeting Dan's great crew and catching up with the HDS crew (Steve, Dustin, Nick and his son), a quick briefing from Dan saw us straight into it.

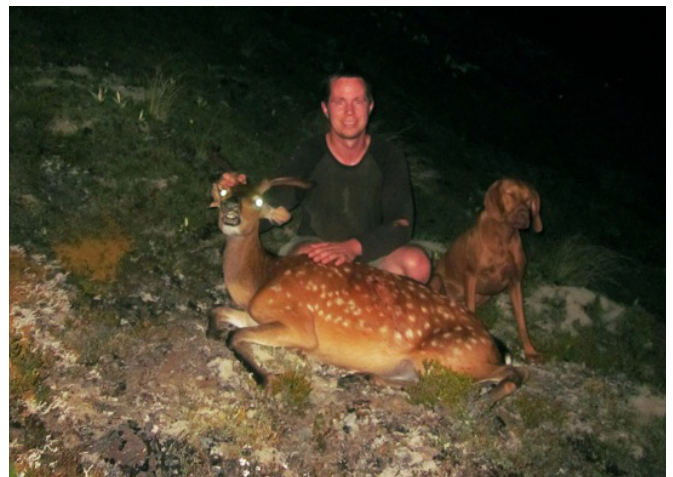
The vegetation and pellet count was a lot more involved than I thought, but I got the hang of it with a bit of training. And I started to see the value in DOC doing this research. Spending time with Dan was interesting, a good straight up bloke who is passionate about the bush and sustaining it into the future. Deer eradication is not on his mind but finding the right balance of deer is key to a healthy bush and good quality Sika herd with good trophies.

After a couple of morning and evening hunts, around the counts, where we'd had no luck as the deer could hear us a mile away with the bush being so dry it sounded like cornflakes. Dustin and I decided to do a small mission over to the main range with the intention of camping out. Glassing that night we spotted a spiker about 1500m away and a quick plan was made to head down the basin, over the creek and up the other side. 45minutes later and a heap of sweat we closed the distance to about 350m.

Boom - Dustin cleaned up with one good shot. Boned out and made camp for that night.

The next morning we climbed up and over into the next basin. After glassing for a while with no luck we moved around to the next catchment, where we saw fresh sign and Dustin's dog started to point, and there he was 50m away, my first Sika! Despatched quickly, a fat bugger and on closer inspection around 2 1/2 - 3 years old with no trophy points. It was a big walk back to the hut but with a well earned beer the sweat soon dried up!

I would recommend doing a bit of volunteer work with DOC. It's a great way to see a piece of the park you may not normally and to learn about the bust and its pests, bird life and deer. It also gives us as HDS a good relationship with DOC and that must be a good thing.



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