

THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

APRIL 2014 | ISSUE 20



President's Report

Although I couldn't make it, I understand the head skinning and butchering demo at the last club meeting was enjoyed by all present. Even Angus learned a thing or two while trying to demonstrate head skinning on a head-shot red spiker. Thanks to Rodney Knight for getting his hands (and shirt) dirty in the demo. Also thanks to Dustin's mate, Murray, for providing a last minute deer on Wednesday morning.

On Sunday 9th March we had the Wilkinson Shoot at Ben Lomond Station. Only 4 shooters turned up, but the competition was strong with very close scores. We have the range booked once a month for the whole day, so if any club member would like to site their rifles in you are welcome to come along. Contact Neil for more info.

The 2014 club competitions are coming up soon, 24-25 May. Please return all Hawke's Bay and Hastings trophies to Angus or bring them to the club rooms.

I hope you are all gearing up for the roar which is not far away now. As always, remember to ID your target this roar.

Hot barrels, Mal



Editor's Corner

Not many people are jumping up and down to take over from Tom as newsletter editor, although a few have offered to help out. Some simplifications have been agreed to streamline the newsletter workload. E-mail is now the standard method of distribution with hard copies going out to those without an e-mail address. The newsletter format is simpler and in Microsoft Word format to allow more people to easily edit the newsletter hopefully in less time. We will produce a normal newsletter every *second* month and between these releases will be a short 1-page updates, notices, events calendar, and maybe a few photos.

(continued next page)

Events Calendar

April club meeting: 2nd April

- Game Animal Council update from Steven Shaw

Committee Meeting: 23rd April

May club meeting: 7th May

- AGM – volunteers welcome!

Hastings comp judging: Sat 24th May

HB comp judging: Sun 25th May

- Napier clubrooms

National conference: 10-13 July,

- Held in Nelson

General reminder: Club and committee meetings start a 8 pm – committee meetings are open to any members interested to help run the club.

Reminder: Club hall is available to hire for birthdays, work functions or other events.

Committee Officers

Patron	Max Motley	
President	Malcolm Ingpen	878 7795
Vice President	Dustin Murdock	836 5478
Treasurer	Neil MacLean	874 3018
Secretary	Angus Richards	877 9422
Newsletter Editor	Dustin Murdock	
	damurdock@hotmail.com	

Hall Contacts

Hall Bookings	Guy Te Kahika	879 9598
Groundsman	Grant Richards	878 4467
Trophy Custodian	Graeme Withey	878 6161
Hall Caterer	Brian Salisbury	027 8969 626

Clubrooms

1534 Maraekakaho Road, Bridge Pa,
PO Box 2155, Stortford Lodge, Hastings

Phone: 06 879 9396

Email: hastings_nzda@xtra.co.nz

Web: www.nzdahastings.org.nz

Editor's Corner (cont.)

On the positive side the current format easily caters for more than four pages. Stories can be any length you like and there is plenty of room for pictures. Even if you just e-mail me a few pictures with some captions – I'll stick it in the next newsletter.

If you or anyone you know is not receiving a newsletter by e-mail or hard copy please let me know.

Shoot straight, Dustin

(right) A spur of the moment trip after work with a Swiss colleague visiting NZ for a few days. "I can't believe how thick the bush is in NZ!" - Patrick



History of Hastings Clubroom Heads



Wapiti x Red Deer cross

Shot by: Stan Chapman

Location: Glaisnock River

Date: 26 March 1961

The party consisted of Stan Chapman, Jack Hall, and Jack O'Sullivan. The party had dropped steeply down Henderson Ridge to the Glaisnock River just before dark, when a bull was heard to bugle across the river.

As it was Stan's turn to take the next trophy if he wanted, he went across and stalked and shot the bull above.

After caping the head the party carried on in the dark to the Rocky Bivy.

Mounted by W. Speedon of Gore.

DS 307 6/8 39 x 42 x 12 points



Hand Loading Press 7

From Neil MacLean

Hand Load Pressure Variables.

Part 2

Variations Due to Components.

Cases.

Different brands of cartridge cases often have different volumes and will produce different velocity and pressure with the same load. Generally commercial cases have roughly similar volumes but military and some continental cases can be much heavier. In the 308W powder charges must be reduced by up to 2 grains in military cases to produce the same pressure and velocity.

Primers.

Magnum primers have a more powerful flame to ignite large charges of slow burning powder. When used in standard size cases magnum primers can raise pressures and do nothing for accuracy. Some hard to ignite, particularly ball, powders need them. Check load data.

Projectiles.

Differences in projectile hardness, shape and bearing surface produce different pressures. Generally flat base thin jacket spitzer projectiles, like the Hornady Interlock produce the least pressure and solid copper projectiles produce the highest. All other types are somewhere in the middle.

Powder.

Powder used to vary quite a bit from lot to lot especially the military surplus types. It's my impression that current powders are much more uniform.

Variations due to Loading.

Free Bore.

Free bore is the distance from the loaded projectile to the rifling. Generally the further the projectile has to travel before it engages the rifling the lower pressure and velocity will be. Some rifles especially those for Weatherby cartridges and a lot of continental rifles have a lot of free bore.

Short action rifles often wind up with a lot of free bore because you can't load the projectiles out to be close to the rifling and still go in the magazine.

Case Length.

Cases that have been allowed to grow too long will raise pressure big time. I check all full length sized cases each time I load them. This is good practise for us all.

Keeping Pressure Variables from Biting us on the Bum.

With all these variables you would think people would get into trouble on a regular basis and some do from time to time so here are a few tips to help.

- Look for load data that uses most of the components that you have especially projectiles. If the data you have does not identify the projectile look for some that does. There is good data available from the likes of Hodgdon. Ignore chat room data.
- Load cartridges to the length listed or no closer than 1mm from the rifling (not for Weatherby cartridges though).
- Chronograph your loads. Remember velocity and pressure are related.
- Trim your cases before, repeat, before they get too long.
- Hand load only when you are alert, not tired, pissed or anything else. Hand load on your own.
- Think while you are loading. This is very important.

Next time something different.

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Gavin Hall

By Rodney Knight

Good old Gavin Hall, a club member for quite a while who was just on the point of reuniting his ties with the club after a break from hunting to pursue big game fishing, passed away while carrying his pack and rifle on a hunting trip in the Kaweka foot hills on the 22nd of February this year.

Gavin and I did a lot of hunting trips together between 1981 and 1991 before the lust for big game fish lured him away. Gav was one of those mates who was hard to keep up with and almost impossible to out shoot and we explored many new places in the Ruahine's, Kaweka's and Urewera's together, clocking up big distances and carrying out big loads, all the time dressed in the standard hard arse garb of the day of, a pair of jocks, a woollen bush shirt, lace up rubber Bullers with horse bandage puttees, and of course a mountain mule pack.

One trip into the Makino headwaters via Makino hut we shot 4 deer and we carried out all the meat plus a full skin up that steep pull from the river to Makino hut. But on top of that we had to pick up a 5th deer that Gave had shot on the way in and left hanging in a tree.



With Gavin nothing was wasted so I got a good grounding in carrying a very heavy pack, sometimes all the way up to the tops from the western side of the Ruahine's and then all the way down to the car on the eastern side



Gavin at Hinerua hut in the Ruahine's

Another good friend of Gavins was long time club member Kerry Gibbs . Another of those great mates who you couldn't keep up with on a big climb. Gavin, Kerry and I did a weekend trip into one of our favourite spots in the Kaweka's, Middle Hill hut and set about trying to outdo one and other. Needless to say the result was another hard and heavy walk out. Sadly Kerry passed away on June 6th 2012, so I guess they're both now sipping on an enamel mug of condensed milk laced tea in that happy hunting ground, recalling their trips together, looking down and laughing as I take a wayward turn up on the tops when returning to camp in the half dark.



Kerry and Gavin

Mark Snell did many trips with Gavin and they also caught several Marlin together. Me ??? well I just kept on hunting because I had lousy sea legs and no stomach for even a small sea swell. One trip into No Mans with Gavin and Mark, Gavin said he had tea sorted and out of his pack he pulled 3 big Gropper

steaks. They were so big he could only fit one at a time in the fry pan so he cooked one for me, then one for Mark and then the last one for himself. Hell that was a good feed.



Gavin and Mark at No Mans

I hope to be able to hump a pack about for a few good years yet, and as I go I'll tick off places as I pass, remembering odd little incidences, deer shot, old fireplaces we brewed up at and I'll stop and say "giddy" to Gavin or "Howdy" to Kerry before carrying on, and I, like you, will never ever forget them.

