

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
February 2022



Waterloo Valley Takatimu Mts

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz
News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz
Branch website <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/>

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 16th February at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Daniel Dawson on Tanning Hides

Daniel has taken over the local skin tanning operation, so will give guidance as to how to prepare your skin to get the best job done.

Along with an update on the business.

FACEBOOK:

HAS MOVED WITH THE TIMES AND NOW HAS ITS VERY OWN FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ON FACEBOOK, CHECK IT OUT, YOU WILL FIND HELPFUL INFO ON THERE AND IT WILL HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB INTERACTION. WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT

NEW MEMBERS

**New Members please welcome them
Craig Cooper, and Nigel Loveridge**

Club Hunts

All hunts for Southland Branch NZDA Members (with full NZDA membership)
as Public liability Insurance required).

Tahr Hunt

In May around the weekend 21st & 22nd of May Contact Tom Mead
027 847 1882 if interested more details to follow.

Office Bearers

Club Office Bearers

President: S McKelvie 027 635 0490 **Vice President:** T Caldwell

Secretary A Nesbit : **Treasurer** T Mead

Magazine Editor: D. Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President**

Membership A Nesbit **Huts** N Miller

Executive: W Ashmore, N Dawson, E Garrick, D Howden, J. McCallum,
L Payne, R. Phillips.

Sub Committees

Hall Luke Payne

Young Hunts Nathan Dawson – (Need to confirm this)

AGM Shaun McKelvie & Andy Nesbit

Trophies Tony Caudwell & Luke Payne

Pistol Range Doug Gordon

Rifle Range Andy Nesbit

DOC Liaison Ray Phillips & Shaun McKelvie

Library Shaun McKelvie & Tom Mead

Club Hunts Shaun McKelvie & Tom Mead

Guest Speaker Shaun McKelvie & Andy Nesbit

Photo Competition Doug Gordon

Social Media Erin Garrick, Tony Caudwell & Shaun McKelvie

Wanted

Stories, ads, letters to the editor, or whatever for the newsletter, send to or contact the editor. Guest Speaker's needed, Ideas wanted, who do you want, and names needed, suggestions to Executive.

JM WILKINSON CUP POSTAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Change of Date now on the Sunday due to access
issues**

The Southland Branch intends to run a shoot to be part of this postal championship on 20th February at the Invercargill Full-bore Range (Cobb road which is on the left going to Otatara past the turn of to the airport on the right.) starting 1pm. One will need 20 rounds of ammo plus 1 sighter if desired.

Shoot is over 4 positions at 100 metres

If interested and or desire more information contact Andy Nesbit 0215 38676 or Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490



Presidents Report

Feb 2022



McLean falls

Well what are year we are off to vaccine passes red lights but at least we are still able to get out and Hunt

I hope everybody had a good break away over the holiday period and managed to get out and fill the freezer up it's always nice at this time of year to have plenty of venison in the freezer for me at least it takes the pressure off pulling the trigger when you're out looking for that big stag. Although it's more and more challenging to hold meeting's and events I think we've got to keep positive and to keep going as normally as we can, the meetings are a great way to get out meet Like-minded people talk hunting and solve the world's problems
□ .

There a few things coming up this year already in the pipe line The Rifle shoot at the Invercargill rifle range on the 19th.

Tom has organised a fly in trip pre roar. I'm sure there's plenty more to come this year.

Hope to see you at the meeting

Cheers Shaun



Editorial

I read in the Southland express of Feb 3rd that The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, Game Animal Council, and Dept. of Conservation. Are moving to shoot 300 hinds from the area of Fiordland South of the Wapiti Blocks and west of the Takahe Area. This is no doubt a result of decreased WAR recovery operations in the area. As the WAR operators are likely to get sufficient deer to fill their current orders closer to civilisation. (Less flying time). This operation will help keep Red deer numbers under control in both the Wapiti and Takahe areas.

In time prices for venison will improve, they were on an up before Covid hit, the destroying the restaurant trade. They will come again once more people venture out to eat. And once again the Feral Venison Industry will be likely to be hit by fair weather profit hunting operators. Would it not be good if The Game Animal Council and Dept. of Conservation, were able to direct the WAR operators to hunt the areas that need attention, not where there is easy deer to fill their orders? Blocks and Quota's need looked at where if one does not fill ones quota you lose the block. The Quota's for each block having a min and a max kill figure allocated. Something that has been discussed before and then pushed aside, by Doc as the next boom in recovery occurs.

As I understand it while talking of them (Takahe), they and other big flightless birds (Kiwi etc.) thrive better when the bush and tussock are not over grown. Something they had achieved and maintained without the aid of deer. When in times past their numbers were far greater enabling them to keep the vegetation trimmed.

Lock downs are over so they tell us, yes we can go hunting. But will things be the same? For day trips we are about back to what was normal or as close as we are likely to get. Then there is the big several day trip allowable but;

What are your plans if someone of the party develops covid or covid symptoms while on this trip. Has communication been sorted if using a helicopter etc. for transport to let the operator know what they are picking up? What about an emergency evacuation, PLB's only tell them something is wrong not what! Are you taking some medication to treat mild cases of Covid with you? How bad does a case need to get before you call for help? Do you take an isolation tent for the infected? Hopefully some guidance will be forthcoming on this from National Office, Game Animal Council or elsewhere. Plan before you go.

So get out there and hunt safe enjoy the numbers currently available, (especially if you have access.) There is still a chance of catching covid out there unless you or your party take it in with you, or share facilities with infected others. Just another danger to plan for.

Doug Gordon

Sponsors

Southland Branch would like to thank its regular sponsors and recommend them to its members.



SOUTHERN ADVENTURE

THE IN STORE FOR THE OUTDOORS



Southland Branch Polo Shirts



The following are in stock and available for purchase @ \$35 each

5 x Medium

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Available at Branch Meeting or by emailing

enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

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06-0925-0270758-000 with details of *your name Polo Shirt and Size*.
(If unable to do online banking contact Tom 0278471882)
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STEWART ISLAND HUNTING MAGIC

CHASING WHITETAIL BUCKS



JOHN DELURY

New Book

“Chasing Whitetail Bucks” By John DeLury.

Stewart Island Hunting Magic

I am a Life Member of Southland Branch and was a past secretary and later treasurer for 15 years. I have been a member since of NZDA since 1973. I have hunted whitetail deer on Stewart Island for 43 years.

This book has 320 pages, over 200 photos in full colour. Published 2021. It deals just with hunting whitetail deer on Stewart Island. Included are the hunts of many of the great Stewart Island trophies including the new #1 shot in 2021 Douglas Score 192 (which has red deer equivalent DS 420) as well as historical information relating to hunting whitetails. Included is a chapter on the Safari Operation that ran at Mason Bay for over ten years. Hunting tips and the complete list of Stewart Island Whitetail Record Book

27 Chapters: No Big Bucks on Stewart Island. How to hunt whitetails. Pegasus. Big Kuri. Let's be careful out there. Toitoti Flats. South Lords River. The North Side of the River. Tikotatahi. Port Adventure. Pikaroro. A short history of poison operations. Chew Tobacco. The Neck. Glory. Paterson Inlet. The Local Hunters. Murray River. Christmas Village. Smoky Beach. Long Harry. East and West Ruggedy. Hellfire. Homestead. Martins Creek. Doughboy Bay. A New Stewart Island Number One Record Buck in 2021. Included are appendix of gear and food hints.

My first book (Chasing Whitetails. 2019) sold out quickly and is now a collector's item. I am selling this book myself and it will not be available in bookshops. Cost is \$40 plus postage. To secure a copy, email me at wtd243@gmail.com with your address or txt 0276925338

Daryl Crimp wrote a review for The Fishing Paper & Hunting News.

“Chasing Whitetail Bucks is a classy book, one to pour over and one that will withstand rereading... and rereading. My pick is it will quickly sell out so don't dally if you are in the mind to purchase a copy.” Full review at:- <https://thefishingpaper.pdfmobile.nz/the-fishing-paper/november-2021-issue-194/hunting-news/book-review>

Freeze Dri



Purchase Back Country Cuisine freeze-dri meals direct at special prices, email Tony on info@bcfoods.co.nz to order or find out more information.

JOKES FOR THE MONTH

SURVIVAL TIP:

If you get lost
in the woods
start talking
about politics
and someone
will show up
to argue with
you.



I wonder why we
are so so obsessed
with trying
to find
intelligent
life on
other planets,
when we can't
even find
intelligent life here?



WHITE DREAMS

Dall Sheep Hunt Part 2

Three years and a Grizzly bear / Moose / Caribou hunt had not put out the desire for the damn sheep so August 2003 saw me back in Anchorage getting ready for another sheep hunt. This time I felt better prepared for the venture – I had carried with me the lessons of the previous hunts and some New Zealand gear – my own alpine tent and food such as, frozen dried veges, pasta meals and tube condensed milk, (this really astonished the locals). Gareth and I organized the services of a young guy as a “packer” as well, and while it turned out that he was not needed, I would do the same again if I returned for a similar hunt.

Our destination this time was the upper Matanuska Glacier, while I would have preferred to return to the Tazlina area that we hunted previously and knew, the site Mike Meekins selected for us proved excellent. The landing strip was first class (by Alaskan standards) and being able to camp and hunt directly from the strip reduced the need for heavy packing. We also had an Alpine climbers hut nearby, which afforded us shelter when the weather turned really nasty.

That there were sheep in the area was immediately obvious – well worn trails followed the top of moraine walls along the glacier and a large band of Ewes and young grazed close to camp. Two days of intensive hunting and glassing produced no Rams and that evening the weather deteriorated with strong winds, snow and freezing rain – this continued throughout the night and the next day. We were confined to camp.



The mountaineer's hut which provided good shelter and a place to store gear.



The view from our hut, note the scenic toilet location! My sheep was located behind the ridge coming into picture center left.

Day five dawned with improving weather and we felt that, as Mike was due to check on us this day, we would return to landing strip base and then get him to take me on a reconnaissance flight of the area when he came in. I was prepared to loose the hunting day to ensure there were legal rams within striking distance of our camp. The sheep we had seen up until this time were all unsuitable.

The day wore on becoming increasingly pleasant and warm but no Super Cub appeared. By late afternoon I was bored and frustrated it looked like a day and opportunity lost, so to relieve the increasing tension I decided to take a walk down the valley and check if it was possible to cross a major side stream at the point it joined the main glacier.

This proved to be the case – the stream dropped into a large ice hole and disappeared under the glacier, but was fordable above its entry point and I was soon on the moraine wall walking down country on a good sheep track.

Years of hunting has demonstrated to me that walking is not hunting unless you spend time looking and I have found that as I get older the time spent “looking” gets longer and the walking time gets shorter. So once I had covered a short distance down valley it was time to get out my 12 power Leica Binoculars for a “look”.

Nothing showed on the mountains opposite me or on the slopes above, BUT a small white spec way back on a slope back beyond our camp proved to be a sheep with horns.

Being able to see horns at that distance indicated to me that, this had to be a Ram and the horns were of a size requiring closer scrutiny. The time for looking was over and the need for serious walking was now.

Once back at camp I explained to Gereth that I had seen a sheep, which I was certain had to be mature Ram, as the horns showed clearly in the binoculars at a good distance. It was however not visible directly from the tents but we should see it from on the moraine wall close by. A few moments later Gereth pronounced that, yes it was a mature ram but he was not too sure if it would make a legal sheep – we should go have a look at it in the morning.

MORNING! Like hell. We had been into that area before and knew the route across the glacier and through the crevasses, I had a head lamp and I was going NOW. Under that kind of persuasion Gereth relented and decided to accompany the stupid Kiwi.

By knowing the route the time taken to get to the sheep was much reduced from the previous trip, not having packs etc also helped a great deal. A slow stalk through the glacial outcrops and crevasses finally revealed not one but three rams on the slope, one obviously small, one of “medium” interest and the third, which I felt was the one I originally observed, to my inexperienced eye somewhat larger. Gereth insisted on scrutinizing the “medium interest” ram with the spotting scope while I, having quickly assessed the three with the binoculars, settled set my scope firmly on the one I considered the largest. A hurried and somewhat terse whispered conversation ensued. With me saying “forget about that one and look at the other bigger one” in fairly colorful Kiwi language.

Once settled on the best ram Gereth pronounced him 8 years old and that the last visible ring was well out from the skull, then the magic words “I think you should!” He never got past that, as the first shot was on its way.

Time slows down when you really concentrate and after years of waiting and dreaming the concentration levels were high. First shot OK but a little too far back, the ram is still on his feet, broadside on looking in my direction, but with blood showing on the rib area.

Second shot too quick and bad – the light trigger pull of my Blaser, plus the chill of the glacier ice, combined to send the shot off before a sight picture was established.

Third shot – concentration now at a level so that when the bullet strikes I see the splatter of blood on the shoulder and the ram’s legs stiffen, he slides out of the scope’s view before I notice any recoil and is gone.

I am confident that the 7mm Swift Sirocco has done its job and he is mine, all we have to do is locate him on the slope above the glacier and a dream would be complete.

When all was quiet two more rams appeared from behind some large rocks, not legal rams, they were young but well on their way to the magic 40 inch mark, their horns swept down well below the jaw line, the mark of a big ram. It was a great experience to watch these rams as they leisurely walked away from the scene. Maybe a reason to return?

Now all that was left was to recover my ram and this proved to be extremely easy. After he collapsed on the third shot he rolled down a rocky gut and ended up within 50 feet of the glacier. Sometimes it is better to be old and lucky than young and fit!

Well almost – I took a shoulder cape and the head immediately and we recovered the eatable meat first thing the next morning, probably slightly illegal, but as we got it all I don’t think much real harm was done. Just a note here - the Swift Siroccos did devastating damage, I would not recommend them if the object is to obtain meat as there was almost nothing recoverable from the ribcage forward.

I had just completed work on the cape and Gereth had returned with the meat (sheep meat is highly prized), when the welcome BUZZ of a Super Cub announced that Mike was on his way in to see us.

It was a very happy band that he ferried out to his strip during the afternoon.



Dream complete, mission accomplished!

Note: The original draft of this story was written almost 20 years ago, while the memories are fresh, time has moved on. Gereth Stillman has moved from Alaska and now breeds German Shorthair Pointers in Rapid City South Dakota. His other occupation is hunting pheasants.

Rusty Reed has also moved from Anchorage the last I heard he was working on a game ranch in Texas.

Alaska remains one of the last frontiers, offering amazing scenery, memorable people and tremendous hunting to those who wish to extend their experiences beyond New Zealand, it is my second favourite place in the world!



Our “landing” strip looking towards the Anchorage / Fairbanks highway



The strip with one of our lower tents, Denmark Peak in the back ground, my sheep was on the lower slope beyond the leading ridge.

John Berry

Invercargill Rifle Club **Cobb Road Rifle Range**

As honorary members of the Invercargill Rifle Club, Southland Branch members now have the opportunity to use the Cobb Road Range for sighting in of rifles and also participating in programmed Invercargill Rifle club events.

You will need to bring

Firearms Licence and Deerstalkers membership card.

Ear and eye protection

Target capable of being stapled to the target frame

Rifle (bolt out) + ammo – Up to and including .308/7.62 calibre

Bipod or other front support and rear support.

The range will be operated by a designated Rang Officer who will make themselves known at the range.

General format will be

Allocation of target frame

Validation of rifle being able to hit target at 100m

Shooting 200m and beyond after validation

Dates: The range is not for casual use but is available for use on the following dates:

Currently over the Summer Range is available Sundays (except over Xmas) 11am to

1pm, 100yards to 200 yards After which there is a NRA style shoot at longer ranges Range fee is \$10.00

If you are interested in attending and for further details please first contact

Andy Nesbit 0215 38676

Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

Rifle Sighting In At Invercargill Pistol Club

With the start of daylight saving the Invercargill pistol Club range will be again available.

To Financial Members for the sighting in of Rifles on Wednesday nights from 5.30 pm finishing 7pm. At the cost of \$10 per person. Ear & Eye protection required

Please Note with the changes to the Law NO Semi Automatics allowed. (Other than .22R)

To use this facility you MUST contact the roistered person in charge **no later** than the previous Sunday night.

2nd February Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

9th February Tom Mead 027 847 1882

23rd February Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206

2nd March Andy Nesbit 0215 38676

9th March Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

23 March Tom Mead 027 847 1882

30th March Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206



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Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654
cell 021 08219528 email nandc43@gmail.com or
43 Bain St Invercargill

Please Note the Red Stag Lodge is on Doc land a hunting permit is
required to have firearms at the site. **Deposits for any bookings to be
Received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.**

. Wapiti Lodge still available over summer due to no takers for Christmas ballot

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