
THE DEERSTALKER

February 2003

NSW Deerstalkers Association

Formed: 7th June 1972

Life Members: Gordon Alford
Bob Penfold
Wayne McPhee

Affiliated To:

Australian Deerstalkers Federation
Game Management Council (Australia) Inc.

Contributions:

The editor and editorial committee reserve
the right to modify any contributions.

All contributions are to be mailed to

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or email: dbir@1earth.net
(Please see inside for contributors notes).

Advertisements:

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NSWDA Members are accepted and printed
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Inside This Edition:

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Cover Photo:

Rusa stags, rutting. Taken in the
Royal National Park, July 2003. 400mm
lens 1/250th sec hand held.

From the Editor

After so many years membership of NSWDA, I am really pleased to be able to make a real contribution to NSWDA, as Editor of this newsletter.

Just by way of a brief introduction, I joined NSWDA in the Glen Innes days, only to see those properties lost when commercial deer farming began. I became a member of the Black Fallow Scheme at its outset, & have enjoyed the wonderful hunting that scheme has provided ever since. Over the years I have gradually learned a bit about Fallow deer & shot a couple of decent trophies. I also served a suspension, through sheer ignorance.

I still do some competitive shooting, am Captain of my hunting club, & am a keen, if too occasional bow hunter. These days I hunt with a video camera most of the time, & occasionally with a still camera. Alas, retirement seems to have made me busier than when I had a real job, but I get along a lot better with my new boss.

As a member of the committee of The Shooters Party, I am in a position to keep members informed (i.e. who is being nasty to us again), so expect some small item in each issue. Unfortunately, some important issues need a quick response, & if you want to be involved in trying to save our sport it is essential to use the internet. Check the Shooters Party & SSAA websites regularly. From The Shooters Party website you can request John Tingle's newsletters e-mailed directly to your mail box.

Since it was announced that I would be taking over as Editor, a number of members have emailed, offered help & sent along articles & information. A big thank you to each & every one. Among them was Bob Penfold, a founding & life member of this association, & one of the most experienced hunters in the world. In this issue is a brief biography, to be followed in later issues by some very practical articles by Bob.

Guide to Contributors.

I hope all of you bush authors & photographers out there are working on your next contribution, because sure as hell, I'm not intending to become a "staff writer"! If at all possible, please submit typed articles & e-mail them.

We are always looking for photos suitable for a front cover, & to illustrate your stories. I can handle photos in virtually any form; prints, negatives, slides or in digital formats on Floppy, CD, 100 Meg Zip disk or via email. Please protect prints you mail in by using some stiff cardboard the size of the envelope, & by writing "PHOTOS PLEASE DON'T FOLD" on the front of the envelope. Return postage will be appreciated if you need them returned. Digital photos illustrating articles can be sent in .jpeg format (maximum quality & about 10 cm X 15 cm; 4" X 6"). For cover shots a .TIFF file in A4 size is best. If you have any control over the dpi, specify at least 180 dpi, & preferably 300 / 400. If you see a suitable shot on the web, or in some digital photo collection, you must have permission to use it before sending it along. No copyright problems please!

Shortly we will all be out scouting for the next season; waiting for the glorious chill of Autumn & the thrill of the chase. Best of luck & keep safe.

Dal Birrell.



COMMITTEE FOR 2001-2002

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**Licence Testing
Co-ordinator:** Greg Haywood

Video Library: Terry Burgess

**All Memberships & General Correspondence to
be posted to:** PO Box 519
PICTON NSW 2571



**1st Meeting
3rd March at 7:30pm
German Austrian Club
Cabramatta**

**2nd Meeting
5th May at 7:30pm
German Austrian Club**

**3rd Meeting
21st July at 10:00am
German Austrian Club**

**4th Meeting
13th October at 7:30pm
German Austrian Club**

**5th Meeting - Christmas Party
Sat 20th November at
10:30am
Peach Tree Inn - Penrith**

Please Note: The N.S.W.D.A. Inc. takes no responsibility for views expressed in "The Deerstalker". All articles submitted are signed by the relevant author. The Editorial Committee does however, take responsibility for views expressed in articles signed by them!





President's Report!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year and hopefully you will get to go on that trip you have planned or just dreamed about for a while.

CLUB NEWS

The club's Christmas Function was held as usual at Penrith with the usual same ever-faithful members and guests showing up.

It doesn't seem to matter what we do there are members who for whatever reason do not come year after year and to be honest "I am getting tired of it". We get members who think nothing of driving all the way from places like Tamworth, Scone, Goulburn, etc, but there are many members who live virtually a stone's throw away from the venue but don't even try to make it.

As there are fewer members attending, the trophy competition has suffered significantly in numbers with nowhere near the normal entries that we usually get.

The number of deer entered in our best deer category was so low I was asked to enter a head I had shot the previous year in the competition. I had bought along the head for display purposes with no intention of entering it, but as there were only two other heads entered I agreed to put it into the competition.

Rightly or wrongly it was meant to save the club humiliation. What is supposed to be the most experienced deer-hunting club in NSW can only muster two entries in the best deer category is a bloody disgrace.

ASme to be entered. But do not worry it won't happen again.

My friend, John Natoli, bought along his fantastic white tail trophy he shot in New Zealand last year solely for the purpose of putting

it on display. But once again the entries were so low that I had to ask John to enter his head in the competition.. This is a real reflection of where the club is heading.

Many of the members who attended were asking "where are all the heads this year?" "What's going on!?"

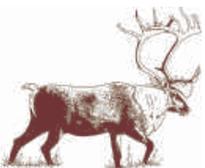
Anyway last year's trophy competition will be the last one we have unless we get more support.

It is being proposed that if we are to keep the trophy format going it will be for display purposes only and members would perhaps get a medal or something similar for displaying their heads. There would not be any judging of any kind.

Some members disagree, some of them agree with this proposal but something has to change, as the entire event appears to be losing its appeal.

At our most recent meeting I spoke of the club hunting trip to New Caledonia for Rusa. I will be returning to hunt again this year and if anyone wants to tag along we can make up a group from the Deerstalkers. If anyone wants to go, contact me for details and costs.

I have been contacted by Peter Clark, one of our real keen members from the Hunter Valley about the possibility of running a junior hunting program for the members of the Deerstalkers. It is envisaged that the course will cover things like basic gun safety, how to set up your camping spot, camp hygiene, how to read a map and compass, camp cooking, basic butchering, how to break up a carcass and just about anything that could be involved in going bush. This is a great offer by the members involved in the planning. Now it's up to you, the general members whether we start this program or not. The members who have



eligible children must support it. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

As every one knows, I will definitely be standing down at the next A.G.M. no matter what happens. This will give the wingers in the Club a chance to stand up and show us how good they are at doing the job that apparently nobody wants. It's easy to sit back in the shadows and fire shots, lets see some of you step up to plate and have a go at running the Club.

Anyway see you at the meeting.

Wayne.

Bowhunters Column

Over the last four issues, "Archery Action" produced by the ABA has run a series of articles on arrow lethality by Dr. Ed Ashby. For those who are not ABA members, here is a summary of his methods & findings. All data was obtained from hunting real live big game animals (read African), with over a hundred kills logged. Dr. Ashby's science is impeccable; his understanding of the principles, his data collection & his interpretations leave nothing to be desired. His findings are no surprize to anyone with an understanding of physics, but will be disappointing to some broadhead makers & to archers who like to shoot light arrows very fast to flatten their trajectories.

To achieve a proper kill, an arrow needs to penetrate as much as possible. Thick skin, heavy muscle, bone, blunt or damaged broadheads & drag on the shaft, all slow the arrow to limit penetration. Multi-bladed broadheads proved much less effective than single bladed. That big blunt core is a problem, along with often flimsy cutting blades. These complex broadheads tend to break up & their penetration is significantly less than the simple single bladed head. Altogether, the cutting done by the single blade is greater (wound diameter X depth). The other good news is that

single blades are cheaper!

Here's what is needed;

1. A heavy arrow of 650 grains is recommended for large animals, & 900 grains for very large ones.

2. A well made single bladed very sharp broadhead.

3. An arrow shaft with a smaller diameter than the ferrule of the broadhead.

4. The most lethal angle is the animal quartering away from the hunter.

5. The least successful angle is with the animal quartering towards the hunter, with the arrow hitting the neck-shoulder junction.

For lighter arrows he lists minimum arrow speeds at the target, to get sufficient momentum (NB therefore the arrow needs to leave the bow with a greater speed than that listed here). None of these lighter combinations is suitable for really larger animals.

A 550 gn arrow (fairly average alloy hunting shaft) 234 ft/sec.

A 450 gn arrow (a light alloy) 285 ft/sec.

A 350 gn arrow (eg a carbon shaft) 367 ft/sec. (Most bows are pushing to achieve the needed arrow speeds with light arrows out at 25 metres).

It happens that low poundage bows can kill successfully, if the hunter uses heavy arrows & is prepared to get closer. Light arrows are certainly a worry, although the reduction in drag achieved by thin carbon shafts can be quite significant. Ashby's latest article suggests a simple formula for evaluating probable performance of arrows on large game, as a way of "reassuring" those who are charged with regulating bow hunting, that sensible regulations can be drawn up. Police Ministers will be looking at cross bows at their next conference, this year, so the pressure's now on.





Secretary's Report!

SECRETARY'S REPORT – JANUARY 2004

Best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year to you and your families.

CLUB CHRISTMAS FUNCTION –

Peach Tree Inn, Saturday 22 November 2003, The Christmas function was not as well attended as in previous years and it is very disappointing as the club provides this free of charge. This is the first year since we introduced the Junior Hunter award that we did not have any entries.

This is a concern as our Juniors are the future of any club and the only way we can gain support to save our sport.

Entries were well down although the quality of the heads on display were outstanding trophies. Members were very active hunting in New Zealand and they were very successful. The trophies were great.

The number of Australian taken entries were well down and even though some members don't enter the competition we usually get a number for display. We must continue to support this annual event and it was unfortunate this year many of our old hands were not in attendance.

WINNERS

AUSTRALIAN ANTLERED GAME

1st – Terry Burgess - Sambar Stag
2nd - Peter Birchall - Fallow Buck

OVERSEAS HORNED – ANTLERED GAME

1ST – Les King - Wapiti Bull
John Natoli - Whitetail Buck
Peter Clark - Wapiti Bull
2nd Shane Coppin - Bow Shot Tahr
3rd - Jason Archer - Bow Shot Chamios

AUSTRALIAN HORNED – TUSKED GAME

1ST - Jason Archer - Goat

WILD LIFE PHOTO

1st - Terry Burgess - Tahr (live)
2nd - Jason Archer - Red Deer (live)
3^{dr} - Shane Coppin - Kia (Bird, live)

CLUB ATTENDANCES

Some members have not complied with the two mandatory attendances required by the regulations for your hunting licence. If you use the NSWDA as the club to cover your genuine reason and



have not attended two of our activities but have attended other approved clubs in the last 12 months, then please advise me, as they qualify, so that I can update our records.

NSW SHOOTING ASSOCIATION – Members Cards

We sent our renewals in at the end of the year and should receive the new members cards in the next couple of weeks to send out with this magazine.

In the event that we don't receive them in time and your licence is up for renewal then please contact me and I will send you a letter confirming your membership.

FIREARMS AMNESTY – 1 October 2003 – 31 March 2004.

There is a Firearms Amnesty coinciding the with Federal Government 's handgun buy back campaign.

This covers illegal firearms and everyone is encouraged to take them to their local police station with "No Questions Asked". They are particularly targeting handguns, however, all firearms including rifles and shotguns can be handed in to police during this Amnesty.

If you have information on illegal firearms, you can contact Crimestoppers

on 1800 333 000

CLUB ARMOURER

John Natoli has agreed to take over the Club Armourers role from Peter Birchall as the regulations required Club Armourers to upgrade their security to the same as a dealer. John can be contacted on 0413851433.

John has a dealers licence and can do transfer from member to non-member which is a bonus for us.

We have started to get some stories for the Club Magazine but we need these on a continuing basis, so please make our Editor, Dal Birrell's job easier. Please read the Editorial in regard to submitting material, particularly photographs.

Enough for now and good hunting for the New Year.

Regards
Greg Haywood

RIFLE FOR SALE

Winchester Model 70 Classic stainless rifle in 375 H&H. Barrel recrowned & magnaported. Action bedded. Comes with 4X Leupold scope in stainless rings. \$1500
Contact Jim Alifesis [NSWDA member] on 02 971 24450 Shooters licence number supplied but withheld.



Video Library

Free hunting videos for members to borrow for one month if picking up video's at a meeting. Members must pay postage by registered mail back to the club in carton supplied. You can phone or write for videos to be posted to you, however the member must pay postage both ways. When returning videos to the club within one-month members must include cost of postage to them in stamps inside the box.

If members are to lend these video's to fellow members, remember that the original person who borrowed them from the club will be held responsible if they are not returned within due time. As these videos are the property of the club, you are expected to look after them. If you loose or damage a video you will have to pay the replacement cost. If you don't return them after 4 weeks you won't get anymore.

To borrow a Video contact:

Terry Burgess

Ph: (02) 9909 1267

P.O. Box 80

Cremorne Junction NSW 2090

Library List

1. Black Death, Cape Buffalo, Lion
2. Capstick, Botswana Safari Buffalo, Lion
3. In the Blood, Capstick, Rhino
4. Zambia Safaris
5. Whitetail, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Late Season Elk
6. Monster Elk, Horns of Plenty, Hunt Exotics 1 & 2
7. Hunting Bugling Elk, Big Muleys, Caribou
8. North American Big Horn Rams, Greatest Whitetail, Wild Hogs of Texas
9. Col Allison Hunters Home Video, Big Bears, Russian Boar, Whitetail
10. North American Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
11. Great Trophy Bucks Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
12. Wild Boar Pig Hunting Down Under Part 1
13. Hunting Sheep, Goat & Moose in B.C.
14. Big Rams Brooks Range, Big Horn Rams, Mouflon
15. The Bow Hunter, Whitetail Deer
16. Big Rams, North American Big Horn Sheep, Mouflon Sheep
17. North American Big Horn Sheep, Big Rams Mixed Bag
18. Mouflon, Bow Hunting Elk, Whitetail, Mule Deer etc.
19. Challenge of the Mountain Monarchs, Thars, Mouflon Sheep, Red Deer in Qld



20. Pig Hunting in Qld, Wild Goat in Qld, Mouflon
21. Pig Hunting in Qld, Red Deer in Qld
22. Hunting in Spain, Pig Hunt in Tunisia, Red Deer in Scotland
23. Hunting Fallow in Scotland, Red in Scotland, Kiwi Hunts North West Territories
24. The Wildlife Bow Hunter, Deer, Pigs, Foxes, Mountain Hunting NZ, O'Rourke's Deer, Chamois, Thar
25. Mountain Hunting N.Z., Deer, Thar, Chamois, Red, Sika, Bow Hunter
26. N.Z. Hunting, Sambar in Victoria, Red Deer in France
27. Hunting N.Z. Red Deer, O'Rourke's N.Z., Chamois in Europe
28. Bowhunting Red Deer in N.Z., Bugling Red Deer Rifle
29. Fox Shooting at its best-Volume 3 & 4
30. The Ultimate Whitetail Hunt
31. Sambar Hunting, Mountain Hunt N.Z., Thar in N.Z.
32. Caping Demo by NSWDA
33. Roar Red Stags, Shadows in Scrub, Great Trophy Bucks
34. Hunting the Elusive Wild Dog, Hunt to outsmart Wild Dogs
35. Dark Continent
36. Red in Qld, Dingo, Fox, Fallow, Hog etc., Sika N.Z., Cape for Trophy Mount
37. How to cape for a Trophy Mount, Shoot the Bull, Hunting QLD Red Deer, Deer Attack
38. Hunting African Lion, Hunting Cape Buffalo
39. Big Horn Rams, Nth American Mixed Bag
40. Shadows in Scrub, Red Deer - Clark McGhie
41. Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
42. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sportsmans Paradise, Pigs, Barramundi, Tusk Versus Tooth, Pig Hunting with Dogs
43. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Hog Deer in Victoria
44. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
45. Dogs, Guns & Grunters, Tusk Versus Tooth, Lifes a Boar NZ
46. "How To Load From A Disk" Ballistic CD-Rom
47. Huge Hogs of Aust. North Part 1 & 2
48. Sambar Safari Vol 1, SHIKARI
49. Venison Hunters, Hunting Northern Cape, Hunting NZ Southern Alps.
50. Hunting the Zambeze Delta, Trophy Seekers, Trophy Seekers Shadows End
51. NZ Hunting, Hunting Safaris Vol 1 & 2, Rusa Hunting



A Hunting Life; A Profile of Bob Penfold

Bob is a life member & founder of NSWDA. Younger members of NSWDA may not know much of him as he has for many years concentrated on his own professional hunting business. Bob has been a friend since the early days of the Glen Innes scheme. It was he in fact who provided my first instruction in stalking Fallow. I recently asked him if he would write something for the magazine, & in typical style I had an article by return e-mail, & others shortly afterwards. I have never met anyone mentally or physically tougher than Bob, or anyone who has so much hunting experience. Some of this experience, I hope to be able to pass on to members in this & coming issues. I apologize if there are any errors caused by my editing of Bob's original material. Editor.

Bob was born in Newcastle, 100 miles north of Sydney. He started fishing when old enough to hold a fishing line & started spear fishing when 11 years old, continuing with that sport until recent years.

He started a spearfishing club to attract and train young divers in safety procedures, which undoubtedly saved the lives of many young divers. Bob became a motor body repairer at age 15 & opened his own motor body repair shop at 20. That was the same year that he married Kay. They have two beautiful daughters, who are now married, with three grandsons so far.

He became a TV cameraman in 1973 and made news and documentaries for some years part time. He became a "gun writer" in 1975, writing hunting, shooting and technical articles for Australian, American and European gun magazines. He helped set up SSAA Newcastle branch & its range complex. He began rabbit shooting at age 23 on his wife's family dairy property, & learned that "Technique is everything" in good accurate shooting. Bob soon moved on to hunt

kangaroos, pigs, goats and deer, beginning a passion for hunting big deer, which endures to this day.

He learned to hunt the high mountains of New Zealand, & at a local film night, saw a Winchester film, "African Winchester Guide Hunts North America" which got him hooked on big game & big guns & changed his life forever. At age 28, he began to shoot Northern Territory buffalo for human consumption, taking around 160 bulls each week & loved it. That experience provided some close encounters & invaluable training on how to stay alive, but to get the job done with dangerous big game.

In 1973 Bob became first explored the Bensbach River area in remote New Guinea, with its floodplains, immense herds of Rusa deer & spectacular fishing.

In 1978 Bob went to Alaska & fell in love with the place and its people, returning to hunt 8 more times & eventually collecting one of every Alaskan trophy species. He loves the mountains, the game and the challenge that Alaska offers. He also hunted British Columbia and Montana, & during those hunts, was asked by other hunters if he could put them in touch with a guide in Australia. As a direct result, he & his wife Kay set up "Hunt Australia", a South Pacific wide big game guiding service to cater exclusively for international hunters, which began operations in 1980.

He attended his first SCI annual convention in January 1981 & helped to start SCI Australia in 1982.

Their safari business commenced hunting in New Caledonia during the rut in 1984 with great success. Then with operations running simultaneously in Australia, New Zealand and in New Caledonia, they offered every big game species available in the South Pacific, & achieved almost 100% success for each hunter. John Berry, who had started guiding hunters for "Hunt Australia" in New Zealand in the mid 80's joined as partner and manager of "Hunt NZ Safaris" in 1990 and is happily



running all New Zealand operations to this day.

An attempt to expand into Indonesia was abandoned as unworkable, despite the presence of top trophies of Banteng bulls, Muntjac & Bawean deer. Bob has developed & run an "Advanced Practical Shooting School" for his hunters, over many years, in conjunction with his feral game culling operations. A couple of NSWDA members have guided for Bob part time.

In addition to his Alaskan trophies, Bob has taken the 6 main species of North American deer, hunted Sheep, Ibex and deer in Mongolia and Europe, wild Fallow deer in Denmark, Reindeer in Norway and Moose in Sweden, boar and Roe deer in Germany, Austria and Hungary. He became the first South Pacific hunter to take all 4 North American wild sheep with a desert ram in 2000. He has featured in 2 ABC "Big Country" TV programs on hunting.

At 61 years of age, Bob is still hunting, fishing & exploring new territory at every opportunity; as busy as ever despite trying to slow down. He has never hunted Africa, but says "there are still mountains left to climb".
Editor.

From: Malcolm Ambrose
To: Dal Birrell Subject:
Web Sites, GPS & Maps.

The **gun magazines** get a bit expensive but one can always download a few free articles from the yanks.

www.handloadermagazine.com

www.gunsandammomag.com

If any of the lads are into GPS's and maps (and who isn't) www.gpsoz.com.au this guys sells nothing but GPS's and software He has a newsletter and he runs courses on not only how to use your GPS but also courses on software programs. He is usually at all the 4WD shows and he is a really nice helpful bloke

www.ozexplorer.com this site has free shareware and downloads and apparently is the program all other mapping sites are compared with.

www.travelmate.com.au again, a newsletter via e-mail. Have you ever not been sure which is the quickest, shortest way to your favourite hunting spot or even just the quickest way to the pub,———well click on "MAP MAKER" and then TRIP MAP. It will tell you when to turn where, and how far for how long.

www.geocaching.com want to try out your new GPS, get the kids out of the house, get a little exercise and take the wife on a picnic all on the one adventure———well click onto this site, log on and down load the closest geocach and go, go go. This site started up a couple of years ago and now has 68154 active caches in 185 countries. People hide stuff in the bush, give the lats and longs over the net and others try to track the caches down with a GPS. Great fun

[Thanks Malcolm; anyone else wanting to share their finds on the web, please e-mail details to me. Ed.]

NEARLY A TRIFECTA
By Dick Archer

Jason had just shot a young billy for dog's meat with his bow. While he was skinning it out I went after some other billies. I got to within 15 metres of two, which were behind thick scrub. My first shot was through a very small opening in the scrub but forgetting the arrow was a couple of inches below the sights, the arrow deflected into the wild blue yonder.

I climbed higher and there were nannies giving birth. While watching I noticed on the next ridge a menal stag heading in my direction. It eventually came to within 35 metres of me and thinking it was over 40 m I put the peep sight on its back and that's exactly where the arrow went through the hair on its back. The antlers



were about 22 inches wide and 28 inches long. The palms were about 2 inches wide and 18 inches long BUGGER!!

I noticed a pig in a valley below me. It went into a small clearing and lay down in long tussock grass. I climbed down to the clearing and stalked into the tussock. I was standing where the pig should've been with the bow drawn when suddenly the pig sat up beside me. As it ran I flicked an arrow that grazed its ribs and hit an embankment in front of it making the pig run downhill and back towards me. It stopped about 20 metres away, its head and shoulders behind tussock grass. Flicking an arrow into the grass I heard a squeal and it disappeared into a dried up creek scaring 2 young billies out of the creek toward me. I shot the first one through the lungs and it ran 6 or 7 metres and dropped dead.

I skinned the billy out for dog meat then Jason came along, so we then tracked the blood trail to find the pig. Surprisingly, the blood trail led up a very steep incline and after about 70 metres we came to a fork in the track and lost the blood trail. I went left and Jason went right for about 20 metres further but no blood to be seen, so returning to the fork we found the pig dead in a tangled vine off to one side of the track. After taking some photos we caped the boar out because it was a coloured, 60 kg boar but had no tusks. I really liked this cape so I will use it on tusks from Cape York.



FIORDLAND WAPITI

By Peter Clark.

Daylight on our 6th day in the George River block of Fiordland found Neil Brown and myself well along the river from camp heading into the area we wanted to hunt for the day. We pulled up on a sandy spit on the river and waited for the first roar or bugle for the morning. We were hoping to hear some bugling from across the river, in the same area as yesterday, but all the noise this morning was coming from the ridge above. We had heard a bugle in a high basin from the Edith ridge yesterday so even though only reds were roaring we decided to head up. The country was the usual rough broken Fiordland country and we made slow progress up the ridge. Neil kept a red going as we climbed the ridge with his bugle but we couldn't work out how he climbed so quickly. We put a stag out of some rough country under a bluff, but didn't get a look at him in the scrub. The stag that had been roaring was going berserk on the top of the bluff but it took us a while to work around and up on to the top. We broke out onto a much clearer ridge and found a good traveling area that the stags had been using. The stag that had been roaring was moving away from us fairly quickly now, as he seemed to have winded us. We found some good wallows and spent most of the

day working through the country in the top of the basin trying to get a bull to bugle.

By late afternoon we were fairly worn out so headed back to camp a bit disappointed. There was a stack of sign in the area but a swirly wind hadn't helped us. Back on the river we made good time back towards base camp. We reached a section that we



had not covered before so decided to wade the river and check out the sign. We immediately found a good travel track through the bush on the edge of the river. We worked along the river until we were opposite camp. There was still a good hour of daylight left, so I decided to push up into a basin drained by a small creek while Neil headed back to camp to cook up a meal.



There was sign everywhere in the wet ground underneath the punga ferns as I pushed up the ridge. The slope leveled off after a couple of hundred metres on the lip of the basin. So I pulled out Neil's elk bugle. My bugle had only just faded away when a moan came back from upriver. Not sure of the exact position of the animal I bugled again. A very angry roar came back from up river. I was in an ideal position with a bluff to my left and a swampy area under the bluff that was reasonably open. Bugling again got an immediate response. The owner of the roar was getting closer and was very cranky from the sound of it. We exchanged

bugles again and I could hear timber being broken as he moved towards me. The stag let out a series of roars from just inside the timber but appeared to be moving past me. I slowly edged right to cut him off before he cut my scent. The bush was really thick and although he wasn't far away I couldn't see a thing. I edged further right to try and cut him off when he barked and I spotted a rump. He crashed away for 20 metres then stopped

and roared again. Right then the reed in the bugle broke so unable to bugle I had to use the tube to roar through.

At my roar he roared back then crashed away. I put caution to the wind and raced after him. Twenty metres on he again turned and roared. Realizing he hadn't worked out what I was, I let out another roar. He immediately roared and crashed away again. So again I chased him. The creek opened out further down so I was hoping to push

him into the creek bed and get a shot. Again the stag propped and roared. I crashed towards him trying to work him left into the creek bed. He crashed out into a thick patch of scrub and I heard him splosh through a swampy area before dropping over a lip into the creek bed. I took a



tumble in the swamp but made the lip to look into the creek fairly quickly. Again I roared. The answer came from down in the creek bed. I edged left and suddenly a laneway opened up in the timber allowing me to see into the creek bed. The stag was standing in amongst the flood debris at the mouth of the creek. I could see he was a big wide head. The stag spotted me as I brought the rifle up and was starting to turn when the bullet caught him in the neck. He dropped to the ground straight away and I heard Brownie yahoo from across the river. He had heard all the noise and had come back down the river to help. The stag had broken cover directly across from Neil but as he had already had a big trophy he held off shooting to allow me a chance. I worked my way through all the flood debris to find I had taken a big 13 pointer well over 40" in spread.

Photo Competition

We need good photographs, suitable for the front cover of the magazine. It might also be possible to occasionally print a page of photos inside the covers, in colour.

If you have any shots of game animals, beautiful hunting scenery, trophies etc, then we would love to receive them. NSWDA is offering a prize for the best submitted during 2004, probably a good folding knife. Otherwise we'll be paying the usual photo usage fees (\$0) for all shots published.

You may submit prints, negatives or digital images. Prints & negatives will be returned promptly. Scanned photos should preferably be in .TIFF or highest quality .jpeg format, at 300 to 400 dpi, A4 size (ie about 8" X 10"; 20 X 30 cm).

Scanned images can be e-mailed to the Editor [dubir@1earth.net] or posted on a CD or 100 Meg Zip disk to P.O. box 96 Bulli 2516.

If you indicate that you would like to enter your photo in the annual photo competition held in conjunction with the Christmas party, I will do this for you, including making an A4 print at no cost,

which will become yours.

We need to be mindful that non-hunters will see our photos, so a little "sanitizing" is in order. Please show respect for game shot by removing arrows, avoiding too much blood etc [although I can digitally remove "blemishes"] & by not sitting on the animal.

Editor.

CHAMOIS DOUBLE

By Jason Archer

Sitting in the tussocks crouched behind a small bush I thought I had blown my big chance. I watched the chamois run down the hill and stop about 120 metres away. The arrow had landed at the chamois' feet, which meant I had shot at the wrong range. A second check with the range finder confirmed the one bush between me and chamois was 30 metres away. The chamois had been 40 metres.

After watching the spooked animals for a little while, two more animals wandered in from my left and then started to feed with the original two. Then about ten minutes later another came in from my right. I couldn't believe it, at one point I was watching 7 animal just 120 metres from me.

I had spotted this area the day before from a vantage point near camp. It was just over a kilometre from camp so I decided instead of racing across the mountain to try and stalk them that day, I would get over there early the next morning and wait for the chamois to feed past on there way to the monkey scrub where they were bedding down for the day.



The plan had worked perfectly until I missed the shot. My only chance now was to wait for them to move over the edge of the tussock to the monkey scrub so I could try another stalk.

It took about an hour before the last animal had made its way over the edge before I could make a move. I stalk down, and as I approached the edge I nocked an arrow, sensing I was close. The first edge dropped of about 20 metres, and then there was another drop off to the scrub. Making it to the edge I search the bush for signs of life, but to no avail.

Thinking it was all over, I took the arrow off the string, and as I was putting it back in the quiver 2 chamois jumped up just 20 metres from me. They ran down hill then stopped at 70 metres to look back up the mountain at me. This was my big chance. Steady aim, good release and the arrow was on its way.

I couldn't believe my eye when the arrow connected and the chamois took off over a small ridge and out of sight. Thoughts raced through my mind. Where did I hit it? How far did it run? Will I find it in the thick monkey scrub?

Before I had I chance to take a breath another 2 chamois jumped up 30 metres from me, to the left. This time they ran around through a small gully and stopped 50 metres away. I picked out the one that gave the best angle and released another arrow. This time he made it only 5 metres before collapsing back into the bush. I knew I had one, a dream come true.

The second chamois stopped just 70 metres away so I took a couple of photos before I climbed

through the scrub to retrieve my first chamois buck.

After a few self timed photos I climbed down to look for the first one I hit. A short blood trail led me straight to it. A nice nanny. I was over the moon to have found both animals. I then called Shane and Jamie on the two-way and found out Shane had also shot a nice nanny, and Jamie had a close encounter with a bull Thar.

You have got to love these New Zealand mountains!

More hunting stories.

Stories which were submitted, but don't appear in this issue of our newsletter will appear in later editions. Writers please be patient! I get nervous withing left "in the can", The overall size of our newsletter also sets a limit.

Yes, there is a space left below, but there's nothing left which is small enough to fit the space. Please use it to begin writing your next contribution!!

The Following Pages.

I was unfortunately unable to successfully convert pages which follow this one, from "Word" format, into "Pagemaker". For this reason, they don't have page numbers.

Photographs or other graphics which are incorporated (embedded) in "Word" , are not recognised by "Pagemaker".

In future , please submit photographs & other graphics separately from the text.

"Word is a very capable program. So is "Pagemaker". Unfortunately they don't seem to recognise each other's more complex formatting commands.

