

THE DEERSTALKER

May 2004



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NSW Deerstalkers Association

Formed: 7th June 1972

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Bob Penfold
Wayne McPhee

Affiliated To:
Australian Deerstalkers Federation
Game Management Council (Australia)
Inc.

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Cover Photo:

Two blasts from the past. Neil
Brown's 2000, 232 4/8 point Fallow &
Shane Coppin's bow-shot Tahr 2003.
The Tahr story will appear in the next
issue

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FROM THE EDITOR

Due to my imminent departure for Europe & not having all the material to hand for this issue, this edition will be finished after I leave. My thanks go once again to Greg for picking up the pieces.

We are always looking for good photos for the front cover (come on everyone, remember we're awarding a prize for the best one, besides the fun of getting your shot published). Just send me down a print, negative or digital picture file & I'll do the rest.

Of course we're also always on the lookout for hunting stories & articles on any aspect of hunting, shooting, bow hunting, game, management, trophy preparation, scoring etc. Articles need to be typed if at all possible, & sent via email, or clearly printed on good quality paper. Unfortunately poor (feint) printing cannot be read by a scanner, so articles which I cannot easily get into digital form are put on the "when I'm desperate" pile. It takes a lot to make me desperate.

More & more I feel that those who are not using the internet are being marginalised. Council libraries run introductory courses & free email addresses are readily available. For a start, email is the fastest & easiest way to communicate. Search engines like "Google" make finding information on the web easy. And of course the SSAA & The Shooters Party web sites have up to date information on what's happening across Australia. John Tingle's Newsletters are available via email (apply via The Shooters Party web site). When the facts can so easily be checked, it amazes & frustrates me to hear the stupid rumours which go about. Divided we fall.

We get virtually no feed back on this newsletter. If you want to express an opinion, comment on an article, pose a question, then write or email me. I would be delighted to print your opinions.



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 7:30pm
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!



Transport of A and B Firearms

by John Tingle MLC
The Shooters Party

This advice is extracted from a letter to shooters written in March 2002. The situation has not changed. Ed.

I am concerned, because of inquiries I continue to receive, that some firearm owners still do not understand the requirements of the Firearms Act 1996 in regard to transport of firearms.

Suggestions that guns or ammunition have to be carried in a locked box, or that the firearm might have to be “chained up” are quite wrong. You will recall that I have dealt with these ideas several times in my newsletters. But, of course, the newsletters mostly go to members of the Shooters Party; and non-members probably don’t see them.

In a nutshell:

The Firearms Act 1996 makes *no rules about the transport of “A” and “B” category firearms.*

The only comment in the Act about transportation of firearms comes in Sections 56 and 57. Section 56 is about Commercial Transportation of Firearms, which does not apply to members of your club. Section 57 reads:

“Non-commercial transportation of certain firearms

Any person (other than a person who is engaged in the business of transporting goods) who conveys a **prohibited** firearm or a **pistol** must comply with the safety requirements prescribed by the regulations.”

Please note that this applies to “prohibited” firearms or “pistols.” It does **not** apply to Category “A” or “B” firearms, which are what most shooters would be using and transporting. *These categories are not mentioned.*

The Regulation mentioned by Section 57 is

Regulation 101, which reads:

“Non-commercial transportation of prohibited firearms and pistols – prescribed safety requirements.

Again, this Regulation, as it says in its heading, applies **only** to prohibited firearms and pistols. It does

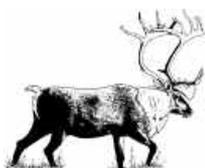
not apply to “A” and “B” Category firearms. In addition, the Blue Book, Secure Storage of Firearms, produced by the Firearms Registry, talks about having to have guns locked up and ammunition carried separately, in a locked container, such as the glove box of a car. **This is not required by the Act.** I have spoken to the Registry about this, and they agree that it is not in the Act, and is not an enforceable requirement, but that they put it in the book as a suggestion. Obviously, a shooter who wanted to make absolutely sure he/she would have no difficulties, might choose to adopt this system. But it’s not mandatory.

The **only** requirement arising from any reading of the Act, is that when an “A” or “B” category firearm is being transported, it should not be loaded. But commonsense suggests that, anyway, and it is only inferred by the sections relating to prohibited firearms and pistols.

I am fully aware that some shooters will argue with what I have put in this letter. People tend to be ready to believe “what they’ve heard” from some great little bush lawyer down at the pub, or anywhere else, rather than believe the facts. What I have given you are the facts, quoted from the Firearms Act, but if people prefer to believe the doomsayers, that’s their prerogative. I hope this clarifies the position.

NSW Firearms Amnesty has been extended to the end of June 2004.

Firearms of all types may be surrendered to the nearest Police station without penalty. Firearms should not be deliberately damaged or disabled before surrender. To do so is now an offence.



West Coast Chamois Hunt, April 2003

By Shane Coppin

As the helicopter lifted off it was good to be in excellent chamois country after a torturous 5-day backpack trip up Hells Canyon around death waterfall and back again, only seeing a few Chamois.

We had finally hit pay dirt, seeing about 6 to 8 chamois from the chopper, and my spirits lifted. After putting camp together it was time to head out for a quick afternoon to familiarize ourselves with the area. Jason & Jamie headed down to- where we spotted the chamois on the way in and I went for a look around the south side.

After finding a good vantage point which to glass, I settled in to what would become a familiar routine, walk, sit, glass, walk, sit, glass. It was on about the second sit that I spotted the first chamois; a nanny and three quarter grown kid.

With the light fading fast, a quick stalk was required. Due to the country being very broken, it wasn't long before I lost track of where the chamois was. Ever so slowly I sneaked and peeked into all the gutters to try to find out where they were hiding. The only thing that gave away their position way was their black heads

above the tussocks. It was too late though; she either saw or heard me, and it didn't take long for her to head over the ridge and out of sight.

As I couldn't see where she went and wanting to see more country before it got too dark, I decided to head to where I last saw them, just hoping she may have settled when I was out of her sight. As I eased over the edge of the ridge, I could make out the sound of moving rocks very close by. Next thing I could see her climbing out from below me on the opposite face.

After coming to full draw I quickly had the 30m pin tight behind her shoulder. As if in slow motion, I could feel myself about to release as the nanny tensed to flee. It was all over in an instant, the tusker spirit broad head cut through thin air right where she had been standing. Thinking positively, I decided that if I could get



one shot I could get more, and I did, shooting frustratingly high and shot low until on day 4 the long sought after trophy finally became a reality. I was in mid stalk when a heavy fog rolled in blocking my view of a chamois, so I decided to sit & have a bite to eat. After an hour the fog lifted enough to reveal the Chamois bedded down about 80 metres away. After a quick stalk I was positioned 34m above the bedded chamois waiting for her to stand and offer a shot. Minutes passed like hours! That's when the mental game comes in to play. Talking to myself as one does in these situations, "stay calm, use the 20m pin, aim low, you can make this shot".

I could tell she was about to stand at any moment, as the fog was all but gone. Then it happened, she stood to have a look around & this time the tusker broad head hit home, exiting through the neck. Because she was quartering away, & the down hill angle of 45 to 50 degrees, I used the 20m pin on this 34m shot. In 5 seconds the chamois had crested

the next gut and was out of sight. Knowing the shot was not through both lungs, I sat to calm down, reliving the shot. Making oneself sit and wait for 10-15 minutes in a situation like that is simply infuriating!! You stand up, sit down, eat something, glass the area you last saw the animal & keep worrying! It was in one of the glassing sessions that I could make out a lot of blood on the tussocks & on seeing that, my legs decided it was time to move and find that chamois.

Upon topping the rise where I last saw her there was nothing to be seen but lots of blood on the ground. A few more steps and there she was, bedded in the tussocks barely alive. A quick finishing shot put an end to her life, & to a very physically and mentally draining hunt.



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



FIORDLAND TROPHY HUNT 2003

By Les King

As the sound of Vern's boat drifted off into the distance we shouldered our packs and picked up the walking track heading up the Glaisnock River. This was my third trip into Wapiti country and this year I had drawn the block I most wanted, the lower Glaisnock. With me was Wayne McPhee and two Kiwis who had drawn the Upper Glaisnock block, who joined us to walk upriver.

We parted company at the Henderson Burn, a couple of hours from the beach. Here we would cross the river to head into our chosen side creek.

Our hopes were lifted when a hybrid bugled from the side of the river. That was all I had wanted to hear, a Wapiti bull bugling in the wild.

We decided to leave him until the way back in 5 days time as energy and time were needed to sidle around a typical Fiordland gorge (*they're everywhere*) that protected the side creek we were to hunt.

After about 6 hours of sweating, swearing and gut busting, we decided to make camp for the night rather than be caught out in unfamiliar country. Next morning we hunted upstream. Upon hitting the main clearing Wayne went left and I to the right. Sneaking through the ferns skirting the clearing, a hybrid hind wandered up out of the creek. I followed her until a Red roar got my attention, so a stalk into the timber was on. Unfortunately a big hind blew my cover and a long 10 pointer made a quick escape. Coming back to the edge of the clearing some strange white patches at the far end of the flats caught my eye. A quick check with the binos showed there were 8 Wapiti females feeding towards the timber, the time was 8.15 a.m. I thought, "how good is this,

there has to be a bull here somewhere".

As luck would have it, no bull was present, which was probably good luck for the bull as Wayne had them covered from the other side of the flats.

After a quick pow-wow we decided to move our fly camp up to the edge of the clearing within easy stalking range. After lunch we had found a nice camp spot and had everything organized for an afternoon ambush. Waiting within a stand of small trees, we were rewarded by a Wapiti cow coming out of the bush onto the flats. Checking behind her with the binos I picked up an unusual looking stick above a gorse bush. Next moment it moved and out stepped the most awesome sight I have seen in 25 years of deer hunting. A mature Wapiti bull, creamy coat, dark mane and chocolate legs, his head adorned by a rack with the throwbacks most typical of the elk breed. As pretty as any picture you would see.

My mind raced, I had to have him. Off I went crawling through the boggy ground that lay between us. The breeze had been perfect the whole time we waited, but half way through my stalk a slight shift had the cow watching the flats with bull in tow. I was sure he hadn't scented me by the way he stopped and gazed after the cow. She was obviously cycling and he wasn't going to lose her.

That night as I lay in my sleeping bag, the bull returned to the clearing sending out the purest of bugles a hunter could ever hope to hear. Sleep eventually came as I felt tired, but mostly satisfied that I hadn't spooked the bull too much that evening.

We were up early but waited for daylight, as



we didn't want to spook any animals close to camp. Sneaking out onto the flats, the bull was at the very end of the clearing, framed by the grandeur of the Fiord land valley walls. He purposely left the clearing before a stalk could be initiated, and followed that same cow. I was more than happy with the hunt so far. We had heard a full-blown Wapiti bugle and twice seen a majestic bull. To actually shoot one would just be a bonus.

For the next 1 & 1/2 days we only caught a glimpse of the bull, as they would come onto the clearing well after dark and leave well before daylight. Apparently this is typical Wapiti nature. Once humans are scented the Wapiti vacate the area.

On the fourth day Wayne and I split up, with me heading up the valley in search of the bull. Coming to a treeless belt running down the valley wall, I searched the area with my binos and found a cow and yearling grazing 2/3rd of the way up. Suddenly the bull emerged from the timber and stood broadside on a rock edge. I attempted to close the distance but his eagle eyesight spotted my movements. I was snookered. I stayed at the edge of the timber knowing I couldn't get any closer and I would have to take the shot from this position. Judging the distance to be 300m and allowing for the steep angle, I fired the shot. Smack!! My bullet hit the rock edge he was standing on. Allowing more for bullet drop, as the distance was obviously greater than I had guessed, I took aim again, and this time had an obvious hit. The bull didn't go down but he moved off awkwardly from being hit.

I quickly headed up to the rock ledge to search for the bull. There were no signs of blood but I knew he was wounded; I moved into the timber and picked up his tracks in the soft earth. Wayne

joined me at the rock ledge after hearing the shots. We both tracked the bull up above the timberline but then lost him in the thick scrubby bush.

We sidled around looking for sign, when Wayne spotted him below us. I shot him in the chest but he ran back below us and it took yet another shot to down this hard earned trophy. We quickly moved to the bull and it was at this stage we realized how big his body was. This was the cause of my range underestimation.

After much backslapping and hand shaking the arduous chore of trophy recovery began. I finally had my Fiord land Trophy and a purer bull I would be hard pressed to find.
Estimated 240 D.S.

Killing Big Game Effectively & Humanely A look at Projectiles. From Bob Penfold's diary.

We recently finished a feral game-culling project where we used 130,000 rounds of ammunition to kill 40,000 donkeys, 10,000 horses, camels etc.

We used this operation to test every imaginable rifle, caliber and bullet brands. As a result of this testing program we found that by dropping the bullet weight by one weight per caliber (180 grain dropped to 165 grain, 165 grain to 150 grains etc) we squeezed the maximum performance qualities out of the Barnes X bullets. We found that the Barnes X bullet was a superior killer in every caliber. Since that time several hunters have advised me that they found that when they reduced the bullet weight per caliber as I



suggested, that they had noticed improved killing performance with the Barnes X bullets.

During 2003 hunting season I took the opportunity to test different bullets against the 375 H&H Barnes X bullets. For thirty five years I have successfully used first Hornady 300 grain round nose soft point bullets and more recently 300 grain Woodleigh round nose soft point bullets in all of my buffalo hunting, both professionally and for my own hunting. Both Hornady and Woodleigh bullets performed well and I never had a failure from the Woodleigh weldcore bullets. However, during 2002, I had a client leave some 375 H&H Barnes X bullets with us. We used them and they seemed to be superior killers of our huge buffs. However, to use them, on just a few animals is not a fair test. We needed to work on getting shot to shot comparisons. During our 2003 guiding season, we managed to get numerous hunters using our rifles to share the supply of Woodleigh round nose and Barnes X supply of bullets. (These were the older uncoated X bullets).

Please note that I have never had any success using solid bullets, or full metal jacket bullets on our buffs. To recommend the use of solid or full metal jacket bullets on buffalo is a hold over from the old African days when there were no reliable custom soft point bullets and a good bloodtrail was considered paramount for following up wounded buffaloes. Good premium round nose, welded core, soft point bullets are always better and more consistent killers than any solid or full metal jacket bullet ever was. I have witnessed several thousand buffalo being shot with every bullet imaginable over the last 35 years.

I advise my clients (and train my professional hunting guides to give the same instructions) that they should make the first shot very carefully and insure that the first shot is the

killing shot, the one that kills the buffalo. Then they should follow up quickly by shooting every round that their gun has into the buffalo, as fast as they can. If they follow my instructions, they never get into trouble following up wounded bulls. The combined impact of these numerous controlled expanding bullets has dramatic results. No buffalo can withstand the energy of multiple quick shots from a big gun. They might manage to run bit, but it is never too far when the hunter gets it right. "It is never any fun following up a wounded buffalo, ever. It takes all of the fun out of buffalo hunting. We try our best for a quick death, & we invariably succeed".

During 2003 we took the opportunity to alternatively shoot multiple buffaloes first with Woodleigh bullets, then the next one with Barnes X. This was a test to ensure that our impression of the superiority of the Barnes X bullets was real. During the testing I and my guides found that there was a considerable difference between effects of the soft point and Barnes X bullets on the buffs. The Barnes X bullets simply anchored them on the spot. Only a couple of bulls ran a few yards before succumbing to the shots, whereas when we used the soft point bullets, more shots were required to get the bulls off their feet and often a follow-up was required. To shoot a single animal with one new bullet is no real test of a bullet's performance. Valid results can only come from observation of a lot of kills. In 2003 we satisfied ourselves that the Barnes X bullet did indeed deliver more killing effect on live buffalo bulls.

We will now be changing over all of our big caliber hunting guns to Barnes X projectiles. My own personal hunting rifle that I use on everything from bull ants to buffaloes is a custom Mauser in 340 Weatherby Magnum. I use, 225 grain Barnes X bullets exclusively. These shoot three shots into less than an inch at 100 yards consistently.



Ed. I asked Bob to write an article on projectiles for big game, based on his own observations. Bob's experience is such that anyone gearing up to hunt really big game should probably do some serious testing of Barnes X projectiles. A few shooters have told me that Barnes X projectiles don't shoot well in their rifles. It may just be that they are more of a problem in small calibres, or in some rifles. The uncoated variety are woefully inaccurate in my own .250 Savage. However, I'm reliably advised that the moly-coated Barnes X shoot well in at least one 6mm rifle that couldn't handle the uncoated ones. Maybe that's a solution we need to test.

