

FRONT SIGHT

SCI
FIRST FOR HUNTERS

Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

April 2009, Issue 6



Picture taken by M. Harter
Namibian Sunset,
taken from highest point
on the property we hunted.

Impressively Beautiful . . .



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Doug Chapin

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK SCI
MID-MICHIGAN CHAPTER MEMBERS
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A
SUCCESSFUL 2008 ALASKA SEASON.
- JEFF & CYNDI



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In This Issue - April 2009

- 2 Chapter Officers and Board Members
- 2 Meeting Schedule
- 3 Message from the President
- 3 Editor's Comments
- 4 Youth Hunter, by Mitch Schumacher
- 5 Veteran Hunt for Buffalo, by Ben Benzing
- 6 Big Buck Night Winners
- 7 Big Buck Night Snapshots
- 8 Estate and/or Tax Planning
- 9 Thank You from an AWLS Student, Annie Schuler
- 10 Gobi Argali Ram, by Roger Card and Rod Merchant
- 13 Hunting Dogs Word Search
- 14 Reno Convention Pictures
- 16 Namibia 2007, by Mary Harter
- 21 Conservation/Government Affairs Committee, by Larry Witte
- 22 Magic of a Michigan Deer Camp, by Robert Mills
- 23 Archery in the Schools
- 30 Looking Ahead

**Next year's Mid-Michigan
SCI Hunter's Convention**
will be held February 26 & 27, 2010
back at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.
Mark your calendars now!

To submit material to the Front Sight:

Write: Mary Harter
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Standing Committees

Chairmen are listed first

Annual Awards Banquet/Fundraiser - Tim Hauck, Don and Mary Harter, Kevin Unger, Bill Brown

Outfitter Donations - Roger Froling, Brad Eldred, Ed Peters

Chapter Trophy Awards - Joanne Witte, Roger Card, Larry Higgins, Art Street, Tim Becker, Larry Witte, Don Harter, Brad Eldred, Mark Marlette, Terry Anderson

Conservation/Government Affairs - Larry Witte, Peter Bucklin

Education/AWLS - Scott Holmes, Dave Gloss

Front Sight Publication - Mary Harter

Membership - Rick Bennett, Ben Benzing

Nominating - Tim Hauck, Don Harter

Programs - Roger Froling, Brad Eldred

Special Events: Big Buck Night - Kevin Unger
Handicapped Youth Hunt - Nan Riley
Veterans' Hunts - Ben Benzing

Shooting Sports - John Ayris

Public Relations - Terry Anderson

If you don't already receive "In The Crosshairs", a SCI communications, and would like to, just e-mail Nelson Freeman at crosshairs@safariclub.org to be placed on the list.

The Front Sight is the official publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International, keeping club members informed about local club activities, and encouraging and defining good sportsmanship. The Front Sight Magazine is published quarterly: January, April, July and October. Distribution 352+.

Check our own www.midmichigansci.org website for copies of the Front Sight, listing of events, and fundraiser auction items.

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Anyone interested in attending the American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, this summer, please call Scott Holmes at 989-560-1949 or Dave Gloss at 989-329-5583.

SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 6, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
May 4, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
June 8, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	TBA

Reservations required. Please call Maxine at 989-773-9042, ext. 119.

Message from your President

Our 30th Annual Hunter's Convention is over. We seated over 500 people for dinner on Saturday night compared to 421 last year. The entire event was a huge success and we have been receiving many positive comments from the people who attended. We worked hard but had a lot of fun in the process. A special "thank you" to everyone who helped. Mark your calendars for next year! The Hunter's Convention dates are February 26 and 27, 2010, back at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.

On another note, our rights as gun owners are being challenged. Many of our members enjoy gun ownership not only for hunting but target shooting, collecting, and display. Quoting Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia who addressed SCI members at the Reno Convention, he said, "Want to help save guns and hunting? Then talk about them, openly and often." Chief Justice Scalia noted that, "if the only thing that is ever said about guns is about guns and crime, people will only make that association. We need people to also make the association that most guns are used by law abiding citizens who hunt or go to the range to shoot. We need to be more open in talking about ethical hunting and the legal use of firearms. After all, 78% of Americans approve of legal hunting."

Turkey season is just around the corner.

Hunt often, hunt safe!

Don Harter

Don Harter, President

Editor's Comments

At our Hunter's Convention, while talking to Ben Benzing, our Veteran hunter whose article is in this issue, I noticed all of his awards on his jacket. He said he usually took them off and put on his SCI pin for our events but just hadn't had time. Among the many awards he was wearing a Purple Heart!! I just had to touch it and was so proud of him I almost teared up. I said I was so glad he wore them and that he should wear them whenever he wanted. We don't know the many sacrifices our Veterans made for us. We need to encourage them to wear their awards proudly and talk about them.

One of my uncles had been Patton's aide for a couple of years and had been awarded several Purple Hearts among many other awards during his life long career first in the Army and then in the Air Force. I didn't know most of this until reading his obituary after he died. If only I had asked to hear some of his stories.

We need to write the many, different stories of our lives. They are interesting reading for others and are the history we leave behind. How many of you have interesting letters and/or stories written by your ancestors and how many of you wish you had? I encourage you to write and when you write of your hunts, please send me a copy.

Happy Writing,

Mary J. Harter

Mary Harter



Don Harter with his Tanzanian Bush Buck

A note to Members:

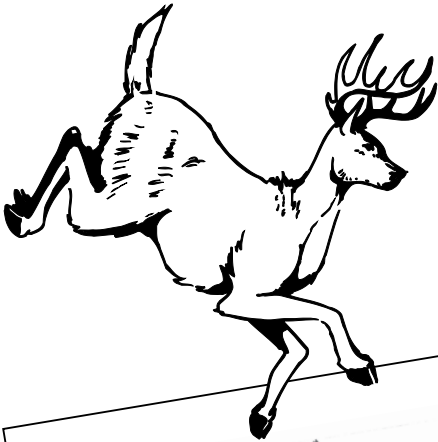
In these challenging economic times it's hard enough to keep pace with our day to day necessities, let alone any extra curricular activities. So, as a group we must strive to make our voices heard to protect the Hunting Heritage we have enjoyed for so long. We need to keep our membership strong. Please encourage friends and family who also enjoy hunting and the out of doors. Invite them to a membership meeting and they too can help in the future of hunting and keeping the legacy of SCI alive. Thank You.

Rick Bennett
Membership Chair



Mary Harter with her Tanzanian Cape Buffalo

Youth Hunter



Mitch Schumacher, Youth Hunter, and his father, Rod Schumacher, September 17, 2008. Mitch's first buck taken at Don Harter's.

It was my 3rd year hunting as I sat there on that foggy morning on September 27, 2008.

At a little after 8:00am a doe & a fawn came walking out of a woods to my right. They weren't there long and then they took off through some pine trees straight ahead.

At about 8:50 another doe walked out of the same woods, only this time there was a buck with it. My guide, Tim Schafer, said it was a nice 6 point that he had seen before.

I didn't think I was going to get a shot at it, because it was headed away from us. But then for some reason it stopped. I aimed the gun and pulled the trigger. BANG! I dropped him right on the spot. He laid there for a couple of seconds, then he jumped up and ran off.

We gave him a couple of minutes and then started tracking him. He tracked him for half an hour and then found him. He turned out to be a seven point.

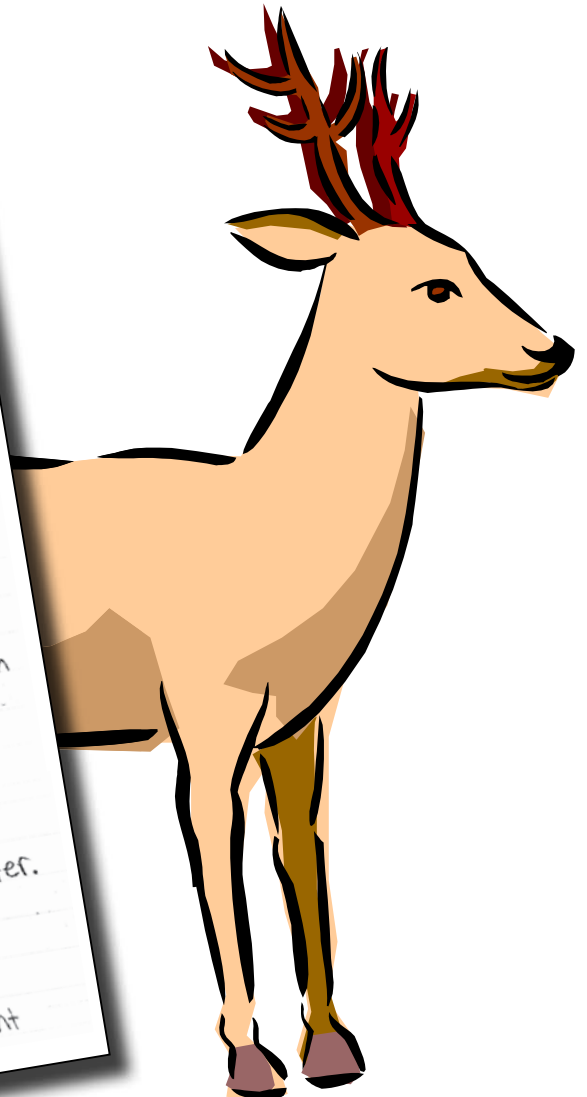
Beside shooting the deer I got to learn what deer camp was like, playing cards, ... watching T.V. & doing dishes.

I was very lucky to be able to go hunting with a great guide and very nice people, Don and Mary Harter.

THANK-YOU

- Mitch Schumacher

13 years old
8th grade Beal City High School Student



Veteran Hunt for Buffalo

by Ben Benzing



Roger Froling congratulating Ben Benzing after harvesting a buffalo.

Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International continues its tradition of recognizing and honoring our nations veterans. Through the generosity and kindness of fellow veteran Roger Froling, owner and CEO of Froling Farms, Purple Heart Recipient of the Vietnam War, Ben Benzing and his wife, Betty, were invited to participate in the harvest of a buffalo from the ranch herd.

Elated with the invitation, Ben and Betty arrived at the Froling Ranch at the predetermined time. The level of excitement steadily increasing as an animal was selected from the herd for harvest. One perfectly placed shot from a custom Remington Model 721 cal. 30.06 using a 165 grain silvertip bullet cleanly dispatched the animal on the spot, thus bringing closure to a chapter in this wanna be big game hunter's life.

A huge heartfelt thanks to Roger Froling and Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI for what they do for our disabled Vets.



The "before" picture



The "after" picture



Betty and Ben Benzing hunting at Froling Farms

Mid-Michigan Chapter's Big Buck Night at the Soaring Eagle Conference Center January 5, 2009



Glenn Belyea receiving the award for the largest Mule Deer.



Youth Hunter winner, Gabbi Utt, with presenter, Kevin Unger



Carmon Ferman accepting her husband's award for the "Biggest Whitetail" taken



Ed Peters describing his 8-Point Buck, largest Whitetail taken with a rifle in Michigan



Bob Kemmerling accepting a 204 Howe Rifle for winner, Tom Anderman



Dave Meyer receiving the award for the largest Estate Whitetail



Tara Lusk and Caroline Wacker selling Gun Raffle tickets



Randy Raymond receiving the award for the largest Out-of-State Whitetail taken with a bow



Marlin 444 drawing winner, lucky Neal French

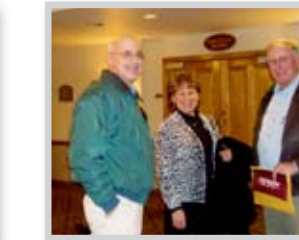
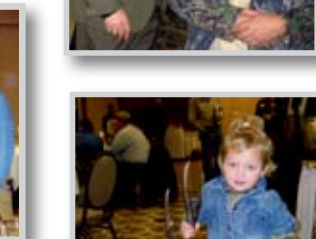


Roger Card and Gale Dawson at his book signing for "A Hunter's Journey"

A few of our measurers



Snapshots of some of the many in attendance



Thinking about Estate and/or Tax Planning?

The Board of Directors for Mid-Michigan SCI have agreed to establish an account with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation (MPACF) which will allow anyone to make a tax deductible donation to the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International Fund. (MMCSCIF)

The Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI is a 501-c-4 organization. This means that donations to our Chapter are not deductible for tax purposes. By establishing this Fund with MPACF it will allow individuals to donate funds to the MMCSCIF and get some very generous tax deductions. It also allows the Board of Directors to access all usable income from the Fund (once it is in excess of \$10,000) and allocate it, as our by laws allow, to qualified organizations we wish to support. This means that everyone, not just members of SCI, have a way to support SCI and get a tax deduction at the same time.

The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation is a public charity that enables people and businesses the opportunity to establish their own charitable Fund or contribute to an existing Fund. Contributions to these Funds are permanently endowed which means these gifts will never be spent. Each year the earnings from investments are used to award grants and scholarships that address the charitable purpose of that specific Fund.

The State of Michigan encourages gifts to permanent endowments of community foundations by allowing a 50% direct Michigan Income Tax Credit or Michigan Single Business Tax Credit subject to a maximum of:

\$100 credit for an individual who is single, or married and filing separately (for a gift of \$200)

\$200 credit for a married couple filing jointly (for a gift of \$400)

\$5,000 or 10% of the tax liability before any credits (whichever is less) for businesses filing Business Income Tax Returns.

Both businesses and individuals can also receive tax benefits on their Federal Tax obligations from a donation to the Fund. The amount allowed is based on whatever individual tax bracket they may be in.

For more information MPACF can be contacted vis 989-773-7322 or e-mail at info@mpacf.org or their website www.mpacf.org or snail mail at 113 W. Broadway, P. O. Box 1283, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-1283.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

The Board of Directors
Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International

Sporting Clays "Fun Event"

at the Isabella County Sportsman's Club

Fundraiser for  **Woodland Hospice**
Morey Bereavement Center
Your Home or Ours
Formerly Hospice of Central Michigan

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Adults \$70
Youth 18 and under \$40
50 targets

Two shoots beginning at
10 a.m. and 12 noon
Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.

For RSVP and more
information please call
Christine Peters at
989-773-6137

A Thank You Letter from one of our AWLS,
American Wilderness Leadership School,
participants, Annie Schuler

October 13, 2008

Dear Mid-Michigan SCI Members,

I am writing to thank you for the meaningful training you provided me with this summer at AWLS. I am so thankful to have experienced the staff, and the many lessons the school provided.

The AWLS experience has impacted my life in many positive ways. Never again will I merely appreciate nature in the shallow manner I did before coming to your school. I now have a deeper respect and truer understanding of nature, a mission to help preserve and conserve what we have on this great earth, and a purpose to pass these beliefs onto my students.

As I returned home from Wyoming, I had a newfound outlook on my purpose of being a teacher. Yes, I know I need to continue pushing my 2nd graders in mathematics, reading and writing, and prep them for the high stakes state mandated test, but now I also understand that I need to teach them the basics of nature as well.

AWLS's instructors were truly some of the best instructors I've encountered throughout my school career. They were easy to connect with and it was obvious they cared about helping myself and others learn the material. The staff and instructors helped to make my experience in Jackson truly unforgettable.

I cannot thank you and your chapter enough for providing me with this meaningful and unforgettable experience.

Sincerely,



Annie Schuler

Gobi Argali Ram Ulaanbaatar - Mongolia

August 2008

by Roger Card and Rod Merchant

Everyone has heard the expression, "When you are given lemons, make lemonade". It seems this hunting adventure gave me an extraordinary amount of both lemons and lemonade, before I even put on my hunting boots.

When I booked the hunt, in 2007, I had no idea we would have to lay over in Beijing, China, exactly in the middle of the 2008 Olympics. The airlines were sold out for months in advance. Any available ticket was selling for five to six times the normal rate. Thank goodness for dedicated travel agents. (Let me take a minute to plug Brenda Helman of Uptown Travel, 989-773-3446, as she is the best travel agent ever!) With Brenda's tenacity we found two tickets to Seoul, Korea, which is one of my favorite cities. After a couple of days there, we flew into Xian China. Xian happens to be the oldest city in China, home of the Terra Cotta Soldiers. It was on our list of places that Rod and I had always wanted to visit so it was like, "Please do not throw me in the Brian Patch!" The city is surrounded by an ancient wall. The 30,000 clay soldiers were one of the most amazing sights I have ever seen. National Geographic called them, "The 8th Wonder of the World", and they certainly deserve that honor.

After three days in Xian, we were able to attend several Olympic events and the closing ceremonies of the Olympics, before making connections for the last leg of our journey, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It seemed the more



The beautiful Gobi Desert

the airlines said, "No you can't do that", the better this trip became.

We left for Mongolia ten days earlier than would have been necessary to just do the sheep hunt, but our little odyssey now included revisiting one of my favorite cities, Seoul, seeing the 8th Wonder of the World (Xian), and of course, attending the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. We had a once in a lifetime adventure - then WE GOT TO GO HUNTING!!

THE HUNT -

Our flight was scheduled to leave Beijing at 6 a.m. so we were up at 3 a.m., grabbed a quick shower and headed to the airport. We reached the terminal in the middle of a huge thunderstorm and were not terribly surprised when our departure was delayed until eleven, then unfortunately



postponed until 8 p.m. that evening. If anyone has any questions about Beijing's new International Airport, feel free to ask. I think I am now an expert as I have seen most of it, at least four or five times. Approximately 14 hours after we thought we were going to leave, we departed for the three hour flight, and arrived in Ulaanbaatar around midnight.

We were met by Battulga, our Mongolian outfitter and guide. Battulga drove us to a hotel where we caught a two hour glorified nap before heading out on an excruciating, ten hour jeep ride, south across the Gobi Desert. The road officially ends about 20 miles outside of town so the balance of the 400 miles is simply driven "south". There are no fences, trails, road signs or markings of any kind. It's kind of like flying a plane; you just chart your course and head in that direction. There really is no way to describe how rough and bone jarring that ride was, so I will just move on.

We found camp about an hour after dark and were thankful to be out of the jeep. We had only taken two short breaks in the ten hour trip.

Camp consisted of three lonely little yurts tucked right in the end of the Gobi Desert, where the foothills start to rise into the Gobi mountains. We stowed our gear and tucked in as quickly as possible as we needed to be up and ready at 4 a.m.

Right on cue at 3:45 a.m. the wake up "knock" came and my first day of hunting began. I splashed a little bit of cold water on my face, received a nice sandwich to go and it was back in the jeep for a two hour ride up into the hills. We got out of the jeep at the base of the mountain and hiked about three miles up to the top, finding a good place to settle in and wait for the sun to come up.

Sunrise brought an absolutely beautiful day with clear skies, no wind and unseasonably warm temperatures. It was obvious this glorious daybreak would not necessarily be the best weather for sheep hunting but everyone was determined to give it our best effort. We were positioned right on the top ridge of the mountain and began glassing all of the valleys and draws on each side.

Battulga said our best chance of spotting sheep was in the first two hours of daylight so we didn't waste a second. We did spot a couple ewes, but no rams. About 9:30 a.m., the mood changed and everyone became more relaxed. Sheep normally bed down by then and our chance of finding a ram that day was practically over. It was agreed we would stay another thirty minutes, then return to the yurt. Trying to find sheep that were bedded down during mid day was a futile effort.

Suddenly, while looking through my spotting scope,



Roger Card with his Gobi Argali Ram

I caught a glimpse of something moving. Three rams were crossing a hill about a mile and a half ahead of us. Everyone smiled and gave a thumbs up as they were sure the rams didn't know we were there. They were not spooked and would bed down on the shady side of the next mountain ridge. The guides carefully found landmarks near the sheep trail and said when we reached the crossing we would find their tracks and walk them down. Darned if it didn't work! The only problem we had was, after a three hour stalk, we actually jumped them instead of finding them bedded down. There was no question which was the "Big Boy". When they exploded about 300 yards in front of us, Battulga yelled, "Shoot! Now!" and I just clobbered a beautiful Gobi Argali Ram that scored 190+. I had to be the happiest sheep hunter in Asia that day.



Fossilized Dinosaur Tracks



Battulga and Roger with a Gobi Argali Ram

We headed back to camp and had a very traditional celebration for a successful hunt. For some reason our celebrations leave us with terrible headaches in the morning!! We went to bed that night still enjoying 75 degree warm Gobi Desert air but around 2 a.m. thunder and lightning began, followed by twelve hours of a torrential downpour. The temperature dropped to around 40 degrees, with wind that had to approach fifty miles per hour. It was absolutely miserable outside, but I didn't care. I had bagged my ram on the first day of a ten day hunt!

The following afternoon the rain cleared but the wind still blew like crazy and the temperature stayed down in the forties. Battulga said there was no doubt this cold front would be a blizzard in the mountains we hunted the previous day. We enjoyed a huge bowl of delicious beef stew, three or four cups of nice coffee and homemade toast with peanut butter, all inside our warm, dry yurt. It was WONDERFUL!!!

We were able to go outside the next day and visited a little valley that Battulga thought was of special interest. He said there were dinosaur tracks and unique fossils and darned if that wasn't exactly what we found. Apparently, millions of years ago, the Gobi was an ocean and as some of the dinosaurs walked the muddy shores, their footprints compressed the soil. Over millions of years they fossilized, turning into stone surrounded by the silt clay soil. I am not an archeologist, but Battulga said they were dinosaur tracks and it was obvious that was precisely what we were looking at. There were also a lot of fossilized shells and fish plus a beautiful petrified forest in the area which made it a unique find in the middle of a barren desert.

The following morning we departed on our return trip. It was another bone jarring, tooth shattering, kidney bruising, ten hour journey but I was returning to civilization with my Gobi ram so it was much easier to take.

Battulga wine and dined us in Ulaanbaatar and we found a couple of nice restaurants for food and drinks. Our five star hotel had impossible Internet and phone connections, no hot water, and sporadic food service, but again, I had my ram and was able to move my departure date ahead a full six days. Going on a successful hunt is fun. Arriving home six days early with a 43 inch Ram is even better!

My final thought on this hunt is from a little interaction I had with Battulga that has stayed with me and I would like to share it with you. After I had taken my ram and we were all crazy with excitement and in full celebration mode, Battulga walked up to me and quietly and gently said, "Roger, the Hunting Gods have blessed us today - that is all." He said this solemnly, with such reverence that it just stuck in my mind. "Yes, Battulga, we should always be thankful when the Hunting Gods smile on us."

ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other as just as fair
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet, knowing how way leads onto way
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence
Two roads diverged in a wood
And I took the one less traveled by
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

Hunting Dogs

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KENHLOLTNTNPOSSSRDEEEOSEDEATSTSRBIIEN
NCEEEUNAEDVNTTEESSEDAECREIRRETTARCD
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ULAEEACRELSHBNERNTNRCSIETEDBNCARENC
ECLWBIEEEEENGLISHCOONHOUNDDGEQTIUA
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American Water Spaniel
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English Cocker Spaniel
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English Setter
German Longhaired Pointer
Gordon Setter
Jack Russell Terrier
Leopard Cur
Norwegian Elkhound
Rat Terrier
Sussex Spaniel
Walker Coonhound
Welsh Springer Spaniel

American Squirrel Dog
Beagle
Black and Tan Coon Hound
Catahoula Cur
Driver
English Foxhound
English Springer Spaniel
German Shorthaired Pointer
Irish Red and White Setter
Jindo
Llewellyn Setter
Pointer
Redbone Coon Hound
Tennessee Treeing Brindle
Weimaraner
Welch Terrier

Until one has loved an animal, part of their soul remains unawakened.

Pictures taken at the Safari Club International Hunters Convention Reno, Nevada, January 21 to 24, 2009



Chapter Members Don Harter, Larry Higgins, and Jeff Chaulk



Trevor McClintic from the Sanctuary posing in front of their display in Reno



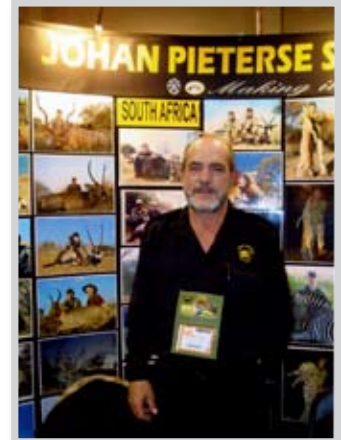
Mike Carlson of Larsen Bay Lodge, Kodiak Island, Alaska, with Mary Harter



Rodolfo from Argentina with Roger Card



Dick Stockmar, Don Harter, Roger Card



Johan Pieterse from South Africa, Don and Mary Harter's PH while hunting in Tanzania in October



Ivan Carter, Craig Boddington's Elephant Expert, with Mary Harter



Donors Herman Coetzee and Anso Thormahlen from South Africa with Don Harter



Don Harter with DuWayne Schuler, Michigan Chapter President and Region 19 Representative



Stamati Laguodis and Human Pieterse of Kulungu Safaris in Tanzania



Roger Froling, Don Harter, and Larry Higgins, Vice Chair of the Trophy Records and Director at Large



Roger Froling and Dave Gloss at Sam Fejes' Booth waiting for a donation



Mary Harter with Jim Shockey's father, Hal Jim, of "Shockey's Hunting Adventures", won the Outstanding North American Professional Hunter of the Year Award



Wednesday night speaker, actor Tom Selleck



Roger Card, Gail Dawson, and Don Harter



Mary Harter with Vicki and Ralph Cianciarulo of the "Hunter's Choice"



Juan Toquero of Toquero Hunting Services in Spain, holding our chapter's January Front Sight where he is on the cover



Bob and Betty Bohn making a purchase



Dr. Terry Braden, North America Sub-Chair of Trophy Records, making a presentation in Reno



Ken Johnson describing his Ultimate Muzzleloader to an audience in Reno



Jack Cassidy with one of the many trophies he sponsored at the Reno SCI Convention this year

Namibia 2007

by Mary Harter

In September of 2007, we traveled to Namibia in Southern Africa to hunt plains game on a 65,000 acre ranch with Nimrod Safaris or African Days Safaris with Pieter Stofberg. With us were Larry and Candy Powell and Ben and Jenn Jones. Traveling for 19 hours from Detroit to D.C. to Johannesburg, SA, we finally landed in Windhoek where Pieter picked us up and took us about 80 miles west to the lodge. We arrived after dark at a beautiful lodge with a thatched roof and a lighted water hole to be entertained by a parade of animals: waterbucks, gemsboks, springboks, and blesboks. The southern sky was filled with stars and we could see the southern cross, the milky way and mars. The southern sky has more stars visible than we do in the north. Don and I met our guide, Etienne Langeveldt and our tracker, Henrich. Larry was guided by Christi and their tracker was Pietras. Ben was guided by Pieter. We had private rooms with our own baths and after a meal prepared by Thomas, our 75 year old cook, we settled in for the night. Thomas was from the Ovambo tribe which comprises about 60% of Namibia's native population.

On the first day we sat in a blind at a water hole until lunch. This was a dry period in the Kalahari and there were watering troughs set up throughout the ranch most with windmills to pump the water. The ranch had been used to raise cattle but changed over several years prior for hunting. The animals were free ranging as a lot of the old fencing was too low and down in a lot of places. Later we watched gemsboks jump the fences several times. Wild animals came to the area for water. While in the blind we saw baboons, guinea fowl, gemsbok, kudu, warthogs, and a mongoose. We ate lunch in the blind and because the wind had shifted,



Larry and Candy Powell with Larry's Steenbok

decided to drive around.

Our transportation was a Toyota pickup with a movable bench seat in the back for us with padding all around to be able to shoot from. They could drive over practically everything and performed well in the dry, dusty climate.

We stopped the pickup and Etienne and Henrich climbed a mountain. When they reached the top, they motioned for us to follow. They had spotted a herd of Hartmann or mountain zebras. We climbed down on the rocky slope and set up to shoot. We picked out a large one and I shot. It stumbled; I shot again and it went down. Meanwhile, Don had picked out one and shot: it's down! We walked back to the truck and drove around to the first zebra and wrenched it up into the back of the pickup and then proceeded down through the brush until we finally found Don's. The packers had been called and arrived to help unload my zebra for pictures with Don's. Etienne spent a lot of time setting up for photos after every harvest which we really appreciated when we got home and developed our pictures. Twigs, sticks, grasses, and stones were removed, blood covered up, heads propped up, lighting had to be just right, sky showing in the background, and sometimes the camera shaded. Many times we used the flash. Etienne was an expert at everything. Then the zebras were wrenched into the big farm truck and taken to the ranch across the road from the main lodge where they did all of the slaughtering and had coolers. Most of the animals were immediately taken there to be cooled and properly cared for. Etienne wanted them cooled within an hour of harvest so the hair wouldn't slip on the hides and it didn't. Etienne would sometimes cool the animals with water that he brought with us. The hides and horns were transferred back to our lodge for salting, drying, and further preparations.



Giraffe in Namibia

The rest of the afternoon we drove around searching and finding game but none were the size and mass our guide was looking for. Etienne told Don to shoot a gemsbok for camp meat and it was almost dark before we saw one. Don shot and he and Etienne went after him. I took time to sort my flashlight out of my backpack and we used it to look for blood. When we found blood and followed the correct tracks, Etienne could tell from the splayed track that Don had a good hit on him. Just a little further we found him, wenched him up on the truck and went back to the lodge. The meat was delicious and we ate it several times.

On the second day, we were up early to go out and hunt in the blind. We must have seen over 200 animals before noon. A gemsbok spotted our movement and off they all ran but were back in a half hour. The warthogs would come in with their young and climb right up on the edge of the trough and drink laying there with their little hind legs sticking straight out and their tails straight up. Guinea fowl would come in little flocks. Kudu, hartebeest, and gemsbok would mingle together. Many beautiful birds came for water.

After lunch we climbed a mountain to look for kudu and Etienne spotted a group of black wildebeest and we climbed closer and set up about four times. I was going to shoot but Etienne preferred Don's 300 mag instead of my 30.06 for the shot. When the biggest came out from behind a bush, Don shot. I had my scope on him and could see him arch up in the middle so I knew he was hit. Now the walk down the mountain to find him. He didn't go far and was a trophy with great mass and the bosses almost touching.

On the third day we decided not to sit in the blind. We saw many animals including a jackal. Then we jumped a good kudu. Don and Etienne were out of the truck and running. Don shot him running away as Etienne had earlier explained to us might sometimes be the only shot you could have. The bullet entered the rear and blew up both lungs



Our PH Etienne and Mary Harter with her 56" Kudu



Don Harter with Larry and Candy Powell in front of the beautiful lodge.

and the heart - a Texas heart shot. Tracking was easy as blood was everywhere. His horns measured 58" and was a great trophy. When your PH is excited you know you have a good animal.

Later we found a dead hartebeest that had been killed by a cheetah. On this ranch they try to kill all of the cheetahs they see because they will come to an area and kill a whole herd once they start. Too bad we can't hunt them but we can't bring the trophies back into the United States. They make beautiful trophies and would bring more money to the Namibian economy. Our tracker called them "junk" because they are now of no value to a U.S. hunter.

At lunch time we watched the waterbucks come in to a water hole and a large one was in the herd. Etienne and I went out after him. After a long walk through some very soft sand, I finally got a shot. We went back to get Don and the tracker but when we returned we found where I had hit a branch. We couldn't find any blood and I was sure the shot had been deflected. We tracked him all afternoon trying for another shot. We saw several waterbucks but not the big one. We set up on some gemsboks but didn't shoot. We also saw some



Don Harter and PH Etienne with a 58" Kudu



*Mary Harter with her Water Buck
ranked 9th in SCI*



Don and Mary Harter with their Hartmann Zebras



*Don Harter with his Gemsbok shot on
the last evening of the hunt at over 500 yards*

hartebeest but didn't get a shot. We saw tracks of a female leopard. Finally at dusk we were picked up and taken back to camp. We had walked all afternoon.

On the fourth day we drove around and saw a herd of 50 to 60 eland. We climbed several mountains to scope for game. This area was very dry with drought conditions. There were lots of brush and some large trees along the dry river beds where we drove. Lots of times we made our own roads, with the trackers moving a few rocks and cutting brush. Spring is here and birds are nesting. We saw many herds of young animals so the area is sustaining for the future. In the afternoon we saw more cheetah tracks, lots of kudu, gemsbok, steenbok, impala, honey badgers, eland, and large leopard

tracks.

The local people speak Afrikaans which is a mixture of German and Dutch. Each native tribe has their own language but together they speak Afrikaans which is the national language. Etienne spoke Afrikaans to the trackers, skinner, and other guides.

On the fifth day we drove to a pipe line water hole and saw a few kudu. We drove back to the first water hole and saw gemsbok, kudu, zebras, wart hogs, guinea fowl and then a nice gemsbok came in with some females. I shot. He weaved around for awhile and I could see blood and thought I had double lunged him. Etienne had me shoot him again and then he went down. These African animals are tough. They have to be to live here.

At lunch time we watched the water hole near the lodge. The big water buck finally came out at 3:05 p.m. Five bucks were already out and when he came in they scattered. Etienne had gone into town for gas so we will just have to try and get him tomorrow. Don shot another gemsbok that afternoon for camp meat. Etienne explained they needed to harvest about 500 gemsbok from the large herd. They were trying to shoot any with only one horn because they were no longer trophies or any that limped or were injured in any way.

On the sixth day we got up earlier than usual to sit out in the blind before daylight. We saw many guinea fowl, several kudu, one gemsbok and one eland. After lunch we climbed a mountain on the highest point on the ranch and spotted a nice gemsbok which Don and Etienne went after with the radio guidance of Henrich. They never got him.

On the seventh day, Don and Etienne went out early to look for the large gemsbok again. I stayed back and slept a couple more hours. On their way back to the lodge, Don shot a warthog. The trackers went back for the warthog and Don and Etienne came back for lunch. We all went out in the afternoon and eventually got word on the radio that the trackers had found Don's warthog in about 50 yards. We finished driving a river bed and then went back to the lodge to take pictures of Don with the warthog. After the pictures and on our way back to hunt, we checked near the closest water hole. There is the large water buck we had seen several times and I wanted very badly. He ran a ways and his cows left his side. My gun was in the cab of the pickup. Don's gun was with us because we had used it in the warthog pictures. I grabbed Don's gun and the waterbuck turned broadside and I shot. He went just a few yards and fell. He was the largest ever taken in this camp and ranks 9th in SCI records.

On the eighth day we drove about one hour to another ranch to hunt and Larry and Ben both shot Kalahari springboks. It was a very rocky area.

After lunch we saw a huge kudu jump the fence along the road to another property. Etienne drove in to the owner's house and asked the landowner if we could look for him. He agreed and rode around with us. We never saw the kudu but enjoyed talking with the landowner. He raised goats, chickens, ducks, etc. and had his shepherd out trying to keep a leopard up a tree waiting for a fellow to come to shoot it. We said to call us if his friend didn't come as we were very interested in harvesting a leopard. The leopard had taken an impala up the tree to eat it and when the shepherd spotted him had gone even further up the tree with his kill and was still up there eating it. We never received a call. The farmer whose ranch we had been on that morning had lost a new born calf the previous day to a leopard. It had consumed the whole calf in one meal. Mature leopards weight about 200 pounds and can lift twice their body weight.

On the ninth day we were out very early looking for warthogs, kudu, hartebeest and anything else the bush might present. We went to a new area and saw a natural hot spring where wart hogs had been busy. Fresh leopard tracks were also in the mud. While driving down a river bed we spotted a klipspringer high on the rocks and Don shot. Don was using Etienne's .375 with solid points and you really couldn't tell whether or not it had been hit. Up went the trackers and Don and they found it. The klipspringer was 4 to 5 years old. What a trophy! Only two can be shot per year on this ranch. A little while later down the same river bed we spotted a steenbok and I shot using the .375. I hit his spine and down he went in his tracks. We had seen so many of these little ones but they would run as soon as we saw them. This one was 6 to 7 years old.

In the late afternoon we spotted a nice kudu. Etienne saw him resting in the shade of a large tree as we were stopped before entering through a gate into the next area of the property. The kudu ran into the bush but Etienne got a pretty good look at him and said he was at least 54" and he ended up being 56". We got out of the back of the truck and ran with Etienne towards where the kudu ran into the bush. He was standing broadside behind a bush and I shot him with Etienne's .375. He went down in his tracks. Two of the workers who drag the roads came along and helped load him and we moved him for pictures, loaded him again and took him to the owners ranch house where the large animals are skinned and cooled.

On the tenth day Etienne saw a small female leopard on his way back from town. We went out to look for the smaller animals and a gemsbok. While driving around we saw a baboon with a baby on her back. We saw some gemsboks standing off about 40 yards but they ran over the hill. Etienne stopped the truck and got out and walked to where they



Don Harter with his Klipspringer



Mary Harter with her Eland

had been standing. A newborn gemsbok lay very still on the ground. Only its eyes moved. We did not want to disturb it so we took a few pictures and quietly walked away. The newborn was still wet from birth.

After glassing from the highest mountain we tried to stalk a couple of gemsbok but the wind shifted and off they went. We drove around and finally saw a couple of eland. Etienne said one was a nice bull and off he and I went following his tracks. We tracked him for about an hour and Etienne could see him standing in the brush near the skyline. He set up the shooting sticks and he told me to look for a shape like a termite mound that was the hump on his back. He was facing left and I shot him with the .375 right through the brush. We went up to where he was standing and found blood. Etienne went to get Henrich, the tracker. While Etienne was gone, I tracked the eland by blood right to him. I stayed back about 20 yards from him until Etienne came back and when he yelled for me I said I had found him. Thomas, our cook, came out on the truck with bags for meat and took back some of the eland for us to eat. I think eland is the very best wild game there is.

On the eleventh day we sat at a waterhole looking for a



Ben and Jenn Jones with a Warthog

warthog and then walked around looking at tracks and found some from a large leopard. We thought we would hunt him the next evening. We climbed a mountain of rocks and boulders to look for gemsboks that had come in earlier. We stalked one with an injured hip but couldn't get a shot. We came back later in the afternoon and Henrich climbed the mountain and directed us around to some gemsbok which spooked before we got to them. Further on were about 15 red hartebeest we had seen earlier in the day. Two were bulls. We quietly walked closer and closer and finally could spot them. We worked closer and closer and Etienne pointed out a cow in the brush. Down a dry riverbed to her right lay the biggest bull with his back to us. Etienne set up the shooting sticks. I checked it out and he moved me closer. He said to take my time as this would be the shot of a lifetime. He asked if I were comfortable. I said I could hit him and shot him down one side and out through his heart. He ran almost towards us and we just walked over to him.

On day twelve, our last day of the hunt, we searched for whatever the bush presented. I did spend some time looking for a damara dikdik with our tracker down in an old river bottom. We saw several groups of fresh poop but no damara dikdik. A group will use the same spot every day until they move on to another area. While wandering through this area, Henrich jumped and said, "snake". From his reaction I figured it was a poisonous one and it was. It was only about three feet long and striped. Later when Etienne and Don returned,

Etienne said it probably was a zebra snake, very poisonous with no antidote. That afternoon and evening we returned to the mountain on the highest point on the property. We glassed and glassed for animals and near dark found a good gemsbok. It was a long shot - at least 500 yards but Don tried and hit it two out of four times. Down it went and after quite a ride in the Toyota down the mountain and through a lot of brush, we found it. What a way to end the hunt!!

During the hunt, Ben had taken an impala, warthog, kudu, steenbok, zebra, and a springbok. Jenn who was not going to hunt, took a gemsbok. Larry took a zebra, gemsbok, steenbok, springbok, kudu, and warthog. Don took a kudu, zebra, black wildebeest, klipspringer, gemsbok, and warthog. I took a zebra, gemsbok, waterbuck, steenbok, kudu, eland, and red hartebeest. After ten days of hunting, Ben and Jenn, Larry and Candy took a tour to the coast but Don and I stayed and hunted. They drove by the area where Angelena Jolee and Brad Pitt had their first baby. They bargained in the open air markets, rode the dunes in Rhinos, visited Cape Cross with its huge fur seal population, and rock climbed to view 1500 to 2000 year old cave paintings.

The cover picture of this magazine is a sunset in Namibia from the highest point on the property we hunted.

Languages in Africa

We found it would be very helpful if when hunting in Africa you learned the language spoken by the trackers who usually spot animals first. As they are pointing to an animal and speaking in their native tongue, you can instantly also look for that animal and not be asking your PH, "What did they say?" Just ask when booking a hunt what is the common language.

	SWAHILI	AFRIKAANS
Lion	Simba	Leeu
Leopard	Chui	Luiperd
Hartebeest	Kongoni	Hartebees
Wildebeest	Nyumbu	Wildebees
Impala	Swala	Rooibok
Eland	Pofu	Eland
Zebra	Punda	Sebra
Warthog	Ngiri	Vlakvark
Elephant	Tembo	Olifant
Bushbuck	Mbawala	Bosbok
Reed Buck	Tohe	Rietbok
Hippopotamus	Kiboko	Seekoei
Crocodile	Mamba	Krokodil
Hyena	Fisi	Hyena
Waterbuck	Kuro	Waterbok
Sable	Palahala	Swartwit Pens
Civet	Fungo	Siwet
Duiker	Nsya	Duiker
Kudu	Tandala	Koedoe
Wild Dog	Mbwa and Mito	Wilde Hond
Snake	Mjoka	Slang
Tsetse Fly	Ndorobo	Tsitse Vlieg

CONSERVATION/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By Larry Witte

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) presented the following information at a recent meeting with the Safari Club International-Michigan Involvement Committee (SCI-MIC). Our Mid-Michigan Chapter, as a member of SCI-MIC, coordinates with the DNR regarding various study activities and helps provide funding support for a number of important DNR wildlife research projects.

Activities

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):

The three-year old doe found with CWD in a northern Kent County captive breeding facility was born in that facility. A trace of deer moved into and out of this facility identified 15 other facilities. The DNR has tested over 8800 heads statewide and found no other cases of CWD. It is estimated that over one million dollars have been spent on CWD in Michigan. Surveillance will likely continue for several years.

Baiting Ban:

Implementation of the baiting ban in the Lower Peninsula has resulted in 3 to 4 times the number of tickets written for baiting issues.

Taxidermy Regulations:

The DNR is involved in discussion with the Michigan Taxidermist Association on proposed changes in regulations to assure proper handling and disposal of trophy materials brought into Michigan from CWD areas.

Trapper Education Program:

This educational program is similar to the Hunter Safety Program in that it is intended to help develop an understanding and appreciation for the sport. The Michigan Trapper Association, SCI-MIC, and the SCI Education Committee are providing funding for the Trapper Education Manual.

Feral Hogs:

Feral hogs have been sighted in 62 of Michigan's 80 counties. DNR wants to prevent established populations of hogs because they destroy habitat, can adversely impact wildlife populations, and can contract pseudo rabies, bovine tuberculosis and other diseases that pose a threat to domestic swine. Feral hogs are considered "animals at large" and can be shot in counties OK'd by the County Prosecutor.

Research Projects

Predator/Prey Research Project:

The project is intended to assess the role of predation on whitetail fawns in Menominee County in the U.P. The DNR has collected extensive information on wolf predation on

deer from other projects and will expand to evaluate impacts from bear, coyotes, and possibly bobcats. Does captured at the end of February 2009, will be fitted with vaginal implants which will be used to find the fawns after they are dropped. Ultrasound will be used to check the size of the fetus in captured does. Captured fawns will be fitted with GPS transmitters. The DNR plans to study a sample of at least 300 deer over a 5-year period.

Study Partners: SCI-MIC, SCI Foundation, Michigan Tech, MSU DNR Wildlife Division

Gray Wolf Project:

The gray wolf project was started in 1998. The DNR's winter 2007 study estimated a population of at least 500 wolves present in the U.P. Over 200 wolves have been captured and radio collared providing information on distribution, movement, and pack and territory size. Wolves have also been documented in the Northern Lower Peninsula. As of the winter of 2007 no established packs were documented in the Northern Lower Peninsula.

Study Partners: SCI-MIC, Michigan Tech, DNR Wildlife Division

Bear Management Project:

This project was started in 2004 and has multiple objectives including evaluating new aluminum live traps that are safer and easier to operate, evaluating nuisance bear procedures, training field biologists in the safe handling of bears, public education and relocating orphaned cubs with surrogate sows. In order to have a number of surrogate sows available the DNR has been radio collaring a number of females each year.

In 2007 den checks were conducted on 14 radio-collared sows. Seven U.P. sows were accompanied by 8 cubs and 11 yearlings. Seven Northern Lower Peninsula sows were accompanied by 15 cubs and 2 yearlings. One Northern Lower Peninsula sow was found with 5 cubs. This is a rare event and is the most cubs documented with an individual sow in Michigan.

Study Partners: SCI-MIC, DNR Law Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions

Southern Michigan Black Bear Project:

This is a new study to determine if black bear populations are moving further south in Michigan. Beginning in the summer of 2009, the DNR will trap and outfit 12 bears in southern Michigan during a 2-year period with GPS tracking collars. The collars will be programmed to record where they spend time until denning the following winter. GPS collars equipped with conventional VHF beacons will be recovered from bears once they are in hibernation.

Study Partners: SCI-MIC, University of Wisconsin-Madison, DNR Wildlife Division

MAGIC OF A MICHIGAN DEER CAMP

"Fair Chase, No Bait, Good Food, and Card Games"

by Robert C. Mills, Owner of Pine Hill Club

The "magic" of a Michigan Deer Camp cannot be measured by hunter success. Every hunter in deer camp has the opportunity to shoot the big buck but only a limited number that take to the woods each year succeed in tagging the mighty buck.

The PINE HILL CLUB deer camp, located in Northwest Isabella County, has a track record of success. The Mills Family has owned this camp for 37 years and the camp has always been fair chase hunting. Our hunters have 800 acres of property with food plots, swamps and cattails. Annual success is a testament to the natural habitat of the land.

During the past five years 141 deer have been harvested at the Pine Hill Club, or an average of 28 animals per year. The 2008 season was no exception. Eight bucks were hung on opening evening and additional bucks were added most days of the season. (Only one buck was harvested with a bow.)

The 2008 harvest was 27 deer. Without bait the deer were scattered and most members agreed that the "NO BAIT" rule is a good one as the bucks must move during the day in search of food compared with feeding on a bait pile at night and "holing up" during the day.



Necktie night with Pine Hill Club hunters - note smiles.

As I unlocked the gate at the camp the morning of November 13th, I knew that I was there until the end of season. I had 16 days to hunt and would work hard to fill my buck tags. The excitement and anticipation of the big buck never ends in a deer camp.

All camp members hunt from heated blinds, with windows, and all return annually to the same place they have hunted in previous seasons. Rarely do we have a membership opening and one-half of the members are retired with at least 20 years seniority in the camp. When we have an opening a long-term member usually has a friend willing to join the club. Dues cover everything for the member. All have keys to the camp, food is furnished and no fee is collected for fuel, propane, or repairs.

My wife, Marge, and I have four sons, with two living in Alaska. Both of the Alaskan sons return to camp each year to enjoy the "magic". They are joined by our two sons from Michigan and two grandsons. Seven Mills boys rifle hunt the Pine Hill Club. This year the group accounted for seven deer.

The "magic" begins on opening night with all members present for a catered dinner. Members must wear neckties as the picture shows. Tom and Carol Bierschbach, from



Main cabin at Pine Hill Club

Beal City, have catered the dinner at the camp for over ten years. This home cooked meal consists of chicken, roast beef or pork, mashed potatoes, beans, hot rolls, salad and homemade pies. The "round table" talks before dinner bring more "magic" to the camp, with stories about previous hunts, challenges offered and bets taken regarding the best rifle, scope and ammunition. The "magic" never changes as the same arguments are offered annually.

Following dinner the hunters assemble for the group picture (enclosed). It is always a challenge getting 21 excited hunters together for this picture. Lots of laughter and friendly "jabs" are offered about previous hunts. New guns are passed around and more "magic" contributes to the excitement of opening night in a deer camp.

When the pictures are taken the group prepares their personal lunches for the opening day. Tables are covered with bread, lunchmeat, cookies, fruit, candy bars, etc., and all fill their sacks with what ever they want. All write their names on their bags for easy identification the next



Buck pole at Pine Hill Club - November 15, 2008

is brewed. All hunters are called to a large breakfast by 5:00 a.m. Ham, bacon, eggs, toast, pancakes, and rolls are always ready for the hunters. More "magic" in a deer camp filled with 21 hunters.

Four or five dozen eggs are cooked with four pounds of bacon and endless pancakes. Gallons of coffee are consumed and thermos bottles filled for the hike to the blind. The hunters share "magic" about what they are going to shoot and quickly get equipment prepared for their journey to the woods.

All hunters stay in their blinds for the entire day. At dark the hunters begin to arrive back at camp. Most are in a very jovial mode. Many have shot bucks and are eager to tell about their success. Most deer are left in the woods and small "retrieval" groups assemble to recover the deer. The buck pole becomes the center of laughter, jokes and good-natured ribbing. "/why did you shoot that six pointer?", challenges a member with a large eight pointer. "Self-defense" is usually the reply. All hunters share in the "magic" of the moment and savor their victory if successful.

About 7:00 p.m. the neighbors in the area stop over to see how the camp did on opening day. More stories, bragging rights granted the happy hunters embellish their success. "It was running through the brush at 100 yards", said the successful hunter. These comments always bring laughter and more "magic" moments throughout the camp.

Deer camp is "magic" and the memories last a lifetime.



Buck pole at Pine Hill Club - November 15, 2008

morning. Following the packing of lunches, the card games begin with three or four tables going at a time. The favorite game is euchre with \$1.00 each to the winners and \$1.00 per euchre. This rule has been in effect for 37 years. Deer camps are filled with tradition and change is slow coming.

Early to bed is the motto at the Pine Hill Club. Four cabins house the 21 hunters with each having their own bunk. Hunters are usually in bed by 9:30 p.m. on opening night.

The morning alarm clock rings at 3:30 a.m. and coffee



Mills boys - Bob, Mike, Dave, Joe and Rick in front of the buck pole.

Most members have long track records of success. We say that "seat time is meat time" and the more time you spend in the woods the better your chances are of hanging a buck on the pole. All hunters know this to be true. Luck and proper preparation also are factors in hunter success.

Following dinner of hot stew or crockpot something, the hunters prepare for bed. The "early to bed, early to rise" motto continues at the Pine Hill Club. Most successful hunters want to play cards and retell the moment of the day. Happy card games and good natured joking add more "magic" to the camp. Those hunters with unfilled tags are quick to bed with hopes of scoring on the big buck the following morning. All

hunters share with each other the number of deer sighted, number and size of bucks and times of deer movement.

By 9:00 p.m. a glow of happiness fills the cabin. Memories of past hunts are repeated and the logs burn brightly in the fireplace. By 9:30 p.m. snoring abounds with visions of bigger bucks to be sighted the following day.

Even with all the snoring and laughter, the "magic" of a deer camp continues to provide memories for the future. The second day of deer camp adds more bucks to the pole. With more happy hunters in camp, it is hard not to believe in "magic".




Geoff Quick, Bob Mills and Jim Ward, Jr. prepare to skin deer at camp



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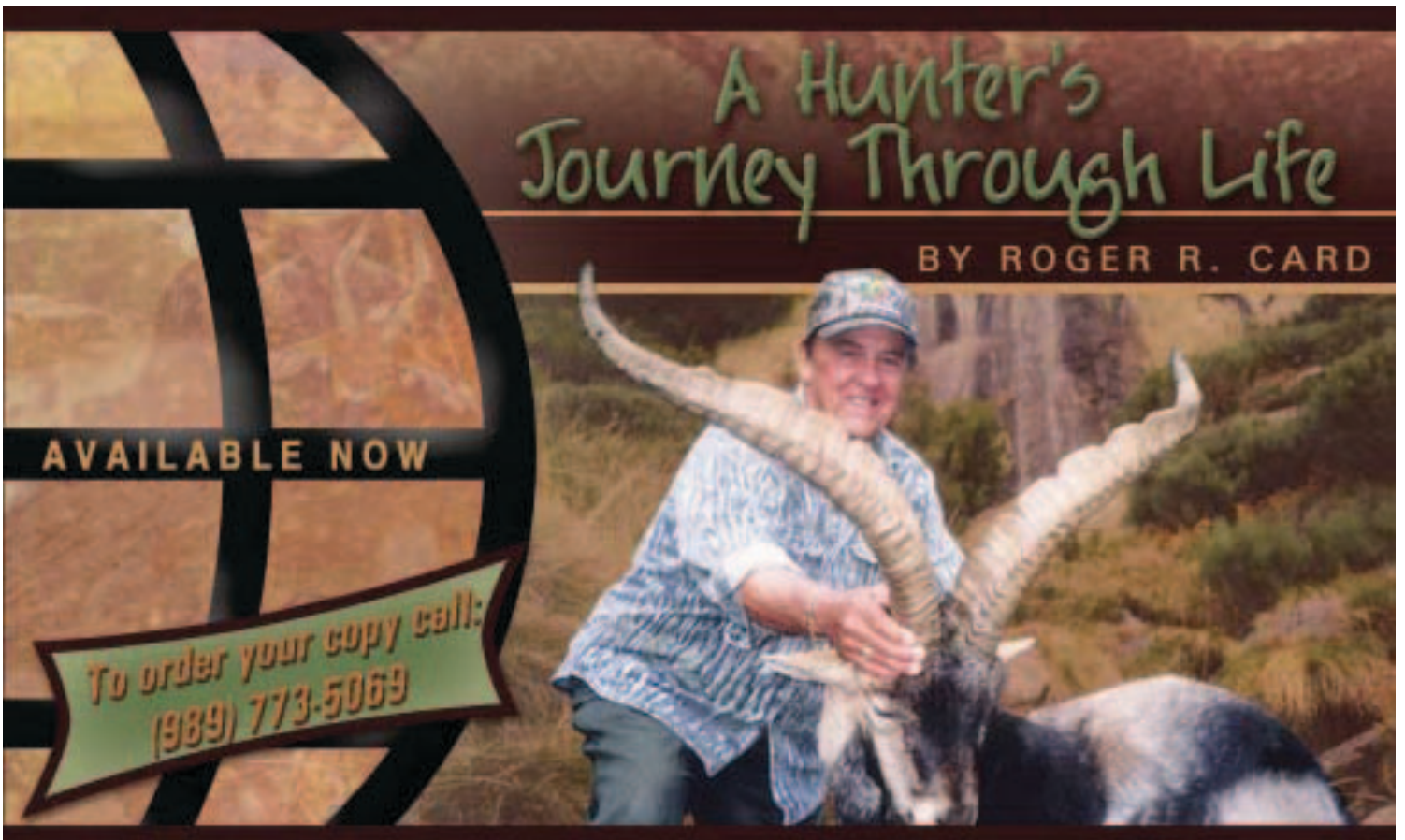
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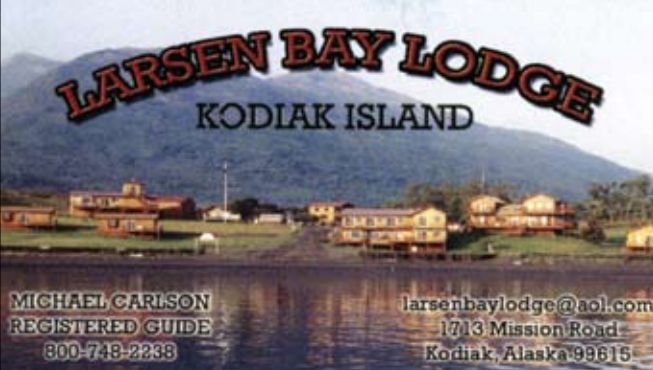
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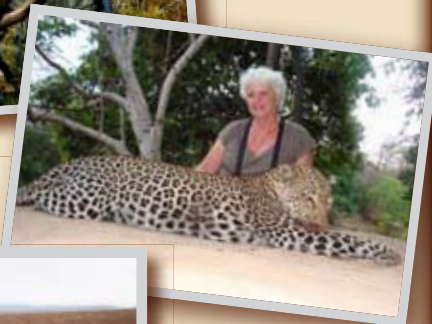
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