

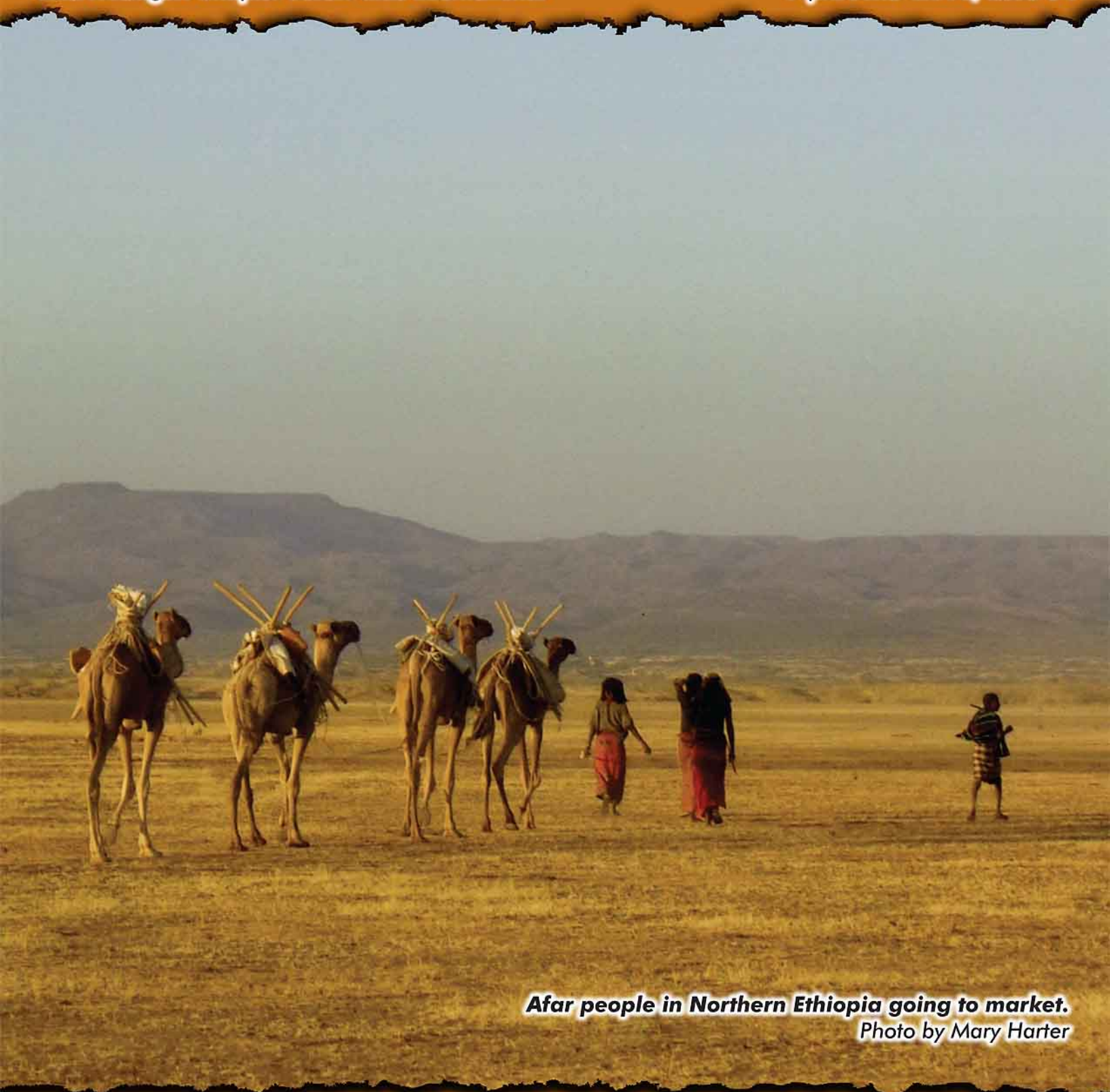
FRONT SIGHT



SCI
FIRST FOR HUNTERS

Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

April-June 2016, Issue 34



Afar people in Northern Ethiopia going to market.
Photo by Mary Harter



JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS



SOUTH AFRICA
ZIMBABWE
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Members of Mid-Michigan SCI or Isabella County Sportsman's Club may use the shooting range located at 2872 W. Millbrook Road just east of Winn Road. The lock combination is 5070 and changes yearly on February 15th. Please carry membership identification on you when you visit the range.



Standing Committees

Chairmen are listed first

Chapter Trophy Awards - Joanne Witte, Larry Witte, Tim Becker, Brad Eldred, Roger Froling, Don Harter, Larry Higgins, Scott Holmes, Joe Mulders, Bill Shelt, Art Street.

Conservation/Govt. Affairs - Larry Witte, Jim Walker

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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 400+.

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

Please support our sponsors! Call or write them for catalogs and information on their products and services. Make sure you tell them you saw their information in **The Front Sight**.

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In order to help us bolster new membership, Jay's Sporting Goods of Clare and Gaylord is generously offering a \$35.00 gift card for every new member to our local chapter. Contact Kevin Chamberlain for more information. National SCI Dues are now only \$35.00 so it has never been so easy to join us.

SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 4	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
May 2	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
August 1	Board/Budget	4:30 p.m.	Harter's
September 5	TBA		
October 3	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
December 5	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn

Reservations required. Please call and leave a message at 989-330-4463 or email Maxine Warner at maxiwar27@gmail.com

President's Message

It is the end of February and I am writing this message the week of our fundraiser, as you can imagine things have been busy, especially the last month. Your board has worked tirelessly to bring this fundraiser to reality and I cannot thank them enough for their efforts. Your board feels very strongly about protecting our rights to hunt and is passionate about our outdoor activities and wildlife conservation. Please thank these volunteers when you see them for their efforts. Things are shaping up to have a great fundraiser! The weather in late February is always a concern, but the snowstorm on Wednesday was much better than if it occurred on Friday.

The beginning of February, many of us attended the National SCI Convention in Las Vegas. What a wonderful experience, it is hard to imagine the size of this convention and the number of vendors unless you attend. Please consider attending next year, you won't regret it.

Best Regards, and introduce another person to the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Mulders

Joe Mulders
President
Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI



Mary Harter pinning on Joe Mulders' Life Membership Pin.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO JOIN US FOR LIFE.

Editor's Message

We had a great time at the SCI Convention in Vegas with many luncheons and dinners. The best part is seeing outfitters and other friends again from all over the world. We walked miles each day and got exhausted but it was worth it. If you saw every booth on the convention floor, you would walk 8.2 miles. We urge everyone to attend.

Now we have all been very busy preparing for our Mid-Michigan SCI Convention. There will be lots of pictures of it in the next issue. Thanks to everyone who helps and donates to this great event. We use our proceeds for hunter education, humanitarian services, and protecting our rights to hunt.

Keep Hunting and
Keep Writing,

Mary J. Harter

Mid - Michigan Chapter Safari Club International • www.midmichigansci.org APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I hereby apply for membership _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

Fill out both mailing addresses as well as email. Please indicate by placing a X in the appropriate box where you would like to receive club correspondence.

If at all possible we would like to utilize your email address for this purpose. ☐ EMAIL ADDRESS

☐ HOME

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

☐ BUSINESS

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

18 +

1 Year

\$ 35 National Dues

\$ 25 Local Dues

= \$ 60

3 Years

\$ 150 National Dues

\$ 75 Local Dues

= \$ 225

Life

\$1500 National Dues

\$300 Local Dues

= \$ 1,800

Over 60

\$1250 National Dues

\$200 Local Dues

= \$ 1,450

Check/Cash attached \$ _____

Bill my credit card: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

NAME ON THE CARD _____

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE _____

SPONSORS NAME _____

DATE OF APPLICATION _____

SPONSORS ADDRESS _____


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Mid-Michigan SCI

P.O. Box 486

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0486

Book Review

by Josh Christensen



Title: AFRICAN GAME TRAILS

Author: Theodore Roosevelt

Publisher: Originally: Scribner,
Most recently: St. Martin's Press

Copyright: Originally: 1910;
Most recently: 1988

List Price: \$28.99

If you were asked who your favorite president is/was would you need to think about it? For me the answer is no I wouldn't. My favorite president is Teddy Roosevelt for multiple reasons; he was a military man, an avid hunter and an overall outdoorsmen. So when I discovered African Game Trails, a book written by Roosevelt after his safari in Africa I figured I should devote some time to reading it, and am I glad I did.

Some may not realize after being our president Teddy Roosevelt, and his son Kermit, took an eleven month safari to the African continent where they worked for the Smithsonian Museum in collecting African species for exhibit. (In other words he got an eleven

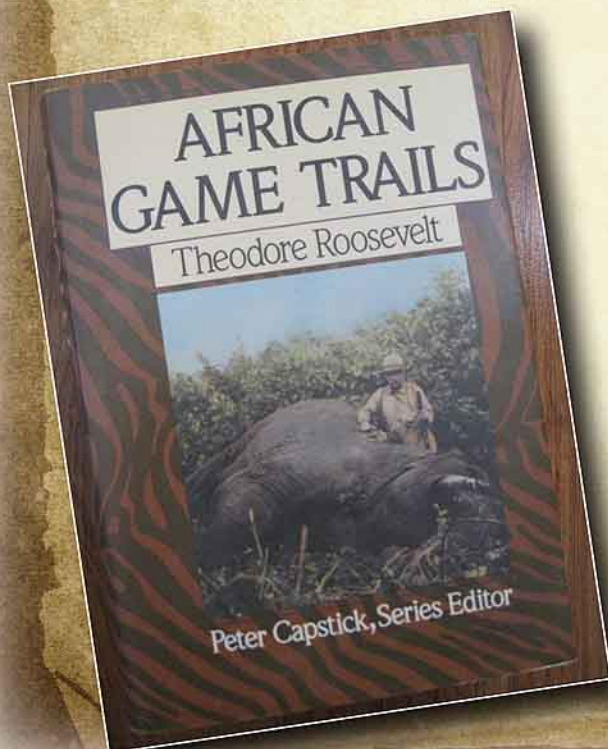
month safari through Africa free of charge!) In all the father/son team collected over 500 animals ranging from the big five to dik-dik.

Throughout the book Roosevelt gives the reader vivid accounts of not only his hunts, but his overall experiences as well. There are many stories of hunting on horseback and several hairy situations with some of the big five. Some of his experiences will leave you scratching your head, while others will make you wish you could have been next to him with a rifle in hand.

On his journey through Africa, Roosevelt travels throughout "British East Africa" and beyond. Finishing his journey traveling northward up the Nile River. Along his eleven month trip he was able to hunt with many natives and tribes. One of these tribes takes him along on a traditional lion hunt where the warriors with nothing but shields and spears are able to kill a full grown male.

This book was written over 100 years ago, which is evident when reading about the technology of the day as well as the vocabulary used and the overall outlook and descriptions of the people Roosevelt comes into contact with.

This was a truly enjoyable read, which I would recommend to anyone interested in Teddy Roosevelt or in how safaris operated in the early 1900's.



This book gets 8 out of 10 bullseyes

Beal City's Big Buck Contest

by Mary Harter



This was the fourth year for a Big Buck Event at Tim's Barbershop in Beal City owned by Tim Martin. It was sponsored by Mid-Michigan SCI, and Dave Connors, local taxidermist and official measurer, was on hand to measure the racks that came in. To participate in the big buck contest, your buck had to be taken legally in the 2015 whitetail hunting season and harvested with a gun, bow, muzzleloader, handgun, or crossbow.



All hunters, both youth and adult, were to register at the barbershop so we could anticipate how many would be present on January 9 for the award ceremony. Several hunters participated. Madison Flaughter (9) pictured on left, received a plaque for her successful hunt. Bill Garrett and Drew Bechtel also had huge racks which among others were measured by Dave Connors.

This will be done again next year. All lucky hunters, be sure to stop by Tim's Barbershop in Beal City and register your buck. We would love to see all of the successful hunters and their trophies. Congratulations to everyone that participated and we wish you good luck for the upcoming season.



Big Buck Nicht Awards

January 22, 2016

Youth Hunters - an award for every participant

Overall Biggest Youth Buck - Billy Clifford

Biggest In State Rifle - Jeff Sackett

Biggest In State Bow - Randy Raymond

Biggest Out of State Rifle - Gary Tilmann

Biggest Out of State Bow - Caleb Gulich

Biggest Estate Buck - Mike Brown

Biggest Youth Estate Buck - Ethen Methner

Biggest In State Muzzleloader - Caleb Gulich

Biggest Out of State Muzzleloader - Tim Torpey

Biggest In State Crossbow - Kristin Smith

Biggest Out of State Mule Deer - Richard Labrenz

Biggest Overall Women's Buck - Kristin Smith

Overall Biggest Buck In State - Randy Raymond

Overall Biggest Buck Out of State - Caleb Gulich

Biggest Non-Member Buck (Free Membership) - Dan Heniler

During this event, Owen Eldred from The Wildlife Gallery demonstrated caping a deer head for mounting purposes.

We auctioned off a deer hunt to Marissa's Deer farm in Clare which was donated by Joe Cooley and purchased by Jim Brown. We had drawings for two different pheasant hunts donated by Chuck Connell at Tails-A-Waggin' Hunting Preserve and Jim Brown won both of them. Of course, when a person buys a large number of tickets it increases his chance to win. We also had a 50/50 raffle and played reverse Bingo.

We also had a drawing for a muzzleloader which was won by Susie Howard. Susie has purchased numerous tickets at many times to win a muzzleloader for her son and finally she won. We want to congratulate her for winning and thank her for her many years of support.



Pictures by Daniel Reinke, Reinke Photography



www.midmichigansci.org



Thank you Measurers

from Joanne Witte,
Awards and Record Book Chairperson

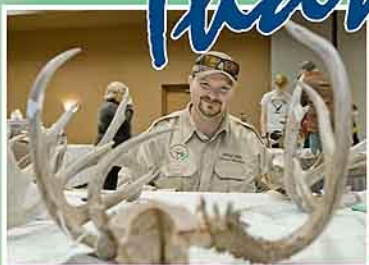
Many thanks to the measurers for Big Buck Night on January 22, 2016 at the Comfort Inn in Mt. Pleasant. Without the measurers Big Buck Night could not happen. The following gave of their time and delayed their enjoyment of the camaraderie and the meal to measure whitetail and mule deer brought in by members and non-members.

Owen Eldred
Tim Torpey
Brian Ames
Travis Wood

Chris Manthei
Nick Guiliani
Jake DeVuyst
Joanne Witte

It is especially fun to watch the youngsters who come to the event. It is obvious they are waiting for the time when they can hunt for the first time or hunt again.

We are no longer mailing paper copies of the cumulative record book to all members. If you would like a paper copy notify Joanne Witte by calling 231-598-9427 or email at witte1939@charter.net. Be sure to include your address in your message.



Thank yous received for our donations from our Sponsors Against Hunger Program



God's Helping Hands of Mecosta County, Inc.

January 8, 2016

To: Sportsmen Against Hunger
SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter
c/o Mike Strobe

From: Randy L. Piatt, Executive Director
Felix Younger, Deputy Director

Re: Substantial Donations to God's Helping Hands

We believe strongly in providing an acknowledgment and a letter of SPECIAL THANKS FOR BEING ON OUR TEAM OF HELPING HANDS and for making 2 substantial donations to God Helping Hands. Therefore, on behalf of management and our family of volunteers, we are expressing our profound thanks to you and Sportsmen Against Hunger for 2 donations: 1) 300 pounds of venison and 2) A gift card worth \$350 dollars to Gordon Food Service. These donations help us to achieve the Mission of our Emergency Food Pantry.

We'd like to take a moment to tell you about the Emergency Food Pantry. In 1979 George Weichman, Ray Simon, and others began a food pantry, known today as God's Helping Hands of Mecosta County. At that time five area churches, various community, civil, and business organizations came together to answer the urgent call to help the poor and needy through emergency food services. The five ministers, and community leaders on the Articles of Incorporation of God's Helping Hands of Mecosta County are 1) Rev. William Zink, 2) Rev. Ray Freeze, 3) Rev. Scott Otis, 4) Rev. Randy L. Piatt, and 5) Rev. Ray Pollatz. In those early years, the Pantry served 4,309 individuals. God's Helping Hands' Year End Summary for 2014 documented that 170,225 meals were served. The Pantry serves a wide geographical area, impacting 26 communities.

c: J.D. Saunders, President
Executive Board of Directors

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www.ick.org

December 31, 2015

SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter
ATTN: Mike Strobe
1100 Bollman Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Mr. Strobe,

Please extend our sincere gratitude to all of the members who participated in the Sportsmen Against Hunger program for the wonderful donation of 350 pounds of meats to our kitchen this year, along with the generous donation of a \$350.00 gift card to Gordon's Food Service. The continued commitment of your group towards helping community members who struggle with hunger is truly inspirational.

Your donation will allow us to continue to provide approximately 100 free hot lunches daily to our community. As a 501c3 organization your entire donation is tax deductible.

Sincerely,

Kim Friedrich
Kim Friedrich
Executive Director

Women's Aid Service, Inc.
Serving Clare, Gratiot and Isabella Counties

Phone (989) 773-0078
Fax (989) 773-9470

PO Box 743
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0743

January 6, 2016

Mike Strobe
SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter
Sportsmen Against Hunger
1100 Bollman Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Mid-Michigan SCI Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Women's Aid Service, Inc., thank you for your support of our organization. Your generosity is important not only to us but the many people we serve. Your donation of 300 lbs. of meat and a \$350.00 Gordon's gift card is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John R. Haycock
John R. Haycock
Executive Director



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Love In the Name of Christ of Clare County (Love INC), was blessed again this year with a very generous donation from the Sportsman Against Hunger program. Love INC has three food pantries associated with their organization. The 300# of meat were divided amongst them. This allows them to give much needed protein to families in need in Clare County.

Along with the meat, we were given a \$350 gift card to Gordon's food. We have a cooking class available to our clients and some of that money will go to supply food for that. The rest will be given to help restock pantries.

Love INC is a Christian non-profit organization who help people with furniture, beds, laundry, food, clothing and other things. We are starting our 7th year of serving people in need in Clare County.

This donation helps our pantries provide better quality, healthier choices, and much needed supplies. We thank everyone who donated meat and the SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter for this wonderful outreach to families in need.

CONSERVATION AFFAIRS



FORMER SCI EXECUTIVE NAMED INTERIM DNR DIRECTOR

Bill Moritz who served as natural resources deputy at the DNR has been appointed interim director of that department. Bill served previously as chief of DNR's Wildlife Division and before that as Executive Director for SCI and SCI Foundation.

Bill earned a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife biology from Iowa State University, a Master's degree from Montana State University and a doctorate from Southern Illinois University.

We congratulate Bill on his new role in serving Michigan's sportsmen and women.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

Michigan ended the year 2015 with four confirmed cases of CWD in Ingham and Clinton counties and one suspected CWD positive deer found in Clinton County.

Since finding the first case of CWD in free ranging white-tailed deer in May 2015 in Meridian Township in Ingham County, nearly 4000 deer have been tested. DNR stresses that this disease is serious and that they will continue surveillance. The Department will consider what additional steps may be needed to be taken for next year's deer hunting seasons.

INCREASED PENALTIES FOR POACHING BIG GAME

New laws for 2016 increase fines and provide license revocation for illegally killing elk, moose, and bear. The penalty for illegally killing an Elk is now \$5000 plus \$250 per point for an animal with 8 to 10 points, or \$500 per point for 11 or more points.

The minimum penalty for a moose is also \$5000 or \$10,000 for an antlered moose plus

By Larry Witte

\$250 per point for an animal with 8 to 10 points, or \$500 per point for 11 or more points. The penalty for illegally killing a Black Bear is now \$3500.

A mandatory 5-year hunting license revocation is required for a first offense. A second offense will result in a 10-year revocation.

New for this year is a fine of \$1000 for the first illegally constructed snare plus \$250 for each additional one. The Michigan Hunting Dog Federation reports that snares with smaller than the required 4 1/2 inch stop have killed dozens of hunting dogs in recent years.

DEAD COUGAR FOUND IN UP'S DICKENSON COUNTY

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers are seeking information on a dead cougar found 4 miles north of Iron Mountain. No information has been provided as to the cause of death of the male cougar found by conservation officers on February 1 in Breitung Township. Cougars are classified as non-game protected species in Michigan.

NO SHOOTING RELATED FATALITIES IN 2015 HUNTING SEASONS

For the second year in a row there were no shooting related fatalities in any of Michigan's hunting seasons in 2015. Twelve incidents in which individuals were injured in 2015 is up from 10 incidents recorded in 2014.

The 12 incidents from more than 715,000 licensed hunters is equivalent to almost one incident per 60,000 hunters.

Seven of the 12 incidents were self-inflicted wounds attributed to careless handling of firearms. Other incidents were caused by failing to identify the target, walking in front of a shooter and hoisting a firearm by a rope attached to a trigger guard.

DNR attributes this relatively safe season to hunter orange and the hunter safety education program.

2016 DNR CONSERVATION OFFICER ACADEMY NO. 7

Twenty-four conservation officer recruits are completing a 22-week training academy that includes 14 weeks of basic police training and 8 weeks of specialized conservation officer training. Following graduation the probationary officers will complete 18 weeks of field training. During their first two years after field training, officers will complete

additional specialized training, including search and rescue and marine, waterfowl, snowmobile and trapping enforcement training.

Conservation Officers are certified police officers with authority to enforce all of Michigan's criminal laws.

Recruit school No. 7 includes 22 men and 2 women. The recruits range in age from 21 to 45. Seven are military veterans and 3 are previous law enforcement officers. They will be a welcome addition to the corps of officers protecting Michigan's natural resources.

2016 LICENSE APPLICATION PERIODS

Spring Turkey: The application period was January 1 to February 1. If you were an unsuccessful applicant you may purchase a leftover license online or from a license agent beginning at 10:10 am on March 8. Any limited quota license remaining at 10:00 am on March 15 may be purchased by any hunter. License for the May 2-31 hunt (Hunt 0234) may be purchased over the counter beginning March 15 through the entire spring turkey season.

Black Bear: Apply for a permit between May 1 and June 1. Consider applying for a point if you do not plan to hunt bear in 2016 but may wish to hunt in a subsequent year. The more points you have the greater your chance of drawing a license.

Michigan Elk: Apply for a license between May 1 and June 1. One hundred elk licenses were issued last year.

Fall Turkey: Apply for a license between July 15 and August 15.

Remember that hunters must purchase a base license (small game license) before they can purchase any hunting license.

THE TRAVELING HUNTER

(Reprinted from The Marcellus News October 29, 2015 from the 80 years ago column.)

Dr. H.D. Rose left Friday for a few weeks' hunting trip in Mexico. Mrs. Rose received a telegram from Dr. Rose a few days later stating, "Trip to Mexico Off. Too Many rebels." No further particulars were given but news items in the dailies state that bandits in Mexico are robbing hunters, taking their guns and ammunition from them and leaving them stranded. Probably Dr. Rose heard of this and decided to remain in the good old U.S. A.

(Joanne's hometown newspaper.)

Hidden Horns Elk Hunt

by Kyler Koch, Age 12

It all started with the Mt. Pleasant SCI Convention when I was sitting at the table with my Grandpa. He said he wanted to buy a hunt and the next one up was from Hidden Horns Game Ranch in Sand Lake, Michigan. At first, it was a buck hunt. My grandpa took me up to visit their booth at the convention and that is where I found out I could choose to hunt an Elk. I was happy and also nervous to shoot such a big animal.



The hunt....we chose a weekend in October after one of my soccer games. My dad and I drove up to Hidden Horns Game Ranch to meet my grandpa and grandma. When we first pulled in I thought the ranch was massive. I saw an Emu when we first pulled in. There was also another animal from Africa with twisty horns. I met the owner, Brent Fisk. We went into the cabin to discuss the hunting plan.



We walked through the field to a hunting stand in the middle of the field. I sat in the blind with my Grandma and the owner. My Grandpa and Dad went walking around the property. I saw lots of big fat pigs. We waited in the blind for about an hour before we got a call from Grandpa. He said that they saw the elk that I was supposed to shoot and it was headed in our direction. We waited and when we didn't see it, we decided to get out to look for the elk.

We were walking and all of a sudden Brent stopped me and showed me where it was. I started to get really nervous because I had never saw horns that big on a live animal in the wild. It felt like I was standing there with the gun on the tripod forever waiting for a good shot. I finally had the sights on the animal's shoulder crease when Brent told me to go ahead and shoot then bang! My ears were ringing, the animal ran and so did we. I got another shot in and we sat and waited. My first shot was in the lungs but we wanted to get a second shot in to play it safe.



Grandpa and Dad came over. The elk was laying down. Brent went up and poked that animal to make sure it was expired. I started shaking and smiling. I was so excited! Everyone congratulated me on my big majestic elk and they took a lot of pictures.

A few weeks later, I got to eat an elk steak that I harvested. We also used the hamburger to make some chilli. I would like to thank my grandparents and Hidden Horns for the experience of hunting an amazing animal. Definitely the hunt of a lifetime so far for me.

MY "LUCK OF THE DRAW"

By: Cal Stearns
Age 11



I never thought that it would happen to me! Cal Stearns, drawing a Michigan black bear tag. Who knew, right? I drew a third hunt tag for a place in the Upper Peninsula called Baraga, Michigan. Luckily, my dad had a friend in Baraga that he was in the Army with that offered to help me hunt a bear.

The day we got to Byran's house, we got right to work and checked all the baits. On the last bait site, we had a hit so we decided we would hunt there that evening. From the sign we saw, the bear hitting that bait was no small animal.

We headed to the ground blind about two o'clock in the afternoon and settled in for the long evening ahead. I was using my dad's .280AI rifle for this hunt. We sat in the blind for a while, then we heard a noise by the bait, then another noise. The birds were feeding on the bait. They startled me for the rest of that evening. Unfortunately, birds were the only thing hitting the bait that hunt.

The next day we were going to a different place where there had been three mature bears coming to the bait every day. Byran was pretty confident that we would see the bears which got me really excited. I was ready to throw lead. I would not hesitate to shoot any legal bear that stepped out. But that evening we did not see a single thing.

By the third day, I was sick of waiting and seeing nothing. Now I was totally ready to shoot a bear. We were in the same spot as the day before.

It was 75 degrees and a full moon, so it was not the best conditions and it was the last day we could hunt before going back to school. So I was really hoping we could see one.

We got in the ground blind and got set up. I looked out the window opening no more than five-minutes into the hunt and there stood not only a bear, but THREE bears! Two were very nice, but one was HUGE! Without moving a muscle, I said, "there's a bear!". Dad thought I was kidding, but when he looked out his eyes were the size of the Earth! It happened so fast we had not loaded the rifle yet, so while I was shaking like sizzling bacon my dad loaded the gun and set it up on shooting sticks. As the biggest one stepped onto the bait, I put the crosshairs on the shoulder and squeezed the trigger. I did not see what happened. I asked "did I hit it?" and my dad said, "yes, you smoked him!" Then I lost all control over my emotions when I heard the death moan. I had butterflies the size of Texas in my stomach. I told my dad I wanted to go recover it, but I was told we had to wait 30 minutes, that lasted only 10. The bear was huge, like two of me. It could have eaten me in one gulp!

After hundreds of photos and high fives, we packed it up and were on our way home. I could not wait to tell mom and the whole family. But before we got too far I had to ask, "Dad, can we put in for another bear tag?"

Veteran's Pheasant Hunt

by Randy Raymond

Once again Mid-Michigan SCI sponsored the Disabled Veterans Hunt. This hunt takes place every year at the Tails a Waggin' Acres Hunting Preserve, usually at the end of September. This year the hunt was a four day event. Chuck and Joan Connell are owners and operators of Tails a Waggin'. The event includes five pheasants per hunter and an all day buffet.

The event is growing every year. This year Michigan Out of Doors was there with a film crew. In The Crosshairs Hunting, an outdoor television productions was also filming.

The weather was excellent for bird hunting on all four days. Lots of help from volunteers from cooking to planting birds and anything needing to be done. There were lots of donations. Teal Saylor, a retired Army Veteran, had donations from a boot factory and was handing out free boots to any veteran that wanted a pair. We as a group, Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI, sponsored over ten veterans on this hunt. Each hunter cost \$70.00. The money for our donations comes from our fundraiser that takes place every year. Our fundraiser is a two day event raising money for many different things from food for the hungry to shooting sports. Lots of great things promoting hunting.

Once again we had some of the best hunting dogs on the planet. Their trainers are unchallenged. Pointers, flushers, dogs from Labs to Setters, this was a real treat to watch, these dogs and

trainers in action.

Lots of birds hit the ground. Some real great shooting was taking place. There was a veteran from every branch of service from World War II to the present day. Some had to use power chairs that were provided. These chairs are awesome. I couldn't believe what they would go through. Everyone had a great time at this event. Stories from Boot Camp to Deer Hunting were told. No one complained about a disability, only laughter and how grateful they were for our sponsorship of this event.

There was a cleaning station provided for all birds taken. There was

lots of help cleaning and bagging birds.

All ammo was provided and if anyone needed a shotgun, Chuck Connell had loaners available.

This was a great event and I was glad to be a part of it. Many thanks to all SCI members and non-members that come to our fundraisers to help promote these events.

Thank you to all our service men and women for their service to this great nation. Remember Freedom isn't Free. God Bless You All.



FRONT SIGHT



The Blue Bag

SCI FOUNDATION SAFARICARE



At the September chapter meeting our president Joe Mulders gave a short presentation on a program being supported by Safari Club International called "The Blue Bag". Joe said it was a simple concept and felt our chapter should make an effort to get involved: When you travel abroad, for any type of hunting, our chapter will have conveniently prepared for you a wonderful blue duffel bag full of school and medical supplies to be donated to a local school and/or medical facility. Also in the bag are some playground toys like frisbees and in our case a good quality soccer ball.

I have been fortunate enough to have hunted many countries with my hunting partner, Roger Card, and we really tried on each trip to do something special for the local villages. This Blue Bag program is the perfect answer. Roger and I delivered our bag in October while on Safari in South Africa and it was graciously accepted by the school principal and her staff. Along with the presentation of the Blue Bag we have a traveling magic show that was a lot of fun. It is free and will only take a little time from your hunt so – Why not take a Blue Bag and make all those people happy? On our chapters website is a lot of great information on the program.

Happy Hunting -
Rod Merchant



Favorite Recipes



JIM' COFFEE CHICKEN

by Jim Walker

Chicken or Game Bird cut up
(remember wings and legs will cook quicker)

1 - 2 tablespoons Oil

Spices

(I use Wally Dust or thyme, sage, or poultry seasoning)

One pot of your favorite coffee

(up to 10 cups) - (I like Folgers Chocolate Silk)

Sprinkle spices liberally on parts, all sides. Brown parts in oil in frying pan. After nicely browned, place in a pan and pour over with coffee. Cover and simmer moderately for 30 minutes. Remove cover, turn parts over and simmer uncovered until liquid becomes thick and parts are done. Enjoy!!

NAPA CABBAGE SALAD

by Joanne Witte

1/2 c. sugar **1/2 c. vinegar**
1 c. oil **3T. soy sauce**
2 pkg. ramen noodles - don't use flavoring packet
1 sm. pkg. slivered almonds
3T. sesame seeds **1/2 c. margarine**
1 head Napa cabbage leaves - break off stock, rinse, and cut up
6 green onions, sliced

Mix together in saucepan: sugar, oil, vinegar, and soy sauce. Bring to a boil to dissolve sugar, then set aside to cool. Melt margarine in skillet and sauté together noodles (broken up), almonds, and sesame seeds until golden brown. Spread on paper towels to cool. Mix together cabbage and green onions with noodle mixture and pour cooled dressing over all. The three parts may be made up ahead and then assembled at serving time.

Makes a very large salad but can easily be cut in half.



SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE SPRINGBOK

Written by Rod Merchant for Roger Card

I am organizing my thoughts for this African hunting story as I sit on the plane, enduring the twenty-plus hours of flight time, heading home. Over the years it seems there has always been a primary reason for choosing one hunt over another and this one had its origin in an unusual but compelling manner. The fact that I only needed a white springbok to move from the Gold to Diamond level in SCI's African Inner Circle of Ringed Horned Animals has bugged me for a long time.

The white springbok is a very plentiful animal in Africa and I have passed on hundreds of them over the years on different safaris. I was beginning to think my days of African hunting were coming to an end when a small request was put forward that kind of got my juices flowing again. My entire hunting collection was donated to Ferris State University when we formed the Card Wildlife Educational Center. The center is gradually changing it's format from having almost all of my trophies on display to forming several small, regional dioramas. They also want to move away from shoulder mounts to full mounts, adding unusual species along with traditional big game animals. Hopefully this will make the dioramas much more interesting. That in itself would not have warranted a trip to Africa, but



combined with my wish to take a white springbok and my overwhelming desire to return to Africa one more time did it. South Africa Here We Come!!

While doing some research, the name "Africa Hunt Lodge" seemed to rise to the top of professional outfitters able to fill my requests. From the very first contact I was totally impressed with the communication efforts of everyone involved. The African Hunt Lodge has been in business in the Limpopo Province of South Africa for forty-five years, so they are certainly not a fly-by-night operation. Jan and Laura Ras started the company, but today much of the day-to-day operation is handled by their son, Ewald. They have also taken a partner, Texas based, Aaron Bulkley. This made for easy communication as Aaron knew the answers to almost everything I requested and, if he did not know, he contacted Ewald or Jan and got back to me the same day. Good communication is a wonderful thing!!

My Hit List: White Springbok, needed for the SCI Diamond Level; full mount impala; full mount warthog with the tail sticking up like an antennae to replace the Wildlife Center's shoulder mounted





ones. Other full mounts for the African Diorama: civet cat, genet cat, vervet monkey, mongoose, and honey badger.

The Africa Hunt Lodge has a wonderful selection of plains game, however the white springbok lives in the "high veld." Ewald had organized a hunt with one of his contacts and the first day we dispatched both the springbok and impala from the list. The next day we traveled to a different hunting area in the "bush veld" and were able to collect a nice warty plus the civet cat. On the third day the genet and honey badger were added to our trophy list so things were moving right along.

At this point in the hunt our list was down to the monkey and mongoose and I have to say I took a lot of good-natured ribbing, going out on our morning game drive the last three days, looking for a trophy mongoose and a large monkey. Between my hunting partner, Rod Merchant, our PH Ewald, the guides, camp staff, the cook and most of the neighbors, the jokes were never ending. We discussed scoring a mongoose, shoulder mount versus full mount, and adding extra points for an exceedingly long tail on a monkey, and on and on. Eventually, the last two

were collected and processed for mounting and shipping to the Wildlife Center.

Rod and I had contracted with Jan and Laura to guide us on a trip through Krueger National Park, after the hunt was finished. It was something both of us had read about for years and wanted to experience. The Krueger Park was as awe inspiring as we had expected and we found out traveling the roads of Krueger is a passion of the Ras's, so our guides were the best ever. Between the two of us we took close to 1000 pictures including all the "Big Five." We got some great shots of huge old tusker elephants with each side approaching or over the magic number of 100 pounds. Krueger is about 300 miles long and 80 miles wide and we were told if you drove all the interior roads available (which we did not) you could only view about 4% of the park.

Anyone having a desire to hunt the plains game of Africa should seriously give this operation a close look. If Ewald does not have what you want on his ranch he will know exactly where to find it elsewhere. The facilities are top notch, the food is five star and everything was handled with the smooth efficiency of a first class organization.

Hunting plains game is a wonderful way to experience Africa and I highly recommend it. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about hunting in South Africa, or more specifically, with the Ras family operation.



To the Michigan Chapter of SCI, Front Sight, and anyone else who would like to read on

My name is Daniel Limberg. I am a total outdoors junkie. It's in my blood, my heart, and my soul. My life revolves around it, in an almost healthy way. I live in Queens NY. I am writing for many reasons. This letter is long overdue.

To start off, I won a donated turkey hunt by member Roger Froling. I was messing around on the SCI auction page, dropping random bids on various items, for several different chapters. I was in awe when I received a "please pay for your item" email. To be perfectly honest, for the most part I knew nothing of the hunt details, or that there were even any turkeys in Michigan. Looking at the season dates, I was considering just paying for the bid, and writing it off as a donation, as it coincided with my state's opener. I looked up this Roger guy online and saw he had some buffalo on a ranch, and a home building business. Nothing about a guide service. Question "who is Roger Froling???" still unanswered. I decided this was just not for me, time is always limited, and this just seemed like a long shot.

Before I could finalize my excuse list and notify Roger, my phone rang and it was him. Before I could even start my declination, Roger spoke and I could feel his enthusiasm. Regardless of how low my bid was he was genuinely excited that I won the auction. He was so confident, so reassuring, and on my level. I felt an immediate bond with that Roger guy



and within minutes, we had an itinerary. We even worked it out that my great friend, and my brother would also be hunting.

The process of flights and licensing began and Roger guided me through it the whole way, regardless of how many mistakes I made or questions I had he was right there to help me along.

The day finally came and we boarded the plane. Tons of questions, fears, hopes, and reservations filled my head. I let Roger know when we landed. We got in our rental and drove to the hotel.

I don't think we finished unpacking our bags, when the front desk informed me that Roger was waiting in the lobby.

"wow, this guy is more eager than we are" I thought... (which doesn't happen often). With just a handshake and a smile, I immediately knew my winning bid was a blessing.

We stopped at his home, met his wonderful wife Sherri and signed some forms. We got out to the field almost immediately. Roger had permanent blinds set up that he got us into. With just a strutter decoy set out, and slight rain, I wasn't feeling very confident, but it was great scenery and I was hunting, so what could be better? After a short sit, I spotted what I considered the biggest turkey to ever walk this earth. He had a group of hens and lesser toms with him. Like a bull elk, he was herding them up and showing his dominance. I immediately took some video footage, no one home could comprehend the mass of this bird and I didn't want to rely on just my memory. He was out there strutting and chasing. Truly an amazing sight for me. I'd only seen things like this on those shows I'm always so jealous of. He stayed out there for about five minutes and I kept waiting for him to disappear into the woods. I let out a gobble call. To my surprise and delight, instead of walking out of that field and my life, he locked sights on that strutter decoy. He recruited his right wing bird, and the two toms made a solid march across the open grass headed straight for me. Strutting, gobbling, and making my heart pound almost out of my chest he covered ground quickly. He passed my decoy on the outside then circled back. Just before he let the decoy have it, he got it. At the report of my Mossberg the heir to the throne newly appointed boss bird flew away back to the group, as now MY bird lay motionless in the tall alfalfa next to the decoy.

I could not believe what had just transpired. Was that real?? Is there a bird in that grass there?? I sent a text to my buddy and my brother, and handfull of other friends. I called Roger right away. He and Sherri were both ecstatic. Roger was picking up supplies but said he'd be over soon as possible. Seemed like forever but eventually the GMC crested the hillside and a very happy Roger got out of the truck smiling from ear to ear. We got right to the bird and our celebration began. After pictures and story telling we went back to his home. I almost fell over when I walked into Roger's trophy room. How could he be excited over my measley turkey when he

had two record Musk Ox on his wall?? I've been to the zoo and dont think I saw so many animals there. Yet, he was genuinely was. I had no idea that this man had traveled the world and hunted everything. He had trophy animals of every kind. Animals I didnt even know existed. He was very humble, and shared memories and success stories. My brother and buddy showed up and we all enjoyed the rest of the evening with fine wine and great food, and alot of laughter.

We spent the next day and a half seeing many more birds and having several close encounters with mature Toms. We hunted some absolutely beautiful properties. We had non stop action, but did not get another bird on the ground.

Our last night we enjoyed a wonderful barbeque at Rogers home. The more we spoke, the more I developed a respect for him and his many accomplishments. He impressed us all with his outlooks on many things and opened our eyes to different aspects of business, but most importantly to life in general. Our last afternoon was spent on a tour of the Buffalo farm and his many deer hunting spots. We did some shooting, and genuinely just had a good time like a bunch of school boys. We nearly missed our flight because time escaped us.

Looking back now, months later, I still smile thinking about that trip. That trip changed me and my brother's lives. It came at a perfect time when we were both in need of a distraction, and a direction. It has opened our eyes and I feel like we are better people for it.

Not getting all of our tags filled was irrelevant. Turkey beards cant compare to what we took home with us. Roger and his wife were so hospitable, so kind, so knowledgeable, and so accommodating we could not have asked for more. That bid was supposed to be a gift to SCI, in the end it was a gift to me.

Ask me now who Roger Froling is, and I will not hesitate to tell you. Roger is a compliment to the SCI, to all hunters in general, and someone I hope to remain friends with. Both he and Sherri are just genuinely magnificent people.

I'm sorry it took me so long to write. More than anything I want to say thank you for making this trip happen.

Thankfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Limberg', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Limberg



MY YOUTH DEER HUNT WITH LOW'S TROPHY WHITETAILS

by Ethen Methner

On October 25, 2015, my Dad and I and Randy were on our way to Low's Trophy Whitetails to hunt with Leon Low for a youth deer hunt. Once we got there we went out to the blind. We went up a big hill that was very slippery and covered with rocks and dirt. We had to wait for Randy and Leon because they were too slow. When we got to the blind we set our stuff in the blind so we could go to the bathroom outside the blind. After that we got into the blind and settled in and watched and waited for the deer to come.

After a few hours, Randy spotted a deer coming in from the left side. It was a buck that Leon named "Goiter". He walked all the way into the clearing and started eating. After a few minutes, a much larger deer came up the hill from the right. It was a buck and it had huge antlers. Everyone in the blind was amazed at the size of this buck's antlers. Leon said that buck was a 200+ deer. The large buck came in and started rubbing his antlers on a branch and making a scrape. At the same time the "Goiter" buck started to do the same. Then the large buck walked towards the blind and started eating some grass and leaves. Leon took some pictures of the 200+ inch buck which it might have heard but it didn't run away. He just stood there like he didn't mind at all. He was showing off his antlers, I think! Then the large buck started walking towards the "Goiter" buck. He looked like he was going to start a fight. His ears were laid back and he was walking slowly towards the other buck. Then he just put his head down and started eating like they were friends with each other.



Ethen Methner ~ 2015

A few minutes later another buck came in from the left. He was a nice eight pointer. Leon said, "Ethen can shoot that buck when he is ready". My Dad said, "Okay". My Dad helped me get my gun ready and he told me, "Take the safety off and shoot when you're ready". Then I said, "Okay, I'm ready to shoot". I took a deep breath, pulled back the trigger and POW!!! I shot the deer in the lungs. He walked off but not out of sight. He stood on the edge of the lane for a few seconds and then he fell over and died! I said, "YES, that was a Lung Shot!!"

We talked for a few minutes in the blind and I was really excited to go get my deer. We got out of the blind to go get my buck. I was in front of everyone walking to my deer. My Dad was able to record the whole hunt for me so I can watch it over and over again. This was my very first deer ever, and my first buck. This was a great opportunity and I was very excited! Thank you to everyone who made this hunt possible. Thank you!!

VETERANS DEER HUNT

by Randy Raymond

Our first hunter was John McLaughlin, a four and a half year veteran from the Marine Corps. This hunt took place at A.J. Wildlife owned by Dr. Alan Bugai. Once again Dr. Bugai gave us a great price on an awesome buck. Helping out on this hunt was Blaine Bailer, a manager at Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare and Mark Newcomb from MM Meats located near Loomis.

John was hunting with a cross bow making the hunt a lot more interesting. John used Dr. Bugai's crossbow making it even more of a challenge because he had never shot this bow before. After a few lessons with the crossbow, John was ready. When the time was right this buck gave John a standing forty yard shot. With one well placed arrow the hunt was almost over. Everyone knows that's when the work begins. Drag the deer to a good spot for field dressing, drag

the deer to a vehicle and load it. This is where Blaine Bailer and Mark Newcomb helped out.

John was very grateful for this hunt. He also donated the meat from his buck to our SCI Sportsman Against Hunger, Mike Strobe from our Humanitarian Services handles this. Mike went to MM Meats and picked up the meat from John's buck and donated the processed meat to different services in our local area.

Our next hunter was Kevin T. McDevitt, hunting at Smokey Tree Preserve, owned by Carrie and Frank Haywood. Another great buck for our veteran at a great price.

This hunt started on a cool fall day, setting in a blind by a clearing with a pond nearby. There was lots to watch while waiting on a deer to show itself. Ducks and geese were flying in and out making the time go by even faster. Soon a deer



appeared out of nowhere, it seemed. He was just behind the blind and then another buck appeared. They just stood frozen forever not wanting to move. Kevin handled this very well waiting for a perfect shot and finally the biggest buck moved forward and Kevin made the shot. This was an awesome buck! This deer had a double main beam on one side of his rack.

Teal Saylor was along on this hunt. He was one of last year's veteran hunters wanting to help anyway he could.

Kendall DeVuyst, the new owner of The Trophy Room Taxidermy located in Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare gave Kevin a special Veterans discount on mounting his buck.

The next hunt was with Mike Brown and Larry Finkeiner. These guys grew up together and served in the Army and went to Vietnam together. Mike Brown was the first to hunt. Leon Low donated this hunt for a 130 to 150 inch buck. Low's Trophy Whitetail Ranch is located near Falmouth. He has a large hunting area with full service.

Mike wanted to upgrade his hunt to a larger buck after seeing a big non-typical. Leon gave him a great discount for this larger deer. Mike's hunt was a two day hunt.

Larry Finkeiner was hunting next after Mike's hunt. Larry wanted to shoot a larger buck but I only had \$1,800 left in my budget. Larry's hunt lasted four days. Leon, Mike, Larry, and myself were in a blind together for all this time. There were lots of stories and lots of deer being seen. Larry wanted to shoot different ones. The bucks were either running chasing does in the thick cover or at a bad angle. Finally on the fourth day, Larry connected on a large buck. Leon Low let him shoot a much larger deer than our budget allowed. A special thank you to Leon Low.





Mary and Jacques relaxing in the sunshine.

Northern Ethiopia 2015

by Mary Harter

On November 19 we left for Detroit where we spent the night and then flew to Washington DC leaving at 5:55 a.m. on Friday, November 20. We left DC at 11:00 a.m. arriving at Addis Abba at 7:30 a.m. on the 21. It took 2 1/2 hours to get our visa and the price had gone up, and then clear our guns. Last year when we were here it was much quicker but things change. Finally we were met by Dave Rademeyer and his nephew, Jacques Meyer from Northern Operations and on our way driving to Berlin where we spent the night at Dimitri's home. In talking to him, he grew up with Nassos Russo, who we hunted with last year.

The next morning we left at 6:00 a.m. for camp arriving at 12:30 p.m. after many rough roads and a flat tire. This is a Muslim area and their Sabbath is on Friday but they don't work on Sundays either as we found out when we needed more air in our spare tire after we put it on the vehicle. We stopped many places but could get no one to help us.

We will be hunting first in the Danakil area which is in northern Ethiopia. We ate lunch and went out to zero in our rifles after our long trip. I will be going to hunt in the Dawa area and Don will be going to the Tulaluk River area. I saw many baboons and monkeys, a lesser kudu, lots of dik-diks but no bushbucks which was the first animal on our list. Don saw lots of animals, also, and a small bushbuck plus several females but nothing to shoot.

Dinner was beef soup, salad, spaghetti and meat sauce, mashed potatoes, and baked custard with chocolate sauce.

We were up at 4:00 a.m. on Monday, 11/23, and out hunting before daylight to the same area where we hunted the night before. It is good that we planned to get up at 4:00 a.m. because that is the first Muslim call to prayer which certainly wakes you up. They have a call to prayer or chant over a loud speaker (a very LOUD speaker) four times a day and five times on Friday when they also go to mosque to pray. Prayer is not an option in this area.

On the way to hunt we passed two villages with schools, mosques, community wells, a bridge building project, donkeys, camels, sheep, goats, cattle, and a few crops. We picked up a local villager to help guide us. Some homes are domelike made of cloth and hides stretched over bent tree limbs. They are portable similar to the teepees of our American Indians. Children walk to school. They have two sessions each day so they split and either go to school in the morning or afternoon depending on their age and are mixed each session with both boys and girls. Cell phone service is great in this area and some of the villagers have electricity both thanks to the Chinese who are also building highways and a rail system to serve this northern area. In exchange they are taking a lot of the Ethiopian natural resources.

Every time we go out to hunt we pick up a local villager who gets paid. Sometimes two would accompany us. Sometimes we had to go to their home to get them because they were still in bed. Most of the time they were where they were supposed to be, ready for us. It was interesting driving through the villages. They had stores with various items for sale. I wished I could have stopped and shopped but it wouldn't have been good for me to get out of the truck. Once we did stop and Jacques had Ficker buy him a phone



Abyssinian Bushbuck



Meneliks Bushbuck



Salt's Dik-Dik

card. Most of the cell phones only work with prepaid cards.

One time when we drove through a village on our way back for lunch, a large stock truck type vehicle was in town with a huge line of people waiting to purchase what they were selling and it was chat (khat). Chat is an amphetamine-like stimulant which causes excitement, loss of appetite, and euphoria. It is less addictive than tobacco or alcohol. It also keeps one awake. It is best used when fresh and is chewed. It was also especially interesting to drive through the villages at night as the animals were all over town. They would just lay in the streets and we had a hard time maneuvering around them.

While hunting we walk in dry riverbeds which are filled with rocks and up on the edges glassing for bushbucks which eat the shrubs that grow along the rivers. Jacques, my PH, Ficker, our tracker and driver, our government scout, and a man from the village were always with me. We walked at least four miles seeing lots of baboons, dik-diks, warthogs, monkeys, and lesser kudus but no bushbucks but lots of their tracks and those of a large leopard.

When we got back to camp our laundry was being done, I was shown where they get the water from the river that we are camped on, and I met the security guard. Just like when we were hunting in the Omo Valley last year, someone guards the camp all of the time. During our stay we saw lots of people and they are always wandering in to see what we are doing. Children came down the river often. Sometimes cattle were grazing right behind our tents or our in front between our camp and the river. The security guard was kept busy.



Afar people

Don had gone to the Danakil Depression which is in the Afar Triangle, part of the Great Rift Valley, a 90 minute drive from camp and when he returned had a beautiful Beisa Oryx which he has shot at about 240 yards and a Soemmerrings Gazelle which had been out about 210 yards. This is a very desolate area and a very rough ride to get there and he was lucky enough to harvest both animals that he wanted from that area. National Geographic describes the Danakil Depression as the worst area in the world.

We had lunch of a beef stir fry with zucchini, peppers, egg plant, and pasta and went back out to hunt at 3:30 p.m. We went back to the same area as the night before for bushbuck. We set up on a riverbank to be ready for one to come out near sundown but a herd of camels came through the area and fed on the bushes and trees on the riverbank so no bushbucks would come out to eat until much later. The camels ruined our evening hunt but I enjoyed seeing them in the wild as I had never seen them like that before. They are the one hump variety and are herded just like goats and cattle. I got to watch them very close up and discovered their unusual gait is because they are pacers, not trotters like most animals. They walk by moving both legs on the same side at the same time just like giraffes. We did see six lesser kudu, many dik-diks, and many, many baboons, and a few monkeys. Don didn't see any bushbucks either.

We had the gazelle for dinner which was excellent. Finally some wild game which we prefer to eat especially when we have such different choices when in Africa.

We went to bed early as we were getting up at 3:30 a.m. the next morning. We left on 11/24 at 4:00 a.m. for the Danakil Depression where Don had such great success the day before. We took the truck Don and Dave had used the day before because it had a spare tire. We had used ours on the way to camp. We left early because of the 90 minute ride and hunting needs to be done before noon as it gets so hot in this area that the wild game bed down until it cools off. Yes, it is a very rough ride as Don had explained as we drove up and down mountains and through rivers on trails that we sometimes could hardly distinguish. I don't know how Ficker could even know where to drive many times. Sometimes we would have to back up and take another shot at going up a mountain. Sometimes the guys got out and rearranged rocks to be able to go through a river or up the mountain. I rode in the front seat so I wouldn't get car sick at Don's suggestion.

We first looked all over for an Oryx but couldn't find one, not even tracks. We did spot a great Soemmerrings Gazelle and followed him forever to get a shot. He finally walked us back towards our truck and I had to wait until he was clear of the truck before I could shoot. He had separated from his buddy and wanted to get back to him but we spoiled his plans.



Huge Mt. Nyala



Abyssinian Bushbuck

**Don and
Soemmerring's Gazelle**



After I shot, several people came to see what we were doing. Some were children as young as five out herding goats.

The people in this area are Afar and live on goat and camel milk and a flat bread they make of grain which they cook on hot rocks. They eat very little meat, no vegetables or fruits, but are attractive, fine featured people and very fit and healthy. They have beautiful teeth but some of the men file the front ones to a point. Their clothing is brightly colored and the men carry large, curved knives in a sheath in a belt around their waist. Most men wore cloth just tied around their waist and T-shirts or button shirts. One man had a carved, pointed, round, wooden stick in his hair. Some of the men put goat fat in their hair. Most of the women's hair was in very intricate braids. The women wore similar clothing but scarves or something like a netting on their heads but not covering their faces or much of their hair. Many had intricate beadwork necklaces and beaded bands in their hair. I don't think they had ever seen a white woman before, especially one with white hair. I would offer my hand to shake and several were brave enough to approach me. I quickly learned not to approach them or they would back away. They seemed interested that I had shot an animal.

**Mary and her
Hamadryas Baboon**



Well back to camp with my gazelle, lunch, and a short nap and then out again at 3:30 p.m. to the dry riverbed area looking for a bushbuck. We saw a huge lesser kudu. I wish I were hunting them but I got one last year and you have to pay the hunting fees before you even come to hunt so the outfitter can get the licenses. You just can't get a license after the fact and there is no refund if you do not get the animals you do have on license. We also saw female bushbucks and a small male bushbuck. A couple of men came walking down the dry riverbed so Jacques figured we probably wouldn't see a bushbuck so when we spotted a large dik-dik on the far shore, he told me to shoot him, which I did. Down he went and our driver and villager ran over to get him. His horns were very nice but when you can see horns on a dik-dik clear across a river, they have to be good. These are Salt's Dik-Dik. The scout, tracker/driver, and villager were very happy that I was successful. We also saw many baboons and I picked out the one I wanted for another day.

Back to camp for a gazelle dinner which was delicious. To bed early again as I was going back to hunt the Oryx.

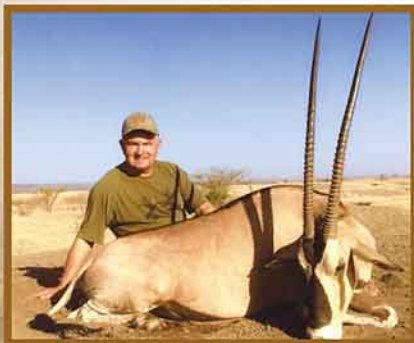
Up at 3:30 a.m. again and out to hunt on 11/25 at 4:00 a.m. and when we were very close to where we wanted to hunt we were stopped by four men who did not want us to travel in their area. They had rocks in their hands threatening to break our windshield, knives at their waists, and one had a gun. We stopped and our driver and the villager with us had a discussion that got quite heated. The four men piled rocks in the road in front of our truck so that we could not proceed. We were too far from cell service so couldn't call anyone to help us so we went back. Three hours of very hard driving/riding wasted.

We went out to our familiar area looking for bushbuck again and saw four females but no males. We built a blind to come back to in the evening and went back to camp for lunch and a nap and to try to sort out hunting for the next day. Americ is the common language but one of the problems in Ethiopia is that they speak at least 80 different languages with at least 200 different dialects. Many times the people in one village cannot converse with the people in the next village. This was some of the problem with the Afar people. They lead a very nomadic life in a very desolate area and understand very little of what our villager would say.

Back out hunting for the evening and we saw many dik-diks and baboons including a large male with long white hair that I would like to take home with me. Grazing camels came through again during prime time so the bushbucks stood us up again.

Don came back with a huge dik-dik tonight. Mine was very nice but I set the standard and he beat it. What a trophy he has!!!

11/26 was Thanksgiving but we were up at 3:30 a.m. and out by 4:00 a.m. again to hunt the Danakil Depression. This time we picked up our villager plus another man who they said had more authority, spoke the Afar language better, and carried a side arm. After the rough 90 minute ride not knowing what we might encounter this time, we were stopped by an older man with a gun. After much talking, we proceeded. The men bunch up their skirts and just sit down on their haunches and talk. They sit like that often,



Besia Oryx



Salt's Dik-Dik



Soemmerring's Gazelle

every time they stop walking. I was told that the people in this area do not get any assistance from their government and they know we pay a fee to hunt their animals. They do not get a share of this money.

When we got to our area, we drove around again and then the men got up on top of the truck to glass the area. We saw gazelles, several ostrich, and an Egyptian buzzard. This area is very desolate like our Badlands out West. Well, worst than our Badlands as the area is hard to walk in. It looks like hard sand and rocks but it is soft and fluffy. I don't know what any animals can eat as it is dry and has a salty crust in places. At about 9:00 a.m. we found a man who said he saw an Oryx about 8:00 a.m. so we went where he said. No Oryx but Jacques and the others walked down to the river and back while I stayed in the truck. Three boys walked back with them and had lunch with us. We had cooked pasta with a sauce which they ate. One was given a hardboiled egg but he just held it in his hand. One of our men took it and peeled it for him and showed him how to eat it. He had never eaten an egg before. I peeled an orange and was eating it but gave each of the boys a section. They held it in their hands until I took a piece and put it in my mouth. Then they ate theirs. About noon a we were still searching, three men stopped us and a lot of discussion took place. They took down our license plate number and I could tell they didn't want us to return. We left for the hard ride back to camp.

Lunch and a nap and out for a bushbuck at 4:00 p.m. No luck. Too many people. Don didn't get one either.

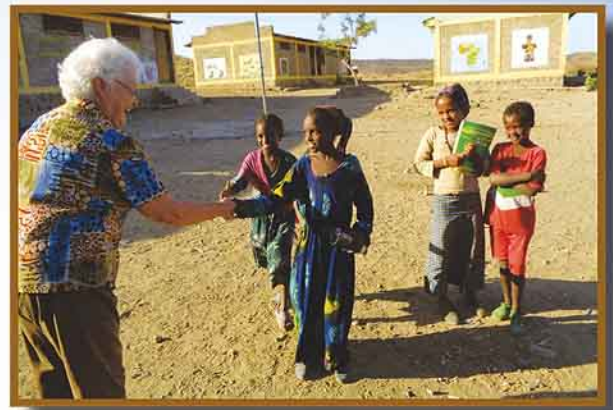
Up at 4:30 a.m. on 11/27 and out at 5:00 a.m. to hunt locally for a bushbuck but no males were to be found. Walked for 4 1/2 hours. Saw a huge tortoise, two white swans, and a hawk. I have blisters on blisters. I have moleskin wrapped around four toes and have switched boots to try to improve my walking. The boots I have been wearing are very broken in but thank goodness I brought a second pair. The second pair are insulated for colder weather but at least give my feet a change.

Don hunted a little further away in a new spot with fewer people. He saw three nice bushbuck and got one. He also saw two spotted hyenas, rabbits, and dik-diks.

Up early on 11/28 and out for the whole day. We walked up the Tulalak River and had lunch. We were out hunting for 13 hours and it was a long day. I do not know how far we walked. I think it is better I do not know. Jacques had a pedometer on his watch so he knows but I think he tells me it is shorter than it is which is very smart on his part.

The next day, 11/29, Don and Dave left for the mountain camp. Don has a 21 day license and mine is for 15. I cannot go there even as an observer without buying an additional 21 day license. I did not intend to hunt the mountain nyala and Menelik's bushbuck which are in that area because I shot them last year. Laws are forever changing and now we find out!!! At least I get to sleep in a little today as Jacques and I plan to hunt nearby. I still have a bushbuck, baboon, and Oryx on license except I probably won't go back to the Afar region to hunt the Oryx as we are not very welcome there.

We walked to an area where there were two watering holes in the dry riverbed. We saw many lesser kudus and several bushbucks but none to shoot. It is Sunday and about ten kids with goats arrive about 11:30 a.m. just like it is a planned outing on a Sunday



afternoon. A few sheep are also in the mix. Goats come up to the little blind my people made for me and eat it. Goats are such happy little creatures that they just want to make you laugh as they come and go. The kids come to rescue their goats from our hillside and I shake hands with one little girl. All are shy of us. They are probably between five and ten years old and in charge of several hundred goats and sheep. One goat gets caught in a root on the side of the river and make a lot of noise and one of the kids is right there to help. A big Billy goat is very active with all of the females from other herds that have arrived. No wonder there are so many goats. We walked at least ten miles today. We try to get a baboon on the way back to our truck but they just don't cooperate. But even without a harvest, it was a good day. We have some of Don's bushbuck for



Local Village



Mary and Don's base camp

dinner and I observe a lot of meat hanging by the workers tents air drying. They are going to enjoy it later.

On 11/30, out at 4:30 a.m. to hunt an area until 10:00 a.m., have an early lunch, and then spend the afternoon near the waterhole like yesterday. We see a couple female bushbucks and a small male, warthogs, lesser kudu, and dik-diks. Maybe this afternoon will be better. On the way we did see fields of corn, gardens, etc. which are fenced with thorn bushes to protect them from the animals. At least the people in these local villages eat well.

It is a hot walk to the waterhole area which is a great gathering place for all animals. We saw many baboons and the big, old male was with them. They scampered up the high bank but then came back down. These baboons are very busy and active. Finally we saw the old male sit down about 160 yards from us and Jacques ask me if I could shoot him in that position. He had talked previously about me shooting him in the chest but now he was sideways to me. They have so much hair it is deceiving just where his body and vitals are. I shot and they all ran up the high bank again. There was no reaction from the big male or the others with him. Ficker thought I missed him as

he saw dust fly behind him. I said I would rather miss entirely than shoot and just injure an animal but then I said I thought my shot was good. Nothing had happened as far as I could tell to ruin my shot and there was no brush between me and the baboon. Ficher and Jacques went to see if there was any blood up on the high bank where the baboons ran. I heard them whoop and then saw them carrying back the old baboon. My bullet had passed right through him and he still had the strength to climb up the high bank. Jacques said that baboons usually cry out when hit and the others baboons usually make a lot of noise when one is hurt. Not so this time. There was no ruckus whatsoever. I said my baboon was probably so old that the others just thought it was time for him to die any day and it finally happened. Now I have a beautiful, very old Hamadryas baboon.

After the excitement of the baboon died down, we spotted a huge lesser kudu on the far riverbank. He was one of the largest Jacques had ever seen and he took pictures through his binoculars to show Dave. If I could have gotten a license I would be taking him home with me. It would have been an easy shot and he was so big he looked like he had curly yardsticks coming out of his head. I called him a "greater" lesser kudu!! It is just not fair that you have to buy all of your licenses ahead of time. The government must lose out because hunters cannot buy more after the hunt. We saw lots of kudu on all sides of us and seven female bushbucks, plus monkeys and people with goats, sheep, cattle, and camels. You can't believe the huge cattle these little children were taking care of. I kidded Jacques that he must be taking me to where the ugly female bushbucks live as we were not seeing any males. He pointed out to me that one of them was pregnant so there was proof that there were males somewhere.

Finally the proof came in. A male bushbuck came walking down the dry riverbed all by himself. When he was about 280 yards from us I took aim and shot holding just a little high because he was so far away. I didn't want him to get away after miles and miles of walking and hours and hours of sitting. I hit him right where I was supposed to and as he was laying on the ground dying with just his head moving, we got a call from Dave that Don had shot a huge mountain nyala with horns 42 inches long. Don had gone back to where he was standing when he shot looking for one of his hearing aids so they were going to call back in a few minutes after we got down to my bushbuck. What a happy time with much picture taking and both camps successful. Then we had to walk back to our truck. Jacques told Dave that we were four miles from the truck but he had told me that we were 2 1/2 miles away, proof that we had been traveling a lot further than I had been told. The baboon had been skinned by Ficker and reduced to a sack but the bushbuck was tied to my shooting sticks to be carried back. Jacques carried him for awhile but then gave him to Ficker and the villager. When we got back, the villager took some of the meat. I was glad that he could use it. Muslims cannot eat meat unless the animal has been blessed before it dies. Maybe he said a prayer as it was dying. I know when I shot my mountain nyala last year, they all rushed up to it and blessed it as it was dying. They used all of the meat from it and know it was appreciated as they were very careful to make sure it was properly divided.

Out the next morning, 12/01, at 4:00 a.m. to drive to the Danakil Depression area again for Oryx. I don't know how they talked me into this again but I like to hunt and the Oryx was the only animal I had left on license. We were stopped by only one man this time and he was unarmed and let us pass. We had a couple men from the local village that spoke their language with us plus I had been told that they had been talked to about letting us pass. We spotted an Oryx and made a talk but it turned out to be a female. They have horns also, and she was very large, pregnant one. We can drive to some areas but then the terrain goes off into rough ravines. We saw lots of Soemmerrings Gazelles and ostriches. We just scoped and scoped.

We found the man we had talked to when we were out in this area the last time and he rode with us for awhile trying to tell us where to locate an Oryx but no luck. I held his knife which was in a leather sheaf on my lap. It was decorated with beads, copper wire, and an old watch band. He said he had four wives and ten children. We had met two of his sons and they had the pointed teeth. We stopped under a shade tree for a snack and then we drove back to camp and Jacques and I had lunch.

After a short nap and shower, we took the SCI Blue Bag which we had brought with us to the local primary school, Tulaluk River School and were greeted with handshakes and much respect. The crayons, pencils, paper, scissors, balls, toothbrushes, candy, t-shirts, balloons, tape, glue, and other items were greatly appreciated. I stressed that the candy and toothbrushes went together. Candy should only be eaten by children that can brush their teeth. I don't know how much they understood but I tried to explain that the bag was given to them by hunters and that we appreciated being able to hunt in their area. They knew "Thank you" and were genuinely pleased.

The school had several buildings colorfully decorated with drawings of Africa, South America, the ear, the heart, and many others. A well was in the front yard and people were filling containers. I shook hands with many, many children both inside and outside. They said "America" and one little girl said "lipstick" that I could make out. The Humanitarian Services SCI Blue Bag program is a very positive activity to put a good spin on hunters. We drove by many times leaving walking people in our dust and disturb their animals that they are trying to get to or from pasture. Anything we can do worldwide to make people like hunters more should be done. I would encourage everyone going to Africa to make arrangements to take a Blue Bag.

Back at camp we planned our fifth trip back for Oryx in the Danakil Depression leaving at 4:00 a.m. the next morning, 12/02. After we did our first stalk we found the female Oryx that we had seen the day before. We did another stalk trying to track another Oryx, the only other tracks we could find, but it was going clear to the river for water. I went back to the car after several miles. It was getting hot. Jacques and Ficker went on for a couple more miles and couldn't catch up to it so didn't know if it was a male or female. Both came back to the truck hot and tired, so we decided not to pursue it any more. It would have been about nine miles for me through hills and valleys and it was getting hot, over 100 degrees. There was no way to drive closer, only one set of tracks, and we didn't know if it would be a shooter.

While driving around looking for more tracks we were stopped by a group of thirteen men, one with a gun. Two were sons of the man who drove around with us the day before. Our local man who was 52 with three wives and ten children, negotiated with them for a long time. Some of these men had pointed teeth and groomed each other's hair with pointed sticks as they talked. One had a stone he used as a mirror. Supposedly our local man was like a chief and came to an agreement that they would let us pass or hunt. We left and further on down the road, a couple more men seemed angry that we were there and Ficker sped up as we passed them.

When we got back to camp, Dave called and Don had gotten his Menelik's bushbuck. Jacques and I talked over lunch of whether or not to go back to the Danakil Depression the next morning. He was very willing to try again and encouraged me but I thought I should call it quits. Don was done hunting and it was just time to go home. We had great animals, great memories, and a lot more miles than I was used to. No wonder the people in this area are so fit!! The people in camp started packing up and Jacques and I celebrated our last night by drinking wine near the river watching the sun set.

The next morning, 12/03, we left camp at 5:00 a.m. for an eight hour drive to Addis to meet up with Don who was trying to change our flights to go home on the 10:00 p.m. flight which he was able to do. We had a beautiful drive up over the mountains seeing all of the infrastructure improvements that the Chinese are making. We saw very primitive farming and hot peppers out drying. There are lots of people in Ethiopia but they seem happy, educated, and busy working, at least in these areas. What an exciting trip!! This was one of the most rugged areas that I had hunted but this area has great animals. It definitely has not been overhunted. Two of Don's animals, the Salt's Dik-Dik and the Mountain Nyala will be in the top ten for SCI.



Dave and Don with Beisa Oryx



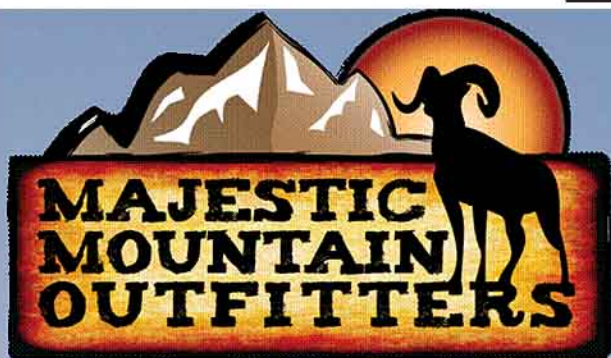
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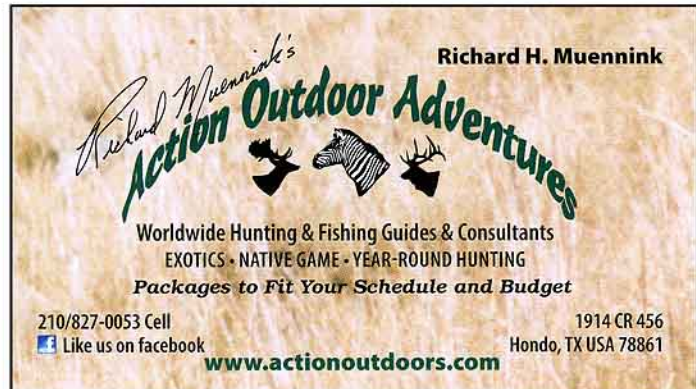
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