

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
March 2024



Mason Bay Sunset

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 20th March at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Branch Roaring contest is on this month.

BRANCH FACEBOOK:

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ON FACEBOOK, , YOU WILL FIND HELPFUL INFO ON THE PAGE . WE ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT <https://www.facebook.com/southlandnzda/>

BRANCH CONTACTS

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

Branch website <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/>

Wanted

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

Club Hunts

None currently planned, have you anything to offer? Contact Executive members if you have.

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

NEW MEMBERS

New Members please welcome them.

Brenton Maxwell

Office Bearers

President: Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490 **Vice President:** Luke Payne

Secretary Andy Nesbit 021 53 8676 : **Treasurer** Tom Mead 027 847 1882

Magazine Editor: Doug Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President**

Membership Andy Nesbit **Huts** Neville Miller

Executive: Wayne Ashmore, Tony Caldwell, Gareth Coyle, Nathan Dawson, Scott Hall, Dave Howden, Jason Leishman, Jamie. McCallum, Ray Phillips, Ethan Todd.

Life Members (National & Branch) John DeLury, Ray Phillips (National) Roger McNaughton, (Branch), Doug Gordon Dave Howden, Neville Miller,
Sub committees

Rayonier Hunting Liaison Shaun, Luke & Andy

Lodges - (Red Stag & Mavora) Neville, Shaun, Dave

Hall & Library Luke, Jamie & Wayne

Club Hunts Tom, Luke and Wayne

Invercargill Rifle Range Tom, Shaun & Andy Nesbit

Invercargill Pistol Club Doug

NZDA Range Officers Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Andy, Luke & Doug

DOC Liaison Ray

AGM, Trophies & Douglas Scoring Shaun, Doug, Wayne, Luke, Ray & Andy

Competition Committee Shaun, Tom, Andy

Young Hunts Coordinators Andy, Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke, Jamie, Nathan

Douglas Score Measurer's

Judge/coordinating Tutor, Ray, Judge/ Tutor John, Level One Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke & Andy

Website manager, John Delury.

Presidents Report



March 2024



Hi all the roar is fast approaching hopefully your slightly more organised than myself and are working on planning your trips away. It's a great time to think about getting fit for those trips now, one thing that can make a multi-day trip less enjoyable is suffering away on day 2 or 3 wishing you'd done more prior to heading out the best way I can think of to get fit is to get it doing it 😊, If you don't have that luxury going for a walk with your pack or biking is a good alternative. Myself and the kids have a couple of looking weekend trips planned, and another Roar block later in the month so hopefully we'll be able to secure something for the wall or the freezer if nothing worthy shows itself.

I've been Douglas scoring some heads for members and friends the photo above is one I measured for a Friend measuring 280 4/8ths D's . If you have a decent stag or Buck, you'll like scored get in touch myself or one of the other club Scorers we'll be more than happy to help. Just remember if you want to enter into the branch or national AHT competition you need to be a financial member at the time of taking your trophy and it needs to be in a clean tidy not smelling state to be scored.

I've just back from a family trip up to Auckland. We did a bit of sightseeing visited the Sky Tower, Rainbows end, Kelly Tarlatans and the zoo. I can safely say whole it was a good trip away I'm not rushing back, and if anything is made me appreciate what we have in Southland even more, were very lucky to live where we are and have such awesome

access to the outdoors.

As I'm writing this hopefully there is lots of members out at the rifle range making the most of the great day sighting rifles in unfortunately with my flight just getting in this morn I've missed that an will have to get out at some stage myself and check my rifles are still going where they should be .

Until next time safe hunting

Always identify your target

Cheers Shaun



Editorial

Doug Gordon

The Roar is near followed by duck shooting, time for a reminder of the rules for transport of Firearms in a vehicle. These apply like using your seat belt or not using your cell phone, to all vehicle journeys. Be it short or long.

Key transport rules? (From NZDA National Office)

1. All firearms must be concealed from view from outside the vehicle.
2. Firearms must be made inoperable by removing the bolt or another vital part or by fitting a trigger lock or storing it in a locked case or carry bag.
3. Firearms must not be loaded with ammunition in the breach, barrel or chamber, or magazine.
4. Ammunition must be concealed from view from outside the vehicle.
5. Ammunition must be stored separately from all firearms and be in a locked glovebox or similar storage area where practicable (e.g. a cash box).
6. Food and toilet stops of up to 60 minutes are allowed if you have your vehicle nearby.

A few suggestions regarding this list. Put your bolt in your pocket (Preferably in a small bag) when leaving the vehicle. That way if it your vehicle is broken into and rifle stolen they can't use it even after breaking any lock. If your rifle has a detachable magazine a wire cable with lock can be fitted through the loading / ejection port of the rifle out where the magazine is fitted. This makes fitting a bolt impossible. These are available at a lot of Gun stores. Ammo buried in the bottom of your pack (If about to take a helicopter or boat ride) is likely suitable separation from your firearm. In a small locked box in your pack would be ideal (If you can find one). Taking your ammo in a separate box into a helicopter is not ideal, and one does not want to leave it behind when transferring things. Another good reason to have the bolt in your pocket, a quick feel confirms it is there and going with you. Don't forget your detachable magazine either. Something I have been guilty of. Also don't forget the keys to the locks!

Note check with helicopter and other transport operators how they want your firearms presented, some require hard cases some soft bags.

Another hint if stopping for a meal break/ toilet stop, please lock your car it is a given not in point 6 above. Also make sure it is not only the firearms that are out of sight, camera's and cell phones etc. are also inviting targets for those who don't respect the law and are becoming increasingly bold. One has only to look as far as the raids on retail shops in

broad daylight. A visit from such could ruin your Roar Hunt. The presence of people no longer deters them.

Remember if you don't follow the rules you need to do nothing else wrong to be in deep trouble regarding your Firearms licence. For example, your vehicle being hit by another illegally driven vehicle, resulting in a police presence at the crash site. Or firearms viewed at a random police drink driving stop.

So whatever your thoughts on these rules obey them keep out of trouble. Obey the rules of firearms handling too. Especially the one on Identifying your target. It becomes more important in the Roar, enjoy the Roar, come back with a trophy and photos for the Branch Competitions

Doug Gordon

Sponsors

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



Book Review

Hunting Life Moments of Truth

By Peter Ryan

I acquired my copy of this book in my Christmas Presents, such books are always a bit of a stab in the dark from the giver to the receiver. Well this book is different but interesting. Normal hunting books come in three types in the Land of the Long White Cloud. Been there done that, how to be there and do that (how to hunt), and the history of the Feral Venison Industry. Some being a combination. This book is different it delves into why we hunt, and what we get out of it from Peter Ryan's prospective. (He has the hunting experience

worldwide to have a decent prospective I think). It is interesting makes one think about things, reflect on what hunting is all about. The chapters well some are very short 54 in 240 pages says it all on how short.

Not a book to be rushed, if one wants to get the most out of it, each chapter needs to be read and digested before moving on to the next. For all that an enjoyable read for an old hunter, worth a look at and a read if you get the chance.

Doug Gordon

Progress in making us all safer

We have all learned that full firearm registration will make us all safer. In that knowledge, we are tempted to ask how it is that despite practically all motor vehicles that are used on public roads (more than 4 million of them), between 10,000 and 20,000 are reportedly stolen annually.

Anyhow, for what it's worth, here is a chart showing progress t the end of February with the registration of firearms in New Zealand, data supplied by the Firearm Safety Authority:

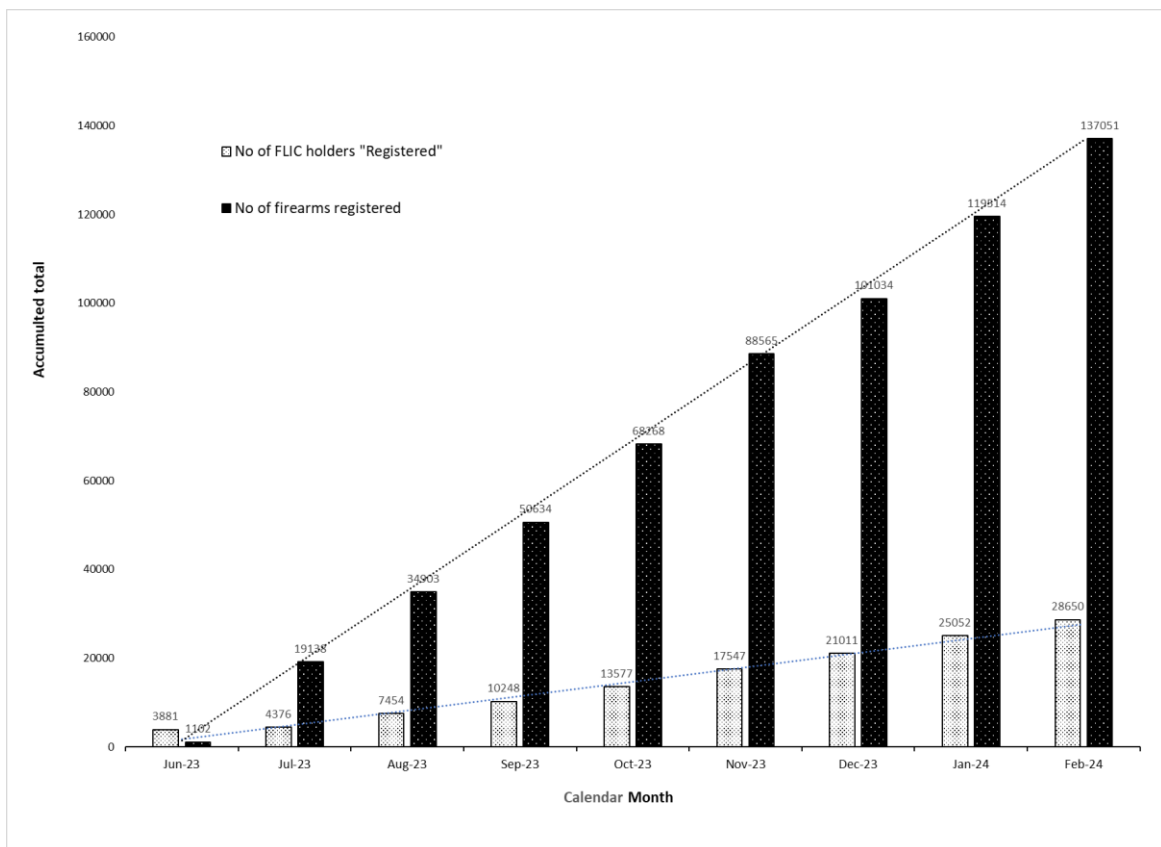


Figure 1: Monthly display of firearm owners and the firearms they have registered to end of February 2024.

This chart shows that people are registering their firearms to comply with the law at a relatively constant rate over time.

Meantime, there are reviews being carried out over the hunting permit system by the Department of Conservation, and there will be a review of the Arms Act (1983) being carried out by the Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms).

When public submissions are invited on these two important topics, be sure to send comments in, or get help to put one in.

That's enough for this month, keep laughing!

Chaz F

A Top Wapiti Head headed to Wellington

The NZDA National Heritage Trust have been gifted one of New Zealand's top Wapiti heads. The NZ record for length 60½ inches. This used to hang quietly in the Invercargill Club on Don St unbeknown to the local Branch.

The animal was shot in 1931 by Douglas McDonald (Thus predates NZDA) McDonald descendants decided to give it to the Trust.

Last Saturday Tim Watson from the Heritage Trust got the head down from the staircase and loaded with the aid of two of the local executive.



Head on wall prior To removal

Tim Watson, Scott Hall & Doug Gordon

Tim is planning to write about this head in a coming Hunting & Wildlife. This he tells me is the last large Deer head that they will have room for.

Meanwhile if any Branch members know of any other notable trophy's out there that need a new and good home, Contact the Southland Branch Executive, as we are open to adding worthy heads to our collection.

Joke of The Month

**I told my wife I saw a
deer on the way to
work.**

**She said how do you
know he was headed
to work?**

Young Hunts Course 2024

This course is for anyone young or old.

**Includes Firearm safety, Navigation, First Aid, Bushcraft,
Equipment and trip planning, Meat processing and more
Current planning is to run a course in 2024**



**Looking at expressions of interest
in this course to Shaun Phone 0276350490**

Invercargill Rifle Club **Cobb Road Rifle Range**

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

You will need to bring

Firearms Licence and Deerstalkers membership card.

Ear and eye protection

Target capable of being stapled to the target frame

Rifle (bolt out) + ammo – Up to and including .308/7.62 calibre Bipod
or other front support and rear support.

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

General format will be

Allocation of target frame

Validation of rifle being able to hit target at 100m

Shooting 200m and beyond after validation

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

Currently over the Summer Range is available Sundays (except over Xmas) 11am to 1pm, 100yards to 200 yards After which there is a NRA style shoot at longer ranges Range fee is \$10.00

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

Andy Nesbit 0215 38676

Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

**NRA/F Class shooters – make sure you arrange someone to pull targets and RO,
you may be the only shooter at the range.**

We hope to have the 500 and 600 yard mounds operational by November

**Casual user questions – Message through the FB page or you can call Ben
0272247119 or Foster 021516342**

NZDA Members – You have affiliated membership and can shoot for \$5 per session, contact Tom 0278471882 or Andy 021538676

Rifle Sighting In At Invercargill Pistol Club

With the start of daylight saving the Invercargill pistol Club range will be again available. To Financial Members for the sighting in of Rifles on Wednesday nights from 5.30 pm finishing 7pm. At the cost of \$10 per person. Ear & Eye protection required Bring one's own targets with staple gun or on cardboard box.

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

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

14th February Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

28th February Tom Mead 027 847 1882

6th March Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

13th March Doug Gordon 0276372206

27th March Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

3rd April Tom Mead 027 847 1882

Wapiti Lodge, & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



Wapiti Lodge



Red Stag

**Bookings to
Neville & Carol Miller**

Phone 03 216 8654 Cell 02108219528

e-mail nandc43@gmail.com

or 43 Bain St Invercargill

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

Southland Branch Polo Shirts



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

Sizes Medium, large, Xtra Large, and XXL.

Available at Branch Meeting or by emailing
enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

Subject line Polo Tee Shirts

Payment prior to delivery by online banking to the Branch Account 06-0925-0270758-000 with details of *your name Polo Shirt and Size*.

(If unable to do online banking contact Tom 0278471882)

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