

February 2010



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter

Dear Lansing Area Chapter SCI Members:

I want to thank you again for making the hunt at Muy Grande Ranch possible. It was a chance of a lifetime and something I didn't think I would have the opportunity to do until after I retired. I had an excellent time and really enjoyed the whole experience. I look forward to the SCI event in March that you referred to. Please send the date and time of the event. Again, thank you.

v/r

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Caveats: NONE



Antlers in Mid-January

By Lynn Marla

Our Chapter scheduled two Combat-Wounded Veterans for a deer hunt at Muy Grande Ranch and Resort during the month of December. Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts, the hunt was postponed till mid-January. Lance Corporal Jerome Smith, U. S. Marine Corp; Captain Jason Eichler, Army National Guard; Lt. Colonel Randy Brummette and I arrived at Muy Grande January 14. Perry Heleski and the guides were raring to go. The hunters ate a quick lunch, sighted in their rifles and headed right out to the blinds. Although there had been some very cold weather a few days earlier, the weather was in the low 30's and the Muy Grande guides felt the deer would move all day. There was great concern as the guides were finding a lot of sheds throughout the ranch. While the hunters were gone, Randy and I settled in to wait and see what would happen.

Just before dark, Perry got the text message "BBD" (Big Buck Down) – soon Jerome came in with

a big smile and his deer, a very nice 10 point. It was interesting -- I asked how much that buck would weigh, the guides said maybe 140, which is much lighter than the ones that were taken in Sept/Oct. This proves that, even though the winter has been fairly mild, bucks still lose a lot of weight surviving the rut and the cold.

We took pictures and then Jason rolled in with his 12 point buck. This was his first buck – and a dandy at that. Prior to this deer, Jason had only harvested a couple of small does. So needless to say, he was pretty thrilled too. Wow, two nice bucks in the first night, although they didn't see many others with antlers.

I asked the soldiers about their military experience: Jerome was a heavy machine gunner in a Marine Infantry Company. While deployed, he manned a fully-automatic grenade launcher on top of a HMMWV (Humvee). Jerome deployed three times to Iraq, starting in 2002, and is currently in the Inactive Reserve due to being assessed with overall Veteran's Administration profile of 80% disabilities (due to injuries sustained while deployed). During his deployment, Jerome had been in Saddam's Palace, which he said it was quite nice but

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President's Message
By Ron Lanford, DVM

Wow,
As I'm writing this, I'm on US Airways flight 592 leaving Reno. I just finished experiencing my second SCI convention and, at times, was close to being awe struck. For those of you who have participated in these conventions, you know what I'm talking about. For those of you who haven't, you're missing a tremendous event. It's hard to imagine the seemingly endless aisles of exhibition booths showcasing and selling everything from coffee cup coasters to elephant hunts. Not many of us want to or are able to afford Desert or Argali Sheep hunts or lion and elephant safaris, but I'm sure that there is something there for all of us.

For me, the convention was fantastic, and I concentrated on a few North American species that I would love to hunt and that I can afford. I not only talked with some really neat outfitters about my desired animals, but even more important, I unexpectedly ran into old friends who brought the memories of past hunts flooding back in absolute clarity. I ran into Stan Simpson, of Ram Head Outfitters, and Carson Nutting, my guide for sheep and moose on the Ram Head hunt. I didn't expect to see either one of them there, and had a good time reminiscing about our time in the mountains. Stan had to take care of a problem grizzly that was hanging out in camp. He thought he had bird shot in the shotgun

that he was going to sting it with. Unfortunately the 00 buck in the chest was enough to kill it on the spot. I had thought he plunked him in the brain, but he must not have been that good of a shot. Carson and I remembered the grueling hikes in the mountains carrying moose and sheep meat to where we could get it on the plane, but we really remembered the neat things: seeing the grizzly take down the cow caribou and another grizzly sneaking in the next day to unsuccessfully try to steal the carcass is something we don't see around here; and lying in the tent at night and hearing the bull moose sparring in the lake with the splashing of water and clacking of antlers is an experience the environmentalist wackos will never

know like we did. I also ran into Brent and Wendy Sinclair of Porcupine Creek Outfitters at Perry and Paulette Heleski's reception for Muy Grande Ranch. I think the hotel staff thought that all of the people from Michigan are a rowdy group. Man, did we laugh! Not only about Terry Braden either.

With one guy, it was a combination of reliving old hunts with the prospect of a new one. I was quite interested in finding a guided blacktail hunt with someone I would feel comfortable with, and I ran into Jimmie L. "Bud" Rosenbruch of Southeast Alaskan Adventures. I had hunted with Bud's family and Glacier Guides on a yacht based black bear hunt that was phenomenal. Bud's dad Jimmie C. and his sister Alisha "Mutts" were both deservedly named SCI's North American Outfitter of the Year in 2001 and 2009, respectively. Not only did I take a gorgeous 8'1" black bear, but had even more spectacular experiences of the trip. The views of mountains and glaciers were breathtaking, and seeing sea otters playing about 15 feet from the boat and bald eagles soaring gracefully by was very impressive. The most memorable part of the trip and one that I was almost able to re-experience the feeling of was when Bud and I recalled the first evening of the hunt as we were heading back to our home base of the Alaskan Grandeur. There were a few clouds in the sky, and reflections of the rising moon were shimmering over the almost glasslike surface of the ocean. Bud stopped the boat motor and we sat mesmerized for about five minutes as we watched a pod of killer whales surfacing in the moon's reflection. We could see their spout spraying shortly before hearing the sound of their blow in the still air. Then, like a dream, they were gone, but it still brings back goose bumps thinking about it. I hope to have just as memorable experiences on the trophy Sitka Blacktail hunt that I booked with him for 2011.

Jim Leonard and I also had the extreme pleasure of delivering special award of appreciation plaques to the outfitters there who have donated to our chapter's fundraisers for five and ten years.

We all can have the type of treasures that I had in Reno by attending our chapter banquet on March 12th and 13th. Come and relive memories with the exhibiting outfitters and friends that will be attending. You can also meet new people who will hopefully become wonderful life-long friends. This year's fundraiser is shaping up to be the best ever. We have been receiving many fantastic

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS

March 3 Board of Directors Meeting	May 19 Board of Directors Meeting
March 12 OUTFITTERS NIGHT Eagle Eye	June 10 Chapter Meeting Eagle Eye
March 13 FUNDRAISING BANQUET & Board of Directors Meeting AUCTION Eagle Eye	July 21

donations, and I'm sure you will find something in the raffles, silent auctions, and live auctions that you will want to take home. We will soon have these on our website, www.scilansing.com. Check it out, and I hope to see you there.

Oh, I gotta go! The stewardess is coming with pop and peanuts.

Good hunting
Ron

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

By Sally Ellis

It's almost that time again – our annual FUNDRAISING BANQUET AND OUTFITTERS' NIGHT. Each year, the fun begins with a trip to Reno for the SCI Convention where we work on getting donations for our fundraiser. It's a lot of work, but also very much fun.

For those of you who have never been to the big convention, you cannot imagine the excitement and overwhelming number of exhibitors, programs and events scheduled. It's also an opportunity to reunite with guides and outfitters from past hunts.

Perhaps the most fun (at least I think it is!) is unexpectedly meeting someone famous. The first year we attended, Jim was sitting having a cup of coffee, and the fellow sitting next to him casually asked Jim how he liked the show. It was Chuck Yeager. Walking around in past years we have seen, and in some cases spoken with, Tom Selleck, Greg Norman, Norman Schwartzkopf, George H. W. Bush, Bo Derek, Jeff Foxworthy, Jim Shockey, Wilbur Smith, etc.

This year, I was attracted to a lovely golden lab, wearing a working dog vest, calmly lying in the middle of the hustle and bustle while a bronze artist outside the Berretta



booth sculpted him with clay. The dog's tail began wagging happily when a very tall man, dressed in a dark suit, approached. We chatted for a while before I learned that the dog's master was Marcus Luttrell. Marcus was there to present George W. Bush, Saturday night's speaker, with a Berretta gun. Well, when I thanked Marcus for his service to our country, his humble response was, "That's what we do, ma'am." When I asked if I could take his picture, he

handed my camera to a woman standing nearby, saying, "You don't want a picture of just me. Get in here with us." What a guy. Since the convention, I have downloaded his book, *The Lone Survivor*, to my Kindle and am really,

really enjoying reading it.

A few minutes later, along came President Bush, shaking hands and answering questions, etc. The woman behind my left shoulder asked how his dogs were, and as he was responding to her question and shaking hands with a man to my left, he was holding my right hand in his left hand. Well, I was just thrilled. First humbled to be talking with Marcus Luttrell and then honored to be shaking hands with the president Marcus was serving at the time of his Afghanistan "experience."



Back to our fundraiser – Please make your reservations early and take some hunting friends along with you. It's a good opportunity to expose new people to SCI, and, as you probably know, the proceeds from the fundraiser support of many missions. So, remember, bid often and bid high!

Antlers in Mid-January... continued from page 1

he thought the grand lodge at Muy Grande was nicer! Jerome has been hunting since he was a kid, but multiple deployments had prevented him from hunting in recent years. Jerome is currently a full-time student in Marketing at LCC and working at the Meijer's warehouse.

Jason is working full time for the Michigan Army National Guard, keeping tracking of all of Michigan's military equipment (deployed and stateside). He has served in the military for 15 ½ years, deployed to Iraqi twice and once on the Egypt/Israeli border, all part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jason was awarded the Purple Heart medal twice for injuries sustained in combat in Iraq.

Jason's hunting experience has mostly been for small game, with most hopes for deer hunting interrupted by deployments. Jason is recently married, with two daughters who both enjoy shooting and his wife is interested as well.

Dan Catlin of Wildlife Gallery has agreed to mount these heads at no charge. Dan is a Desert Storm Veteran and believes strongly in thanking our military for their service. He hopes to have them done for our Fundraiser, March 12-13 – plan to stop by his booth and see the soldier's mounts.

A big thanks to everyone who helped with this memorable experience for two of our military: Perry Heleski and the guides at Muy Grande, Lt. Col. Randy Brummette for locating these deserving individuals, Dan Catlin of Wildlife Gallery, our Chapter for authorizing this, and to a couple of Muy Grande bucks that held on to their antlers a little too long...

SCOTLAND 2009

By Mary Browning

This trip started at the Mid Michigan Safari Club auction in Mt. Pleasant. On the auction block was a 7 day stay, 5 day hunt for 2 Scottish Red Stag (hill stag) for one hunter and one non hunter with Mike McCrave Hunting Ltd. I knew this was something Ron and I would be interested in. Even though I was unsuccessful in the bidding process, Mike offered us a price we couldn't say "no" to, and we settled on a date (20-27 September 2009). Before going Ron also decided he would like to take a stag, so we emailed Mike and adjusted our package.



We were met in Scotland at the Inverness Airport by both Mike McCrave and Mitch Cumming. While Mitch stayed at the airport to pick up the other party coming in that afternoon, Mike drove us to Sherramore Lodge. On the way we discussed the hunting situation. There were going to be five hunters, so Mike asked if we would like to hunt early in the morning while the other party went in the afternoon. We agreed to this (we would be up anyway due the time change).

We arrived at Sherramore and Mike took us on a tour of the lodge and showed us our room. After settling in we went down to the sitting room to enjoy the view out the window and conversation with Mike. Late in the afternoon the Ferman family arrived. After unpacking they joined us for a delightful dinner and after dinner drinks in the sitting room.

Monday morning we all had to qualify with the rifle. Instead of bringing our own we opted to use theirs. It was a 270 Winchester Parker-Hale with a Mauser action. We shot in a prone position at 100 yards. After qualifying the Ferman party went out hunting, and Ron and I went touring.

Tuesday morning Ron and I were up and ready for our first day of hunting. Our stalker was Bruce (gamekeeper at Glenshero Estate) and our gillie was Mike. After a time glassing, Bruce saw a small herd of stags. We approached them through a wooded area downwind from where they were grazing. I positioned myself next to a tree and supported the rifle on a low branch. The shot was on target, but it spooked the herd and off they went. Bruce tracked the beast (deer)

that I had shot until he found him a few hundred yards away. What a sight. After pictures, Bruce field dressed it, and he and Mike dragged it back to the Argo. At the game larder my beast was weighed, measured and other statistics were recorded. The venison is sold for consumer consumption.

Wednesday morning it was Ron's chance for a stag. The air was crisp and rain was not a factor. After a short drive Ron and Bruce took off on foot while Mike and I stayed back with the Argo. Within an hour we heard a shot and Bruce radioed us that Ron had his beast.

Thursday morning we awoke to a light drizzle. When Bruce and Mike arrived at the lodge, they took a look behind the lodge for any red stag. Glassing, they spotted some. We took off on foot in the fields to get a better look. A nice stag was spotted a few hundred yards ahead of us. Because this was almost flat land we belly crawled to within good shooting distance. There's nothing like a good crawl in sheep dung to wake you up in the morning! I took my time setting up for a prone shot and, when the opportunity came for a broad side shot, I fired. It was a clean shot and the beast went down.

Three days, three stags. With our goals accomplished we could enjoy site seeing through the Scottish Highlands.



Mary's stags



Ron's stag

Christmas Week Duck Hunt 2009

By Jim Houthoofd

It was a bucky night as we drove across the north shore of Lake St. Clair to get to Algonac. The summer cottages were boarded up for the winter and the fresh snow was on the ground, but it couldn't dampen our spirits. Taking the ferry across the river to Walpole Island was a breeze and the Canadian Customs agent was even charming (I think her name was Laurie). Per the instructions of Rob Stanley, we settled in at the Oaks Inn, in Wallaceburg for some adult beverages and dinner the night before our Duck Hunt. (Note to future duck hunters: The Oaks Inn makes it easy because they will actually sell you hunting licenses at the front desk. They only ask that you fax them your information ahead of time.)



As per the schedule, Rob arrived at the lounge at about 8 pm and gave us the run down on the ducks. He had been doing well and to find the ducks shouldn't be a big problem, "but wear all of your extra clothes tomorrow because it will be cold", he said. The weather report was for an overnight low of 7 and a high temperature of 20 degrees Fahrenheit with 20-30 mile an hour winds.

We were giddy as we got out our gear and laid out our long johns for the morning. It was a bucky night!

Four in the morning comes very early, but I was surprisingly eager, awake and alert as the alarm went off. Rob was at the Oaks a few minutes early and we slurped warm coffee as we drove to the boat launch near Mitchell's Bay. We felt like Michelin men as we walked to the boat with all of our gear. I thought to myself, how many layers can you wear and still shoot straight?

As inexperienced duck hunters, we really didn't know what to expect, but settled in pretty easily due to Rob's very patient coaching. Rob's yellow lab, buddy was amazing too. He jumped into the cold water with mini icebergs floating around and retrieved ducks like a nut. The more we shot – the happier buddy would

get. (Note to future hunters: Don't sit next to the dog unless you don't mind freezing water and you don't mind snuggling with a wet dog. Of course, I didn't mind but others might.)

Sure it was cold, but somehow we didn't really notice as we collected 13 ducks with many getting away without being hit. At one point, Helmut made a spectacular shot as a single duck came screaming by the boat. In one fluid cat-like move Helmut made the overhead shot and the drake fell nearly into the boat. I'm sure that Rob had seen many better shots, but none that had more fun that day.



One final note: We purchased this hunt at the SCI Lansing Chapter Fundraiser in March 2009. Rob Stanley donates hunts and fishing trips to our chapter every year and many go at an overbid price. He helps us to achieve our goals and to raise funds for our efforts throughout the year. In my opinion, this is a bargain and Rob is a hero. It was a very bucky night...



NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

By Tom Belloli

The Lansing Area Chapter of SCI has decided to become involved in the National Archery in the Schools Program by partnering with the Michigan DNR to provide a matching grant to the Williamston Public Schools. Our local chapter will contribute \$1,350 which, along with the DNR contribution of the same amount, will give the school district the sum of \$2,700 to purchase all of the necessary equipment to begin the nationally acclaimed program. This program is designed to introduce students to archery during the school day with the hope of recruiting them into the sports of archery and bow hunting. Increased participation in shooting sports and hunting provides financial and public support for wildlife education and conservation.

Research has proven that the National Archery in the Schools Program has engaged more students in the educational process, improved classroom performance

and reduced dropout rates. Most dropouts indicate they were not involved in extra-curricular activities. Archery taught through this program is accessible to all students of nearly all ages and skill levels. Educators report that this program “engages the unengaged” and inspires students to greater achievement in school.

There are currently 25 states conducting this program. It has a written Olympic-style curriculum that exceeds national PE standards and includes unit on safety, archery history, shooting technique, equipment, mental concentration and self-improvement. It is the hope of the Chapter that this partnership will introduce our younger generation to our hunting heritage and produce increased involvement in the new MSU Demmer Shooting Sports Facility.



WHEN LADY LUCK SMILES

By Tom Nelson

Host/ Dead Down Wind's American Archer



If I held my head just right, I could keep the sun out of my eyes by utilizing the poplar tree trunk as a shield. The mid seventies temperatures, along with an unrelenting sun, made my sit in this tree stand just a bit uncomfortable.

It was early September and I was taking advantage of the early bow season North Dakota grants. I had arrived at the Wolff family ranch earlier this same day. This ranch is a large family owned cattle ranch located in west central part of the state.

Perched some 20 feet off the ground, I was positioned in one of the many brush choked draws that break up the open terrain in this area. These depressions offer the only concealment on this open plains type of terrain. Most of these ravines are overgrown with wild plum trees, poplars and scrub brush that whitetails thrive in. Along with the security they offer, they also serve as a travel corridor for the local deer. Whitetails have runways that tunnel through the dense brush and connect the many different ravines scattered across the ranch.

With the sun now blocked by the tree trunk, I leaned back against the tree and prepared myself for what I thought was to be a long afternoon. Glancing at my watch I was not surprised to see that it was only a few minutes before five o'clock. Still a good couple of hours until deer movement would start. At least that is what I assumed.

My 2008 North Dakota bow hunt the year before had been a tough one. Albeit, I had passed on 28 different bucks, I still felt like I had left the ranch with unfinished business.

The buck I had been after, nicknamed the “freak” by my North Dakota bow hunting buddies, Scott and J.D. Wolff, had given me the slip for six straight days. The freak, named so because of his high and ultra wide rack, was only a seven point, but oh what a seven point he was. With freakish long main beams and extremely long tines, this strange looking buck was, well, a freak. The freak was later shot during gun season and gross scored an amazing 142” as a seven point.

During my hunt for the freak, I let many a buck walk by my stand, several in the 120-130 class but I had decided on the freak or nothing. As luck would have it, I left for home with nothing but a sore rear end from countless hours in a stand. 2009 I told myself would be different.

The sun had finally slipped far enough down so that the ravine was now fully shaded. I was sure that it would be another hour until deer would start to arise from their daytime beds. Even so, I kept my **BowTech Admiral** across my lap with an arrow nocked and ready. The wind had now settled down and the area became deathly quiet.

It was only a slight brushing noise, perhaps the sound of a moving leaf, albeit slight, it was a noise that made me pay heed. Turning my attention in the direction of the muffled sound, I caught sight of movement in the brush some 20 yards away. Grabbing my bow I readied myself. A very good buck materialized from the maze of tangles, and I immediately identified him as a “shooter” buck. After deciding I wanted him, I never focused on his rack again. As the buck continued on his way, he ambled in a slight circle that was bringing him straight to a shooting lane of mine. As he began to step into the lane I drew and anchored in one movement. At twenty yards I made a soft “blatt” to stop him. The Rage 2 blade hit him perfectly, and the buck plowed his way through the jungle of impenetrable bush. I listened as the buck raucously made his way, cracking and snapping brush as he went. Then all went silent.

I was confident the buck was down, but still waited 30 minutes before taking up the copious blood trail he left behind. In a matter of a few minutes I found him. The buck carried a heavy typical 10 point rack with a 2 inch kicker off his left G2. Later with the aid of Scott's Rackulator measuring tool, we scored the rack at 147” even. Not a bad consolation prize, I told myself, after last year's hard six day hunt.



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International

10th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Outfitters Night

Friday, March 12, 2010

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New this Year
Premier Drawing Tickets
(See other Side for exciting Details)

Tickets:

1. Saturday Banquet & Fundraiser Tickets:	\$65 Each	x	_____	=	\$ _____
2. Table of 8:	\$480 per table	x	_____	=	\$ _____
<i>(Includes (8) Banquet Tickets, (8) \$10 Raffle Tickets and Special Seating)</i>					
3. Chapter Sponsor Table:	\$675 per table	x	_____	=	\$ _____
<i>(Receives (8) Banquet Tickets, (8) \$20 Raffle Tickets, Premier Seating (2) Premier Drawing Tickets, 1/2 page ad in auction book)</i>					
4. Individual Sponsor.	\$200 Each	x	_____	=	\$ _____
<i>(2) Premier Drawing tickets, special seating, program recognition, doesn't include Banquet ticket)</i>					
5. General Raffle Tickets \$50 Packet (\$50 Tickets)	\$50 Each	x	_____	=	\$ _____
6. General Raffle Tickets \$100 Packet (\$110 Tickets)	\$100 Each	x	_____	=	\$ _____
7. General Raffle Tickets \$200 Packet	\$200 Each	x	_____	=	\$ _____
<i>(\$275 Tickets, (1) Premier Drawing Ticket)</i>					
8. General Raffle Tickets \$400 Packet	\$400 Each	x	_____	=	\$ _____
<i>(\$625 Tickets, (3) Premier Drawing Tickets)</i>					
Grand Total:					\$ _____

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Print legibly (Name tags printed from list)

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10th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser
Saturday, March 13, 2010

Doors Open 3:00 p.m Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

5th Annual Outfitters Night
Friday, March 12, 2010

Doors Open 4:00 p.m

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(see other side for details)

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