

October 2010



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter



The Blue Bag

By Jim Houthoofd

One of the more interesting and emotional parts of our recent trip to Namibia was taking a blue bag and donating some medical supplies to a local clinic in Anker. While a single blue duffel bag of medical supplies doesn't seem like much, as I looked around, there was little on the shelves and the services that were being provided were far less than what we are accustomed to receiving in the USA.

In advance of the trip, our hosts, Roger and Amelia, of Vieranas Safaris, called a local physician to find out what they really needed at the clinic. Roger's response was that they needed some very basic tools, rather than medicine or bandages. A few days later, a wide variety of items were purchased and a visit to the local clinic was scheduled.

Our appointment with the local practitioner and her assistant went well, but we were left with the hollow feeling that our generosity was not nearly enough. On the ride home we all were in agreement that if every group of hunters took a blue bag, and took their responsibility

to the local community seriously, we could make a big difference in the quality of life in that little community.

If Roger and Amelia get a dozen groups a year, and go back to provide a dozen blue bags, the community clinic would be in far better shape and have much greater resources. If you have never taken a blue bag, consider talking with your PH about how you can make a difference. Whether it is school supplies or medical supplies, visiting hunters can and do make a difference in the lives of others.

As a side note, even more touching (and amusing) was when Tony Semple started peeling coins out of his pocket, giving them to the children who had come to see who the visitors were. In only moments, the word spread that a very big guy was giving away money in front of the clinic. It was chaos, as even the smallest children flocked to him and encircled him

as smiles were exchanged for coins. After all – you can never get enough smiles!



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President's Message

by Ron Lanford

Man, I love this time of year. The leaves are starting to change into glorious colors and the air is starting to have a nip in the mornings. The oats in my food plots are up close to 12" tall. The ones that haven't been nipped off, that is. The velvet is off the antlers, and taking a quick walk in the woods reveals rubbed trees, some of them 6" in diameter. We still have a bit of time before the rut, but the anticipation is sweet. Man, I love this time of year.

I wasn't able to go to Africa this summer as some of our members did, but I got a little bit of an early start to my fall season. Both of my early trips were donated to our chapter's fundraisers. My first was a wonderful trip to Spain hunting with Alfonso Fabres Jr. and Huntinspain. Alfonso and his father have donated many hunts to our and other SCI chapters. My other trip was fishing for muskie in Lake St Clair with Rob Stanley. Rob has also donated many duck hunts and fishing trips to our chapter. I had a blast on both of these. The Spanish hunt was memorable for me in that it was the first time my wife has accompanied me on a hunt, even though she didn't go out in the field with me. Also, everyone we dealt with on that trip treated us wonderfully. The only complaint that I have about the trip to Spain is that I put it off too long.

Our fishing trip with Rob was fun too. Tom Lennard and I went with Rob on September 22nd. The big muskie start feeding heavily in the fall and Lake St Clair is one of the top waters in the world to land a fantastic muskie. That still doesn't

mean that it's easy. We had four strikes and landed two small fish. My fish was less than two feet long, and Tom's was about six inches longer. Not monsters by any means, but just knowing that a 50" muskie could almost tear the rod holders right off the boat at any second kept us on edge. We spent a lot of time talking about duck hunting too. Rob's main interest is in ducks. He hunts ducks for 110 straight days, and says that the October season is great in that you can fish for muskie after getting your limit of ducks. I'm sure looking into that!

So why do these guys as well as our other donors give these donations? First off, I think it's because they believe in us and in our cause. We are hunters, and we hunt. Also, we do great things. When I read the articles about our safari wish hunts, it amazes me how we can affect the lives of these less fortunate people. Right now, our chapter is involved with

taking almost 100 armed forces veterans on pheasant hunts across the state. As I've mentioned earlier, the veterans have

given so selflessly of themselves; this is a very small way that we can try to say thanks for what they've done for us.



The other way, and only way most of the donors can donate to us is as advertising. For them it isn't a

hobby: it's the way they earn their living. Bob can donate to us because he gets new hunters. Alfonso can donate to us so that others that hear of Huntinspain might go there on a hunt. We need to do our part to them too. Upgrading to more animals, more days, or more services can sometimes be the way that we can help these people make a profit. Those of you who've bought hunts and trips at our banquets, please write up a short story for the newsletter, or even just jot a short note on a picture and send it in. Share the enjoyment of your hunts, and let's advertise for those who've supported us.

Speaking of support, I want to thank the board for re-selecting me as president of this chapter. I feel that this is a great chapter, and it keeps getting better. Our next banquet is already taking shape, and we're getting the support of some great outfitters again. Stay tuned, and get out in the fields. Man, I love this time of year!!

Editor's Comments

By Sally Ellis

Hey, Ron, did I mention to you that I love this time of the year? (**see President's message on this page**). Well, I do!

My husband Jim and I are founding members of Muy Grande Ranch and Resort. During the summer we help host couples weekends (**fundraiser auction items**) and our family spends long holiday weekends riding horses and enjoying massages and nature walks. Now, after Jim Houthoofd's awesome whitetail-in-velvet hunt, the emotional and rewarding Tony Semple hunts (**see photos and article in this edition**), and Bev Austin's and my husband Jim's hunts, things are really happening fast at the ranch. Huge Muy Grande (200+) bucks are being taken, and we have hunters traveling from Italy to harvest some North American trophy whitetails and elk. It is great fun being a part of all this . . . did I mention that I love this time of the year?

In preparing for Whitetail Night on December 9, please send me photos of your harvested deer ASAP! Remember that in order to enter the whitetail competition, hunters must be members of the Lansing Area Chapter of SCI at the time the deer are harvested.

Additionally, please send your photos and perhaps a few lines about any hunts you have taken over the summer months. If you don't care to write a story, just send photos with your name, outfitter, and location of hunt. For first-time submitters, a \$25 Cabela's gift certificate will be given to the lucky person drawn. So please send to: Sally Ellis, email: sallyellis47@yahoo.com; 7529 Roxborough Lane, Grand Ledge, MI 48837; phone: 517.230.7398.

Lansing Area Chapter 2010 Safari Wish Hunts

by Jim Leonard

The Lansing Area Chapter was fortunate to be able to help two young people with serious health issues become proud, successful, and happy hunters this fall. We also helped a gentleman battling cancer harvest his first elk and provide needed meat for his family.

For the first two, we teamed up with the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope to cosponsor a hunter in each of their two Outdoor Adventure camps.

The first occurred during the first week in September at Vahalla Ranch located northeast of Grayling. A total of five young people and their parents, all from southern states, enjoyed several days relaxing in beautiful Northern Michigan. Our Chapter's hunter was a spunky, 4' 10" tall, 98 pound, 17 year old, named Addy from Tennessee. Addy had a ball and you can see from the picture she can shoot straight. She harvested a great Whitetail and thanks to The Wildlife Gallery it soon will be proudly displayed in her home.



The next hunt occurred the following week at beautiful Muy Grande Ranch located further north near Millersburg. This time there were

four young folks and our Chapter's hunter was ten-year-old Nathaniel who lives near Muskegon. Nathaniel was the youngest of the group. His innocent, slightly shy demeanor made him a hit with many of the people in camp. When not hunting

he was studying the bugs, birds, frogs and other animals about him. He seemed to know the names of all of them. He also turned out



to be an avid hunter, including getting up before daylight for the first time in his life to get in the blind for the morning hunt. Finally one evening he, his dad Doug, and his guides Tom and Ben came back to the lodge with the truck horn honking and with his great buck in the back. The proud hunter had a big smile on his face as he showed his trophy to all those in camp. Wildlife Gallery will also provide the taxidermy for

Nathaniel's mount.

Our third hunter was Larry Lindquist from Munising. We teamed up with the Southeast Michigan Bowhunters Chapter for this hunt that was held at the 1,100+ acre Paradise Hunt Club near Gladwin. Larry is battling a serious bout with cancer and has always dreamed of hunting elk. Larry's brother George drove him down from the U.P. and they both were excited, thrilled, and thankful to have this hunting opportunity.

Larry was able to make sure his rifle was still sighted in on the evening that we all arrived.

The following morning before daylight Larry, George, and guides Darren and Harry were off looking for his elk.

With lots of luck the elk was spotted late in the morning. Larry was unable to walk very far but again, with more luck, the guides got him ahead of where the elk was headed.



Back in Camp where we had no idea what was going on, the suspense was really growing. Then way off through the woods we heard a shot ring out then another a few seconds later. Now with fingers crossed, we hoped we knew what had happened. The success of the hunt was confirmed when one of the guides arrived in the Kabota to take us to see Larry and his big elk. He was very proud and thankful as you can see in the photo taken where the big elk went down. He was especially glad for all the meat he would be supplying to his family.

As Chapter members, you all can take great pride in putting joy in the lives of these three struggling and deserving people. This could not happen without you and your support, especially at our annual fundraiser. Thank you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 14, 2010 Chapter Meeting Eagle Eye	February 10, 2011 Chapter Meeting Eagle Eye
November 10, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting	March 18, 2011 OUTFITTERS NIGHT Eagle Eye
December 9, 2010 Whitetail Deer Night Eagle Eye Upper Level	March 19, 2011 FUNDRAISING BANQUET & AUCTION Eagle Eye
January 5, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting	May 18, 2011 Board Meeting
February 2, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting	

Mackenzie Mountain Sheep Hunt, 2010

James Sloat & Caleb Miller

In July of 2008 my hunting partner Caleb Miller and I began the planning process for this hunt with Stan Stevens; and, boy, time sure does fly. The next thing I knew it was July 12, 2010 and we were meeting up in Edmonton, Alberta. We overnighted there awaiting our flight to Norman Wells, NWT that took off the next morning.

When we arrived in Norman Wells, we were promptly met by Dan Stevens of MacKenzie Mountain Outfitters, who later turned out to be my guide, and he helped us gather our gear. He then took us to the hotel where we sorted our gear into soft-sided duffels for the 35-minute float plane ride into camp. We had a nice afternoon, and the flight was very scenic.

As the float plane arrived on the lake near the camp, we were greeted by Stan and Helen Stevens, owners of MacKenzie Mountain Outfitters. The camp staff quickly eyed

group to fly out – about 20 minutes from the main camp to the area where we would be hunting. After a long walk from the lake we were finally out of the valley floor. It was at this time that Caleb and I split up and went in different directions.

Dan and I, along with Blue, the pack dog, started our hunt. It was now the opening day of sheep season and we were constantly glassing and walking up drainages. The early part of the day was quite foggy, and we didn't do much moving until later in the day. The next day was very nice, and the sun was shining. We were awakened by Blue barking and growling and, upon quick investigation, we discovered a wolf was in camp! Blue quickly chased the wolf off, and we got camp packed up so we could get back on the lookout for sheep. After a short hike we spotted sheep on the skyline – two ewes and a very nice ram. We glassed those sheep most of the day but couldn't really move as they would see us. As they milled around, we backed out. Our decision was to wait them out overnight.

Early the next morning we picked them up again, but on the other side of the mountain face. Our hope was that overnight – since there were 24 hours of daylight – they would

move to a better place so we could put a stalk on. This wasn't the case. The sheep were still in a very tough spot. We kept watching them into the afternoon, and finally they shifted into a good spot for a stalk. Dan and I quickly moved into a drainage that was out of the sheep's line of sight and worked our way up the mountain. We were hoping we had enough time to make it up the drainage before the sheep moved back to where they were feeding earlier.

If they did, they would be in a great spot for a shot. Luck was with us, and they did just what we were hoping for – feeding right back to us. The big ram was the first one we saw, and I had a clean shot right through the boulders. I quickly took this shooting opportunity, and the ram was down! It all happened so fast, it was hard to take it all in at once. We were trying to spot the downed sheep, but we couldn't find him. We knew about where he was, so we just started working our way up. All of a sudden, we looked up and there he was – standing there! I quickly shouldered



up their hunters and helped everyone get their gear to their respective cabins. Dan and Caleb's guide, Dale, stopped by and told us to pack for five days of hunting and asked if we had any special requests for food, as they were getting the food around for our hunt. We didn't have any special requests, so they went off to pack up some food and we finished packing our gear.

The next morning Stan flew all of the hunters out to their respective hunting locations. Caleb and I were the second

my rifle and made the final shot. This time, he was down for good – or so we thought. The next thing we knew he started rolling, and by the time he stopped, he had rolled end-over-end more than 300 yards down to near where I had originally shot him.

What a beautiful animal -- he had a nice full curl, with a bit of flair and, best of all, he was a fully matured 10-year-old ram. Dan and I skinned the sheep for a full mount and de-boned him up on the mountain for easier packing. Blue didn't look overly excited to get loaded up with about 40 pounds of sheep meat; but he took the job willingly. That day we walked half the distance to the lake where we started and made camp for the night. We unpacked all of the meat so that it could cool and left Blue in charge of watching it overnight. We



continued our trek down and out of the valley the next morning, hoping to catch up with Caleb and his guide Dale. Our original plan was to meet up with them where the valley split – where we all split up to hunt – but when we got there, they were nowhere to be found. We had figured that they had taken a ram and were coming out, or had taken a ram earlier in the hunt and worked back down to the lake where we came in. So Dan called Stan with the satellite phone, and he came and picked us up. He told us he came by the lake and that Caleb and Dale were there with what appeared to be a ram.

When we got to the main camp the other two hunters were back with their sheep; one of the hunters was a bowhunter who made a 55-yard shot on his sheep. Stan made a return flight with the float plane to the lake to pick up Caleb and Dale, and soon all the hunters were back in the main camp. After looking over the sheep, it was quite evident that all of the sheep were very old with four of the five hunters in camp having taken about 10-year-old rams and one hunter taking a heavy horned and very broomed 14-year-old sheep. Caleb and I spent the next couple days around camp just taking in the area and helping to finish off and trim out one of their unfinished hunting cabins. We all thought it turned out quite nice.

One afternoon the guides took us to the other end of the lake to do some fishing. All of us hunters had a great time. The fishing was catch-and-release except for three nice trout for lunch. The weather was bright and sunny for the remainder of the trip, with the rain being off and on. Stan's wife, Helen, was a wonderful cook and made some delicious homemade

bread, cookies, pies and carrot cake. During the rest of our stay, we ate a vast majority of our sheep meat, with Helen preparing some awesome tenderloin and ribs. We were just awed with some of the meals she put together out there in the middle of nowhere.

There were great numbers of good quality mature sheep and tremendous caribou in this hunting area and the accommodations were great. It was evident that all of Stan's guides were experienced and knowledgeable and, most of all, very personable. I'm surely not the youngest hunter out there, but with some determination I believe that anyone can have a reasonable opportunity to take a high quality, trophy ram with Stan Steven's MacKenzie Mountain Outfitters.

Happy hunting!

MacKenzie Mountain Outfitters

Stan & Helen Stevens
Box 175 Dawson Creek
B.C V1G 4G3
Phone: 250.786.5118
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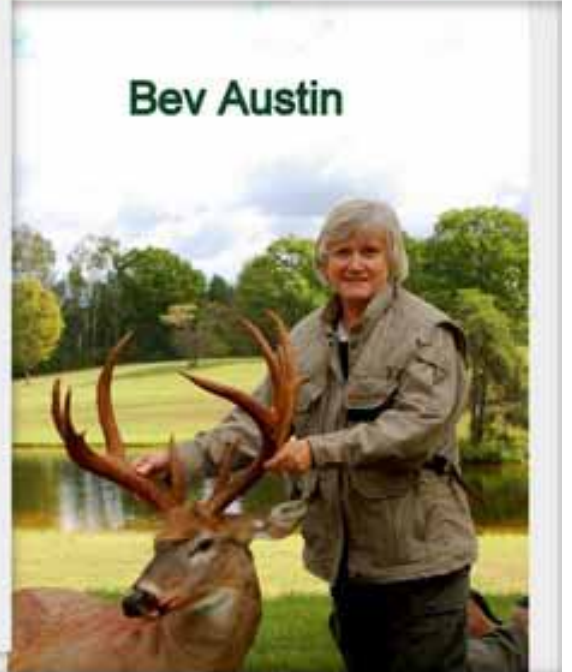
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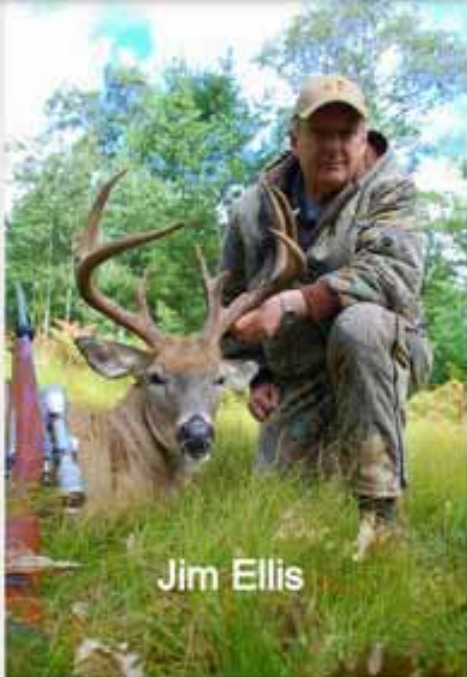
Brent Sinclair



Jim Houthoofd



Bev Austin



Jim Ellis



Tom Nelson



2009 Picnic



Lynn Marla giving instruction



Hailey Ellis watching, with ear protection



Jim Ellis instructing grandson Nicholas



Nick smoked his first (clay)


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Who voted the DOG to serve on
the Board of Directors?



LANSING AREA CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Your Lansing Area Chapter Board voted to make a **Chapter Life Memberships** available to our members. To be eligible the member must first be a **National Life Member**. The cost was set at \$500, with a senior price for persons over 60 years old set at \$350. We have had many people take advantage of this so far.

If you are already a national life member and have an interest in a chapter life membership, feel free to contact me. Obviously you also have the option of becoming both a national and chapter life member at the same time.

Jim Leonard
517-323-3361