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Jagstories:
• Kalahri Hart Spore

Test Report

Swarovski
Z5(t) 3.5-18x44P

**Airgun
Hunting**
Mythical,
Ethical or a
reality for
many future
hunters?

Steyr & Swarovski
Oostenrykse swier en styl





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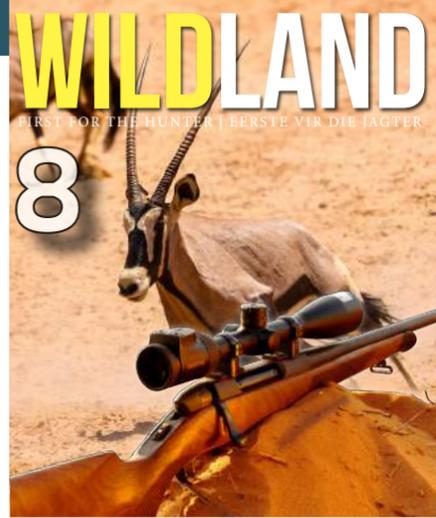
Versprei deur: / Distributed by:

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Steyr-Männlicher en Swarovski is ou staatmakers wat wêreldwyd bekend is. WILDLAND het hierdie twee 'juwele' vanaf Oostenryk in die Kalahari getoets. Enige produk wat die stof en sand van die Kalahari kan oorleef is sy sout werd. Beide het hul staal gewys onder uiters moeilike en rowwe jagomstandighede.



Produkt van die maand: Maak 'n knaldemper regtig 'n verskil? WILDLAND toets Nielsen se Sonic-knaldemper en meet die verskille in skootknal en terugskop van 'n geweer.



The radical and almost evolutionary arrival of pre-charged (PCP) powered air rifles in the past ten years on a global scale brings the subject of airgun hunting sharply into focus. The traditional hunting fraternity has not enjoyed or easily accepted airgun hunting, and they have found lots of reasons for denigrating the use of PCP powered air rifles. Shaun Kennedy proves the contrary in this insightful article.



If you were to decide between these two calibres, which one will it be? The question of which is best, has been raised multiple times. In this article, WILDLAND's rifle and ammunition specialist Pierre van der Walt compares these two calibres head to head and provides his expert opinion.

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Uit die heup uit

Wanneer is dit genoeg?

Ek het 'n aantal maande gelede gesê dat “ek my sover as moontlik van politieke sake sal weerhou, en nie daarvoor skryf nie”. Ek handhaaf nog steeds daardie stelling, maar wanneer dinge té veel word kan ek nie meer my bek hou nie – ek moet praat en skryf!

As die geweld, roof en moord, veral op boere, so erg geword het dat 'n prominente kerkleier gedurende sy preek, wat op TV deur honderde duisende mense wêreldwyd gekyk word, sê “If you come to my house and you do harm to my wife or daughters, I will not pray for you – I will shoot you!” dan moet mens besef die situasie is baie ernstig. Hierdie stelling sê baie, want gewoonlik is kerkleiers nie so reguit met sulke sake nie. Hulle probeer meeste van die tyd, met reg ook, om die situasie te kalmteer en nie 'n aggressiewe houding in te neem nie. Wanneer ons egter by so 'n punt kom, waar ons nou reeds is, dat 'n jong boer aan 'n paal vasgemaak word en tot die dood toe gemartel word, laat mens uitskreeu van woede. Hoe lank gaan ons dit nog kan verduur – iets gaan bars en die gevolge daarvan kan vërreikend wees. Die Regering moet wakker skrik en iets aan hierdie situasie doen want anders gaan iemand kop verloor en die bloed gaan vloei. Saam daarmee moet mens ook wonder oor die Minister van Polisie se uitlating dat ‘gewone burgers nie vuurwapens behoort te besit nie’. Minister Cele, jy leef in droom wêreld – word wakker en kyk hoe dinge om jou verloop. Ons staan op die rand van 'n afgrond! Gaan die SAPD met sy karige opleiding werklik die landsburgers kan beskerm teen hierdie bendes en moordenaars. In meeste ander westerse lande word die burgers beskerm. Ek besef egter ook dat geen land 'n 100% waarborg aan burgers kan gee dat hulle veilig sal wees nie. Maar kan jy Minister Cele, ons 'n 50% waarborg gee? Ek dink nie so nie! Of moet ons aanvaar dat ons nie meer as 'n westerse land gereken moet word nie? Die reaksie van die Regering na die gebeure op Senekal sal vir ons 'n duidelike bewys wees waar ons staan!

Nog 'n ding wat die kerkleier gesê het is, “It doesn't help to talk about ‘our people’ but then exclude some ethnic groups from the ‘our people’ concept”. Ek hoop President Ramaphosa het hierna geluister want hy is die een wat leiding moet neem om 'n duidelike plofbare situasie te ontloot en alle mense as ‘our people’ te behandel. Terselfdertyd glo ek ook dat die President sy hande vol het met sy eie ‘our people’ naby aan hom, wat van korrupsie en ander ernstige misdrywe beskuldig word. Hy moet ook aandag gee aan die korrupsie ten opsigte van die Covid-19 geld wat so maklik hul pad na die kaders se bankrekenings gevind het. Die moord en geweld behoort egter onmiddellike aandag te geniet! Sorteert dit eers uit, kry dit reg, dan sal die ander dinge makliker gebeur. Laat die blankes weer voel hulle het 'n toekoms en dat



Danie van Dyk by een van die gemsbokke wat hy tydens September 2020 in die Kalahari geskiet het.

ons nie bywoners is nie. Ons wil is té sterk om bywoners te wees en te bly!

Ons het onlangs die dienste van Koos Barnard, die voormalige redakteur van SA Jagter/Hunter as vryskut joernalis bekom. Koos is 'n man met baie ervaring en het uitstekende kennis van gewere, ammunisie en herlaai. Ons is oortuig daarvan dat hy 'n groot bydrae tot die inhoud van Wildand sal maak. Welkom Koos!

Noudat die somer amptelik hier is en die Covid-gevalle aan die afneem is, kan ons weer asemhaal. Wildland sal alles in ons vermoë doen om in die toekoms ook relevante en interessante artikels aan ons lesers te bring. Ons vra tog julle hulp ook – help ons asseblief om meer digitale intekenare te kry!

Tot volgende keer
Reguit skiet

Judae en die WILDLAND-span.

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Steyr & Swarovski

Oostenrykse swier en styl

Ons het reeds verskeie kere in die verlede verslag gedoen oor *Steyr* en *Swarovski* maar sulke uitstekende produkte verdien gereeld aandag. Die grendeltydperk, wat nou genadelik verby is, het ons werkverrigting ook benadeel en daarom trek ons die artikel oor die *Steyr* weer nader – hierdie keer met sy landsgenoot, *Swarovski* op sy rug.

Die *Steyr Mannlicher*-fabriek se geskiedenis is ouer as Suid-Afrika. Reeds in 1625 het wapenvervaardiging in Oostenryk begin in die omgewing waar die *Steyr Mannlicher*-fabriek vandag in Kleinraming gevestig is. Die amptelike maatskappy soos hy vandag daaruit sien, het egter eers in 1831 totstand gekom toe Leopold Werndl dit gestig het om gewere en ander vuurwapens te vervaardig om jag- en sportskiet-aktiwiteite mee te beoefen. Na die dood van Werndl in 1855 het sy seun Josef die fabriek oorgeneem en die maatskappy verder uitgebrei.

Maar daar is ook 'n groter verband tussen die geskiedenis van *Steyr* en Suid-Afrika. In 'n bundel wat deur *Steyr-Mannlicher* gepubliseer is en waarin hulle geskiedenis vervat word, verskyn daar 'n lys name van lande wat

oor die eeue *Steyr Mannlicher*-produkte gekoop het. Aan die onderkant van die lys word Suid-Afrika genoem, met dié nota daarby: "South Africa – Orange Free State and South African Republic. The Boers suffered from a great shortage of firearms. Beside the famous Boer *Mausers* from Germany they armed themselves with the following rifles from Austria: 11 mm *Martini Henry* rifles from the Romanian contract, 8 mm *Guedes Castro* rifles from the original Portuguese contract and 6,5 mm *Norwegian Krag-Jorgensen* rifles model 1894." Wat 'n mens hieruit kan aflei, is dat *Steyr* in daardie dae gewere op kontrak gebou het vir ander lande en dat van hierdie gewere hul pad na die Boere gevind het.

Soos met alle lande in Europa het Oostenryk en die *Steyr*-fabriek ook sy hoogte- en laagtepunte beleef. Die

Steyr-fabriek het gedurende die Eerste Wêreldoorlog ongeveer 4 000 gewere per dag geproduseer en die fabriek was deur 14 000 werkers beman. Hierdie getal is 'n rekord vir *Steyr*, wat nog nooit oortref is nie. Die Tweede Wêreldoorlog het die *Steyr*-fabriek kwaai teruggesit deurdat dit deur Duitsland beset is en hulle toe wapens aan die Duitse weermag moes verskaf. Alhoewel dit die *Steyr*-fabriek jare geneem het om te herstel van die effek van die oorlog, het hulle dit reggekry deur die ontsettende toewyding van die eienaars en werkers van die fabriek. Destyds was werk geweldig skaars en elke werker het sy pos ten alle koste behou, want hy het geweet dat indien hy sy werk verloor die kans omtrent nul was om ander werk te kry.

Deur André van Dyk



Ek het die *Steyr Mannlicher*-fabriek ongeveer 10 jaar gelede vir die eerste keer besoek. Toe ek in Oktober 2019 weer daar kom, was dit merkwaardig om te sien hoe die maatskappy in hierdie tyd uitgebrei het, hoeveel rekenaarbeheerde masjiene daar is en hoe die vervaardigingstechnologie gevorderd het.

Tien jaar gelede kon mens nog hier en daar sien as die masjiene iets vervaardig, maar deesdae is dit so gerekenariseer dat die rou produkte met 'n masjiene na 'n ander masjiene gevoer word en

'n paar minute later kom daar een of ander onderdeel aan die ander kant uit. Dit is veral fassinerend om te sien hoe 'n ronde stuk staal wat 10 duim lank is deur 'n robot opgetel word, in 'n masjiene geplaas word wat dit hamer en twee minute later kom 'n loop van 26 duim daar uit. Nogtans bly die hele beheer van die fabriek in mensehande en is dit mense wat kyk dat alles reg verloop. Die kwaliteitsbeheerstelsel is ongelooflik want nadat elke onderdeel vervaardig is, gaan dit deur 'n stelsel om te verseker dat dit binne die voorgelegde toleransie

is. Indien nie, word dit eenvoudig teruggestuur na die oorsprong en in uiterste gevalle totaal en al verwerp. Indien enige onderdeel afgekeur word, word die produksie van daardie masjiene summier gestop en nagegaan en voordat die verantwoordelike persone nie tevrede is met die kwaliteit nie, sal produksie nie weer begin nie. So, hoewel die masjiene die produkte vervaardig, bly die mens in beheer. Ek het dieselfde toewyding in hierdie mense ervaar as waaroor daar in die *Steyr*-geskiedenisboek geskryf is:

“Hulle maak of dit hulle plek is, het ongelooflike toewyding en sal alles doen om die maatskappy verder uit te brei en hul produkte te verbeter.”

Die fabriek het ook 'n afdeling waar pasmaakgewere voltooi word en dit is omtrent die enigste plek waar mens kan sien wat aangaan. Wanneer die aksies en loepe klaar gevorm is, word dit na hierdie afdeling gestuur waar dit dan presies volgens die instruksies van die kliënt voltooi word. Hier kan die kliënt byvoorbeeld die soort gravering spesifiseer, watse afwerking dit moet hê

en watse graad hout vir die kolf gebruik moet word. Toe ek daar was, was hulle juis besig om 'n geweer waarvan al die metaaldele met 24 karaat goud beslaan is, te vervaardig vir 'n Russiese kliënt. Dit is baie blink en baie mooi, maar vir my persoonlik is dit 'n bietjie “over the top”, soos die Engelse sê.

'n Besoek aan Steyr sal egter nie volledig wees indien mens nie 'n draai in die Waffensaal maak nie. In hierdie “museum” is daar 'n voorbeeld van elke *Steyr Mannlicher*-produkt wat ooit vervaardig is. Dit is in 1914 deur

Russiese krygsgevangenis gebou. Die *Waffensaal* word gebruik om direksievergaderings in te hou en as vertoonlokaal aan buitelandse besoekers.

Dit is interessant dat *Steyr Mannlicher* die eerste vervaardiger was wat die straight pull-aksie bekend gestel het, maar omdat dit so revolusionêr was, was dit voor sy tyd en het nooit werklik posgevat by die jagerspubliek nie. Ander vervaardigers het eers heelwat later hul aksies wat op dieselfde beginsel werk, bekendgestel.



SWAROVSKI

Die Steyr-Mannlicher CLII

Anders as die meeste ander moderne wapenvervaardigers wat net meng-en-pas-gewere maak, is *Steyr-Mannlicher* die een maatskappy wat homself genadiglik tot hede toe nog net met 'n enkele model op die meng-en-pas-geweerveld begewe het. Dis seker ook hoekom *Steyr* my gunsteling moderne geweer van Germaanse oorsprong is; jy kan van meet af sien wat jy kry, sonder enige delfwerk.

Van toentertyd af was *Mannlicher*-gewere 'slanke dames' en geneig om min te weeg. Lekker ligte gewere wat 'n mens maklik heeldag in enige terrein kon saamdra. Ek dink ook dis waar die ou mense se bygeloof dat "Maanligters harder skiet" vandaan kom. Hulle het ongetwyfeld harder geskop! Teen 2,9kg boks die *Steyr-Mannlicher CL* (Classic Light) ook as 'n veergewig, maar die kolfontwerp is strate beter as wat dit 'n eeu gelede was.

'n Mens kan *Steyr-Mannlicher*-jaggewere van 'n myl af uitken. *Steyr*'s is so uniek soos wat Farrah Fawcett in haar dae was, of soos Nikki Reed en Cameron Diaz deesdae is. Geen man met smaak sal skaam wees om langs 'n kampvuur of ander plek saam met hulle of 'n *Steyr-Mannlicher* gevang te word nie. Die eiesoortige *Steyr-Mannlicher* kenmerke is: 'n Loop met 'n koeksisteragtige buiteafwerking, 'n bottermesvormige grendelarm en magasynknippe wat in die voorgreep se sye versink is.

Die *CLII* se loop is 'n gehammerde produk. Die dae van vertwyfeling oor gehammerde lope is verby. Gehammerde

lope bied nie net die voordeel van 'n binnekant wat presies in die middel van die loop sit nie, maar ook die voordeel van konstante greinstruktuur en metaaldigtheid regdeur die loop. Anders as lope wat net geboor en getrek word, is hierdie lope ten volle simmetries in afmeting en struktuur en besonder glad aan die binnekant. Die digter metaal bied ook beter weerstand teen die vlamme van die hel wat elke keer wanneer die sneller getrek word, in 'n loop ontketen word.

Steyr en *Mannlicher* het oor die laaste eeu met verskeie aksie-benaderings eksperimenteer. Ouma Mata Hari (*Mannlicher-Schoenauer M-1903*) het a-la-*Mauser* oor twee teenoorstaande sluitnokke voor aan die grendelskag beskik. Later is van ses sluitnokke agter op die grendelskag gebruik gemaak en deesdae spog die *CL* met vier sportiewe sluitnokke, 'n grote en 'n kleintjie aan weerskante.

Die ongewone *Steyr-Mannlicher*-grendelarm is nie net uniek in voorkoms nie, *Steyr* span dit ook vir 'n ander doel in; dit vorm 'n integrale deel van die *CLII* se veiligheidsmeganisme. Wanneer die *CLII* se grendel toegemaak is en die veiligheidsknip geaktiveer is, is die wapen uiteraard so veilig as wat meganies bewerkstellig kan word. Die sneller is geblokkeer en die grendel kan nie beweeg word nie. Ek gaan nie probeer om die grendel-arm se vorm anders as 'n bottermes-hef te beskryf nie. Dit mag dalk nie die heel beste grendelarmknop op 'n

gevaarlike-wildgeweer wees nie, maar die *Steyr-Mannlicher CLII* is 'n sagtevel-wild ontwerp met die 9,3x62mm *Mauser*-, .376 *Steyr*- en .375 *Ruger*-kalibers as die enigste kalibers wat op gevaarlike wild gebruik kan word. Die grendelarm en knop voldoen dus aan alle praktiese vereistes. Dit geld ook vir die *CLII* se grendelkop wat 'n tipiese stootvoerontwerp is. Die grendelkop het 'n rand reg rondom wat slegs vir die uittrekker onderbreek is. Die uitwerper is natuurlik ook tipies, synde 'n veerbelaaide domper-tipe wat in die gesig van die grendelkop versink is.

Die twee mees elegante rompvorms wat ek nog ooit op jaggewere aangetref het, is die van die ou *Sauer M-90*- en van *Steyr-Mannlicher*-gewere. Die goedse rompe is sommer net donners sexy - daar is nie 'n ander manier om dit te beskryf nie.

Waar die *Steyr-Mannlicher* egter die voortou neem is met die grendelhuls. Nie alleen pas die slanke *Steyr-Mannlicher* grendelhuls só perfek op die aksie nie, maar is dit boonop totaal funksioneel en bied dit geen plek vir gasse vanuit 'n gebarste dop om die skutse gesig te bereik nie. Die agterkant van die slagpen steek ook fyntjies uit die huls as die wapen gespan is en dit dien as beide sig- en voelbare aanduiding van die stand van die wapen.

Die *CLII* gebruik *Steyr-Mannlicher* se 'safe bolt system' veiligheidsknip. Dis 'n wiel wat agter die rompsterp op die handgreep se rug geplaas is waar 'n mens haelgewere en dubbels se veiligheidsknippe vind. Dit is die gerieflikste posisie van almal vir 'n veiligheidsknip en die *Steyr*-stelsel is só ontwerp dat die nie die hand tydens terugskop kan beseer nie. *Steyr* beskryf die stand van die veiligheidsknip as "2+1". Ek dink dis simpel - dis 'n drie-posisie veiligheidsknip. As die knip na agter roteer is, kan die wapen afgevuur word. As die knip halfpad na voor roteer word, en beide die knip se kolletjie, en 'n grys streep, wat ook in die donker voelbaar is, is alles vasgesluit. As die knip so ver vorentoe gerol word dat slegs die kolletjie sigbaar is, is die wapen veilig maar kan dit gelaai word.

Deesdae word *Steyr*-gewere met 'n gewone sintetiese dubbelkolom stapeltipe-magasyne toegerus. *Steyr*-magasyne behou steeds die





magasynknip aan weerskante van die magasyn. 'n Mens plaas bloot jou hand onder die magasyn en druk die knippe aan die kant van die voorgreep tussen die duim en wysvinger in om die magasyn te verwyder. Dis 'n mooi en doeltreffende stelsel en beter as op die meeste ander gewere.

Die *CLII*-toetsgeweer se sneller het ook 'n haarsnellerfunksie wat geaktiveer kan word deur die sneller net vorentoe te druk. Om dit as 'n normale sneller te gebruik word dit gedeaktiveer deur die veiligheidsknip net 'n slag op veilig te plaas.

Die *CLII* beskik oor 'n tipiese Germaanse varkrug halfkolf agter en 'n snawel voorgreep wat nogal daarteen tel in die Suid-Afrikaanse mark wat klassieke kolwe verkies. Die kolf is egter funksioneel. Die ruitwerk is netjies en die greepkap besadig. So ook is die swart rubber skopdemper.

Steyr-Mannlicher CLII-gewere beskik oor 508mm (20") lope, maar gewone modelle het 600mm (23,6mm) lope. Almal weeg in die omgewing van 3,3–3,4kg, omtrent 3,7kg in Magnum kalibers. Die *CL II* reeks is in die volgende kalibers beskikbaar: .222

Rem, .223 Rem, .22-250 Rem, .243 Win, 6,5x55 SE en 6,5x57mm, 6,5x68mm, .25-06 Rem, .270 Win, .270 WSM, 7mm-08 Rem, 7x64mm, 7mm Rem Mag, 7mm WSM, .308 Win, .30-06 Spr, .300 Win, .300 WSM, .300 Wby Mag, 8x57mm, 8x68mmS, .338 Fed en .338 RCM, 9,3x62mm .375 Steyr en .375 Ruger asook die .450 Marlin, maar nie alle weergawes is uiteraard in al die gemelde kalibers te kry nie.

Swarovski Z5i 3.5-18X44 P BT

Ons het die *Swarovski* teleskoop vanaf Whylo, die amptleike invoerders van *Swarovski*-produkte, gekry en op die *Steyr CL 11* in 7X64mm kaliber

monteer. Toe het ons die geweer met teleskoop na Jonathan Fouche van Shooting Stuff geneem om te toets. Jonathan is 'n uithaler sportskut en

sy kennis oor teleskope is werklik indrukwekkend. Lees sy verslag in die artikel op bladsy 20

In die jagveld

Wildland het onlangs die geleentheid gekry om naby Askam in die Kalahari te gaan jag. In die rooisand van die Kalahari en onder stowwerige kondisies met hoë temperatuur het beide die Steyr en die Swarovski elke keer hul kant gebring. Partykeer was dit maar rof agter op die bakkie want die plaaseienaar, wat net daar 'Kalahari Harry' gedoop is, het skynbaar nie 'n spoedmeter in sy 4X4 nie. Met ongelooflike spoed het ons telkemale die rooидуine bestorm en elke keer het ek gedink dat die Steyr en Swarovski 'n knou gekry het. Heellaas, na ses ure van dolle vaart met stampe-en-stote oor die duine was alles nog perfek. Daar is daardie dag twee gemsbokke en 'n springbok met hulle platgetrek. Beide produkte het 'Kalahari Harry' se aanslag oorleef. As mens dit nie self ervaar het nie, sou dit moeilik wees om te verstaan, dat elke produk wat hierdie 'cowboy' se aanslag oorleef, is 'n produk wat jy toe-oë kan aanskaf. Ek salueer Steyr en Swarovski nie net wat hul Oostenrykse swier en styl betref nie maar ook vir hul 'Kalahari hardheid'!

Whylo is die invoerders van Swarovski produkte en Inyathi Sporting Supplies voer Steyr produkte in. Klik op die meegaande Steyr Arms logo om na 'n video oor die Steyr CLII en Swarovski te kyk. [WL](#)



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STEYR CLASSIC II

PRECISION - SAFETY - RELIABILITY



Swarovski Z5(i) 3.5-18x44P

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

Years ago, I realised that all riflescopes are not equal.

While all riflescopes are intended to serve the same function, that is to align the rifle with enough accuracy to hit a target, there are many different applications and even more different targets. Target shooting, hunting, military are but a few applications – each with similar but different requirements for the riflescope.

Hitting the inside of the barn door does not require much alignment; the target is nearby and quite large. As your target moves further away, or becomes smaller, so the need to accurately align the rifle with the target increases. The hunter aiming at a Kalahari Springbuck on the crest of the next dune, into an early morning sun, has a different functional requirement from his riflescope to the PH stalking the wily Cape buffalo in the thick scrub of the Zambezi River valley. Weight, size, optical clarity, even range estimation are different considerations.

Hunting conditions are always changing, so a versatile riflescope with

variable magnification allows the hunter to tackle a range of static or dynamic targets, under different light conditions, with the same rifle. This is why riflescope manufacturers predominantly make variable magnification riflescopes, rather than much cheaper fixed magnification riflescopes. The benefits of variable magnification far outweigh the costs of the related mechanisms.

But hunters require more from a riflescope than just precise aiming. Target identification is important too. A quality riflescope with clear optics helps the hunter see what needs to be seen, in poor light conditions as well as broad daylight.

By Jonathan Fouché

CHOICE

Hunters today have a massive variety of riflescopes to select from, more options than ever before. There are very few completely junk options available as the consumer soon dismisses those offerings. Most riflescopes are adequate, but some do the job better than others. They achieve this through better quality glass, innovative technologies (greater zoom range, illuminated reticles, etc), proprietary lens coatings (more light transmission, less reflection), sturdier mechanical design and years of experience. Older manufacturers learn all the time, making each new model better than the one before.

Choice is great for us consumers but is frequently terribly confusing – especially with so many riflescope brands and models to choose from! Many people limit their options at the start, by constraining their choice via their budget. I prefer to spend time

considering my own unique (or not so unique) functional requirements for the new riflescope that is suited to the purpose of the rifle it will be used on. Upgrading is costly, simply because there is little market for used riflescopes. So, rather save longer for the best scope that meets your needs.

If you are a bushveld hunter you won't need 25x magnification, and you don't want to lug around a heavy, target scope with 30 mils elevation adjustment. A sporterised 303 probably won't benefit from anything more than a 3-9x40, while a modern 6.5mm Creedmoor likely yearns for pulling that far-away target closer. Night-time varmint hunters have very different requirements again, many preferring thermal night-vision for this specialist application. Understand your own needs, to make a wise choice in a quality riflescope.

SWAROVSKI OPTIK

SWAROVSKI OPTIK is an Austrian company that develops and manufactures long-range optical instruments. Renowned for their aesthetic design, great functionality and innovation, Swarovski is all about quality, offering high intrinsic value to many discerning users, worldwide. High precision riflescopes, binoculars and spotting scopes allow people from different walks of life to appreciate nature in their own way. Hunting, hiking, and birdwatching are all better with *Swarovski*!

Wilhelm Swarovski, son of the original founder, Daniel Swarovski, was 17 years old in 1935. Already an avid hobby astronomer, Wilhelm's passion "to be closer to the stars" awakened his ambition to build his own, improved binoculars. With access to the specialized glass production and finishing technologies already used to manufacture jewellery stones in his father's factory, Wilhelm managed to develop a novel prism fabrication and

grinding process that he applied in constructing his first 6x30 binoculars.

Wilhelm went on to found SWAROVSKI OPTIK KG in 1949, laying the foundation stone for a sport optics company inspired by the love of nature. *Swarovski's* first serial product, the Habicht 7x42, is still an industry standard in the field of hunting optics and continues to be produced by SWAROVSKI OPTIK in the best tradition of its founder.

Swarovski's first riflescope was produced in 1959, over 60 years ago, and the first spotting scope followed in 1967. Innovation continued with the world's first rubber-armoured binoculars in 1971. In 1994 SWAROVSKI OPTIK introduced their first telescope. The SWAROVSKI OPTIK EL-binoculars with the world's first wrap-around grip were introduced in 1999 and captured Field and Stream Magazine's Best of the Best Award, making it the development of the decade.

AT THE HEART OF HUNTING: RESPECT FOR NATURE

While researching this article, I was please to discover SWAROVSKI OPTIK's clear position on hunting. In today's politically correct, anti-gun world, this brave corporate statement included the following words that resonated with me.

"We see hunting as a responsible pursuit in harmony with nature – if it is carried out sustainably. Through our commitment to our company philosophy and the age-old hunting

traditions of the Alpine realm, we stand behind all forms of hunting internationally that support and strengthen the respectful contact between man and nature. The hunter has to rely on alert and trained senses: watching respectfully and with full concentration, listening carefully, and safely assessing situations are the basis for hunting and its success. We believe that this respect for nature and her beauty lies at the heart of hunting."

Although I do have a few sport shooting medals, I have no hunting trophies to my name – I'm a biltong hunter who agrees with *Swarovski's* opinion "that meat harvested through hunting (game) is an ethically correct, sustainable, local, and high quality food source that is superior to many other means of meat production, and it encourages the mindful consumption of meat."



NEW Z5(i)

In 2020, the (first) year disrupted by the Coronavirus, *Swarovski* offers the following series of riflescopes. The Z3 is a simple line of riflescopes with a 3x zoom range. The new Z5(i), the X5i for long range, and the dS 'smart-scope' with a built-in laser rangefinder all offer a very useful 5x zoom range. A Swarovski-first, 6x zoom range features on the Z6i while the modern Z8i has a massive 8x zoom range.

The new Z5(i) is a 1-inch riflescope with a 5x zoom capability and optionally illuminated reticle. With three models available, the Z5(i) is a light-weight riflescope well-suited to almost every type of hunting.

I had the opportunity to evaluate the new Z5(i) 3.5-18x44 P BT L. The smallest and lightest model in the Z5(i) range, this scope is perfect for hunting in the mountains or plains, and for mounting on slimmer rifles. The other models in the Z5(i) range are a 5-25x52 for long-range hunting and a 2.4-12x50 for hunting in thick bush and forest.

The specific riflescope I received featured the 4W-I reticle with the horizontal axis graduated for windage. Each graduation represents 5cm at 100m, at the maximum magnification of 18x. Located in the second focal plane, this reticle does not scale as the magnification setting changes – only the

target image gets bigger or smaller.

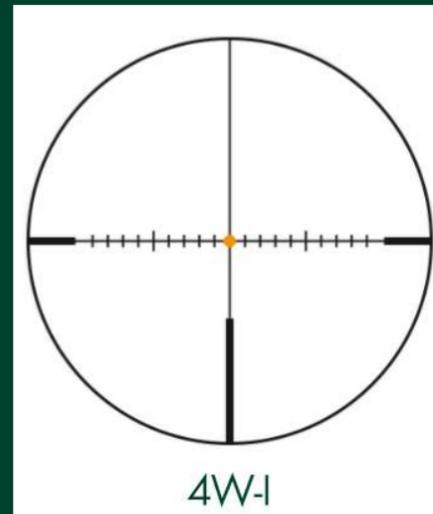
Swarovski ballistic turrets (BT) allow the user to accurately adjust their scope elevation for four pre-selected ranges, and then quickly adjust to those settings in the field. There's zero (usually at 100m), then green, yellow and red 'dots' for quick reference at increasing distance. For most practical hunting scenarios, I would imagine 200m, 250m and 300m would be appropriate. These setting could be calibrated on the range or set with input from Swarovski's useful Ballistic App or something similar.

The specifications for the Z5(i) 3.5-18x44 P BT L are summarised in the accompanying table.



SPECIFICATIONS

Weight (approx.)	490 grams
Length (approx.)	363 mm
Tube diameter	25.4 mm (1 inch)
Magnification	3.4 to 18.0 times
Objective lens diameter	44 mm
Field of view	30 m @ 3.4x to 10.2m @ 18x, at 100m
Exit pupil	10 mm @ 3.4x to 2.4mm @ 18x magnification
Eye relief distance	95 mm
Dioptr adjustment	-3 to +2 dioptres
Adjustment value per click	7mm @ 100m; or ¼ MoA
Elevation Range	160 cm at 100 m; or 57 MoA
Windage Range	± 50 cm at 100 m; or ± 18 MoA
Parallax adjustment	50 m to Infinity
Reticle	4W-I, with illuminated dot in the 2nd focal plane
Waterproof	400 mbar (4 m depth)
Temperature range	-20°C to +55 °C
Colours	Black



4W-I Reticle, in the second focal plane

MOUNTING

I received the riflescope for evaluation already fitted to a *Steyr CLII* rifle, chambered in 7x64mm. This versatile, European calibre is dimensionally and ballistically similar to the venerable .30-06 Springfield (7.62x63mm in metric notation), so is well suited for most South African antelope including large Kudu or Gemsbok, and smaller Springbuck at longer ranges.

The Z5(i) riflescope was already mounted to a 2-piece Picatinny rail, using 1-inch high rings. When I checked out the range of adjustments, I discovered that the windage was nearly all the way to the right, leaving just a little more room to manoeuvre. This is not ideal for evaluating the adjustment consistency of the scope, so I investigated ... and discovered that the two parts of the base were at quite different angles, shown up by the bubble level of my Wheeler Engineering

Professional Reticle Levelling System.

When I removed the two pieces of the base, there was an excessive amount of dry thread-locking compound under each base. After removing the dried fluid, I refitted the base pieces. Although better, the two pieces were still not perfectly aligned, which is why I prefer a one-piece base – the front and rear scope-ring are properly aligned to each other.

I quickly re-installed the scope to a proper 'zero' of the rifle, using the reference level on the exposed Picatinny rail to align the barrel clamp bubble level of my Wheeler System.

My bore-sighting collimator showed that I had moved everything in the right direction, taking the windage adjustment closer to the centre of the mechanical range. Not perfect, but much better!

INITIAL EVALUATION

The proof is in the pudding, so to speak and not in the specifications nor in good looks. So, how does the Z5(i) perform?

Optical clarity was fantastic, as expected of such a classy riflescope. It was easy to focus the reticle for my aging eyes, staring into the infinity of a blue sky. With that done, I was quickly reminded that this riflescope can adjust parallax from 50m, and beyond. This means that anything closer, such as my preferred 25m target, cannot be in focus at maximum magnification. I was able to see a sharp 25m-target when the riflescope magnification was no more than 10x. This is normal, nothing wrong with the scope.

For convenience I selected a target 25m away, and securely held the *Steyr* in my gun-cradle, aligned with the

small aiming point. I could easily move both the elevation and windage turrets to their end-stops, and back again.

Even after several rotations the reticle returned to the initial aiming point each time, and obviously to the same extremities too. Test passed, as expected!

Once zeroed, the ballistic turret allows 53 clicks of elevation, of which 45 are graduated. This is plenty for most hunting situations, but a PRS competitor may want more. I like the zero stop that allows a quick return to zero.

Due to the way it's mounted, this scope on this rifle allows 50 clicks of windage to the right (a full turn is 58 clicks, written on the turret), and plenty more to the left (nearly two full turns).



RANGE EVALUATION

My first tests were to zero the rifle at 50m, the maximum available to me on the day, and evaluate the group size. This helps temper expectations in further evaluations. I like to challenge myself with 5 shot groups, but due to time and ammunition constraints I opted to fire 3-shot groups. I do this at minimum and maximum zoom, and somewhere in the middle. My three groups were done at 3.5x, 10x and 18x.

The PMP Pro-Amm 7x64mm soft-point ammunition performed admirably. At 3.5x zoom the red dots on my target were small, mostly obscured, so it's unsurprising that this setting delivered the largest group size of 28mm. Ten-power was plenty to see the target, and the group size halved to 15mm. At 18x zoom, a little more improvement to a 12mm group. The shift of the group was mostly due to the setup, another way of admitting my fault. Nevertheless, this equipment combination is MoA capable.



My main riflescope test is aimed at evaluating how consistently the scope tracks in elevation and windage. I prefer to use 25m for tracking tests, rather than 100m or 50m, for two reasons. Firstly, shooter error and 'group size' have a smaller influence. Secondly, the closer distance means that more clicks are required to move the impact a given distance on paper. However, the Z5(i) 3.5-18x44 is not a long-range scope. It has parallax adjustment from 50m and has quarter-MoA adjustments that are specified as 1 click equals ¼ inch at 100 yards, or 7mm at 100m. so, at 50m, 2 clicks is 7mm, 20 clicks is 70mm, 46 clicks is 160mm, and so on. I decided that 50m would be a more

appropriate distance for evaluating this scope and customised my A4-target to this riflescope's expected capability. Shot 1 is aimed at the centre of the circle, at the maximum 18x zoom. I then proceed counter-clockwise with shot two at the same elevation, out right by 20 clicks (70mm) of windage dialled at 50m. Shot 3, still aimed at the centre of the circle, is made with elevation increased by 46 clicks (160mm), still with 20 clicks of right windage dialled in. Shot 4 is made by dialling windage to the left by 40 clicks, to be 20 clicks (70mm) left of centre. Shot 5 drops the elevation half-way and returns the windage to zero to place the shot in the centre of the rectangle. This is the first,

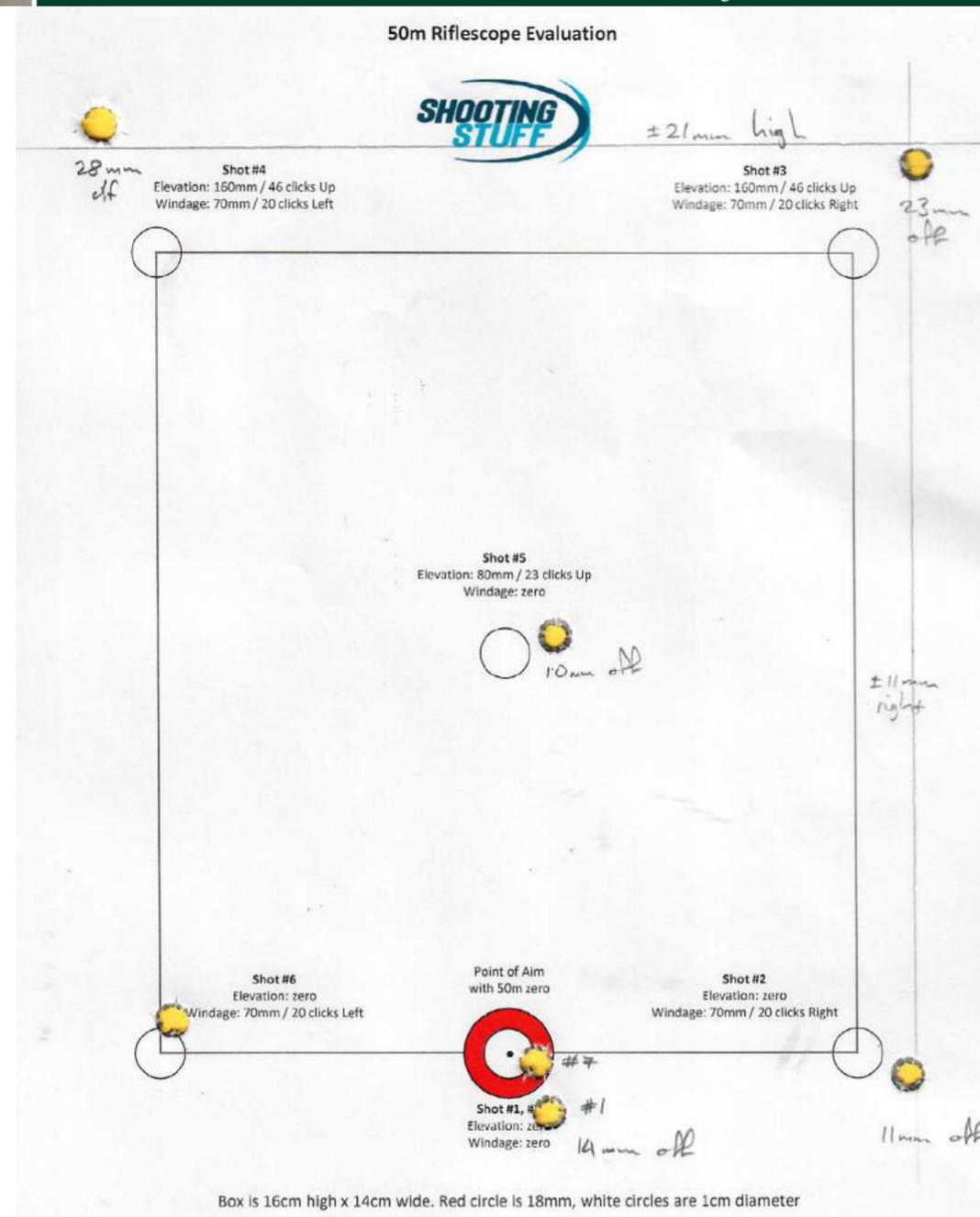
simultaneous move of both elevation and windage during the evaluation. Shot 6 targets the bottom left corner, another simultaneous adjustment of both elevation and windage. The final shot, shot 7, returns both the windage and elevation to zero and is expected to be centred on the circle. All shots are aimed at the centre of the circle, and shot movement is through adjusting the windage and elevation dials.

My anticipated consistency with this rifle – ammo combination is 1 MoA at best, more likely a little more due to the particular setup at this shooting range. So, at 50m the shots should impact within about 12mm to 15mm of their target.

Shot #1 impacted a little low and right, consistent with the grouping at 18x, but within the anticipated radius. Shot #2 followed suit but shot #3 went a little high (and right). Shot #4 was at a similar height, around 21mm higher than expected, just a little left. Shot #5 was just right of the expected impact and shots #6 and #7 were essentially on target. The extra elevation gain on shots #3 and #4 is why it is important evaluate each scope in this way.

Ideally, I would repeat this test on another day, on a better setup to verify that the effect is real and not shooter induced. It is important to bear in mind that this is a minor effect, at extreme elevation, so not something to bother most shooters. Were the effect verified to be real, I would conduct further tests to include additional elevation settings to investigate any deviation from linear adjustments.

Given the uncertainty of my performance with (for me) a new rifle, scope and ammo, I am satisfied that the Swarovski Z5(i) 3.5-18x44 performed correctly, especially returning to zero.



Box is 16cm high x 14cm wide. Red circle is 18mm, white circles are 1cm diameter



OPTICAL CLARITY

What I've seen over the years is that optical quality is difficult to quantify, without scientific tools. Does optical quality and clarity matter to the average hunter? Yes, and no. Most of the riflescopes on the market, with similar specifications, can 'see' much the same things. But the image through better glass is clearer, sharper, easier on the eye. That's under bright daylight conditions – the difference becomes more pronounced under less ideal conditions like dusk, poor weather, and even less-ideal positions or orientations.

I have devised and refined an optical clarity test for riflescopes. This includes reading different font sizes and identifying patterns / lines in different orientations. On this A4-sizes printed page, I was able to read down to 18-point font size at 50m on a fine spring morning, and could differentiate the wider spaced lines in squares 2, 4 and 6. The others appeared a uniform shade of grey.

I was easily able to identify the 7mm bullet holes at 50m, at greater than 6x zoom, and enjoyed the clarity of these optics and the simplicity of the reticle. I did not use the illumination for any of these tests.

✓ 60 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

✓ 48 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

✓ 36 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

✓ 28 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

✓ 24 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

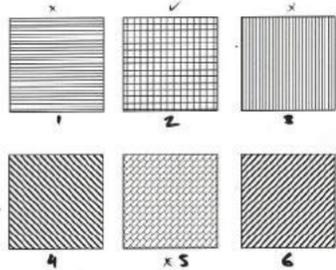
✓ 18 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

16 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

14 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

12 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345

10 Point: ABCQO abcqo 12345 Font Is Calibri



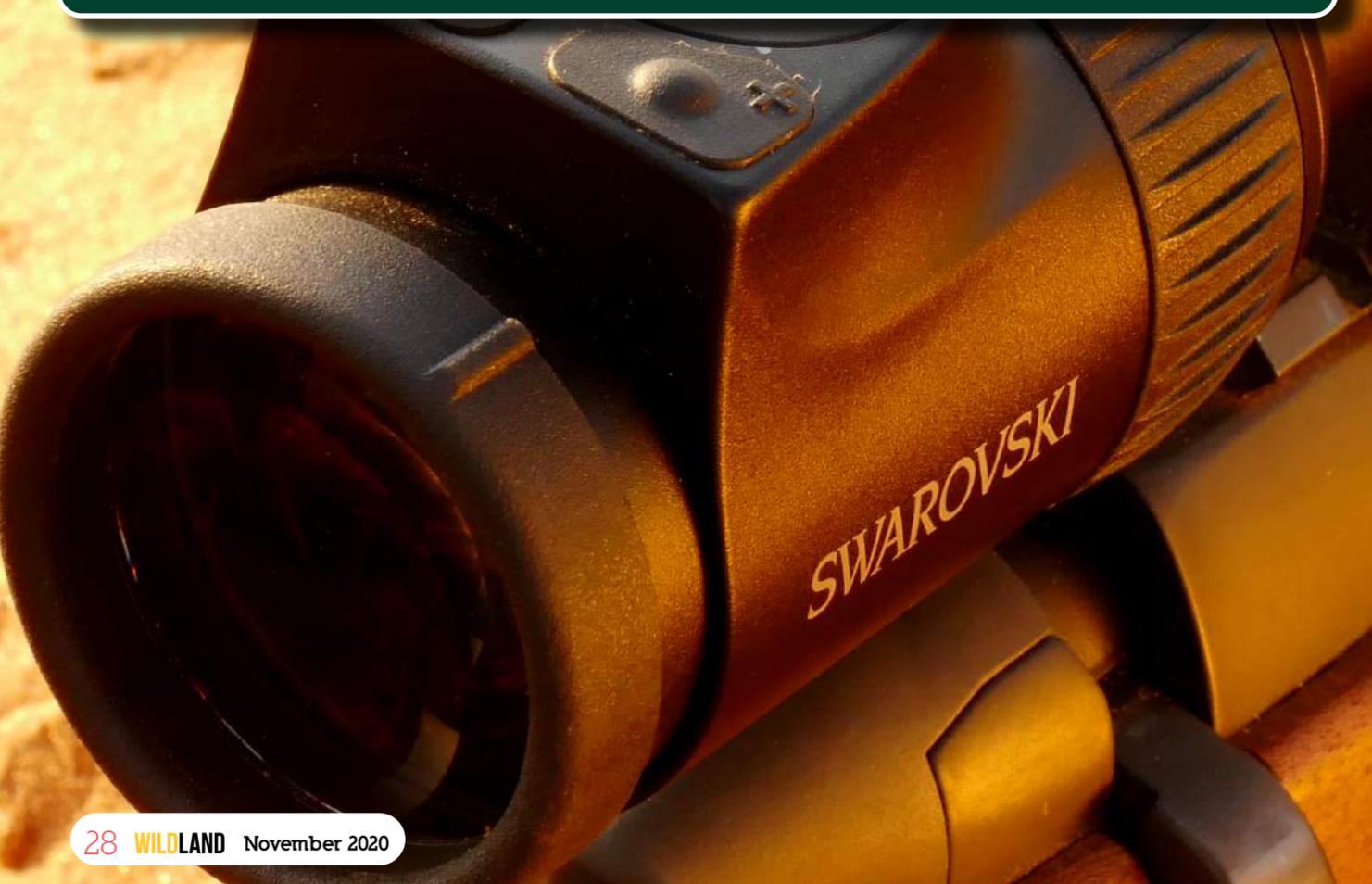
CONCLUSION

The Swarovski Z5(i) 3.5-18x44 P BT L is a great riflescope and offers good value for the discerning South African hunter. Simple, reliable, no frills. I liked the 4W-I reticle, graduated for windage. Once you are used to them, the Swarovski ballistic turrets are really useful for the South African hunter.

The recommended retail price was around R35 000 in September 2020, and I'd like to thank Whylo for supplying

the model for evaluation. Ask your local dealer to contact Whylo if you're interested in one of these fine optics.

Would I buy a Swarovski? Yes. In fact, I have a Swarovski Z6 2.5-15x44 on my Rem 700 223 rifle, so I guess that I've already put my money where my mouth is. **WL**



NOW ALSO WITH ILLUMINATED RETICLES



Z5i 5-25x52
THE PRAIRIE
HUNTER

SEE THE UNSEEN



Sonic: Minder knal! Minder skop!

NIELSEN SONIC



Deur André van Dyk

So lyk die Sonic aan die binnekant.

Knaldempers ('suppressors') is deesdae hoogmode en mens word algaande daarvan bewus dat jaggewere toenemend met hierdie tipe van apparaat toegerus word. Aanvanklik het ek dit maar net as nóg 'n gier beskou waardeur vervaardigers poog om jagters die hand diep in die sak te laat steek. Maar ek was verkeerd ...

Ek het my aanvanklik glad nie aan knaldempers gesteur nie. Knaldempers, het ek gereken, gee 'n geweer 'n lomp voorkoms. Buitendien, wat is nou eintlik die doel daarvan om daarmee te jag? Wat maak dit nou saak as die bok doodgeskiet word? Mens hoef jou sekerlik nie te bekommer of hy die skoot gehoor het nie! Soos ek egter dieper gedelf en meer noukeurig op die saak ingegaan het, het ek tot nuwe insigte gekom.

Wat veroorsaak die knalgeluid?

Daar is twee klanke wat by die knal van 'n skoot ter sprake is. Ten eerste is daar die klank wat die koeël veroorsaak wanneer dit deur die lug trek. Die klankgrens is op 1130fps, afhangend van die hoogte bo seespieël en die

atmosferiese druk, vasgestel. Indien 'n koeël hierdie klankgrens oorskry, is daar 'n duidelike knalgeluid hoorbaar. Feitlik alle kalibers is deesdae in staat om hierdie grens te oorskry. Daar is geen manier om hierdie skerp knalgeluid te onderdruk nie, behalwe as die spoed van die koeël tot onder 1130fps verlaag word. Sou dit gebeur, ontstaan daar velerlei probleme. So byvoorbeeld kan die reikafstand, die doodmaakvermoë en die akkuraatheid van die koeël beïnvloed word. Daar is wel vervaardigers wat hul daarop toespits om ammunisie waarvan die spoed subsonies is, vir bepaalde kalibers te vervaardig. Mens kan ook jou eie ammunisie laai om aan hierdie vereiste te voldoen. Dit hou egter, soos hierbo genoem, heelparty nadele in waarmee rekening gehou moet word.

Die ander klank word veroorsaak

wanneer die dryfmiddel ontbrand en gasse teen uiters hoë temperature vrygestel word. Sodanige gasse laat drukking in die kamer en die loop opbou. Wanneer hierdie gasse die loop onder uiters hoë druk verlaat en met die koeler en stadig bewegende lug aan die buitekant in aanraking kom, word die alom bekende knalgeluid van die geweeskoot gehoor. Dit is hierdie knal wat effektief deur 'n knaldemper onderdruk word. Let egter daarop dat die knalgeluid nooit heeltemal uitgedoof kan word sodat dit glad nie meer hoorbaar is nie – dit kan slegs onderdruk word.

Hoe funksioneer 'n knaldemper?

Knaldempers wat van metaal (meestal alloo-aluminium) vervaardig word, word vooraan die geweerloop geskroef. Die knaldemper bestaan uit twee kompartemente. Die kompartement die naaste aan die loop is basies 'n hol buis wat die gasse deur die dryfmiddel vrygestel, kans gee om uit te sit. In die proses word daar van baie energie ontslae geraak. Die tweede kompartement is met 'n paar skotte

('baffles') toegerus. Laasgenoemde is in der waarheid 'n tipe van 'n obstruksie met gaatjies daarin. Die gaatjies is teen 'n hoek gesny en is presies vir die spesifieke kaliber op een lyn gebring. Dit veroorsaak dat die koeël veilig deur hulle beweeg. Terselfdertyd word die gasse van die dryfmiddel gedeflekteer en vertraag. Dus, wanneer die koeël die loop verlaat, is die gasse nie meer so warm nie en die druk is heelwat laer. Daarmee saam word daar 'n wesenlike afname in die klankvolume waargeneem.

Die hoofdoel van 'n knaldemper is, soos reeds genoem, slegs om die klank te temper – die klank kan nie heeltemal uitgedoof word nie. Dit hou egter nietemin bepaalde voordele in deurdat die skut of jagter se gehoor beskerm word. Klank word in desibel (dB) gemeet en wanneer 'n mens normaalweg praat, word tussen 60 en 65dB gemeet. Vir enige klank wat 95dB oorskry, word gehoorbeskermers benodig. Klanke wat 125dB oorskry, kan oorpyn veroorsaak, terwyl klanke wat 145dB bereik, permanente gehoorverlies kan veroorsaak, selfs al kom mens dit nie dadelik agter nie. Diegene wat oor 'n tydperk heen konstant aan intense klank blootgestel word, sal mettertyd doof word, sou die nodige beskerming teen gehoorskade ontbreek. Ek dra self

kennis hiervan. Die meeste geweeskote oorskry 145dB en dus is dit absoluut noodsaaklik om gehoorbeskermers te gebruik. Afhangend van die knaldemper wat gebruik word, kan die klank, wanneer die koeël die loop verlaat, met tussen 20 en 30dB verminder word. Dit is op sigself nie genoeg nie en dus raadsaam om gehoorbeskermers op 'n voortgesette basis te gebruik.

'n Tweede voordeel van 'n knaldemper is die feit dat dit ook as looprem dien en die terugskop van die geweer verminder. Dit stel die skut of jagter in staat om akkurater skote af te vuur. In die geval van gewone kalibers, verkies ek 'n knaldemper bo enige looprem. 'n Looprem verminder die terugskop van die geweer deur die gasse wat die dryfmiddel vrystel, na agter te deflekteer. Daarmee saam word die klank van die skoot ook na agter gedeflekteer. Dit kan baie steurnis aan ander skuts op die skietbaan veroorsaak. Ek dra kennis van hoe 'n skut, langs 'n ander skut wat met 'n .338 Lapua Mag op die skietbaan geskiet het, na sy ore gegryp het toe die skoot afgegaan het – dit met gehoorbeskermers en al!

Sonic van Denemarke

Die Deen, Jørgen Nielsen, is reeds sedert 1980 as geweesmid in die

wapenindustrie werksaam. Hy het 'n absolute passie vir vuurwapens en alles wat daarmee gepaard gaan. Gedurende die tagtiger jare het hy groot hoeveelhede Carl Gustav-militêre-tipe gewere in Swede gekoop en na Denemarke verskep. Hier het hy dit in jaggewere ombou wat soos soetkoek deur Deense en Sweedse jagters opgeraap is. Nielsen het ook sy eie afswaai teleskoopmonterings ontwerp, asook verskeie ander produkte wat suksesvol deur jagters gebruik word. Hy het die behoefte aan knaldempers in die mark geïdentifiseer en so sy eie knaldemper, die Sonic, begin ontwerp en vervaardig.

Vandag is Sonic wêreldwyd een van die voorste vervaardigers van knaldempers. Hulle beskik oor 'n wye reeks produkte wat groot waarde vir sowel die jagter, as die sportskut inhou. Hulle Ghost-reeks is spesiaal ontwerp en vervaardig om aan die jagter se behoeftes te voldoen. Dit is 'n liggewig knaldemper wat uit verharde aluminium vervaardig word. Op dié manier word die gewig, tot voordeel van die jagter, tot die minimum beperk. Die Sonic-reeks is op sy beurt vir sportskuts ontwerp wat nie die geweer oor lang afstande hoef te dra nie. Daar is natuurlik geen rede waarom beide reekse nie vir sowel jag- en sportskietomstandighede aangewend



LINKS: Vriesraampies as 'n skoot met 'n .308 sonder die Sonic-knaldemper afgevuur word. Hoë terugskop = baie loopbeweging = minder akkuraat.

REGS: Vriesraampies as 'n skoot met dieselfde geweer, maar met die gemonteerde Sonic-knaldemper afgevuur word. Verminderde terugskop = minder loopbeweging = meer akkuraat.





Die lesing van die skoot sonder die Sonic-knaldemper

Die lesing van die skoot met die Sonic-knaldemper

kan word nie. Die Sonic-reeks, hoewel effe swaarder as die Ghost-reeks, kan wel meer skote hanteer voordat die knaldemper se temperatuur te hoog styg. Die meegaande video toon aan hoe die gemonteerde Sonic presteer as daar 'n groot hoeveelheid skote met 'n outomatiese wapen geskiet word voordat die knaldemper letterlik 'rook' van hitte.

Die groot voordeel wat alle Sonic-knaldempers inhou, lê in die feit dat dit oor los skotte beskik. Dit beteken in effek dat dieselfde knaldemper byvoorbeeld op 'n .308 Win, 30-06 en .300 Win Mag gebruik kan word. Dit stel mens ook in staat om die skotte te verminder of te vermeerder, afhangend van watter kaliber gebruik word. Indien mens byvoorbeeld 'n .308 Win gebruik waarvan die spoed van die koeël nie so hoog soos dié van 'n .300 Win Mag is nie, sal jy met minder skotte kan klaarkom. Sou 'n .300 daarna gebruik word, skroef mens net nog een of twee skotte aan.

Die feit dat mens die skotte kan vermeerder of verminder, help die skut om beter groeperings te skiet. Dit is moontlik omdat die gewig van die skotte die vibrasie van die loop verminder. Net soos skuts met koeëlgewig en hoeveelheid kruit eksperimenteer om kleiner groeperings te skiet, kan die skotte aangewend word om hierdie proses te vergemaklik – selfs te verbeter. Dit is 'n groot voordeel wat die skut help om die 'sweet point' in soverre dit

groeperings betref, te vind.

Sonic-knaldempers word so vervaardig dat bykans die helfte van die totale lengte daarvan oor die geweerloop pas. In die algemeen word die loop slegs met ongeveer ses duim verleng wanneer die knaldemper aangeskroef word. Dit is 'n baie groot voordeel asook 'n merkwaardige verbetering op die eerste knaldempers wat die lig gesien het.

WILDLAND het die Sonic 45 op die skietbaan uitgetoets deur dit op 'n Marlin .308 Win te monteer. My eerste indrukke was dat dit baie beter gebalanseerd was as die vorige knaldemper wat nie oor die loop gestrek het nie. Die totale lengte van die Marlin, met die Sonic-knaldemper ingesluit, is, in vergelyking met die vorige knaldemper, met vier duim verkort.

Ek het die SABS gekontak om te verneem of hulle ons kon help om die knaldemper te toets. Hulle doen ongelukkig nie meer toetse nie, behalwe as hulle 'n amptelike opdrag daarvoor ontvang. Ons het toe 'n applikasie (APP) van die internet afgelaai, getiteld 'Sound Meter'. Dit is ongelukkig net to by 120 dB gekalibreer, maar ons het toe die nodige verstellings aangebring sodat dit nie die maksimum desibels sou bereik nie. Ons doel was slegs om die verskil in klank te meet.

Dit was gou-gou duidelik dat die klank meer gedemp as met die vorige knaldemper was. Op die video-opname wat ons in vertraagde aksie geskiet

het, is dit duidelik dat, wanneer die skoot afgevuur word, die loop minder beweeg met die knaldemper gemonteer as daarsonder. Ons het ook die 'Sound Meter' ingespan om die klank met en sonder die knaldemper, reg langs die skut te meet. Daar is 'n verskil van ongeveer 30 dB gemeet.

Ek sou ook graag die toets met een van my ander .30-kalibers wou herhaal, maar ongelukkig is nie een daarvan gesny om 'n knaldemper te monteer nie. Ek is egter daarvan oortuig dat die Sonic werk en dat dit sal aanhou om die gewenste resultaat te lewer.

Sonic-knaldempers word by alle Wildman-tak te koop aangebied. Kontak hul hoofkantoor by 017 819 3415 om verdere inligting te bekom. Daar is ook 'n produkkaart op aanvraag beskikbaar wat Nielsen spesiaal opgestel het om jagters en sportskuts te help om die regte keuse uit te oefen.

Klik op die meegaande Nielsen Sonic logo om na 'n kort videosnit oor Sonic te kyk. [WIL](#)



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WEN MET WILDLAND

Kyk wat het ek gejag

Let asseblief daarop dat alle wenners van hierdie kompetisie self vir Wildland moet kontak op info@wildlandmag.co.za om hul pryse op te is.

Kyk wat het ek gejag en wen met Bushnell
 Stuur jou jagfoto's saam met die nodige besonderhede aan jagfotos@wildlandmag.co.za en staan 'n kans om 'n Bushnell-verkyker ter waarde van R1 500 te wen. Ultimo borg die prys.
 Kontak die invoerders, Ultimo, by 011 785 4700 vir meer inligting.

WILDLAND-WENNER

Die wenner van die Bushnell-verkyker is Eddie Moolman met die Blesbokram wat hy gejag het. Baie geluk!

Bushnell



Jagter: Eddie Moolman; **Spesie:** Blesbokram;
Geweer: .300 WSM; **Ammunisie:** 210gr Berger VLD;
Afstand: 250m; **Plek:** Amsterdam, Mpumalanga



Jagter: Jaco van Wyk;
Spesie: Springbokram;
Geweer: Remington Sandero 7mm Rem Mag;
Ammunisie: 150gr Nosler Ballistic Tip
Afstand: 165m; **Plek:** Lime Acres, Noord-Kaap



Jagter: Juanita Steenkamp; **Spesie:** Vaalribbokram;
Geweer: Tikka T3 Hunter 6,5x55mm;
Ammunisie: 143gr Hornady ELD-X
Afstand: 300m; **Plek:** Napier, Wes-Kaap



Jagter: Wynand Viljoen; **Spesie:** Gemsbokbul;
Geweer: Brno .308 Winchester;
Ammunisie: 180gr Sierra GameKing
Afstand: 160m; **Plek:** Otjiwarongo, Namibië



Jagter: Alméru du Preez; **Spesie:** Njalabul;
Geweer: 7x57mm;
Ammunisie: 173gr Sellier & Bellot
Afstand: 80m;
Plek: Weenen, KZN



Jagter: Mynardt van Huyssteen; **Spesie:** Gouewildebeesbul;
Geweer: Tikka 6.5x55mm; **Ammunisie:** 143gr Hornady ELD-X;
Afstand: 80m; **Plek:** Moedwil, Noordwes



Jagter: Megan Jonker; **Spesie:** Blesbok;
Geweer: Remington 30-06;
Ammunisie: 180gr; **Afstand:** 160m;



Jagter: Mickayla Basson; **Spesie:** Rooibokkooi;
Geweer: Remington .243 **Ammunisie:** 80gr PMP;
Afstand: 60m; **Plek:** Potgietersrus



Jagter: Pieter van der Merwe;
Spesie: Blouwildebeesbul;
Geweer: CZ .308 Win;
Ammunisie: 180gr; **Afstand:** 70m



Jagter: Loui Hough; **Spesie:** Koedoebul;
Geweer: Sako .338 Win. Mag; **Ammunisie:** 230gr Norma Oryx
Afstand: 53m; **Plek:** Clocolan, Free State

Windbukse

Die Onderskatte Wonderwapens

Deur Pierre van der Walt

Die nederige windbuks, of windgeweer of luggeweer soos ons dit deesdae noem, het my nog altyd fassineer.

Die eerste windbukse het die lig gedurende die 1500s gesien en die oudste bewaarde weergawe is te vinde in die Livrustkammaren Museum in Stockholm, Swede. Die gewildste aanvanklike kalibers het tussen .30" - .51" gewissel. Windbukse is vir beide jag en oorlogvoering gebruik en was gevorderde wapens vir hul tyd want hulle was stiller as swartkruit gewere. Dit was die verkose skerpskutter wapen van die Napoleontiese era.

Hulle het nie rook gemaak nie, kon in nat weer gebruik word en had 'n hoër vuurtempo. Een van die eerste militêre windbukse was die Oostenrykse Girardoni van 1768-69. Dis ook waar die naam windbuks vandaan kom – Duits vir 'windbüchsen'.



BSA Standard Club No.4

My lewe met windbukse het in 1964 begin toe my oupa Bouwer aan moederskant sy .177 kaliber (No.1) BSA Standard Club No.4 model windbuks uit die laat dertigerjare aan my nagelaat het nog voor ek skool toe is. Die primitiewe geweeertjie was langer as ek en het 'n stewige veer gehad wat met die hefboom onder die loop gespan is. Ek moes die kolf tussen my voete vasknyp en op die hefboom gaan lê het om dit oor te haal. Soms het daai kolf gegly en dan is my hand hard tussen die loop en hefboom geslaan. Ek dink bloederig gebliksem is

'n meer gepaste uitdrukking.

Met daai windbuks kon ek toor al moes ek die kolf onder my arm vasknyp omdat die kolf te lank was om die sneller by te kry as ek dit geskouer het. Soveel so dat my vriend Kenneth Richardson vandag nog vertel dat ek op daai stadium van my lewe die beste skut ter wêreld moes gewees het. Hy sê dit darem net na 'n paar wyne. Mettertyd het ek in die 'BSAtjie' ingegroei en dit is vandag nog my gunsteling onder al my windbukse – PCP's inklusief.

Daardie BSA windbuks het my baie geleer. Eerstens snellerbeheer. Tweedens om die skoot deur te volg om die presisie versteurende effek van die veer teen te werk. Ek het gou geleer dat 'n koeëltjie 'n trajek het en dat 'n windbuks op afstand niks op 'n wildemakou uitrig as dit nie 'n kopskoot was nie; slaankrag en penetrasie. Ek het nie van die somme geweet of hoe om hulle te maak nie, maar ek het 'n 'gevoel' ontwikkel wat mettertyd verbasend bevredigende uitkomstes gelewer het.

Ek was 'n bloeddorstige en toegewyde muis- en kwêvoel termineerder in

die plaas se vrugteboord. Eintlik van enigiets wat sy bek nie van die appels, appelkose, druiwe, kwepers, pere, perskes, moerbeie en vye kon afhou nie. Die varkhokke was in 'n groot kamp met turksvye en dennebome. Daar het ek vir my en Sonnyboy Mokoena (spreek Mòkwèna uit) 'n weeklikse braaivleis van lemoen- en tortelduiwe asook kransduiwe geoes. Ons het die koppe en vere afgepluk en die binnegoed uitgehaal. Mielietyd was die duifkroppe tot barstens toe vol van my pa en omliggende boere se geelmielies.

Ons het die karkassies met gesteelde Jersey plaasbotter of varkvet gesmeer, gesout en gepeper en dan in stokke gestee om oor ons vuurtjie te braai. My bek water sommer weer as ek daardie smaak terugroep. Die resultaat was nou nie in die klas van Leslie van der Merwe se *South African Gamebird Recipes* nie, maar dit was ons lekker avontuur en 'n nostalgiese smaak.

Ons dop was rooi Koolaid aanmaak koel drank en Elandsfontein boorgatsous – van die lekkerste water wat nog ooit geproe het op enige plek in die wêreld waar ek al was. Soms het Sonnyboy daarin geslaag om van sy pa Mavuso se Boxer of Springbok twak te steel en ek het skoolboek bruin papier bygedra om 'n dampie te maak. Ons was dan twee menere ... in die Afrika 'wildernis'.

Varke in daai hok was die groot, wit Amerikaanse Landrace en Large White vark kruisings. Hulle was nie skrikking nie in as daar klein varkies was moes ek en my maters soos Kenneth en Sonnyboy soms vlug van voet wees. Die eerste dier wat my ooit gestorm het was 'n dem varkbeer. Maar toe raak ek mos slimmer as die duiwel. As ek sien die varke raak krielrig dan trek ek met die BSA los en skiet die vark so om die uitlaappyp. Hulle het gou geleer om ons tot die volgende werpsel se aankoms uit te los.

Ons het elke jaar 30 Mei groot geslag. 'n Os, twee varke, twee skape, twee wildsbokke is platgetrek, binnegoed verwyder, ontvel en gewas. Republiekdag was verwerkingsdag Dit het ons twee dae geneem ons als te bewerk en elkeen moes sy kant bring van die dag wat jy 'n slinger kon draai, speserye kon gooi of 'n mes kon hanteer. Terwyl my ma die varke krap en die vet versamel om wasgoed seep vir die werkers te maak kom sy toe op 'n klein stukkie lood naas die vark se uitlaappyp af ...

Pa roep my nader; wys my die windbuks koeëltjie en vra wat aangaan. My pa was 'n harde, maar nie 'n genadelose man nie. Jy kon wegkom met moord as jy nie lieg nie. Om een of ander rede besluit ek daai dag om halfpad te lieg en beroep my op 'selfverdediging'. En daar kry ek my eerste regsles in die beginsels wat ten opsigte van selfverdediging geld. As jy 'n man, of 'n vark in die hol skiet is hy aan die wegbeweeg van jou af en tel dit nie as selfverdediging nie. Die tweede beginsel van selfverdediging is dat jy dit nie vyftien keer kan herhaal nie – soos wat pa my toe gewys het deur sy ander hand oop te maak waarin 'n versameling dofgrys koeëltjies genestel het. Die derde beginsel van selfverdediging wat ek daardie dag geleer het is dat as jy lieg en uitgevang word jou verweer nie geld nie, maar ook dat as jy die perke van selfverdediging oorskry – jy deeglik gesanksioneer sal word deur die aktiewe regstelsel.

Ek word gereeld gevra wat my gunsteling 'kaliber' is. Ek het nie 'n gunsteling kaliber nie, maar wel gunsteling patrone. Die windbuks is een van my gunsteling wapen en patroon kombinasies. Een rede hoekom die windbuks misken word is omdat meeste mense net aan No.1 en No.2 kalibers dink as hulle windbukse dink. Daar is

dosyne groter windbuks kalibers wat in staat is om grootwild met gemak plat te trek. Ek persoonlik dink ons vergeet om windbukse vir militêre en ander toepassings te oorweeg; veral as daar meer aandag aan ontwikkeling van doelgerigte spesialis-aanwending windbuks wapens gegee sou word. Hulle is betroubaar en lanklewend. Goedkoop om te herstel.

Spesialis toepassings wat oorweeg kan word is byvoorbeeld:

- Wildoes (culling) – Bosveld wildoes vind baie keer snags plaas oor kort afstande. 'n Stewige kaliber windbuks wat 'n koeëltjie teen sowat 1000 fps vuur is byna geluidloos, genereer min skop, geen trompvlam nie en kan besonder akkuraat wees.
- Oproer beheer – 'n Voorbok in 'n skare kan met presisie met 'n slaapkoeëltjie oor 'n afstand in die been of arm geskiet word sodat hy/sy traag raak en maklik deur die skarebeheerders in hegtenis geneem word. Dink byvoorbeeld aan 'n windbuks kettinggeweer wat ronde rubber balletjies afvuur en van 'n kompressor en magasyn op 'n skarebeheer voertuig.
- Opleiding - Windbuks gewere en pistole is 'n goedkoop opsie om soldate, polisiebeamptes en sekuriteitspersoneel se skietvernuif op byna daaglikse basis in vorm te kry of hou. Geen formele skietbaan is werklik nodig nie.
- Swart Ops – Ek kan aan 'n duisend toepassings in die verband dink. Geen trompvlam en byna doodstil. Dink aan die skarebeheer masjiengeweer maar pas dit aan by militêre situasies. Dink aan sluipskietwerk in die stedelike omgewing. Daar is seker min goed so senutergend as wanneer jou leiers omval sonder dat jy weet vanwaar die tol ge-eis word.
- Oorlewing – Ek loop my soms in 'n sogenaamde 'prepper' televisie program was. Sou ek 'n prepper wees sou my eerste keuse as 'n oorlewingsgeweer 'n pomp- of veer windbuks wees. Ek hoef nie daarvoor te herlaai nie en kan duisende koeëls saamdra. Daar is nie 'n manier wat ek nie sonder kos basis toe gaan terugkeer nie; voëls, knaagdiertjies, kleinwild ... te veel om op te noem.



Moderne PCP windgewere is indrukwekkende wapentjies. Hulle is ongelooflik akkuraat en in baie gevalle 'n beter keuse as selfs randslag 22s ongeag die aanvanklike redelike groot kapitale uitleg. Myns insiens is hulle fantastiese opsies om skietvernuif mee te ontwikkel en in stand te hou. Goedkoop om te gebruik en stil. Hulle skrik nuwelinge nie af met skop en klank soos wat sentervuur gewere doen nie en hulle is meestal betreklik lig en hanteerbaar in die kleiner opleiding geskikte kalibers. Hulle kan ook binnenshuis gebruik word – wat 'n groot pluspunt is.

Watter Windbukse?

Dis 'n moeilike vraag want die keuse sal deur aanwending bepaal word. Ek sal byvoorbeeld nie dieselfde windbukse vir 'n 10-jarige seun as vir sy vader aanbeveel nie.

Beginner - Breeknek

Die laerskool kind is normalweg klein in stuur en nie altyd sterk genoeg om 'n hefboom windbukse met gerief te gebruik nie. Seuns is veral nog bietjie rof met gereedskap op die stadium en hul windbukse gaan verseker stampe en stote ervaar. My advies is dus 'n windbukse wat:

- Lig is; 3,5 kg of minder weeg.
- Maklik oorhaal (breeknek).
- Sintetiese kolf het.

Koop 'n duursame gewertjie wat jou kind eendag vir sy/haar kind kan gee van 'n bekende fabrikaat waarvoor jy lank onderdele gaan vind. Windbukse in die klas waarvan ek hou en wat normaalweg in Suid-Afrika beskikbaar is, is in alfabetiese volgorde:

- Diana 21
- Feinwerkbau Sport
- Hatsan 33
- Weihrauch HW 30



Diana 21



Feinwerkbau Sport



Hatsan 33



Weihrauch HW 30

Prakties - Hefboom

Die dag wat 'n seun begin om dons van sy aangesig te begin afkrap verdien hy ook om sy windbukse op te gradeer. Ek het met hefboom windbukse grootgeword en ek is dol oor hulle. Ek beveel veertipe windbukse aan omdat dit altyd gereed is vir gebruik en nie 'n probleem skep as 'n lugbottel leeg en die winkels gesluit is nie. Ek dink ook 'n plaaskind is beter af met 'n veertipe windbukse as 'n PCP tipe.

Die windbukse met hefboom onder die loop is vir my mooier as windbukse met die hefboom langs die loop. Laasgenoemde voel egter vir my geriefliker. Hoe dit ookal sy, as ek windbukse in die klas vir Suid-Afrikaneers moet aanbeveel dan is my voorstelle:

- Air Arms TX200
- BSA GRT Lightning XL SE
- Diana 340 N-Tec
- Weihrauch HW 95 of 97



Air Arms TX 200



BSA GRT Lightning XL SE



Diana 340 N-Tec



Weihrauch HW 95 of 97

Spoggerig - PCP (Drukbotel)

Die klas windbukse is vir ernstige skuts; hetsy jag of veld. Ek het nog nie 'n goeie Afrikaanse opsie vir 'Pre-Charged Pneumatic' (PCP) uitgedink nie. Wat van 'Drukbotel' windbukse? 'n Paar oulike windbukse in die klas is die volgendes:

- Air Arms / CZ 200 of 400
- BSA R-10
- Daystate Huntsman
- Hatsan BT65SB
- Weihrauch HW 100 of 110 modelle



CZ 200



Daystate Huntsman



Hatsan BT65SB



BSA R-10



Weihrauch HW 110 ST-K

Kompetisie Windbukse

Daar is natuurlik ook hoogs gespesialiseerde windbukse – veral vir Olimpiese en ander kompetisies. Lesers kan gerus kyk na die fabrikate wat reeds genoem is. Fabrikate soos Air Arms, Anschütz, Carl Walther, Feinwerkbau en Hammerli domineer die klas windbuks.

Opsomming

Die doel van hierdie artikel was om ons lesers weer 'n slag ernstig na windbukse te laat kyk en die plesier, gerief en ander lekkerkry aspekte van windbukse in hul gedagtes te hervestig. Skiet word 'n duurder sport of tydverdryf as wat dit ooit was en windbukse bied nog altyd oplossings vir 'n wye reeks behoeftes. Windbukse hou 'n mens se oog in tydens die afseisoen en verseker dat jou spiergeheue (muscle memory) opgeskerp bly totdat die geleentheid om skietbaan toe te gaan weer gereedlik haalbaar is.

In die dae van duur skiet en reisbeperkings kan 'n mens lekker met windbukse in jou tuin speel as jy vriendelike bure met begrip het en jy veiligheid vooropstel. Onthou net – dis teen die wet om windbukse in munisipale areas af te vuur sonder 'n permit. Vriendelike en verstandige bure is 'n aanwys – nie net ten opsigte van windbukse gebruik nie!

Lank lewe die windbuks! 



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Side Focus Dual LED Illumination



4-16x50 SF | FFP Half Mil
4-16x50 SF | FFP MOA
6-24x56 SF | FFP Half Mil
6-24x56 SF | FFP MOA
FROM R12995

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Illumination



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KALAHARI HART SPORE

Deur Dawid Nel

'n 14-jarige bondel energie, wat lewe om spore in die Kalahari sand te soek, sit hier voor my op die punt van haar stoel.

Die koeldrank in haar glas skud onstuimig rond en dit lyk soos Kaapstad se hawe as die Suid-Ooster daaroor hardloop. Sy kan eenvoudig nie rustig wees wanneer sy oor jag dink en gesels nie. Hierdie veelsydige meisies skitter akademies, met ballroom en Latynse danse en haar skoolskietspan... maar die beste van almal is haar jagterslewe.

Vir sommige pa's is dit net 'n droom dat sy kinders, of ten minste een, saam met hom moet jag. Phillip Grundling het egter vir homself baie moeilikheid gemaak toe hy sy dogter Leandra, begin saamneem het Kalahari toe.

As ses-jarige wou sy met alle geweld saam met haar pa en broer veld toe gaan, maar word geleer dat meisies nie saamgaan jagveld toe nie. Dié wolhaarstorie maak haar egter net vasberade en vasbeslote om te gaan

Met haar sewende verjaarsdag dring sy aan om saam met pa te gaan en saam te jag. Sy sit saam in die beskutting (hide), loop saam sover sy kon en niemand kon haar wegkry by die slagplek waar sy ALLES wou weet nie. Die geknaag hou aan en op 11-jarige ouderdom gee pa Phillip in en skiet sy haar eertse vark uit 'n beskutting. Op 12 volg 'n rooibok op die voet, maar haar hart bly terug hunker na die spore in die Kalaharisand wat sy as jong kind die eerste keer gesien het. Op veertien kom die regte geleentheid, daar doer in die Malopo naby Vergelegen en Tosca.

Om haar te help, bou pa Phillip vir haar 'n "Hoch sits" in 'n Kameeldoring boom. 'n "Hoch sits" is 'n ou palet wat in die mik van 'n boom gepak word. Dit word dan met takke rondom toegemaak vir kamoeflering en dooierus. Die redes vir die 'Hoch sits' is as volg: Dit gee die skut hoogte, goeie wyer observasie as op die grond en laat jou warm reuk boontoe styg..hopelik bo-oor die bokke wat kan verby kom. Leandra se "Hoch

sits" is regoor 'n oopstuk grond met wildpaadjies wat daaroor kruis en Ghwarri bosse aan die agterkant sowat 80m verder.



Sonsondergang in haar gunsteling "Hoch sit", dis die tyd wanneer die groot koedoes oor die sand loop

Rondom 14:00 is sy en Pa in die boom en sy maak die .303 staan teen die stam waar sy hom vining op enige een van die dooierus takke kan kry. Nadat al die nodige verstellings gedoen is, begin die laaang wag dat 'n bok daar sal verby stap.

Die eerste uur sleep verby en verskeie voëlspesies kom vermaak hulle en verkyk hulself aan hierdie vreemde wesens in die boom. Naby vyf uur se kant is die lyf seer, hande gesweet, maar die hart klop nog warm om aan te hou. Oom Wickus, die Plaaseienaar, se woorde klink weer in haar gedagtes op wanneer hy sê: "Dit is elke dag jagdag, maar nie elke dag skietdag nie". Wat gaan vandag wees, daar is nog sowat 'n uur se lig oor?

Tyd stap aan en Augustus se windbesem is vroeg en begin hier onder hulle sitvlakke die aarde skoonvee om reg te maak vir die reën wat kom. Terwyl sy nog vir die wind sit en luister, vang pa se oog 'n blink weerkaatsing in die veld ongeveer 10 uur van hulle posisie af.

Al twee kyk stip daarna en Leandra maak seker haar teleskoop is stofloos en die geweer lê stil. Drie koedoebulle kom uit die veld gestap, met grasia en houding soos net hulle kan. Twee is jonger bulle en dan een met net een

horing wat so 'n paar hande hoër bokant die ander twee uit staan.

Al drie staan vir 'n wyle, voordat ou eenhoring 'n harde blaf uiter en oor sy regterskouer kyk. Al drie spring gelyktydig weg en verdwyn agter die bos in. Nuuskurigheid kry egter die oorhand en gedeeltes van twee koppe kom agter die bos uit, maar staan doodstil, halfpad uit.. Ou eenhoring besluit hy is mos nie verniet die eenhoring stormbul nie en kom agter die bos uit gehol in dolle vaart en gaan steek vas so skuins links voor hulle. Leandra, die scope en .303 kolf vind mekaar gelyktydig toe hy sy remme aanskop.

Met die hoek wat hy gestop het, het sy uit dooierus tak uitgeloopt en sy moet vryhand mik. Dis half skuins agteroor sit om hom in te kry. Gelukkig is Pa se gekruisde bene daar om die rug te blok en sy kry hom in die teleskoop.

Hier kom een van Leandra se beste eienskappe as jagter na vore. Sy kry nie bokkoors of adrenalienaanvalle nie, maar kry 'n salige gevoel van vrede en kalmte oor haar wanneer sy op 'n bok aanlê. Die baie oefening van verskillende skietposisies by die skool se skietspan, kom nou handig te pas. Die .303 se kruishaar raak stil tussen die linker voorpoot en nek so halfpad teen die

bors op. Met 'n klap en knal wat sy feitlik gelyk hoor, loop die skoot. Die bul se rug boggel uit, so asof hy nounet in iets snaaks getrap het en daar gaan hy. Hy hardloop egter nie, maar hou aan spring soos 'n bok met modderpote en verdwyn agter die bos.

Pa se oë is vol vraagtekens en hare vol bok, want sy weet dit was 'n skoot wat goed geloop het. Die babbelskeie gaan in hoogste versnelling terwyl sy afklim en die skoot met pa herleef.

By die wegspringplek sien hulle dadelik die springspore wat diep in die sand omgedolwe lê. Hier verloor sy hart heeltemal op hierdie spore van sukses in die sand. Dit is so duidelik in die sagte sand dat selfs sy met haar adrenalien gevulde oë dit kan sien. Pa Phillip wys met die voorvinger na die spore terwyl sy agter hom loop en blaas van angstigheid. Sy loop in hom vas toe hy skielik stop, dwars draai en wys waar haar koedoe lê, sowat 40-50 treë na die skoot. Nou maak sy haar eie bokspring spore, want sy kry nie gehol na die bok nie, maar spring soos hy netnou gedoen het en bewe soos 'n riet

"Ma, ma, ek het hom" is al woorde wat sy oor die selfoon kan uitkry.



Trotse Leandra en haar eenhoringbul

Pa weet nou nie mooi wat is vir hom die mooiste nie, die koedoe of sy dogter se oor-tot-oor tevredenheid.

Die koedoe is te groot vir hulle twee om te hanteer en op te laai. Nou moet daar vir eers maar huiswaarts gekeer word, sonder haar koedoe, om hulp te gaan haal.

Nodeloos om te sê die slagtery word onder haar persoonlike toesig gedoen, en sy gaan slaap eers toe die laaste hoekie van die vel gesout is.

Die kop en stert word gehou, want daar is baie groot planne daarmee

Net om die jagnaweek mee af te sluit skiet sy 'n baie mooi vlakvark oppie voet.



Nou is Pa se dop geklink en sy gaan altyd saam. Hierdie keer is dit Vaalwater toe, na Oom Willie toe. 'n Mooi rooibokkooi byt innie stof voor die .243. Na al die jagte verby en sy terug by die huis is, word die lewe saai sonder 'n roer in haar hand. Pa gaan weer 'n kompromie aan. Terwyl die res van die familie Saterdagmiddae om die braaivleisvuur ontspan gaan sy en die .22 af lande toe en tarentale bymekaar maak.

Met 'n lewensleuse van: "Moet nooit te bang wees om iets aan te pak nie, doen dit net. Moenie vrees om te skiet nie, doen dit net", blom hierdie bondel energie orals waar sy kom.

'n .243 Win het baie vining haar gunsteling kaliber en geweer geword, omdat dit nie haar skouer afskop nie en so mooi reguit trek. Met haar grootste droom om koedoes in Botswana te gaan jag is hierdie jong mensiekind een van die vaandeldraers wat ons geliefde jagsport veilig in die volgende geslag inneem

Om jou passies uit te leef is seker in die meeste mense se geval maar net 'n cliché, maar hierdie enetjie leef dit op 14 reeds voluit, uit

Skiet baie, skiet raak en dra die jagtradisie met trots, etiek en waardigheid die toekoms in
Geniet elke oomblik!!!!!!!!!!!!!! **WL**



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Airgun hunting

Mythical, Ethical or a reality for many future hunters?

The radical and almost evolutionary arrival of pre-charged (PCP) powered air rifles in the past ten years on a global scale brings the subject of airgun hunting sharply into focus. The traditional hunting fraternity has not enjoyed or easily accepted airgun hunting, and they have found lots of reasons for denigrating the use of PCP powered air rifles, often querying the “lack of competent killing power” that they perceive the air rifles to deliver as a reason for not sanctioning airgun hunting.

The fact of the matter is that worldwide, more and more air rifles are being produced commercially for the hunting industry, as the calibre of these modern and well-designed air rifles has been successfully increased from the original .177-cal or it's decimal equivalent calibre of 4,5mm, to the more modern 6,35mm to 12,5mm calibres that are now commonly in use by airgun hunters across the world.

The questions, and accusations that arise of course are many, and so it seems appropriate to address some of these questions here, so that an intelligent discourse on airgun hunting can begin.

The first question that arises is “What is Adequate Killing Power?”

The correct response would be “For what purpose - Rats, Cats, Birds, Buck, Elephants?”

Airgun hunting is more often than not used these days for pest control and vermin eradication, since noise levels are low, they can be used safely inside buildings, sheds, storage areas and warehouses without massive risk to the infrastructure, calibre dependent of course.

Examples of this would be the already well-established practice of pest and vermin control around farm feedlots, dairy facilities, feed stores, and the many buildings that are commonly seen in the agricultural sector, not to mention golf courses, parks and high rise buildings, where pigeons and geese are a significant health and cleanliness threat in our modern cities.

In these situations the farmer/owner wants a lot of eradication done in the shortest possible time, and it often involves night-time work, for example reducing the rat and mouse population, who cause untold harm in the agricultural sector.

PCP powered air rifles can readily be equipped with night vision systems to make this kind of work easy to accomplish, whilst high quality telescopes that are now readily available at very competitive cost for air rifle use make such shooting configurations (rigs) very cost effective and accurate at the same time.

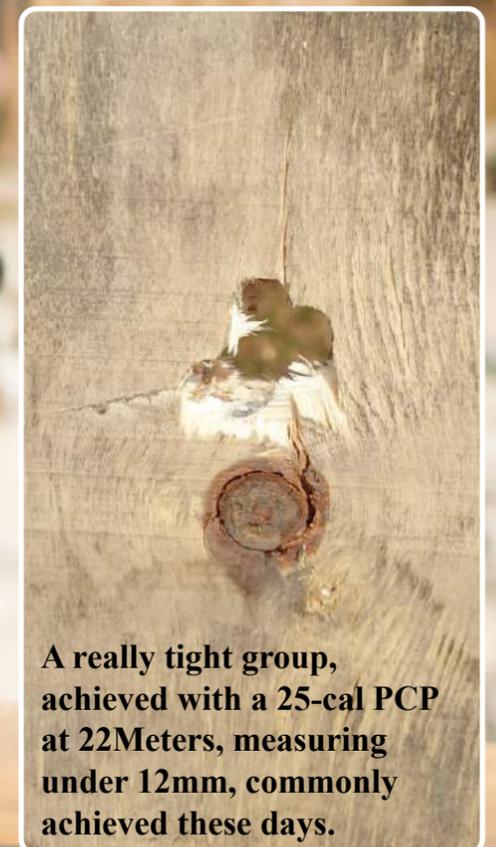
The modern high powered air rifle has inspired many new manufacturers to enter the optics and rifle scope market, and the constantly growing crop of air

rifle customers has launched a wide spectrum of new entrants, inspiring a host of new products, including scopes, night vision systems, silencers, bipods and many other shooting accessories that previously were not deemed to suit air rifle shooting at all.

The answer to the killing power question has been answered many times over by the hundreds of airgunners who have probably shot everything from Rabbits to Eland – statistically no different to those wild animals now being hunted with compound bows in all probability.

The growth of big bore air rifle users in South Africa has brought a positive response from many farmers, who find the quietness and the killing power more than acceptable, and many new hides exist today specifically for airgun shooters (and bow hunters alike), since the quarry are being ethically dispatched at similar distances, but with far greater accuracy, efficiency and safety by the airgun hunter in most cases.

The elephant in the room is the question of the legal use of big bore air rifles, the response to which has alienated many traditional gunshop



A really tight group, achieved with a 25-cal PCP at 22Meters, measuring under 12mm, commonly achieved these days.

By Shaun Kennedy

The latest URAGAN PCP is a short format, powerful hunting tool, capable of excellent accuracy and long shot strings. Many PCP's offer 300-Bar air supply these days



The H&N factory in Europe has been fine-tuning their slug designs and now offer a full range of very aerodynamic, hard-hitting slugs that mushroom perfectly even at up to 40 to 80M distances. Slugs are offered in almost all calibers now, from 4,5mm up to 12,7mm for bigger wound channel results.



owners and many traditional dyed-in-the-wool gunpower oriented hunters and firearms dealers, who do not understand the legislation, or the firearms act in it's entirety.

If the truth be told, every shipment of PCP air rifles arriving in South Africa is inspected and approved and authorised for use in South Africa by the SAPS and SA Customs officials, who agree their importation, irrespective of the calibre or the power question, because hundreds of forensic inspections have all returned the same declaration: *The PCP is an airgun, not a firearm.*

Having thus dealt with the two biggest topics surrounding airgun use, we should perhaps deal with the many benefits that are ensuring the on-going growth in air rifle sales worldwide...

Air rifles are very cost effective - they deliver above average accuracy, their operating costs per shot are much lower than gunpowder-based ammunition, and their use of normal compressed air equipment is very simple when compared to reloading equipment.

A key point here is that very few, if any airgunners would deem their air rifles to be suitable for long range hunting, in spite of their target accuracy range reaching up to 300-Meters these days, so air rifles take on a natural position of being a short range hunting weapon.

In practical terms, long range shooting is almost certainly not the domain of airgunners, and therefore remains that of primer and gunpowder users.

However, for a moment accept that hunting of small to medium size game, say below blesbok size, at below 100 Meter range is perfectly within the safe and ethical hunting capabilities of a modern PCP powered air rifle, albeit in at least 6,35mm and higher calibre format of course.

In the current financial circumstances that many hunters find themselves in, there are many hunters who would welcome the cost savings and the easy of training and the total lack of recoil provided by a PCP powered air rifle - many hunters would see these shooting differences as welcome improvements over to conventional primer and gunpowder-based hunting, more especially for Junior and female hunters.

These days there are wonderful tools to guide and assist airgunners - wind meters, phone apps that provide intelligent and accurate ballistics calculators, all of which add value to the more traditional chronograph, which is a foundation tool for most airgunners, if not all hunters for that matter.

Then consider the amazing amount of time and effort that has been given to designing pellets and slugs to ensure ideal ballistics - there are

highly competent and world-respected factories that now supply pellets and slugs that now address velocity, speed and trajectory factors perfectly.

Most airgun hunters, alongside most conventional hunters, seldom need pin-head size groups, but 15mm groups are realistic and practical at 25M these days, whilst 25mm groups are equally realistic at 50M distances, which is absolutely acceptable accuracy for 90% of hunters. Then ask yourself this question:

If conventional hunting rifles can deliver joule power at the level of 1 000 joules up to 4 000 joules plus, does this automatically ensure a humane kill? Sadly, there are thousands of wounded and lost animals that will attest to the fact that power never overcomes shot placement.

Add to that the fact that conventional hunters somehow feel it is belittling to shoot at distances under 100M, somehow it is deemed more manly to shoot at a kudu at 700M, but to prove what exactly?

Logic dictates that a quick, clean kill is the optimal result, no matter what rifle is being used, so why shouldn't hunters use air rifles that are cheaper to own, cheaper to accessorise, cheaper to shoot, but which still bring home the bacon, so to speak. To me ethical hunting means a quick clean kill without suffering, achieved under fair hunting conditions and with NO staging of the hunt.

If using such a hunting weapon means shooting at 100M or less, wouldn't the farmer be more comfortable knowing a quick clean kill will happen with much greater certainty, and with far less potential for pass-through shots?

Lead pellets and slugs will very often equal or outperform conventional copper jacket bullets when it comes to mushrooming and wound channel development - why then shouldn't hunters gain as much benefit from such results in the field?

It is clear that a change is taking place in the hunting arena - the move towards greater accuracy at long distance, is

matched on the opposite side by the introduction of shorter range equivalent accuracy air rifles that, all things considered, can deliver meat for the freezer and meat for your biltong racks equally well when used for the purposes they were designed for, and under the conditions for which they are meant to be used.

Air rifle shooting began in the early 1700's, and in the 20th Century became confined almost exclusively to the Olympic Halls and competition shooting arena.

In the 21st century airgunning will become a multi-purpose shooting experience for competition shooting, pest control, hunting and pleasure shooting, with the much lower cost of airgunning playing an ever increasing role in the shooting public's focus and choice.



It is now quite common for an airgunner to bring home a nice Impala with a one-shot kill during a successful airgun hunt.



This display rack illustrates how modern air rifles offer both Bullpup and conventional stock designs in both wood and synthetic materials.

Will an air rifle ever become the weapon of choice for the military? Certainly not, but it is already the primary training tool for recruits and beginners, whilst the competition platforms at Olympic and Commonwealth Games levels are almost exclusively the domain of air pistol and air rifle shooters these days.

It probably is no longer necessary to take sides in this debate – airgun hunting has a place, never to replace conventional rifles that use gunpowder and primers, but definitely as a starting point for juniors, beginners and recoil-fearful shooters who are happy to shoot up to 100M safely and successfully.

Can we expect airgun hunting to grow? Without a shadow of doubt, but will it gain the macho-image expected by the 3000fps gunpowder brigade?

Definitely not, but air rifle shooting will teach the very same essential shooting skills to those that don't have these skills for sure.

Air rifle shooting is a place to start learning to shoot safely, accurately and ethically, and it allows hunters to develop skills that will extend their gunpower shooting skills going forward.

Air rifle shooting is not only an alternative shooting skill, but it is actually a foundation upon which other firearms shooting skills can be built.

If you haven't yet taken the trouble to review, evaluate and understand what a modern PCP-powered air rifle can bring to the table, then you are doing yourself an injustice, and the new generation of air rifles a real and undeserved dis-service.



Pesting and vermin eradication are key target markets for air rifle hunting, eliminating pest birds and burrowing animals from golf courses, farmlands and working farms, especially dairy farming, where rodents, doves and geese present serious challenges to hygienic farming.



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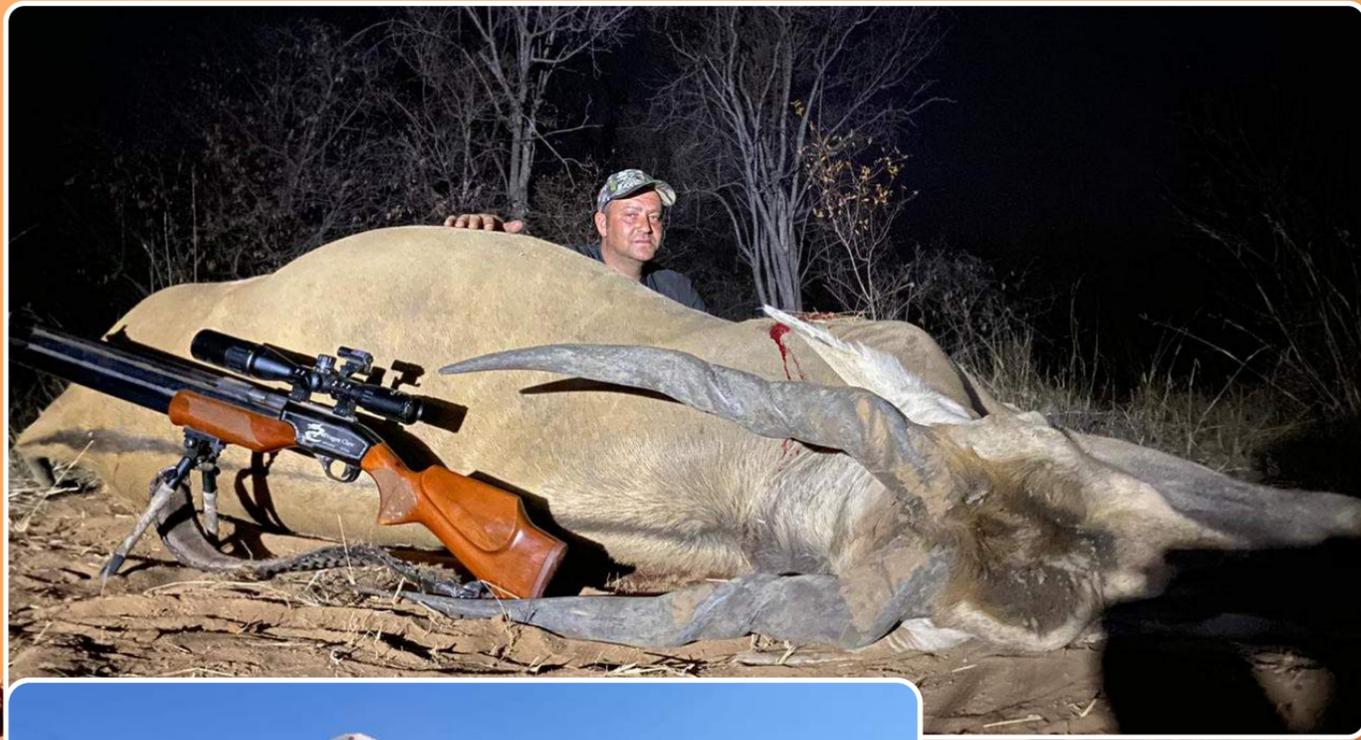
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If you are not impressed by what a modern PCP air rifle can offer, you are clearly standing with your head in the sand like the proverbial ostrich.

Air rifle hunting is here to stay, of that there is no doubt any longer. **W**

Shaun Kennedy is an accredited Olympic Coach, and a knowledgeable exponent of airgun shooting at both air pistol and air rifle level, having experienced conventional and airgun hunting first-hand, as well as coaching conventional firearm and airgun shooters at both tertiary and at the highest level.

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The NRL is a new sport in South Africa and has its origin in the United States of America. Even in the USA this is still a growing sport with multi stage matches and has been going for several years with thousands of participants.

The format of the shoots is multi stage tactical field matches. The matches are designed to appeal to top tactical shooters as well as novices.

The NRL is dedicated to the growth and education of precision rifle shooting, and they live up to their slogan - Empower the Sport.

The shoot itself has very few rules. You can shoot with any caliber between a .224 and a 308. You can use a bolt action

or semi auto rifle. The bullet speed may not be more than 3200 feet per second, and you are only allowed one rifle per match.

Other aids such as wind meters, range finders, supporting rear and front bags and bi and tri pods and dope cards are all welcome.

The South African chapter of the NRL has an elite and hunter class. It was specifically introduced to allow your 'hunter type shooter' with a more traditional rifle to participate in

the sport.

The targets are all steel targets that varies in size and sometimes shape. Yes, steel targets are always a winner and provide for instant feedback on a hit or a miss. The sound of "impact" together with the sound of a bullet hitting a gong is so satisfying.

Further targets are sometimes equipped with Hit Indicators. They are flashing LED lights on the edge of the target that starts flashing for a few seconds on impact.



By The Shooting Scheffers



All matches have different Courses Of Fire (COF), carefully planned and designed to allow a novice shooter to hit targets and have some challenging targets for the very experienced shooter.

Most of the shooting positions are transitional. This means that during the stage, you will be required to change position or even shoot with your opposite side swapping from right to left or left to right.

The COF can consist of a round count of anything up to 65 rounds for a day of shooting. The elite class has 90 seconds and the hunter class has 120 seconds to complete a stage.

As mentioned, the stages are carefully planned in terms of distance, target size and shooting position.

Targets are mostly between one and two MOA. We have covered MOA in a previous article. Distances can vary from 250 to 800 meters. All stages are planned with safety in mind and all shooters must strictly adhere to these safety rules. Contravening any safety rule results in an immediate disqualification (DQ), no questions asked.

What makes the shoot interesting is the shooting positions and props that can be used. The starting position of most of the stages the shooter will stand about a meter and a half behind the shooting position either with the firearm unloaded or with the firearm already on the shooting point. When the whistle blows, the shooter will take up the shooting position, load the firearm, locate the target and then close the bolt and engage the target.

The shooting position can be just lying down in a prone position or it may involve some props where you are required to stand or kneel or what ever works for you.

As mentioned, you can make use of shooting aids but are subject to the stage rules and you should be able to carry anything you use from the starting point once the signal has been given. All Courses Of Fire are explained in detail before the match.

We have followed the US NRL series and props used that even included shooting from a helicopter at about 100m high moving slowly forward. The shooting positions and props are limited to your imagination. These props are usually referred to as barricades.



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B Bushnell



We were fortunate to participate in the inaugural shoot in February 2019 and be part of this new initiative. Got the cap and T-shirt. Nearly 60 shooters participated in this long-awaited shooting discipline just outside of Durbanville. Pieter Malan and Dirk Klauer put a lot of planning into the day. It was well organized, COF was decent and for most shooters, this was a first of its kind. It was amazing to see so much enthusiasm for a completely new sport. I must admit, having never shot a competition like this it was great fun. The assistance from other shooters who have been around the block a few times in similar shoots was amazing. We got some nice tips on how to engage the target, some ideas on how to manage the

barricades and loads of support in terms of loaning bags and tripods and good advice on wind direction and weather conditions. Participating in the hunter class gave us some extra time on each stage and being the novices we are, we still ran out of time. The experience was great overall and managed to hit more than 50% of the targets out to 650 meters. Looking at some of the equipment on the range that day, there are some serious shooters out there. If you look at the rifles, the chassis, scopes and bi-pods and all the other gear they use, this can quickly become a very high-end sport. However, this shoot is open to anyone with a relatively accurate standard rifle. You should be managing at least 2 MOA

groupings at 100 meters. We used a standard Howa 1500 in 6.5 Creedmoor and could compete very well using a Bushnell Elite Tactical scope. Because the distances are all known, and the COF is provided upfront, you have time to work out your dope card. Time is a factor and you need to spend as little time as possible to get into position and find your target. We very quickly learned that to dial your scope for different distances take to much time. Using the sub tensions on the recital is the way to go. We were satisfied with the result of the first match. It is however all about the fun, something new and hitting steel. Keep sending them downrange. <http://www.nrlsa.co.za/>

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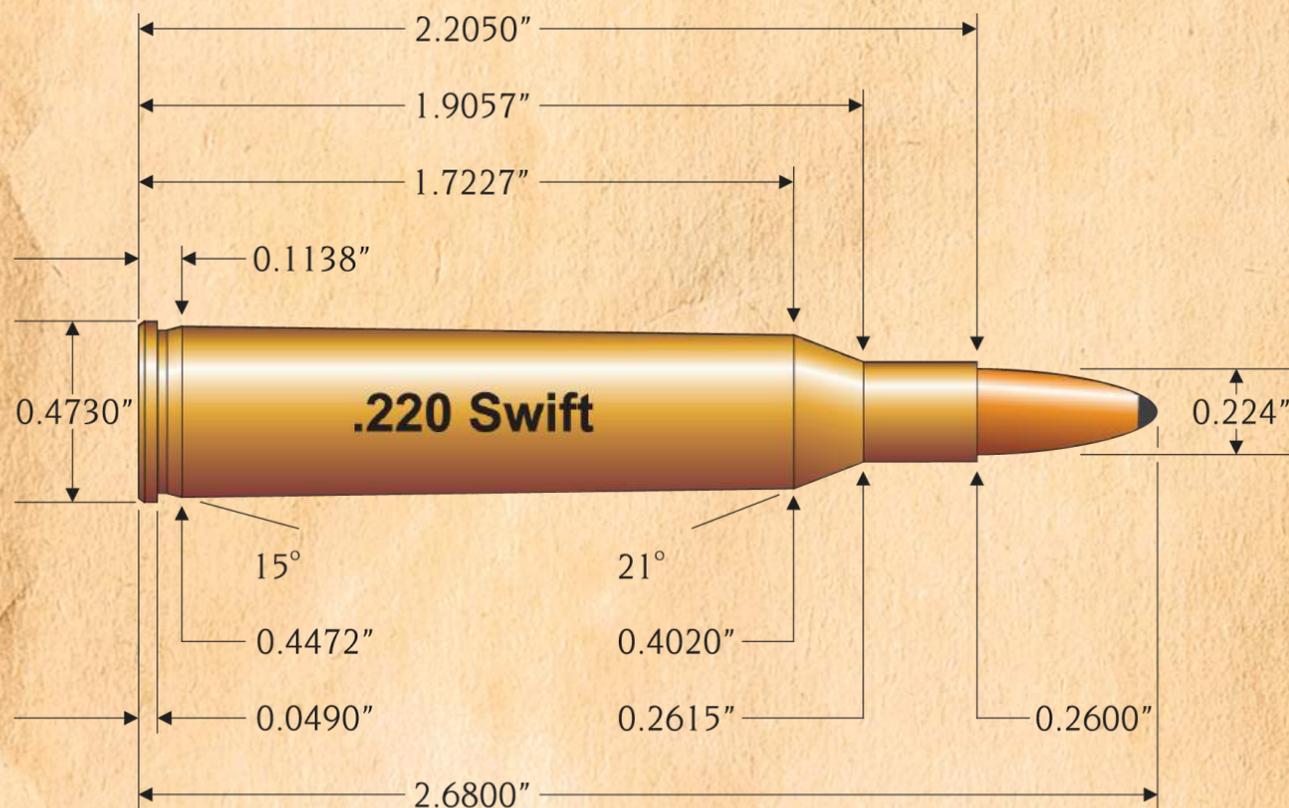
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Cartridges

Head to Head:

.220 Swift



History of the .220 Swift

The .220 Swift is the Ussein Bolt of .22" calibre cartridges. Although born way back in 1935 no later commercial .22 cartridge has succeeded in getting bullets quicker out of the starting blocks. In 2002 Winchester introduced the .223 WSSM (Winchester Super Short Magnum) in an attempt to give the market a modern cartridge that could get the tip of its nose ahead of the .220 Swift in the velocity stakes, but the .223 WSSM failed miserably. When loaded to equal pressures the WSSM does not beat the Swift.

The first .220 Swift prototype was developed in 1934. The intention of the designers, Captain Grosvenor L

Wotkyns and John Sweany were to create a modern replacement for the rimmed .22 Savage Hi-Power lever action cartridge. They both based their initial designs on the .250-3000 Savage case. Wotkyns called his cartridge the .220 Swift and brought it to the attention of Winchester. It later became known as the .22-35-250 Wotkyns or .220 WOS (Wotkyns Original Swift).

According to an article titled: '4000 f-s With the Hornet Bullet' by F.C. Nessin in the May 1935 issue of *The American Rifleman*, Wotkyns had tried the .30-06 Springfield case, but loading densities with the propellants available at the time were too low and combustion erratic. Sweany, on the other hand, created a

case very similar to that of the 6mm Remington that held 42.0 grains of water, but experienced excessive metal fouling after 5-10 shots and dropped the idea. At the time of Ness' article the .220 Swift was still in prototype stage and actually closer to what later became the .22-250 Remington than it was to the eventual .220 Swift.

Winchester tested the Wotkyns-Sweany concepts but found that the pressures generated by the .250 Savage based design were excessive for commercial cartridges (at the time) at the required 4,000 fps muzzle velocity. Winchester then tested the concept on both the .30-06 Springfield and the 7x57mm Mauser cases.

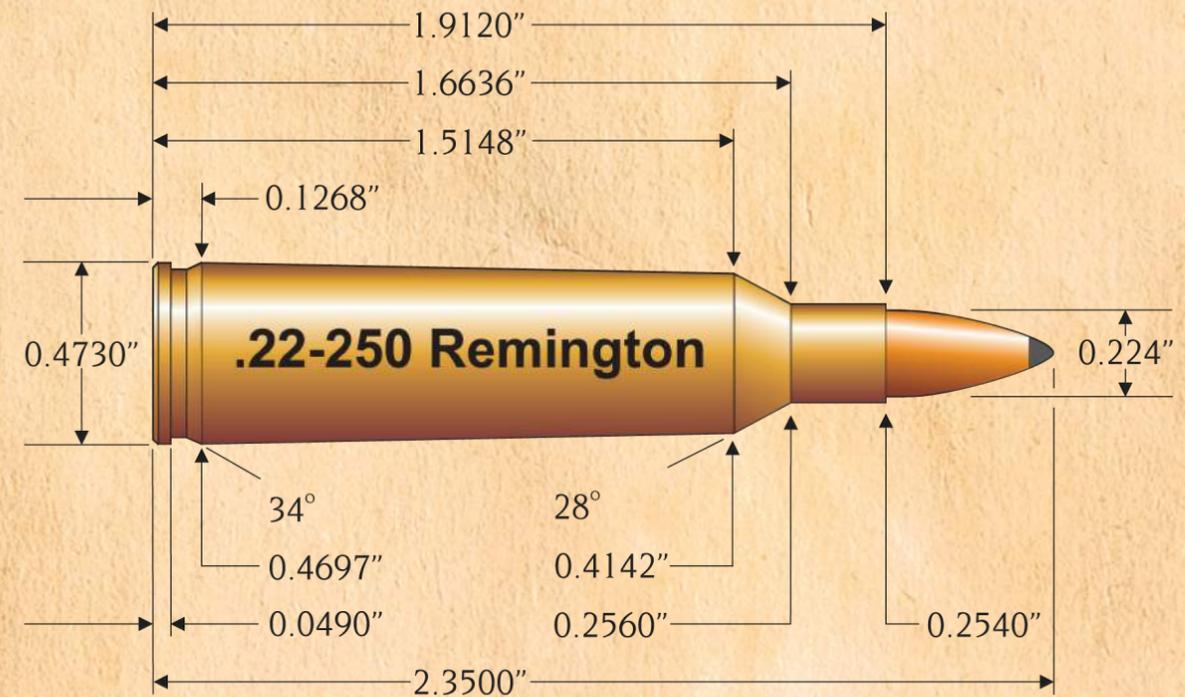


By Pierre van der Walt

Pierre van der Walt is an old hand in our firearms and hunting circles and has written hundreds of articles for local and international magazines. He was the man who convinced politicians in 1993 to legalise gun shows in South Africa and then launched the concept. He served as a SAGA Trustee for many years and was the founding editor of *Phasa News, Safari*

Times Africa and the *Big Bore Journal*. Pierre is a qualified advocate and professional hunter as well as a publisher. He presently handloads for 42 cartridges and is the author of the popular book *African Dangerous Game Cartridges*. His next book, *African Medium Bore Cartridges* will be ready shortly for publishing. Contact Pierre at info@pathfinder-publications.com

.22-250 Remington



Winchester experienced erratic combustion and decided to strike out in a new direction. It opted for the rimless

6mm US Navy Lee case of 1895, but increased its rim diameter to duplicate that of the .30-06 Springfield. The result

was a true semi-rimmed case; the only such commercial hunting rifle cartridge in production today.

History of the .22-250 Remington

The 'Trip Two Fifty', like so many other Remington cartridges, started life as a wildcat. During the years 1934 - 1937 several Americans, amongst which were Harvey Donaldson, Jerry E. Gebby, J.B. Smith, John Sweany and Grosvenor Wotkyns, all periodically experimented with necking the .250-3000 Savage case down to .22 calibre, and all of them were subjected to the generic '22-250' designation. How many variations of these .250 based .22's actually emerged is impossible to

tell, but this bit of knowledge at least explains why standardized modern commercial ammunition will not always chamber in the custom rifles pre-dating commercial standardising.

Gebby and Smith are commonly credited with the finalization of the .22-250's dimensions. This occurred around 1937. In that year Gebby copyrighted his version as the '22 Varminter'. In a rather strange turn of events Browning chambered commercial hunting rifles for the .22-250 two years prior to

Remington's 1965 legitimisation thereof. Although ballistically speaking very similar to the ever so slightly smaller and now defunct .224 Weatherby Magnum, the .22-250 surfed to commercial fame and supremacy on the crest of a thirty year old wildcat wave. It has become one of the most widely used small-game cartridges around. Although primarily a varmint design, many African hunters have flocked to it as a small game cartridge.

Design Characteristics

Neither of these two cartridges possess a great case design, but the .22-250's is the better of the two. That of course is only of interest to handloaders.

The .22-250's 28° shoulder is reasonably sharp, but it can obviously be improved upon. It also has an excessive body taper of 2.3°. This has resulted in wildcatters 'improving' the .22-250 by blowing the body out and giving it a sharper 40° shoulder to create the .22-250 Ackley Improved. Even the Ackley Improved version is not optimal. I have personally upgraded the .22-250 case dimensions to create the .224 African, but that is a story for another day. The Swift has a 21° shoulder angle, but less pronounced body taper of just over 1.6°. In my experience the Swift cases are less prone to stretching than the .22-250s.

The neck of the .22-250 is about 113.4% of calibre. Some accuracy freaks may consider it a tad long, but the long neck also ensures that the convergence point of the shoulders and the gas focal point remain inside the case neck. The Swift's neck is slightly longer: 115.7% of calibre. Even so the Swift's gas focal point is outside the case mouth. If this indeed is a factor in barrel life, the .22-250 has the edge.

The .22-250 has a middle-of-the-road expansion ratio of 9.2 and the Swift's is 8.5. That is because the Swift

has a relative case capacity of 47.0 grains water. The .22-250 case generally swallows about 43.5 grains water; roughly 8% less than that of the Swift and the .224 African. That results in a CaB-Ratio of 82.5%. The CaB-ratio of the Swift is 88.5%. This tells us that one should get slightly longer barrel life from a .22-250 than you will from a Swift barrel. The difference is not that much however.

One can expect around 1,600 shots of ultimate precision, another 400 or so for acceptable target precision and then you have to live for another 1,000 or so shots with hunting precision (sub-MOA) only. It is rare to see a .22-250 or a Swift barrel with more than 3,000 shots through it still delivering the goods. The reputation of the Swift as a severe barrel burner is not quite deserving and a consequence of the barrel steels of the time. The .22-250 had the benefit of thirty years of barrel steel improvement before it officially came on the market and even though it delivers barrel life similar to that of the .220 Swift, its reputation enjoyed the benefit of better barrel steels.

The one aspect where the .22-250 outshines the .220 Swift is in the rim design. The semi-rim configuration of the Swift is unfortunate from a popularity perspective, but it provides

for an excellent gas seal. Regrettably the semi-rim configuration is not adored by the public. That, plus the unfair barrel burner tag has put paid to the .220 Swift's future, while that of the .22-250 Remington is assured.

Both cartridges suffer from a 1:14" twist specification. Neither can stabilize jacketed bullets longer than about 0.645" (16,128mm) in length. That converts to 0.580" (14,73mm) for copper monometal bullets. These two cartridges are both limited to bullets in the 55 grain category given standard twist rate barrels. Modern hunters and shooters insist on tighter twist rates that will enable them to fire heavier VLD (Very Low Drag) bullets. That is why I designed the .224 African with a 1:7" twist – it can stabilize bullets up to 90 grains and exponentially extend the application range potential of the .22" bore.

I enclose a Table with recommended twist rates for different bullet lengths.

Table Recommended twist rates

Barrel Twist	Std Jacketed Bullet Absolute Max Length	Monometal Bullet Absolute Max Length
1:14"	0.730" (18,54mm)	0.680" (17,27mm)
1:12"	0.880" (22,35mm)	0.795" (20,19mm)
1:10"	1.050" (26,67mm)	0.950" (24,13mm)
1:8"	1.310" (33,37mm)	1.180" (29,97mm)

Performance Comparisons

There is no discussion. The .220 Swift beats the .22-250 Remington about as well as Gerrie Coetzee beat Leon Spinks. Loaded with a 45-grain bullet the Swift

achieves 4,225 fps with handloads from a 24" barrel. The .22-250 Remington can do no better than 4,050. Obviously these are achievements are within the

respective pressure parameters of each cartridge.

Optimum Application Band Variation of Different Bullet Weights

22-250 Rem	Range in Yards																		
	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	325	350	375	400	425	450	475	500	525	550	575	600
90-gr @ 3,025 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
80-gr @ 3,225 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
75-gr @ 3,350 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
70-gr @ 3,450 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
65-gr @ 3,575 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
60-gr @ 3,675 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
55-gr @ 3,800 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
50-gr @ 3,925 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
45-gr @ 4,050 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
40-gr @ 4,300 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
35-gr @ 4,475 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

Given the range limitation of small calibre, lightweight bullets the edge of the .220 Swift is not that much. The Swift has about 9%-10% longer range than the .22-250. Given 55 grain bullets

the Remington's Green-band extends from 275 – 375 yards. The Swift achieves 300 – 412 yards. With 45 grain bullets the Swift is a 300 yard cartridge and the .22-250 a 275 yard one. That is another

reason why I designed the .224 African; it stabilizes a 75 grain bullet and extends the hunting range out to 500 yards.

Optimum Application Bands for Different Bullet Weights

220 Swift	Range in Yards																		
	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	325	350	375	400	425	450	475	500	525	550	575	600
90-gr @ 3,050 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
80-gr @ 3,250 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
75-gr @ 3,375 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
70-gr @ 3,500 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
65-gr @ 3,650 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
60-gr @ 3,775 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
55-gr @ 3,925 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
50-gr @ 4,075 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
45-gr @ 4,225 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
40-gr @ 4,350 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
35-gr @ 4,500 fps	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

With a 50-grain Hornady bullet the .22-250 Remington's Green-Band ends at 375 yards. Bullet drop at that range is 317mm. For the Swift the same figure is 284mm. Respective time of flights

are 0.3706 and 0.3564 second with an almost 4% edge to the Swift. Fact is – both cartridges can do the job. They are good for the same applications. The .22-250 Remington is more

economical than the .220 Swift. Given 50 grain bullets the Swift requires 8% more propellant to deliver just under 4% higher velocity.

The Market Fate of These Cartridges

Between me and my distant cousins, Tjaart van der Walt in Roodepoort and Pedrie van der Merwe at Petrusville, we probably own more .220 Swifts than any other family in the country; we are partial to the cartridge. Sadly, the .220 Swift's days are numbered. It is almost impossible to find .220 Swift ammunition in gunshops these days. The case design is archaic and cases

are becoming increasingly hard to find. I doubt if it will be too long before production is stopped. The manufacturers are probably just waiting for the demand to drop below a critical point. That is also why I designed the .224 African. Interesting that enough Swifts are still shooting after 85 years to warrant any case production – had it been such a terrible barrel burner.

The future of the .22-250 Remington is rosy. A massive variety of ammunition and cases are abundant and affordable. Companies such as Norma and Lapua manufacture premium quality cases that enables handloaders to extract excellent precision from it.

Handloading Notes

.220 Swift - When the .220 Swift is loaded to absolute maximum levels the tapering case tends to stretch a bit. Case head separation and doughnut forming in the neck then manifests. Sometimes one wants the Swift to give it's absolutely everything, but most of the time you do not need that. When the Swift is loaded to about 90% of potential it still outperforms most comers, but case life improves exponentially.

The Swift is capable of excellent accuracy, but it does not come easily. One has to work for it. Like any other cartridge capable of high precision, it is a candidate for advanced handloading techniques that include stringent case classification, case neck turning, flash hole deburring, primer pocket uniforming and case capacity sorting. It is important to regularly anneal to keep neck tension constant and check for any changes in the geometry of the neck (doughnut forming). To counter case head separation I recommend pre-forming of the cases. The use of high-precision dies such as competition bushing dies and seating dies is recommended.

My go to propellant for the standard .220 Swift is IMR-4064. It really always

is a top performer with 45 - 55 grain bullets. Heavier bullets are better served by propellants in the Hodgdon H-380, H-4350 and IMR-4350 burning rate bracket. Bullets lighter than 45 grains need faster propellants in the IMR-3031 and IMR-8028 class.

.22-250 Remington - The .22-250 Remington is somewhat finicky to reload, but that is common with many .224" (5,56mm) cartridges. I have found most .22" cartridges to exhibit this trait. However, a systematic load development regimen circumvents most problems.

The first problem associated with its excessively tapered body is case growth. It is therefore important to trim the cases regularly. Neck only resizing marginally improves this tendency. The .224 African is less prone to this than the original cartridge. The .22-250 Remington is a high pressure cartridge and regular annealing is required when handloading. Case selection, neck preparation, primer pocket and flash hole uniforming greatly improve the .22-250's precision results, but it is not a renowned match cartridge.

Case capacity varies dramatically and handloaders should take great care with load development or switching of

components as it can have a dramatic effect. PMP cases in particular have less capacity than other brands and loads which are safe in other cases can be explosive in PMP cases.

As is the case with all .224" cartridges, it is exceedingly important to distinguish between varmint, paper and hunting bullets when handloading. The .22-250 does not really have enough muscle to compensate for hunter error. Using the wrong bullet for a job is a guarantee for disappointment.

Based on its compatibility with bullets lighter than 60 grains given its specified barrel twist rate, the .22-250 Remington is best loaded with propellants such as Hodgdon CFE-223, Varget and 4895, IMR-4064 and 4895, Lovex D-073.6, Norma N-203 and Vihtavuori N-540. 



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2015 Tot Nou

...Ruan Bouwer se jagpad...

Deur Jan De Man

Dis vir my altyd lekker en 'n groot voorreg om deel van jong-jagters se pad en storie te mag wees, en die groei en vreugdes met hulle te kan deel; saam met hulle te stap – ook deur die jare – en hulle regtig te sien jagters word. Een so 'n jong jagter is Ruan Bouwer, wat ek nou na 5 jaar weer gevra het om sy storie (verder) met ons te deel. Ons luister graag, jong man:



Nog 'n herinnering van Botswana, 'n mooi rooibokram wat ek met die .270 platgetrek het.

“Dis 'n koel Vrydagaand. Ek sit op die stoep en kyk uit oor die stad se liggies. Ek dink terug aan die laaste 5 jaar en ek is dankbaar. Vandat ek begin jag het saam met my pa – omtrent 15 jaar terug – het ek al baie geleenthede gehad. Alhoewel nie elke geleentheid uitgewerk het soos beplan nie, het ek steeds baie lesse geleer en elke oomblik geniet.

Ek, my pa en ons neefs het in die winter van 2015 saam met oom Jan de Man

gaan jag buite Villiers in die Vrystaat. Dit was 'n “nefie-naweek” vir die boeke. Ek het op dié jag vir die eerste keer my nuwe geweer – 'n Weatherby Vanguard S2 Sporter in .270 Winchester kaliber – veld toe gevat. Die .270 het bitter vinnig 'n plek in my hart gewen nadat ek twee springbokkramme en 'n blesbokkram op die Vrystaatse vlaktes platgetrek het. Daarna het ek my eerste artikel vir die WILDLAND-tydskrif geskryf. Oom Jan het my vroeg in 2020 gekontak en



'n Baie spesiale herinnering, hierdie blouwildebees split-bul het ek in Botswana met my .270 gejag

Hierdie ou blesbokkooi het ek in die Vrystaat met 'n .308 Norma Magnum in tipiese Vrystaat kondisies geskiet, oor 'n lang afstand en 'n sterk dwarswind.



gevra of ek bereid sal wees om weer 'n artikel te skryf oor my ervaringe tussen 2015 en nou. Ek was intussen bevoorreg om baie te kon jag en ek het selfs weer die Botswana jagveld teen die Limpopo-rivier gaan besoek. Hier het ek weereens die .270 veld toe geneem en 'n mooi rooibokkram en blouwildebeesbul plat getrek met Sako se 156gr Hammerhead-rondtes. Verder het ek nog blouwildebeeste, blesbokke, springbokke, rooibokke, vlakvarke en so meer gejag, en

om die kersie op die koek te sit, het ek die geleentheid gekry om 'n 36" elandbul te jag met die einste .270 wat ons vrieskaste gereeld vol gemaak het die laaste paar jaar.

Ek moes die jong, maar pragtige elandbul ongelukkig uitskiet as gevolg van bruinoorbosluis wat sy kondisie laat verswak het. Van bosveld-bekruip agter vlakvarke aan en skuilingjag vir bosvarke, om 'n vriendin te begelei op 'n bosvark jag op die voet teen skemer, laat aande in die

koue se jakkalsjag, 'n pragtige elandbul op die voet in die Waterberge, 'n droom blouwildebees-splitbul in Botswana na ure se harde werk in die Afrika-son, tot fiksheid in die Suid-Vrystaatse rante en laaste maar verseker nie die minste nie, kwaliteit tyd in Afrika saam met my pa – my mentor en my leermeester. Dit is wat jag vir my spesiaal gemaak het in veral die laaste 5 jaar. Ek het lesse geleer oor die lewe wat ek lank gevat het om te besef. Ek het ongelooflike mense ontmoet en



My eerste elandbul, hy meet 36"

nader gekom aan die Here, my Skepper, deur meer tyd in Sy Skepping deur te bring.

Ek het hierdie jaar ander geleenthede ook gehad wat ek moontlik nie sou gehad het as dit nie vir die COVID-19-kwessie was nie. Ek het onder andere in Juliemaand my Professionele Jagterkursus by oom David Sutherland van Sutherland Hunting Academy voltooi. Dit was, in alle eerlikheid, een van die beste ervarings wat ek nog ooit gehad het. Die kameraderie, die lesse, die kennis wat jy opbou, die lag en kuier en om vir 10 dae lank jou passie te kan bevorder, en daarna 'n gelisensieerde Professionele Jagter te wees (indien jy die kursus slaag en jou lisensie aansoek suksesvol is), is baie meer werd as die monetêre koste daaraan verbode. Ek sal dit definitief aanbeveel aan enige persoon wat lief is vir die natuur en 'n passie het vir jag – dit

is uit en uit die moeite werd.

Verder het ek ook 'n paar opwindende planne vir die naby toekoms in samewerking met Next Level Silencers, Highveld Taxidermists, Quattro Archery, Sutherland Hunting Academy en meer. Kyk gerus uit vir YouTube-videos en ander media op FaceBook en ander platforms wat spesifiek gerig gaan wees op die jagter en buitepersoon. Daar sal binnekort meer inligting bekend gemaak word.

Ek wil afsluit deur vir oom Jan de Man baie dankie te sê vir die geleentheid om weer 'n artikel te kon skryf vir die WILDLAND-tydskrif. Dit is 'n voorreg en ek sal dit geniet om weer eendag saam met oom te gaan jag. Skakel gerus vir oom Jan om meer uit te vind oor die wonderlike aktiwiteite wat hy bied – van bok jag tot watervoël jag tot die lekkerste kos wat jy nog op 'n jagnaweek geëet het –

oom Jan is werklik 'n briljante leermeester in die veld en jy kan verseker wees dat jy nooit verveeld sal wees in sy geselskap nie.

Ek hoop om in die toekoms weer 'n artikel te kan skryf en die leser se aandag ten minste vir 10 minute te kan hou om my storie te vertel... 'n storie waaraan elke dag nog 'n stukkie bygeskryf word. 'n Storie van my ervarings en my avontuur. Tot volgende keer. Mooi loop."

Baie dankie Ruan, ook vir jou entoesiasme, wat ek dink ander jong jagters ook sal aanvuur. Met ouens (en meisies!) soos julle, is die toekoms van jag in ons land in goeie hande! Oom Jan

Deel ook asb jou jagstorie met ons. E-pos dit asb vir my na jan@wildlandmag.co.za. Sterk staan tot volgende maand. Jagtersgroete. **WL**

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ISSUE 16

GEAR

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Red duiker
bowhunt

Stalking
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BOWHUNTING MOUNTAIN REEDBUCK

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BOWHUNTING THE MOUNTAIN REEDBUCK



Figure 1: Mountain reedbuck male

By Cleve Cheney

This petit antelope is found in mountainous grassland where it uses rocks, boulders and associated vegetation as cover. While not popular as a species to bowhunt this is more because it is not well known and not much is written about it. It does, however, pose a challenge to the serious bowhunter as the methods of hunting this antelope are more limited than others and the habitat it frequents usually involves more physical effort on the part of the bowhunter to locate, stalk and harvest.

Mountain reedbuck can be mistaken for vaal rhebok (*Pelea capreolus*) or southern (common) reedbuck (*Redunca arundinum*) where they co-exist. Mountain reedbuck can be differentiated from lookalike species by having more white underparts than vaal rhebok and being smaller in size with a reddish neck compared to the common reedbuck.

The legs do not have the defined black markings that are present in southern reedbuck (Figure 1).

The body mass is 23–27 kg (50–60 pounds). Mountain reedbuck stand about 62–76 cm (24–30 inches) at the shoulder and are small, delicate and graceful antelope with a long, soft and woolly coat. The long, slender ears are characteris-

tic at the base of which is a bare black glandular patch used for territorial marking. The overall colour is greyish with the neck and head taking on a more rufous (reddish) or yellowish tinge.

The chin and upper throat have a buff (light brown) colour. The nose has a conspicuous dark stripe. The tail, which has white underparts, is short and bushy. Females are similar to the males, but are slightly smaller and are more grey in colour. The short horns, present only in males, are slender, ringed and curve gracefully upwards and forwards.

BIOLOGY

Preferred habitat

Because of their very specific habitat the distribution of mountain reedbuck is patchy and irregular. They occur in a confined area of Lobatsi in south-eastern Botswana, and in mountainous areas of Mpumalanga and Gauteng. They have a wide distribution in KwaZulu-Natal, the eastern and south-eastern parts of the Free State and the far north-eastern and eastern parts of the Cape. They also occur in the Lebombo Mountains of south-western Mozambique. Mountain reedbuck frequent the slopes of broken hilly country and mountains and are seldom seen on exposed summits. They prefer grasslands below rocky ridges with associated bush and scattered trees to provide cover. Figure 2 illustrates typical mountain reedbuck habitat.

Behaviour and habits

Mountain reedbuck are more gregarious than common reedbuck and occur in small groups of four to six animals. Occasionally larger groups of as many as 30 animals may be observed. The home ranges of females can overlap that of several territorial males.

Males that do not hold territories are solitary or band together in small bachelor groups along the fringes of established territorial boundaries. Males display their territorial

status by stotting, whistling and displaying a tall, erect posture. Territorial males are very attached to their territories and will return to their “turf” if chased or frightened off by an intruder. Males mark territories using secretions from glands on their feet and below the ears.

Mountain reedbuck are shy and very alert animals and will hide in available cover when disturbed. Flight is usually preceded by a “rocking horse” type gait with the tail raised to display their conspicuous white underparts. Their alarm call is a sharp, nasal whistle. They are active mainly in the early morning, early evening and during the night, when they move into preferred feeding areas. They rest in available cover during the main part of the day.

Feeding and drinking

They move out onto flatter areas close to rocky cover to feed and drink and are water dependent. Mountain reedbuck are almost exclusively grazers feeding selectively and changing their preference for certain grass species with the different seasons.

They feed more intensively during the latter part of the dry season to compensate for the reduced nutritional value of the grazing available during this time of the year. Grass species that they tend to prefer are *Themeda triandra* (“rooigras”) and *Hyparrhenia* spp. (thatching grass) while less preferred species include representatives of *Eragrostis*, *Cynodon* and *Aristida* genera.

Reproduction

Young males are evicted from female herds by territorial rams when they are 10–15 months old. Adult males do not breed unless they have established a territory. They will actively herd females and test their reproductive status by smell. If a female is found to be on heat the male courts her by approaching with his head outstretched and taps her between her hind legs with his foreleg. If she is receptive she will stand with her head down in a submissive posture.



Figure 2: Typical mountain reedbuck habitat

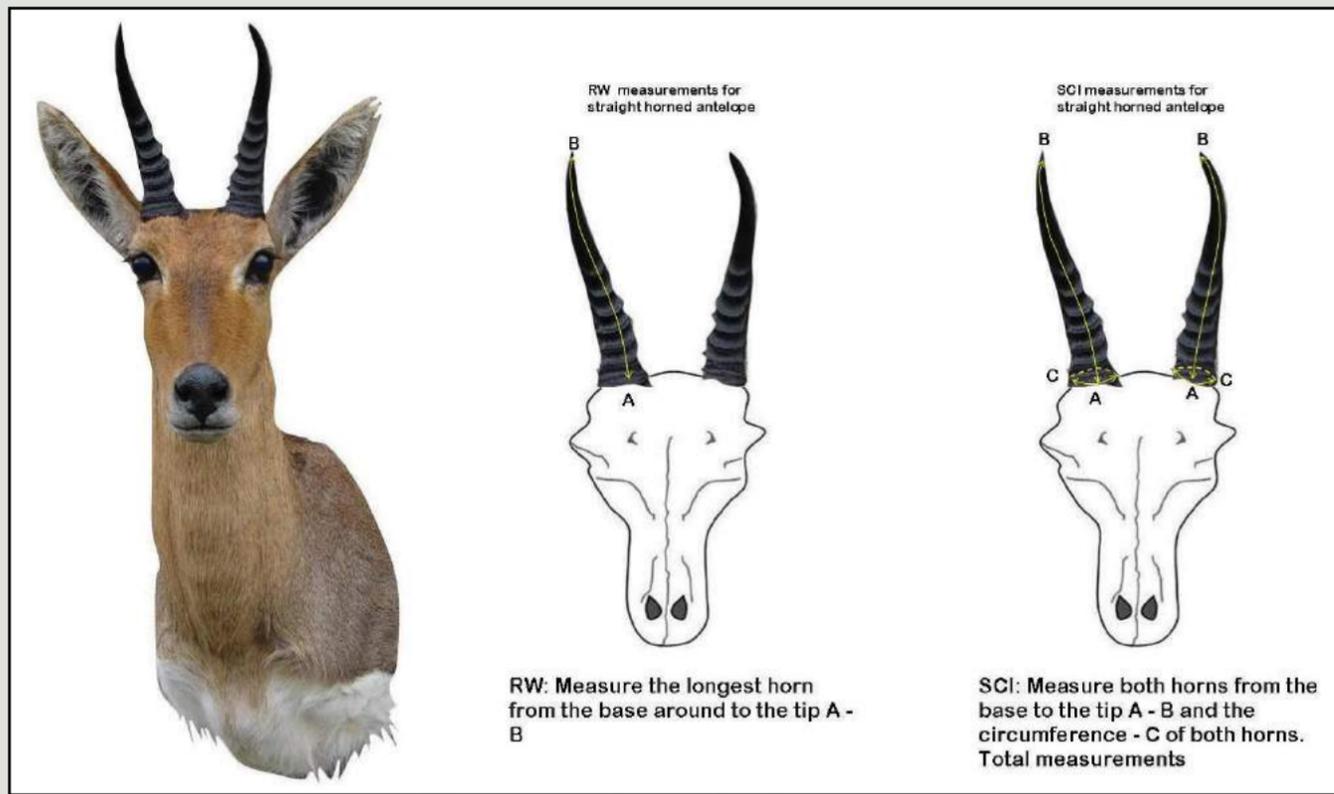


Figure 3: The measurement of mountain reedbuck trophies

Gestation is 230–250 days. Females leave the herd to give birth and the lamb is hidden away for the first two to three months. The mother visits it once or twice a day to suckle and clean it and to move it to a new location to avoid predators. If the young is threatened it will give an alarm whistle which will cause the mother to come running to its defence.

Predation and disease

The main predator of this species is leopard.

HUNTING TECHNIQUES

Because of the habitat frequented by mountain reedbuck it is difficult to stalk up to them without being seen. Wind is also often fickle and unpredictable in mountainous habitat and can shift direction unexpectedly.

The following techniques can prove to be successful.

Since mountain reedbuck seldom move up to the summit of high ground this is a good point for you to start as you can observe lower elevations from this vantage point. Use a good pair of binoculars or a spotting scope to scan the area. Try to establish where the preferred feeding grounds are and at what time of day animals move into these areas, what routes they use, when and where they return to bed down to rest. Having established this, set up an ambush at the feeding or bedding area making use of natural cover on the ground.

Trees at higher elevations are usually small and seldom suitable for stands or platforms, so you will probably have to work from the ground. Unless you have the time available to habituate animals to a newly erected blind rather make use of natural cover as animals will be suspicious of something new and unfamiliar.

After having spotted animals at lower elevations plan a suitable approach making use of as much cover as is available and always monitoring wind direction. If you know more or less where the animals are your initial approach can be carried out relatively quickly slowing down for your final stalk as you get closer. Be on the lookout for other animals in the area that can betray your presence.

Also remember the following general rules with regard to wind movements and currents in mountainous areas. Wind swirls and is more unpredictable on or near summits. Wind currents “flow” downhill at the end of the day, when temperatures start to cool and uphill from mid-morning as temperatures start to rise. If you get up on the summit early in the morning and then work downhill towards bedded or feeding animals during the warmer hours of the day you are more likely to have wind movement in your favour. Mountain reedbuck will also be less vigilant for danger from above as opposed to threats from below. Remember too that distance estimation in mountainous habitat can be more difficult than on the flat because of “dead ground”.

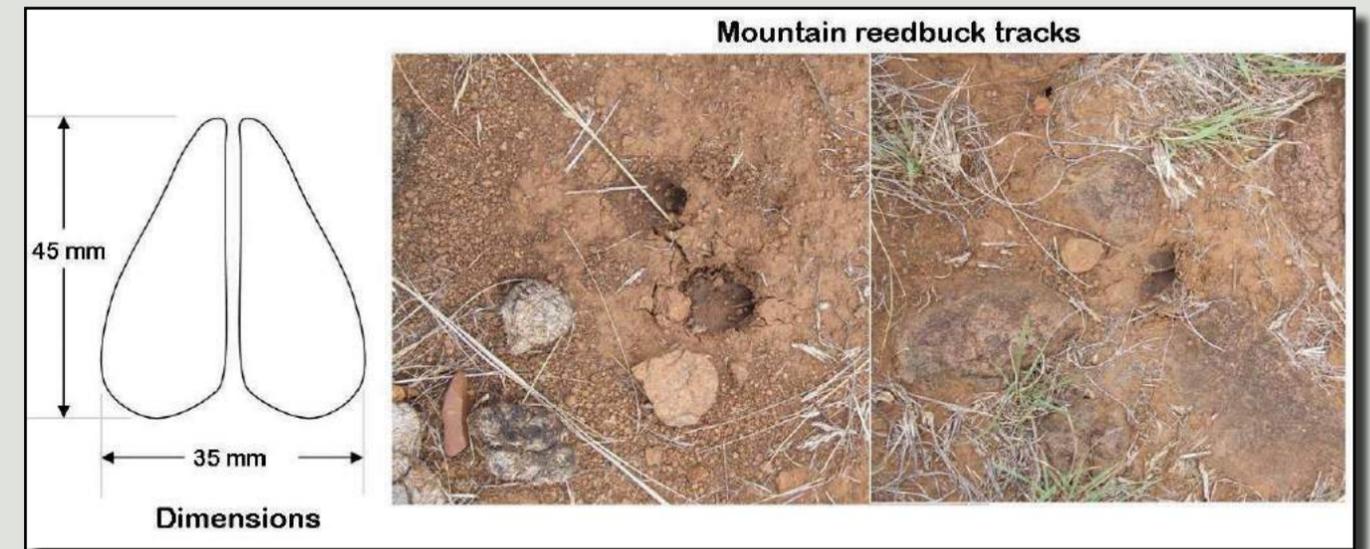


Figure 4: Mountain reedbuck tracks



Figure 5: Mountain reedbuck scat

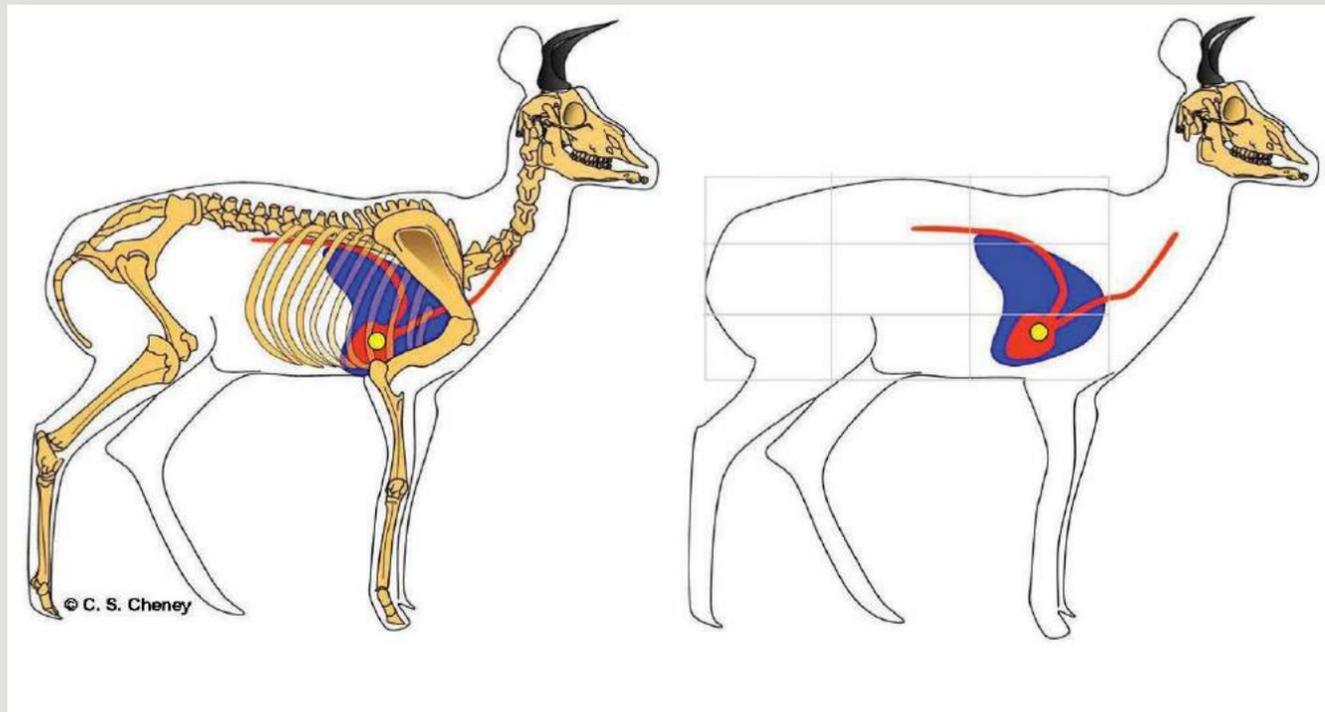


Figure 6: Mountain reedbuck shot placement

TROPHY

Only the males carry horns, which curve sharply forwards and which have distinct rings for most of their length (Figure 3).

For RW records

Minimum horn length for inclusion in the Rowland Ward records is 17.5 cm (6⁷/₈ inches), measured along the front edge from base to tip. Record is 11¹/₂ inches.

For SCI records

Minimum score for inclusion in SCI records is 11 (length of both horns along the front edge from base to tip and the circumference of both horn bases). Record 17⁷/₈.

SIGN

Suitable habitat

Start looking in typical mountain reedbuck habitat.

Feeding sign and bedding areas

Bedding down areas might be seen as localized patches of flattened grass. Feeding areas might be evident as disturbed vegetation, bits of cud dropped from the mouth and cropped grass. Bedding and feeding areas might well be joined up by well-travelled game paths where tracks will be more obvious on bare ground.

Watering points

Check localized watering points for spoor.

Tracks

The hooves are long and narrow (averaging about 45 mm in length) and can be confused with the similar sized shape and tracks of grey rhebok. Common reedbuck also have similar shaped tracks but are much longer (60–65 mm; Figure 4).

Scat

The droppings of mountain reedbuck are generally more rounded than those of most antelope and are often clumped (Figure 5).

Voice

Listen for the nasal whistle which might betray the presence of these animals.

SHOT PLACEMENT

Mountain reedbuck are fairly small antelope and the heart-lung target area from broadside on is the only shot that should be attempted. Any other shot holds a high risk of wounding and is not advised. This is illustrated in Figure 6. Also bear in mind that shooting in mountainous habitat might entail steep uphill or downhill shots. There is a tendency to shoot too high in both instances and you must remember to aim slightly low. How much? There is no hard and fast rule. You must practise with your own equipment at different ranges

and on different angles of slope to determine how much you must compensate for your own particular setup.

Follow up

Mountain reedbuck are not very tough animals and succumb easily. They will generally not run too far before going down. The type of habitat also often allows you to keep the animal in sight for longer than is normally the case in other types of habitat. On being hit the animal is likely to head for the nearest available cover. Once you have waited the required time before initiating a follow-up (minimum of 30 minutes for a good shot and longer for a bad shot), go to where the animal was standing when it was (hopefully) hit and try to find your arrow.

Inspection of your arrow will assist you in predicting whether or not you can expect quick recovery of your quarry. Because the animal is relatively narrow across the heart-lung target area your arrow might fly quite a long way beyond where the animal was standing. As a general rule animals will usually run downhill when hurt.

Choice of equipment

A minimum bow draw weight of 50–60 pounds is recommended delivering a 400-grain arrow with a momentum of 0.35 and a kinetic energy of 50–60 foot-pounds for this species. Broadheads of two- or three-blade design and mechanical broadheads will all work well (Figure 7).

EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



DRAW WEIGHT
(pounds)

Minimum 50 - 60



FIELD POINT **NO**



FIXED BLADE **YES**



MECHANICAL **YES**

ARROW WEIGHT (grains)
Minimum 400

KINETIC ENERGY (foot pounds)
Minimum 50 - 60

Figure 7: Equipment recommendations for hunting mountain reedbuck

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My first mountain reedbuck hunting with a bow and arrow

Dr Adrian de Villiers

In the early days of my hunting and game farming history, I loved mountainous farms. The reason being that land is bought and sold based on area calculation on a flat map. A very mountainous farm can have as much as 100% more “free” land than a flat farm. And the steeper the mountain and the harder to access, the easier it is for the animals to escape the hunters. They also don’t destroy the grass as much with their hooves as they are not stampeding through the veld.

The only downside, which eventually drove me away from the mountains, was the fire hazard. Thabazimbi, as you may all know, is called the “Mountain of iron”. Almost every year lightning strikes start fires in the mountains and they are very hard to stop.

Mountain reedbuck, are about the same size as the average impala and it has curved ribbed horns that point forwards. If you have a water hole near a mountain or in a mountain, you can sit in a hide and shoot many mountain reedbuck quite easily – unlike the vaal rhebuck that virtually never comes to water.

Because they live in the mountains almost exclusively, they are predated on by leopards and are super wary.

Walking and stalking them is a huge challenge since they are sharp as hell.

They like bedding down in an area where they can chill in the shade and have a birds-eye view for miles. On Alex’s farm, I spotted a nice ram about 130 m away down a steep hill – with no way of getting closer. I decided to sit in a bush and wait and see what he does. I very nearly got into my hiding spot just below the skyline without being bust, but he detected some movement and stared in my direction. I lay down and had a snooze. About 45 min later I checked for him and he was still staring at my spot! Like kudu, if they suspect something they will stare and not move. You can have a birthday and they will still be looking for you. My advice then is rather carry on walking away from them around a corner and then try to approach upwind from a different direction. They may still be staring at the spot where they last saw you vanish.

They are very difficult to spot if they are grazing and standing still in the beige grass. Like vaal, rhebuck it is best to get above them. Shooting steep downhill shots without “angle correction rangefinders” is not easy.

Mountain reedbuck are very easy to kill from a hide and they visit the water every day. I would guess that most that

are opportunistically shot while hunting for something else, such as klipspringer and vaal rhebuck.

I don’t think going up in the morning and with the sole purpose to stalk mountain reedbuck happens often. I shot quite a few over the years because I spend a lot of time in the mountains looking for bushpigs and kudu – animals that seem to get super big in the mountains.

Mountain reedbuck have shrill whistle-like calls when they are alarmed. One day, 30 years ago on the farm Wildside, I left early for the mountains and left my foxy named Savage at the farmhouse. Hours later standing on a cliff edge looking down at the Mamba river flood plain I saw Savage looking for me. Leaning my bow against a dead tree, I put two fingers in my mouth and let out my loudest high pitched shrill whistle to attract my dog. Suddenly, very close by my whistles were answered by two very similar calls. I grabbed my bow and nocked an arrow as the first one looked over the same edge not twenty yards away. As I shot him a second one came running still whistling, trying to figure out where the sound came from. I can’t say I ever shot two in one walk again.

The very first mountain reedbuck I shot measured 8.5 inches and would have been number one SCI if one of my guests at the Wildside had not pinched it off the wall at the Lapa. Although I have the African 29 in the SCI book for archery, when I started bowhunting that was not the aim, nor did I bowhunt deliberately to get animals high up in the book. Many years later I tried to get trophies but not at the start. Huge or not, I put my stuff in the SCI book. when I started bowhunting, the SCI book had just started, so almost everything I shot ended up in the top 10 SCI. The top pinnacle of the top ten awards is the “Diamond” award, which I reached by the 1990s. As I said, no big deal – just good timing.

My first bowhunt was on Dr. Jan Pont’s (the orthopedic surgeon at Garden City Clinic) farm called Blakeney. I had handgun hunted there extensively until I made the switch over to the bow and arrows.

The farm was very mountainous in Ellisras on the Tamboti River, which was bone dry at the time. There were no hides. Bow hunting was unheard of there in 1982. Most farmers did not want bowhunters. It was not easy with those early bows and no rangefinder. We had to get so close that the rangefinder wasn’t necessary.

According to Jan Pont, there were only two water holes on the farm, so I sat in a tree on a cushion the whole day at one hole and Luch, my buddy, at the other. We expected the holes to be cooking with game, but they either smelt us or saw us and we never got a shot. The Tamboti

River was bone dry. I asked Hendrik, my ex-handgun guide, whether there were any other water holes. After denying any other existed, I pushed him and he said there was a mud pool that was drying out near the farm’s edge in the mountains. It was very far away, he said.

I headed there the next morning to spend the day. I saw a muddy pool in an old dam right next to a steep mountain slope with many game trails heading down to it. I had a polystyrene block and set it up at various points. I hid in a karee tree and practiced getting pins right.

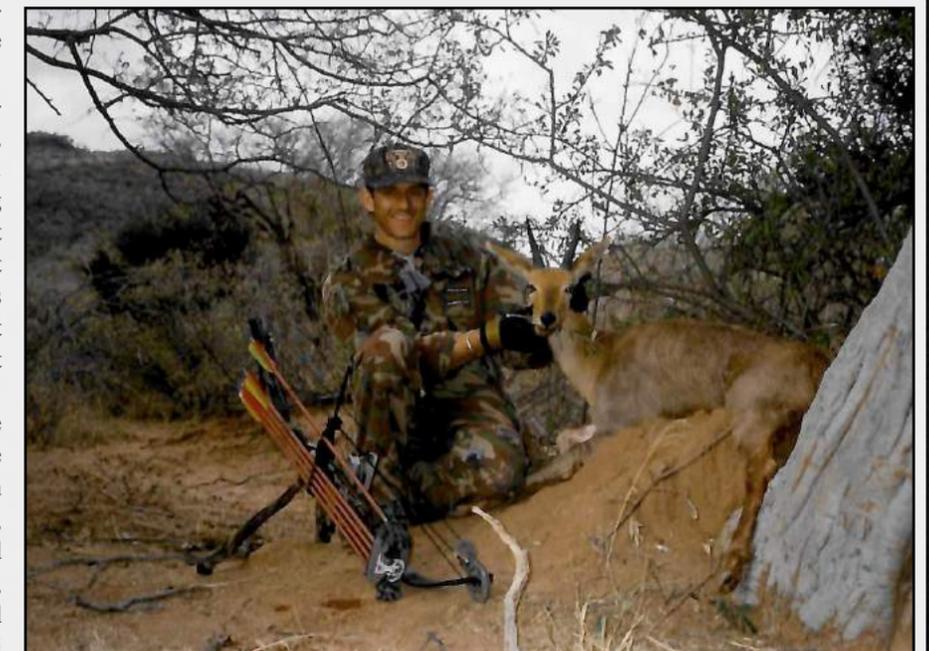
Late in the afternoon a huge 8,5-inch mountain reedbuck walked and stood perfectly broadside on the rock at 40 yards. I took the shot and it good. Being an amateur I followed it up immediately being so excited to get my very first animal with a bow. I watched it walk slowly up a game path past a big tambotie tree and then vanish. I sneaked up to the spot and looked for the now dead buck. But there was nothing!

I saw the blood heading back down another path. Later I would learn that wounded buck very rarely go uphill, as it is difficult when wounded.

Looking down I saw the bug ram standing head down under a thorn bush. I guessed he was at 60 yards – and shot way over. He never moved I then tried the 30-yard pin and still shot over. I hit him with the 20-yard pin. I learned a lot that day. Don’t follow up too quickly, practice at the ranges you may use if you can, get an angle correction rangefinder (although it wasn’t an option in those days). In the 40 years since then, I have lost the photo of that great trophy, but I still cherish the memory.

Unfortunately, someone has the horns. I must have shot at least 40 rams while hunting on foot since then, but usually as opportunistic shots.

If you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re probably right !





A Red Duiker Bowhunt

By Frank Berbuir

After our successful bowhunting adventure on a blue duiker, the smallest duiker and the smallest antelope in South Africa, my quest to hunt the pygmy antelopes continued. On this safari I was pursuing a red duiker (*Cephalophus natalensis*) – the second most sought after species of the tiny ten.

The red duiker is very similar to the common duiker, but it is smaller. The most distinguishing feature is his chestnut-red coloring. Additionally, the red forest duiker favors a denser bush habitat than the common duiker. The Natal red duiker is more diurnal and less secretive than most forest duikers, so therefore it is easier for them to be observed.

Red forest duikers have a body length of up to 1 meter, a typical shoulder height of 43 cm, and an average mass of 12 kg. The crest of red and black hair on the top of the head, sometimes almost appearing to be a third horn, characterizes this mini-antelope. A notable characteristic of the Natal red duiker's appearance is its hunched back, with front legs shorter than the hind legs. These longer hind legs are in a crouched position, which serves as an advantage when the duiker senses danger and needs to flee by allowing the individual to leap quickly into nearby brush.

These little guys are territorial, tend to be solitary, but may on occasion form loose associations. The only times they form groups larger than three are at water sources, salt licks, or fruit falls that occur at territorial boundaries.

My hunting quest on the red duiker started on an early morning mid of August. With me was PH and friend Izak

Vos from Vos Safaris. We were in the North West Province on a farm where some red duikers roam that had, according to the farmer, not been hunted for a couple of years. As usual in August during South African wintertime, it was a bit chilly early in the morning when we started our stalk.

Slowly but surely we walked, always looking for tracks or scat, while glassing the area with our binoculars to check the bushes. The countryside had some rocky little hills, but consisted mostly of flat bushveld with open plains, savannah or grasslands peppered with thorny bushes and some acacias. Stalking with bow and arrow in this terrain is very challenging, especially if you are trying to get close to small game.

After a couple of hours without much activity, we arrived at a large grassy field where we spotted a male red duiker at approximately 120 meters or 130 yards from us. It was an impressive specimen of this small mammal.

He was facing us for quite a while before he jumped off and ran a zig-zag escape route before he finally disappeared behind some bushes. "He will stay in the area. They are territorial animals and there is a fair chance to stalk him and get close," Izak said. We made a plan how we could approach him by moving around the grassy field behind some covering bushes and trees with the wind in our favour. It took us

an hour of walking quietly and in disguise before Izak raised his hand to signal me to stop moving. With his eagle eyes, he spotted the red duiker standing behind a bush. We kneeled slowly, observed him with the binoculars, and ranged him at 34 meters. So far, the pygmy antelope had not noticed us. The shooting window was not good due to many twigs and branches and I did not want to repeat the same situation as with the first shot on the blue duiker. (Read the article in the previous issue).

"Let's sit down and monitor him," Izak whispered. We both sat down and looked through our binoculars to see what our quarry would do next.

The little fellow was standing dead still as well, facing a bush opposite him – as if he is worried about something. He still had not seen us. When we saw some small blades of grass suddenly moving, we figured out what had bothered him. A small African carnivore – a mongoose – raised his head out of the grass. They both looked at each other before the little critter decided to walk back the way he came.

We got up slowly and ready. "I thinking the red duiker will probably move forward once the mongoose is gone," Izak said softly.

At a snail's pace, I straightened up on my knees and gently pulled an arrow out of my quiver. Without making any noise and with very slow movement, I placed it on the arrow rest. The duiker took a step forward once the mongoose was gone. I pulled my bow to full draw and settled the pin of my sight on the vital area of this small antelope. He was still covered by some twigs, but with its next step the shooting window would be clear. "Wait... wait... wait...", Izak whispered

with his hand covering his mouth.

It felt like eternity before the red duiker took a step forward and there were no twigs or branches in the way anymore. "Now", he mumbled and at the same time I released the arrow on its mission. The carbon arrow, equipped with a two-bladed broadhead, flew through the small antelope like a hot knife through butter.

The red duiker jumped forward and started running. After about ten meters he stopped, felt on his knees and expired. Izak stood up, shook my hand firm and said: "Congrats, well done! Your red duiker is in the salt!"

When we got to the place where he expired, I kneeled, looked and examined that specimen of the tiny ten antelopes. It was an awesome and challenging experience to finally harvest an awesome red duiker with a bow and arrow. After some nice pictures we radioed the farmer to pick us up and we all enjoyed the success with a cold beer.

Once again it was a tremendous hunt with unforgettable impressions and memories done with the help of my friend and PH Izak Vos from Vos Safaris in South Africa.

Shoot straight, take care, always good hunting, "Waidmannsheil" and "Alles van die beste".

Equipment:

Bow: Mathews Z7x @ 70 lbs

Arrow: Carbon Express Maxima Hunter 350

Broadhead: German Kinetics Silverflame 125 grain

Optics: Zeiss Victory Binocular & Nikon Rangefinder

Release: Scott

Camo: Sniper Africa



Typical rough bushveld.

Dennis with his excellent water buffalo.



TOP END BUFFALO

By Dennis Kamstra

As I write this, I am flying high, literally and emotionally. I'm at 37,000 feet, on a flight from Sydney, Australia to Los Angeles; and I am still experiencing the rush from a very memorable hunt. Thought I would get all the details in print before I forgot them. I just completed a water buffalo hunt in Australia's Northern Territory, known locally as the "top end". I must admit that the memories are still lingering because I finally made one of those shots about which we all dream. Even taking my vanity into consideration, I have to say that I just completed a hunt the ranks near the top ten per cent of my bow hunting experiences. Being a little long in the tooth with several hunts under my belt, I can assure you that this is worthy of note.

Australia is getting to be a very popular destination for bowhunters. The word is getting out about the fantastic hunting opportunities in all of the South Pacific. The water buffalo of Australia's Northern Territory is one of the few dangerous game species available in this part of the world. You can throw the crocodile and wild hogs in this category as well, although the crocodile cannot be sport hunted at this time. Although my hunt was booked with Barry Jones of Buffalo Safaris Ltd., I had also arranged for Randy Cooling and Patrick O'Brian to hunt with Graham Williams of Outback Safaris and Dr. Jan Seski to hunt with Glenn Giffin of Muckadillo Safaris. All these hunts were conducted during the same ten-day period. My hunting partner on this trip was Dr. Bill MacCarty. Bill's wife (Hogan) and my wife (Cathy) were to accompany us on this hunt and the camp amenities available with Barry Jones was instrumental in picking this outfitter. Although our wives can rough it with the best of them, I felt the women would enjoy the experience more with air-conditioned cabins and hot showers available. As it turned out, Hogan had to cancel at the last minute, so I was glad that Cathy had the extra comforts available.

I must begin by stating that most of us have no concept of the vastness of Australia, let alone the remoteness of the



Bill and Dennis with the buffalo Bill shot.

top end. The previously mentioned Dr. Jan Seski probably said is best when he told me that the top end of Australia is just like the "old Africa", where one can drive and walk for days without experiencing any humanity and the game is oblivious to human existence. Dr. Seski went on his first Australian safari last year and

Immediately rebooked for this year as well. Jan will have a hard time beating last year's hunt, where he took the new world record Banteng (with bow), two buffalo, two huge Spanish goats, and several wild hogs.

One of the down sides of this hunt is the distance of travel. From my home near Portland, Oregon, we flew to LA, then on to Sydney, then to Darwin, Australia. From Darwin we arranged for a charter to fly us into hunting camp. All this amounted to 20 hours in the air and 32 hours considering layovers. Thank God for sleeping pills and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Bill, Cathy and I made the best of it in Darwin by renting a car and driving to a nearby location on the Adelaide River that promoted sights of the famous Saltwater Crocodiles. I'm not much into tourist activities, but I have to admit it's pretty exciting when the first mate of a small boat puts a pole in your hand with twelve foot of line baited with a pound of pork and declares we are going croc fishing! These salt-water crocs are in fact the largest crocodiles in the world (some reported at 28 feet in length!). I was soon to discover that they would come completely out of the water to snap at my offering of pork. The occasion was definitely a photo opportunity.

After cooling our heels in Darwin for two days, we were anxious to get into hunting camp. There was an issue with weight restrictions on the charter flight. We were allowed only 480 kilos (1056 pounds) including people and gear. This sounds like a lot until you consider the weight of 5 people (pilot, co-pilot and the three of us) equaled 915 pounds. It was either a crash diet or some repackaging. So, with the bare necessities we were off to Wongawara, a cattle station on the southern border of Aboriginal Land. It was amazing to fly for almost two hours without even seeing a road. Wongawara is a working cattle ranch that covers 500,000 acres. The cattle are restricted to approximately 3,000 acres and the balance is wild and woolly open territory. The owner, Rudy, commented that he has never been on 80% of his own land. Naturally he has flown over it, but land travel is restricted by the lack of any roads. Four wheeling over rocks and fording major streams has a way of limiting ones exposure to such country.

At the end of a rough-cut landing strip, Barry Jones, his wife Sonia, and guide Kim Walters greeted us. As we soon learned, Sonia was to be the chief cook and bottle washer in addition to her duties as clothes washer, and maid; all of which she did with the utmost of perfection. As soon as we had our gear unpacked, we were asked if wanted to stretch our legs a bit and take a few Wallabies for the pot. Bill and I recognized this as the obligatory "test" so see if we could keep up when walking and an observation of our shooting ability. Any good outfitter will go through this procedure

and I believe it is important to take shots at no greater distance than you wish to take when hunting. We were soon to discover that these wallabies (a small kangaroo) are not easy to hit, or to approach. Hence our first mini hunt was unsuccessful. That evening, Barry explained that several species could be hunted during this hunt. Aside from our main objective, the Asiatic water buffalo, wild hogs, wild donkeys and scrub bulls were on the menu. Like the water buffalo, the other species were all introduced by early explorers during the 1800's. The scrub bulls are essentially domestic cattle that have gone feral over the years. I can tell you that the experience has done little for their disposition. Unlike the buffalo, these bulls have been known to charge on sight and are considered quite dangerous. The buffalo will generally run at the sight of humans, but once wounded they are as formidable as their cousins, the Cape buffalo of Africa are. However, if surprised these buffalo can charge on sight as well. These facts were the reason for Barry and Kim's arsenal. Large caliber rifles are required to stop these animals when they are on full charge. My guide, Kim, was totting a 500 Jeffery as his back up rifle. This cannon was loaded to deliver 6000 foot pounds of energy!

The first day of the hunt was an exciting one. We spotted several buffalo as well as a few scrub bulls and wild donkeys. We passed on all the buffalo because both Barry and Kim had seen larger bulls during their pre-scouting trips. I was able to connect with a wallaby and was surprised that they tasted quite good. This initial trip into hunting country gave us a feel for what was to come – Rough four wheeling for two hours or so, following by 5 to 6 hours of walking and spotting. We generally walked 10 to 14 miles per day.

On the second day of the hunt we had a little excitement. After fording the Milton River we came upon a small group of wild hogs. They were all walking in single file, into the wind, and oblivious to our presence. Bill and I were able to run right up to the last hog in the line when she whirled and gave a grunt that stopped the whole procession. We launched our first volley of arrows hitting two of them. Bill's arrow completely penetrated one boar and hit a small piglet running with the group. This piglet took great exception to an arrow in its side and began to squeal with a volume the likes of which were disproportionate to its size. This squealing had a very unsettling affect on the rest of the group. Bottom line is that they started charging Bill and me. In unison, we both looked for a tree to climb and discovered that there were none! Barry and Kim were observing all this through binoculars at several hundred yards distant. Although I've certainly seen larger hogs in my day, I don't remember any being more determined. We were both equipped with very heavy arrows made for the buffalo hunt and they became very useful at this point. Bill turned one boar with a well placed shot which left the sow that was coming directly at me. My choice was to run or shoot and I decided on the latter. Thank God I actually hit her where I was aiming. The 860-grain "Grizzlystik"



Dennis and Bill with the wild hogs they bagged.

tipped with a 190 grain Grizzly head entered the hog right between the eyes and exited behind her ear. With their numbers greatly reduced that rest of the group decided to run off which pleased us greatly. This whole fiasco made for a real confidence booster regarding our equipment. Bill was shooting an 80-pound Black Widow and I was carrying my trusty old 80-pound Stotler longbow. Both of us carried arrows made for this trip by Bob Burton of Whispering Wind arrows. Bob had made some Purple Heart shafts for Bill's previous trip for Cape Buffalo in Africa. Since they worked well on that trip (nice buff and giraffe), Bill ordered more for this hunt. Bob could not find additional purple heart shafts for me so he came up with an option of resin impregnated Poplar shafts that produced a finished arrow weight of 1140 grains.

In addition to these arrows, I was field testing some new heavy carbon shafts called the Grizzlystick from Alaska Bowhunting Supply. I really liked the advantage of the heavier wood arrows, but the Grizzlysticks are almost indestructible, which means a lot on a trip where you can't run downtown to get more arrows. I've purposely hit a granite bolder with a Grizzlystick and had it recoil 20 yards in the opposite direction. In fact, I've broken three Judos on one of the arrows I'm still shooting. True to form, the one I shot through the hog's head is still in my quiver. No matter what shaft I use, the business end always carries the 190-grain Grizzly broadhead when I hunting dangerous game. This one inch wide, three inch long head has served me well over the years.

While Barry and Bill continued to pursue one large bull

they saw the second day of the hunt, Kim and I struck out for some new territory that was not previously hunted. The chance to hunt truly virgin territory really appealed to me. From the topo maps for the area, Kim found a long string of small ponds all connected and that eventually drained into the Milton River. From the map, it was apparent that we could walk over twenty miles from the first pond to the river. We drove (if you could call it that) as far as the terrain would allow and logged in the waypoint on our GPS's. Then we struck out on foot towards the coordinates pulled from the map. Once we reached the water holes we started seeing buffalo in large numbers. One impressive bull was traveling with over 20 cows and calves, which made the ensuing stalk even more difficult. With so many eyes and noses covering his backside, this bull simply grazed with impunity. Finally the inevitable happened when we spooked an unseen cow and the whole herd bolted in a thunder of hooves and a billowing cloud of dust.

Back to the string of water holes, we parted some of the dense vegetation to reveal a large group of buffaloes all circling a small pond. While I was busy looking for a trophy in the bunch, Kim stabbed me in the ribs and whispered that the herd bull was in the water ten yards below me. Sure enough the entire herd was watching His Nibs taking a bath. All I could see was his nose and horns above the water. Slowly nocking an arrow, I figured all I had to do was wait for the King to walk out of his tub and I would smack him.

After a mere 5 seconds, one of the cows grunted in alarm and this peaceful scene erupted into utter chaos.

The bull dog-paddled to the opposite side and lunged onto the bank. Standing completely broadside he stared right at me with his nose held high and on full alert. I could see Kim's 500 Jeffery come to bare and heard Kim whisper "take him". The distance (around 30 yards) was a bit more than I had hoped for and the fact that he was on full alert, looking right through me made me uncomfortable with the shot. Years of disappointment has taught me never to take a shot that I was not completely comfortable with. Hence, I passed on the shot and was immediately second-guessing the wisdom of what I had just done. I could tell that Kim was disappointed as well. We had been hunting hard for four days and this was the best opportunity to date. It was with a heavy heart that we finally returned to camp well after dark.

Two gins and tonics helped a lot as Bill and I compared the day's excitement. Bill and Barry had spotted the big bull they were looking for but it had given them the slip after a long hot pursuit. After one of Sonia's great meals and several glasses of fine Australian Cabernet, I was prepared for a good night's rest and whatever tomorrow might bring.

On the fifth day of the hunt, Kim and I decided to retrace the route of the previous day and continue on into uncharted territory. We did stop on the way to make a stalk on a group of wild donkeys. This herd was more curious than spooked at our presence, which probably attests that we were the first humans they have ever seen. This was



Dennis with the wild donkey he shot with his longbow.

their undoing, because I smacked the biggest jack right through both lungs. We watched him fall within sight. The Grizzlystick had struck again. Once we got close for the photo session, I was surprised at the size of these donkeys. The one I shot was in very good flesh and not a tic on him. I was soon to discover that this was true for the water buffalo as well.

As we continued our hunt I knew the donkey had been a real confidence builder. I was now determined to find a good bull and put him down.

I've found that this feeling happens to me a lot in the field. Sometimes it takes several days of hunting to get into sync with nature and the correct frame of mind for what had to be done. I was now hunting with more intensity. Kim was in the lead weaving his way through heavy palm fronds and low brush. I was scanning the country to my right when I turned to see Kim frozen at mid stride. He was looking right at me with his index finger pointed to our left. As he slowly brought the big Jeffery to his shoulder; my eyes shifted to the direction that the half-inch bore was pointed.

There taking a nap in the mud was a fine water buffalo. He was only 20 yards below me and looking at Kim which gave me an opportunity to nock one of my 1140-grain woodies. I remember thinking: "If he would only stand up". As if on command the bull slowly came to his feet, still looking directly at Kim. Then I was thinking: "Just turn a little, so you will be quartering away". Again, he obliged. It was like my friend Monty Browning likes to say: "All the pegs were dropping in the right holes." The only thing left to fill the final hole was for the buff to move his front leg forward to expose a chance at the heart. I could tell he was about to bolt, but I forced myself to wait. Finally he turned his big head in the directly of his exit. In doing so, he made one step with his front leg. Time to drop the hammer! I was already aimed and at half draw when he moved that leg, so it only took an instant to come to full draw and release.

As luck would have it, the arrow hit exactly where I was looking. I could hear the metallic click which is the tell tale sign of hitting bone. When the bull exited the small mud hole he had only one inch of white crown dip visible below the fletching, which meant the arrow had penetrated 22 inches (it's a good thing to know exactly how long your arrows' crown dip extends and the distance from the nock to the end of your fletching).

It was all over in a split second and now it was time to be silent and wait. I was determined to wait a full 30 minutes. At the end of 12 minutes we heard the bellowing of an animal in distress. After four long bellows, all was silent. I continued to wait out the full 30 minutes before taking up the blood trail. Kim was in the lead with the Jeffery extended.

After walking exactly 63 paces, I saw Kim drop to one knee and on full alert. Through the thick brush I could see the head of a buffalo on the ground looking at his back trail. Kim motioned for me to move slowly to the left while he

stayed in position for a shot if necessary. Kim wisely had me move to see if the buffalo would move his head to follow my motion, indicating he was still alive. Thankfully, he stone dead!

It's hard to express my feeling at that moment. During the caping process we did a little autopsy and discovered that the arrow had completing blown through a rib (which was sizable) and pierced the top end of the heart.

Somehow the trip back to the vehicle was not as grueling as I had imagined and back at camp, it was cigars around with scotch substituted for the gin and tonics.

Cathy and I spent the next day fishing for Baramundi, which is a great sport fish similar to our bass. These fish get up to 30 pounds in these relatively small ponds. We were successful with the Baramundi and also saw fresh water crocodiles and five-foot sharks all in the same pools. We were 80 kilometers from the coast, so that is some indication how high the water gets during the wet season.

That evening Bill and Barry were late of the cocktail hour so that was determined to be a good sign. When they finally arrived, Bill announced that he had finally hit the big bull they had been chasing all week. He felt the arrows' entry angle was a bit back but a lethal hit. They tracked the bull for over six miles in four hours. Each time they jumped

bull it would run again. Not wanting to loose the bull or make it suffer, Bill asked Barry to bring it down with a rifle. This was a very ethical gesture on his part because unlike Africa there is no wounding policy in Australia; you simply carry on with the hunt.

Anyhow, Barry hit the bull four times with a 404 and it still refused to stop. When it was too dark to continue the track, they had returned to camp. The next morning the whole camp went out to help pick up the spore. It was hard tracking with very little blood.

We were starting to get that sick feeling of loosing a fine trophy when Barry gave a shout. He had found the bull dead, approximately 2 miles from where they left the track the evening before. The Purple Heart shaft was still in him and it had penetrated deep. The arrows' entry was right behind the shoulder, but our speculation was that bull was angled a little towards Bill when the arrow hit. Regardless, it was a happy ending and we were all grateful that we didn't give up on this magnificent bull.

The whole experience was something I will never forget and will be forever grateful to Barry, Kim and Sonia for showing us the wonders of Australia's Top End. Now if I can just sleep for the rest of this flight it might make it more tolerable.



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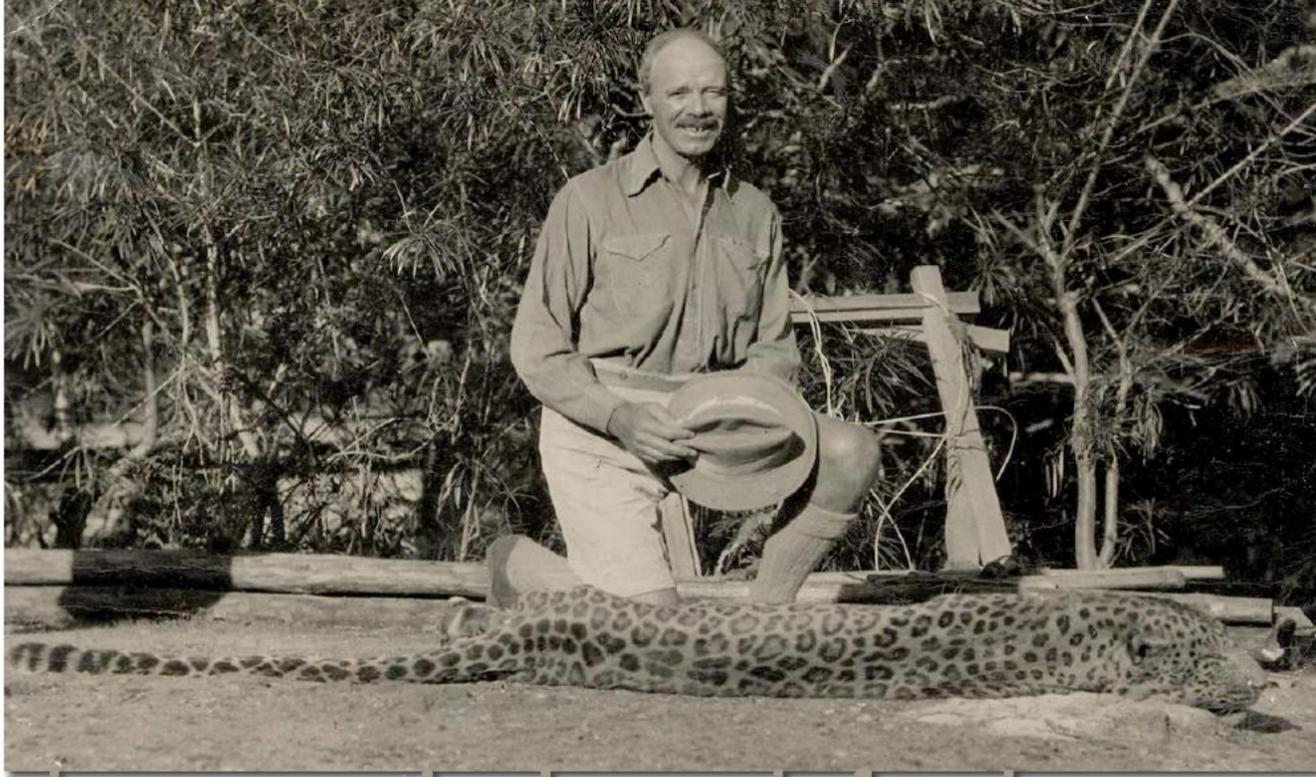
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The man-eating leopard of Rudraprayag

In 1926, the hunter Jim Corbett shot a leopard that killed no less than 125 people! Had it not been for a hunter who intervened, no one knows how many people might have been killed.

Two leopards were killed in the Kruger National Park last year after they attacked and killed a two-and-a-half-year-old boy. The two leopard females were shot dead in the immediate neighborhood of the living quarters for the staff of Malelane's technical services where the attack took place, said Isaac Phaahla, spokesperson for the Park. According to Phaahla, post-mortem examinations on the adult leopard female and a younger female indicated that they were healthy and no injuries occurred before they were killed. The older leopard was pretty fat, but her stomach was empty while the younger woman recently hunted an impala. "It means the animals were not desperate and it was probably opportunistic instinct on the part of the older cat."

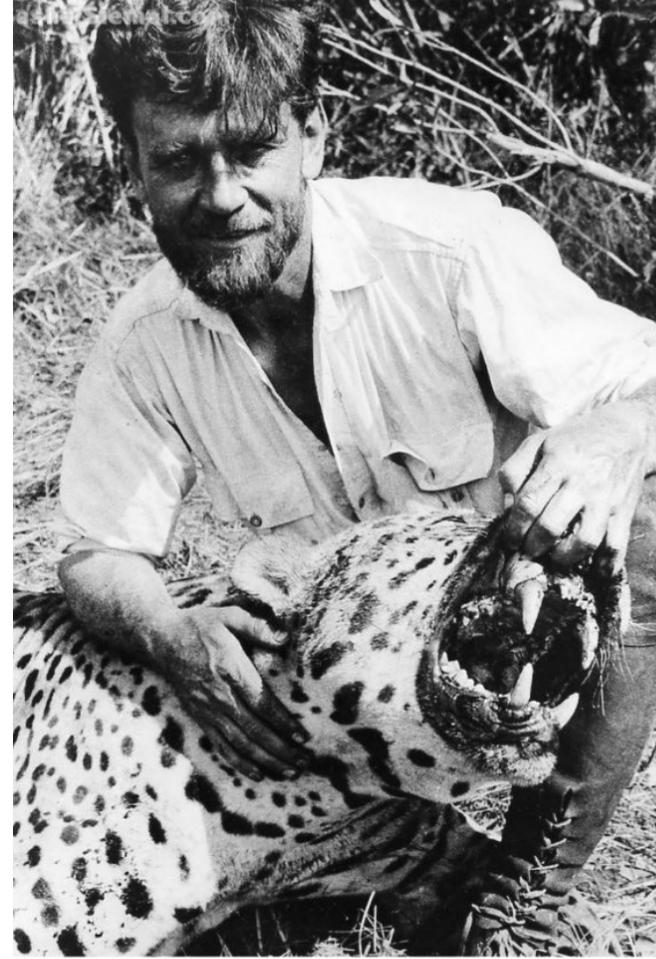
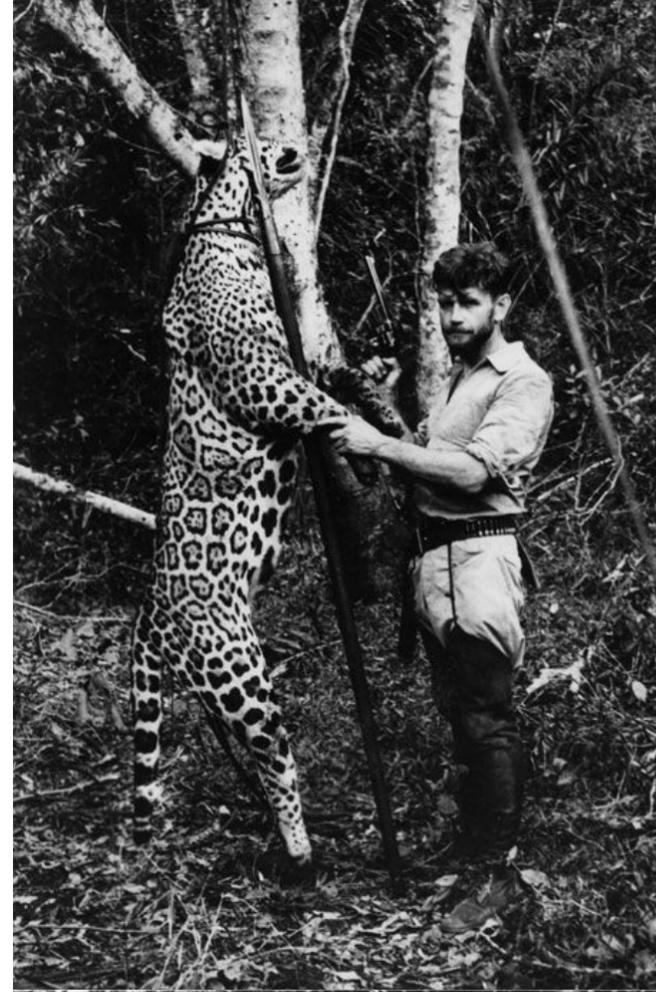
Leopards rarely attack humans if not provoked and they will very rarely hunt humans for food. However, there are recorded cases where leopard have developed a taste for human flesh. When that happens they are deadly killers and often cause havoc in the area.

Jim Corbett (25 July 1875 – 19 April 1955) was a British hunter, tracker, naturalist, and author who hunted a number of man-eating tigers and leopards in India. He held the rank of colonel in the British Indian Army and was frequently called upon by the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, now the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, to kill man-eating tigers and leopards that were preying on people in the nearby villages of the

Garhwal and Kumaon divisions.

Jim Corbett writes in his book "Man-Eaters of Kumaon", that leopards are driven to man-eating by acquiring a taste for human flesh due to scavenging on corpses thrown into the jungle during an epidemic. He wrote, "A leopard, in an area in which his natural food is scarce, finding these bodies very soon acquires a taste for human flesh, and when the disease dies down and normal conditions are established, he very naturally, on finding his food supply cut off, takes to killing human beings".

In 1926, the hunter Jim Corbett, shot a leopard that killed no less than 125 people! The first victim of the leopard was a villager of village Benji. For eight years, no one dared move alone at night on the road between the Hindu shrines of Kedarnath and Badrinath, for it passed through the leopard's territory, and few villagers would leave their houses. The leopard was apparently so desperate for food that it would break down doors, leap through windows, claw through the mud or thatch walls of huts and drag people from them, devouring them. The British Parliament requested the aid of Corbett in the autumn of 1925. In the town of Rudraprayag, there is a sign-board which marks the spot where the leopard was shot. There is a fair held at Rudraprayag commemorating the killing of the leopard and people there often consider Jim Corbett a Sadhu. (A sadhu is a holy person in Hinduism and Jainism and is sometimes alternatively referred to as jogi, sanniyasi or vairagi.) ●



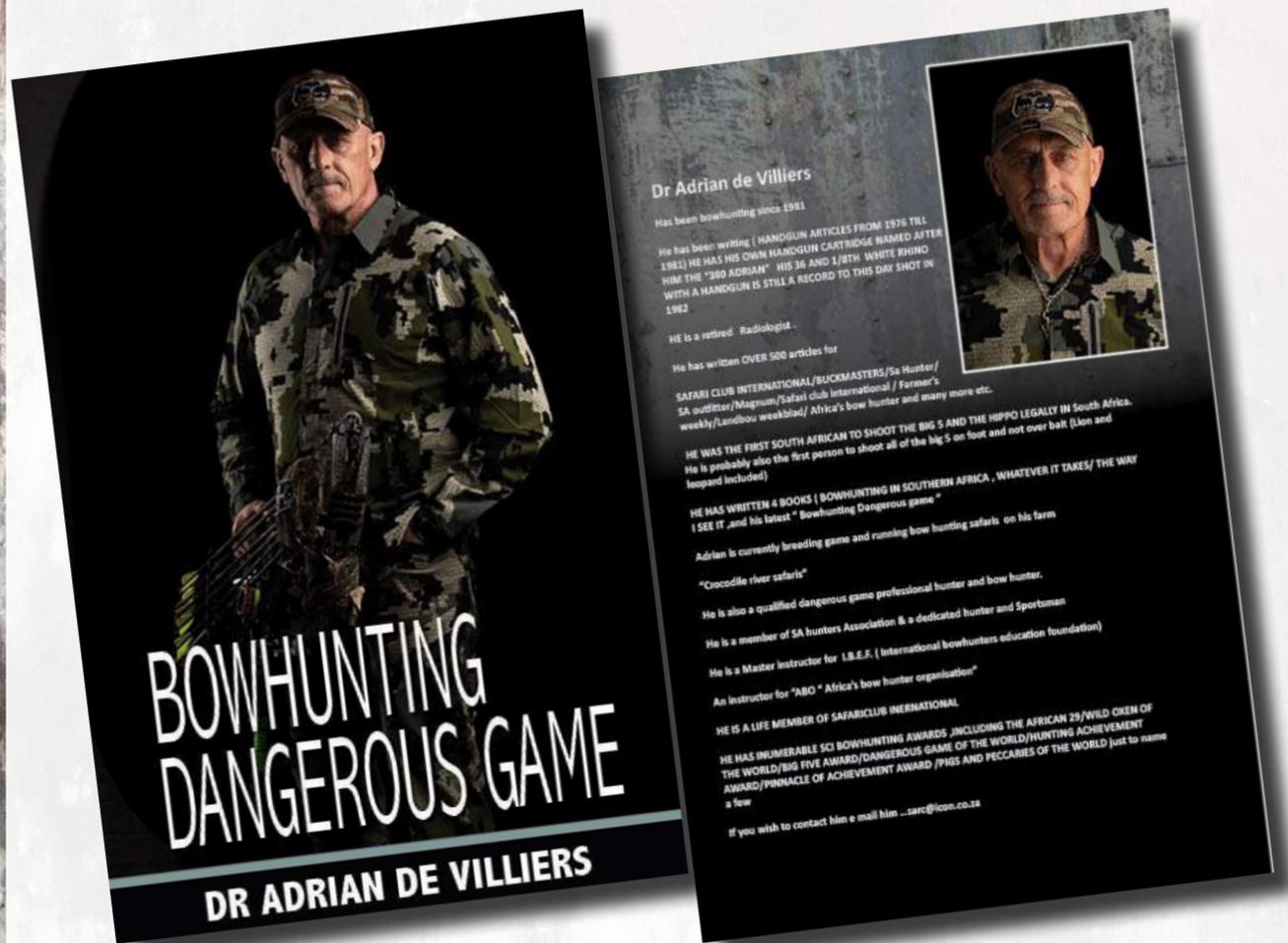
Sasha Siemel - Famous jaguar hunter

Who can remember the most famous spear hunter of modern times! If you have read Peter Hathaway Capstick's books, you must have read about Sasha 'Tigero' Siemel who hunted more than 300 jaguars in the jungles of south - most with a seven foot long spear or a bow and arrow.

Alexander "Sasha" Siemel (1890-1970) was an adventurer, hunter, guide, actor, writer, photographer, and lecturer of Latvian origin. He spoke seven languages and boasted of having experienced more adventure in a single year than most men had witnessed in a lifetime. He is known among sportsmen for having successfully hunted more than 300 jaguars) or "onças", as the big cats are colloquially known in parts of Latin America) in the Mato Grosso jungles of Brazil. Siemel's accomplishments in pursuing the large and often dangerous jaguar (the biggest cat in the western hemisphere and third largest in the world) are all the more impressive because on many of his hunts he was armed only with a spear.

In an interview Sasha said: "The spear is a primitive weapon, so is the bow. While I would not want to say that hunting big cats with a rifle cannot be plenty dangerous and exciting under all circumstances, particularly so in our Mato Grosso jungles, where vision is extremely limited, but it seems to me that the spear is more suitable."

In his forties, Sasha felt he needed to tell others about the Mato Grosso and his experiences there. He began touring the USA extensively and held lectures and presentations. At one of those talks he met and eventually married Edith Bray, an American from Philadelphia. He continued to lead expeditions and hunters into his old hunting grounds in South America. Among these were Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Roosevelt's nephew Kermit, Julian Duguid, Mamerto Urriolagoitia (President of Bolivia), dignitaries, and business titans. Sasha Siemel continued his life of hunting, leading expeditions, and giving lectures well into the 1960s . . . long after most people would have retired. (He died in 1970 at the age of eighty.) ●



BOWHUNTING DANGEROUS GAME

by Dr Adrian de Villiers is now available!

The well-known bowhunter, Dr Adrian de Villiers or "Dr Death" has published a new book titled "Bowhunting Dangerous Game" in which he writes about all the big game he has hunted in South Africa and elsewhere in the world.

In his new book he writes about his experiences hunting animals such as lion, buffalo, hippo, rhino, elephant, bear, crocodiles, leopard, mountain lion, musk ox and more - giving advice to other hunters on how to prepare hunting each of these animals and what problems to look out for.

Dr Adrian de Villiers has been bowhunting since 1981. He has been writing handgun articles from 1976 till 1981 and he has his own handgun cartridge named after him, namely the "300 Adrian". His 36 1/8 inch white rhino shot in 1982 with a handgun is still a record to this day. He is a retired radiologist. Adrian has written over 500 articles for Safari Club International, Buckmasters, SA Hunter, SA Outfitter, Magnum, Farmer's weekly, Landbou Weekblad, Bowhunter Gear and many other publications.

Adrian was the first South African to shoot the Big 5 and the hippo legally with a bow in South Africa. He is probably also the first person to shoot all of the Big 5 on foot and not over bait (lion and leopard included). He has written four books: "Bowhunting in Southern Africa", "Whatever it takes", "The way I see it", and his latest "Bowhunting Dangerous Game".

Contact Dr Adrian de Villiers or Bowhunter Gear to order your copy!
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Bittersweet Mountain Reedbuck



By Engee Potgieter

Consolation prize, a ram I took on a different trip to tick the species off my list.

I watched with bated breath as my arrow sailed high through the air toward the biggest mountain reedbuck I had ever laid eyes on. Horror filled me as I realised about two thirds of the way that my arrow was going to go wide of my target, in my haste I had made a crucial error, by never allowing for the wind drift on the long shot. I was going to cleanly miss a Mountain Reedbuck ram that would easily surpass the current world record.

It had become an obsession to try and kill this ram with a bow and I had spent a great many days sneaking around his home range, often glassing the ram and his small group of females for hours on end. Trying to figure out what his pattern was, if he wasn't in a perfectly stalkable position I held back in fear of bumping him to the neighbouring property, who's boundary fence was always within sight of his preferred bedding area. Some days I wouldn't catch sight of him or his females and could only surmise that he would willingly travel to and from that property as well, so any sign of danger or any irregular movement in that valley would have him retreat to the safe haven.

This game of cat and mouse had played itself off over many weeks as I had to make time between work and family responsibilities so that I could drive more than an hour to the area where the ram was calling home. It took many hours

of climbing the hills, scanning and searching for possible ambush locations for me to get a general idea of his pattern. Yet just as I would think that I had him cold, he would pull a Houdini on me, disappearing for days on end and that fear would well up in my stomach, fearing that someone had spotted him and shot the ram, or that he had been caught by the multitude of predators in the area or had simply died of old age. There were some inexplicable times that I would spot his small herd of females, but he would never show himself.

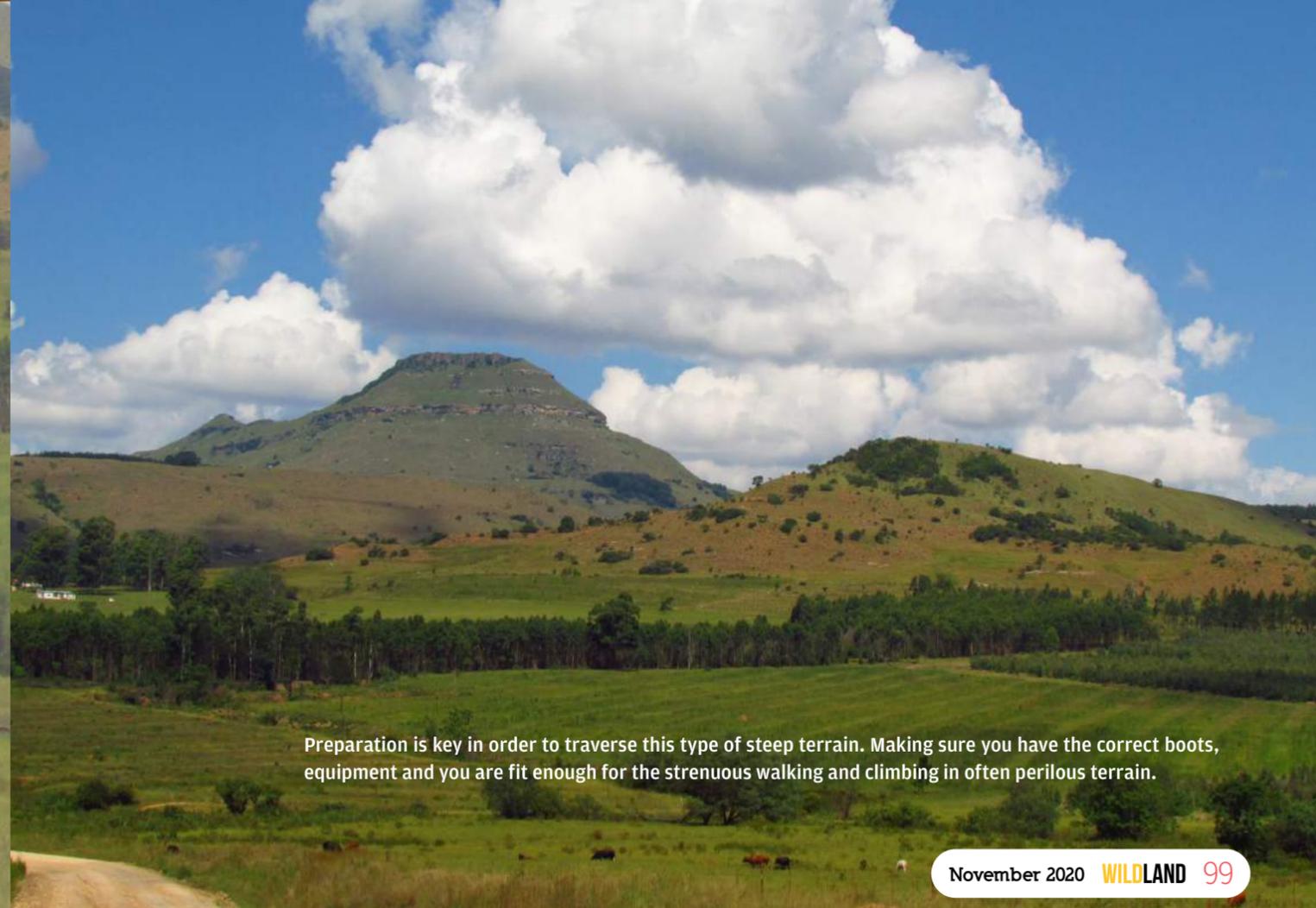
A dozen or so times I could have easily killed that ram if I had a rifle in my hands. He would be completely unaware of my presence as I sat completely hidden from him across the valley at a mere 180 yards. Never did I ever get the desire to do so, even when begged by the only hunting buddy I had told about the monster ram's existence. I'd spend hours

between my binoculars and spotting scope glassing the ram that would stretch a tape measure well over 9 inches, willing him to get up and move into a better position for me to be able to cut him off and put an arrow in him. Crisscrossing those mountains over the weeks and months leading up to winter I had passed up many other mountain reedbuck rams, but remained solely focussed on killing that huge ram. Then after what seemed like a futile attempt, I had my lucky break. There was a hidden little bench that the small herd would sometimes seek shelter in if there was a strong westerly wind. It was completely hidden from view due in part to the raised brim and it being well up on the side of the mountain. I watched from the base as the herd made their way there one afternoon, waiting until they dropped out of view in single file before I got up and started my climb up. My pulse was racing, partly because of the incredibly exertion to ascend this steep mountain and the fact that this was my first real opportunity to get close enough to arrow this giant.

I slowed to a crawl as I crested the rim of the basin and oozed my way down into it, stopping every three paces to scan every inch before me. The bench was about 80 or so yards wide and roughly 160 long and richly strewn with numerous boulders of varying sizes and intermittent tufts of highveld grass. I had crossed through this bench many times and had a good idea where they would be bedded as there was an area of shorter grass and barren ground at the far end. The wind was blowing steadily from my right front, yet

the brunt of the gusts passed over the bench on its way up the side of the mountain, a perfect spot for them to spend the night, warmly hidden out of the wind. I was still carefully scanning ahead with my binoculars, picking out every inch of rock and grass when a female jumped into view. She had stood up and turned around a few times to get a better position and laid back down. Now I had their position, amongst the four females would be the huge ram. Ranging the nearest rock to her position it showed them to be about 69 yards away. The problem now was to get close enough to see them bedded with all the obstructions in between us. As carefully as I could I started zig-zagging my way past bigger rocks and over smaller ones, cautiously picking each spot where I placed a boot. I stopped often to scan ahead for any sign and to get another reading with my rangefinder, 69 became 54, then 41 and finally an uncomfortably close 37 yards. I could just make out a pair on incredibly long horns set between a sharply pricked set of ears, although they couldn't possibly have heard, seen nor smelled me, the clever old ram knew something was up.

I had a choice, I could either wait for him to stand, or roll the dice and stand up and full draw and hope to get the arrow off before he blew out of his bed. I opted for the former as rushing a shot that I had worked months to get was not an option, patience is by far the greatest virtue when hunting with bow and arrow. I was as tightly wound up as the string on my bow, arrow nocked, sight set and trigger



Preparation is key in order to traverse this type of steep terrain. Making sure you have the correct boots, equipment and you are fit enough for the strenuous walking and climbing in often perilous terrain.

attached, all I needed was for that ram to stand up. What happened next played off nearly in slow motion. The same ewe that couldn't seemingly get comfortable with her spot stood up again, but she was barely more than 20 yards from me. As she turned we locked eyes and although I was fully covered in a leafy suit, she knew whatever the thing was she was staring at wasn't kosher and immediately bolted. The whole group took off up the far end of the basin which gave me time to range them again. Past experience had taught me that a sharp, reedbuck like whistle would stop them in their tracks, which if there were still within reasonable range, would give me a very brief opportunity of a shot. I let off a loud, short alarm whistle and they almost immediately froze. A quick range gave me the distance, which was at the very edge of my effective range, so I set my sight and drew back.

The medium antelope was quartering slightly on, which wouldn't be an issue for the nearly 500 grain arrows out of

my 80-pound bow, so I settled the pin low on the front edge of the shoulder, exhaled and squeezed my release. The shot broke cleanly taking me almost by surprise. I knew I had him, until I watched the lighted nock drift left. I realised immediately that in my haste I had never allowed for the wind. The arrow clattered into the rocks next to the ram, completely startling him and sending the whole herd bounding up the mountain and over the crest without stopping. I was devastated and sat down utterly defeated, I couldn't believe my bad luck, trudging back to the small white specks that was my vehicle at the base of the mountain I felt depressed and defeated. Yet I vowed that I would return and try again in a week or so to give the herd time to cool off from their scare, to add insult to injury I was to find out 12 days later that someone had shot that ram by sheer happenstance from a vehicle when looking for missing cattle in that valley. That was a bitter pill to have to swallow. Turned out he taped a good deal over 9 and a half inches. ☺



Hunting mountain reedbuck certainly takes one to some of the most beautiful country in God's Creation.

PRODUCT

Bear Archery Brands Announce Legendary Lineup of 2021 Archery Bows and Accessories

Bear Archery and its family of brands have announced the early release of another lineup of bows and accessories for the 2021 model year. The refreshed suite of archery equipment includes several new compound and traditional bows, as well as an all new crossbow for the BearX crossbow lineup.

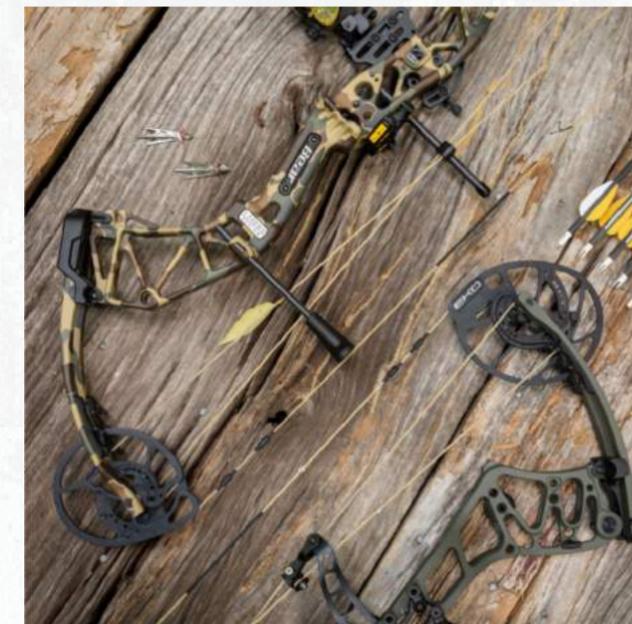
Last year, the team at Bear unveiled the Status EKO with the company's highly customizable let off position cams. For 2021, Bear is back at it with the all-new Redemption EKO. The new flagship model utilizes the company's groundbreaking Vibration Reduction System (VRS) to reduce hand shock and vibration through the riser by upwards of 25%. The new VRS works in conjunction with the existing Shockwaves Dampening System to reduce limb vibration as well. The Redemption EKO has an 31-inch axle to axle, 6.25-inch brace height, and weight of 4.1lbs.



Also new for 2021 is Bear's Legit with an industry first Ready to Hunt Extra package. The Ready to Hunt (RTH) package includes a Trophy Ridge sight, rest, quiver, and stabilizer. For 2021, Bear is raising the stakes with their RTH Extra package which includes everything in the RTH kit plus three Rocket Siphon broadheads, Trophy Ridge Wrath arrows with 100 grain field points, and a Trophy Ridge ArchX release.

"It was Fred Bear's goal to make archery accessible to anyone, no matter their budget or level of experience," said company General Manager, Jon Lene. "The Ready to Hunt Extra package does just that by presenting an affordable and all-encompassing solution to get you into the woods with the proper gear at a great price."

In addition to the Redemption EKO and Legit, Bear is introducing two other Legend Series bows to the compound



lineup. Several changes have been made to the traditional suite including a new Mag Riser Take Down made from lightweight aluminum composite,

Shedua, as an all-new wood choice for the Super Kodiak, Super Grizzly, Grizzly, and Cheyenne; and an Impact series crossbow that includes a silent cocking crank. The company plans to begin shipping 2021 product orders before the end of the year with most customers taking delivery from their dealer after the first of the year. Information on the 2021 Bear Archery lineup can be found on the Bear Archery website, beararchery.com or by contacting your local Bear Archery dealer. ☺



Mathews Introduces New 2021 Target Bows

Mathews introduces the new TRX 34 and TRX 38 Gen 2 for 2021 to complete this line of world-class target bows.

At 34 inches axle-to-axle, the TRX 34 is a crossover bow for hunters and target archers, while the TRX 38 G2 offers stability and forgiveness on the range, says Mathews. Both models offer a new 75 percent mod which gives shooters a deeper valley while the standard 80 percent mod and 70-V mods remain an option. The TRX 34 has an IBO rating up to 334 FPS and the TRX 38 G2 up to 329 FPS. Both models also share these features:

NEW Dovetail Mount

Mathews teamed up with Quality Archery Design (QAD) to introduce the all-new UltraRest TRi Target Rest. Built around the dovetail Integrate System, archers are promised the most secure rest-to-riser attachment possible with micro-adjustability in a streamlined package.

3D Damping

Reduces post shot vibration around all 3 axes stemming from the grip and improves balance at full draw.

AVS Bearings

The ultra-strong bearings is said to result in a more stable cam system, which increases accuracy and consistency for the shooter.

Bridged Riser

The wider riser adds rigidity through the sight and rest mounting locations, while added cut-outs minimize weight. Stabilizer Bushing

New enlarged diameter stabilizer bushings increase stiffness of shooters' stabilizer set up, enhancing accuracy.

"The TRX Series has already proven to be a powerhouse on the tournament circuit," said Mathews Team Shooter, Dan McCarthy. "The new TRX 34 adds even more versatility to the target line while the new TRX 38 G2 brings the latest

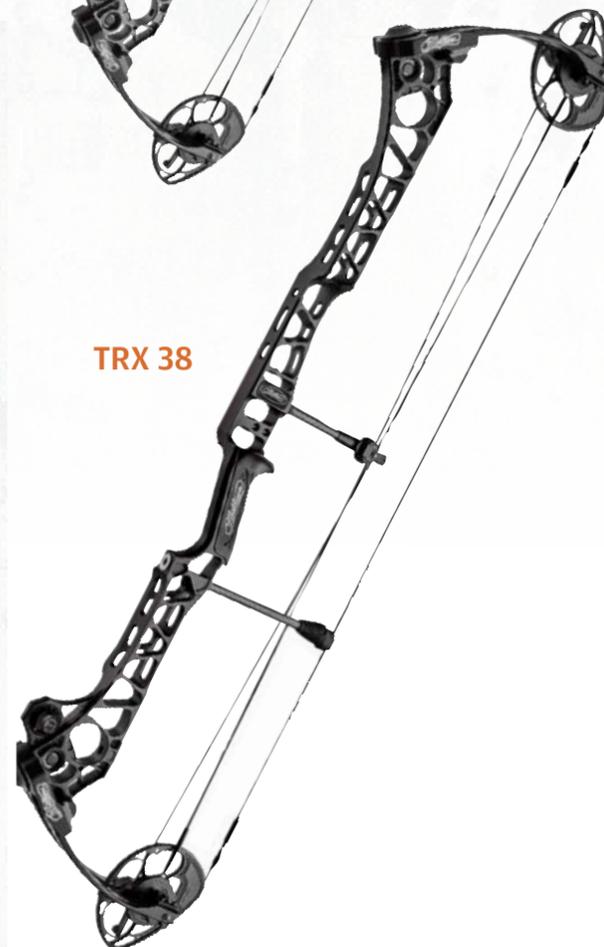
Mathews technology to one of my favorite platforms in the lineup. Both of these models will only improve the TRX's proven performance. Emily and I can't wait to put them to work."

Go to Mathewsinc.com for full specifications, finish options, and more information on the 2021 target line, and experience them at your local Mathews Retailer.

TRX 34



TRX 38



EASTON'S NEW 6.5 Classic

Easton recently introduces their new 6.5 Hunter Classic shaft. Easton says the 6.5 Hunter Classic is a USA-made carbon arrow that uses Easton proprietary Acu-Carbon resulting in tighter groups and consistent shot placement. The Acu-CarbonUniform Spine process is a continuous-fed, single-die manufacturing method that results in very reliable shafts and eliminates the need for the spine-alignment and weight sorting. Easton says their Acu-Carbon production line produces the most consistent spine and weight from dozen to dozen and lot to lot—year in and year out. This benefits the bowhunter with truer flight and reliable accuracy in the field.

The Easton 6.5 Classic includes upgraded 6.5MM inserts that are made using a 4X-larger shoulder to add strength and boost valuable FOC. Hunter Classic comes complete with lightweight Microlite Nocks installed. Microlites are designed to move the throat of the nock closer to the back of the arrow shaft to make the release more forgiving to further shot consistency.

The new 6.5MM arrow line began shipping earlier this

year and Easton reports that manufacturing is running daily and filling dealer shelves nationwide. The Easton Carbon 6.5 line-up includes four models; the Bowhunter ($\pm.006''$), the Hunter Classic ($\pm.003''$), the Match Grade ($\pm.001''$) and the high-velocity ultra-light Matrix.

- Acu-Carbon Uniform Spine USA Manufacturing Process for the highest level of accuracy.
- Microlite Nocks – shortens the critical distance between the shaft and bowstring for improved alignment and reduced weight.
- 6.5MM inserts – precision machined component has four-times larger shoulder. Strengthens the broadhead/arrow interface and boosts F.O.C.
- Bully Vane Fletching – stiffer material for superior control and quiet arrow flight.
- Spine sizes: 300, 340, 400, 500

For more information on the Easton 6.5MM arrows see your local archery pro-shop or visit www.eastonarchery.com



The strongest of the big cats



Who is the strongest of the big cats? The tiger is probably the biggest of the big cats and therefore also the strongest. Second in line would be the lion. However, the strength of the African leopard, found abundantly in in South Africa, will astound you...

The tiger is probably the biggest of the big cats and therefore also the strongest. Second in line would be the lion. However, leopard, which are abundant in South Africa, are also astoundingly strong and is pound for pound the strongest of the big cats. This does not mean a regular leopard is stronger than a regular lion or a tiger. Not at all. Both the lion and the tiger is on stronger than a leopard, since they are on average bigger and weight more. Were a leopard to grow to the same size as a lion or tiger, it would, however, be stronger than both of these cats of the same size.

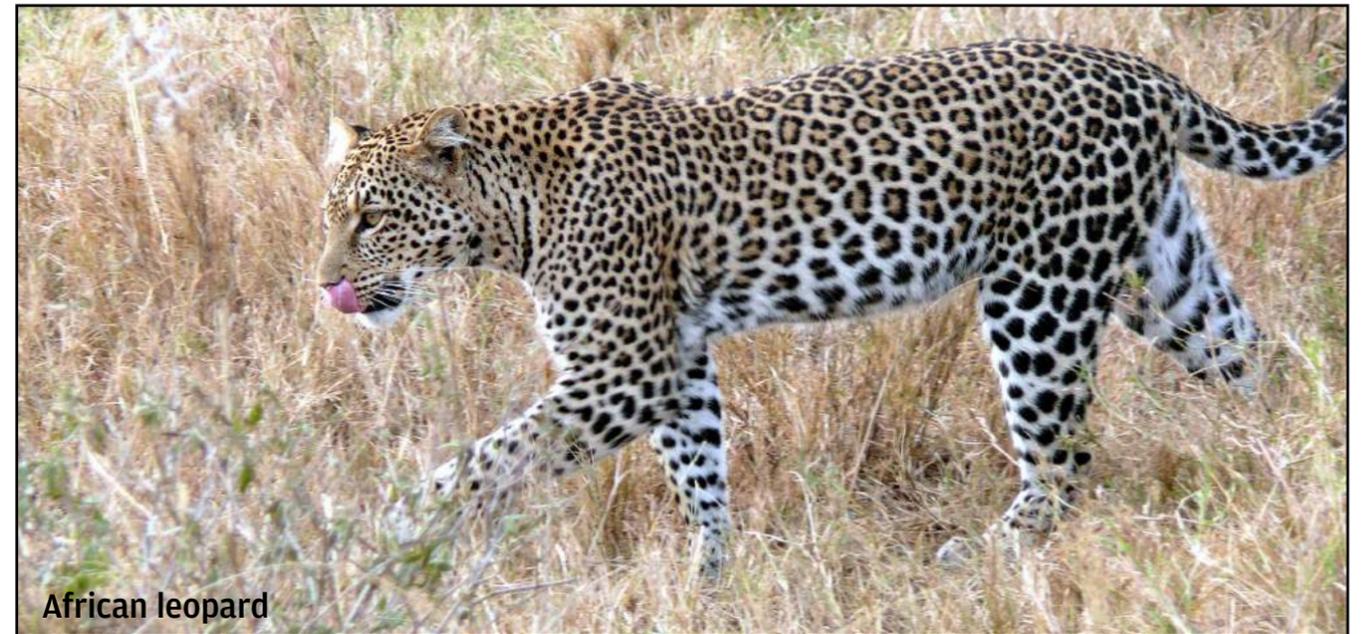
A male African leopard weights between 37 and 90 kg and averaging at around 60 kg. Leopard have been seen dragging a kudu or zebra up a tree. A zebra weighs anything between 175 and 385 kg or more. If the average leopard weights 60 kg and the average zebra 280 kg, it means a leopard can carry an animal up a tree that weighs around four and a half times it weight! Okay, it might be that it is an 80 kg leopard that drags a 175 kg zebra up a tree – which is still more than twice its own body weight.

Who is the boss in a fight?

The only carnivores on land that can take on a fully grown lion are tigers and heavy bears. Who will win when a tiger or a lion fights? In a one-on-one fight, a tiger will probably win, but... coalitions of male lions usually fight as a group against territorial rivals, so a tiger may have an advantage in a one-on-one encounter, since this is the typical mode of combat for a tiger. However, a lion coalition of 2 to 3 males would have a clear advantage over a lone tiger.

In the circuses of Ancient Rome, exotic beasts were commonly pitted against each other. The contest of the lion against the tiger was a classic pairing and the betting usually favoured the tiger. At the end of the 19th century, the Gaekwad of Baroda (the Maharaja of the Baroda State in India) arranged a fight between a lion and tiger before an audience of thousands. The Gaekwad favoured the lion, and as a result, had to pay 37,000 rupees as the lion was mauled by the tiger.

The Siberian tiger is the largest subspecies of the Panthera genus, known to weigh up to 800 lbs (360 kg),



African leopard

while large African lions weigh up to 550 lbs (250 kg). Average weight males are 181 kg for African lion, 221.2 kg for Bengal tiger and 230 kg for Siberian tiger.

More about leopards

The leopard is sexually dimorphic, males are larger and heavier than females. It is muscular, with relatively short limbs and a broad head. Males stand 60 to 70 cm (24 to 28 in) at the shoulder, while females are 57 to 64 cm (22 to 25 in) tall. The head-and-body length is typically between 90 and 190 cm (35 and 75 in). While males weigh 37 to 90 kg (82 to 198 lb), females weigh 28 to 60 kg (62–132 lb). These measurements vary geographically, though.

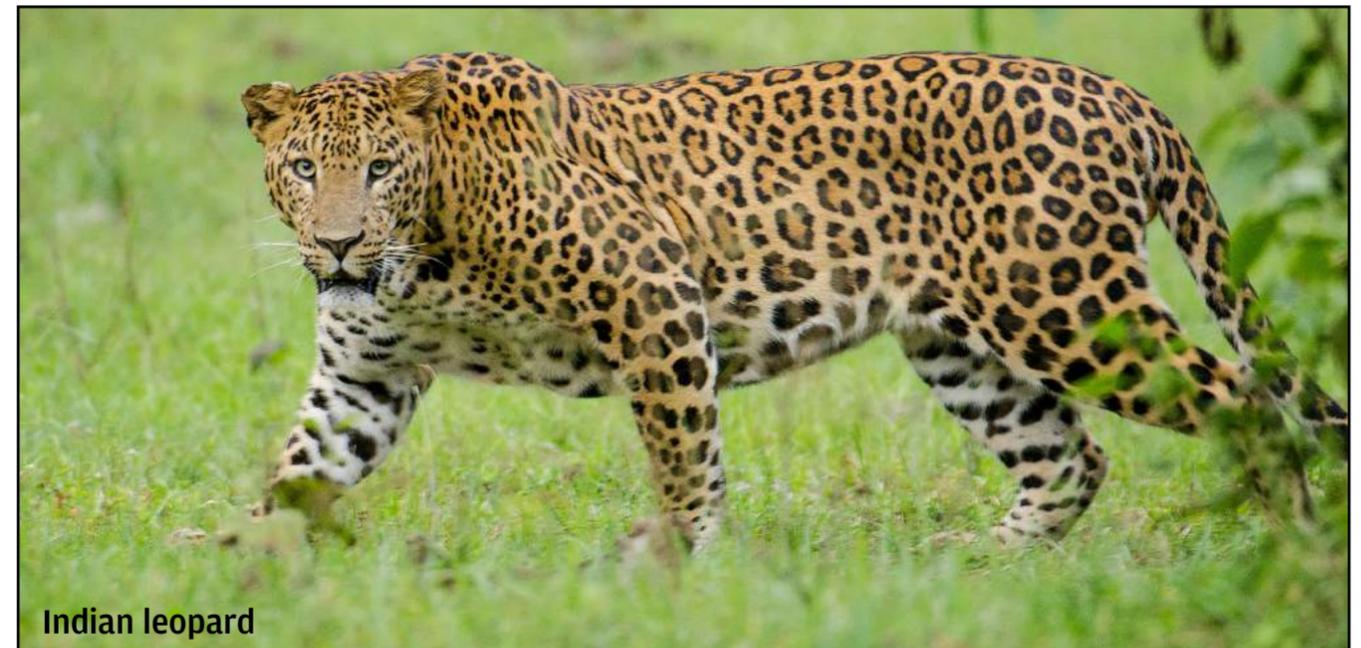
Usually, leopards are larger in areas where they are at the top of the food chain, without competitive restriction from larger predators such as the lion and tiger. Alfred

Edward Pease accounted to have seen leopards in North Africa nearly as large as Barbary lions. In 1913, an Algerian newspaper reported of a leopard killed that allegedly measured about 275 cm (108 in). To compare, male lions measure 266 to 311 cm (105 to 122 in) from head to end of tail.

The record weight of a leopard is about 96 kg (212 lb), recorded in Southern Africa. It measured 262 cm (103 in), similar to the largest known Indian leopard, which was killed in Himachal Pradesh in 2016.

The biggest animal a leopard is documented to have killed is an eland.

<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-biggest-animal-that-a-leopard-has-been-recorded-killing>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard>



Indian leopard

Stalking



By Cleve Cheney

This article Cleve discusses the critical aspects of stalking and approach techniques when you hunt an animal on foot.

This is the most important part of the hunt. You have searched hard to find the animal you intend to hunt and now have to get within bow range. This is the hardest part of walk-and-stalk hunting and the part we end up “blowing” 90 per cent or more of the time.

Before we go any further let’s look for a moment at footwear. In your final approach you should walk as silently as possible. While heavy-soled boots are good footwear for walking in the bush, they are not good for stalking. You cannot feel twigs or noisy dry leaves underfoot, which could break if you stood on them. Thin-soled “vellies” are a better option, but the best choice for your final stalk is to wear moccasins or thick socks (see Figure 1). They protect your feet from paper thorns, but allow you to feel objects

underfoot so that you can move your foot before treading on sticks, twigs or noisy vegetation.

You should not only adopt stalking techniques when you see animals, but also when approaching feeding areas and waterholes. Remember, stalking is a way of moving so slowly and soundlessly that your presence goes undetected.

There are a few cardinal rules to remember with regard to vision when stalking animals with the intention of getting close enough for a shot. Keeping the wind in your favour is obviously the most important, but this has to do with smell, not vision.

Firstly, take your time. Once you have located the animals, don’t be in a hurry to get a shot in. Secondly, move only when the animals are not watching you (we will blow



Figure 1: To stalk silently boots are the worst option (left). Thin-soled “vellies” are better (centre). Moccasins or socks will enable you stalk most effectively.

this theory out of the water later on, just to complicate the issue!). Third, keep your eyes on the animal you are stalking. Fourth, keep your hands and arms close to your body and avoid any sudden movements.

As you begin your approach, observe the animal(s) closely.

If the animal is on its own, your task will be easier. If it is in a herd, it will be more difficult to get within bow range because there will be more eyes, noses and ears monitoring the environment for possible danger.

Look behind you so that you see what your background looks like from the animal’s perspective. You should be able to blend in with it and avoid being silhouetted against a skyline or by a background that is very different from your camouflage. If you are walking upright, lift one foot slowly off the ground and bring it up alongside the other leg at about knee level. Keep the toe pointed downwards so that it does not snag on anything. Balancing on one leg, slowly bring the other foot downwards.

When you place your foot, roll it forward slowly from the heel to the ball, or alternatively from the outside of the foot inwards. If you feel something underfoot that might make a noise, lift your foot and place it elsewhere. Keep your weight on your rear foot until you are sure there is nothing under your front foot that will make a noise before transferring your weight to your front foot. Only when your whole foot is safely and soundlessly on the ground do you shift your weight (see Figure 2).

If the animal you are after is in a herd, try to establish the position of other herd members because they will also sound the alarm if they become aware of you. It is better to look for an animal on the edge of a herd rather than in the middle of one. Also watch what the animals are doing, as this will indicate their level of alertness. If they are resting, feed-

ing, drinking or occupied with social behaviour (grooming one another, for example), it is a reliable indication that their level of alertness is low and that you are undetected and can continue approaching. If the animal you are stalking or others in the herd suddenly stop what they are doing and “freeze”, stare fixedly, stamp their feet, snort or stand very erect, something has disturbed them and they are in a state of “high alert”. When this happens, you too must “freeze” in place and not move until the animal or herd appears to have settled down again.

There are a few other tricks that can help if the animals have seen you. Slowly sink down into the grass, crouch and keep very still. Some species such as wildebeest, giraffe and zebra are curious by nature and may even approach closer of their own accord to try to identify you, which might bring them within or close to bow range. As you crouch, make the whistling call of contented guinea fowl. The sound is difficult to describe in words, but listen to guinea fowl in the wild or on an audiocassette of bird-calls and learn to mimic it. The call often has a calming



Figure 2: Keep your eyes on the animal and make sure there is nothing noisy underfoot before transferring your weight to your front foot.



Figure 3: When cover is scarce you might have to resort to crawling. Remember to keep watching the animal the whole time so that you can “freeze” if it looks your way.



Figure 3: In low brush or grass you may have to crouch, crawl or even inch forward on your belly

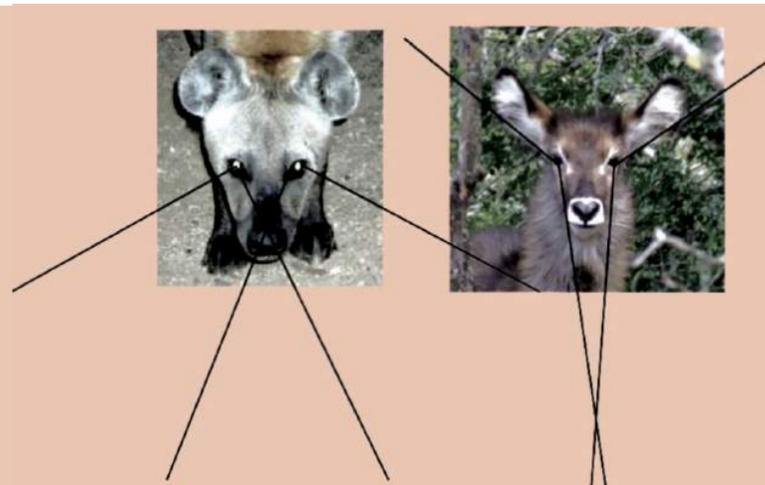


Figure 4: Herbivores have a wide angle of peripheral vision and a narrow angle of depth perception.

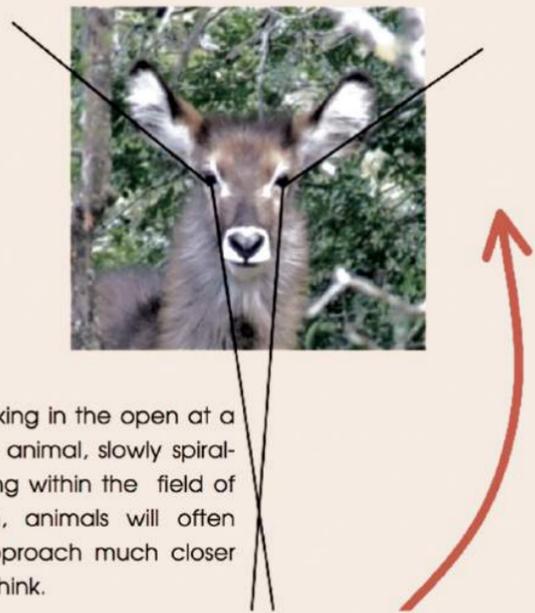


Figure 5: By walking in the open at a tangent past an animal, slowly spiralling in and staying within the field of peripheral vision, animals will often allow you to approach much closer than you would think.

effect on alert animals. They seem to think that if guinea fowl are content, there is not too much to worry about. Warthog will also sometimes respond by coming closer to investigate if you crouch down and make a grunting sound.

Continue approaching slowly as long as you have not been observed or when the animal is not looking your way. Be patient. It is quite natural for animals – even while they are feeding or engaged in some other normal activity – to periodically stop, lift their heads, sniff the breeze and scan their surroundings for possible danger. Wait motionless and silent during these intermittent periods of surveillance and then move slowly when the animal drops its head to resume feeding or looks away from you.

In low brush or grass you may have to crouch, crawl or even inch forward on your belly (see Figure 3).

When you get within bow range and decide to take a shot, remember that the act of drawing a bow involves a lot of visible movement. It is important at this stage to wait for the moment when the animal looks away from you before drawing the bow and coming to a point of aim.

Lastly, if all else fails, try the “open approach”, which surprisingly sometimes turns out to be the most successful. Remember, we spoke about the wide angle of peripheral vision and narrow field of depth perception in herbivores in an earlier article (see Figure 4).

Walk openly and at normal speed at a tangent past your quarry, but spiralling in slowly (see Figure 5). They will stare directly at you initially, but after a while will look away to carry on with other activities while keeping you in their peripheral vision. Because they cannot perceive depth in their peripheral vision they will not be aware that you are spiralling in and getting closer.

Using this technique you can often get a lot closer, sometimes even to almost within bow range, requiring careful stalking techniques for the final few yards of approach. Walking openly also appears to arouse less suspicion, allowing you to get closer than if you were spotted attempting to creep up to the animals. Avoid walking directly towards the animal – this is quickly perceived as a threat and will induce flight. The animal must get the impression that you are walking past it. It is worth a try.

I hope that with these suggestions on overcoming the scent and sight challenges in walk-and-stalk bowhunting you will have more success. ☺



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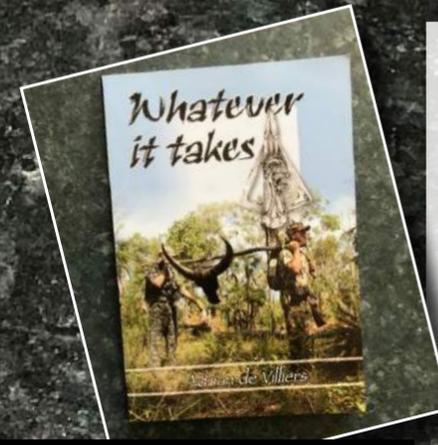
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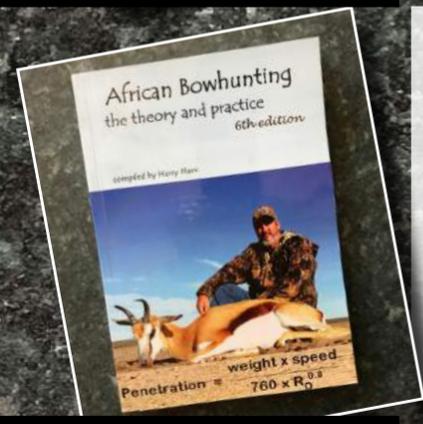
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R200 – Dr Adrian de Villiers' second book **Whatever it takes**. Adrian started bowhunting in 1983 after having hunted with a handgun for nearly ten years. He has bowhunted well over 1 800 documented animals, plus many more not documented. He was the first South African to legally hunted the Big Six with bow and arrow and he shot 26 buffalo of six different species on three continents. In this book he writes about many of the exciting bowhunts he did during his bowhunting career and the effort necessary to bag these animals with a bow.



R200 – **African Bowhunting - the theory and practise** by Harry Marx. Harry has been hunting for nearly two decades and written numerous articles on the theory of bowhunting. The information captured in this bundle comes from months and sometimes years of research, tests and practical experience by scientists, mathematicians, hunters and specialists. This is the most insightful summary of practical information available, to prepare new and Professional bowhunters psychologically and physically to experience the "Sport of Princes" bowhunting in South Africa.



R150 – In **Bows, arrows and Africa**, the author, Rean Steenkamp – editor of Africa's Bowhunter magazine, writes about the African plains game he has hunted over nearly two decades with traditional bows. In this book the author explains why he prefers hunting with a traditional bow and what he deems to be the advantages of the longbow and recurve. The book is aimed at the ordinary traditional bowhunter interested in hunting game with a wooden bow in Africa. It is about the animals hunted by the average bowhunter, hunted as the average hunter hunts with his or her bow and arrow. It is about the mistakes bow hunters make and the things all hunters experience during this journey.



TER GEAR



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Jag met 'n houtboog



Deur Rean Steenkamp

Die skoonheid, krag en romantiek van die tradisionele boog het deur al die eeue die harte en gedagtes van die mensdom vasgevang. Hoeveel ander wapens in die geskiedenis het dieselfde mate van ontsag, passie, inspirasie en mistiek by konings, skrywers, digters, soldate én primitiewe stamme ontlok?

Die eenvoudige houtboog het steeds 'n magiese aantrekkingskrag vir mense met 'n romantiese ingesteldheid. Min jong seuns se oë blink nie wanneer jy 'n houtboog en 'n pyl in hulle hande plaas nie. Wanneer iemand my egter vra of hulle met 'n houtboog of 'n kragboog (*compound*) moet jag, is my antwoord dat hulle eerder 'n kragboog moet kies. 'n Houtboogjagter of -skut weet dadelik watter boog hy of sy verkies. Indien jy moet vra watter een die beste is, is jy nie 'n houtboogskut nie. Skiet eerder met 'n kragboog, want dit is 'n uitstekende jagwapen.

Indien 'n mens dus nie 'n spesifieke aanvoeling vir 'n tradisionele boog het nie, is dit die beste om met 'n kragboog te begin skiet anders gaan jy net gefrustreerd raak en boog-

skiet in sy geheel laat vaar. 'n Kragboog het 'n visierstelsel, terwyl 'n tradisionele boog nie van só 'n stelsel gebruik maak nie. Met die houtboog skiet 'n mens op gevoel of jy ontwikkel die een of ander metode om te mik. Dit neem baie langer om akkuraat daarmee te leer skiet.

'n Mens kan ook nooit oor die langer afstande so akkuraat met 'n langboog of gekurfd boog skiet as wat jy met 'n kragboog kan doen nie. 'n Kragboog is baie akkuraat en in die hande van 'n begaafde skut kan teikens oor meer as 'n 100 meter in die kol getref word. Net 'n baie uitsonderlike tradisionele skut kan met 'n gemiddelde kragboogskut meeding.

Waarom dan enigsins 'n houtboog oorweeg? 'n Kragboog is 'n tegnologies-gevorderde wapen. Dit is dié



Regs en onder: Kinders skiet graag met tradisionele boë.

wapen se voordeel, maar ook 'n nadeel. Aangesien dit 'n produk is van tegnologie wat nog besig is om te ontwikkel, kan 'n kragboog gou verouderd raak. As jy kies om met 'n moderne kragboog te skiet, kies jy inderwaarheid 'n pad sonder 'n eindbestemming. Jou boog is eintlik soos 'n motorvoertuig. Dit word binnekort deur 'n nuwe model vervang. Wanneer jy jou viertrekbakkie vir 'n nuwe een inruil, eindig jou verhouding met die ou bakkie. Dan het jy net oë vir die nuwe een.

Dit werk netso met 'n nuwe kragboog. Vir baie boogskuts is dit juis die ding wat hulle aandag trek. Daar is altyd die vooruitsigte van 'n nuwe boog met nuwe eienskappe. Aan die einde van elke jaar wag hulle in spanning om te sien watter nuwe boë in Januarie by die skoue in die VSA bekendgestel gaan word.

Deur 'n langboog of gekurfd boog te kies, kies jy 'n "verouderde" wapen. Jy onttrek jou dadelik uit die tegnologiese wedloop. Tradisionele boë ontwikkel ook, maar baie stadig en bitter min. Hoe gevorderd 'n boog is, is nie die belangrikste maatstaf van die boog se waarde nie, of ten minste nie vir die meeste tradisionele boogskuts nie. Trouens, tradisionele boogskuts ontwikkel soms 'n liefde vir die sogenaamde primitiewe boë as hulle 'n tyd lank met 'n gewone gelamineerde langboog of gekurfd boog geskiet het. Dit is 'n soort terugwaartse progressie.

Die verskil tussen 'n kragboogskut- en 'n tradisionele boogskut is dus dat 'n kragboogskut gewoonlik iemand is wat van moderne tegnologie hou, terwyl 'n tradisionele



boogskut eerder deur die romantiek van die boog bekoor word. Albei wapens is goed om mee te jag. Ek jag met albei en geniet elkeen se eiesoortige voordele en maak vrede met die nadele.

Die meeste tradisionele boë is stadig in vergelyking met die moderne kompakte boog. Indien jy dus 'n suksesvolle jagter met die tradisionele boog wil word, moet jy jou veldkennis en praktiese jagvaardighede na die beste van jou vermoë slyp. Jy moet harder werk aan jou styl, baie geduldig wees en nie verwag om dadelik 'n klein groepering te skiet nie – en jy moet baie naby aan jou prooi kom voordat jy die pyl kan loslaat.

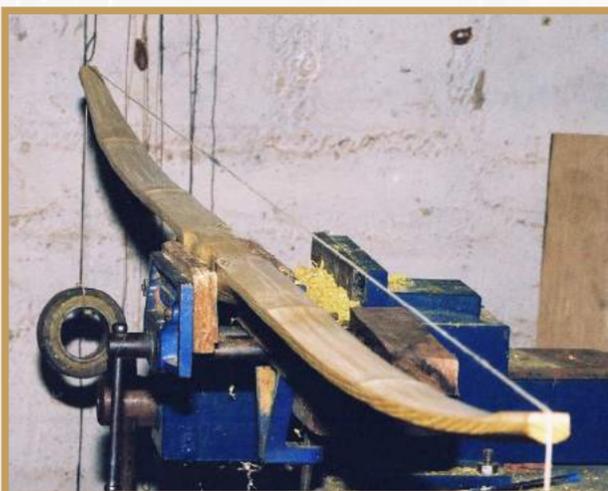
Jy kan egter jou eie snaar maak as die ou snaar gedaan raak en jy hoef nie die boogwinkel te besoek wanneer jy probleem met jou boog ondervind nie. Die boog is baie eenvoudig – min kan verkeerd loop en jy kan bykans enige probleem self oplos. Wanneer jy jou eerste bok met dié boog



'n Gewone houtboog kan met net 'n paar stuks gereedskap gebou word.



Dié rooibok is met 'n eenvoudige langboog wat van okkerneuthout gemaak is platgetrek.



'n Bamboesgelamineerde houtboog in 'n bankskroef waaraan die finale afrondings nog gedoen moet word.



Johan van der Merwe bou ook pragtige lanboë en gekurfde boë.

plattrek, weet jy waarom jy hom verkies.

Tradisionele boogskiet het sy onderverdelings. Die meeste tradisionele boogskuts skiet vandag gelamineerde boë. Die beginsels van die konstruksie van hierdie boë berus op vroeë horing-saamgestelde boogontwerpe. Die verskil vandag is dat ons moderne materiaal gebruik wat ons in staat stel om 'n gelamineerde boog in 'n dag of 'n week te bou – 'n baie kort tydjie in vergelyking met byvoorbeeld 'n Turkse saamgestelde boog, wat gewoonlik twaalf maande neem om van hout, sening en horing te vervaardig.

'n Ander sy van die tradisionele boogskiet is algemeen bekend as “primitiewe boogskiet”, waar boë van slegs natuurlike materiale gemaak word. Dit is boë wat net met hout gemaak word, of met hout en die een of ander natuurlike laminering soos bamboes, 'n ander soort hout of met senings. Om só 'n boog self te bou en dan 'n bok daarmee plat te trek is 'n aangename ervaring wat moeilik is om vir iemand anders te verduidelik.

Indien jy in tradisionele boogskiet belangstel, is dit beter om 'n boog te kies wat jy gemaklik kan trek. Om 'n swaar boog te trek is nie veel van 'n kuns nie, maar om konstant goeie en beheerde skootplasing met 'n swaar boog te behaal is 'n perd van 'n ander kleur. Dit help ook nie jy kies 'n boog waarvoor jy té jammer gaan wees nie. Kies 'n praktiese boog wat 'n verlenging van jou liggaam sal word en waarmee jy in die bos kan rondkruip sonder om jou oor krappe te bekommer.

Praat met mense wat al lankal met houtboë skiet en vra baie vrae. Houtboogskuts is oor die algemeen baie hulpvaardig en sal baie moeite doen om jou te help. Wees geduldig met jouself en moenie dadelik wonderlike resultate verwag wanneer jy die eerste keer met 'n tradisionele boog skiet nie. Met jou eerste skoot gaan jy waarskynlik die teiken heeltemal misskiet. Hou net aan en jy sal ervaar hoe jou onderbewussyn self die somme maak. Kort voor lank skiet jy waar jy kyk.

Daar is baie mense in die buiteland wat goeie boë bou. Sommige van die bekende boogfabrikate wat kragboë bou, het ook tradisionele boë te koop. Daar is egter ook baie goeie boogbouers in Suid-Afrika, soos Johnny Snyman van Heartwood Bows, Pierre de Wet van Cupido Bows, Johan van der Merwe van Combretum Boë, Henk du Plessis en Johan Smit, om 'n paar te noem. Wanneer jy by een van dié persone 'n boog koop, sal hulle ook sorg dat jy die regte pyl en ander toerusting vir die boog bekom.

Elke boog skiet nie sommer met enige pyl nie en lang manne moet nie 'n te kort bogie aanskaaf nie. Skiet jy 'n te ligte pyl met 'n boog met 'n swaar trekrag, kan jou boog breek. Jy mag ook nooit 'n boog met 'n gespanne snaar in die son laat lê nie. Meer daaroor in 'n volgende artikel. ●



Boogbouer Henk du Plessis besig om te werk aan 'n bamboesgelamineerde houtboog.



Links: Johnny Snyman werk aan 'n langboog se greep.

Onder: Pierre de Wet met een van die pragtige boë wat hy gebou het.





The simplicity of simplicity

By Cleve Cheney

I am intrigued by technical archery innovations. The advances in archery equipment since the development of the first compound bow in the mid-1960s have been quite phenomenal. Arrow speeds in excess of 300 fps, whereas they were almost in the realm of science fiction 50 years ago, are no longer a big deal. But I must also admit that the plethora of archery gadgetry is making me lean ever more towards the simplicity of traditional archery – by which I mean a bent stick and string and wood arrows.

There are just so many gizmos on the market today; in fact, the whole archery industry is driven by coming up with something “new”. Take any bow accessory for example – be it an arrow rest, stabiliser, broadhead, sight or whatever – and do a quick Google search. You will find that there are scores if not, in some instances, hundreds of shapes, sizes, colours and types of each accessory, all with some feature that supposedly sets it apart from the competition. It becomes quite mind-boggling and confusing. Sometimes there are genuine technological breakthroughs and developments, but manufacturers also just give an old product a new name and make us believe it is an improvement (and charge more for it!). The world is becoming ever more complicated and the archery industry that is bent on creating more and more gadgetry adds to the complexity of life and living.

Whereas modern bows are without doubt great performers in terms of speed and accuracy, the number of parts that make up a bow with its accessories has a much greater statistical probability of going wrong.

The average compound bow consists of between 75 and 85 different components, 27 to 30 of which are screws, nuts and bolts. Arrows can have between 8 and 20 different components (I kid you not). It is a logical deduction that when something is made up of so many parts more can go wrong. You may forget to tighten a nut, lock a set-screw, snap a buss cable, strip a thread. There is also so much more to be taken into consideration when setting up a compound bow: it can vibrate loose or go out of “sync”, and changing any one component or setting on the bow means you virtually have to start from scratch with tuning.

And then of course there is cost. All the add-ons fitted to a compound bow nowadays can cost as much as the bow itself. Replacing a modern synthetic bowstring can set you back a minimum of R400. Any broken part of the bow itself or an accessory will be expensive to replace. Then you generally need a set of special tools to work on your bow and arrows, which can set you back another R10 000 if you want to include an arrow cut-off saw (for carbon arrows), fletching jig, Allen keys, string jig, bow press and so on.

If you break a riser or limb or cam, you need to have the knowledge and skill to make a new one, or have access to the type of technology or machinery required to make a new one, something most of us don't have. That makes us very dependent on the supplier. And I don't like being dependent on people.

Now compare a traditional bow to its modern compound counterpart. A one-piece stick bow consists of an integral handle and riser. No screws, no nuts and bolts and no accessories. Holding the ends of the bent stick together is a single string (no pulleys, buss cables, axles etc.). An integral rest does away with the need for a bolt-on arrow rest. The traditional archer teaches himself to shoot instinctively, doing away with the need of a sight and peep sight. He uses a gloved finger or finger tab, doing away with the need for a mechanical release aid. The bow is lightweight and easy to carry. Basically only two things can break – the bow itself and the string. If the bow breaks making a new one is possible using very basic tools. Anyone can learn the skills. A roll of Dacron can provide you with enough material to make five to eight new bowstrings at a fraction of the cost of the high-tech stuff. Two nails hammered into a board are all you need to make a string jig and you don't need a bow press. It's easy to make a serving tool.

If you have a three-piece traditional bow it will consist of a riser (with integral arrow rest and handle), two limbs, two limb inserts, two limb bolts and a string, bringing the total list of components to eight – still pretty basic and simple. The advantage of a three-piece bow is that if one of the limbs or the riser breaks, you don't have to make a whole new bow – just replace the part that broke.

When it comes to arrows and you decide to go the traditional route, the arrow will consist of six to eleven parts depending on the design and type of arrow. Fewer parts, but generally not as durable or as accurate as modern arrows. However, it is cheap and easy (and fun) to make and replace. A modern arrow with a good broadhead attached can set you back anything between R200 and R500!

Because you can do most traditional things yourself you are not dependent on suppliers and manufacturers. You can become as self-reliant as a traditional archer – and that appeals to me more and more.

Growing older and having recently turned 61, I have come to the realisation that a simpler lifestyle is a happier and more contented one. I think I'm going to be spending more time in future building traditional bows and arrows and shooting them. ●



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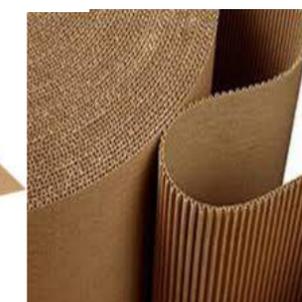
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Archery suppliers and clubs

National

- ABO (African Bowhunting Org) and
- 3Di Tournament Archery
- Futurama Online store
- SABA www.sabowhunting.co.za admin@sabowhunting.co.za
- SANAA (South African National Archery Association)
- SANIFAA
- NASP (National Archery in the schools Programme) www.nasp.co.za
- Carbon Core Arrows, Stephan van Wyk, 072 607 3442 info@ccarrows.com

Gauteng

- Action Archery Indoor Range, Kempton Park
- Archers of Zoo Lake Club
- Archery in Action, Centurion
- Archer's Edge, Moreleta Park, Pretoria East, Redge 082 378 0539, Nico 071 603 2677
- Archery Addiction, Waterval Estate
- Archery Advancer, Derdepoort, PTA
- Archery Africa, Roodepoot
- Arrow Reapers Archery, West Rand
- Bandit Archery, Montana PTA
- Bella Vista School Club
- Blazing Fletches
- Boesman Archery club, Meyerton
- Centurion Boogskiet Klub (NASP Home)
- Cosira Archery club
- Club Wildcrete, Tswane
- Crazy Warthog Bow Hunting Club, 14 Thomas Jackson, Street, Oatlands, Krugersdorp. Tel: Peter Stockhammer 082 371 9738 / 011 660 4577 / 8

- Website: www.crazywarthogbowclub.co.za
- Die Blou Meul, Van Riebeeck Ave, AlbertonNorth, 011 907 1107/8 - Lukas
- East Archers (Combat Archery) Midrand
- Emfuleni Primary
- East Rand Archery Club
- Everything Archery, Randpark Ridge.
- 082 906 6146, everythingarcherysa@gmail.com; www.facebook.com/everythingarcherysa
- Evolution Archery Club
- Full Draw, Doornpoort, PTA + Robin Hoodies club for kids
- Gauteng Target Archery Association
- Guthries Shooting Range, Midrand
- Guthries Archery Club (Recurve)
- Grays Archery
- Hunting and Tactical Supplies, Woodmead (crossbows)
- Jonkershoek Boogskiet Avonture
- Kill Shot Archery, Pta
- Kleinbegin Boogbaan (Roodeplaatdam)
- Lenasia Archery Club
- Mafubiyane
- Magaliesberg Boogklub
- Magnum Archery Eastdale Pavilion Centre, Garsfontein, Pretoria 082 900 5598, Brandon 083 610 0582
- Magnum Archery Parklands Drive Esther Park, Kempton Park 083 610 0630 Dale
- Mandeville Archery Club, Bez Valley
- Marks Park archery club
- Nock & Roll archery Club
- Oosrand boogskiet belange groep
- Potshot/Kolskoot, Randburg 011 791 0475.
- Parktown Stores, Pretoria
- Rand Archery Club
- RECO Schools Archery
- Sherwood Archery club Boksburg
- Springs Archery Club
- South African Kyudo Renmei (Japanese Archery) Boskruin
- Sentient Archery (Recurve, Zoo lake)
- Sharp Edge Sharp Shooter, Sandton
- Stealth Adventures, Vereeniging
- The 4 Archers
- Tuks Sport Archery
- Quattro Archery and Stabilizers, Pretoria
- Used Archery Equipment

- West Rand Archery Club
- Wildebees Outdoor Shop, Bredell, Kempton Park 011 979 3060 of 082 442 4506
- Zero Bow Strings, Folkers Herholdt 083962 2328

Limpopo

- AFA Archers Club
- Arms For Africa / Legally Armed bow shop, Polokwane
- Curro Heuvelkruin Club
- Dead Center Bow Hunting, Tzaneen
- Dreys Archery, Polokwane
- Elands Archery Club
- Hoërskool Pietersburg
- Merensky (High School) Boogskiet klub
- Mongol Nyala Archery Club
- Mopani Archery Club
- Thabazimbi Boogklub
- Thaba Boog en Hengel, Thabazimbi. 014 772 1905, 014 777 2084, 071 696 1366.
- Waterberg Archery/ Boogklub

North West

- Arrow Rest, R512, Hartebeespoortdam Wilna 082 078 9380, 012 205 1485
- Archer's Tech and Bow support, Hartebeespoortdam
- HPC Archery Club
- Hunter's Warehouse, Klerksdorp
- Larries Boogskiet (NASP) Rustenburg
- Marksman Archery, Potchefstroom
- Slayer Archery, Oliver Thambo Drive Rustenburg. 082 369 0847, 014 592 9943

Mpumalanga

- Angling & Outdoor World, Nelspruit
- Emhlangeni Archery Range, Sundra
- Madikelo Archery club
- Nelspruit Archery
- Nock & Load
- Olifantsrivier Boogskiet Klub
- Onderberg Archery club
- Red Feathers Archery Club, Belfast
- Rudamans Archery club
- Sabie Archery Club
- Secunda Archery Club
- Slingervel, gun shop, Secunda 017 631 3656
- Witbank Corr Services Club

Free State

- Centre Shot club, Kroonstad, affiliated with NASP, 083 306 6155
- Free State Archery Association
- Free State Archery Confederation
- Flatland Archery shop and range, Bainsvlei, Bloemfontein
- Mielie du Toit 078 940 3558
- Maluti Boogskietklub
- New Dimension Club
- Parys Boogskiet klub
- TEMPE Arcery club, Tempe University
- Watuni club, Sasolburg

KZN

- Ant Archery (kids crossbows)
- Bernies Bow Shop, Camperdown
- Definition Archery, Pietermaritzburg
- Drakensberg Archery, Himeville
- Kingspark Archery Club
- Performance Archery, Pinetown
- Pietermaritzburg Archery Club
- Pongola Bowhunters
- Take to Target Archery, Durban North
- Wesley Gates Archery
- Zululand Ammo & Outdoor, Mtubatuba

Western Cape

- 24 Rivers Archery Club
- Bellville Archery Club

- Bow Pro, De Doorns
- Bow Time Archery, Brackenfell
- CPut-Paarl Valley Archery Club (Paarl Archery)
- Fun Forest Archery, George
- George Bow Club
- Helderberg Target Archery, Somerset College
- Hermanus Field Archery Club
- Guns and Bows, Bellville
- Inner Ten Archery, Da Gama
- Itlian Indoor Archery Club
- KOAC (Knysna Outdoor Archery Circuit)
- Protea Sports club, Retreat
- South African Kyudo Renmei (Japanese Archery) Brackenfell
- Southern Bass Culture, Monta Vista - 081 498 6688 or ryan@southernbasa.co.za.
- Stellenbosch Field Archery Club
- Stormsvlei 3D Archery
- Thali Thali Game Lodge, Langebaan, Second Hand Bow equipment and more, 083 275 2825.
- True Flight Archery, Durbanville, Wessel Potgieter, 082 374 1799
- Hunters Archery Club at Altydgedacht Wine Estate in
- TOXON Archery
- UCT Archery-
- Wild Clover Archery Club
- Winelands Archery club

Eastern Cape

- East Londen Archery club
- East Cape Bowhunting Association
- Londt Park club, PE
- Nyati Archery Club, East Londen
- PE Bow shop
- Rhodes University Archery Club, Grahamstown
- The Bushman's Bow Shop \$ Outdoors, Grahamstown
- Zingela Archery club, Jeffreys Bay, 072 325 3208

Northern Cape

- Adventure Archery Club

Other African Countries

- 3D Archery, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Archery Association of Namibia
- Archer's Land, Namibia
- Botswana Bowbenders
- Leisure X-Treme, Zambia
- Your Butt Archery Supply, Windhoek Namibia

Traditional Archery

- Combretum Bows, Pretoria, Johan van der Merwe, 083 544 7042.
- Cupido Bows, Marble Hall, Pierre de Wet 073 151 1992
- Derek Norse, Norsemen Archery Equipment, KZN
- Elgro Traditional Archers club, Potchefstroom
- Heartwood Bows, Johnny Snyman, Sedgefield 0845342863
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