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For Big Game Hunters

(20 Pages This Month!)

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2010 Volume 30 Number 7

“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

**DATELINE: ALBERTA**

**Honor Roll Report  
A Proven Outfitter  
For Monster Whitetails**

*(Editor Note: Subscriber Jeffrey Hartzler killed an absolute MONSTER whitetail buck in Alberta this past November. It's not surprising that Hartzler enthusiastically recommends the outfit he hunted with. But there's much more to this story than you might initially suspect. And the best part is - there were some unexpected openings left for this coming season at press time. To thank Hartzler for taking the time to file this report and for giving us a heads up on this opportunity, we're putting him on our subscriber Honor Roll and sending him a coveted Honor Roll cap. Read on!)*

“I've hunted whitetail deer with Bob Irvine's Wolf Creek Outfitters for four straight seasons – but only after being on their waiting list for three years,” says subscriber Jeffrey Hartzler. “This year I got lucky. First day, first hour, this brute of a buck

steps out. Prior to shooting this buck, I saw another huge buck that was just too far away for a shot. Deer like this are why you go to Canada!!!”

Hartzler's monster buck grosses 194 B & C. (See photo in our online Trophy Gallery.) He has taken trophies three out of his four years hunting with Wolf Creek and says



the Lac La Biche area where Irvine operates is just covered in white-tails. His first year, when he hunted the first week of the November season, (which Irvine says is his sleeper week, offering perhaps the best opportunity at an unwary buck)

Hartzler scored on a 150-class buck. Thereafter he's hunted the last full week of November (US Thanksgiving week), taking a 160-class buck in 2007. He got blanked the third year, and in 2009 he downed his monster first-day trophy. Not surprisingly, Hartzler gives Wolf Creek Outfitters excellent ratings across the board.

Irvine conducts his whitetail hunts on 12,000 acres of private, exclusive territory, which is about 50 percent open land, 50 percent “bush.” Hunters wait in enclosed, one-person plywood stands Hartzler called “shacks,” each equipped with a comfortable swiveling office chair and four plexiglass windows that give protection from the wind and drop out of the way for 360-degree shooting opportunities. Some of these are elevated, while others are on the ground. Some hunters choose to stay in their shacks all day, but Hartzler says he typically sits in his stand from well before first light, until 10:30 or 11, when his guide picks him up so he can warm up and eat lunch. Then he hunts another stand until dark. “I dress warmly in Raven Wear, which is made locally up there, but some hunters use a portable propane heater in the shack,” he says. He tells us that all stands are strategically placed in what is usually semi-open country on mostly private farmland. The shots, Hartzler says, can range from 200 to 400 yards, so a flat-shooting rifle and good skills are essential.

Hartzler has high praise for the guides he's hunted with, Clem

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Africa**

Botswana Jumbo, RSA Buff,  
Uganda and Mozambique  
PAGES 4 - 9

**New Zealand**

THE Spot For  
Free-Range Sika  
PAGES 9 - 10

**Tajikstan**

Marco Polo Hunts  
Unlikely Until 2011  
PAGE 11

**Alaska**

New Opportunity For  
Aleutian Reindeer  
PAGES 11 - 12

**Kazakstan**

Dire Warnings On  
Illegal Argali Hunts  
PAGE 12

**Subscriber Reports**

Alaska Bears, Bulgaria Deer,  
And Ontario Wolves  
PAGES 14 - 17

## “SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

Girard the previous three years and Ty Shelton this year. “Bob Irvine uses all local guides who are hunting on their own properties, so they know the area and deer movement patterns extremely well.” he says. “I missed my first deer from a stand, but later, while we were traveling to another stand, Clem found where he was feeding, and I was able to stalk and get him on the second try.”

Hunting here is typically Monday through Saturday. Hunters arrive in Edmonton on Saturday, overnight, and rent a car for the 2½-hour drive north to the lodge on Sunday. The season runs the entire month of November. Hunters who are successful early have the option to add on a wolf hunt farther north.

The one thing Hartzler warns is that this is not a cheap hunt. The base cost is \$6,250, and you must add in license, air travel, an overnight in Edmonton, car rental, fuel and tips. “But it’s worth the price,” he says. “You can’t ask for any better setup for deer hunting. Accommodations and food are first class, and the guiding is excellent. I don’t know of a better place to go for big

whitetail bucks and I’m going back again this season!!”

Clearly Hartzler is one happy hunter . . . and that alone makes Wolf Creek worth looking into if you are after a big whitetail buck to grace your trophy room. But if you use the resources at your fingertips as a *Hunting Report* subscriber and dig just a little deeper into this story, you get an even clearer picture of a long-proven, top-notch outfitter. In fact, Hartzler first discovered Wolf Creek by ordering *The Hunting Report’s* hardcopy “Alberta” package in the days before E-mail Extra subscribers had instant and unlimited access to *The Hunting Report’s* electronic database (just one of the benefits of an E-mail Extra upgrade).

The first mention of Wolf Creek came in 1998 (Article ID 131) when our go-to guy for Western Canada, Ken Nowicki, mentioned Wolf Creek in the first of four different roundups he has written for us on Alberta deer hunting. Nowicki reported that Irvine was then adapting his hunting program to changing local conditions and that 14 out of 17



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

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hunters in the 1997 season had taken bucks from 138 to 182 gross. Even then, Nowicki noted Irvine had a long waiting list for his hunts. A year later (Article ID: 433), Nowicki reported that despite a very bad winter two winters before, Irvine’s hunters went 17 out of 19 for 1998, with the average gross score of those deer at more than 160! The largest buck in camp that year grossed 217. Nowicki said then, “I visited Irvine’s camp myself this past fall and can attest that he runs a first-class outfit. Among other things, he has built heated, Texas-

style tower blinds on many of the fields he hunts.”

Nowicki singles out Wolf Creek Outfitters in two subsequent reports in 2004 (Article ID: 1340) and in 2005 (Article ID: 1424) when he reported that Irvine’s 24 hunters the previous season shot 22 whitetails averaging 163, with the best going more than 184 gross. At that point, Nowicki noted that Wolf Creek was booked solid through 2011 (more on that in a moment – there are some openings).

Subscriber-written reports further clarify the picture on Wolf

Creek Outfitters and the hunts they offer. The first report on a hunt in 2000 (Report ID 2016) was from subscriber Fred Dawson, who told us, “Whatever you’ve been told about this operation, believe it. Bob’s numbers are truly amazing. His guides work hard year-round to provide the quality hunts he has. They are a fantastic group of guys.” This, in fact, was the endorsement that prompted Hartzler to put down a deposit just to hold a spot on the waiting list for three years. In a more recent report (Article ID 3357), subscriber Mark Frazier wrote to tell us

### Dallas Safari Club

## Welcome, New In-Kind Sponsor

■ I am pleased to announce that *The Hunting Report* and Dallas Safari Club (DSC) have become mutual in-kind sponsors. What’s an in-kind sponsor and how does it differ from a corporate sponsorship? Well, it means we’ve agreed to support each other in ways that will benefit *Hunting Report* subscribers and DSC members without diverting a single penny of the dollars raised for DSC’s conservation programs. DSC will have a presence on *The Hunting Report* web site and their logo will join our regular corporate sponsors on page 2 of the newsletter. Likewise, *The Hunting Report*’s logo will appear on DSC materials as a corporate sponsor. Also, DSC and *The Hunting Report* will regularly share relevant news developments with each other’s members/subscribers through e-mail bulletins and/or postings on each other’s web sites. *The Hunting Report*’s E-mail Extra subscribers will still get first notice on breaking news by e-mail, but now we’ll share that news with DSC and their members at the same time we post it to our web site for other *Hunting Report* subscribers. We’ll also bring you DSC news and keep you up to date with their programs and conservation efforts.

Some of you are already familiar with DSC as members of this wonderful organization. For those of you who are not members of DSC, I urge you to take a closer look at this organization and consider becoming a member. (See their web site at [www.biggame.org](http://www.biggame.org).) For 30 years DSC has been dedicated to preserving hunting rights, conserving wild-



life and promoting outdoor education, especially among youth. DSC is a sponsor of Conservation Force, Boone & Crockett Club, Friedkin Conservation Fund, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, National Assembly of Sportsman’s Caucuses, United States Sportsman’s Alliance, Texas A & M – African Genetic Research, and other conservation and hunters’ rights efforts in North

America and abroad.

The DSC hosts an annual convention that has become one of the more important hunting shows in North America, attracting hunters from all over the Western Hemisphere and operators from around the globe. The organization expects to attract upwards of 20,000 hunters to its convention in 2011. Look for *The Hunting Report*’s presence there. Last year, DSC also hosted the well-respected Conklin Foundation’s award ceremony. Additionally, I can tell you their Ethics Committee takes member complaints very seriously; several subscribers who recently filed controversial reports with *The Hunting Report* withdrew them after the DSC ethics committee dealt with the outfitter in question. That speaks well of DSC’s ethical standards and ability to mediate a dispute. I was impressed by what I heard from *Hunting Report* subscribers involved in these incidents. For these reasons, I feel very comfortable recommending DSC to *Hunting Report* subscribers and hope DSC members will subscribe to *The Hunting Report* when they get a taste of the valuable information we provide to traveling hunters. – *Barbara Crown, Editor & Publisher.*

he had hunted with Irvine since 1999 and, in 2003 was now “booked for life” with Wolf Creek.

Only one report, a 2001 hunt taken by Bill Hornung, seems at first glance to be negative — until you look more closely. Then it becomes clear that Irvine tried twice unsuccessfully to get Hornung a mule deer in a new area. While Hornung never did get the mulie, he ended up taking a 165 2/8 SCI buck which he describes as “his best whitetail to date.”

Of course things can change over time, so we checked on Irvine’s latest results. On Wolf Creek’s website ([www.albertawolfcreekoutfitters.com](http://www.albertawolfcreekoutfitters.com)) we found that even with a preseason drought and an early, heavy, noisy snow in 2009, Irvine managed to get 23 hunters 20 deer. Apparently, nearly every hunter had an opportunity at deer over 150 B & C. And here’s something you’ll want to know for the 2010 season — when we contacted Irvine at press time to check on a few details, he gave us this unexpected news: “Historically, we are solidly booked from three to five years in advance for our whitetail hunts. But with the economic shift in the US, we have a couple of openings for this year, which we are trying to fill. When those openings are filled, we will keep a waiting list.” Interested hunters should contact him right away. Irvine’s home phone is 403-948-6921; his cell is 403-861-0479. His direct e-mail is [wolfcreek.outfitters@shaw.ca](mailto:wolfcreek.outfitters@shaw.ca).

If you hunt with Wolf Creek Outfitters this season (or anyone else for that matter) please do file a report. It’s the best way your fellow subscribers have to find the whole story on an outfitter they might consider hunting with. — *Tim Jones, Assistant Editor.*

*(Postscript: Irvine told us he also offers some winter hunts in Mexico for Coues deer. But what’s even more interesting is that after a long hiatus from bear hunting (he sold his original bear hunting outfit), Irvine is*

once again going to offer spring bear hunting, this time in two different locations. Here’s how he describes his offerings:

“I will be running some spot-and-stalk-bear hunts as well as some bait hunts this coming spring. The bait hunts will be run from my newly-renovated ranch house at Lac La Biche. There are lots of color phases; the first bait is only three miles from the ranch; there will be a total of 10 baits for two hunters and trail cams on all the baits. The baits typically run 100 percent active on a daily basis. This is a very comfortable gentleman’s hunt with a two-bear limit, good accommodations, good roads, good stands and all the amenities. The cost is \$3,250, plus \$500 for the second bear. License



fees are not included. Wolf is available at no additional cost. I will only take two hunters per week, and this will be very much a hands-on operation. I’ll do the guiding personally. On the early May hunt, hides are prime, prime, prime.

“The spot-and-stalk hunt is up near the NWT and BC borders, just off the Chinchaga River. This is an area with a very high bear population, very large bears. There is no hunting pressure on them; it is a non-baiting zone. Though it’s quite remote, there’s reasonable quad access on lots of trails built for oil and gas exploration and wells. This is bush camping with hunting on four-wheelers. We should see up to 10 bears a day on average and no other hunters. I feel this is the best chance

in Western Canada for a real monster bear. For a fall-back plan, we can maintain a couple of baits in a bait zone about an hour by quad from camp. That adds an extra element to the hunt. No other hunters in this area. Hunters fly to High Level, then it’s two hours by truck and two hours by quad (easy quad riding) to the camp. Only two hunters per week, I will guide personally, hands-on operation, once again. This hunt will cost \$4,250. License fees are not included. Wolves are no extra charge. Bears typically come out of hibernation in mid-May here; hides are very prime.”)

**DATELINE: AFRICA**

**News... News... News  
Extra Botswana Hunts;  
Big Buff In RSA; More**

*(Editor Note: Hunting Report Editor Barbara Crown reports this month on expanded elephant hunting opportunities in Botswana, plus some excellent free-range buffalo hunts in South Africa, more feedback on hunts in Uganda and other developing news.)*

Last month, I told you about some expanded elephant hunting opportunities that were up for auction in **Botswana** in early June. I received the results within a couple of days of those auctions taking place, immediately sent them out to E-mail Extra subscribers and posted them on *The Hunting Report* website 24 hours later.

A total of 40 elephant permits were auctioned by the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks; 18 were completely new opportunities. Another 22 were for the CH8 Pandamatenga area, which the previous concession holder apparently lost. The Pandamatenga elephant quota was acquired by a group of Botswana professional hunters consisting of Bottle Pan Safaris ([afs@eastcape.net](mailto:afs@eastcape.net)); Mike Murray ([mikemurray@eastcape.net](mailto:mikemurray@eastcape.net)); Greg Butler Safaris ([Kelly@gregbutlersafaris.com](mailto:Kelly@gregbutlersafaris.com)); Peter Holbrow Safaris

([hhs.ebs@info.bw](mailto:hhs.ebs@info.bw)); Ian Gloss of African Safari Company ([ian@africansafaricompany.com](mailto:ian@africansafaricompany.com)) and Thys de Vries ([Ide@netconnect.co.zw](mailto:Ide@netconnect.co.zw)). I was told that the hunting season in this unit ends September 20, 2010, but Mike Murray contacted me after seeing my E-mail Extra Bulletin and informed me that the season for Pandamatenga has been extended to November 30, so there will be plenty of time to hunt the entire quota of elephant in this unit. The same season length applies to the other units where elephant permits were auctioned.

The other concessions and successful bidding companies are:

- NG35 (four elephant), purchased by Jeff Rann of Rann Hunting Safaris ([rannsafaris@dynabyte.bw](mailto:rannsafaris@dynabyte.bw)). NG35 borders the southern concessions of the Okavango Delta, including areas that were just closed to safari hunting in 2009. Rann says he considers NG35 the best of all the blocks in the auction.

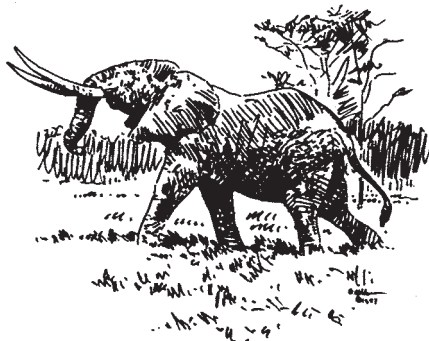
- CT7 (three elephant), also purchased by Jeff Rann. CT7 borders CT1, where Rann produced that 86 x 83 pound elephant reported in the June issue of *The Hunting Report*. This concession is nearly 2 million acres, stretching from Hwange Game Reserve on the Zimbabwe border to CT1 and Nxai Pan Game Reserve. Rann says he personally saw an 80-pounder in CT7 this past April.

- CT4 (four elephant), purchased by Johan Calitz Hunting Safaris ([tharia@calitzsafaris.com](mailto:tharia@calitzsafaris.com)), is located in the Central District and borders CT7.

- NG8 (four elephant) and NG9 (three elephant), secured by Clive Eaton of Tholo Safaris ([tholosafaris@gmail.com](mailto:tholosafaris@gmail.com)), border the western Okavango Delta. According to Eaton, they feature lots of cattle and flood water with good elephants. But, he says, these hunts are already sold.

What's interesting about this auction is that the 18 elephant permits in these units were originally earmarked for resident hunters. They

were part of 25 permits reserved for sale to “citizens.” Three were sold in a raffle; four more were sold over the counter. The others were finally put up in an auction open to any company registered in Botswana. According to a report in a Botswana newspaper, only safari companies responded to the auction opportunity, with 12 competing in the bidding process. The auction culminated in a total of \$156,530 paid out by safari companies for the 18 elephants. Wildlife and National Parks had hoped to get about \$25,600 in total. According to the head of the CITES-Botswana office, citizen hunting areas and a number of privately held concessions have failed to utilize their elephant quotas over the years, and the new development is



“encouraging.” Despite that, the CITES authority and Department of Wildlife and Parks are not committing to the possibility of conducting more such public auctions just yet. In the meantime, these 18 additional elephants have become available to international hunters in Botswana. If you book one of these hunts, do file a Hunt Report and send us a photo of your jumbo...

In **South Africa**, long-time subscriber Thomas J. Cunningham reports that Peter Thormahlen of Thormahlen & Cochran Safaris recently secured the rights to hunt an area known as the Manyaleti Game Reserve in Mpumalanga Province. He reports taking a monster Cape buffalo there and seeing lots of

other quality game. He writes, “The Manyaleti is one of five separate privately-owned reserves that make up the Association of Private Nature Reserves (the “APNR”). For years Kruger National Park maintained a high fence that separated the APNR from Kruger itself. Recently, however, the owners of the former cattle ranches making up the APNR have agreed to abide by a Code of Conduct established by the Kruger Park service, and to comply with quotas established by Kruger. As a result, the high fence marking the border of Kruger has been torn down, and a new high fence runs around the perimeter of the APNR. All internal fences in the APNR have been removed. In essence, the APNR has become part of “Greater Kruger,” and the game from Kruger now moves freely into the APNR where both natural and man-made water sources are abundant.

“Five areas make up the APNR. The best known is Timbavati, a 200,000-acre area that Peter Thormahlen has hunted since 2005, guiding numerous clients to all of the Big Five. Other areas include Glacéri, with 180,000 acres, Manyaleti with 100,000 acres, Umbabat with 75,000 acres and Balule with about 50,000 acres. Thus, about 500,000 acres are now accessible to hunters, out of the total 4.5 million acres in the greater Kruger.

“In April, 2010, I was the first person to hunt with Thormahlen in the Manyaleti, which had not been hunted in a number of years. Thormahlen told me that we should expect to take a buffalo with at least a 40-inch spread, and indeed, we saw several bulls that exceeded that mark. The terrain in the APNR is largely flat, with scattered mopane and scrub and not as many thorns. The hunting was relatively easy – driving the roads looking for tracks, then following fresh tracks when found. We only had trouble on one day, when it rained. We otherwise had no trouble finding buffalo, in-

cluding a massive dagga boy on the first day and good size herds of between 80 and 100 buffalo on other days.

“We passed on several bulls that Thormahlen judged at over 40 inches, including one that we took a

very close look at and had trouble deciding on. We finally determined that our indecision was making the decision, and we passed. On the third day, I took a very wide bull whose spread measured exactly 46 inches and scored 113 2/8 SCI.

**WESTERN STATES: IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

*(Editor Note: Here are the important permit/tag developments to watch out for this month in the US West, thanks to Editor Barbara Crown.)*

<u>State</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>602-942-3000; <a href="http://www.azgfd.gov">www.azgfd.gov</a></b>	The draw results for deer, bighorn sheep, javelina and buffalo will be available by August 13, 2010. Any leftover permits will be posted online and issued first-come, first-served. You must submit an application to buy a leftover tag. These will be accepted by mail starting August 2.
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>303-297-1192; <a href="http://wildlife.state.co.us">http://wildlife.state.co.us</a></b>	General over-the-counter (OTC) big game licenses, as well as OTC bear licenses with caps (or quotas) are available for purchase July 13. See the website for a list. Leftover limited licenses also are posted online and go on sale August 10 at license agents, division offices and over the phone. Online sales begin August 11.
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>208-334-3717; <a href="http://fishandgame.idaho.gov">http://fishandgame.idaho.gov</a></b>	There are more than 10,000 nonresident whitetail deer tags and 7,600 zone elk tags left. Results of the deer, elk, pronghorn and fall black bear drawings are available online July 10. Controlled hunt tags must be purchased by August 1. The deadline for the second hunt application for these species is August 15. The application deadline for the second Super Hunt drawing is August 10.
<b>Montana</b>	<b>406-444-2950; <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a></b>	The deadline to purchase SuperTags for deer, elk, antelope, bison and mountain lion hunts is July 29. Over-the-counter bear and general mountain lion licenses must be purchased by August 31. After that, licenses must be purchased at a department office and cannot be used until five days after purchase. Application deadline for special licenses for mountain lions is also August 31.
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>775-688-1500; <a href="http://www.ndow.org">www.ndow.org</a></b>	A handful of leftover nonresident tags for longbow and muzzleloader hunts for mule deer and antelope are available. The deadline to apply for them in the second drawing is July 6 with results available by July 16. Any remaining tags go on sale first-come, first-served July 23.
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>505-476-8000; <a href="http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us">www.wildlife.state.nm.us</a></b>	Mountain lion and bear permits are available over the counter.
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>503-947-6100; <a href="http://www.dfw.state.or.us">www.dfw.state.or.us</a></b>	Draw results for big game are available online. A small number of leftover elk and deer went on sale first-come, first-served July 1. See the website for the list.
<b>Utah</b>	<b>801-538-4700; <a href="http://wildlife.utah.gov">http://wildlife.utah.gov</a></b>	Leftover limited-entry permits are available first-come, first-served online and over the counter. A list of more than 30,000 elk and deer permits, plus 1,500 youth archery deer permits are posted on the website.
<b>Washington</b>	<b>360-902-2464; <a href="https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov">https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov</a></b>	Results for the big game drawings are available online.
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>307-777-4600; <a href="http://gf.state.wy.us">http://gf.state.wy.us</a></b>	The results for the deer and antelope drawings are available. A list of leftover licenses is posted on the website. Full-price leftover licenses go on sale July 6; reduced-price licenses go on sale July 20.

“We also saw two elephant bulls that were simply awesome. The first one Thormahlen estimated at about 80 pounds. The second was likely in the high 60s and perhaps in the 70s. Both of these bulls were on their own. We also saw herds of cows and calves.

“In addition to the buffalo and elephant, we saw rhino practically every day, and one day a leopard crossed the road ahead of the truck. Hunters looking to complete the Big Five do not need to go any farther than the APNR. South Africa is easy to get to, the trophy quality is absolutely outstanding and Thormahlen & Cochran is an excellent outfitter. Thormahlen runs an outstanding camp, is extremely well-organized and professional. His attention to detail is amazing. Our meals each evening were tremendous, and Thormahlen and his staff put our comfort and the quality of the entire experience as their highest goal. When I’m ready for my elephant, there is no question where I will be hunting.”

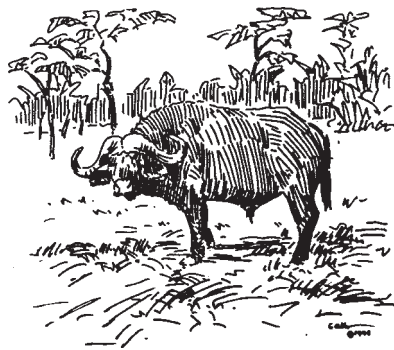
Cunningham says he was accompanied on this hunt by Dan Goodenow of Jim Shockey’s Hunting Adventure, who filmed the hunt for a new television program that will begin airing on The Outdoor Network in July called *Jim Shockey’s The Professionals*. Cunningham says hunts for Cape buffalo in the Manyaleti with Peter Thormahlen can be booked exclusively through Goodenow at [dgoodenow@jimshockey.com](mailto:dgoodenow@jimshockey.com) or 248-613-7549.

Some may question whether Cunningham had such a good experience because his hunt was being filmed. Here at *The Hunting Report*, I’ve received excellent reports in the past on areas like the APNR and community areas bordering the greater Kruger area. Reports of big, old buffalo and large jumbo have been the rule in these areas, and I’m not surprised to hear that about Manyaleti. Subscribers who give Manyaleti a try are encouraged to file a report about

their experience and confirm or challenge what I've reported. This past month I received subscriber reports doing just that for the Mthimkulu Reserve, a community area that I reported on previously. (See Article IDs 2185 and 2282.) You'll recall that Mthimkulu encompasses 200,000 acres of communal lands on the boundary between South Africa and Zimbabwe, with Mozambique bordering the east. Safari operator Johan Hermann of Rigby Big Game Safaris (27-83-791-3251 - dial 011 first from the US; [www.rigbybiggamesafaris.com](http://www.rigbybiggamesafaris.com)) has consistently produced big Cape buffalo there since I first reported on the area in 2008. Last season I received three reports from subscribers who took excellent trophies in Mthimkulu: Brian Austin took a 70-pound jumbo and 15-inch bushbuck (ID 7322); Dave Duncan took a 40-inch buffalo and a 60-pound elephant (ID 7341); and David Moore took a 41- and 46-inch Cape buffalo (ID 7649). I also received a photo from Jeff Ward, who took a 40-inch buffalo, and I was forwarded a note from Mike Bean who reported seeing buffalo over 42 inches and took what he described as a monster bull with a scarred-up face, torn ears and only six inches of a stub tail left. Just recently, I received a report from subscriber Stanley G. Samrow, who hunted with Hermann last August and just got around to filing his report. He took three buffalo measuring 41½ inches, 40 inches, and 37 inches. He also killed a 25-inch nyala and a 49½-inch kudu.

This season, Brian Austin reports hunting with Rigby Big Game Safaris again this past April in a new area bordering the Letaba River opposite Mthimkulu. He took a 44½-inch buffalo with 16-inch bosses and a large bull hippo. He comments, "This is a specialty hunt for someone looking for an exceptional free-range buffalo. While hunting elephant in Mthimkulu last year, I was amazed at the number of ex-

remely large buffalo we saw - several around 45 inches and multiple buffalo every day that were over 40 inches. After that hunt, I decided I had to return to hunt buffalo. I arrived in camp on April 23. They had unseasonably late rains, so the bush was very thick. The area we were hunting was the Letaba Ranch, approximately 250,000 acres. I saw many large buffalo well over 40 inches. As a matter of fact, Hermann did not even consider many buffalo that were around 43 inches. I finally shot a large buffalo with a 44½-inch spread and massive fused bosses. I also shot a very large hippo in the Letaba River. I recommend this hunt to anyone looking for an exceptional buffalo in a truly wild area.



While there are cheaper buffalo hunts available, I do not believe there is another area that can match the quality Hermann offers." Rigby Big Game Safaris is represented in the United States by Aaron Neilson of Global Hunting Resources (303-932-0550; [www.globalhuntingresources.com](http://www.globalhuntingresources.com))...

I also have more feedback on hunting in **Uganda** with Christian Weth of Uganda Wildlife Safaris ([Christian.weth@uganda-wildlife-safaris.com](mailto:Christian.weth@uganda-wildlife-safaris.com)). It seems Weth cancelled subscriber Craig Boddington's safari last month due to an illness. I confirmed with booking agent, Ken Wilson, that Weth returned home to Germany with a terrible bout of malaria and had already been in the hospital for over a week when I spoke with Wilson on

June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Wilson said he was told that Weth was improving but that he would remain out of action for at least a few weeks more.

Seems Weth has been plagued by a number of complications during his operation's first hunting season. Subscribers who read the report from Bill and Suzie Brewster in the May issue, know that Weth's first full-bag safaris in February did not go very smoothly. I now have feedback from Peter Larsen, who was on that safari with the Brewsters. He confirms what they reported on the game numbers in Aswa-Lolim, specifically that the area was void of animals. He says he and Suzie were lucky to have gotten Nile buffalo when they finally moved to the Murchison Falls area. "A few wander out of the park, but you cannot predict getting a buffalo," says Larsen. "If not for PH Johnny Chipman and the Brewsters' PH, Keith Chambers, this would have been a total disaster." Larsen says the PHs brought their own trackers, and Chipman had a skinner. He says there was no skinning shed and one of the buffalo horns was burned because someone in camp insisted on boiling the skulls.

When they moved to the Ngoma area in the Kafue River Basin, Larsen says they found abundant game as well as cattle and people. "Be careful of your background when hunting there," he warns. Despite this, he reports taking a number of good trophies there, including an East African sitatunga that may rank in the top 10 of the SCI record book. He says there are huge reed beds along the river there stretching for miles and offering great potential for sitatunga. However, he says he took his trophy by sheer luck, as there were no machans set up and he happened to spot his sitatunga while driving around the area. He also took a good Nile bushbuck and oribi in Kafue. He reports managing to shoot a Uganda kob in the other area, but says it does not make the record book minimum.

None of his trophies, he concludes, were the result of any preparation or planning on Weth's part. He also confirms what Brewster said about the delay in setting up the camps and says the tents used were of low quality. He does not recommend the experience.

I also received an e-mail from subscriber Richard Wacker of World Adventures, who hunted a bit later. He encourages fellow subscribers to withhold final judgments on Weth's operation. He writes, "I recently took a safari to Uganda with three clients from the 18th of February to the 5th of March 2010. We took a total of 23 species: three kob; two waterbuck; four bushbuck; three hartebeest; two baboon; three duiker; two buffalo; two reedbuck; and two oribi. The bushbuck, reedbuck, oribi and duiker were taken in the Kafu River Basin (Ngoma). The other species were taken in the Aswa Lolim Concession.

"The hunt was contracted as one 2 x 1 hunt and two 1 x 1 hunts. The two hunters who had contracted for 1 x 1 guiding had to settle for 2 x 1 because the third guide did not show up, which did not sit well with the two hunters. They started their hunt at the camp in Aswa Lolim Game Reserve with little success (one waterbuck, two kob). They found few game animals, only people. They left that camp area and moved closer to the Murchison Falls National Park area where they were able to find hartebeest and buffalo.

My hunting partner and I started our hunt in the Kafu River Basin, which was rich in game. We hunted there four or five days, taking bushbuck, oribi, reedbuck and duiker. We also spent time hunting sitatunga with no luck (only saw females). It was tough hunting that was not yet set up. We then went to the Aswa Lolim area but did not stay at that camp; we stayed at the Paraa Lodge at Murchinson Falls National Park. The other group left for Kafu River Basin, where they

hunted the rest of their trophies. We then finished our hunt for buffalo, kob, waterbuck and hartebeest in the Aswa Lolim area.

"In summary, the camp in Aswa Lolim Game Reserve is being rebuilt in a new area near Murchison Falls National Park, where we found the big game animals. The camp in the Kafu River Basin has also been rebuilt and improved. The guides were very good but need more time to become familiar with the areas.

"I would recommend this hunt with caution. Understand that this is a country that has not been hunted for years and, as a result, has a lot of poaching in some areas. Hunters going there must realize that they will face some challenges. Christian Weth has work to do to improve his



operation. This will take time, but he is a fair man, and he deserves the chance to make it right."

I also heard from Ken Wilson, who hunted at the same time Alan and Barbara Sackman were hunting with Weth this past March. He too reports that things have improved since the Brewster/Larsen hunts. Wilson hunted with PH Keith Chambers and says he took a Uganda kob on the first day of his hunt in the Ome River area of the Aswa Lolim Concession. From there he moved to Paraa Safari Lodge in Murchison Falls National Park where they were based to hunt buffalo outside the park. After a four-hour hunt, he reports taking a 41-inch Nile buffalo. Two days later in the Bushbuck Camp in the Kafu River Basin, he

took an East African bush duiker followed by a Nile bushbuck the next day. Following that, he says he and Chambers scouted for sitatunga. "We packed up a fly camp and moved to the swamps with a skeleton crew," he writes. "That afternoon, we spotted a good male on the far side of the swamps and decided to try for him. Our effort included building two tree machans and wading the swamps to access islands (tree/brush covered ant mounds) in the middle. Even though we saw the horns of this bull in the tall, floating grass next to the papyrus on two additional occasions, no shot was possible." The next day, however, he shot a bull at 290 yards.

"Uganda is beautiful (truly the Pearl of Africa), and very crowded, with a rapidly-increasing population of friendly people," Wilson goes on. "After an admittedly disorganized start in February (with the first hunters nevertheless obtaining good trophies), Uganda Wildlife Safaris appears to be improving their camps and organization with each safari. The hunting is somewhat difficult and challenging compared to many other African countries, but the rewards are great, and the country is unforgettable..."

In **Mozambique**, word of illegal PAC hunts continues to reach me. A subscriber recently told me a friend hunted a "crop-raiding" elephant this past season in Mozambique with permission from the district administrator. In fact, he says, he was even accompanied by a government game scout who would not let him shoot an elephant unless they were certain it was a crop raider. He says the hunter and safari operator spent a whole day chasing down the district administrator to get permission. "What do you think about this?" he asked me.

Here is what I know: It is illegal for a hunting client to shoot a PAC animal in Mozambique. These permits are strictly issued to professional hunters, and it is they who

must actually shoot the animal. A hunting client may accompany them on the hunt but cannot be the one to pull the trigger. Did the district administrator and/or the game scout know the person shooting this crop raiding elephant was not a PH? Were they bribed to look the other way? I don't know, but the safari operator certainly knew this was not legal.

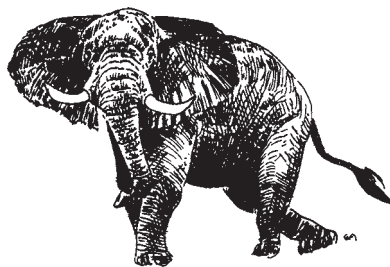
I am told the reason why Mozambique wildlife authorities banned PAC hunts by safari clients in the first place is that too many operators were getting these permits issued (which are at no cost) only to sell them to clients for trophy animals and animals that were not problems at all. It was a way of circumventing the quota system. Unethical operators are still doing it. Now, here is the question I have for hunters tempted by one of these hunts: Do you want to be the hunter that Mozambican officials use to set an example when they start cracking down on this practice? If you don't think it will happen, see my follow-up report elsewhere in this issue on what authorities in Kazakhstan have to say about their plans to pursue hunters duped into an illegal argali hunt in their country. If it can happen in Kazakhstan, it certainly can happen in Mozambique....

And finally, I have two more reports on big jumbo hitting the ground in **Botswana**. The first is from subscriber Miguel Estade of Switzerland, who killed a 74-pound elephant this past May with Coenraad Vermaack Safaris. He hunted in Sankuyu NG34 with PH Ian Newmarch. The left tusk weighed in at 74 pounds and measured 72.83 inches long and 18 7/8 inches in circumference. The right tusk was 69.5 pounds and measured 68.89 inches long and 18½ inches in circumference. Estade reports seeing bull elephant every day on his hunt, with most going 50 to 60 pounds.

The second report is from subscriber Dick Caruthers, who took an impressive bull that weighed 80 x

76 pounds. Caruthers hunted with Greg Butler Safaris in the Chobe Enclave CH2. His PH was Gareth Flemix. He booked the hunt through Jeff C. Neal, Inc. (918-299-3580; [www.jeffcnealinc.com](http://www.jeffcnealinc.com)). Caruthers also took a 50 x 46 pound elephant and says there were lots of big bulls in this area. He says CH2 has a good mix of forest, savannah and thick bush, and he reports seeing “monster” buffalo as well. (See photos of both of these elephant trophies in the Trophy Gallery section of our website.)

And over in **Zimbabwe**, Jason Jeter reports taking a bull that should weigh around 60 pounds. He hunted in the Hwange area with PH Scott Bailey of Matapula Hunters. He says they looked over 35 to 40



bulls, finding two over 40 pounds. He took his bull elephant on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of the hunt.

Jeter hunted early, from mid-April to early May, and says rain kept them in camp several days and limited some of the areas they could hunt. Also, the bush was very thick, making for what he says were some exciting encounters with elephant at close range in some cases, and preventing them from seeing some at all, after hours of tracking. “This is part of hunting early in the season,” he warns. “One just needs to be aware this is going to happen when the bush is still in full foliage.” He says he shot his bull within 20 yards. — Get in a good safari somewhere on the Dark Continent this season. — *Barbara Crown.*

**DATELINE: NEW ZEALAND**

**Site Inspection Report  
Historic Property Tops  
For Free-Range Sika Deer**

*(Editor Note: New Zealand correspondent Greg Morton checks in this month with a first-hand look at a historic hunting property. Recognized by lifestyle connoisseurs for its comfort and varied amenities, the place remains THE top spot to take a trophy sika deer on either side of a fence.)*

**P**oronui (poor-new-ee) is a Maori word that rolls easily off the tongue. And Poronui Ranch is just as easy on the eye. It is a spectacular place, easily one of New Zealand's best all-round outdoor destinations. ForbesLife Magazine ([www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)), which bills itself as the online “home page of the world's business leaders,” recently named Poronui the ninth best fishing lodge in the world. (Our sister publication, *The Angling Report* has six positive subscriber reports on the place.) But Poronui Ranch is also a historical hunting property that rightly deserves its place as one of New Zealand's best stalking locations for deer.

Sika deer were originally released in New Zealand at Poronui in the early 1900s. Today they are found throughout the North Island's Kaimanawa and nearby Kaweka Mountains. A 16,000-acre property, Poronui is still the premier place to hunt trophy free-range sika stags today. The property is long and narrow, covered in eucalyptus and native bush. I hunted there this past April at the peak of the rut. Roaring red stags, croaking fallow buck and squealing sika stags were everywhere. The sika hunting in one gully had to be seen to be believed. The sight of 15 screaming eight-point sika stags squaring off will stay long in my memory. On the second to the last day of my stay, I took a huge sika stag with antlers 31 inches long and 26 inches wide, and

with 12-inch brow tines. (See a photograph in my blog on *The Hunting Report* homepage.) He was the dominant stag in a gully and was chasing off two large eight-point stags from his does when I harvested him.

In addition to the sika, red stag and fallow buck, rusa stag are also available for trophy hunting. In order to protect the historically unique free-range sika deer herd, however, the other species are segregated into 3,000 acres of hunting terrain protected by high wire. Sika and red deer can interbreed, so red deer are not wanted in the free-range forests where the pure sika roam. Sika deer, however, are so adept at using cover that they could hide under a handkerchief. So, when the trophy block was first fenced, large numbers of sika were fenced within it. It is interesting to see how the four deer species staked their separate territories within the 3,000 acres. The sika deer dominate the northern end of the trophy block, while good numbers of red deer live throughout the middle sections. The fallow deer are sprinkled through the eastern eucalyptus forests and southern end, and the rusa love the sunny faces on the western periphery of the block. The self-imposed separations mean different parties of hunters can hunt different deer species on the same day, or one party of hunters may hunt four different species of deer over consecutive days.

The game estate is one of the best I have ever hunted, with a perfect mix of open farmland, forest, rolling gullies, ravines and scrubby faces. Numbers and quality of trophy animals are excellent, with the red, fallow and sika in particular producing outstanding trophies. Red stag average between 300 and 400 SCI, with larger ones often taken; sika stag up to 158 SCI have been shot. Outside the estate area, the free-range sika are also abundant. In fact, there are so many free-range sika living here that there is less competition within the estate

than outside it - and more food. Poronui is one of the few places in New Zealand where wild deer try to break down wire fences to get into the estate area.

The best hunting time is late February to August, and the main hunting techniques are spot-and-stalk or spot-and-ambush. The hunting terrain is moderate in difficulty and suits all ages of hunters. Good optics and boots will assist, as will general physical fitness. Rifles are available on site.

The daily guiding fee is US\$615 for a single hunter per day, or \$330 per hunter for a shared hunt. Trophy fees are extra. The trophy fee for a 340 to 359 SCI red stag is \$6,000, and a sika stag is \$4,500.

As noted, Poronui is most famous as a fly fishing lodge for its



backcountry brown and rainbow trout angling. The Taharua River runs the length of the property, and the famed Mohaka River skirts its boundary. Recent initiatives have made Poronui appealing to a wider group of clients than just hunters and anglers. While the hunter stalks game or the angler pursues trout, spouses and family can enjoy horse trekking, hiking, sporting clay shooting, wildlife viewing, farm tours, mountain biking, billiards and snooker, a gymnasium and health facilities, sightseeing and an extensive library. Accommodations are \$775 per person per night, double occupancy; \$1,030 for a single. This includes accommodation, all meals, open bar and same-day laundry service. Selected extra

activities have costs attached, priced in New Zealand dollars.

Poronui is located just 30 minutes from the tourist town of Taupo, a great destination in its own right with luxury accommodation, restaurants, outdoor activities and shops all nestled around Lake Taupo, a famed rainbow trout fishery. The airport there is easily accessed by plane from Auckland International Airport. A courtesy vehicle picks up guests and returns them at trip's end.

For more information, contact general manager Steve Smith or lodge manager Eve Reilly by phone at +64-7-384-2080 (dial 011 first from the US), or by e-mail at [info@poronui.com](mailto:info@poronui.com). See their website at [www.poronui.co.nz](http://www.poronui.co.nz) - Greg Morton.

(*Postscript:* Poronui Ranch is owned by the North American company Westervelt. Continuing subscribers will remember our initial coverage on Westervelt in 2006. (See Article ID 1622.) At the time, they operated the Westervelt Lodge in Alabama, offering hunting for whitetail deer. A division of Gulf States Paper Company, Westervelt was in the process of developing a chain of sporting lodges in various destinations. They had just purchased several operations in New Zealand and a fishing lodge in New Brunswick and were closing on a bird lodge in Argentina. The two New Zealand lodges they acquired were Poronui and Glazebrook Station. Subscriber Harold Lee filed a glowing report about the red stag and fallow deer hunting at Glazebrook in 2007, which offers both free-range and estate hunting. (See Article ID 2066.) Subscriber David Wilson also filed an enthusiastic report in 2008. (See Hunt Report ID 6837.) They raved not only about the quality of the trophies and the hunting experience but the service and comfort of the lodge there. Anyone who gives Poronui a try is encouraged to file a report too and share their experiences with fellow *Hunting Report* subscribers.)

● Briefly Noted ●

Things To Do, Places To Go, New Developments

■ Hunters expecting to pursue Marco Polo sheep in **Tajikistan** this season will be disappointed to learn that their 2010 trips are likely to be cancelled. You'll recall our January report that the president of Tajikistan had announced Marco Polo sheep hunting would reopen in that country this season. Unfortunately, as of this writing in late June, authorities have yet to take the necessary steps to officially open hunting for 2010. According to sources we spoke with, the moratorium on hunting will almost certainly remain in place through the end of this year.

Why hunting has not been reopened is still a mystery, considering the excellent results of a sheep survey conducted recently and the subsequent announcement by the president. Three different sources told *The Hunting Report* that communications between NGO's, ministers and leading biologists in Tajikistan have been positive, but as of press time, no official declaration had been issued to reopen hunting in that country.

Of more concern to *The Hunting Report* is word from a source close to the Environment Committee, the government body that administers hunting in Tajikistan, that there are no plans to lift the moratorium until 2011. Furthermore, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) had not received the population surveys and other information they require to issue import permits by the May 31 deadline. As a result, no permits have been issued for American hunters to import Marco Polo trophies from Tajikistan this year. While it is still possible that USFWS could issue permits if the Tajiks actually submit the information in time for the season, we are doubtful that will happen. But we'd like to be proven

wrong for the sake of the numerous hunters out there who have been waiting several years now for this hunt.

One of them is subscriber Jerry Baker, who has been hunting for 55 years and hopes he will still have the physical ability to do this tough mountain hunt when it finally reopens. Tim Fallon of the SAAM shooting school ([www.ftwoutfitters.com](http://www.ftwoutfitters.com)) is a second subscriber we've talked to who has been waiting to hunt Marco Polo. He and three friends have had deposits and their October/November hunting schedules tied up for four years while their hunt to Tajikistan has been de-



layed for one reason or another. Other hunters are in the same boat.

If you have booked a hunt to Tajikistan for 2010, contact your operator immediately about rescheduling. Should the Tajiks pull the 2010 season together in time, we'll immediately issue an E-mail Extra bulletin and post the news on our web site.

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■ Longtime subscribers will remember our past reports on a little-known opportunity in **Alaska** to hunt wild, free-range reindeer. (See Article IDs 902, 1377 and 1919.) These hunts take place way out in the Aleutian Island Chain on Umnak Island, which is part of the Pribilof Islands. The animals there were in-

roduced from Siberia in the early 1900s as a local food source and were not commercially hunted until 2004 through Ugludax Lodge, a luxury hunting and fishing lodge built to generate income for the small native community living there. Since our initial report in 2002, Ugludax Lodge underwent a change in management. The latest development is that Jim Shockey (888-826-1011; [www.jimshockey.com](http://www.jimshockey.com)) has secured the exclusive sales and marketing rights to these hunts, not just on Umnak Island but on neighboring Atka Island as well.

According to Dan Goodenow, who oversees sales and development for Shockey's organization, they first secured the sales and marketing of the hunts on Umnak Island for the 2009 season, when eight of their hunters took reindeer scoring from 369 to 507 SCI. (The record book minimum is 264.) After the success of that first season, Shockey secured the marketing rights to these hunts on Atka Island as well, which is where he had hunted in 2008 and had taken two huge bulls. The largest scored 511 5/8 and is the current SCI World Record in the muzzle-loader category; the second bull comes in at 464 1/8 SCI.

The first hunts on Atka will be conducted this August. Unlike the Umnak hunts, which are based from a purpose-built luxury lodge, the hunts on Atka will be based from a house. Goodenow says it is sufficiently comfortable and the meals will be good, though not gourmet.

Both hunts are guided by Alaska registered guides and involve riding an ATV around the islands to locate animals and glass for trophies. Umnak is 70 x 20 miles and Atka is 60 x 20 miles, so there is plenty of area to cover. After spotting a likely trophy, hunters must then stalk the

animals on foot across rolling hillsides covered in hummocks and rocks. The hunting period on Atka is from late August to early September, before the rut. On Umnak, hunting is from early October to early November.

To reach Atka and Umnak, hunters fly into Anchorage and overnight to catch the first flight out to Dutch Harbor, where they switch planes for the final leg. The hunts are for seven days and go for \$10,900, plus another \$1,000 to \$1,200 for the charter. Be aware that weather is always a big factor in this part of the world, and chances are good that hunters will get grounded for one or more days on either end of the trip. Plan accordingly. Hunters who tag out early on Atka can enjoy salmon and halibut fishing, while on Umnak they can duck hunt.

These hunts are surely a wondrous adventure for some hunters and not so much for others. *Hunting Report* Editor Barbara Crown plans to travel to Atka Island herself next month and check out the opportunity there first hand. She'll provide a complete report in the October issue, but will surely post some photos and initial comments to her Facebook page and on *The Hunting Report* web site ([www.huntingreport.com](http://www.huntingreport.com)) before that.

Incidentally, the hunting and sport fishing on Atka and Umnak are under the control of the native Aleutians who live there. Because they own the reindeer and have used them for subsistence purposes, there is always the possibility of running into a native hunter, although we're told it's unlikely. The local people on these islands are working closely with the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association Joint Ventures, which is dedicated to developing local industries for the long-term viability of the coastal communities in the area. APICDA Joint Ventures has helped native Alaskans develop a number of other successful sport hunting and fishing opportunities, and is re-

sponsible for getting Jim Shockey to Atka to experience the hunting there and help them offer it to other adventure-seeking hunters.

*(Postscript: If this hunt interests you, you'll want to know that there were still two slots available on Atka Island for the first week of this coming September. The hunt on Umnak is sold out for this season, and half the hunts on both islands are filled for 2011.)*

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■ We have received more information from the government of **Kazakhstan** regarding that illegal argali hunt we told you about last month. You'll recall that a hunter had reported in the January 2010 *Ovis Magazine* published by Grand Slam Club/OVIS ([www.wildsheep.org](http://www.wildsheep.org)) that he



had hunted Sair argali in Kazakhstan with what appeared to be government approval. He even received a permit and official-looking government paperwork with his trophy. However, authorities with the Kazakhstan Forestry and Game Committee say the hunt was illegal and that an investigation by law-enforcement agencies is underway.

That investigation, we are told, is directed not only at the local operator who billed this hunt as part of a scientific study, but also at the hunt organizer and the hunter. The reason, we were told, that they are casting their nets so wide is that the Kazakhstan government believes these illegal hunts are driven by outside demand. The eagerness of foreign hunters to take an argali is precisely what makes local poachers

and corrupt government officials eager to arrange illegal hunts they say. This is particularly significant, because we learned about this incident when various booking agents from around the world contacted our offices. They said that clients had called them after seeing the report in *OVIS Magazine* and wanted to book the same hunt. One agent says several clients insisted it couldn't be illegal if this other hunter was able to do it.

To clear this up once and for all, we made direct inquiries to Kazakh authorities. In a letter addressed to *Hunting Report* Editor Barbara Crown on official letterhead from the Kazakhstan government, Deputy Chairman of the Forestry and Game Committee K. Mussabaev writes, "Argali hunting in Kazakhstan is a criminally liable act and punished by imprisoning for a three-year term, and the property used in the crime confiscated. Besides that, the wrongdoer must pay about \$14,000 USD for the damages caused for one argali. Even if a foreigner comes to a country with no knowledge of the law it doesn't mean that the foreigner is relieved from responsibility. With regard to this, we undertook all the measures for holding the organizers and participants of the hunt liable."

Yikes! We hope that clears up any doubt from hunters who were unconvinced by our previous report. Bottom line: our recommendation is to avoid any and all offers for argali hunting in Kazakhstan until things change and we have reasonable assurances that such hunts are 100 percent legal.

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■ Our warning about illegal reindeer deer hunts in **Iceland** (see our June issue, page 11) has knocked loose a storm of e-mails from hunters, agents and outfitters wanting us to publish more information about the perpetrator or perpetrators. Bjorn Birgisson of The Icelandic Hunting Club ([www.huntingiceland.com](http://www.huntingiceland.com)) in particular took us to task for, as he

says, putting all Icelandic operators under suspicion. He says the warning we issued encourages hunters to simply avoid booking any reindeer hunts in Iceland, and he demanded that we name the guilty operator or operators.

Frankly, we were a little surprised at this, as we have issued many similar warnings over our 30-year history, on hunts in places all over the world. We explained exactly what the suspected illegal activity was: specifically, in this case conducting reindeer hunts by circumventing the draw for permits and using permits issued to someone other than the actual hunter. We also explained when the permit drawing is conducted and how to safeguard yourself against an illegal hunt by demanding to see a reindeer permit issued in your name. Hunters following this advice on a reindeer hunt in Iceland will know instantly if the proposed hunt is illegal or not.

We have advised precisely the same thing before, most recently for leopard hunts in South Africa and Namibia. No one has ever alleged that hunters cancelled legal leopard hunts there because of our warning. We did not name the operator or operators who are apparently conducting illegal hunts in Iceland simply because the authorities at the Environment Agency of Iceland asked us not to do so while they are pursuing an investigation. You can be sure that if or when official charges are filed declaring who actually has broken the law, we will publicly point the finger. As for Iceland as a hunting destination, we see no reason why hunters shouldn't go there on a legal hunt, and we encourage subscribers to submit reports about their hunting experiences in that country.

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■ If you love Africa or dream of hunting there one day, take note: North America has two new shows dedicated just to African hunting opportunities. We'll focus on one of

them this month, and follow up with details on the other in our August issue. **The African Hunting Show**, takes place in both Toronto and Atlanta in January 2011. This show is



operated by a team from Future Publishing, led by Richard Lendrum, publisher of *African Hunting Gazette*. The show first exhibited in Toronto in 2009. Lendrum says that,

while he was planning the 2010 show, the participating operators approached him about bringing the show to the United States.

Why a show devoted solely to African hunting? Quite simply, Lendrum says, interest in hunting Africa is greater than ever. "There are probably 250,000 hunters in North America who have the means and dream of hunting Africa but have never hunted there," he says. "Many of these are discerning consumers. Though limited in their time to do research, they want to be certain about what they are buying. Africa needs new and dedicated marketing models to reach these hunters. An event that showcases everything about hunting in Africa is what the North American market needs," says Lendrum.

#### Trophy Photos & Videos

[www.HuntingReport.com](http://www.HuntingReport.com)

■ Visit our web site to see the latest photographs of special or impressive trophies, along with information about who hunted them and where the animals were taken. The section is called **Trophy Gallery**, and you can access it directly from our homepage. There is a total of 519 photographs currently posted there, including these four new ones that you may want to take a look at:

- Elephant taken by Miguel Estrade in Botswana.
- Black bear taken by Cody Limmer in Alaska.
- Elephant taken by Dick Caruthers in Botswana.
- Whitetail taken by Jeffrey Hartzler in Alberta.

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■ See the latest additions to our **Trophy Snapshots** section where subscribers can create a complete online photo album of their trophy collection. More than 1,000 photographs have been posted, in-

cluding new ones of lynx, chamois, Cape buffalo, kudu, crocodile, wolf and more. Our cross-reference feature allows online visitors to admire all of the trophies posted by an individual hunter simply by clicking on his, or her, name. Post your own photographs and invite your friends to admire your new trophies right on *The Hunting Report* web site.

The species-by-species organization of the main listing is also a valuable hunt-planning tool that lists the location and name of the hunting professional who helped take listed trophies. By clicking on tur, for example, or elephant, one can see who is helping *Hunting Report* subscribers take good animals. We have photos of more than 50 different species posted. Enjoy this section. And help build it by posting photographs of your own. The procedure for doing so is spelled out in the section. If you have problems posting a photo, call us for assistance.

The Africa Hunting Show is the first exclusively African hunting show in North America founded, managed and owned by Africans and African operators. A number of exhibitors will share in any profits from the event. This, says Lendrum, will ensure the event offers only quality experiences. Exhibitors will be thoroughly vetted, only legal operators registered in the countries they hunt and members in good standing with their professional hunting associations will be let in. Agents exhibiting at the show will likewise have to represent operators who meet these criteria. All funds

raised or donated for conservation will go exclusively to African initiatives as directed by a conservation committee.

The cost for consumers to attend the event is \$40 for both days. For \$60, you also get a year's subscription to the *African Hunting Gazette*. All attendees will also receive a copy of *The African Hunting Directory*, an annual overview of hunting in Africa with information on each country, game available, and rules and regulations. The next issue will include information about each exhibitor at the show and will serve as the show catalogue.

The Atlanta event takes place January 15-16, 2011, at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta (404-237-1234; [www.grandatlanta.hyatt.com](http://www.grandatlanta.hyatt.com)). For more information, contact Tanya Hollowell (phone from the US: 011-27-11-803-2040; [tanya@thefuture.co.za](mailto:tanya@thefuture.co.za)).

The Toronto event takes place January 21-22, 2011, at Delta Meadowvale Resort & Conference Centre (905-542-6739; [www.deltameadowvale.com/guahunt0111](http://www.deltameadowvale.com/guahunt0111).) Contact Birgit Johnstone (705-646-9529; [birgit@africanhuntinggazette.co.za](mailto:birgit@africanhuntinggazette.co.za)). Visit The African Hunting Show website ([www.africanhuntingshow.com](http://www.africanhuntingshow.com)) for details on either show.

● OUTFITTER CRITIQUES ●

## The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

*(This section of The Hunting Report is based entirely on subscriber-written Hunt Reports received in our Miami office. It is designed to provide accurate, reliable reports on what's actually happening in the field. Our policy on Hunt Reports is as follows: We mention in the newsletter all Hunt Reports as received and exert no censorship except in cases when agents or outfitters submit reports on hunts they have a financial stake in, or when we have good reason to believe there are ulterior financial or personal motives on the part of anyone submitting a report. All critical Hunt Reports are sent out to the affected agent/outfitter/PH for rebuttal comment and a reasonable amount of time is allowed for that comment. The Hunting Report does not seek to pass judgement on the validity of any conflict reported in a critical Hunt Report, but merely indicates in its pages that the conflict exists. Subscribers who think their hunting plans might be affected by the conflict are urged to write in for all the relevant correspondence. We think this prior-notification policy coupled with a neutral-comment policy is as fair a system as can be created for the airing of conflicts about hunts. It goes without saying that the existence of a conflict is not necessarily reason to avoid an agent/outfitter/guide. That determination can be made only after reading the comments provided by both parties to the conflict. We think all seasoned hunters will be able to sort out the claims and counter-claims and make better decisions about where to hunt and who to hunt with as a result of our Hunt Report Program.)*

■ If you are looking for a hunt the whole family can enjoy together, subscriber and Colorado outfitter Scott Limmer tells us he's found a beauty in Southeast Alaska, hunting wolves and big, salmon-fed black bears with Dale Adams of Adams Alaskan Safaris. We'll let him tell the story:

“My wife Wendy and I took our 13-year-old boy/girl twins, Cody and Cassie, to Southeast Alaska to hunt this past April 14-22 with Master Guide Dale Adams. We flew to Sitka and got on Adams' 68-foot boat, *Surveyor*, for the first hunt of the year. On the way, we stopped and soaked in the Baranof Hot Springs on Baranof Island before getting down to business hunting black bear on the islands of Kuui and Kupreanof.

“This is a great trip to bring your

spouses/families on. Besides bears and wolves, it is not uncommon to see humpback and killer whales, dolphins, sea lions, harbor seals, bald eagles, sea otters, moose and



Sitka blacktail deer. The big boat is very comfortable with a 3/4 bath, staterooms, dining area, galley, laundry – all the comforts of home. The meals are great, and crab and

shrimp pots can be put out for fresh seafood.

“Adams hunts black bears both spring and fall, but as an outfitter myself, I can't hunt in the fall, so spring is my only choice. Usually, Adams' second black bear hunt is better than the first hunt of the season, but it was an early spring in Southeast Alaska this year, so the grass was poppin' on the beaches and the bears were already out heavy when we hunted.

“The actual hunting is from two skiffs aboard the *Surveyor*. They are used for glassing the beaches for bears and going ashore for the stalk. Adams is very professional, and his hunters usually take only large, mature boars. He does not push hunters into shooting smaller bears or rubbed bears just to fill a tag, like some other guides. In the fall, these

bears eat salmon, so they grow big and have the awesome hides Alaska is known for when they come out of the den in the spring.

“As for our hunt, let me tell you that the only thing better than getting a seven-foot-four-inch black bear with a great hide and a 20-8/16-inch skull is video-taping your 13-year-old son getting a seven-foot-two-inch bear with a MAGNIFICENT hide and a 20-9/16-inch skull!

“I shot my bear on the first evening at 23 yards and then again at 13 yards as he bolted towards me. This was the seventh bear we’d seen that afternoon. After the bear was down, Adams said, ‘Well I guess now we will have to get Cody a bear.’ Wow, this was unexpected, as the twins were only supposed to hunt wolves!

“Two afternoons and several bears spotted later, Cody shot another boar with an awesome hide at 89 yards! Adams did not have to back Cody up, as the bear went right down after the first shot. Cody put another couple rounds into the bear until it quit moving. Adams was obviously relieved, but I expected this after watching Cody shoot his two deer in the last two years (one off-hand at 150 yards). Both my kids are game assassins and have shot in competitions at the state level in 4-H. I really recommend the 4-H Shooting Sports program, as it will give your young kids confidence in all four shooting positions and teach them proper shooting technique and safety.

“Unfortunately, we did not get a wolf for Cassie; the weather and tides didn’t cooperate. But we did howl some up, and they were fun to hear. On this trip, they did not come in close enough to shoot as they had several years ago (See Report ID 2826) when I shot a big male and the other hunter on that trip also shot a wolf.

“If you are interested, Adams also does boat-based brown bear hunts in May and more black bear

hunts in June. Successful brown bear hunters can also take a black bear, if there is still time. Wolf season closes April 30, and the bear hunting in April is normally a little

slower than May or June.

“Adams doesn’t have a website. If you are interested you can call him at home, 907-747-6108, or on his cell, 907-738-3040, and leave a

### More Hunt Reports...

*(Editor Note: Over the past month we have received reports on hunts in the following parts of the world. All of these reports have been added to our files and copies of them can be obtained through our Trip-Planning Service. See page 2 for details on how to place an order. E-Mail Extra subscribers can view the full text of these reports free in the password-protected section of our web site at [www.HuntingReport.com](http://www.HuntingReport.com). You too can have complete access to our entire database of reports and past articles for only \$3 a month by upgrading your subscription to E-mail Extra. Visit our web site or call us at 305-253-5301.)*

#### United States

**Alaska:** Leon Munyan (brown bear) with Brian Peterson; Scott and Cody Limmer (black bear) with Adams Alaskan Safaris; Carol and Rod Wooley (black bear) with Alaska Coastal Hunting; Jay Link (brown bear) with Ron Warren’s Alaska Guide Service; Mike Ambrose (grizzly bear) with Hunt Alaska; Robert Young (brown bear) with Mountain Monarchs of Alaska; Charles Siedlecki (black bear, brown bear) with Alaska Peak and Seas; David Grain (black bear, wolf) with Glacier Guides, Inc.

**Texas:** Steve Metzger (addax, scimitar-horned oryx, blackbuck) with Indian-head Ranch; and Mike and Leigh Ann Bodenchuck (gemsbok) and Larry Bennett (aoudad, whitetail deer) with Magnum Guide Service.

#### Canada

**British Columbia:** Todd Sodano (black bear) with Trophy West Outfitters.

**Nunavut:** Joseph Brough (wolf) with Henik Lake Outfitters.

#### Africa

**Cameroon:** Michael Benben (north-western buffalo, kob, western hartebeest, harnessed bushbuck) with Faro East.

**Namibia:** Dwight Van Brunt (giraffe, cheetah, kudu, gemsbok, eland, zebra) with Eden Wildlife Trust.

**South Africa:** Charles and Lynn Rogers (plains game) with Coenraad

Vermaak Safaris; Stanley G. Samrow (Cape buffalo, kudu, nyala) and Brian Austin (Cape buffalo, hippo) with Rigby Big Game Safaris; Tom Clayton (plains game) with Savanna Hunting Safaris; Shawn Maples (plains game) and Shawn Ball (plains game) with Kei River Safaris; Brad Smith (plains game) with Johan Spies Safaris; Col. James O. Pittman (Cape buffalo, warthog, impala, blue wildebeest) with Harloo Safaris; and Harold Meyers (elephant, bontebok, lechwe, others) with Madubula Safaris.

**Uganda:** Francois Dannaud (Nile buffalo, plains game) with Game Trails.

**Zimbabwe:** Del Parks (elephant) with Lowveld Hunters and Mike Jines (elephant, Cape buffalo) with Charlton McCallum.

#### Elsewhere

**Argentina:** George Neary (birds) with Hucal Safaris; Roger Joos (red deer, wild boar) with Patagonia Hunters; John Searles (water buffalo, red deer, axis deer, puma, gray-brown brocket deer, capybara, white-lipped peccary, collared peccary, fallow deer) with S.A. Adventure Safaris; and David Combs (doves, pigeon) with Trek International Safaris.

**Australia:** Mike Daley (water buffalo, banteng, feral bull, Javan rusa deer, Mollucan rusa deer) with Territory Buffalo Safaris; and Mike Ambrose (water buffalo) with Arnhemland Safaris.

**Mexico:** Arthur W. Korson (Gould’s turkey) with El Halcon; Lt. Col. Pat McMahon (Coues deer) with Carlos Terrazas.

**New Zealand:** Jim Toddy (chamois, elk) with Track & Trail Safaris; Richard Burris (red deer, chamois) with Minaret Outfitters; and James O’Mara (red deer, wapiti, tahr, chamois, fallow deer) with Gary Herbert’s New Zealand Mountain Hunting.

**Poland:** Jens Valdemar Krenchel (roe deer) with Polish Hunting Club.

**Russia:** Loring S. Jones III (capercaille) with Russian Hunting Agency.

message for more info.”

□

■ Continuing on the subject of wolves, if you are looking to add a Canadian “timber” or gray wolf (or two) to your trophy room, we have had two subscribers check in recently on a recommendable outfitter in **Ontario**. Peter Martin of Kapriver Retrievers and Outfitters is based in Kapuskasing, which is on the northern loop of the Trans Canada Highway and about mid-way between Sault St. Marie on the US/Canadian border at the junction of lakes Superior and Huron, and the southernmost tip of James Bay. It’s a 1½-hour drive from the nearest commercial airport in Timmins.

Angelo Hionis (Report ID: 7229) from Pennsylvania and Paolo Monti (Report ID: 7633) from Milan, Italy, both have high praise for this hunt. Each took two wolves on five-day hunts. Hionis hunted near the end of January, 2009, Monti at the end of December that same year. Both tell us that Martin’s outfit and service is good-to-excellent across the board. And both say that Martin has wolf hunting down to a science. Monti, who has hunted for 30 species on four continents, says, “Wolf hunting is not easy. This was not my first time, but I finally ended up with a double. Martin is hunting a huge area, and his record is outstanding. He is the most professional and experienced guide I ever met.”

Hionis tells us that Martin hunts by maintaining some 60 bait sites spread out over a vast area. “There are plenty of wolves. This is wolf country, and you will see wolves. The method Martin uses is almost guaranteed. This is not a traditional sit-over-a-bait hunt. Instead, you visit bait sites traveling by pickup truck and/or snow machine. If you find signs of fresh wolf activity, the guide may try to call in the wolves. If they don’t respond, the hunters are placed in strategic locations and a tracker on snowshoes will get the wolf or wolves moving and drive

them past the waiting hunters.”

This method is so successful, Hionis tells us, largely because “Martin has been hunting these wolves for over 35 years, so he understands the creatures very well. In most cases, he knows how the wolf will react in that situation. His guides and assistants are excellent and very friendly.”

Hionis is happy with accommodations too: “Lodging is in Martin’s large house with excellent home-cooked meals. You are in the town of Kapuskasing, which has everything you may need in case you forgot something. The day starts around 4:30 am and finishes between 3:30 and 5 pm, when everyone relaxes to cocktails and dinner next to a fire.”



The fire is, apparently, very welcome. Both hunters noted the bitter cold weather conditions and advise that anyone going there dress accordingly. Monti sums up the entire experience this way: “If you are looking for a thrilling, fast, very challenging hunt, this wolf hunting is for you.” Hionis says, “This is as close to a guaranteed wolf hunt as you can ever get.”

The cost of the hunt is US \$2,500 for five days of hunting. That does not include license (CDN \$99 — wolves are considered small game in Ontario!), a CDN \$250 “wolf seal” for each animal killed, car rental, tips and incidentals. Martin can be reached by phone at 705-335-3163, or 705-335-2521. His e-mail is [pwmartin@ontera.net](mailto:pwmartin@ontera.net). By

the way, at press time we talked with Terry Martin who told us they have openings still available for the winter of 2010/11.

(Postscript: These weren’t the first entirely positive reports we’ve had on Martin’s outfit. In 2007 (Report ID 5979), subscriber Wayne Brininger reported that he, too, took two wolves with Kapriver Retrievers and Outfitters despite poor snow conditions. He also recommends the hunt.)

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■ Subscriber Jens Valdemar Krenchel has filed a report on hunting in **Bulgaria**. Krenchel, who hails from Denmark but currently lives in Belgium, hunted this past May for wild boar and roe buck with the Bulgarian State Forest Service, booking agent Konstantin Kotsev ([bhs@huntservice.com](mailto:bhs@huntservice.com); [www.huntservice.com](http://www.huntservice.com)). He hunted in a state forest area called Rusalka, which lies in central Bulgaria and encompasses 8,500 hectares (21,000 acres) of the Middle Balkan Mountains. The terrain is rugged and uneven, with elevations topping out at almost 8,000 feet. Virgin beech wood forests cover about 95 percent of the area and offer hunting for red deer and brown bear in addition to the boar and roe buck Krenchel was after.

Krenchel says he did this hunt right after a roe buck hunt in Poland with his son, where he says they got their bucks but found the guiding could have been better. He says he was relieved to find that his Bulgarian PH “Minko” was everything he hoped for. “He knew every corner of the mountains and where we had to go,” writes Krenchel. “It was almost too easy. I had two bucks on my first outing!” He reports taking a total of five trophies in five days of hunting, including a bronze medal boar that weighed 220 kilos (485 pounds) and had 20 centimeter tusks. He also reports seeing a wolf.

Krenchel recommends hunters come prepared for long-distance shots and be physically able to do lots of climbing. As for the services

provided, he says, “The professionalism of the state forest service is very high, as well as the standard of service and care for the customer.” Krenchel says Kotsev met him at the

airport and accompanied him on the hunt, serving as interpreter. He says Kotsev (whose web site is in six languages, including, English, Spanish and German) was highly reliable and

experienced in dealing with foreign hunters. He enthusiastically recommends the hunt to fellow subscribers interested in trying a different destination in Europe.

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