



Safari Club International - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Summer 2008



Chapter member Richard Papapietro's Africa hunt had great results — this Cape Buffalo was taken in the Chewore South area of the Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe. Rich hunted with Chifuti Safaris and PH Mark Vallaro. The buffalo was taken with his Johann Fanzoi 470 Nitro Express. After two quick shots through the heart it still went 50 yards!

#### Look inside for:

[2008 BBQ Information](#)

[Wild Game Awards Dinner Photos](#)

[Hunt reports](#)

[Member photos](#)

[Calendar of coming events](#)

#### Coming events

[Annual BBQ](#)

August 31, 2008

[Board of Directors Meetings](#)

3rd Thursday of each month

Vic's Restaurant

San Carlos 6:30 p.m.

Please call Beverly Valdez at 650-697-6538.

# SPORTING ENVIRONMENTS

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Scott A. Davis

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# San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Safari Club International **BASE CAMP**

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President Elect .....	Tomas Bermejo
Vice President .....	Tom Mattusch
Past President .....	Dwight Ortmann
Secretary .....	Paul Williamson
Treasurer .....	Jim Peters

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Jim Peters .....	05-06
Ilah Uhl .....	04-05
Stanford Atwood .....	03-04
Tomas Bermejo .....	02-03
Mike Nice .....	01-02
Bill Gouin .....	00-01
Ilah Uhl .....	99-00
Glenn Chrisman .....	98-99
Gabe Tabib .....	97-98
Dean Miller .....	96-97
George Cobb .....	95-96
Joe Bullock .....	94-95
John Peterson .....	93-94
Al Lawson .....	92-93
Brenton Scott .....	91-92

The contents and opinions expressed in Base Camp are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Safari Club International San Francisco Bay Area Chapter or the general membership. Information and articles in this newsletter are intended to inform the members about chapter activities and present various viewpoints and issues of general interest. Base Camp, however, cannot verify or be responsible for the accuracy of statements made in the articles and columns written by the newsletter staff or guest authors.

## **NEW EDITOR FOR BASE CAMP?**

Starting with the next issue, BaseCamp will have a new editor — please welcome Bill Craves and make sure to send your stories, photos, and ideas for BaseCamp to Bill via email [basecamp@safariclub-sfbay.org](mailto:basecamp@safariclub-sfbay.org).

## **Circulation and Advertising Policy**

Base Camp is published four times a year – Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter issues – by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Safari Club International.

Advertising is accepted for Base Camp to subsidize its publication. Space is available in 1/8 (Business card size) at \$50.00, 1/4 page at \$90.00, 1/2 page at \$170.00, or full page at \$340.00, respectively, prepaid with submittal of artwork. Ads run for one year, (four issues) and will be in black and white. Advertisers must submit camera ready artwork to the Advertising Officer, c/o Chapter Office. Sorry, photos will not be returned, unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Member ads will be accepted for sale of personal property such as sporting equipment and special hunting or fishing opportunities. There are no fees for these ads and they will be run for a single issue only unless resubmitted for additional issues.

## **The Classifieds • Free Member Ads!**

Advertisements from Safari Club members will be accepted for sale of personal property such as sporting equipment and special hunting or fishing opportunities. There are no fees for these ads and they will be run for a single issue only unless resubmitted for additional issues.

Please mail, e-mail, fax, or call in your ad to:

***San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Safari Club International***

Chapter Administrator: Beverly Valdez

Address: 423 Broadway, #624, Millbrae, CA 94030-1905

Phone: 650-697-6538

e-mail: [bev@safariclub-sfbay.org](mailto:bev@safariclub-sfbay.org)

# 2008-2009 Board



President  
Dwight Ortmann



President Elect  
Tomas Bermejo



Vice President  
Tom Mattusch



Secretary  
Paul Williamson



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Past President  
Dwight Ortmann

## Board Members

Stanford Atwood  
Mike Davidson  
Tom Enberg  
Robert Keagy  
Mark Grisedale  
Richard Papapietro Jr.  
Jeana Rolsky-Feige, Sables President  
Richard Pierce  
Jason Henderson (alternate)

# President's Message



## Dear Members,

Thank you for your continued support and for re-electing me as your president for 2008-2009. The list of current board members can be found on the next page.

I am very pleased to report that your chapter is sending a wounded warrior on an elk hunt. The hunt was donated by one of our fundraiser donors, Ed Shields of Deer Valley Ranch. Glen Chrisman headed up the effort to find a wounded veteran. SPC 4 Jed Deloria was wounded in northern Afghanistan and is currently in Walter Reed. He is a Purple Heart recipient. The hunt will take place this fall. If you would like to help, he will need hunting clothes, boots, optics, and a gun. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Keagy have stepped up and are paying his airfare from SFO. Your Chapter has nominated Jed for the SCI Pathfinder award. Jed is planning on coming to your 09 fundraiser, health permitting. Plan to be there and show support for our veteran's.

As you know, my goal last year was membership and it continues to be my number one goal. Looking back at my first column in 2006, I challenged you to help increase our membership to 200. I am happy to report that during the year we did break the 200 mark! But it was short-lived as members moved or dropped out. We currently have 222 active members so I am again asking you to help. Let's see if we can work together to reach a stable membership of 225. We need a strong membership to keep having our voices heard. Together we can do it.

Our membership promotion for 2007-2008, a Weatherby Vanguard rifle, was won by Tom Mattusch in a drawing at the Wild Game and Awards Banquet. Congratulations to Tom! The 2008-2009 membership promotion will be posted to the web site soon.

For those of you who missed the Wild Game and Awards Banquet, you really missed a great evening! You can see the award winners on page 12. Congratulations to these and all the other award winners!

Speaking of being there, make sure you have saved Sunday August 31 for the very first annual Bob Bergstrom BBQ and Shoot at Coyote Valley Sporting Clays. This is always a great time and something the whole family can enjoy and now provides an opportunity to remember Bob and his support. Come on out, enjoy shooting a few clays, have some BBQ and see your friends. The reservation form is on page 10.

The 2008 member calendar was very popular so we are going to be publishing a calendar for 2009 with your hunting photos on it! Each member will receive one calendar as a member bonus and you will be able to purchase additional copies for friends and family. Don't miss getting your photo on the calendar -- see page 16 for details and be sure to submit your photos!

A quick reminder that when going on safaris to Africa please contact the chapter office and request a Blue Bag to bring along. For more info on the Blue Bag program go to [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org) or give the chapter a call.

**Hunt often. Hunt safely.  
And remember that SCI is First for Hunters.  
Dwight A. Ortmann**

# Working Together



Captain Tom Mattusch provided the HuliCat for a full day of exciting outdoor activities for this group of youngsters. The fishing outing, jointly sponsored by the Chapter, NOAA, and CA DFG, made a big impact on the kids.



The California Fishing Passport program is one that will appeal to everyone. From the first-time angler, to those who enjoy spending quality time in the outdoors fishing with friends and family, to those who wish to passionately pursue the wide variety of different and unique fishing opportunities that only California can offer... the California Fishing Passport challenge has something for everyone!

Learn more about the passport program at  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport/>

CALIFORNIA IS A STATE OF REMARKABLE NATURAL RESOURCES AND DIVERSE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. WITH 1,100 MILES OF OCEAN COASTLINE, 220,000 SQUARE MILES OF OCEAN WATERS, 4,172 LAKES AND RESERVOIRS, 29,664 MILES OF STREAMS AND RIVERS, AND 1,800 MILES OF BAY AND DELTA WATERS, CALIFORNIA HAS MORE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE COUNTRY.

# Member Photos



Tom Enberg helped Emma with her CA DFG "Fishing Passport" — Tom was one of the chapter deckhands for the day when the HuliCat took local youth out for a day of fishing.

Learn more about the passport program at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport/>

Tom Enberg, on the HuliCat came home with a nice crab dinner.



Fishing on the HuliCat is diverse! Tom Enberg also caught spotted rock fish.

## EXCLUSIVELY FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SAFARI CLUB MEMBERS!

Thinking about buying or selling a home? Call Marcial! She is a Bay Area native and has been on the Peninsula for 14 years. Not only will you get personal, dedicated service from a real estate professional who is a Coldwell Banker Home Marketing and Negotiation specialist, but part of her commission proceeds will be donated to the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of SCI, Sables group in honor of Jim Uhl. Call her today and make your real estate dreams a reality.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 31, 2008

Annual Bob Bergstrom Memorial BBQ Coyote Valley Sporting Clays, Morgan Hill

September 28, 2008

Annual 'Feed the Hungry'  
San Jose Salvation Army

October 26, 2008

Annual Fall Appreciation Dinner  
Crowne Plaza Foster City

January 8-11, 2009

ISE Show, San Mateo

January 21-24, 2009

SCI Annual Convention Reno, NV

March 7, 2009

Annual Greater Bay Area Fundraiser

If you are interested in becoming more active with the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, contact any Board member or Beverly in the chapter office at 650-697-6538 (phone and fax) or [bev@safariclub-sfbay.org](mailto:bev@safariclub-sfbay.org).

## Save the Chapter Money, Get Your Newsletter Online!

You can save the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter by reading it online. To stop the mailing of your newsletter, just contact Beverly. You will always receive an email when the newsletter gets posted online when you give us your email address.

# Member Photos



CHAPTER MEMBER RICHARD PAPAPIETRO'S HUNT WITH CHIFUTI SAFARIS CONTINUED TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH THIS HYENA, BABOON, GRYSBOK, AND A LION (PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE). THE HUNT MAY BE ON 'TRACKS ACROSS AFRICA' IN THE FUTURE — BE SURE TO LOOK FOR IT!



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# The Sables Miombo Corner

Become more involved with Sables by contacting President Jeana Rolsky-Feige by e-mail at [sablespres@safariclub-sfbay.org](mailto:sablespres@safariclub-sfbay.org).



The Sables has two "Safari in a Box" kits — one is on permanent loan to a local school and the other is available on loan for your use.

The Box is very useful for teachers at any level, parents in PTA or school functions, environmental educators in local, state and federal parks, 4-H and Scout leaders, wildlife conservation educators in State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies, community nature centers and hunting, fishing or trapping organizations who do wildlife education programs in their community. Safari In A Box is even being used in the children's wing of a hospital.

Safari In A Box provides a great hands-on wildlife experience in or out of doors, for any age. For many, this is the gateway to appreciation of the outdoor world and provides their only contact with a wild animal.

If you would like to borrow the Safari in a Box for your next scout meeting, school or club show-and-tell, or other activity just let one of the Sables know. Contact President Jeana or the Chapter office for more information.

## Cubs are the Future

Buck Bucannon will be continuing the SCI Cub shooting and education program that Bob Bergstrom headed up for so long. Buck has great experience in working with youth and educating young and beginning hunters. Please join us in welcoming Buck!

Starting in 2009 Buck will begin the 4-6 shooting dates per year similar to what we have done in the past. This is a Chapter-sponsored activity with no cost for the youth. One adult must attend with the youth and may participate at cost.

Buck has scheduled one shooting day for 2008 - be sure to join him with your favorite young shooter on November 1. The location is not yet finalized so check with Buck or the chapter web site to learn more.

Buck will also have two hunter education class dates for 2008. The location for both is Livermore.

**July 18, 19, 20**

7-10 PM Fri, 8-5PM Sat, 8-Noon Sun. Optional: \$20.00 shooting session Sun 1-5PM

**November 7, 8, 9**

Additional information on the web site.

If you are interested in a hunter education class or youth shooting day, contact Buck Buchanan at 925-998-5086.



Chef  
Sunday

August 31, 2008

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

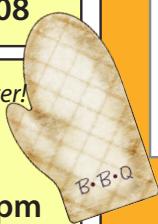
RSVP by

August 25, 2008

Shoot before or after!

BBQ served

11:30am - 1:00pm



## San Francisco Bay Area Bob Bergstrom Memorial BBQ

### BUFFET BBQ

Featuring chicken, steaks, elk and turkey burgers grilled to perfection; side dishes; drinks.

\$10 members, \$15 non-members  
18 and under free

### SHOOTING

One Round of Skeet: \$6

One Round of Sporting Clays: \$40

To shoot the Mountain Course, RSVP with Coyote Valley directly

Coyote Valley Sporting Clays  
1000 San Bruno Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA  
408-778-3600

Contact Jim Peters at 650-369-9205 for questions or to volunteer to help.



RSVP TO: San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
Safari Club International  
423 Broadway, #624  
Millbrae, CA 94030-1905  
FAX: 650-697-6538

Yes, I plan to attend!

# members (\$10):

# non-members (\$15):

# under 18 (free):

Attendees:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Donations are accepted and greatly appreciated! \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: SCI San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

MasterCard

Visa

Cardholder Name:

Signature

Card Number:

Expiration Date:

CVV (card id):



## HUNTERS PARADISE IN MORGAN HILL

This magnificent 7550 sq ft home was custom built 8 years ago and is perfectly designed for entertaining and family living with 6 bedrooms and 5.5 baths. The list of amenities goes on and on.

This is a one of a kind property with lots of room for barns, ponds, a guest house, and vineyards. The views are unbelievable — you MUST see them!



21 acres with deer, pigs, quail, doves, and wild turkeys for viewing or hunting on your own park yet is only 5 minutes from Morgan Hill. Terrain is flat to rolling hills with oak groves and fruit orchard.

The trophy room as designed by renowned architect Tom Julian has beautiful intricate black walnut detailing. At 20x40 with 22 ft ceiling, it's a perfect place to gather around the fireplace, have guests at the bar or watch movies. A spiral staircase leads to one of 4 balconies, perfect for trophy viewing. An adjacent firearms vault, 10x12, provides a safe home environment.

### TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR AT APR.COM

by entering "Morgan Hill" and click "Search" MLS 80812508

More details: includes a gourmet cook's dream kitchen — everything is top of the line! Also includes 4 fireplaces and multiple H/AC zones. The front door has views all the way to the French doors leading to solar pool and spa.

The upstairs bedroom wing has stairs leading to the kitchen area and has its own pool/family room.

Includes a dog kennel, and 4 car garage with 180 sq ft workshop.

Contact:  
Leslie Ames, CRS, GRI  
Alain Pinel Realtors  
President's Club  
[www.LeslieAmes.com](http://www.LeslieAmes.com)  
[leslieames@apr.com](mailto:leslieames@apr.com)

# 2008 Wild Game Dinner – Fun for All



# WILD GAME AWARDS FOR 2008

## #1 African

Glen Chrisman  
Springbuck 17" horns

## #2 African

Rich Papapietro  
Zimbabwe Cape Buffalo

## #3 Africa

Rich Pierce  
Bushbuck 15" horns

## #4 Africa

Steve King Impala

## #1 African "Brass Balls"

Nick Bullock  
Self-guided forest buffalo

## #1 N. America

Michael Maida  
First wild boar

## #2 N. America

Paul Maida & Eric Maida  
First wild boar

## Honorable mention

Rob Lawson 180+ deer

## 1ST PLACE -

Junior Hunter  
Harrison Atwood

## HONORABLE

## MENTION

Conor and Haley – bird  
totters exceptional

## #1 International / Exotic

Jason Henderson

## #2 International / Exotic

Tom Mattusch roe deer



Tom Mattusch and Harrison Atwood — surprised and delighted to have won!

# Joy of the Hunt: Why can't postmodern society acknowledge its

The following article, written by Peter Shroedter, is reprinted from the Hunting For Tomorrow website at: <http://www.huntingfortomorrow.com>. Thanks to Bill Burton, SCI field coordinator, for bringing this to us. Visit the web site for even more insights into our sport.

HUNTING is a highly charged emotional issue, much like abortion, and people generally hold fast to the position they choose early in life all too often before they understand the consequence of their decision.

Hunting is as natural an activity as falling in love and making babies. It's how families were sustained since the dawn of time.

The only people who can speak against hunting with some moral authority are true vegans; everyone else's comments are tainted by varying degrees of hypocrisy. Anyone who eats meat or uses animal products is responsible for killing on an industrial scale unimaginable in hunting.

Even the vegans' moral authority is in question when they criticize hunters because the market gardens that grow their vegetables have degraded the ecosystem and caused the demise of some wildlife somewhere. The cities and suburbs where they live have killed and displaced countless animals. The fact that they participate in our modern economy puts blood on their hands as well.

It is amazing how our society gorges itself nightly on virtual violence against people in movies and video games. We can also sit passively while politicians debate the finer points of genocide in far-off places and still somehow decry hunting.

Perhaps this dichotomy should not come as a surprise in a society where most people live their entire lives without being part of the food chain except as consumers. In a culture where the word hunting is another word for killing, it is easy for earnest young people to conclude that hunting, like dog or cockfights, is part of a senseless brutal past.

The act of hunting in the pure sense of the word is a communion with nature and an acknowledgment of our species' past and its enduring dependency on the environment for survival. The fact that human beings are genetically programmed to hunt should be enough reason to acknowledge that hunting is part of being human. We are omnivores at top of the food chain, able to eat almost anything between meat meals, but it is meat that gives us the protein we need. It is the act of hunting that connects us to the essence of our existence and our dependency on our environment.

I've been a hunter since childhood and still hunt actively. I make no apology for it. The process of hunting has made me keenly aware of my place in the environment. Through hunting I learned early about the

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importance of conservation. It was through hunting I learned patience and perseverance and became a student of nature. I also learned about the sacredness of life and how all life is interdependent.

People who speak the loudest against hunting have turned the campaign to stop hunting into a very profitable industry. They choose to forget that it was hunters like Theodore Roosevelt who created the concept of national parks. They ignore that hunters pay for conservation

efforts and give of their time to organizations like Ducks Unlimited and other conservation efforts that have undone the damage our modern economy has done to the environment.

The least part of hunting is the killing but you cannot hunt without intending to kill. In the words of Spanish philosopher Ortega y Gassett, in *Meditations On Hunting*: "One does not hunt in order to kill. On the contrary, one kills in order to have hunted."

One of the problems we have as hunters is that we do not talk about the hunt to non-hunters and when we do we make assumptions that non-hunters can appreciate the fine details of our passion without having experienced the "hunt." Hunters know about the range of emotions and state of heightened physical awareness that only the hunt can provide.

Non-hunters assume hunting is all about killing because to have bled your own hands for something to eat is such a rare experience today. I have killed many animals for food because for most of my life, the only meat I ate was that which I slaughtered myself. There is no similarity between that bloody work and hunting.

When hunting with city friends I see the transition from urbanite to "the hunter" once we get into the bush and I point out the game sign. In less time than it takes to program a VCR, people who have never hunted before begin to see and hear things they never noticed before. They learn to sort out the forest sounds and begin to see in a new way. They begin to see the world through a hunter's hungry eyes searching for prey. They lose their sense of time and become acutely aware of minute changes in temperature and wind direction. As novices they can't understand the information their senses are detecting, which only increases the intensity of the experience. An excellent article describing the transition from urbanite to human hunter was written by Michael Pollan, for the New York Times entitled *The Modern Hunter Gatherer*, published March 2006. Pollan is an urbanite non-hunter and he took a walk in the woods with hunting friends. He used to scoff at Gassett and Ernest Hemingway for writing what he called hunting porn. But, before the hunt ended, he felt the depth of the emotions that hunting arouses and experiences what he calls "a cannabinoid moment."

Cannabinoids are compounds that affect the neurotransmitters, creating an intense sensory experience.

I never knew the scientific cause for the altered physical and emotional state hunting brings on but it is the reason I hunt. I hunt to be part of the great thing that is the environment and to take my place in it.

Scientific explanations aside, suffice it to say that for many hunters, hunting is as important an experience and as spiritually uplifting as a religious pilgrimage.

So why, in a pluralistic society that tolerates so many spiritual pursuits, is hunting becoming an anti-social behaviour. Is it that postmodern society is still afraid to acknowledge the inner wild man?

*Peter Shroedter is a freelance writer*



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Call (707) 923-9633.

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

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

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2009

## GAME ON! IN THE 2009 CHAPTER CALENDAR!

Submit your hunting photo no later than September 28, 2008 for inclusion in the 2009 calendar.

### Submission guidelines:

1. Eligible photos: Please submit photos where you know the people in the photo as well as the species. Include all names and a description of the animal, where it was taken, etc.
2. Submit your photo by e-mail: Attach your digital photograph to an e-mail.

Your photo must be of high resolution (at least 1200x1680 or approximately 10MB in size).

3. Submit your photo by US postal mail: To send a CD or DVD of digital images or printed photos, mail to the Chapter office at: 423 Broadway, #624, Millbrae, Ca 94030. Please note: printed photos must be at least 4x6 inches and will be returned if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.
4. What to expect after you submit your photos: You'll receive an email when your photos are reviewed that includes links to the photographs that are chosen for the 2009 calendar. The calendar will be published in December for all chapter members.



### **WILD GAME DONATIONS NEEDED**

We will once again be celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day by hosting a "Feed the Hungry" at the Santa Clara Salvation Army kitchen on September 28th. Last year your donations totalled over 250 pounds of wild game meat and helped to feed more than 100 people in the San Jose area.

Please help again this year: donate fish or meat from your freezer and volunteer to help serve in the food line. We need your help to make this event a success!

Contact Diane at 650.592.9749 or [aundiane@gmail.com](mailto:aundiane@gmail.com) for more information.

Learn more about National Hunting and Fishing Day on the web at <http://www.nhfday.org/>.

# Forty-four Days in Africa, Part 1

by Bob Keagy

Pam and I recently returned from our longest-ever trip to Africa. This trip entailed hunts in three African countries, 20,000 miles of air travel, involving 20 air-links (including seven charter flights), and sought such major and minor trophies as elephant on one end of the scale, and Bat-Eared Fox on the other end. The trip was to include sightseeing and hunting throughout the length of the African continent, and it constitutes quite a story, which I hope you'll enjoy reading.

This adventure was set-up in several phases: the first phase was a ten-day sightseeing trip through historic Northern Ethiopia (our daughter, Carolyn, would join us for this segment), followed by a twelve-day Southern Ethiopian Hunt with our friend Jason Roussos, then fifteen days in Botswana for elephant with our old friend of many years, Mike Murray. As we "tagged out" early on elephant in Botswana, we eventually added yet a fourth phase of a six-day hunt in the Eastern Cape area of South Africa, at Mike's family farm.

I have also taken the liberty of appending a few comments on planning an African trip today.

Ethiopia is currently one of the "in" destinations for hunters. It has species found nowhere else, including the beautiful Mountain Nyala and unique bushbucks, as well as Northern Grants' Gazelle, Gerenuk, Tiang, Nile Buffalo, and, in the Danakil desert, several rare specimens, notably Beisa Oryx. In short, Ethiopia offers many wonderful trophy opportunities in terrain ranging from green rain

THIS TRIP ENTAILED HUNTS IN THREE AFRICAN COUNTRIES, 20,000 MILES OF AIR TRAVEL ... 20 AIR-LINKS

forest to broad, rich plains to bleakest desert.

As many hunters are adventuresome, they may choose to tour this interesting country before their hunting, as we chose to. We therefore began our adventure with an initial ten days sightseeing in the historic north of Ethiopia. Deeply religious, much of Ethiopia's history is intertwined with the early Christian church. Our hunting guides, Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris, also has a tourism section, and they established an extensive itinerary throughout Northern Ethiopia, including the fabled churches of Lalibella, the stelae of Axum, the castles of Gondar, historic Lake Tana, and a tour of the Siemen Mountains, amongst other sites.

The tourist infrastructure is not well advanced, and hotel accommodations outside of the capitol of Addis Ababa could best be described as adequate to good. Power and hot water may be available only at specified times. Tour guides vary greatly, with some having substantial difficulties with (American) English.

The basic challenge for Ethiopian tourism is that while there are legitimate sites of great historical interest scattered throughout the Northern part of the country, they each take about an hour or two to see, leaving a great deal of daylight to be filled each day. Therefore, you often see an ancient church or ruins that are of interest, followed by several attractions of substantially lesser interest.

An example is the visit to see the stelae of Axum, which are in fair to good condition, but often leaning precariously. These stone obelisks are of interest, but after you've walked around them for about an hour, you've pretty much seen them. There is an adjoining church and monastery, which are of some interest, but this nevertheless accounts for the bulk of one day of your trip.

One day is also spent seeing the Siemen Mountain National park, which was disheartening, since the park boundaries were clearly not enforced, and the park area we saw was over-run with domestic goat herds and wood gatherers. The only "wildlife" were big groups semi-tame Gelada baboons, and assorted birdlife.

The exception to this is Lalibella, which is famed for its ancient Christian churches carved out of the living rock. This is truly worthwhile, and the visitor should be prepared for a crowded and interesting visit.

Ethiopia has great beauty, history and a truly friendly people. Ethiopia also has an attractive climate due to its 5-7000 foot elevation. Perhaps I overstep the bounds of a good guest, but what seemingly is now needed is a government more supportive of developing the tourist infrastructure and protecting and enhancing their existing natural resources. We were glad to have visited Northern Ethiopia, but we felt that ten days was perhaps a bit too long.

Returning from sightseeing to bustling, chaotic Addis Ababa, we checked into the sumptuous Sheraton. We sorted out our gear, placed our daughter Carolyn on a flight back to the ‘States to commence grad school, and rested for the night, beginning our hunt early the next morning.

We started our hunting by taking a charter flight to their Omo Valley concession, which we had hunted four years previously. The Omo camp is one of several permanent camps maintained by Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris, with a dining hall and client bungalows, complete with showers, electric lights, and overall quite comfortable. The staff are efficient, courteous and cheerful.

The Omo Valley is truly scenic, with great broad plains cut by river beds lined with tall vegetation. The plains abound in game, including Northern Grants Gazelle, Tiang (similar to Topi), and the long-limbed Gerenuk. In the brushy river bottoms game included numerous small Dik-Diks. The broad vistas sweeping into Kenya made the red and gold evening sunsets richly spectacular.

Prior to our arrival, there had been unprecedeted rains, and the Omo river was over its banks. This was bad news, as Nile Crocodile was one of our main targets, and most crocodile hunting is based/premised upon identifying big crocs lazily laying upon exposed banks, where they can then be stalked. In this case, there were no banks, water was rushing through the bank vegetation, and most of the big crocs had seemingly been washed half way to Kenya.

Despite the rains, we had a wonderful hunt, and collected specimens of Tiang, an absolute monster of a Gerenuk late on a golden afternoon, a lovely little bat-eared fox (great bookcase mount) and a record-book Nile Crocodile

## NOT A HALF-HOUR PASSED BEFORE WE SAW A BIG BULL, STANDING IN EIGHTEEN INCHES OF WATER. THE BULL SAW US, AND BEGAN TO RUN.

(after much scouting about, and a one hundred and sixty yard shot across the roiling Omo). All were taken cleanly with the .340 Weatherby.

A top-notch Gerenuk Trophy. My good friend Jason is on the right

We tried hard for Abyssinian Bushbuck as well, climbing several mornings to vantage points to glass at the crack of dawn. This particular type of bushbuck is quite reddish, and resembles a scaled-down, miniaturized bongo, but, alas, no luck, although we did see some of the brightly colored females. An interesting and colorful trophy, but perhaps for another visit.

We also made several night drives for caracal (African Lynx), but only saw a small one. Pam did get to spot a very sleek six-foot python (which Jason ran out and caught by hand!!!!), as well as examples of the African wildcat, civet, and, of course, the pervasive jackal. Great fun!!

From the Omo, our Caravan picked us up and flew us through great, gray rainclouds to Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris’ new concession in the Dati swamps of far western Ethiopia.

The Dati Swamp area that we hunted resembled a 10 to 12-mile

wide saucer, with a central river channel, draining ultimately into the Nile, and therefore, eventually, the Mediterranean. Nile Buffalo inhabit the edges of the swamp, while in the central river channel hippos are reasonably abundant. Since everything is in water varying from six inches to six feet deep (or more), the area is a vibrant, florescent green that Ireland would envy.

We went out the first evening, and immediately saw Nile Buffalo. This concession is currently the only



A fine and rare trophy—Nile Buffalo

place in the world where you can hunt the Nile Buffalo, their main area being in adjacent Sudan, now closed to hunting. Given the reported level of poaching in Sudan, how many buffalo may remain in that country is speculative. Therefore, this is currently an exceedingly rare trophy.

The next morning we went out well before first light, and were on the edge of the swamps as the sun rose, casting bright silvery rays through the morning foggy overcast.

Not a half-hour passed before we saw a big bull, standing in eighteen inches of water. The bull saw us, and began to run. The bull was running diagonally across our front, and watching the spray thrown up by the proud bull as it ran through the knee-deep water in the silver first light was memorable. The bull stopped at about 160 yards, and looked at us, a perfect, coal-black silhouette of a bull in the gin-clear morning light.

I was shooting a .458 Winchester, using 500 grain softpoints, and a Leupold 1 ½-5 power illuminated scope.

In the morning light the red "X" of the illuminated scope nestled naturally on the coal-black point of the bull's shoulder. Jason asked if I thought I felt comfortable at this range. My response shattered the morning calm. The .458 recoiled, and I momentarily lost the sight picture. Since everyone was yelling, "high-fiving", and hopping up and down, I knew the shot had been good, but suddenly my scope was now opaque, and I couldn't see to place a second shot.

Jason said not to worry, that the bull was down, but I was frantically fiddling with my scope. We waded up to the bull, which was on its side, and I placed three more softpoints into the heart/lung area (ammo's cheap!) I fiddled again with the opaque scope, and upon turning the power ring all the way down and then back up, the scope suddenly cleared. What the .....?????

The first shot had hit right on the shoulder, blew out the shoulder, then windmilled down through the heart, which was about as perfect a shot as



Steak anyone? Twelve linear feet of Buffalo backstrap!

I could have prayed for. The bull was huge bodied, probably well over 1000 pounds, with heavy, mature bosses, and very fine points with something of a drop, which is hard to find on Nile Buffalo. The neck was so stout that I hesitate to say how incredibly heavy it was. An absolutely wonderful trophy of great rarity.

The only nagging fly in the ointment was the odd performance of the scope, which, since it now was crystal clear, I chalked up to some rare diesel-type effect in the moisture-saturated air.

As we began to clean out the bull, dark shoals of leeches arrived. We tied a rope around the horns, and dragged the carcass out of the deepest water with the Toyota truck, followed by the pursuing shoals of leeches. The leeches were surprisingly persistent, climbing up your waders like two-inch-long inch-worms.

The buffalo was a huge old bull, with hard 11" bosses and would provide meat for the camp staff and their dependents for days, if not weeks, to come. It was about as large as a cape buffalo, maybe ten percent less. The

staff laughed delightedly at the wealth of meat, loading great joints and assorted chunks of buffalo into the Toyota truck.

Our Dati adventure was to include a hippo, but, due to the unprecedeted rains, the center deep river channel was now a daunting two-and-one-half miles from the edge of the swamp, with small side channels that were up to ten feet deep.

Obviously, we needed a boat, as no one could wade/swim that distance holding a rifle above the water.

TA-DA!!!! Jason had a boat, but upon inflating it, a disheartening whistle followed. A bad (unrepairable) valve! The boat was deflated, useless. Jason, implacably determined, said to sit tight, while he figured out an answer.

His answer was the "African Queen II". The African Queen II consisted of two fifty-gallon fuel drums, a central twelve-inch plank with a back-rest, and two outriggers, with two blue five gallon jerry cans as outrigger floats. While stable, the raft required five to seven guys pushing or pulling the broad contraption through the eight-foot high papyrus grass.



Well, a yacht it ain't, but it beats swimming---the "African Queen II"

We started our hippo hunt early in the morning, with everybody pulling/pushing for all they were worth, except yours truly, (self-consciously!) astraddle the plank seat. It took about two hours to reach the broad, fast flowing central channel. Jason took the lead in pulling the raft, plunging ahead with the towrope over his shoulder. Sometimes, on the deeper channels he would backstroke across the deep water with the towrope clamped in his teeth. (What DO they feed that lad?)

We could hear the pod of hippos before we could see them, blowing plumes of steam into the cool air, and calling with their "WAAAK, WAAAK, WAAAK" calls.

Jason positioned us behind papyrus at the edge of a lagoon with hippos blowing and diving close across our front. We tried to get a shot at the hippos, but they now knew we were watching them, and showed themselves only for two to three seconds, rolling briefly with only their ears and eyes above water, blowing loudly, like miniature whales. The distance was only fifteen yards, but it was impossible to get a clear brain shot as they were rolling so quickly, and it took a second or two in any event to identify which were males and which were (illegal) females. Further, we could only consider the ones closest to us, which was where the slack water was.

(We couldn't shoot the hippo except in slack water, as the hippo would sink, and float to the surface only after an hour or so. If the surprisingly fast current got it, it would carry the submerged hippo away, and we would lose the trophy.)

After twenty minutes or so, we determined to try the far side of the lagoon, hoping for a better shooting opportunity. We circled laboriously to the other side of the lagoon. By this time the hippos were well aware

## IT WOULD BE NICE TO SPIN A POSITIVE END TO THE HIPPO STORY, BUT . . .

of our presence, and were watching our shivering little crew, with only attentive, alert eyes and ears out of the water, the ears flicking alertly.

Our new position had water behind us, with an irate hippo blowing threateningly behind us, and twenty or so alarmed cows and calves (plus, hopefully a shootable bull) in front of us. The hippos ten yards in front of us began to call excitedly, blowing and submerging like miniature attack submarines. Jason and the fellows were cold and trembling, and it was getting a bit tense.

I began to wonder about the wisdom of floating on two glorified beer cans, with 150,000 pounds of agitated hippo in front of us, and an extremely irate hippo thrashing about right behind us.

One hippo came towards us, and Jason said to get ready to break the charge. The hippo dived at the last minute, and was replaced in its turn by another threatening hippo. I again sighted the .458 a couple of feet in front of the approaching hippo, to break the charge, when Jason yelled "It's a bull, shoot". I had already begun my trigger squeeze, and, alas, the .458 went off before I'd fully adjusted the sight picture to a killing shot, with the bullet therefore smacking the water a foot in front of the hippo's nose.

A stunned silence told me I'd really screwed up! I thought I might still have killed the hippo, but Jason (with enormous restraint) told me that I'd "somehow" shot too low (at ten yards!), and that the hippo had submerged. We nevertheless waited for an hour in the cold water, but no hippo floated up, no movement

occurred, and no bubbles or ripples came to the surface.

Of course, as Jason pointed out, at such an oblique angle the bullet had simply ricocheted over the nose of the hippo.

Greatly dejected, we nevertheless heard more hippos about 300 yards up the river, and the fellows laboriously pulled/pushed the African Queen II to a new location.

There were about fifteen big bulls in a bachelor pod, right in the middle of the surprisingly fast flowing broad current. The river swept in a bend to the right, with the slack water eddying directly in front of us, with several papyrus reeds marking the edge of the slack water.

After so much effort on everybody's part, I wanted desperately to redeem myself, and for an hour or so I prayed fervently to all known Gods, current and/or ancient, that a big bull would (please!) venture over into the slack water in front of us, but with no success. I had worked down to Vishnu by about one-thirty, when we finally headed for the barn, Jason and the trackers having turned various shades of blue from standing chest deep in cold water since 7 a.m.

It would be nice to spin a positive end to the hippo story, but, honestly it just wasn't to be, and it was the only real failure of all the animals I hunted, yet it was also obviously a great adventure. Oh-well, as Jason said (with amazing restraint) "That's hunting."

**To be continued...**

# Member Update

Welcome to our new members! These members have joined since our last BaseCamp. We now have 222 Chapter members and 33 Sables members! Our goal is 225 Chapter members by December 2008; help make this goal a reality by encouraging your friends to join.

Michael Favreau

John Galeotti

Roberto Morello

Joe Benedetti

Dino Gurchet

Please ask your pro-hunting and conservation-minded friends and relatives to join us. There are many reasons to join — with the key one being political impact locally and nationally. SCI does the heavy lifting for hunting and hunters rights but our Chapter focuses on local conservation, education, and protecting our rights as hunters. The incentive of a \$50 gift certificate from Cabelas' for a new National Membership continues to apply — when you sign up a new member you can apply for a \$50 Cabela's gift certificate. All hunters serious about keeping our right to hunt intact should be a member of SCI and our Chapter! And, don't forget, it's fun!

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Would you be willing to serve as an officer or on a committee in this chapter? Please check one:

Yes ( ) No ( ) If yes, in what capacity would you like to serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Mission Statement for San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Safari Club International

- To promote good fellowship among those who love the outdoors and the sport of hunting, shooting and fishing.
- To promote conservation of the wildlife of the world as a renewable resource in which hunting is one management tool among many.
- To help conservation efforts by supporting worthwhile projects, both verbally and financially, when possible.
- To educate our youth in the safe and proper use of firearms and to interest and teach them in conservation and preservation of the forests and animals, which are our national heritage.
- To share the latest hunting experiences and information of our members so that other members may profit from same.
- To operate the association as a non-profitable organization, originated for the enjoyment of the members, and with the thought in mind that perhaps we can be of assistance in helping to conserve and preserve the animals which we love to hunt today for those who will come to love the sport tomorrow.



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