

The ntager

MAY/JUNE
2014

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EDWARDIAN GUNNER

NORTHEAST VINTAGERS SITTING DOWN TO DINNER AT ADDIEVILLE EAST FARM IN MAY



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THE BEST SHOT I EVER SAW

By John M. Chudzik.

If you have the time to read a story about hunting, then I will tell you a true one. I promise to entertain you and I may even make you laugh.

I have been hunting since I was ten years old, mostly squirrels and rabbits and such as you might hunt with a twenty-two bolt action rifle. I became a deer hunter at age sixteen and have been in pursuit of our common white-tails now for thirty one years. I am by no means a trophy hunter and I really do enjoy the hunt and find venison delicious. I also enjoy the camaraderie of the friends that I hunt with and have been present for some incredible shots on game and of course the tales that go with them. So, you see, I do not undertake this story lightly.

I have had the privilege of hunting in South Africa twice now, I hope to be able to go back soon as I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This story takes place in South Africa and involves not only a close, dear friend for years but also a Professional Hunter that has become a friend.

My Friend, Steve, wanted to collect a nice specimen of Blue Wildebeest (the Brindled Gnu for you Safari Purists) and our Professional Hunter, J.P. was taking him to a concession that had fine Wildebeest in good numbers. They set off early after a leisurely breakfast, the sun was out with no clouds and no ground fog, a "Blue-Bird Day".

On arriving at the concession Steve and J.P. hopped up onto the truck and began scanning as one of the trackers drove, one of our hunting party was along as well and rode in the cab with the tracker. They had been riding for an hour or so, checking various locations on the concession when they came into view of a large savannah with lush grass and sparse thorn bush. J.P. could see a herd of Blue Wildebeest out in the open about two hundred yards distant directly off the front of the truck and tapped the roof to signal a stop. What Steve could see, sitting on the left side of the truck, off to his left about two hundred yards was a herd of Wildebeest.

J.P. tells Steve that there is a fine Blue Wildebeest in the herd as he has seen it before, J.P. grabs his binoculars and motions for them to get down quietly. They walk almost to the front of the truck and J.P. plants the shooting sticks for Steve and then lets go as Steve settles his rifle into them. J.P. is now looking directly out from the truck at the herd of Blue Wildebeest, Steve is not. Steve is looking through his scope off to the left of the truck, at the Wildebeest that he had seen.

J.P. says "There is a very nice one there, fifth one from the left. Just let me look at the others for a second." Steve, novice that he is in judging Wildebeest, starts to count over from the left, "1, 2, 3, 4, that looks kind of small" to himself. J.P. is now done looking and

proclaims the fifth from the left as being the trophy of the herd and tells Steve to "Shoot the fifth one from the left." Steve repeats "fifth from the left." and counts over "1, 2, 3, 4, five looks kind of small." But, he says it aloud this time.

J.P. says "quit screwing around man, the herd is starting to get nervous, they won't stand much more time." Steve rebuts "that number five doesn't look all that big, are you sure?" J.P. shoots back "Of course I am sure now shoot or we will be all day trying to get this close again."

Steve thinks to himself, "well, maybe he is standing a little bit back from the herd and he just looks small because of it." Steve holds just a tad high to compensate and fires, bang. J.P. quickly shouts "Fire again, you've missed!" Steve can see through his scope that the animal has gone down; he works his bolt and then finds the animal in his scope again. J.P. yells now "Fire at him again before they run!" But Steve is watching through his scope and the animal that was standing fifth from the left has gone down and not gotten back up. All the rest of the herd has run off, save one that has only taken a few steps after turning in the direction the herd ran towards. Now the Blue Wildebeest that J.P. has been looking at in his binoculars the entire time begin to turn and run as well.

J.P. mumbles "bad luck" as he lowers his binoculars, Steve retorts, "looks pretty dead to me.", and is still looking through his scope as the lone wildebeest that stayed now runs off. Now J.P. can see what Steve is looking at off to the left of the truck and puts up his binoculars once again, "Oh, fukol man you've shot Black Wildebeest." That Wildebeest herd that Steve saw was all Black Wildebeest, but he didn't know. Steve also had done what a visiting hunter is told to do, trust your P.H. to choose the best trophy for you, he is familiar with the animals in his country and you are not. When they got to the downed Black Wildebeest, it was small; it was a juvenile about eighteen months old, and not on J.P.'s concession list. That mistake was to cost one thousand dollars, five hundred would have been the price if it was listed and another five hundred as a penalty.

Well, wasn't that a great story to have told around the fire that night, the guys of course took to Baaaahhing like sheep and calling for mommy whenever Steve was near them. I even quipped that he now had the only tri-fecta of Wildebeest hunting, Blue, Black and Baby, aren't hunting buddies great for such things?

The night before we were to leave the lodge we all sat around a great table, eight tired but satisfied hunters and four Professional Hunters to include J.P., the owner of the company. One of our party had gotten into town that day and had picked up two bottles of non-alcoholic champagne for a toast that night, Steve is a tea-totaler and we did not want him left out. Towards the end of

the meal a toast was suggested and the two bottles of champagne were brought out. J.P. stood and thanked us for our patronage of his company and for the entertainment that we had provided to him and his staff, we all clapped.

J.P. then made an offer to Steve that if he could fire the cork from a champagne bottle from his seat at the table into the fireplace thirty feet distant, that he would not charge the cost of Steve's mistaken Baby Wildebeest. Steve, having nothing to lose, accepted. Steve stood and was given a bottle; he peeled the foil and unwound the cage. Then a little nervously turned and said to J.P. "you know I do not drink, so this is a little awkward." J.P. said it was fine and that if he made it "I'm out the little fellow and not you." Steve tipped the bottle once and began to aim, then turned looking for guidance, someone shouted, "Even pressure, both thumbs." Now Steve tipped the bottle again and rested the bottle against his right hip and let the cork go.

The cork flew across the room, thirty feet distant and struck the nose of a shoulder mount Cape Buffalo which hung above the fireplace. The cork bounced off of the Buffalo and landed in the fire, to a round of cheers and laughter from everyone, Save J.P.



J.P. was still standing and said "damn-it , my wife hates when I make these stupid bets." Steve was however magnanimous and offered. "J.P. if you take the other bottle and can make the same shot, I will pay the thousand dollars, no hard feelings." J.P. quipped "That's not fair; do you know how many of these things I open every year?" Steve shot back, "Then let's see you do it."

J.P. picked up the bottle, peeled the foil and unwound the cage. He now turned to Steve and said, "Are you sure, a bet is a bet, but I don't want to take your money, this is too easy?" Steve told him to have his go at shooting the cork. J.P. tipped the bottle once, twice and a third time then lined up on the fireplace and fired with both thumbs. The cork shot up and struck a rafter , bouncing back spinning and came to rest clanking into the silverware of an unused place setting three feet from where it started.

We all had a good laugh and a toast to friends and a good flight come the next day. Steve was never billed for the mistaken shot at baby wildebeest as J.P. was true to his word. Not wholly a hunting story in the truest since, But with that bottle of champagne, Steve did make the best shot I Ever Saw.



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NOTES FROM THE DIRIGO CUP

Mal MacGregor shot a 94 and won the champion slot for the umpteenth year in a row. Mel Pentilla won state champion for the third year in a row with a solid 90. As usual, Scarborough Fish & Game did a great job with the targets. I never saw or shot this before but on two stations, we had simo pairs of going away targets, one headed for the netherworld at a dizzying speed, the other headed for an angled full sized trampoline. The trampoline bird glanced away, going high like a springing teal or unpredictably off to either side. What great pairs! Great sunny weather too, with just enough wind to control the black flies. We had 20 shooters, most of whom chose to join the group at The Portland Pie Co. for lunch, after an hour-long wait for a table.

— Al Poudrier

12th Annual DIRIGO CUP

2014 Maine State Side-By-Side Open Championship

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Order of Edwardian Gunners

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Sunday, May 4th

(Rain date: Sunday, May 11th)

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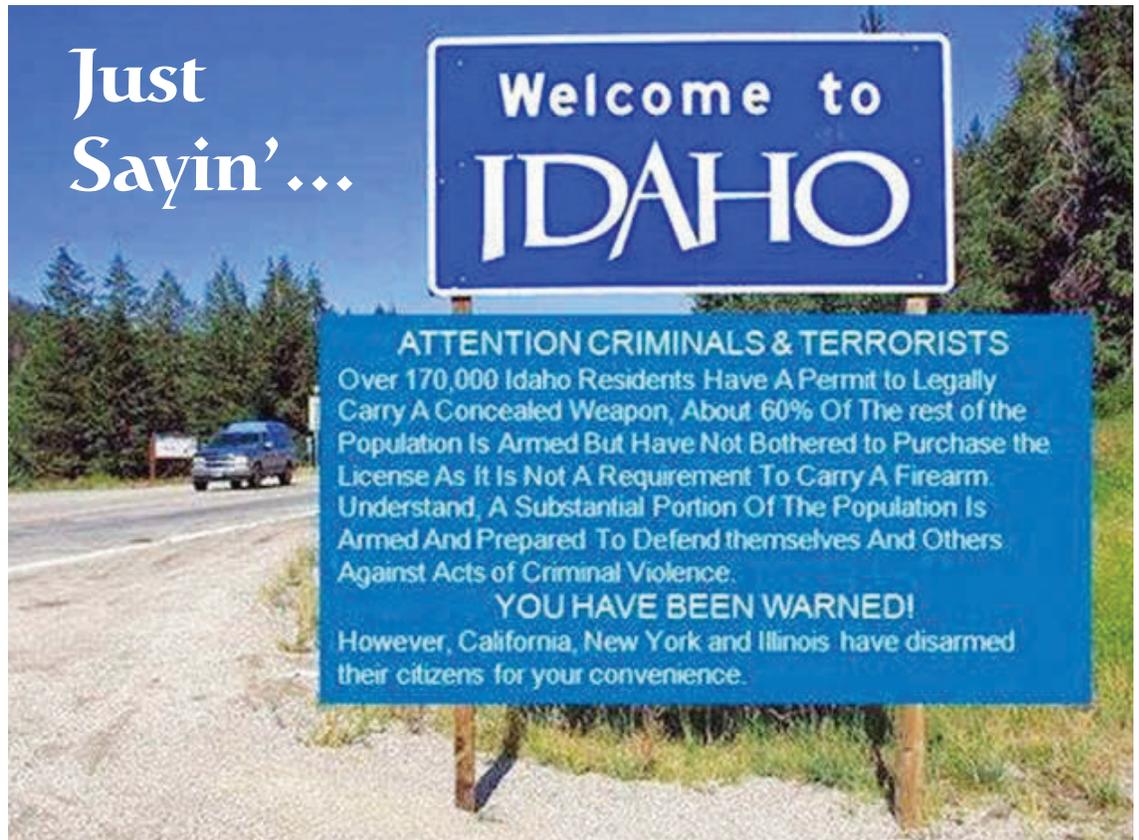
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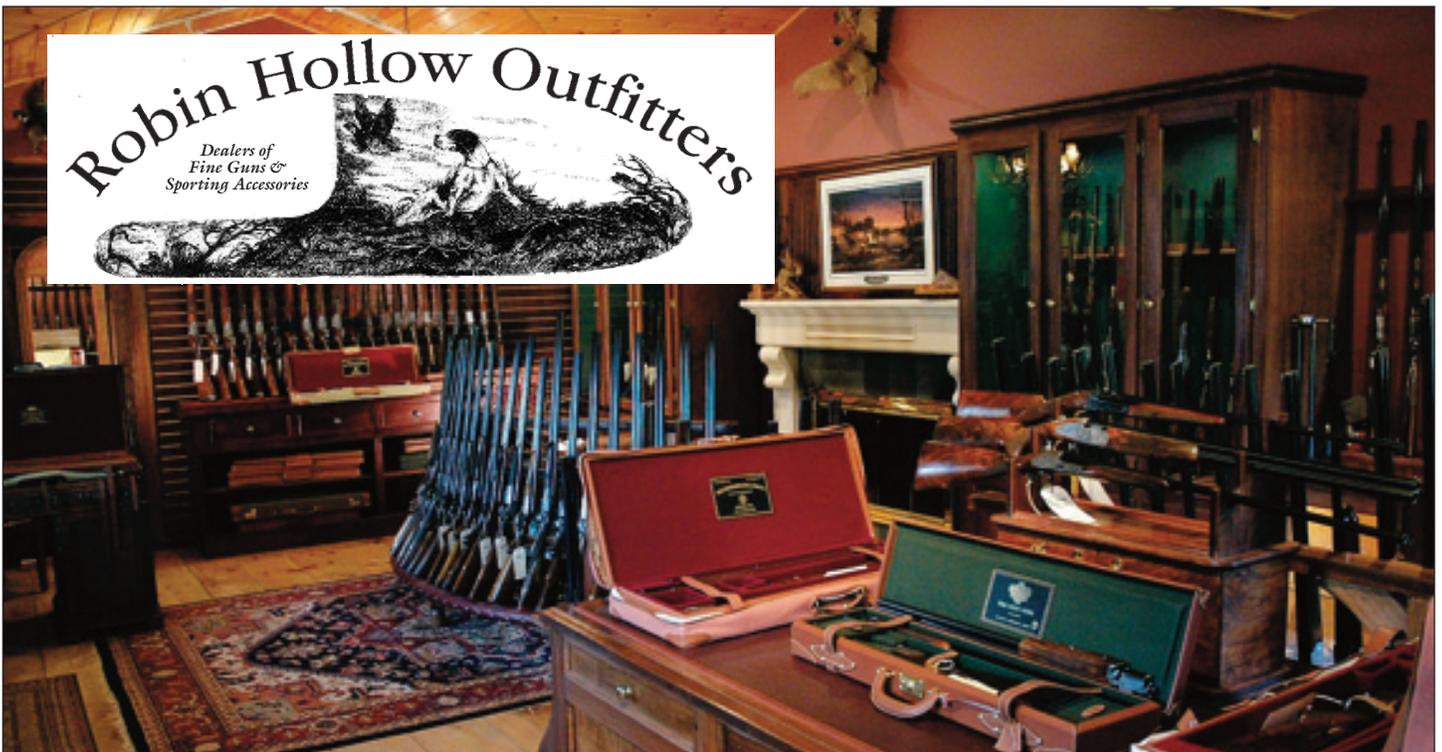
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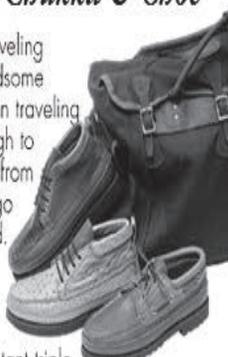

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2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

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July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, October 12—Cardinal Shooting Center, Marengo, OH

May 26, July 6—Jaqua's Fine Guns and Trap Club, Findlay, OH

June 8, Aug. 3—Black Wing Shooting Center, Delaware, OH

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NORTHEAST (NEW ENGLAND)

June 20—Beretta Shooting Grounds at Dover Furnace, Dover Plains, NY

July 18—Barre Sportsmen's Club, Barre, MA

August 15—Westford Sportsmen's Club*, Westford, MA

October 17—East Glastonbury Fish & Game*, Marlborough, CT

November—TBD

December 5—Addieville East Farm*, Mapleville, RI

*Catering by Chef Andy Lussier

DOWN EAST (MAINE)

May 4—12th Annual Dirigo Cup, Scarborough Fish & Game, Scarborough, ME

June 7—5th Annual Bob Gee Memorial, Green Mountain Shooting Preserve, Effingham, NH

July and August—4th Sundays of the month, Informal clays, Scarborough Fish & Game, Scarborough, ME

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LEATHERSTOCKING (CENTRAL NEW YORK)

June 6-8—Great Northeast, Hausmann's Hidden Hollow, Friendsville, PA

August 2—BSA Shoot, Sunset Farm Sporting Clays, Delanson, NY

October 4—Rocky Ridge Farm, Otego, NY, Annual Pheasant Shoot

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (COLORADO)

May 10—Sub-Bore Event, Quail Run, Kiowa, CO

June 14—High Noon in Nunn, Great Guns Sporting Clays

June 27–29—NRA Whittington Center, Raton, NM

July 4–6—Cast & Blast, Spur Outfitters, Saratoga, WY

July 26—Sage Productions, Piney Valley, Wolcott, CO

Aug. 9—Elephant Hunt with Ellis Brown, Fort Collins, CO

Aug. 24—Refined Bunch Game Feast, Quail Run, Kiowa, CO

October 5—Get Ready for Pheasants, Golden Gun Club, Watkins, CO

CAROLINA

June 28—The Fork Farm & Stables, Norwood, NC

August TBD—Primland Weekend

October 24-26—Fall Southern Side-by-Side, Backwoods Quail, Georgetown, SC

LONG ISLAND/GOLD COAST (NEW YORK)

All shoots begin at 2:00 pm unless stated otherwise

May 11—TBD—Trap followed by dinner

June 8—TBD—Skeet

July 13—TBD—5-Stand and Sporting Clays

August 10—TBD—Trap

September 14—TBD—Skeet

October 12—TBD—Flurry followed by dinner

November 9—TBD—Sporting Clays

December 14—TBD—U pick

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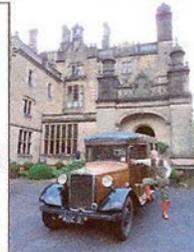
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Missed in March

- 8 Ben Martin, AL
- 21 Rory Vazquez, NY

Missed in April

- 7 Ginny Scheller, CT

May

- 5 Jeff Walker, FL
- 6 Michael Koprowski, MA
- 8 Robert E. Lee, NH
- 10 Edwina Gray, NY
- 11 Charles Ferree, NC
- 13 Dwaine Holden, NC
- 13 Roger Munderloh, GA
- 16 Danny Hellams, NC
- 18 Doug Fosdick, MA
- 18 Elizabeth Lanier, VA
- 20 Carl Bruner, AL
- 20 Shelly Neil Jackson, AL
- 23 David Cousineau, ME
- 23 Jack Figgie, MA
- 24 Warren Holshouser, NC
- 25 Ronald Hansen, Sr., SC
- 26 Matt Leonard, MA
- 28 Barb Carlson, CT
- 28 Andrea Cerwinske, VA
- 29 Bob Pike, MA
- 31 Oddvar Skadberg, NY

June

- 1 James Garrett, AL
- 7 J. David Bergquist, NH
- 7 Brian Burke, RI
- 9 Ron Shepherd, NH
- 10 Joseph Leone, NY
- 12 Edward L. Smith, AL
- 17 Chris Gilgun, MA
- 17 Vince Sharps, RI
- 18 Frank Long, NC
- 21 Don Currie, FL
- 26 Mike Ryland, CT
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Code: Vintage Cup (cut-off June 23)

Hilton Garden Inn Danbury – \$129/\$105

119 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT
203/205-2000

Code: CUP14 (cut-off August 24)

Courtyard by Marriott Danbury – \$129

3 Eagle Road, Danbury, CT
203/730-2228

Code: The Vintage Cup (cut-off August 24)

Hampton Inn Danbury – \$119/\$109

381 Newtown Road, Danbury, CT
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Code: VOG (cut-off September 2)

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