CRUISER SAFARIS

EST. 1995

2021 SAFARI NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2021 newsletter. 2020 was our 25th anniversary and everyone knows what happened to that year. Since there were no clients, the time was spent to build several new water holes, new blinds and upgraded some of the roads. The breeding herds expanded and required moving some of them to our other properties. Our chef DelMarie had an operation and has now made a full and complete recovery.

This year there was still a lot of apprehension over international travel, however we hosted several hunters who all had extremely successful safaris with the only new requirement being obtaining negative COVID tests. No one had any problems at all, either arriving or departing, and as you will see from the posted hunters' pictures, they all were very happy and comfortable during their stay. Other than the tests many new memories were made and the usual exuberance of taking an African trophy every day always ended with the excited conversations of what had happened followed by a relaxing evening with an outstanding meal and the dreams of what the next day will bring. During 2021 we also set 2 new biggest at Cruiser Safaris records, a 49 ½" Sable and a 5 5/8" Steenbok.

Pieter & Lizelle's son Christiaan graduated from high school and will be studying as a Millwright. Our PH Rudolph and his wife are expecting their second baby. Congratulations! And a special shout out to Pieters' father who turned 96 and is still going strong!

As always in this newsletter, we are including all of the hunters that have come to Cruiser's along with every trophy that they took. Also included are their safari stories that they have sent. Sometime we don't receive these stories right away, however when we do receive them, we will add them to this newsletter. In following my tradition of trying to give the reader of the newsletter the feeling of actually being on their safari with them, all of the stories that are included here are those actually written by our clients. If you have a story, be sure to send it to us so all can enjoy the highlights of your safari. We have now made sure that there are pictures included here on everyone that has hunted with us this year.

Included in this newsletter are all of the clients' trophies and those trophies that qualify for the record book are indicated by a * and in the case of Kudu's, their size is also listed. Since the "pandemic" hit there has been a huge growth of "Trolls" on social media. In order to protect our clients from these unwanted remarks and views we are now just limiting everyone's name to just their first name. Also, we will no longer list where they are from. I hope everyone enjoys this 2021 edition of Cruiser Safaris newsletter.

REGARDS, CRUISER BOB

TOM & TIM

ANIMALS TAKEN:

Tom - Sable*, Black Impala*, Steenbok*

Tim - Eland*, Steenbok*, Blue Wildebeest*, Gemsbok*, Blesbok*, Impala*, Black-Backed Jackal

HIGHLIGHTS:

You can't beat Cruiser's because of the people, the animals were great, but the people were better.

RUSTY

ANIMALS TAKEN:

2 – Kudu* (50" & 54"), Warthog*, Sable*, Waterbuck*

HIGHLIGHTS:

Rusty was the first hunter we had since the pandemic. He encountered no problems in his travels and was so comfortable with the way everything went he has already booked a return safari for 2022.

BRUCE & MICHAEL

ANIMALS TAKEN:

Bruce - Eland*, Sable*, White Blesbok*, Nyala*

Michael - Sable*, Golden Wildebeest*, Kudu, White Blesbok*, Black Impala*, Gemsbok*, Steenbok*

PAUL AND LORI

ANIMALS TAKEN:

White Blesbok*, Sable*, Nyala*, Zebra, Waterbuck*, Warthog*

HIGHLIGHTS:

Had the best hunt and travel experience ever. This was my 3rd time to South Africa to hunt and I've never had a better experience or made such good friends as I have this trip, Thanx.

MITCHELL AND LINDA

ANIMALS TAKEN:

Waterbuck*, Sable*, Zebra, 5 – Warthogs, Impala*

KARL & JIM

ANIMALS TAKEN:

Karl - Zebra, Blue Wildebeest*, Gemsbok*

Jim - Impala, Gemsbok, Blue Wildebeest, Kudu

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Chris, John & John II

ANIMALS TAKEN:

Chris - Impala*, Gemsbok*, 2 – Kudu* (51" & 56 5/8"), Warthog*

John - Kudu* (56 5/8"), Warthog*

John II - Impala*, Gemsbok*, Kudu* (53 ½")

HIGHLIGHTS:

(Chris) The number one animal on my list was to get my dad (John) his Kudu. We hunted for his Kudu for 2 and half days across 3 different properties until we finally caught up with a willing participant in the river bottoms nearby. After Rudolph spotted the Bull about 300 yards away, we made stalk on the animal and when the time came my dad made a perfect shot that resulted in the animal going less than 50 yards before collapsing down a small embankment. After a quick track and recovery my dad laid his hands on the horns for the first time. At that moment a 62 year long, dream became a reality! To have been a part of this with my date who is now 74 years old is a moment I will cherish forever!

(John II) Well since the Kudu was at the top of my list it seemed like I was hunting him for 5 days until the opportunity finally presented itself. On that particular day we were spotting and stalking through the bush that morning when I had the opportunity to take an Impala that we spotted and then stalked through the bush! We then began our hunt for the Kudu and spotted several mature Bulls that we stalked through the bush but the Grey Ghost managed to disappear every time. Then around 16:40 we spotted 2 young Bulls, then as if a magician had said abracadabra a large mature bull stepped out from behind the bush! I had learned from my previous 4 days that time was of the essence and he would only give me a few seconds for the shot. I was already locked onto the Kudu when Munsu asked me if I saw him and I replied yes. As the words came out of his mouth "shoot", I squeezed off the round and sent the 180gr Nosler bullet down range to its target which made a direct hit to the vitals. The Kudu walked approximately 30 yards before it was down. When we walked up on him, I was completely amazed at his beauty and size!!! I was elated to have finally secured my trophy that I had hunted so hard for the previous days! It was certainly an experience I will never forget as long as I live!!!

JOHN, LISA, JACK, AMANDA AND SARAH
HUNTING STORY AND PHOTOS

After an extra year of waiting thanks to the pandemic, an extra set of RT tickets to South Africa thanks to a defunct South African Airways, and more than enough paperwork, questionnaires, testing, and airline/CBP escapades, the trip was finally executed. This was trip #5 to Cruiser's for me and #2 for the whole family. My wife Lisa, and two daughters, Amanda & Sarah (now 22 & 19), had previously experienced Cruiser's in 2013. We booked with Bob in May of 2019 for this trip and had been anticipating ever since. The girls had hunting packages and I was a "casual" observer. This year's trip also included a very special person in Amanda's world – Jack. This was a new experience for him. We arrived later in the day than normal, but Cruiser's accommodated airport collection and transport. Pieter PH, did the honors. The ride from the airport to the camp was different this time. No lingering and only one pit stop. We were greeted by Tiny & Pieter late in the evening. All good and back home – literally for me! It was great to be back. Tiny had prepared some late-night snacks and had everything ready with our chalets. Jack was noticeably impressed by the accommodations we were to be subject to for the week ahead. The rest of us were familiar.

This trip, I brought a .30-06 and a 6.5x284 Norma (FYI – SAPS doesn't recognize the caliber, so call it a 6.5mm if you bring one – long story at the SAPS office) for my daughters to use. After a short night's sleep, I sighted the rifles in quickly in the am with Pieter L. and Pieter F. Then the girls and Jack lobbed a couple shots each into the target from the shooting sticks to gain the confidence of our hosts before setting out into the bush.

Day 1 - Amanda & Jack were guided by Pieter F. for this trip with Munsu driving and tracking. I went out with Sarah and Pieter Lamprecht on the first day of hunting. Johannes was our driver and tracker. This was my first experience hunting with Pieter. It was obvious he enjoyed PH duties. He was a master.

Not sure what we set out for initially. I believe gemsbok. But no matter. In our quest, we of course ran into many other potential objectives that piqued our interest and we obliged by stalking. All seemed to have had help from the wind and other species. After a couple hours of unsuccessful stalks, we came across a small herd of eland cows. I suggested that Sarah break the suspense with a female eland should we get the opportunity. We pursued only to have or mission busted by the swirling winds as Sarah had the rifle across the sticks waiting for a clear shot. No matter, we almost immediately came across a nice warthog who stayed in an opening for a couple seconds too long. One shot with the 6.5x284 and it was picture time and the ice had been broken. We loaded the pig onto the truck and Pieter had us continue on foot heading upwind. It wasn't long before we had covertly (ducked and crawled) snuck up on a herd of impala. The dominant ram was preoccupied with running off the younger rams and pursuing the females. We watched from our vantage point for nearly 30 minutes before they settled down and a shot presented itself. Sarah was impatiently waiting on the sticks for some time but delivered a good shot when necessary.

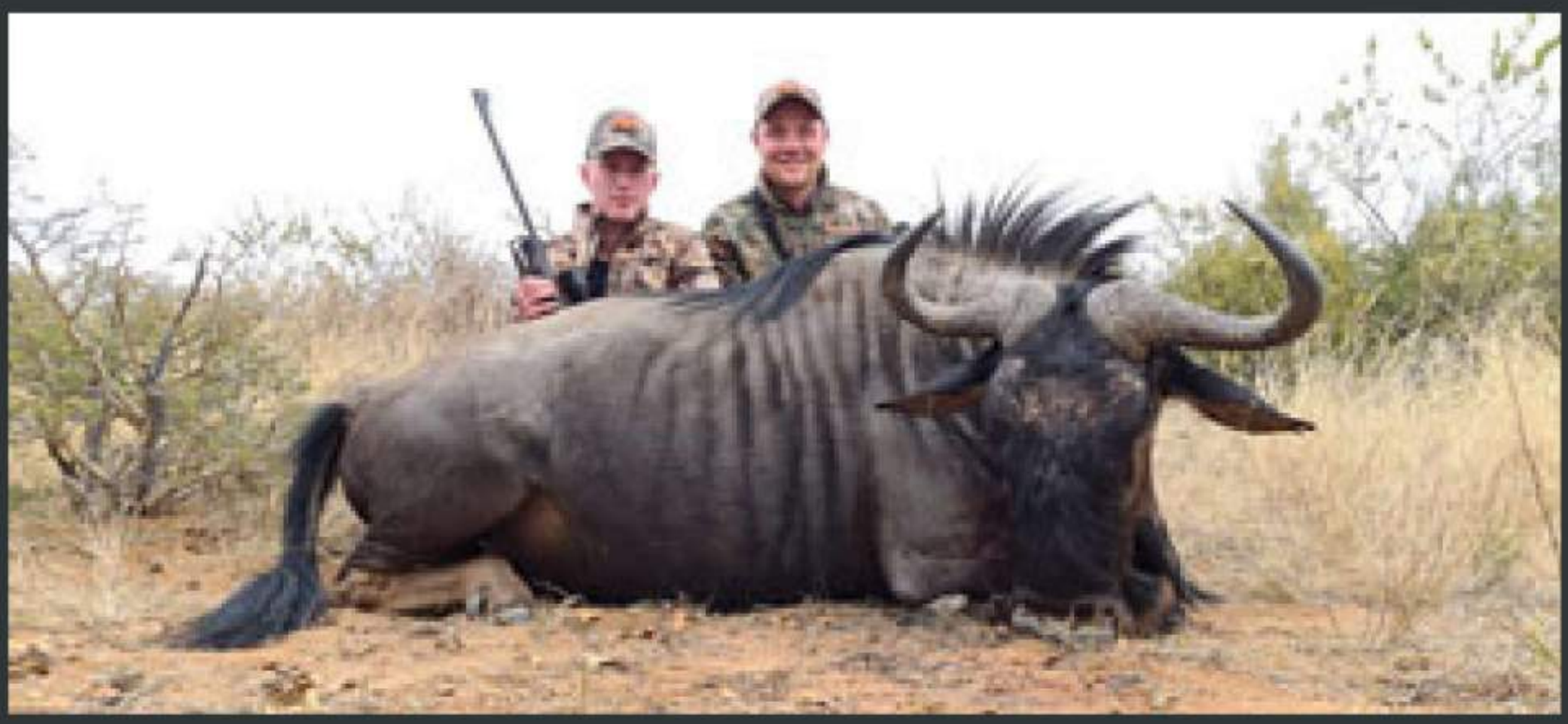
Pieter F., Amanda, and Jack spent the day on another concession north of the camp. They had a game filled day as well. Much spotting, much stalking, and success. Amanda secured a nice impala. Can't tell I wasn't there based on the lack of story filler.

Day 2 - Rudolph now assumed the PH duties with Sarah. I tagged along as we headed to a familiar concession. This was the site of my first hunt in Africa back in 2011. Unfortunately, the day was unlike no other ever on the continent for me. Not sure where to start – reality check day. Before noon we had three flat tires on our truck. All the same location on the truck. Only one (the first flat) delayed our bush entry and that was less than 15 minutes thanks to Johanes & Munsu. The others were in locations that did not interrupt our hunting but did provide for some extra hiking time. We just headed into the thick on foot and on abundant fresh tracks. After about three miles of hoofing it and bumping numerous game block to block in the concession, we came across gemsbok. Access to a decent shot proved difficult. The wind was not helping – swirling and gusting. Several attempts were made with no success. Rudolph contacted Johanes and brought the truck (fully repaired) around. On our way to a new vantage point, we came across zebra blasting across the vehicle path followed by a familiar herd of gemsbok again. They were making pretty good ground. Johanes stopped the truck and we watched the parade of animals. The gemsbok came to a halt in the bush about 80-100 yards out to the right of the truck. We observed them for a couple minutes as they milled around. Rudolph assessed the animals and determined there was a couple good bulls, one with exceptionally thick bases. However – we could not move from the back of the truck and were relegated to waiting for a clear shot on the bull. They were unconcerned of our presence for about three minutes. Sarah got into a good position with the rifle almost immediately just in case. In an instant, the bull quartered toward us, Rudolph confirmed with Sarah the target, and she sent a shot into it. Looked like a good hit. We found decent blood in about 30-40 yards out from the point of impact but it wasn't down. After an hour or so tracking, we decided to connect with the others (Pieter F., Amanda, & Jack) for lunch and continue our quest thereafter. Turns out, the other hunting party had spent much of the morning tracking a blue wildebeest hit by Jack. It was hit, but not lethal. They had no luck securing the animal. We had a very nice picnic barbeque in the bush next to a large natural pond. Pieter L had come out to join us and brought Lisa. After lunch, Munsu lead the tracking of Sarah's gemsbok. His tracking skills were exceptional but after 3-4 hours of tracking, we ran out of daylight.

We were to resume tomorrow. Unfortunately, the wildebeest hit by Jack was not to be found this afternoon either. They had found a location where the animal laid down likely long enough to coagulate the wound. Three flat tires and two lost animals.

Day 3 - My wife and daughters headed into Thabazimbi for a day of relaxation and spa treatments. Jack went out with Pieter F. to seek the previous day's wildebeest, I ventured out with Rudolph and Munsu tracking Sarah's wounded gemsbok again. We all went in the same truck today. We spent the better part of the morning on its track, even finding blood from several hours after the initial hit. Again, Munsu & Pieter F's tracking ability was astounding. Unfortunately, we seemed to be chasing a pretty healthy animal with no apparent end in sight. Lunchtime we headed to a familiar spot to meet Pieter F and Jack. On our way in with the truck, we were being waved off by Johanes. We were quick to notice they had set up under a shady spot for lunch and a nice wildebeest bull was walking in their direction. What we were unaware of was their intent to secure said wildebeest bull. Needless to say, we blew their chances barreling into their location with the truck – guess they should have radioed us but things happen fast.

We had a nice lunch thanks to Tiny. During lunch, a couple warthogs made an appearance about 150 – 200 yards across the pond. Each time, Jack was quick to grab a rifle and eager. One was a good boar but only presented himself for about 10 seconds, the other was too young. We were to venture back on the trail in about an hour after lunch, but Jack was wandering around the location – likely enthusiastic to again pursue game. While he was wandering, we heard a familiar grunt several times behind us in the thick. Jack headed back to our picnic location to inquire what was making that sound. Pieter F had the shooting sticks in hand already and told him to grab the rifle. It was wildebeest. We sat patient as Pieter took Jack into the bush. About 15 -20 minutes after their departure, we heard a single rifle crack with a distinct report like it hit something solid. 15 minutes later, Jack and Pieter returned to report a single shot success on the wildebeest. He hit it square in the shoulder with the 6.5x284 at about 50 yards. The wildebeest bolted directly at them and collapsed about 20 yards in from of them. We all loaded into the safari trucks and headed to the animal. It was a nice bull. Jack was now addicted.



After pictures and wildebeest loading, we concentrated on getting me on an animal and checking a remote area of the concession for any sign of Sarah's wounded gemsbok. We came across many animals with zebra being a good quarry for the afternoon. On the truck, off the truck, follow the zebra. They move, then move, then move some more. Finally, we got to a position on foot flanking the zebra and a potential shot. However, they were spooked by gemsbok coming out from one block across a vehicle path. With the zebra bolting away as they so often do, we started assessing the gemsbok. We set up the sticks using the bush as cover as they warily came into and crossed the opening. They were not aware of our presence. Three or four made it across the opening – all were good bulls. As the fourth stepped out, Rudolph identified it as Sarah's wounded gemsbok. It stopped just short of safety across the path where I finished him off. We headed up to the point of impact. The others brought the truck up and we all headed in on foot. No immediate blood. We headed directly into the bush perpendicular to the path. Jack went in the bush about 10 yards above the point of impact and immediately found blood and the gemsbok 20 yards from the hit. My bullet hit from the left through the heart and lodged just under the skin on the right shoulder. There was a single entrance wound on the upper front quarter of the animal believed to be from Sarah. Good hit but nothing vital in the path apparently. We were all happy - especially Sarah.

A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS...

Day 4 - With only a Kudu left in Sarah's package, we headed across the Matlabas river to an adjacent concession. Amanda and Pieter F went out in search of her remaining animals with the focus on gemsbok. We spent the better part of the morning trying to spot Kudu. We came across a few isolated groups of cows and a few young bulls before spotting a worthy bull. Once we did, it was stalking time with a breezy swirling wind. We worked a small group of Kudu on and off for about 90 minutes on foot. The stalks included a couple long distance crab and belly crawls – Okay for my 19 year old daughter. Fun for me until I had to stand up again. In that time, we had 2 or 3 potential shot opportunities. Unfortunately, each time the bull positioned itself deep in the thick thorns where only a portrait of its face and horns were visible. The body was not to be seen from our vantage points. A few minutes on the sticks in the stare-down only lead to the inevitable – the Kudu bolting away. We hopped back on the truck for some additional spotting. We circled several blocks looking for fresh tracks crossing the vehicle path without any luck. Rudolph determined that the Kudu must have remained in a specific block so we determined the direction of the wind and headed in for peek. We bumped several other animals but no Kudu so we called to meet the truck. About 10 minutes on the back of the truck, we spotted the bull we were stalking earlier. Rudolph motioned to Johanes to stop the truck so we could get off but it was too late, the Kudu had us in a stare-down. Sarah set up with the rifle on the Kudu in hopes a shot would present itself. Once again, the bull was facing us directly with thick brush protecting its vitals. If it moved left or right a foot or so, a decent shot would be available but for a short period. Rudolph whispered this and other shot placement instructions to Sarah as we waited. The Kudu's ear twitched and turned as if it was distracted. Rudolph told Sarah he may move soon so she was to be ready. The bull took one step to its left exposing the right front shoulder. Without hesitation, it was picture time.

The afternoon provided more success for Amanda and Jack. Amanda procured a nice Gemsbok and Jack was successful on a big eland. The eland was in the deep bush requiring a tractor for the extraction. This made their afternoon more eventful and exciting. Each animal was taken with the 6.5x284 Norma and a 156 gr. Oryx Bullet. So far, the caliber provided one shot kills on a warthog, impala, blue wildebeest, gemsbok, and eland. Nice range of animals for the caliber. Proper placement and good bullets are vital.

Day 5 – The morning was fruitful for Amanda. She was accompanied by Sarah & Jack. They were quickly successful with the assistance of Pieter in securing a nice warthog.

I spent the better part of the morning with Rudolph in search of something. I had designs on several potential quarry and shared that with Rudolph. I was going to be opportunistic and see what prevailed. We bumped several species including zebra, eland, wildebeest, waterbuck, and hartebeest. The eland caught our attention a few times. We stalked a small group of cows for a short time that included more belly crawls and other stealth positions that proved to require Motrin later. We stalked to about 30 yards from the cows. Nothing sizable though but it did provide for some close-up video. The cows had no idea of our presence and walked within 10-15 yards before they saw us. Closest I have ever been to an eland. Needless to say, they soon disappeared and ran for a while. Rudolph called the truck back to collect us and deliver us to a new location. Once in place, we started our stalk. Rudolph found 2- 3 hour old eland spoor and tracks. Soon after, we found a feeding location for the eland where they had ripped trees down to get to the leaves. Spoor was getting fresher and tracks were as well. After about an hour and a half into this stalk, Rudolph's movements were noticeably changing. We were moving very slow and careful. We were in a really thick area of the concession. Navigation was arduous. We came upon a group of 4 eland bulls about 80-100 yards in front of us. Rudolph spotted the shape of one of the bull's horns. It wasn't until we had repositioned a couple times that we could determine there were 4. Too thick and no shot availability. After several minutes of glassing and assessing, we hit the ground and improved our position. Same problem – too thick and no clean shot. The bulls were still unaware of our presence. We stayed in our position for about 40 to 50 minutes carefully watching them in hopes they would start grazing. I positioned myself on the sticks at Rudolph's request. Rudolph had conveyed which bull to focus on. It was facing directly away from me now. The others were buried with very limited visibility. If the bull stepped right, I would have a shot. Left would not be good. Another 10 minutes or so passed by and still nothing. We waited. One of the other bulls could be seen moving – starting to graze. This proved to be good as my bull stepped to the right exposing a good clean path for the bullet. I hit the bull solid. In a brief moment, we heard a thunderous crash and death bellow. The bull buried itself in some heavy thorns

No standard vehicle was going to make it in here to retrieve the one ton bull so we radioed camp for the tractor. We were about a 700 yards from the nearest potential vehicle path. After the travel to the concession, clearing out brush, trees, and other potential tractor obstacles, we loaded the eland in the tractor. The extraction was most of the afternoon (about 3 hours) but well worth it.

While we were having our fun with the eland hunt, Amanda and Pieter were focused on securing a nice bull. Preoccupied by our quests, we had not heard any news. We finally made contact with Pieter F to determine how Amanda's day had transpired and discovered that she had taken a big bull Kudu – so her package was now complete and further hunting pressure removed. Another one shot success for the 6.5x284 on a large animal!

After some brief quiet time around camp, we were assembled to the vehicles and transported just before sunset for an outdoor barbeque at the picnic braai along the river. It was lit up with many solar lights and two fires. The grilling hadn't started yet but commenced soon after arrival. Tiny had made a host of hors d'oeuvres and side dishes. We congregated at the full bar for an adult beverage and settled into the peaceful surroundings. Pieter F and Rudolph did the honors at the grill with gemsbok loins and some wildebeest medallions to round out the entrée portion. Meal, company, and atmosphere were incomparable.

Day 6 - We slept in a little this AM with Rudolph and me slipping out shortly after 8:00AM for some brief stalking and looking to be opportunistic again. After some quick spotting, we entered into a relentless pursuit of a heard of zebra but the target stallion would not cooperate. Running out of time before a planned family adventure, we abandoned the chase. However, no disappointment as the stalk is by far the best part of the hunting here.
We returned to camp for an early lunch and departure for the Mokolo Dam boat ride.
We spent four hours cruising, taking in the scenery, taking pictures, fishing a little with some success, and relaxing with beverages. Highly recommended side trip! We saw Kudu, klipspringer, mountain reedbuck, common reedbuck, baboons, and a baby crocodile. We had a couple sun showers during our ride that made for some good photo opportunities as well.

Day 7 - Our last full day at Cruisers was another family day. Today, we went to Pilanesburg Nature Reserve for an enjoyable day of viewing numerous species – some up close. Immediately upon entering the Nature reserve, we encountered a herd of elephants. The most enjoyable event was being held up for nearly 20 minutes on the road by a mother white rhino and her two calves. She was very protective of her calves and stayed between the vehicle and them for some time as they grazed along the road. She was not amenable to letting us pass. We were very pleased with the trip as we had numerous rhino sightings, including black rhino, elephants, hippos, crocs, and every other plains animals. We had our own barbeque in the park in a secure area. Tiny had prepared marinated eland for us to grill in the protected BBQ area of the reserve. Pieter F. did the honors - Highly recommended.

Last morning in Camp – The sadness for me set in a couple days before this but it is inevitable. We had breakfast and were packed out by 8:30 AM. We had a stop in Pretoria to meet Pieter and Lizelle as they were there for a game auction that took place the night before. We met Pieter & Lizelle for the formal goodbyes and gratitude - More sadness. We had a quick lunch and headed to Highveld Taxidermy where we were met by Thomas Ochsenbein to process our trophy requests. After that – airport and final goodbye and thank you to Pieter F. See you all again in Early 2023!!!!

DUANE, CRAIG AND MARK
HUNTING STORY AND PHOTOS

OK, so let's start at the beginning, sometime in 2018 or maybe 2019, three cousins, Craig, Mark & Duane decided they should go to South Africa for a hunt. Duane had twice previously hunted in South Africa at Cruiser Safari's… Craig had hunted once with a different outfitter and Mark has not previously been to Africa. Plans were initially made for a hunt in July of 2020…. But as you know, the Wohan Black Plaque put dampers on many plans that year and the hunt was pushed to July of 2021.

The following will be a day-by-day summary of some highlights of the hunt. Most of you probably know who Murphy is…. The guy that believes if anything can go wrong, it will and at the worst possible moment. Murphy did participate in our trip, but overall, it was a great success. Some in our group may have set a new record for the most animals shot on one hunt. In the week leading up to our hunt, there was some political problems happening in South Africa resulting is some rioting and killings. Although some thought we should again delay the hunt, we ultimately decided to go for the gold.

Day 1 (Travel) 13 July 2021: Craig and Mark flew to Chicago and then on to Newark, NJ, arriving late afternoon. Murphy's initial participation played a role in getting the corona virus test that was required within 72 hours of flying and Mark looking for keys that locked his gun case. Duane flew out of Dulles airport and landed in Newark, NJ a short time after Mark and Craig arrived. Our international flight was scheduled to depart at 8:45PM that evening.

2. Day 2 (Travel). Although we departed on this flight about 30 minutes late, we arrived on time at 5:45 PM 14 July 2021 in Johannesburg, South Africa. We had gained six hours on the clock and the flight was about 15 hours. We stood in line a bit for the passport check, grabbed our suitcases, the customs/agriculture check was not operating so we walked into the lobby and found the PH (Pieter) waiting to pick us up. In the past I had spent the night at the Afton Guest House and was picked up by the outfitter then next morning, but the Afton was full so the outfitter picked us up for the 4 hour drive to the hunting camp….. now of course we needed to stop next at the customs/police to get out gun permit. I think 5 guys were in there when we arrived. The other guys were cleared rather quickly…. The 3 of us then waited about two hours to get cleared… Don't ask me why, but I hear it happens from time to time. I think we hit the road in a Van about 8PM and arrived in camp just after midnight. They had a light meal for us and we hit the rack.

Day 3 (Hunt Day 1).
15 July: As I recall we slept in a bit and had breakfast about 9 AM, then went to the range to test fire the guns. Duane was shooting a .338 Win Mag, Mark a 300 Win Short Mag and Craig was the big gun with a 375 H&H. Mark was assigned Pieter as his PH. Pieter was the guy that picked us up at the airport. Craig was assigned a PH named LJ and Duane was assigned a PH named Munsu (nickname). We each had a Toyota Landcruiser and tracker/driver assigned as well. We were all assigned to properties relatively close to the lodge, so we returned about 12:30 for lunch. Mark was first to score and had a Wildebeest in the truck when he returned for lunch. The afternoon became more exciting for all. We eat wild game for most meals… food was good. Hot water bottles in the beds at night was a nice touch.

Duane shot a Sable with 43 inch horns.

Craig shot a Sable with 44 1/2 inch horns

and a White Blesbok with 16¾" horns.

Mark: Big Day for a first time African Hunter. He shot the Blue Wildebeest in the morning and in the afternoon, he managed to take an Impala, Gemsbok and Kudu.

Day 4 (Hunt Day 2).
16 July
Duane: Shot a Bushbuck late in the day with 15.5 inch horns…. After a long day of hunting along a dry river bed. The picture makes the animal look bigger than it is… probably 120lb animal.

Craig: Shot a Golden Wildebeest with 28 inch horn lengths and a Nyala with 27 ½ inch horns.

Mark: Slowed down a bit today and shot a Blesbok. Our memory is a bit foggy on this, but I believe it was also on this day that as we were leaving the hunting area, the guide pointed out to Mark that back down the road two Jackals were on the road. Marked leaned on the fence, asked the guide how far and touched off a shot. One of the jackals folded. This was just after sun set, so it was getting dark, we drove back down to take a look and used a range finder back to the shooting site and the distance was right at 380 yards. Mark elected not to take the jackal since he had made a substantial hole in the hide.

Day 5 (Hunt Day 3).
17 July
Duane: Zero day
Craig: Shot a very nice waterbuck with 27 inch horns and Steenbuck with 3 ¾ inch horns.
Mark: He had been looking closely at the sable… and shot one of his own, the biggest of the group with 45/46 inch horns.

Day 6 (Hunt Day 4)
18 July Sunday. Day of rest.. just bummed around camp and rested. Cooked steaks on the outside grill on wood coals.

Day 7 (Hunt Day 5).
19 July 21: Duane and Craig – zero day.
Mark: Shot a Zebra and Warthog

Day 8 (Hunt Day 6)
20 July 21
Duane: After two long days of chasing eland, I managed to get one at about 100 yards with 33 inch horns. This animal has a huge body. Craig and Mark had a zero day.

Day 9 (Hunt Day 7)
21 July 21
Mark and Duane spent this day and another half day watching the catching of wild animals to be relocated to other hunting areas. A team had come in the previous day and strung cabling in a cone shape for several hundred yards, canvas walls were built 10 feet high. Cable was also hung for a closure on the open end of the cone and the tarps were bunched up to leave the large end of the cone open. A helicopter then chased animals into the cone and sounded a siren telling men on the ground to close off the opening, as the animals were pushed into the smaller end of the cone another set of walls were closed and the animals then pushed into shoots and into vehicles. The bigger animals were tranquilized, not to a state of sleeping, but enough to calm them. I believe they caught blesbok, impala, waterbuck, zebra and eland. Mark took video of the animals entering the truck. The bigger animals were herded into cells on the trucks for transport. Smaller ones like the blesbok and impala were man handled into smaller trailers. Blesbok were docile, but the impala raised hell. A couple of guys were kicked, head butted and generally beat up pretty bad. It was an interesting experience.
Craig shot a big male zebra on this day.

Day 10 (Hunt Day 8):
22 July 21
Duane: on the way to watching the game catching, Duane Shot a warthog. Mark and Craig had a zero day.
Another interesting tidbit is we observed smoke a few miles off. And radio chatter started big time, they apparently don't really have fire departments in this rural area and ranchers just all pitch in and fight fires when it happens. We learned most ranchers have trailers with water tanks, and gas-powered pumps and they all come running when there is a fire. I believe the fire started early morning and they had it under control by early evening. Pieter, our ranch owner took men and helped to fight the fire.

Day 11 (Hunt Day 9)
23 July 21
Duane: We spent much of the day trying to help Craig get an eland, but along the way I shot an impala (23 inch horns) and sat in a water blind over the lunch period and got a 38 inch male Gemsbuck.
Mark and Craig had a zero day.

Day 12 (Hunt day 10)
24 July 21
Duane: After another day of primarily helping Craig try and get an eland, I shot a second warthog on the way back to the lodge. It was a bit bigger than the first.
Craig shot a black impala with horns about 19 ½ inches.
Mark had a zero day.

One event that Cruiser Safari always plans is big BBQ out on a dry river. The event was conducted this evening and I'll insert several pictures to give you a feel for the event. We had eland tenderloins as the main course.....Great time was had by all. Our chef, Del Marie is also pictured. She is wearing a hat I gave the lodge back in 2017.

Day 13 (Hunt day 11)
25 July 21
Duane had a zero day.
Craig: In addition to the eland that Craig has been chasing for several days, he had seen a waterbuck with deformed horns and wanted that animal as well. He managed to shoot the waterbuck today, horns measured 31 ¼ inches. He also shot a very large Impala with horns measuring 25 inches.
Mark shot his second warthog today.

Day 14 (Hunt Day 12)
26 July 21
Duane: Keep in mind this was a 10 day hunt, well I had finished my 11 days and traveled to the taxidermy and placed my order and was then dropped off at the airport to begin my journey home that evening. Craig and Mark had booked return flights for a day later so they got in one more day of hunting.
Craig: Craig managed to get this eland and a warthog today.
Mark: Was offered the opportunity to shoot a female gemsbuck with long horns that was getting old... half price I might add. He had been hunting it for a couple of days and managed to take it on his last day of hunting.

Closing comments: We have to leave a few stories to be told later, but Duane missed his flight connection in Newark and took an extra 8 hours to get home. Mark held up the plane in Newark so Craig could make it before they closed the door and Mark's missing flight tickets from Chicago home was saved when had one seat left available on the plane…. I promised my wife this would be my last trip to Africa, but then the truth does sometimes change. Craig scored highest on the trip with 12 animals, Mark was just behind with 10, or 11 if you count the Jackal and I was happy to take my 7 animals. Cruiser Safari is a great place to hunt. The final pictures were taken of skulls laid out on the dry river bed.

- THE END -