



# Adirondack-Catskill Chapter Safari Club International News

[www.adirondackcatskillsci.org](http://www.adirondackcatskillsci.org) "United We Stand"

Adirondack - Catskill Chapter, SCI News VOLUME 3 | Issue 4; September/October 2010

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The Adirondack - Catskill  
Chapter SCI Newsletter is  
Published Bi-Monthly

Remember to send in your  
photos and articles to:

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Please submit articles by  
the 18th of the month.  
Article and photos submitted  
become the property of  
Adirondack-Catskill SCI.

[www.adirondackcatskillsci.org](http://www.adirondackcatskillsci.org)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES

**If anyone has an item to donate for the next SCI Banquet** please call Larry to make arrangements. (607) 988-6334

**The Chapter is looking for next years Young Hunter and a teacher to send to AWLS.** Keep your eyes peeled for the next qualified candidate. Please contact Jim Digristina's at 315-735-1775 or e-mail [jjdigristina@yahoo.com](mailto:jjdigristina@yahoo.com)

**Leatherstocking Friends of NRA** will be having their fund raising banquet on **September 25** from 5:30 until it's over. The event is the sixteenth annual dinner, and will take place at the Holiday Inn in Oneonta. Call George Gollin 607-432-9063 for details.

**Sportsman's Expo 2010** at the Broome County Fairgrounds September 25 and 26. Call Jim Howe for details 607-849-3369

**Southern Tier Outdoor Show** at Wilkins RV, Bath NY on October 9 and 10. Call 607-664-2300 for details

**September SCI Meeting** will be **September 16, 7 pm at Christopher's in Oneonta.** Kyle Frey will give a talk, and hopefully a video presentation of his African hunts with an emphasis on elephants.

**October 21 SCI Meeting** will be at **Coldbrook American Legion at 7 pm.** Chapter member Bill Chapman will be the speaker. The topics are: The most dangerous animal in Africa, unusual deer herds in the US, and other topics. This should be very interesting.

**November 18 SCI Meeting** will be at **Christopher's in Oneonta at 7 pm.** The speakers will be Stan Swears and Larry Steiner talking about their lion hunts with Scott Van Zyl of SS Pro Safaris

**December 16 SCI Meeting** will be at **Coldbrook American Legion at 7 pm.** The Chapter Big Buck contest will be held.

### SEE BACK PAGE BIG BUCK CONTEST RULES

*If you have an event that would interest outdoorsmen and women in you area, contact George Gollin at 607-432-9063 or [acscinews@yahoo.com](mailto:acscinews@yahoo.com) and we will include it in the next newsletter. Deadline for all articles is the 18th of even months.*

*We are always looking for speakers for our regular meetings. If you have an experience to share please call Larry at 607-988-6334 to get on our schedule.*

**Save-the-Date:** Annual Fund Raising Dinner: April 2, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Oneonta, NY.

*The July SCI picnic was a huge success. The only thing larger than the crowd was the pile of excellent food. Great food, great people, great stories. How will we top that next year?*

# SCI Blue Bag

Limpopo Province, South Africa  
June 2010

## A Fun Day at School

by Stan Swears  
Adirondack - Catskill Chapter



On my fourth trip of a lifetime to South Africa, I had the great pleasure to deliver a loaded SCI Blue Bag to a primary school in the Limpopo Province. Adirondack - Catskill Chapter President Larry Steiner got the bag from SCI headquarters and was my hunting partner. The school had 60 students, 3 teachers, 3 classrooms. The kids attend for 3 weeks at a time, sleeping in the classrooms at night. My wife, her friend, and my local school gathered up \$180. My school gave a gold soccer ball, softballs, pens, pencils, notebooks, coloring books, and chalk. My wife spent \$80 at the dollar store and got 450 bandaids, antibiotic and anti-itch cream, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, rulers, construction paper, flash cards, a ball pump, 60 toothbrushes, thread, needles, wrapped candy and a small American flag. A hunting physician friend donated 12 rugby balls. After discussion with my PH, Scott VanZyl of SS Pro Safaris, my remaining \$100 cash allowed me to hunt an impala (usually \$425). All the meat was butchered, frozen, and taken with us to the school. The teacher was extremely grateful for the meat, as she said her students don't get much protein. Never have I given a gift as needed and enjoyed as the contents of the Blue Bag. Every item, whether educational, recreational or yummy, was treasured. The kids sang, danced, and did skits for us. After handing out these items to the kids, my buddies and PH are now totally behind this SCI program.

## Wounded Warrior Update

By Art Schleich

*Our Wounded Warrior fund is still growing. Let's keep in mind that once funds are raised for one soldier we find another candidate for the next trip. Since our last newsletter we've received donations from Kyle Frey and Art Schleich. Here is the letter that came with Art's donation.*

Please use this donation to send Steve Valyou on an African hunt. My family has had three young people in Iraq all at the same time. Thankfully they are all home safely after their tour of duty. There is no way to repay people like Steve for what they have done for our country, but I hope very much that he has a very successful hunt.

I am a member of the Minisink Valley Kiwanis Club and the Wounded Warrior Project is something that all our members are very much in support of.

Members can  
access our  
website with:  
User name:  
ACSCI  
Password:  
ACSCI2006

## Team SCI Attends Shoot For Scouts

Team SCI (Erwin Smith and George Gollin) competed at the fourth annual Shoot for Scouts held at Crumhorn Rod and Gun Club this past July 10th. Irwin claimed he hadn't shot in quite awhile and then came in fourth in the trap competition. The clays course was tons of fun and between frustrating misses the jokes and laughs were flying. Erwin and I broke alot of birds that day, but unfortunately also broke both our cameras so you'll just have to imagine us having fun while raising money for local scouting.

## Alaska Bear Hunt

This past June, Carl Pepi had the pleasure of taking some friend's black bear hunting with Joe Romano of Gas & Time Alaska Outfitters ( [www.gasandtime.com](http://www.gasandtime.com)). Alaska is one of Carl's favorite places to hunt; everywhere you look there is wildlife and spectacular mountain views.

The group arrived in Anchorage a day ahead of their hunt so they could get an early start the next day. Joe picked them up and headed toward Whittier, AK where their adventure would begin.

Their Guide took them by boat around the shores of Prince William Sound. Carl and the guys took turns spotting bears from the water and then would taxi to the mainland to stalk their trophies.

Having all taken trophy bears over six and a half feet, this gave them plenty of time to do some salmon and halibut fishing. Joe runs an excellent guiding service...small and personable. They especially liked the single malt scotch with glacier ice that was enjoyed to toast the success of their hunt!



## Guns, Gear, Gadgets and Guides

By: Brett I. Parker  
Copyright April 2010

### 338 RCM: Big Power – Small Package

Generally, when someone refers to some “New” cartridge, it is just that – New. On occasion, a new cartridge is something more. The 338 Ruger Compact Magnum (or RCM for short), housed in Ruger’s handy Hawkeye rifle is a true leap forward in hunting technology. The 338 RCM offers magnum performance in a small fast-handling rifle. It delivers the ballistics that we are used to seeing from full sized magnum rifles from a short length action and, best of all, a 20 inch barrel.

The hard hitting power of the 338 RCM, which compares favorably to the venerable 338 Winchester Magnum, in a rifle with an overall length of 39.5” and a weight of 6.75 lbs is an undeniably excellent big game setup.

**The Round:** Like many of today’s new developments, this one came from the partnership between Hornady and Ruger. Hornady currently loads a 180gr GMX, a 200gr SST and a 225gr SST. I would also like to see the use of a stiffer bullet than the SST in the heavier weights. This would enhance to usability of the cartridge on the biggest thin skinned game – we will have to watch and see if one starts rolling off of the assembly line.

Since the introduction of the 300 WSM in 2000, many “short magnums” have come along, including many wildcats and custom producers have been introduced. While these designs have allowed for shorter actions, they have left a major question unanswered.

What good is a short action attached to a magnum length barrel? The biggest leap forward that the 338 RCM makes is that, by using the hyper-efficient propellant combinations that fostered Hornady’s Superformance line of loads, they were able to develop a round that allows is highly efficient in a short barrel. The 338 RCM 225gr SST leaves the muzzle of a 20” barrel at 2710 fps and still carries 2206 fps at 300 yards. This compares favorably to a standard 338 Winchester Magnum shooting a 225 gr load from a 24” barrel which will leave the muzzle at 2780 fps and still be moving at 2184 at 300 yards.

**The Rifle:** Ruger’s M77 Ruger Compact Magnum comes from the Hawkeye line of rifles. Like all M77s, this one has the full-length claw extractor, controlled round feed, a three position safety and the action is milled to accept scope rings without bases. Thankfully, the RCM rifles are fitted with sights. Maybe I am just a traditionalist, but I do prefer a rifle so equipped.

What sets this particular rifle apart is it’s fast handling and terrific balance. From the stock design to the mauser-type action to the short barrel and exceptional balance, this rifle is a joy to carry and shoot. This instinctive handling makes for faster and better shots afield.

**Field Performance:** On a recent safari in Tanzania, I carried a M77 Hawke in 338 RCM topped with the Swarovski Z6i in 1.7-10x42 as my medium bore rifle. The package was a joy to carry and shoot and it dispatched a Hyena and a Hartebeest with aplomb. I look forward to getting this rifle afield again soon.

**The Parting Shot:** I don’t get caught up in every new fad that comes along, but this one has real merit. The 338 RCM truly delivers big power from its small package. It is too early to tell whether or not the RCM s will be a commercial success or not, but they should be. Any big game hunter who goes afield with this rig will be kitted for success and can rest assured that if he does his job, his rifle will do it’s as well.



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**Adirondack-Catskill Chapter — Safari Club International**

New Member     Renewal Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

SCI Dues    National \$55.00    Chapter \$20.00    Total \$75.00

Adirondack-Catskill Chapter only \$20.00  
(Life or Current National Members only)

"Special" for 2010 \$30.00  
(For new members only – includes both National and Chapter dues)

Check Enclosed (Make checks payable to: Adirondack-Catskill SCI)

Credit Card:     VISA     MC     AMEX

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_    Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_    US Dollars

Mail Form To:    Clifford Barker, Membership Director  
26 Medallion Drive  
Otego, NY 13825

Revised 3/16/10

**Results of the TV Raffle Drawing**

**1st Prize**

went to *Laurie Ellis from Chenango Forks*  
(she chose the cash)

**2nd Prize**

went to *Erwin Smith* and he donated the money back to the club.  
Erwin should not have to buy a beer at a meeting until 2015.

**3rd Prize**

went to *Kristen Dandignac from Delhi*

**ADIRONDACK-CATSKILL CHAPTER SCI  
BIG BUCK CONTEST RULES**

- 1- The deer entered in the contest must be taken in New York State
- 2- The deer must be legally taken and tagged
- 3- The tag must remain with the antlers
- 4- To enter your deer, you must be an Adirondack-Catskill SCI member prior to the hunting season
- 5- Existing members must have their dues paid in full prior to hunting season
- 6- The contest ends at the December meeting. Deer taken after that date are not eligible for the contest
- 7- The highest score, using SCI scoring rules, will determine the winner
- 8- The winner of the Big Buck Contest, gets a shoulder mount of the deer by one of the taxidermist who belong to ACSCI



**Adirondack-Catskill SCI Member Trophy Awards Form**  
(Deadline for Submission is December 1, 2010)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_    State: \_\_\_\_\_    Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_    Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Where Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the Outfitter/Guide: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Hunt: \_\_\_\_\_

Trophy taken with:     Rifle     Pistol     Bow     Muzzle Loader

Does this trophy complete a SCI Grand Slam?     No     Yes (If it completes a SCI Grand Slam, which one: \_\_\_\_\_)

Rate the hunt:     Best of My Life     Top 5 Hunts     Top 10 Hunts

Describe the hunt for this species: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules for 2010 ACSCI Member Trophy Awards**

1. Any animal taken legally worldwide.
2. Photograph must be included.
3. All entries must be completed and received by December 1, 2010\*.

**Trophy Awards Categories:**

Best of North America (First, Second, Third) / Best of the World (except North America) (First, Second, Third) / Grand Slams

Judging Criteria: Animal Taken    Type of Hunt    Method of Hunt    Completion of a Goal

*\*Please send pictures and this completed form to:*

James Digristina, 11369 Cosby Manor Road, Utica NY, 13502-7703