



Circular September 2017

Dear Hunter Friends, Guests and Acquaintances,

as in previous years we would like to keep you up to date about what is going on in Namibia, with our Newsletter.

The hunting season started on 01 February and we had some exiting and successful hunts up to now. More about that below!

On the occasion of the annual general meeting of NAPHA - Otjiruze won the prize for the highest number of trophies in the medal class for the fifth time. We regard this distinction as particularly rewarding, as it shows that our policy of conservation by means of trophy hunting is fruitful.

General:

After several years of drought - Namibia this year was blessed with very good rains. At long last the desiccating drought is over! Here in the Swakop valley we were very fortunate in that the rain showers were very well spaced. We had several wide-spread, steady rains but also some heavy downpours to fill up the dams and the grazing recovered very well.

In places on Schenckswerder the grass is shoulder high and even the Leopard dam, which was dry for three years, once again has water. The house dam overflowed – in fact, we even feared the dam wall would break. As a result of the good rains we found unbelievable numbers of „omajovas“ (the large mushrooms growing out of termite hills). Simply delicious!

Unfortunately such heavy rains also cause damage One of our pickup trucks was lost in a flooded river. A heavy downpour occurred on Schenckswerder. Markus went out alone in the



Landcruiser to check on the condition of the dams. He got stuck in the mud because the soil was just too wet and slippery. He called Japhet to help. Japhet and Tirob set out in our Toyota Hilux. On their way to Markus they had to cross one of the dry riverbeds, which had turned into a raging stream. Japhet, who is a very experienced driver, attempted to cross the river, however, the current was too strong, the vehicle was carried downstream, and the driver's cab filled with water. Fortunately the men were able to escape through the door on the driver's side. Markus then received a disconcerting text message „car is gone“. In darkness and rain he ran through the bush for many kilometres to find Japhet und Tirob... After two hours and with the help of an additional pickup and our workers they eventually succeeded in pulling the Hilux out of the water. Unfortunately, it could not be repaired and we had to write it off.

Instead we now have a brand new Landcruiser in our yard 😊

The **fairs** in Hannover, Dortmund, Salzburg and Las Vegas once again were successful and we were very pleased to meet so many of you there. We have decided to again attend all 4 fairs during the coming season.

Similar to last year, Namibia once again experiences an unbelievable **boom**. The tourism sector continues to expand at a steady rate. Meanwhile a number of additional air lines have jumped on the bandwagon. In addition to Air Namibia (daily) and Condor (2x per week), both with direct flights from Frankfurt to Windhoek, and the flights via South Africa with SAA, the following air lines now also fly to Namibia at very favourable rates:

Qatar Airways - from Frankfurt via Doha

KLM – from/via Amsterdam with a short stop in Luanda

Eurowings – from Cologne/Bonn as from July 3x per week direct

Ethiopian Airways – from Frankfurt via Addis Ababa or Jeddah/Saudi Arabia and Johannesburg

Despite these additional flights, the planes are well booked and particularly during the main holiday season some are already fully booked. The same is true for accommodation establishments in Namibia.

Since Namibia will hopefully continue to benefit from this upward trend, we would like to encourage everybody contemplating a trip to Namibia to make arrangements well in advance.

During the main season of this year we were already very well booked but for the next two months we still have an occasional opening.

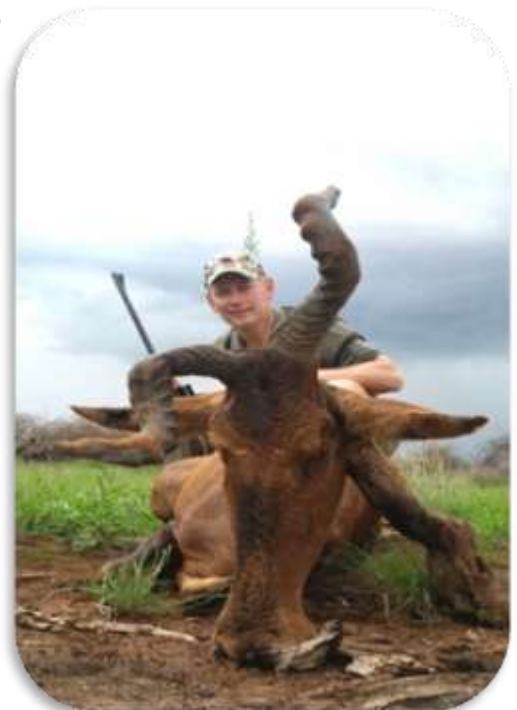


Anybody still wishing to participate in a culling operation during this year would be very welcome at Okawaka at the Small Waterberg where the large number of oryx has to be reduced. Of course culling can also be coupled with trophy hunting.

Hunting

The hunting season on Otjiruze began with a visit by Björn and Lutz K., and their friends Kurt und Erwin, who were our guests for the 8th time. This time their objective was to find some special trophies, in which we

succeeded very well. After long and exiting stalks three old kudu bulls were shot – one of them 55 inches – as well as several other plains game species and Lutz eventually succeeded in bringing down his ardently longed-for warthog boar with tusks exceeding 30 cm / 12 inch. During previous years he had already bagged several warthog boars with tusks measuring 29 cm. Added to these were a particularly abnormal hartebeest cow and a very big brown hyena for Björn, which we were able to shoot during the last minutes of favourable daylight.



Kudus - Kudus - Kudus

We were particularly happy to note that the kudu population on Otjiruze and surroundings has recovered very well. While in the past few years it has sometimes been difficult to find a mature & old kudu bull it is much easier this year. Fortunately all guests wishing to shoot a kudu were successful.

There were a few special trophies. For example Ingo M., travelling with his family, was able to bring down a very old kudu of almost 53 inches, Jochen B. got hold of a kudu of 56 inches that had obviously been in many fights, and Thomas L. shot a once-in-a-lifetime kudu of 57 inches.



Roan, Blesbok and Impala

Wolfgang L. from Hamburg honoured us with a 2nd visit during the same year and due to his tenaciousness and his excellent marksmanship was rewarded by spectacular experiences. Amongst others he brought down an exceptional

roan, 2 outstanding blesbuck and a very special black-faced impala.

Dimitar Z. from Bulgaria with his friend visited us for the first time during April and experienced two weeks of marvellous hunting. In addition to an ancient sable and an equally ancient roan we also hunted for leopard. Due to late rain events this was not easy since time and again our vigil in the hide was terminated by strong rain showers. When we were sitting in the hide for the fourth time in succession the leopard himself apparently became frustrated with the continuous rain and suddenly, in spite of a heavy downpour, approached the calf he had slain. We had



never before heard of or experience this kind of behaviour. Dimitar was able to place a well aimed shot - whereupon the leopard stormed our tent and broke down almost next to us. We were happy to find a male leopard aged more than 10 years who, though visibly aged, still weighed

63 kg. Due to his waning strength he had resorted to killing calves. And, as Diana occasionally smiles on the hunter - on the way home we were rewarded with a brown hyena.

Fritz S., a frequent guest, in April experienced his fourth hunting safari with Otjiruze at the Small Waterberg and again achieved great results. Exceptional was the lechwe bull he brought down, which had a horn length of 26 inches and almost made the NAPHA Top 10 List.

During numerous exiting hunting outings, often through high grass and dense bush, Fritz and Werner

succeeded in bringing down several great plains game animals, in particular an old oryx bull with horns measuring 39 inches and a black-faced impala with 24 inches.





Paul P. from the USA had booked a 14-day leopard hunt with Otjiruze Safaris through the SCI. Werner had prepared 5 hides with bait and three of these were visited by male leopards. On the 5th day of the safari they succeeded.

Paul & Werner were able to

shoot a beautiful male leopard at the foot of the Little Waterberg, which after fleeing a short distance dropped down with a terrific roar.

In addition Paul is a keen bow hunter and really could shoot well. Accompanied by Alex & Werner he took a great warthog boar as well as a nyala, lechwe, kudu, oryx, black wildebeest, waterbuck – and, in a final crowning feat, a sable bull of 42 inches with his bow.



His wife Helen also proved to be a proficient hunter, bagging a top quality oryx bull of 40 inches (100+ cm) and an old kudu bull.

Furthermore Manuel H. at the beginning of May at the Small Waterberg in the fading light of dusk shot a truly magnificent warthog with tusks measuring 34.5 cm / 13.5 inches. Congratulations!



A special word of thanks goes to our newly won friend and professional photographer Michael Stadtfeld. During 7 weeks Michael accompanied the entire Otjiruze team with his camera, resulting in a number of spectacular photos. Amongst other uses these photos will grace our reconstructed home page while most of the photos in this circular were also taken from his crop.

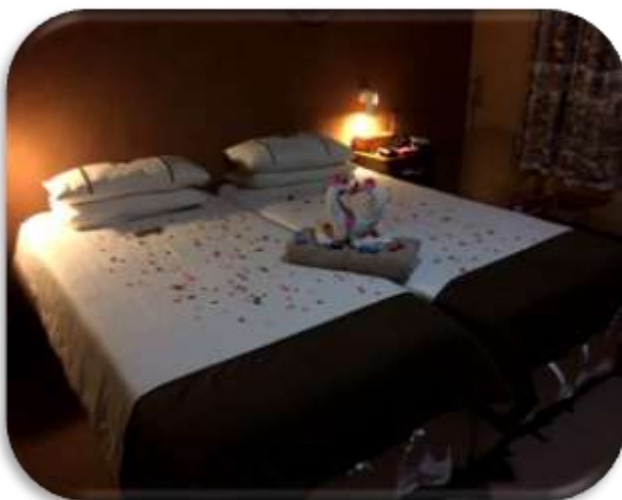


Romance at Otjiruze



Christoph G. has hunted at Otjiruze repeatedly. After successfully shooting impala and zebra and a few other animals he had metals of a different kind to offer to another object of his desire.

On the last evening at Otjiruze, before the group left for a tour around the country planned as the highlight of their trip to Namibia, he asked for the hand of his beloved. The surprise proposal was made on our popular Sundowner Hill, with the boundless view over the rolling bush and mountain landscape of central Namibia in the colourful light of the setting sun. The romantic backdrop had the intended effect and we all celebrated Christoph and Mandy's engagement at Otjiruze.



Family news



In January Barbara celebrated her sixtieth birthday at Mount Etjo. The entire extended family came and a wonderful and lively party ensued. As a special highlight and surprise she was taken for a helicopter flight over Mount Etjo. In May she went to Europe for a

holiday and thoroughly enjoyed her many impressions of Germany, Austria, and Holland. She spent a week of beautiful weather in Holland with Nora who is already in grade 3 and very ambitious in all respects. Our 5 children here in Namibia are also thriving and happy!



Many good wishes for a successful remainder of 2017!

Kind regards from the Rogl Family and the Otjiruze Team

Barbara

Alexander & Maike with Nora, Gunther & Rene

Markus & Nadine with Louisa & Bastian

Werner & Sandra with Leon