

Dear Friends, Fellow Hunters & Adventurers!

So it's been a while since we last communicated, and a lot has happened - some good, some not so pleasant. To start off, we had a great trip to the USA this year, and met some awesome new people while attending some of the Sportsmen Shows! We made new friends, caught up with old ones, and spent a lot of time talking about Africa and the Adventures it holds!



(Booth display)

We want to thank everyone that came to see us at the Shows, for making our trip an exciting and successful one! To all our friends we did not see this year: "We are working hard on our schedule for next year, to try and see you all again!"

Upon returning from a very long and successful trip, we unfortunately had to say "Good Bye" to our 15 year old friend, and trustworthy tracker, Sagila. He was one of the best Hunting Dogs EVER, and will be remembered in our hearts forever!



(Sagila)

After losing Sagila, we had to find a new friend for Tokolosh, our other hunting dog, and so we ended up with Kodoi. He is literally the luckiest dog alive (if you knew the "living conditions" we found him in)! Well, he is growing up fast and training hard, as he has some Very Big shoes to fill....!



(Kodoi)

Fishing, Hunting and building the new Lodge, has been our main concentration this past two months. In-between all this, we managed to catch some great tasting Grunters at False Bay, Hluhluwe, and harvested a Hyena on a long and hard hunt!



(Piet with a Grunter)



(Our tracker Gibbs, with a Hyena)



(Amanda with a Grunter)

This brings us to our most recent Safari - the Cooper Safari, and also our first Bow Hunting Safari for this year! Mr. Howard Cooper and his daughter Julia, joined us on safari in Zululand, hunting Plains Game. Howard, guided by Piet, hunted with a rifle, and Julia & PH Amanda, taking on the Bow hunting. Julia arrived a day ahead of her father, due to complications with his passport!

~ We would like to take this opportunity to inform all our friends & clients, planning on traveling to Africa, to please make sure that you have at least 3 'visa' pages open in your passports before you travel!! ~

The first morning went by quickly, and by 10:30am Julia had taken her first African animal - a beautiful Nyala bull - Excellent shooting miss Julia!!



(Julia with her Nyala & PH Amanda)

The second day Piet was off to pick up Mr. Howard from the airport, while Julia & Amanda was out bow hunting. The weather really turned bad on us and made the bow hunting quite challenging. The wind was all over the place and seemed to be blowing from all 4 general directions, randomly. We tried walking & stalking for a while, but that did not quite go as planned, and needless to say, sitting in the hide, was a NO-GO! We ended up not taking any trophies that day - as is hunting! Day 3 was equally bad, weather wise, but Julia still managed to take a warthog with her bow, while Piet & Howard was out hunting with the rifle! Mr. Howard ended up with a Nyala, as well as also taking a big male warthog in the windy weather. Congratulations on some fine shooting, Sir!



(Julia's Warthog, taken with her bow)



(Howard with his Nyala & PH Piet)



(Mr. Cooper with his big Warthog)

Amanda & Julia, being very persistent, decided to take up walking & stalking, once again. We spent the biggest part of our remaining days, stalking Blue Wildebeest on foot, and getting pretty darn close a couple of times! We got within 50-55 yards, twice, but was unfortunately just short of what Julia's bow could reach. All the while, Piet & Howard was having a very successful hunt, bagging a Blue Wildebeest, as well as an Impala!



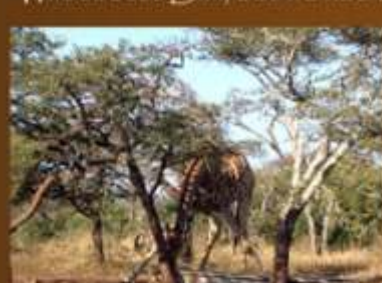
(Howard's Blue Wildebeest)



(Mr. Cooper with his Impala)

By day 5 and 6 we were completely exhausted from crawling around on all fours, in the dirt and long grass. We were most probably covered in ticks, but we did not care, we were determined to get that big Blue Wildebeest bull, one way or the other! By noon on the 7th day, and also our last hunting day, we really had our strategy planned well! We came as close as 30 yards from the herd, where they were bedded down in the shade of the trees. We were ready, this was the shot we so anxiously awaited! Julia was getting into position. The wind was perfect. We scanned the herd for the bull, when all of a sudden..... the wind just stopped..... and for a split second changed direction, blowing our scent straight towards the unsuspecting Wildebeests! The Wildebeests jumped up, and in a scatter of dust and dirt, they were gone, leaving us hanging dry once again!

That afternoon myself & Julia decided to give the hide another go, as we were both exhausted, with aching knees, from crawling around after Wildebeest herds the past 4 days! At round about 4pm, we spotted a herd of Wildebeest in the distance. We were ecstatic! This could be the last chance that Julia would get a shot at a Blue Wildebeest bull. Around 4:30pm, they slowly started coming towards us, we waited.... Julia got ready with her bow as they came in, one by one..... female, female, calf, female, calf, female, another female..... something was wrong, where was the bull?? To our excitement, we had a whole herd of Blue Wildebeest at a 20yard distance, right in front of us, BUT, to our disappointment, the herd only consisted of females and calves, with not a single bull accompanying them! The day drew to an end, as the last ray of sunlight disappeared on the horizon. Julia never got to shoot her Blue Wildebeest Bull, but we had the most amazing week of hunting & adventure!!



Thank you guys for all the laughter, jokes and at some times, "serious" conversations, for great sportsmanship and wonderful new friendships! These memories will always be remembered and shared around the campfires, after a long day's hunting, sipping on some red wine and watching the sun set over the African bush!

We wish you well, dear friends, and hope to see you again soon! Keep the African dream alive.....!

**HAPPY HUNTING & "SAFARI NJEMA" (Safe journey)**

Piet & Amanda  
Safari Njema Africa

