

# MCSA NEWS

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December 2020

## Happy December!!

**T**his has been a year! It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2020...a year that has changed so much for us all.

The Virus has caused chaos all over the world...even in our own neighborhoods. It is hard to stay positive when we can't even hang out with friends, sipping coffee, sharing laughter or heading to the range for our dose of target therapy. Even families are separated during COVID.

Who would have think it?

December is a wonderful time...Christmas, preparing for the New Year, yummy cookies! There is a sense of hope, love, gratefulness, belonging, and kindness that wafts through the air at Christmastime.



It wouldn't hurt us to focus on those things as this nutty year comes to a close.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY HANUKKAH

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!





## **COVID Lockdown...again.**

Just when the ball started to roll...

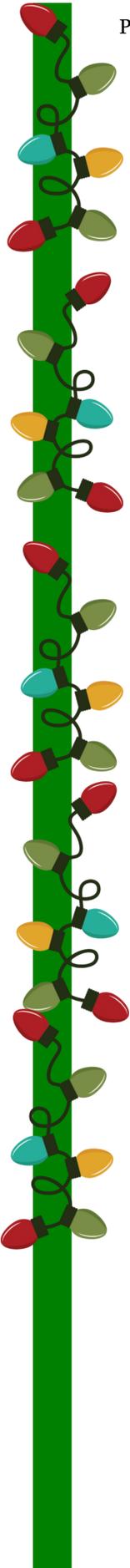
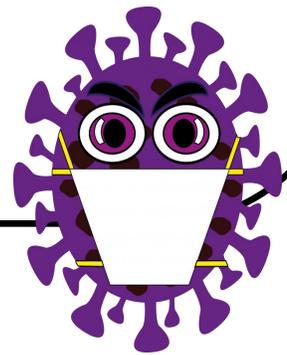
the Governor brought back the restrictions. Sad to say, there will be no range activity at all.

No classes, no Winchester, and no new member orientations until at least January.

Sad also to say...No Christmas Party this year!

Let's hope this lockdown does not last very long!!

We need to unpack our patience and hope for the best.





## Board of Directors/Trustee Elections

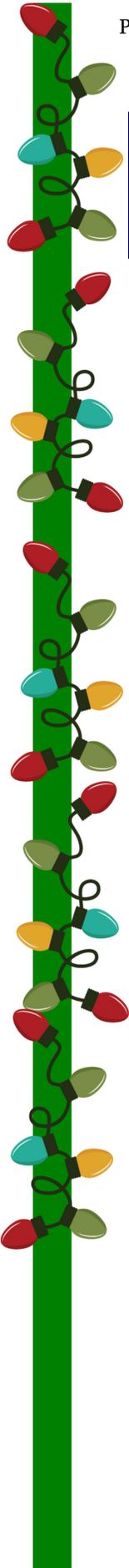
By Wendy Sage

**T**his year the pandemic threw us all lots of challenges. In addition to the changes to our work, school and home lives we were shut out of restaurants and other activities, including our range.

At first our governor didn't allow us to meet at all, then in small numbers. Now we're back to not meeting at all again for awhile. Due to these restrictions we began meeting "virtually" which led us finally, to voting "virtually".

The nominations committee reviewed several virtual voting tools. We chose the tool Election Buddy because it was simple to follow the process, allowed us to vote anonymously and would give us up to 350 ballots for \$19. Following our tradition of the voting being done by members attending the December meeting, we sent the emails of those who attended the December meeting to Election Buddy. Election Buddy then sent ballots to all those members.

The election was open for a full week to give all those voters an opportunity to read the ballot and make a thoughtful choice. Election Buddy then automatically (and anonymously) tabulated the votes. The board and Trustees reviewed the final, tabulated results before releasing the results to all members.



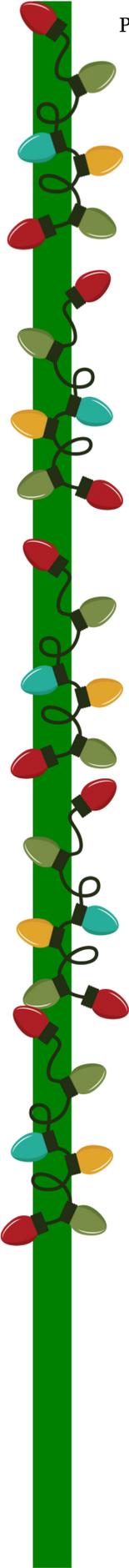


## Here are the results:

President:	Lynn Ludeman
Vice President:	Keith Martin
Executive Officer:	Mark Gardner
Treasurer:	Val Martin
Secretary:	Wendy Sage
Jr Program Director:	Open
Trustee 2:	Sue Albee
Trustee 3:	Joel Harris



**Here is the current Board/Trustee and Committee Chairs Contact List:**





## MCSA 2021

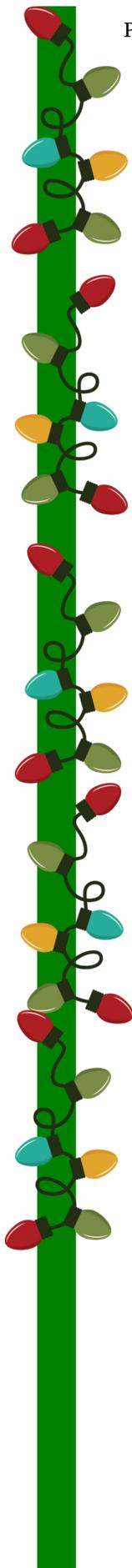
President	Lynn Ludeman	206-406-3562	president@masoncountysa.com
Vice President	Keith Martin	805-231-2937	vp@masoncountysa.com
Executive Officer	Mark Gardner	360-791-4256	klahowya41@gmail.com
Treasurer	Val Martin	805-231-7950	treasurer@masoncountysa.com
Secretary	Wendy Sage	360-509-0209	secretary@masoncountysa.com
Jr Program Director	Open		

## TRUSTEES

Trustee 1, term ends 2021	Keith Vanderwal	360-426-1114	k_vanderwal@msn.com
Trustee 2, term ends 2022	Sue Albee	360-507-0776	info@masoncountysa.com
Trustee 3, term ends 2023	Joel Harris	360-490-9558	citchap.jh@gmail.com

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Air Pistol Booth			
Charitable Giving			
Chief Range Safety Officer	Terry Miller	360-229-9348	tc-miller@comcast.net
Christmas Party	Tiffani Prouty	360-870-1119	tiffaniprouty@gmail.com
Christmas Party	Val Martin	805-231-7950	valeriejean91360@yahoo.com
Covid Prevention Committee	Dan McCarty	206-947-2038	danm@hcc.net
Finance & Audit	Board of Trustees & Treasurer	refer to info above	refer to info above
Grant	Dave Hermann	360-462-0265	daveradar@aol.com
Membership			membership@masoncountysa.com
Maint & Operations	Keith Vanderwal	360-426-1114	k_vanderwal@msn.com
Newsletter	Suzy Sands	530-262-1893	suzysands@gmail.com
Nominations			
Outdoor Range	Gene Scherer	360-426-2745	info@masoncountysa.com
Public Relations	Dan McCarty	206-947-2038	danm@hcc.net
Raffle			
Standing Rules/SOPs Revision	Terry Miller	360-229-9348	tc-miller@comcast.net
Social Media	Claire Voskuhl	360-426-6461	membership@masoncountysa.com
Training	Dan McCarty	206-947-2038	training@masoncountysa.com





## Back to South Africa for Dick and Linda Krase!

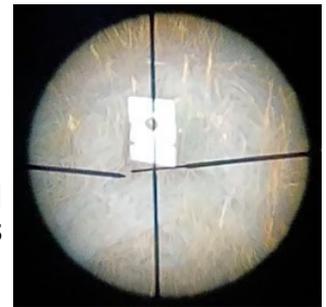
By Dick Krase



**I**n late June of 2019 we took our second trip to South Africa to hunt and sightsee with Van Wijk Safaris. Our hosts were Andries and Steffi vanWijk, both Professional Hunters and now fast friends. About 2.5 hours north of Johannesburg, their lodge and facilities are stunning and comfortable (the food is excellent, too.)

After 20 hours on aircraft and driving to the lodge for lunch, the first thing one does is check the zero on the rifles. My Ruger #1 in .300 Win Mag had a bit of a problem... Fortunately, Andries pulled a scope off one of his rifles as a loaner for the trip, zero attained and off we went for our first hunt.

(By the way, Burris replaced my 30 year old 2-7x scope with a brand new one of similar, but newer design with dispatch and no questions asked.)



Van Wijk has an exclusive lease on about 20,000 acres of ranchland and has concessions on many other properties that they hunt with prior notification. Our first hunt was for a white Blesbuck for Linda on the lease. After a recon we spotted and stalked this beautiful ram which Linda took with a fine shot from 'Short and Loud', her Mossberg MVP in 7.62 NATO. The ram ended up in the top 60 worldwide in the SCI record book! The color is a variant, not a separate species of Blesbuck.



What says Africa like Zebra?! This had been on my list in 2017, but it was not to be, so we hunted a lot for these ghosts. One would think that a black and white striped animal



would be easy to spot, but the dappled light in the bush allows them to blend in perfectly and they're amazingly quiet, even when spooked and moving out.

I finally spotted several in heavy brush along with some other animals. We were able to stalk to 130 yards, but only had a shooting lane about the size of a dinner plate. The wind was good so we waited...about 45 minutes along, this beauty stepped in the lane and dropped instantly in its tracks. Wow. Since y'all

are shooters, if you look carefully right above the chevron on it's shoulder, you can see the bullet hole.

I had encouraged Linda to try for a Greater Kudu, but after we arrived, she demurred.

Not me! We spotted a very nice bull on entry to one of the concessions and drove to intercept him. He was in no mood for that so it became a game of cat and mouse across the 60,000 acre ranch. We would get close-ish and he would out-manuever us again and again whether on wheels or on foot. I finally got a break as he was getting ready to bug out again and took him with a quartering away shot through the heart. There may have been some adrenaline pumping at this point and not just mine! The rascal also made the SCI book.



What's amazing about the countryside that doesn't really show in hunting photos is the amazing variety of game everywhere. On this same property, we saw this impressive Cape Buffalo; he was not at all happy to see us and postured as such so we sidled along promptly.





More on this later, but there was a lovely herd of mostly Black Impala (they're actually a deep chocolate brown, though, not a different species.) Take note of the ram farthest away in the photo.

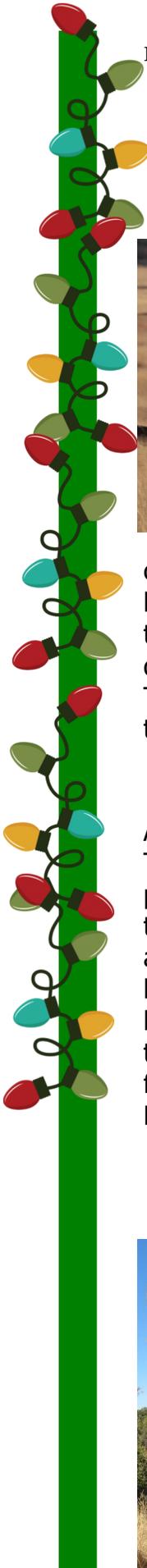
We visited another concession that Andries had an arrangement with, but had never hunted. As we drove up to the ranch house, there were two Rhinos in the yard feeding until the dominant bull showed up to kick them off their snack. This photo was taken at about 70' away. The interaction was fascinating!



After scouting the ranch, we started hunting actively for a Red Hartebeest for Linda. There were several herds and though we had picked out a bull in one herd that Linda was tracking, our PH and his apprentice were examining another herd behind us. We literally had to shake them to let them know Linda had a shot (you always wait for the 'go' from the PH). Got the word and Linda made a perfect shot at ~180 yards...yes, SCI book, too. Her smile tells it all!



We took a day off hunting to visit an elephant reserve; most of the pachyderms here are 'rescues' from other locations and the handlers have trained them to interact with people. They do everything from kick soccer balls to snuggle and kiss the patrons (yes, Linda kissed one back). What an experience it was.





After a lunch of wood fired pizza at a little spot in the middle of nowhere run by an old libertarian hippie, we went to another rescue facility that focuses on large cats, but had an incredible variety of animals from porcupines to hyenas and all kinds of plains game. You can hardly imagine the size of a full grown African lion until you've been up close. The guy in the photo was feeding meat scraps to this male – the man is about 6'3" tall and that lion isn't even stretching.



Several days we did some bird hunting for dove and guinea fowl which was great fun and very productive. Credit to Linda's shotgun, BTW.

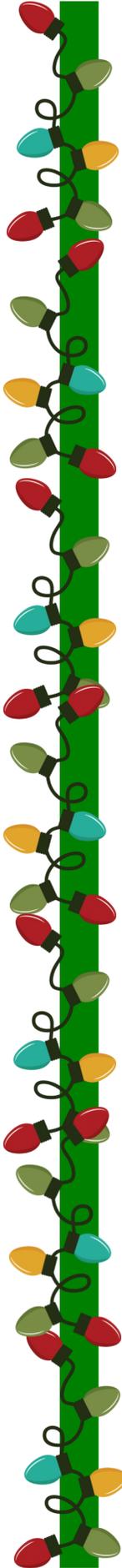


While there are lots of things that can kill you in South Africa, frankly the one you can't avoid is the brush; it ALL wants to kill you. This is Sicklebush, but there are worse offenders.

But on to our last two hunts... I'd been entranced by those Black Impala since we had seen them before and bein' how it was my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, we went back to the 'Rhino Ranch'. Remember the ram in the back? Here he is again. (Yep, SCI book and very unique horns.)



Linda had missed a warthog on our 2017 trip and since the Lodge needed meat for sausage, Andries was good enough to let her harvest it at no charge. 'Short and Loud' spoke once at 250 yards on Independence Day.





We are so glad we are able to share this adventure with you. We wasted no ammunition cuz practice and discipline is a thing, right? We would be remiss in not pointing out that this trip was shortly after Linda's vertigo and loss of hearing in her right ear and she was still quite unsteady, but Van Wijk was accommodating and made it once again a memorable trip.

But wait, there's more!!



If you have **articles, stories, pictures, classified ads,** or **ideas** for the newsletter, please send them to **Suzy Sands...**  
Email [suzysands@gmail.com](mailto:suzysands@gmail.com) or leave a message at my cell phone, **530-262-1893.**



## Christmas Quotes

"I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month."

— Harlan Miller

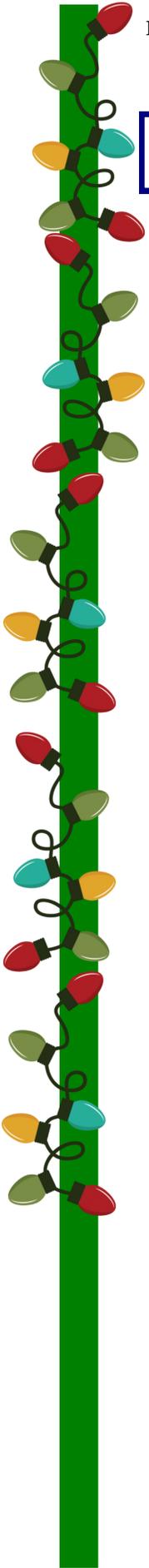


"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." — Norman Vincent Peale

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly." — Andy

"Our God is the God of the unexpected. A few things could be more unexpected than the King of heaven being born in a stable." — Bill Crowder

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" — Bob Hope





## Hanukkah Quotes

"Hanukkah is about the spark of the divine in all of us made in God's image."

— Suzanne Fields



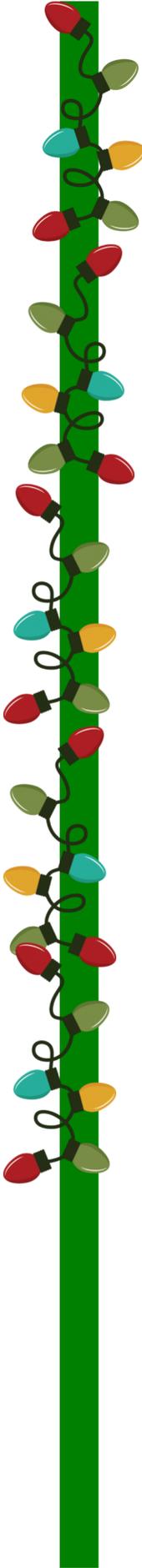
**"The darkness of the whole world cannot swallow the glowing of a candle."**

**— Robert Altinger**

"A candle is a small thing. But one candle can light another. And see how its own light increases, as a candle gives its flame to the other. You are such a light." — Moshe Davis



*Happy Hanukkah*



# Mason County Sportsman's Association



**NRA**

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