



South African Hunt - Part II

By Scott McConnell

The second part of my hunt began in Johannesburg where Kevin Koeshall and I met up with Doug and his wife, Sue, who would hunt with us in the Limpopo with Andre(Vossie) Vorster at Sediba Nkwe Safaris.

Vossie picked us up at the Johannesburg airport and we traveled north a bit before

Stopping for dinner and meeting up with Vossie's wife and several of his children. We then continued north to Vossie's camp, which was a very nice group of cabins surrounding a large pond which had a resident crocodile. My goal, as well as Kevin's, was to take some of the spiral horns in the area. Sediba Nkwe is well known for having some huge free-range Limpopo Bushbuck which can be hunted from Vossie's second camp that is based on the Limpopo river.

Doug and Sue hunted warthog and Impala at Vossie's main camp, while Kevin and I hunted the Limpopo camp with Danie Krueger and Vossie's son, Driess Vorster. Danie and Dries had previously put together a ground blind not far from camp, so Kevin and I settled in the blind while our two

PH's set up nearby on high ground to watch a larger area. That day, two small bushbuck rams passed by, as well as a ewe, but we were mostly entertained by a francolin hen with five chicks that actually walked up a log that was part of our blind. The hen and chicks were very inquisitive and came so close that I thought one was going to peck my nose.

That evening we traveled back to the main camp where we enjoyed not only excellent cuisine, but we entertained Vossie's stories. Vossie loves to have fun and has quite a sense of humor. One evening he called my wife, Kelly, at work and identified himself as a ranger with an anti-poaching unit. He told Kelly that I had been arrested trespassing in Botswana, but for a \$100,000 bribe, I would be released. Kelly wasn't buying it, so Vossie had to fess up.

Vossie then told us about his hunting property. The main camp has 8,000 acres, which is split into two sections by the main road in the area. Vossie has giraffe, nyala, blesbok, kudu, eland, bushbuck, duiker, warthog and tremendous blue wildebeest and impala. There is also a small but



growing herd of tsessebe. Vossie's background includes teaching and playing rugby for the Blue Bulls. Vossie describes himself as the poorest teacher in South Africa financially, but a millionaire in happiness.

The next several days Kevin and I sat in a pop-up blind along the Limpopo river border with Botswana, watching for bushbuck. We observed a constant stream of wildlife, from warthogs, mongoose and bushbuck, to horn bills, francolin and Egyptian geese.

One the second morning in the pop-up blind, a large nyala bull passed by to my hard right window. This made for a poor shot opportunity, but it was fun to watch him nonetheless. We caught several glimpses of bushbuck, but they moved so quickly through the open areas that no shots were presented.

When we returned to the main camp, we learned that Doug had connected on a huge impala ram. In fact, this ram's horns exceeded 27 inches! They also spotted a bluewildebeest that would possibly score well into the top ten of all time. That bull is still there. That evening we enjoyed another fantastic meal while discussing hunting, politics and rugby. Vossie and his crew make you feel right at home.





On day three, Kevin and I hunted by Vossie's main camp, as I had hopes to find an impala similar in size to the one Doug took. We didn't find a huge impala, but we were entertained by a constant stream of animals, from mongoose and guinea fowl to waterbuck and eland.

The next few days we hunted intensely for bushbuck. In the mornings we sat in the blind, mid-day we pushed bush and evenings we sat up in likely ambush areas.

One afternoon, Danie's tracker went for a walk. He returned several hours later and said he found tracks of a mature bushbuck ram and had constructed a hasty blind nearby. I sat in the blind with Danie while Kevin hunted nearby with Dries. Very soon we were surrounded by a small herd of waterbuck. After about ten minutes, they wandered off allowing us to breathe again. An hour later, I spotted some movement a ways off and soon made out the form of a very nice bushbuck ram.



As the ram was headed our way, we just hunkered down and waited. Once it reached a range of about 65 yards from our position, it turned towards some heavy brush right at a drop off into the Limpopo riverbed. I took the shot as soon as he was broadside, and fortunately, he dropped immediately. The powerbelt bullet from my T/C Encore muzzleloader performed flawlessly. I owed this one to Danie's tracker. He found the sign and set up the blind. This is the kind of service you hope to get on safari.

The following day, Kevin and I decided to sit in the same blind that worked so well for me the previous day. After about an hour, a very large black-throated monitor lizard strolled no more than five feet in front of our position. I happen to be a bit of a reptile nut, so I told Kevin I was truly a good friend for sitting still, as I really wanted to grab that lizard. Turns out I could have, because ten minutes later, Danie came running up breathlessly to our blind.

He had located a large bushbuck and a nyala bull feeding at an opening along the river about a mile to our west. We made our way as quickly as possible, and upon arrival, the bushbuck darted into the brush. Fortunately, the nyala bull froze in his tracks and Kevin's shot was placed true, dropping the bull in his tracks. After a few dozen pictures, the bull

was carried away so that Kevin could skin it for a life-sized mount.



On our last day at Sediba Nkwe, I spent a little time fishing for the catfish that live in the pond that was right outside the door of our sleeping quarters. The fishing was fast and furious as they hit just about anything that hit the water. It was a great ending for our time in Vossie's camp.



Vossie had made arrangements for a stop on our way back to Johannesburg where we were able to drop off two blue bags of school supplies. We also dropped off a dozen World Cup soccer balls, courtesy of fellow Badgerland SCI member John Williamson, owner of Sports Savers on State Street in Madison.

I can heartily recommend Sediba Nkwe for the hunting, as well as the comfortable sleeping quarters and the fantastic meals served. Vossie and his family, as well as his staff, are perfect hosts and I look forward to returning soon. A tsessebe tops my new list.

For information on booking a hunt in the Limpopo, please contact Kevin Koeshall at his website www.allhunts.com or phone him at 715-424-4024.