

# Magnum Guide Service

# Scrapbook

Volume 1 . September 2007



## Guide's Corner

By: Jim Roche

Some guides are very good about writing regular newsletters or news releases, but unfortunately I'm not one of them. I wish I were; it's a good way to advertise what's going on at Magnum. Truthfully, I stay pretty darn busy guiding, hunting and securing new ranches for Magnum Hunters. If I'm not busy with one of those three, I've got my eyes closed and my feet propped up dreaming about hunting! Some folks say I have a one track mind. I guess their right. I love what I do and I praise the Lord everyday for His allowing me to do it full time!

I truly appreciate all the loyal Magnum Hunters who keep returning year after year. Thanks to all of you, Magnum is poised to have the best year in our 22 year history!

Now there's so much to catch up on, let's narrow the "field of view" by cranking the power up on our "scopes" to just the last few months....



**Guide Jim Roche and Irene Zehmisch.**

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."*

*-1 Peter 4:10*

## Tanzania Family Safari



**Melony Roche - Grant's Gazzelle**

Melony and I have just returned from a very successful 21 day safari in Tanzania, East

Africa, with Raoul Ramoni's "Tanzania Big Game Safaris." My brother, David Roche, graciously gave us the safari, and along with his wife Becky and two sons, Campbell and Jackson, who accompanied us on the safari. We flew KLM into Kilimanjaro Airport and continued on into Masailand in a Cessna Grand Caravan. There we were met by our Professional Hunters (PHs), Ricky Ramoni and Wilhelm Marx.

**Jackson Roche - Impala**

We spent the next 10 days hunting lesser kudu, fringe-eared oryx, Grant's gazelle, Coke's hartebeest, impala and other plains game animals, later using some of the meat to bait for leopard. The ninth evening brother Dave was rewarded with a huge 190-pound Leopard!



**Jim Roche - Hippo**

For the remainder of our safari we hunted lion, along with sable and roan antelope and Cape buffalo.



**David Roche-Sable**



We had shaky crosshairs on several lions, mostly within 45 yards, but all were too young according to our PHs. I felt like a Texas deer hunter! On the last

afternoon of our safari, Trackers Martini and Steven cut some fresh buffalo spoor. Wilhelm, whom we called Villi, said "let's go," and the hunt was on. Little did we know we were starting The Death March! Six hours and 24 kilometers (14 miles) later, we were staring at the beautiful swishing tails of big black buffalo as they tried to keep the tsetse flies at bay! The 200 yd shot with my .458 Lott was low and my bull and his herd of fifty stamped away in a thick cloud of red dust. Now we had a wounded "buff" to sort out! My nephew Campbell bravely flanked my right side while Villi covered my left. We carefully followed the blood spoor for a couple of hundred yards when movement suddenly caught my eye. It was the wide sweeping horns of my bull, his head bobbing up and down as he limped on a slow but steady retreat. His entourage of black body guards covered his rear and flanked his muddy sides. We quickly, but cautiously closed the distance. Like a firing squad, we were led by Villi with his .500 Nitro Express Double Rifle, Campbell with a .375 H&H Magnum and me with my .458 Lott, all at the ready! At 125

**David Roche-Leopard**

The last evening, I too was rewarded with a nice leopard. We enjoyed some family bird hunting and then it was time to change camps.



**Roche Family Bird Hunting**

Mel, Becky and Jackson began their long journey back to Texas, while David, Campbell and I flew

to our final camp on the banks of the Rungwa River. David and Campbell scored that same afternoon on a 40-inch Cape buffalo and 52-inch greater kudu!



**Campbell Roche-Greater Kudu**

The hunting slowed, and after a day or two I followed up with "water pig." We now had, literally, tons of lion bait!





yards I fired the 500 grain Swift-A-Frame into the bull's black shoulder triangle, which was outlined by strong sinew and muscle. The large, slow-moving heavy-caliber bullet sounded a comforting "ker-thump" as it struck thick flesh. As if in slow motion the big bull was rocked sideways by the shot and spun awkwardly, slinging a long stream of snot, backlit by the setting sun. He charged 20 yards to the left then slid to a halt, with his nose plowing a red furrow into the soft African dirt. We had us a "walk-off home-run!"

#### ***Jim & Campbell Roche - Cape Buffalo***

The celebration was sweet for we had "walked this bull to death!" We posed for some quick photos as the African sun slid to rest behind the canopy of acacia trees. With tired feet and happy hearts we headed for camp. Later that night and safely in our tents, the Rungwa River hippos along with curious hyenas and jackals serenaded us to sleep.



#### ***David Roche-Crocodile***

Shortly before our charter flight arrived early the



next afternoon, David and Ricky managed to "brain" a large water lizard that was sunbathing on a thin sliver of sandy beach lining the muddy river. As the echo

of Dave's .300 Ultra Mag slowly drifted away from the river and deep into the African bush, our safari came to a close. The 29 trophies will line our living room walls. For now, the memories are safe and secure in our minds, and the people of Africa live in our hearts forever. Thanks Bro for the hunt of a lifetime!

#### ***Roche Family Safari Group***



## **Texas' Record Rainfall = Big Rack Whitetails!**

Texas has really been in the news this year. Torrential rainfall instead of devastating drought has been a very welcome change.



#### ***Free Range***

Our eight Leif River game cameras continue their excellent surveillance of our ranches as we move them from blind to blind. Sorting through several thousand photos each week has really shown us a full roster of big bucks!



### ***Free Range***

These cameras are proving instrumental in our “trophy whitetail management program.” With these photographs we are able to specifically target not only big old trophy bucks, but management bucks and select cull bucks.



### ***Free Range***

Oh, and let’s not forget about all the raccoons who have been enjoying a free meal at our protein feeders, or the bobcat stalking a doe as she visits our feeder! We will continue posting pre-season photos on our website under “Recent Photos” so please check them out at [www.magnumguideservice.com](http://www.magnumguideservice.com)



### ***Deer Census***

We are currently conducting both aerial helicopter surveys and spotlight surveys with two very experienced Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Technical Guidance Biologists. Their combined knowledge and dedication, along with the cooperation of both our landowners and hunters, will help raise Magnum’s whitetail hunting to new levels. This high level of quality deer management will further increase “Magnum Hunters” opportunities on both our existing large land holdings and the three new Whitetail Ranches we have recently acquired!



### ***New Whitetail Sanctuary***

That’s right, we have two new sanctuary ranches and one new free range whitetail ranch that I have been trying to acquire for over 10 years. We are very excited to offer these exclusively to our hunters!





## **Louis Stoffberg's Zingeli Safaris**

We have several happy J&M Adventures clients, recently returned from successful safaris with South African professional hunter, Louis Stoffberg.

### **Dr. Tom Farrell-Nyala**



Dr. Tom Farrell (MO) had a great start to his safari, harvesting a fine Nyala Bull within the first 30 minutes of his hunt. Tom harvested a total of 11 animals that included Sable, Hartebeest, Wart-hog, Wildebeest, Waterbuck, and a rare Genet Cat, with only 11 shots fired!

### **Dr. Tom Farrell-Genet Cat**



Thanks a lot Tom for raising the bar so high for the rest of us mere mortals!

### **Dr. Tom Farrell-Greater Kudu**



The highlight of Tom's safari was harvesting a 63 1/2 inch Top 20 SCI greater kudu and a big dugga boy with one shot from his mammoth .460 Weatherby Magnum!

### **Dr. Tom Farrell-Cape Buffalo**



While Tom and Louis spent days and nights playing cat and mouse with a huge male leopard that was hitting their bait, it wasn't destined to come together for Tom. Several days later the big cat committed to a regular feeding pattern and another of Louis' clients was able to snuff his lights out!

### **Louis Stoffberg & client - Leopard**



That's why they call it hunting. Good job Louis! Kerry & Teri Lynn Bender (TX), along with their good friend Vol Montgomery (TX), began their safari by hunting springbok, zebra and gemsbok just North of Pretoria, SA.

### Teri Bender-Sprinkbok



From there they traveled on to the legendary Kruger National Park for a three-day adventure filled photographic safari.

### Teri, Kerry & Vol at Kruger Park



They saw many different species of wildlife including all of the "big five," which they managed to bag with their cameras. The highlight of their Kruger Park tour was witnessing a large leopard feeding on his kill!

### Teri, Kerry & Vol w/ Elephant, Tusks at Kruger Park



From Kruger the safari continued with Kerry, Terri & Louis driving to Louis' Umganu Lodge in Limpopo Province, SA, to begin Kerry's 6 day archery hunt while Vol returned to business commitments in Texas.

### Umganu Lodge



From Umganu's well appointed

bush lodge accommodations, Kerry & Terri Lynn fully enjoyed hunting the entire concession exclusively to themselves.

### Kerry Bender-Greater Kudu



The next several days were spent joyfully video taping and photographing Kerry harvesting greater kudu, blue wildebeest and impala, along with a world-class warthog!

### Kerry Bender-Warthog



Their safari came to a tearful close as they said their goodbyes, vowing to return to Africa again.

## Live each day as if it were your last . . .

This could have been Magnum Turkey Hunter Scott Smith's personal motto. He indeed lived life to the fullest.

### Scott Smith

Scott recently suffered a fatal heart attack while climbing out of the Grand Canyon. He blessed us with his presence this past spring turkey season, along with good friend Conrad Troll. Those who shared the Main Lodge with Scott will remember him winning the Big Gobbler Award, as well as his tan, un-ending smile. "May the Lord be your guide and the "Roost" full of longbeards!"





## New TX & NM Ranches!

For several months we have been actively pursuing many leads in an effort to uncover new hunting opportunities for "Magnum Hunters." Approximately one in ten leads actually turns out to be something of value to both hunter and guide. But when that one turns out to be a really good ranch, you ought to hurry and get in line to hunt it!

### Dr. Brian Anthony-Coyote Shootout



Such was the case with a new 45,000 acre ranch near Laredo, TX. We are hunting predators, javelina and feral hogs there. Excellent dove hunting is available along with fishing, and we are hopeful that maybe next year we can offer a few deer hunts.

### Rick Goodwin-Bobcats

Highlights of this ranch are a nice lodge that can comfortably accommodate up to 12 hunters, a large outside fire pit, a walk-in cooler and some 25 lakes filled with bass and catfish. The bobcat and coyote hunting is incredible with a real chance for a mountain lion!



### Dr. Brian Anthony-Javelina



The javelina are thick as fleas and the feral hogs entirely too numerous. The Predator, Javelina, & Hog Hunts we conducted late last spring proved very successful. On one particular hunt we called in five bobcats and 24 coyotes. Tro-

phy javelina hunting for big boars posed no problem, but the big feral hogs soaked the lead up from our hunter's little .223s and ran away to become coyote bait! For "pounding pork," use enough gun! The landowner is so pleased with our guide service that he has opened up another 20,000 acres for our hunters, bringing the total South Texas leases to 65,000 acres!

### Jackie Seale-Aoudad



Near the historic West Texas town of Fort Davis,

we are hunting both free-range aoudad and barbado sheep, along with predators and javelina on this sprawling 30,000 acre ranch.

#### **Jackie Seale-Free Range Barbado**



The hunting is very good and the mountains provide a welcome change to hunting flat country. The hunter's lodge is right on the ranch and there is a nice dirt airstrip nearby.

#### **John Zehmisch-badger**



New predator hunting ranches include; 76,000 acres near Pecos, TX, primarily for coyote and bobcat, 27,000 acres West of Del Rio, TX on the Pecos River for bobcat, mountain lion, and javelina, 4,000 acres with a 200 acre "prairie dog town" near the TX/NM State line, 4,000 acres near Brady, TX that is loaded with bobcat and 18,000 acres near Ft. McKavett, TX that has a little of everything, including feral hogs!



**John Zehmisch-bobcat**

**John Zehmisch-coyote**



#### **Bob Lowder-Pronghorn Antelope**



We have just leased 22,000 acres north of Roswell, NM for trophy antelope, and the quality of the pronghorn bucks is exceptional.



### Joe Shortino-West Texas Mule deer



We also have 14,000 acres in the Glass Mountains of West Texas for free-range elk, mule deer, free-range aoudad rams, javelina and predators, including mountain lion! This ranch is awesome with high reaching mountains that provide enjoyable spot and stalk hunting. We have four spots available for our West Texas Rut Hunt December 6-9, 2007.

### Spring Turkey Season

This coming spring turkey season we will be offering something new for small groups of turkey hunters (four to six), wanting to pretty much “do it themselves” and save money. We have two new turkey ranches that comprise close to 12,000 acres for them to hunt exclusively. Please give us a call for more details. Check out the new “Amazing Turkey Video” on our web site!



### Harry Saunders-Sanctuary Whitetail



I already mentioned that we have three new white-tail ranches, one of which has monster bucks up to 185 B&C!

### Rex Brown-Wildebeest



We have several new exotic ranches to add to our portfolio including the ranch near Brady, one in Rocksprings and the nearest only 20 minutes from the Magnum Main Lodge. This one has over 30 different species of exotics on more than 3,000 acres.

### Greg Brogdon-Zebra



# MGS mourns the loss of another good friend . . .



## ***J.W. Briggs-Whitetail***

J.W., as friends called him, hunted with us over a span of 15 years successfully harvesting a number of whitetail, mule deer and turkey. Those who shared a camp with J.W. will remember his deep, soft-spoken Louisiana drawl and humble demeanor. J.W. was an excellent marksman and custom gun maker. He was a close friend to Melony and I, even before we were married. Many fond memories come to mind as I write this. *We will miss him dearly.*

## ***FROM THE MAILBOX***



Thank you for a wonderful experience; we shall remember this trip all of our lives. Please pass on our thanks to your great guides and lodge staff. With your help all of us got trophies we can be proud of. The variety of exotic animals we saw is amazing. Tom's birthday cake was very thoughtful and added a nice touch. Thank you, ***Don Collom, MI***







I want to thank you for providing what turned out to be the best trip I've ever taken. That's saying quite a bit. Everything was first-rate, from the little touches in the lodge to the quantity of animals to look at. We appreciated the way everything was taken care of, because we basically were able to hang out together and get to know each other again, something we haven't done in a lot of years. The hunting itself took a back seat to the overall experience, and the trip is something I will always remember. I'll leave it at that, because I can't say enough about it. The meat pickup went fine. We were very happy with the quality of the processor, Sklenarik's Smoked Meats. All the meat was clean, vacuum packed, frozen and ready to go when we got there. Anyone who takes the trouble to get me a birthday cake has my business for life. You all are good people. Take care, **Thomas Collom, MI**



Thanks once again for hosting such a great hunt! This was my 7th year returning to Magnum for spring turkey and each year I look forward to it as if it were my first! Your guides, cooks and yourselves are top notch and have become my extended family over the years, **Marianne Hosty, NJ**



I would just like to thank you guys for an awesome time me and my 16-year-old son had with all of you this past spring. It was a great bonding experience that we will have for the rest of our lives. What separates you guys is the professionalism at all levels—lodging, food, knowledgeable guides that do it all for you from guiding you, teaching you their tricks that make you a better hunter, doing everything it takes to make sure you have the best shot opportunity and taking care of your game as if it were theirs. I have used you guys in the past, have referred you to many of my friends and will continue to do so as well. Thanks again Melony for putting together the CD of great photos.

***Bob & Bobby Burns, PA***



Attention, please! Anyone reading this testimonial; if you are not sure about hunting with Magnum just give me a call. I'll guarantee you Magnum will do everything possible to help you bag that Tom turkey you're looking for. Russ and Glenn are two of the best guides ever. Jim and Mel, the owners, will take you in just as if you were family. What a great hunt. The food was also exceptional. I met some great guys from all over the United States--some of which will stay with me forever. Earl I hope you are reading this! Hunting has always put me on cloud-nine, so thank you for a wonderful trip and I am looking forward to a return trip! One more high point of the trip was the engraved box call that I won! It is top notch just like Magnum." ***Mickey Fortner, AR***





I just wanted to let both of you know how much I enjoyed my recent axis hunt. You both made me feel like part of your family, and on top of that you shared in the excitement of my first Trophy Axis Deer. I look forward to seeing you both again.

*Chane Reagan, TX*



Wow, all the ingredients of a perfect hunt. Facilities, food, personnel, communications and of course you, our hosts were all great. Your operation is outstanding for the sportsman. I'm not sure if you knew the trip was a gift from my son, Ron. Killing our birds just made it perfect for the both of us. Selecting Magnum Guide Service was great on his part and all of you guys made it all come together. I will recommend M.G.S. to anyone looking for a quality guided hunt with all the trimmings. Thanks so much for your hospitality, and of course the "undergarment"! *Earl Haywood, FL*

The Jones Ranch spring turkey hunt was great, with Rick's guidance and my tagging two 20-pound gobblers! The icing on the cake however was my Axis deer hunt with Jim and my good friend Jonathan Little. The awesome stalk we put on that beautiful buck was just incredible! I was able to hold it all together and made a good shot. I wanted a good representation of the species. What Jim delivered was a truly an awesome "hog" of an Axis buck that should score extremely high in the record books. Jim, we have been together for nine years and the memories you have provided for me I will treasure always. Your guides, cooks, lodge keepers and of course Melony are truly wonderful people and that it is why I will always book my hunts with you and Mel. We have become family, you and I and I really like it that way. See you next spring!

*Dan Flynn, PA*



The hunt last week was superb and I sincerely appreciate both the opportunity and all that you did for Irene and me. Our combination predator/varmint/ram/feral hog/exotic hunt really exceeded even the high expectations I have developed of MGS hunts over the last five year. You out did yourselves again. Despite tough environmental conditions including thunderstorms, your expertise resulted in critters responding on nearly every stand we made. The variety was simply amazing with coyotes, bobcats, badgers, fox, porcupine and raccoon all being in my sights. The jackrabbits provided additional entertainment in between other hunts, as well as some really good offhand rifle practice. I truly enjoyed the javelina hunting and am thrilled with the two boars I took. Much like my previous aoudad hunt with you in Palo Duro Canyon, I was thrilled with the challenge of the free-range Barbados rams on the ranch near Ft. Davis. They proved to be worthy adversaries and the heavy horned ram we took will make a fine mount.

Melony, the food was superb, the company was great and Irene enjoyed the tour and shopping in the eccentric communities of Ft. Davis, Marfa, and Alpine while she waited for her turn to hunt exotics. Irene's scimitar-horned oryx hunt was challenging and provided her with both fond memories and a fine trophy of a battle-scarred old warrior. While I didn't score on my last-minute exotic hunt due to



the self-imposed time limitations I had, I sure got into the impromptu feral hog shooting we did. Irene, Keiran and I will see you in November for some more big whitetails! We'll be there early as I've got my name on a gemsbok and just may be tempted by those excellent fallow stags I saw on the Bruno Ranch. *John R. Zehmisch, AZ*



Just wanted to tell you again how much I appreciated the hospitality and the hunting adventure. I had a great time! Also wanted to let you know that you have helped me realize that it is still okay to enjoy life, and Jim you are right, when we lose someone we love and can bring ourselves to participate in activities that we enjoyed with them, we can feel a part of them is still with us. Hope to see you again soon. *Harold Woodard, MS*







# Snap Shots!



**Larry  
Bennett-  
*Aoudad***



**Photos 1 & 2- Dr. Tom Farrell,  
*Predator & Turkey Combo Hunt***



**Isaac Tomac-*Jackrabbit  
Shootout***

**Dave  
Brethauer  
*Javelina***



**Brian Crawford &  
Russ Wagner**



## Magnum Guide Service 2007 Spring Turkey Season



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## J & M Adventures - Experience Argentina!



**Kevin Neathery**  
*Way to go Kevin!*



## Back Row

From L to R, “Swift A Frames”, (90% 500gr/.458 Lott) Cape Buffalo, (75% 500gr/.458 Lott) Hippo, (90% 400gr/.416 RM) Brown Bear, (95% 400gr/.416 RM) Zebra

## Front Row

From L to R, “Swift A Frame” (90% 180gr/.300 RUM) Eland, & (85% 160gr/7mm STW) Oryx, Nosler Partition, (50% 180 gr/.300 WM) Black Bear, Sierra Game King (45% 150gr/7mm) Whitetail, Nosler Partition, (68% 210gr/.338 WM) Moose

# Bullet Choice

Matching the right bullet against the species of game you are pursuing could make the difference in whether or not you’re putting them on the wall! Every year we receive several phone calls and emails from hunters asking, “Why don’t you recommend Ballistic Tip bullets?”

The reason is over the past 10 years 90 percent of all the whitetail deer wounded and lost at MGS have been with Nosler Ballistic Tips. Shot distances are normally close when hunting whitetail in Texas. With these bullets traveling at high velocities they often times blow up on impact and normally fail to penetrate, leaving little if any blood trail to follow. Sure they look good with their polycarbonate colored tips and they are indeed very accurate, but you’re not hunting paper animals, you’re hunting flesh & bone!

As sportsman, it is our responsibility to insure quick, clean and humane harvests. Nosler probably recognized that they could improve on the Ballistic Tip and that’s when they came out with the Accu Bond, which also shares a polycarbonate tip but has a bonded core to increase bullet weight retention insuring deeper penetration. Many bullet companies now



produce quality bullets with polycarbonate tips that look like Ballistic Tips, but there not. Swift A Frame for one has the Scirocco Bullet that is a very good choice for thin skinned game like whitetail deer. It expands quickly yet retains 80 percent of its original weight for good penetration. It is very accurate and looks good in an ammo sleeve! They also have the original Swift A Frame offering controlled expansion and deeper penetration. This particular bullet is a good choice for dangerous game like bear, lion and leopard because it expands quickly on thin skinned animals, has moderate penetration, and often retains 90 percent or more of its original weight.

Most African PHs recommend Barnes Triple Shock bullets for they penetrate very deep into larger, thicker skinned game like Cape buffalo or hippo with excellent weight retention. In a perfect world the perfect bullet would double its diameter immediately upon impact, retain 100 percent of it's original weight, completely pass through the intended target and fall to the ground expending 99 percent of it's energy into the victim, not foul your barrel, shoot sub minute groups, and cost less than a dollar each. There is no such thing! Your ammunition is the cheapest part of your hunt; why take a chance on wounding and losing an animal or your life? Invest in the best quality ammunition you can find and practice, practice, practice!



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