

ISSUE 10 · OCTOBER 2020

Z.P.H.G.A.

Official Newsletter of the Zimbabwean Professional
Hunters and Guides Association

Upper Ncema dam Feb 2017

What does it mean to be a Ranger?

BY ALISON BAKER

It is a simple but moving ceremony, held annually around the world on the 31st July. Rangers from all units stand together in silence as the roll call of those who have died in action worldwide in the preceding 12 months is read out. The list may not be complete: some countries do not submit: some names might be omitted in error. The silence and respect is for all Rangers: a moment when we all understand that wherever we work and whatever our mandate, we are all part of one 'thin green line', defending our wildlife and the environment.

Of course it is in the field that the real work takes place.



Alison on a routine patrol

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What it is to be a ranger continued:

Hours on patrol or in ambush, watching, waiting and all the time developing your understanding of the areas you work in. The better you know an area the more effectively you patrol it. Naturally you know your water points – not just the main ones but those obscure hidden springs and temporary pans inaccessible by road. You learn terrain and the plant types or prey preferred by any given species in an area. You know your herd structures and aim to understand them closely enough



you know your herd structures and aim to understand them closely enough to detect the slightest change in their dynamics or behavior.

Then there are the tracks signs of course – not just the wildlife but the poachers themselves. The obvious is easy. It is the hidden that is most significant. So it is also a matter of knowing your enemy, understanding his signature way of working and attempting to out manoeuvre him; a task that requires endless patience and endurance.

At times the task seems impossible. It certainly is monumental and never-ending. Your failures are harrowing – because you will fail. It is impossible not to. The tortured deaths in a snare, the horrific injuries, the suffering inflicted by the snare you missed, the wounded animal you could not locate or the poacher you could not catch. These can bring total despair. But you carry on because every patrol, every ambush, makes the poachers life more difficult. Every snare you remove is an animal's life saved, and if you can save the life of one animal it is a step towards their survival.

So there they are – this thin green line, these unsung heroes. Not on parade but blending quietly into the landscape they know so well, concealed in stillness: unnoticed but dedicated and vigilant. A group of people I am proud to work with. For me this is the most rewarding work I have ever done. And as every day I patrol this diverse and beautiful country, I know that this is where I am meant to be.

"An Association - The motive for people to come together is to combine their energy and share resources to create or provide services and programs which they desire for themselves or to give to others"



Association Name Change Proposal

by now all Members should have received communication by Email or WhatsApp or perhaps both in regards to the Association name change proposal.

So why change name - Overall the reasons are two fold:

1. We believe it is time to modernise and emphasise a hunters role in conservation and sustainability. We feel the title "Professional Hunter" is outdated and sends an image of hunters of a bygone era. We believe it may be time to modernise and portray our hunters as ethical professionals whose focus is on customer service and long-term sustainable conservation.
2. As an Association we need to attract and represent non-consumptive guides. With an all-encompassing portfolio of Guides we gain strength to better support everyone in the tourism sector, including adding more weight to our ability to support hunting as a long term sustainable conservation model.

Going into more detail the name change is proposed due to the following reasons:

- Removes the word "Hunter" from the name without losing sight of the importance of hunting and the conservation element there of
- A necessary step towards keeping up with the times and modernising our image
- Emphasises the point that we are all "Guides" with a focus on providing our clients with the best service, but with different qualifications and roles. i.e. a "Guide" leading a client on a hunt, a "Guide" taking a canoeing safari, or a "Guide" leading a game drive, walking or horse safari etc.
- Increases the Associations ability to attract a higher membership that is more representative of entire tourism sector in Zimbabwe
- Will allow for more Zimbabwean photographic Operators to show the Association logo on their web pages and therefore gain better support for the Association
- Will allow for us to get better and more external funding as it will enhance the Associations reputation
- Will lend itself to members being more accepting of the mandatory registration of an accredited Association as a result of the E.C.C. coming into force
- The Association needs to be seen as "progressive thinking" and moving with the times A larger, stronger and more representative Association gives us more credibility to defend members and market a united conservation model that includes sustainable hunting as a crucial element of Zimbabwe's conservation requirements

"It's an absolute pleasure for SPAR BONSA to be a part of the overwhelming support in your plight to remove all the cable wire in Hwange. Gosh, I am blown away by the amount of tonnes (kilometres) of wire collected by you and your teams.

It's unthinkable and unimaginable that there is so much of it out there!

Thank you so much for caring for our wildlife, which we all so fully LOVE and appreciate."



A Poachers Moon

BY JOHN LAING

Throughout the ages man has looked skyward and marvelled at the constellations, Guests on Safari often comment about how beautiful the African night sky is, how dark and how unpolluted compared to the western world skies, yet there is a hidden menace behind the moon that many people do not understand, some of us understand it only too well



The brightens that the moon brings to the sky in our industry is a time to spare a thought for our wildlife, the game scouts and rangers and operators that quite literally look at the moon in a very different light.

The full Moon in many landscapes brings with it a sense of unease and a time to be additionally vigilant.

Without any doubt Poachers certainly do take advantage of the full moon, with brighter skies night-time visibility is significantly improved, there is no longer a need to carry torches, the light of which would easily give away a poachers' position.

Every full Moon signifies an alert for our anti-poaching teams, whom in turn increase their vigils. So when you next marvel at the full moon remember the full Moon is a monthly occurrence that adds to the burden of care for our wildlife.

As wild animal numbers continue to decline it is more evident of the importance of conservation and understanding the role that anti-poaching plays throughout the Country.

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children."

"Membership discounted rates on production of valid Z.P.H.G.A. Members Card"

Participating Companies include:

Pro 4x4
The Orange Elephant
Masters Hardware (INCO)
Tiger Wheel & Tyre
Barons
SAF Bar
TCI
Widency Upholstery

If you would like to see your Company name listed here please contact
zphga1@gmail.com

Z.P.H.G.A. Diary

OCTOBER 2020

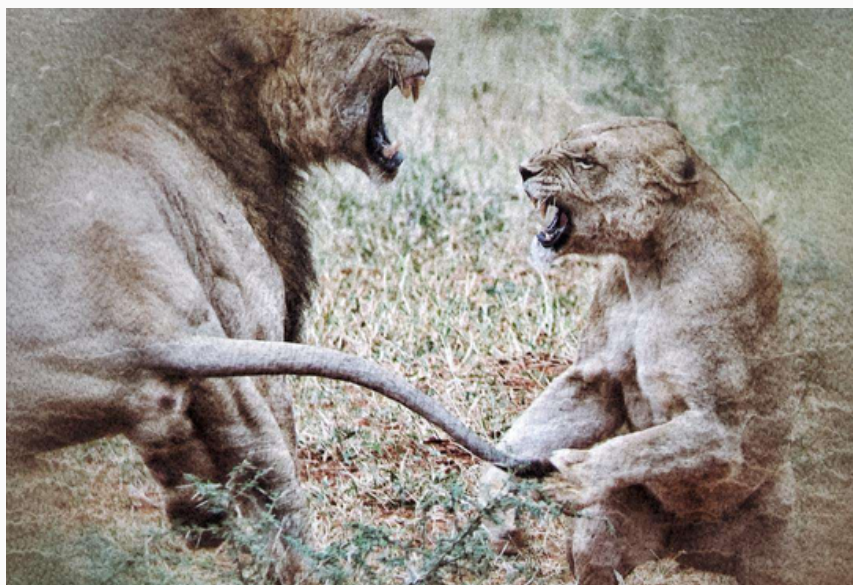
- **Thur 1st - New Membership year starts**
- 14th Sept to 16th October - Registration for LPH exams
- Sunday 18th October Shooting Proficiency #3
- Monday 19th October Harare Oral Interviews at Boulton
- Tuesday 20th October LPH Theory exams
- Wednesday 21st October LPH Theory exams continued
- Thursday 22nd to 25th October marking of LPH Theory exams

NOVEMBER 2020

- Special General Meeting - Association Name change VOTE
- 14th Sept to 06th November - Registration for Proficiency exam
- Wednesday 04th - Friday 06th Upper Zambezi Canoe Proficiency
- Monday 09th - Sunday 15th Proficiency Exam

DECEMBER 2020

- Sat 5th December A.G.M. & Safari Dinner



**BOOTS, HAY BALES
& JEANS!**
Victoria Falls Jump Up!

• **Theme - Boots & Jeans**
• **Venue - Lookout Cafe**
• **Price - US\$30 per cover**
(Tables of 10 available)

**DECEMBER
05th
18:00**

**FOR RSVP AND TICKET
PURCHASING PLEASE EMAIL
zphga1@gmail.com**

**Z.P.H.G.A. AGM
VICTORIA FALLS
SAFARI LODGE**

**DATE: SATURDAY 5TH
DECEMBER 2020
VENUE: VICTORIA FALLS
SAFARI LODGE
TIME: 07:30 SHARP
MORNING TEA AND
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
AT \$20 PER PERSON
ENDS 16:00
FOLLOWED BY**

**SAFARI SOIREE
LOOKOUT CAFE**

**VENUE: LOOKOUT CAFE
TIME: 18:00
THEME: BOOTS & JEANS**

ZIMBABWE PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION



Membership Status:

It's a collaborative effort

It is true to say that any association is only as good as its Membership. Recently there has been a huge drive and push to on-boarding new members. Our August 2020 figures were at 252 members, we have had a growth of 4 members taking us to 256 and there are a number of new members that have completed the application process but will only be added to the Group as of the 1st October to coincide with the beginning of the Z.P.H.G.A. financial year.

Membership Grouping	Number
FULL PH	129
FULL PH (RESTRICTION)	4
FULL PG	38
LEARNER PROFESSIONAL HUNTER	57
ASSOCIATE	26
CUBS	2

Jenny has sent out the Membership Invoices to all Members in respect of the 2021 membership. We ask that ALL of you sign up at least one new member for 2021, remembering the Z.P.H.G.A. year runs from 1st October through to the 30th September, you can still do your bit and convince a friend of the benefits of joining up!"

There are still a number of Members that have not signed the Guides Code of conduct nor sent us in the additional information we require for each member. We will be sending out individual email chasers and reminders so that we can get this concluded, THANK YOU to all those that have sent in information already. Please support this process as it can be quick and easy and indeed it should be.

There is still a long way to go in terms of membership and we would like to encourage every member to step up in this regard, please encourage and grow our Association.

"CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD NOT
TO BE A MEMBER?"



Members Chat: Mark Friend

PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

Mark grew up for the most part in the Midlands areas of Zimbabwe and was privileged to have spent his youth growing up in the rural farming community areas where he very quickly developed a passion for the African bush, its wildlife and people.

In 2002 Mark obtained his Professional Guides Licence and won the award for Best Guide on Proficiency and continued his career, traveling all around Zimbabwe, working and developing his knowledge, within the diverse ecosystems that Zimbabwe's National Parks and Wildlife areas have to offer.

Around 2004, Mark was afforded an opportunity to follow in his family footsteps and serve as a Police Officer in the UK. After a long selection process, Mark was accepted and signed up for service with the Hampshire Constabulary. This was such a polar opposite change from anything he knew or had experienced before, however it was amazing how the skills Mark had acquired through becoming a Guide, played an important role in his successes and achievements in policing.

Towards the end of 2011, Mark could resist no more the call of the African Bush and returned back with his wife and 2 children, home, to Zimbabwe where he is back living out his one true passion, working with the wildlife and the people of Zimbabwe.

Currently Mark works as a Professional Guide out of Singita Pamushana lodge located on the Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve, where his role is to not only delight his guests aspirations of seeing Zimbabwe's finest wildlife offerings but also to expose them to new authentic experiences, to educate and share the conservation stories and concerns of the Zimbabwean Wildlife and our Communities. Through this Mark's aim is to encourage and empower his guests to go and be impactful, meaningful Ambassadors for Zimbabwean Wildlife Conservation.

Mark Says:

"Being a police officer taught me A LOT, in particular I quickly learnt to not waste time, life is short and further more, laugh, laugh often, laugh hard and enjoy every moment you have!"

Z.P.H.G.A. Membership

"An affiliation that holds and implements distinguished standards, corroborates our members legitimacy and evidences a Professional qualification over and above the Professional licence held, promotes a Professional culture of responsibility, honesty and integrity."





Mark Friend Continued:

As a Professional Guide, Marks favorite way to enjoy the wildlife and the bush, is to do so on foot. He says it is truly an all sensory, authentic and potentially life changing, memorable experience. To be able to get out of the vehicle, walk through the diverse wild biomes in a manner that our ancestors once did is a unique experience.

Mark is indeed privileged to work in a pristine environment where Ancient rock art can be seen, as if left there recently, where endangered species can be enjoyed, thanks to the great work of conservationists and security personal, funded and supported through generous donations of passionate people overseas, of which some may have been on Safari and impacted through the experiences that we the Zimbabwean Professional Guides and Hunters alike may have inspired.

When not guiding, Mark can still be found walking in the bush, taking pictures and making small story videos of things that he finds inspiring, along with a whole host of other out door activities.

Marks Closing statement:

"I am proud to be called a Professional Guide of Zimbabwe and humbled to stand amongst so many giants of my Profession & Industry".

"

"Heroes never die, they live on forever in the hearts and minds of those that follow in their footsteps"





Z.P.H.G.A. Thank you's

OUR SUPPORTERS ARE OUR LIFE LINE

Hwange Telephone line removal

The 11th September marked the end of the third wave of assistance from the guiding community. We have found that four full days working is the most efficient stint to work and support. Each trip is of course different and has its own set of challenges as well as opportunities.

- Trip 1 managed to collect 118 km of wire, it set the record and is a tough record to beat. Out of interest that is roughly 4 tonnes of wire..
- Trip 2 managed to collect 85 km of wire
- Trip 3 managed to collect 98 km of wire

What an amazing experience to be part of. As mentioned above, there are so many different people and organisations to thank:

- Juliet Johnstone of Cawston Block - for providing meat and fresh veges to the volunteers
- Randall's - for providing cabbages
- Brent LeRoux - for providing fresh vegetables
- Bonsa Spar - for providing 2 x 10 kg bags of mealie meal
- Forever African Safaris - for providing procurement and logistics
- Iganyana Tented Camp - for providing accommodation, supplying and logistics of meals and camp staff
- Shumba Camp
- Ride Zimbabwe - the horses and the grooms
- Hwange Safari Lodge - For volunteer staff that has assisted with the wire removal (Liberty, Wenburg, Crouther, Fortune and Mr Masotsha)
- Batoka Lodges for providing a vehicle to transport volunteers from Victoria Falls to Inganyana
- Camp Hwange for providing a vehicle to transport volunteers from Camp Hwange to Shumba Camp
- Paul de Montile - for sorting out the relevant paperwork and sign off between all land and property owners
- Hwange National Park - Main Camp Area Manager Mr Joroma and his team

Volunteers and line workers name for Trip 3 are: Severino, Lungile, Bauleni, Effort, Artfield, Vitalis NCUBE, Zibusiso SIBANDA, Shain CHIOTA, Wisdom MPOFU, Harris KANHUKAMWE, Dan PEEL, Daniel NGWENYA, Abraham MHLANGU, Lucky SILUNGWE, Wilbert DUBE, Wonder SIAMUDODA, Milton NCUBE, Mathew MUNUWA.

We sincerely apologize if we have left anyone out inadvertently.

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall



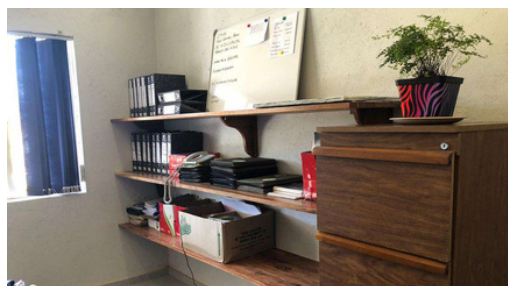
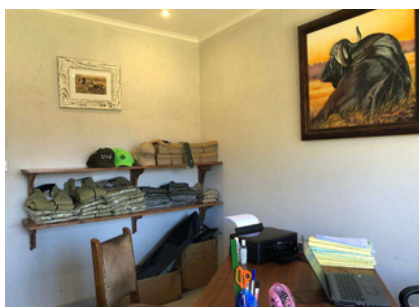
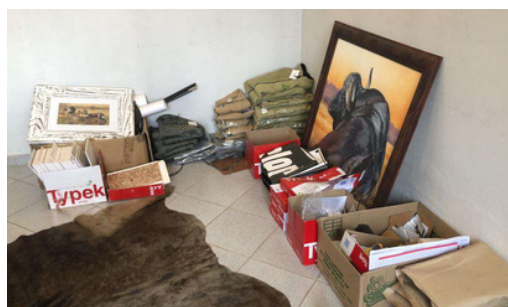


Z.P.H.G.A. Thank you's Continued...

OUR SUPPORTERS ARE OUR LIFE LINE

Hardwoods Africa

A very special thanks goes to Kyle ZERF from Hardwoods Africa for donating all the shelving in the Z.P.H.G.A. administration office. As you can see from the pictures below there is a marked improvement in our office facility.



Z.P.H.G.A.

"Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems see benefits and know one had a hand in them".





Isuzu - Guides Against Poaching (G.A.P.)

IN CONJUNCTION WITH AUTOWORLD ZIMBABWE

We are excited to introduce a new Z.P.H.G.A. initiative, that we have branded "Guides Against Poaching, or G.A.P. in conjunction with Autoworld Zimbabwe whom has provided a double and single cab Isuzu pickups.

It has become clear during this COVID year that, there are many battles in the field, Members fighting hard to protect their properties against the onslaught of poaching. To this regard, G.A.P. will provide back up Members in need. The program will go something like this...

- Members may apply for Assistance in conjunction with their own Anti-poaching teams, meaning GAP will provide support to existing Anti-poaching programs but will not be there to set up new Anti-poaching program
- Support may include, vehicles to back up transport needs to drop off and pick up scouts/rangers fuel delivers or food supplies
- Support from fellow members wishing to volunteer their time to assist with and offer their advise "on the ground issues"
- We funds allow will possibly provide financial support

In return, G.A.P. asks for:

- Existing Anti-poaching statistics in the area of operation so as to produce detailed Media coverage which will be used to request further funding and ensure the projects success and longevity



"Never content with standing still or alone";

"Membership at the coal face";

"Progressive leaders in the Wildlife Industry".

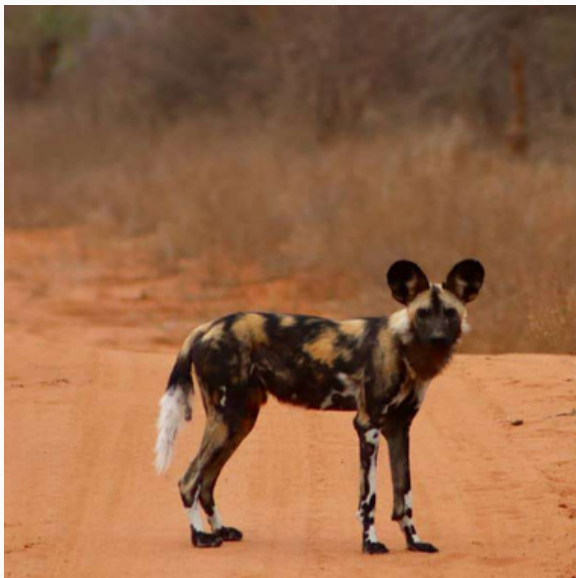
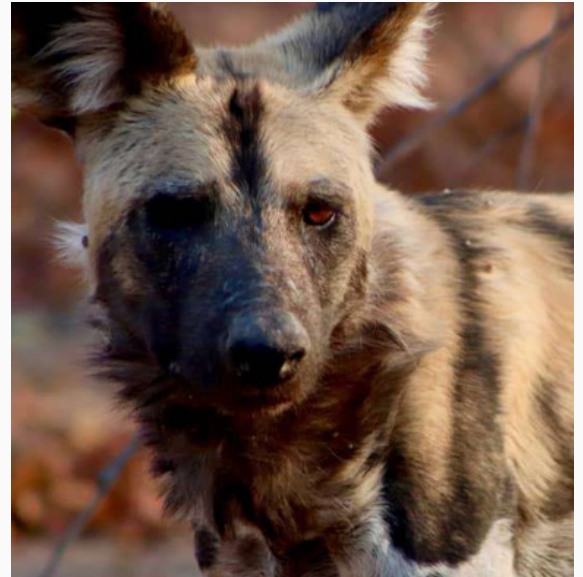
Z.P.H.G.A. Members & our Association have been called many things, our actions speak volumes.



Members Photo Gallery:

A PICTURE CAN TELL A THOUSAND STORIES

All members are asked to send in their picture and articles of interest - Special thanks goes to Mark FRIEND whom contributed to this months pictures throughout the rest of the Newsletter. Interestingly these were all taken with a phone and not an SLR Camera. The below photographs were all taken by Chants Duckworth near the Mokore-Sango boundary in the SAVE Conservancy





Contact Us:

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

As the Z.P.H.G.A. your Committee are here to assist you, to enable us to answer your questions in a more timely manner please would you in the first instance contact Jenny VAN DEN BERGH on zphga1@gmail.com and request to be put in touch with one of the following Committees whom will gladly assist you.

- Z.P.H.G.A. – Chairman Mr Lance NESBITT
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Vice Chairman Mr Rob LURIE
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Ethics Committee
 - Guiding Code of Conduct
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Finance
 - All payment issues
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Advertising & Marketing
 - All branding Membership Cards
 - Membership Discounted Rates Initiative
 - Fundraising
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Next Generation
 - Study & Law Packs
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Training
 - RIFA & SAVE Valley conservancy initiatives
 - Devils Gorge Conservancy training program
- Z.P.H.G.A. – A.G.M. & Dinner

We would also like to advise our Members that from time to time we understand mistakes do happen. If you find yourself in an impossible situation please do call your Committee and ask for advice. There have been several recent stories emerge and regarding members that “had they raised the issue” a completely different result may have been the order of the day.

“We are here to assist you where-ever possible”

“Don't just blend in, if you require our assistance a Z.P.H.G.A. Committee member is just a call away”

