

**Drones**

By Johnny Kirby

Every few years, new technology comes along that causes controversy in the hunting and fishing world. For years we have dealt with the arguments surrounding the farm raised deer and the high fence debate.

Now we have the controversy over whether it is ethical to use drones to locate game and fish for hunters and fishermen. If you have a drone to fly around to find your deer before you even go out to hunt, it certainly simplifies your day. Drones are already being used to track animals and fish. Although most folks are not necessarily opposed to the use of drones in general, not many of them are in favor of using them to hunt.

Several states including Alaska, Montana and Colorado already have regulations in place to prohibit the use of drones for hunting and fishing. I understand there are other states considering such regulations. Don't be surprised if Texas, Georgia, Alabama, and New Mexico follow suit with these drone bans.

Of course some of the anti hunting groups have decided they can also use drones to harass hunters while in the legal process of hunting. We already have laws in place to prohibit such harassment and these laws are being updated to cover the use of drones for this practice. I would suggest that if this happens to you and you are sure that you are being harassed, one well placed shot at the drone should stop this nonsense.

Some of the new modern drones not only have amazing cameras for pictures and movies, but some also have thermal imaging capabilities. I can see where this would be a valuable when tracking wounded game. However, I would hate to even think about replacing a good blood-tracking dog. Sometimes the tried and proven way is still the best.

Aside from using drones for tracking wounded animals, there is another valuable use for them. It would be nice, not necessarily to view game, but to show terrain and accommodations to prospective hunters.

The unmanned aircraft that we now refer to as drones is nothing new. Forty years ago we were flying radio control airplanes and helicopters for sport. We had what we then called quad-copters. To fly them successfully, you needed multiple gyros to stabilize them in flight. Those gyros were expensive and the batteries were heavy, making the quad-copters not very popular.

New advancements in technology have caused the drone market to gain amazing popularity. You now need to be registered with the FAA to fly drones for any use. The FAA definition of a drone is "an unmanned aircraft system." The dictionary calls them a pilot-less aircraft, boat or land vehicle operated by remote control.

Of course, we know the military uses highly advanced drones as attack aircraft that

carry a large assortment of deadly armament. These drones are satellite controlled by pilots sitting at computers thousands of miles from their targets. I can't find when the military started using the term "drone", but the term now includes the weapons and the toys.

The first definition in the dictionary is "a male bee with no job but to breed with the Queen." One way or another it seems we will need to accept the fact that drones are here to stay.

**Deer Noses**

By Johnny Kirby

Did you know that Whitetail deer have 2 noses? Deer have an amazing sense of smell, which is why scent control is important to a hunter's success.

Deer have up to 297 million scent receptors. Not only that but they also have a secondary scent gland called the "vomeronasal" organ located in their mouth. They have two openings in the roof of their mouth that connect directly to their brain. The "vomeronasal" organ is the stimulus for the reproductive glands in the deer. We have all seen bucks with their mouths



*This group of hunters had a great day at 700 Springs Ranch!*

open and their lips curled up when following does, now we know why. They are taking in the scent and processing her estrus stage.

There has not been a lot of

research on the scent capabilities of deer but we have a lot of research on what canines are capable of smelling. Some estimate that deer have as much as 30% greater scent capabilities

that canines. If this is true, that would make them 400 times more sensitive to smell than humans. Obviously, the deer won't need the full dozen roses to impress his mate.

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