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## Colorado's Finest Private Pheasant Hunting Preserve

### RMR Weekly E-News

Good Afternoon RMR Folks!

A couple of quick things:

RMR member Rudy Fannin let me know today that his daughter Laura, who just turned 31 a month or so ago, was diagnosed with breast cancer and is having surgery on Monday. You all know that I believe in the power of prayer, and Laura and the Fannin family need ours for certain.

#### **TRAINING BIRDS**

RMR trainer Ben Garcia called me this morning and told me that he will have Pigeons available for training your four legged friends this summer. If you want to train with live birds, just let Ben know at 303-709-6268. He is also available for training your dog as well if you don't have the time or inclination to do it yourself.

#### **ARE YOU GOING TO NEW ZEALAND??**

This came today in the Hunting Report. FYI...

Are you planning to hunt New Zealand for tahr or chamois with the aid of a helicopter? Well, a big fight is brewing within New Zealand's hunting and outfitting community over this kind of hunting. Seems resident hunters and a number of outfitters who specialize in foot-hunting for these species have challenged the legality of these hunts and are circulating a petition for an outright ban on helicopters for all hunting.

For more than 30 years, outfitters in New Zealand have used helicopters to access the most rugged mountain terrain to hunt tahr and chamois. But the practice has come under serious scrutiny and criticism in the last few years. The catalyst for that seems to be a fatal hunting accident that occurred in 2006 when an American hunter slipped and fell to his death while exiting a helicopter during a chamois hunt. The investigation and high-profile court case that followed led to speculation and rumors that helicopter-assisted hunting would be outlawed in New Zealand.

Although helicopter-assisted hunting has been allowed in New Zealand for 30 years, the regulations seem to have been a bit ambiguous. Last October, the New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association held a members meeting to sort out the issues and hammer out some guidelines on the ethical and legal use of helicopters during a guided hunt. *The Hunting Report* posted those guidelines on its [web site](#). Recently New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC) announced some new procedures to ensure all helicopter-assisted hunting is done by officially registered operators. The new system is scheduled for implementation this coming September, but the department has moved forward with early registrations. A number of outfitters who do not use helicopters have now moved to have the entire practice banned and are collecting signatures through an [online petition](#).

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I should note that some of the behavior the petition objects to is already illegal, such as hunting clients shooting from the helicopter. Only registered shooters with a commercial game recovery operation are legally able to do that. Also, the use of helicopters on private land requires specific permission from the landowner. Public land hunts using helicopters already require a concession permit from the DOC. We spelled out all the requirements and restrictions in our [New Zealand Country Report](#).

For now, helicopter-assisted hunting continues to be legal in New Zealand under certain restrictions, as mentioned above. I'll have a more in-depth report on this development in the upcoming June issue of *The Hunting Report*. In the meantime, hunters with strong convictions about helicopter-assisted hunting are welcome to send me an e-mail with their views at [Barbara@huntingreport.com](mailto:Barbara@huntingreport.com). If I receive enough thoughtful responses about why helicopter-assisted hunting should or should not be allowed in New Zealand, I'll start a forum on our web site about the issue. - *Barbara Crown, Editor*.

### **ONE FOR THE ROAD**

Once upon a time there was a famous sea captain. This captain was very successful at what he did; for years he guided merchant ships all over the world. Never did stormy seas or pirates get the best of him. He was admired by his crew and fellow captains. However, there was one thing different about this captain. Every morning he went through a strange ritual. He would lock himself in his quarters and open a small safe. In the safe was an envelope with a piece of paper inside. He would stare at the paper for a minute, and then lock it back up. Afterwards, he would go about his daily duties. For years this went on, and his crew became very curious. Was it a treasure map? Was it a letter from a long lost love? Everyone speculated about the contents of the strange envelope.

One day the captain died at sea. After laying the captain's body to rest, the first mate led the entire crew into the captain's quarters. He opened the safe, got the envelope, and opened it and... The first mate turned pale and showed the paper to the others. Four words were on the paper; two lines with two words each:

Port Left

Starboard Right

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