

X-VIP on the hunt in South Africa

I recently went on a safari in South Africa in May 2008. Being a member of the military and an avid shooter and hunter, this was the opportunity of a lifetime. I was somewhat unprepared for the terrain. It varied greatly from open plains to dense vegetation to 3500ft elevations. Hours of glassing and stalking also proved to be challenging tasks. I also learned how to shoot off of sticks. Fortunately, my Professional Hunter carried collapsible tripod shooting sticks, as opposed to 4.5ft, non-collapsible sticks that were carried by everyone else on the safari. My weapon of choice is a .300 Win Mag with a Leupold 3-9x40m optic. I used 180-grain Barnes Triple X Shock bullets in a Federal cartridge. I hunted and successfully harvested a Kudu, Black Wildebeest, and Springbok. White Springbok, Impala, Gemsbok, and Warthog. I had the unique pleasure of utilizing the X-VIP bipod from X-Caliber on three of the six animals that I harvested. Having the ability to keep the weapon on the target after firing a round was phenomenal, not to mention the exponential stability experienced using the bipod instead of the shooting sticks. Specifically, the bipod proved itself invaluable during two of the shooting situations. I had worked my self in a nice wadi when hunting a Gemsbok



Above (Bobby Cain with Gemsbok in South Africa)

Lying on the side of a dried creek bed, I was able to assume a firing position with the weapon and the X- VIP bipod system right on the crest of the creek bed. I acquired the animal at just over 300m and waited for the kill shot. Once he turned broadside, I landed a nice kill shot at 284m. This shot would not have been possible utilizing the shooting sticks, as I would have exposed myself on the top of the creek bed to set up the sticks.

Similarly, I dropped the Springbok (photo 2) with a perfect kill shot at 320m after working myself up an incline and lying prone shooting uphill. It is extremely tough maneuvering on Springbok, as they are very skittish and have an outstanding sense of smell and eyesight. They are the size of an average North American Whitetail. Acquiring this animal at a greater range with ultimate stability ensured a greater success rate.



Above: After a perfect kill shot with the X-VIP bipod Bobby Cain takes a photo with the Springbok

My longest shot of the hunt was actually 354m when I took a bull Kudu. However, terrain restrictions precluded the use of the bipod. Shooting off the sticks made me appreciate the use of the bipod that much more. The Professional Hunter and Outfitter both commented on how much easier and enjoyable it is for them when the client is a good shot. More time is spent hunting, as opposed to tracking wounded animals resulting from poor shots. They also commented on how useful the X-VIP bipod would be by increasing success rates on future safaris with other clients. The X-caliber X-VIP bipod helped ensure my success on this hunt and receives my endorsement in the strongest possible terms.

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