



## Region 3 (Continued)

### SOCKS DOWN

By Agent Byron Cammack

It was not that cold this morning, waiting on daylight. The ground's a little wet, though, from a light mist that has started and stopped several times since I have made my nest. Every year at this time we must field a basketful of complaints about some deer hunters using dogs and standing (and even shooting) from the roads at anything running. Weighing our options, we narrowed them down to this

location: a bucks-only area with a large group of hunters nearby who should be letting their pack of hounds loose any minute now. That's why we're here this morning with our SOCKS DOWN. No horns included, I mean...pun intended.

Socks, our antlerless mechanical deer, sat down quietly approximately 75 yards from the road in a fairly open stand of pine timber. I could scarcely get that deer to move its head

and that only after much manipulation of the remote in my hand. It was as if she knew something awful could happen if she moved a hair. Maybe that hot-wired deer got an apparition or a good tip on her last fortune cookie. Whatever the case, she was right. No sooner had those dogs cut loose on a trail, vehicles started moving around the area. It resembled Friday night at the quarter-mile racetrack as little trucks, big trucks, were all fly-

ing by with antennae laid back from the wind. That's when things got busy.

The driver of the lead truck of a three-truck pack slammed on his brakes, stopping just past Socks, and leapt unarmed from his vehicle. The driver of the second vehicle exited his truck with a rifle, raising and lowering it repeatedly while studying the woods ahead while the man out front clapped, whooped, and waved his

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## Socks Down

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arms. Little did he know that Socks was deaf, blind and dumb. I prodded madly at the remote until I heard the man out front yell something like, "It just moved its head." Bang! Bang! Bang! The shots rang out.

The drivers of vehicles one and two jumped back in and sped off only to be begrudgingly stopped by our fleet-footed Sgt. Burnett. The unsuspecting shots came from the driver of vehicle number three who had slipped from his truck with a .45 cal. handgun and into the woods. Training his pistol on the old doe, he let

her have it. Lt. Stokes beat him to his truck, so there was no chase there. However, the subject did offer a speedy plea, "I don't think I hit the deer!" Due to her shy nature, Socks was unavailable for a photo.



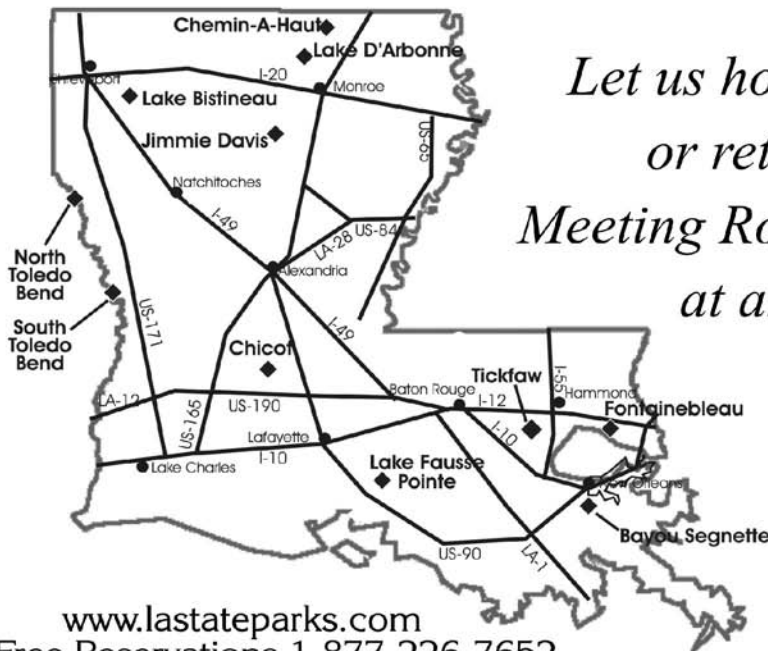
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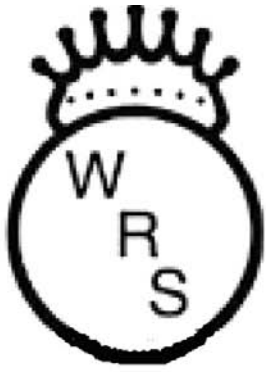
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