



# 2008 REVIEW



**BLUE BRONNA**  
Outfitting Alberta

403 443 5718



## A Glimpse of 2008 with Blue Bronna Outfitting

This past year was one of my most memorable, as I think of the clients and friends we had join us for some of the best hunting in the world – ALBERTA. We started off the year with our bear hunts and as usual had a very successful spring hunt with all hunters getting at least one bear. This hunt has always been a favorite for the clients, guides, Donna and I as it is fairly relaxing yet very productive. The area we hunt is in a no-baiting zone, so there is a good variety of bears both in terms of size and color.

When Mark Dugger and Chris Goodwin came up they told me their goal was to get two bears each so they could have a matching set of arm chair heads. Mark got his two bears with the second one being a large aggressive male which thought he should really be the one putting the chase to the hunters. If you want the full story you will have to come visit us at a show or in bear camp some year.

My most memorable day was the day Chris and I set off to try and get her a bear. We spotted a large black boar about a mile down a cutline and headed towards it. When we arrived where we thought it should be the line was empty. We decided to wait and suddenly a chocolate bear appeared on the line. It seemed spooked and darted across the line. A couple minutes later a good sized black stepped out and checked the opening. Chris dropped it with one shot. It was not the large boar we had seen however after loading it and heading for home we spotted another larger male and Chris dropped this one with one shot as well. The fall elk hunts left me wondering how we could have such great elk, yet do so poorly on our harvest success. Every hunter there saw a great elk yet we could not seem to get the job done. On the bow hunts Brad took Shawn after a good bull he had seen earlier only to run into Brutus. Brutus is probably a 370+ 6\*6 which is as smart as he is large. They called him in to seventy yards but did not get the shot they needed. Through the bow season they continued to turn down good bulls as they tried to get a repeat on the big herd bull without success.

Shawn's buddy Eric saw some lesser bulls, with a new guide Luke, but he also was trying to get a shot at a big bull. I was guiding Brad Myszka in another area and our best chance came when we saw a narrow 6\*6 up at the top of a cut block. We decided to try and get between him and a couple cows that we saw in the next block. When we started up in between them another unseen bull bugled from below us. He sounded good so we quickly moved across the block to set up on him and try and call him in. As we were getting into position this 340 + bull stepped out 75 yards above Brad and watched him take the final few steps to get into position. I bugled at him and he screamed back but finally he just walked up and across the block on his way to join the cows.

This just seemed to be the pattern of elk hunting as Brutus was seen again but not taken by rifle hunters, A great 6\*6 was shot at twice inside 50 yards only to get away. When Pat Bullo and I finally got a bull to cooperate and come screaming down a logging road towards us he was interrupted by Brad and Pat's husband Carl coming down the same road from scouting for mule deer. Murphy's law was the order elk hunting this year.

As we were elk hunting Scott Chataway was guiding Gary Blough Jr. Both him and his dad were to come on this bow hunt for Shiras moose. Due to a very unfortunate circumstance Mr. Blough Sr. was caught in a house fire in late August and was still in intensive care when he was to be hunting with us. His son was able to get a very good bull with his bow and we are still praying for Gary Sr. hopefully he will be able to hunt with us in the future.

After an elk season of frustration Brad and I were ecstatic when Earl O'Loughlin, our first moose hunter, dropped a 52 inch 13\*13 Shiras on his first morning. The warm weather which had plagued us through the elk hunts was not about to break and although we enjoyed many good card games it took us another 7 days of hard hunting before we found two more good moose and Maurice White anchored another good bull.

## A Glimpse of 2008 with Blue Bronna Outfitting (Continued)

Throughout the fall there was no more than a skiff of snow and gorgeous warm days. This was great for being in camp but made the animals fairly elusive during the days and we worked for just about every one we got.

The bow hunters looking for mule deer found a couple good bucks but we had to be exactly in spot prior to the sun coming up as the big deer would be going to bed as soon as it started to get light. Jack Oates made several stalks but his dream of harvesting a 200+ muley with a bow did not pan out. In one attempt he was within 40 yards of a big deer when another buck came down the coulee and spooked the big buck up. With his buck now at full alert I watched as the big buck noticed something wrong, spun and fled the country. This is one of the toughest hunts I know of and it always amazes me how much I learn each year as we attempt to take down one of these big bucks with a bow.

After the bow hunt we managed to get a couple good mountain mule deer with Tom Carpenter and Art Bronikowski. Tom also got a nice white tail in the mountains as well with guide Brad Brown.

On Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> the rifle deer season began in earnest as guides Joel Wilkinson, Josh Johnson and Brad Brown worked their tails off in spite of the warm weather to find great animals. Joel and Barry Wood anchored a very good mule deer on day one (Contrary to Joel's nature as he much prefers going to the last 10 seconds). This was followed up by John Knaus and Josh getting a 185 mule deer, Mike Willmet and I getting a 193 muley and Wayne Roper and Brad getting a very good white tail and muley. Gordon Snell and Steve Ticehurst also filled out a white tail and muley combination hunt.

Dave Heeter and son Dave Heeter had great hunts as Joel and Josh found awesome opportunities for them as they each got big mule deer and great white tails. Unfortunately one of the biggest white tails we have had a chance at got away as we tried for days to track him in the snowless conditions.

Carl Bullo and friends Mark Denny, James Hilliard, and brother Grant came for mule deer during the third week and experienced the peek of the rut when the big bucks disappear as they get busy breeding. A couple really great deer were taken with Carl experiencing the adventure which comes anytime the orange raft is put into play on a hunting trip. If you know Carl or Josh you need to ask them how one harvests a 185 mule deer without a rifle.

Scott Thomas and Leonard Charland came in for the final week of the season to try to get big white tails. Scott managed to get one right off the bat and although Len hunted hard the deer and weather would not cooperate. We saw some medium sized deer and of course I saw a monster when he was not with me but we just could not find the right situation to connect.

We finished up the season with Joel again finding High Beam a very heavy mule deer, Josh taking a 184 white tail with John Hooper, and myself guiding Tom and Allison Grundman to a 180 muley and a 146 White Tail. This was a great week as we spotted a booner mule deer or white tail every day. It was also the toughest as we spent 3 days tracking a wounded (app. 210 +) mule deer (we didn't get) and another day tracking a white tail which we finally got.

Thank you for making this year a success (guides and clients). Have a great 2009. We wish all our friends from over the years a very happy new year as well. Hopefully we will get to hunt again soon. If you are at SCI in **Reno** we will be at **booth #3047**. If you are at Salt Lake come see us at **booth #2137**. If you would like to book again **call us at 403 443 5718 or e-mail us at [bluebronna@gmail.com](mailto:bluebronna@gmail.com)**.

Wishing you a great new year,

Glenn and Donna Brown

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