



# Blue Bronna Outfitting



2011

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## Happy New Year from the Blue Bronna Family

A lot has happened over the past year and we want to thank all of our friends and clients for the memories that have been made. We started off the year with our typical May black bear hunts except the hunts ended up being "atypical". Donna's comment: "that is because the hunters were atypical". I am not going to touch that. However the whole year was atypical in that we have never taken so many teenagers nor have the guides usually had opportunities to hunt themselves.

In May Bill Flock, Ed Sweeney and his wife Sue came out first looking for either coloured bears or big blacks. They both worked hard, both fired shots but their bears did not hear the game plan. Ed's dove into the river never to be seen again after charging his guide (Brad Brown) at five feet, and Bill's took a heavy slug but just never did lie down. As we were hunting 50 miles east of Slave Lake the town was burning and we were on constant alert ready to leave the hunting camp on an instant notice.

The next week we ran a father- son bear hunt with hunters from Mississippi to Alberta. Lee Cope and Ron Mumbower spoke to the group challenging us to: "Bear to be Great". I believe the final count was 27 people in camp with about 15 actual hunters over 4 days. The lead, excuses, and stories were flying. In the end about 7-8 bears were in camp with everyone having a great time. This hunt is made for a graduation present for your son if you are in need of a good one (hunt not son).

This was the first year we did not have bow elk hunters so we spent some time building on a couple more bedrooms and bathrooms at our place then went out scouting. The first elk hunters were to arrive about 3 days into the season so guide Tracy Reed and myself each went a different direction on the Great Divide with Tracy trying to find a sheep and me going into an area where I had never hunted elk prior. I ended up with a nice heavy bull and Tracey saw about 35 sheep but did not get one. Brad Brown was able to get his mom an elk as well.

A special thank you goes to the volunteers who came out and helped add a 176 \* 16 foot wing to the barn at Blue Bronna Wilderness Camp. These folks from Outdoor Networks not only helped build the wing but sold a donated hunt to raise money for the materials. The donated elk hunt was purchased by Lary Knowlton who then gave it to Jeff & Treyce Ball.

Treyce was 12 years old and his dad wanted him to get an elk. We tried calling in a couple normal places but the elk were still very high and finally we decided to hike up to them and try to get a big 6\*7 bull "The Foo" which we knew was up there. We took gear for the night, spent 4 hours hiking up and another hour getting within range. The Foo was seen by Jeff about 50 yards below us just coming into view when the 40-50 elk in front of us saw us and he spooked downhill back into the ravine.

I had Treyce take a shot at a 5\*5 240 yards away as I knew the elk would be gone in seconds. His dad tried to get a second bull as they bolted but we ended up with only the one from Treyce's perfect shot. We spent the night on the mountain after quartering the bull. The next morning we watched a sow grizzly with her cub head towards the quartered elk as we headed down the mountain to get the horses. Thankfully she had not touched the meat when I got back 8 hours later with the pack horses. I once

again spent the night on the mountain before getting back to main camp with the elk. I am sure this hunt will be remembered by all.

Tom and Todd Hartley came next for Shiras Moose. It seemed that the rut this year followed the late summer with our warmest days of the year being Sept. 25-26. The rut was late on all game and we had trouble finding big bulls but both men did get bulls. Bill Lerch, Don Shaum (winner of the card raffle for Blue Bronna Wilderness Camp), Bill Hitner, and Rick Spring all came for mountain muleys. The weather was quite warm and windy making hunting hard but we did manage to find a few good deer and all but Bill Lerch connected on bucks. Bill Hitner's deer got a little higher on the mountain than what we preferred and did a spectacular 500 ft dive, somersault, fall before coming to rest with antlers intact.

The first week of November was a riot with General Earl (we couldn't find him a WT), Maurice White (took a great muley with Brad), Randy & Nancy Erridge (got an excellent moose with Joel), Dennis and Sue Vincent (very nice muley and last hour moose with Josh). Judge C. B. McNeil came midweek and I managed to stumble on another road moose for him as well.

Bryan Bartlett and Mike Goodart each took very nice muleys the next week with Lanny Rominger jamming out because I believe he broke a finger nail. In case you haven't noticed the jesting was continual and we loved the week. Jerry Otterbacher hunted moose along with C. B. McNeil during that week and Brad managed to find a few bulls but the moose won that round with only slight injuries.

John Knaus, Bill Arsenault, Paul Born and Rich Dalm all returned for week three with John taking the biggest Muley of the year. He made up for last year exemplifying pure patience and superb marksmanship when guide Josh put him within range of a monster yet again. Joel got Bill within 400 yards of a good Whitetail and he scored. Brad and Rich spent a couple days in the badlands to get their Muley and Paul, with the help of all guides, brought down a double drop tine muley after starting a new lead mine. Glenn found Paul a huge 160 plus whitetail which had serious ground shrinkage upon closer inspection. Josh and Joel managed to get a couple hours of hunting in landing Josh a great whitetail.

In week 4, we went back to the kids hunt again. Jack Brown took the oldest deer I think I have seen while Lindsay, his daughter made one of the best shots dropping her buck in its tracks at three hundred yards. Cheryl Gordon saw the Whitetail of a life time twice but both her and her son Garrett came away empty handed. Joe Justeson and Jake Garcia each landed great Muleys with Jake getting his first coyote and a whitetail to boot.

The last week had all repeat hunters again with Chris Goodwin, Mark Dugger, Tom and Allison Grundman each taking very good deer. It was my first time guiding a deaf person so I again will take 10% of the blame for Tom shooting a smaller deer than desired. He claims he did not hear me say "too small". Joel took a very good whitetail on the last day of the season while packing out stands.

We look forward to hearing from you or catching up at DSC booth 3013 or Vegas SCI booth 2222. Have a great new year and call us at **403 443 5718** or email [bluebronna@gmail.com](mailto:bluebronna@gmail.com).



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