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2009 was a tough one for us, with my Dad passing away, but thankfully we had very gracious clients this year that recognized situations which were beyond our control and dealt with them appropriately.

Bear hunting in May was great with my highlight being my oldest daughter (Brandy) videotaping my youngest daughter (Amber) as she shot her first bear. We spent some time fishing and then Brad Brown and I actually got an opportunity to hunt for ourselves. We started up a logging road when we saw a bear. We stopped and I videotaped it as we checked it out. It was a very large boar so Brad tried stalking it but it disappeared into the brush. We returned to the truck after an hour and just as we were walking up to it the bear stepped out of the brush about 300 yards behind the truck. I decided to try and take him with a quartering away shot but immediately after I shot Brad said "You hit him too far back". Of course I argued with him as I knew where I held when the gun went off and I heard the "thwack" when I hit him. We tried tracking him for 2 days but never did find him. To make a long story short (with much arguing between Brad and me) I had pushed a few 180 grain bullets into my shell holder on my stock and put these in my gun instead of the 165 grain bullets I had used to sight in with just days prior. When I sighted in my gun at 100 yards, after losing the bear, I found that I was about 3.5 – 4 inches left of center which was just enough to put me back into the guts of the quartering bear.

In September we had four bow elk hunters with two of them hunting moose as well. Dan Adkins guided Joe Nirta who ended up missing a good bull. Brad Brown guided Tim Gatzulus who missed twice on elk but got a 48 inch Shiras. Josh Johnson guided Kurt Jansen who passed up a 6*5 on the first day and a couple other 5 pts. The weather was hot and elk were not bugling very well but we persevered and Kurt also got a very nice 52 inch Shiras.

I was also guiding Jim Benton during the bow season, trying to finish up a TV show for Wild TV. We got close to 3 or 4 bulls but were not able to connect. One morning we pulled a very nice 6*6 within 80 yards with a cow at 30 yards but she wandered off and took him with her. I received the call that my dad was going to pass away and so I had to leave Jim in the field. That night Jim went back and called the big bull back in but was not able to finish. Jim came back at the end of October and we finished the hunt by working our tails off in two feet of snow. We spent four days hiking after elk and finally shot a very nice 5*5 however two good six pts. which we had not seen left on the first shot. The next day we went looking for mule deer and found a very good 180+ buck but it drifted into the timber on us. That afternoon when looking for the same buck we had three 6 pt. and two 5 pt. bulls come down within 400 yards of where we could get a truck to. I always say I would rather be lucky than good when it comes to hunting however I have found that just stubborn perseverance creates a lot of luck.

While Jim, Brad and I were trying to finish the show Joel was guiding Phil Trace and Josh had Floyd Ross. They were going after Mt. muleys with wolf tags as backups. Phil got two wolves the first day and Floyd connected on a nice mule deer. Phil came close on a great buck the last day when Joel pushed out a heavy dark antlered buck but it never did stop to give him the shot he needed.

Anyway I am ahead of myself as Brad Brown guided Mark Spillane to a very good shiras in early October, Josh got Mark Bullo his first bull elk on the same hunt. Dan Adkins was not able to come up with a shiras moose for Pat Bullo in the 80-90 degree weather at the end of September but did get her a Canadian moose on the 1st of November by Three Hills. Josh and I took TJ and John up north for moose during the warm weather and got skunked as the moose just did not call worth beans.

In the first week of November, I also managed to find a road moose for Judge McNeil. In spite of his insistence that an easy moose would work we managed to hike up and down the river valley twice and see 10 bulls and 11 cows before we stumbled onto the easy one he wanted. Joel guided Chris Goodwin to a very nice muley by the second day of her hunt that week and Josh finally found a very nice 180 class muley for Mark Dugger just prior to dark on the last day of his hunt.

The second week of November was quite warm and the deer were not moving real well. Jim Epps and Joel did not find what they were looking for but Mark Epps and Brad got a 170+ muley after serious work. Josh and Jason Snell also got a 170+ and so did new guide Dallas Burns and his hunter Ryan Robinson. They also got a white tail on the last day. Tony Urwick and I hunted hard and finally found a great typical 190+ at about 125 yards. He decided that he might be safer if he left the country before Tony could get settled and get the shot he wanted.

On the third week the forecast was for huge winds and very warm weather. Of course this was the week we had planned for whitetails. Thankfully the hunters decided to add mule deer on as we knew that the whitetails would be very unlikely to move in the weather we were facing. Brad and Maurice killed a nice Canadian moose, Joel and Dave Sr. found a very good mule deer on the last day, Josh and Dave Jr. got a 22 pt. muley, Earl and I put down a good mature muley, Pat McDivitt got a nice 145 whitetail and hit a very good MD which Dallas and him were unable to recover. Jim McDivitt missed a nice muley with Dan Adkins. We did see a couple good whitetails but they only moved when pushed.

The last week of November finally gave us a break with cooler weather and calm days. Lloyd Whaley and I spotted a good WT the first day, spotted about a 165 the second day and went to look for it but thirteen year old Tim Skocdopole was standing with a 30-30 where the buck had been. He told us he had hit the buck in the back leg so I dropped Lloyd off a half mile away where I thought the buck would head and then took Tim back to the bush the buck had gone into. I tracked it with him walking the edge. We busted it and it ran right to Lloyd who made a phenomenal shot at 30 feet and downed the buck for Tim. It was Tim's first WT and I am not sure who was the happiest amongst the three of us. It was also the biggest WT Lloyd has ever shot and what a great guy to give it to Tim.

Lloyd saw a 200" on Thursday and shot a 185 while looking for the 200" Friday with Joel. Brad and **Bob Shriever (winner of the raffle for 2009)** educated a couple deer then shot a 170s buck. Robby, Bob's son got a great 4*3, while Dallas and Gerry killed the buck of the week which went 194 gross; netting 191 with only an 18" inside spread. Jim Cook and I saw a 200" and several other good deer. On the last day, with Dan Adkins, Jim unfortunately did not connect on a 190+ which they tried for.

Wishing you the best, Glenn Brown 403 443 5718

