



Bob Langjahr took this outstanding billy on a mid-September hunt.



Guiding Territory

Shane and Norm Blaney headed back up the Pitman River with Ed Parish and Herman Brinkman to search out the monster moose that were supposed to be lurking there. Al and I; actually make that just Al, packed in with Peter and John Kwolek to a new spot to hunt. I finished flying and caught up with them just after dark and just after the dishes had been finished. Yep, perfect timing again, I missed all of the work that day. Peter got a nice moose the first morning with Al while John and I tried to find the caribou Neal had passed up earlier. No luck for us for a couple of days although we did call in a young moose to about 15 yards and then gave him quite a scare. Peter meanwhile developed a cold that because of a previous health condition thought might progress to pneumonia. He and I went back to the warm confines of Tumagain and again left all the work for Al. He quickly got a big moose and a fine caribou for John. Meanwhile over at Moose Camp, Ivan Flores, an outfitter from Mexico was chasing moose, caribou and the grizzly Neal and I had seen up close. The moose came quickly but a missed shot at the grizzly and a caribou (plus a big election at home) convinced Ivan that he'd rather cut his losses and come back next year with some much warmer clothing. A reminder to us all, read the equipment list I send.

There's something written about the best-laid plans of mice, men and maybe horses too. The plan for the final hunt was to take three hunters and three guides in each group and end up with the horses back at Highway 37. Jason and Al trailed half our string of horses over to Serpentine Lake so we could start from there, only to find the lake frozen. A quick 180-degree turn and they were back at Tumagain right where they had started 14 hours earlier; yeah, easy for me to say. So Jason, I and my son Brian on his first professional guiding trip headed out from Tumagain on a much-modified plan. Half of the plan went right as Shane, Al and Silas got big bulls for Jim McNeese, Mike Morelock and Harold McDavid who made the long trek from Tennessee. Meanwhile Jason, Brian and I managed to get two very respectable bulls for Kurt Chapman and David Stelzer but just couldn't find the right one for Jr. Stelzer, hunting buddies that had come all the way from Texas. The route we took was the one I fly back and forth over on my trips to Dease and I had been seeing a lot of moose. But with the rut winding down and the moon coming full the big guys were hard to find. Junior and I even tried to fly back into Tumagain on the morning after his hunt was over for one last look but the dreaded fog, which hadn't burned off the previous day until 4 pm had moved back in.

After getting the crew, hunters and horses all on their way home I went back in alone to close up base camp at Tumagain. The place looked a bit lonely but the weather was fantastic. Crystal clear skies, no fog or wind and temperatures in the mid 50's on October 22 and 23. It was a great time and place for some quiet reflection and planning for next year. I couldn't help but think of how lucky I really am. In one of the most beautiful spots on earth, with a career many would die for, in good health and with a wife who supports what I'm doing. Plus I have two fine sons and a business partner who doesn't know how to stop working. Life is grand. Come on up and share a bit of it with us.

HUNT DATES FOR 2003

Hunt 1	July 31 - August 14	Stone sheep, Mountain Goat, Wolf
Hunt 2	August 16 - 28	Stone sheep, Mountain Goat, Moose, Caribou
Hunt 3	August 30 - September 7	Mountain Goat, Caribou, Moose, Grizzly, Wolf
Hunt 4	September 9 - 18	Mountain Goat, Caribou, Moose, Grizzly, Wolf
Hunt 5	September 20 - 28	Mountain Goat, Caribou, Moose, Grizzly, Wolf
Hunt 6	September 30 - October 9	Caribou, Moose, Grizzly, Wolf, Wolverine
Hunt 7	October 11 - 17	Moose, Grizzly, Wolf, Wolverine

PRICES 2003 - U.S. Funds

7 Day Moose only hunt (October 11 - 18)	\$ 5,950.00
10 Day Single Species (Moose, Caribou or Mtn. Goat)	\$ 6,250.00
10 Day Combination (any 2 of Moose, Caribou or Mtn. Goat)	\$ 8,250.00
14 Day Stone Sheep	\$ 15,500.00
14 Day Spring Grizzly and Black Bear	\$ 7,500.00 plus \$5,000 trophy fee
21 Day All Species	\$ 26,000.00



TURNAGAIN TIMES

Dedicated in memory of Jo Black, mother and friend

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Well folks, here it is; Volume 2 in what I hope will be a long string of newsletter issues. Read on and you'll see why I'm excited about 2003 and beyond.

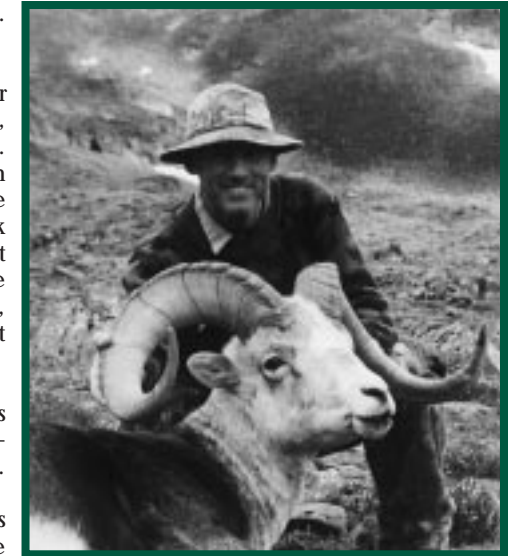
One of the reasons I sold my previous guiding area on the Finlay River was that after 15 years the trails were getting too familiar and the excitement was starting to wane, plus I wanted a good sheep area and world peace. Well, at least a good sheep area. There were a lot of happenings in the first full season on the Tumagain, none of them boring. I had to be on my toes all the time and sometimes even then I couldn't see my way home. Fighter pilots have a saying: "watch your six" meaning their 6 o'clock or tail position. It was the same for me, "keep your eye on the backtrail, ya might wanna go back that way!" It's tough to sum up the first season; successful would be the first thought. But I'm starting to get a different perspective as I age. No one got injured, base camp didn't bum down, the plane didn't sink and the bank didn't foreclose. Not a bad start and we'll do better next year.

Our hunters' view might differ a bit from mine, especially those on the first hunt. It was a tough one. We had the wettest, coolest June and July any of the locals could remember, but we rode out of Tumagain Lake July 30 in sunshine that lasted almost 10 days.

Carl Rose and his guide Al Crawford got our first ram of the year on opening day. This was a backpack hunt as Carl is allergic to horses. Al and I did an airdrop of most of the supplies and then he and Carl hiked in. After getting the ram and wondering what they were going to do for the next 12 days, they chose the obvious; hike back to Tumagain Lake. It was only 26 miles as the crow flies.

The rest of us were finding the unusual July weather had created an almost bug free environment that at first seemed great. But every silver cloud has a lead lining or something like that and we soon discovered that a lot of the sheep and most of the mature rams were staying in the timber. For Eugene Egeler and I hunting with Juergen Diehl and Jesse Smith at Bonus Mtn. the best we saw were several "almost legal" rams. A move to our backup area provided a bit of a surprise; sheep tracks on the horse trail about 1000 feet below timberline. Eugene and Juergen left early as Juergen found the going tougher than he had experienced on his previous two Canadian hunts but Jesse and I hung in until the end.

On the second last day Jesse predicted he'd shoot his ram at 1 o'clock. As that time came and went there was a lot of grumbling about how those dumb sheep couldn't even tell time. But about 1:30 a lone ram appeared in front of us. The scope quickly showed another 7/8 curl ram and we could do no better on the last day. Jesse and I did make arrangements for a return hunt in 2003.



A wide flaring, dark haired ram was exactly what David Heft was looking for.



Tom Paluso, right, and Keith Connors with Tom's 11 year old ram.



A 400 plus caribou gives Steve Young and Shane Black plenty of reason to smile.