



Carl Rose wasted no time, taking this fine ram on opening day.



Even the early season goats have nice capes as Levi Britton discovered in August.

Over in the Sister Mary camp, Shane and Jason Strout were hunting Jason's favourite sheep spot with Levi Britton and Bruce Penoske. Jason previously had great luck here in the five years he guided for Eugene but the rams there were in the timber as well.

By the second hunt we did make some adjustments and ended up getting two rams for two hunters. Unfortunately we had two hunters cancel on this hunt or we could have gotten our percentage of success for the season higher. David Heft and his guide Jason found a band of rams just coming up out of the timber down where they expected to see caribou. A quick stalk and a nicely placed shot got Dave exactly the type of ram he wanted. Tom Moore didn't let some really foul weather or a bad back deter him. He and I hunted hard for 12 days but in the end I turned him over to Al and wrangler Silas Fleming. The skies cleared on the last morning and Tom got a nice ram that again was down low and coming out of the timber.

Our mixed bag hunts started in late August with Shane down on the Pitman River with Ron Munro and Pete Schoening. Pete had been our first customer the previous fall. He's a famous mountaineer and he and Ron are super guys to be around. The hunt was a bit earlier than we wanted but Pete had bought a number of hunts at the GOABC fundraiser in Victoria last spring and could only get away then. Ron wrote a great article about the trip, which can be found on our website.

Meanwhile Jason headed for the high country with Kurt Tausendpfund, Kurt's 17-year-old daughter Susie and Sam Grimson along to cook and wrangle. Susie started the trip with a total of three hours riding experience but ended with about 20 times that and a great video of her Dad getting a big billy with one shot.

Tom Paluso also got a really nice goat on this hunt and decided to stay extra days so that he and I had time to find an 11-year-old ram coming up out of the timber. You'll notice a common theme there. This was a broomed ram that we made a two mile, three hour stalk on with Tom shooting it offhand at 75 yards. It was nice to get my first ram in the new area.

The September 10 hunt turned out to be a great one. Shane and Jason headed east with Bob Langjahr and Steve Young. Westbound with Steve Young and Ronnie Gossett were Al and Silas, who was getting his first stint as a hunting guide. He grew up in his dad Ron's hunting camp and quickly showed he knew what a good caribou was. He and Ronnie got one of the best of the year then finished the hunt off with a last day moose. Steve and Al toured a lot of country and got a dandy billy as well as a big moose.

The caribou that Steve and Shane got on this hunt was the best of the season scoring over 430 SCI points. Steve's moose was a challenge for them but a pleasure for me as I was able to taxi the floatplane right to it to fly the meat out. Jason and Bob also got a tremendous caribou and the biggest billy of the year, both in horn and body size.

My old hunting buddies from the Finlay River days, Jeff Batchman, Stan Cosart and Betty Campbell came along on this hunt just to check out the new place and to see if I really did buy an area with 30 head of horses. It's always great to be among good friends. With Gary Strout's able assistance we were able to find Jeff and Stan a couple of good moose right at Tumagain without disrupting our visiting too much or having to ride anything without a motor.

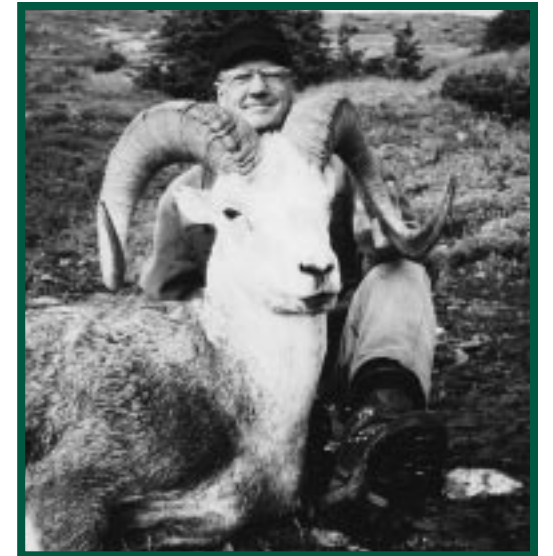
Another Finlay River survivor and good friend Neal Skinner showed up on hunt #5 and joined Lutz Becker, Jason, Sam and I at Moose Camp. After 4 days of limited moose luck and a standoff at 50 yards with a big griz, Neal and I ended up at Serpentine Lake where we called out a big bull to meet his fate. We ended the hunt at Bomber Camp in severe clear weather looking over some really big caribou but not the



David Stelzer with a typical bull taken on a non-typical hunt in mid October.



Swede Altaffer can still hike hard, shoot straight and judge fine trophies at 73-years not yards.



Tom Moore hunted hard until the last day before getting his 36" ram.

truly outstanding one Neal was looking for. The former world record 'bou was taken here and it would probably have taken a new one to get Neal to shoot. Meanwhile Jason and Lutz got a hard earned and well deserved 53" moose. I say hard earned, as this was Lutz's second trip to Tumagain. Last year he spent six days of his moose hunt in Scotland after his plane to Canada was diverted there on September 11. This time he spent the entire hunt here and topped it off with a one antlered caribou. Actually it had two antlers before the first shot. Turned out it wasn't quite as far away as first thought but the second shot was on the mark.

Long time friend Swede Altaffer and his hunting partner Bob Tomlin hunted with Shane and Al on this trip. The last hunt Swede booked with me was years ago, for a February wolverine hunt. That was the year they closed the season in January. This time around the season was open, the weather cooperated and Swede didn't let the intervening years slow him down. At 73 years young he scrambled around the hills 'til he got a dandy caribou and found out what a small target a wolverine really is at 250 yards. But Swede, they've opened the season back up in February now and they're a lot easier to hit when they're outlined in snow. We still have some openings on our winter wolf and wolverine hunts.

We use BC-Yukon Air out of Dease Lake to do all our charter flying. Owner/pilot Bruce McNaughton did a super job all season getting everyone in and out with the "workhorse of the north", the DeHavilland Beaver. On our October 1 hunt, though, he had been faced with several days of late clearing fog that really had him backed up so I had to press the Cessna 185 into action to help get things done. We were late getting everyone in but did manage to get the guys who were flying home back to Dease Lake on time to catch the NT Air flight.



Ronnie Gossett with a tremendous Caribou from a mid-September hunt.



This 53" moose fulfilled a long time dream for Lutz Becker of Germany.