



Jesse Smith with a hard earned, dark ram.

were making their first trip from Germany. Otto Bollig made up the third in that party and as he had taken moose before he held out for a big one. Usually this hunt is a really good one for big bulls as they have just rubbed the velvet, are easy to spot and are travelling quite a bit. What it takes to get them to travel is following the scent of cows and other bulls. With so much rain the scents were washed away and the bulls spent most of the time in the big timber. There was also a lot of wind, which moose don't care for and it kept swirling our scent when we were stalking.

Larry Guise and George Naugle were hunting with Al and Roy in similar conditions at Moose Camp with the same type of luck. George did manage a really big caribou and a very good moose but had no luck for goats in all the snow. There were plenty of grizzlies around in this hunt including one that probably got one of our best packhorses. The only ones that they saw were a sow and cub though. Larry and Roy also found a super caribou but the wind got them twice while less than 200 yards from big moose.

The weather broke nicely during our change day so Bruce and the DeHavilland Beaver made the necessary trips to get everyone moved. Bob Margolis and Don Kilgore headed off to our Roy Clark camp with Shane and Jason with Bob wasting no time deciding on a big first day moose. Don and Jason had the wind messing with them early on but then connected on a really nice bull the same day Bob got his caribou. With all the trophies collected they made the quick ride back to Turnagain for some great Rainbow fishing.

The grizzly situation improved for Clarence Johnson and Al in that they saw and stalked 3 separate big boars. The Fickle Finger of Fate intervened each time including when Clarence shot at 75 yards just as the rest he was using collapsed. We do have plenty of grizzlies and some very big ones even though we haven't taken any in 2 years. Meanwhile back at the ranch, I had the misfortune of another great packhorse breaking its leg in a freak accident. I thought we could use the carcass for wolf bait but before I could move it another grizzly came in and laid claim to it. I tried to talk him out of it but he took that old "finders, keepers" thing rather seriously.

Although the bears eluded Clarence he did get an incredible caribou as well as a very good moose. A bum knee and bum weather saved his goat for another year. By the end of the hunt our weather changed to clear and warm and stayed that way for the next 2 weeks. Absolutely incredible!

After 3 weeks of sitting on the sofa and the airplane seat, my butt got kicked back into reality with a 10-hour ride from Turnagain to Jim Beam camp. Greg Nickels had booked a moose hunt



Nick Kemp and his B&C October Moose.

with the hope we'd have a sheep permit left, which we did. Todd Thorndike had won the Life Member's Hunt we had donated to the Guide-Outfitters Assoc. of B.C. annual convention and fundraiser this year. Todd had added a moose to his wish list too which he got lots of time to hunt as he and Al found a dandy caribou on the first day.

Most of the time animals that get shot suffer from a worldwide phenomena known as "ground shrinkage". My hunters' trophies aren't immune to it either so it was a pleasant surprise when Greg's big bodied ram "36 inches for sure and probably a bit more with the flare" ground grew to 38 3/4 with 14 3/4 bases. We got it late in the day and had to siwash a night on the mountain but with a full moon and a fabulous display of Northern Lights, known scientifically as the "roarin' borin' Alice", we had a bright and mild night for early October.

On the way home the next day we ran right into a 52" moose that turned into 54" after Greg dropped it at about 40 yards. The only down side was we were now out of tags on day 3 of the hunt. Todd and Al had turned this bull down on the second day of the hunt as they thought it was probably only 52 as well. Todd stalked 3 more bulls including a 60 incher that eluded him and finally settled for a heavy 48" bull. Greg and I lounged around for a few days and then rode into Dease Lake. Greg caught an early flight home to spend a few days with his family and I caught a ride back to Turnagain with Bruce.

It turned out we weren't the only ones having good luck. Joe Beasley and Tom McCrea had driven up from Montana specifically for caribou but added moose tags as an afterthought. By day 6 they were back at base camp with 4 great trophies including one of the best caribou of the season and a 56" moose.



Steve Brewington hunted long and hard to get this 9 1/2" Billy.