



Greetings from Chinchaga 2009

Well 2009 is nearly over. Even though the outfitting industry has slowed down, we seem to remain as busy as ever. We only took out 9 hunters this year which is four more than the year before but we were able to build a new cabin at Main and do a major renovation to the Main Camp Diner. Bob and I both agree that working in the field cooking and guiding is where we like to be. In 2009, we spent 90 days at camp.

We lost our big Brutus last spring. The first week in camp last June without him we had two bear come into camp. That sure never happened with big Brutus around. Then in October a bull moose walked into camp which was also a first. I reference him big Brutus because we now have little Brutie. He was given to us from our grand children, name and all. We are actually enjoying him. He is a JackShit so he will never be large but I'm hoping for bear warning.

Of the 9 hunters that came in this year, we sent 5 moose home. First week we could see the rut was under way. After a big dump of snow, things slowed down and they were not coming to the call at all. This is the week I (Trish) looked out the kitchen window to see a moose walking down the path toward the Main Cabin. Donna was in camp that day and needless to say she went home with her moose. It was pretty exciting, but then back to cooking for the gang. Both Dean and Donna each took a moose home this year and deservedly so as they were up last year with their sons and never took any meat home. Texanna from Tacoma took her moose the last minute of the last hour of the last day. Always a pleasure having her in camp. Top notch hunters Don, John and Paul all hunted hard and had a great time but went home empty handed. We so enjoyed the company of truly wonderful guests.

Second week had its' own excitement. One of our hunters awoke in the night with severe indigestion, but not from my cooking. Bob drove him and his wife to Manning in record time. Sure enough, he was having a heart attack. Our wonderful health care system was unable to get him immediate medical attention because it was our Thanksgiving weekend but he was able to have a jet from Spokane transport him safely home for stenting an 85% blockage. He has since had another stint for another blockage and is now doing very well. His hunting partner Steve claimed it was caused by his attack moose earlier in the day, a nice 51". Only two moose were taken this week. Tim and Oliver took a nice meat animal before heading home. Once again, we were able to enjoy sharing the wild Chinchaga with some wonderful guests.

Our son Lyle was able to come in and guide this year which is a real bonus. His everyday life keeps him busy working at the Oil Sands in Fort McMurray. Bob Hart and Daniel Janzen were with us once again which we appreciate and enjoy.

The Sportsman's Show is February 10 through 14, 2010 where we hope to see many of you. After the show we will travel your countryside for a week or two and try to hook up with some of you. For now we wish you all the best in 2010. Keep your knife sharp and your powder dry.

Best Wishes from Bob & Trish