

Greetings from Chinchaga 2011

Well 2011 is in the record books. We took twelve hunters out this past season, same as 2010. This was a unique season in a couple of ways. We had six bow hunters join us which was a first in quite a few years. And our staff this year was like a flash from the past. Rob and Linda came back to cook and Roger came in to guide at Keg Camp after 10 years. They had started working for us in 1998, the year we opened Keg Camp. Dan Janzen was also at Keg so our crew in place for the bow hunters was as good as it gets. First group; Mark, Matt, Joe and Steve had some pretty exciting experiences. Lee and Larry came in the second week and equally had a lot of excitement. One moose was taken about five minutes by argo from pickup point on the way out of camp at the end of the hunt.

At Main Camp we had veteran hunter Dick Wheelhouse, his wife Neva and one of his hunting partners Bob Niemela and his wife Dorothy join us. The women really enjoyed roughing it and I think the guys enjoyed having them there to keep the fires going. The same week we had the pleasure of hosting brothers Rocky and Bob Seward for the first time and were able to send them home with some meat and horns. Staff at Main was Andy Olberg who has been with us twice before and New guide and cook Harry and Elaine French. Once again a crew that doesn't get any better. The last week at Main was hunters Debbie and Jody Maddox. Jody had had a heart attack in camp 2 years ago so we needed to finish off the experience that had been interrupted. We all had a great week at camp with them and filled the outstanding tags.

Our percentage was down this year and we never took any over 50"s for the first time. The bow hunters had a nice one in the cross hairs but it wouldn't come in any closer than 100 yards. Each group that came in took meat home which we feel to be a minimal requirement. We ended up with 8 moose taken for the 12 hunters; about 65%. Still, the best part of our business is meeting and spending time with all these really great people.

Our son Lyle was not able to come in and guide this year. He was slated for November but the hunters had to postpone until 2012. Lyle has recently taken a job with Esso and moved out of Fort McMurray and close to his family. It has been a very good change for him. We were on the road to grand children's birthday parties as soon as the hunting was over. We have 3 out of 8 born the first week of October. We thought we were done but we have another due the end of February. Our daughter in New Brunswick has surprised us all.

Jamie Harden (nee Bala) has a full time job in her home town of Big Valley so coming back cooking will be difficult and cowboy husband Josh is still following the rodeo circuit so his schedule is very uncertain. We attended their traditional Cowboy Wedding in the most beautiful setting in all of Canada last May. All is well in their world. Their big news is they are expecting twins in the spring *and not colts either!*

We did the Puyallup Sportsman's Show last year and have booked into it again January 25-29, 2012. It was nice to be back there after an eight year absence. Met up with some old familiar faces and met some new folks too. We will be in Portland February 8-12 at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show where we hope to see many of you again. 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 2012. Keep your knife sharp and your powder dry.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes in 2012 from Bob & Trish