

2011 Hunt Report

2011 starts off rough with rainy weather and high swollen rivers, trailing in the horses was an adventure but what was rough turned out to be an adventure with a great ending.

With the first group of hunters flying into base camp in early August Dave and Todd two great guys that had hunted with us in the past.

The weather was still not cooperating, it was the same weather we had four years prior, rainy for the most part mixed with snow, sleet and hail, not your normal August weather but that did not stop Dave and Todd.

Dave and guide Eoin were approx 3 miles west of main camp, it was early morning and a couple of days into the hunt, standing on the edge of the timber on a cut line facing towards a big swamp, Eoin started to Moose call and approximately 1 ½ hours into calling a huge Bull Moose still in velvet came out, Bulls in velvet do not normally come to a call but this Bull must have been inquisitive, usually this time of year you will find that the Bulls hang out in the swamps, fields and open areas where the bulls can perfect their horns. At 80 yards Eoin gave Dave the signal to shoot, with one shot Dave dropped the Moose where he stood it couldn't have been better shot one Bull down.

Now Dave and Eoin are hunting for Dave's Grizzly, they had seen three Grizzly before Dave got a good shot at one, on the fifth day they spotted a Grizzly and Dave only 50 yards away heart pumping adrenalin at a high he fired and again it was a great shot "bear hitting the ground no movement down"!!! There's one thing about Dave he never misses.

We took some amazing Stone Sheep this year, all guided by son Dustin Roe Backcountry BC and Beyond with the first nice stone ram for client Charles Herron of Alabama, Charles hunted 2010 with another outfit but came up short.

At the 2011 GSCO Convention Charles booked this trip.

Charles is a diabetic due to a severe logging accident and is very limited on what he can do so they were able to take horses most of the way. Charles along with Blake Patton of Texas and Dustin spotted some rams from about 5 miles away, filled with excitement they rode the pony's closer for a better look from 1,400 yards they determined there was 3 shooters and one was unbelievable! The stalk... tied up the horses on the trail and headed the rest of the way on foot. They followed some game trails in the trees trying to close the distance and at one point decided to go back up the trail they came down, as they started back up a loud huffing and a blur of massive Grizzly hair bolted off their trail and disappeared. Wow! He had been following their trail for a while, toes like a Canadian \$2 coin and a pad that measured 8 inches across, that got their heart pumping!

Back on the rams. 400 yards of slowly sneaking across an avalanche slide in hopes the sheep didn't catch them below. "Their in range! Charles, getting ready to shot a monster!" After 5 minutes and a steady rest he was ready to shoot.

The lead ram was a ram of all rams, a dream ram, the kind Jack O'Connor wrote about, 43" and pushing, in Dustin's opinion 175". Dustin directing Charles "Ready, ok, anytime when you're ready," Dustin watched through the scope as the gun rang....BOOM, the vapour trail sailed within an inch of his spine, barely a clean miss. Dustin tells Charles "Shoot again, wait for him to stop, you're just high," BOOM! "your just low this time Charles, hold right on", the ram ran onto the skyline and stopped, it was one of the most amazing sights Dustin and Charles had ever seen, and Dustin yells "SHOOT!" Boom! another clean miss and he disappeared over the top, never to be seen again. Dustin explains to Charles to shoot the other legal ram down to the right," Charles reloaded as the other 4 rams started to feed again. Dustin said- so when you're steady, give it to him", Boom! "You got him, shoot him again" Boom! "Give him another" Boom! All three shots right on the mark and a beautiful 9½ year old ram lay motionless.

It's hard for Dustin to tell the emotions that followed but Charles definitely had accomplished a lifelong dream and it showed. Dustin was honoured to have been a part of his success and grateful for the time spent on the mountain with such a quality man and his only hope was to have the chance to share some more days on the hill with him. A friend forever!

One last note: When Dustin asked Charles if he was bummed that he missed a book ram he replied "that ram deserves to be taken by a hunter that can hunt him down, not by a guy that has to ride a horse to his sheep," he then said, "I'm more than happy with mine!"

Blake who hunted with us previously, was pumped to get hunting and after watching Charles take his ram he was more than fired up. Blake was bow hunting Stone Sheep. The first day Dustin and Blake hiked 8-9 hours in and spent the night on a windy ridge with little sleep, day 2 found them on rams by noon, 8 dark rams that were able to slip into 90 yards and take a close look at. Four rams small, four rams only 7 ½ years old, 0 full curl. The legal requirement in BC says 8 years old or full curl to the bridge of the nose, 4 rams at 7 ½ years old, all nice rams that are low slung are hard to walk away from with a bow hunter after 6 hours of counting rings but if they're not legal their not legal.

They snuck out and moved up the ridge, not 10 minutes later Blake spotted two more rams in the next basin just below them. Dustin quickly put up the scope and called him legal... Game on! 25 minutes later they were 30 yards and full draw, the full curl walked right below them and a quick sheep call and he stopped "32", Blake pulled the trigger on his release and the arrow flew true, Dustin's rock steady tripod and HD video camera documented it all! The light was fading fast so they set up camp right at the sheep.

First thing in the morning when Dustin woke up there were 7 new rams bedded just over the ridge of the basin only 100 yards from their tent, some awesome up comers, one black faced ram was a real beauty, a quick AM Photo op and a really long 10 hour back pack and they made it back to base camp to complete Dustin's 2nd Stone hunt of the year. It's always a pleasure to hunt with a client like Blake, helpful around camp, can hike like a guide and shoots great, not to mention a class act of a guy. We hope Blake will be hunting together with us again real soon.

ONE SHOT JORGE!

Stone Sheep / Moose hunt with Jorge Medina CA,

1st day of the hunt they spotted one lone Ram above our tent that looked to be a good one, one they needed to get closer, Jorge, Cody (another guide) and Dustin took off! After a 4 hour grind they found themselves within rifle range of the ram which turned out to be the one he wanted.

Jorge settled in and Cody rolled the camera, one perfectly place shot and the Stone sheep part of the hunt was over, that fast! They quickly took photos hoping they could make it back to camp before dark. Phew! What a day!

For the next 8 days they did some new area scouting looking for a Big Canadian Moose for Jorge.

A few close calls on bulls either missing one point to be legal or just not quite what they wanted brought them to the last day of the hunt. Instead of scouting new areas Dustin took Jorge into his "PATCH", within 20 minutes they located a great bull and made the stalk.

Jorge settled into Dustin's gun (Gunwerks LR1000, 7mm) and rolled the camera, the Bull was bedded broadside showing all vitals, Boom! One shot Jorge did it again! the bulls head just hit the ground and he never moved a muscle, the video of this shot is probably the best Dustin's ever seen. I called for reinforcements (my parents Dean and Katie of MVP Outfitters) to bring the ponies and help us pack it back to camp.

Great start to a great way to end a Sheep/Moose hunt.

October 5th - 15th Stone Sheep Hunt. Larry Todd, Ohio

Day 1 - Larry, Shawn, Cody and Dustin hiked into a drainage Dustin always wanted to hunt. They made it to a camp spot just before dark and making a trusty mountain house dinner, set up the tents and crashed.

Day 2 - They woke at daylight had some oatmeal and hurried to the top of the ridge to watch the sun rise on the mountain in front of camp, just as the sun rose Dustin spotted some fresh tracks in the snow near the top, Dustin followed them in his new Ziess spotter and in no time spotted the 8 Rams that were leaving the tracks, all of them quickly saw that there was a couple nice sheep in the band and needed to get closer.

Off they went back down to camp and continued towards the Band of Rams, 2-3 hours later they were at 88 yards and Larry was rested on Dustin's Mystery Ranch pack, BOOM! instantly the ram rolled the rest of the band just stood there wondering what had happened. Great hunt!!

Now we are pumped for our Bison hunts.

With camp all set up and ready to go. The weather was very warm for that time of year, first seven days we had seen very few Bison it was tough hunting, then it snowed and it was like cattle hitting the trail, tracks everywhere one down

then two it was great, then three it gets better, winding up our season archery hunter Michael Ritter had shot a huge Bison scoring 111 7/8 and finished off his hunt with a nice Grizzly measuring 21 5/8 what a beauty, Michael and guide Dean Roe hunted hard and got the job done Great hunt for a Great bunch of guys and gals. Congratulations to Melinda Goguen and Steve Neuberger and many thanks to Josh Clark for lending a helping hand.

We would like to thank all of our hunters for choosing MVP Outfitters and Back Country BC and Beyond for their hunt of a life time and we hope all your hunting dreams are fulfilled and wish you all the best in 2012.

“Come as A Client and Leave as a Friend” “Happy Hunting”

Dean, Katie, Dustin, Heather Roe