



2007 News Letter

I hope everyone's hunting season was as productive as ours was this year. Man did we have a great year. To all the guests, thank you for all the hard work you guys and ladies gave us. The ability to hunt this country and the effort you put forth was greatly appreciated by myself and all of the guides. Great Job!

The spring black bear season was spent filming a hunt with Mike and Arron Davidson, from the Best of the West, film and production crew. We filmed over 10 bears and shot 2 nice chocolate colored bears. One was taken at 470 yards. The scope and the gun they produce are spectacular and anyone wanting a long range gun should go to their website: www.thebestofthewest.net or call (307)762-3508. You can purchase the scope for your rifle and they will build a torrent with settings from 100 to 1000 yards for you. It is the best shooting gun I have ever seen. It works, no questions asked.

This summer was very hot and dry. No rain, the driest in the 17 years that I have lived in Idaho.

Archery elk season was probably one of the best bugling seasons we've had in years. There were a few quiet days, but overall the bugle hunts were great. You guys that hunt here every year know what I mean now when I say that each year is different. Out of 19 hunters, 16 had 6x6 bulls, at least one between 12 and 40 yards. That's good hunting on the hunter's part, and the elk are talking more. There were five 6x6s, one 7x6, and one 5x5 killed. Judy Bushong took her second bull this year (5x7). The bad news... we wounded a few big bulls and missed some shots, or blew hunts due to wind or the elk seeing us. But overall, it was a great archery year with lots of bugling. Way to go!

The rifle season was also a great one. A total of 25 bulls were taken, a few short of last year. We took one 7x7, one 6x7, and fourteen 6x6s. The rest were all 5x5s and one 5x4.

There were many beautiful mule deer taken this year. We had twenty three deer with spreads outside the ears; four large non-typical with points 9x11, 8x9, 8x8, 7x8. Great mass and big deer! We also filmed an elk/deer hunt with Al Morris of Hunter Specialties. Look for a show or their DVDs to be out soon. Al took a 6x6 bull at 366 yards and a great hybrid deer (cross between whitetail and mule deer). J.J. Stoner gets honors by taking a 6x6 bull in the 350 class and a 9x11 big muley. Other notables are Elwood Martin's 7x7 bull (358), Greg Ritzema's 6x6 (near 350), and Scott Davenport and John Coldsmith with the other two largest mule deer. The last week was hot and hard hunting with temperatures near 75 degrees on the 1st of November.

Cat season just started and we got a tom yesterday. It's snowing outside right now, so things are looking great for cat hunting.

The brown bear hunts this spring were unusual again as mother nature was not normal. We took 7 nice bears with the largest going to Dale Groff at 9'4" and Jamie Canfield at 9'8". Those were fun and exciting hunts!

Oh ya, went to New Zealand this spring with Sandy and a group of guys and got 7 red stags, 5 tahr, and 5 chamos. We hunted with Shane Quinn and Alpine Hunting: www.alpinehunting@internet.10.nz. A great and beautiful hunt!

www.heavensgateoutfitters.com

www.jdskniktukoutfitters.com

Darwin & Sandy Vander Esch

Heaven's Gate Outfitters (888)628-3062

PO Box 1403, Riggins, ID 83549

Show Schedule:

Dallas Safari Club, Dallas, TX
Springfield, MA
Minneapolis, MN

Jan. 10-13
Feb. 21-24
March 7-9

Harrisburg, PA
Reno, NV
Grand Rapids, MI

Feb. 2-10
Feb. 21-24
March 13-16