

Submitted By Stan Schuette
Life Member

WHAT MAKES A TROPHY

For several years I had been contemplating a hunt for Canadian Moose and I wanted this to be an adventure that was more than just harvesting an animal. I wanted this to be a wilderness adventure. I had hunted British Columbia five other times and knew this was where I wanted to go. So I checked with outfitters I had used, told them the type of an adventure I was looking for and two of them recommended Northwest B.C. After doing some research I decided to use Golden Bear Outfitting. The first time I spoke with Greg Williams he assured me my trip would be a "True Wilderness Adventure" and this was what I wanted. I booked my adventure for September 30 - October 11, 2009. (Later I watched Ron Spomer and Bob Foulkrod on "Winchester Legends" hunt from the same camp I was going to).

September 30, I arrived in Telegraph Creek. The "most remote village in BC." accessible by road (65 miles of what they call gravel). There it was possibly the original building, the home of F.C. Galbreath Outfitting the "First Established Guide Outfitter in Northern BC". Established in 1884, I was going to be hunting in this historic area.

I met Greg at the landing strip and loaded my gear in the Cessna 185 and took off. Flying over the rugged snow capped mountains Greg, showed me just how large his 8,000 sq. mi. hunting area was. The view was breathtaking.

When we arrived at the main camp (Hyland) the first person to greet me was none other than the man himself Bob Foulkrod. Wow! The man that I had spent countless hours watching on television was shaking my hand. As he said hi "I'm Bob Foulkrod" all I could come up with was "yes you are."

That first night we were treated to a fantastic dinner, introduced to everybody and met our guides and wranglers. Walking back to our cabin I gazed up at the stars and said "thank you lord."

On my adventures I like to think of it as a team effort, our team included the Tally (my guide) Mark (the wrangler) horses, Theo (my mount) Max, Preston and Mouse. Mark and Tally were newlyweds married only since May. So our team for the next ten days left camp for day one.

Day 1- We rode for about 1 ½ hours to where we had a view of both ends of a beautiful mountain lake (New York) and started to watch for moose. After about 2 hours we saw a moose walk from the woods we watched him for several minutes decided we needed a closer look and got back on the horses. When we got to where we could get a better look he was swimming across the lake. When he came out and started to feed we were able to get a good look at him. He was a younger bull, probably 46" spread with decent palms but not the bull I was looking for. Towards evening Tally did some calling and a bull answered her and started raking the bushes. We figured we had better hurry he was no more than 700 to 800 yards away so off we went on foot thru the woods, all down hill. We got to a good level

place by the lake had a clear view and studied him real close. He had a 50" spread not real nice palms or good brow tines so I decided to pass on this one too. We watched him for 20 minutes he really put on quite a show. After getting this 60 year old body back up the hills we rode back to camp with me thinking did you pass up on day one what you would shoot on day ten? I decided the answer was no.

There is one great advantage to having Bob Foulkrod in camp he is very good about keeping the fire going at night. Thanks Bob!

Day 2- Back to New York Lake we go. On the ride in we did see a moose at the far end of the lake but it was too far to tell exactly what it was. Later in the day we did watch a cow and her calf come out and feed in the lake that kept us occupied for a while.

Day 3- We rode for about 4 hours up to Level Mountain for the day. Tally wanted to check the area out and let the area around New York Lake quiet down for a day. We found some very good view points which were put on the GPS. No moose that day but the area really looked good. The ride back to camp was very interesting. We needed to walk the horses down the mountain the grade is just too steep for them with a rider (about a 1 ½ hour walk).

Bob gave us a thrill by getting the fire so hot that a wood bench started to smoke during the middle of the night. Turned out alright we needed to open the door to cool it down anyway.

Day 4- Back to New York Lake, no moose today.

Bob gave us another thrill during the night he broke the door latch which fell on the floor making quite a racket. He did repair it the next day.

Day 5- Time to pack up we were going to be setting up a camp up on Level Mountain. So the entire camp tent, stove, food and all was loaded up and off we went for the 4 Hour ride. With the camp set up there was still time to hunt and make plans for the next morning.

Day 6- Snow had fallen during the night 2" this would really help. One hour later we were at our view point and what a view it was, a lake 2 miles away the only water in sight with open areas, some spruce trees and lots of willow thickets. 2 hours later we saw a moose he came within 35 yards but not the right moose watched him for 45 minutes he was another 46 to 48" moose. One later hour we see another moose this one is going away Tally says we need to check this one out. So we ride at a fast pace to get in front of him at 450 yards I make the decision. Yes this is the right bull. Tally plans the perfect stalk to 206 yards one shot. BANG THWAACK down he goes the 300 WSM 180 gr. Barnes MRX did the job.

We spend the rest of this day taking pictures, filming, hugging and talking about the moose we had passed up waiting for the right one. Yes all the extra work had paid off but even if it hadn't worked out this way, the adventure would still have been fantastic. After quartering the moose up and grabbing the tenderloins we went back to camp. That night by the fire with tenderloins cooking over an open fire is one that I will cherish the rest of my life. Reliving the day with Tally and Mark after all of our hours working together as a team to make my adventure come true will always be special to me.

Day 7- Get the meat, cape and horns back to camp. Then ride back to the main camp. What a struggle that was (remember we need to walk the horses down the mountain) and now we have a lot more. But it was a labor of love. I believe we were the happiest team to ever come off a mountain after a terrific adventure.

Days 8&9- Were spent taking care of the hide, more pictures and of course starting to say goodbye.

Day 10- Greg asked if I would mind flying out one day early which was ok even though I would miss saying goodbye to Bob, he was camping out still trying to get his moose (he did get one on).

On my adventures I always pick up a rock, the one I picked up has some cracks running all the way through it but it is still together. When I look at this rock I will be reminded of how Tally, Mark, our horses and I formed a team and worked hard for many hours to make a TROPHY ADVENTURE and like the rock even though there are miles separating us the memories will always keep us together.

The moose doesn't need to be scored for my trophy room but it had a 57" spread , 9 ½" bases, 19 points, and pans measuring 16x39 on the left and 17x40 on the right, the brow tines have a 51" spread and 6 points.