



Mark Heinzeroth



Jim Shea



George Williams



George Ennembo



Eric Montague



Mike Siegler



Jason Siegler



Troy Thompson

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MIKE'S 2007 SPRING BEAR HUNT REPORT

We had a very successful bear season this past spring 2007. We housed all the hunters in our lodge which has all the comforts of home and everybody seemed to really enjoy it. My wife Jen stayed busy taking care of the lodge, assisting the cook Grace and also looking after our daughter Brooke. Andre Van Hilten and I took care of the guiding. We were able to keep all of the bait sites within a 45 minute drive from home. Several of the baits were new ones from last year where very few bears were taken because we only ran 4 hunters. This year we had 10 hunters with 15 baits and every hunter could have killed 2 mature bears. **We also killed a few GIANTS!** It was fantastic to see that after 15 years in the same area we still have great bear hunting. The low number of outfitter tags and almost zero resident hunting pressure continues to keep our zone one of the best in Alberta. Our hunters see lots of bears along with a good percentage of colored and big ones.

One of those big ones was an **18 13/16 skull**, 6 ft. 9 in. square hide bear weighing just under **300 lbs.** It was killed by **Jason Seigler** of Wisconsin with his bow. He had been after a solid Pope and Young bear for several years and finally got it with us. Jason's dad **Mike** had also come for a big archery kill bear. He held out and was rewarded with an incredible **450 lb., 7 ft. 4 in.,** scarred up, beast of a bear. The skull just missed making Boone and Crockett's minimum of **21 inches at 20 14/16.** Mike also saw 13 bears on his bait at one time and witnessed a serious fight 5 yards away between 2 big old sows!

Jim Shea and Mark Heinzeroth came from Michigan and Montana respectively and they were both tagged out in the first two days of their hunt. Jim took two six ft. plus boars including a beautiful cinnamon with his bow and Mark smoked a huge black and another decent bear with his open sighted 45-70. The big bear weighed around 350 lbs. with a **19 5/16 skull** and squared just under 7 ft.

Another giant bear was bow killed by **George Williams** from North Carolina. George held out right to the last evening, even though he had 2 evenings of seeing nothing. The reward was huge with a **21 1/16 skull, 7 ft. 3 in., 400+ pound bear.** It was killed on a bait we've had for 13 years. George also says that it wasn't THE big one that he briefly had at 3 yards. We'll see if another giant shows up at that bait next year.

Overall we were very pleased with the number of bears taken. Everyone killed at least one bear with 5 hunters taking 2 for a total of 15 bears for 10 hunters, **150% success.** 10 of those bears were mature ones with 6 ft. plus hides and 4 out of the 15 were colored. The only disappointment was with the somewhat low number of bears seen. This was due to the cool, wet and sometimes snowy weather. There was also some winterkill on the moose and deer leaving us some competition for baiting. The average number of bears seen was around 10 with a high of 20. Good but not great, most years the average is about 15 with highs of 30 or 40 different bears. Next year we will be using all of our proven best bait sites and hitting some new spots. **A sincere THANK YOU goes out to all of our bear hunters for choosing to hunt with us.** I hope you had a good time and that we exceeded your expectations.

Two Trophy Mule Deer Rifle hunts have become available for this fall 2007. This is one of our most popular and successful hunts. It is the opening week of the season right after 2 months of scouting and our bow season. We should have several good bucks patterned. We've had excellent moisture this spring and early summer which should maximize horn growth. These hunts won't last long so call right away!

Andre Van Hilten from Willow Creek Outfitters also has some bowhunts still open for some great mule deer hunting in Southern Alberta. These are very reasonably priced, high quality hunts. Give **Andre a call at 403-646-3228** or send him an email at wcoutfit@telus.net

Feel free to give me a call at (780) 864-3770 to see if we have any cancellations which could result in a discounted hunt being available. I hope you can make it up here sometime soon for a great hunt with Mike, Jen and the crew of **Mike's Outfitting Ltd.**