



"A Big Game Hunter's Paradise"Bears of 2010























MIKE'S 2010 SPRING BEAR HUNT REPORT

What a fantastic bear hunting season we had! It was our 18th year in the same zone and it was one of our best ever. We shot a bunch of big bears. This was mainly due to trophy hunting repeat clients, a great baiting system and a trail camera at every bait site. Wow, what a pain in the butt to deal with but well worth it! We really do appreciate all of the hunters that held out for the good boars and didn't shoot the breeding age sows. This keeps our area good year after year. Everybody could have shot 2 bears of some kind but with our selective hunting we had 26 hunters shoot 29 bears. 17 of those were good sized boars along with several giants. We shot big bears in every week of the season and no week was better than another. It was just mostly a matter of good luck coming your way.

One of the first lucky hunters was **Claire Swift** from Texas, she came with her husband **Jeff** and since Claire is such a dog lover she wasn't even sure if she would want to shoot a beautiful bear. Well, when a big chocolate boar strode into the bait Claire's heart went into overdrive and her hunter instincts took over. She made a great bow shot on her first bear. The 300 pound bear's hide squared out at 6 foot, 10 inches with a 19 2/16 inch Pope and Young skull. Now she and Jeff are coming back next year with a group of hunters, Jeff says it's his turn next year. **Clint Proctor** and **Terry Kinyon** from Utah came hunting the same week as the Swift's and they got double kills, one colored and a black each. Terry's bears were great boars and Clint's were incredible. The first was a 6 ft, 11 in, 330 lb black with a 19 2/16 skull and then the last evening of the hunt, on the same bait as where he took the black one, Clint took an awesome 21 0/16 skull Boone and Crockett qualifying cinnamon. It squared 7 ft 3 in, long and lean, also weighing 330 lbs.

Skeet George from Texas came on his 2nd bear hunt with us and his son **Jason** was the lucky one to take a big 295 lb boar with an 18+ inch head. **Darin Quintilio** from Alberta shot one about the same size at 18 8/16 which qualified it for Pope and Young since he took it with his bow. Two other incredible bow kills were accomplished that week by **Tony Whittingham** from Arkansas, both on video. He first shot a giant 390 lb, 20 4/16, 7 ft 3 in bear and then finished off the week with a 345 lb, 7 ft 1 in, 19 4/16 bear. Tony knew he was very fortunate and lucky man.

On the 3rd week of the season we had a group of hunters on their 2nd bear hunts with us, **Scott Vincent, Mike Ridinger** and 16 yr old **Kirk Marks Jr.** Kirk got his 1st ever bear and the other guys shot several nice ones. **Dwight Schuh** and **Larry D. Jones** from **Bowhunter Magazine TV** were also filming that week. I'm sworn to secrecy on what they took, you'll have to watch the show. I'll notify everyone when the show airs, you won't want to miss it. **Rick Reichert** was another repeat hunter, 3rd time and he took a big 19 6/16, 290 lb bear and another one for a double kill.

One of the most successful weeks was the **Melvin Palmer** group, they drove up from Wyoming and they saw tons of bears, or as Mel liked to say, "I was covered up with bears all evening!" They took six bears with the greatest success being 18 year old **Kaycee Palmer's** 1st bowkilled bear. As many hunters know it isn't easy keeping your nerves in check enough to make a perfect bow kill but KC did it. Big congrats KC!! His dad Mel did ok too taking a 350 lb pumpkin headed 20 4/16 boar with his bow after he couldn't get his gun to work, an usual back up method for sure. **Vic Face** bow shot one almost as big as Mel's bear at 325 lbs and 19 3/16. **Curt Surbeck** was the luckiest of the group, shooting a 300+ pounder the last hour of the hunt. I say luckiest because earlier on in his hunt he had already shot, with his bow, the biggest bodied bear of the whole season, actually one of biggest bears of the last 5 years, a scale weighed 425 lb, 7 ft 7 in giant. Its skull went 20 6/16. Curt was one happy man, oh yeah, and on a 30 yard running shot he also got the only wolf of the year, a 95 lb male, just incredible and for us such a great way to end the season.

A sincere thanks goes out to every one of you who bear hunted with us! With the economy the way it is right now we really appreciate you entrusting your hard earned hunting dollars with us. We hope you noticed that we really do try to make our bear hunts the best there are, the most detailed and well looked after bait sites, the hardest working guides, a great cook and comfortable accommodations. We also hope it was a challenging, exciting and fun holiday.

Our fall season will soon be here and we will be working hard to make it one of the best ever. We have just one elk/moose bowhunt open and a couple of whitetail deer rifle hunts in the peak of the rut, we can give a good deal on the price. Give us a call if you would like to experience the Big Game Hunter's Paradise of Mike's Outfitting Ltd.