

Tracks™

OCTOBER 2011



Turkey Hunting with my Dad (Raini Glades - KS)

On Saturday morning, while I was sitting at the table eating breakfast my dad came up to me and said that there was a big tom turkey at the edge of our alfalfa field and asked if I wanted to call it in and see if I could shoot it, and of course I said yes. We changed into our camo and headed out to the edge of the field. The tom made his way into the woods before we moved into place so we were fairly comfortable he was not looking our way. My dad put out some decoys and began to call him in. After about 45 minutes of calling back and forth between my dad and the tom, he still hadn't come across the field since it had just been mowed and baled. My dad instructed me to crawl out of the trees and stay as low and as quiet as I could. We decided to move to the other side of the field. The side where the turkey was. I hoped my dad knew what he was doing.

We had to be even quieter as we crawled into the other side of the woods to find a spot to sit in the trees. My dad set out a decoy on the edge of the alfalfa field. I set at the base of a tree with low hanging branches right in line with the decoy. My dad moved further away and started to call to the turkey. He gobbled right back. It took no time at all to get him to come down the tree line to us. Soon he was right in front of me. Then things got crazy because he turned and started to walk right towards me. He was twenty feet in front and looking right at me. "Take him", my dad said. BOOM, he went right down. I blew a little of his tail off but he still made some awesome meat and took some really good pictures. I want to thank my dad for taking me out that morning and helping me get

(continued on page 2. Want to learn more about hunting in Kansas, contact your Outdoor Connection agent)



Inside

PAGE 2
CARIBOU HUNTING IN ALASKA

PAGE 3
CARIBOU IN ALASKA CONT.
KANSAS MUZZLELOADER

PAGE 4
ARIZONA ONLINE
APPLICATIONS



(from page 1)

my first turkey, and also Lou Hoop for letting me put my picture and my story onto his website. It was a great experience and I hope that when other people read this, it will inspire them to want to go out and get a big tom turkey to. Thanks again!!!!!!:)

For more information on turkey hunting in Kansas contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.

Caribou Hunting in Alaska (Dan Rieves - CO)

Short story - Amazing trip! Maybe best one I have ever done.

The Hunt - We were on a non-guided, outfitted caribou hunt. The outfitter supplied transportation to the field and all the camping gear and food. I would give the gear an A- and the food a B+. The only food issue was the instant coffee (it takes four days for that to even remotely taste good). Gear was simple but in good to excellent condition.

When you go to the Arctic two things are a major concern; weather and bugs. The weather was incredible, we had a few days in the 50's with sunshine. Periods of every other kind of weather but over all wonderful. Just cold enough at night to freeze the water jugs and keep the bugs down. No bug problems at all.

The day we went to the field we were surrounded by caribou. The next morning we had a hard time picking which herd to go after. The four of us split into two teams and made a plan. The plan quickly went out the window when Dave shot a nice bull while standing next to our tent. "Good luck with that Dave, we are going hunting." If a guy shoots a nice bull from camp he can pack it himself!

We were in the caribou all day and took a large bull 1.5 miles from camp and smaller bull a 1/2 mile from camp by mid day. We spent the rest of the day packing meat. The big bull was a four hour round trip pack - if you haven't heard, the tundra is almost impossible to walk on.

Day two of hunting we knocked down three more bulls by 1 in the afternoon and again spent the rest of the day and part of the next day packing those three bulls out. With six bulls down we got real picky real fast. We never did fill our last tag, just couldn't get a good shot at anything bigger than we had on the ground and had alot of chores to do on the ones we had. The caribou almost completely dried up by the end of the week.

Average shot distance was right at 200 yards.

FAQ

Caribou up there are a little more difficult (wary) to hunt than I expect

No we did not see or hear any wolves

No we did not see any bears all though we saw a lot of fresh sign

Northern Lights three of the nights - Amazing

Fishing was close by but tougher than you would think - caught 6 grayling

Sunrise at 8 a.m. sunset close to 10p.m.

Things particular to this trip.

The purest wilderness I have ever experienced

Be good with a knife. Alaska G&F is very particular about waste of game meat. A trooper told me they will cite for a measured cup of wasted meat. You can not debone in the field where we were so you are packing out ribes, neck meat everything. Know how to cape all the way down to turning the ears and fleshing the hides.



(continued on page 3)

ALBERTA RIFLE HUNTS (ABH4)

\$3,000 - SINGLE SPECIES

ADD ADDITIONAL SPECIES FOR TROPHY FEES, CHOOSE FROM ELK, WHITETAIL, MULE DEER, AND WOLF.

MINNESOTA ICE FISHING (MNF9)

15% OFF

BOOK YOUR TRIP PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 30TH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DISCOUNT



(from page 2)

Bring the best quality pack frame you can afford - you will spend many hours of quality time with it.

Breathable waders are the ticket.

Found a great guy for tanning hides in Anchorage - best to have them done there and shipped home tanned. We shipped the 66 lbs of antlers FedEx. Brought home the rest of the meat as checked bags.

We donated 3/4 of the meat, this is a good program but make sure you give them quality meat to keep the program alive.



For more information on hunting in Alaska (**AH12**), contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.

Kansas Muzzleloader Whitetail (Greg Ray -OK)

It was finally my turn to get out in the field and have some fun. My first hunt for 2011, I chose one of our Kansas outfitters for whitetail. This is a more of a semi guided hunt where I took care of my own lodging (very nice state cabins right on a lake) which was only a 10 minute drive to the hunting grounds.

Upon arrival I met with the outfitter, where he produced aerial photos of his hunting property that included marked spots for each of his tree stands. He went over each stand with me and made suggestions on how to hunt each one. We then toured the parameter of the property, which was a heavily wooded area with several creeks running through it and surrounded by grasslands.

The outfitter had mowed trails starting approximately one quarter of a mile away from the edge of the timber where the trail continued through the woods to each very well marked treestand. I never had any problem finding my stands in the dark.

During my hunt I encountered shooter bucks every evening (mornings were a bit slow, I'm guessing since it was mid September) On my third evening just before last shooting light another Kansas trophy whitetail showed himself at less than 90 yards from my stand, not too sure where he came from, he was just there. I knew right away that I would not have to think about this one. Since the buck was facing me head on, (he was looking at the doe directly below my stand) I had my crosshairs on him for what seemed like an eternity, I could literally see it getting darker in my scope. Finally, he presented me with the shot I needed and after the smoke cleared all I could see was this massive buck running for cover where he disappeared. Seconds later I could hear a deer running behind my stand and was not too sure if it was him or the doe that had been below my stand.

I sat in my stand until it was dark and decided to see if I could find blood. I went directly to the spot I had marked and found nothing, no blood, no hair, nothing! You know how it goes, you start doubting yourself and wonder if you pulled the shot or shot over his back. After a short search of the area I found a massive pool of blood that confirmed 250 grains of Barnes Copper had hit its mark. It only took another 20 yards and there was 250 pounds of Kansas whitetail piled up with evidence of a double lung shot on his side.

A phone call to my outfitter and a 30 minute wait was all it took to get my hero shots and this big boy loaded into the back of the truck. If you are looking for a budget Kansas trophy whitetail hunt, then I would highly recommend this outfitter. He did a great job of familiarizing me with the area and stands, it was obvious that he had spent time preparing for hunters to show up.



For more information on hunting in Kansas (**KSH10**), contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.

FLORIDA FALL SPECIALS (FLH5)

INTERESTED IN HUNTING HOG, GATOR OR TURKEY IN FLORIDA NEXT YEAR...CHOOSE THIS OUTFITTER. HOG FROM \$250, TURKEY FROM \$1,975 AND GATOR FROM \$1,650!

COSTA RICA FISHING (CRF2)

4 NIGHT/3 DAY FROM \$2,795 PER PERSON INCLUDES AIRPORT RECEPTION, ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS, 3 DAYS FISHING, ALL TACKLE, OPEN BAR AND LAUNDRY SERVICE



Online Application Service for Arizona 2012 Spring Hunting Draw

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has announced that online application service for Arizona's 2012 spring hunts has become available as of Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011. Hunters who haven't yet submitted an application for the spring hunts for turkey, javelina, buffalo and bear now have the option of applying online by visiting www.azgfd.gov/draw and selecting a link to the online service. The application deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011, by 7 p.m. (MST). Applicants are advised to apply early and not wait until the last minute, in case any technical issues arise on deadline day.

Online applicants will have to pay a non-refundable fee of \$7.50 per applicant, along with the fee for any necessary licenses (a 2012 license is required to enter the spring draw; those who have not already purchased one can do it through the draw process). Purchased hunting licenses can be printed immediately from a computer once the purchase is complete.

The system allows payment with a credit card (VISA and Mastercard only). The cost of the hunt permit-tag won't be charged unless and until the applicant is drawn.

The online application service works with the following browsers: Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome and Safari (For those using Safari, it is recommended that you upgrade to the latest version of the OS and Safari browser; a few problems have been reported with older Safari versions). This application service currently does not work with mobile devices such as iPad, iPhone or other Smartphones.

For those not using the online process, paper applications can still be mailed to the Arizona Game and Fish Department or hand-delivered to any of the seven Game and Fish offices located in Pinetop, Flagstaff, Kingman, Yuma, Tucson, Mesa and Phoenix.

Outdoor Connection has several outfitters in Arizona for clients to choose from! Be sure to apply prior to the October 11 deadline to ensure you have a tag for next year's hunting season!

For more information on hunting in Arizona, contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.

Outdoor Connection®

The Worldwide Hunting and Fishing Authority™

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