

Greetings From the Wild Chinchaga 2017

What a year it's been... At this time last year, we had grand plans of slowing things down into a semi-retirement mode selling off Main and East camps along with 2/3 of our tags, leaving us to only run Keg Camp with a handful of hunters. Some of this happened and some of it didn't. We prepared for the sale of the business and took our six hunters into Keg Camp. We had a great time and a fantastic hunt. Main and East were operated by the new buyer Chase along with his grandmother Joanne Potter. It's a long story, but in a nut shell it's exactly one year later, we have our operation back, we're well rested, and are excited to move full steam ahead. With that said, 2017 **is** in the history books. The Cinderella story just didn't work out. Chase is still a hell of a guide so we're sure what is meant to be for him will surface elsewhere.

At our Keg Camp in 2017 we had one of the most rewarding seasons in 20 years. Our first group was Dean Samons and Scott Omalley from Kingman AZ., & Marty and Diane Johnson from Bark River, MI. Guiding was Dan Janzen and Chris Kamieniecki. I was cooking and Bob and our Grandson Glen were in Camp to help with outside chores for me, run meat and keep the fires going. Dean got a dandy 44" moose and Scott got to take in the adventure that Dean has experienced with us for the 10th time. Marty has been with us once before and once again took a nice moose home. The thing is that Marty has to navigate with a walker due to nerve damage in his back. He set quite an example of what determination and positive energy can add to any experience. Marty's wife Diane was a pleasure to host and she enjoyed everything our Wild Chinchaga had to offer. What a truly Fantastic week!!

Next up was the Forsberg group. Dad Vern and sons Dennis and Doug. Our son Lyle came in to guide his buddy Dennis as they go back some 20 years. Two nice moose and a black bear went back to Ridgefield WA. What a great time. After the moose were hung the crib board came out. I lost track of the US vs CAN wins and losses but it was a close contest.

"2016 was an all time high for customer satisfaction and praises for our operation from all clients from both camps whether they took moose or not." (Quote from 2016 news letter)

With that said, 2017 was just as good if not better. Our staff last year and in years past are the key to these great seasons we enjoy and boast about. Chris, Dan, Lyle, Roger, Brad, Judy, Novella & Clay are the reasons your experiences give you such life lasting memories.

East Camp has been brought up to par with a new cabin, new mattresses, and major kitchen & shower house renovations. It's looking pretty awesome so hosting our groups there again will be great. Keg, Main & East Camps each have their own unique amazing gifts to offer. Each one of them will reenergize your heart.

Our 10 grandkids are growing like bad weeds. Ages 5 to 15 now. We are not getting any heartbreak from any of them that we have our business back. Glen our oldest grandson took his first moose this year. What an experience for Bob and him to have together. Bob and I made a deal that a gift for our grandkids that they will each get **one** opportunity to hunt from camp. Not sure if they are all hunters but the ones that just come to camp will reap the benefits offered by nature at its finest. We feel very fortunate to have something so special to share with them.

Bob & I will be at the 2018 Puyallup Sportsman's Show January 24-28 and will be in Portland February 7-11 at the 2018 Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show. We look forward to seeing everyone. We'll be bringing Sunny our new Camp Dog. He's a Standard Schnauzer and smart as a whip.

For now we send warm wish for Happy Holidays and Health and Happiness in 2018 to you all. We are grateful for your continued friendship & past patronage.

Keep your knife sharp and your powder dry. Bob & Trish Freelend