

Tommy Davidsson & Peter Kristoffersson from Sweden with their five and half foot Black Bears taken this last spring.



Tim Becker from Michigan with the largest Black Bear taken in Nanika Guiding's Territory.



Low snow fall over last winter and warm weather took our snow early and I was concerned the Black bear would be out early. But The spring was cold after the snow left and the bears did not start moving until later in May. Roxanne Becker took the first Black Bear this spring. The bear population improved as the spring progressed, with a group of six from Texas taking six bears. The actual kill worked out to 65%, it should have been more around 70% with the missed bears. Tim Becker bought his Black Bear hunt from a bear hunt I donated to the Mid Michigan Safari Chapter. He took the biggest Black Bear ever. Guide was Garry Hartnell. This spring I had two lady Bear hunters, Roxanne Becker and Carol Parker. Roxanne took a nice bear, but Carol missed her's, but she is coming back in 2002 to hunt Moose on a fly-in remote hunt. I have noticed in 2000 and 2001 that with the number of Black Bear taken in my territory that population has decreased some, but the harvest level has been around 65 to 70%. There are still lots of large bears about, but they are getting smarter and harder to hunt. The Guide and hunter has to work harder to be successful. We are seeing more White or light Brown Black bears and I have to get a ruling from the government if these bears are considered a Kermode Bear or not. It is not lawful to shoot Kermode Bears, but their range is on the coast of British Columbia.

This picture of the White or Light Brown Bear was taken this last spring, only a few miles from our base at Francois Lake.



Scott Taylor and Guide Chad Hanson with Scott's Mountain Goat taken above Nanika Lake.



Chad with a nice Bull Trout caught below the Nanika Falls on the lower Nanika River.

Our last Bear hunt ended in the middle of June. The summer was quiet with no fishermen or sightseeing trips. We did not start hunting again until the 10th of September, which was a fall Black Bear hunt with a group from Italy. Then we started into the fly-in remote hunts. The first were Mountain Goat and Moose hunts. Lindsay Dawe from Tasmania was not successful on his Moose hunt at Atna Lake. This is the first time the Atna area has failed. I think the main problem was the pack of wolves in the valley and the valley flooded with the heavy rain Chad and Lindsay watched a pack of wolves for a half hour or more. Wolves tend to chase the Moose into more secluded areas and they hang tight and this makes the hunting very difficult. Vince's hunter took a Goat, but ended up with a small one as he did not wait for the Guide to check it out before he shot. In fact the Guide did not even see the Goat or know that the hunter was going to shoot. This is dangerous and will not be tolerated. Steps will be taken to stop this sort of disregard for the rules. The following week Scott Taylor from Nevada took a nice Goat, but Nick Creveling was not able to get his. So out of three Goat hunters we took two. I could not book my full quota for Mountain Goats in 2001. In 2002, I am fully booked for the Goats.

This year we had lots of problems with hunters wounding animals. The main problem seemed to be that the guns were not sighted in or scope out of adjustment. I am going to make some changes to the terms of the hunt and have each hunter shoot their firearm before they start hunting to ensure accuracy.

The fly-in Moose hunts were good at Kidprice, with the exception of the last hunt. William Melton did not have a opportunity. There were Moose in the area, but no Bulls showed themselves. Nanika Lake area produced three Moose for five hunters. It was Atna that fell short for sure. In late October we moved our operation from Fly-in hunts to base hunts which started at Collins Lake. The first morning of the hunt we saw five Bulls and Jim Huggins from Georgia took his Bull that afternoon and the other hunter could have taken his at the same time, if he had hit the larger Bull at less than 100 yards. He did take a Bull later in the week. Then we moved to my home base for the last two weeks of Moose hunting. The group of six took four Moose and the other two hunters wounded theirs and the last group of four took four Bulls before the week was over. So the last three weeks there were twelve hunters and there could have been twelve Moose. It was a good wrap up to a season that started out poorly. But that is hunting.

Sorry no Christmas Card this year, but we wish you and your families all the best for 2002 and beyond.

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to All*