

Big Buck From The Bow Zone

ROBERT SHERER

This year, my trophy mule deer hunt started a bit different than the usual “check the computer to see if I had drawn anything” ritual. You see, every third year I bowhunt the big mule deer that live around Calgary, Alberta with my good friends Jay and Cam Nelson. However, this year Jay had been so busy that he forgot to pick up his class C guide license. I

on 165 – 180 class bucks without ever letting an arrow fly. It seemed like something would always go wrong at the moment of truth. However, I kept the hope that my luck would turn around eventually, and boy was I ever right.

Tuesday morning dawned clear and chilly. We were

out of the house before dark and set up to glass by day-break. We were going to try spot and stalk hunting; my favorite way to bowhunt, just you and your quarry on equal terms. We spotted my buck about 45 minutes after first light and there was no discussion about “if” I would try a stalk on this buck. The wind was blowing from the north so I entered the brush from the south. He was working his way back and forth through his does as he was rutted up in a bad way. When I got into 55 yards, I set up and waited for an opening.

I tried not to look at his huge typical antlers, but I found myself mesmerized by them and I couldn't look away.

Finally snapping back to reality, I began going into my shot routine; focusing on nothing but the mechanics of making a good shot. As he stepped into an opening, I was at full draw praying that this was finally going to be my chance. He stopped quartering away slightly and I thought to myself, “It doesn't get any better than this,” as I squeezed the trigger on my release. The Easton Axis arrow blew completely through the big buck and he jumped, not knowing what had happened. As he walked another five yards, I was already at full draw again and fired another arrow right next to where the first one went. This time he trotted off about 70 yards before stopping. I started shaking from the massive dose of adrenaline and the buck tipped right over.

With moments like this, time stands still and in a flash you run 30 years of bowhunting through your mind, all of the close calls and missed opportuni-



GROSS SCORE: **186**

POINTS: **4X4**

SPREAD: **29**

LOCATION: **ALBERTA**

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had already promised my business partner, Jim Winjum of Kenetrek Boots, that I would show our high-quality hunting boots to the buyers at Wholesale Sports in Calgary. I couldn't stand the thought of being in Alberta during the peak of the rut without hunting, so I called Jay to see if there were any other options. Luckily, Jay and Cam occasionally work for Andre van Hilten of Willow Creek Outfitters, so Jay contacted Andre to see if he had any left over tags. Sometimes, I think that God just smiles on you and this was one of those times as Andre had one archery mule deer tag left.

When I finally met with Andre, he had me all lined out. Jay was going to be guiding me and I was pumped. On past hunts with Jay and Cam, I had been at full draw with my bow three different times

ties. All I could do was to look up and say thank you. I also owe a huge thank you to my good friends Jay and Cam Nelson as well. My big buck is very symmetrical with heavy mass. He later scored 186 P&Y. Even though I was finally successful in my quest, I already look forward to going back.

About the Author - An Extreme Boot Tester

Robert J Sberer is an optometrist with a practice in Great Falls, Montana. He is also one of the owners of Kenetrek Boots based in Bozeman, Montana. As an owner in Kenetrek, Bob takes his equipment very seriously, especially his boots. He says, "We have all experienced hunts where our gear fails in one way or another. The right gear for the type of hunt you are on can make the difference between successful enjoyment and miserable failure. When hunting in the Canadian north during the mule deer rut, you have to expect cold weather. My hunt required patient stalking at temperatures way below freezing. At Kenetrek, we have designed a full line of boots that will both support your feet and keep you warm - no matter what the weather is like. Often times the best hunting opportunities come when the weather is at its worst. I know that you will find total quality and performance with Kenetrek Boots, because we already have." Call for a free catalog or the location of a dealer near you. 1-800-232-6064 or www.kenetrek.com

