

BEYOND P.R. APP'D. 9 252 Tc 10 the SCORE

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Father and Son Double Musk Ox Adventure

For most hunters, going afield with friends and family is a time-honored and cherished tradition. Many hunters eagerly await draw results or vacation opportunities in hopes of spending that week or two in camp, at the cabin, or at a favorite lodge enjoying time with loved ones. While the anticipation and emotions are the same, a hunt can be a little tougher in Alaska.

The father-son duo of Myron and 13-year-old Justin Heil were both very excited to find that they had drawn Shishmaref musk ox tags in their home state of Alaska. The first order of business was to charter a commercial



Myron P. Heil (above) with his musk ox scoring 108-2/8 points and Justin M. Heil (below) with his musk ox scoring 105-6/8. The pair were hunting in Shishmaref, Alaska during the 2008 season when they took these bulls.

flight to Nome. This is where the delays began. Low visibility prevented a landing, and they had to turn around. After 51 hours of flying and waiting, they were eventually able to land in Shishmaref, where they met their guide and host for the hunt.

The first morning found the mercury level hanging at -30°F . After suiting up, the pair headed out on snowmobiles in hopes of locating a herd of musk ox in position where the pair could try a stalk. After an hour, bad weather and poor visibility forced them to turn back.

Day two brought clear weather but no relief from the extreme subzero temperatures. Again they suited up, this time pointing their sleds in the opposite direction of the day before. Two hours later they spotted two groups of musk ox a few hundred yards apart. Closer examination revealed the first herd included seven good bulls and at least two that were close to Boone and Crockett Club minimums. The second herd was made up of 20 cows and calves. Justin was first to take a shot. He carefully positioned himself and waited for the bulls to separate. When they finally put enough distance between one another that Justin felt comfortable, one very well-placed shot from his 7mm-08 brought the bull down in under 25 yards. With his bull down, the remainder of the herd scattered in the opposite direction with the exception of one bull that presented a possible shot. Myron decided this wasn't the bull he wanted since it had a broken horn, so he took off on foot to try and cut off the herd. After a short pursuit, he set up and waited for the best bull in the bunch to present a shot. He was shooting a .454 Casull, so a hurried shot was out of the question. Finally the bull did give him the chance he was looking for. Myron made good of the opportunity and collected a fine Alaskan musk ox.

After pictures and congratulations, they loaded the two bulls on sleds and headed to an old cabin their guide uses as a warming shelter. Justin reports he was very relieved to be inside. They carefully processed the meat and hides of both bulls and loaded them up for the trip back to town. Well after dark, which comes early in Alaska in February, they arrived back at the village and began to size up the magnificent trophies they had both taken. Green-scored, both bulls made the 105-point minimum needed for entry into B&C's Awards Program. Myron cautioned Justin that they may shrink some during the required 60-day drying period. When officially taped in May, Justin's bull scored 105-6/8 points with Myron's measuring 108-2/8 points.

Justin says it was a good hunt since it taught him how bad hunting conditions can be. He has hunted before when it rained every day, but he said this musk ox hunt was worse. This great musk ox bull was Justin's 9th big game trophy and his first for the record books. ■

Cassidy E. Cate harvested her first buck in Harper County, Kansas, during the 2008 season. It had a final entry score of 195-1/8 points.



Young Trophy Hunter's Wait Pays Off

Cassidy Cate is a very accomplished hunter, though going into the 2008 season she had yet to punch her whitetail tag. The 22-year-old pre-med student has numerous trophies to her name including elk, buffalo, pronghorn, various game birds, and seven species of plains game taken on an African safari. Her quest for a big whitetail had yet to come true because she set her standards high. The goal was to take a buck bigger than her father's—or at least get a wall-hanger.

Cassidy is a devoted trophy hunter, whose patience paid off in December on a Kansas box blind hunt with her boyfriend at her side and her father in another location.

The first morning brought a great buck within 45 yards of the stand, but standing at only 5' 1", she had trouble getting the angle on the deer for the shot. The commotion proved to be too much for the big 10-pointer, which disappeared into cover. Feeling dejected, they returned to town for lunch and a nap. The afternoon hunt started at 3 p.m. in howling winds. The pair's confidence in seeing a deer was dwindling when Cassidy's boyfriend Brian spotted a great buck. They had first located the buck in a Conservation Reserve Program field but quickly lost sight of him. Remembering some sound advice Cassidy's father had given them about calling, Brian grunted and the buck re-appeared. He was 250 yards out on the edge of the field, but buck fever caused Cassidy to doubt her ability to make the shot. Brian calmed her down and she leveled the crosshairs on the non-typical buck. At the shot, the buck was gone. Though unsure of the accuracy and with night fast approaching, they began searching for signs of a hit. Cassidy was overwhelmed with all the possible scenarios unfolding in her head. It was then that she spotted her trophy lying 10 feet from where they stood. She rushed to the deer with tears streaming. Her father quickly joined the two and congratulated his daughter with a long hug. Cassidy's buck scores 196-5/8 points. ■



Out of the Ordinary Pick Ups

Normally in this column we profile some of the better hunt stories we receive. Though on occasion, we accept stories of trophies that died in unconventional ways, which leave you scratching your head and questioning, "What are the odds?"

In the last few months we have received two such submissions that we decided would fit into the category of "Beyond The Score."

The first story begins in the town cemetery of Aurora, Ohio. An intruder attempted to hop the perimeter fence, no doubt trying to sneak in to wreak havoc. One assumes that while jumping, he slipped, which is what created the gruesome scene the following day. There was blood covering the fence from which a lifeless form was hanging. Visitors were undoubtedly alarmed and immediately reported the situation to the cemetery service department. After cleaning up the mess, obtaining the proper paperwork from authorities, and letting the antlers dry the required 60 days, the magnificent non-typical whitetail buck that met his untimely, and ironic, end in a graveyard scored an impressive 193-5/8 points.

The second entry comes from Wisconsin. Kenneth J. Imm was staying at a local resort in Sawyer County doing some fishing on the Chippewa Flowage. He had his boat out after dark trying to catch a few more fish in the last few hours of the day. Around 10 p.m., he was making his way back to the lodge when he struck something unseen with his boat. He returned to the resort, informed the owner of the incident and returned to his cabin. The next morning the owner went to investigate the damage and promptly awakened Ken to discuss the find. Upon returning to the lake, the owner pointed out a very large black bear floating dead. Was the nighttime collision the cause of death or had this old bruin died from some other cause? Had Ken just happened to hit the floating bear on the way in? The bear scored 21-11/16 points. This entry is tied for the 35th largest bear ever recorded from the state of Wisconsin.

Boone and Crockett will accept both these entries, to be listed as picked-up trophies. The records book not only praises the best hunter-taken trophies, but also recognizes found trophies to give game agencies credit for management practices that produce such fine, mature animals. These entries both required the submission of a possession permit issued by the respective states to make sure the trophies were legally collected.