

South Nahanni

OUTFITTERS

HUNT REPORT 2023



OUR GUIDE GALLERY



Joe (Ohio): record book moose
Guide Kish Sorenson

Jason (New Zealand) – Guide Cole Hines

Kevin (New Zealand): record book caribou
Guide Tom

Walter (Belgium): record book moose, 68 inches, score 236
Guide Kish

Repeat hunter Henri (Belgium)
Guide James

Friends Marc and Buddy (Florida)
Guide Warren

Repeat hunter Alejandro (Chile)
Guide Kish

Many times repeat hunter Arturo (Chile): biggest SNO 'boo' at 436 inches!
Guide Warren

Karl (Germany)
Guide Cole

Ralf (Germany): record book 'bou' - 422 inches – Guide Tom



Guide Tom Wood

Guide Anton Spudic

Guide Cole Hines

Guide Byron Gagne

Guide Kish Sorenson

Guide Brent Sinclair

Guide James Elliott

Guide Warren Lees

Guide Richard Cherepak

Air Strike Pilot Mike Dorsey

Outfitter Werner Aschbacher

Outfitter Sunny Petersen

Outfitter crew – Lukas, Anika and Lin Aschbacher – end of season



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PRINTED IN CANADA

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES » CANADA

At SNO, we like to label every season: 'best sheep year', 'worst weather', or 'moose magic'. 2023 will be 'the smokiest'. For the first four weeks of the season, there was a constant haze in the sky that challenged flying, scouting and glassing. The media, which had many of you in fear over hunts and area, was sensational hype on a normal NWT fire season. While it would be very difficult to burn down very rocky South Nahanni, we did have a small bush fire within our concession. Unfortunately, it didn't burn far enough into the moose area, where an old burn would have benefited from some clearing out for better moose pastures and hunting.

After a beautiful, sunny summer with an excellent 100% success on sheep, our last two weeks took a downturn. The 10-day moose hunt lost about 50% of its hunting potential to thick fog, snow, wind, and more fog, and unfortunately resulted in one out of five clients going home empty handed.

There were many highlights this season as well as average trophies, easy and hard hunts. Rams had an average horn length of 33 inches, with a 9-year age average. Three book rams (awards class over 160 inches B&C) were taken. Guides James Elliott and Warren Lees with hunters Grant (now a 700 Club member) and Jim fought it out for the sheep trophy buckle with almost identical rams of 40 and 41 inches taken the same day. Hunter Christian took the third book ram, again with Warren.

Of 11 moose, three were over 60 inches in spread, four went over 200 B&C and the average spread was 54 inches. Hardworking guide Kish Sorenson was leading the pack with an exciting bull that green scored 235 inches and a spread of 68 inches. He hiked Walter (Belgium) all through 'Hellhole' aka

'The Burn' for this one, and also took another book moose at 60 inches and 213 B&C with Joe (Ohio). Caribou, while hard to find due to changing migration patterns, were exciting with four of them going over 400 inches (record book starts at 380) and the largest 'boo ever taken in South Nahanni (436 B&C points green) guided by Warren Lees and taken by Arturo (Chile), followed by guide Tom Wood and hunter Ralf (Germany) with a green score of 422 inches and guide Cole Hines and Kevin with 414 points.

Four hunters decided to go for mountain goat: Guide James Elliott and hunter Henri (Belgium) took the largest billy at 45 inches and Warren Lees guided the other three - two on a double guided Dallsheep hunt that garnered 2 rams, 2 billies and 2 caribou - which in itself is another all-time record.

Wolves are coveted by many but Wayne (Ohio) and guide Byron Gagne were the only ones successful - and it was a huge beast!

While these were the outstanding trophies, a lot more facets make up a season. There were Lori and Sid who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a long 9-day, hot and sunny Dallsheep hunt, and hunter JJ who took over packing for hunter Greg and guide Brent Sinclair when long-term guide Tom hurt his knee on a rock. This is happy Tom, who has been with us for so long he can't recall how many rams he has guided, and inventory Brent, who came with the outfit in 2004, now sporting a young age of around 65 and no retirement plans at all.

We had several repeat clients, hunters from around the world, 60th birthdays, and a double of enthusiastic 16-year olds, who will be excited to jump in as cancellation hunters if ever you need one (contact Sunny).

Guide Richard Cherepak came out of his retirement for one September hunt and Cole Hines, recently married, took time off from being an emergency responder and family to join us again. Helicopter pilot Mike Dorsey was the lifeline into the field, dropping off and picking up, bringing food and beer, and keeping all in touch with world news. Anton Spudic had an even keeled, successful July/Aug sheep season, then left to go to university, and Byron Gagne took time off from his farm to once again support the SNO team, of which he has been a part of since 2008. Kish Sorenson stayed for three hunts, specializing in sniffing out moose, and James Elliott was very successful on mountain game during the same time frame.

Warren Lees deserves this year's award of excellence: he guided 9 hunters, took 20 animals with them - excluding the 2 marmots - found the largest caribou and ram, took a record book ram on opening day, guided the oldest billy and did that amazing Australian double (yes, almost like tennis).

Lastly, our three kids, Anika, Lin and Luke, helped run SNO all season long, ferried supplies in July, trophies in October, and got the export permits at season's end, so Sunny and Werner could close down camp (leisurely) and take a scenic flight home to the farm in the orange chopper.

Thank you all - hunters, guests, guides, pilots, cooks - for another wonderful season! Good hunting to you!

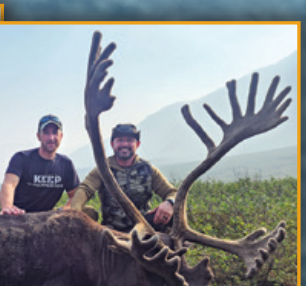
Sunny and Werner



Christian (Germany): record book ram
Guide Warren Lees



Kurtis and friend Aaron (North Dakota) - Guide Tom Wood



Dr. Z. (Alabama) - Guide Byron



Florian (Austria) - Guide Warren



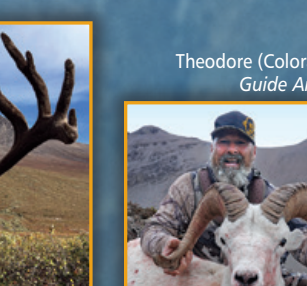
Friends Tom and Kenny (Australia)
Guide Warren



JJ (Montana) COVER
Guide Brent



Greg (Louisiana) with 'Packer' JJ
Guide Brent



Sid and Lori (Georgia) on their 40th wedding anniversary - Guide Byron



Grant (Indiana): record book and now member of the 700 Club
Guide James Elliott



Tom (Nebraska)
Guide Anton Spudic



Josh (California) - Guide Byron Gagne



Tom (Georgia) - Guide Anton
A black bear tried to steal Tom's caribou...



Otto (Germany) - Guide Tom Wood



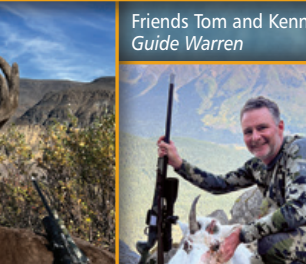
James (Texas) - Guide Byron



Trevor (Ontario) - Guide Anton



Repeat hunter Wayne (Ohio)
Guide Byron



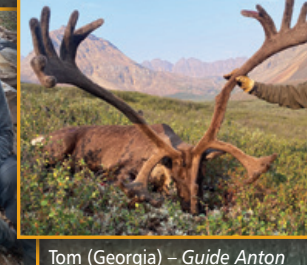
John (New Jersey)
Guide Richard Cherepak



Jim (Michigan): record book + largest ram of the season, record book caribou
Guide Warren



Neil and son Trevor (British Columbia)
Guide Brent



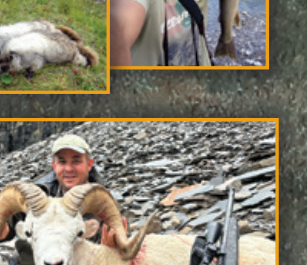
Michel and Travis (British Columbia) filming for the Alpine Carnivore TV show - Guide Brent Sinclair



Will (Texas) - Guide Warren



Friends Wes and Wade (Texas) - Guide Tom



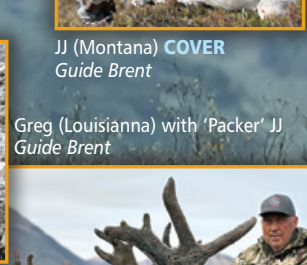
Repeat hunter Marion (Ohio)
63 inch moose - Guide Tom



Scott (Virginia)
Guide Tom



Theodore (Colorado)
Guide Anton



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