



BASECAMP

Safari Club International - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Summer 2010



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wild Game & Award Dinner Photos

Hunt Reports

Member Photos

Calendar of Coming Events

COMING EVENTS

Bob Bergstrom Memorial BBQ & Shoot
August 29, 2010

San Jose Feed the Hungry
September 25, 2010

Board of Directors Meetings
3rd Thursday of each month, Angelica's
Bistro, Redwood City 6:30 p.m.
Please call Beverly Valdez at 650-697-6538.

LCpl Povas Miknaitis, USMC, and Ron Raboud, founder of the Wounded Warrior Outdoors Foundation after a successful bear hunt in British Columbia.

For BaseCamp please email Bill Craves,
bcraves@comcast.net

Is there a magical connection between Marine combat vets and BIG brown color-phase black bear? One would think so. Once again this year the Purple Heart Marine who our Chapter sponsored on a terrific donated Spring bear hunt in British Columbia took an outstanding bear ... a gorgeous medium chocolate colored boar that stretched the tape to 7 full feet.

In the Spring issue of Basecamp you read about LCpl Povas Miknaitis, USMC, who was seriously injured by a Taliban IED in Afghanistan last October. Povas is a Marine Scout Sniper who graduated second highest in his class at the end of an extremely demanding three month training program. 30% of carefully selected entrants washed out!

In the Spring pre-hunt story about Povas I posed the question as to whether you could imagine a Marine Sniper missing a trophy bear. I couldn't either, and on day three of the six day hunt Povas proved all of us correct by dropping his bear in it's tracks at about 250 yds with a single shot from a 300 Rem. Ultra Mag. He said later that a big brown one was exactly what he had his heart set on. Now he's got braggin' rights on his two older brothers, both of whom are former Marine Scout Snipers.

This year's trip for six Purple Heart vets was funded by the Wounded Warrior Outdoors Foundation, created early this year by a very generous businessman/hunter in Florida, Ron Raboud, to provide hunting and fishing adventures for wounded vets. For many years prior to this he reserved one slot in bear camp each spring for a wounded vet or a disabled civilian hunter. This year he shifted into high gear by creating the WWO Foundation so as to take over all six slots in the bear



camp operated by Otter Lake Guide Outfitters near Penticton, B.C. Ron has hunted with them for over twenty years and says they are simply the best.

The other five wounded vets who joined Povas were all from Walter Reed Army Medical Center ... four were Army vets and one, a double leg amputee, was a NAVY S.E.A.L. Their participation came with the enthusiastic endorsement of the senior military command and medical staff at Walter Reed who had very carefully reviewed the program.

Because of unusually cold weather, including rain and even snow, most bears were still keggered up and not out foraging. Not many bears of any size were being spotted. After three days, six hunters had taken just three bears. Then, days 4 and 5 were a complete bust. Everyone was having a great time and spirits were still high, BUT the pressure was clearly on that final day for those three remaining vets to get their bears. Then Goddess Diana herself must have smiled. Two bear

were taken that morning. Hours later, with only 10 minutes of shooting light left, the sixth vet filled his tag. How sweet that must have been.

I fully expect Ron Raboud will assign our Chapter a slot in next Spring's hunt. If the recipient turns out to be another Marine, don't bet against his taking another whopper of a "brownie" black bear.

