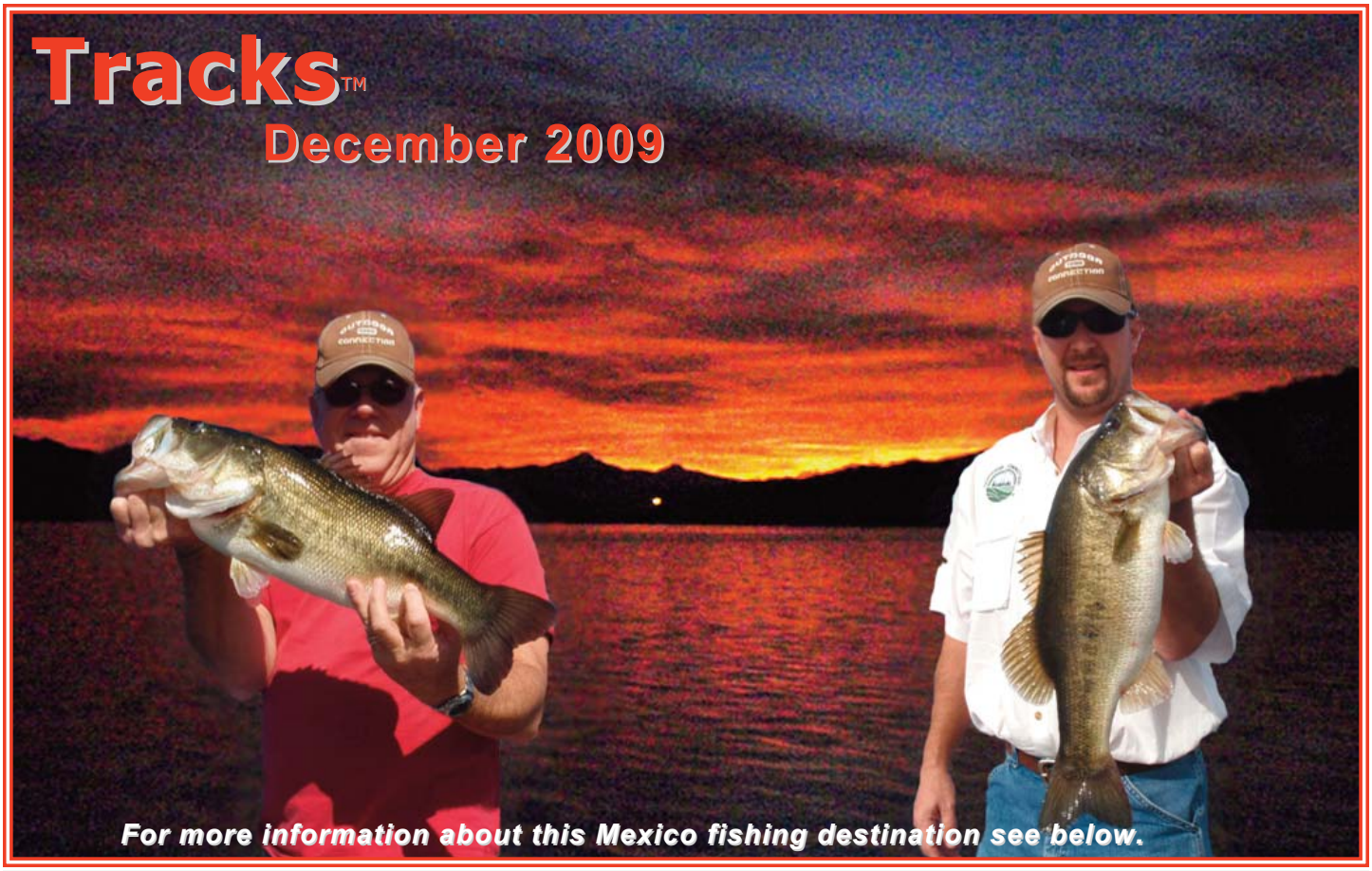


## Beating The Cold In Mexico (Greg Ray OC-OK)

I just returned from a fishing trip to Lake El Salto in Mazatlan, Mexico and as usual it was a fantastic time. I have fished here numerous times and the staff never disappoints. In fact the staff is the reason to go here, the fishing takes care of itself with help from knowledgeable guides. This outfitter's slogan is "Service is our Focus" and they live up to their motto for sure.

From the time you clear customs at the airport in Mazatlan, you are greeted by a representative and taken to the van for the two hour ride to the lodge, where upon arrival you are greeted with a large margarita and a smile. While you are enjoying your drinks and a light snack your gear is being taken to your room. If you arrive early enough (2 to 3pm) you will be introduced to your guide and taken out for the evening bite.

It's back to shore around 5:30 pm (depending on time of year) where you have time to freshen up and make your way to the bar for a cold beverage and catch up on all the fishing stories of the day. Dinner is usually served between 6:30 and 7:00 pm consisting of anything from steaks to traditional Mexican food, it's always good and there is always plenty for seconds.

Morning starts at 5:00 am with a knock on the door and fresh coffee brought to your room. As soon as you make your way to the open air dining room, the buffet style breakfast with cook-to-order omelets will be waiting for you. We made short work of our breakfast and were on the water before first light and ready to throw the first cast at our selected spot just as the glow from the sunrise was peeking over the mountains. We fished until 11:00 am when it is time once again to eat (yes I gained weight on this trip) more homemade food and maybe a margarita or two. After a short siesta it is time to do it all over again.

(continued on page 2. Want to learn more about fishing in Mexico, contact your Outdoor Connection franchise owner.)

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In the three short days we fished, my boat (myself and father-in-law Gary) caught close to 200 fish which included a couple of seven pounders for the big fish and one of those was caught on top water! While neither Gary or I caught the double digit fish this time, there were several in our group that did and I should also mention that everyday there were multiple eight and nine pound fish caught. We obviously had a great time and can not wait to return.

*For more information about **MXF1**, contact your local Outdoor Connection franchise owner.*

## Manitoba Moose (Jim Wisniewski OC-NM)

Waiting until mid September seems to take forever, but it finally arrives! Three friends and I are headed for Manitoba for a moose hunt. My friend Henry and I drive to central Kansas to meet Roger and Roy from Florida. We stay at another outfitter where we will be pheasant hunting on our return, but that is another story. Just to say that this outfitter in Kansas lets us stay for free and leave our bird hunting equipment there.

Three days later we arrive in Thompson, Manitoba, which is seven hours north of Winnipeg. The next morning we are picked up by a charter flight (large turboprop), which is bringing other hunters up from Winnipeg. Another 2-½ hour flight north and we are at the main lodge's 5,000 foot runway. We are assigned our guides and camp, then a 40 minute floatplane ride to the outpost. We are hunting that afternoon and see a cow and small bull. Our guide is excited that we have seen moose so quickly. Next day, nothing, but Tuesday we travel over 20 miles hunting by boat and find a large moose shed. I remark that this is a great 'omen' but I am not taken seriously.

They should have. As we hunt back towards camp there is a monster bull standing with just his head and front shoulders sticking out of the willows. Henry wants a big bull and I don't care (I like eating moose) so it is Henry's shot. We close the distance to 240 yards, guide says take him and Henry lets it fly. Now have you ever shot offhand from a rocking boat? The bull wheels, the backup shooter (Me) lets go and the bull just stops back in the willows. Guide says, "Shoot him" so I cut down some more willows. Now the bull leaves, we go ashore to look and hear the bull grunting for the cow he was guarding. We did not even scare him bad! Henry is very upset at missing a standing shot and I, at least have an excuse.

Next day was a blank but Thursday we see a cow and small bull again. I have regretted not shooting him the first day and can't get a clear shot this day. Friday is the best weather day so far and we see another cow and different small bull early. Can't get a clear shot! We check the bay where the big bull was and as we leave we see the cow and small bull we have seen before. This time, I get him (200 yards from a rocking boat!) As we go ashore, the cow (which is very upset) puts us back in the boat. Our guide shot over her head, which did nothing and was prepared to shoot her in self-defense but we managed to get to deep water. I did not know this was a "dangerous game" hunt, 900 lbs of mad cow moose kept us at bay for almost an hour.

(continued on page 3. Want to learn more about hunting moose, contact your Outdoor Connection franchise owner)

**Ontario Spring & Fall Fishing** (ONF1)
May 6 - 16, 2010 & Sept. 19 - 26, 2010
**Save $200** CAD per person on
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**All-Inclusive Alaska Fishing** (AF10)
Packages Starting At **$1,245** per person
Includes: guide, equipment, license, lodge
accommodations, meals/beverages and transportation

(from page 2)

After quartering the small bull (2 hours later) we push out into the bay. As we look back there is a moose in the water where we had just left. We ease back in and it is a bull and the same cow that had put us in the boat. She is very vocal and the bull has only one thing on his mind. Henry decides to pass on this bull, as he is not as big as the one he missed. We had quite a show then, cow calling, bull grunting and chasing. Our guide says he has never seen or heard this much before. Henry and guide hunt this area for the next two days and see this pair every day. Hoping the big one will return but he does not. Anyway, we have really good moose meat, my small bull around 500 lbs.

Our two friends from Florida (as you can see from pictures) did a lot better. A 60-inch monster for Roger and a great 54-inch bull for Roy. Each of these was around 1,000 lbs! We were lucky with all the moose we saw, as that is not always the case. There are not many people that get to hunt this part of the world and I/we highly recommend it. This is one adventure you will surely remember.

*For more information about **MBH6** contact your local Outdoor Connection franchise owner.*

## Montana Double Header (Keith Almy - NY)

My wife and I just got back from hunting with an OC outfitter in Montana. Our flight was ontime and all gear arrived; good start. We drove to the outfitters and met Dave and his wife, Patty, at the scheduled time there. They wasted no time with the warm greetings and unloading of gear. Accommodations were better than expected. My wife and I had our own room complete with own facility's. Great first day!

The rest of the week was un-real! Meals were unbelievable, more than anyone could eat. The guides were very knowledgeable of the land and very friendly.

My wife travels with me on all my hunts, including the hunting to video tape and take pictures. She said this was the first time she felt very comfortable as all week Dave and the guides went out of their way to accommodate her.

The hunting was on par with everything else, lots of game, saw lots of mule deer, antelope, a number of coyotes and a few elk and whitetail. I was hunting for mule deer and antelope. I was tough on the guides as I was given the go ahead on 11 mule deer but passed on the shot due to the fact I was looking for something different. Finally the 12th mule deer was what I was looking for - very nice 5x5 that was 30" wide with good mass. I will give my guides, Dave and his brother Steve, credit for putting up with me and my passing of all those very good deer. At no point did they get frustrated with me, at one point they would just say, ". . . is that one good enough? – 'Ah', ok let's try another spot." God bless them.

I was not as picky with my antelope since I have never hunted them before, this was new to me. I was hunting with Dave on this day. We drove to glassing points and mid way through the day we spotted a herd of goats. We made a move on them as the weather was turning for the worse, winds around 25-30 mph. We got to about 600 yards and ran out of cover. Dave insisted for me to advance on my own as it was too risky for two of us. I closed the gap to about 250 yards and took a nice 13 inch goat; my first.

One other thing nice about the hunt was that it was as physical of a hunt or as easy of a hunt that you wanted it to be. The terrain was tough but as the week went on the guides were willing to hunt to our ability. So the first half of the week we were walking while spot and stalk and the second half when my wife grew tired we would drive to high

(continued on page 4. Want to learn more about hunting in Montana, contact your Outdoor Connection franchise owner)

(from page 3)

points and spot. It's not often you find an outfitter to hunt the clients way - usually you have to book a hunt to your physical ability. Here we hunted the way we wanted to hunt.

In conclusion - great people, food, conversation and some fine hunting - we will definately go back. I have been on 13 hunts now and this one ranks at the top.

*For more information about **MTH4** contact your local Outdoor Connection franchise owner.*

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**per person***

**3 Nights / 2 Days**
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