



From the Editor

Russell Thornberry

Canadian Gun Regulations Revisited

I am a magnet for uncovering more than I ever wanted to know about the Canadian gun control campaign. You might recall my entry into Canada at Montreal a couple of years ago. The "gun control" agent at the international airport demanded that I not take my guns out of the case, even though it meant he would not be able to verify that they were, in fact, the same guns I had noted on my official Canadian Government Non-Resident Firearm Declaration form. He said his supervisor had told him that taking the guns out of the cases made other passengers nervous, so gun control aside, he did not verify anything about my guns. For that I was charged \$50 — a mere pittance

when compared to the bombastic financial burden to the Canadian people.

This fall, I was entering Canada at Vancouver, B.C., en route to a moose hunt in the Yukon. While I was still gathering my luggage off the conveyor belt inside the customs area, I heard my name called over the intercom, telling me to report immediately to the American Airlines counter. I did. The airline agent informed me that another passenger had mistakenly picked up my gun case and had gone through the inspection process and was now in the "outside world" with my rifle.

"How can that be?" I asked. "Didn't the agent inspect the serial number on the gun and on the man's form?" The agent shrugged her shoulders. I knew all too well what that meant.

I waited 30 minutes for the red tape to be worked out with the other hunter before my rifle, still in its locked case, was returned to me. Then, to add insult to injury, I had to clear the same rifle through the same bureaucracy at a cost of another \$50. I asked the agent how

this could happen. She wasn't sure, so I provided her with a possible scenario. "You didn't inspect the firearm, did you?" I asked. "You couldn't have," I pressed, "because I have the key that unlocks the gun case."

"Well, we can't inspect them all," she said indignantly. "It's not a very good system anyway."

"So, my gun goes through your federal hands and is released by error (yours) into the free world. Then, according to your laws, if that person commits a crime with my gun, I can be held responsible for not keeping my firearm away from the hands of unauthorized people — right?"

She nodded sheepishly.

"And for that I pay \$50?"

In the end, I passed through the firearm inspection with my rifle still in a locked case, still uninspected by the Canadian feds, who have nearly broken the bank instituting this useless gun control system. Pity the poor Canadian gun owners. They live with it every day. ♣

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Nov. 29/30 Rerun — Idaho Combination Rifle Hunt — The steep and rugged mountains of west-central Idaho are home to Boulder Creek Outfitters. Terry Rohm and host Tim Craig hunt for elk, mule deer and white-tails as all species cohabit the area. Terry takes a 6x6 bull elk, a terrific mule deer and an exceptional 10-point whitetail.

Dec. 6/7 Rerun — Alberta & Texas Rifle Hunts — In our first outing this week, Jackie and Ray Hobbs of Daisy Airguns hunt white-tails in Alberta. Later, Ron Petty of Federal

Ammunition hunts the Half Brothers Ranch in Texas and takes a good buck.

Dec. 13/14 Rerun — Montana & Kansas Bowhunts — Buckmasters' Mark Oliver bowhunts the rugged mountains of western Montana with Rich Birdsell of The Northern Rockies Outfitter. With great opportunities for elk, mule deer, prong-horn antelope and whitetails, this is truly a bowhunter's dream.

Later, Dan Massimillo of Fred Bear Equipment Co. bowhunts Kansas with Wolf River Outfitters. He takes his highest-scoring buck to date, a 187-

inch bruiser, which is also the best ever taken by bow from film for the Buckmasters television show.

Dec. 20/21 Rerun — Quebec Caribou Rifle Hunt — John LaCorte of Nikon Sport Optics and Mike Andrews of Scent-Lok hunt for caribou in the breathtaking grandeur of northern Quebec. Both are successful, to the delight of their gracious host — Sammy Cantafio of Ungava Adventures.

Dec. 27/28 Rerun — Kansas Muzzleloader & Alabama Rifle Hunts — Jackie is in north-west Kansas for a

blackpowder hunt with United States Outfitters. As bucks can run for miles in this area, wind direction plays a crucial role in the success of the hunt.

There is also an open-sight restriction for muzzleloaders, which tests Jackie's skill when he spots a good 9-point buck.

Then it's on to Alabama where Buckmasters' Elliott Allen and Jimmy Little enjoy a late-season rifle hunt and are handsomely rewarded with outstanding bucks. ♣

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