



Double Luck

HOPE RAMSEY
AS TOLD BY BOBBY RAMSEY

“As with any couple, the dream of a family is one that Hope and I wanted more than anything in the world. **Being blessed with twins** and having the opportunity to join my wife on a **hunt-of-a-lifetime** was more than I could ask for.”



After having the privilege of hunting the Arizona Strip in 2011 and experiencing a place that few get the opportunity to see and explore, I told myself that I would be back! Fast forward to June of 2013, I found myself applying for the Arizona Strip in hopes of getting lucky once again. I finished my application and then started the process of putting my wife, Hope, in as well. Sitting in my office, I yelled across the house at my wife, "Babe, what unit do you want me to put you in for?" Her response, "Nothing!"

The same year I drew my beloved Strip tag was the first year I put my Hope in for hunting and she was drawn as well. However, the tag she drew was a general season tag in a unit with a high number of hunters and low success rates. With our hunts being a week apart, there was no time for scouting and only two days for her to hunt. Those two days came and went, there was two missed shots and nothing to show. From there, I left for 11 days on my Strip hunt and she has never let me live it down! She nagged on me for months after the season about the time and effort I spent on my hunts and what little we spent on hers. I knew I had to prove her wrong and show her that I cared more about her being successful and how proud I would be if she was to hammer a giant buck! I realized that if I put her in for the "trophy" hunts and she was lucky enough to draw, I would dedicate the time needed. So, with one bonus point, I submitted her application, with 13B as her first choice.

There is only one thing higher on my list then knocking down a 200-inch buck, that's having a family. As with any couple, the dream of a family is one that Hope and I wanted more than anything in the world. On July 5th of 2013, a few weeks from the draw being released, we were given a blessing as we found out she was pregnant! We were so excited to start our family that the draw did not even enter my mind.

A week or so went by, and as with every year, the calls and texts starting coming

in, "your card been hit yet?" Not knowing, I dropped everything and checked my account. What did I find? A hit by Game and Fish in the amount of an Arizona deer tag! I was so excited, but not sure if it was my wife or myself that drew the tag; I would have to sit and wait.

When the results officially came out, to my surprise and with one bonus point, my wife, my pregnant wife, drew the coveted 13B Arizona Strip tag. If she wanted me to put in the effort, this would be the time to prove it to her! The first thing I did was contact the best guide I know, David Pereda, of Arizona Strip Guides (ASG). I talked to David a few times and we set a plan. We were going to hit it hard, scouting, setting and checking cameras to prepare for my wife's hunt-of-a-lifetime.

Months went by, scouting trips came and went and we had located a number of great bucks over 200 inches. The main issue we had was finding one that my wife would be able to hunt. You see, after we found out she was pregnant, we then found out we were having TWINS!!! With a riskier pregnancy, we were not sure if the doctor would allow her to hunt at all. With every passing week and countless doctor appointments, I asked the same question, "Can she go hunting?" Our doctor was great and when the time came, gave her the green light for the trip. At 25 weeks pregnant with twins, Hope and I set off for the Strip.

After a long 85-mile drive down a dirt road, we pulled into camp the night before the season opener. David met us at camp, along with ASG guides Travis McClendon and Tyne Heckethorn. Our camp was big. We had the ASG crew, another ASG client, my wife, my buddy and long-time hunting partner Malcolm Smith, and my brother-in-law (who had never hunted before). Exhausted from the drive, I cracked a cold one and asked David what they had seen. At that point, Tyne walked straight up to me with a big smile on his face, pulled out a video camera, and hit play. It was footage of a



Above: Great trail camera photos showed the buck was something special. **Below:** Video shots taken just a few days before season.



great buck we had located in the summer scouting, a buck we called "45". A big typical buck that had a split on one G3, had monster G2's and had great mass. Tyne and David had videoed the buck that morning, and knowing my wife's physical activity was going to be limited, they thought the buck was in a spot that she could get it done. We set a plan of attack and then hit the sack.

Awaking at 4:00 am, I found Tyne ready to go and grinning from ear to ear. David told me that we would be heading out with Tyne in hopes of tracking down the big old buck. Everyone in camp got set, made coffee and was off in all different directions. When daylight hit, Tyne's plan worked out perfectly and had us in position to put a move on "45". With 800 yards between us, we stalked in quietly to try and close the distance. Unfortunately, the old buck had his own ideas; he was on the move and hit the tree line before we could get within shooting distance. The dense vegetation made it very difficult to stalk, and not wanting to push him out of the area, we pulled back and decided to check a few other spots. Throughout the day and evening we saw a number of other bucks, but no shooters. While out running around in the middle of the day checking water holes, we ran into another ASG guide, Kelly Helgeson, who had a tag of his own. We showed him pictures of the buck we were after and told him our plan. After a long talk and a few laughs we split up in hopes of finding old "45".

The second day started just like the first; at 4:00 am with a small breakfast while sipping on some coffee, when a large dust cloud from Kelly's truck engulfing our camp. Kelly jumped out of his truck in a hurry, swearing he had just seen the buck we were after cross the road by his camp that was over 5 miles from where we had last seen him the day before. We knew then that we needed to make the move, and it needed to be fast. Knowing the area, and its thick vegetation, we decided to set up in a large sage valley. Just as the sun started



With the help of a great team, Hope Ramsey was able to anchor the awesome 206-inch 4x5 pictured above!

to rise, we started to pick up deer. As we scanned the large valley, we counted over 15 deer with 3 bucks that were not shooters.

We moved positions a bit to get a different angle on the area, and Tyne quickly picked up two bucks we had not yet seen. With much excitement in his voice, he said "That's him!" With over 1,200 yards between us and the old buck, we feared we may lose him into the trees yet again. With a small amount of cover we moved in, closed the distance and set up for a shot. I ranged the buck at 238 yards, Hope was positioning the rifle for a shot, while Tyne set up video camera just feet behind us. As the buck came into view for a clear shot Tyne anxiously

whispered "Whistle, Bobby whistle!" I let out a whistle, the buck stopped, turned and looked up. Before I could tell my wife to squeeze the trigger, the rifle went off and we watched the buck jump up from the hard hit. "YOU GOT HIM, YOU GOT HIM!" We watched the buck go 60 yards and pile up.

My heart was beating and I could not believe Hope had just taken her first mule deer, and it was bigger than any deer I have ever killed in over 20 years of hunting. The buck grossed a whopping 206 inches, is 27-inches-wide, has 41 inches of mass and giant G2's that exceed 19 inches. I couldn't be happier for my wife and can't believe our year of "double luck". Being blessed with twins and having the opportunity to join my wife on a hunt-of-a-lifetime was more than I could ask for. Thanks to team ASG and everyone involved in helping make this a year so special; the guides, family, and even the doctors! We welcomed our twins, Rutton and Reece, into our family on February 18th, 2014. One day, they will be able to look back and read the story about how they were a part of the hunt that propelled their mother to be the top hunter in the Ramsey family!



GROSS SCORE: **206** | POINTS: **4X5** | SPREAD: **27** | LOCATION: **ARIZONA**