

December 5, 2011

Dear Ferris,

Glad to finally hear from you! Andy and I have been wondering how you have been. Sounds like other than the ever present psycho that you are bunked with things are pretty well. Hopefully, their bad habits won't rub off on you, especially the wearing the turtle suits. You know learning Jive will probably be a good thing once you get out. Now if you can just learn a little Spanish while you are in there that will help your landscaping business out tremendously! I hope you don't mind me typing this letter versus writing, my penmanship as well as my spelling are a little to be desired. I need to take full advantage of spellcheck and any other thing that helps me out with my grammar. I should send you an unedited version of this so you can have a good laugh. I'm sure there wouldn't be a sentence in the thing that didn't have a little squiggly red or green line underneath some words.

I've had a really good deer season so far. I got my second biggest buck ever in early November. I thought that I had just wasted another day in the stand because the wind was blowing about 20mph straight toward where they generally come. The dang weathermen can't get the wind direction right this year. They'll say out of the NW and it will be out of the SE. It's been extremely frustrating. Now back to the story... Before I get down, I always sight in on the furthest away area I could shoot a deer at. In this particular stand it was about 250 yards away. I was practicing holding steady, breathing and squeezing the trigger. When I was finished, I rose up off the scope and looked in front of me down the hill and saw a doe coming through the 8' tall dog fennel. I was at my Cousin Blake's land which he doesn't maintain, that's why the weeds were so tall! Keep in mind, she was dead down wind, and it was still blowing 20. I picked up movement about 20 yards behind her and could see one side of the antlers coming through the junk. She was coming on a string to me and got within 15 yards and noticed something was up. He was still in the junk and I could hardly make him out. She ended up spooking back into the thick mess, and I was luckily able to locate him before he followed pursuit. It was a hard quartering toward me shot, but I took it anyways at 125yds. He ran off into the thicket and I wasn't even sure if I had hit him. I got down and found hair, but no blood. I followed his tracks for about 75 yards down the hill and found him hanging from his antlers in some privet hedge. Pretty wild to come up on a dead deer hanging in a tree from his antlers! My buddies have given me a hard time about that. They've accused me of finding him hung up in a tree and shooting him! Seems I've been tagged as unethical now. He was an 8 pointer with a lot of mass, 14" inside and 16" outside, 9 1/2" G2's, 7" G3's. I scored him at 114" B&C. I've seen a couple of good ones at the house on camera but I haven't seen one from the stand until last night. I believe it was a 9 pointer, but didn't get a real good look. He disappeared into the thicket before I could determine if he was a shooter for sure. Hopefully I will get another look at him before the season is over with.

As far as Bertha is concerned, it's not a done deal. Andy's cousin Tim has been storing a lot of your equipment at his place. One of Tim's friends has been interested in it, and cleaned it up and looked over it a little closer. He doesn't have the money now, but we plan on letting him pay \$500/month until he has it paid for. I thought that this would be a win/win situation for all involved. It would get the vehicle out of Tim's way, provide you a little money when you get out, and it's someone who we know, so hopefully there is a possibility of you buying it back when you get out if you would like.

Andy is doing well. He's working for a company that goes to industries and accesses their electrical systems. He provides pricing for them to become OSHA compliant. He wanted me to tell you hello. He's leading the truck buck contest now with a 6 pointer he hit in his company car. It did about \$3k worth of damage to the PT Cruiser! Just don't make things like the use to.

Everything is going well with the pregnancy. We are scheduled for a C-section on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January. I don't know if I told you, but we are expecting another little girl. Her name is McKenna, and we are looking forward to her arrival. We've got the room set up and painted, Lori has a few touches before it's considered complete. She better hurry up because she's going to be immobile in a few more weeks I'm sure.

Ferris, I certainly appreciate your stance in all of this. I sure don't know how I would fare if I were in your shoes. Your faith in God and willingness to accept what's been given to you knowing that it's part of God's plan is truly inspirational to me. Many people would like to think that they would be able to keep the faith, but I doubt many would given the challenge, me included. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as you deal with these issues put before you.

Casey