

Alberta Outdoorsmen PRODUCT REVIEW

with Steve Chorney

According to the palm size computer I had just finished slipping into my shirt pocket, peak deer movement would occur at 3 p.m. With an antlered mule deer tag that needed filling. I opted for black powder to spice up the challenge. With that said, nevertheless, I must admit to harbouring some reservation heading out for mule deer — in this particular spot — being so early in the day.

The shot was 60 yards. Accompanied by several does and a couple juvenile fork horns, I settled crosshairs behind the shoulder of a handsome four-by-four. Feeding broadside in the alfalfa, he folded in his tracks when the 275-grain sabot-slug slammed through his ribcage. An honest contender for record book, I took him from open ground precisely when the Deerhunter's EDGE said I would. Moreover, I counted upwards of a hundred deer (both whitetails and muleys) out in the fields on the thirty-minute drive to my hunting grounds.

A technical wonder — available through Speedtech Instruments — the Deerhunter's EDGE (which was designed by biologists) forecasts deer and elk movement, something that is achieved using moon phase and position to help



predict peak activity, along with barometric pressure, temperature, and sun influence. It also has an altimeter, electronic compass, and sunrise/sunset times. All you need to do is input your exact geographical area prior to use, and the Deerhunter's EDGE will provide a four-hour future deer hunting forecast or sixteen-hour barograph. In addition, it gives you current time, moon and sun positioning, a weather forecast, and hunting prediction on a scale of one to ten.

Not much of a gear junkie, I was definitely sceptical when asked to perform field-testing. After more than a month's use scouting and actually hunting deer on a daily basis, I found it absolutely amazing how accurate each and every forecast was. If deer movement was said to be at a premium, sure enough I saw plenty of animals between the hours it suggested deer movement would be strongest. Equally accurate, if it said deer movement was slow, my sightings were either slim or nil. And without doubt, had I not been hunting at precisely 3 p.m. when the DHE said I should, I'm confident I wouldn't have tagged such a nice buck with muzzleloader.

For more information visit www.speedtech.com.



Well, the Deerhunter's EDGE did it again! Here is a photo of the mule deer I harvested yesterday evening. The Deerhunter's EDGE forecast slow deer patterns the last few days, so when it said movement would pick up, I was out the door. And wouldn't you know it, I ended up tagging this brute!

Steve Chorney, outdoor writer and guide, November 2004



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