

TROPHY TALK

28th Big Game Awards Program Judges Panel



Jack Reneau
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Justin and I just returned from Reno where we participated in the 28th Awards Program Judges Panel activities. It was my first time serving as a judge, though I have been a panel assistant on 11 previous panels, beginning with the 16th Awards Program in Denver, Colorado, in 1977. It was Justin's second time serving as a Panel Assistant. I can't speak for Justin, but I know he agrees with me when I say it was an honor and pleasure to participate with the panel.

The 28th Awards Judges Panel was comprised of 15 Official Measurers with a wide variety of experience from Alaska to Mexico. The panel was made up of a chairman, ten judges, and four consultants. The highly qualified panel members included three from Canada and one from Mexico. There were also four Panel Assistants and a number of volunteers whose efforts contributed greatly to the smooth operation of the panel.

A Judges Panel is convened every three years at the close of an Awards Program (28th Awards – 2010-2013) for two reasons. The first is to verify the final scores of the top-five trophies entered in each category during the previous three years. The second is to certify these top-scoring trophies for coveted B&C medallions and certificates. When it was all said and done, the Judges Panel verified the scores of 96 of the finest big game animals ever taken and certified them for presentation of the B&C medallions and certificates.

Both Justin and I were truly in awe with the quality of trophies represented in each category. They are not your "run-of-the-mill" outstanding Boone and Crockett trophies; they are among the best-of-the-best ever taken and recorded by B&C.

At 23-9/16 points, Robert T. Christian's black bear is the largest, hunter-taken black bear ever recorded. Christian took this massive bruin, weighing 710 pounds, while still-hunting in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, during the 2012 hunting season. Just imagine for a second that it is the largest black bear ever taken by a modern-day hunter and recorded by B&C in 81 years of recording

skull measurements. It won't surprise me if someday Pennsylvania produces the next World's Record where 600 to 800 pound bruins are taken every year.

The score of Robert J. Condon's massive Alaska-Yukon moose was verified at 250-6/8 points, placing it in the top All-time 10 at 6th place. Condon was hunting by himself near Soldotna, Alaska, in 2012 when he connected with this massive bull that has 14 and 13 points on the right and left antlers respectively.

The Judges certified the scores of two woodland caribou taken by Shawn Andres and Peter Kraenzlin in Newfoundland in 2012 and 2011, respectively, that tie for 8th place in the All-time records book.

Troy Sheldon's new World's Record Rocky Mountain goat (57-4/8 points) will be the highlight of the 28th Awards Program trophy display at the Reno Ballroom, but the Judges did not need to verify and certify its final score. This had already been done by a Special Judges Panel that convened in 2012.

And, the list goes on, but there isn't space here to list all the incredibly outstanding trophies the judges scored in Reno. Except, that I just have to mention that **five**

28TH AWARDS PROGRAM JUDGES PANEL AND ASSISTANTS: Standing: Bill Sousa, Sun Valley, NV; Glenn E. Hisey, Chatfield, MN; Albert C. England, Lloydminster, AB; L. Victor Clark, Verdi, NV; Justin Spring, Missoula, MT; Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner, Baker City, OR; Vince Crichton, Winnipeg, MB; Richard T. Hale, Ottawa, KS; Heath L. Dreger, Yorkton, SK; Patrick H. McKenzie, Regina, SK; Frederick J. King, Gallatin Gateway, MT; Ricky L. Krueger, Fremont, NE; Chris Lacey, Sparks, NV; Kneeling: Craig A. Cook, Anchorage, AK; Carl E. Brent, Wasilla, AK; Steven C. Ashley, Glenwood City, WI; Eduardo Barrett, Tijuana, MX; Stanley G. Zirbel, Greenleaf, WI; Gilbert Hernandez, Elko, NV; Jack Reneau, Missoula, MT.



BOOK REVIEW

MUZZLELOADING BIG GAME RECORD BOOK, 6TH EDITION

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) and the Longhunter Society proudly announce the publication of the new sixth edition of *Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book*. It is updated with nine new World's Records, plus two additional trophies that tie previous

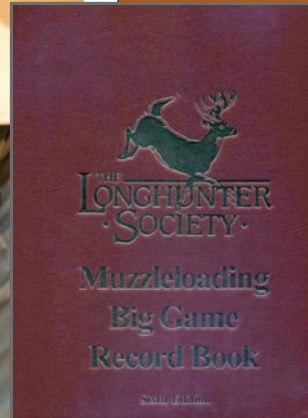
World's Records, registered since the previous edition, and the stories of the hunts written by the successful muzzleloading hunters who took them. The book includes listings for 34 categories of North American big game taken with muzzleloading rifles in accordance with fair chase rules. *Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book* can be used as a planner for record-book hunts as every listing specifies the location of kill and the firearm used. Also included are score sheets, scoring instructions, geographic definitions, and photographs of many trophies and the hunters. This new edition includes a total of 883 new trophy animals. To order your copy of *Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book*, send a check for \$40 per book plus \$7.50 shipping and handling for orders within the US payable to The Longhunter Society at: National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, PO Box 67, Friendship, IN 47021; for credit card orders, call 812-667-5131, ext. 221. Copies can also be ordered online at www.nmlra.org.

BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

There are many state, provincial, and private organizations publishing local records books that use Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system with permission of the Club. Since there is no single reference source for these books, and because there are many hunters who collect them, we will review them as time and space permit. Only those books that use the Boone and Club's copyrighted scoring system and terminology will be considered for review. Please note that the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these books. Some of the books may include trophies that were not scored by certified Boone and Crockett Club Official Measurers. If there is a question about the status of a trophy listed in any of these books, the Boone and Crockett Club's records books/archives are the final reference source to settle any and all discrepancies.

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RIGHT: Jack Reneau and Buck Buckner scoring a typical Columbia blacktail.



bighorn sheep in Reno score from 200-1/8 points to 203-6/8 points.

While the final scores of most of the invited trophies either went up or remained the same, a few unfortunately did go down. Examples of some of the trophies that went up include a woodland caribou whose score increased by 5-4/8 points. The judges discovered that the lengths of the longest and second longest top palm points on only the right antler had been reversed on the entry score chart. Once they were corrected, the final score of this trophy went up to 369 points.

The score of one of the most complicated non-typical whitetails I've ever seen scored went up 3-1/8 points over the entry score and was certified as final at 256-4/8 points. It was extremely complicated and took the expertise of several well experienced judges to agree on the final score.

I don't want to dwell on the trophies whose scores were lowered, but they illustrate the necessity for verifying the scores of top-ranking trophies by the Judges Panel. For example, the judges finalized the score of a typical whitetail deer at 198-2/8 points, which was 4-4/8 points less than the entry score because it was discovered that the original point baselines were two low for webbing on both antlers. A pronghorn's score was reduced by three inches when the panel couldn't replicate prong lengths that were entered at 8 inches and 7-4/8 inches for the right and left antlers, respectively. The score of a cougar was reduced by 11/16ths of an inch by the

judges and finalized at 15 points when the discerned an inexplicable scoring error.

B&C's 28th Awards Program is the premier hunting event in North America this year. The activities will culminate with presentation of the medallions and certificates at the 28th Awards Banquet that will take place in the Reno Ballroom next to the Silver Legacy during July 17-20. If you haven't attended the festivities and participated in the excitement of a previous B&C Awards Program, don't miss this opportunity.

The trophies that will be displayed and honored include examples from 35 of the 38 categories of native North American big game recognized by the Club. Not only will you have the opportunity to view these outstanding trophies, but you will also have the opportunity to visit and swap stories with many of the hunters who took these top-scoring trophies; listen in on a select handful of highly informative seminars by top hunting experts; bid on an array of select big game hunts offered by world-renowned fair chase guides and outfitters in top trophy-producing areas; attend a special youth recognition banquet, and much more.

Visit www.biggameawards.com to find out more information about the event, hotel information and registration or by calling B&C at 406/542-1888. The trophy display will be open to the public with day passes available. We look forward to seeing you there. ■

Jack Reneau