

TROPHY TALK

Bighorn Sheep - Potential World's Record



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Boone and Crockett World's Records aren't broken very often. Since I started working with B&C's records program at the National Rifle Association in 1976, I've noticed that such noteworthy events happen with less frequency. Thus, I was a little surprised when I answered the phone on April 18, 2014, and Alberta Official Measurer Dean Bromberger told me that he and two other scorers, Jack Graham and Wes Voogd, had just scored a potential new World's Record bighorn sheep. And since harvesting a new World's Record is not commonplace, it is notable then, that this was the third such notification I've received in the last several months. The other two notifications were for an Alaska-Yukon moose scoring 263-5/8 points, and a pronghorn at 96-4/8 points. The former was certified as the new World's Record by a Special Judges Panel that met in January to verify its score, and the latter, scoring 96-4/8 points, was accepted but is still pending certification.

When Dean said that he, Jack, and Wes had teamed up to score a massive bighorn sheep for Alberta Fish and Wildlife, he then asked me what he needed to do next. I asked him for more details—because it's all in the details. He said that according to their measurement, this ram scored in at

209-1/8 points. This is three-quarters of an inch greater than the current World's Record bighorn taken by Guinn Crousen in 2000 at Luscar Mountain, Alberta.

He also said that the animal was found dead on April 10 of this year and picked up by Adam Jalbert, an Alberta Fish and Wildlife officer, near the Gregg River on a reclaimed Alberta mining site well known for producing big sheep. In fact, Guinn Crousen's record ram came from that same herd near Cadomin, Alberta.

I found out that the ram was last seen alive in early 2013 but was reported in poor health at that time. It wasn't seen again until Jalbert found its remains encapsulated in the snow on April 10, 2014. The condition of the remains was such that it was clear the ram didn't die of stress during the winter. In fact, Christopher Watson, a district fish and wildlife officer said that one horn was already slipping from its core after months of summer drying at the time they first taped it in April. It was 10-1/2 years old at the time it died.

At this point, it was clear that the 209-1/8 points score was actually a green score. In order for a measurement to be official, a trophy must air-dry for at least 60 days under habitable room temperature. While this ram had been dead much longer than the required 60-day drying period, it was clear that it had been subjected to environmental conditions, such as snow, sleet, and freezing temperatures during the winter months that no doubt affected the drying period.



ABOVE: The ram was found dead on April 10 of this year and picked up by Adam Jalbert, an Alberta Fish and Wildlife officer, near the Gregg River on a reclaimed Alberta mining site well known for producing big sheep. **BELOW:** The three measurers in this photo are (L. to R.) Wes Voogd, Dean Bromberger, and Jack Graham. All three are Alberta Official Measurers from Edmonton, who green scored this ram.



The Wait

The trophy will have to dry at a habitable room temperature for 60 days before it can be officially scored for B&C, but the initial measurements green scored in at 209-1/8 points. This is three-quarters of an inch greater than the current World's Record.

Picked Up

Even though picked-up trophies weren't taken by hunters, they are an integral part of the conservation success story documented by B&C's records. Without them, the story would be incomplete.

BOOK REVIEW

HOOSIER RECORD BUCK PROGRAM, 2014 EDITION

The Indiana Deer Hunters Association 2014 edition of its records book titled *Hoosier Record Buck Program* went on sale at the Indianapolis Deer and Turkey Expo on February 20, 2014. First published in 1982, *Hoosier Record Buck Program* has been published every two to three years since then. Typical and non-typical whitetail deer are listed separately and ranked

by score for each of Indiana's 92 counties. The score, hunter's name, year taken and method of harvest are given for each entry. The minimum entry score for Indiana's typical whitetails is 140 points and 160 for non-typical, regardless of the method of harvest. Included are 10 stories written by the hunters themselves giving personal accounts of how they harvested their respective records-book bucks. One of these 10 stories is that of Tim Beck who harvested a 305 7/8 B&C non-typical with his shotgun during the 2012 gun season. Copies can be ordered by sending a check for \$21 (\$15 plus \$6 for S&H) per copy to John Bogucki, 66603 Pine Road, North Liberty, Indiana 46554. Or, you can obtain an order from HoosierHunting.com.

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 Crockett 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.

BIGHORN SHEEP - WORLD'S RECORDS

Score	Location of Kill	Hunter	Year
207-2/8	Oyster Creek, Alberta	Martin Bovey	1924
208-1/8	Blind Canyon, Alberta	Fred Weiller	1911
208-3/8	Luscar Mt., Alberta	Guinn D. Crousen	2001

I therefore informed Dean that this trophy would have to dry at a habitable room temperature for another 60 days before it could be officially scored for B&C. Since it was picked up on April 10, 2014, it would have to be scored on or sometime after June 9, 2014. The drying period does not include the day it was found.

The Official Measurers who came up with the unofficial green score may be the same measurers who score it officially for the records books. Once they complete their work, they will submit the score chart and other entry materials to B&C headquarters and the ram would have to go through B&C's due-diligence process.

Once it is accepted—and assuming the official score indicates it is still a potential World's Record—its score will need to be verified by a B&C Special Judges Panel that will be convened with the express purpose of verifying its World's Record status as soon as possible after it is officially scored. A B&C World's Record can only be declared as such by a specially convened B&C Special Judges Panel or an Awards Program Judges Panel at the close of a triennial Awards Program. Since Awards Program Judges Panels are only held every three years, Special Judges Panels are held in the interim so that World's Records don't have to wait for one to three years to be declared a World's Record. This helps to eliminate concerns with shrinkage and suspense. After all, a World's Record should be verified as quickly as possible.

B&C is planning on holding the Special Judges Panel in Alberta in early July if it's official entry score indicates it is still a potential World's Record. This panel will consist of five B&C Official Measurers—a chair plus two teams of two Official Measurers each. This ram will be scored by both teams, and any discrepancies between the two teams will be resolved. In case there are any concerns, there is a shrinkage allowance from the time the trophy is scored on July 9th or later and the time it is scored by the Special Judges Panel.

Some hunters have expressed concern that Boone and Crockett Club accepts and lists trophies that died of natural causes and

are picked up, which is the case with this magnificent trophy. They think that Boone and Crockett should only keep records of trophies taken in fair chase by hunters. In reality, B&C has always included records of picked up trophies in its listings. Even though picked up trophies weren't taken by hunters, they are an integral part of the conservation success story documented by B&C's records. Without them, the story would be incomplete.

We look forward with great anticipation to the day it is officially scored and verified.

Official Measurers: Send in Score Charts

The records office would like to remind all Official Measurers to immediately send in the score chart for all trophies they measure even if the trophy owner doesn't want to enter it in B&C. Please do not give the original score chart to the trophy owner for any reason—just give him or her a copy.

Send in the score chart, as well as any entry materials, directly to B&C's headquarters as quickly as possible. We have had numerous trophy owners calling, wanting to know why their trophy has not been entered in B&C and/or why it isn't listed in *Fair Chase* or a book. The reason was because the official measurer didn't send in the score chart, while he or she was waiting for missing entry materials.

Official Measurers should not worry about missing entry materials. Justin Spring, Assistant Director of Big Game Records, will request them. ■

Jack Reneau

Pending acceptance in June, we will tentatively plan on holding a Special Judges Panel in July. In the meantime, we look forward with great anticipation to the day it is officially scored.

