

# TROPHY TALK



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## Trophy Tampering

I would like to remind everyone that trophies that have been tampered with to gain an advantage are not eligible for entry in B&C's records program. For example, the intentional removal of an abnormal point

from any antlered animal's rack to enhance the score, especially a typical deer or elk, would disqualify it from entry in B&C. The inclusion of a bonding substance at the horn bases of a pronghorn to inflate the basal circumference measurements would also disqualify a trophy.

It has come to our attention that a new product, called the RACK JACK, is now being sold that can be used to tamper with spread measurements. The advertising for this product claims that it "prevents and eliminates rack shrinkage" and "widens spread up to 8 inches" Whether someone uses this product or a piece of lumber or a branch to increase or maintain a spread measurement, their trophy would be disqualified from entry in B&C.



# TrophyWatch®

### Recent Trophy Watch

This is a field photo of a huge Alaska-Yukon moose taken on September, 25, 2013, by Heinz Naef at the confluence of the Yukon and Stewart rivers in Yukon Territory. According to the information that accompanied the photo, the greatest spread is about 75 inches and the green score is between 262 and 272 points, depending on where the palm-length measurements were taken. If this score holds up, it could be a new World's Record Alaska-Yukon moose. The current World's Record is a bull scoring 261-5/8 points taken at Fortymile River, Alaska, in 1994 by John A. Crouse.

### Trophy Watch

It's that time of year again when we start receiving numerous emails at B&C headquarters with field photographs being taken of incredible trophies. The photos are sometimes accompanied with claims that it's a new World's Record. Sometimes nothing is known about these trophies except where it came from or perhaps the name of the hunter. Sometimes, a score is mentioned even though it doesn't say if it was arrived at by a trained B&C Official Measurer.

I personally forward these emails on to a group of friends who enjoy hearing about these animals. Then, if we feel the photos are worthy enough, they are posted on Trophy Watch on B&C's website, where they provide countless hours of viewing. If you have never visited it before, check it out. If there is little or no information about the trophy in the posting, we update it as additional information is received from viewers. If there are errors or misstatements in the initial email accompanying a potential Trophy Watch email that is contrary to B&C rules and policies, they are corrected.

### Moose Scoring Problems

With that introduction, I'll segue into the topic I would especially like to talk about in this column—moose scoring problems. On the surface, it would appear that moose are almost as easy to score as bear and cat skulls. Only seven measurements are taken, which include the greatest spread, number of normal points (counted only) on each antler, widths and lengths of palms, and circumference measurements of the main beams. I have always contended, however, that moose are among the most difficult trophies to score. Personally, I would much rather score a caribou, which is much more complicated, than a moose. This opinion was reinforced with the outcome of the 28<sup>th</sup> Awards Program Judges Panel in Reno earlier this year.

The entire scoring system is designed to be objective with no room for personal, subjective scoring interpretations. However, the problem with moose is that there actually is room for personal subjectivity between scorers when making scoring interpretations. This is evidenced by the simple fact that a



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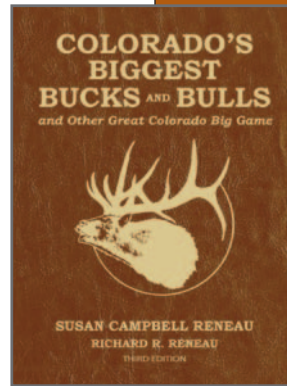
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## COLORADO'S BIGGEST BUCKS AND BULLS, 3RD EDITION



*Colorado's Biggest Bucks and Bulls and Other Great Colorado Trophies, 3rd Edition* by Susan Campbell Reneau and her son Richard R. Reneau is in print and ready to ship in time for Christmas. This 416-page, 8-1/2" by 11" hardcover book contains 2,136 big-game listings of trophies

entered into Boone and Crockett Club, Pope and Young Club, and The Longhunter Society. More than 1,000 photographs and hundreds of hunting stories are included about Colorado typical and non-typical mule deer, typical and non-typical American elk, Shiras' moose, typical and non-typical whitetail deer, black bear, pronghorn, cougar, bighorn and desert sheep, and Rocky Mountain goats. A chapter titled, "Your Odds for a Trophy" uses graphs, maps and charts to pinpoint the locations where the trophies were harvested, including the World's Record typical mule deer, the former World's Record typical American elk and many state records. Harvest and population data from 1903 to the present are charted for all Colorado big-game categories. Chapters titled, "Places to Go and Things to See in Colorado" and "Photographs and Stories of Special Interest" highlight unique Colorado trophies and places.

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### 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.

number of moose are scored incorrectly, and corrections result in significant adjustments in score, which are unfortunately almost always downwards.

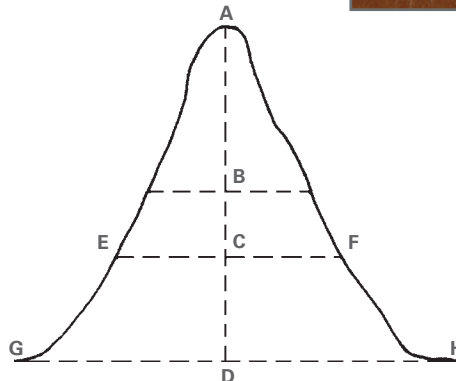
I don't want to review the entire moose scoring procedure, but I do want to discuss two areas of concern when scoring moose. The first possibility for making a scoring error is when counting the number of points on each antler. In order for a projection to be counted a point, it must be at least one inch long, with the length exceeding width at one inch or more of length (Figure A). Thus, it doesn't suffice for a measurer to just count all the projections and bumps just by eyeballing them. A measurer needs to get down on his/her hands and knees, if necessary, to check questionable projections against Figure A. It's obvious from the trophies entered in B&C, this isn't always done.

By the way, at this point you may have asked yourself, *Why don't we measure the lengths of all points on moose like the deer and elk categories?* The reason may not be obvious at first glance. Basically, it's because B&C's moose scoring system rewards older moose that have wide and long palms with lots of short points over a younger bull that has longer points but shorter and narrower palms.

The second place to make a significant error is when taking the length of palm measurement. To start with, the length of palm measurement, including the brow, is taken in contact with the undersurface of the palm, parallel to the palm's inner edge, from dips between bumps or points at the top edge of the palm to a dip between qualifying points (Figure A), if present on the brow palm. Before taking the palm length measurements, the scorer should first eyeball the inner edge of the palm and lay out a strip of masking tape parallel to the inner edge of the palm (Figure B). Then, the scorer must check all options and pick the greatest length that is parallel or closest to parallel to the inner edge of the palm (masking tape). Frequently, the correct length of palm measurement is not the longest length measurement from a dip between bumps or points at the top edge of the palm to a dip between qualifying points on the brow palm. Additional details for scoring the length of moose palms is given on pages 79-85 in B&C's scoring manual, *Measuring and Scoring North American Big Game Trophies, 3rd Edition*.

*Jack Reneau*

**FIGURE A**  
**THIS IS A POINT.**  
**GH is greater than AD.**  
**Because AB is 1", and**  
**AC is longer than EF is**  
**wide, this is a point.**  
**Measure length AD.**



**FIGURE B**  
**Alternate masking tape lines provide**  
**visual reference for the comparison of**  
**possibilities for the correct length of**  
**palm measurement.**

