

TROPHY TALK

25th Awards Program Deadline December 31, 2003



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The older I get, the more amazed I am at how fast time flies. It seems like only yesterday I was announcing the deadline for the 24th Awards Program and here we are quickly approaching the deadline three years later for the 25th Awards Program. And, this is a very significant deadline notice for several reasons. Please read on!

This is our last opportunity to notify Associates, trophy owners, and Official Measurers alike that the deadline for entering a trophy in the 25th Awards Program is December 31, 2003. Official Measurers holding entry materials for any trophies, whether the individual files are complete or incomplete, should forward them to this office with a postmark dated no later than the deadline. Actually, the sooner the better, especially if stale-dated, entry fee checks are involved. The Club's staff will contact trophy owners whose files are incomplete.

Trophies accepted in time for inclusion in the 25th Awards Program (2001-2003) will be listed in **Boone and Crockett Club's 25th Big Game Awards**, which will be released in the fall of 2004 after the 25th Awards Program has been held at Cabela's in Kansas City, Kansas. The 25th Awards Program activities will begin in May and culminate in a banquet to be held on June 19, 2005. Trophy entry materials received with postmarks later than December 31, 2003, will automatically become entries in Boone and Crockett

The 25th Awards Program will be held at Cabela's Kansas City, Kansas, store shown below.

Club's 26th Big Game Awards Program that begins January 1, 2004, and ends December 31, 2006. The Awards Program records book that will list trophies accepted during the 26th Awards Program will not be published until fall 2007.

December 31, 2003, is even more significant because it is also the deadline for listing a trophy in the 12th edition of the All-time records book, **Records of North American Big Game**, which will be released in 2005. If you have an All-time records book qualifying trophy and you miss this deadline, your trophy will not be published in an All-time records book until the 13th edition is released in 2011.

Thus, if you have been sitting on a score chart debating on when or whether to send it to B&C — procrastinate no longer. All entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2003. There will be no exceptions to the deadline date.

Plan to attend all of the 25th Awards Program activities at Cabela's in Kansas City during 2004. A schedule of events will be published in the next issue of *Fair Chase*.

Damaged Trophies

Until recently, damaged trophy material could not be included in the measurement of any trophy. However, the Club's Records Committee recently modified this policy. Trophies, including antlers, horns, skulls, and tusks, which have been damaged and not repaired, may be brought to the attention of the Records Committee by Official Measurers for consideration for inclusion in the Club's Awards Program. If the committee, or its appointed representatives, such as a Judges Panel, agrees that the broken parts belong to the trophy and can be repositioned in their original configuration to enable an accurate measurement, the damaged trophy material may be included in the measurements and subse-

quently repaired. Submission of trophies and damaged parts for examination by the Records Committee or a Judges Panel shall be at the expense of the owner. I do need to emphasize that damaged trophy material that has been repaired is still not eligible for inclusion in any measurement.

To help clarify this policy change, I would like to present the following example. We regularly receive reports of antlered trophies that break off points after they are shot, or the hunter shoots off a point. If the hunter finds the point that broke off, and the Records Committee is satisfied after physical examination that the broken piece came from that trophy, the broken point can be included in the measurements. However, if the broken point is replaced on the rack before the Records Committee has an opportunity to examine it, the damaged material cannot be included in the measurement, which is in keeping with the Club's long-standing policy concerning repaired trophies. Damaged trophies will be handled on a case by case basis by the Records Committee. Hunters with trophies affected by this policy change should contact the Big Game Records Department at the Club's headquarters for further instructions.

Rackulator

You might have seen ads in outdoor magazines for a new product called the Rackulator. It is an electronic scoring device that came on the market during the past year. I would like to point out that the Rackulator is not an approved tool for scoring B&C trophies. Official Measurers are prohibited from using the Rackulator to score trophies submitted for entry in B&C's Awards Program. The primary scoring tools are still the traditional 1/4-inch wide flexible steel tape, the steel cable with alligator clip, and the folding carpenter's ruler. ■

