

TROPHY TALK

Trophy Watch



Jack Reneau
DIRECTOR
Big Game Records

The internet will no doubt go down as one of the greatest inventions of all time. In a matter of minutes and hours, information about an incident, or alleged incident, is spread around the world. One person sends an email to five friends, and those friends forward the news to their friends, and before you know it seemingly millions of people know about it. This is especially true in the hunting world.

The Club's records office annually receives thousands of emails with photos of many fine, sometimes unusual, big-game trophies taken by hunters across North America. The intensity of these emails increases every year shortly after hunting season begins, and this year is no different. Included in these emails, which I imagine many of you who receive them already know, are photos of many outstanding, once-in-a-lifetime trophies that make Boone and Crockett Club's records book. There are also many photos of unusual trophies, such as albino deer, antlered does, 4-horned pronghorn, plus many other oddities of nature.

Occasionally, these trophies are referred to by the anonymous sender as a new State Record or new World's Record. As soon as this happens, B&C receives dozens, if not hundreds, of emails from individuals seeking verification of the claims.

For example, on September 28 I received an email with a field photo (shown below) of a tremendous non-typical bull elk. The information with the email claimed, "This Elk was killed with a bow in [Idaho's] Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. He green scored 575" and should net out at about 530" non typical. He has an unbelievable outside spread of 79 inches.

This is the biggest bull ever taken with any weapon." Subsequently, I received over 50 more emails inquiring about the veracity of the email, and my assistant, Ryan Hatfield, received another 200+ emails.

This email threw up all kinds of red flags. First, the Selway-Bitterroot Area is not known for trophy-class bulls. Second, this bull's alleged green score of 530 points exceeds the current non-typical World's Record (465-2/8 points) found dead in Upper Arrow Lake, British Columbia, in 1994, by 64-6/8 points. World's Records are normally broken by inches or fractions of an inch. Third, it exceeds Idaho's state record (430-4/8 points) taken in Latah County in 1977 by 99-4/8 points.

I can't imagine how many people received this email, and how many countless more individuals, who don't have access to the internet, received printouts of this email from friends. Everyone wants to know if it is for real.

The reason I bring this incident up is to introduce you to Trophy Watch on B&C's web site, if you're not already familiar with it. Trophy Watch was specifically created to be a clearinghouse for the types of emails mentioned above. When the records office receives an email such as the one mentioned above, it is immediately posted on our web site with whatever information is known about that trophy. If we do not feel the facts are complete, such as the elk mentioned above, viewers are asked to provide whatever information they may have about that trophy. The listing is updated on Trophy Watch as we receive additional information.

Within a day of posting this bull on Trophy Watch, we received two photographs of the same bull alive. The first photo shows the bull standing in a field, and there are no doubts the rack on that animal matches the one in the field photo in the email. The second photo (inset at left) shows the bull feeding from a feeder built into the ground.

On October 4, we received additional information from Rich Landers, outdoors editor of the *Spokane-Spokesman Review*, about this bull. Landers reported that the bull was shot behind an escape-proof fence on the 1,000-acre Laurentian Wildlife Estate near Mont Tremblant, Quebec, Canada. Laurentian has operated



as a shooter-bull operation for the last six years. Thus, there is no doubt that this bull is not a new B&C World's Record since it is not eligible for entry in Boone and Crockett Club's records books.

The purpose of this column is to encourage you to check out Trophy Watch on B&C's web site anytime you receive an email that alleges an animal of gigantic proportions. If you don't find the photos on our web site, feel free to forward them to B&C, and they may well be posted if they meet our Trophy Watch guidelines.

Add Trophy Watch to "Favorites"

In fact, I encourage you to make Trophy Watch one of your "Favorite" links and check it out often to see what interesting topics are circulating on the internet. Besides the current photos and information, there are many hours of exciting viewing and reading in the Trophy Watch Archives if you haven't viewed it before.

The easiest way to access Trophy Watch is to go to Boone and Crockett Club's homepage, which is www.booneandcrockettclub.com. Then click on the Trophy Watch icon on the right-hand side of the page.

26th Awards Program Deadline Final Notice

One last reminder that December 31, 2006, is the deadline for entering trophies in the 26th Awards Program. All new trophy entries must be postmarked no later than this date to be included in the 26th Awards Program Entry Period, which began January 1, 2004. Any score charts

received with postmarks after December 31, 2006, will be entries in the 27th Awards Program that begins January 1, 2007, and closes December 31, 2009.

Email to Boone and Crockett Club from Rich Petersen, Charlie Lake, BC, Canada, dated October 11, 2006.

Hi! Just a quick note to say thanks for posting Trophy Watch on the net. When I received the picture of the "new world record elk" coming out of the Selway-Bitterroot, I thought something was wrong. Thanks for being on top of these situations and preserving the integrity of hunting.

Because of the 60-day drying period, the last day a trophy can be taken during the 2006 hunting season and entered in the 26th Awards Program is November 1. This is possible if the animal meets two criteria.

First, it needs to be cleaned on November 1 so that the drying period can start immediately. If it is frozen or boiled on November 1, the drying period will begin the day it is taken out of the freezer or boiling pot, which means it can't be measured until after December 31.

Second, the trophy must be scored on December 31, 2006, and the score chart dropped in the mail that day so that it is postmarked the same date. Entries received with postmarks after that date will be entries in the 27th Awards Program.

Official Measurers' Web Site

The Official Measurers' web site is closer to reality. Ultimately, it will be a place where Official Measurers can submit trophies, calculate scores, store entries, etc. As soon as it is on-line and working, I will let you know through Trophy Talk. In the meantime, we would appreciate it if Official Measurers would be sure their email address is current with B&C headquarters. If you did not update or add your email address to the recent renewal form, please send your updated or current email address to me at wjr@boone-crockett.org. ■