

TROPHY TALK



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Entry Affidavit

It is common knowledge that the entry affidavit (EA), which is on the back of every Boone and Crockett Club score chart, must be completed by every trophy owner submitting a hunter-

taken trophy into B&C's Awards Programs. It is a significant entry requirement that must be taken seriously. By signing this form, the hunter is attesting to the fact that his/her trophy was taken in fair chase as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club. The notary's or Official Measurer's signature certifies that they witnessed the hunter sign the form.

Unfortunately, the records office continues to have problems for a wide variety of reasons with incorrectly completed forms submitted to the records office, which result in significant processing delays and an occasional rejection. I would, therefore, like to use this issue's column to discuss the proper procedure for completing the EA, as well as some fair chase aspects that are not specifically mentioned, in hopes of eliminating any future problems.

Signature Must be Properly Witnessed

For years, hunters were required to have their signature on the EA witnessed by a notary public. However, some trophy owners in remote areas had problems locating a notary, and others (Canadians especially) were charged significant fees to have their signature notarized. The records committee, therefore, modified the notary requirement and authorized Official Measurers to witness the hunter's signature on the EA. In essence, the records committee appointed Official Measurers as "ex-officio" notary publics.

If the Official Measurer is in contact with the hunter of the trophy he is scoring, the measurer should not say, "Here's a copy of the entry affidavit, please sign it and I'll witness it." The hunter should be given ample time to read over the EA and ask questions before he signs it. If after reading the EA,

the hunter agrees that his/her trophy was taken in accordance with all the tenets of the EA, he/she should sign and date the form while the measurer actually witnesses the signing. Then, and only then, should the measurer sign and date the form on the appropriate lines.

The Official Measurer isn't stating that the trophy was taken in fair chase; he/she is simply certifying that the signature is truly the hunter's. This is the same procedure notary publics use before they add their signature and seal to documents.

It is important that the hunter fully understand what he/she is signing, because the EA covers a wide variety of acts and situations that are considered unfair chase and disqualifies a trophy from entry in B&C. If someone fraudulently signs the entry affidavit, that trophy will not be accepted in B&C, or it will be rejected if it has already been accepted. Also, all prior trophies are subject to deletion from the records book, and future entries may not be accepted.

The reason I am bringing this up is because the records office has nullified EAs

Procedure for Completing the Entry Affidavit:

1. Ask hunter to thoroughly read the entry affidavit.
2. Answer hunter's questions.
3. Ask hunter to sign form if trophy was taken in fair chase.
4. Witness hunter's signature by signing entry affidavit.

that were not properly witnessed by an Official Measurer. Also, the records office is rejecting increasing numbers of trophies for the use of cell phones and two-way radios. This practice is especially increasing among sheep hunters who use cell phones and two-way radios to tell hunting companions where big sheep are located; similar situations are occurring among deer and bear hunters. While this practice may be legal in many states and provinces, trophies taken with these methods are not eligible for entry in B&C.

When measurers score trophies at taxidermy shops for big buck contests or trophies that are delivered to them by relatives and friends of the hunter, they do not have contact with the hunter. When this happens, the measurer should simply tell the owner to get a copy of the EA from the Club's records office or download a copy

from the Club's website, www.boone-crockett.org. Hunters could even have their signature notarized for the EA on the back of a blank score chart.

The Official Measurer should not mail the original score chart to the trophy owner to get the hunter's signature notarized. The completed score chart should be mailed to the records office where staff will solicit any missing entry requirements, including the EA. Under no circumstances should the Official Measurer sign the EA and mail it to the hunter for his/her signature.

Item VII of the Entry Affidavit

Most of the tenets of the entry affidavit that bar a trophy from entry in B&C are well known and have been discussed in previous issues of *Fair Chase* or correspondence with Official Measurers. This is especially true for trophies taken behind high fences and with the use of aircraft and motorized vehicles. Item VII, however, excludes trophies from entry in B&C that were taken, "while swimming, helpless in deep snow, or helpless in any other natural or artificial medium."

The phrase "... helpless in any other natural or artificial medium" is open-ended and has even given me some concerns over the years, so I would like to mention a few examples of entries that fall into this category. Trophies taken while their antlers are locked with another animal or entangled

in a fence or a ball of barbed wire are only eligible for entry in B&C as "picked up" trophies. Also, bears killed in dens where the practice is legal cannot be entered in B&C as hunter-taken.

Four Circumferences on Whitetails

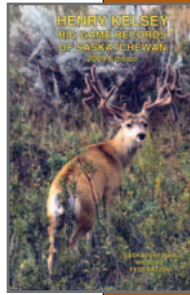
By the time you receive this issue of *Fair Chase*, the records office will be handling numerous whitetail scoring questions from Official Measurers and the general public. Many whitetail hunters will be asking about circumference measurements. Specifically, they will want to know if they should only take three circumferences on a 4x4 or if five circumferences can be taken on a 6x6. A few will even ask if four circumferences are taken on a 3x3. The answer is that a total of four and only four circumferences must be taken on all whitetail deer. The obvious

BOOK REVIEW

follow-up question is where to take the fourth circumference (H-4) on a 4x4 and the third and fourth circumferences (H-3 and H-4, respectively) on a 3x3.

The fourth circumference (H-4) on a 4x4 is taken halfway between the G-3 point and the end of the main beam as illustrated in Figure A. The third and fourth circumferences on a 3x3 are taken at the same place halfway between the second point (G-2) and the beam tip as illustrated in Figure B.

There are 199, 4x4 typical whitetails and no 3x3 typicals accepted in B&C. There are, however, non-typical whitetails with a basic 3x3 typical frame accepted in B&C. The total of the lengths of the abnormal points more than makes up for the lack of a well-developed typical frame of these trophies. ■



HENRY KELSEY BIG GAME RECORDS OF SASKATCHEWAN, 2009 EDITION

Saskatchewan's Henry Kelsey Big Game Records Chairman Patrick McKenzie and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation recently announced the release of their 2009 edition of *Henry Kelsey Big Game Records of Saskatchewan*. This 300-page records book contains photographs and trophy listings of black bears, elk (typical and non-typical), mule deer (typical and non-typical), whitetail deer (typical and non-typical), moose, and pronghorns. There are separate listings for provincial ranking, final score, gross score, main beam lengths, inside spreads, number of points, circumferences, area taken, year taken, hunter and/or owner's name, and annual competition winners. Copies of this hardcover book can be purchased for \$20 (U.S.) plus \$15 (U.S.) shipping & handling from the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation via email at sask.wildlife@sasktel.net, or by calling (306) 692-8812, or by mailing your check to Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, 9 Lancaster Rd., Moose Jaw, SK S6J 1M8 CANADA.

FIGURE A

The fourth circumference (H-4) on a 4x4 is taken halfway between the G-3 point and the end of the main beam.

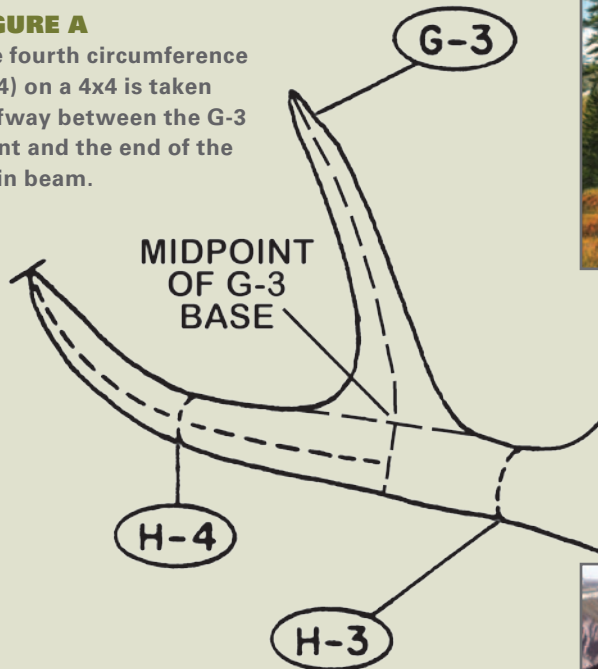
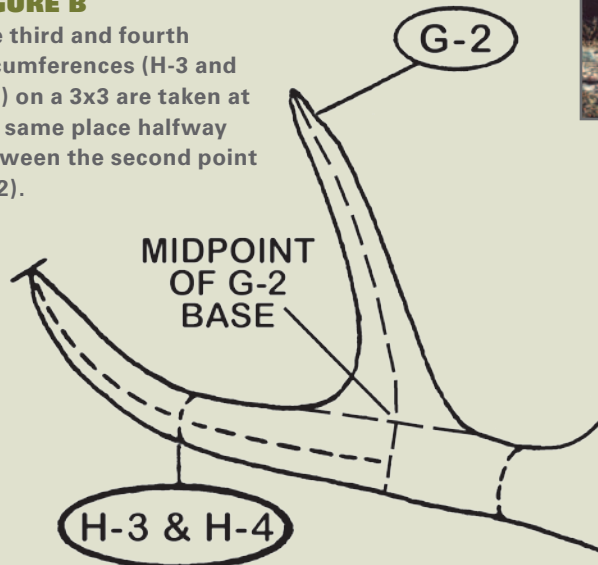


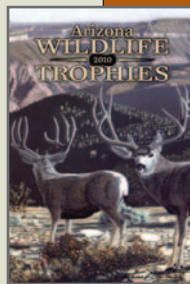
FIGURE B

The third and fourth circumferences (H-3 and H-4) on a 3x3 are taken at the same place halfway between the second point (G-2).



BIG GAME RECORDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 6TH EDITION

Big Game Records of British Columbia, recently published by the Wildlife Records Club of British Columbia, includes lists of exceptional native big game trophies taken in British Columbia and scored by Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system. Containing more than 9,000 entries in 19 categories, this book lists over 1,900 new entries received since the fifth edition was published in 2003. Included are a few feature articles of general interest and a wide variety of pictures and entertaining hunting stories related to many of the more recent entries. It is a book for everyone who has an interest in the outstanding diversity and abundance of big game in British Columbia. Individual copies are available for \$45 each. This price includes \$10 for shipping and handling. U.S. and Canadian citizens should send their checks in U.S. or Canadian funds, respectively, to Wildlife Records Club of BC, Box 22, NanOOSE Bay, BC V9P 9J9, CANADA. Orders are accepted through its Web site at: www.wildliferecordsofbc.com.



ARIZONA WILDLIFE TROPHIES, 9TH EDITION

The Arizona Wildlife Federation just released a limited-edition 1,000 copies of its 9th edition of *Arizona Wildlife Trophies*. Among the many features of this publication are lists that include 3,427 specimens of Arizona's finest big game trophies in 14 big game categories, including 163 new entries since the 8th edition was published in 2005. This edition also includes photos of Arizona's highest-ranking trophies; honors four deceased Arizona sportsmen who have significantly contributed to wildlife conservation in Arizona; pays special tribute to Ed Stockwell, whose World's Record typical Coues' deer is the second-longest standing Arizona trophy record; and much more. To order a copy, write the Arizona Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 51510, Mesa, AZ 85208; or call (480) 644-0077. Each copy is \$45 plus \$4 for shipping. Credit card orders accepted.

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.