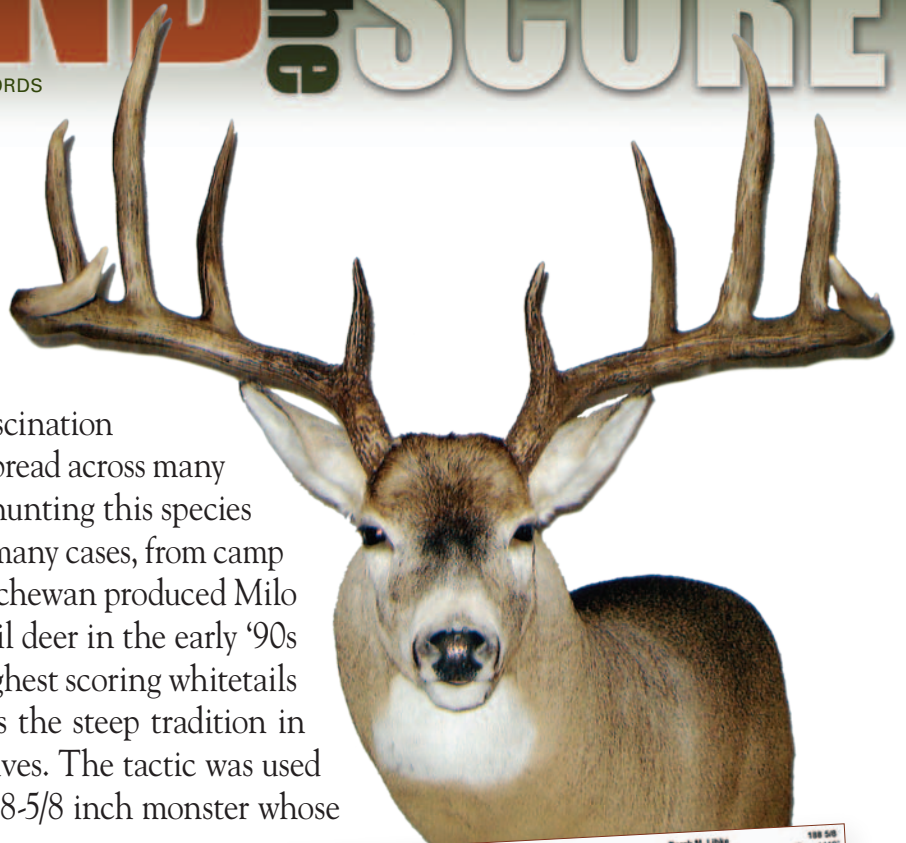


BEYOND THE SCORE

JUSTIN E. SPRING | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BIG GAME RECORDS

Deer Drive—Saskatchewan Style by Derek M. Libke

The whitetail deer is the most widely hunted and harvested species of big game in North America. Rivalled only by the black bear in area occupied, the fascination with this species and its hunting is widespread across many habitat types. As such, the methods for hunting this species vary greatly from region to region and in many cases, from camp to camp. Most hunters know that Saskatchewan produced Milo Hansen's World's Record typical whitetail deer in the early '90s and continues to produce some of the highest scoring whitetails in the world. What some don't realize is the steep tradition in this Canadian province of using deer drives. The tactic was used by Milo and here we have a story of a 188-5/8 inch monster whose taking was facilitated by the same tactic.



Saskatchewan's opening Saturday of the 2011 season fell on November 19th, and Derek Libke met up with friends and family at his father's shop around 7 a.m. to discuss opening-day options. The group decided to split up early and cover some ground to see if any of the rutting bucks could be spotted in the open and present an opportunity for a stalk. Once all the group members had covered the agreed-upon areas, they would rendezvous in the hills to put together a drive.

The group included Derek and his brother Evan, his father Darryl and family friends Harry, Calvin, and Terry, and when they reconvened at 9:30, no one had spotted anything worth a tag on opening day. They decided to do a push they were all familiar with; it had been successful in earlier seasons, and they wanted to get to it before other hunters came in.

The first mile and a half of the walk was brisk with clear and windy conditions putting the wind-chill around -22 F. They had decided to push into the wind while trudging through the six inches of snow cover. As the troupe made its way through the cover, the hunters pushed around 20 deer past their father; one he determined to be a "pistol." I am not sure what this term exactly means, though I would assume he was a decent sort of buck, which might be translated to a decent shooter to those of us further to the south. Once they got to the east side of the cover they were faced with the option of continuing on with the drive or turning around and going after the "pistol" roused in the push. Deciding to continue, Calvin, Harry, and Derek started working toward the west after they felt they had given Terry and Evan enough time to get out in front and into position.

As they traversed the first quarter mile with Derek on the northern edge of the cover and the other three spread out to the south, a rustling ahead followed by a grunt caught Derek's attention. A mule deer doe broke out with a small whitetail buck hot on her trail. It was not a shooter, but the action had put Derek on full alert with the blood flowing solidly. He covered another 200 yards before another doe and small buck broke out 300 yards ahead of him. After passing on this buck, he quickened his pace,

surmising that the deer had broken ahead of him since he was starting to fall behind the rest of the group pushing with him. When he was within a hundred yards of where the deer had appeared, a fawn came out full-tilt.

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188 5/8
ID: 4410
2011

Derek M. Libke
Harley, SK
typical whitetail deer
Date of Kill: Nov 19/2011
Kill Location: 100
Method: 100

Kind of Deer (check one)
 Typical
 Cased

Estimated Points
Right Antler: 29 1/2
Left Antler: 29 1/2

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4
A. No. Points on Right Antler	5	No. Points on Left Antler	5	Spread Crown
B. Tip to Tip Spread	22	C. Greatest Spread	25 1/2	Right Antler
D. Inside Spread of Main Beams	26 1/4	E. Special Credit (see Form, but NOT EXCEED LONGER MAIN BEAM)	2 1/4	Left Antler
F. Total Length of Abnormal Points				Difference
F.1. Length of Main Beams		29 1/2	29 1/2	1/2
F.2. Length of First Point		5	5 1/4	1/4
F.3. Length of Second Point		9 1/4	9 1/4	0
F.4. Length of Third Point		12 1/4	12 1/4	0
F.5. Length of Fourth Point, if Present		8	8 1/4	1/4
F.6. Length of Fifth Point, if Present				
F.7. Length of Sixth Point, if Present				
F.8. Length of Seventh Point, if Present				
H.1. Circumference at Breaked Place Between Main and First Point		4 1/2	4 1/4	1/4
H.2. Circumference at Breaked Place Between First and Second Points		4 1/2	4 1/4	1/4
H.3. Circumference at Breaked Place Between Second and Third Points		4 1/2	4 1/4	1/4
H.4. Circumference at Breaked Place Between Third and Fourth Points		4 1/2	4 1/4	1/4
TOTALS	26 1/4	81 1/2	82	1 1/4

Column 1: 26 1/4
Column 2: 81 1/2
Column 3: 82
Subtotal: 188 5/8
SUBTRACT Column 4: 1 1/4
FINAL SCORE: 187 1/4

Exact Location Where Killed: Dawson, SK
Date Killed: Nov 19/2011
Trophy Owner: Derek Libke
Trophy Owner's Address: 198 1/4
Trophy Owner's E-mail:
Specials (check any abnormalities or unique qualities): 187 1/4
C.M.I.D. Number: 41106

PAID

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This column is dedicated to those trophies that catch our eye as they come across the records desk at Boone and Crockett Club's headquarters. Some score high, some are downright entertaining, and many are just unique.

As the little guy bounded through the brush, a doe and smaller buck spooked from their beds. While Derek gassed the buck to confirm it wasn't a shooter, he caught movement to the south out of the corner of his eye. When he turned to investigate, all he could see was the left side of the rack. That alone told him it was a buck he wanted.

He quickly identified a shooting lane ahead of the buck, hoping his path would take him through it. He steadied the rifle toward the window and waited for the deer to appear. When the buck's nose came into view, he squeezed the trigger on the quartering-away shot. When the snap of the rifle did not result in any visible reaction from the buck, Derek began questioning the shot. He stood quietly, listening intently for any sound of the deer falling but all he heard was the breeze. After waiting as long as he could, he worked his way over to the spot the buck had disappeared. The ground was covered in deer tracks but try as he might, he could not spot any blood on the white, snow-covered ground. By this point he really doubted his shot hit the mark, but he continued scouring the area for blood. Finally, a small red dot appeared in the snow and he began following. The blood trail got stronger, and he paused to flag it when Darryl and Harry appeared. Still not positive of the shot placement, they decided to get Harry out in the open to one side and Derek would head south to another opening while his father took up the blood trail.

Just before Derek went out of sight from Darryl, he pointed toward a thick patch he would have to cross before he could see into the opening, and he headed in quickly. When he reached the middle of the patch, Darryl hollered and Derek thought the buck must have broken and headed his way. He began running toward the edge when he heard another shout—he thought he heard Darryl say the buck was down. When he got out where he could see again, his father was standing over the deer which was lying a mere 75 yards from where Derek had taken the shot.

Editorial Note: Libke's typical whitetail has a final B&C score of 188-5/8 points and was taken near Dundurn, Saskatchewan, during the 2011 season. He was shooting Winchester .30-06 topped with a Weaver 4x scope.

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Blacktail Passion by Stan W. Arthur

I have been hunting blacktail deer on the north Oregon coast for the past 47 years. Brian, my son, is 35 years old and has been my hunting partner since he was 12. Hard work and persistence paid off for us on October 29, 2011. We hunt from our mountain bikes on public land, concentrating on blocked-off roads that do not allow motorized vehicle use. We began our blacktail hunting October 20th, just as the rut was in its early stage. During this time, the normally reclusive bigger bucks begin to let down their guard in search of does.

On this particular brisk fall morning, we rode and pushed our bikes in the dark with the aid of good headlamps. As daylight arrived, we walked down into a previously logged unit sparsely covered with young regenerating fir trees in the 4- to 10-foot range. Instantly, Brian whispered that we had deer below us—three does and two yearlings. After a few minutes passed, Brian moved about 40 yards to glass from a different angle. I stayed back, paying close attention to the does. As soon as Brian put up his Swarovski binos, a white face appeared in his field of view. After several unsuccessful attempts to get my attention, I finally heard him quietly say “Dad, come here.” As I moved in his direction, he whispered “find a shooting stump.” I was well aware that this meant he had spotted a good buck.



I found a stump, dropped to my knees, slid the scope covers off a 4.5 X 14 Leupold scope, and chambered a round into my 300 Weatherby magnum. Brian, crouching behind me, silently pointed out the buck's location. He ranged him at 211 yards with a steep downhill angle. Standing in the cover of a small fir tree, he was staring up at us. I put the crosshairs on the white throat patch, squeezed the trigger and the rest is history. I knew he was great buck when Brian said “Dad, you just shot a black-tail of a lifetime.”

After a short celebration, it was time to get a closer look at this monarch. As we approached him, two thoughts instantly entered my mind. First, this was definitely the largest blacktail buck I have ever encountered in all my years pursuing these elusive creatures. Secondly, Brian could have shot this trophy buck as soon as he spotted him but chose to give me that once in a lifetime opportunity. Yes, I am extremely fortunate to have him as my hunting partner. After some picture taking, we took care of the buck, strapped him on our packboards, hiked back up to our bikes, and completed an enjoyable ride back to our truck. I want to sincerely thank Brian for his unselfish ways and allowing this dream to come true for me.

Editorial Note: Arthur shot his typical Columbia blacktail with a .300 Weatherby. The buck has a final B&C score of 135-2/8 points and was taken in Oregon's Tillamook County.



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