

TROPHY TALK

Fair Chase and Electronic Devices



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JACK RENEAU WITH HIS HUNTING COMPANIONS, JIM HENNESSY, CENTER, AND DOUG REEVES, IN THE ANACONDA-PINTLER WILDERNESS DURING THE 1996 BOWHUNTING SEASON. PHOTO BY C.W. WOHR

This past archery-elk season I had the opportunity to pack into the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Area here in Montana with three friends. A string of mules and horses got us and our gear into a remote area where we were "out of touch" with civilization and "roughed" it for ten days. While none of us filled our tags, everyone agreed it was one of the most memorable and enjoyable hunts we've ever been on.

There's something special about sharing an experience where everyone is dependent upon everyone else to see that everything goes smoothly. I think this was brought into focus one night as we were sitting around the campfire and one of my companions opened the evening's discussion with the comment that he feels he was "born about a hundred years too late."

I don't know how often I've heard other hunters and people who love the outdoors make similar comments, but I must admit I've often thought it myself. While there were fewer people then and less development, life was simpler because of the absence of gadgets that make many essential tasks easier today.

Nowhere is this more evident today than in the hunting field. Hardly a month goes by that we don't get asked a question relating to Item III of the Club's Fair Chase Statement that excludes trophy's from the records books if "electronic devices were used for attracting, locating, or observing game, or for guiding the hunter to such game." A fair chase statement must be submitted for all hunter-taken trophies entered in the Club's Triennial Awards Programs.

Item III is a broad statement that obviously doesn't attempt to

itemize all electronic devices. I would, therefore, like to touch on some of the more obvious devices covered by the Fair Chase Statement. I should point out that some of these devices may be legal in some states and provinces, but trophies taken with them are still not eligible for entry.

Two-way radios (and CB radios) probably top the list of electronic devices that disqualify a trophy from entry if used to direct a hunter to a trophy. In this modern age, it should probably go without saying that trophies taken with cellular phones, which apparently have better reception than CB radios in some areas, would also be disqualified from entry.



Electronic collars with radio transmitters are used in some areas where hounds are used to pursue bears and cougars. The Fair Chase Statement does not exclude their use to locate dogs after the hunt is over. However, so far as the Club is concerned, any trophy taken once the receivers are turned on is disqualified from entry.

The most recent abuse of a modern electronic gadget that has come to our attention involves the Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices that are becoming so popular among outdoor enthusiasts. While a GPS is best used to keep people from getting lost, it can also be used in violation of the Fair Chase

Statement. For example, if a hunter uses a GPS to locate an animal spotted from the air, that trophy would be disqualified from entry.

Laser range finders built into rifle scopes would also disqualify a trophy from entry.

Bowhunters are not exempt from their share of electronic devices that allegedly make the taking of game much easier. So far as the Pope and Young Club is concerned, any trophy taken with a bow to which an electronic device is attached is disqualified from entry. The same statement can be made for Boone and Crockett Club. The primary concerns here are laser and lighted bow sights. Video cameras attached to bows would also disqualify an entry.

Arrows fitted with transmitters are available. The antenna runs up the shaft of the arrow. The theory is that such arrows would enable hunters to locate wounded deer more easily. While this may be true to some extent, such a device may also encourage someone to take a less than vital shot because he or she knows the game can be located with their receiver. No hunter should take a shot unless he or she is certain it will be fatal.

The above discussion wasn't intended to be comprehensive by any stretch of the imagination. I'm sure that you can think of other electronic devices available to modern-day hunters. Most, if not all, would disqualify trophies from entry in the Club's Awards Programs. If you have any questions concerning the above discussion, please feel free to contact the records office for clarification. If we have an answer, we'll share it with you. However, some questions may have to be referred to the records committee for further discussion and a separate ruling.

New Official Measurers

The Club just completed a very ambitious official measurer training workshop schedule for 1996, and I am especially pleased to announce the appointment of 48 new measurers. Each of these individuals successfully completed one of the workshops held this past summer in Louisiana, Montana and Minnesota, and is now qualified to measure all 35 categories of North American Big Game recognized by the Club.

If you have a trophy you would like one of these volunteer measurers (or any of our other 765 measurers) to score, we can supply you with a complete list of qualified individuals in your area. Before you contact a measurer, however, you should perform a preliminary measurement to determine if your trophy meets or exceeds the minimum score for its category and warrants the time necessary to make an official measurement. You can contact our office to order the score chart you need to perform your preliminary measurement, or you can refer to any of the Club's records books for a copy of the score chart you need.

If you're interested in becoming an official measurer, send a letter to the Club's headquarters in Missoula, Montana, requesting an application. Be sure to include a brief narrative about why you want to be an official measurer. Your application will be held and considered when a workshop is scheduled for your area.

Official measurers are appointed only upon successful

TOP: JACK RENEAU DEMONSTRATES HOW TO MEASURE MOOSE ANTLERS AT THE LOUISIANA WORKSHOP. BOTTOM: THE LOUISIANA PARTICIPANTS IN FRONT OF THE TABASCO DELI ON AVERY ISLAND WITH HOST, BILL SIMMONS (CENTER IN WHITE).



completion of a four-day measurer training workshop that consists of hands-on, laboratory-type instruction in the proper measuring technique for all 35 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club. At present there is a \$100 registration fee to attend the workshop, and participants are responsible for covering all the costs associated with their travel, lodging, and meals.

Official Measurers serve at the discretion of the Boone and Crockett Club's Records of North American Big Game Committee, the governing body of the Club's records keeping activities. All appointments are reviewed and renewed every two years for measurers performing their duties in a satisfactory manner.

RECENTLY APPOINTED OFFICIAL MEASURERS

ALASKA

Perry S. Burress, Nome

ARIZONA

Terry R. Chapman, Yuma
Peter D. Dufek, Tucson
William A. Keebler, Phoenix
Kirk Kelso, Oro Valley

CALIFORNIA

Donald W. Biggs, Napa
Steven H. Futch, Pasadena

IOWA

Michael W. McKenna, Salix

ILLINOIS

Tom Grover, Rushville

KANSAS

Marvin Whitehead, Fredobia

LOUISIANA

William E. Burns, Pineville
James C. Davis, Baton Rouge
George L. Dugal, Lafayette
Robert M. Edmunds, Ruston
Jefferson P. Jackson, Lafayette
Keith LaCaze, Baton Rouge
Brian L. Martin, Benton
Randell S. Myers, Baton Rouge
Harold Priestly, Bastrop
John E. Sturgis, Opelousas
Tony Vidrine, Opelousas

MINNESOTA

Jean E. Berggren, Forest Lake
Robert Berggren, Forest Lake
Rodney L. Dehart, International Falls
Kevin P. Fredrickson, Champlin
Curtis Kozitka, Detroit Lakes
Craig R. Pierce, Lewiston
David Rorem, International Falls

MONTANA

Lisa Flowers, Choteau
Larry Jensen, Lewistown
Jeffrey M. Reiter, Billings
Chris D. Tonkinson, Missoula

NORTH CAROLINA

Michael DeAngury, Charlotte

NORTH DAKOTA

Lee Wahlund, Carrington

OREGON

Larry Griffin, Clackamas
J.D. Gore, Springfield
Huston W. Hanson, Hood River

TEXAS

Gilbert T. Adams, Beaumont
Ken Witt, Burleson

UTAH

Robert A. Wharff, Woodruff

WASHINGTON

Diana L. Shields, Vancouver

WISCONSIN

Caren Fish, Pepin
Steven Fish, Pepin
Donald W. Goers, Shawano
Michael J. Kaufmann, Birnamwood
Curt Rotering, Waumandee
Stanley G. Zirbel, Greenleaf

WYOMING

Mark B. Steffen, Casper