

TROPHY TALK

Milo Hanson's Deer Still World's Record



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Director
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During the last few months the rumor mill has been awash with rumors about a "new World's Record" typical whitetail deer taken last hunting season by Mitch Rompola in Michigan. In fact there have been more rumors spread about this trophy than any other unfounded World's Record claim I've heard during the 19 years I've worked for the Club's records program.

To the best of my knowledge the rumors started several months ago when the Detroit Free Press began publishing news accounts of Rompola's achievement on the internet. Depending on what you read and heard, there were claims his buck had been "x-rayed" and "officially scored" by a

"panel of four B&C official measurers" at approximately "218 points." Other accounts surfaced stating it was "measured in Montana," and had been sold to some anonymous person for anywhere from "\$500,000" to "\$1,000,000." It has been reported that a couple of manufacturers are even using it to sell their products.

So far as we could tell here at B&C headquarters, statements made about Rompola's buck were only rumors. We have received no more information on this trophy other than what had been published by the Detroit Free Press. To the best of our knowledge it had never been scored, either officially or unofficially, by one of our measurers. As we were going to press with this issue of *Fair Chase* the Detroit Free Press announced that "Mitch Rompola now says he never claimed his deer was a world record, that it may never be scored or shown publicly, and that he recognizes Milo Hanson's Saskatchewan buck as the world champion."

There are two lessons to be learned from this episode. The first is don't automatically believe everything you read and hear concerning a potential B&C trophy unless you read it in a B&C publication. We receive several rumors of new World's Records every year, and this year is no exception. The only difference between rumors of Rompola's buck, and most rumors we receive of other World's Records, is that the rumors of Rompola's

buck seem to have been blown out of proportion.

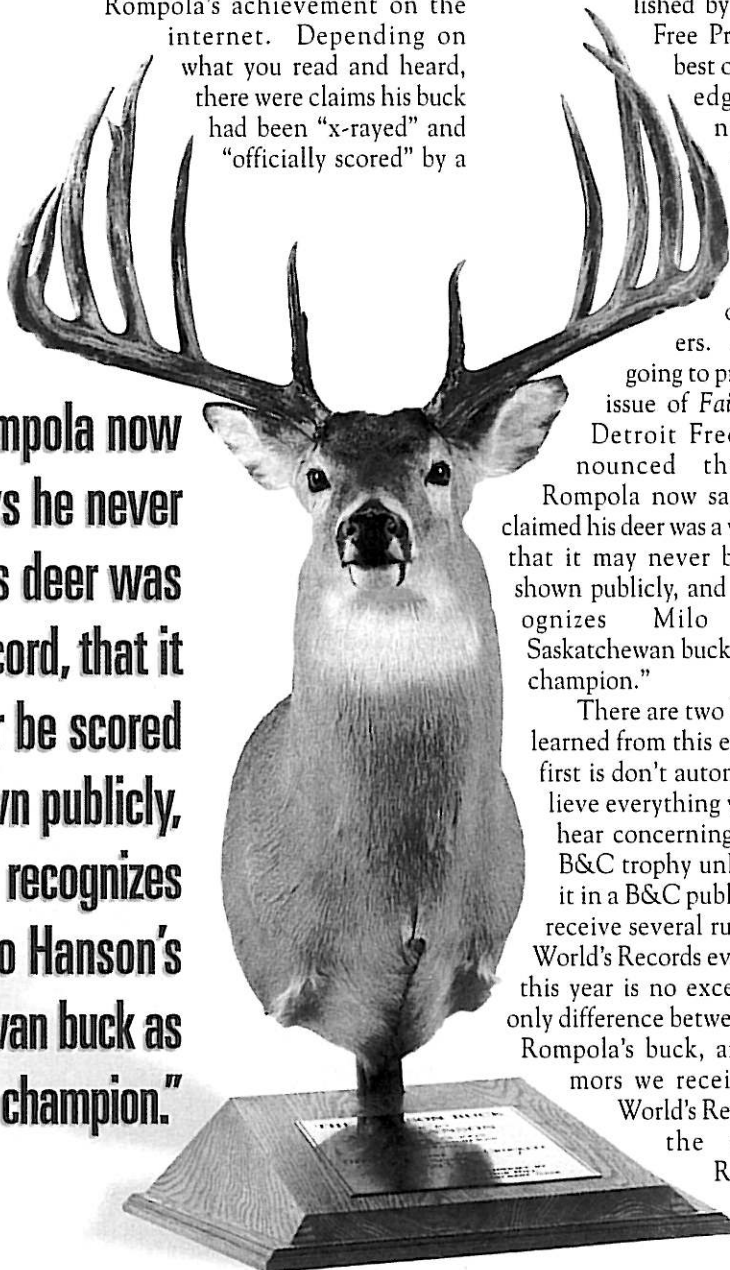
In addition to Mitch's buck, we have received rumors of new World's Records in at least the non-typical American elk and pronghorn categories. Most such rumors fade away and we never hear of the trophies again. Until we receive an official score chart, completed by a B&C measurer at least 60 days after the kill date (to allow for drying requirements), accounts such as these are treated as rumors.

We have received a score chart, however, for a potential new World's Record Alaska-Yukon moose that scores 263-3/8 points. This is not a rumor. This bull was taken in 1997 by William G. Nelson near the Beluga River, Alaska. It was recently accepted in the 24th Awards Program and is listed on page 56 in this issue of *Fair Chase*.

The current World's Record Alaska-Yukon moose, scoring 261-5/8 points, was taken by John A. Crouse in 1994 along the Fortymile River in Alaska. Crouse's bull will remain the World's Record until at least June 2001 when Mr. Nelson's rack is scheduled to be rescored by the 24th Awards Judges' Panel.

The second lesson we can learn from this incident is that in spite of all the hype about a new World's Record this or that, we should note that only a B&C Judges' Panel, which meets every three years, can officially declare a trophy a new B&C World's Record. Thus, Milo's buck, scoring 213-5/8 points, is the current World's Record typical whitetail deer. Even if rumors of the Michigan buck (or any buck for that matter) ever materialized and the trophy was officially scored, entered and accepted at a score greater than the current World's Record, Milo's outstanding buck will remain the World's Record typical whitetail until at least the 24th Awards Judges' Panel meets in June 2001.

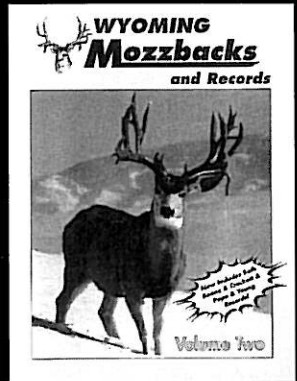
"Mitch Rompola now says he never claimed his deer was a world record, that it may never be scored or shown publicly, and that he recognizes Milo Hanson's Saskatchewan buck as the world champion."



Book Reviews

Wyoming Mozzbacks and Records

Ron Haider of Evanston, Wyoming, has released a second edition of his book titled, *Wyoming Mozzbacks and Records*. His book, consisting of nearly 200 pages, lists 3,100 trophies, in all eight categories of big game taken in Wyoming. The book also contains more than 20 hunting stories with photos. A copy of the second edition of *Wyoming Mozzbacks and Records* can be purchased for \$16 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling from Ron Haider, Mozzbacks, P.O. Box 2818, Dept. FC, Evanston, WY 82930



FAIR CHASE STATEMENT REVISED

The Boone and Crockett Club's Fair Chase Statement was first adopted during the 12th Competition (now called Awards Programs) in 1965. The original version, which excluded entry of trophies taken with the aid of aircraft, has undergone many revisions during the past few decades. The most recent revision (see insert) was approved by the Records Committee at its December 1998 meeting.

For the most part, the statement was rewritten to clarify some of the wording in the previous version. The new statement excludes

trophies from entry in the Club's Awards Programs and records books, that were taken with the use of traps or pharmaceuticals; while swimming, helpless in deep snow, or helpless in any other natural or artificial medium; as well as trophies taken on another hunter's license.

A signed and witnessed Fair Chase Statement must accompany all hunter-taken trophies submitted for entry in the Club's Awards Programs. The new statement will be required of all trophies submitted for entry after April 15, 1999.

ENTRY AFFIDAVIT For All Hunter-Taken Trophies

For the purpose of entry into the Boone and Crockett Club's record books, trophies in big game harvested by the use of the following methods or under the following conditions are ineligible:

- I. Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for the purpose of pursuit and shooting;
- II. Herding or chasing with the aid of any motorized equipment;
- III. Use of electronic communication devices, artificial lighting, or electronic light intensifying devices;
- IV. Control by artificial means, including traps, poisons and snares;
- V. Translocated for the purpose of commercial shooting;
- VI. By the use of traps, pharmaceuticals;
- VII. While swimming, helpless in deep snow, or helpless in any other natural or artificial medium;
- VIII. Taken on the license of another;
- IX. Not in full compliance with the game laws or regulations of the federal government or of any state, province, territory, or tribal council on reservations or tribal lands.

I certify that the trophy listed on this chart was not taken in violation of the conditions listed above. In signing this statement, I understand that if the information provided on this entry is found to be misrepresented or fraudulent in any respect, it will not be accepted into the Awards Program and I and all my progeny are subject to deletion from future editions of *Records of North American Big Game*. *Records of North American Big Game* trophies cannot be accepted.

FAIR CHASE is defined by the Boone and Crockett Club® as the ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit and taking of any trophy animal with a rifle, bow, or other arms or traps, provided that the hunter or angler uses proper hunting or fishing gear and methods.

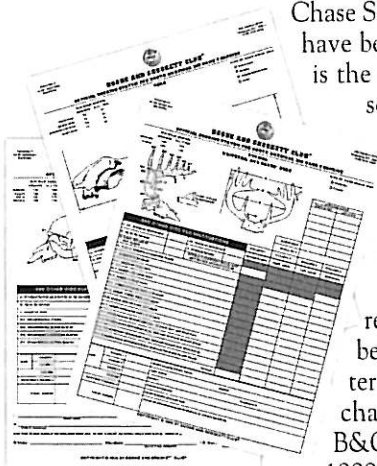
The Boone and Crockett Club® may exclude the entry of any animal that it deems to have been taken in an unethical manner or under conditions deemed inappropriate by the Club.

Date: _____ Signature of Hunter: _____
(Signature must be witnessed by an Official Measurer or a Deputy Public)

Date: _____ Signature of Measurer or Official Measurer: _____

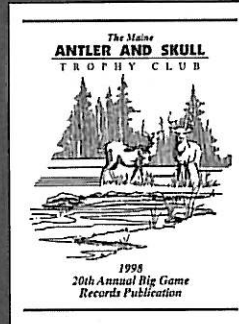
SCORE CHARTS REVISED

The Club is especially pleased to announce that all 17 of its copyrighted score charts have been updated with the recently revised Fair Chase Statement on the back. While they have been revised from time to time, this is the first major overhaul of the Club's score charts since they were first copyrighted in 1950. The overhaul was performed to update the appearance of the score chart, as well as to make it more user friendly.



The new score charts, with the revised Fair Chase Statements, will be required of all trophies scored after April 30, 1999. Supplies of the new charts should be in the hands of all B&C Official Measurers by April 15, 1999. (NOTE: Revised score charts are available at www.boone-crockett.org)

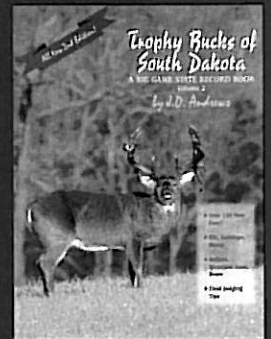
Maine Antler & Skull Trophy Club Record Book



If you already hunt the great state of Maine, or you want to know more about the trophy hunting opportunities the Pine Tree State has to offer, the *Maine Antler and Skull Trophy Club Record Book*, 20th Edition, is for you. This high-quality, hardback publication offers the reader over 40 hunting stories, 250 photographs, as well as 20 pages of trophy data accumulated during the last 20 years. The trophy listings are included for whitetail deer (typical and non-typical) moose and bear. To order a copy of the *Maine Antler and Skull Trophy Club Record Book*, send a check or money order for \$23.50 (cover shipping and handling) to Maine Big Game Publications, 36 Ames Road, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426. If you have questions, please call 207/564-7614.

Trophy Bucks of South Dakota

Trophy Bucks of South Dakota, Volume 2, showcases many of the state's biggest deer, elk, antelope, buffalo, bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat taken from 1870-1998, over 128 years of Dakota Territory hunting history! There are also Black Hills bear stories, photos of unusual heads, trophy field judging tips, taxidermy tips and South Dakota trophy listings. Copies can be ordered from Lightning Creek Publishing Co., Rt. 1, Box 60-K, Custer, SD 57730.



BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

There are many state, provincial and private organizations publishing local records books that use the 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, they will be mentioned as time and space permit. Only those books that use the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system and terminology will be considered for review. The Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch, however, 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.