

# TROPHY TALK

## World's Record Grizzly Disqualified



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Director  
Big Game Records

In an unprecedented move and after careful deliberation of all the facts at its disposal, the Boone and Crockett Club's Records Committee recently removed David F.

Malzac's World's Record grizzly bear from its records. Mr. Malzac's trophy, which scores 27-5/16 points, was announced as the new World's Record grizzly bear in 2001 at the Boone and Crockett Club's 24th Big Game Awards Program held at Bass Pro Shops, in Springfield, Missouri. Mr. Malzac's grizzly, which was taken on the Toklat River, Alaska, in 1998, exceeded the previous World's Record (three-way tie) by 3/16 of an inch.

Shortly after the announcement and the close of the 24th Awards Program, the Club's Records Office received information that Mr. Malzac's hunting party had violated Alaska law while operating two "swamp buggies" on their moose hunt

near the confluence of the Toklat and Sushana Rivers. Both rivers are protected and listed as Anadromous Waters where motorized land vehicle traffic is restricted. Alaska Hunting Regulations notify hunters that it is illegal to drive a motorized land vehicle across or through a river in which salmon spawn, rear, or migrate. Two of Mr. Malzac's hunting companions, who each owned and admitted operating the vehicles in the prohibited waterways, were charged with the crime, pled no contest, and were convicted.

While it's not clear if Mr. Malzac himself ever drove either of the vehicles in the prohibited areas, Mr. Malzac was never charged with a crime. Tire tracks of the hunting group's daily use of one or two buggies in crossing the many braids, sloughs, of springs of the Toklat and Sushana Rivers, plus traveling up and down in the waterways for many days while they hunted the area alone were well documented. That extensive use became a major consideration in the Records Committee's conclusion that Mr. Malzac would not have taken his trophy without the illegal use of his friends' vehicles in violation of the Fair Chase Ethic of the Boone and

Crockett Club. Accordingly, the World's Record status is once again accorded to the three grizzly trophies that score 27-2/16 points.

### Spread Measurements

The Club's Records Office in Missoula handles literally thousands of scoring questions each year, with the intensity at its peak shortly after the August and September hunting seasons get under way. Successful hunters obtain copies of B&C score charts or check out the scoring procedures on Boone and Crockett's website: [www.boone-crockett.org](http://www.boone-crockett.org).

There are numerous technical questions about some of the finer and more difficult aspects of scoring, but the most common questions, without a doubt, center around the tip-to-tip, greatest, and inside spread measurements for all categories of elk, caribou, and especially deer. See Figures 1 and 2, which are from the typical and non-typical whitetail deer score charts, respectively, and illustrate the locations of these three measurements.

Some callers are disappointed when they realize the tip-to-tip and greatest spread measurements are supplementary

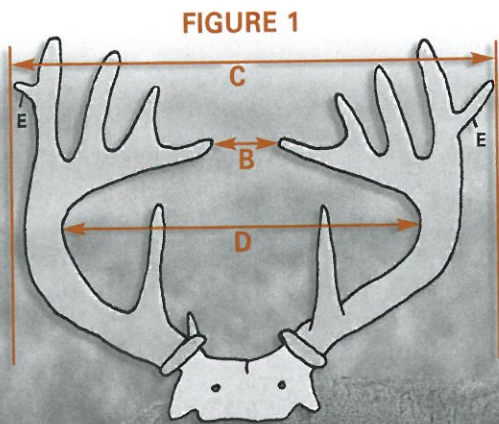


FIGURE 1

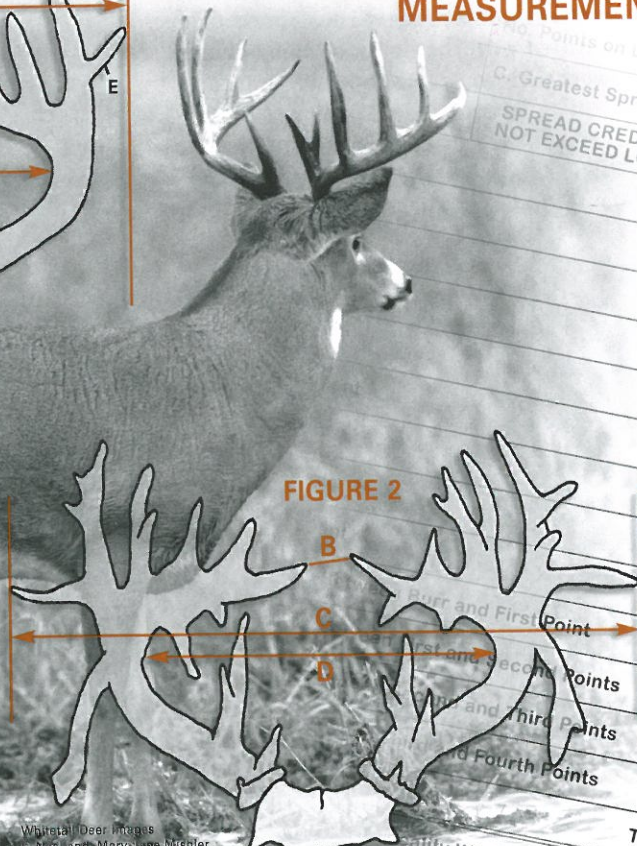


FIGURE 2

### SPREAD MEASUREMENTS

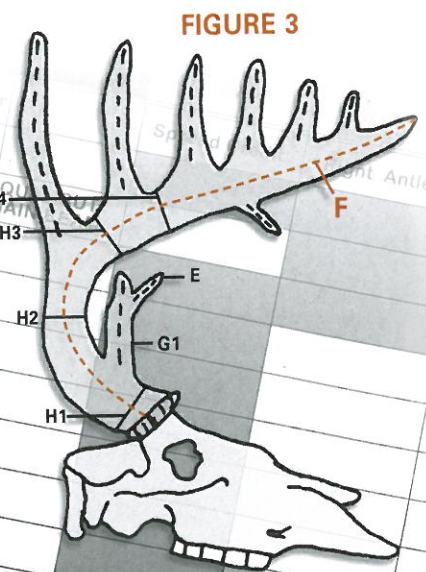


FIGURE 3

Some callers are disappointed when they realize the tip-to-tip and greatest spread measurements are supplementary data and do not add to the final score. Even though there are no instructions on the score chart for adding them to the final score, many first-time users of the system figure out a way to include them in the score.

data and do not add to the final score. Even though there are no instructions on the score chart for adding them to the final score, many first-time users of the system figure out a way to include them in the score. I know what it's like because I tried to do just that myself back in the early 1970s before I worked with the Club's Awards Programs. The sole purpose of recording these two measurements is to give the Records Office an idea of what a rack looks like without seeing it.

The tip-to-tip spread (B in Figures 1 & 2) is taken between the tips of the main beams. If someone tells us the tip-to-tip measurement on their whitetail buck is 28 inches, we immediately know that the main beams are widespread, as compared to a whitetail rack with a tight tip-to-tip spread of one or two inches.

The greatest spread (C in Figures 1 & 2) is taken between perpendiculars at a right angle to the centerline of the skull at its widest part, whether across main beams or points. We automatically know that a non-typical whitetail rack with a greatest spread measurement over 30 inches is a very wide rack with probably an ab-

normal point on one or both sides adding to the measurement.

Inside spread (D in Figures 1 & 2) is measured at a right angle to the centerline of the skull at its widest distance between the main beams. This measurement is added to the final score as spread credit if it is less than or equal to the length of the longer main beam (F in Figure 3). If the inside spread is greater than the length of the longer main beam, then the length of the longer main beam is entered as spread credit. This restriction was placed on spread credit to prevent exceptionally wide racks, which are not the normal configuration of whitetail deer, from gaining an advantage over racks with a "normal" inside spread. The table below illustrates how to calculate spread credit for three different deer with the same inside spread, but different main beam lengths.

### Calculating Spread Credit

A lot of trophy owners are curious as to why inside spread was selected to be part of the final score instead of greatest spread. After all, when hunters refer to the spread of a rack they saw in the field, they're not normally referring to the inside spread. It's the greatest spread that counts to them.

I obviously wasn't there when the scoring system was being developed, but I have thought about this and think that the greatest spread was not selected as the spread measurement because it frequently includes the lengths of abnormal sticker points as illustrated in Figures 1&2. Abnormal sticker points, which are deducted from typical racks, would be added back into the score if they were included

### Spread Credit Calculations

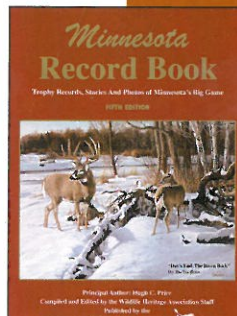
Inside Spread	Length of Right Main Beam	Length of Left Main Beam	Spread Credit
21 4/8	23 3/8	22 2/8	21 4/8
21 4/8	20 3/8	23 5/8	21 4/8
21 4/8	20 2/8	20 6/8	20 6/8

in a spread measurement. Further, abnormal sticker points, which are already added into the score of a non-typical rack, would be double-counted if the greatest spread was used instead of the inside spread. ■

## BOOK REVIEW

### MINNESOTA RECORD BOOK 5th Edition

The Minnesota Heritage Foundation recently released the 5th edition of the Minnesota Record Book. This edition includes 20 articles on great bucks taken in Minnesota during the last five years, as well as listings of 12,000 Minnesota whitetails, moose and black bear entries. Trophies are listed by county and method of taking. A new section includes copies of B&C score charts for typical and non-typical whitetailed deer, moose, and black bear.



To order a copy of the 5th Edition of Minnesota Record Book, send \$29.95 plus \$5 for shipping and handling to Wildlife Heritage Association, 5701 Normandale Rd., Suite 325, Edina, MN 55424 or call 952/848-4275. Minnesota residents should add 6-1/2% for sales tax.

### 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 the express written 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. However, the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these publications. Many of the books 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.