

TROPHY TALK



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Director
Big Game Records

New Procedure for Scoring Cracked Prongs

The Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system was devised in 1949 by a specially assigned committee of six individuals chaired by Samuel B. Webb of

Shelburne, Vermont. Included on the committee were Grancel Fitz, James Clark, Harold E. Anthony, Milford Baker, and Frederick L. Barbour. Grancel and James had both devised their own scoring systems, and the committee basically worked together to select and combine the best features of both into a system that has since become B&C's universally recognized scoring system for native North American big game.

It is my understanding that discussions were heated at times, but Sam kept

the process moving forward, and the Club's copyrighted scoring system was launched in 1950 with 15 score charts for scoring and recording the 30 categories of big game recorded at that time.

The Club's scoring system stands as a testimonial to the efforts of this special committee. During the intervening 55 years that it has been in use, there has never been a major change to any of the scoring procedures that negated the work of the original committee. The Records Committee, the governing body of the Club's Awards Programs, has instituted changes, such as adding eight new categories, two new score charts, combining muskox into one category, raising and lowering minimums, modifying boundaries, and so on. There have also been clarifications on how to handle some problems that were not encountered or envisioned by the original committee. However, there has never been a change

so drastic that it resulted in a need to rescore an entire category.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a new scoring procedure for pronghorn recently announced by B&C's Records Committee. During the last couple of years, the records office has seen a couple of pronghorn where the prong is split or separated from the main body of the horn. The splits are likely the result of fighting during the rut. Sometimes the splits are nothing more than a hairline crack that does not affect the prong-length measurement, but on other occasions, they are substantial and may be as much as 3/8ths of an inch. To include this crack in the prong-length measurement unfairly inflates the actual length of the prong.

The length of the prong is measured (Figure 1) from the tip of the prong along the upper edge of the prong on the outer side of the horn to the horn proper, then continued at a right angle to the horn axis to the back edge of the horn. The ending point on the back of the horn for the prong-length measurement is determined by placing a straightedge across the backs of both horns simultaneously. The spot on each horn where the straightedge and horn material contact is where the length measurement ends. If there is a crack where the prong arises from the horn, the length of the prong should be taken passing over the entire crack. Once you have the length of this prong, the width of the crack should be measured as illustrated in Figure 2 and deducted (Length A) from the prong's length. The scorer should then record the adjusted length of the prong on line E of the score chart and include a comment in the remarks box at the bottom of the score chart noting that the width of the crack was deducted from the length.

This procedure should not have an impact on pronghorn already listed in the records books. However, if there is a pronghorn with a crack as described above currently working its way through the entry process, the Records Office will notify the trophy owners and Official Measurers of the necessary adjustments. In the meantime, Official Measurers should contact me at 406/542-1888, ext. 205, or my assistant Ryan Hatfield at ext. 204, if they have submitted any pronghorn trophies with this problem or if they have any questions about this matter. ■

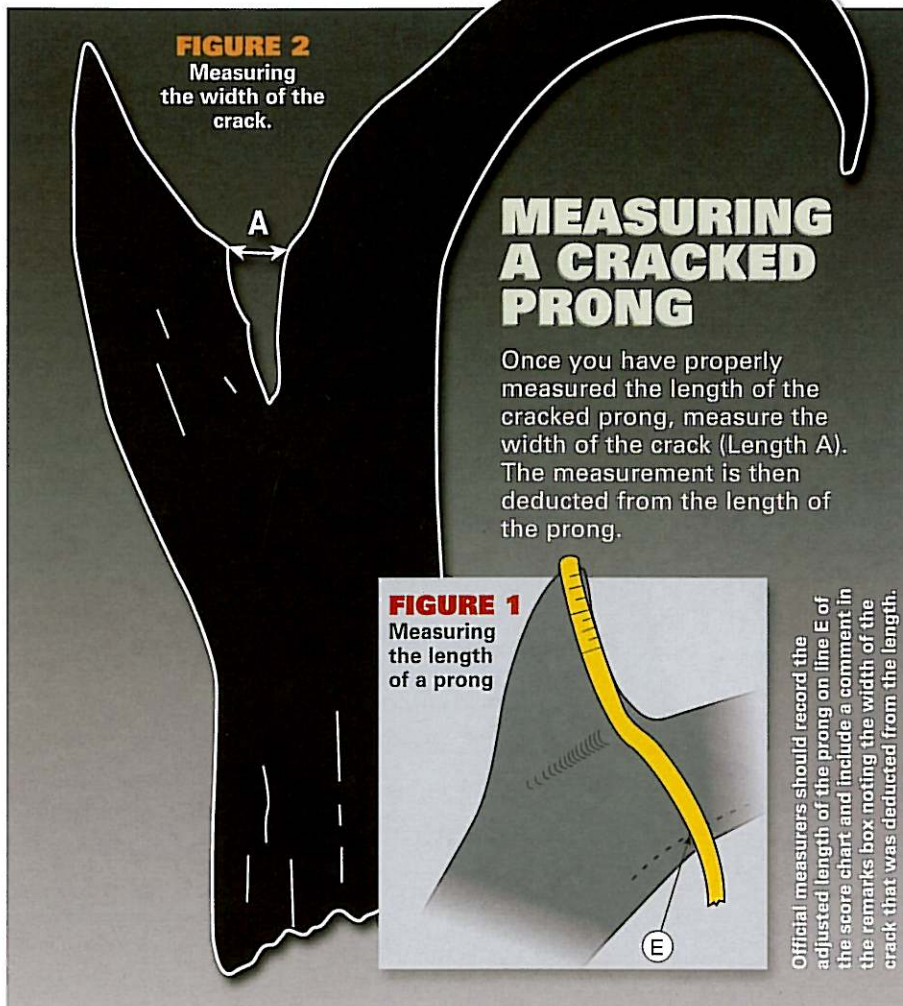


FIGURE 2
Measuring
the width of the
crack.

A

MEASURING A CRACKED PRONG

Once you have properly measured the length of the cracked prong, measure the width of the crack (Length A). The measurement is then deducted from the length of the prong.

FIGURE 1
Measuring
the length
of a prong

E

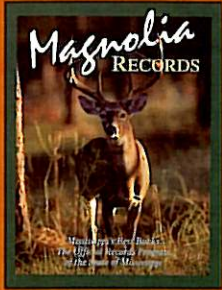
Official measurers should record the adjusted length of the prong on line E of the score chart and include a comment in the remarks box noting the width of the crack that was deducted from the length.

RECORDS BOOK REVIEWS

MAGNOLIA RECORDS

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, *Mississippi Woods and Waters Magazine*, and True Exposures Publishing, Inc., have announced the release of the first edition of *Magnolia Records: Mississippi's Best Bucks*. This handsome 176-page paperback features a magnificent Mississippi buck on the cover, and it includes county listings for typical and non-typical whitetail deer by method of taking. Included are stories of how the state's biggest bucks were outsmarted, photos of the state's biggest bucks, history of deer management in the state, and much more. To order a copy, send a check for \$19.95 (shipping included) to Mississippi Wildlife Federation, 855 S. Pear Orchard Rd., Suite 500, Ridgeland, MS 39157. Mississippi residents add 7% sales tax. Phone (601) 206-5703 or go online to

www.mswildlife.org for more information.



RECORDS AND STORIES OF MANITOBA BIG GAME

The Manitoba Big Game Trophy Association is especially pleased to announce the recent publication of its 35th Anniversary Limited Edition of *Records and Stories of Manitoba Big Game*. This book features more than 4,300 records and 550 full-color photos and more than 100 stories by Manitoba hunters, giving readers an in-depth view of Manitoba's rich big game heritage. Along with a historic background on the Manitoba Big Game Trophy Association, there are more than a dozen articles dating as far back as the early 1900s about various interesting facts and incidents that took place regarding Manitoba wildlife and conservation. Photos of some of Manitoba's finest big-game trophies of all-time are featured in this classy hard-cover 35th Anniversary Limited Edition of *Records and Stories of Manitoba Big Game*. Order your copy by sending a check or money order for \$45 US or CA (per book) payable to Manitoba Big Game Trophy Association to: Russ Mehling, 7 Kimberley Ave., Steinbach, MB R5G 2G4. This price includes shipping and handling. Phone (204) 326-5378 or go online to www.mbgta.org for more information.



HENRY KELSEY BIG GAME RECORDS

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation released the 50th anniversary edition of its *Henry Kelsey Big Game Records* book this past year. The latest edition includes entries from all 11 categories of North American big game, plus four velvet categories for mule deer and whitetail deer, recognized by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and accepted since 1953. Included for the first time are unpublished entries from 2000 through 2003. This soft-cover book contains more than 60 photos and lists more than 4,600 records. To get a copy, send a check or money order for \$12.50 US or \$15 Canadian (postage and handling included) to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, 444 River St. W., Moose Jaw, SK S6H 6J6, or call (306) 692-8812 with your credit-card information.



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 with permission 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.

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Illinois, 2002

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