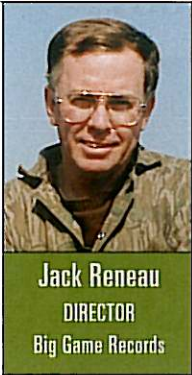


# TROPHY TALK



**Jack Reneau**  
DIRECTOR  
Big Game Records

## Committee Decisions

The Boone and Crockett Club's Records of North American Big Game Committee was established in 1949 to develop the Club's universally recognized scoring system

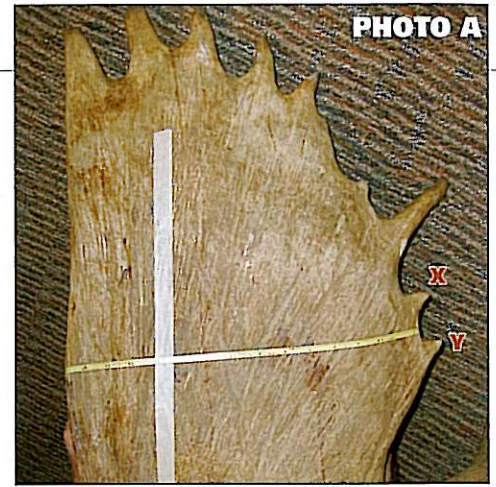
that was adopted in 1950. The committee continues to this day as the governing body of the Club's records-keeping activities and Awards Programs. As such, this committee is responsible for reviewing, revising, and updating all aspects of the program, including adjustments to minimum scores and boundaries, scoring procedures, entry requirements, fair chase matters, etc. I am using this column to report several

significant committee decisions made at a recent committee meeting.

### Moose Palm Widths

The instructions for measuring moose palm widths were changed to say, "The line of measurement should be taken from the inside edge of the palm to a dip between bumps or points at the widest outside edge of the palm. If there are no bumps or points, the width measurement is taken at the widest part of the palm." Prior to this change, the palm width measurement had to be taken between two projections that qualified as points. This is no longer the case.

For example, the projections labeled on the Alaska-Yukon moose palm as X and Y in Photo A do not qualify as points because they are not an inch long. Thus, under the old instructions, the width measurement on this trophy would have been taken at the narrower location



indicated by the measuring tape in Photo B. The width is now taken where the measuring tape is placed in Photo A.

This change is especially significant to this trophy because the correct location of measurement now recognizes the true width of this trophy's palm and raises its score by 5 inches from 206-3/8 points to 211-3/8 points. At this score, this trophy gets proper credit for antler material grown that it wouldn't have under the old instructions. Also, at 211-3/8 points,

## Pronghorn Basal Circumferences

The records department has been wrestling for some time now with problems associated with inflated basal circumferences on pronghorn. This is caused, either intentionally or unintentionally, when the horn sheaths are reattached to the horn cores with a bonding substance.

A couple of years ago, the records office did a comparative analysis of basal circumferences (D-1) to the first quarter circumferences (D-2) for trophies entered in the records books since 1950, the first year of trophy recordation (See Figure 1.) It was determined that these two measurements are most frequently the same, or the basal circumference is slightly less than the D-2 circumference. At the same time, there actually are substantial numbers of examples in our records where the basal circumference may be an eighth or two larger than the first quarter circumference. This appears to be a natural phenomenon.

Trophies with slightly larger bases than the D-2 measurement are not normally a concern to B&C. What is of concern to B&C are those pronghorn with bases that are inflated with a bonding substance. We have seen some bases intentionally inflated by well over an inch. The records committee, therefore, modified the pronghorn score chart by adding a line that asks Official Measurers if the sheaths were reattached to the cores with some type of bonding substance or adhesive at the time of measurement. If the answer is yes, the records office will then evaluate each entry on a case-by-case basis to determine if the horns have been inflated. If so, the records office will make any necessary adjustments to the score chart.

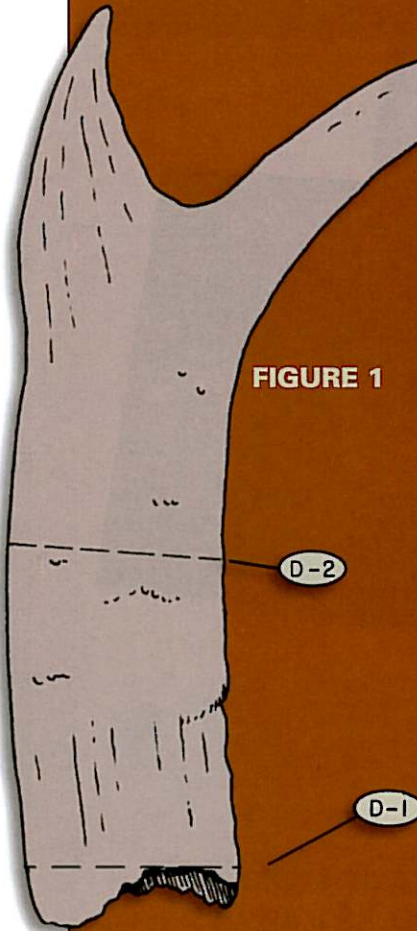


FIGURE 1

FINAL SCORE	Remarks: (Mention Any Abnormalities or Unique Qualities)
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At the time of official measurement, were the sheaths reattached to the cores by the use of some type of filler or adhesive?  Yes  No

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that I have measured this trophy on \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME MM/DD/YYYY  
 at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE/PROVINCE

and that these measurements and data are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the instructions given.

This question has been added to the pronghorn score chart (see sample above). Until the updated score charts are in the hands of Official Measurers, the use of a bonding substance should be noted in the "remarks" box. A supply of the new score charts will be sent to Official Measurers in early April.



**A trophy now has the opportunity to receive proper credit for antler material grown that it wouldn't have under the old instructions.**

**This change is especially significant because the correct location of measurement now recognizes the true width of a trophy's palm.**

this trophy now exceeds the Awards book minimum of 210 points.

This change is actually comparable with instructions for measuring palm length. A number of years ago, the records committee ruled that the palm length measurement could begin between bumps or points at the top of the palm because there are frequently no or very few fully developed points at the top of the palm.

**New Entry Requirement**

Trophy entries submitted as "Picked up," or of "Unknown" origin have a new entry requirement. Included with their entry materials must be a chronological and factual narrative about their origin. It doesn't need to be long, but it needs to cover all known pertinent information concerning the trophy's history. This new require-

ment is the result of the removal from the records book during 2005 of 38 trophies involved in an antler poaching, buying, and selling ring uncovered in the Midwest by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Twenty-two trophies were entered by one collector/buyer/seller with many listed as hunter unknown or picked up.

**Official Measurer Mailing**

The records department is in the process of updating the score charts with all of the changes mentioned above, as well as a few other changes that will streamline information gathering. A packet of the revised score charts will be sent to all Official Measurers in late March and will be required for all trophies scored after April 1, 2006. While new scoring interpretations for pronghorn and moose go into effect immediately, the Entry Affidavit change will go into affect after the new score charts are mailed. ■



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**RECORDS BOOK REVIEW**

**ARIZONA WILDLIFE TROPHIES**

The 8th edition of *Arizona Wildlife Trophies* has just been published by the Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee and the Arizona Wildlife Federation in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This edition includes listings of 3,284 trophies in 13 different categories of North American big game taken in Arizona, including bear, cougar, jaguar, elk, mule deer, Coues' whitetail deer, antelope, bison, bighorn sheep, and desert sheep. Also included is a list of javelina taken by hunters. This edition also includes a number of articles on a range of subjects, including Arizona trophy production from 1990-2004; environmental factors in Arizona affecting antelope horn growth; genetic factors related to the production of trophy antlers; tributes to Doug Baker and eight Arizonans who played an integral role in the early days of Arizona's wildlife conservation efforts; and Arizona's trophy hunting techniques, to mention only a few. As in the past, hard-cover editions and field copy editions are available. Copies of the former cost \$40 each, while copies of the latter cost \$20 each. Shipping and handling is an additional \$4. Send your check or credit card information to the Arizona Wildlife Federation, 644 N. Country Club Dr., Ste. E, Mesa, AZ 85201. Checks should be made payable to Arizona Wildlife Federation.



**BOOK REVIEW NOTICE**

There are many state, provincial, and private organizations publishing local records books that use 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, we will review them 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. Please note that the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch 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.