

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Thoughtful Consideration of Fair Chase

Please send your letters to us at Boone and Crockett Club, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801. We welcome a lively exchange of ideas and suggestions. Associates are encouraged to send their hunting and trophy room stories along with photographs. We try to publish as many letters as possible. Letters are published as written but may be edited for brevity.

### N.A. PRONGHORN FOUNDATION

As a long time Associate, let me applaud the Boone and Crockett Club's quarterly publication, *Fair Chase*, arguably one of the select, premier magazines available to the modern trophy hunting conservationist. I was particularly impressed with the Winter 1996 issue and its focus on what we believe to be an often underrated and overlooked trophy, the pronghorn antelope.

Thank you for providing your membership of Associates with this great publication and please accept our best wishes for your continued success in informing and carrying the conservation banner.

Sincerely yours,  
Robb D. Hitchcock  
President

NORTH AMERICAN  
PRONGHORN FOUNDATION

For information contact:  
N.A.P.F.  
120 E. 9th, Suite 6273  
Casper, WY 82601  
307.235-6273

In the Winter 1996 issue of *Fair Chase* you mentioned in the "Associates Program Update" the concerns of Raymond Sandoval pertaining to the acceptance of trophies taken on private ranches where fees are charged to hunt. As a lifetime hunter (and a B&C Associate), I would have to say that I agree with Mr. Sandoval's concerns.

Hunting, particularly big game trophy hunting, is rapidly becoming a pastime for an elite made up of only those people with the funds and other resources necessary to pursue that pastime on private lands. I know that I will never be able to gain access to such places and my hunting colleagues have relegated themselves to the same fate. The public domain will continue to bear the brunt of hunting pressure therefore it will provide little in the way of trophy animal production.

Whether or not a trophy taken on private lands under a fee system is considered "fair chase" is a matter that needs thoughtful discussion. I worry about what this will mean for the future of trophy recognition.

Yours truly,  
Bill Frankenberger

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Check out my article on page 8 of this issue, as well as Part One of Reverend Theodore Vitali's article "Why Fair Chase?" on page 20. These articles offer some thought provoking discussion.

### WHY NOT POLAR BEARS?

On January 28, 1996, Super Bowl Sunday, guided by Charlie Ruben, Tony Green and Ruben Green of the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee, Paulatuk, Northwest Territories, I

was fortunate enough to take a monster of a polar bear.

Squaring almost eleven feet and weighing between thirteen hundred and fourteen hundred pounds. The bear's skull measurements should easily make the B&C minimum. Unfortunately, I can't bring this trophy of a lifetime home to New York.

I understand amendments have been made to allow importation of hides and skulls of polar bear into the U.S. from Canada.

What I don't understand is why I couldn't and still can't bring this bear home. Maybe someone at B&C can answer this question for me or get a reasonable answer from U.S. Fish and Game on this problem.

Sincerely,  
Pete Studwell

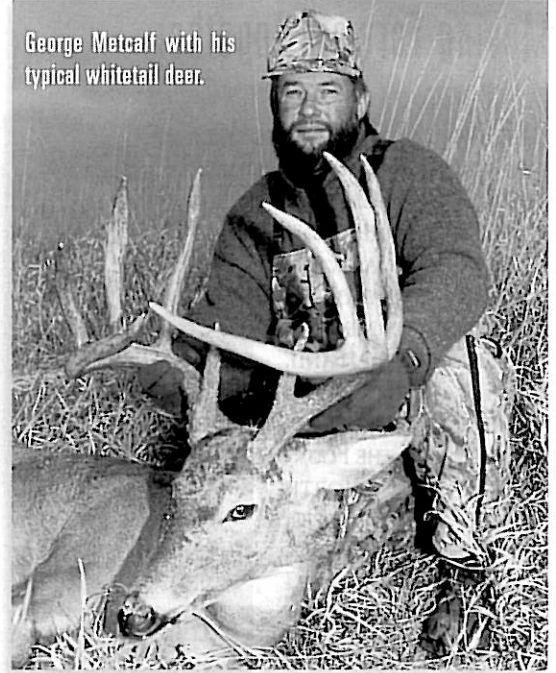
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Polar bears are eligible for entry in the Boone and Crockett

Club's Awards Programs as long as they are taken in full compliance with all applicable wildlife laws. While we can't help you import the bear into the U.S. yet, you can have it scored by a Canadian Official Measurer. Contact the B&C Headquarters for a list of Official Measurers in the province where the trophy is stored.

### THANKS GRAMPS!

I have been waiting a very, very long time to send you the enclosed forms. To me, this is the ultimate reward for over 25 years of countless hours pursuing the number one big game trophy, in

George Metcalf with his typical whitetail deer.



my opinion, that walks the face of this earth. An all-time Boone & Crockett Record Book Typical Whitetail Buck. The only way it could ever get better would be to do it again and that is even a more elusive honor I am assured.

I have been a proud Associate of B&C for several years and had the privilege of meeting some of you fine folks when I visited your headquarters and the TRM Ranch last September. The irony of a long awaited visit to these mystical places and my hunting success within a three month time frame has crossed my mind several times. I would gladly make the Montana pilgrimage on a regular basis if this could be documented as an element of success. Don't tell anyone else of this new found secret though, unless you are prepared to hire more staff for crowd control. However, more suitable facts can be attributed to my success.

I thank my great-great grandfather for moving to Illinois from New Hampshire in 1835 and purchasing the farm ground my family still resides on today. I am part of the fifth generation here and applaud his choice of ground along the rolling Mississippi River Bluffs in Pike County. According to B&C's most recent

(3rd edition) *Records of North American Whitetail Deer*, Illinois is currently #1 in the production of trophy whitetails. They come from all over the State, however, B&C official measurer, Tim Walmsley's, *Trophy Whitetails of Illinois Record Book* states more B&C eligible bucks come from Pike County than any other county in the State. Statistics say it don't get much better than here. Thanks Gramps!

Whitetail deer are my passion. So much that some years back, I successfully convinced the rest of my family to commit our 500 acres to the CRP Program and then with the help of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to dedicate it to wildlife habitat. And boy has it worked!

Prime location - one of North America's most abundant whitetail herds excellent habitat - and BINGO - trophy bucks! Eight 140 and above typicals in the last nine years! And now finally, a Boone! Trophy management should be the #1 priority of every state conservation program for whitetails and Pike County is being targeted as Illinois first! Justly so.

Put in your time, observe, learn and just maybe you will get your chance at the Record Book. With a little luck added in, you can achieve. I harvested this magnificent animal 450 yards from my back door. I've enclosed a photo that would make me proud if it were to grace the B&C photo gallery pages of *Fair Chase*. However, just being accepted into the all-time Book will be enough to trip my trigger.

Thank you from the heart for such a fine time honored organization and keep up the good work. If I can ever be of any help, feel free to count on me.

Sincerely,  
George R. Metcalf

B&C Associate, Donald Cowe took this whitetail deer near Go Home Lake in Ontario. As you can see by the photo this deer has three distinct antlers. It was officially scored at 151-4/8 points. Although not large enough to be considered for recognition, it is unique for an area that has no nuclear plants or toxic waste dumps.



B&C Official Measurer, Danny Caughey sent these photos of his sons with their Columbia blacktail bucks. Far Left - Robert Caughey, 12, and his buck taken with a .243 Savage. Left - Dan Caughey III with his buck that green scored 132.

## ASSOCIATES IN THE FIELD



B&C Associate, Steve Loros, with his mule deer buck taken in Elko County, Nevada. The buck has a 30-2/8 inch outside spread.

B&C Associate, Dan Robinett sent in this photo of his son, Virgil's first Coues' whitetail taken last October in Graham County, Arizona. He is 15-years old, a third generation Arizonan, and is turning into quite a hunter. They backpack in for most of their hunts.



B&C Official Measurer, Dave Boland, with a Coues' whitetail that he recently took in New Mexico.

