

TROPHY TALK



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Moose Point Determination Review

Scoring interpretations and measurements on each score chart are compared to the entry photographs to determine the accuracy of the scoring while entries are processed in the records

office. Special attention is given to the number of projections that qualify as points on each antler on moose score charts. Even though it isn't possible to determine with 100-percent accuracy whether or not a projection in a photograph qualifies as a point, it is possible to discount some triangular-shaped projections.

When a potential point-count discrepancy is detected, the Official Measurer is asked to double check his point count.

When we encountered these discrepancies in the past, we automatically assumed that scorers were simply counting all bumps as points without measuring them. However, it recently came to my attention that some scorers are determining the length of a projection on moose by incorrectly wrapping the tape over the top of the projection to its center. This is not correct. The length determination of a moose point is a straight-line measurement without wrapping the tape to the center of the projection. Thus, projections should actually be "carded," if necessary, though I have personally never found this necessary.

It is important that the number of points on moose racks be correctly counted because the number of points significantly contributes to the final score. Remember that in order for a projection to qualify as a point, it must be at least one inch long and with a width, at the point of measurement at one inch or more from the tip, less than the length (see Figure A). Point width, like

point length, is a straight-line measurement (no wrapping) taken perpendicular to the axis of the point as in Figure B.

While we're on the subject of moose points, I have been asked many times why moose points are just counted and not measured, and there actually is a very good reason. It is because the committee that developed the moose scoring system started with the premise that mature moose with very well-developed, wide palms and lots of short points are more desirable than racks from immature animals with very narrow palms and lots of long points. In their minds it was conceivable that a young moose with poorly developed palms, but lots of long points, could score much better than a mature animal if each individual point is measured.

Official Measurer Applications Solicited

Wouldn't you like the opportunity to see some "world-class heads" up close and personal, and to hear first-hand accounts of these once-in-a-lifetime hunts from their owners? If so, please consider becoming a Certified B&C Official Measurer. Not only do scorers have the opportunity to handle some outstanding trophies, but they also have an excellent opportunity to give something back to the sport we all love by providing a much needed public service in their area.

The Club's volunteer force of Official Measurers has always been the backbone of its records-keeping activities. There are 946 individuals currently scattered throughout North America who are qualified to score trophies for B&C. Measurers are appointed upon satisfactory completion of a 3-1/2-day measurer training workshop.

During years between Awards Program Banquets (e.g. 2005 and 2006), the Club conducts a number of workshops to train as many as 80 new Measurers per year to expand its scorer base and to replace retiring scorers. By the time you receive this issue of *Fair Chase*, the 2005 training season will be well under way in Kingsville, Texas, with the first of four scheduled workshops around the country.

While the candidates for this year's workshops have been nearly finalized, the Club is always looking for candidates for future workshops. Candidate selections are based on interest, enthusiasm, and location. Applications are currently being

DETERMINING POINTS ON MOOSE ANTLERS

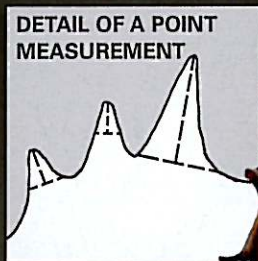


FIGURE B

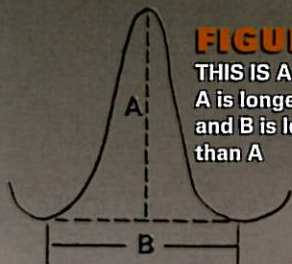
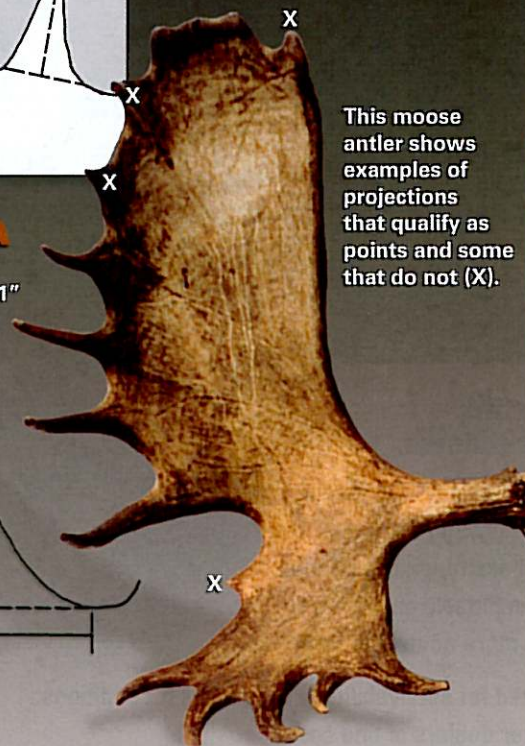
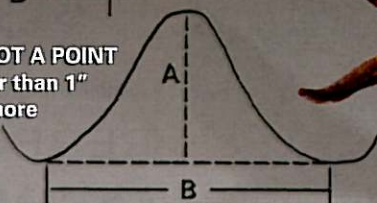


FIGURE A
THIS IS A POINT
A is longer than 1"
and B is less
than A

THIS IS NOT A POINT
A is longer than 1"
and B is more
than A



This moose antler shows examples of projections that qualify as points and some that do not (X).

accepted from interested individuals from all areas, but Table 1 lists areas where our Official Measurer needs are the greatest.

Workshops start with introductory sessions on the history of the Club and the scoring system. The remainder of the workshop consists of laboratory-type instruction where trainees receive hands-on experience scoring examples of all 38 categories of native North American big game recognized by the Club.

Official Measurers serve at the discretion of the Club, and there is no guarantee that all applicants will be invited to a workshop. However, everyone's application will be considered for future workshops. The Club will conduct four or five workshops next year at various locations around the country. Call the Club at 406/542-1888 for an application, or download a copy from our web site: www.booneandcrockett-club.com. Click on Big Game Records on the homepage and scroll down to Becoming a Measurer. Complete the application and return it to the address at the bottom of the application. ■

TABLE 1 Locations Where B&C Needs Scorers

- Alaska (Interior)
- Canada (Quebec, Ontario, and Maritime Provinces)
- Colorado (Pueblo and eastern half)
- Massachusetts (esp. Boston area)
- Minnesota (southwest quarter)
- Nevada (southern, including Las Vegas area)
- New England (esp. Rhode Island)
- New Mexico
- New York (upstate)
- North Dakota (north half)
- Pennsylvania (central)
- Texas (Panhandle)
- Washington (Tri-cities of Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick)



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