

TROPHY TALK



Jack Reneau
DIRECTOR
Big Game Records

Photo Entry Requirements

From 1973 to 1980, Boone and Crockett Club and the National Rifle Association co-sponsored the Club's records-keeping activities under a joint agreement known as the North American Big Game Awards Program (NABGAP). NRA provided the manpower and expertise to perform the day-to-day tasks of receiving and processing trophy entries while B&C retained its responsibilities of governing the Club's records-keeping activities. It was during this period that today's trophy entry requirements were fully developed and implemented. The entry requirements (Table on page 65) have remained essentially the same over the years, with slight modifications here and there.

I would like to focus this column on the photographs needed to complete entry in B&C's Awards Programs since the quality and types of photographs we receive vary significantly. The photographs are vital and serve a two-fold purpose.

First, they allow B&C staff to verify scoring procedures by comparing measurements on the score charts to trophy characteristics visible in the photos.

Second, photos serve the purpose of simply providing a permanent record for future generations of what each trophy looks like. As time passes, we lose track of many trophies as they are bought, sold, destroyed, inherited, etc. Unfortunately, there are several hundred score charts in our files from the early 1950s that do not

have any photographs. Photos were not an entry requirement back in the days when the Club was ramping up its records-keeping activities.

taken from several different angles, including from above, so that we can easily verify scoring procedures. If we do not receive these photos, we may request them. In rare



Box B
(Top)

Acceptable entry photos.

Box B
(Bottom)

The basic photo requirements are mentioned in the entry requirements box. However, the quality of photos we receive varies greatly. The digital photo age, along with widely varying printing capabilities, paper options and quality, has made receiving quality photos for the archives a new challenge. Thus, through examples, I would like to discuss the kinds of photos we need for each category.

All cat and bear entries should be accompanied with clearly focused photos of the front, left side, right side, and top of the clean, dry skull as illustrated in Box A. When possible, skulls and all other trophy photos should be taken in front of a plain background that does not interfere with the trophy's characteristics.

All other trophy entries should be accompanied with clearly focused close-up photos of the front, left side, and right side of the antlers, horns, and tusks. For some of the more complicated non-typical antlers, it is helpful to submit additional photos

instances, we may even ask the measurer to mark normal and abnormal points directly on the photos.

The photos in Box B (top) illustrate the types of photos we need if the trophy is mounted. Since we're interested in scoring details, it isn't necessary to include the entire mount in these photographs. In fact, we would prefer close-ups of the head and antlers. However, a nice portrait shot of the entire animal, for archival purposes, is also preferred. The photographs in Box B (bottom)



Box A



Box C

Marginally acceptable photos. Not enough detail is shown.

Box D
(Top)

Incorrect side photos of moose antlers.



Correct Photos.

Box D
(Bottom)



illustrate the photos we need if the trophy has not yet been mounted and is only on the skull plate.

Box C includes an example of photos that are marginally acceptable. As I mentioned earlier, the photos are used to determine if the trophy was correctly scored, but much of the detail is lost in photos such as these.

I want to single out moose photo requirements for special mention, as a high percentage of the side photos submitted for moose entries are taken from the wrong angle. Instead of submitting side photos taken at right angles to the antlers, the side photos are frequently taken of the front of the palms as in Box D (top), which are essentially the same as the front view of the

antlers. Thus, front and side photos of moose racks should be taken as illustrated in Box D (bottom) so that we can verify whether or not there are any abnormal points coming off the backs of the palms or from other points.

Digital Photos

Contrary to what is printed on many of the older and current score charts, B&C does accept digital photographs. However, digital photos must be of high quality and meet the following specifications.

A simple rule of thumb for printing digital photos is

that they should look similar in quality to photos processed at a print shop. Digital photographs submitted for acceptance into the Club's Awards Programs must comply with the following criteria:

- A. Camera quality: the resolution level of the image must be 2 mega-pixels and above.
- B. Printer: digital photographs must be printed at 1,200 DPI or better.
- C. Paper: digital photographs must be printed on glossy, photo-grade paper.
- D. Photo size: 3"x 4" or 4"x 6" singly, or three or four photographs per page on 8"x10" or 8.5"x11" glossy photo-grade paper. Do not send single 8"x10" photos.

At this time, B&C does not accept photos on CDs or via email, but the time may come when we do. ■

TROPHY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Original score chart, completed and signed by a qualified B&C Official Measurer.
2. Photographs of the front, left side, and right side of each trophy. Front, left side, right side, and top photo of clean, dried skulls for all cat and bear entries. Slides are not acceptable.
3. Fair Chase Statement, currently called Entry Affidavit, signed and witnessed by a notary public or B&C Official Measurer.*
4. Hunter, Guide, and Hunt Information form signed by the trophy owner.*
5. Copy of the hunting license.*
6. \$40 entry fee.
7. Field photograph, preferred.

* Applies to hunter-taken trophies only.

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Bansner's Ultimate Rifles, LLC
P.O. Box 839
Adamstown, PA 19501 USA
Phone: 717.484.2370
Fax: 717.484.0523
E-mail: bansner@ptd.net