

TROPHY TALK



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Drying Period

I would venture to say that the mandatory 60-day drying period is one of the most well-known policies of the Club's records-keeping program. Simply stated, all horns, antlers, skulls, and tusks must air-dry

for 60 days at a habitable room temperature before they can be officially scored for entry in the records book.

There still seems to be, however, some very serious misconceptions about this most basic requirement. To be more specific, the drying period is clearly not defined as "60 days from the date of kill."

A trophy that is frozen or stored in any situation (e.g. storage sheds or garages in winter) other than habitable atmospheric conditions must be dried for 60 days from the day it is removed from those conditions. The drying period for a boiled or freeze-dried trophy starts the moment it is removed from the boiling pot or freeze dryer, respectively. The drying period for a trophy cleaned by carrion beetles starts the moment it is removed from the colony unless extenuating circumstances clearly indicate

that it had not been frozen or soaked for a total of 60 days from the day it was killed until it was measured. If it had been frozen or soaked (a common practice) prior to being placed in the beetle colony, the drying period starts the day it is removed from the colony. In other words, any treatment that affects the natural drying process has a direct impact on the drying period.

Keep in mind that the 60-days do not include the day the animal was harvested, and that there are absolutely no exceptions to this policy. Trophies that

have dried for 59 days or less, as has happened on rare occasions, must be rescored, regardless of the fact that the amount of shrinkage that may occur between day 59 and 60 is likely imperceptible.

Another serious misconception regularly encountered by the records office is the belief that only the "contact points" must be cleaned to perform an official measurement on bear and cat skulls. Nothing could be further from the truth. While a skull doesn't have to be bleached, it has to be completely cleaned of all adherent flesh, fat, cartilage, and membrane before it can be officially measured.

The 60-day drying period also applies to picked-up trophies. However, if it is very clear from the condition of the trophy that it has dried for more than 60 days, one does not have to wait another 60 days to measure it. The Measurer should work with the trophy owner to ascertain whether or not conditions of the drying period for such trophies were met. If there is any doubt, the Measurer should not score a trophy until 60 days after it was found. Details concerning the drying period should be included in the narrative that must accompany all picked-up trophies.

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Why not Green Scores?

While we're on the subject of drying periods, I would like to take a few lines to discuss why B&C doesn't accept "green scores" since many people think they should be allowed. Simply stated, a green score is any measurement taken after an animal is harvested without regards to a drying period.

The current 60-day drying period was in place at the time the Club's copyrighted scoring system was announced to the hunting public back in 1950. They felt some

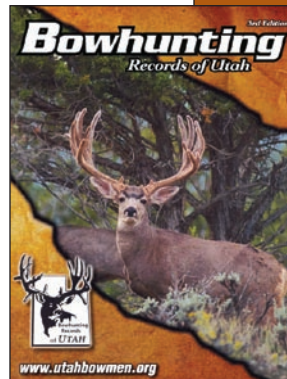
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BOOK REVIEW

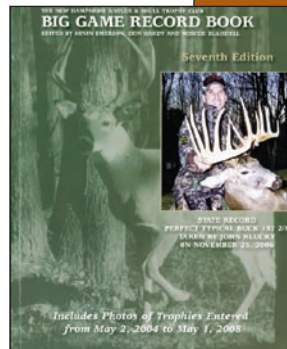
BOWHUNTING RECORDS OF UTAH

The Utah Bowmen's Association recently released the third edition of *Bowhunting Records of Utah*, which was founded in 1990 by B&C Official Measurer Dennis Shirley. There are 14 different categories of Utah's big game listed in this edition, including a separate category for typical mule deer in velvet. There are photographs and stories of each state record, as well as dozens of additional field photographs of hunters with their outstanding Utah trophies. Included are new state records for non-typical American elk, Rocky Mountain goat, Shiras' moose, and typical mule deer in velvet. Unique to this edition is a first-time listing for Utah's turkey. A copy of *Bowhunting Records of Utah*, which was edited by David Nielsen, can be ordered by sending a check or money order for \$25 to Kevin Adamson, Utah Bowmen's Association, 78 North 640 East, Lindon, UT 84042. This price includes shipping.



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BIG GAME RECORD BOOK

The New Hampshire Antler and Skull Trophy Club is very excited to introduce its seventh edition of *The New Hampshire Antler and Skull Trophy Club Big Game Record Book*, edited by Kevin Emerson, Don Hardy, and B&C Official Measurer Roscoe Blaisdell. It features the finest bear, whitetail deer, and moose taken in the Granite State. This edition includes trophy listings of well over 3,000 whitetail deer, bear, and moose. Also included are more than 300 photographs of interest to hunters, and exciting stories



by 30 successful New Hampshire hunters. Unique to this book are listings of New Hampshire whitetails weighing over 200 pounds, field-dressed. This soft-cover book can be purchased for \$19.95, plus \$3.50 S&H. Send your check to NHASTC, Roscoe Blaisdell, 22 Scribner Rd., Raymond, NH 03077, or call him at (603) 895-9947.

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 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.

sort of drying period was necessary because many of the trophies scored prior to 1950 had been drying for decades, and committee members felt the only way to be fair to those trophies was to require that all trophies go through a drying process. There is no record of why the committee set the drying period at 60 days and not 30 days, or a year, or some other arbitrary period of time.

In reality, there are perhaps other better reasons why there should be a standard drying period. Just imagine for a moment what it would be like if there wasn't one—I have. Hunters and guides would insist on having a measurer present on a hunt to score an animal the moment it hit the ground, possibly even before the customary field photos were taken, to avoid any perceived loss of trophy material. Hunters would be calling our volunteer measurers any time of the day or night to demand their trophy be scored on a moment's notice. Demands are already placed on measurers to score trophies exactly on the 60th day.

In instances where an Official Measurer was not on the hunt or readily available, a trophy would be immediately frozen and presented to a scorer before it was thawed. In worst case scenarios, unscrupulous individuals might be tempted to abandon an otherwise spectacular trophy just because it missed the book by a couple of inches or eighths of an inch and go in search of a larger animal. In other words, some hunters would lose sight of why they hunt. Thank goodness that those who came before us had the foresight to implement a drying period.

Age Data

In an effort to increase the value of the records data, B&C has, for decades, requested

and collected age data for all trophies entered in the program. This information is valuable in substantiating the contention that most trophy-sized animals have been around long enough to pass on their genes to the next generation and that many are past prime breeding age at the time of taking.

At the time trophy materials are submitted for an entry, trophy owners are asked to submit an incisor or small cheek tooth for all cats and bears. If a state fish and game agency has already determined the age of a trophy, please submit a copy of their report.

If the age of a trophy was determined by a trained wildlife biologist at a game check station by counting the horn annuli (e.g. sheep and goats) or the age-old replacement and wear method, we would like to know the trophy's age and method of aging. Otherwise, we will accept one-half of the lower jaw for any trophy.

We appreciate and thank everyone who has submitted a tooth or lower jaw for their trophy over the last few years. These materials were recently sent to a private lab for aging. It will take several months to receive the report, but as soon as we know the ages of these animals, we will notify the trophy owners who submitted the materials. ■

SPECIAL OFFER... FREE B&C SHIRT!



For a limited time, the Boone and Crockett Club is offering a **FREE B&C Easy Care Twill Shirt** for any orders totalling over \$200 from our *Trophy Memories Catalog*.

This special offer is only available for Boone and Crockett Club trophy owners. Keep your hunting memories alive by ordering items such as a custom ring or belt buckle today and receive one of these handsome wash-and-wear shirts. If you don't have

a copy of our newest catalog, call 888/840-4868 to request the *Trophy Memories Catalog*.

Sizes and colors are limited, so place your order today. Limited time offer, while supplies last.

