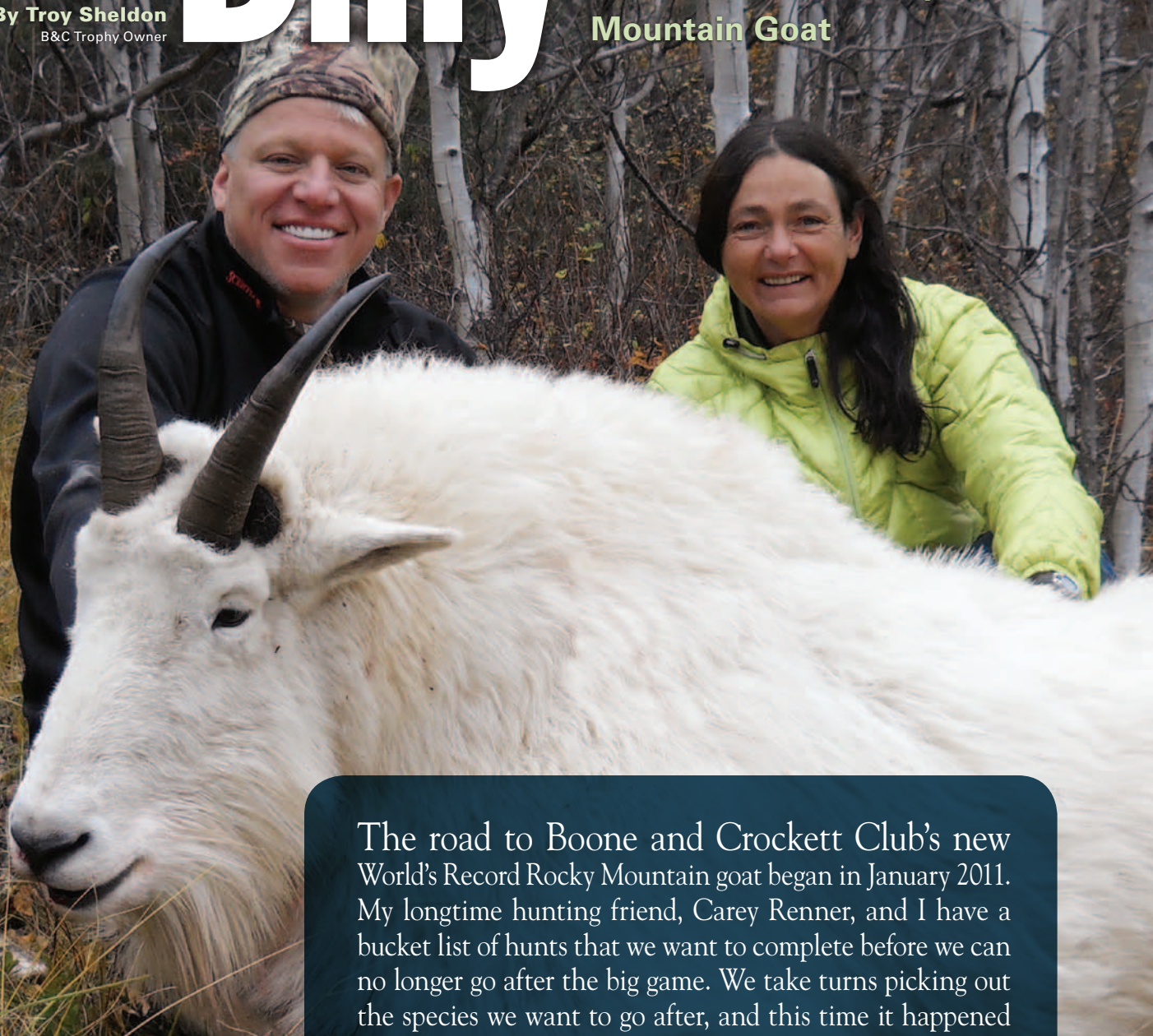


Billy Half-Buck

B&C Special Judges
Panel Verifies New
World's Record Rocky
Mountain Goat

By Troy Sheldon
B&C Trophy Owner



Troy Sheldon and his guide Heidi Gutfrucht with his new World's Record Rocky Mountain goat scoring 57-4/8 points. The billy was taken in British Columbia's Stikine River Drainage in 2011. Sheldon was shooting a 150 grain Winchester Ballistic Silvertip bullet with his Tikka T3 (.270 WSM) topped with a Nikon Monarch 3-9x40 scope.

The road to Boone and Crockett Club's new World's Record Rocky Mountain goat began in January 2011. My longtime hunting friend, Carey Renner, and I have a bucket list of hunts that we want to complete before we can no longer go after the big game. We take turns picking out the species we want to go after, and this time it happened to be my choice. I suggested the Rocky Mountain goat because it's one of the most challenging pursuits. With Carey onboard, we did our research finally choosing Heidi Gutfrucht of Northwest Ranching and Outfitting in British Columbia to be our guide. We agreed that we would take a late hunt to ensure the mountain goat's hide would have the maximum fullness. We booked our hunt for October 1, 2011.

As I prepared for the expedition, I scoured the Internet to determine what I might expect. There were several articles that provided guidance on what I had to look forward to, how to physically prepare for the journey, and what should be carried in the backpack. It soon became clear that I should have put more effort into the physical preparation, and a bit less on what I deemed necessary to be packed (except for the mole skin and duct tape, which when combined, are the most effective resources for hotspots and blisters!)

We arrived at Telegraph Creek by way of connecting flights from Vancouver, Smithers, and Dease Lake where Heidi met us at the landing strip. After a quick lunch, we were on our way up the Stikine River to start the backpack trip into our basecamp. About four hours into our climb, we reached the halfway point up the mountain. Being a free market advocate, I told Heidi that I had about \$1,000 in my pocket for anyone who would rent me a mule or packhorse. She seemed to find that incredibly funny.

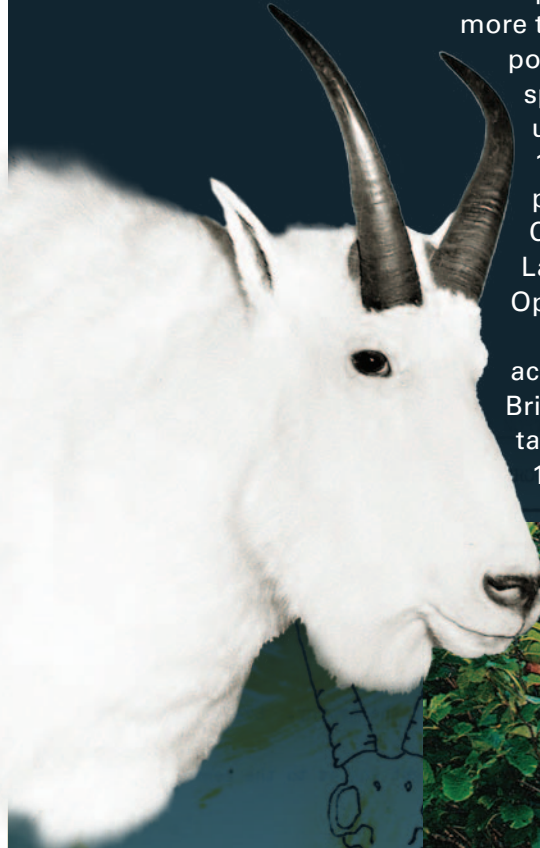
Since this was a two hunter and one guide trip, Carey and I agreed that we would take turns each day as to who would be the first to shoot when we came upon a suitable goat. After six days of walking up and down the mountains, and seeing a fair amount of nannies with kids but no billys that were accessible, Carey and I were starting to doubt our bucket pick. We stopped for a quick lunch at a large ravine, and Carey dug into his pocket and pulled out two quarters. He gave me one and took the other one, saying we needed to change our luck. We made our wishes, and pitched them down the 4,000 foot ravine. Throughout the rest of the day we did see some nice billys, but they were inaccessible. We returned to our basecamp and enjoyed freeze-dried beef stroganoff, and Carey said he felt that the following day would be a good one.

The next morning was October 8, and we were up and out of the spike camp at sunlight to get to a ridge about three hours away, where Heidi had seen some good goat activity the day before. The day was overcast with a light rain and about 40°F. We got to the ridge and crawled up to glass the other side for activity and saw a very nice billy eating in the plateau among the trees. We glassed him for about 20 minutes trying to get a good view through the thicket. Finally, he stepped out into a clearing, and we were

Previous World's Records Also Hail From British Columbia

"British Columbia continues to set the standard for Rocky Mountain goats," said Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner, chairman of Boone and Crockett Club's Records of North American Big Game Committee. "The province remains home to more than half of the world's population, and trophy-class specimens have been trending upward each decade since the 1970s. That testifies to the professionalism of the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations."

The previous record was actually a tie between two British Columbia goats, one taken in 1949 and the other in 1999, scoring 56-6/8.



ABOVE: E.C. Haase shot this record goat in B.C.'s Babine Mountains in 1949. Haase was awarded the Sagamore Hill Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Club for an outstanding trophy worthy of great distinction.

RIGHT: Fifty-two years later, Gernot Wober received the Club's Sagamore Hill Award for his record goat taken near Bella Coola, British Columbia. Wober was with his long-time hunting partner Lawrence Michalchuk when he shot the goat in 1999.

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|------------|
| | | 63 1/2 | 65 1/2 | --- |
| | | 4 1/2 | 4 1/2 | 1/8 |
| | | 3 1/2 | 3 1/2 | 1/8 |
| | | 2 | 2 | |
| TOTALS | | 28 5/8 | 28 3/8 | 1/8 |
| ADD | Column 1 | 28 5/8 | Exact locality where killed Babine Mts, B.C. | |
| | Column 2 | 28 3/8 | Date killed 1949 By whom killed E.C. Haase | |
| | TOTAL | 57 | Present owner Haase, E.C. B+C National Collection | |
| SUBTRACT | Column 3 | 1/8 | Address Ney, Ohio | |
| | FINAL SCORE | 56 1/8 | Guide's Name and Address Allen Fletcheres | |
| | | | Remarks: (Mention any abnormalities) | |
| | | | 1st Prize - 1949 Coupe | |

I certify that I have measured the above trophy on January 28 1950 at (address) ... City N.Y. State NY and that these measurements and data are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the instructions given.

Witness: Samuel B. Webb

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

New Pennsylvania State Record Elk Confirmed

The largest elk ever recorded in Pennsylvania, a bull taken by a lucky hunter in 2011, has been confirmed as the new state record. The official declaration was made today by the Boone and Crockett Club.

A B&C Official Measurer determined a final score of 442-6/8 B&C non-typical points, which ranks 9th among all non-typical elk in Boone and Crockett Club's records.

The bull has nine points on the right antler and eight on the left. The antlers tally 190-3/8 on the right and 188-1/8 on the left, with 47-7/8 inside spread and 29-7/8 in abnormal points. The antlers are unusually wide--an impressive 69 inches at their widest point.

The Boone and Crockett Club's scoring system is based on antler size and symmetry, and accepts only trophies taken in fair chase.

Since the early 1900s, the Boone and Crockett Club's scoring system has been used to measure the success of wildlife conservation and management programs across North America.

Elk are native to Pennsylvania but had been extirpated by the late 1870s. Hunters and game commissioners in 1912 began discussing the idea of re-introducing the species. The following year, a shipment of 50 elk arrived by train from Yellowstone National Park. Half were released in Clinton County, half in Clearfield County. It was the beginning of a long elk restoration and habitat conservation effort that by the late 1990s would begin to generate significant tourism, wildlife watching and, of course, hunting opportunities.

Today there are 10 Pennsylvania bulls recognized in Boone and Crockett records. Seven are non-typical elk with a minimum score of 385; three are typical elk with a minimum score of 360. All have been taken since 2003.

The new Pennsylvania record holder, William Zee of Doylestown, Pa., was hunting in Clearfield County, Pa.

"Congratulations to Mr. Zee, and especially to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for its work building one of America's most up-and-coming elk herds," said Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner, chairman of the Club's Records of North American Big Game committee.

The previous Pennsylvania state record for non-typical American elk was a bull scoring 441-6/8 taken in 2006 in Clinton County by hunter John Shirk.

Since the Zee bull is a Top 10 entry, its score will be panel-verified in April 2013 and announced during the Boone and Crockett Club's 28th Big Game Awards Program to be held in Reno, Nevada, in July 2013.

able to get good look, confirming that he was indeed a nice goat. Heidi did a quick laser range showing him 319 yards across a 100 yard drop-off with a five to seven mph crosswind, before he was concealed again by the thicket.

It was my turn to shoot, Carey was on the left side of me, and Heidi was on my right as we waited for what seemed to be an eternity for him to show himself again. (It actually turned out to be only about 20 minutes.) Finally, he stepped out between two trees and gave me about a two-foot window through which to shoot. I whispered to Carey asking what he thought about the shot, and his response was that it was a risky shot, but

if I was comfortable, to go ahead. Not a lot of help. I then turned to Heidi and she said about the same thing. I took a few moments and said a prayer that if it was God's will, please let my bullet fly true. I pulled the trigger, and the billy collapsed. After about a 45 minute hike, we found him lying in a small depression. We dressed him out and started our trip back down the mountain at about 1:30 p.m. Later that evening back at the base camp, Heidi called Carey and me over to where she was fleshing the hide, and said she thought he might be a record mountain goat. Little did we know just how right her prediction would be!

After the required drying period, the

"Half-Buck Billy" officially scored 57 points for Boone and Crockett Club on January 10, 2012, which made it a potential new World's Record. At this score, it exceeded Boone and Crockett Club's old World's Records (two way tie) by 2/8ths of an inch (see side bar for details on the previous World's Records).

On April 11, 2012, Boone and Crockett Club assembled a Special Judges Panel in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with veteran B&C Official Measurer Paul D. Webster as its Chairman to verify the score and status of my billy. Other panel members included Glenn E. Hisey, Kevin Hisey, Larry Streiff, and Pete Carlson, all highly experienced Official Measurers. Special Judges Panels are assembled anytime a potential new World's Record is accepted.

I almost missed my appointment with the Special Judges Panel because of a last minute business meeting I couldn't miss. So, Deb, my wife delivered my horns to the Panel in Minneapolis for me. I was later told that my billy was scored twice by two teams of two Judges each. Both teams scored the horns, and all differences were resolved by all four judges with Paul Webster as the supervisor.

In less than an hour, the Special Judges Panel was able to verify my trophy's score. When Deb picked it up, Webster said he couldn't tell her the score because that was the responsibility of Buck Buckner, the Chairman of B&C's Records Committee. However, he did hint to her that it did slightly better than the entry score. I was elated when I heard the news, but the suspense on hearing the final was killing me.

Webster reported the Panel's findings to Buck Buckner, who called me two days later to tell me that the Panel had indeed confirmed my billy as the new World's Record at 57-4/8 points. I was ecstatic with this score and couldn't wait to tell Heidi and Deb. Not only is my billy a new B&C World's Record, but it shattered the old World's Records by an incredible 6/8ths of an inch. This may not sound like much, but it is with goats. Boone and Crockett Club has been keeping records with its current scoring system for 63 years. It could be a long time before someone takes a better goat. ■



The new Pennsylvania record holder, William Zee, was hunting in Clearfield County when he harvested the bull scoring 442-6/8 points.

BEST OF 2012

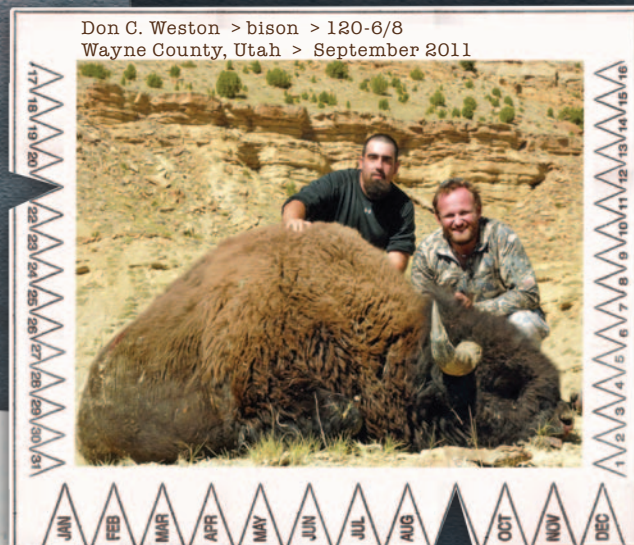


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The Boone and Crockett Club has a tradition of honoring trophies and the fair chase hunts that produce them, including photographs from the field. In keeping with this tradition, the Club, and our friends at Swarovski, thought it would be a good idea to take this one step further and celebrate some of the best examples of field photography, and share them with you in each issue of *Fair Chase*.

For the fourth year, our editors will be sifting through hundreds of field photos looking for exemplary trophy field photography. The most outstanding examples will be featured in the Spring 2013 issue with the top three being awarded prizes provided by Swarovski Optik.



Don C. Weston > bison > 120-6/8
Wayne County, Utah > September 2011



Brian K. Tillman > black bear > 20 6/16
Lynn Lake, Manitoba > May 2009



Klint M. Reinhardt > typical whitetail deer > 181
Buffalo County, Wisconsin > November 2010

WINNERS RECEIVE

SECOND PRIZE - 10x42 EL Swarovision

The combination of field flattener lenses and HD optic ensures impressive image resolution over the entire field of view. Thus providing outstanding contrast even when observing at dusk. Eyeglass-wearers also benefit from the full wide-angle field of view due to the large eye relief distance.



FIRST PRIZE - STM 65 HD

THIRD PRIZE - Z3 3-9x36

NOTE: All field photographs from accepted trophies in 2012 are eligible