

TROPHY TALK

Whitetail Deer — Abnormal Points



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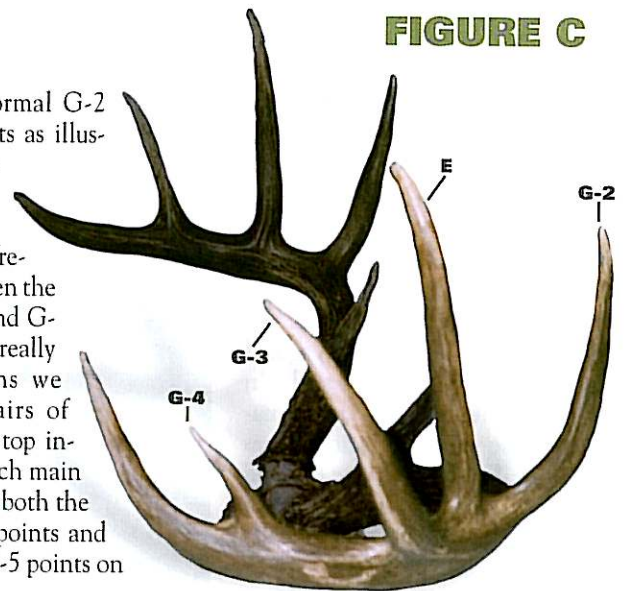
THE OFFICIAL MEASURERS manual, *Measuring and Scoring North American Big Game Trophies*, states that, "Normal points [on whitetail deer] arise from the top of the main beam at roughly spaced intervals and are usually paired with similar length points on the other antler." It also goes on to state that, "If a rack has two rows of side-by-side points on each antler, one row should be treated as abnormal points. Generally, the points in the outer row are measured as the normal points."

It is not very often that we see a rack with two complete rows of points. It is becoming increasingly common, however, to see entries in the records office with matching points that come off the top inside edge of each main beam. These points most commonly occur be-

tween the normal G-2 and G-3 points as illustrated in Figures A and B. Such points are seen less frequently between the normal G-3 and G-4 points. On really rare occasions we have seen pairs of points off the top inside edge of each main beam between both the G-2 and G-3 points and the G-4 and G-5 points on the same rack.

We have encountered some form of the condition illustrated in Figures A and B on nearly a dozen whitetail racks entered in the 24th Awards Program (1998-2000). I can

FIGURE C



recall only a handful of racks with these offset points submitted prior to the 24th Awards Program.

The reason this has become a serious problem is that there is a strong temptation for some measurers to score these offset points as normal points. In reality the points (labeled as E in Figures A and B) that arise from the top inside edge (and rarely the top outside edge) of the main beam are properly classified as abnormal points.

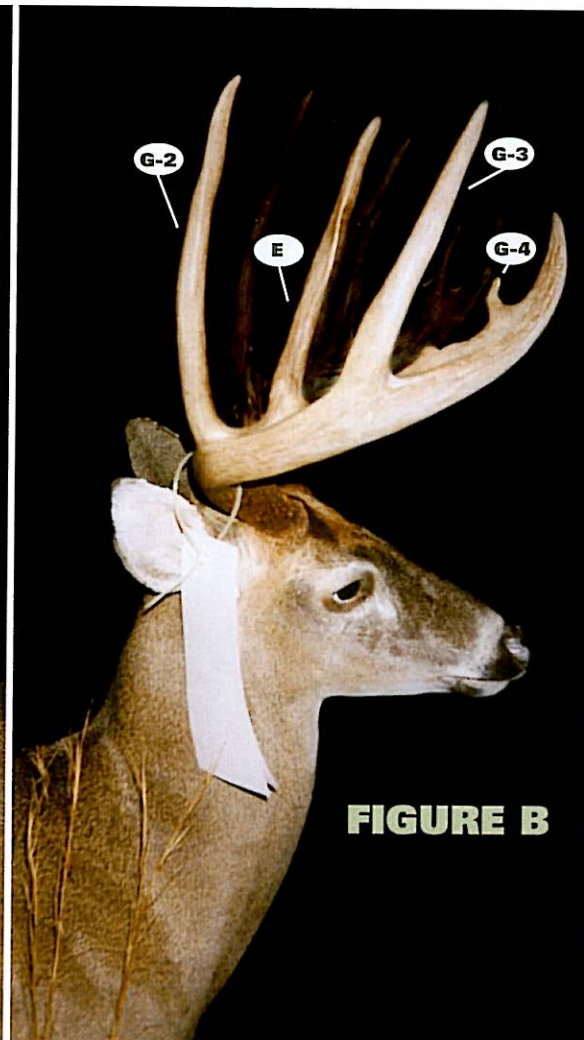
These offset points are difficult to recognize oftentimes for even the most experienced Official Measurer. This is partially due to the fact that most Official Measurers may only encounter this problem once in their lifetime. The only reason we have become conscious of this problem is because we process nearly a 1,000 whitetail deer entries each year.

There are two characteristics that should immediately identify these points as abnormal for the measurer even though they come off the top of the main beam. First, and most obvious, is the fact that they are out of line with the other normal points. Secondly, portions of the bases of these offset points frequently overlap the bases of other points on the top of the main beam. As a result, the 1/4-wide steel tape is occasionally twisted or kinked when one attempts to take a circumference measurement between the offset point and its neighboring nor-

FIGURE A



FIGURE B

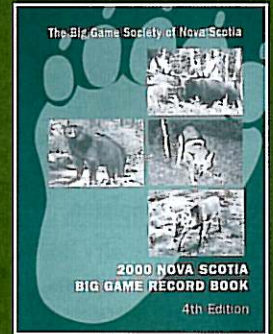


BOOK REVIEW

BIG GAME RECORD BOOK OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia recently announced and re-released the 2000 edition of Big Game Record Book of Nova Scotia. This is the 4th edition of a title that was initiated in 1989 with the release of the Society's 1st edition.

This 134-page softbound book, measuring 8-1/4" x 10-3/4", is dedicated to big game trophies exclusively taken in Nova Scotia. In addition to listing 1,500 big game trophies, this edition of Big Game Record Book of Nova Scotia includes over 300 photographs of Nova Scotia big game trophies, hunting stories, and articles on biology, conservation, statistics, etc. Only 1,000



copies of Big Game Record Book of Nova Scotia have been printed. You can order your copy by sending a check or money order for \$17 per copy to The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia, Book Division, PO Box 305, Windsor, NS B0N 2T0, CANADA. (All costs and fees listed are in Canadian dollars). Add \$3 (US residents add \$4) for shipping and handling for the first book ordered. S&H for each additional book is \$1.

While the 1st edition is sold out, copies of the 2nd and 3rd editions are still available while limited supplies last. Prices for the 2nd and 3rd Editions are \$8 and \$12 CA, respectively. The same S&H fees mentioned above apply for copies of the earlier editions.

BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

There are many state, provincial, and private organizations publishing local records books that use the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system with the express written 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. However, the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these publications. Many of the books 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 and archives are the final reference source to settle any and all discrepancies.

24TH AWARDS PROGRAM CLOSED

The 24th Awards Program (1998-2000) closed on December 31, 2000. Trophies accepted in time for inclusion in the 24th Awards Program (1998-2000) will be listed in Boone and Crockett Club's 24th Big Game Awards records book that will be released during Fall 2001 after the 24th Awards Program Banquet and related activities are held in Springfield, Missouri, in June.

In order for a trophy to be accepted in the 24th Awards Program it must have been scored no later than December 31, 2000, and the entry materials must have been received at Club headquarters with a postmark dated no later than January 2, 2001. The extra two days for mailing in entry materials were allowed because post offices were closed on New Years Eve and New Years Day.

Entries that are scored on or after January 1, 2001, or with postmarks dated January 3, 2001, or later, will automatically be processed for entry in the 25th Awards Program that began on January 1, 2001, and will close on December 31, 2003. Trophies accepted during the 25th Awards Program will be listed in the Boone and Crockett Club's 25th Big Game Awards records book that will be published during Fall 2004. There will be no exceptions to the deadline date.

mal point, though this is not always the case.

Offset points that come off the top of the main beam are an asset if they occur on non-typical racks since their lengths add into the final score. However, they are a liability to typical "appearing" racks since they are frequently the only abnormal points on an otherwise typical rack. Rarely do typical "appearing" trophies with these offset points make the minimum score of 160 points needed for entry in the typical category because the deduction for these offset abnormal points is just too great. These same racks could be scored as non-typical, but they seldom make the minimum score of 185 points needed for entry

in the non-typical category unless there are other abnormal points that add to the score.

Figure C illustrates a whitetail rack with an offset abnormal point on only one antler. I should point out that even if this point came off the top of the main beam in the normal location, it would be considered a non-symmetry point, which is also an abnormal point by definition. To avoid any further confusion, we will reserve a discussion of non-symmetry points for a future column.

So when you see points such as those shown in Figures A, B, and C be sure to measure them as abnormal points. If you are unsure, contact the Records Office for further advice. ▲ ▲ ▲



THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB would like to take this opportunity to thank Glenn and Kevin Hisey of the Pope and Young Club for conducting the Boone and Crockett Club's latest Official Measurer workshop in Minot, North Dakota during July 10-14, 2000. Upon their recommendation, the Boone and Crockett Club is pleased to announce the appointment of 19 new Official Measurers (listed below) who successfully completed all aspects of the required four-and-a-half day workshop. Feel free to contact the Records Office at 406/542-1888 for the telephone number of any of these individuals if they are in your area and you have a trophy that needs to be officially scored. You can also obtain a complete list of current Official Measurers in your state or province by calling the Records Office.

NEW OFFICIAL MEASURERS

Brent Allen, MacGregor AB
Dane K. Eider, Bismarck, ND
Chad L. Fink, Assiniboia, SK
Gerald C. Foster, Edmonton, AB
Lester W. Jass, Merrillan, WI
Warren Johnson, The Pas, MB
Martin Luke, Ste. Rose du Lac, MB
Marty D. Malone, Roundup, MT
Thomas J. Milne, Vernon, BC
Paul F. Ostrum, Hayward, WI
Adam J. Oswald, Brandon, SD
Don Patterson, Sparwood, BC
John R. Plesuk, Minot, ND
David E. Powell, Lacombe, AB
Brian D. Scarnegie, Island Lake, IL
Jeffery L. Senske, Hayward, WI
Reg Soyka, Yarbo, SK
Mark A. Verble, West Baden Springs, IN
Jason J. Zins, Fargo, ND