

BEYOND P.R. APP'D. 9 252 Tc 10 The SCORE

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Joseph Grygelko's 2009 Minnesota Black Bear

Joseph Grygelko's 2009 Minnesota black bear is a trophy of a lifetime, though after a disappointing slip of the saw by the processor, the bear almost missed qualifying for Boone and Crockett Club's All-time records.

The Grygelko family had spent the fall scouting their northwestern Minnesota property in preparation for the upcoming bear season for which both Joseph and his brother John had tags. Joseph started hunting earlier in the week before his brother could get away from his studies during his first year at University of Minnesota's pharmacy school.

After a few days of hunting, Joseph got his opportunity. Three well-placed shots from a .338 Winchester Magnum had no visible effect on the big boar, and it ran off into the woods. Hunting alone, Joseph slowly worked over the area until he found the wounded bear's trail. Just 75 yards from where he had first hit the bear, he found his trophy. When he field dressed the bear and tried to drag it back to camp, the task proved too daunting. So he called another brother, Jake, who was a six-hour drive away. Eventually, the two of them got the bear to the camp freezer.

A few days later, John arrived and took a nice bear as well. With the two animals loaded together into their truck, Joseph's trophy all but hid John's respectable bear, though John reported that while a little jealous, he was just as excited about his brother's good fortune. Joseph's bear weighed in at just shy of 500 pounds when they finally got it to a check station with a scale that had a capacity high enough for the big fellow.

With the bear at a meat processor they had used previously, the brothers left in high spirits for the long drive home. After the bears were ready, their father Tom picked up the meat and skulls and returned to St. Paul, where he took the skull to a bone processing specialist for the cleaning and drying required before it could be considered for a Boone and Crockett Club record. When the specialist looked at the skull, he complimented its size.

Then he asked where the remainder was.
Half an inch of the skull was cut off during processing!

After the disheartening news, they returned to the processor, where they searched through the scrap bin looking for any pieces of the skull that remained. Fortunately, they located the missing chunk and had it cleaned as well.

Boone and Crockett has a policy that a broken or damaged trophy can be measured, provided it has not been repaired and the damaged piece irrefutably fits together. In this case, the records department required the trophy to be shipped to B&C headquarters in Montana. Upon arrival, it was carefully examined and determined that the included piece was the original material that was removed. While the material that was removed by the actual saw blade could not be replaced, the correlating ridges and indentions all matched perfectly. After determining that it was authentic, the bear's score was raised from 20 15/16, as measured without the cut-off piece, to 21 7/16, tying it for the 17th largest bear entered in Boone and Crockett Club's records from the Land of 10,000 Lakes. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: A word of caution to those of you who are fortunate enough to harvest a trophy bear and decide to have it professionally processed: we receive one to two bears each year that have had the back of the skull accidentally removed. Make sure your butcher takes care to leave the entire skull intact for you.



LEFT: Joseph Grygelko and his brother John with their black bears. **ABOVE:** Joseph's skull was shipped to B&C headquarters where the piece was examined and determined authentic, raising his score to 21-7/16 points.

This column is dedicated to those trophies that catch our eye as they come across the records desk at Boone and Crockett Club's headquarters. Some score high, some are downright entertaining, and many are just unique.

Unfortunate Demise of One of Alberta's Monarch Rams

While stories in this column generally focus more on hunter-taken trophies, every once in a while we feel it is appropriate to tell the stories of trophies that have been picked up. Such is the case with this Alberta ram.

Processing trophies for the Club is truly an honor, and I guarantee it never gets old seeing the finest specimens of North American big game come across my desk. Although even when this office is exposed to thousands of trophies, a ram of this magnitude still causes one's jaw to hit the table.

When this particular ram came in, the first thing I saw was an entry score of 207 4/8 points. This is within one inch of Guinn Crousens' current World's Record bighorn that scores 208 3/8. Quite honestly, I thought it must have been an entry error. A 207 ram doesn't just appear every day. As I removed the pictures and began to verify measurements, all 207 inches became readily apparent. The lengths for the right and left horns are 45 2/8 and 46 2/8 inches, respectively. The basal circumferences are 16 4/8 or better, and the fourth circumference is still almost 11 inches on the small side (10 6/8).

A ram of this caliber coming from Alberta is not much of a surprise, though the story of how it lived and eventually died does not involve a hunter. Rather, this monarch was rumored to have been born on a sheep reserve where he reached maturity and then wandered off to a nearby ranch. He and a lesser ram lived on a steep, rocky-faced ridge for a year. The big ram would make a bi-monthly trek from his rocky overlook down near the passing highway. Every time he did, the rancher who owns the land where he was living would worry it may be his last. He had become fond of watching the ram on a daily basis, so when he found him dead alongside the highway the morning of January 19, 2009, he was very disheartened.

The owner, Todd Snodgrass, contacted Alberta Fish and Wildlife who authorized him to move the dead ram away from the road. Officers came out later that day and issued Mr. Snodgrass a permit to possess the ram. While this ram was not harvested by a hunter, Boone and Crockett Club accepts picked up animals so they can be properly recognized, and conservation agencies receive credit for their management efforts. It is officially accepted at 207 4/8. Since it is a top-10 All-time entry, it will be invited to the 28th Awards Program, which is scheduled for Reno, Nevada, in summer of 2013. At that time, the ram will be panel-measured, and if the measurements are verified, it will be the third-largest bighorn ram ever accepted by Boone and Crockett Club. ■



B&C Record Bighorn Sheep

Score	Length of Horn		Circumference of Base		Circumference at Third Quarter		Greatest Spread	Tip to Tip Spread	Locality	Hunter	Owner	Date Killed	Rank
	R	L	R	L	R	L							
208 3/8	47 4/8	46 5/8	15 7/8	15 7/8	12	11 3/8	23 1/8	23 1/8	Luscar Mt., AB	Guinn D. Crousen	Guinn D. Crousen	2000	1
208 1/8	44 7/8	45	16 5/8	16 5/8	11 2/8	11 7/8	22 6/8	19 3/8	Blind Canyon, AB	Fred Weiller	Clarence Baird	1911	2
207 4/8	45 2/8	46 2/8	16 5/8	16 4/8	11 3/8	10 6/8	25 5/8	23 6/8	Longview, AB	Picked Up	Todd R. Snodgrass	2010	*
207 2/8	45	45 2/8	15 6/8	16	11 6/8	11 7/8	23 1/8	19 3/8	Oyster Creek, AB	Martin K. Bovey	Aly M. Bruner	1924	3