

TROPHY TALK

Six Potential New World's Records



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PRONGHORN SPREAD PENALTY DROPPED

AT ITS 1994 MEETING, THE CLUB'S RECORDS COMMITTEE DROPPED THE PENALTY APPLIED TO PRONGHORNS WITH "EXCESSIVE SPREAD". IN THE PAST, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LENGTH OF THE LONGER HORN AND THE INSIDE SPREAD WAS DEDUCTED FROM THE FINAL SCORE IF INSIDE SPREAD EXCEEDED THE LENGTH OF THE LONGER HORN. THIS CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE WITH THE 23RD AWARDS PROGRAM THAT STARTED ON JANUARY 1, 1995, AND WILL BE RETROACTIVE TO ALL PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED TROPHIES AFFECTED WITH THIS PENALTY. ANTELOPE TROPHIES WITH SPLIT SKULLS WILL STILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY, AND TROPHIES (FREAKS) WITH HORNS AT UNUSUAL ANGLES, WHERE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE THE INSIDE SPREAD, WILL BE TREATED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

AS YOU NO DOUBT KNOW, THE CLUB'S 22ND AWARDS PROGRAM (1992-1994) CLOSED DECEMBER 31, 1994. WHAT YOU'LL BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED TO KNOW, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE RECEIVED A RECORD 3,239 ENTRIES DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS. TO DATE WE'VE ACCEPTED 2,877 TROPHIES AND REJECTED ANOTHER 81 FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF REASONS, LEAVING ANOTHER 281 ENTRIES STILL PENDING.

This is the greatest number of entries ever received by the Club during a single Awards Program since the first one was held in 1947. This total exceeds the 2,600 trophies accepted during the preceding 21st Awards (1989-1991) by 20%.

Typical (721) and non-typical (384) whitetail deer combined, continue to make up approximately one third of the total entries. This is a trend that is consistent with figures compiled during several previous Awards Programs.

Pronghorn and black bear were the next two most productive categories for hunters with 318 and 171 entries, respectively. Barren ground caribou had the greatest increase in entries over the previous entry period for a grand total of 154 trophies. This is a better than 100% increase over the previous three years when we received 75 entries in this category.

SIX POTENTIAL NEW WORLD'S RECORDS

Not only are the numbers up, but the quality is also there. For example, of those trophies entered, six of them are potential new World's Records. Five were taken or found during the last few years.

The trophy generating the most interest is the potential new World's Record typical whitetail deer taken by Milo N. Hanson in 1993 near Biggar,

Saskatchewan. As you may recall from an earlier column, Hanson's buck's entry score is 213-1/8 points and exceeds the current World's Record by 7 points.

Other potential World's Records have been accepted in the following categories: non-typical mule deer, Alaska-Yukon moose, Central Canada barren ground caribou, muskox and Pacific walrus. All are recently acquired trophies with the exception of the potential new World's Record non-typical mule deer that was taken during the latter half of the last century by an unknown Indian in British Columbia. At its entry

score of 388-1/8 points, it has the potential of exceeding the current World's Record non-typical taken in Alberta in 1926 by 32-7/8 points. From the photographs and score chart we received, it is a very spectacular trophy with 33 measurable points on the right antler and 25 on the left.

During the closing days of the 22nd Awards Program, we received and accepted an Alaska-Yukon moose taken by John A. Crouse along the Fortymile River in Alaska in 1994 that scores 260 points, five points greater than the current World's Record. Mr. Crouse said he really didn't realize what he had until he had it officially scored.

Two specimens have been accepted in the Central Canada barren ground caribou category that exceed the current World's Record. The largest was taken by Donald J. Hotter III during the 1994 caribou hunting season near Humpy Lake, N.W.T., and scores 428-1/8 points, breaking the current World's Record by 15-3/8 points. A second trophy, taken by Al Kuntz two days earlier in the same area



ABOVE:
BOB HOWARD'S
NON-TYPICAL MULE
DEER IS A POTENTIAL NEW WORLD'S RECORD.
IT SCORES 388-1/8 POINTS.

LEFT: GEORGE G. TIBBETTS, JR.'S PACIFIC WALRUS WAS PICKED UP NEAR EGEGIK, ALASKA IN 1970. THE WALRUS SCORES 147 POINTS AND IS ALSO A POTENTIAL NEW WORLD'S RECORD.

scores 426-1/8 points.

Potential World's Records have been received and accepted in the muskox and Pacific walrus categories. The former was taken in 1993 by Jeff Meyerl on Kent Peninsula, N.W.T., and scores 126 points, potentially exceeding the current World's Record by 6/8ths of a point. The latter is a specimen that was picked up on the beach near Egegik, Alaska, and scores 147 points, 1-2/8 points more than the current World's Record taken by an Eskimo near Point Hope, Alaska, in 1957.

The Club's Awards Programs stand as a testimonial to the fact that wildlife management is working. Hunters have a better chance of getting a trophy now than at any other time in our history. I can't help but wonder what the pioneer conservationists Club members like Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell, and Gifford Pinchot would think if they were here today. The antis don't have a leg to stand on when they say that hunting is detrimental to wildlife populations.

