

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S 29TH AWARDS PROGRAM

TROPHY TALK



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Director of Big Game Records

On behalf of the Boone and Crockett Club and the records committee, it gives me great pleasure once again to invite you to attend the premier hunting event in North America this year - Boone and Crockett Club's 29th Big Game Awards Program Banquet and associated activities that will take place in Springfield, Missouri, July 13-16, 2016. Not only will you have the opportunity to view well over 100 of the finest North American big game trophies taken in the last 100 years, but you will also have the opportunity to meet the hunters who took them, hear their hunting stories firsthand, and make some new friends and hunting companions. Perhaps you'll be able to take home a few choice tips that will enable you to connect with that once-in-a-lifetime trophy. I can assure you that you will not regret the decision to go.

B&C began the Awards Program recognition banquets in 1948 to honor the finest big-game trophies taken by modern-day hunters, to recognize the hunters for their significant achievements, and to celebrate the conservation successes of sportsmen like Theodore Roosevelt who founded Boone and Crockett Club in 1887. If it wasn't for Roosevelt and his fellow Club members, we would probably not be enjoying the fruits of their labor today.

The guests of honor at the banquet will be the fortunate handful of sportsmen and sportswomen who have harvested some of the largest North American big-game animals ever taken by hunters and recorded by B&C. The highly prized B&C medallions and plaques will be presented at the 29th Awards Program Banquet on Saturday, July 16, 2016, to those few fortunate trophy owners who have accomplished something that

most of us only imagine in our dreams. The quality and quantity of trophies that will be honored during this premier hunting event continues to serve as proof positive that we are actually living the "good old days!"

I have personally attended twelve such banquets since I became involved with the Club in 1976, and I never cease to be amazed at the quality of trophies on display, which can only be described with superlatives. Approximately 100 award-winning trophies will be on display at America's Wildlife Museum and Aquarium next to Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield during May through July.

The Club is also pleased to announce that it is hosting its third youth hunter recognition program which has come to be known as the Jack Steele Parker Generation Next Banquet. This event will spotlight hunters who have accomplished a lifetime achievement of taking a B&C trophy at age 16 or younger. In total, nearly 158 youths who had a B&C trophy accepted during the 29th Awards Program (2013-2015) have been invited to attend and display their trophies at America's Wildlife Museum and Aquarium (AWMA) in Springfield. This is an exceptional world-class wildlife museum and aquarium that is solely dedicated to the American hunter and



BELOW: 1957 8th Big Game Awards Exhibit



angler, and their role in successful conservation. The Youth Recognition Banquet will be held in their honor on the evening of July 15 at the University Plaza Hotel. Youth who display their B&C trophy at AWMA will receive two complimentary tickets for this unique and memorable banquet, and will be presented with a certificate to recognize their accomplishment.

All B&C Official Measurers have been invited to attend the second Field Generals Luncheon hosted to honor their contributions to

the Club's universally recognized records-keeping program. It is a great opportunity to visit with other Official Measurers from all over North America and discuss experiences. Official Measurers who attend will receive two complimentary tickets to this luncheon; a beautiful belt buckle to memorialize their attendance at this event, and a unique certificate to recognize their years of service to the Club's records program.

All attendees will have plenty of opportunities to share their unique hunting experiences with fellow hunters, including many who have harvested that unique trophy of a lifetime – a B&C animal. Who knows, you might even take home some tips that aid you or someone you know in taking a records-book animal in the years to come. You may even meet someone who will become a lifetime hunting companion, which has happened more than once at past Awards Programs.

The weekend of events will culminate with the 29th Awards Program Banquet on July 16, where hunters who have taken an exceptional B&C specimen will be recognized with beautiful B&C plaques and medallions.

Everyone should watch their mailbox for a complete schedule of the 29th Awards Program activities and registration information! Registration materials will be sent to all Official Measurers, youth trophy owners, associates, and Club members. As soon as all the details are worked out, it will also be possible to register online at www.BigGameAwards.com

29TH AWARDS PROGRAM SUMMARY

As you already know, the 29th Awards Program (2013-2016) closed on December 31, 2016, without any fanfare or serious glitches. Any trophies received with postmarks after that date are entries in the 30th Awards Program (2016-2018) that closes December 31, 2018.

With the close of the 29th Awards Program, I have put together some very interesting statistics. A total of

4,832 entries were received in the 29th Awards Program, which means the total number of trophies was down 786 (12 percent) compared to the previous, 28th Awards Program (2010-2012). Except for the typical and non-typical whitetail deer categories, which were down a combined total of about 410 entries, there was roughly a 10 percent decline in entries across the board in most categories according to Justin Spring. We are not aware of any specific reasons for the decline in overall number of whitetail deer entries, but the records office had noticed declines in the number of entries throughout the entire range of whitetail deer, especially in the upper Midwest. The table below illustrates how the 29th Awards Program stacks up in the total number of entries and the total number of accepted entries with the previous 10 Awards Programs, beginning with the 20th Awards Program which encompassed the years 1986-1988.

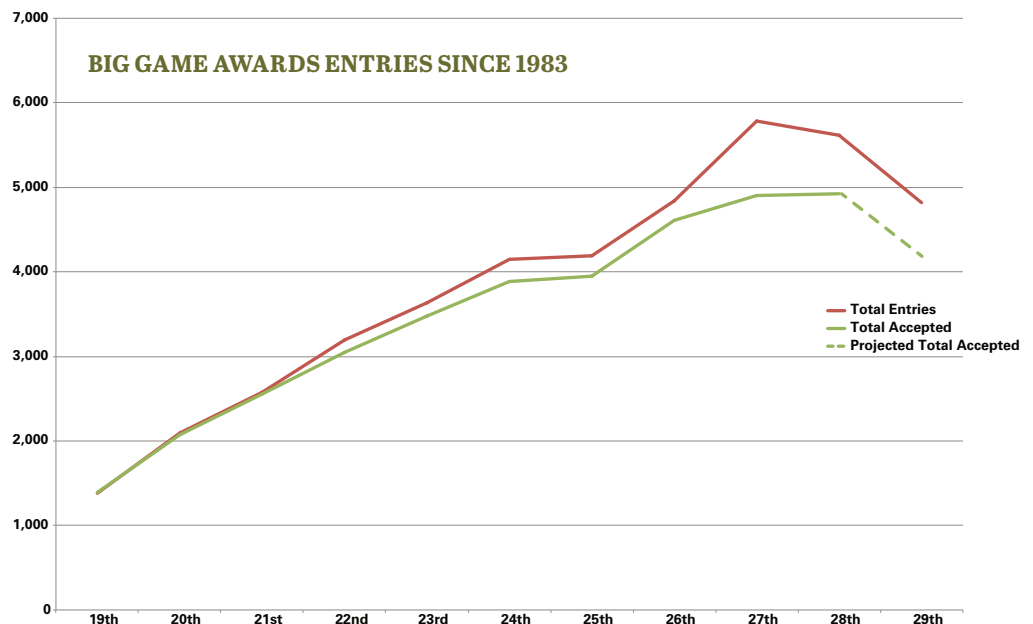
I cannot include an accurate figure for the number of trophies accepted in the 29th Awards Program yet



ABOVE: Each trophy owner will be recognized individually on stage and presented with a plaque and medallion in honor of their trophy.

RIGHT: A total of 4,832 entries were received in the 29th Awards Program, which means the total number of trophies was down 786 (12 percent) compared to the previous, 28th Awards Program (2010-2012). Except for the typical and non-typical whitetail deer categories, which were down a combined total of about 410 entries, there was roughly a 10 percent decline in entries across the board in most categories.

OPPOSITE: All Official measurers in attendance at the Field General's Luncheon will receive this belt buckle.



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because it may take a couple of months to complete the 364 that are still working their way through the system. Some of those will be rejected for failure to complete all entry requirements and many others will be transferred to the 30th Awards Program. As of January 14, 2016, a total of 3,927 entries have been accepted in the 29th Awards Program, which means the grand total of accepted entries could be 4,291 at best if all 364 unaccepted entries were completed in time for inclusion in the 29th Awards Program.

POTENTIAL NEW WORLD'S RECORD ACCEPTED

The Club's records department is very excited to announce that B&C just accepted another potential New World's Record Alaska-Yukon moose, scoring 270-6/8 points, in

time for inclusion in the 29th Awards Program. As a potential new World's Record, its final score, which is 7-1/8 points greater than Heinz Naef's World's Record bull, must be verified by an Awards Program Judges Panel or a Special Judges Panel to take top place honors. Since it is so close to the 29th Awards Program Judges Panel, the score will be verified at the end of April in Springfield. This magnificent bull was taken by Rex J. Nick on the Lower Yukon River, Alaska, on September 26, 2010, and remained undiscovered until recently.

THANKS TO OFFICIAL MEASURERS

Once again, Richard T. Hale, the Records Committee Chair, and the records department staff would like to publicly thank all of our Official Measurers who donate their talents and countless hours of their precious time to make B&C's records-keeping



The 29th Awards Program Judges Panel will meet in April to verify the scores of the trophies entered.

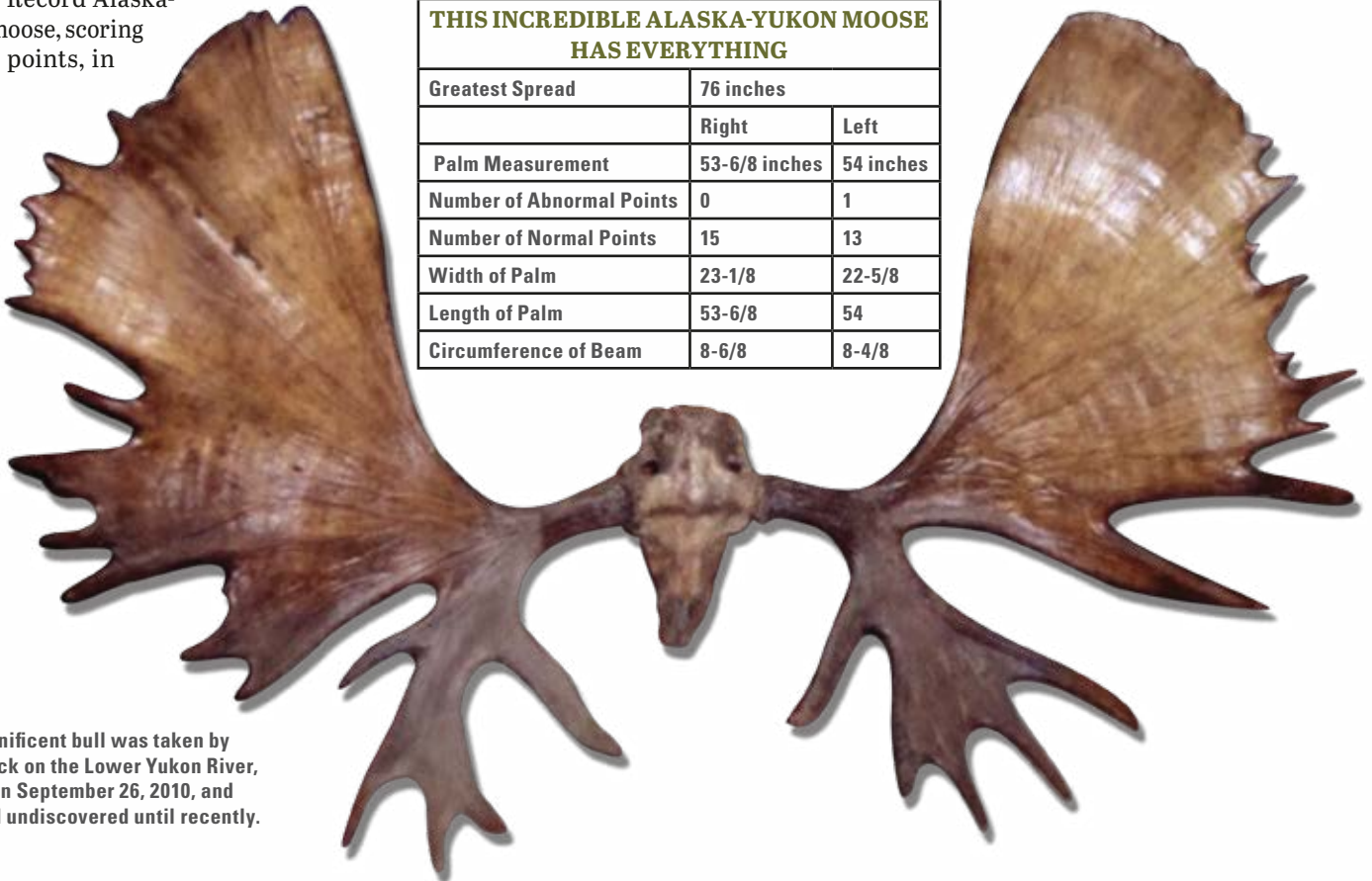
activities possible. We especially appreciate Official Measurers who contact the records office to resolve scoring problems they encounter while scoring trophies and before they submit completed score charts. During the last year I have received as many

as three such emails or calls from Official Measurers in a single day. Settling scoring issues before score charts are submitted avoids significant processing delays. ■

Jack Reneau

THIS INCREDIBLE ALASKA-YUKON MOOSE HAS EVERYTHING

Greatest Spread	76 inches	
	Right	Left
Palm Measurement	53-6/8 inches	54 inches
Number of Abnormal Points	0	1
Number of Normal Points	15	13
Width of Palm	23-1/8	22-5/8
Length of Palm	53-6/8	54
Circumference of Beam	8-6/8	8-4/8



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