

POLICY AND PROCEDURE CHANGES

TROPHY TALK



JUSTIN SPRING

B&C PROFESSIONAL MEMBER
Director of Big Game Records

I hope this column finds all of you well and you had a joyous holiday season. As has been the case since our founding, Boone and Crockett Club's annual meeting is held every year in early December. For 2017, we met in Savannah, Georgia, with the Records Committee meeting being one of the first on the two-day meeting docket. This opportunity allows the 30-member committee to review records-related issues that have come up over the previous year as well as discuss any policy or procedure changes that may be warranted. These agendas span quite an array of topics: permission to use Boone and Crockett's scoring system, Official Measurer actions and trainings, difficult or new scoring questions, and policy review are common topics on the list.

This year was another great meeting, and there are two topics we addressed that I want to share with you as it may impact some of our Official Measurers (OMs).

First is the process in which asterisked trophies (those that were not sent in for panel judging) must go through to have an asterisk removed. Trophy owners are familiar with our policy that any trophy not sent in for panel judging will be asterisked in that awards period's publication. The only exception to this rule is trophies that

cannot be sent to a Judges Panel due to legal constraints—currently these include polar bear and walrus entries from Canada. All other trophies must be in attendance or will be asterisked in the awards book for the program for which they were invited. In some cases, a trophy cannot be sent due to extenuating circumstances, though the trophy owner would like the asterisk removed before it's listed in the next All-time book.

Our policy reads:

In lieu of score verification by a Judges Panel, trophy scores can be verified by the submission of two additional score charts prepared independently by two more Official Measurers other than the one that prepared the entry score chart.

Our discussion was a clarification on what would be accepted for these score charts. In some cases, two Official Measurers would collaborate and send in a single verifying score chart, and in many cases this was accepted. The question before the committee was whether this was in violation of our written rule, and the committee determined that the intent of having two different OMs prepare independent charts best served the purpose of

score verification. In the event a single score chart is used to verify an entry score, any variation that exists leaves us only two options to consider. Three independent charts gives the committee three qualified assessments of the measurement in question and allows a more definitive verification if a measurement from the entry score chart may need updated. As such, going forward, all trophies will need to be independently scored by two separate Official Measurers beyond the original Official Measurer and submitted to the office for review to verify an entry score on an asterisked trophy.

The second issue before the committee had to do with ascertaining the length of prong on a prong that has been broken off. According to the manual, measuring should take place along the top of the prong to the tip but there are no instructions on a broken prong. While the likelihood of a pronghorn with a broken prong making the Boone and Crockett minimum score is unlikely, we are commonly questioned on these type of things to ensure uniform scoring on all trophies regardless if they make the minimum entry score or not. Generally speaking, horned



Official Measurers scoring pronghorn will have updated information in the next measuring manual.

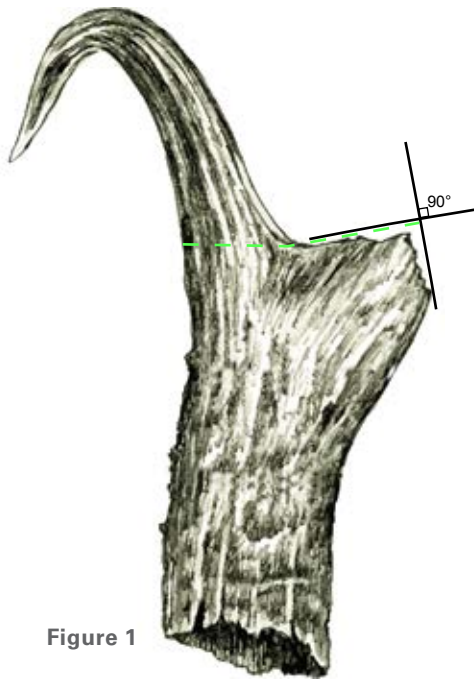


Figure 1

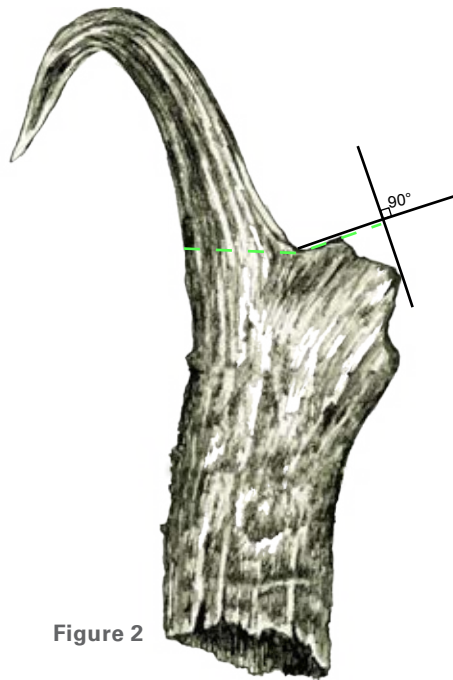


Figure 2



Figure 3

game is carded to determine, for example, a horn length on sheep where brooming is common. On a whitetail point that is rounded, similar to a thumb, is the wording in the manual, the tine length is wrapped around to the end. In addressing the broken prong issue on a pronghorn, obviously a horned animal, it was determined that carding was the correct procedure to be utilized. Going forward, the length of a broken prong will be determined by placing a card perpendicular to the line created by the furthest extending top edge of the unbroken prong. The updated manual wording will be as follows with the accompanying diagrams (above):

The proper measure of a broken prong starts at the point created by the edge of a card laid perpendicular to the line created by the unbroken top edge of the prong. (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2) The measurement will then continue along this established line to the top edge of the prong to the point where it meets horn

material. From this point of contact with unbroken horn material, the measurement continues as described for non-broken prong length measurement. In certain cases, a prong may be broken to the point where an unbroken top edge of the prong does not exist to establish an angle of the prong for carding. In this case, the length of prong will start where the top of the prong would have been and only include the width of the horn terminated by point of contact on the rear of the prong. (Fig. 3)

This particular pronghorn was brought up on the newly created B&C Official Measurers Facebook group. I would encourage all OMs that are comfortable using Facebook to contact us about being added to this group. While many technologies in hunting have become problematic in that the skill of the hunter and the chase has been diminished, this particular

technology allows the nearly instantaneous discussion of scoring procedures throughout our community of 1,400 Official Measurers from all over North America. If you have a question on scoring caribou and you live in Florida, this allows those measurers from farther north with significant experience measuring caribou and the issues that arise to help talk you through a problem or question. Not only does this serve to get you an answer, it allows the records office to confirm the ruling and use it to teach all Official Measurers how this particular antler or horn configuration should be treated or explain the basis and wording that these type of decisions are made on. In this case, it brought to our attention an issue that had not been previously addressed. Once brought before the committee they formally developed a uniform procedure to use going forward.

Speaking of technologies, most all of you by now realize that our Assistant Director of Big Game Records Kyle Lehr is producing an online monthly newsletter for all

of our Official Measurers. This forum allows him to review the different categories as a refresher course and to assist with disseminating information to Official Measurers in a timelier manner than is accomplished with this column in a quarterly publication.

As measurers we know just as much as anyone that there is far more to a trophy than a number, and we would appreciate you forwarding any hunting pictures from the previous seasons for inclusion in that publication. You are a force of 1,400 conservationists working toward a common goal of documenting the top specimens of free-ranging big game in North America. We are well aware of the time and effort you all put into this, and if we can share in each other's success, it brings us closer together. We would be honored to say a small thank you by sharing your moment of success. Be it your best buck to date, a great picture of you and your grandkids in the stand, or your daughter's first doe, hunting has a long tradition of family and camaraderie, which, in some cases, may be slipping. This reminds

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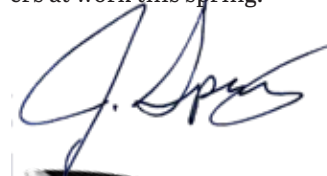
us of our roots and perhaps will bring a bigger smile to your face as you pass this along while you score a hunter's first 8-point that will be lucky to go 75.

A final note on the newsletter is bringing to your attention the Official Measurer Associate Drive. Boone and Crockett's mission first and foremost is that of a conservation organization. The Club's Records Program is by far the most well-known program, but what we do extends much further. We have our Conservation Policy Committee which works daily to drive our mission in Washington D.C. Our University programs that are at the forefront of research and educating the next generation of wildlife professionals. The Conservation Grants program that provides money to researchers trying to find solutions to the most pressing issues facing our wildlife. And the Elmer E. Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center at the TRM Ranch that provides a facility for educational

workshops, courses, and presentations for natural resources and other special topics. All these help us be a driving force for conservation and the promotion of fair chase hunting.

As you hear the hunting stories or watch a proud mother or father stand by as their child has a deer scored, make sure to emphasize these parts of the Club. It truly is not about a number, and with your help in educating them in all we do and where their support goes, we can show them that the model we promote is what enabled them to have this opportunity, and its continuation is what will take these opportunities into the future. Besides, if you get good at it and sign up a hundred folks as B&C Associates, we will give you a Kimber rifle for your efforts!

Keep up the good work, and here's to the odds being in your favor as hunt results begin to creep into our browsers at work this spring. ■



Each time an OM signs up a B&C Associate we'll put a credit by their name.

HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN

- 3 Associates – \$25 off any item in the B&C store
- 5 Associates – Buck Knife
- 10 Associates – B&C Boyt sling
- 25 Associates – OM Wool Vest
- 50 Associates – Sitka Gear (value up to \$350)
- 75 Associates – Yeti cooler and rambler package (value up to \$500)
- 100 Associates – *Congratulations!* YOU'LL RECEIVE A KIMBER RIFLE!

NOTE: Limit to one rifle per year, three rifles per Official Measurer.



YETI

SITKA

Kimber

Associate Sign-Up Incentive Program

Leader Board

*As of January 25, 2018

CONGRATS TO OUR TOP PRIZE-WINNERS!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Bucky Ihlenfeldt – 30 | Carl Frey – 4 |
| Ken Witt – 18 | Ralph Stayner – 4 |
| Stanley Zirbel – 17 | Roger Kingsley – 3 |
| Daniel A. Doughty III – 9 | Mark Miller – 3 |
| Jerry E. Lunde – 5 | |

2 ASSOCIATE SIGN-UPS

Don Biggs, Richard A. Bonander, Buck Buckner, John Basic, Chad A. Coburn, Ab England, Stephen J. Hutton, Marvin D. LaRose, Michael Moline, Toby Montgomery John Ohmer, Eric M Rominger, Jim Williams, and Harrel Wilson

1 ASSOCIATE SIGN-UP

Mark Bara, Bob Black, Steve Boero, John Bogucki, Jason Browning, Richard Burley, Brent Christensen, L. Victor Clark, Dean H. Cook, Brian Dam, Tim Donnelly, Randal Dufault, Tracy Dunkin, Mark A. Erspamer, Ronnie Gadberry, HP Giger, Mike Golightly, TJ Gould, Clifford Gray, Jeffrey Gunnels, Charles Harden, Arthur F Hayes, Gilbert Hernandez, Daniel Hollingsworth, Gary R. Howard, Tim Humes, Stacey Klein-smith, Chris Lacey, John Legnard, Ron Madsen, James W. Martin, Thomas Milne, Skip Moore, Bill Nash Jr., Ronald Newman, Rob Newton IV, Matt Nilsen, Frank S. Noska, Robert Novosad, Don Patterson, Ron G. Pesek, Richard A. Pflanz, John Ramsey, Ryan Rauscher, Tim Rozewski, Jeffrey L. Schneider, Glen Sellsted, Ted Spraker, John Stein, Kelly Stockdale, Darrel Sudduth, Victor Trujillo, Brent Trumbo, Tony Vidrine, Lee Wahlund, Gary Wegner, Gerry Wegner, and Brent Wilkes

Current Associates! Would you like to give an Official Measurer credit for your renewal? Let them know when it is your time to renew and they will provide their OMID number to include with your renewal so they will receive credit.