

MOOSE SCORING CHALLENGES

TROPHY TALK



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I started working for Boone and Crockett Club's records program on January 2, 1976, when I was hired by the National Rifle Association, and over the years I have reached the inescapable conclusion that moose are among the most difficult trophies to measure consistently. On the surface, you would think moose are almost as easy to score as cat and bear skulls, but there are occasions where nothing could be further from the truth. I have come to this conclusion from processing moose entries and personal observations over the years. Official Measurers tend to disagree on how moose should be scored more than any other category.

While I wasn't a judge on a B&C Judges Panel until the 28th Awards Program in 2013, I have been a panel assistant on 11 such prior panels. There have always been a few trophies at nearly every Judge's Panel that present unique challenges that are easily resolved. However, there is usually a moose rack or two that present challenges that require a considerable amount of time and effort for a panel to resolve.

The eleven measurements taken on moose are the greatest spread, number of normal and abnormal points (counted only) on each antler, widths and lengths of palms, and circumference measurements of the main beams. The primary challenges on moose encountered by Judges Panels and the records office concern the numbers of points and the lengths of the palms. So, I am

going to concentrate on the proper method for recording these two measurements in this column.

The first real possibility for making a scoring error is when counting the number of points (normal and abnormal) on each antler. In order for a projection to be counted a point, it must be at least one inch long, with the length exceeding width at one inch or more of length (*Figure A*). It doesn't suffice for a measurer to just count all the projections and bumps just by eyeballing them. A measurer may need to get down on his/her hands and knees to check questionable projections. It's obvious from the trophies entered in B&C, this isn't always done. I have seen score charts submitted to the records office with as many as four non-qualifying projections erroneously counted as points.

The second and most important possibility to make a significant error is when determining the length of palm measurements. To start with, the length of palm measurement, including the brow palm, must be taken (1) in contact with the undersurface of the palm, (2) parallel to the palm's inner edge, or as close to parallel as possible, and (3) from a dip between bumps or points at the top edge of the antler to a dip between qualifying points, if present, on the brow palm (*Figure A*). Before taking the palm length

measurements, the scorer should first eyeball the inner edge of the palm and lay out a strip of masking tape parallel to the inner edge of the top palm (*Figure B*).

Further, the scorer must remember that while the palm length measurement cannot cross over an opening on the inside edge of the palm or a dip (space) between points (*Figure B, a*) anywhere along its length on the outside edge of the palm. It can and frequently does cross over the "bay" opening (*Figure B, b*) between the top palms and the brow palms.

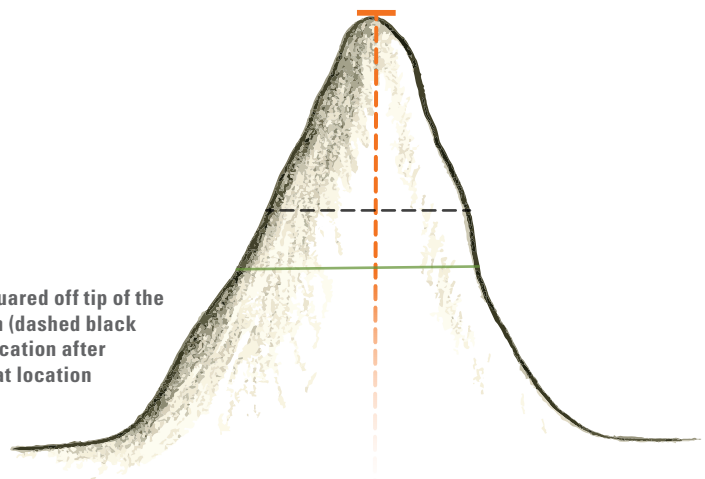
The scorer must check all options on every moose rack, and then pick the greatest length that is parallel to the inner edge of the palm. If there are four dips between points or bumps at the top of the palm and four dips between qualifying points on the brow palm, there are 16 options ($4 \times 4 = 16$) for the palm length measurement. If none of the length possibilities are parallel to the inner edge of the palm, the length that is closest to parallel is the length measurement that is recorded on the score chart. In such

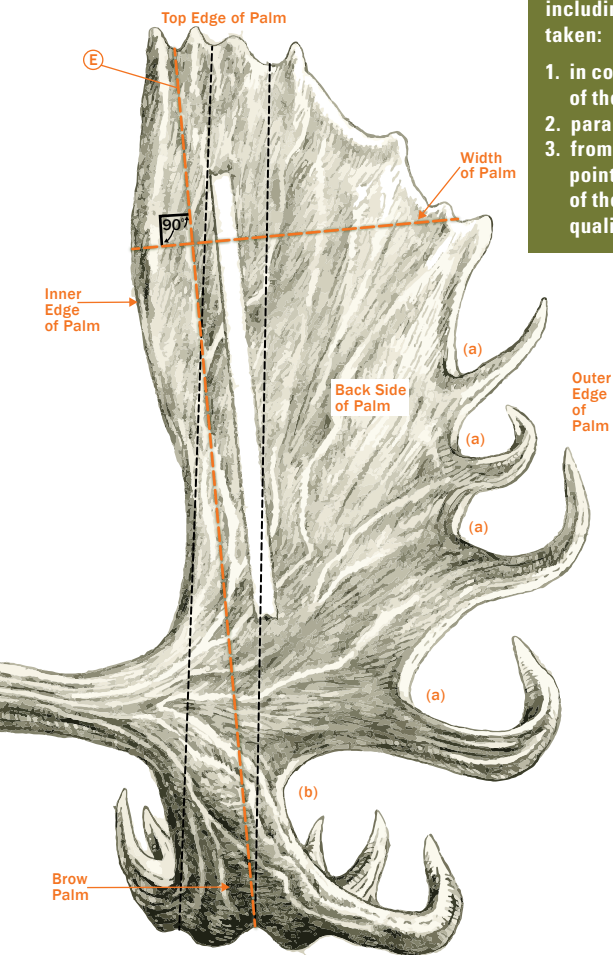
cases, the longest length measurement may not be the palm length, and that's where the rub is.

Some measurers want to give the longest length measurement to the trophy even if it isn't the closest to parallel. Also, they may want to erroneously give the longest length measurement to the moose palm even if it passes over a dip (*Figure B*) between bumps or points. When this happens, I have seen final scores of moose drop by as much as 20 points at Judges Panels when the correct length measurements are verified and corrected.

I can't recall ever seeing significant errors on palm width measurements or main beam circumferences with moose, but the possibility is there. Just remember that palm width is taken at a right angle to the inner edge of the palm (masking tape) at the widest place between points or bumps on the outer edge of palm (*Figure B, dashed line*).

FIGURE A: Measure down one inch from the squared off tip of the projection. If the width is greater than one inch (dashed black line) it may not be a point. However, if at any location after one inch the width is less than the length at that location (solid green line) that projection is a point.





The length of palm measurement, including the brow palm, must be taken:

1. in contact with the undersurface of the palm
2. parallel to the palm's inner edge
3. from a dip between bumps or points at the top edge of the antler to a dip between qualifying points on brow palm

FIGURE B: Place a strip of masking tape on the underside of the palm that is parallel to the inside edge of the palm to use as a guide when testing different lines to use as possibilities for the correct palm length measurement (E). The orange dashed line is the correct length of palm; the black dashed lines are incorrect lines for length of palm measurement; and, the red dashed line is the correct width of palm measurement. Dips between points are indicated with (a), and the palm "bay" is indicated with (b).

The masking tape can be used to determine the palm width because it was laid down parallel to the inner edge.

To review additional details for scoring points, palm lengths, and widths, as well as main beam circumference measurements, please refer to the moose scoring chapter (pages 113-114) in B&C's scoring manual, How to Score North American Big Game, 4th edition. If you don't have a copy, it is available from B&C's website or by calling B&C's headquarters office at 406/542-1888.

95 MEASURERS "LOST"

If you're an Official Measurer, you know by now that Measurer appointments are renewed every two years, and January 2017 was our renewal time for 2017-2018 reappointments. I know that more than a few Measurers know about this because we

received a few calls from measurers who wanted to know if they could still measure even though they hadn't received their updated credentials. The obvious answer to that question is a resounding, "Yes!"

It shouldn't be, but unfortunately Official Measurer renewals turn out to be a long, drawn-out process. We started the process in January by sending out two separate emails or letters to all active measurers about a month apart depending on whether or not we had an email address for them. A month later, we sent a renewal letter to all measurers who either don't have email addresses or didn't respond to our earlier emails to see if they wanted to renew their appointment. The official renewal letter itself from the Records Committee Chairman, doesn't go out

TABLE 1. LOST MEASURERS

David Allen	Mountain Top, PA	Emily Flinn	Columbia, MO	Rhett Pawluski	Armstrong, BC
Dan Anderson	Fort Meyers, FL	Eric Ford	Hagerstown, MD	Bill Phiher	West Point, UT
T.K. Atkinson	Casper, WY	Jon Gassett	Georgetown, KY	Mike Pittman	Cross Plains, TX
Eduardo Barrett Mena	Tijuana, MX	Troy Gentry	Taylorsville, KY	Adam Pritchett	Midway, AL
Maxey Baucum	Little Rock, MS	Charlotte Good	Highlandville, MO	Jean Provost	Gatineau, QC
Mike Beck	Dadeville, AL	Keith Griglak	Hampton, NJ	Mike Pruss	Harrisburg, PA
Hugues Béland	St. Eustache, QC	Mark Groves	Rimbey, AB	Daryl Ratajczak	Nashville, TN
Joseph Bland	Waddy, KY	Dayna Harrison	Loon Lake, SK	Wil Resch	Friendship, WI
Craig Bowen	Bertram, TX	Danny Hawkins	Letohatchee, AL	Mark Sasser	Montgomery, AL
John Bowers	Social Circle, GA	Joe Herring	Baton Rouge, LA	Brian Scarnegie	Cary, IL
Blake Branom	Winter Garden, FL	Bernie Hildebrand	Miles City, MT	Annaliese Scoggin	Abilene, TX
Todd Brickel	Colorado Springs, CO	Jeff Hill	Rockbridge, OH	Ronald Scott	North Bend, OH
Peter Bruhs	Pouce Coupe, BC	Ryan Hilton	Kimberly, ID	Chad Sjodin	Whitehorse, YT
Kelcey Burgess	Hampton, NJ	Justin Hughes	Fulton, MS	Timothy Smith	Brandenburg, KY
Bob Byrne	Amissville, VA	Dan Jackson	Shelbyville, KY	Steven Sorensen	Valley Center, KS
Ronnie Cannon	Oxford, MS	Mark Jones	Dobson, NC	Simon Spain	Myrtle Beach, SC
Larry Cates	Cabot, AR	Cyril Kingston	Rothsay, NB	Matt Spurgeon	Montgomery City, MO
Chris Chaffin	Melbourne Beach, FL	Leith Konyndyk	Petersburg, TN	Ralph Stayner	Nutriosio, AZ
Randy Clark	Covington, OH	Michael Korth	Newport News, VA	Cook Sterner	Mertztown, PA
Jim Clarke	Calgary, AB	Dan Lees	Manassas, VA	Sam Stokes Sr.	Pickens, SC
Chris Clayton	Center Point, LA	Dale Lindgren	Norguay, SK	Matt Suuck	Cascade, CO
Daniel Coggin	Amy, MS	Charlie Logsdon	Brandenburg, KY	Todd Tobey	McAlester, OK
T.J. Conrads	Boise, ID	David Lott Jr.	Dallas, TX	Eric Tremblay	Adstock, QC
Emily Cope	Columbia, SC	Greg Lynch	McClellanville, SC	Jose Trevino	Chihuahua, CHIH. CP,
Vince Crawford	Hamilton, MO	Michael Manni	Providence, RI	Stan Troutman	Mesa, AZ
John Davison	Sugar Land, TX	James McCloskey	Lawrenceville, NJ	Dan Uzelac	Valparaiso, IN
Dustin Deaton	Dickson, TN	Chris McDonald	Brandon, MS	Daniel Walker	Port O'Connor, TX
Wayne DiSarro	Ketchikan, AK	Todd McGregor	Marble Hill, MO	Larry Webb	St Charles, MO
Tracy Dunkin	Saint Joseph, MO	Cody Morris	Pratt, KS	Kevin Wood	St. John, KS
Charlie Ebbers	Albuquerque, NM	Betsy Mortensen	New York, NY	Chuck Yoest	Nashville, TN
Ken Eifes	Canton, CT	Todd Nordeen	Alliance, NE	Bob Zaiglin	Uvalde, TX
Robert Fletcher	Fairfield, OH	Thomas Padgett	Clarkton, NC		

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with new Official Measurer ID cards until we are comfortable that everyone who is going to respond to our renewal efforts has responded.

Of those measurers who returned their renewal form, we had a great renewal rate. Unfortunately, we still haven't heard back from 95 Official Measurers (Table 1). If we don't hear back from these Official Measurers within the next month or so, it will be tragic because their appointments will be permanently inactivated, and each and every Measurer is important to us. We have expended a lot in training and support for our Measurers, and in turn each one of them has expended precious energy, time, and money becoming a scorer and supporting the Club. If your name is included on Table 1, and you want to continue as an Official Measurer, please call the office immediately at 406/542-1888, ext. 214, and let Kyle Lehr know your name is on this list and you either want to renew your appointment or resign. He will take care of you. If someone you know is on this list, please also have them contact Kyle.

For those who have already renewed, you should receive a packet of materials if you haven't already received it. The packet includes a renewal letter from Records Committee Chairman, Richard T. Hale which includes topics relevant to continuing Measurers, an Official Measurer ID card, a current Official Measurer Code of Conduct, and a form for ordering new supplies. If you did not receive your letter, and you did your part to renew your credentials at B&C, please call the office at the number above

and let Kyle know you didn't receive your packet. If you received the packet, please do not set it aside - open it immediately, as there is a lot of important information every Measurer needs to know in the packet.

Copies of the current score charts, Entry Affidavits, and Hunter, Guide and Hunt Information forms can be downloaded from B&C's website boone-crockett.org. If you download the score charts, please print the front and back on one sheet of paper. If you do not have a computer and printer and/or you cannot download them for some reason from the website, please call 406/542-1888 to place your order. When you call, please have a ready list of the score charts you need, as well as the quantity of each one you need or order them from B&C using the order form enclosed in the packet.

NOTIFY B&C IMMEDIATELY

If you move, change telephone numbers, and/or your email address, please think of Boone and Crockett Club and let us know immediately of the

changes. We don't want to risk losing track of you before it is time to renew your appointment in 2019. We can't emphasize enough how much B&C values all scorers who donate their time and talents to score trophies for B&C.

BECOME A B&C OFFICIAL MEASURER

In a way B&C is like the U.S. Marine Corp - we are always in need of a "Few Good Men and Women." If you're interested in being considered for an Official Measurer appointment in your state or province. You must first attend a three and a half day measurer training workshop sponsored by the Club's Records Department. The workshop is a hands-on class that covers scoring procedures for all 38 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club. Attendance at a workshop is by invitation only.

To apply send a letter or email to B&C requesting a measurer application or download the Official Measurer Application from B&C's website. When completing your application, be sure to include information such as

any previous measuring experience (state programs, contests, etc.), references, willingness to travel, and the reason you want to become an Official Measurer.

Completed applications are kept on file and reviewed periodically. Please note that application to attend a B&C Official Measurer workshop, does not guarantee an invitation. Interest in the Club's records program far exceeds B&C's needs. Measurer candidates are selected based on their enthusiasm, experience, and where B&C's needs are the greatest. The Club normally appoints anywhere from 20-50 new measurers per year. And we receive hundreds of applications for those few openings. The records office will be conducting several workshops this year, including two in Missoula and possibly two in Canada. By the time you receive this issue of Fair Case, we will have completed the two Missoula workshops. If you are interested in attending one of the two Canadian workshops, call Kyle at the above number. ■

Jack Reneau

The Club will be holding Official Measurer classes at the headquarters in Missoula, Montana, as well as two workshops in Canada.

