

WELCOMING A NEW DIRECTOR

TROPHY TALK



JUSTIN SPRING

B&C PROFESSIONAL MEMBER
Director of Big Game Records

Let me start by saying how honored I feel to be given the opportunity to serve as the second director of Big Game Records for the Boone and Crockett Club. Since starting with the Club in 2008, I have been working closely with Jack Reneau, ensuring both a smooth transition and uniformity in scoring procedures and applications. The success of the Records Program is directly tied to consistency, and every step has been taken to ensure nothing is lost in this shift. While I have held the title of director since the beginning of 2016, Jack has been available for guidance as I slowly took over the reins of the day-to-day operations of the Records Program here in Missoula. He is greatly missed, but he has assured me he is always a phone call away and that he still intends to serve the Club as a Professional Member and as a member of the Records Committee.

The one question I get the most is, “How did you get a job with Boone and Crockett?” I thought it appropriate to include the answer in my first Trophy Talk column so you all know where they found this guy. After graduating from Northland College in 2006, my wife (girlfriend at the time) and I both had degrees in fish and wildlife biology and began the search for employment in the field. After graduation in spring 2006, I returned to Alaska for my fifth season as a fishing guide for king salmon, and we spent a few months at my wife’s childhood home on Lake Vermillion in northern Minnesota. A few weeks helping a family friend in construction made it readily apparent I was not cut out for that line of work—though it put a couple dollars in our pockets. Through this job I met some folks headed to Alaska for an unguided moose hunt. Turned out they had some room and could use some help around camp. The

few dollars I had made were nearly all squandered on this trip which was supposed to last two weeks but was cut short at one. Lack of time and moose convinced me to get on a plane and head back to the lower 48 to head west to where I grew up in southern Oregon.

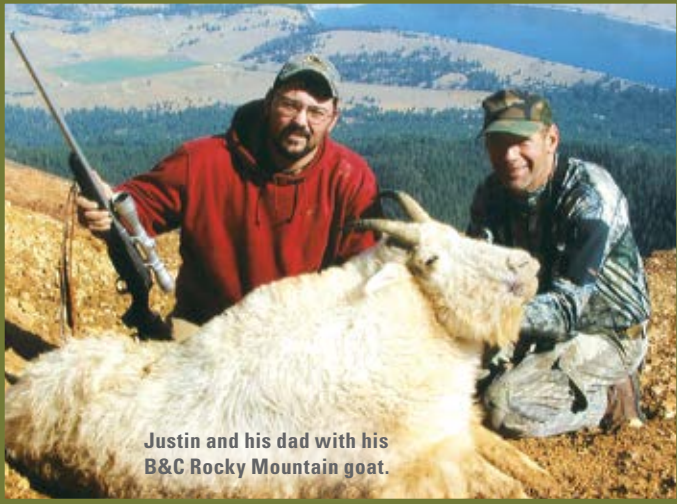
While I was gone, Rebecca had procured us a couple leftover buck antelope tags in Wyoming, so I flew from Anchorage to Denver where she was waiting. With all our possessions in the truck, we headed for Wyoming for a few days and managed to harvest our first-ever antelope. A rainstorm rendered the roads undriveable, so I dropped the antelope head with a taxidermist and headed to the coast with some meat in the truck. We were now officially in debt but not due to student loans; rather, a taxidermy bill. When we got back to Oregon, I got hired right away by a small contract logger, while

Rebecca was having minimal success in her job search. She felt bad—as though she wasn’t contributing. But I assured her, “Think about if I was unemployed. Would I sit at home, or would I be out hunting?” She smiled and proceeded to kill her first ducks, a Roosevelt’s elk, and a mighty fine Columbia blacktail her first year in Oregon. She even let me in on the action as I filled a tag or two as well.

Soon enough she was hired by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The next two years we were both able to expand our professional experience in our field of study working for Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Plum Creek Timber as well as side work with some wildlife survey contract companies working with marbled murrelets, spotted owls, and the native fish of the Pacific Northwest.

Justin and Rebecca are both B&C Official Measurers and attended their first Big Game Awards banquet in 2010 in Reno, Nevada, where the Club hosted its first Field Generals Luncheon to honor all of our Official Measurers.





Justin and his dad with his B&C Rocky Mountain goat.

As I had since turning 12, we applied that May for all the tags Oregon had to offer. During this time, like many young professionals breaking into their fields, we were both on the lookout for any job opportunities and applying for anything we thought we may qualify for hoping to stay employed in our field. During these job searches, I found the Boone and Crockett Club looking for an assistant director of records with the majority of the skills being a background in wildlife. About 98 percent certain I stood no chance, I still applied and had nearly forgotten about the application. I had been planning a fall 2008 trip to southeast Alaska for Sitka blacktails with a couple good friends, my dad, and Rebecca. Plus, when Oregon draw results came out, not only had I drawn a once in a lifetime Oregon mountain goat tag, but I also drew an archery elk tag to hunt the Starkey Experimental Forest. I started quickly calculating how all this could be accomplished within our budget. The Boone and Crockett job was nearly out of my mind as I sat in the orientation class for my goat tag in The Dalles, Oregon. They were starting the class and introducing all the biologists and volunteers there to assist including B&C's Vice President of Big Game Records Eldon "Buck" Buckner. He was there to discuss scoring sheep and goats. I took a mental note and turned to Rebecca and said, "I wonder if they ever filled that job? I need to talk to him."

We proceeded through the orientation until lunch, and as I made my way through the lunch line, I realized Buck had been sidetracked and was at the end of the line. All the seats in the lunch room were nearly gone. Rebecca and I made a power move to procure four seats near where Buck would have to walk past after getting his food. The plan was executed perfectly; as Buck walked past, I introduced myself and asked him to sit down with us for lunch. He did, and though I embarrassed myself a bit as I confused his title slightly, he sat and chatted about the hunt and got to know Rebecca and I.

The following Monday my phone rang with a Missoula number and a phone interview was scheduled. Soon after this interview, I called back to thank them for the opportunity, and they asked

RECENTLY APPOINTED OFFICIAL MEASURERS

I would like to congratulate and welcome the 58 new Official Measurers, representing the US and Canada, who successfully completed one of three Official Measurer training workshops held this summer. All are qualified to immediately begin scoring trophies for all 38 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club.

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| Dave P. Atamanchuk - Humboldt, SK | Kevin Lowrey - Gainsville, GA |
| April G. Atkinson - Garnett, SC | Robert T. MacDonald - Edmonton, AB |
| Ryan J. Bartholow - Sundre, AB | Ross H. Mann - Victoria, BC |
| Gregory K. Batts - Zebulon, NC | Rupert H. Medford - Troy, NC |
| Travis Bennett - Eastover, SC | Theron E. Menken - Fort Valley, GA |
| Kevin C. Bertin - Vegreville, AB | Joshua M. Michel - Estevan, SK |
| Yvonne E. Bertin - Vegreville, AB | Dustin Miller - Leader, SK |
| Larry R. Boyd - Red Deer, AB | Maurice G. Nadeau - Bonnyville, AB |
| Mark G. Buller - Waldheim, SK | Neil N. Napora - Mannville, AB |
| Cody G. Cadrain - Meota, SK | Marshall G. Nelms - Fitzgerald, GA |
| Mark M. Carroll - Union, SC | R. Victor Nilson - Morinville, AB |
| Patrick L. Cloninger - Clemson, SC | Jake D. Oates - Florence, SC |
| Kara V. Day - Richmond Hill, GA | Colleen Olfenbuttel - Pittsboro, NC |
| Donald D. Dwernychuk - Drumheller, AB | Rod Payne - Fort Macleod, AB |
| Jeremy A. Edwards - Hudson Bay, SK | Daniel K. Ray - Morganton, NC |
| James L. Fowler - Conway, SC | Larran M. Rayment - Ardrossan, AB |
| Bob M. Graham - Edmonton, AB | Andre J. Reed - Hanna, AB |
| Brent M. Gust - Kindersley, SK | Brendon A. Reiter - Middle Lake, SK |
| Michael Hansen - Brookville, KS | Jonathan G. Shapka - St. Paul, AB |
| John H. Harrelson - Hope Mills, NC | Chad C. Sherman - Fort Quappelle, SK |
| Michael E. Hofer - Fort Macleod, AB | Warren Smith - Lloydminster, AB |
| Andrew F. Hook - Union, SC | Craig P. Stolle - Campbell River, BC |
| Michael B. Howze - Albany, GA | Jesse M. Thomas - Mcrae, GA |
| Ronald K. Johnson - Big River, SK | John H. Thrift - Swainsboro, GA |
| Barry A. Johnston - Watrous, SK | James W. Tomberlin - Ronda, NC |
| Dallas I. Kaiser - Red Deer County, AB | Tammy L. Wactor - Clemson, SC |
| Cameron Kirzinger - Leroy, SK | Tyler E. Warren - Edmonton, AB |
| Cody M. Langford - Fort Valley, GA | Brent Womack - Summerville, GA |
| Paul R. Legrand - Regina, SK | Colin G. Woods - Creighton, SK |

Leduc, Alberta -
July 30- August 3, 2017



Garnett, South Carolina -
August 21-25, 2017



Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan - August 4-8, 2017



TROPHY TALK

to schedule an in-person interview. Before long I was on a plane to Missoula.

The in-person interview went well. When I got asked the question, "How many days a year do you hunt?" All of a sudden it hit me that I might have a chance at landing this job. Not that the question was hard to answer but it caught me flat footed compared to the normal interview questions I had been preparing for. In reality, I might have reduced the number I gave on days hunted as I didn't want to give the impression that was all I did and I also didn't know the exact number, but apparently it was what they wanted to hear.

After I got back home from the Missoula trip, I called to thank them for the interview and they offered the job to me. While many folks would probably have been concerned with salary negotiations, moving expenses, etc., my heart sank as they read to me the offer—they wanted to me to start September 1. As soon as they finished, I said it all sounded great but was there any way I could push my start date back a couple weeks as I had a once in a lifetime goat tag. All I could hear on the other end of the phone was chuckles and Buck says to me, that's just fine Justin, we will see you October 1.

At the time, I knew a fair amount about the work of the Club but the nine years since that point through research and being part of the Club I have found nearly all of my hunts are directly the result of the work of Club members if not Theodore Roosevelt (TR) himself. The Rocky Mountain goat I took that year was a result of transplants

from Olympic National Park to the Wallowa National Forest, which, albeit consolidated from its original name, were both set up by TR. The Starkey Experimental Forest was created by former Boone and Crockett Professor, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and Club member Jack Ward Thomas, and the list goes on.

I have been told by a few of the students from workshops that my enthusiasm for both the records program and the work of the Club shows through, and I am proud to hear this. To me, the opportunity to work for an organization such as Boone and Crockett and to be able to help fight to keep wildlife and its habitat at a point where everyone, both hunters and not, can see and appreciate what we have is truly a one of a kind opportunity.

While some worry about the future of hunting, I am positive about it. With this position, I get the opportunity to teach and work with some of the frontline soldiers in the battle for wildlife and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. These soldiers are our Official Measurers. Listed on these pages are the names of the most recently appointed in the workshops taught in Leduc, Alberta; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; and Garnett, South Carolina. They join a force of OMs touching more hunters from more walks of life and locations than any other similar-sized organization. It is truly an honor, and I look forward to many years supporting this mission.



Associate Sign-Up Incentive Program

We have an exciting new program exclusively for our Official Measurers! August 1, we launched the rolling Associate Sign-Up Program and are encouraging Official Measurers to ask every trophy owner they come in contact with or anyone else they know who has a passion for hunting and conservation to join the Club as an Associate.

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.



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.

Leader Board

*As of October 17, 2017

Stanley Zirbel 6	John Legnard 1
Ralph Stayner 4	Jerry E. Lunde 1
Daniel A. Doughty III . . . 3	Toby Montgomery 1
Don Biggs 1	Skip Moore 1
Richard A. Bonander . . . 1	Rob Newton IV 1
Dean H. Cook 1	John Ohmer 1
L. Victor Clark 1	Ron G. Pesek 1
Chad A. Coburn 1	Richard A. Pflanz 1
Tim Donnelly 1	Ryan Rauscher 1
Mark A. Erspamer 1	Tim Rozewski 1
Ronnie Gadberry 1	Jeffrey L. Schneider . . . 1
Daniel Hollingsworth . . . 1	Darrel Sudduth 1
Gary R. Howard 1	Brent Trumbo 1
Chris Lacey 1	Gary Wegner 1