

31ST AWARDS AND OFFICIAL MEASURER UPDATES

TROPHY TALK

31ST BIG GAME AWARDS PROGRAM DEADLINE LOOMS

A scorching summer is nearly behind us, a welcome fall is just ahead, and it seems that in the blink of an eye another Awards Program is coming to a close. December 31 is the last day of the 31st Big Game Awards Program entry period, and all entries must be post-marked by or on that date to be included in next year's banquet in Springfield, Missouri. Even if your entry is not complete, please send all materials that you have before December 31. We need as much information as possible in the system as we begin the process of identifying top trophies and youth invitations.

Planning for the 31st Big Game Awards Program and Judge's Panel (the latter occurring on April 21-24,

2022) is well under way. Jack Reneau has accepted the invitation to serve as chairman of the Judge's Panel. Invitations for selected judges will be sent soon, and we are working with Bass Pro Shops to plan the event.

As we have done in the past, we encourage all Official Measurers (OM) to attend this triennial event. In addition to celebrating the largest *Fair Chase* trophies accepted in the last three years, a luncheon for all OMs will be held Friday at the hotel. All in attendance will receive recognition for their service as well as a unique item only available at the event.

SHIPPING TROPHIES

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's will again offer free shipping from any of their U.S. stores to their headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. For trophy owners who receive an invitation and notify us they will attend, we will send them a custom shipping label

and inform the store they are coming to drop it off. Trophy owners will need to crate the head securely and get it to the store for shipping once they hear from us.

The display is scheduled to open to the public in Springfield on May 1 with the 31st Big Game Awards events occurring July 22-24. We have switched the host hotel this time to the DoubleTree by Hilton Springfield.

OFFICIAL MEASURER CLASSES RESUME

Things are opening up in Montana, which means we were able to host two Official Measurer classes this past June. One class was held here in Missoula, while the other class was a first-of-its kind, immersive conservation course, which proved to be an overwhelming success—the wandering grizzlies viewed safely from the back deck were an added bonus.

Held at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch



JUSTIN SPRING

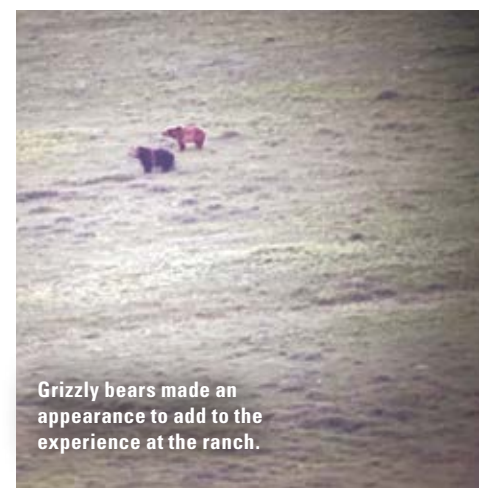
B&C PROFESSIONAL MEMBER
Director of Big Game Records

Photos taken at TRMR by Madison Todd.
Photos taken at the Missoula workshop by Micah Reinke.

(TRMR) with the Rocky Mountain Front as the backdrop, the immersive course is designed to offer a deeper dive into the Club as professional members and staff help participants understand where the Club has been and where we're going. We have a heck of a lot of fun, too. Of course, the class includes scoring certification for those not already certified and serves as a refresher for those already certified. In addition, participants stayed on the ranch or at a local hotel, and they were well-fed throughout the week-long affair.

As part of the course, guests were invited to ask

The Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center houses the education, research, and demonstration programs that take place on B&C's TRM Ranch. The lab is setup for 30 students to work on field-related activities.



Grizzly bears made an appearance to add to the experience at the ranch.

For the most up-to-date info on the 31st Big Game Awards, visit www.biggameawards.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**BOONE AND
CROCKETT CLUB**

**31ST
BIG
GAME
AWARDS**

*In July 2022
Springfield,
Missouri will
once again
play host to
thousands of
hunters and
conservationists
as they view the
biggest heads,
horns, and
antlers North
America has
to offer.
And we want
you to be part
of the action!*

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI - JULY 22-24, 2022

BASS PRO SHOPS

WONDERS OF WILDLIFE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM

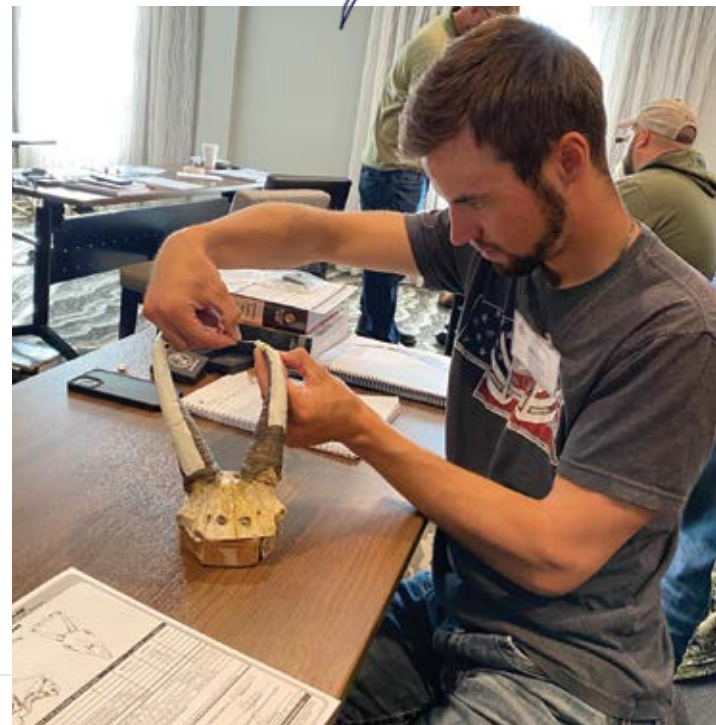




ABOVE: Chris Parish of The Peregrine Fund (center), performed a shooting demonstration on lead versus non-lead projectiles. **BELOW:** Mike Opitz, B&C Records Committee Chairman (right) helping teach Tim Kelly and Jimmy Opitz during the scoring certification.



ABOVE: Official Measurers Scott Easley and Nathanael Watson work together to learn how to score unique categories such as caribou and musk ox (below). **BELOW RIGHT:** Micah Reinke learns how to score a Rocky Mountain goat.



questions and learn as much as they could. The TRMR's on-site shooting range allows the Club to invite guests like Chris Parish of The Peregrine Fund, who performed a shooting demonstration on lead versus non-lead projectiles. Dr. Josh Millsbaugh discussed the Club's University Programs as well as some of the research taking place at TRMR. Boone and Crockett Fellow Chris Hansen presented his work on trail camera traps on the ranch and how it pertains to his research. On a tour of the 6,500-acre ranch, attendees learned the unique challenges of ranching in such a wild place, complete with apex predators. Conservation Programs Director Luke Coccoli spoke about the Club's education programs, and Boone and Crockett Ethics Committee Chairman Mark Streissguth led a discussion of technology in hunting and on fair chase.

No true immersive course would be complete without a discussion of policy. Boone and Crockett Chief Executive Officer Tony Schoonen presented an overview of the work we are pursuing regarding conservation policy. In addition, lobbyist Greg Schildwachter gave a brief

presentation on the current conservation highlights in D.C., followed by a question and answer session.

The immersive course also included instruction on how to measure all 38 categories of North American big game the Club currently recognizes. After the testing was complete, Boone and Crockett Club President Jim Arnold spoke, and we were all treated to a celebratory evening with a smoked prime rib dinner.

If this class sounds appealing, we're hosting it again next June. The course is all-inclusive, which includes transportation to and from the Great Falls airport. As of now, cost is \$2,000 per student with dormitory housing at the ranch (grizzlies not guaranteed) or \$2,500 with individual lodging at the local hotel. Good luck trying to get a better deal than that for a vacation in Montana! We would love to host you at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. For more info, contact me at justin@boone-crockett.org or Kyle Lehr at kyle@boone-crockett.org.

Good luck in your fall hunts. We hope to see you in person at the 31st Big Game Awards Program or perhaps out here in Big Sky Country. ■