

SCORING SEASON

TROPHY TALK

Thank you to all our Official Measurers as we emerge from the heavy scoring season. We are aware that many of you have been scoring numerous trophies these past months, and most likely the majority of them are falling short of the minimum entry score. While we only ask that you make yourself available to score trophies that qualify for Boone and Crockett, the scoring of trophies that may not make our minimums is, in many cases, still the highlight of these hunters' lives. Your efforts are not in vain when you interact with these folks. The overall feeling they leave with from this type of interaction is generally very positive and that can be attributed to the professionalism exhibited by our Official Measurers.

NOTE: This column was written prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please follow all CDC guidelines regarding travel, social distancing and maintaining personal safety during this time.

As has been discussed before, please ensure that you answer any questions or concerns the trophy owner may have with a final number. Many measurers prefer not to have the trophy owner present during measuring, and this is still an acceptable procedure, but if you elect to employ this method please make sure the trophy owner understands they can contact you with additional questions. What works the best for me to ensure the trophy owner is satisfied with a score is to have a second OM present that can talk through the process with them as the other measurer concentrates on the scoring at hand.

We have had a couple challenges to scores this year that we have had to get involved with. The biggest issue I find with the original scores is not in the accuracy of the measurements taken but in a lack of communication from the measurer explaining why certain things are done. Baseline measurements seem to be a very common area of contention, and Official Measurers are generally doing it correctly. Make sure you explain how you are using the top edge of

the beam and show them as you draw your lines on your tape (not the antler) what you are trying to accomplish.

Many OM's are organizing scoring events for folks at local sporting goods stores, taxidermists, smaller sports shows, and even their favorite local restaurant or bar. These are great events, and we encourage folks with the time and ability to do these to pursue them. If there is anything we may be able to provide from the office such as back issues of *Fair Chase*, decals, things of that sort, please let us know and we will see what we can get headed your way. Please ensure you give us at least a few weeks notice to get them to you in time for the event.

As we discuss interaction with trophy owners, I thought I would review a few things that we hear in the office that you probably were told in your OM training but maybe it hasn't been emphasized recently. First and foremost is that the minimum entry score for Boone and Crockett is the Awards minimum. The All-time minimum is an arbitrary number that is only used every six years with the publication of an All-time



JUSTIN SPRING
B&C PROFESSIONAL MEMBER
Director of Big Game Records

record book. With successful wildlife conservation came a major increase in entries. This increase forced the Club to create two levels of minimum scores to keep the All-time book manageable. This in no way means the minimum entry requirement for a typical whitetail, for example, is 170. A 160-inch typical whitetail is a Boone and Crockett trophy—Booner, book head, whatever you prefer to use as vernacular is fine. In scoring with other measurers and even in phone calls, I hear almost a tinge of disappointment when the measurer says they scored a few but only a couple made Awards minimums, not All-time minimums.

Another thing to note for all OMs is that we both accept and encourage measurers to print off score charts, the hunter, guide, and hunt information forms, and entry affidavits from the website. Our biggest material needs



Visit www.Boone-Crockett.org to download score charts and other entry materials. Under the 'BIG GAME RECORDS' header on the main page drop down to 'Scoring Your Trophy' and select 'Score Chart PDFs'.

request we send is for an outdated entry affidavit. To download the most current versions, which are acceptable for entry, go the Club's website, boone-crockett.org. If you are unable to download and print materials, score charts and entry forms are still available to OMs at no charge for use while performing their Boone and Crockett duties. To order please call headquarters or send an email to the office with the quantity of each you would like and the address you would like them sent to as well as your name and Official Measurer ID number. Please note the most current entry affidavit is pictured below.

Work continues on the joint Boone and Crockett/Pope and Young manual with both organizations directing time to the editing process. We are hoping to have these manuals in hand this summer and will be distributing them in the early fall of 2020 to all Official Measurers.

We hope all of our Official Measurers are staying engaged via the monthly email newsletter as well as the B&C Official Measurer Facebook group for those on social media. If you are not receiving the email newsletter, please let us know so we can update your information on file. Thanks for all you do for the organization. ■



Thank you to all of the Official Measurers representing the Boone and Crockett Club at local sporting events. 1. Phil Herrnberger at the Erie Sports Show in Erie, Pennsylvania. 2. Dennis Michael and Bill Seybold at the Lewiston, Idaho Gun, Horn and Antique show. 3. (Left to right) Pete Gardner, Kevin Vaughn, Phil Cooper, Dale Duchow, Shawn Duchow, Larry Carey at the Gun and Horn show in Sandpoint, Idaho. 4. Brian Dam, Mike Ali, and Jim Dowd at the Oneida Sportsman's show in Oneida, New York.

