

KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY

I was just reading a review of Lamborghini's new Huracán, a true supercar with a 640 horsepower V-10 engine that allows you to reach 60 mph in 2.9 seconds. It has a top speed of just over 200 mph. It's just what I need to make a quick trip down to the gun club!

Performance aside, what intrigued me about the Huracán was its new, state-of-the-art navigation system. It's a first-of-its-kind geocoding system called "what3words" that has divided the entire planet into 57 trillion 10x10-foot squares, each of which is identified by three words from a pool of 40,000 English words. It is, of course, voice activated so all you have to do is say the three words of a designated square, and you'll be directed to its location. Amazing!

The what3words navigation system is just another example of new technology that is racing forward in leaps and bounds. It's the

kind of wizardry that seems to have jumped out of nowhere and could become a game changer overnight.

It's a challenging task to keep up with the array of high-tech devices available to consumers today and to determine how they may be appropriate—or inappropriate in respect to the tenets of Fair Chase hunting.

The Boone and Crockett Club has updated its Big Game Records Eligibility Statement that disqualifies trophies taken with the aid of certain technologies and their application. These include: "Use of electronic communication devices (2-way radios, cell phones, etc.) to guide hunters to game, artificial lighting, electronic light intensifying devices (night vision optics), sights with built-in electronic range-finding capabilities (including smart scopes), drones/unmanned aerial devices (UAVs), thermal imaging equipment, electronic game calls or the use of any technology that delivers real-time

location data (including photos) to target or guide a hunter to any species or animal in a manner that elicits an immediate (real-time) response by the hunter."

The Club makes the important point that, "Some technologies take unfair advantage of an animal no matter how they are used. For others, it depends on the manner in which the hunter uses the technology." The Club goes on to explain that, "It can be argued, for example, that thermal imaging equipment is helpful in recovering wounded or lost game. Using thermal imaging equipment to initially locate game for hunting is, however, not Fair Chase."

In its situational overview on the subject of technology and hunting, "The Club believes placing personal limits on the use of technology is a rewarding, self-imposed trade-off. While this may decrease the likelihood of a successful harvest, it will heighten the hunting experience and show respect



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for the animals being hunted. For many people, 'the ones that got away' are just as memorable as the ones that did not. A lack of self-restraint may or may not change the outcome of a hunt, but it will certainly diminish its value as a memory."

As so often is the case, Aldo Leopold summed it up when he reminded readers in his *A Sand County Almanac*. In it, he wrote, "A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact."

Hope to see you down the trail. ■

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Technology and Hunting**