

NOTYOUR EVERYDAY RACK! David Nelsen didn't have to travel far from home to find the mule deer that carried these antlers.

Cheyenne County hunter finds trophy near home

By Linda Schneider dublinls@hotmail.com

One of the best-kept secrets here in the northwest corner of Kansas is its hunting.

"And the locals like it that way," says David Nelsen, long-time resident of Bird City

Mr. Nelsen is an avid hunter. It is common knowledge around the Bird City area that when he sets his sights on a target he will bag

During the 2007 hunting season, Mr. Nelsen shot a deer that could very well be the record for the books.

That book is the Boone and Crockett Book. Before the deer is registered in the Boone and Crockett Book, it has to meet certain criteria.

The main criterion being that the deer must be shot and not found dead. While that may sound strange, deer that have been hit by a car can get be scored for some records, but not for the Boone and deer's "rack." Each point of the Crockett Book.

Stories have circulated about dead deer found in unusual ways. Mr. Nelsen related one such

Two deer were found locked together by their antlers, one alive dragging the other deer around. It appeared that their antlers became locked during a fight and one died in the process.

The game wardens were called and when they arrived, they cut the antlers off the dead deer. The live one ran off, nearly dead from exhaustion and hunger. When the warden came up on the dead deer, they found that the coyotes had already started eating on it.

The other criterion is quite naturally the measurements. David researched the measurements to see how his deer measured up. First, a person needs to understand how a deer is measured. The measurements come from the

deer's rack is measured, even the antlers over the brow, then all measurements are added.

When submitting measurements to the Boone and Crockett Book the numbers need to be 160 inches to get a "typical" rating and 180 inches to get a "non-typical" rating.

Now for Nelsen's measurements, 235.5 total inches minus 7.625 inches for B & C, that equals 227.875 inches. That is nearly 50 inches more than the "non-typical" rating! The outside width of the rack was measured 27.5 inches, in inside 23.875 inches.

When all is said and the measurements in, his deer is called a "12x12" rack. The deer missed being a "13x13" by just 1/8 of an

David's deer will be mounted by Bob's Wildlife Taxidermy owned by Robert Juleson who will do the official scoring and give Mr. Nelsen a "Green Score," but unfortunately, Mr. Juleson is not an official scorer for book.

Even if this deer does not make it into the Boone and Crockett Book, it will get recorded somewhere and talked about. In addition, it will make a great mount in Mr. Nelsen's home!



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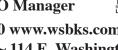
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