



Media Contact:

Barry Bartlett, The Bartlett Group,
206.335.4694 (cell)
barry@bartlettgrouppr.com

Attention Hunters: “Head & Horns” competition at Washington Sportsmen’s Show® invites hunters to compete for big game records and prizes

Competition organizer and author David Morris to introduce new book, *Blacktail Legends of the Pacific Northwest*

PUYALLUP—Hunters are invited to bring head, horns and antlers to vie for records and prizes at the “Head & Horns” competition at the Washington Sportsmen’s Show® at the Puyallup Fair & Events Center, January 27-31.

Attracting more than 300 new entries every year, hunters are encouraged to bring in heads, horn and antlers for scoring and possible inclusion into the next edition of the “Record Book for Washington.” 2010 is the last year to have entrants’ trophies recorded. Prizes will be awarded in two separate categories-- “past harvest” prior to 2009 and “current harvest” for those taken during the 2009 hunting season. Prizes will also be awarded for all three methods of harvest: rifle, archery and black powder. The top entries of each of the big game categories will be on display throughout the show and the entry deadline for the competition is 8:00 pm Saturday, Jan. 30. The final winning entries will be on display on Sunday, Jan. 31.

This always popular—and competitive-- annual event is made possible through additional sponsorship support from Fort Knox Safes, Les Schwab, Ruger Firearms, Kershaw Knives, Danner/Lacrosse Boots and Bushnell Outdoor Products.

“The most exciting thing about the competition is that you never know what’s coming to the show,” says David Morris, “H & H” organizer and official measurer for the Boone and Crockett Club. “For example, we believe the third largest Rocky Mountain elk ever taken will be there.”

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Along with the “Head & Horns” contest, Morris’ new book, *Blacktail Legends of the Pacific Northwest*, will debut at the Puyallup event. Signed copies will be available at the special show price of \$25.

Released in late 2009, the book is a collection of 50 hunters’ stories and dozens of photos of the greatest blacktail deer ever taken in the Northwest. Morris notes that while lots of books have been written about whitetail deer and elk, this compilation is a natural spin-off that fills a need to chronicle this prized Northwest species.

“New and veteran hunters will find the stories provide similar strategies such as looking where trails intersect and the use of blinds,” observes Morris, who spent 10 years on the project. “The first of its kind, *Legends* serves as a tactical guide.”

Complementing the launch of *Blacktail Legends of the Pacific Northwest*, look for an all new “Head & Horns” display, featuring 25 of the largest blacktail deer heads taken in Washington and Oregon. Revered as an iconic Northwest species, these blacktail mounts are sure to impress and inspire.

Many other books will be for sale including Morris’ other compilations: *Record Book of Oregon’s Big Game Animals* fourth edition, *Record Book for Washington’s Big Game Animals* second edition and *Record Book for Idaho’s Big Game Animals* first edition.

Morris explains that the “Head & Horns” competition recognizes hunters who harvest game under “fair chase” conditions within seasonal restrictions set forth by officials in each state. It discourages poaching and past events have uncovered illegally harvested trophies.

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