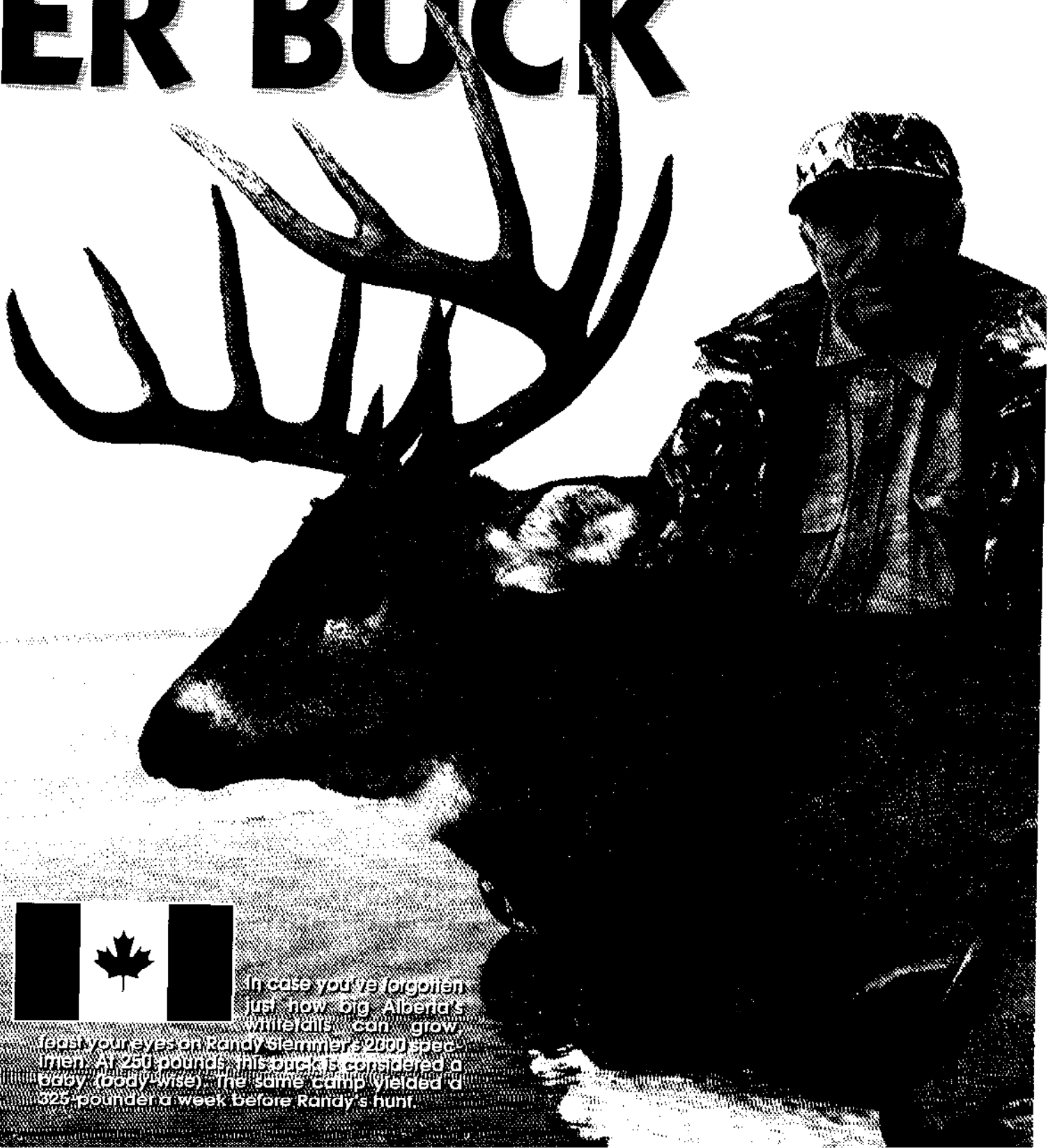




# ER BUCK



In case you've forgotten just how big Alberta's whitetails can grow, feast your eyes on Randy Stemmer's 2000 specimen. At 250 pounds, this buck is considered a baby (body-wise). The same camp yielded a 325-pounder a week before Randy's hunt.

By Mike Handley

# RADIO TOWER

Pennsylvania hunter turns his back to the wind and spies the pinnacle of his half-century-long career

**H**unting whitetails in Alberta had been on Randy Slemmer's mind for a couple of years, but his schedule had not allowed the busy sales executive to follow through until the fall of 2000. Even then, the six-day hunt with McKinnon & Co. Outfitters was arranged hastily and at the last minute, following a telephone call from Chris McKinnon.

Chris had two tags, but they were for different areas — meaning that Randy would be splitting his time between parcels. While there was

only two weeks' notice, that sounded fine to the hunter from Telford, Pa.

Randy spent the first two days hunting the first area. He visited the other place on his third morning. The 12-foot high, fixed-position treestand overlooked a cutline that much resembled a sendero in South Texas brush country. The swath through the bush was 15 yards wide and, according to Randy's range-finder, 237 yards long before disappearing over a knoll.

"The bush on either side was thick," he said. "When you looked right or left, you could not see anything."

The stand had not been hunted from in a month, though some big bucks had been seen there in the past. One of the bucks had been big enough to earn a nickname, the "Radio Tower Buck" (so named because of a tower in the vicinity, not because of the towering tines that it possessed).

The last person to have sat in it was an archer, who had decided that he did not like the set-up.

"I can see where a bowhunter would not care for it," Randy said, adding that he'd taken his rifle. "The odds of deer crossing within bow range along that long cutline are pretty bad. Even a rifle hunter would have to be on his toes.

"When I first saw the

stand," he added, "I thought: 'My God, how lucky do you have to be to catch a deer walking across this thing?'"

Randy sat in the stand the entire day. He saw four deer cross the snow-dusted cutline — three does and a small 8-pointer. His misgivings about the too-short gap were forgotten when every one of the deer stopped in the lane to look both ways and to test the wind before crossing it. Their pauses might have been short, but short was better than seeing deer dash across without offering a good look or a shot.

When he returned there the next morning, the wind was blowing into his face. By 9:30, he'd grown weary of staring at the same ground and decided to shift his attention to another portion of the barren lane.

Good decision!

"When I turned my head, there he was ... at 75 yards. I never heard him approaching," he said. "If I had not turned at that moment, I would have never known that such a buck had been so close. He had one step to go, and he would have been in the bush and completely out of sight!"

Randy knew he didn't have time to glass the buck with his binoculars, so he raised his rifle and peered at it through his scope. The buck had been looking the other way, but it turned and seemed to stare directly at Randy shortly after the crosshairs came to a stop. "He locked right on me," Randy said.

Not bothering to count points, Randy squeezed the trigger. And instantly, the buck bulldozed its way

(Continued)

## BUCKMASTERS WHITETAIL TROPHY RECORDS

TAKEN BY: RANDY SLEMMER

DATE: 11/28/00

PLACE: ALBERTA

HARVESTED WITH: CENTERFIRE RIFLE

ANTLER CLASSIFICATION: PERFECT

SCORER(S): MIKE HANDLEY

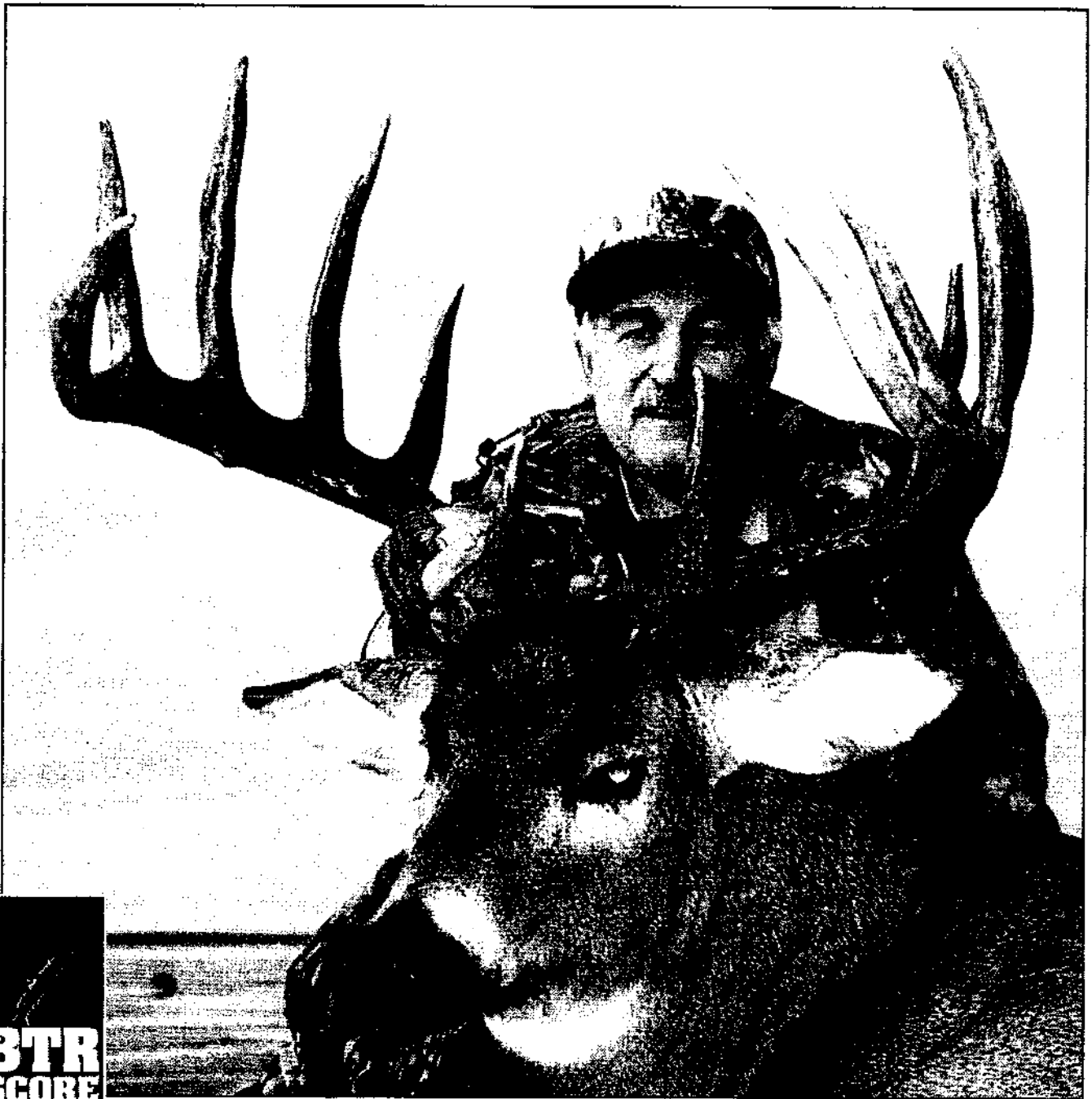
### CONDENSED TROPHY MEASUREMENT DATA

	RIGHT	LEFT
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS PER ANTLER	6	6
TOTAL INCHES OF IRREGULAR POINTS	0	0
TOTAL INCHES OF TYPICAL POINTS	64	63 6/8
CIRCUMFERENCE TOTALS PER ANTLER	18 3/8	17 5/8
SCORE PER SIDE	82 3/8	81 3/8
INSIDE SPREAD	20 1/8	
PERCENTAGE OF IRREGULARITY	0	

**OFFICIAL SCORE 163 6/8**

COMPOSITE SCORE 183 7/8

(INCLUDES INS OF SPREAD)



**BTR  
SCORE**

163 $\frac{5}{8}$

With no irregular points on its clean 6x6 rack, Randy's symmetrical 12-pointer falls into the BTR's perfect category, the rarest of all antler configurations. There is only 1 inch of difference between each side's total score.

into the brush.

"Not 10 seconds passed between the time that I first saw him and when I pulled the trigger," Randy said. "After it was over, I had to wonder, 'What have I just shot?' I thought it had to be at least a 10-pointer, but I really had no clue other than that he was carrying a huge rack!"

After waiting a half-hour, Randy reverse-crabbed his way down the tree steps and walked over to where the buck had been standing. There was no blood, but the deer's reaction was enough to convince Randy that he'd better venture into the timber.

The hunter from Pennsylvania had not gone 35 yards when he saw an odd, but welcomed sight. The buck had crashed into a young pine, and its antlers had become so entangled that they were holding the dead animal's head and shoulders off the ground. The deer had circled back toward the stand itself so that it was a mere 40 yards from the tree.

When Randy wrestled his 250-pound buck free from the pine tree, he almost could not believe how big a rack it had. "Is this deer as big as it looks?" he wondered, knowing the answer. Without a doubt, it was the

biggest set of antlers that he'd collected in nearly 50 years of trying.

What makes the wide 6x6 crown even more impressive is that it sat atop a 250-pound specimen's head. That's not terribly big, body-wise, for Alberta. In fact, the outfitter had taken one the week before Randy arrived that tipped the scales at 325 pounds. ◆

**Editor's Note:** To learn more about the hunting opportunities in Alberta, visit *McKinnon & Co. Outfitters'* website: [www.huntmco.com/](http://www.huntmco.com/); call (780) 331-2440; or send an e-mail to Chris at [chris@huntmco.com](mailto:chris@huntmco.com).