

Mike Charowhas of Abilene, Kansas, holds the colossal sheds from the buck called "Big John."
It should be mentioned that the net typical frame is over 191 inches on this 4x4 whitetail.
Photos by Jon Masse of Randolph, Kansas.



Big John

BY MIKE CHAROWHAS

An incredible event happened on February 1, 2008. A farmer who lives in the Midwest United States was just pulling out of his driveway to do his morning duties. As he glanced to his left, he spotted a gigantic antler lying points up. As he pulled over, it sure didn't take long before he reached the shed antler. The farmer couldn't believe the size of it, and wondered how a deer like this could have eluded all the hunters during the 2007 hunting season. In the fresh snow, he could see where the buck had gone, and when he scanned the area, he was shocked to see the other side lying where the buck had jumped a fence. The sheds were in perfect shape and as fresh as you can get them. Because this deer is world-class and still alive, we can only tell you that the farmer's name is John.

Being an antler collector and living in Kansas, I see my share of gigantic antlers. It takes quite a large set or a magnificent single to get me going. Just recently, a good

friend from another state asked me if I was interested in a 4x4 that scores 190 inches. Well, he certainly had my attention! My first question, was it a rack or sheds? He quickly told me, sheds, just dropped, and in mint condition.

After a few sleepless nights, I was finally able to put my hands on them. I was speechless, and as we measured them, I realized they were indeed world-class. The main beams reach out to 30 amazing inches. Brow-tines are 9 4/8 and 8 2/8. G-2s are 13 6/8 and 14, and the G-3s go 12 inches. It holds good mass throughout with six-inch bases. The set grosses 195 even and nets 182 1/8, giving it a conservative 24-inch spread. It's a rare treat to see a 4x4 in this class. I'll never get tired of looking at them, and I thank God for allowing me to own these beautiful creations.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Replicas of "Big John" are in the process of being made. If interested, contact Mike Charowhas at (785) 263-5217. 📞

Notice the blood on the bases of these amazing antlers.

