

FEATURED BREEDER



Abilene
210" 5x5 Typical
38" I.S.



The Gist Kinsman Ranch (GKR) is located in close proximity to the Gulf Coast and Mexico. It has warm winter climates, giant Bull Mesquite trees, beautiful rolling elevations, classic south Texas brush and the giant chocolate antlers of the legendary bucks of south Texas. Dr. Greg Gist (aka 'Doc') and his wife Beth chose southern Live Oak County for their dream ranch because they had been hunting this area for years with friends and family. The name Kinsman was chosen by Beth from the book of Ruth in the Old Testament. Kinsman (family) was a term used in the story of Ruth and Boaz, which foreshadows the coming of an eventual *Kinsman Redeemer* (The Christ) that would save mankind from itself.

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All DBC members are whitetail enthusiasts and Dr. Gist is another in our ranks. He has been chasing whitetails all over the North American continent for 30 years. It was his love for whitetail deer that led him to acquire this ranch in deep south Texas. The original pasture was in a seriously unimproved condition back in 2007. After months of clean-up, the property began to take shape and they started building the high fence with no intentions of embarking into the 'deer breeding business'... With the purchase of several large Texas breed bucks, Doc's biologist looked at him with a puzzled look on his face and said, "You don't plan to put those big deer into your pasture, do you?" The biologist explained how he should consider building a deer pen in order to breed those bucks to some does and then release the offspring into the pasture. Dr. Gist recalls, *"After I wrapped my brain around this 'one deer pen proposal', I must have blacked out and fallen into a deep coma for the next 7 years, because the GKR breeding operation consists of hundreds of exclusive whitetail deer in dozens of deer pens, two custom deer barns, a new surgical center, a fawn bottle feeding facility, two full time employees and scores of part time employees. Does this sound familiar to anyone?"*

The Gist Kinsman Ranch has been blessed to have had many mentors that assisted them with deciding on where to begin when it came to genetics. "Much of our original foundation genetics came from 'Old School' lines with proven typical framed production. These deer came from our friends and mentors at Sullivan's Whitetail Ranch, The Refuge, V-Tex Whitetails and Wes Worden Whitetails... "The GKR has moved past several of these great bloodlines today, but these friends were a big part of their beginnings. With this line up of genetics, the GKR love and focus on typical styled frames began to take root.

When it was time to expand and hire a full time ranch and breeding operational manager, one of Doc's good friends, Jeff Dean of Sullivan Whitetails encouraged him to consider a man that had just left Texas and was currently living in New Mexico. His name was Lynn Collard. Lynn had experience in the Texas deer industry but had just left the state to take his family back home to New Mexico. Jeff told Doc that if Lynn could just see what the GKR was working towards that there would be a good possibility that Lynn would come back to Texas for the right opportunity with the right owner. Doc took the advice and began to call and email Lynn daily. Being persistent and not taking no for an answer, the Gist family eventually flew Lynn, Carrie and their boys to the ranch in south Texas for an initial meeting. Lynn and Carrie fell in love with the ranch and the brush of south Texas. Lynn said, "The minute I got to the GKR and met Doc and Mrs. Gist, it was all over with. This was an opportunity I had been hoping for."



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When the GKR joined the game, the industry was changing drastically with DNA certification and Artificial Insemination becoming more of a standard. They began to see potential to carve out a small niche for the advancement of Big Scoring Typical Texas Frames @ 2 and 3 yrs. old, in a marketplace that was beginning to explode BIG non-typical deer EVERYWHERE! The very early days of the GKR showcased giant typical frames like **Pluto** (225" non DNA'd, 6x6 typical out of Wes Worden and Marty Berry Lines), **Renegade** 233" typ and The TDA's Best Perfect Typical in 2007 and is still in the breeding program today @14 yrs. old, **Abilene** (210" 5x5 typ with a 38" inside spread which was the widest buck in the country in 2010), **Jim Bowie** a giant 272" 2 yrs. old who was on his way to 300" @3 yrs. old when he 'passed'), along with **ChickenFry** 324" and **7Up** 309" that have paid their own way, over the years. Most recently the GKR has produced the great typical **Pentagon 727** (308" typical 7x7@3), **Houston** (385", 7x7 Highroller son @4), and **Renegade** sons like **Booner** 250" typ@3, **Bar-racade** 300" typ @ 3, **Stockade** 295" @3 & **UpGrade** 265" typ @3. Any breeder would be proud to have these boys!

In 2010 when The GKR decided to up their game in the Auction / Sale marketplace, (... or, *The Psychotic-Cervid-Circus* as Doc describes it) The GKR was approached by their friends Holly and David McQuaig of Cougar Ridge Whitetails in Oklahoma. Come to find out later, The GKR was recommended to David by their good friend Terry Owen of *Fort McKavett Ranch*. David was looking for a young 'up and coming' breeding operation that he saw as honest, very aggressive in their marketing strategies and with the typical foundation that would compliment his 'Gold Standard' Bloodlines at Cougar Ridge. Dr. Gist recalls, "*How and why David McQuaig chose to walk up to me at a DBC Banquet Sale and introduce himself to me is still a meeting of 'divine appointment' from my perspective, that my friend Terry Owen's orchestrated.*" David's first question was... *Doc, I've been watching your operation now for several years. Can you tell me what your goal for the future of your program is?*" Without hesitation, Dr. Gist said "*To build 300+\" typical styled frames with extra's, at the age of three on a routine basis, each and every year, as I feel that is the Final Frontier in whitetail breeding!*" A big smile came across David's face.... and that night the **GKR** was introduced to **Maxbo Danger!** Danger was a beautiful 180+\" 7x7 yearling frame, and had just turned 2 years old (225\" and beautifully typical



Jim Bowie
272 @ 2



Pentagon 727
308 @ 3
7x7 Typical



Houston
385 @ 4
7x7

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framed) at that time. **Danger** was the perfect whitetail deer in Dr. Gist's estimation, and was the type of deer that the GKR wanted to grow and specialize in for the future. "When we visited Cougar Ridge that next summer to see Danger in person, we were amazed to see Hardcore and Danger walk right up to the fence in front of us! My first comment was, Wow you could put Hardcore's frame inside the frame of Danger. My wife Beth, and Lynn agreed. I was standing 5 feet from my two favorite Whitetail bucks in the country!" The negotiations began between The Gist Kinsman Ranch and Cougar Ridge Whitetails, and a huge partnership deal that has paved the road for the future in typical breeding for the GKR and some say the industry in Texas. The GKR secured the Exclusive Texas Semen Rights of **Maxbo Danger** forever, and in the following years they secured the Exclusive Texas Semen Rights of two of Danger's biggest sons.... **Danger's Redemption** 301" @1 who is one of the biggest yearling typical styled frames ever grown and **Big D** 248" @2.

When asked about how and why The GKR has risen in the ranks so quickly Dr. Gist quickly and humbly points out that, "Any success we enjoy is certainly because of the people in my life that The Lord has sent to me. Lynn, Carrie and their two boys Cody and Cayden are the secret weapons that make our ranch work, day in and day out." Honesty, integrity, trusted and thoughtful counsel are the words used when he describes his ranch foreman and family. Doc says, "Lynn and I certainly argue like teenagers at times when discussing breeding pairs each fall and other decisions on the ranch, but it is because we both care about each other and about the growth of this resource that God has given." It is apparent that the freedom 'GKR ownership' gives to team members to emotionally invest in the business and have ownership in decisions and the fruits of these decisions, really makes a difference.

The GKR's most exciting and rewarding days are certainly ahead of them! Their goal to be thought of as a 'New Standard' in Growing Big Scoring Typical Styled Frames in Texas' is an aggressive one for sure! The most recent acquisition is the GKR partnership with *South Texas Ranch Whitetails*, and the incredible 2 yrs. old buck named **Junkyard** (336" typical styled 7x7 frame @2 yrs. old). This giant 2 yrs. old is the womb brother of the great Triple Crown of High Roller's Whitetails. Junkyard has flown under the radar until this Texas Partnership emerged. As Doc says, "Can you imagine a 'Danger-ous Junkyard' outcross in the future, Wow?"

Yes, Team GKR has their eye on the prize but is always thinking about the growing industry as a whole, by being front and center with industry and educational sponsorships, PAC donations and industry sponsored charity giving. Dr. Gist expressed that, "Most importantly, I would hope to continue our reputation as a breeding operation that always

puts the needs of PEOPLE above all the other distractions that come along in this dynamic industry, and certainly above our own interests. To always give our clients more value than they bargained for, to always treat people in the way we would like to be treated ourselves, and to always give Glory to our God. We want to champion a High Quality- Low Volume business model, with an emphasis on integrity and long term value for all of our clients. To date, it is a business model that has served us well!"

The Gist Kinsman Ranch offers Bred Does, Breed Bucks, Stocker Bucks, Consultation Services and exclusive Semen Sales, along with an emerging commercial hunting business (gun and bow). The GKR rise has been fast and furious and is being noticed nationally. This rise has been built on sound business principles, an aggressive focus on exclusive & typical bloodlines, and above all a Christian world view and conviction to always treat people right!



Junkyard
336@2
7x7