



SMOKE SIGNAL

SKOOKUM ARCHERS NEWSLETTER - APR. 2003

Odds and Ends

The old riding **lawn mower** at the range finally gave out, and the Board bought a late model Kubota mower to take its place. This had been authorized at the annual meeting. Hope the new one lives an equally long life. Thanks to Pat Fernandez and others for the first mow of the season.

Vandals again struck the **pop machine** outside the Club House, so Coke took it away. Haven't decided how or if it will be replaced, but it was nice while it lasted. May need to install additional security.

For largely security purposes, we have been **remodeling** the inside of the Club House to wall off the archery equipment and club records area. A separate locked closet for our archery education equipment is being built thanks to Board member Dan Croft.

Board member Cooper Ewing has been appointed as the liaison to the **Archery Education** program. Any questions regarding lessons or related matters should be directed to Cooper. The spring and summer lesson schedule should be developed soon. A class registration form is available on our web site and soon members and others will be able to register for an archery class online at www.skookumarchers.com.

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined the Club in the past couple of months:

- Jerry Millage, Sumner
- Taresa Driggers, Buckley
- Tim Johnson, SeaTac
- Robert Onishi, Auburn
- Chris Ray, Federal Way

Members Clean Up at NFAA Sectionals

The National Field Archery Association 2003 Indoor Northeast Sectionals were held the weekend of March 8th. The event drew more than 80 archers from Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Montana, Alaska, and Idaho. Congratulations to Skookum Club members who won their division:

Bowhunter Freestyle: Curt Reid, adult male

Freestyle: Jamie VanBlaricom, adult male; Liz VanBlaricom, adult female

Freestyle Limited Recurve: Tim Hines, adult male; Pat Fernandez, senior male 65 and above.

Pro Freestyle limited: Carolyn Elder, females 55-64.

Traditional: Dan Croft, male 18-54; Sam Payne, Puyallup, male 55-64.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2003 DIRTY THIRTY 3-D

One Day Only Tournament
Saturday, May 10th

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**Word Find Puzzle not available on
online edition**

Archery Wit and Wisdumb

There is no such thing as a bad shot.....just the end result

The spot is our friend.

Aiming is but another anchor point.

Aim within the shot, don't shoot within the aim.

"If you are not working to protect hunting, then you are working to destroy it." — Fred Bear

"The grizzly bear is the most thrilling of all game to me... While one senses dignity about them, there is the power and fury hidden there that is unexcelled by any animal on this continent.. I hope he will not recognize the limitations of my bow!" Fred Bear

Once they're out of the quiver, there's no telling where they'll end up.

The arrow flies not from the Bow, but from the heart...

Shoot the shot...Not the score.

Whether you are trying to play hide-the-arrow or not, at least know where youre shooting.

Only from standing on the shoulders of the past can you see into the future: After a bad shot just learn what you did and make the next arrow the best.

"My wife told me that if I go to one more archery shoot she's going to leave me. Gosh, I'm going to miss her".

Nothing is usually wrong with the bow except for the nut attached to the handle

Archers are weird; They put their faces on their butts.

Wet 'N Wild Results

It was wild, but not so wet thankfully ... at the annual Wet 'N Wild held March 15 & 16th. Thanks to all those who helped make the annual Wet 'N Wild 3-D a big success. For the most part, the weather cooperated, and archers enjoyed a fine day of shooting. Those who placed included:

Senior Male FS

Ken Willines - 319

Female FS

Shirley Emery - 333

Male FS

Jim Mullen - 369

Dave Day - 350

Jamie Van Blaricom - 349

Male FSL

Jim Cowart - 322

Male BHFSL

Shane Peterson - 306

Female BHFSL

Brandi Jennings - 222

Sonja Green - 212

Vicki Reed - 207

Male BHFS (Championship Flight)

Daryl Green - 355

Merl Reed - 352

Dennis Jenkins - 345

1st Flight

Dan Webb - 319

Tim Mendenhall - 310

Kevin Davis - 309

2nd Flight

James Passmone - 273

Brian Fuhman - 272

Tim Martindale - 270

Senior BHFS

Chris Thorson - 188

Young Adult BHFS

Darren Wagnild - 273

K.C. Krause - 258

Senior BBBH

Fred Ramiskey - 188

Male BBBH

Alfred Neilson - 274

Senior BHFSL

Larry Ramsay - 289

Senior Traditional

Sam Payne - 245

Male Traditional

Bob Suggs - 232

Melvin Daniel - 163

Troy Manks - 157

Female Traditional

Lesa Gardner - 78

Male Young Adult Traditional

Thomal Melvi - 108

Youth Male FS

Gaven Day - 293

Grant Cowart - 235

Youth BHBB

William McReady - 102

Corey McReady - 94

Mark Daniel - 43

Cub BHBB

Ryan Gardner - 225

Corey Wilson - 111

Cub BHB

Beth Daniel - 53

Male Cub FS

Burk Johnston - 352

Timmy Mack - 319

Ross Cowart - 316

Daren Schrum - 300

Taylor Martindale - 299

Male Cub FSL

Zack Shier - 342

Female Cub FSL

Katey Schrum - 82

Peewee Male FSL

Alex Gore - 203

Peewee Male FS

Jack Shier - 359

Ivaak Martindale - 298

Peewee Male BHBB

Caleb Graham - 101

Peewee Female BHBB

Maria Thorson

COMMENTS HEARD AT SHOOT:

"Shut up and shoot!"

"Don't worry, shoot happy!!!"

"Nice Bounce!!"

"The more you practice, the luckier you are."

"Archers Score More."

"I was perfect - - until I shot the first arrow."

"May the Dot be with you!"

"The only way I can get my arrows to group is to put them in my quiver!"

"Shoot the shot...Not the score."

2003 Tournaments

The 2003 Club, WSAA and National Event/Shoot calendar is available on skookumarchers.com

MAINTAINING YOUR COMPOUND BOW

Adapted from an article by Bill Winke

Though they can seem intimidating at first, compound bows are not overly complicated to work on. However, like any machine, your bow does require regular maintenance. It's to your advantage to learn as much as you can about how your bow works and how to keep it working. There will be times when the archery shop isn't open and you have to get some work done. What then? Or you may be on a hunting trip when something happens to your bow. If you can perform all the routine maintenance yourself, you can keep your bow performing perfectly. Here are the most common maintenance procedures and the tools you'll need to perform them.

RELAXING THE TENSION

You can either use a full sized bow press to relax the tension on bow's string and harness system or you can use a portable press. Most archery shops have a bow press that you can use, but if you're serious about

maintaining your own bow you should consider buying or making one yourself. Full size presses are definitely faster and more convenient, but they cost more and take up more room in your shop than portable presses.

The best full size presses will be adjustable to contact the limbs just inside the wheels. They will also apply the downward pressure to the handle section near each end. The portable models are very effective and small enough to take along on hunting trips, but they require a little more time to use and can wear out if used a lot.

Not only is a press required for major maintenance, it is also standard equipment for simple set-up work such as installing a peep sight or torque buttons on the string. If you don't already have one, a good press should be on your birthday or Christmas list.

STRING AND HARNESS

Standard tools include a good nock pliers, and a basic T-square. These tools permit you to adjust your nock point setting when tuning and in the even that your string should stretch.

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Setting Up Your Compound Bow The Easy Way

Step 1- Measuring Strings and Cables

Bow companies spend a great deal of time establishing the specifications for their bows. A safe assumption is that the string and cable measurements that they give you are the optimal setup for that product. Start by checking the measurement of the strings and cables. This guarantees that you start with the brace height, axle-to-axle length and, most importantly, wheel orientation that the manufacturer specifies. Any stretch or creep that may have occurred post manufacture will be eliminated. Timing issues of a two cam and, more critically, orientation settings of a single cam are returned to factory settings. From there measure and document axle-to-axle length and brace height and mark your wheels (with a pencil at this time) where the string leaves them. This way if you ever have a problem you have a quick reference to look back to. This process is time consuming and more complicated than any of the other steps in the process, however, it is also the most important step.

Step 2 Cable Guard Offset

Since many companies have gone to a fixed position cable guard this next step may not be necessary. However, if you need to set the cable guard position here is a quick and easy way. By placing a parallel wall (constant diameter) arrow shaft against the sight window cutout of the riser you create a gauge to adjust your cable clearance. Set your cables just a hair outside of the arrow shaft. Any further in and you may have a problem clearing my cables. Any further out and you may clear your cables, but hit my riser with the fletchings. Once you establish what size and orientation of fletch you will shoot and start fine tuning your centershot you can reduce your cable clearance if you like.

Step 3 Draw Weight and Draw Length

Once you are sure that your strings and cables are set to factory specifications it is time to set the draw weight and draw length. Use a reliable scale and set the weight to match your arrows. Adjusting the limb bolts on the bow will have some effect on draw length. Double check that the draw length of the bow is still what you need and make any necessary adjustments. Bear in mind that draw length adjustments will have an effect on draw weight so it may require several tries to get both settings where you want them.

Step 4 Arrow Rest/Center Shot

Next, mount your arrow rest to your bow. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for mounting and setting the pitch or angle of the launcher, if necessary. (There are many theories about how much tension to put on your arrow rest but I will not discuss that topic in this article.) Setting preliminary centershot on the rest uses a method similar to the one we used on the cable guard. Place a parallel wall arrow shaft against the sight window area of the riser and whatever arrow you are going to shoot on the arrow rest and on the string. You may need to install a temporary nocking point locator to do this.

Now look at your bow from directly above and adjust the centershot of your rest so that the arrows run parallel. I usually set the arrows just a bit outside of center to guarantee good clearance (see Figure 3). If you measure with a ruler, set the points about 1/16* further apart than the nock ends of the arrows. Let me reiterate that this is a preliminary setup position and not a tuning procedure. Once you start tuning the bow you may need to move the rest in or out depending on how you torque your bow.

Step 5 Nocking Point

To set a preliminary nocking point location start by placing the arrow on the rest and snapping the nock onto the string. Slide your nock up and down the string until the arrow is running parallel with the shelf of the riser. You may want to hold a parallel wall arrow shaft on the shelf of the riser to make the parallel line easier to see. Generally, set your nocking point a little high (2-3 serving threads) for a two cam bow and slightly higher (4-5 serving threads) for a single cam bow. Again, this is a preliminary position for your nocking point locator that establishes good clearance and is not bow tuning. When you get to tuning your bow you will probably have to move this setting to accommodate for how you torque your bow and how your bow reacts.

Step 6 Double Check and Document

Go back and double check all your measurements at this time. Any draw length or draw weight adjustment may have affected brace height and axle-to-axle length. Draw length adjustments may have affected wheel orientation as well. Mark your wheel positions with a paint pen now and write down all the information about your bow someplace where you will be able to find it again later. Next, install your peep sight and set it to the appropriate location. This is another good measurement to write down. Finally, mount your accessories and tune.

Fast Flight and S4 don't have unlimited life. Strings and harnesses become worn or nicked with time and must be replaced. Make regular checks for signs of wear. When a couple of strands of the string or harness have worn through, it's time to replace it. After you've installed a fresh string or harness you can expect your bow to be slightly out of tune and will likely need to be re-sighted. The exact string length, peep sight location and nocking point may not be identical even though you wrote down these measurements before removing the old string.

Though modern synthetics are far more stretch resistant than those used only a few years ago, strings and harnesses will creep for a short time after installation. If you changed one or both harnesses, check your timing after shooting about 200 to 300 arrows through the bow. You may also have to reset your draw length at this point by twisting your string. It's annoying and time consuming to return equipment during the hunting season. If you don't have a back-up bow you can bring into service it's a good idea to have an extra string already shot-in and tuned for your current bow. When you store it, fasten both ends together to keep the string from untwisting in your tackle box.

Obviously, you need to keep the string and synthetic harnesses well waxed at all times. This will lessen the chances of the strands being cut or absorbing moisture, which can change performance and cause the synthetic compound that makes up the strands to creep. Check the area where the string or harness comes off the wheel for signs of wear. If you shoot a cabled bow with teardrops, check the point where the teardrop attaches to the cable. I had a teardrop pull loose on me once just as I released an arrow. I don't recommend it! Check the swaged loops as well. If you see any sign of slippage in either place have the bow re-cabled immediately.

Manufactured bowstrings with monofilament serving can be a real problem for release aid shooters. The mono can slip or break at any time leaving you with nothing. To solve this problem before it starts, cut off the original serving and replace it. Serve it as tight as you dare using a good serving jig.

LIMBS

You'll need a device for relaxing the tension on your string and harnesses in order to do intermediate maintenance on your bow. There are many styles of bow presses on the market. The full-size models are most convenient but a good portable bow press, is all you really need. Wheel cant has been a hot topic of

the increased interest in split limb bows. When the harnesses are loaded to their maximum force at the completion of the draw there is considerably greater tension in the harnesses than in the string. This causes the limb tip to tilt slightly in favor of the higher-tension harness side of the limb. Even with split yokes some wheel cant is inevitable. But it won't hurt a thing unless it gets so bad that it wears your string or harnesses excessively. Even bows with serious wheel cant can be tuned and shot with world class accuracy. So don't get too worked up over a little wheel cant.

CHECKING & SETTING TIMING ON TWO-CAM BOWS

Check your two-cam bow every couple of weeks to make sure that both cams get to full draw at exactly the same time. Be as precise as possible. I like to watch the letoff, or back wall portion of the harness track as I slowly draw the bow. The harness should drop into this portion of the track simultaneously on both cams. If the timing is off, relax the tension on the string and harnesses and add a twist or two to the harness attached to the wheel (not to the axle) that is getting to its full draw position first. Always check your timing before you start to tune your bow because it can drastically affect arrow flight if it's off.

The best way to learn how your bow works is to jump right in and start doing your own maintenance. Once you get into it you'll find that basic bow mechanics is really not complicated, and can even be fun. You'll head off problems before they cost you hunting time.

Check your limbs for any signs that they may be delaminating or feathering. If there are any raised fibers or cracks in the limbs, take the bow back to your dealer for warranty work. Usually, limbs have a three year warranty and a modest replacement cost thereafter. Small splinters won't render the bow inoperable, but they can become worse and the quicker you take care of them the better.

AXLES

The next time you have your bow down for regular maintenance check your axles for straightness. Simply take one of the E-clips off the end of the axle and push it through the limb, cam and spacers. Just remember the order of the spacers and the orientation of the cam because you'll have to put everything back together again. If you're shooting a radical cam at heavy poundage (70 pounds plus) with relatively light arrows (less than 6 grains per pound of draw) you may have bent axles.

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They could get worse and eventually cause your limb tips to split or wallow out your cam bushings. Depending upon severity, accuracy may also be affected. Roll your axles on a flat surface. If they're bent get them replaced, check your bow warranty,

While you've got the cams off check the bushings for signs of wear. If the bushing (the liner around the axle hole) is oblong it needs replacing. In the worst case, the bushing may actually break into pieces and crumble when you remove the axle. Changing the wheel bushing requires a press (or at least a very steady tap with a large hammer) and this repair is best left to Gary at the pro shop.

CAMS

Checked to make sure that any screws are tight (if you have modules). Additionally, keep your wheels well lubricated to reduce squeaks and friction.

Club Member Classifieds

NEW GOLD TIP ARROWS 3555. 1 dozen new uncut in package with insert and lock nocks. On sale for \$40.00.

BOWTECH BLACKKNIGHT2. Model 2002 (used) left handed, Draw Lt: 29", Draw Wt: 70 or 80 lbs, Axe-Axe: 36", speed 350 fps @ 29" (80lbs). Normal price \$749.00 + tax, sale price \$600.00 Contact Richard 425-941-8201.

New Gold Tip XT 5575 Camo Shafts. Great hunting arrow. 1 dozen new uncut in package with inserts and lock nocks (or can substitute Bohning flo. green nocks). Straightness of $\pm .003$ "; Weight tolerance of ± 5 grains. For 55-75 pound draw weights (8.2grains/inch). Retail between \$80-\$90. Will sell for **\$49** plus \$3.90 S&H. Will cut to length and install inserts for no extra charge. Can also fletch (4" AAE or Duravanes) for additional \$6. Contact Don at morrison@lgi.org. Phone: 253-565-6253 (days), or 253-565-1630 (nights).

Email your classified ads (Archery related only and keep it short) to info@skookumarchers.com, or fax to 253-565-2575 by the 26th of the month

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ACTIVITIES

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Education - Bob Suggs, 253-435-7435

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Bowhunter Education - Open

Pierce County Sportsmen's Council Liaison

- Open

Target Shoots - Open

3-D Shoots - Open

To submit items for the Smoke Signal, contact Don Morrison, Newsletter Editor, by the 26th of the month at morrison@lgi.org. Fax: 253-565-2575.

CALENDAR

- April 5 & 6, Traditional Shoot, Cedar River
- April 12 & 13, WSAA Safari, East County
- April 17, Skookum Member and Board Meeting
- April 26 & 27, Skookum Spring Safari and Money Shoot
- May 3 & 4, Redding Trail Classic and NFAA Marked 3-D Championship
- May 10, Skookum Dirty Thirty 3-D Shoot
- May 17, WSAA 3-D Championship, Cedar River

Target Assignments: Active Members are responsible for maintaining a target area. Life Members, Associate and Junior Members are not required to maintain a target area. IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR TARGET ASSIGNMENT, CONTACT THE CLUB VICE-PRESIDENT. Your target assignment is generally printed on your Smoke Signal mailing label. You will be responsible for replacing the Target Face when it has been shot out, picking-up trash in your shooting lane, and reporting any maintenance that needs to be done; grounds work (grass, trees, brush, etc.) that needs to be done to the Grounds Chair, and reporting any range work (target shed, shooting bales or shooting stakes) that needs to be done to the Range Chair. Replacement targets can be acquired by contacting the Pro-Shop; you will be assisted with finding the correct replacement target face. Please do not replace targets until they need it; typically this means that the center scoring area is shot out. Also, we can all pitch in on replacing the target faces on the flat range. Thanks for working together!

SPRING SAFARI
APRIL 26 & 27

APRIL 2003

SIGNAL
SMOKE

www.skookumarchers.com

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Puyallup, WA 98373

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Club & Range

Skookum Archers

