



SMOKE SIGNAL

SKOOKUM ARCHERS NEWSLETTER - jULY 2003

Message from the President

We need lots of help "at home on the range". Our archery range is getting in poor shape. Shooting lanes are clogged with growing trees and brush; yardage markers need re-measuring, new target sheds need to be built. As a club run by volunteers, nothing gets done unless YOU help do it.

Each active member is assigned a target (the assignment is listed on the Smoke Signal Mailing label following the last name of the member), and it is your responsibility to make sure that target butt and lane are in shape, clean of garbage, trees, bushes and grass. Any benches, sheds, bow racks and yardage markers need to be kept up. We don't make enough money from shoots, range fees and memberships to hire someone to keep up the range. We are able to keep dues relatively low by using active member help. Active members are credited \$3 per hour for volunteer work. While this is not a high hourly rate, it does allow volunteers to work their dues down to a nominal amount.

It is the responsibility of all active members (not just the directors) to keep up the range. Board members have lots of other assignments and work to do. Most Board Members put in many hours a month on behalf of the Club. When the grounds or range directors call a work party, please come and help out, even if you can only put in a couple of hours. Also, regularly check your target assignment and take the time to make sure your target is in good shape. If you have a spare afternoon or morning, come on out and go to work. In the last few years people have told me they need hours to get their membership discount. There is plenty of work to do, not only keeping up the range but in setting up and running tournaments, keeping the clubhouse in shape, representing our club on hunting issues and many other ways. The future of this club is in your hands. Don't assume someone else will do it all. Thanks for your help. Curt Reid

Club to Host State Target and FITA



Skookum will host the WSAA Target Championship July 12 & 13, and the WSAA FITA Championship August 2 & 3. Even for bowhunters, these are fun events to test your skill and refine your form. Complete the enclosed registraton forms on page 3 & 4, and and plan to participate in these exciting events. One day shooters are welcome, although you must compete both days in order to be eligible to win a WSAA award.

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On Target Archery - Your Full Service Pro Shop & Techo Hunt at Skookum Range

Gary & Marlene Brandt, Owners - 11209 Shaw Road East - Puyallup, WA 98374

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Word Find Puzzle - Bow Sights

Whitetail Deer Quiz

Test your knowledge about Whitetail Deer. Circle your answer. Correct answers given at bottom of page. From the Hunting Network.

1. The size of a buck's antlers play a part in its social status in the herd?
True False
2. At birth, how many pounds is the average male deer?
7 17 27 37
3. Antlers are made from the same material that bones are made of.
True False
4. Genetically, what animal is the deer most closely related to?
Horse Pig Cow Elephant
5. About how many whitetails are estimated to be currently living in the wild (in the millions) in the U.S.?
5 15 25 35 45
6. What predator claims the lives of the most deer?
Bobcats Wolves Cougars Coyotes
7. About how many pounds was the largest documented whitetail deer killed to date?
225 275 325 400
8. What percentage of fawns does a mother doe lose in her lifetime?
10 20 30 40 50
9. What color eyes are fawns born with?
Green Blue Brown Black
10. In how many of the 50 U.S. states do whitetail deer live?
18 28 38 48
11. How many parts does a deer's stomach have?
1 2 3 4 5 6

Correct Answers: 1. True; 2. 7; 3. True; 4. Pig; 5. 25 million; 6. Wolves; 7. 325; 8. 10; 9. Blue; 10. 48; 11. 4

"Okay, now let's check your weight."

WSAA TARGET CHAMPIONSHIP
REGISTRATION FORM
(AVAILABLE ONLY IN PRINT EDITION)

WSAA FITA CHAMPIONSHIP
REGISTRATION FORM
(AVAILABLE ONLY IN PRINT EDITION)

After the Harvest

Making the Most of the Meat

Once you have harvested that big buck, it's important to take steps to assure that it will taste as good as possible at the dinner table. It is not as clear as you might think.

Most everybody knows the basics. But, some of the details are unclear to newer bowhunters. Like what makes meat have that strong "wild taste"? How can our meat be mild and delicious enough to be cut with a fork?

After the animal is down and found, everything that is done or not done will affect the quality of the meat - time being the major controlling factor. As soon as the animal is dead, the meat starts to change. If certain actions are not taken in a timely manner, the meat quality will suffer.

The blood, guts and hide need to be removed as soon as possible. The guts are probably the highest priority, next the blood, and then the hide. Getting rid of the guts and most of the blood can be done at the same time. Blood seems to be one of the major contributors to meat having a strong "wild taste".

The temperature of the meat needs to be reduced quickly. This means the hide needs to come off as soon as possible. The hide on mule deer and blacktail deer is thin and will give you a little more time to get it off without seriously affecting the meat. The hide on an elk is thick and needs to come off right away. As soon as we remove the guts, skin your elk.

The meat needs to be protected from bugs, and hung so it can continue to cool. Put the meat into cloth game bags made of a jersey type material that is very porous and will fit over the hindquarter of an elk very loosely. Special care should be taken not to trap any bugs in the bag with the meat. If you are not where you can hang the meat, take it to where you can. (This is where good pack boards come in handy.)

Often times, if you have to pack the meat very far, you shouldn't bring out the rib cage and neck. Instead, remove all the meat, being careful to not forget the two muscles (tenderloins) along the backbone on the inside of the ribcage. Put all this loose meat in a game bag as well. Later, hang the loose meat bag and slip a second bag over it for increased protection against bugs.

Each bag has the meat suspended inside, but the bags are loose around the meat. This promotes cooling and discourages bugs.

The meat will probably start drying on the outside (skinning over) before you are done hanging it on the meat pole. This is good. This "skinning over" is what you want to happen (it helps protect the meat).

The bags must be checked morning, noon, and night to make sure the bags are not stuck to the meat (flies will lay eggs where it is stuck to the meat). When the bloody bags dry and are not stuck to the meat, the bugs are not a problem.

For the most tender meat possible, it must be aged. If you have daytime temperatures in the 80's to 90's and nighttime temperatures between the 30's and 40's, you can age the meat by keeping it hung in the shade for three to four days. A change in the smell of the meat means it's time to panic. Sometimes you can put the meat in a walk-in cooler or meat locker for up to twelve days. In the meat lockers it takes three times as long to properly age meat as it does in camp. Hanging your meat in a commercial type meat locker is not necessary, but it is safer. Chance of spoilage is much less and bugs are not a bother.

After three to four days of aging in camp or about ten days in the meat locker, the meat needs to be cut up and frozen. All the fat and excess blood has to be removed before the meat is frozen. The dried tissue-like skin is also removed along with any discolored meat. Every bit of hair must be removed (a single piece of hair can taint a whole package of meat). Blood shot tissue is removed (be careful not to throw away meat that is only covered with blood). Rinse your hands often to prevent contaminating the meat with the fat, blood, hair, or filth that might stick to our hands.

Only when the meat is *clean* and *lean* should you cut it into cooking portions. Steaks are cut across the grain of the meat and of even thickness (even thickness promotes even cooking). Clean meat that has a lot of tendons or is too small for anything else is ground into hamburger. Tendons and clean tissues do not seem to really affect the taste of the meat and are OK in hamburger. But try to cut off large amounts of both.

Put into freezer bags, squeeze out the air, and seal.

Good Hunting!

Archery Tips

Courtesy of Spot-Hogg Archery

1. **Fletch interference.** Fletch interference generally accounts for most bad arrow flight. We spray Desenex foot powder on the fletches before we shoot an arrow and if the arrow doesn't sink too far into our target, we are able to see if the fletch is hitting anything that it shouldn't.
2. **Shooting with a mechanical release.** The best and most consistent arrow flight is easier to get with a mechanical release. We all prefer hand-held releases as opposed to wrist-strap type releases. (Wrist-strap releases work well with a good consistent trigger pull. Variations in your trigger pull can affect impact.)
3. **Use a loop-on-the-string nocking point (D-loop).** We have used string-loops exclusively for the last 8 to 10 years because they give the best arrow flight starting from the moment of release. They also help to orient the peep sight in the string. Add a release that works well with the string loop and that is as good as it can get. For hunting purposes, the right release with a D-loop is very fast to load.
4. **Adjustable Arrow Rests.** Arrow rest location with respect to nocking point and the bow grip. We all use fully micro-adjustable arrow rests so that we can move the arrow up, down, left, and right. None of our bows have ever performed their best at factory center-shot.
5. **Arrow Rest and Arrow Flight.** Type of arrow rest can greatly affect arrow flight. Some bows will do better with an arrow rest that provides side support to the arrow. In some bows there is a left and right movement of the arrow on the arrow rest that will cause the arrow to ride up on the inside launcher prong which allows the fletch to hit, bouncing the nock end off the rest. It is easy to mistake this problem for a too high or low nocking problem. It is really a left and right, problem and is more easily dealt with by using a side-support arrow rest. But if we have pretty straight arrow delivery, we really do like the fallaway rest. Maximum fletch clearance really does seem to translate into the most forgiving arrow delivery.
6. **How straight the arrow is delivered by the bow.** We have found very few bows that really deliver the arrow even close to a true straight line. Some will deliver the arrow pretty straight when measured in the up and down directions but precious few will deliver the arrow straight when measured in the left and right directions. The cam lean has an affect on left and right nock travel and by aligning your cams it can help minimize or straighten your left and right nock movement. (Just because it is a solo-cam does not mean it has good straight arrow delivery.)
7. **Arrow spine and point weight.** If bows delivered arrows perfectly straight, the arrow's stiffness would not matter. Arrow spine matters because most arrows are not delivered perfectly straight. With the spine matched to the bow, draw length, and draw weight there seems to be a big difference in forgiveness and accuracy. Point weight affects arrow spine as does arrow length. If the arrow is too stiff it will tend to "bounce" off the rest instead of flowing through the rest, and if the arrow is too limp it will try to "wrap" itself around the bow and be very erratic. The straighter the arrow is delivered by the bow, the less influence the stiffness of the arrow matters.
8. **Good strong helical helps a lot.** A helical on your vanes helps straighten out your arrow a lot faster than straight Retching. Meaning that the bad releases, bad nock travel, or bad bow movements will have a much smaller effect. (The larger the fletching the quicker the arrow will correct itself). A fall-away rest makes this work really well.
9. **Aligning broadheads improves your accuracy.** We take care to spin our arrows on an arrow straightener and align the broadheads so they don't wobble. The truer the broadheads are aligned the better your groups with your broadheads will be.
10. **Broadhead Alignment.** Broadhead flight can also be affected by how the blades are oriented with respect to the string when the arrow is nocked. How straight the arrow is delivered by the bow dictates how sensitive the arrow flight is to blade orientation. Generally, three blade broadheads are easier to work with and are less critical.
11. **Arrow straightness matters.** When shooting field points and especially broadheads, the straightness of the arrows has a big influence on how well they group. Good straight arrows can increase the "effective shooting" distance and provide better hits on the close shots. Get the straightest arrow you can afford, (Don't take shortcuts when it comes to the shots that are important.)

Archers need to understand that tuning is not necessary related to accuracy. It is related to bow performance and forgiveness. Accuracy is related to consistent execution of form.

Archery Lessons

Skookum Archers sponsor an ongoing archery education program. The Club has a number of National Archery Association (NAA) Certified Instructors. All equipment is provided. Students can use their own equipment if it is deemed safe by the instructor. Our new beginning classes consist of a series of four (4) one and a half hour (1 1/2) lessons, on Tuesday nights from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Intermediate classes are also offered on Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. The Board of Directors Liaison to the Archery Education program is Cooper Ewing, who can be reached at 253-653-1575 or cooperewing@yahoo.com. You can also visit www.skookumarchers.com (Archery Education) for more information. Sign up no later than the first of the month for that month's lessons.

Up coming class schedule:

July 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

August 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

NAA Level 1 Archery Instructors wanted. We are looking to start a once a month free Saturday Shoot for children and adults to introduce them to archery. This will be a free clinic held for two hours either on a Saturday or Sunday. I'm looking for instructors that are interested in volunteering for one or more of the days. You also get work credits for you volunteer hours if you are a Active Member. Please contact Cooper Ewing at 253-653-1575 or cooperewing@yahoo.com.

At all but the very top level of archery, form is the biggest variable and the key to good shooting.

On Target Archery

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at the Skookum Range**

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ACTIVITIES

Open - Volunteer Today!

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

Facilities - Open

Education - Cooper Ewing, (253) 653 -1575

Eyes in the Woods Liaison - Open

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

- July 12 & 13, State Target, Skookum
- July 14-15, 3-D Shoot, Cedar River
- Sat. July 19, Fun Safari, Darrington
- Thurs. July 17, Member and Board Meeting, 7 pm, Club House
- July 21-24, NFAA Nationals, Darrington, WA
- July 12-13, State Target Tournament, Skookum Archers
- July 26-27. Bownanza 3-D, Cedar River
- August 2 & 3, State FITA, Skookum
- August 16 & 17, Cedar River Broadhead 3-D

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!

WSAA Target July 12-13
FITA Aug. 2-3

JULY 2003

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