



# SMOKE SIGNAL

SKOOKUM ARCHERS NEWSLETTER - OCT. 2002

## Membership Cards - Use of Range

As a club, one key source of income is the range fees collected from nonmembers who use the range. Fees are used to buy targets, etc. Range fees are collected at the Pro Shop (On Target Archery) and from the drop box during off hours. Although Gary and Marlene do a good job helping us "police" the range, there are many people who use the range without paying. Please help monitor use of the range. Members should have their membership card with them. If you are on the range and see someone you don't know without a membership card visible, please ask them if they have registered at the pro shop, or dropped their \$5 into the drop box? We need everyone's help to monitor the range. \$5 is a small fee to pay for a day's worth of shooting. Thanks.

## 2003 Board of Directors Positions

Members of the Board of Directors serve a one year term. Each fall the President appoints a nominating committee to develop a list of candidates. Additional nominations are also accepted. The election is held at the December annual meeting, and new board members are installed at the annual banquet in January. While many Board members serve in the same position for multiple years, the term itself is for a single year at a time. Next year, there will be two new positions to be filled (Grounds and Activities) and others for which the incumbent may not run again. Board positions include:

President	Vice-President
Secretary	Treasurer
Tournament	Range
Grounds	Hunting
Communications	Activities

If you are willing to serve on the Board next year, please contact President Curt Reid to have your name considered by the nominating committee. Thanks.

## Broadhead Target Butt Stolen

One of the new foam broadhead target butts was recently stolen from the Club House. The Board has authorized a \$50 reward for any information leading to the arrest of the culprit.

## Techno Hunt 3D Tournament

On Target Archery will hold a Techno Hunt Tournament fun shoot during October. Participants will shoot once a week for 4 weeks. Shoot at your convenience during regular pro shop hours. Make-ups will be allowed before the end of the month if you can't make it in to shoot during a week. The shooting fee is \$25. There will be 35 shots from the North American disk. Sign up today!



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Word Find & Cartoon Available in Printed Edition Only

## American Red Cross - Wilderness Oriented First Aid (WOFA) Course

This course has a “fee range” (Suggested Fee – Subsidized Fee), which allows you to choose to pay **what you can afford** within the range. **PLEASE**, carefully consider what you will choose to pay for your training. Your generous support is what allows us to make this type of training available. Registration information can be found at [www.arctacoma.org](http://www.arctacoma.org) under Education/Training, or by calling (253) 474-0600. **SUGGESTED FEE: \$125.00 SUBSIDIZED FEE: \$85.00**

24 hours. **COURSE CODE: 9901.**

**PREREQUISITE:** None. Covers how to take charge, make a plan, and administer first aid when professional help is hard to reach; useful for climbers, canoeists, backpackers, hunters, camp/scout leaders, pilots, and vacationers who visit the back country. Students are tested outdoors, in a final scenario using moulage (realistically simulated graphic wounds) and authentic displays of emotion by “victims.” A must for anyone who ventures into the wilderness! WOFA covers Adult CPR, First Aid, steps for wilderness first aid response, emotionally upset victims, rescues & evacuations. To receive certification, students must successfully complete both written and skills exams. **CERTIFICATION:** Adult CPR valid for one year, WOFA and First Aid valid for three years.

### DATE(S) DAY(S) TIME(S)

Oct. 7,9,14,16,19 Mon/Wed/Sat 6-10PM (Mon's/  
Wed's), 8AM-5PM (Sat)

### LOCATION(S):

American Red Cross of Tacoma-Pierce County  
1235 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma WA 98409  
(Saturday afternoon will be held at Skookum Archery  
Range, 11209 Shaw Rd. E., Puyallup)

### DAVE'S HEADS & HORNS TAXIDERMY

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### Good Shooting

Every person has a particular time span (about 6-10 seconds) or “comfort zone” that he or she needs to shoot within, which is where they are holding the steadiest.”

Bernie Pellerite



The single greatest addition to an arsenal of productive tactics is deer calling—most important, antler rattling. Of the many big bucks taken, more than one-third are harvested because they “came to the horns.” That total doesn’t include the many that could, or should, have been on that list, but somehow got away.

Here are some valuable lessons about antler rattling. First, keep rattle sequences to 20 to 30 seconds. Even with short sequences, a buck may burst in before you are ready for a shot. When first rattling, try bucks that are clearly going to pass by out of range. Gauging their response builds confidence.

The single most important ingredient for antler-rattling success lies in a deer herd with a well-rounded age structure. Ideally, there will be a good buck to doe ratio, with a good percentage of the bucks being mature. In healthy herds, competition among bucks—both in establishing a pecking order and in breeding rituals—is very much a part of the animals’ yearly tradition. From early season sparring bouts to full-blown breeding-season fights, bucks are acclimated to the sound of “horns.” With the sound of antler rattling a regular part of their environment, attraction to these sounds is a “normal” response.

The sound of rattling antlers means different things to different deer, and there are many variables that determine how individual deer interpret and react to the sound. Does, yearlings and small bucks may run away from the sound of a full-blown breeding fight between mature bucks, yet the same deer may come to the sound of the gentle “ticking” of antlers related to an early-autumn sparring match between youngsters. A mature buck in the peak of the rut may walk right past the sound of a couple of small bucks sparring, yet aggressively charge into the sound of crashing antlers worn by two big bucks fighting over a hot doe.

Every situation is unique to itself and only by picking up a set of antlers and starting along the learning curve can you hope to become efficient in interpreting the right place, time and type of call to use.

Antler rattling is effective from early October through late December. Since the November rut is “the big dance,” and mature bucks know this. The build-up period to peak-breeding time is intense. With each passing day leading up to the time when most of the does will come into heat in mid-November, mature bucks begin to gradually increase their daytime activity. They start “trolling” for hot does and begin to encounter other bucks doing the same. Territories are defended, orders of dominance become confused and chaos and pandemonium rule in the deer world.

When scouting for big bucks, big rubs don’t lie. Small bucks sometimes rub big trees, but they don’t make big rubs. A concentration of big rubs in an area is a sure sign that a monster is present. The sound of an antler-rattling challenge may bring him in. At this time, antler rattling is at its peak effectiveness. Bucks are looking for a fight or sex, and the distant sound of clashing antlers means one, or both, to them. Everything is set for some awesome responses to the sound of “horns” during this time of maximum frustration and excitement.

When it comes to mastering the art of antler rattling, one of the biggest obstacles to overcome is the gray matter between your ears. The old saying “you’ll never ride if you don’t get in the saddle” lends itself well to this undertaking. If you’ve taken care of the first part of the equation—place and time—then “get some horns and let ‘er fly!” Be determined, have an open mind and let the learning process begin.

**KNOW THE WIND DIRECTION.** Tie a piece of thread to the end of your stabilizer, so that it hangs down about five or six inches. Just watch the string and you will constantly know the slightest breeze direction.

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# Skookum Archers Host 3-D Saturday Fun Shoot Sat. November 2nd 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Active Members shoot the first round free!  
Fee is only \$5 per round! Kids under 12 shoot free.*

Skookum Archery Range, 11209 Shaw Road East, Puyallup, WA  
Concessions: Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips, Drinks, Candy

For more information: Dennis Jenkins: 253-862-8582; [www.skookumarchers.com](http://www.skookumarchers.com)

Note: Members needing work hours may help set-up Friday afternoon or take-down Saturday afternoon.

## Archery Tips

### Courtesy Spot-Hogg Archery Products

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.) - More tips on page 6

## Hunting Articles

The Skookum Archers website features many articles to help you improve your archery skills. The following hunting related articles are available in the Archery Advice section of [skookumarchers.com](http://skookumarchers.com)

- Tips for Hunting Scent Free
- Scent Control for Bowhunters
- Bow Tuning for Hunting Season
- Broadheads: Straight to the Point
- Hunting and Grunting
- Bowhunting Techniques
- Basic Bowhunting Safety Tips
- Tree Stand Placement
- Caring for Camo Fabric
- Whitetail Anatomy & Shot Placement Guide

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## Tuning Your Broadheads

Remember: Before trying to tune your broadheads, make certain that your bow and arrows properly match and that your bow is set up correctly.

Following a few steps when tuning your broadheads will result in increased accuracy. Tuning your fixed or replaceable blade broadheads requires a three step process.

First, attach a broadhead to one of your arrows with medium to tight pressure. Then, spin check it. That means to rotate the arrow between your fingers on a flat surface with the tip of the broadhead acting as the apex of a spinning top. (You can also use one of the many commercial spin checking devices on the market). If there is any noticeable wobble 1 to 2 inches above the insert of the arrow, the broadhead/arrow combination will not fly straight. In essence, it will wobble in flight.

As amazing as it sounds, some brand new broadheads (inside the same package) will not line up with certain brand new arrows. Generally, only one broadhead out of three will line up perfectly with a certain arrow. You have to experiment with each broadhead to find out which arrow it fits best. Perhaps this is because not all inserts are perfectly aligned or tolerance levels fluctuate during mass production.

Second, line up each blade (three blade broadheads) with each feather/vane. In other words, when you look down the shaft from nock to tip, each feather (or vane) should line up exactly with each blade of the broadhead. If you can't line up each blade by simply twisting the broadhead tighter, you will have to heat up your inserts with a flame until you are able to freely move the broadhead. Once it's in line, allow time for the inserts to cool. On two and four blade models, you can either set the blades so that they ride horizontal or vertical to your sight picture. The arrows will fly straight either way.

Third, (and this is very excessive, but adds to your confidence) place the arrow/broadhead combination on a flat surface and make sure that there are two feathers/vanes lying exactly flat and two blades lying exactly flat. If there is any slight variance, adjust the broadhead so there is no visible difference.

Another method of tuning broadheads involves the precise calculations of a mathematician. Determining the Front of Center, or F.O.C., will reveal the aerodynamic properties of your arrows. Although there are exceptions, it is widely known and accepted that a forward balance weight of between 7 and 10 percent accompany the most aerodynamic arrows.

To determine the F.O.C. of your arrows, you must first measure the shaft from the tip of the broadhead to the end of the nock. Take this measurement and divide it by 2 to discover the arrow's center point (i.e. a 34 5/8 inch measurement the length of your arrows C divided by 2 equals 17 5/16 inches). Be sure to mark this measurement with a felt tip pen.

Next, determine the balance point of the shaft, and mark its location. Divide the distance between the two marks by the overall length of the arrow and multiply by 100. (In this case the distance between the two marks of my 34 5/8 inch arrow equals 3 inches. Take 3 and divide it by 34 5/8 or 34.625 times 100, and it will equal a F.O.C. measurement of 8.66 percent). The general rule of thumb dictates that when the F.O.C. is above 10 percent, you should use a lighter broadhead; when it's below 7 percent, you should use a heavier broadhead.

Taking the time to determine your arrow's F.O.C. and properly aligning your broadheads can make a big difference. It could also make your setup more forgiving and produce better results. Try it for yourself. You may be surprised with the results.

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## More Archery Tips

Continued from page 4

### 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.)

**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.

### 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.

## Choking

Remember, you can only really think about one thing at a time. So, you can't choke unless you think about it! And if you're thinking about aiming until conclusion, you won't choke. That's all your mind can handle at one time.

## Club Member Classifieds

**New Browning Aparition bow.** Very light, speed demon. Split limbs, 6.5 inch brace height, 38 inch axle to axle, 50-70 lb pull, 28-31 inch draw length. Beautiful and effective camo on limbs and riser. \$350.00. Contact Marcos at 253 874 0738.

**Wanted:** Carter Solution II BT release or trade for TRU-BALL Ultra Sweet Spot 3 back tension release. juancarreras@shaw.ca or call Juan at (604)736-8711.

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.

## Beginning Archery Lessons - Oct/Nov

There will be two (2) NAA Certified Beginning Archery Classes taught in October/November. **The first session is already full.** The class will be held at the Club House and Active Members range beginning Tuesday October 1, 2002. The class will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The class will meet twice per week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Class dates are October 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17.

**There are still some spaces available for the second session** that will meet at the same times on **October 22, 24, 29, Nov. 5, 7, and 12.** The class fee is \$60. All equipment will be provided. Personal equipment is not allowed unless special permission is obtained from the instructor. You may register at the Skookum Range at the On Target Archery Pro Shop. For further information, email the instructor Steve Cauffman at steven.b.cauffman@boeing.com. You can also download and print a class registration form from www.skookumarchers.com. If you register please send an email to the instructor so that he will be aware and can contact you with information about the first class.

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## Bowhunting Tips

**Secure bow string release.** To keep from losing your bow string release, tie it to your hunting clothing. You can use a leather boot string or plastic "coiled chain" with a snap. It looks like a phone cord with a snap on the end and only costs a couple of bucks. Tie your release to one end and snap the other end to your belt loop. The "coiled chain" works best.

**Packing your broadheads.** It is critical to have a safe and quiet place to pack your broadheads when you are hunting big game. Before you travel wrap each blade of your broadhead in scotch tape and then put the broadhead in a 35 mm film canister along with some cotton balls to keep them silent.

**Watch those squeaks.** Deer won't stick around if they hear any unnatural noises. Test your bow to make sure that it is silent as you pull it to full draw. If you have a squeaky wheel, give it a small amount of oil. Also test your stand for squeaks. While sitting in your stand, listen for squeaks as you shift your weight and twist from side to side. Also try putting felt on your arrow rest. When you draw your bow, the arrow will slide smoothly and silently across the felt.

**Pull Back Before.** When you are bow hunting you always want to pull your bow back at least 20-35 seconds before the deer gets to you. Don't pull back more than you can hold, if you do your arms will get tired and you will be shaky when its time to shoot the deer. Try to pull back when the deer is looking away from you or when its head is behind a tree or brush. Always make sure your arrows are straight. If they are not, they will misfire. When you get your sights sighted in, you might want to tighten them with pliers. If you hand tighten your sights they can easily get loose and move if they bump up against something.

## On Target Archery

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## Board of Directors and Managers

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### PROGRAM MANAGERS:

**Grounds-** Kurt Allen  
**Range -** Vacant  
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**Pierce County Sportsmen's Council Liaison**  
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**Target Tournament -** Vacant  
**3-D Tournament -** Dwayne Wurf  
**Target Logistics -** Vacant

**Education -** Bob Suggs (253-925-0583)  
**Publicity -** Don Morrison (253-565-6253)

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

- October 5-6, Mid Season 3-D, Grays Harbor
- October 5-6, Fall 3-D, Silver Arrow
- October 19-20, Between Seasons 3-D, Cedar River
- October 19-20, WSAA Convention, SVCR, Bow, WA
- November 2, Skookum 3-D Saturday Fun Shoot
- November 3, Between Seasons 3-D, Cedar River
- November 14, Membership Meeting, 7 p.m., Club House
- November 21, Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m., Club House (moved from 4/28)
- December 1, Multi-Color Mail-In Begins

**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!

Mark your calendars...  
November 2nd  
3-D Sat. Fun Shoot

SMOKE SIGNAL  
OCTOBER 2002

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