

SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

July, 2004

You Might Be An Archer If:

You know that limbs are not something that grows on a tree,

You know that tiller is something that you don't plant a garden with

You know that "VEINS" are not something you can draw blood from,

You know that "A STABILIZER" is not a pill you can take to calm your nerves

You know that a "REST" is not something you take after eating a big lunch,

You know that "TORQUE" is not a wrench you would use on your automobile,

You know that waxing your string is not a type of hair removal.

Sportsmens Show Chairperson Sought

For the past two years in late January the Club has sponsored the Archery Tent at the annual Sportsmen's Show at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Each year more than 2,000 kids and adults try their hand at shooting a bow. Thousands more pass through the booth. We setup 3 FITA targets and 9 3-D animals including 3 very realistic dinosaur targets loaned to us by the O'Loughlin trade show that are a big hit with the kids.

Last year Steve Caufman chaired the event The Club would like to continue this effort and is seeking someone to volunteer to head up the event for the 2005 show. If you are able to chair the event (which requires attendance most of the week), please contact President Denny Jenkins.

Elk Hunting Seninar

Mark your calendars! Skookum Archers will welcome Rockie Jacobsen of Bugling Bull Call Company here on July 24th @ 12pm for an Elk hunting and calling seminar. For information on how to attend or to watch some of Rockies hunting videos, call Doug at Great Northwest. 253-841-0991.



More information listed on page 3.

New Steel Container

An 8' X 40' steel container has been placed on the range. We put it on the Member's Range, on the inside along the West side of the wood fence.

This shed will be used to store target matts, equipment, etc. and will replace the three of the old sheds behind the Club House.

There is still much work to be done in ridding the Club House area of old junk and debris. If you have a couple of hours, feel free to help clean up an area.

Thanks to Curt Reid and those who have helped with this project. Maintaining the range and grounds is a never ending task and we need your help to keep it in good shooting condition.

Hunting Regs

Details of all hunting seasons are available in the 2004 pamphlet edition of Washington's Big Game Hunting Seasons and Rules at Great Northwest Pro Shop on the Range and at the WDFW website <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

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Great Northwest Archery (253) 841-0991

Your full-service pro shop and indoor range at the Skookum Archers Club and Range

Scent Free

Regularly check the direction of the wind. Subtle shifts or swirling wind patterns can betray your position and alert animals to your presence. Dangling a string from the tip of your rifle or bow is a good idea, but store-bought items like Smoke Stack or Wind Floaters work as well.

When out in the field be sure to wash with unscented soaps and dry off with the scent-free towels you prepared beforehand. Do this before each day's hunt, both in the morning and the evening, and use an odor-neutralizing deodorant to further minimize scent. (Remember that sweating can negate all your efforts, so move slowly, but efficiently, when in the field.)

Avoiding Bowhunting Blunders

Dropping pull-up rope: Keep pull-up rope on the stand, or on your belt when descending. Always leave one in place on a permanent stand.

Water in the peep sight: Use a large aperture peep sight, such as 1/4". Even then, check occasionally to be sure no water (or fuzz) is plugging the peep sight.

Grinding noise when drawing: Keep fresh shrink tubing on all launching arms of your rest. Make sure it doesn't squeak.

Clanging an arrow against the bow riser: Use mole skin, or thin carpet, or other material to quiet the riser should your arrow slip off.

Bow limb hitting the stand or nearby limb: When you first get up in your stand, draw in several different positions and angles, checking to be sure the bow limbs won't hit the stand or a limb upon release.

Arrow not being nocked properly: When drawing to check things out while in your tree stand, quite often the nock of the arrow will come off of the string. The arrow may appear to still be nocked, but it isn't. Any time you practice draw, always check to be sure the arrow nock is firmly on the string. This can happen to both a finger and release shooter.

Release aid not "hooked up": Whenever putting your release aid on the bow string, exert some pressure on it to be sure it is locked in.

Missed Shots: A common problem caused by rushing the shot or target panic. Take your time. Don't shoot until the pin is on the kill area of the deer. Make sure you've practiced enough (shooting form and range estimation) to hit what you are aiming at.

Tips for Hunting Scent Free

- Always tuck your pants into your boots, which should be rubber since they naturally emit the least amount of odor. If you must use leather, though, be sure to smother them with cover scent and odor neutralizer.
- Skin naturally emits scent, so cover as much of it as possible. A popular option is to use charcoal-laced apparel that helps lock in odor.
- Do not smoke or chew tobacco, if possible. Their smells linger on teeth and get into clothing. Brush your teeth with baking soda to eradicate as much odor as possible.
- Try to avoid contact with as many things as possible when in the woods. Even the slightest brush with a branch or leaf can deposit your scent there for animals to discover hours later. If there is undergrowth blocking your path, use the equipment you are carrying to push it aside - either a bow, gun or some other piece of gear.
- Before you go on a hunt, wash every item of clothing you will bring with you, from underwear to hunting cap, in an unscented detergent and hang it outside to dry. (You can use a dryer, but be sure to put specially scented dryer sheets in there - Powerscent, for example, comes in pine, earth or cedar scents.)
- Once they've been washed, cover everything you intend to bring with you, gear included, with an odor neutralizer. (Commonly forgotten items include boots, both the insides and outsides, tree stands, backpacks and weapons.) Pack all of the clothes in big plastic bags and seal them so unwanted scents don't get in before the hunt.

BOW TUNING FOR HUNTING SEASON

Bowhunters should tune their bows to broadheads as soon as possible. PSE Hunting Advisor Steve Van Zile, recommends that you use a bow that maximizes your peak draw weight. For example, if you're comfortable drawing 60#, then choose a bow that peaks at 60#. That is, one with a 45-60# range—not a 60-75# range. Keep this in mind when you buy your next bow.

“Bowhunters should also make sure all their hunting equipment is attached to the bow before tuning begins—and then they should not make any changes. “Perfect” arrow flight can quickly go awry if at the last minute you switch from a cable slide to a speed slide, alter the angle of the cable guard, or even add some “muff” to the arrow rest.

“Finally,” says Steve, “Bowhunters should sight their bows in only after achieving wobble free arrow flight. Trying to tune arrows to an existing set of sight pins is often nothing more than an exercise in futility.”

Bowhunters should practice shooting at life-size animal targets, such as shooting in Skookum(s 3-D Saturdays. This helps them hone their yardage estimation skills, and teaches them to pick a spot before shooting. Too many deer are missed because an archer was deficient in either of these two skill areas.

“In addition, bowhunters should avoid head-on and quartering-in angles,” says Steve, “and opt instead for a broadside or quartering-away shot. These latter two angles really expose the heart-lung region —especially if the deer’s near fore leg is fully extended.”

AFTER THE SHOT

Sometimes, the real hunt doesn't begin until after a broadhead has been released. The biggest mistake bowhunters make after taking that hard earned shot is going right after the deer. They see a lot of blood, and immediately assume their trophy is laying dead in the leaves some fifty or sixty yards away. Unfortunately, that's not always-the case. For example, the blood trail from a gut shot buck often peters out rather quickly. If you happen to push that deer too soon, he may just run off into a distant thick and disappear forever.

What should you do? Well, there is much disagreement as to what to do after a broadhead has drawn blood because every shot is a little different. There are however three key things you can do to minimize losing the blood trail altogether:

- Know where the vitals are **BEFORE** you shoot. Study charts and diagrams provided by your state's game department or hunter education programs. Be careful however with shots shown on various commercial hunting videos. Once in a while a gut shot or kidney shot is described incorrectly as a lung shot.
- Know where your arrow hit. Try to remember what the sight picture was before you released the arrow, and then imagine the arrow's entry and exit paths. Bright fletching/nocks can be helpful in this regard.
- Finally, if you are not sure where the arrow hit, **WAIT** at least a half hour before trailing. If you are an inexperienced tracker and don't find the deer with 150 yards, the best advice is get some experienced help.

Q & A

Question: Will I be less accurate if I use a large diameter peep sight for hunting?

Answer: The human eye is very good at centering a dot in a round circle. Even the best archers use large peep sights when hunting with no loss in accuracy. Peep sights with openings from 3/16 inch to 1/4 inch are not too large for hunting. Here's another tip.

When the light gets low be careful if you aim with both eyes open because the reduced acuity of your dominant eye may lead to your non-dominant eye taking over the aiming process.

This will throw your shots off badly. It is much better to learn to shoot with your non-dominant eye either squinted or closed under these conditions.

Good News

Three years of testing across Washington state have failed to turn up any deer or elk with chronic wasting disease (CWD). the case," said Jerry Nelson, WDFW deer and elk manager. Doe deer temporarily leave their young to keep from drawing predators

Good Luck

Congratulations to Club member Timm Hines who recently returned from Ohio where he competed in the Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Best wishes to Board Member Dan Croft who is traveling to New York to compete in the national Field Archery championship.

Congratulations!

Congratulation to those Club members who placed at the recent WSAA Field Championships:

Adult Freestyle Male

David Day 538 287 542 1367 1st

Young Adult Barebow Male

Youth Freestyle Male

Gavin Day 497 275 493 1265 1st

Cub Freestyle Limited Female

Jennaya Day 332 210 385 927 1st

Adult Freestyle Female

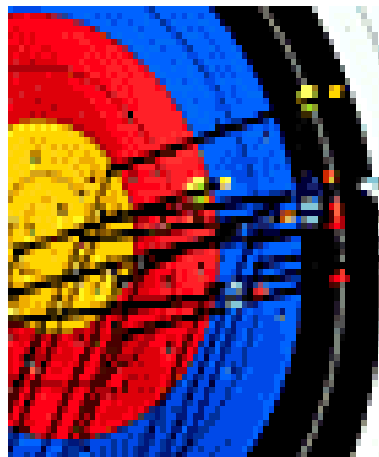
Senior Traditional Male

Sam Payne 254 196 303 753 1st

WASHINGTON STATE SENIOR GAMES ARCHERY TOURNAMENT

Sunday, 1 August 2004 at 9:00 AM at the Valley Athletic Club, 4833 Tumwater Valley Dr SE, Tumwater, WA 98501, Contact:

Linda and TC Parker at (360) 533-4698, wssa@dratom



Divisions:
Bare Bow
C o m -
p o u n d ,
Bare Bow
Recurve,
C o m -
p o u n d
F i n -
g e r s ,

Compound Release, Recurve. 900 American Round: 60, 50 and 40 yards, 30 arrows at each distance.

All participants must complete and sign an Entry Form and Medical Release. The form is available on the Washington State Senior Games website: www.pugetsoundgames.com or call (360) 413-0148 to have a Registration Package mailed to you. \$30 to register.

Eyes in the Woods Crime Observation and Reporting Training

Join us in protecting Washington's fish and wildlife by attending an EIW Crime Observation & Reporting Training (CORT). Learn from WDFW Enforcement Officers how to identify, document and report natural resource crimes. Citizen willingness to report abuses is growing, and the CORT class is designed to assist you to do it properly and timely. This program's primary goal is to create a network of trained citizens dedicated to reducing poaching and other natural resource abuses through this non-confrontational expert witness program. Class participants become a Certified Witness for the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). We are currently have the following CORT classes scheduled for the 2004 season; classes are posted on our website calendar of events <http://eyesinthewoods.org/>. Call the contact number listed for each class to sign up. Bring a CORT class to your area; your local club or retail business can host a class. We need class venues throughout the state and encourage club and commercial participation. We are also looking for volunteers to participate as CORT Training Coordinators in their local area. Our goal is to develop the CORT training committee with Coordinators statewide.

Date: August 4 2004, 7pm - 9pm

Location: Skookum Archery Club, 11209 Shaw Rd. E, Puyallup WA

Contact: John Batts 253-226-0945 jkbatts@comcast.net

Bowhunting Education

For Washington Bowhunter Education classes thus far we have the following classes scheduled:

July 27th start: At Enumclaw: contact Flint Tip Archers: 253-862-9160

August 16th: At Issaquah: Contact Alan Jones: 425- 883-0405

October 16th: At Issaquah: Contact Alan Jones: 425-883-0405

Board Member Profile: Don Morrison



Don is the editor and publisher of the Smoke Signal newsletter. He also is the webmaster of skookumarchers.com. He advertises all of the Club shoots. Don also serves as the Public Relations Director for the Washington State Archery Association. In high school, he was a member of the Golden Spike Archers, and first joined NFAA in 1965. Don shot competitively as a teenager in the mid-late 1960s. Then, after a 30 year layoff, he took up archery again in March of 2000. He has been a member of Skookum Archers since 2000. This is his third year on the Board.

Don normally shoots Freestyle Limited (Compound) for target, BH Freestyle Limited for 3-D, and occasionally Traditional for indoor. Current equipment includes: 2003 Hoyt Protec with LX Pro Limbs and Accuwheel Cams. Cavalier Elite rest. Beiter Plunger. Sureloc Sight with Mellenium tru-spot lens. Sims Enhancer/Super Stix stabilizers. Normally shoot 3-28 ACCs outdoor, and 2213 X7 Superswage indoor. 3-D bow is 2003 Protec with XT3000 limbs and Cam 1.5. Spot-Hogg 5 pin sight. Traditional bow is 70" Wing Master Slimline recurve.

Don is married with children (5); 3 girls and 2 boys. Youngest son Brady shoots occasionally with dad using his PSE Spyder.

Great Northwest Archery

Check our great deals on arrows.

Your Pro Shop at the Skookum Archers Range. We feature an indoor shooting range, a full-service pro shop dealing Hoyt, Parker bows and PSE bows, and an extensive line of archery products and services. We also sell WA hunting and fishing licenses. Open daily.

(253) 841-0991

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ACTIVITIES

Open - Volunteer Today!

The monthly member and Board of Directors meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. The member meeting is at 6:30pm, and the Board meets at 7:00 pm, in the Club House.

SMOKE SIGNAL



**Skookum Archers Club
and Range
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**Club Line: (253) 770-4177
www.skookumarchers.com
info@skookumarchers.com**

Don Morrison, Editor

**Mark your calendars! 3-D
Saturday Fun Shoot July 17th.
July 24th Elk Calling Seminar.
Plan now to attend.**

Notice to Active Members: There is a "To Do" list posted on the Club House outside bulletin board. In addition to your target assignment, those seeking work hours to reduce dues can perform any of the tasks listed on the "To Do" list. For other work that needs to be done, contact Cooper Ewing, Range Master, or Pat Fernandez Grounds Director.

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 are responsible for replacing the Target Face when needed, picking-up trash in your shooting lane, and reporting maintenance 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. 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!

- July 8, Thursday Club Member Meeting at 6:30 pm followed by Board Meeting
- July 10 & 11, WSAA Target Cahampionship, Evergreen - Spokane
- July 10 & 11, Big Game Only 3-D, WCW
- July 17, Skookum 3-D Saturday Fun Shoot
- June 31 & Aug. 1, KBH 3-D Rendezvous
- August 7 & 8, WSAA FITA Championship, Evergreen (Spokane)

CALENDAR