

SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

October, 2004

Help on The Range

The Club is currently without a Range Director, the Board position responsible for maintaining all the target sheds. As a result, the range needs a lot of help. Because of the vacancy, it's more critical than ever that members keep up their assigned target areas. Please keep up you assigned area. Thanks for your help.

The Club desperately needs a Range Director. Anyone willing to take on this task should contact Dennis Jenkins ASAP.

Most hunters prefer "clip-on-the-string" caliper type release aides

Club Hunting Awards

Once again, the Club will be giving hunting awards to anyone who harvests a deer or elk this fall. Awards will be issued at the Annual Banquet in January. Report your harvest to Hunting Director John Batts (See Board of Directors page for contact info).or list on Club White Board. Report type and sex of animal, number of points (if applicable), and GMU where taken. Also, if you have a good hunting story to share with the Club, write it up and send it to John. The best ones will be published in the Smoke Signal. Good Hunting! Congratulations to those who have already had success and reported it: **Tim Thorsteinson**, 3X3 Black-tail

Broadhead Arrow Tips

Good strong helical helps a lot. A helical on your vanes helps straighten out your arrow a lot faster than straight Fletching. 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 accuracy. Spin your arrows on an arrow straightener and align the broadheads so they don't wobble. The better the alignment, the better the group.

Broadhead Alignment. Broadhead flight can also be affected by how the blades are oriented with respect to the string when the arrow is nocked. Generally, three blade broadheads are easier to work with and are less critical.

News and Notes

2005 Board of Directors. President Dennis Jenkins will soon be heading the annual Nominating Committee to solicit candidates for the 2005 Board of Directors. Directors serve a one year term, but there is no limit to the number of terms a member may serve. Board nominees must be Active (full) members at the time of nomination. If you are willing to serve on the Board in a given capacity, contact President Dennis Jenkins (see page 8 for list of position and current Board members and contact info.)

The Club has been selected to host the **NFAA Northwest Sectionals** (Field, Hunter, and Animal round tournament) next year. The Club also plans to submit a bid to the WSAA to host the Target championship next year.

SkookumArchers.com has a variety of archery articles and tips (Click the Archery Library) section.

If your bow doesn't fit you personally, no amount of tuning will help.

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Deer Hunting Quiz

1. Rattling is most likely to produce the desired results when this factor is in your favor:

- A. Little or no hunting pressure
- B. A close buck to doe ratio to promote competition
- C. The rut is on
- D. All of the above

2. As a general rule, the larger bucks that are rattled in usually come in:

- A. Upwind
- B. Downwind
- C. Crosswind
- D. Any direction

3. Grunt calls are most effective when used to call in bucks that are _____.

- A. Out of sight and out of range
- B. Out of sight but near thick cover
- C. In sight but out of range

4. One should reduce the poundage of his or her bow when hunting in colder weather.

True or False?

5. Mature bucks usually become even more nocturnal as they get older. True or False?

6. What is a good way to find out where deer spend their time during days?

- A. Backtrack on their trails
- B. Hang out in a tree stand the whole day
- C. Use binoculars to watch them the whole day
- D. Camp out in the woods with them

7. A deer has such good hearing that it can detect how far any an object is by just hearing a sound from it. True or False?

8. You're walking to your stand site when you suddenly notice a big buck standing 50 yards off to the side watching you. Should you:

- A. Immediately dive behind some cover and attempt to hide from the deer
- B. Keep walking at your same pace and ignore the buck.
- C. Stop and stare at the buck
- D. Attempt to sneak closer and get a better look at the buck's rack

9. You've just finished a calling sequence and a big buck is headed straight for your stand site. The buck continues on until he's just outside bow range, but then he suddenly hangs up. Should you:

- A. Go through a light rattling sequence
- B. Repeat the same calling sequence that brought in the buck
- C. Sit absolutely still and quiet
- D. Move into position in case he moves closer

10. You've just arrowed a big buck. Unfortunately, you're not sure where the buck was hit. Worse, the arrow is still in the deer. A quick check turns up a sparse blood-trail. Should you:

- A. Get five or six buddies to help you trail the buck
- B. Wait 30 minutes and then follow the trail
- C. Back off and wait at least 4 hours before searching
- D. Forget it. You'll never find a buck that leaves a sparse blood trail.

Correct Answers: 1. D. All of the Above; 2. B. Downwind; 3. C. In sight but out of range; 4. True. (As it gets colder it becomes harder to draw because your muscles are tighter). 5. True; 6. A. Backtrack on their trails (Backtracking their afternoon trails to deep woods will lead you to beds, scrapes, rubs and feeding areas. If a fresh rub or scrape is found, the deer are likely to be spending a lot of time at these specific spots). 7. True; 8. B; 9. C. (Sit absolutely still and quiet and hope the buck's curiosity gets the best of him. Any additional calling at this point will only make the buck suspicious). 10. C. (Back off and wait a minimum of four hours before taking up the buck's trail. When in doubt, wait! And take only one other person when you do take up the trail.)



You the one who ordered pizza with extra pepperoni?

ACCURACY IN ARCHERY



Years ago Bob Ragsdale coined a phrase to describe everything a bow can possibly do for you to help you shoot more accurately. In his judgment nothing could be more accurate than to say that a bow can only “determine the velocity of your projectile.” Beyond that, it is all up to you. You must attend to its “needs of accuracy” and then let it do its job unimpeded.

There are three (3) main elements of shooting accurately. When carefully followed, they become a “Circle of Success.” Each is directly tied to the other, meaning if one is not right the others instantly become flawed. Here is what is required to achieve accuracy:

1. Matched arrows
2. Perfect sight settings and knowing the exact distance to the target.
4. Performing the shot to allow the bow to do its job.

MATCHED ARROWS. With a hunting rifle, odds are you wouldn't even expect to shoot tight groups if you mixed up several different brands of cartridges with several different bullet weights. But would you believe that many archers never relate this to arrows and must consider them magic. Put numbers or names on your arrows and shoot all of them regularly. By noting where each impacts each time, you may find that number 8 seems to always impact “low-left” and number 12 is always “high-right.” Your competition hopes you never learn how to find these 2 particular arrows and that you keep on shooting them and blaming the bad hits on other things. In competition you'd never knowingly “donate” the points these 2 arrows lose each time they are shot nor would you plan to ruin your hunting trip intentionally, but that's exactly what you are doing when you don't know each arrow personally. During new setup times, think of how often you may have had everything set up exactly right but you shot that one particular arrow which lied to you so you just kept on adjusting. It's the only legitimate excuse you may ever have for missing that you are able to prove!

PERFECT SIGHT SETTINGS. The most common oversights concerning sight-settings are: 1. Making sight marks at the last minute and then using them without ever proving them correct. 2. Making a hit in the bottom of a 4 inch spot as correct when it's actually 2 inches below. 3. Not setting the top pin and bottom sight pin windage correctly and then aligning all between them in a perfect straight line. 4. Accepting odd-spaced distance references as correct without question. Incorrect sight marks improperly spaced and incorrect windage settings are misses waiting to happen because it means you are beaten before you start. If the spacing does not gradually increase as distance increases, then they are wrong and cannot possibly be correct. If all pin ends are not in perfect alignment between correct top and bottom pins they cannot possibly be correct. If the level bubble is not at a perfect 90 degrees from the bar, the windage cannot possibly be correct.

EXECUTING THE SHOT. Many things are involved here, your shooting form, your aiming and leveling, your decision of exactly when to shoot, your adjustment concerning the wind or terrain angle. All after already attending to the two items listed above. All of these things are involved and contribute to your success or failure. If any one item is not correct, the others are compromised. For Example: 1. You guess the target to be at 40 yards and shoot it for 40 and find later it actually was 40, but your sight setting was really only 38 yards, so you missed low. 2. You executed 4 good shots in no wind on the 60 yard target, but you shot that #12 arrow which always hits high and to the right, but you didn't know it so you reaped a high-right miss. 3. Your wildlife game was standing at what you believed to be 40 yards and you executed a perfect shot with your perfect 40 yard sight setting, but it was really 44 yards, so you missed, low. Here is where you actually didn't know the distance. 4. The target is marked 50 yards and you have a perfect 50 yard setting, a favorite good arrow and you execute a great shot, with a pin not aligned to the same windage as the others. You missed to the left. A couple of typical excuses you may imagine might be: “I must have canted to the left,” or, “There must have been some wind down there I didn't detect.”

SHAFT SELECTION FOR BOWHUNTERS

Choosing arrows is a two-part process. First, decide what arrow weight you want to shoot, which in effect helps determine the type of shaft you'll need. Second, choose the correct shaft stiffness to complement your draw weight and arrow length.

Determining weight and speed goals. Not every bowhunter needs to shoot the lightest and fastest arrows available. In fact, shooting feather-weights can damage your bow and accessories. Light arrows don't soak up as much of the bow's energy as do heavier ones, leaving more energy behind that has to be dissipated through vibration. If your arrows are too light, your bow can literally be shaken to pieces.

The Archery Trade Association (formerly the AMO) proposed a standard minimum arrow weight of roughly six grains for each pound of your bow's maximum draw weight (60 pound bow = 360 grain arrow). By today's standards, a heavy hunting arrow will weigh 8 to 10 grains per pound. And, if you really want to go for all-out speed, the standard of 5 grains per pound set forth by the International Bowhunter's Organization (IBO) for its sanctioned 3-D tournaments is as light as you dare go.

Heavy-weight hunting arrows: Arrows weighing 8 to 10 grains per pound of peak draw force will make your bow fairly silent while soaking up a little extra penetration energy. These weights correspond with full-length aluminum arrows having medium thickness walls such as the 2115, 2215, 2315, 2314, 2216, 2317 and 2514.

Mid-weight hunting arrows: Arrows weighing between 6 and 8 grains per pound offer a good compromise between quiet shooting, long-term durability and flat trajectory. Consider either of the following three options: the arrow sizes listed above cut down for an overdraw, full-length thin-walled aluminum shafts such as 2212, 2213, 2312, 2413, 2512 and 2613, or all-carbon shafts.

Ultra-light hunting arrows: If you want to push things to the limit for the flattest possible trajectory, shoot arrows weighing 5 grains per pound of draw force. Two shaft choices exist: the same thin-walled aluminum arrows listed above cut down for an overdraw or full-length composite shafts made of aluminum and carbon (Easton ACC's) and the current selection of internal component carbon shafts such as the Beman ICS Hunter, Easton Evolution, Gold Tip and Carbon Express among others.

Correct shaft stiffness: Arrows released with fingers behave differently from those released with a mechanical aid. A finger-released arrow must go through a series of side-to-side oscillations called "paradox" which is started when the string moves laterally to clear your fingers. The bending of the shaft must be timed perfectly so that it passes cleanly around the bow without hitting the riser or rest. To achieve good flight, your arrow shafts have to be an exact match for your bow and your release style.

Since there is no sideways movement of the string, an arrow released with a mechanical aid flexes much less as it leaves the bow. The flex that does occur is generally confined to the vertical plane (up and down). When using a release aid, you can get away with a wider range of shaft stiffness and still enjoy good arrow flight. But to be on the safe side, it is best to stick with the recommendations of the shaft selection chart put together by each arrow manufacturer.

Because factors other than release style have a bearing on shaft stiffness, (such as whether or not you shoot an overdraw, string material, bow style and letoff) you will have to work out a "calculated" bow weight for use with these charts. If you request a brochure from an arrow manufacturer, it will have this step-by-step calculation spelled out for you. Make sure to work through it before referring to the shaft selection chart.

Point weight: Point weight is also an important element of choosing the correct arrow stiffness, especially if you release with fingers. Determine what broadhead weight you will be hunting with before choosing your arrows, and then use field points of the same weight for off-season practice.

Price vs. straightness: Most arrows are manufactured in grades. This is little more than a marketing ploy - a way to partition the market in order to charge more money for the high-grade product. In most cases, there is only one difference that separates the categories: straightness. Top grade arrows have straightness tolerances of +/- .001 to +/- .002 inch. Lower grade arrows have straightness tolerances of +/- .003 to +/- .006 inch. At most typical whitetail hunting distances there is no difference in accuracy between the various shaft grades.

Unless you're buying additional features (such as a better nock system or a camo finish) there's no reason to spend extra for arrows that are only a few thousandths of an inch straighter. You won't notice the difference. At Bowhunting.com we're big fans of value and when it comes to arrows the best value is found in Easton's Yukon aluminum shafts.

Shafts for whitetail hunters: The average whitetail hunter takes shots from 10 to 30 yards - 20 yards is about average. A mid-weight arrow will handle that challenge with ease. A heavyweight arrow, being slower will require slightly better distance judging ability past 20 yards, but will produce a quieter bow with maximum penetration. The lightweight arrows are fun to zip on the range and on the 3-D course where shots are long and distances unknown. However, in a tree stand they are typically not a necessity unless your hunting style routinely requires shots past 25 yards. No matter what your goals, a little experimentation will yield the perfect arrow.

Penetration vs. arrow speed: Most bowhunters over-emphasize the impact small changes in arrow weight have on penetration energy. Sure, it adds up if you are talking major weight changes, but 50 grains either way doesn't make a lot of difference on how deeply the arrow buries in the target. Sometimes it's not worth giving up speed for more penetration, especially if you already have plenty of energy for the game you hunt.

Suppose a bowhunter shoots a 70-pound bow with a 30-inch draw length. For him, a lightweight arrow is going to weigh 350 to 455 grains. Assuming the bow has an AMO speed rating of about 235 fps (typical of most moderately aggressive bows on the market right now), this bowhunter will be getting speeds of around 275 to 300 fps. With a mid-weight arrow his speed will be 250 to 275 fps. With a heavy arrow his speed will be less than 250 fps. At 9 grains per pound, the speed will be right around the AMO rating of 235 fps.

Using the middle of each range as the comparison, the mid-weight arrow is roughly 10 percent faster than the heavy arrow (weighing 9 grains per pound). The lightweight arrow is roughly 20 percent faster than the heavy arrow.

Now let's look at how the penetration energy (kinetic energy) of the arrows change as they get lighter. Using data compiled by independent bow testers, archers have been able to pull out the amount a typical aggressive bow's efficiency drops as arrow weight goes down. This translates directly into penetration energy lost.

By dropping the shaft weight from 9 grains down to 7.5 grains per pound, the bow's efficiency drops by about 3.5 to 5 percent (depending upon the bow), which means the arrow carries 3.5 to 5% less penetration energy. That's not a huge change.

When the shaft weight goes from 9 grains per pound of draw force down to 6 grains per pound (the middle of the lightweight arrow range), the bow's efficiency drops another 4 percent. The lightweight arrow from the same bow now carries 7.5 to 9% less energy than the heavy arrow. It takes a pretty large swing in arrow weight (210 grains) before energy loss starts to become significant.

In other words, if you need the extra arrow speed to flatten your trajectory for shots that typically range longer than 25 yards, you won't lose so much energy that you risk insufficient penetration. If you are already shooting a bow over 60 pounds with fairly aggressive cams, you probably have 10% to spare - especially if you will be hunting smaller big game animals.



Bald Archers

There are three ways in which an archer can wear his hair: parted, unparted, and departed.

He's sensitive about his hair. That's odd, because he doesn't have any!

Small boy in barber's chair: I want my hair cut like my daddy's — with a hole on top.

Board Member Profile: Pat Fernandez



Bowhunter Education

There is one last Bowhunter Education class scheduled. It will begin October 16th at Issaquah. Contact Alan Jones: 425-883-0405

Pat Fernandez serves on the Board of Directors as the Grounds Director. Pat took over the position in mid 2003, and agreed to accept the position again this year.

It's lucky for the club that Pat is retired, as he has spent a lot of time at the range keeping up the grounds, which is a never ending task.

Pat has been shooting bows and arrows since he was 12 years old. From 1959-1964 he worked for Fasco Archery in San Diego, CA making recurve target and hunting bows (their top of the line bow cost \$69 back then). Pat has always hunted and shot 3-D. Along the way, he has bagged a couple of bull elk. He has been tracking a monster buck the last 6 years, but hasn't been able to bag him. Pat prefers hunting the late season when he has the woods mostly to himself. The last few years has added target archery. He shoots traditional (recurve) instinctive for hunting and 3-D, and free style limited for target. Pat belonged to the club for a few years in the early 1990s, and then rejoined in 2001.

2004 WSAA CONVENTION

The 2004 Washington State Archery Association will be held October 22-24 at the Little Creek Casino in Shelton, WA. The Club needs a number of persons to attend and represent the Club. The more Club attendees the more votes we will have on WSAA matters and tournaments. If you are interested in attending, contact any member of the Board of Directors. The Club will pick up the cost of registration and meals for selected delegates.

Friday, October 22

6:00 pm – Registration and Social. Free Music in Lounge: Danny Vernon—Elvis Tribute Artist Triple Crown and Six Pack Pretty—70's & 80's Rock Group

Saturday, October 23

8:00 am - Registration & Check-in
9:00 am - General Assembly
(Lunch is on your own)
5:30 pm—Social Hour, no host Bar
6:30 PM Buffet Dinner

Sunday, October 24

9:00 am - General Assembly
11:00 am Brunch

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 Cauffman 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.

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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



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Don Morrison, Editor



**3-D Sat.
October 2nd
8am - 2pm**

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!

- Saturday October 2nd, 3-D Saturday, Skookum Range 8am - 2pm
- Thurs., October 14, Club Member Meeting, 6:30 pm, Board meeting thereafter
- October 16&17, Chinook Mid Seaton 3-D
- October 23 & 24, WSAA Convention!
- Saturday November 6th, 3-D Saturday, Skookum Range 8am - 2pm

CALENDAR