

SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

May, 2005

Why Join WSAA?

By Don Morrison, WSAA Publicity Chair

The Washington State Archery Association (WSAA) is the leading archery association in Washington. WSAA currently has 864 members throughout the state, of which 526 are NFAA members.

The WSAA performs a number of important functions to support archers, bowhunters and the sport of archery in general:

- The WSAA Hunting Committee lobbies on behalf of bowhunters and works closely with the WDFW and various hunting coalitions to protect and promote bowhunting in Washington State.
- WSAA sponsors a Big Game Awards program to recognize its members who harvest big game animals with the bow and arrow, as well as the Big Bull and Big Buck trophies.
- WSAA sponsors a variety of state championship tournaments, hosted by one or more WSAA chartered clubs or shops. Championships are held annually for Indoor, Safari, 3-D, Golf, Field, and Target. Frequently, there will be host sites in both Eastern and Western Washington.
- WSAA coordinates the popular Mail-In tournaments with lots of shooters in all corners of the state.
- WSAA promotes archery at Sportsmen's Shows and *Go Play Outside* events around the state.

In addition to the above, WSAA members receive an **Event Calendar** listing the various shoots in the state throughout the year, and a card listing the chartered clubs and shops in the state, including names, addresses and phone numbers. Members also receive 12 issues of **The Quiver**, the monthly WSAA Newsletter featuring shoot announcements, plus articles on bowhunting, new equipment, tournaments, hunting seasons, and the political scene around the Northwest that affects archers.

Adult membership is only \$30. You can download an application to join WSAA at http://www.crispie.com/wsaa/Files/Application_Board_2004.pdf If you are not a current member of WSAA, Join today.

Great Northwest Archery (253) 841-0991
Your full-service pro shop and indoor range at the
Skookum Archers Club and Range

Thursday 3-D Fun Shoots

The Pro Shop, Great Northwest Archery, in cooperation with the Club, is sponsoring an every Thursday 3-D Fun Shoot at the range. The fee is \$8.00 for 28 targets (14 animals from two positions). Shoot anytime during the day or evening. Register at the Pro Shop. Great Northwest is using their own animals and doing the setup and take down. The Club gets a portion of the receipts.

Target Replacement

When you are out to the range and notice that a target face has been pretty shot up or the bullseye shot out (after all, Skookum Archers are the best), you can go to the pro shop and get a key to the target cupboard. Replace the target with the same type and size as was on the target bales. We will also post a list of what type and size of target goes are each target bale. Also, each active member is assigned a specific target to maintain. That assignment is located after your name on your Smoke Signal mailing label. No one likes to shoot at beat up targets, so make sure your target assignment is always kept up. Thanks.

**We need helpers Friday
afternoon 4/29 to get targets
and 3-Ds up for Saturday's
Spring Safari Tournament.**

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Crossword Puzzle Continued

Club News and Notes

A falling **tree wiped out the target shed** on target A22 (35 yarder) on "A" Course . The bales were left standing, but the roof and sides were taken out. We believe we will be able to repair it without having to replacing it. It is one of the newer target sheds on the range.

The Club will not apply for an IAC matching grant this year to renovate portions of the range. Perhaps next year we will be in a better position to apply for funds to add a FITA Range and range safety measures. Other options include renovating C Course.

Help Needed. Help is still needed to get ready for the NW Sectionals. We need targets glued to cardboard, shooting stakes painted and numbered, and a variety of cleanup work done. There is a do to list on the bulletin board inside the club house.

Aim – Then Sight

Adapted from an article by Larry Wise

Although target archery and hunting are different they both require the skills of aiming and sighting. Let's say that Aiming is the act of visually acquiring the intended target spot, and that Sighting is what you do when you move a reference device like a sight pin, scope and/or a peep sight into your aiming line.

To do it right you should always begin aiming before sighting. Archers should learn in the beginning to visually acquire the center of the target as soon as they nock an arrow and get into position. A simple way to practice this target-focus is to throw darts."Better Aiming Yields More Hunting Success

Learning some good aiming and sighting habits will make all of your archery better. You can increase scores in all of your target shooting with better discipline in aiming. Like wise, you can improve your success in hunting if you transfer your improved aiming skills to the hunting situation. Too many times while hunting we get all wrapped up in seeing the deer and finally getting our big chance and we forget the basics of aiming. First knowing what these basics are and then training yourself to use them are key to greater success.

“Do you aim when you get that bowhunting shot or do you just point your bow and shoot?”

Aiming And Sighting. Aiming begins when you visually connect with the target center. This visual acquisition sets your body in line with the target and once oriented to that center you should never give up visual contact with it. If you do, you risk reorienting your body to a different line and compromising body position and overall form. Make yourself a note here that you're not just looking at the target in general, you're looking at the small spot you intend to hit. You lock onto it and see nothing else in your primary vision.

Next, you must raise the bow into the pre-aim position. Here you will see your sighting device near the target center, probably just above it. Your primary focus is still and always on the middle spot. While maintaining visual focus on the target spot you then draw your bow. You should be able to draw and settle into full draw position without losing visual contact with the spot. If your bow's draw weight is too heavy you may

not be able to do this. If you lose visual contact with the middle for any reason you'll need to make



some changes, like lowering draw weight.

Once you reach your full draw position you must slide your sight device into your view of the target spot. Don't look to the sight and then try to

reacquire the spot, as this tends to realign your body away from your target line. Slide the sight into your established line of focus. Now you're aiming and sighting. You have both your body and your bow lined up as a unit and are totally focused on the small spot you desire to hit. Finish the shot by doing what you do to execute the release of the bowstring. Hopefully what you do uses back tension and during this execution you never lose visual focus on your target. Aiming focus continues throughout the release and into your followthrough until the arrow hits the target.

“Aiming at the whole deer or animal is not an option as you must align your body toward a point and not just in the general direction of the animal.”

Aiming And Bowhunting. Do you aim when you get that bowhunting shot or do you just point your bow and shoot? After reading the first part of this article you should be doing some real deep thinking right now. What do you do when shooting at game animals? Are you transferring your aiming and sighting skills to your hunting situation or not?

Here's a recommended procedure. Practice it when you're shooting your hunting bow before season and during season so you'll be able to put your aiming skills to use when that big moment comes. With this aiming plan you'll be more successful particularly if you've had no plan until this point.

Step 1. When your hunting luck finally gets good and you have that shot to make you must first determine the distance. This step comes first just like it does in 3-D archery. Use whatever method works for you or use a range finder as soon as you get into your hunting stand.

Step 2. Visually acquire the small spot you intend to hit. Just as you do with a target, focus on a small point and don't relinquish that focus until the arrow has been released. Aiming at the whole deer or animal is not an option as you must align your body toward a point, not just in the general direction of the animal.

Step 3. Raise and draw your bow while maintaining visual contact with that tiny spot you want to hit. Your sight pin should be raised so it comes into your view just above your target spot.

Step 4. At your full draw position your sight pin should fall into your primary focus on the intended target spot on the animal. Even if the animal moves you must maintain visual contact with that target spot so you stay in line with it. It's easy to lose focus here because lots of things are happening but, if you look away, too much time will be lost in reconnecting with your target spot. And, if you don't take time to reconnect, you'll miss the shot or make a bad hit.

Step 5. Do what you do to execute the release. Don't change your release method now. If you think you will need to execute your release quickly then practice that quicker release but, don't change your form and start punching the release. Just practice working through your form quickly.

Step 6. If you've done your homework, you'll see the arrow hit the target. You'll see it because you've been focused on that spot throughout the entire aim, sight, and release process.

"Keep your decision making simple at crunch time."

Practice. A simple way to practice this target-focus is to throw darts. Never look at the dart, only the target middle. Visually burn a hole in the middle dartboard ring. You can do the same when shooting basketball, focus on a spot on the back of the rim. Never look at the ball; always maintain visual focus on the back of the rim so you maintain body alignment.

Conclusion. Well, have you been aiming your hunting bow or just pointing it? Have you been picking that tiny spot or just "flock shooting" your game animals? With a better plan, as outlined here, you should be able to improve all of your archery by hitting what you're aiming at.

**Aiming is not physical, it is mental.
Aiming is complete concentration
and focus on where the arrow is
going.**

Choosing the Right Bowhunting Quiver

Bowhunters cannot carry their ammo in their pockets like gun hunters do. Arrows are long, awkward projectiles that are much more cumbersome to take afield than rifle shells. Arrows must be ferried afield conveniently and safely. The only way to do this is with a quiver of some sort. There's nothing more bothersome than having a bowhunting quiver that gets in the way, is noisy, inconvenient, or makes your arrows less accurate.

When selecting a bowhunting quiver you have four basic styles from which to choose: quickdetach quivers, bowmounted quivers, back quivers, and hip quivers. Whatever your personal choice, always consider safety, convenience, stability, and silence while making a selection. There is a plethora of choices in today's archery marketplace. Many are first rate, but just as many are not. Most bowhunters obviously like quality in all of their equipment. A bow quiver should be no exception. A broadhead tipped arrow shouldn't be bounced around or abused. Arrows should be taken care of as well as possible at all times. Even slightly askew shafts will miss their mark, causing a miss, or worse, a poor hit. The best way to ensure your arrows are well protected is with a well-chosen quality arrow quiver. Let's look at the four types and their pluses and minuses.

Quick-Detach Quivers. Many bowhunters carry a quick-detachable bow quiver attached to their bow to ferry their arrows to their hunting destination and simply remove the quiver once settled in. Oftentimes sitting for long periods of time is more comfortable without arrows attached directly to the bow. Many bowhunters know this and therefore simply remove their quiver after settling into a tree stand or ground blind and hunt accordingly.

Quick-detach quivers are usually fastened with one bolt or clip for quick loosening and easy removal. These quivers hang nicely in a tree from a hook or a bungee cord. However, most experts will warn you that shooting with a quick-detach quiver still attached to the bow is not advisable, since these designs rattle like a buzz bait when shot. They're not designed to tighten very snugly to the bow, just temporarily for transport. Loud vibrating noise can definitely spook game.

Bow-Mounted Quivers. Bow-mounted quivers are easily the most popular type of quiver used today. Realistically, with a bowmounted quiver, the

bow and the arrows become one convenient unit. When selecting a bowmounted quiver, durability and solidity should come first and foremost. Briefly, there are two important reasons for attaching a quiver to your bow and leaving it there. First, arrows are very easy to transport over even the most rugged terrain compared to any other design. They hug the bow riser and limbs closely, making them no more inconvenient to carry than the bow itself. Second, backup shots are always close at hand. Even though archery is considered a one shot sport, many times animals have lived another year due to a bowhunter being unable to lock-and-load a second arrow quickly and quietly. It happens every year. Swinging your body or arm around a tree or hide reaching for another arrow is movement that can be picked up by your prey and now the animal is tuned into your location. For this purpose, bow-mounted quivers remain popular. The best bow-mounted quivers house your broadheads beneath a roomy plastic hood. These quivers grip shafts slightly above the fletching to prevent excessive rattle and are attached to the bow with two separate stainless steel bolts. These quivers also hug the bow riser closely to prevent bow imbalance and excessive torque (causing sight pins to cant). Most bow manufacturers today make their own bow-attached quivers and provide their risers with two holes (at the top and bottom) to hold the hood and the gripper arm.



Back Quivers. Back quivers looked grim in the old Robin Hood movies but have been improved ten-fold for modern archers. Today, most bowhunters who favor a back quiver enjoy the Cat Quiver design for carrying arrows securely on their backs. Safety is a very important feature with a back quiver design, since broadhead cuts can be an issue for careless users. Such quivers should be worn and used with caution to prevent such accidents from happening.

The first back quivers were nothing more than leather pouches with straps that hugged the chest. These quivers were noisy and cumbersome and pretty much just a flat pain to use. The fletching of the arrows would stick up high above the head and snag brush. The snags made an awful racket and created irritating tangles. Broadheads would grind together at the bottom and dull their blades.

Thankfully, the Cat Quiver style eliminated all of these hassles. Cat Quiver style back quivers are now fully adjustable, comfortable, and roomy. Cat Quivers are a backpack/quiver combination made in silent fleece fabric for quiet movement. The design places the quiver directly behind your back and head. Arrows are completely shielded and the different backpack sizes allow you to carry other gear inside with a breeze.

Hip Quivers. Belt quivers have always been a favorite style for target archers. The roomier models are able to carry notebooks, binoculars, notes, pins, repair equipment, and anything else deemed necessary on the target range; shooting and sighting in equipment is definitely a convenience. To this day many archers feel they can get better accuracy out of their bow without the extra weight and lopsided feel of bow-mounted quivers. Beware, not all hip quivers are created equal, so be cautious. The best hip quivers are solid one-piece designs that hug the thigh closely and have a dependable, tightening strap that fastens around your lower thigh to prevent the quiver from swinging as you move. If your hip quiver swings as you move it will get annoying and cause excessive movement as you slink through brush. Expect to pay \$50 or up for a dependable model that will give you years of painless use.

Four, Six, or Eight Arrows? Eight-arrow quivers are almost standard with most bowhunters, especially those going after backcountry game. Some bowhunters like the lightweight, less bulky feel of a four- and even some six-arrow quivers. Some compound bows feel heavy as an anvil after a long hike and hard day of hunting. Some consider the difference in weight with half as many arrows makes a difference, so they prefer to carry fewer arrows. A good many bowhunters have an eight-arrow quiver attached to their riser and only carry four or five arrows in it. If that's your case, try a smaller, sleeker four-arrow quiver model and feel the difference in weight and bulk firsthand. It may seem substantial, or it may not.

There are several few six-arrow quivers on the market. However, if you like your arrow supply somewhere between the happy medium of eight and four, investigate these styles further. Many hunters wouldn't do any kind of bowhunting with less than four arrows, even though it usually only takes one and a second for backup. But you can lose arrows along the trail and you don't want to encounter that monster buck with just a couple of arrows. Four arrows should be the minimum number to carry.

2003 HOYT ULTRATECH FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 2003 HOYT ULTRATECH , CAMO, XT2000 LIMBS, CAM & 1/2. Draw length set at 28-1/2", adjustable from 27-1/2 TO 29-1/2 . 65% let off. Comes with a Cobra Sidewinder LX camo sight, Trophy Taker Shakey Hunter rest. Enhancer 2000, string leeches. Also includes 18 carbon arrows and a dozen NAP Thunderhead 100 grain broadheads and a hardshell plastic bow case. This bow is brand new. I've only shot it enough to get it tuned and sighted in. ASKING \$500.00; CALL TOM @ 253-853-6420 (evenings)

Crossword Puzzle Answers (from p. 2)

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Great Northwest Archery

Your Full Service Pro Shop at the Skookum 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

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

SMOKE SIGNAL



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Don Morrison, Editor

**Come and Shoot!
April 30th and May 1st
Spring Safari**

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 the 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!

- April 30th & May 1st, Skookum Spring Safari
- May 12, Monthly Member Meeting, 6:30pm followed by Board Meeting
- May 14-15, CRB Annual May open 3-D, Cedar River Bowmen
- May 21-22, WSAA Safari Championship, Darrington
- June 4-5, WSAA Safari Championship, Cedar River Bowmen

CALENDAR