

# SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

February 2007

## Annual Club Banquet and Installation of Officers

Forty club members turned out for the annual club awards banquet and installation of officers on Saturday January 13th. Executive Chef Don Kirk catered an excellent buffet dinner.

President Jenkins and Vice-President Marty Mullins gave a recap and status report on the activities of the year, the decisions made at the annual meeting, and the current state of membership and club finances (which are in good shape).

Bowhunting awards were presented to Dennis Jenkins, Jeremy Ryser, Kurt Allen, Pat Fernandez, Andy Ludwig, Dan Hoass, Lisa Hoass. Club Champion awards from the annual picnic and championship held last August were presented to Jeremy Ryser, Timm Hines, Shaelie McGrath, Jim Cowart, and Chris Ray. Not all were present.

Life member George Meyers administered the oath of office to the 2007 Board of Directors. Attendees drew tickets to win more than 40 door prizes. Every household that attended went home with one door prize or another.



*2007 Board of Directors, from left to right: Marty Mullins, Vice-Pres.; Pat Fernandez, Grounds Director; Kurt Allen, Range Director; Don Morrison, Communications Director; Joe O'Neil, Secretary; Dennis Jenkins, President; Jeremy Ryser, Tournament Director; Brenda Littau, Treasurer; John Littau, Activities Director.*

**If you know  
that limbs  
are not  
something  
that grows  
on a tree,  
YOU MIGHT  
BE AN  
ARCHER.**

**The 2007 Club Event/Shoot calendar is available on [skookumarchers.com](http://skookumarchers.com). Click the Upcoming Events Tab.**

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**Great Northwest Archery (253) 841-0991**

**Your full-service pro shop and indoor range**

## Archery Word Scramble

The following archery words are scrambled. Unscramble and spell the correct word using the definition given. Answers given at bottom.

1. GICTSAKN \_\_\_\_\_  
Disproportionate increase in draw weight during the last few inches of the drawing cycle.
2. MSELFHI \_\_\_\_\_  
Bowstring made so loops are plaited right from the string material. Separate end servings are not used.
3. LHEE \_\_\_\_\_  
The part of the arrow between the nock and the vane.
4. PSRIU \_\_\_\_\_  
Another term for overdraw
5. TSCA \_\_\_\_\_  
Speed at which an arrow is shot.
6. BKDION \_\_\_\_\_  
Middle ages arrowhead designed to penetrate medieval armour
7. CMNRIEAA \_\_\_\_\_  
A type of archery round in which 30 arrows each are shot at 60, 50, and 40 yards.
8. VTESA \_\_\_\_\_  
Full length piece of wood used to make a recurve or long bow
9. ETIFESML \_\_\_\_\_  
Another term for brace height
10. PNSEI \_\_\_\_\_  
The measured ability of an arrow to bend

**Correct Answers:** 1. Stacking; 2. Flemish; 3. Heel; 4. Spurr; 5. Cast; 6. Bodkin; 7. American; 8. Slave; 9. Fistmele; 10. Spine



***The Tortise and the Hare, Round 2***



"Let's hope the neighborhood kids never take up archery."

***The only way I can get my arrows to group is to put them in my quiver!***



## 2 Great Shoots....1 Great Weekend

### 3-D Saturday & Foul Weather Field

3-D Sat. Feb. 24th

Foul Weather Field Feb. 25th

#### 3-D Saturday Fun Shoot

**16 3-D Animal Targets**  
Shoot 8 am - 2 pm

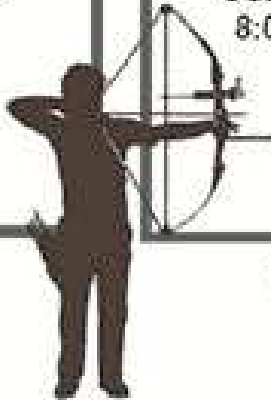
Fee is only \$5 per round!  
Kids under 12 shoot free.

#### Foul Weather Field

14 Field and 14 Hunter  
Competition in Class. Register by  
8:00a.m.; Shotgun start at 9a.m.

**Fees:**

Adults - \$10; Youth - \$7  
PeeWee & Cub Free  
\$30 Family Maximum



For more information:  
Club Line: (253) 770-4177  
[www.skookumarchers.com](http://www.skookumarchers.com)

Skookum Archery Range  
11209 Shaw Road East  
Puyallup, WA

Camping and RV's Permitted on site. Motels within 2 miles. Concessions Available.

### Sportsmen's Show Report

From Wednesday Jan. 24th through Sunday Jan. 28th, Skookum Archers hosted the annual Skookum Archery Demonstration Booth at the Western WA Sportsmen's Show on the Puyallup Fair Grounds. More than 2,000 kids and adults were exposed to archery at our demo booth.

We again had a large area where several people could try shooting a bow for free. We used our Club education program training bows and arrows at the event. We also had a fund raising target where archers could shoot (one of our training bows) for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to GNW Archery. Darren Mason of Tacoma won the raffle. We also started a raffle for a

new Hoyt Vetric bow. Tickets will also be sold at the

Feb. 3-D Saturday and Wet and Wild Shoot in March. This event takes a lot of time to set-up and run. A HUGE thanks goes to STEVE CAUFMAN who coordinated the event and was there every day. Thanks also to the Club members who worked the booth: Wendy Truitt, Don Morrison, Marty Mullins, Cindy Warfel, Pat Fernandez, John Littau, Chris Ray, Josh Raby, Scott Ruppel, Dave Peters, Bill Raby,



*Festival Coordinator Steve Caufman Shows a little gal how to shoot*

Bob Suggs, Brandon and Greg McGhan. This was a great way to promote our sport and our club. We also passed out membership forms, archery lesson information, and club brochures.

## Wet and Wild Report

Sixty-Four archers turned out for the Annual Wet & Wild 3-D tournament held January 6th and 7th. We had 36 one day shooters, and 28 two day shooters. While the weather was surprisingly pleasant on Saturday, it was truly wet and wild on Sunday. This was the second year we moved the Wet & Wild to the first of the year. The weather forecast may have kept some shooters away.

New Activities Director John Littau and wife Brenda staffed the concession stand.

Thanks to all those who helped make the shoot a big success: Tournament Director Jeremy Ryser, Dennis Jenkins, Marty Mullins, John and Brenda Littau, and the many others not named who helped out.

Winners of the Wet and Wild were:

1st MS FS - Mike Hampson - 149

1st AM FS - Shane Benson - 314  
2nd AM FS - Chris Damoiseaux - 266

1st MYA FS - Josh Chandler - 184

1st MS BHFS - John Moore - 181

1st AM BHFS - Doug Shoup - 283  
2nd AM BHFS - Matt Schmitz - 272  
3rd AM BHFS - Joe Earley - 229

1st AF BHFS - Cynthia McCroy - 149

1st YAM BHFS - Brandon McGhan - 171

1st YM BHFS - Tim Mack - 204

1st MCUB BHFS - Cole LeBlanc - 189

1st FCUB - Jordon LeBlanc - 183

1st AM BHBB - Alfred Neilson - 237  
2nd AM BHBB - Shawn Mack - 223

1st FCUB BHBB - Ashley Armstead - 83

1st M PEE WEE BHBB - Nevin Armstead - 113

## WSAA Multi-Color Champs

A number of Skookum members competed in the state multi-color championships held January 12-14 at Silver Arrow Bowmen. Congratulations to the following Club members who placed in the state tournament:

- A-M-FSL, Matt Turner, 1st
- A-M-TRAD, Pete Miles, 1st
- A-M-FSL/R, Eric Rootvik, 1st
- Y-M-FSL/R, Josh Raby, 1st
- Y-F-FSL/R, Shaelie McGrath, 1st
- S-M-BB, Paul LaRue, 1st
- S-M-BH John Finsterbusch, 1st (tie)
- S-M-TRAD, Sam Payne. 1st

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## When You're not Shooting Well

When you're not shooting well, or seem to be in a slump, here are some tips to help you shoot better:

- Maintain your bow arm position for at least 3 seconds following the shot.
- Lightly rest your fingertips on the front of the bow to promote consistent hand placement.
- Pay close attention to your stance and be consistent. T
- Try and get in a zone while executing the shot. The spot should be your whole focus. CONCENTRATE.
- Integrate every aspect of the shot into a single smoothly flowing action. The anchor is part of the draw, the release is part of the anchor, etc. Building back tension to release the shot is a smooth transition from the draw to anchor to release. Any attempt to break the shot down in to discrete elements allows for distraction from a smooth shot.
- Exercise the patience required to aim in the center of the spot before the shot goes off.
- Maintain your bow arm position and lock your eye on the spot throughout an extended follow through of the shot.
- Develop a rhythm in executing the shot. Try and shoot each shot in the same amount of time (e.g. 8 seconds from draw to release). If you're much past your normal hold time, let down.

## TIPS FOR TURKEY HUNTERS

1) **Be totally camouflaged.** A turkey has extremely keen eyes, and if he sees you before you see him, you'll never see him. One of the biggest advantages hunters have now to prevent a turkey from seeing us is camouflage. If you don't like to have on a headnet, wear camo makeup.

2) **Chose the right place to set up.**

Where you take a stand to call to a turkey is often more important than the call that you use to try and bring in the gobbler. You don't want to set up with the sun in your face. Too, make sure you have back cover - either a tree trunk, bushes or limbs behind you - to break up your silhouette. I like to have some type of thick brush behind me. Then when I call to the bird, I want the turkey to think I'm behind that cover through which he can't see. This way when the turkey comes in, expecting to see a hen and doesn't see that hen that's been calling to him, he can think to himself, "I can't see that hen because she's behind that cover." That gobbler will continue to gobble and move in close to where you are to try and get the hen to come out from behind the cover and show herself.

3) **Learn to control the volume of your turkey call.**

The volume you give a turkey call will tell a turkey you're either closer to or further away from him than you actually are. If you call really loud, especially when the turkey's 100 yards or less from you, that ole gobbler will think he should be able to see you because the sound of your calling is telling him that you're closer to him than you actually are. That's why he may stop, begin to strut and drum out of range and not come in close enough for you to get a shot. That gobbler knows when he's really close to a hen that she'll show herself before he comes in to meet her or that she'll be coming to him if she wants to be bred.

If you call softly when a tom's coming in, then he assumes that the hen is further away from him and that he needs to continue to come to get closer to her so she can see him. Therefore, learn when to call loudly and softly, depending on the distance you are from the turkey. When you don't know whether to call loudly or softly, always call softly.



A turkey can hear a call much further away than you believe he can, and a hunter's soft calling will bag more gobblers than loud calling will. Also, learn to call with emotion. Remember when you're calling turkeys that you're a female impersonator. You're trying to sound like a hen turkey that wants to get together and have a date with a male turkey. So the way you call to a gobbler and the emotion you put in your calling has a lot to do with how the gobbler

will respond to your calling.

4) **Make the turkey look for you.** When a turkey's gobbling and coming to you, call less and call softer. The closer the turkey gets to you, the less you should call. You want that turkey to come in looking for you but don't want him to know exactly where you are. The real purpose of turkey calling is to get that gobbler to come in looking for a hen that he's heard but hasn't seen. So don't call so much that the gobbler knows your exact location. The closer he comes, and the more he gobbles, the softer and the less you need to call. Generally when you can see the turkey, or when you know the turkey is less than 100 yards from you, using no call at all may be your best tactic.

5) **Be where the turkeys want to go.** Position yourself ahead of a gobbler in the direction he is traveling. If you can watch a turkey in a field or open country and determine that gobbler's direction of travel, make a big circle around the gobbler and get in front of him. Then you may bag that gobbler without even calling. But, if you do call to the bird, he probably will come in quicker and easier than if you don't call to him.

**Spring Turkey Season: Gobblers and turkeys with visible beards only  
April 15 - May 31, 2007; Youth hunt -  
April 7- 8, 2007**

## 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 preformed 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.)

## Shooting in the Rain

The biggest problem you will encounter when shooting in the rain is that your arrows will load up with moisture which will cause them to weigh more and therefore shoot low. You are better off with plastic vanes on your arrows than with feathers. If you shoot arrows with feathers, weatherproof them with Scotchguard(tm) or one of the commercial feather waterproofing treatments.

Keep your arrows as dry as possible. Put a plastic bag over your quiver, covering your arrows. Use a scope cover to avoid getting your scope wet. When you shoot, you may need to add a yard or two for the extra weight the moisture adds to the arrow.

Since there are so many bow-arrow setups and so many different kinds of rain, the more you practice and experiment with your own equipment, the better your results will be. Practice with a few wet and dry arrows and note the differences.

**If you're at a tournament and not allowed to practice beforehand, always draw your bow back & hold several times to get loose. You can't get loose with only 2 practice ends.**