

SMOKE SIGNAL

Monthly Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

April, 2007

When I arrived at the range at 9:30 am Saturday March 17 and saw the parking area full of vehicles, I knew the Club was going to have a successful shoot. The weather was nice, and it looked like it would be wild but not wet. At the end of the first day, the Club had registered 75 one day shooters and 60 who shot for awards. All in all, about 140 archers participated in the shoot.



2007 Wet 'N Wild



One of the early finishers threw his score card into the bucket and said "This is the most fun I have had at a 3-D in a long time. You guys put on a great shoot." Thanks to Ed, Marty, and all the others who set out the 40 targets. There were a lot of challenging and creative shots, especially on a course that pretty much needs to stay in the shooting lanes for safety reasons. John Littau manned the concession stand, flipping burgers and making up chili dogs. Jeremy and Dennis pretty much handled registrations and awards. Thanks to Range Director Kurt Allen and volunteers for getting the range back in shape after the December storms. Thanks to Pat Fernandez for working on the grounds and getting the mower going. Thanks to all the others who made this a success. High scores were turned in by: Mike Mounts (407), Brian Bebling (402), Al (400), and Kevin Taft (397).



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Great Northwest Archery (253) 841-0991

Your full-service pro shop and indoor range



"How about best two out of three."



"I shot real good today. Just off on my yardage a little"



Word Find: Archery Organizations

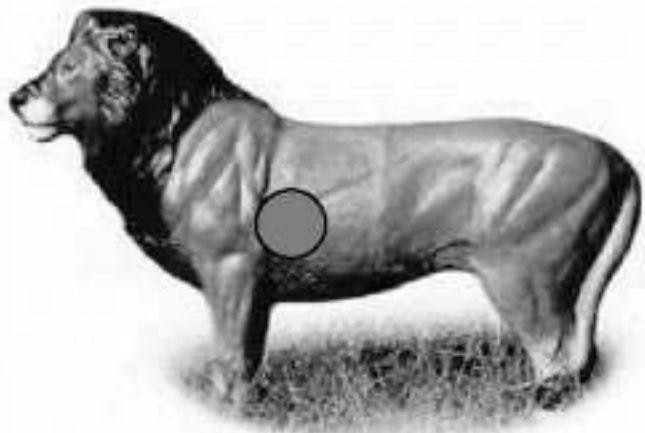
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Words to find: ASA, IBO, NAA, AMO, WSB, NABH, NCHO, NFAA, NSSF, PABA, PCBA, PBS, STARS, WSAA, FITA. Do you know the full name of each Acronym?

Spring Safari

One Day Tournament: Saturday April 7th

Skookum Archers Club & Range
Puyallup, Washington



**Combination Paper
and 3-D Targets**

Register by 8:30am

Shotgun start 9:00am



Camping at range, Concessions, Awards

ADULTS	YOUTH
\$10.00	\$7.00

Cubs and Peewees shoot free.
\$25 family maximum.

For more information: www.skookumarchers.com

*"I am one of the top 8 shooters in the country. I
can hit an 8 almost every time." Don Morrison*

Skookum to Host WSAA Target Championships April 14-15, 2007



Once again, Skookum Archers will host the WSAA Target Championships. Skookum hosted it last year, with about 70 archers competing. A few years back, this shoot was moved from the traditional June date to the middle of April. We're praying for good weather, as the April venue can be either warm and sunny or blustery and pouring. To download a tournament registration form, Visit <http://www.crispie.com/wsaa/Quivers/March%202007%20Quiver.pdf> (page 14).

In this event archers complete two NFAA 900 Rounds, which means shooting 90 arrows each day. The Adult distances are 60, 50, and 40 yards, Youth shoot 50, 40, and 30 yards, and the Cub distances are 30, 20, and 10 yards. Target is the 122cm diameter multi-color face.

Last year, Final results included a tie for first place in Adult Male Freestyle between Skookum members Jim Miller and Jeremy Ryser, with a total of 1774 points each – placing was resolved based on x-count, with only one 'X' separating the two shooters! We would expect Skookum to rule this shoot as well.

Arrow Speed

By Karl Stolleis

In today's world it seems as if every archer out there talks about one thing when speaking of bows. "How fast is it?" is a question echoed across shops and ranges everywhere. However, speed shouldn't be your top criterion in selecting or setting up a bow. First, let's go over quickly a few things that are factors in determining arrow speed.

Bow Design. This is a really broad category with a number of major and minor effects. A deflex riser is the slowest type and as the riser becomes more and more reflexed the faster the bow gets (due to a lower brace height and, therefore, a longer power stroke), but the bow also becomes more sensitive to bow hand torque (more or less). A shorter bow is usually faster than a longer one. A lower brace height is usually faster and the cam type can have an effect on compound speed.

Increasing draw weight also will increase arrow speed. A longer draw might find more speed, but as suggested by many experts, most folks would probably benefit from a shorter draw.

Arrows. The lighter your arrows are, the faster they will be. And shorter means lighter and therefore faster. Pretty simple here. Within reason, longer fletches make for slower arrows (due to increased drag).

Arrow Weight vs. Speed. The rule is—a six grain change in arrow weight will equal about one foot per second of arrow speed. This means that if your chosen shaft weighs nine grains per inch trimming an inch off will make just more than an 11 feet per second difference in arrow speed. In fact switching from a 100 grain point to a 70 grain point will increase speed about 5 feet per second. What this means is once you select a particular arrow shaft you will have to make some pretty drastic changes to that arrow to affect the speed, with all other factors being equal. The original shaft choice has the greatest bearing on an arrow's potential speed with a given bow.

Draw Weight vs. Speed. The rule is—one pound of draw weight will equal two feet per second. This has a greater effect than changing arrow weight, but means that a 10 pound increase in draw weight will move the arrow speed up approximately 20 feet per second.

Continued on page 5



We all know the old arguments of just how important speed is. Proponents of speed say that with more speed comes less arrow drift in a cross wind, and the reduced need to accurately estimate distances on an unmarked 3-D or on the hunt. All true. However, this is true only to a degree. A faster arrow is in the wind less time, but Easton's X10s proved that increasing arrow weight and decreasing cross section of the shaft actually resulted in less drift, especially at longer distances (due to less surface area on which the wind can act). X10s weigh the same as ACCs, but X10s don't suffer much in a crosswind.

What does all this add up to? Well, with speed comes a price and you need to decide if the price is worth paying. With bow design shorter bows are faster but can be more uncomfortable to shoot. If you shoot fingers and have a 30 inch draw, a 40 inch compound might be the fastest option but your fingers might suffer from the added "pinch" at the nock. A more reflexed riser might be faster but you might find it more difficult to control bow hand torque and your groups might open up left and right.

A harder cam might be faster, but how much extra work are you going to have to put into drawing the bow. The same can be said of increased draw weight. Suffice it to say that all the positives in terms of increased speed can add up to accuracy suffering. If you are shooting "sub X-ring-sized groups" you can probably afford a drop in accuracy, but if you spend a lot of time examining arrows leaning against lines you might want to gravitate towards a more accurate rather than a faster setup.

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging of how great their fathers are: The first one says: "Well, my father runs the fastest. He can fire an arrow, and start to run, I tell you, he gets there before the arrow." The second one says: "Ha! You think that's fast! My father is a hunter. He can shoot his gun and be there before the bullet." The third one listens to the other two and shakes his head. He then says: "You two know nothing about fast. My father works for the government. He stops working at 4:30 and he is home by 3:45!"

A faster arrow will actually lose speed at a higher rate than a heavier one and this is more apparent at longer distances. (Do you remember your physics . . . conservation of momentum and all that?) The laws of physics say that an object traveling in a straight line will be harder to divert from that line as the weight of the object increases. (One of Newton's laws applies here.) As you can see there are lots of factors that go into wind drift that have nothing to do with speed.

The other common argument is about distance and errors that might be incurred as you change distances. This argument has some validity on unmarked field rounds and 3-D rounds. As for known distances, practice is what ensures that your sight marks are all correct. If you know the distances, then trying to eke out more speed is just trying to find a crutch.

A lot of guys spend countless hours and dollars trying to eke out 10 more feet per second out of their bow? Unless you are talking about a pretty major speed increase (20+ fps) there is little to be gained. And since the idea of target shooting is to shoot as accurately as possible a good shooter would be remiss if he or she were to ignore the factors other than speed.

Speed is not all that matters. Given a particular bow and arrow combination, tinkering might get you a 10 percent increase in speed. A 10 percent increase in speed just isn't worth taking a good setup and tearing it apart. In fact it might be worth taking a speed setup and slowing it down to help find some accuracy. There is no shame in having a slow bow (especially if you are winning trophies with it!).

Turkey Season



Spring Turkey Season: Gobblers and turkeys with visible beards only April 15 - May 31, 2007; Youth hunt - April 7- 8, 2007. For complete information on the Turkey season, visit skookumarchers.com. See the February Smoke Signal for turkey hunting tips.

Turkey Quiz

Test your knowledge about wild turkey. Circle your answer. Correct answers given below. From the Hunting Network.

1. Where is the most common place to hunt for turkeys in the morning?
Roosting Area Fields Thick Forest Floor Trees
3. Which tail feathers are used to differentiate jakes from toms when the feathers are fanned? Outer Central All None
4. What is the breeding season of turkeys triggered by? Decreasing daylight hours Increasing daylight hours Increasing moonlight Autumn
6. What total degree of vision do turkeys have?
120 180 240 300
7. What country is believed to have first domesticated the turkey? U.S.; Mexico; Australia; France
8. In Washington, hunters can use either a shotgun or a bow during the fall turkey season. True False
9. In Washington, about how many turkey permits will be issued for the 2007 fall turkey season?
1175 1575 2175 2575 3175

Correct Answers: 1. Roosting Area; 3. Central; 4. Increasing daylight hours; 6. 300; 7. Mexico; 8. True; 9. 2175

Tournament Notes

Congratulations to Skookum club members who placed in various tournaments:

State Indoor JOAD Championships

- Josh Raby, 2nd Place, Male Cadet Recurve Division
- Shaelie McGrath, 2nd Place, 2nd Place, Female Cadet Recurve Division

Gray's Harbor Bowmen Bucks and Bulls 3-D

- Sam Payne, 1st Place, S-M-Trad
- John Finsterbusch, 1st Place, S-M-BH
- Matt Turner, 1st Place, A-M-FSL

WSAA Multi-Color Mail-In

- Pete Miles, 2nd Place, AM TRAD
- Eric Rootvik, 1st Place, AM FSL-R
- Wendy Truitt, 1st Place, AF BHFSL
- Paul LaRue, 1st Place, SM BB
- John Finsterbusch, 1st Place, SM BH
- Shaelie McGrath, 1st Place, YF FSL-R

2007 Washington State Senior Games

Archery - Sunday August 5th

www.pugetsoundgames.com

Club Featured in Magazine

Skookum was featured in the April 2007 edition of Bowhunting World magazine for its contributions to a article on how clubs recruit new archers. The Skookum section of the article described the Club's Thursday evening drop-in program, its sponsorship of a NASP kit, lesson and instructor courses, and and related educational information. Thanks to Don Morrison for contributing the information to the publication. The article appears on page 54.

Member Notes



Welcom New Members

Welcome to new members who have joined the Club in the past few months:

- Robert Gordon, Puyallup
- Gregory McGhan, Carbonado
- Ted Jackson, Tacoma
- Zac Chadwick, Puyallup

- Bryan Dawson, Seattle
- Darl Clawson, Kent
- Gary Wahl, Puyallup
- Patrick Wilkinson, Puyallup
- Forrest Davis, Puyallup
- David Weslocky, Puyallup
- Jim Cloin, Edgewood

Club Email List. One of the fastest and cheapest ways to get information to Club members is via email. We ask for your email address on the membership renewal form. If you didn't include your email address on your renewal form, or if it has since changed, please send your e-mail address to info@skookumarchers.com or drop a note off at the clubhouse or call a board member. We use your email only for club notices, and do not distribute it outside the Club. Thanks

Work Parties. There will be a monthly work part every first Saturday of the month at the range. We suffered considerable damage from the recent storms and need to clear a lot of lanes and repair a number of damaged target sheds. Email Range Director Kurt Allen at klgallen87@msn.com.

Note: During the work parties leave all the brush trimmings in a clear place in the middle of the trail and and I will mulch it with the shredder and mower. Pat Fernandez, Grounds Dir.

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. Get your supplies for the late season hunt.

(253) 841-0991

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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

**Spring Safari
Sat. May 7th**



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Don Morrison, Editor



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 7, Skookum Spring Safari Shoot
- April 12, Membership and Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- April 14-15, Skookum hosts WSA Target Championship
- April 28, State NASP Tournament, Yakima
- April 28-29, IBO NW Triple Crown, 2nd Leg, Cedar River Bowmen
- May 4-6, NFAA Marked 3-D Championship, Redding, CA

EVENT CALENDAR