

SMOKE SIGNAL

Monthly Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

September, 2007

Annual Club Picnic and Championship Held Saturday August 11th

The Club held its annual Club Picnic and Championship Saturday, August 11th. About 35 club and family members turned out for the event. The BBQ was catered by Famous Daves. We had plenty of food, and all went home full. Thanks to the Littaus for arranging the meal, and to Tournament Director Jeremy Ryster and crew for gluing and putting out the targets.

Those competing could shoot before and/or after the Picnic. There were seven (7) targets of each of the following: field, hunter, animal, safari and 3-D. Winners of each class will receive a Club Champion plaque at the annual banquet in January. 2007 Club Champions are listed on page 5.

There will be no member meeting in September due to hunting season. The October meeting will be to solicit names for 2008 board positions, and input on the 2008 Shoot Calendar.

Archery Booth at Puyallup Fair

WSAA will again sponsor an archery demonstration booth at the Puyallup Fair. This is similar to what the Club does for the Sportsmen Show each January. Fair dates are September 7-23. As usual, WSAA will need many volunteer instructors to help staff the booth. To volunteer contact WSAA President Linda Parker at wsaa@olynet.com; (360) 533-5872.

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Member Input and Support Needed for 2008 State or Sectional Shoots

The Club needs a confirmation that members will step up and help with any WSAA shoots the Club may host next year. Board members are a little burned out and need help. At the August Board Meeting, the Board decided to poll the membership and determine if there was adequate support to continue to host WSAA shoots in 2008. WSAA state championships are awarded at the annual convention in October. Bids are due prior to the convention.

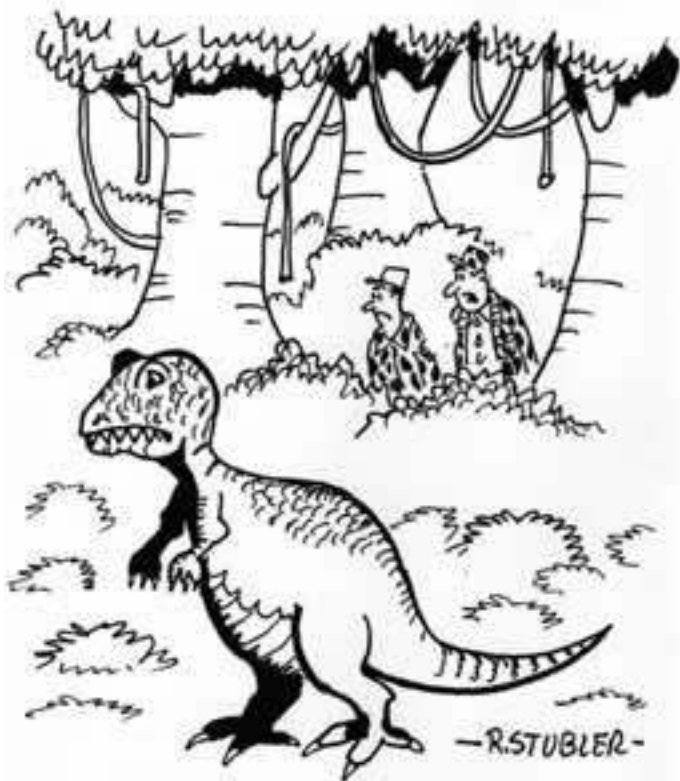
In 2007, Skookum hosted the WSAA Target Championship in April, and the WSAA Safari Championship in May. In the past we have also hosted the Field Championship. We have not hosted the state 3-D or FITA. These championships are always two day (Saturday/Sunday) shoots.

To set-up, administer and take down takes a number of workers. Please email info@skookumarchers.com if you are willing to help on any WSAA shoots the Club may be awarded. The Board has resolved not to submit any bids for state tournaments next year if insufficient members volunteer in advance to help put on the shoot.

There will be several vacancies on the board next year. Step up and volunteer to serve. Contact President Jenkins to have your name considered.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wit & Wisdumb.....	2
Avoiding Bowhunting Blunders.....	3
Training Your Peep.....	3
Keys to Holding Steady	4
Club Members Do Well at Tournaments.....	5
Book Review: Life at Full Draw	6
Member Notes.....	7



Marty, I think we went too far back in the woods.



Like my new Camo Outfit?



Fred, I told you to bring a buck call, not a duck call.



"I know Fish & Wildlife needs more money, but this is getting a bit ridiculous"

Avoiding Bowhunting Blunders

Here are a few tips to avoid those common bowhunting blunders:



D r o p p i n g p u l l - u p r o p e :

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

W a t e r i n t h e p e e p s i g h t :

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 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.

Taming Your Peep

Peep rotation. No two individuals may agree as to the best method of dealing with this issue. The archery industry, as a whole, has developed a niche market around this very problem. Is it the string? Is there a method? Is there a treatment?

Most have only a vague idea of what it takes to end peep rotation. It is a difficult subject because there are so many new high tech materials, differing string lengths and bow types. Each material has its' own properties to be dealt with individually. No one material will do exactly as the rest.

The very first thing an archer must understand is that all strings will settle. That is, it will stabilize into a position where it will have the least amount of stress or potential for movement. Never draw the bow without an arrow nocked. Even this act can affect your peep.

After installing the peep on a new string, make note of which way the peep is facing. This position you will use as your guide. Now, without trying to aim, nock an arrow, point it safely at the target butt and release. You should notice that the peep has changed position. This will happen regardless of who made the string set you purchased. The string is becoming seated and on it's way to settling. When bought, a new string is placed from a relaxed attitude to the highest continuous kinetic stress of any modern material. It must change. The string will creep, however slight and compress on itself because of the flex from the limbs. This is what the cause of peep rotation is all about. The stress of the bow will move the string to its' most stable mode after all the shots have had their effect. Most manufacturers recommend that a string should be shot a couple of hundred times before it could be considered settled. There is an easier way. Your peep is your guide and also your tool to knowing for yourself when a string has settled rather than guessing from shot quantity.

The bow must be shot until there is no movement from the peep. This is where the archer will know that the string has settled. After you have shot the required number of times, you'll notice that the peep will be in exactly the same position after shooting no matter how many times you shoot. It could take as little as a dozen shots or as many as a few hundred. Regardless of the amount, the string WILL settle. This is the time to go to the next step.

Continued on Page 4

September, 2007
Smoke Signal, Page 3

Bear in mind that this constant is a relative term as your string has already so much twist over its' length. Draw the bow slowly (nocked) and watch how the peep moves as the string goes through the draw cycle. This is the indicator. The archer then knows what to do with the peep. After drawing the bow and watching which way the peep moved, you must place it in the bow press. If your peep rotates from right to left, you will have to take the string off the lower post (finger/center serving side for solo cam bows) and turn it from right to left. How much you turn will depend on how much the string rotates through the draw cycle. The string is doing what it wants to do. All you do is help it go where it wants. This is very important. For a half turn rotation, turn the string a half turn. Draw and shoot the bow a number of times to re-settle the peep. If it still does not roll into your eye view, repeat the process or even try an additional full turn. Always shoot the bow a number of times the re-settle the peep before checking for position. If it rotates too far, turn the string back a half turn at a time. Never do more than a half to a full turn at a time because you are close to where the string wants to be at rest. Too many turns gives a settled string much more than it wants to do. I describe it this way to make it easier to visualize. Always, a little at a time will give much better results.

If the peep sits exactly opposite to the position desired the next step is quite simple. The archer then just flips the peep to face him/her. Flipping the peep requires you to go to the bow press again. You don't have to relax the string completely. Relax only enough to be able to get the peep out and turn it a half turn. Remember that each time the bow is in the press, it has to be shot to re-settle.

Sometimes the archer will notice that the peep sits at 3/4 of the way no matter what he does. At this point the archer knows he is so close any post or peep movement is too much. If you can't seem to get the peep in the right place no matter what is done, you are almost at its' optimum position. Any post or peep adjustment that is too far and you haven't yet pulled your hair out is the time to flip strands. This step requires the most care and you go back to the bow press. Relax the string again as in the previous step. Look carefully at the direction of the string twist (all bowstrings MUST have twist and never buy one without). For example, if the normal twist of the string is from right to left and your peep must move to the left an 8th of a turn, give or take, do this. On the face of the peep facing you most, take 2 strands from the left side and flip them to the right side.

On the opposite face, take 2 strands from the right side and flip them to the left side. This will pull the peep over to the direction you want. If you want to move it slightly the other way, just do the same steps in the opposite direction. Two strands should be enough but there is no set number. The more strands means more movement. This last step is done only when all the previous steps were done first. Draw and shoot the bow a number of times to re-settle the string.

This system for taming peep rotation is also effective for archers using string loops. The only difference is that the string loop must be turned as well and more care taken to allow the string its' movement. Remember: always let the string go where it wants and let it finish what it wants to do.

There you have it. This method does work and it must be done properly. An archer may have to play with this a couple of times as string quality varies tremendously from one manufacturer to the next.

Keys to Holding Steady

There are 2 principal keys to holding steady when aiming a bow. The first key is to figure out how all the different body parts have to be aligned and balanced so the sight picture becomes steadier. That may not seem to be a big deal. All you have to do is to close your eyes when you are at full draw and wait for your body to align and balance out



the muscles needed. If you have the physical strength developed to do this, when you open your eyes you will find that you are actually holding a lot steadier than you thought you could. Then you run into the second part of holding steady.

The second part of holding steady is to be able to hold steady and aim. As you try to move your pin to the spot you may lose your steadiness and end up catching the spot as it flies by. Steadiness can be lost if you are not balancing the muscles that control steadiness. A good approach is to keep the same shoulder and arm alignments, but pivot at the waist as needed to center on the bullseye. This is not as easy as it seems. But, anything else seems to cause the steadiness to break down.

Congratulation Members!

Congratulations to Skookum Club members who placed at various local, state and national tournaments this summer:



WSAA Field Championship:

Matt Turner, 1st, AMFSL
Timm Hines, 1st, AMFSL/R
Dan Croft, 1st, AM Trad
Shaelie McGrath, 1st, YAFFSL/R

WSAA 3-D Championship:

Alfred Neilson, 1st, Barbow
Matt Turner, 1st, AMFSL

NFAA Field Championship:

Matt Turner, 2nd, AMFSL, Flight 1
Timm Hines, 1st, AMFLS/R, Flight 1
Steve Coleman, 2nd, AMFLS/R, Flight 1
Dan Croft, 2nd, AM Trad, Flight 1
Shaelie McGrath, 1st, YAFFSL/R, Flight 1
Josh Raby, 1st, YAMFSL/R, Flight 1

WSAA FITA Championship:

Andy Ludwig, 2nd Place, AMFS
John Finsterbusch, 1st, MMBH
Shaelie McGrath, 1st, CFR

New 2007 Skookum Club Champions:

Jeremy Ryser, AMFS
Chris Ray, AMBHFS
John Finsterbusch, SMBH
Tom Huteson, SMFS

Overheard at the tournament: "I shot real good today. Just off on my yardage a little."

Club Outreach Kudos

This email was sent to Steve Coleman, who instructs our Archery Education kids. Way to go, Steve!!

*Dear Steven,
Just wanted to thank you again for volunteering your time for Christopher's birthday. The boys had a great time. The comments in the car were: "That was tight!" "That was the coolest birthday activity ever!" "That was so much fun!" "Yeah, I want to do this for my birthday!" (oh no, you're in trouble now...)*

My youngest son got invited to his best friend's birthday/sleep over tonight, so it was a little extra special for Christopher to have his own time with momand just his friends. I think it was the perfect and just his friends. I think it was the perfect thing for Christopher's age. Thanks again, Jacqui

REMINDER: NO BROADHEADS ALLOWED ON WALK-THROUGH RANGES. It's dangerous, destructive, and cause for expulsion. Broadhead use is confined to the foam Broadhead Butts. If you see anyone using broadheads elsewhere, please expell them from the range.

Bowhunting Awards



Once again, the Club will be giving hunting awards to anyone who harvests a big game animal this fall. Awards will be issued at the Annual Banquet in January. Report your harvest to Hunting Director Andy Ludwig (See Board of Directors page for contact info) or list your animal on the Club House 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 Andy. We would be happy to publish it in the Smoke Signal. Good Hunting! Early congratulations to any Club members who have already bagged their trophies.

Book Review

Life at Full Draw by Chuck Adams

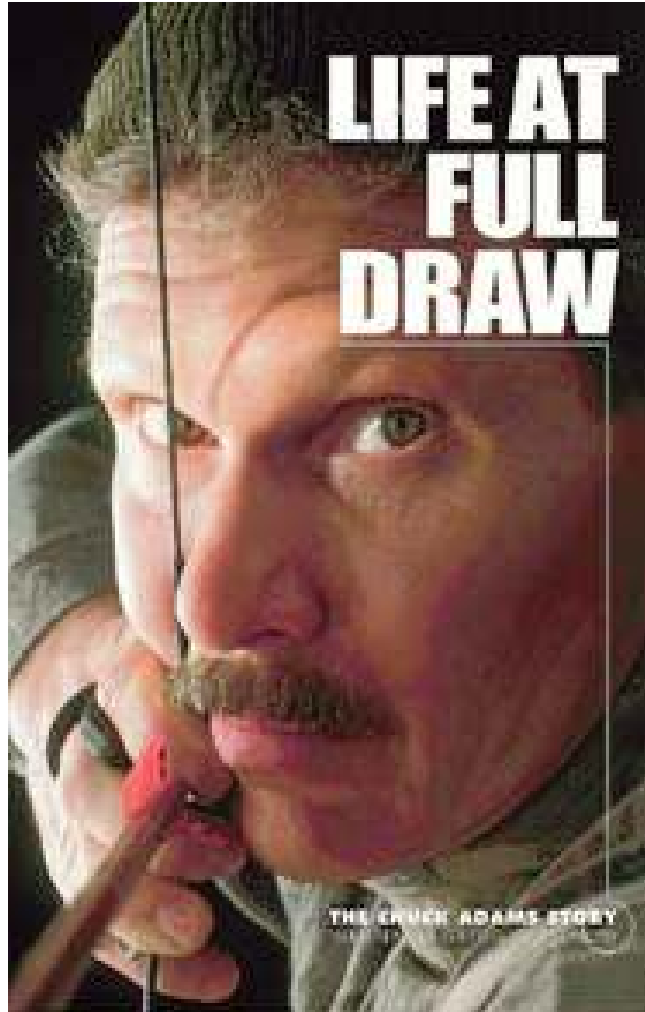
Reviewed By Mike Schoby

Most hunters have heard the name Chuck Adams. Of the few that don't know the name, they will surely recognize the face, framed by the signature stocking cap and ear to ear grin. Chuck Adams is one of the most well known names in the hunting industry today, is considered "The World's Most Successful Bowhunter" and is close to a living legend as someone can be with a stick and string. But he is not an overnight success or a one-shot wonder, Chuck has been grinning at a generation of readers through numerous magazine pages for over 25 years. His face has not only appeared next to dozens and dozens of trophy animals, but can be found on Easton's XX-78 Super Slams arrow shafts, archery products and in numerous advertisements.

Over the years his guidance and experience has molded the way we hunt, design archery gear and even clothing (look at Cabela's Super Slam clothing, designed in part by Chuck). Aside from his stupendous feat of being the first bowhunter ever to achieve the notorious Super Slam, (harvesting all of North America's Big Game animals), who really is Chuck Adams? What do we know about him?

Noted writer, Gregg Gutschow (former editor of Deer and Deer Hunting and North American Hunter magazines) sets out to answer those questions in his first full length book, Life At Full Draw, The Chuck Adams Story. Starting at the beginning of Chuck's life, Gregg works through his early years, into college and through his career in the outdoors in an easy-to-read style that keeps your interest at an all time high.

Gregg not only follows Chuck's life, but also delves deeply into many of his hunts, dangerous excursions, animals that got away and what guides say about him in 302 pages of hunting excitement. In addition to the great prose, there are also exclusive photos that have never before been seen in print.



There is an old adage that says something to the effect that, "Great minds talk of great ideas, average minds talk of average ideas and small minds talk about other people" ok call me small-minded, but one of the chapters I enjoyed the most was the "rumor" chapter. Every time Chuck arrows another world record animal, the rumor mill fires up. Gregg investigates many of these rumors, interviews people in the industry and gives his verdict to their validity.

While I could write a full-length article about this book, I

think this synopsis sums it up best, "There's little consensus and even less middle ground in judging Chuck Adams. Many of us have made up our minds, though we've never had the chance to see the man behind the magazine pictures ... until now. This is the true story of Chuck Adams—a behind-the-scenes, unabridged account of the least-understood, best-known hunter ever. Many qualified people interviewed within this volume render their judgments. This book sets out to neither make Chuck Adams a sinner nor a saint. There is no agenda here other than to write the true story of Chuck Adams' life and to finally place you alongside him in the mountains, at a hunting camp and in his everyday life at full draw."

Member Notes



New PO Box Number. The Club has a new PO Box number should you need to send anything to the club (e.g. membership renewal). The new box number is 732107. Everthing else stays the same.

Work Parties. There is a monthly work party every first Saturday of the month at the range. There is always a lot of range work to be done. Email Range Director Kurt Allen at

klgallen87@msn.com with any question.

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.

Help keep the shooting lanes clear. When walking the range, be sure to take an old heavy arrow or stick and beat back the weeds or other growth that block the sight picture on the shooting lanes on Courses A & B. It is an easy way to help clear the target lanes clear. During the summer, its hard to keep up with the growth. Every little bit helps. Also, remember that there is no smoking on the walk-through courses. As the growth begins to dry out, the range becomes more susceptible to fire danger.

Target Replacement - Do It Today. When you get out to the range, and notice that a target face has been shot up, 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. Your target assignment is located after your name on your Smoke Signal mailing label. A number of targets need replacement. Make sure its not yours. Thanks.

The final 3-D shoots at the range will be the Oct. 13th and Nov. 10th mid-season 3-D Saturday fun shoots.

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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No member or board meeting in September. There will be several vacancies on the board next year. Step up and volunteer to serve. Contact President Jenkins to have your name considered.

SMOKE SIGNAL



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Don Morrison, Editor

EVENT CALENDAR

- Every Thursday at 6:30pm, Drop-in Archery Education Program
- September 7-23, Puyallup Fair WSA Archery Booth
- September 15-16, FITA Qualifier, WCW
- October 13, 3-D Saturday, Skookum

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!

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.