

SMOKE SIGNAL

Monthly Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

October, 2007

Plan to Attend Annual Club Meeting

It's getting close to that time of year again! It is time to vote on major projects for next year and elect the board of directors. Members of the Board of Directors serve a one year term. Each fall the President appoints a nominating committee to develop a list of candidates. Additional nominations are also accepted at the annual meeting, which this year will be held Dec. 13th at 6:30pm in the Club House. Board members who are elected or re-elected are installed at the annual banquet in January. While many Board members serve in the same position for multiple years, the term itself is for a single year at a time. Most current board members would be happy to give someone else a chance to serve. Board positions include:

President	Vice-President	Secretary
Treasurer	Tournament	Range
Grounds	Hunting	Activities
Communications		

We are looking for some new folks to step up and get involved. If you are willing to serve on the Board next year, please contact President Dennis Jenkins to have your name considered. Thanks.

SkookumArchers.Com September 2007 Web Stats:

10,432 Unique Visitors

18,989 Page views

66,452 Total Hits

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In Memory of Sam Payne

Skookum Archers and Washington archery in general lost a well known member on September 12th, when Sam Payne passed from this life into the range beyond. Sam was a regular competitor at our Club and State shoots. He shot in the Senior Traditional division. He often took first place, and set several records. Sam was a very quiet and private person. However, his love for archery and the outdoors in general were evident.

WSAA Convention

The **WSAA Convention** will be held October 27-28 in Yakima. Any Club member who belongs to WSAA and would like to be considered as a Club delegate may contact Club President Dennis Jenkins. A registration form is available in the October WSAA Quiver, which is also online at <http://washingtonarchery.org/quivers.htm>

Did You Know

The Club webstie, SkookumArchers.com, features:

- All of the Smoke Signals (in PDF format), going back to June of 2002
- A list of all upcoming local, state and national shoots
- A "library" with more than 90 articles on general archery, hunting, equipment, and shooting technique.
- Club History and Bylaws

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wit & Wisdumb.....	2
Bear Quiz.....	3
Important of Glassing for Game.....	3
Understanding Whitetail Deer.....	4
Arrow Tips for Bowhunters.....	6
NASP Instructor Training.....	6
Book Review:	6
Member Notes.....	7



Dumb Hunter

A young dumb bowhunter was stalking through the brush when he came upon a very beautiful woman sunbathing in the nude. He quickly pointed his bow at her and asked "Are you Game?" She replied, "I sure am!" So he shot her!

"Quick, act like a hunter! My hunting buddies just busted us!"



Yes, Large Peperoni. Please deliver it. Now I'll give you my location.



"You've spent over \$87,000 on hunting gear in only a week. So, I've checked you into a Hunting Gear Addiction Center. Pack your clothes."

Bear Quiz

Test your knowledge about bears. Circle your answer. Correct answers given at bottom. Courtesy bowhunting.net.

1. Older male black bear are very tolerant of younger, smaller bear. T or F
2. Black bear often establish very large home ranges. T or F
3. Black bear return to the same den sites year after year. T or F
4. Baiting is the only effective strategy for hunting black bear. T or F
5. Black bear possess mediocre eyesight, but an incredible sense of smell. T or F
6. A buddy wants to film your bear hunt, but you're not sure if it's a good idea. From what you've heard big bear are extremely skittish. Would having an extra person in a tree stand next to you hurt your chances for success?
 - A. It's possible, but the pleasure of having your hunt captured on film far outweigh any risks
 - B. Yes. The bear will hear the camera
 - C. It's impossible to film black bear
 - D. Yes. The bear will notice that there are two people in the same tree
7. You've spotted a bear feeding on a distant open hillside, and you're now in the process of planning your stalk. Is there anything you need to keep in mind?
 - A. Nope, just go ahead and make your move
 - B. Approach the bear from below
 - C. Approach the bear from above if possible, but use wind direction as a final guide
 - D. It's impossible to stalk close to black bear
8. You've just made what you think is a good hit on a bear. You hear the bear crashing off through the brush for a ways, then everything suddenly goes quiet. A few seconds later you hear several loud moans, then all is quiet again. What does this mean?
 - A. It means you've made a good hit and the bear is dead
 - B. It means the bear is waiting to attack you when you climb down from your treestand
 - C. It means the bear is merely wounded
 - D. It doesn't mean a thing



Answers: 1. F; 2. T; 3. F;
4. F; 5. F; 6. B; 7. C 8. A

The Importance of Glassing for Game



For what ever it is worth, most bowhunters need to improve on their glassing techniques. Why? Commonly bowhunters will overlook the glassing techniques required to spot game at a distance. This mind set likely comes from the fact that

bowhunting is such a close range sport. This is exactly why we need good glassing skills and equipment. Whether you plan on still-hunting, stalking an animal or hunting from a treestand you will need to prepare for the shot before the animal appears from nowhere. The element of surprise, and the ability to plan ahead are the only advantages we have over our prey.

Get a binocular that allows you to use it for extended periods (like an hour or more) without eyestrain. Fine-detail resolution is important, but so is color. A good field of view allows you to work over larger areas more quickly, but only because you can see more when the binocular is up, not because you are frantically panning from side to side.

Tackle the task of glassing as you would paint a house: A flurried, frenzied approach never yields results that are as gratifying as a slow, methodical one. The majority of your time deer hunting should be spent glassing. If you're looking for a bedded buck, take a hillside and break it up before you sit down. Look for anything obvious, then down and get comfortable.

One of the oldest glassing techniques is still the best: Take a large area and break it into grids. Carefully study each grid until you're convinced there's nothing there. After you've examined every small section, go back and look again. Steady changes in light and shadows will often uncover something that was completely hidden the first time you looked.

Be patient and keep looking. All bedded deer get up now and again and shift position. And if you're looking in the right place at the right time, you will see them.

Understanding Whitetail Deer

Adapted from "Big Game Wisdom."

The beauty and grace of the elegant whitetail fascinates everyone, whether they hunt or not. Fawns are born in May or June and weigh only 4 to 8 pounds. Their reddish coats are covered with white spots that help to hide them from predators, such as coyotes and free - running dogs. The red coat on both fawns and adult deer is replaced by the grayer, heavier and warmer winter coat as fall approaches.

A mature doe will stand about 30 inches high at the shoulder, a big buck about 40 inches. From nose to tail, the average whitetail will stretch out to about 6 feet, although I've seen big bucks longer than 8 feet. Weight varies considerably from region to region. In the Florida Keys, a buck might weigh only 50 pounds, and I've shot several in the southeast states and in South Texas that weighed just over 100 pounds. At the other extreme, in northern Canada where the whitetail subsist at the very northern edge of their range, I have taken two bucks that each weighed more than 350 pounds on the hoof.

Part of the reason deer have adapted to such a wide range of climates and habitats is the fact that their four - part stomach allows them to eat, digest and live on just about any living vegetation. In South Texas for instance, where other food can be scarce during drought years, deer make do with prickly pear cactus. How they are able to take a bite without getting a mouthful of thorns is beyond me.

A whitetail is built for short bursts of speed, although he or she can trot for miles if need be. When startled, a buck can hit 40 mph for a short distance, and clear an 8 - foot - high fence with ease. While hunting with a muzzleloader once, I slipped up on a dandy 8 - point buck only to have my percussion cap fail to ignite. The buck nailed me when the hammer clicked. When I tried the cap again, the buck exploded as only a whitetail can explode. He covered 27 feet —measured it—with his first leap. And that was from a standing start. Amazing.

But for all their speed, a whitetail would usually rather slink and skulk than run. Whitetails, especially mature animals (bucks and does alike), have nerves of titanium. For every whitetail which flags its tail and waves good - bye to you, just figure that you have walked right past twice as many. This is because a mature whitetail, doe or buck,

has an established home range, and it is within this area that the deer feels most secure. The size of the home range will vary from region to region, depending upon the habitat, but invariably does will have smaller home ranges than mature bucks, and the home range of a mature buck will typically overlap the home areas of four or more doe - family units.

Whitetails are creatures of the edge, which is the zone between two types of habitat, or perhaps vegetation of different age. Common examples are the edge created where a crop field meets a woods, the banks of a stream or the boundaries of a clear cut. The conjunction of a wetland and a forest also creates an edge. But less obvious edge is just as important. A fenceline separating pastured forest from the thicker timber (which has not been pastured) is not an obvious edge and most hunters will overlook it, but I guarantee the deer will be traveling along that seam. Look for these "soft" edges too.

The whitetail's senses of sight, hearing and smell have been honed to near perfection as the species has evolved. Hunters commonly complain about a lack of deer in the area they are hunting, but the truth is that usually the deer are there all right, it is just that the deer are doing what whitetails do best — using their senses to avoid contact with hunters.

In the vision department, white - tailed deer do not possess the binocular - like orbs of the pronghorn or wild sheep, but then they have no need for long - range optics. Without getting into the scientific jargon, suffice it to say that a whitetail sees much better in darkness and dim light than you and I do and is a master at detecting the slightest movement. Be still and a whitetail will not see you, but move and he will nail you every time.

When it comes to hearing, those big ears are not just for looks. Like twin radar screens, those ears are constantly rotating to pick up sounds from any direction. And because a whitetail can move each ear individually, the animal has the capability to listen to more than one sound at once. A deer pinpoints the source of a sound due to the slight difference in time it takes for the sound to reach each individual ear. In my experience, deer are not quite as good at pinpointing the source of a sound as are predators or wild turkeys, but they ain't too shabby either!

Continued on bottom of Page 5



Skookum Archers Host 3-D SATURDAYS

Oct. 13th & Nov. 10th

Shoot Anytime between 9am & 2pm

16 3-D Targets. Fee is only \$5 per round. Kids under 12 shoot free!
Active Members shoot first round free!!

For more information:
www.skookumarchers.com
info@skookumarchers.com



Skookum Archery Range
11209 Shaw Road East
Puyallup, WA

Congratulation Members!

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

WSAA 3-D Championship:

Last month we failed to acknowledge **Chris Ray**, who placed 3rd in the 2007 3-D Championships in the tough AMBHFS Class (Note: the Quiver, from which we get the scores, had only listed the 1st place finishers for this shoot)

Understanding Whitetail Continued

Most certainly, their skill here is exceptional enough to pinpoint a clumsy and loud hunter (which is all of us, to a deer!).

But it is that nose which usually beats us hunters. The whitetail's sense of smell cannot even begin to be fathomed by us humans. Consider that one - third of the whitetail's brain is devoted to recognizing various odors and then interpreting each of those odors. And beneath the skin of that black, shiny nose are nasal chambers which allow the whitetail to take the tiniest particle of scent and concentrate that scent so that the brain can better determine what the smell means. Is it food? Is it a predator? Is it man? Or can it be ignored? The answer is quick in coming and the deer reacts accordingly. Oh yes, did I mention that the whitetail can perform this function with six different odors all at once?

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.

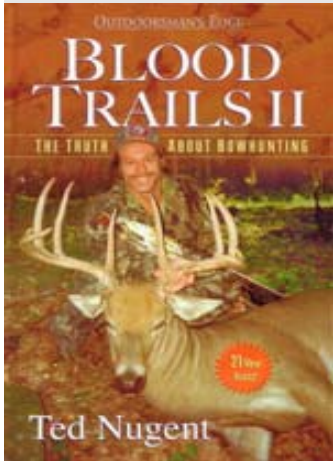


Book Review

“Archery – On Target for Life” Instructor Training

Blood Trails II: The Truth About Bowhunting

By: Ted Nugent; ISBN: 0972280472; Published 2004



Book Description

This book is filled with updated action-packed hunting stories from one of the nation's most prolific and philosophical big game hunters—Ted Nugent. Completely updated and revised, *Blood Trails II* shares Ted's hunting stories that get the adrenaline flowing in even the most jaded of hunting veterans. Each exciting hunt

makes you feel as if you are right there alongside Ted as he comes to full draw or slowly squeezes the trigger of his firearm. You'll feel like you are sharing in his gratitude and joy as he bags a wide variety of big game. You'll feel as though you just returned from the hunt yourself! Learn from Ted how to improve your arrow placement with his three-step archery prayer for shooting accuracy. Reflect on the blessings of the hunting season.



“Archery – On Target for Life” NASP Instructor Training will be held Friday October 12, 2007, at the Coweeman Middle School, Multi-Purpose Room, 2000 Allen St, Kelso, WA 98626. The training will last from 8:00 AM to 4:30

PM. The cost is \$60.00.

Participants will have a very full agenda covering archery range setup and safety, archery shooting technique, coaching positions and practical shooting skills. Please be prompt and ready to participate when you arrive. Dress for casual exercise.

TO REGISTER: Contact Dave Mack at 360-577-6301 or ddmack@comcast.net prior to Oct 10th.

DIRECTIONS: Take Interstate 5 to Exit 39, the surface street will be Allen St, go east past the ARCO and the High School to Coweeman MS on your right.

Arrow Tips for Bowhunters

1. 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.
2. Aligning broadheads improves your accuracy. We take care to spin our arrows on an arrow straightener and align the broadheads so they don't wobble.



The truer the broadheads are aligned the better your groups with your broadheads will be.

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

4. Arrow straightness matters. When shooting field points and especially broadheads, the straightness of the arrows has a big influence on how well they group. Good straight arrows can increase the “effective shooting” distance and provide better hits on the close shots. Get the straightest arrow you can afford, (Don't take shortcuts when it comes to the shots that are important.)

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.

Lock the Club House when you leave. Active Members need to be sure the doors are closed/locked when they leave the Club House. The doors sometimes stick and don't always close and lock completely, so please close the door and check the knob to assure that it has locked completely.

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

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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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



**3-D Saturday Fun
Shoot, October
13th 9am-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 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!

- Every Thursday at 6:30pm, Drop-in Archery Education Program
- October 11, Member Meeting at 6:30pm followed by Board Meeting
- October 13th, 3-D Saturday Fun Shoot, 9am-2pm, Skookum
- October 27-28, WSA Convention, Yakima
- November 10th, 3-D Saturday Fun Shoot, 9am-2pm, Skookum

EVENT CALENDAR