

# SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

January, 2004



**Last Year's Swearing-In of Officers**

*The Editor has revised the layout of the Smoke Signal. Any comments regarding the new layout can be submitted to Don Morrison*

*"Some people are working backstage, some are playing in the orchestra, some are on stage singing, some are in the audience as critics and some are there to applaud. Know who and where you are".*

## Annual Club Banquet Sat. Jan. 17th

The annual Club Banquet has been set for Saturday January 17th at Longhorn's BBQ in Auburn. Casual dress. 6:30 p.m. Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. Dinner. We will have a great dinner, swear-in next year's Board members, and give out a variety

of annual and special awards.

As usual, there will also be several door prizes. Remember, those who register early pre-pay for the banquet receive double the allotted number of door prize tickets.

A registration form is included inside this issue of the Smoke Signal. Register Today. See you there!

## Sportsmen's Show

**Volunteers Needed!** After last year's very successful Archery event at the Western Washington Sportsmen's Show, the Club was again invited to host an Archery Demonstration Tent at the Puyallup Fair Grounds January 21st - 25th. Last year nearly 2,000 folks (mostly kids) visited the tent and tried their hand at archery. Volunteers are needed to help setup, takedown, and show people the fundamentals of archery. Steve Caufman has volunteered to Chair this event. Contact Steve at scaufman@cs.com or 253-468-3093. It takes a lot of people to staff this event. People are especially needed for the day shifts. We will need 20+ volunteers and gate passes will be provided.

## Annual Election

The Annual Club Meeting and Election was held Thursday December 18th. Current Board members stepped up to the plate and volunteered to serve another year. New comers Kristina Miles and John Batts also agreed to serve. There were no contested positions. The following were unanimously elected to the 2004 Board of Directors:

President: Dennis Jenkins

Vice President: Shane Peterson

Secretary: Shawn Johnston

Treasurer: Kristina Miles

Communications: Don Morrison

Tournament: Dan Croft

Range: Cooper Ewing

Grounds: Pat Fernandez

Hunting: John Batts

No one volunteered to run for the Activities Director spot. Feel

free to volunteer.

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*"Don't miss the Annual Banquet January 17th"*

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Club members are shooting the Multi-Color Indoor Mail-In on Thursday Evenings at 7:00 pm at the Range. Come join us for a fun shoot!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Archery Puzzle & Quiz.....	2
Bow Mechanics Q & A.....	3
Carbon vs. Aluminum Arrows.....	4
Club Banquet Registration Form.....	Insert
Low and High Misses.....	5
Archery Lessons.....	6
Triple Crown Winners.....	6
Eyes In the Woods Training.....	6
Hunting Reports Reminder.....	7

## Word Find Puzzle Types of Arrow Points

## Bowhunting Quiz Courtesy Bowhunting.net

1. What do the numbers on aluminum arrows (such as 2213) mean?
  - A. The rated poundage of the arrow
  - B. The price of the arrow
  - C. The type of broadhead to be used
  - D. The diameter, and wall thickness of the shaft
2. What 2 factors determine the effectiveness of a peep sight?
  - A. Size and color contrast
  - B. Visibility and alignment
  - C. Pin placement and target distance
  - D. Bow poundage and arrow speed
3. Rattling is most likely to produce the desired results when this factor is in your favor:
  - A. Little or no hunting pressure
  - B. A close buck to doe ratio to promote competition
  - C. The rut is on
  - D. All of the above
4. As a rule, the larger bucks that are rattled in usually come in
  - A. Upwind
  - B. Downwind
  - C. Crosswind
  - D. Any direction
5. Grunt calls are most effective to call in bucks that are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Out of sight and out of range
  - B. Out of sight but near thick cover
  - C. In sight but out of range
  - D. In the fighting mood
6. Bucks which feed in corn fields usually develop bigger racks
  - A. True
  - B. False
7. One should reduce the poundage of his or her bow when hunting in colder weather?
  - A. True
  - B. False
8. Mature bucks usually become even more nocturnal as they get older.
  - A. True
  - B. False
9. Hunters who shoot from stands should cut limbs and trees to clear their shooting lane of any obstructions.
  - A. True
  - B. False
10. Is it recommended for bowhunters to carry their bow in a case out to their hunting spots in the morning.
  - A. True
  - B. False

For more information about selected answers to this Quiz, see top of page 7.

ANSWERS: 1 – D; 2 – B; 3 – D; 4 – B; 5 – C; 6 – B; 7 – A; 8 – A; 9 – B; 10 – A.

Ever had one of those days?

## Bow Mechanics Q & A

**How do I adjust the draw weight of my bow?** Weight adjustments can easily be made by turning the weight adjustment bolt clockwise to increase weight or counter clockwise to decrease weight. You should always turn the top and bottom adjustment bolts in equal amounts.

**How far can I back the weight off of my bow and still be safe?** It depends on the make and model of bow. Hoyt recommends that you never exceed ten complete rotations of the limb weight adjustment bolts. On a Bowtech, one complete rotation equals 3 to 4 lbs. draw weight, so 3 complete rotations are about max.

**What is Tiller?** Tiller is the difference in actual distance between the upper limb to the string and lower limb to the string measured from the base of the limbs (where the limb and riser meet) at a 90 degree angle. Single cam models must be measured from a reference line from axle to axle. The main function of tiller is to allow the archer to more easily and comfortably aim during the draw and release of the shot. Most bows will shoot best with an even tiller which means the distance from the string to the limb is the same on top and bottom. Tiller adjustments are made by adjusting either the top or bottom limb weight adjustment bolt. For example, if you have too much tiller on the bottom limb, decrease the weight on the top limb or increase the weight on the bottom. Initially set tiller equal on top and bottom.

**What is brace height?** Brace height is the distance between the pivot point of the grip and the string at rest.

**How often should I lubricate my wheels/cams?** A light, spot lubrication of the axles where they pass through the wheel/cam should be done on a regular basis (1,500-2,000 shots). In adverse hunting conditions where dirt, dust, and moisture are encountered, lubrication may be done on a daily basis.

Use a silicone or Teflon based lubrication. Do not use "penetrating oils" such as WD-40, EZ #7, Fast Break, etc.

**What is "ATA Standard" draw length?** A method of measurement has been established to provide an industry standard of draw length and eliminate the variances in the original method caused by different thicknesses of bow risers. The ATA Standard Draw Length is arrived at by measuring the "Draw Length to Pivot Point" which is the distance from the string's nock point to the pivot point of the grip, and adding 1 and 3/4 inches. The 1 and 3/4 inches represents the average distance from the far side of the bow to the bow grips pivot point. Manufacturers use this ATA Standard Draw Length when they designate the draw length of a bow.

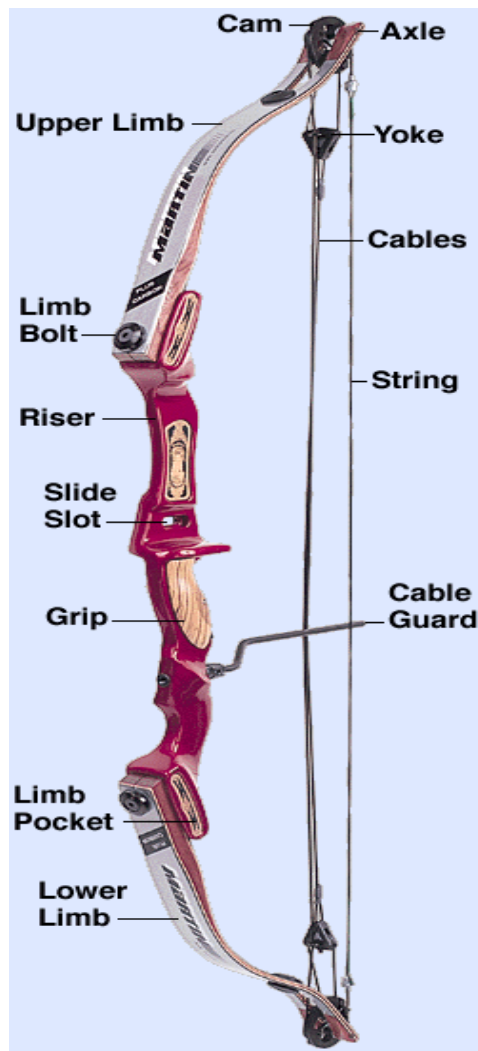
**What is a reflex riser and a deflex riser?** Reflex and deflex are terms used to explain the geometry of a riser. A deflex riser bow will have a higher brace height than a reflex riser bow which generally means it is a more forgiving bow. A reflex riser bow has a shorter brace height which usually translates into a higher performance bow and perhaps a bit less forgiving than a deflex riser bow. Reflex/deflex is measured by the position of the throat of the grip in terms of its location from a line drawn from each of the pocket pivot points on the handle. If the throat of the grip is in front of the pivot point line it is considered deflex, if it is behind the pivot point line it is considered reflex.

**How often should I wax my bow strings?** Apply a light coat of bowstring wax to your bow's

strings and cables on a regular basis, once every two weeks during peak use.

By regularly inspecting and maintaining your bow, you will shoot better and possibly spare yourself needless repair expenses.

Good shooting!



# Aluminum vs. Carbon Arrows

## What is the best arrow for you?

Article Courtesy C.L. Zwar

In order to answer what seem to be an easy question you must first think of several factors:

**1. How much do you want to spend?** With the cost of carbon arrows being considerably more than aluminum arrows, this is often a major factor. Prices on both carbon and aluminum arrows vary depending on manufacturer, straightness, quality, and material. For the most part the more you spend the straighter and more durable the arrow will be. Although you can now buy carbon arrows for as low as \$50.00 per dozen, you need to look at the quality your getting for you money. As an example, you might spend \$50.00 on a dozen carbon arrows that are rated at +/- .008 straightness when you can go out and buy a dozen aluminum arrows for \$40.00 and they will be rated +/- .003 straightness. This leads us into the second question.

**2. What will you be using your arrows for?** Do you use your arrows for hunting, target shooting, 3D shooting, or backyard shooting? Most archers like to use the most accurate arrow they can get for target and 3D shooting while most hunters want value. The truth is that 90% of archers won't be able to shoot an arrow with a straightness of +/- .002 any better than they will be able to shoot an arrow that has a straightness of +/- .006. One thing you might want to keep in the back of your mind is if you are going to shoot targets or 3D's, lines do count. Therefore if you shoot a larger diameter arrow you might get a few extra points at the end of the day. Now for the hunters out there, weight is another item to consider.  $Weight = KE$  (Kinetic Energy) right? Well this is a whole other topic which has been discussed for years so we will leave it alone for now. I will add one thing about KE. It is very simple to figure out for your self. The formula is as simple as  $(WEIGHT \times SPEED^2) / 450,240$

**3. What kind of speed do you want?** This seems to be a favorite topic when arrow selection is brought up. When archers start looking for the "fastest" arrow they can shoot they go right for the carbons. For the most part Carbon arrows are faster than aluminum arrows. Now you did notice that I said for the most part. In the last few years aluminum arrows have stayed pretty much the same but carbon arrows have made some major changes. You can now go out and purchase carbon arrows in many different camo patterns. This might look nice but what you need to pay close attention to is how much weight the camo wrap adds to the arrow and more weight means a slower arrow. An example would be the Terminator carbon arrow by Game Tracker. Just by going with the neat looking camo you are going to add 1.7 grains per inch to your total arrow weight. This turns out to be 47.6 grains to a 28" long shaft, which translate to 10-15 feet per second loss of speed. Now this might not be a problem if you're going hunting but if you were expecting a fast arrow you might be disappointed. Another item to look at is the weight of the components. What kind of nocking system does the arrow have? Will you use carbon inserts; aluminum inserts, or use glue in target points? These are all things to be considered when talking arrow speed. What it comes down to is if you want a fast arrow, look at the whole picture not just the weight per inch.

**4. How much time do you want to spend?** One thing that most archers don't think about is how easy the arrows tune. If you are trying to ride the edge with a fast light arrow it might take you a little more time to get your bow set up and your arrows flying true. On the other hand, a heavier arrow with a spine better suited for your bow will be easier to tune, especially when using broadheads.

**Quality!** Let's take a closer look at it. When we talk about arrows and quality we need to look at several things:

**1. Straightness:** Although arrow manufacturers will publish their arrow specs, it never hurts to verify them yourself. This is something you can ask the shop where you buy your arrows from to show you. Most pro shops will have an arrow straightner that will show just how straight an arrow is. Check a few and get the average.

**2. Weight tolerance:** This is generally a huge surprise to archers when they find out for the first time that they might buy a dozen arrows and have a weight difference of 10, 20,

or 30 grains between arrows. The only way to really control this is to weigh your arrow before you buy them. This is another reason to find a type of arrow that you like and stick with it.

**3. Durability:** How tuff is the arrow? For aluminum arrows you need to look at the size. An example would be a 2312 Easton Super Slam. Now the size (2312) actually represents two things. The first is the outside diameter and the second is the wall thickness. When talking durability with aluminum arrows you need to pay close attention to the second two numbers (the wall thickness). The thicker the wall the more durable the arrow will be. Now you also need to know that the thicker the wall the more the arrow will weigh. Arrow wall thickness range from 12-19 in most cases. Carbon arrows are a little different. The keys to a durable carbon arrow is Type of carbon used, type of wrap, thickness of the arrow wall. This should be an after thought. If you buy a good arrow it should hit where your aiming and you shouldn't have to worry about how durable it is. If you decide buy the most durable arrow you might not be happy with the performance of the arrow.

Who knew there was so much to think about when buying arrows. Well, it's not all that bad. If you are shooting an arrow that has been working for you then stay with that arrow. If you want to try something new then spend the time and do the research and it will save you time in the long run. Please remember that when you go and buy arrows at a shop, you are the customer. Ask if you can check the arrow out. Let the shop prove to you that you are buying the best arrow for your needs.

A few last things to consider:

- Carbon is more forgiving than aluminum.
- Carbon reacts faster than aluminum so it straightens out faster.
- Aluminum arrows can be straightened, carbons can't.
- Although carbon arrows don't bend, they will get "out or round".
- Tests have shown that carbon will penetrate better than aluminum.
- Some carbons are much harder to remove from targets than aluminum.
- KE (kinetic energy) is a combination of weight and speed.
- Do your homework and if you have any more questions, ask your local pro shop.
- Stay with a company that has been around for a while. Some companies pop up, get you to buy their products and then vanish into thin air. By staying with one of the big companies you might spend a few dollars more but the next time you need arrows they will still be there.

## Missing High or Low?

Here are the most common causes of high and low misses:

### High Arrow Hits Caused by

- Arrow nocking point too low
- Arrow riding up sloping arrow rest
- Nocks not aligned on shaft, pointing up at end
- Stiffer lower limb on bow
- Arrow moving down string during draw or release
- Degree of fletching angle not uniform
- Weight variations in arrows
- Point of balance variation in arrows
- String height variation

### Low Arrow Hits Caused by

- Arrow nocking point too high
- Arrow dropping off worn rest on release
- Stiffer upper limb on bow
- Badly worn, frayed or loose fletches

### Low Arrow Hits Continued:

- Badly worn or ridged finger tab
- Armguard or clothing catching on bowstring
- Nocks not aligned on shafts, pointing down at end
- Fletches hitting bow or arrow rest on release
- Arrow moving up string during draw or release
- Degree of fletching angle not uniform
- Weight variations in arrows
- Point of balance variation in arrows
- String height variation

## Archery Tips

*"In Theory, tuning is not related to accuracy. Tuning is related only to bow performance and forgiveness. Accuracy is related to consistent execution of form."*

*"Tuning can only be relevant if you have consistent form...and if you have consistent form, tuning is less relevant. The secret is that if you duplicate each shot...so will the bow....tuned or untuned. "*

*"You don't have to shoot each shot perfectly. You just have to shoot each arrow the same every time."*

*"If you have confidence in your equipment, then you can better concentration on your shot execution. Once you setup your equipment and test it to your satisfaction, begin concentrating on your form and quit tinkering with your equipment."*

*"The average archer spends too much time and attention on equipment, and not enough on proper form and mental preparation."*

## Eyes in the Woods Training

For those members interested, Crime Observation & Reporting Training (CORT) will be held January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Bobs Sporting Goods, 1111 Hudson Street, Longview WA. Learn how to identify, document, and report natural resource crimes. By attending this training you become a "WDFW/EIW Certified Witness"

## SkookumArchers.com

Some of the information available on our website include Club History, Club News, 2004 tournament calendars (club, state, national), Archery Library (information on equipment, shooting technique, and hunting), links to archery sites, list/directions to Washington archery ranges, and much more.

## Archery Lessons

Lessons are taught by National Archery Association (NAA) Certified Instructors. All equipment is provided. Students can use their own equipment if it is deemed adequate and safe by the instructor. The beginning classes consist of a series of four (4) one and a half hour (1 1/2) lessons, on Tuesday nights from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Intermediate classes are also offered on Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

The Board of Directors Liaison to the Archery Education program is Board Member Cooper Ewing who can be reached at 253-653-1575 or by email at cooperewing@yahoo.com. You can also visit [www.skookumarchers.com](http://www.skookumarchers.com) (Archery Education) for more information. Sign up no later than the first of the month for that month's lessons.

**The upcoming class schedule for January and February was not available at press time, but will be posted on [www.skookumarchers.com](http://www.skookumarchers.com)**

**Any archer who wants to perform at a competitive level needs to take a few lessons.**

## Club WSAA Triple Crown Winners

The WSAA's Triple Crown Competition is intended to encourage more archers to participate in the core disciplines of our sport: Indoor, 3-D, and Field. To be eligible, an archer must compete in all three of these events: the Indoor Blueface, the 3-D Championship, and the WSAA State Field. An individual must also shoot in the same Division and Style for all three tournaments. The winner in each division is determined based on total score for the three events. The WSAA Triple Crown trophy was presented to First place in each Division / Style at the 2003 Convention. Congratulations to Skookum members **Sam Payne** who won the Senior Male Traditional Division, and **Gaven Day**, who won the Youth Male Freestyle Division.

## Club News

The Club approved a **utility easement** with Cigular Communications to install a telecommunications cable along the roadway on the Range. The lease is in 5 year increments with a Club optional cancellation clause before the end of the first 5 year period. The easement fee is around \$5,000 for the first year, with a total value around \$45,000. If necessary, the Club can cancel the agreement prior to the end of the first 5 year period.

Thanks to all the Club members who helped put out the **new target sheds** and unloaded 40 new target bales.

**Target Bales/Faces.** At the Annual Meeting, members discussed the need for additional new target sheds and bales. It was voted to allocate \$2,000 for additional new Pacific Bow Butt target bales for the range, and \$500 for additional paper targets.

**Target Faces for Member Only Range.** Due to the frequency with which some shooters use the Member Only range, it was determined by unanimous consent that the Club would charge \$0.50 for a member that wanted a new target face for his practice session at the Member Only range. This would be on an honor system basis.

Selected **explanations to p. 2 Quiz answers:** Q 1. The first two numbers are the diameter of the arrow in 64ths. The second two numbers are the thickness of the walls of the arrow in thousandths. This means a 2213 shaft has a diameter of 22 64ths and a wall thickness of 13 thousandths. Q 2. The visibility (or size of hole) and the alignment are the two most important factors when purchasing a peep sight. Under hunting conditions, a peep with the largest diameter opening is needed to allow the maximum amount of light in. Q 6. Corn has little or no protein and does little to affect the size or development of a buck's antlers. Q 7. As it gets colder it becomes harder to draw because your muscles are tighter. Q 10. Bowhunters should invest in a soft covered case for their bows. It helps in reducing noise from branches and reduces the chances of deer detecting your presence.

## Hunters Reminded to Report 2003 Hunting

As most of the year's major hunts draw to a close, deer, elk, bear and turkey hunters are reminded they are required to report their hunting activity to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). For the past three years, the annual hunting **reports** have been **mandatory** for all deer, elk, bear and turkey tag holders, **whether or not they actually hunted or were successful**. Data on harvest and hunter activity (days of effort and game units hunted) provide some of the most important information biologists use to manage future hunting seasons. State game managers rely on information in the reports to assess the effect of various season structures on harvest and hunter activity. The reports are especially important to assess the impact of recent modifications to hunting seasons. A lack of comprehensive hunter reports eventually could result in more conservative season setting.

This is the third year of the reporting program, so hunters should be familiar with the requirements, yet preliminary data shows reporting rates are behind previous years. WDFW prefers to achieve compliance without imposing penalties, but they'll be closely watching this year's reporting rate to determine whether they need to consider additional penalties. Hunters have two options for filing their reports-calling toll free at 1-877-945-3492 or via the Internet at <http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/>. Successful hunters who report within 10 days of harvest and unsuccessful hunters who report by January 10 are eligible for one of nine special hunting permits for 2004.

## *On Target Archery*

**Full-Service Pro Shop & Indoor Lanes  
at the Skookum Range**

11209 Shaw Road East, Puyallup WA 98373  
[www.ontargetarchery.com](http://www.ontargetarchery.com)

**Phone (253) 845-7165 - Open Daily**

## BOARD DIRECTORS & MANAGERS

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### GROUND

Pat Fernandez

### HUNTING

John Batts

### ACTIVITIES

Open - Volunteer Today!

Anyone willing to serve on the Tournament, Range, or Grounds Committee and assist in those areas should contact the respective Director.

Club meetings are held the Second Tuesday of the month at the Club House. The Member meeting is held at 6:30 pm, and the Board Meeting is held directly thereafter.

# CALENDAR

- January 10th & 11th, WSAA Indoor Multi-Color Championship, Silver Arrow
- January 8th, Club Meeting (6:30pm) and Board Meeting (7:00 pm)
- Sat. January 17, Frozen Fletch 3-D, Tacoma Sportsment
- Sat. January 17, Annual Club Banquet, Longhorn BBQ, 6:30pm Social Hour; 7pm Dinner
- January 21st-25th, Sportsmen's Show Skookum Archery Education Tent
- February 28th & 29th, Skookum 3-D Saturday (2/28), and Foul Weather Field (2/29)

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 Cooper Ewing, 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 will be responsible for replacing the Target Face when it has been shot out, picking-up trash in your shooting lane, and reporting any maintenance that needs to be done; grounds work (grass, trees, brush, etc.) 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; you will be assisted with finding the correct replacement target face. 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!

# SMOKE SIGNAL



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and Range  
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**Don Morrison, Editor**

**Register today for the Annual  
Club Banquet, Sat. January 17th.  
See inside this issue for details  
and registration form.**