

# SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

June, 2004

## WSAA 3-D Champs

Congratulations to Club members who placed at the recent State 3-D Championships:

A-M-FS  
James VanBlaricom 1st  
David Day 2<sup>nd</sup>

Cub-F-FSL  
Jennaya Day 1st

## Field and Hunter

In preparation for the WSAA Field Tournament, about 40 dedicated paper shooters showed up for the May 22 & 23 Skookum Field and Hunter Round Tournament. Those competing Sat. had the opportunity to practice shooting in the rain, while those on Sunday were treated to a nice, warm sunny day. Special thanks to Dan Croft, Curt Reid, Pat Fernandez and others for their work on this shoot.

## Dirty Thirty Scheduled

The Board has decided to add the notorious Dirty Thirty to this year's shoot schedule. The 2-day tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday June 26th and 27th. See the advertisement on page 3 for more information.

## Sportsmens Show Chairperson Sought

For the past two years in late January the Club has sponsored the Archery Tent at the annual Sportsmen's Show at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Each year more than 2,000 kids and adults try their hand at shooting a bow. Thousands more pass through the booth. We setup 3 FITA targets and 9 3-D animals including 3 very realistic dinosaur targets loaned to us by the O'Loughlin trade show that are a big hit with the kids.

Last year Steve Caufman chaired the event. The Club would like to continue this effort and is seeking someone to volunteer to head up the event for the 2005 show. If you are able to chair the event (which requires attendance most of the week), please contact President Denny Jenkins.

## Elk Hunting Seminar

Mark your calendars! Skookum Archers will welcome Rockie Jacobsen of Bugling Bull Call Company here on July 24th @ 12pm for an Elk hunting and calling seminar. For information on how to attend or to watch some of Rockies hunting videos, call Doug at Great northwest. 253- 841-0991.

## Spring Cleaning

The warm and wet spring weather has really helped the grass (and weeds) grow at the course. We need help clearing the shooting lanes and keeping up the range. Be sure YOUR target assignment area is well-maintained.

You can determine your target assignment by checking the mailing label on your Smoke Signal. The letter and number after your last name indicates your assignment. For example, Target B6 means you are responsible for Target #6 on "B" Course (the course behind the flat range that usually has the animal targets). For other work that needs to be done, please contact Pat Fernandez, Grounds Director, at (253) 927-9741.

Your assignment includes assuring that a good target face in on the bales, that the lane is clean and clear of weeds and obstructions.

## WORK PARTY

**There will be a work party the weekend of June 12 & 13 to remove the old storage sheds in preparation of the steel contained delivery.**

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

**Your full-service pro shop and indoor range at the Skookum Archers Club and Range**

**WHAT MY  
MOTHER  
TAUGHT  
ME!**

**My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE - "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside - I just finished cleaning!"**

**My mother taught me RELIGION - "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."**

**My mother taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."**

**My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY - "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times - Don't exaggerate!!!"**

**My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE - "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."**

**My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION - "Stop acting like your father!"**

**THANKS, MOM!**

## Q and A: Fletching Hunting Arrows with Feathers

### Q. What size feathers should I use?

A. In general, for hunting arrows tipped with broadheads, three 5 inch feathers or four 4 inch feathers work well. Light weight carbon arrows have been successfully fletched with three 4 inch feathers. Due to individual differences in equipment and shooting style, larger feathers may be required. It is also possible that good flight can be achieved with smaller feathers. Test shooting is the best way to decide on any particular set up. It is important to remember that broadheads will need more guidance than field points. It is also extremely important that broadhead equipped arrows fly “dead straight” with no yawing or fishtailing. An arrow that is yawing down range is not only inaccurate, but if it hits game it loses much of its penetration.

### Q. I’m right handed, should I use right wing or left wing feathers?

A. You can successfully shoot either wing. An arrow does not rotate noticeably until it is well clear of the bow. Left wing feathers should be used to rotate the arrow counter clockwise, right wing clockwise (as viewed by the shooter).

### Q. Do “Round Back” (or “Parabolic”) and “Shield Back” fly differently?

A. We haven’t been able to detect any difference in the performance of round back or shield back. It appears that the only difference is one of appearance. Round back are more popular in the United States; shield back are more popular in Europe.

### Q. Should I use straight, offset or helical fletching clamps?

A. Helical fletching causes the arrow to rotate in flight just like the rifling in a gun barrel causes bullet to rotate. This is extremely important to stabilize the arrow flight. Helical fletching offers more stability than a simple offset and is therefore the first choice for any arrow tipped with a broadhead.

## Vane Height

The shorter the arrow, the harder it is to get clearance. Thus the height of the vane is critical. If you get too high of a vane it touches the rest easier and causes your arrow to go crazy. But, you need to make sure you do not get too small of a height! There is a lot of turbulence near the shaft and the top of the vane has to be out of that turbulence in order to stabilize the flight.

## SHOOTING IN RAIN

There is no magic - most everyone shoots badly. The big problem 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 absolutely must shoot arrows with feathers, weatherproof them with Scotchguard(tm) or a feather waterproofing treatment. Whatever you shoot, keep your arrows dry. Put a plastic bag over your quiver, covering your arrows. Use a scope cover to avoid getting your scope wet.

When you shoot, add a yard or two for the extra arrow mass. 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.

## Tips for Quieting Your Hunting Bow

Hunters need to do all they can to silence their bows and arrows. Why? Most game animals have keen hearing, and the speed of sound is roughly 1100 feet per second, and the fastest compound out there spits out arrows at less than 350 feet per second. Do the math. That arrow is a little over three times slower than sound, giving the animal almost a full second to react: more than enough time for a tense, hunter-shy buck or bull to blow smoke.

Shoot a moderately heavy to heavy hunting arrow (500 to 600 grains). A heavy hunting arrow has two distinct advantages. One, it absorbs more energy and it soaks up more of the bow's vibrations from the limbs, handle, string, etc. when the string is released. Second, a heavy arrow is more stable in hunting situations when the release is not always crisp and rehearsed. It's more forgiving of human flaws common with adrenaline-rushed shots.

Tie string silencers onto the bowstring on the upper and lower edges. The old style rubber cat whiskers work great and they're waterproof. They are a lot cheaper than Sims, although all of the Sims bow silencing products are great.

Apply adhesive moleskin around the arrow shelf to prevent noise from an arrow tapping the riser. Stick moleskin onto the bow's shelf underneath and beside your arrow rest to capture any "clang" associated with the arrow falling off of the rest.

Always use a stabilizer. Without question a bow stabilizer reduces bow vibration. It lessens noise *dramatically*. A flexible stabilizer isolates vibrations and dampens shock in any condition or situation.

Occasionally a bow sight can rattle loose and make unwanted racket. Check the hex bolts regularly to make sure they are snug and rattle-free. Use a dab a drop of Loctite to the bolts that screw the sight into the riser as well as the two other bolts that hold the quiver adapter to your sight guard.

Select your hunting quiver carefully. Besides making sure that it is tightened down sufficiently, different models make less noise than others when shot. The best quivers house broadheads underneath a roomy, foam-filled hood. Arrow shaft grippers hold the shafts tightly a hand's length above the fletching to prevent excessive tremble and noise. Also, good quivers are designed to keep feather or vane fletching from rubbing together when filled.

Last, hush your arrow rest. Felt and Teflon products should be applied in places where the arrow slides. If you fail to do so your arrow will hum a faint whistling sound when you draw that's sure to alert game that you are near. Avoid this by changing the moleskin or Teflon regularly.

Examine your bow and components and make sure everything is whisper quiet. An accurate, dull strumming hunting bow is paramount to consistent, deliberate success on game.

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## Foot Hunting Tips

**1. Don't Let Yourself Be Seen.** Every game animal has a three-pronged survival system:-eyes, ears, and nose. Since a foot hunter is actively moving, getting within 30, 40, or even 50 yards of animal eyes is seldom easy. Good foot hunters match camouflage to habitat. In the deep, dark woods typical of elk and early-season deer habitat, they wear relatively dark camo like World War II, Vietnam, or Realtree All-Purpose Brown. In more typical sagebrush, yellow grass, or scattered scrub, they select lighter camo like Advantage, Realtree X-tra Grey or Realtree Wetlands. In genuine desert country, wise archers wear U.S. Military Desert Camo, ASAT Brown or another specialized arid-terrain pattern. In the snow, good bowhunters don white-and-gray or white-and-brown clothing head-to-toe. In so doing, these hunters blend well with habitat. Commercial camo alone cannot fool an animal's eyes.

Every bit as important are manipulation of sunlight and shadow, and sophisticated use of foliage and terrain. A successful foot hunter is like a housecat hunting birds. This archer surveys the countryside ahead, and slips along in the deepest shadows. When possible, he moves with a low morning or evening sun behind him, which helps to dazzle animal eyes. The archer who walks through open sunlight or sneaks toward a low sun will stand out like a yellow D-8 Caterpillar crossing a field. Keen-eyed game like elk, mule deer, and antelope never stand for such nonsense. The good foot hunter also uses terrain with expert ease. He never cruises high ridgelines when he can lurk in draws, ravines, and other low-lying areas. He never walks in front of bushes or trees when he can tip-toe behind them. When given a choice, he always places solid rock or dirt between himself and animals, rather than relying on thin screens of grass or brush. A truly savvy bowhunter knows that camouflage clothing and technique must be combined to fool animal eyes. He also knows that if he can see the average game animal's eye, the critter's 270-degree field of vision is likely to see him too.

**2. Fool Animal Ears.** Foot hunting requires relatively silent movement. The sneakiest bowhunters wear softsoled boots-neoprene or gum rubber, never hard Vibram-and deliberately select solid rock, debris-free dirt, short green grass and other quiet surfaces to walk across. They never trudge through brush piles, leaves and other impossibly noisy footing if they can't find silent terrain, they back away and try another area. Soft-surfaced clothing is also a must for quiet ground hunting. Loosely woven wool-fleece, Worsterlon and cotton flannel are superior to hard-weave nylon, 60/40 poly-cotton canvas or stiff rubberized raingear. If a particular fabric audibly scrapes when you drag your fingernails across it, find a quieter garment!



play, or eat can also help archers move close. It is ten times more difficult to approach a bedded buck or bull than the same animal chewing grass or leaves early and late in the day.

**3. Control Your Scent.** An animal's nose is its most trusted and keenest sense. For example, a deer, bear, caribou or wild sheep will sometimes see movement or hear suspicious noise and linger a few seconds to gawk. If the same animal smells you, the critter will leave. No ifs, ands, or buts! Sitting in a stand allows the effective use of commercial scent eliminators like Scent Shield spray, odor-masking concoctions like natural earth and red fox urine, and specialized clothing barriers like Scent-Lok and Scent-Blocker suits. But active spot-and-stalk hunting or sneaking blindly through semi-

thick terrain raises a sweat and cancels the best scent-purging precautions. In foot-hunting situations, controlling wind direction is the only way to guard against being smelled. Bowhunters on foot must constantly monitor wind direction with commercial aids like a talcum squeeze bottle or the flame of a butane cigarette lighter. More importantly, they must learn to predict breeze direction so they know where and how to move.

For example, in most mountainous elk terrain, morning and evening winds move strongly downhill. During midday, these "thermal" currents heat up and switch to an uphill direction. The best elk hunters hike uphill near dawn and dusk, move downhill during midday, and leave the woods when mid-morning and mid-afternoon breezes become unpredictable and confused. The best foot hunters move with the breeze squarely in their face or crossing at an angle. If the wind fans the back of the archer's neck-even once every animal within 300 to 400 yards will probably come unglued. Do not under-rate an animal's ability to smell.

**4. Use Multiple Speeds.** Movement speed can make or break a foot hunt. Most of the time, the average beginner moves too slowly, in dense foliage, where you cannot see animals ahead, you must certainly ease along. Take a step, wait and look, then take another step. But in most hunting situations, you can sit high or move and look at a distance. This lets you spot animals several hundred yards away, and then plan stalks. In such cases, you should cover initial ground at a fast walk or even a trot. Only slow to a snail's pace inside 100 or 200 yards. Otherwise, the target critter might be apt to feed or walk away and disappear before you arrive. The best foot hunters have multiple speeds, and use all of these at appropriate times.

## Bow Sight Settings

*"How do I calibrate my sight effectively?"* In one second an arrow will fall  $1\frac{1}{2} \times (32 \text{ ft/s}^2) \times (1 \text{ s} \times 1 \text{ s})$  or 16 feet. In two seconds it falls 64 feet (16 in the first second, 48 in the second) and in three seconds, 144 feet (16 in the first second, 48 in the second, 80 in the third).

We put this into practical use by positioning our sight pins for longer distances further apart. For example, while our 10 and 20 pins may be 0.2 inches apart, our 40 and 50 pins may be 0.6 inches apart (This depends on the starting speed of the arrow).

**Calibrating Your Sight For 10 To 100 Yards.** Begin by getting a 20-yard marking on your sight. If you're using a standard freestyle (moveable) target sight you can simply mark this with a pencil. If you're setting pins then set one pin for this distance. Next, shoot several arrows at thirty yards to obtain a sight setting there. Move to forty, fifty, and sixty yards and do the same. Seventy and eighty may take a little more work since your skill level and/or accuracy may not be as high. Do the best you can.

Now examine the mark spacings on your tape or the spread between your pins. Do the spaces grow as the distances grow? According to the laws of physics, they should.

If any of the marks you've made seem to be out of place, reshoot that distance to check the mark. When you're sure of your marks, measure between the pairs of marks to locate marks for 25 yards, 35 yards, 45 yards, etc. For example, find the midpoint between 30 and 40-yd. and place a 35 mark slightly closer to the 30-yd. mark. Remember, the distance from 30 to 35 should be smaller than the distance from 35 to 40.

**Close Range Sight Settings.** The close-range sight marks are some of the more difficult to get. You'll have no trouble getting the 15-yard mark, but in close at ten yards, 30-ft, 25, and 20 feet, you'll have to spend some time. Between ten and fifteen yards away your arrows cross up from below your line of sight (The arrow starts below your sight aperture after all.) to above your line of sight, not to return down to the line of sight until they hit the target. Because of this situation, distances closer than this crossover point require you to move your sight down the sight bar. To make sense of this, imagine shooting an arrow from two yards. To do it you would have to sight across the arrow shaft unless you could move your sight pin down to rest on the shaft. Since that's not possible, shooting two yards is difficult because your arrow has not yet climbed up to the line of sight. For a 10 foot shot, you may need to set your sight set for about 35 yd.

## C.O.R.T Training

Crime Observation and Reporting Class will be conducted on 11 June 2004, 7:00 - 9:00 PM at KBH Archery Club 3680 Old Belfair HWY., Belfair, WA

Join in protecting Washington's fish and wildlife by attending an EIW Crime Observation and Report Training (C.O.R.T.). Learn from WDFW Enforcement Officers how to identify, document and report natural resource crimes.

Class participants become a Certified Witness for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Our goal is create a network of trained citizens dedicated to reducing poaching and other natural resource abuses through NON-NONFRONTATIONAL expert witness program.

Citizens willingness to identify, accurately document and report abuses is growing, and the CORT class is designed to assist you to do it properly and timely. Contact EIW Coordinators John Durst (360) 871-8400 or e-mail: [jdurst4154@aol.com](mailto:jdurst4154@aol.com) or Tal Dobbs (360) 895-0365.

## Bowhunting Education

For Washington Bowhunter Education classes thus far we have the following classes scheduled:

July 27th start: At Enumclaw: contact Flint Tip Archers: 253-862-9160

August 16th: At Issaquah: Contact Alan Jones: 425- 883-0405

October 16th: At Issaquah: Contact Alan Jones: 425-883-0405

**Nobody cares if you can't shoot well. Just show up and shoot.**

## Board Member Profile: Shawn Johnston



**Shawn Johnston** has been a board member for two and a half years and is currently serving his 3rd term (year) on the Board. He is currently serving as the Club Secretary.

Shawn shoots Bowhunter

Freestyle class, and has been hunting with a bow and arrow for 13 years now. He has harvested 4 deer and 1 elk so far with his bow (currently a Bowtech Pro 40).

"I joined the club because I thought it made sense financially at the time. I wanted to practice more for hunting and thought it would be more cost effective to be a member. In the end I found that I was just more interested in archery as a whole and it has snow balled from there. I look forward to many more years of participation at Skookum."

Shawn is married and has two boys 9 and 11 who enjoy going shooting and hunting. He is the Managing Junior Partner Of Eagle Estate Group, Inc. an Estate and Tax planning firm, helping people reduce their tax liabilities and pass more of what they work for to their heirs. He attends Lifeway Church of Federal Way and enjoys amateur acting.

## Great Northwest Archery

***Check our great deals on arrows.***

***Your Pro Shop at the Skookum Archers 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. We also sell WA hunting and fishing licenses. Open daily.***

**(253) 841-0991**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### ACTIVITIES

Open - Volunteer Today!

The monthly member and Board of Directors meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. The member meeting is at 6:30pm, and the Board meets at 7:00 pm, in the Club House.

# SMOKE SIGNAL



**Skookum Archers Club  
and Range  
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info@skookumarchers.com**

**Don Morrison, Editor**

**Mark your calendars! DIRTY  
THIRTY 3-D June 26 & 27. Plan  
now to attend.**

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 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!

- June 5 & 6, WSAA Field Championship, Wapiti
- June 10, Club Member Meeting at 6:30 pm followed by Board Meeting
- June 12 & 13, June 3-D, Cedar River
- June 19 & 20, Iron Amos 3-D, Tacoma Sportsmen
- June 19 & 20, NW Outdoor Sectionals, Butte, MT
- June 19 & 20, Summer Classic Marked 3-D, KBH
- June 26 & 27, Dirty Thirty 3-D, Skookum Range

## CALENDAR