

SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

August, 2004

Elk Calling Seminar

Many eager hunters persons attended the July 24th Elk Calling and Hunting Seminar by world champion caller Rocky Jacobsen. Thanks to Club Hunting Director John Batts for arranging this seminar.

Help on The Range

The Club is currently without a Range Director, the Board position responsible for maintaining all the target sheds. As a result, the range needs a lot of help. Because of the vacancy, it's more critical than ever that members keep up their assigned target areas. Please keep up you assigned area. Thanks for your help.

Puyallup Fair Archery Booth Volunteers Needed

A major project for September is the WSAA Booth at The Puyallup Fair. During the entire run of the fair – 17 days, from the 10th to the 26th – we try to get the word out about recreational archery programs and opportunities. A big draw of the current booth setup is bringing kids into the booth to shoot a few arrows and maybe pop a balloon. WSAA has a set of Genesis bows, arrows and backstop netting. They also have brochures about WSAA, and a list of Clubs and Shops to hand out. We will also have a brochure about Skookum Archers.

The critical element is people to staff the booth. Our experience last year was that it worked well with three people in the booth. One served as "gate-keeper" to maintain a smooth flow of kids in and out, and to field questions from parents or spectators, while two worked directly with the children (and others) on the shooting line.

The most critical days to be covered are Fridays and Saturdays, as those see more children among the fair visitors. Please call WSAA President Linda Parker at (360) 533-4698 or send her an email note at waaa@olynet.com to sign up for a shift or several. She will have admission tickets available for people who will work the booth!



3-D Saturday Fun Shoot

Archery is a great family sport. Everyone, no matter how young, old, large, or small can participate. July 17th was another 3-D fun shoot that participants enjoyed. The weather was great and Club President Denny Jenkins and family grilled up some great burgers and bratwurst. Special thanks to Dennis and his family, Pat Fernandez, Timm Hines, Don Morrison, and others who helped make this a successful event.

Hunting Regs

Details of all hunting seasons are available in the 2004 pamphlet edition of Washington's Big Game Hunting Seasons and Rules at Great Northwest Pro Shop on the Range and at the WDFW website <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

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Whitetail Deer Quiz

Test your knowledge of Whitetail Deer. Circle your answer. Correct answers given at bottom of page. From the Hunting Network.

1. The size of a buck's antlers play a part in it's social status in the herd?

True False

2. At birth, how many pounds is the average male deer?

7 17 27 37

3. Antlers are made from the same material that bones are made of.

True False

4. Genetically, what animal is the deer most closely related to?

Horse Pig Cow Elephant

5. About how many whitetails are estimated to be currently living in the wild (in the millions) in the U.S.?

5 15 25 35 45

6. What predator claims the lives of the most deer?

Bobcats Wolves Cougars Coyotes

7. About how many pounds was the largest documented whitetail deer killed to date?

225 275 325 400

8. What percentage of fawns does a mother doe lose in her lifetime?

10 20 30 40 50

9. What color eyes are fawns born with?

Green Blue Brown Black

10. In how many of the 50 U.S. states do whitetail deer live?

18 28 38 48

***Stop playing with the deer call, Jimmie.
You're going to scare the deer.***

**Q. What's the definition of a non-typical
Whitetail deer?
A. One that stays off of the highway!**

Correct Answers: 1. True; 2. 7; 3. True; 4. Pig; 5. 25 million; 6. Wolves; 7. 325; 8. 10; 9. Blue 10. 48

Understanding Elk & Elk Calls

With more and more hunting pressure put on elk, the elk have gotten smarter and have learned to be less vocal than they were years ago. This is not only due to added hunting pressure, but also due to more and more hunters trying to call elk. This makes it tougher than ever to call in a big bull elk.

Most hunters think of elk language as bugles and barks. But there is much more to it than that. Let us not forget about the calves. They do not just learn to bark and bugle when they are all grown up. There is more than just the barks and bugles. There are grunts, and squeals also. There is a universal language that is known as cow talk and is used by cows, calves, and bulls.

After the birth of calves, the cows and calves will start to form nursery groups. In this group there will be a lot of baby-sitting that will go on. The cow elk will communicate with the calves with calling and barking during the nursery time, and this is where the calves really develop their voice. The calves will talk repeatedly and the mothers will answer them back. During this time there is a lot of talking going on, and even more should danger be near. If danger is near, the talking really begins. And it is done by every elk in the group, cows, calves, and the young bulls.

Cow talk is probably the deadliest factor to the elk hunter. In the past, hunters would always try to call in the big bull elk. They saw them, they heard them, and they wanted them. So they tried to call them in by trying to imitate the bull elk's bugle, and ignored the sounds made by cow elk and the calves. The fact is that the bugles, grunts and whistles made by the bull elk does work given the right conditions. If there is a rut crazed bull elk nearby, it will work. Elk hunters need a bit of help to get those big bulls in, and the solution is cow talk.

Some elk hunters refused to believe how effective this cow talk was until they tried it themselves. It is amazing how effective this method is. Elk are very communal animals right from the day they are born.

Understand that there is security for them in herds. A big bull elk during the rut doesn't want another bull elk. What he does want though, are cows. He wants not only the cows, but the security of the herd as well. So it would stand to reason that cow calls will bring in bull elk, and BIG bull elk.

The sound of a big bull elk's bugle in the wild is unlike any other sound. It is power, it is mystery, and it is what excites every elk hunter there is.

The successful elk hunter needs to understand the animal they are after. They need to know the places that they go and when they will go there. They must also know how to call.

Herd bulls require a different strategy than that of brush bulls and spike bulls. Learning to make those sweet sounding bugles and grunts takes practice, and lots of it. There is no set pattern or sequence that one will use. What will work on one bull elk may not work on another. You will need to know when and where to call as well as how to call.

Elk talk is nothing more than four basic calls. The calf call, a one second chirp and mewing sound, the cow call which is almost the same, a little longer and a bit deeper tone, the bull elk squeal which is like a high pitched single note, like a nasal whistle, and the full blown, full bull bugle. It is like a rising extended version of the squeal with a series of grunts on the end.

You will need to learn all of these sounds and practice making these sounds. A good place to learn this is at home with the aid of books, tapes, and videos, and of course the call itself.

"WATCHING" THE WIND

The best hunters have learned that the wind shifts constantly, and must be continuously monitored. The wind is alive... it flows like moving water, carrying your scent of danger to a supersensitive nose. The Elk WILL SMELL YOU BEFORE YOU SEE THEM.



Broadheads: Straight to the Point

Adapted from an article by Mark Romanack

It's never too early to practice shooting broadheads. It's amazing how the simple act of screwing a broadhead onto an arrow can make an otherwise fine shooting arrow fly like a cork screw.

Bow hunters who assume their broadheads will impact in the same spot on the target as their field tips are in for a rude awakening. Placing a broadhead on the end of an arrow changes the aerodynamic characteristics of the projectile. Not surprisingly, the point of impact is also influenced. Unfortunately, the solution to this problem isn't simple because the cause may be one or more of many factors that influence arrow flight.

Understanding Arrow Flight. Before you can completely appreciate why broadheads cause arrows to fly erratically, you must understand what happens when an arrow is shot from a bow. When the string is released, the forward force of the bow limbs causes the arrow to flex or bend momentarily out of shape. Once the shaft is clear from the bow, the arrow snaps back into shape causing the arrow to wobble in flight. Plastic vanes or feather fletching attached at the back of the arrow help to quickly stabilize this wobbling motion and allow the arrow to fly smoothly through the air. Fletching plays a vital role in arrow flight. Not only does the fletching steer the arrow, but it also imparts spin on the shaft that further stabilizes it in flight in the same way that rifling in a gun barrel improves bullet accuracy.

The wobbling effect created when an arrow is shot from a bow is controlled in part by the arrow spine or stiffness. A lightly spined arrow shot from a high poundage bow is going to wobble violently and result in poor arrow flight. Arrows that are stiffer than necessary tend to be heavy and ultimately rob the hunter of arrow speed. The ideal combination is an arrow spine that matches the draw weight of the bow.

When a broadhead is attached to the end of an arrow, the delicate balance required for smooth arrow flight is disturbed. The blades of the broadhead act like fletching, creating a situation where the arrow is being steered from both ends at the same time. Commonly referred to as broadhead planing, it's clear to see why arrow flight goes haywire the moment a hunting-style arrow tip is added to the equation. The bigger the broadhead blades, the more this steering struggle impacts on arrow flight. Unfortunately there isn't a cut-and-dried solution to this problem.

Several factors may need adjustment before predictable and accurate arrow flight can be established.

Broadhead Features. Bow hunters often suffer from



the bigger is better theory. If one size broadhead is good, bigger models with larger cutting diameters must be even better. Broadheads with large cutting diameters are the

primary reason so many hunters experience problems with broadhead planing.

The problems are most pronounced with models that feature a cutting diameter larger than 1 1/4 inches. Broadheads with smaller cutting diameters such as 1 1/8 or 1 1/16 inches fly better in most cases, but size alone isn't the total answer. Broadheads, like any mechanical device, are subject to quality control problems. Slight variations in broadhead weight or balance can cause some heads to fly erratically. In a package of six broadheads, it's common for one or two units to be virtually untuneable.

Also, the more blades a broadhead sports, the more these heads tend to create planing problems. Not surprisingly, two blade, traditional style broadheads, such as the Patriot, Zwickey Black Diamond, Magnus, Delta Nubbin, and Bear Razorhead, usually fly like darts. The primary drawback to these hunting tips are the slit like holes they generate. Sometimes these holes can lead to a weak blood trail.

Three blade broadheads are an excellent compromise between arrow flight and resulting blood trails. A wealth of good heads are available with cutting diameters ranging from 1 inch to 1 1/8 inches. Some of the most popular models include the Rocky Mountain Premier and Titanium, Wasp SST Hammer, New Archery Products ThunderHead and Satellite Mag.

Broadheads with more than three blades are also prime candidates for planing problems. The extra blade surfaces can increase the problem of broadhead planing significantly.

The mechanical or open-on-impact style broadheads are the most accurate broadheads available, but they are illegal for use in Washington State. Mechanical heads also function best with stiffer arrow shafts. They don't work well with wood shafts.

The Role of Fletching. Fletching steers the arrow and imparts stabilizing spin to the shaft. Broadheads fly best when matched to arrows that feature a slight two or threedegree twist or helical to the fletching. Bohning suggests a five inch vane for hunting. 4" vanes will work well with a good offset or helical.

Shaft Straightness. For consistent arrow flight the shaft must also be straight. A slight bend in an arrow may not show up when shooting field tips, but when a broadhead is added to the equation look out. Arrow straightness can be checked using a simple spin tester.

It's also important that both the arrow nock and insert are aligned on the arrow shaft properly. A nock or insert that's mounted slightly off center will have a similar impact on arrow flight as a bent shaft.

Broadhead Tip

The ferrule (the part of the broadhead that the blades are fastened to) has more to do with penetration (especially through bone) than the blades.

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.

What To Do When You Miss That Deer

QUESTION: You're in the tree, you take a shot, and you miss. What do you do?

ANSWER: If you miss a deer, try to blow and snort to try and convince that buck there's another deer here. It may actually calm him down. There are different types of snorts and various kinds of blows. You may even grunt to them after you've shot at them.

Avid bowhunter Alex Rutledge

killed a 9-point deer that he initially missed. The deer jumped straight up in the air, and as soon as Alex saw that he'd missed him, he grunted to him, which seemed to calm him down. He came back to rub and urinate, and Alex nailed him. If you miss, don't get angry, do something deer-like to try and calm that buck down.

QUESTION: What can you do to calm a deer down besides grunt?

ANSWER: You also can bleat. If a deer blows and runs off, blow back. He may just come back to you.

QUESTION: What's another interesting situation where you can use your call to get deer to come back in?

ANSWER: There is a tactic called flagging. Walk in and approach a deer. Then when the deer gets spooked and begins to run off, flash something white at them. Often the deer will turn to look back. When the deer sees the white that's not running away, the sight of that white seems to calm them down. Sometimes they'll stop and come back. Deer communicate with their white tails.



HUNTING TIP: CONTROL YOUR SMELL

Wearing outerwear washed in non-scent soap and stored in a clean plastic bag. Take care to never touch anything with the bare skin when traveling to and from your Elk Stand will make all the difference in the world.

And for goodness sake, be sure to go to the bathroom only in camp... The Elk can smell human waste a mile off! Ignore this rule and pay the consequences. It also saves from an accidental step that you or another hunter may make in your pile! That is never a good thing.

Focus on the Present

Archery is a "present sport." You shoot in the present. You shoot best when all you think about is the present. Forget about past shots and mistakes and don't worry about the next. Shot arrows are gone – history - you cannot get them back, nor can you worry about the next shot before you are at the point of shooting it. Future arrows are a distraction.



Everyone agrees on the need to maintain focus. Do not let your mind drift from your objective. You cannot be caught up in a mis-

take or someone else's mishap. Also, maintaining your focus helps relax your body and align physical and mental abilities. Learning to handle mistakes requires great amounts of mental stamina. Most people cannot get over a mistake easily, especially when it was made in front of other people, thus applying tremendous amounts of pressure on themselves.

Concentrate on the positive. Pull your best scoring arrow last, thus keeping that positive image in your mind all the way back to the line. One bad shot does not mean you can't shoot the next one perfectly. Once your form is set and you feel comfortable, focus on aiming, and hitting that X ring.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Skookum Club members who took first place at the recent WSAA Target Championships in Spokane:

ADULT MALE FS

David Day 869 873 1742 1st

ADULT MALE FSL-R

Timm Hines 830 832 1662 1st

YOUTH MALE FS

Gaven Day 814 794 1608 1st

Eyes in the Woods Crime Observation and Reporting Training

Join us in protecting Washington's fish and wildlife by attending an EIW Crime Observation & Reporting Training (CORT). Learn from WDFW Enforcement Officers how to identify, document and report natural resource crimes. Citizen willingness to report abuses is growing, and the CORT class is designed to assist you to do it properly and timely. This program's primary goal is to create a network of trained citizens dedicated to reducing poaching and other natural resource abuses through this non-confrontational expert witness program. Class participants become a Certified Witness for the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). We are currently have the following CORT classes scheduled for the 2004 season; classes are posted on our website calendar of events <http://eyesinthewoods.org/>. Call the contact number listed for each class to sign up. Bring a CORT class to your area; your local club or retail business can host a class. We need class venues throughout the state and encourage club and commercial participation. We are also looking for volunteers to participate as CORT Training Coordinators in their local area. Our goal is to develop the CORT training committee with Coordinators statewide.

Date: August 4 2004, 7pm - 9pm

Location: Skookum Archery Club, 11209 Shaw Rd. E, Puyallup WA

Contact: John Batts 253-226-0945
jkbatts@comcast.net

Bowhunting Education

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

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

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

Board Member Profile: Shane Peterson



Shane serves as the current Vice-President of the Club. The VP is primarily responsible for membership. Shane has been coming to Skookum for the last 30 years, but he

has only been a club member for about 3 years. He is also the president of Boeing Archers. He said he joined Skookum so he could help promote archery.

Shane shoots Adult Make Bow Hunter Freestyle Limited. For Target and Field he shoots a PSE Millenium set at 62 pounds with 2213 X7's. For 3D and Hunting he shoots a PSE Silhouette (Custom) set at 63 pounds with 2213 X7's.

Shane's Practice Tips: "When practicing I try and work on the areas or situations that cause me the most trouble for the type of tournament I have coming up (e.g. Shooting in the wind, severe uphill/downhill shots, yardage estimation, etc.). I also try to keep the number of changes (this includes new equipment) to a minimum. This allows me more time to concentrate (and boy do I need it) on shooting and less on bow fiddling.

One of the greatest thrills Shane has received from archery was teaching his 2 girls how to shoot and watching them grow in the sport. It brought back memories of his father teaching him and his brothers and he was their age.

Great Northwest Archery

Gear Up for the Hunting Season With Our Great Deals

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

PRESIDENT

Dennis Jenkin, (253) 862-8582
dennis_jen@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Shane Peterson; (253) 631-5702
fingershooter@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Shawn Johnston; (253) 826-5592
slsjohnston@comcast.net

TREASURER

Kristina Miles; (360) 893-4919
kmiles@eskimo.com

COMMUNICATIONS

Don Morrison, (253) 565-6253
morrison@lgi.org

TOURNAMENT

Dan Croft, (253) 770-7662

RANGE

vACANT

GROUNDS

Pat Fernandez, (253) 927-9741

HUNTING

John Batts
jkbatts@comcast.net

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
11209 Shaw Road East
P.O. Box 73753
Puyallup, WA 98373**

**Club Line: (253) 770-4177
www.skookumarchers.com
info@skookumarchers.com**

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 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!

CALENDAR

- August 7 & 8, WSAA FITA Championship, Evergreen (Spokane)
- August 7 & 8, Rimrock Pig Roast 3-D, Wa-Ku-Wa
- Thursday August 12, Club Meeting (6:30 pm) and Board Meeting (7:00 pm)
- August 14 & 15, Cedar River Broadhead Shoot
- August 21 & 22, Tacoma Sportsmen's 3-D Safari Shoot
- September 10-26, WSAA Archery Booth at Puyallup Fair