

SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

October, 2005

Bowhunting Awards



Once again, the Club will be giving hunting awards to anyone who harvests a deer or elk this fall.

Awards

will be issued at the Annual Banquet in January. Report your harvest to Hunting Director John Batts (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 John. We would be happy to publish it in the Smoke Signal. Good Hunting! Early congratulations to these Club members who have already reported their trophies:

FITA Tournament News

The WCW hosted a Star FITA and a 900 Round competition at the end of July. A number of Club members participated in the olympic style competition. Timm Hines, Kris Miles, Pete Miles, and Josh Raby all placed first in their respective divisions. Then they repeated the feat at the Aug. WSAA FITA Championships in Spokane.

2005 WSAA Convention

The 2005 Washington State Archery Association will be held October 22-23 in Spokane Valley at the Oxford Suites motel and conference center. The Club would like a good contingent to attend and represent the Club. The more Club attendees the more votes we will have on WSAA matters and tournaments. If you are interested in attending, contact any member of the Board of Directors. The Club will pick up the travel and registration costs. Because of the distance, those attending should be willing to carpool.

WSAA Fair Booth Report

WSAA again had a booth at the Puyallup Fair. The archery section was in the Northwest Outdoors pavillion. This building is kind of tucked away and not nearly as visible as the old building which has since been torn down and replaced with an expo center. Still, a lot of people stopped by to watch and try their hand at shooting a bow. Several hundred Skookum club brochures and cards were taken by interested persons (we ran out), and we received a lot of inquiries about lessons. Thanks to Club members Don Morrison, Bill and Josh Raby, Timm Hines, John Finsterbusch, Kris & Pete Miles, and any other Club members who worked shifts as volunteer instructors.

2006 Board of Directors

Consider serving on the 2006 Board of Directors of Skookum Archers. President Dennis Jenkins will soon be heading the annual Nominating Committee to solicit candidates for the 2006 Board of Directors. Directors serve a one year term, but there is no limit to the number of terms a member may serve. Board nominees must be Active (full) members at the time of nomination. If you are willing to serve on the Board in a given capacity, contact President Dennis Jenkins (see page 8 for list of positions, current Board members and contact info.)

3D Saturday

Next shoot
October 8th.
Active members
shoot first round
free. Cubs shoot
free.

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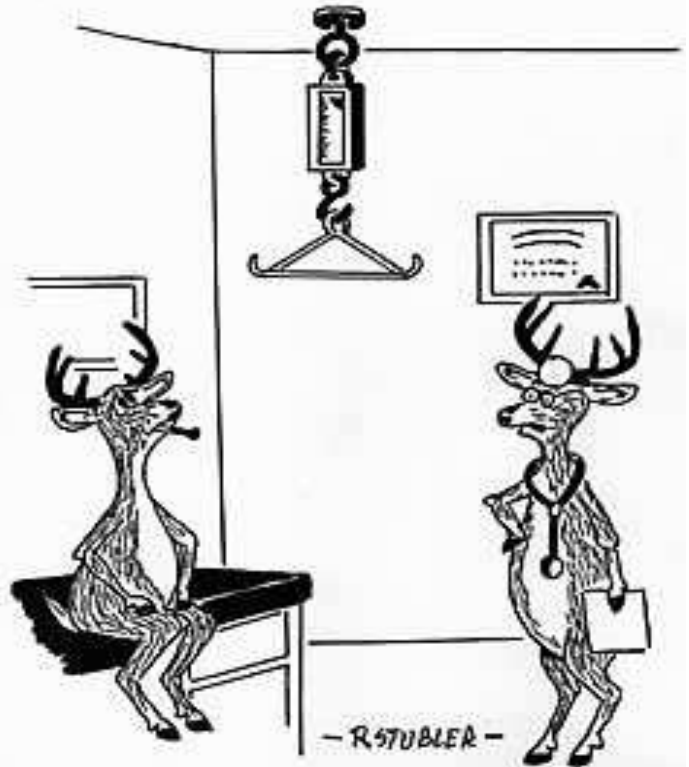
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Great Northwest Archery (253) 841-0991

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



"Well Wanda, if that doesn't bring him in, I don't know what will".



"Now let's check your weight".

Word Find: Arrow Brands &Types

U M W C D P S Z Y E H X T A R G E T B E
 H U G P L I C R F S Y C B M X P Y H B T
 R N R U E Z I C B P W D E P T H S U W I
 E I L J I B M F X T U N T T A U K M T L
 Y M Z F F R A D Y X X Q B U N Z R K U F
 C U Y Y E S N C P F Z P C F V O A C D U
 A L E Q C Z Y B A L I Z Z A Q A B P H R
 R A A B F Y D L V R T B M F R H P R D T
 B C L T J K W A Q G B V E C L B O O A P
 O T Z H M Z O C B B K O R R K T O Y R C
 N E E I C D R K J C I F N C G I E N H X
 F G A J R G R H X R A R P E D L N Q H K
 O W O S F L A A F O A R F M X R A N C Z
 R E W L T Y H W A L F D N D V P W S E L
 C X K C D O J K N M U A E G H G R V S Y
 E R M O K T N N O Z V F V C J N J E Y Y
 D U A B E S I K O A K U L L J O F S S D
 N A M E B R M P Y J N W O U R P W Z K S
 L L K Z M J M E U Z L D N X L H D H B N
 H S I F J D G W T B K C H U N T I N G L

WORDS TO FIND: ALUMINUM, ARROW DYNAMICS, BEMAN, BLACK HAWK, CARBON, MCKINNEY, PSE CARBON FORCE, CARBON TECH, CEDAR, EASTON, FIBERGLASS, FIELD, FISH, FLUFLU, GOLDTIP, HUNTING, TARGET, VAPOR, CARBON EXPRESS, TRUFLITE

The gene pool could use a little chlorine.



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

Elk Quiz



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

1. Bull elk bugle all year round.

True False

2. How many pounds does the average mature bull elk weigh?

400 600 800 1000

3. A cow elk never grows antlers.

True False

4. When do bull elk shed their antlers?

Spring Summer Fall Winter

5. What term is used to describe a rutting bull elk's group of females?

Stable Family Harem Group

6. A spike bull is too young to mate or bugle.

True False

7. How many points does a mature bull elk's rack usually carry?

4 6 8 10

8. A bachelor bull doesn't care to be around females.

True False

9. Why do most elk migrate out of the high country in winter?

Predators Too Cold Deep Snow

10. What state has the highest elk population?

Arizona Montana Colorado Wyoming

Broadhead Arrow Tips

Good strong helical helps a lot. A helical on your vanes helps straighten out your arrow a lot faster, and 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.

Aligning broadheads improves accuracy. Spin your arrows on an arrow straightener and align the broadheads so they don't wobble. The better the alignment, the better the group.

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

WSAA Big Game Awards

The Washington State Archery Association sponsors a Big Game Award (Stump and Arrow) program to recognize WSAA member archers who take big game animals with the bow and arrow. Big game animals considered for this award are listed in the box below. In addition, turkeys and bobcats taken in Washington also are eligible for this award. The award consists of a yew wood "stump" mounted on a black, bell-shaped base, commonly called the "stump award".

The recipient's name is engraved on a silver-like plate attached to the base, and a specially prepared broadhead is added to the stump, indicating the animals taken. Subsequent awards consist of additional broadheads. To be eligible for these awards, you must have been a member of WSAA at the time the animal was taken, and you will need to apply for the award using the application form which can be downloaded at <http://www.crispie.com/wsaa/Quivers/September%202005%20Quiver.pdf>. The form includes instructions for submission.

There are a number of other hunting awards given each year by WSAA. Check the September 2005 WSAA Quiver Newsletter (available online at address listed above) for additional award opportunities.

Good hunting!

Correct Answers: 1. True; 2. 800; 3. False; 4. Spring; 5. Harem; 6. False; 7. Six; 8. False; 9. Deep Snow; 10. Colorado

Antler Rattling

The single greatest addition to an arsenal of productive tactics is deer calling—most important, antler rattling. Of the many big bucks taken, more than one-third are harvested because they “came to the horns.” That total doesn’t include the many that could, or should, have been on that list, but somehow got away.

Here are some valuable lessons about antler rattling. First, keep rattle sequences to 20 to 30 seconds. Even with short sequences, a buck may burst in before you are ready for a shot. When first rattling, try bucks that are clearly going to pass by out of range. Gauging their response builds confidence.

The single most important ingredient for antler-rattling success lies in a deer herd with a well-rounded age structure. Ideally, there will be a good buck to doe ratio, with a good percentage of the bucks being mature. In healthy herds, competition among bucks—both in establishing a pecking order and in breeding rituals—is very much a part of the animals’ yearly tradition. From early season sparring bouts to full-blown breeding-season fights, bucks are acclimated to the sound of “horns.” With the sound of antler rattling a regular part of their environment, attraction to these sounds is a “normal” response.

The sound of rattling antlers means different things to different deer, and there are many variables that determine how individual deer interpret and react to the sound. Does, yearlings and small bucks may run away from the sound of a full-blown breeding fight between mature bucks, yet the same deer may come to the sound of the gentle “ticking” of antlers related to an early-autumn sparring match between youngsters. A mature buck in the peak of the rut may walk right past the sound of a couple of small bucks sparring, yet aggressively charge into the sound of crashing antlers worn by two big bucks fighting over a hot doe. Every situation is unique to itself and only by picking up a set of antlers and starting along the learning curve can you hope to become efficient in interpreting the right place, time and type of call to use.

Antler rattling is effective from early October through late December. Since the November rut is “the big dance,” and mature bucks know this, the build-up period to peak-breeding time is intense. With each passing day leading up to the time when most of the does will come into heat in mid-November, mature bucks begin to gradually increase their daytime activity. They start “trolling” for hot does and begin to encounter other bucks doing the same. Territories are defended,

orders of dominance become confused and chaos and pandemonium rule in the deer world.

When scouting for big bucks, big rubs don’t lie. Small bucks sometimes rub big trees, but they don’t make big rubs.



A concentration of big rubs in an area is a sure sign that a monster is present. The sound of an antler-rattling challenge may bring him in. At this time, antler rattling is at its peak effectiveness. Bucks are looking for a fight or sex, and the distant sound of clashing antlers means one, or both, to them. Everything is set for some awesome responses to the sound of “horns” during this time of maximum frustration and excitement.

When it comes to mastering the art of antler rattling, one of the biggest obstacles to overcome is the gray matter between your ears. The old saying “you’ll never ride if you don’t get in the saddle” lends itself well to this undertaking. If you’ve taken care of the first part of the equation—place and time—then “get some horns and let ‘er fly!” Be determined, have an open mind and let the learning process begin.



Archery in the Schools Program

Washington has kicked off participation in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) with 11 initial schools in the state, including 5 schools in our general club membership area. The schools are: New Horizon Middle School (Renton), Woodland & Hunt Elementary Schools (Puyallup), and Brookdale & Collins Elementary Schools (Tacoma). For three intense days, physical education teachers from these schools and interested archers wanted to obtain a Level II certification underwent training to implement the archery unit in their school PE classes. Skookum Archers is very supportive of this program and has pledged to sponsor one of the schools. For more information, contact Dave Mack, WSAA Trustee at large, or visit www.nasparchery.com

Help Needed for 3D Saturdays

Active members needing work hours are invited to help set up, take down, or assist with range preparation for the upcoming 3D Saturday shoots October 8th and November 12th. We will be setting up Friday afternoon and taking down Saturday afternoon. Contact Pres. Dennis Jenkins or Tournament Director Jeremy Ryser for more information.



Buck Fever

The Psychology of Hunting

Some outstanding target archers lose it all when they go hunting. When that big buck steps out of the swamp at 20 yards, target shooters who can drill dimes at that distance on a range will miss a live deer by a mile. Buck fever is like target panic because it is performance anxiety, but it is definitely different because the target is alive.

Here again, personality types will influence bowhunting success. Logical-mathematic types who are drawn to sight shooting may experience anxiety if they can't accurately judge distance. Those who are used to a fairly cool, mechanical style of target shooting will lose it on wild game because they can't control the target, let alone the distance or the conditions under which a shot takes place. But there are often other reasons why buck fever may strike those who do not suffer from target panic.

Every ethical bow hunter should study the anatomy of his target and develop X-ray vision to know where to shoot, or not to shoot, to make an effective, lethal shot in the vital heart-lung kill zone from above in a tree stand, quartering away, or broadside. One of the most common reasons that people miss is by forgetting about that kill zone spot and shooting at the whole deer. Regardless of your learning style, all archers are aiming at a target. If you keep the kill zone spot always in mind when you see a deer, it will help you focus on when and where to take your shot.

Buck fever may also be associated with feelings about killing an animal. A deer shot with a bow dies of hemorrhaging. A shot to the heart-lung kill zone will generally result in a deer traveling less than 50 yards and dying very quietly in 30 seconds or less. Keeping that kill zone spot always in mind will provide a mental anchor to reduce distraction, and offer an assurance that if you hit the spot, you will be successful.

Some of the deepest human emotions are touched in hunting. Some people feel closest to nature of "God" while hunting. Feelings of sadness, even guilt, are quite possible if you kill a deer. If you deny those feelings, chances are they will eventually influence your marksmanship, or even result in a decision to give up hunting.

To quit hunting is fine, so long as you really want to quit and are not quitting because you can't deal with the feelings that it brings up. If you quit but really want to keep hunting, you may become bitter.

If you look historically, hunting has deep roots with culture and religion to acknowledge the profound experiences that can occur when the spirit of the hunt runs hard and fast. Most religions have special ethical

teachings and guidance about hunting ethics. Many have special prayers, ceremonies and rituals to honor the animals. From the earliest days, man hunted as a means of survival. Scriptures are replete with references to prophets



who have hunted with the bow and arrow.

Regardless of your beliefs, the deep feelings stirred by the hunt ultimately move hunters to become conservationists because they come to cherish and respect the animals whose lives they take. This is not paying off guilt, but showing reverence for life.

You may not want to hunt, and that is just fine. But if the spirit of the hunt calls you, know that major psychological theorists of the 20th century - Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Erik Fromm, Karl Menninger, William James, Marie-Louise von Franz, etc. - are in agreement that hunting is instinctual in man. We know this to be true from our dreams, for the symbols of bears, cats, and birds of prey that may appear in the dreamtime are the archetypal images of the hunter. Hunting, especially bowhunting, may be so much a sport, but a ritual for acknowledging one's roots in the history of the world. Modern hunters do not hunt so much for food for the table as nourishment for the soul. That makes hunters appreciate nature, feel humble and become more conservation oriented.



Practicing for Polar Bear Season

Target Replacement

When you get out to the range, and notice that a target face has been shot up, you can go to the pro shop and get a key to the target cupboard. Replace the target with the same type and size as was on the target bales. We will also post a list of what type and size of target goes are each target bale. Also, each active member is assigned a specific target to maintain. That assignment is located after your name on your Smoke Signal mailing label. No one likes to shoot at beat up targets, so make sure your target assignment is always kept up. Thanks.

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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ACTIVITIES

Vacant - 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, followed by the Board meeting, in the Club House.

SMOKE SIGNAL



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Don Morrison, Editor



**The One That
Got Away**

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!

- Bowhunting Season
- October 1, JOAD Fundraiser, KBH
- October 8th, 3-D Saturday
- October 22-23, WSAA Convention, Spokane
- November 12th, 3-D Saturday

CALENDAR