

SMOKE SIGNAL

Official Newsletter of Skookum Archers Club and Range

September, 2006

Annual Club Picnic and Championship



The 2006 Club picnic and Championship was fun for families and archers. 40 folks turned out for the event Saturday, August 12th. The weather was great. Before and/or after the meal, we shot 7 ends each of field, hunter, animal, safari, and 3-D. To qualify for the Club Championship, members needed to finish the entire course, turn in their scores, and finish first in their class. Those who will receive a Club Champion plaque at the annual banquet include:

- Jeremy Ryser, AMFS, 633, top overall score
- Chris Ray, AMBHFS, 613
- Jim Cowart, AMBHFS, 601
- Timm Hines, AMFSL-R, 573
- Shaelie McGrath, YFSL-R, 416

Special thanks to Don Morrison for handling the food and picnic arrangements, and to Pres. Dennis Jenkins and Tournament Director Jeremy Ryser for setting up the tournament.

Help on the Range

We need a little help around the range. There are a few projects we can work on as well as the usual maintenance stuff. It would really be nice if we can get a few people who would be willing to be in charge of an area or project.

Here are a few examples of areas or projects that people could be in charge of:

- The fence line
- The members range
- Painting the roof on the club house
- Signs on the course
- Making a new pay station
- Updating the interior of the club house
- Fixing/providing picnic tables
- Developing the second half of the "B" course
- Work on a new "Skookum Archers" sign.

If any of these projects sound interesting to you, PLEASE give me a call or e-mail. Nothing gets done unless the members pitch in and do it. We have no paid staff. You don't have to do it alone, recruit some help. I can make sure that you have the tools you need. I live close by if you need keys to the shed or have questions. This is a great way to rack up some work hours and show some pride in our great club. Hope to hear from you soon!

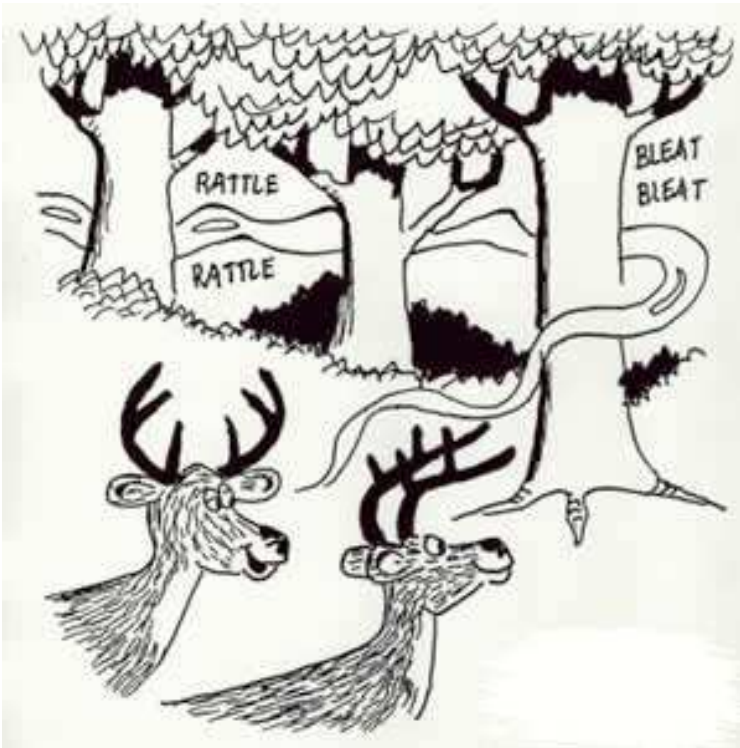
Thanks, Kurt Allen, Range Director
Home phone 253-445-9802
Pager 253-291-3868

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Great Northwest Archery (253) 841-0991

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Aw, rattling antlers, lonesome doe calls, the bleat of a lost fawn, the aroma of fresh washed clothes with a dash of doe urine - don't you just love opening day?



Sometimes I think deer can read.



It's me, Doris, your husband!



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

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

Smart Deer Story

A hunter was driving along an old dirt road one day when he came upon the remains of a bridge. He gets out of his truck and grabs his bow. He looks around at the bridge and then notices the Biggest deer he has ever seen in his life standing about 65 yards away on the other side of the dirt road. He knows that 65 yards is too far of a shot to make so he decides to cross the river. He dives in and swims over to the other side where the buck is standing. Just as he draws his arrow back the buck lays down and doesn't move. The hunter is amazed and he walks over to inspect the situation. The buck just lays there still as can be so the hunter assumes that he scared the buck so bad that the buck has had a heart attack. He builds a little raft out of some trees and ferrys the buck to the other side. Just as he reaches the other side the buck gets up and jumps onto the road. The man is astonished. The buck then looks down at the hunter and scurries off. The astonished hunter drives away in amazement.

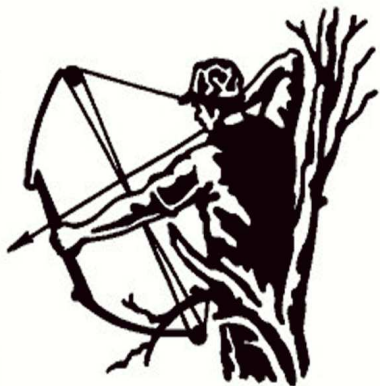


The next day he tells his friend of the encounter with the buck. His friend just laughs and tells him it isn't good to tell fibs about hunting. So the hunter takes his friend to see for himself. They park the truck and walk towards the bridge on the opposite side as the day before. They see the buck standing there looking at the other side of the broken bridge. They dive in the water the buck lays down as expected and plays dead. The hunters friend can't believe his eyes and approaches the buck. Just as he does he notices there is a buck and a doe both laying there. The hunter and his friend look at the two deer and wonder what is going on. Just as they begin to kneel down beside the deer the buck looks up and says, "Hey I really appreciated the lift yesterday. I hope you don't mind that I brought my friend"

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

The original point and click interface was a Smith and Wesson!

Avoiding Bowhunting Blunders



Dropping pull-up rope: Keep pull-up rope on the stand, or on your belt when descending. Always leave one in place on a permanent stand.

Water in the peep sight: Use a large aperture peep sight, such as 1/4". Even then, check occa-

sionally to be sure no water (or fuzz) is plugging the peep sight.

Grinding noise when drawing: Keep fresh shrink tubing on all launching arms of your rest. Make sure it doesn't squeak.

Clanging an arrow against the bow riser: Use mole skin, or thin carpet, or other material to quiet the riser should your arrow slip off.

Bow limb hitting the stand or nearby limb: When you first get up in your stand, draw in several different positions and angles, checking to be sure the bow limbs won't hit the the stand or a limb upon release.

Arrow not being nocked properly: When drawing to check things out while in your tree stand, quite often the nock of the arrow will come off of the string. The arrow may appear to still be nocked, but it isn't. Any time you practice draw, always check to be sure the arrow nock is firmly on the string. This can happen to both a finger and release shooter.

Release aid not "hooked up": Whenever putting your release aid on the bow string, exert some pressure on it to be sure it is locked in.

Missed Shots: A common problem caused by rushing the shot or target panic. Take your time. Don't shoot until the pin is on the kill area of the deer. Make sure you've practiced enough (shooting form and range estimation) to hit what you are aiming at.

BOW TUNING FOR HUNTING SEASON

Bowhunters should tune their bows to broadheads as soon as possible. PSE Hunting Advisor Steve Van Zile, recommends that you use a bow that maximizes your peak draw weight. For example, if you're comfortable drawing 60#, then choose a bow that peaks at 60#. That is, one with a 50-60# range—not a 60-70# range. Keep this in mind when you buy your next bow.



"Bowhunters should also make sure all their hunting equipment is attached to the bow before tuning

begins—and then they should not make any changes. "Perfect" arrow flight can quickly go awry if at the last minute you switch from a cable slide to a speed slide, alter the angle of the cable guard, or even add some "muff" to the arrow rest.

"Finally," says Steve, "Bowhunters should sight their bows in only after achieving wobble free arrow flight. Trying to tune arrows to an existing set of sight pins is often nothing more than an exercise in futility."

Bowhunters should practice shooting at life-size animal targets, such as shooting in Skookum's 3-D Saturdays. This helps you hone your yardage estimation skills, and teaches you to pick a spot before shooting. Too many deer are missed because an archer was deficient in either of these two skill areas.

"In addition, bowhunters should avoid head-on and quartering-in angles," says Steve, "and opt instead for a broadside or quartering-away shot. These latter two angles really expose the heart-lung region—especially if the deer's near fore leg is fully extended."

AFTER THE SHOT

Sometimes, the real hunt doesn't begin until after a broadhead has been released. The biggest mistake bowhunters make after taking that hard



earned shot is going right after the deer. They see a lot of blood, and immediately assume their trophy is laying dead in the leaves some fifty or sixty yards away.

Unfortunately, that's not always-the case. For example, the blood trail from a gut shot buck often peters out rather quickly. If you happen to push that deer too soon, he may just run off into a distant thick and disappear forever. What should you do? Well, there is much disagreement as to what to do after a broadhead has drawn blood because every shot is a little different. There are however three key things you can do to minimize losing the blood trail altogether:

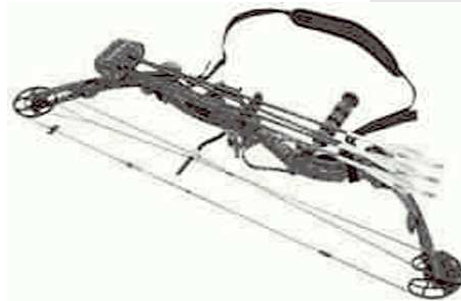
- Know where the vitals are **BEFORE** you shoot. Study charts and diagrams provided by your state's game department or hunter education programs. Be careful however with shots shown on various commercial hunting videos. Once in a while a gut shot or kidney shot is described incorrectly as a lung shot.
- Know where your arrow hit. Try to remember what the sight picture was before you released the arrow, and then imagine the arrow's entry and exit paths. Bright fletching/nocks can be helpful in this regard (remember - deer and elk are colorblind).
- Finally, if you are not sure where the arrow hit, **WAIT** at least a half hour before trailing. If you are an inexperienced tracker and don't find the deer with 150 yards, the best advice is get some experienced help.

How Much Bow Power is too Much?

By Robert Glenn Willis

Yes we are all susceptible to it. That macho thing about **MORE POWER** is better. You hear it at the range. "So, how much are ya pulling? 80 pounds, You? Ahhh

82 pounds!" So, more is better, right? A modern compound bow drawing 50 lbs will shoot a properly placed arrow right through most North America big game ani-



mals hunted today except for Elk and Moose. You don't need a high draw weight to kill whitetail, mule deer, javelina, turkey, or even black bears.

OK here is another one. **MORE POWER = FLATTER TRAFECTORY** thus making you a better shot. While a faster arrow will fly flatter, more power will sacrifice accuracy. There are other ways to compensate, without sacrificing accuracy. Lighter arrows will flatten your trajectory. Although with practice any archer can overcome the effects of gravity on the arrow, but drawing more weight than one can comfortably handle will always result in an occasional errant arrow.

So how do you judge whether or not you are drawing too much weight. Well actually it's pretty easy. First drop the machoism and take a close look at how you draw your arrow. Do you have to go through any "unnatural" movements in drawing your bow? Do you have to radically shift your shoulder, does it hurt when you draw? Does your arrow keep falling off the rest? do you feel like Helga the Olympic women's gold metal shot-putter gave you a shoulder rub after you shoot? If any of these shoes fit then you're drawing too much.

Your draw should be natural and smooth. It should start by placing the bow into the aiming position and then drawing back smoothly without moving it off the target. Remember that deer is only 25 yards away and you don't need unnecessary movement. White-tails, bear, elk and even moose can all be hunted with sharp broadheads and a modern fast compound bow set at 60 lbs. It doesn't matter how much bow wieght as long as you can hit the X, or bring home the meat, does it?

Humane and Ethical Shot Placement

In 3-D, the animals are usually standing broadside, and they aren't usually moving. In the field it is a different story. Knowing which shot to take and when to take it will make you an ethical and successful bowhunter. Even more important is knowing when to pass and not take the shot at all. The following tips will help you in making accurate and humane judgments on which shots to take and which ones to pass on.

It can be very tough to make a good shot decision when your adrenaline levels are going off the charts. Sometimes the window of opportunity while bow hunting is very brief and knowing when to shoot and when not to ahead of time will hasten your ability to make the right choices when time is at a minimum.

The following are different scenarios that you may expect to encounter in bowhunting deer and the factors that you will have to take into consideration.

Screened by brush

Under no circumstance should a shot be made hoping to bust through the brush with a firearm or an arrow. One little branch will deflect an arrow or bullet and change your point of impact possibly resulting in a wounded animal. This is a shot to pass and wait for the deer to walk into a clearing for a better-shot opportunity. One helpful tip is to pre-scout your areas and cut clear shooting lanes for better shot opportunities.

Frontal shot

The frontal shot is risky. Yes you can kill a deer with a frontal shot with a bow, but the odds are against you. The chances of hitting the rib cage bone and deflecting the arrow are great and taking out enough vitals for a quick and humane kill are against you.

This is a shot to wait on until the animal turns broadside for a better killing shot.

Straight Down Shot

An animal can be taken by a straight down shot but this is a marginal shot at best. The best case scenario on a straight down shot is to hit the spine, or one lung. This however requires perfect shot placement and the target area is very small and very unforgiving of shot error. I would rather wait until the animal passes a short distance and turns somewhat for a better angle shot into the vitals.

Rear shot

The rear shot is an irresponsible shot that should never be taken with a bow. Yes there are stories of hunters taking animals with this shot when the femoral artery has been severed with the animal dropping quickly after the shot but the norm for this shot is wounding the animal with a small chance for a quick recovery.



Moving shots

There is a saying that many things can happen on a moving shot and none of them are good. This is of course very true. Instead of trying to calculate a lead while your adrenaline surges through you like high voltage current it is best to try to stop the deer instead. This can be done by a grunt call, a whistle, or even yelling "Hey!". This is often all that is needed to stop a deer but you will need to be at full draw to be able to take the shot when he stops.

Quartering away

Quartering away shots are good shot opportunities for taking deer in a quick and humane manner. This is a shot of angles. Angle your shot so it enters in a straight line towards the opposite front leg of the side you're shooting on. When done right this shot will hit the vitals and dispatch the animal cleanly and quickly. However, be careful not to place the shot too far forward. At this angle you may only catch one lung and make for a difficult recovery.

Broadside

This is the shot that every deer hunter hopes for. A deer standing with an unobstructed broadside view is as good as it gets on potential shot placement on a whitetail deer. Make sure the deer is in range and center your shot just behind the front leg and below the shoulder. This shot will humanely dispatch the animal and wastes very little meat in the process. On an animal facing to the left if the shot is high it takes out more lung or hits the spine, if it is low it takes out more of the heart, if it is to the left it breaks the shoulder and if it is right it takes part of the lung and liver. This is the shot that every ethical deer hunter should strive for. The bowhunter should avoid hitting the shoulder while the firearms hunter will break the animal down quickly if he hits the shoulder, there will be some meat loss however.

Conclusion

Every ethical bowhunter owes it to the animal he hunts to exercise good judgment and knowledgeable shot placement. There is simply no second guessing or chance shooting when it comes to hunting. We owe it to the animal to dispatch it as quickly and humanely as we can and then utilize the animal once it is down.

Take the time to mentally imagine different shot situations and shot angles so that when it comes time in that brief time frame to make the shot on that buck of a lifetime or doe for the freezer you will know exactly when to shoot and where to shoot. It is all about shot placement.

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. Your target assignment is located after your name on your Smoke Signal mailing label.

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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.

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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

***Volunteer at the WSAA Archery
Booth at the Puyallup Fair
September 8-24. Email
wsaa@olynet.com to sign up
or for more info.***

EVENT CALENDAR

- September 8-24, Puyallup Fair, Volunteer for the WSAA Archery Booth
- September 16-17, FITA Qualifier, WCV
- September 14, Skookum Member Meeting and Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- October 14, Skookum 3-D Saturday
- October 28-29, WSAA Convention, Mount Vernon
- November 11, Skookum 3-D Saturday

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!

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.