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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



2010 State Fall 3D Classic Champions



2010 State Closed Champions

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FLIGHT Deadline
The deadline for the
Summer issue of FLIGHT
will be Dec. 1, 2010. Please
submit articles of interest to
the editor prior to that date.
Send us your letters, stories
or photos. This is your
magazine and we encourage
your contributions!

From the President

After more than 27 years of shooting a bow you would think I'd have it right. I have hunted with a bow for about 25 years, shot and won many tournaments from club level to national level, harvested many animals (including deer, bear and elk), teach and coach archery and I still haven't got it right.

On a recent bear hunting trip to Manitoba, I had an encounter with a huge black bear at the last minute of shooting light on the first day of the hunt.

But, before we go there, let me try to provide some background and make excuses for what was about to happen.

When I hunt deer from a tree stand, I pick out a few small branches and twigs as it gets dark. Then, when I can't see the twigs, I'll come down. There is still some shooting light, but there is a chance of not seeing the branch and thus a chance of wounding the animal.

Also, as we get older things change and our vision goes downhill. One of my (many) problems (in addition to temperament, looks and orneriness) is that I can't see my pins clearly anymore through the peep so I have started shooting with a lens in the peep that clears everything up and I shoot better hunting. It works great, or at least I thought it did.

Now, back to the hunt. About 10 minutes before dark I heard distant noises coming from my right. As the noise got closer, I thought by the way it was coming through the woods that it was probably a bull moose. I had heard bears were quiet, and this was anything but! As it got closer it was woofing and knocking over small trees. Finally a good size bear appeared on the trail coming to the bait. It was VERY shootable, and I started watching for the right moment.

As it passed by the bait, there was more motion to my right and my attention immediately shifted in that direction. There was now another bear where the first bear had appeared and this bear began to chase the early arrival. This new bear was a MONSTER, about 450 to 500 pounds.

At first I thought this was two males trying to fight, but I soon realized the first bear was a large sow. The boar chased her past the bait in a large circle and they came back out about 12 yards in front of my stand. When the sow passed through a shooting lane I drew my bow and when the boar stepped into the lane I woofed at him. He stopped broadside at 12 yards.

I let the shot go and, thanks to Luma-nocks, I saw that it appeared to be a little low. I sat in the stand another 30 minutes waiting for the outfitter to arrive. When he did, I got down from the stand, retrieved the arrow and, to my dismay, found no blood. It was a clean miss. At 12 yards. I could not believe I had missed a bear that was so close.

The next morning I shot the bow at 20 yards. There was nothing wrong. What had happened to my shot?

That night in my stand at dark I drew the bow, aimed at the barrel and realized what had happened. I could not see through the lens that helps me see my pins and I had looked under the peep, which had caused my low shot.

Finally, the last minutes of the last night of the hunt, I took a nice six-foot bear with a perfect shot – with no lens in my peep.

Know your equipment.

Good luck in the woods this fall and, above all else, be safe. 

From the Executive Vice-President

That sound you hear is Mr. Opportunity knocking.

No, I'm not talking about "that" Mr. Opportunity and his pitches to buy a new Honda. Instead, I'm referring to the hunting season ahead and the opportunities it presents.

First, and most obvious, is the opportunity for a successful trophy hunt. This does not necessarily mean that the trophy has to qualify for one of the record books. It just has to be YOUR trophy and, depending on your individual experience, that could mean a lot of different definitions. For example, a mature doe taken after a punishing still hunt and difficult stalk could be a treasured trophy. So too could be the first deer of the year if it is also the first deer of your life. And, taken in another direction, it is also true that many "trophy" hunts are remembered even if no animal is harvested because the experience of the hunt itself was so memorable. Your definition of a "trophy" will go a long way to defining your opportunities.

You also have the rather mundane but important opportunity to leave the woods in better shape than you found them. If every person who went to the woods brought out at least one more can, wrapper, or other piece of trash than he or she took into the woods it would not be very long before our hunting experience would be vastly improved. I wonder what the pile would look like if you saved all the trash you brought from the woods and took a picture at the end of the year? If you do that and send me the pictures in early January, I'll use them in *FLIGHT*. (This could be a very impressive picture if the members of one of the VBA clubs pooled their efforts!).

Also this year, don't forget you have the opportunity to make ethical decisions in the field. Among all your opportunities, this is also your greatest obligation because if you practice good ethics all else will fall into place. Do I take this shot or not? Do I cut across posted property to get to my destination? Will my new equipment tempt me to shoot in the minutes before or after legal hunting hours? The list of questions goes on and on. They never end. They are all opportunities to strengthen and improve our sport. It is likely no one else will know about your decisions, but you will be aware of opportunities taken or wasted and that will either be a source of strength or a heavy burden.

These are just three examples of opportunities this hunting season. You will think of others – the chance to meet new friends, the exploration of new territory, membership in a new club, introduction to new equipment, exposure to a new hunting experience (whether that be with a new type of weapon or a game animal you have not previously hunted), and maybe even replacement of your old vehicle for that new truck!

Whatever your opportunities this season, I hope you pursue them with enthusiasm. There is nothing wrong with a little passion in the pursuit of excellence. And, at the end the season, in addition to looking back with pride on your opportunities and accomplishments, I hope you are in good health and have an abundance of happiness because without these two attributes nothing else matters.

Be safe and savor your opportunities. 🙏



Cay McManus sent this photo and says, "This is what happens to your arrow if it happens to land in the target and droop down.....its fair game for all your other Traditional Buddies. My arrow wound up in 3 pieces laying on the ground!!! Good thing it was only practice at the VBA Fall 3-D Classic, which, by the way, was a great tournament despite the rain."



From the Hunting Vice-President

I want to keep you, the bowhunters, aware of what is happening in Virginia for your upcoming season. The VDGIF has been very busy both in developing strategy for the future and implementing their plans of the past year.

The elk program has started! It will start in several western counties with the importation of 50-75 elk each year for several years to increase what already is a small herd of migrant elk from Kentucky. The plan slowly builds our herd to the point where limited hunting will again be allowed. This year the elk season will be closed. We look forward to the time when the long drive to western USA for elk will just be to the western counties of Virginia! The department has done a great job in thinking this out, The plan is online at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/>. It is very interesting to read about the history of the elk in our state. This is not the first time this has been attempted, however I believe this time it will work. The VBA is proud to have been a participant in the elk restoration study.

The bear management meetings have been ongoing this year to further see how the VDGIF can look forward to managing this already valuable resource. The VBA is a member of the study group.

The VDGIF is looking at innovative ways to diversify and improve its funding sources without placing additional burdens on hunters. The VBA was one of about two dozen statewide organizations that participated in the initial planning process.

The ongoing deer management plan has been active for years and I think they have done a great job as evidenced by our abundant renewable deer herd.

The VDGIF hunting regulation booklet is the source of much important information concerning where, when, methods of legally taking game, limits on game and the many county regulations which go along with the state regulations. I would advise picking up a copy and making it a must read to make sure you are aware of the rules you must follow as a responsible bowhunter. Some are the same, however each year small changes are made. Be aware and make sure you are within the law. For example, it is now legal to possess shed antlers from deer, however "Effective September 1, it will be illegal to feed deer statewide in Virginia. The annual prohibition runs through the first Saturday in January. In addition, it is now illegal to feed deer year-round in Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties as part of the Department's chronic wasting disease (CWD) management actions established in April." Be aware and beware!!

As you may know, a deer with CWD was harvested in January 2010 in Frederick County near Gore. As a result of that find, there are new regulations concerning the handling and transportation of deer in the CWD containment area, which for the present is Frederick and Shenandoah counties. Please read pages 37 and 38 of this year's booklet for the details. They have set up 7 CWD sampling stations and are requiring your assistance.

Another new item is a "Legacy Hunting License" for your children or even grandchildren. They have to be less than 2 years old and the cost is \$125.00. This is transferrable, at no cost, at age 12 to a lifetime hunting license after they have successfully completed a hunter education course! What a deal!!

The VDGIF is looking for bowhunters to participate in their annual survey to help obtain information on bear, deer, turkey, small game and furbearers populations. The data collected provides important information concerning population trends; this helps your season over the years. It does not take but a minute a day after your hunt is over. For information, please email Mike Fies at mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov He will get the information packet to you for your use.

Get involved!! It is your hunting season and your input thru any of the VDGIF methods will ensure future generations a healthy herd for their use. The VDGIF has a great website full of information.

I hope you have a great hunting season and above all hope you are safe in the woods. 🐾

From the Publicity Director

As we wind down the year, we would like to ‘thank’ everyone who participated in VBA state tournaments as well as the hosting clubs. Due to a number of factors, attendance was down slightly from 2009, but everyone still had a great time. Congratulations to all of you!

VBA News

The VBA St. Junes Children’s Research Hospital benefit shoot was a big success. About 175 archers participated at the two locations (Augusta and Sherwood) and the proceeds netted \$4,573.

We would like to ‘thank’ Dave Proctor and the Bowhunters of Rockingham who worked the VBA booth at the Western Regional Big Game show in Sept. The visitors were well received as they had many questions about the VBA and our support for bowhunting in Virginia, treestand safety, working with the VDGIF and sharing experiences and ideas.

VDGIF News

Karen Holson, DGIF Outdoor Education Supervisor & the Virginia NASP State Coordinator, has started a new program called “Explore Bowhunting,” which she is using for both adults and youths. A small trunk filled with most of the equipment and supplies is used to conduct the program.

For more information regarding the DGIF educational, outdoor and program events, visit their website at www.dgif.virginia.gov. Also, don’t forget to sign-up to receive your ‘free’ “Outdoor Report.”

Happy Holidays - Irene 



Neither Rain nor Sleet nor Snow nor Dark of Night.....

You may have noticed that the summer edition of *FLIGHT* was received a little late. I sure did. In fact, it was so late that it was delivered to most members after the St. Jude shoot and thus an ad about the event in the magazine was for naught.

So, what happened?

The copy was all given to the layout team on time, they provided the final copy to the printer ahead of schedule and the printer took it to the post office a couple of days early. The post office then did “their thing,” and it turns out that “their thing” is new and potentially a continuing problem.

The magazines used to go to a post office in Harrisonburg and from there to a Charlottesville post office and finally distributed to addressees. Now, due to cost-saving reorganizations in the postal service, the magazine is dropped at the Harrisonburg post office, sent to a post office in North Carolina and finally mailed to customers. And, based on the type of postage we purchase to save money, the post office does not have to mail until three or four weeks after receipt.

I hope this will not be a continuing problem. I’m told it will get better. We will see. I’ll keep you informed. In the meantime, THANKS for your continued support of your magazine. 

The 3 P's - How to Succeed at Archery Hunting

by Jim Smith
Cub Run Archers

Practice, patience and persistence are critical to becoming a successful archery hunter. Without any one of these, your archery hunting experiences may not be pleasant ones.

Practicing is vitally important. As the season approaches, it is important to be able to consistently hit your target with broadheads. You should practice as close as 5 yards and as far as the longest distance you have set for yourself to shoot at an animal. I don't shoot over 30 yards and try to get the animal within 20 yards. Don't laugh about practicing at 5 yards. I've talked to a lot of hunters who miss deer at 5 to 10 yards because they don't know where to hold the top pin.

Practicing is like voting in Chicago. Do it early and often with broadheads!!

Patience may be the hardest of the 3 P's to master. When the first deer of the season starts to get within bow range all kinds of adrenalin is being generated. As most of us know when we get excited, sometimes the best decisions are not made. However, since shot placement is the most important part of humanely harvesting an animal, it is critical to wait for the correct angle before releasing the arrow. The quartering away shot is best, with the broadside shot next. Many game animals are harvested with other than broadside or quartering away shots, but the probability of wounding your target and not retrieving it is much higher. Only you know your skill level and comfort zone for attempting these lower probability shots.

My advice is to be patient and wait for a high probability shot.

Persistence may be the most important part of becoming a successful archery hunter. The "persistence" I'm discussing here is after the arrow has disappeared into the animal. After the arrow is released life speeds up exponentially and a million things are going through your head. Did I hit it? Where did I hit it? Am I going to find it?

Directly after the shot there are a few things I always try to do. First, is where did I hit the animal? Was it a good hit or a marginal hit? As the animal runs away, I always watch the animal and mark in my mind where the animal was standing when I shot and the last place I saw the animal before it is swallowed by the forest. I also listen for any sounds and the direction of the sounds. These tips can save you precious time in picking up the blood trail. In most instances I wait one hour before going after the animal. The only time I go sooner is if I have watched the animal expire or it starts to rain. After the animal is hit I truly believe it does not know what happened and has not associated it being shot with a human being. However, once you start trailing the animal and it sees you following it, it will run until it drops and the chances of recovering it drop significantly. That is why I recommend on gut shot or other marginal hits you wait several hours before tracking the animal.

After replaying the shot sequence in my mind, I try to determine what the shot placement was. If it was good, I wait an hour and start tracking the animal. I first go to the location I marked in my mind where the animal was standing when I shot. I look for hair, blood and /or my arrow. Often times no blood will be found, but it is rare after a hit that you can't find hair. Should I find the arrow, I study it and try to determine what I am looking at. Is it covered with light red or dark red blood? Is it covered with paunch matter? Are there bubbles in any of the blood? I also stick the arrow in the ground straight up so I can easily retrieve it later.

I then start to follow the blood trail if there is one. I always carry biodegradable paper flagging ribbon with me for trailing. Once I find blood, I mark it by tying a piece of flagging ribbon on a close by tree limb. As in many instances, I don't find blood for many yards. This is where you go back in your mind to the last place you saw the animal before it went out of sight. I mark it with flagging ribbon and look diligently for blood or where the leaves might have been kicked up. Most often an animal will start leaving a blood trail within 30 or 40 yards of where it was hit.

Once I'm on the blood trail I continue the process of tying flagging ribbon on a limb every couple of steps. I continue this process until I find the animal or I lose the blood trail. Should I lose the blood trail I go back to the last piece of flagging ribbon and look at the back trail. Usually the flagging ribbon shows a straight line. I have found that often a wounded animal travels on a straight line or if it is traveling on a trail, it stays on the trail. I

will follow the straight line or the trail for many yards looking to pick up the blood again. Often times the exit hole of a liver shot deer will be plugged with intestines. When this happens, virtually all bleeding is internal. This is where the persistence really comes into play.

When the blood trail is poor or nonexistent I go over the shot again in my mind and determine shot placement. If I know the shot was good I will mark the last place I found blood and start looking for the deer and not the blood trail. If I think the shot placement was marginal, I back off the trail for a few to several hours and then commence looking for the deer. This method worked for me very well many years ago especially with deer hit in the evening. Now because of all the foxes and coyotes, it is a fifty-fifty chance the hind quarters will be gone from a deer that is left overnight. I now carry a large spot light in my vehicle and with deer I have a hard time finding in the evening, I often go eat dinner and then go back and look with the spot light.

Only give up looking for a wounded animal if you have exhausted all of your skills and abilities. Some animals survive being shot, but many don't. I once shot a nice buck at 8am and watched the deer run about 70 yards, stop and walk away. It also snorted a couple times which I thought was strange. The deer were really moving that day and I stayed in the tree stand until 10 am. As I was lowering my bow I saw a 4 pointer approaching. I pulled my bow up quickly and was able to see the deer drop 50 yards from my stand. I prepared the 4 pointer and by 11 am I was on the trail of the first buck I shot.

I found my arrow from the first buck. It was a pass through with dark red blood on the shaft. It looked like a liver shot. I followed the blood trail for 150 yards or so and it petered out. I thought about the shot and the blood on the arrow and knew in my mind the deer was dead. I just had to find it. About 4 pm, 8 hours after I hit the deer and after looking over every inch of the property, I found that buck. It was a very nice 7 pointer. When I started dressing the deer I noticed something odd. Rigor mortis had not set in. That deer had probably been alive 7 hours after it was shot. It was a liver shot as I had thought and its intestines had plugged the exit hole. It had bled out internally, but it took several hours for it to happen. This is the day I truly realized persistence really counts when archery hunting. 🏹

SURVIVOR RESULTS

The last issue of *FLIGHT* magazine had a short story about a fictional bear attack that left the hunter in serious physical and mental condition. Readers were asked to respond with a recommended solution to the problem in less than 100 words. The only response received is provided below.

Submission: Lennie Eubanks, Belvoir Bowhunters

CONGRATULATIONS. STAY CALM AND ALIVE.

Something scared the bear away and you can bet it is humans.

BLOW WHISTLE 3 LOUD BURSTS; 2-MINUTE INTERVALS.

Predators will flee; people should respond.

Keep items secure; return arrows to quiver for safety.

Ointment on fingers, wrap head with cord 4 times to secure scalp.

Use balance of cord to wrap thigh muscle in place; cord still available.

With all gear, crawl slowly to jacket, rag, water.

Re-wrap thigh, using rag and cord. Same for scalp and cap. Wear jacket.

Prepare for 2 fires: first, small to cook backstrap; second, larger to call WASHINGTON.

Readers are once again asked to send their solutions for the next *FLIGHT*. There are lots of solutions to the problem and we would like to print yours. To help you with your submissions, the original "Survival" article by Keith Martin (Sherwood Archers) and the accompanying Editor's Note from last month's issue are reprinted on the next page. I know we can do better than just ONE submission 🏹

The warm liquid running over my eyes is oddly comforting. The mauling has all but stopped as the bear tries to crush my skull in his powerful jaws. His breath smells like carrion and copper. I have lost the will to fight; death is eminent—and overdue.

The bear stops chewing my head and begins to lick it, much like my dog licks my hand in order to get every last morsel of chicken grease. His tongue feels smooth and rubbery as he works from side to side, back to front. My eyes clench tighter as I feel his tongue on my forehead. I hold my breath waiting for the crushing blows that will end my life.

Instead, I sense that the bear has looked away. He is listening to something in the distance, something inaudible to me. He stands up, woofs, then bounds over me and is gone.

The contents of my pack are strewn about the clearing as evidence of the attack. My bow is near to hand, arrows hanging askew from the quiver. I remember thrusting it at his face to fend him off. The arrows must have been dislodged when he batted it from my hand.

The dispute had been over a dead deer. A bad shot resulted in a long guilt-ridden morning, often on hands and knees to work out the trail. I can see her white belly stained red just across the clearing. The bear found her first and laid claim. I was the interloper.

Emily's due in a week. I wanted to get one last hunt in before the baby came and kept me close. We wouldn't allow the doctor to tell us if we had boy or a girl, now I may never know.

I want to call her, to tell her how much I love her but my cell phone died hours ago. Trailing the wounded deer has brought me over the mountain and into unfamiliar territory. I don't know where I am and my friends won't know where to find me. I am far from help, far from where I told them I would be — not so far from dying.

My torn scalp flops around like a loose hat whenever I turn my head. It's bloody but of no immediate concern. The real problem is my right leg. The thigh muscle has been ripped open and is hinged on a flap of skin. I can see my femoral artery pulsing like a diesel engine at idle beside the blue white bone. A millimeter more and this would already be over.

Emily is not going to raise our child alone. I'm not going to die on this mountain, not today.

I can just reach my half empty pack with the tip of my bow and fish it towards me.

The effort is exhausting, but I take stock of what I have to work with. A small first aid kit with band aids and ointment, fifty feet of parachute cord, a little brass compass and mirror, some trail mix, a plastic bag with a whistle, lighter and fire starter inside, a folding limb saw, knife and a grunt call.

I can see my jacket and water bottle on the other side of the clearing along with a clean rag that I use for wiping my hands, and my camouflaged hat.

It's up to me, what do I do now?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Yes, indeed, what does he do now? Send your solution to me at burpeed@verizon.net or use my mail address on page two of this magazine. Format does not matter. You can use complete sentences and thoughts, bullet comments or any other format that works for you. The only restriction is that you are limited to 100 words or less. Selected solutions will be published in the next issue of *FLIGHT* so when you respond I need your name and VBA club affiliation. This is a new initiative for *FLIGHT* so please participate. Future "situations" may focus on issues such as safety, ethics, equipment or other topics suggested by readers. Let's hear from YOU.)

Agenda Items

The following agenda item was voted on at the Sept. 2010 meeting:

Reinstate the 65 and older Master Seniors Class with no breakdown on classes but a breakdown on styles. Justification: The number of archers entering the Senior Class has increased over the past several years and archers 65+ are having trouble effectively competing against much younger seniors. By reinstating the Master Seniors Class, they can look forward to peer competition and we may retain them as motivated, competitive archers. This would be effective, January 1, 2011. RESULT: TABLED. CLUBS WILL COME TO JAN TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL AND ANOTHER PROPOSAL THAT THE SENIOR DIVISION INSTITUTE CLASS BREAKDOWNS. THIS MEETING WILL FORM A FINAL RECOMMENDATION, WHICH WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE JAN DIRECTOR'S MEETING.

The following agenda item will be voted on at the Jan. 2010 meeting:

The Constitution, Article 4, Section 1 as reads "Each Director shall be a direct representative of his/her club or group, and be entitled to one vote" should be changed to read "Each Director shall be a direct representative of his/her club or group, and club voting representation would be based on their club membership numbers. Each club would acquire votes based on their previous year membership as follows: 1-50 = 1 vote, 51-100 = 2 votes, 101-150 = 3 votes, 151-200 = 4 votes, 201-250 = 5 votes."

Justification: This would be a truer reflection of what the majority of the individual members want on any given issue. It may also encourage clubs to increase their membership if they want more voting influence. This would be effective immediately.

THE TRAIL CAMERA CONTEST IS UNDERWAY!

The Trail Camera Contest that was recently announced is underway and one of our VBA officers thought it might be interesting to show some photos from last year that he hopes to at least duplicate if not improve this year. These interesting examples are from Bob Foster, Belvoir Bowhunters and the VBA NBEF/IBEP Director.

Remember, any photos taken in 2010 are eligible (yes, even trail photos from this year's spring turkey and bear hunting...). All entries must be sent to mistygraphics@hughs.net by Jan. 7, 2011 in .jpg or other format that can be used in Photoshop. You must be a 2010 and 2011 VBA member to participate. There are no limits to the number of entries.

Each submission must include: Name of submitter, location of photo (country, state, county), date and time of photo, and submitter's e-mail address. First prize is a dozen Gold Tip Expedition Hunters arrows with Blazer vanes, second prize is ½ dozen of the same arrows and third place is Wildlife Research Scent Killer.



VBA 2010 Fall 3-D Classic



2010 Fall 3-D Classic Winners



VBA Fall 3D Classic 2010

Rank	Name	Style	Day 1		Day 2		Total	
			Score	12s	Score	12s	Score	12s
SC	Natalie Mitchell	AFBHFS	154	1	207	0	361	1
2	Tami Willard	AFBHFS	179	0	165	1	344	1
SC	Karin Eppard	AFFS	274	12	267	12	541	24
SC	Robin Vogel	AFTRAD	187	0	185	0	372	0
2	Jenifer Stoner	AFTRAD	172	0	180	1	352	1
3	Cay McManus	AFTRAD	158	2	164	2	322	4
	Tammy Mullins	AFTRAD	146	0	113	1	259	1
SC	Chris Willard	AMBH/BB	260	10	252	8	512	18
SC	Davy Alger	AMBHFS	257	9	258	9	515	18
2	Jeremy Dean	AMBHFS	251	9	244	6	495	15
3	Patrick Eppard	AMBHFS	238	4	254	9	492	13
	Jimmy Halstead	AMBHFS	233	4	256	9	489	13
	Joey Alger	AMBHFS	230	5	248	5	478	10
	Chris Carper	AMBHFS	236	8	240	4	476	12
	Charles Hilliard	AMBHFS	214	5	237	6	451	11
	Arthur Sommers	AMBHFS	230	7	214	5	444	12
	Troy Stoner	AMBHFS	216	3	227	2	443	5
	Buck Higgins	AMBHFS	215	4	227	2	442	6
	Jared Williams	AMBHFS	189	5	226	3	415	8
	Matt Mitchell	AMBHFS	201	2	206	0	407	2
	Kevin Brown	AMBHFS	217	3	185	0	402	3
SC	Randy Patterson	AMFS	266	11	264	11	530	22
2	Joey Truslow	AMFS	261	9	263	11	524	20
3	Charlie Wright	AMFS	266	10	256	7	522	17
	Darrell R. Wyant	AMFS	260	9	254	7	514	16
	Ray Burke	AMFS	264	10	0	0	264	10
	Joel Lecker	AMFS	244	6	0	0	244	6
SC	Paul Vogel	AMTRAD	262	11	248	7	510	18
2	Jimmy Blackmon	AMTRAD	222	2	224	3	446	5
3	Michael Light	AMTRAD	211	1	231	4	442	5
	Carl Mullins	AMTRAD	212	4	215	6	427	10
	Eugene Slagle	AMTRAD	193	1	204	4	397	5
	Obula Reddy Indela	AMTRAD	186	0	198	0	384	0
	Jeff McManus	AMTRAD	194	3	188	2	381	5
	Joe McManus	AMTRAD	179	3	194	3	373	6
	Kevin O'Shea	AMTRAD	177	0	156	0	333	0
SC	Nicole Willard	CFBH/BB	58	0	55	0	113	0
SC	Joshua Eppard	CFBHFS	217	3	207	6	424	9
2	Zairon Mongold	CMBHFS	151	2	133	0	284	2
SC	Logan Weller	CMFS/F	198	1	216	2	414	3
SC	Caitlin Willard	PWFBHFS/F	112	1	107	0	219	1

Rank	Name	Style	Day 1		Day 2		Total	
			Score	12s	Score	12s	Score	12s
SC	Carolyn Willard	PWFBH/BB	113	0	83	0	196	0
SC	Ethan Mullins	PWMTRAD	123	2	128	0	251	2
2	Dheeraj Reddy Indela	PWMTRAD	79	0	114	1	193	1
SC	John Hoffman	SMBHFS	216	4	218	1	434	5
2	Stephen Richards	SMBHFS	217	4	207	3	424	7
SC	Dallas L. Hoover	SMBHFS/F	214	2	192	0	406	2
SC	Danny Alger	SMFS	259	11	260	7	519	18
2	Jarrett Frame	SMFS	248	7	236	3	484	10
SC	Hunter Carper	YMBHFS	262	9	266	13	528	22
SC	Cory Lynn Mullins	YFBHFS	163	1	176	1	339	2
SC	Zachary Stoner	YMTRAD	131	0	138	0	269	0



State 3-D Fall Classic Records
1993 -2010

Style	Name	Year	1st Day	2nd Day	Aggre.
AMFS/R	Roy Strong	1996	274	274	548
AFFS/R	Karin Eppard	2010	274	267	541
AMFS/F	Michael Smith	2001	244	246	490
AMBHFS/R	Robbie Moore	2002	266	259	525
AFBHFS/R	Kay Core	2007	250	243	493
AMBHFS/F	Les Goss	1999	227	221	448
AFBHFS/F	Darlene Frye	1993			324
AMBB/BH	Chris Willard	2010	260	252	512
AFBB/BH	Cay McManus	1997			441
AMTRAD	Paul Vogel	2010	262	248	510
AFTRAD	Robin Vogel	2007	212	205	417
YAMFS/R	Denver Nail	1995	231	246	477
YAFFS/R	Lindsay Lavenhar	2004	216	209	425
YAMFS/F	Patrick Vogel	2003	165	169	334
YAMBHFS/R	Travis Dillon	2008	195	233	428
YAFBHFS/R	Jessica Callison	1995	218	226	444
YAMBHFS/F	Matthew Dobbins	2007	171	171	342
YAFBHFS/F	Jennifer Link	2000			139
YAMTRAD	Patrick Vogel	2005	161	188	349
YAFTRAD	Nickole Ernst	2000			124
YMFS/R	Chad Detwiler	1999	284	278	562
YMBHFS/R	Hunter Carper	2010	262	266	528
YFBHFS/R	Cory Mullins	2010	163	176	339
YMBHFS/F	Matthew Dobbins	2005	147	184	331
YMBB/BH	Zach Ramos	2003	148	81	229
YFBB/BH	Sara Lavenhar	2005	147	145	292
YMTRAD	Sean Ernst	1998	139	133	272
CMFS/F	Logan Weller	2010	198	216	414
CFFS/F	Jessica Cash	2004	138	120	258
CMBHFS/R	Joshua Bowers	2001	221	222	443
CFBHFS/R	Chelsea Kinley	2002	181	190	371
CMBHFS/F	Hunter Davis	2007	260	224	484
CFBHFS/F	Cheyenne Humphrey	2005	59	131	190
CMBB/BH	Nicolas Torres	2006			174
CFBB/BH	Nichole Willard	2010	58	55	113
CMTRAD	Justin Ernst	1998	112	174	208
PWMBHFS/R	Trystan Johnson	2003	190	196	386
PWFBHFS/F	Caitlin Willard	2010	112	107	219
PWMBB/BH	Joshua Meadows	2001	224	228	452
PWFBB/BH	Nichole Willard	2008	85	142	227
PWMTRAD	Ben Torres	2008	192	202	394
SMFS/R	Danny Alger	2010	259	260	519
SMBHFS/F	John Hoffman	2010	216	218	434
SMBHFS/F	Dallas Hoover	2010	214	192	406

2010 VBA State Closed



2010 State Closed Winners



VBA STATE CLOSED 2010

Rank	Name	Style	Class	Field Round		Hunter/Animal Round		Total	
				Score	Xs	Score	Xs	Score	Xs
SC	Jessica Tomlin	AFFS/R	AA	505	19	539	21	1043	40
2nd	Kathy Weller	AFFS/R	AA	389	6	442	5	831	11
SC	Jennifer Stoner	AFTRAD	A	212	0	254	0	466	0
SC	Dennis Cline	AMBB	AA	465	18	513	4	978	22
SC	John Boyd	AMBH	AA	417	0	475	0	892	4
SC	Randy Hoover	AMBHFS/F	AA	475	18	517	10	992	28
SC	Jeremy Dean	AMBHFS/R	AA	557	28	539	55	1096	83
2nd	Dean Carrol	AMBHFS/R	AA	510	29	537	19	1047	48
3rd	Ray Miller	AMBHFS/R	AA	503	32	531	17	1034	49
	Michael Ritchie	AMBHFS/R	AA	469	13	0	0	469	13
1st	Michael Strikler	AMBHFS/R	A	498	22	515	12	1013	34
2nd	Justice Percell	AMBHFS/R	A	491	22	510	5	1001	27
1st	Troy Stoner	AMBHFS/R	B	461	12	518	9	979	21
2nd	Walt Mellott	AMBHFS/R	B	482	17	489	6	971	23
3rd	Ellis Mellott	AMBHFS/R	B	403	2	442	3	845	5
SC	Bradley Baker, Jr	AMFS/R	AA	541	60	562	29	1103	89
2nd	Robert Kenley	AMFS/R	AA	545	61	557	28	1102	89
3rd	Vance Stallard	AMFS/R	AA	535	42	556	26	1091	68
	Terry Ballowe	AMFS/R	AA	536	44	550	21	1086	65
	Robert Fitzgerald	AMFS/R	AA	518	28	547	22	1065	50
	Daryl McKenzie	AMFS/R	AA	521	30	541	14	1062	44
1st	Jeffrey Bell	AMFS/R	A	481	17	525	9	1006	26
SC	Michae3l Light	AMTRAD	AA	396	6	394	2	790	8
2nd	Jimmy Blackmon	AMTRAD	AA	297	2	353	1	650	3
3rd	Angelo Balderson	AMTRAD	AA	274	3	297	1	571	4
SC	Carl Mullins	AMTRAD	B	252	5	329	0	581	5
1st	Pat Donegan	AMTRAD	C	215	3	271	0	486	3
SC	Logan Weller	CMFS/F	AA	479	8	517	6	996**	14
SC	Ethan Mullins	PWMTRAD	AA	318	2	356	1	674**	3
SC	Mary Wenzel	SFFS/R	AA	440	10	500	15	940	15
SC	Dallas Hoover	SMBHFS/F	AA	463	13	530	14	993**	27
SC	Harry Kibler	SMBHFS/R	AA	479	14	526	12	1005	26
2nd	Butch Grim	SMBHFS/R	AA	472	11	506	8	978	19
SC	Jerry Wenzel	SMFS/F	AA	424	7	493	2	917	9
SC	CD Miller	SMFS/R	AA	534	48	556	25	1090	73
2nd	Danny Alger	SMFS/R	AA	532	43	557	22	1089	65
3rd	Ted Lytton	SMFS/R	AA	521	36	555	19	1076	55
	Barry Wolfe	SMFS/R	AA	502	21	527	13	1029	34
	Jim French	SMFS/R	AA	497	20	0	0	497	20
SC	Mike Hand	SMTRAD	AA	284	3	339	3	623	6

Rank	Name	Style	Class	Field Round		Hunter/Animal Round		Total	
				Score	Xs	Score	Xs	Score	Xs
2nd	Terry Coghill	SMTRAD	AA	248	1	355	1	603	2
SC	Cory Mullins	YFBHFS/R	AA	369	5	388	1	757	6
SC	Hunter Carper	YMBHFS/R	AA	491	30	518	8	1009	38
SC	Lucas Kenley	YMFS/R	AA	536	43	553	22	1089**	65
2nd	Jake Dean	YMFS/R	AA	512	27	539	13	1051	40
SC	Zach Stoner	YMFS/F	AA	262	2	414	3	676	5

VBA State Closed Records

5/4/3 targets used since 1978
 1992 – only score posted was 28 Field
 1993 -only scores posted were 28 F & 28 H.
 1999-First day called because of storm. (NORVA)

**Beginning in 2008, Records reflect 28 F, 14 H & 14 A w/SPOTS until the format changes.

Records not using spots on animal targets.

Style	Name	Year	Field	Hunter	Animal	Aggre.
AMFS/R	Brad Baker Jr.	2009	552	566		1118**
	Darryl Diehl	2004	552	564		1116#
AFFS/R	Ginger Hamlin	2008	518	265	283	1066**
	Scarlet Rucker	1990				1062#
AMFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Ronnie Lewis	1990				1054#Tie
	Ronnie Lewis	1988				1054#Tie
AFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Debra Barker	1990				1035#
AMBHFS/R	Tim Ewers	2008	539	273	286	1098 **
	Andy Stonesifer	2005				1102# tie
	Darryl Diehl	1998	551	551		1102# tie
AFBHFS/R	Joyce Cameron	2009	434	480		917**
	Stacy Pruitt	2004	527	548		1075#
AMBHFS/F	Randy Hoover	2008	490	252	286	1028**
	Danny Alger	1987	517	534		1051#
AFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Irene Stocksedale	1995				960#
AMBB	Rick Stark	2008	510	255	280	1045**
	Denny Cline	1983	521	528		1049#
AFBB	Cay McManus	2008	481	246	269	996**
	Cay McManus	1996	495	532		1027#
AMBH	Howard Faris	2009	453	511		964**
	John Mason	1998	493	529		1022#
AFBH	N/A	2008				
	Gloria Smith	1988	463	506		969#
AMTRAD	Paul Vogel	2008	439	215	252	906**
	George Dalton	2006	402	419		821#
AFTRAD	N/A	2008				
	Debbie Woofter	2003	199	282		481#
YAMFS/R	Brandon Armstrong	2008	540	272	286	1098**
	Brandon Armstrong	2007	533	272	287	1092
YAFFS/R	N/A	2008				
	Denya Pecora	1995				1009#

Style	Name	Year	Field	Hunter	Animal	Aggre.
YAMFS/F	N/A	2008				
	James Moore, Jr	1988	494	524		1016#
YAFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Angela Gordon	1982	363	364		727#
YAMBHFS/R	Travis Dillon	2008	524	261	281	1066**
	Nathan Kline	2003	505	535		1040#
YAMBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	John Coggin	1991				1004#
YAFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Kimberly Dobbins	2004	238	342		580#
YAMBB	N/A	2008				
	Todd Davis	1982	417	450		867#
YAFBB	N/A					
	Vickie Younger	1990				547#
YAMBH	N/A	2008				
	Donald Tynes	1990				970#
YMFS/R	Lucas Kenley	2010	536	553		1089**
	Steven Stark	1998	522	545		1067#
YFFS/R	N/A	2008				
	Jessica McGee	1991				1046
YMFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Keith Faris	1982	513	521		1034#
YFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Sara Lavenhar	2006	277	301		578#
YMBHFS/R	Jake Dean	2009	501	532		1033**
	Nathan Kline	2002	473	507		980#
YFBHFS/R	Cory Mullins	2009	339	455		794**
	Denya Pecora	1994				843#
YMBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Nick Willard	1994				810#
YFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Shaie Hofmann	1991				685#
YMBB	N/A	2008				
	Tad Davis	1981				973#
YFBB	N/A	2008				
	Angela Gordon	1980	137	226		363#
YMBH	N/A	2008				
	Matthew Hiedlebaugh	1990				866#
YMTRAD	N/A	2008				
	Sean Ernst	1998	152	167		319#
CMFS/R	Lucas Kenley	2008	549	271	289	1109**
	Stephen Lowe, Jr	1994				1100#
CFFS/R	N/A	2008				
	Amy Withers	1988	500	519		1019#
CMFS/F	Logan Weller	2010	479	517		996**
	Kurtis Russell	1983				991#
CFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Jessica Cash	2005				913#
CMBHFS/R	Dakota Cash	2009	484	522		1006**
	Lee Short	1994				993#
CFBHFS/R	Cory Mullins	2008	511	245	281	1037**
	Lyndsie Dore	1991				988#

Style	Name	Year	Field	Hunter	Animal	Aggre.
CMBHF/F	Benjamin Torres	2009	157	111		268**
	Tad Hartsel	1990				1031#
CFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				998#
	Beth Pecora	1995				
CMBB	Dewey Cash	2009	353	392		745**
	Bryan Lester	1980	465	481		946#
CFBB	N/A	2008				767#
	Hope Wymer	2006				
CMBH	N/A	2008				1016#
	Anthony Shifflett	1989				
CFBH	N/A	2008				797#
	Denya Pecora	1989				
CMTRAD	Sebastian Torres	2008	268	135	196	599**
	Kristofer Black	2005				529#
PWMTRAD	Ethan Mullins	2010	318	356		674**
SMFS/R	Thomas Gallaher	2009	541	566		1097**
	Lucian Butler	1991				1104#
SFFS/R	Mary Wenzel	2009	487	516		1003**
	Christine Cable	1991				532#
SMFS/F	Jerry Wenzel	2009	444	508		952**
	Richard Merkel	1996	491	516		1007#
SMBHFS/R	Billy Burkholder	2009	523	546	283	1069**
	Webb Babcock	2007	516	260		1059#
SMBHFS/F	Dallas Hoover	2010	463	530		993**
	Richard Merkel	1995				1084#
SFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				855#
	Jane Mabe	1991				
SMBB	Bill Keen	2008	465	233	265	963**
	Larrie Emerson	1996	456	508		964#
SMBH	N/A	2008				981#
	Howard Faris	2005				
SMTRAD	Grant Patton	2008	300	171	212	683**
	Bob Baublitz	2005				912#



Manitoba Adventure

by Steve Richards
Belvoir Bowhunters

I really dislike writing this drivel, but Dan (editor of the Belvoir Bowhunters newsletter) is insistent, so, here I reluctantly present the true story of our recently concluded bear hunting adventure to Manitoba Canada.

There were four participants in our adventure: Paul Vogel (Expedition Leader/Driver), Hon Kwan (Deputy Expedition Leader/Navigator), Vic Matthews (Senior Statesman/Observer/Camp-Coordinator) and of course, me, Steve Richards (Gopher 3rd class). Our adventure began one Friday morning in late May as we all piled into Expedition Leader's truck for the thirty (30!) hour drive to Otter Falls, Manitoba, Canada where our outfitter, Blackjack Outfitters (www.blackjackoutfitters.com), stores its hunters when they are not actually hunting. Now, one might think that a drive of that length would be tedious, however due to the lively and entertaining banter emanating mostly from the front of the truck where Expedition Leader and Navigator were happily ensconced, it flew by right rapidly.

Eventually, on Sunday, we pulled into the Otter Falls (www.otterfallsresort.com) 'camp.' Now, I've been in a couple of hunting camps in my day, but never one quite this basic. Talk about spartan, the only amenities of any sort in the whole place were the cabins, each with two bedrooms, double beds, fully equipped kitchen, living room, fireplace, heating, air conditioning, satellite hi-def TV, DVD player, hot and cold running water, shower, whirlpool tub, sauna, fire pit, gas BBQ, restaurant, convenience store, private docks, outboard motorboats, rivers and lakes to float said motorboats in, assorted fish in aforementioned rivers and lakes, and a couple of other absolute necessities. Despite these deplorable conditions, we bravely sojourned on with only the absolute barest minimum of whining.

Anyway, after getting settled in and taking stock of our austere surroundings, we met with outfitter Matt Epp, his brother Chuck, and guide Evan Proctor. These three gents spent considerable time trying to fill our little noggins with all of the do's and don'ts of bears and bear hunting, including their ingenious method for accurately determining the bear's size (more on that later).

Monday morning found us, well at least found Hon and me, ready to go. However, it seems that they don't start the actual hunting part of this hunt until around 5 PM or so (which seems a bit late, but what do I know?) and end it at around 11 PM or so (which also seems a bit late, but what do I know?). Expedition Leader and his friend Vaughan, who'd flown in, had both shot a fair number of bears on previous hunts, and didn't care to go out until even later than that. We killed the intervening hours by catching a few pike, shooting a few arrows, and telling a few outrageous lies.

At long, long last the time came to go out on the first day's hunt. This adventure began by driving out in a pickup truck on good paved roads, followed by OK gravel roads, and from there to a "road" marked something like "unmaintained trail ahead, travel not advised." Here, Evan parked his pickup and dragged his Honda ATV off of it. At this point, perhaps I should have become a bit suspicious as I noted that his kit included what seemed to be snorkel, but I took little notice at the time and just saddled up behind Evan.

The Honda went bouncing merrily down a reasonably good trail, turned a corner, and we began the, uh, interesting part of the journey. It seems that the beavers in Manitoba had been rather busy lately as our "trail" was under a considerable amount of especially wet water, some of which was moving along at a right smart klippity-klop through breaches in the unbelievably long dam. The little Honda pitched violently this way and that, submerged to the handle bars, strained through deep, dark pools, made grotesque drowning-like noises, then, at long, long last, miraculously emerged safely on the far side of the mire. Following a couple of more-or-less identical aquatic adventures, we finally turned off of the "trail."



Steve Richards

Here's where the going became a bit difficult. Instead of nice, relatively clean beaver-pond type water, we now had to traverse pools of equally deep, but immensely more disgusting, murky, stagnant, putrid black water that was strategically located among flats of even more disgusting, thick, black, vile-smelling muck, with God-knows-what fun-loving creatures living in it. Ah – having fun at last! Thankfully, that delightful portion of our journey was only about a half-mile or so, and I miraculously managed to stay aboard.

We arrived near my stand (called “Bridge” for some obscure reason) in the deep, dark, thick Manitoba woods at around six-oh-clock. Following a short delay while Evan pried my fingers loose from his Honda, I sprang up into my stand, a comfortable ladder-type about 12 feet high. The bait barrels were 18 yards to my south, the wind right in my face. It looked like a great setup. Evan fiddled around with the barrels for a few minutes then waved goodbye. I settled down for what I presumed would be a long wait. It wasn't.



I thought we were hunting bears?

Only about an hour later I saw a giant black shape slipping silently towards the barrels from my right. The bear looked like a monster to me. The way that Matt had told us to size the bears was to compare how high their backs came relative to the three rings around the upright 45-gallon barrels. A “one ringer” was a cub, a “two ringer” a young adult, a “2.5 ringer” was a shootable adult bear, but only if it was a black-black bear. Light-colored bears had to be “three ringers” as a matter of outfitter policy.

As my black-black bear approached the barrels, I estimated it to be roughly a 2.812-ringer, and with a perfect hide: a shooter for sure, but not in the first hour of the hunt, so I reluctantly let it walk. Altogether I saw six adult bears that first evening during shooting light. Others came around after dark. Quite an experience for this neophyte bear hunter.

The second evening was similar to the first. I saw another five or six bears, but for one reason or another did not attempt to arrow any of them. One of them took up residence at the bottom of my stand, literally leaning against the bottom steps, an interesting couple of minutes. Another climbed a nearby tree for no apparent reason. That night Expedition Leader said he'd seen a bear that he breathlessly described as “big as a moose.” Cleverly, he put an arrow between its legs and under its chest, a clean miss at about 12 yards, thus ensuring that his hunt would not end after just two days.

Day Three saw bears tossing barrels around, bears rolling barrels around, and one especially talented bear literally dancing around on the top of a barrel. Looked like the damned circus.

But none were quite what I was looking for due to size or color or rubbed hide or some such, so they all got a pass. Day Three was also the day that Hon made his incredibly horrible mistake. Seems that a big three-plus-ringer with a gorgeous black hide and a beautiful white triangular chest patch walked in front of him at about 18 yards and stopped there, quartering slightly away, with his front on-side leg a bit foreword. Hon then foolishly wacked the big bruin in what turned out to be the geometric center of his heart. Now, I know you're all thinking, “what an idiot,” but it must be remembered that Hon has only been hunting for about six or seven years, and has limited experience with outfitted hunts. In his naivety, he didn't stop to think that his hunt was now over, and his hunting cost on a per-day basis had just doubled. Besides, now he was gunna have to spend the next three days in that so-called camp while Expedition Leader and I continued to hunt. Given time, I'm sure that he will learn. He's fairly bright, you know.

I will not bore my legions of readers by continuing with a day-by-day rendition of unfolding events, as subsequent days were much like the first three. Instead, I will simply hit a few highlights, like the evening, early in the hunt, when I heard Evan's ATV approaching to pick me up. Thinking that he would arrive within a very

few minutes, I packed up my stuff and scampered down to the bottom of my tree to wait in the inky darkness for his imminent arrival. Well, I failed to take into account the fact that sound doubtless travels very well over the vast flatness that is Manitoba, and that trail conditions preclude getting anywhere very quickly. It turned out that his arrival was not so imminent after all. The bears arrived much sooner.

Dark as it was, I could clearly discern, at about 15 yards, the muted outline of two, or possibly three, giant killer-bears that had oozed silently into the area just after I had de-treed. At this point, my brain sent an urgent order down to my legs to execute plan A (re-tree), but for some incomprehensible reason, they declined. After giving the situation a good deal of thoughtful consideration, I decided to instead execute plan B. Specifically, if the bears got any closer, I'd scream like a little girl. Fortunately, at about this time, Evan's headlights began peeking eerily through the thick forest, and the bears wandered slowly off, seemingly more annoyed than frightened.



A nice bear works the barrels

By the fourth day of the hunt, I had a pretty good handle on what kind of bears were around and therefore what kind of bear that I could reasonably expect to take. I'd seen something like 25 bears in daylight by this time and was supremely confident that I'd take mine on Friday or Saturday. Unfortunately, that's when it began to rain. Over those two days, I saw only one adult bear during daylight, and it was a color phase bear that was only about a 2.7 ringer, too small to take under the agreed upon conditions, but a very impressive animal none the less.

If I could go back in time, I'd take that big black one that I saw in the first hour, or one of several other acceptable specimens that I saw later. Oh well, there are no guarantees in hunting, at least not on any hunt that I want to go on.

Oh, about that rain. It rained on me pretty much continuously on Friday and Saturday; however on Saturday, it didn't rain on Expedition Leader at all. Seemed very strange as he was no more than a mile or so from me. Anyway, he wacked what appeared to be about a 2.812 ringer, and with a perfect hide, at last light, on the last night, just like he planned it that way all along.

Guess that's why he's Expedition Leader and I'm just some poor schmuck without a bear. Stupid bears. 🐾

(Editor's note: This article was originally published in the July edition of the Belvoir Bowhunters newsletter.)



The skinning table is 6 feet long

Big Apple Results

by Debbie Jordan
Buggs Island Archers

The Buggs Island Archers held its annual Big Apple Archery Tournament over the 4th of July weekend. As usual, all enjoyed good food, fun, and fellowship. The kids and grownups alike enjoyed the Flynn Coon shoot, which was won by Tyler Miller for the 3rd time in a row. Ty, who is only 6, is an up-and-coming traditional bow shooter (following in Papa Jerry Jordan's foot steps).

We had more than 12 kids shooting this year under the age of 10. There were close to 70 archers from the Virginia Bowhunters Association with about 20 guests from the Clarksville area. Local merchants and businesses donating food and door prizes as well as the patronage of local people made this year's event a success.

The Buggs Island Archery Shop held a drawing and gave away a Hoyt Custom Bow. The winner of the bow was Chris Willard of Lynchburg, Va. A Special Thank You went to The Buggs Island Archery Shop who displayed Hoyt bows and accessories plus held drawings for door prizes and of course The Buggs Island Archers held its annual HAPPY BASKET drawing won by Mrs. John Rice, a newcomer to the club and soon to be a member of the VBA. We had four new families apply for Archery membership. 🏹



Ty Miller won the Coon Shoot



Chris Willard, winner of the Hoyt bow

CHAMPS AT BUGGS ISLAND

Something special happened earlier this year, and this photo proves it. It's not often that four current and/or former VBA State and NFAA National Barebow Champions get together for a local shoot, but it happened July 3 and 4 at the Buggs Island Archers Big Apple Shoot. Having a good time from left to right are Denny Cline, Brad Marshall, Cay McManus and Ricky Stark.



VBA Charity Shoot Successful

By Jerry Wenzel
Manahoac Bowmen and
VBA Charity Shoot Committee Chairman

The VBA charity shoot to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was a great success thanks to the host clubs, the participants and those who donated gifts for raffle or auction.

The shoot was held at two locations -- Sherwood Archers (Roanoke) and Augusta Archers (Staunton) on Saturday and Sunday, July 10-11. Both clubs offered a 3-D round and a 14 target field round that archers could shoot multiple times. There were an estimated 75 shooters on Saturday and 100 shooters on Sunday, including some generous souls who shot both days. It was difficult to determine an exact number of participants because several shooters registered multiple times to help St. Jude. All in all, it was a very good turnout for the first VBA statewide charity shoot.

Another factor in the event's success was the broad range of donations. Some really great items were donated by a variety of individuals, organizations and businesses -- all of whom contributed greatly to the funds raised. Items such as guided fishing trips, archery accessories, binoculars, knives and wildlife prints were made available as door prizes and a raffle as well as a silent auction. Some lucky archers took home great stuff!

There were also a variety of "fun shoots" to interest archers and raise funds. For example, at Augusta Archers a "Jug Shoot" was held after the main shoot for even more prizes. This was a popular shoot with a lot of laughter, cheering and camaraderie. The young men on the "jug crew" probably had the most fun as getting a little wet was rather pleasant in the heat.

The shoot raised \$4,753.00 for St. Jude -- also very good for the first year. St. Jude representatives have expressed much appreciation for the VBA efforts. Their thanks -- and ours -- goes out to all those who participated, the workers at the two clubs who held the shoot and the many donors. You can all know that your effort is much appreciated by the kids, families and staff at St. Jude.

THANK YOU! 🙏



A VERY TRADITIONAL ARCHER

Olin Bare donned a special outfit for the VBA/St. Jude charity shoot and we are glad he did because it gave us an insight into archery hundreds of years ago. An English archer in the 1400s was a feared warrior on the battlefield and Olin's outfit gives us a glimpse into why that was true.

Here is what Bernard Cromwell said about the longbow and the archer in his book, "Agincourt," a

battle between the French and English fought in 1415: "A war bow, in the hands on an archer at Agincourt, need a draw-weight of at least 120 pounds and sometimes more. To pull the string just once needed huge strength, while to shoot arrow after arrow needed an immensely strong man, and the necessary muscles took years to develop. The skeletons of mediaeval English archers show distorted upper bones because the normal bone structure did not provide sufficient attachments for the muscles..... No man could simply pick up a longbow and shoot it. He needed maybe ten years of training, starting as a child, to develop his muscles, increase his bone-mass and acquire the skill of calculating the arrow's flight."

The longbow was only strung just before combat so it would not lose any of its power. It took years of training to build the muscles to pull it and still be accurate. A good archer could shoot about fifteen accurate arrows in a minute. With 5,000 archers on the battlefield and assuming only 12 arrows per minute there would be 60,000 arrows per minute raining down on the enemy – 1,000 per second and 600,000 in ten minutes. This storm of arrows would deplete the supply quickly, but the effect would be devastating. No other nation had the numbers and accuracy of the English.

There were also various arrow heads depending on the archer's mission or intent. The one displayed by

Olin was called a Bodkin (needle) and it was used to pierce armor. The archer generally carried a sack with a few dozen arrows, all of which were made of wood and carefully fletched with feathers from the right or left wing of a goose. The archer also carried a deadly knife for close combat.

Today we shoot the longbow for hunting and other forms of archery. In their day, they were the



most feared weapon on the battlefield. Eventually, the extensive training required and the advent of modern weapons led to their demise as a combat weapon. Cromwell said that the Duke of Wellington asked for a corps of archers to be used in the Peninsular War (1808-1814) but the answer was that there were no longer enough men strong or skilled enough to use the weapon. This was an unfortunate development because the smoothbore musket used by the enemy was very inaccurate compared to the longbow and had an extremely slow rate of fire. About 200 archers could have easily defeated ten times that number of men armed with muskets. But, it took ten years to train a man to use a longbow and only a week to use a musket so armies abandoned the weapon.

Olin was selected by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities as Master of Traditional Hunting as part of their (2009-2010) Virginia Folklife Masters and Apprentice program to document and carry on tradition in Virginia. He and his apprentice Bruce Watts have built traditional bows and arrows, traditional game calls, traditional animal traps and completed many other traditional projects. Olin is also a member of The Society for Creative Anachronism, which recreates pre-17th century European history. This ties Europe in the 1500's into the settling of America. ♪

EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

GOT TARGET PANIC?

by Bob D'Imperio, Cub Run Archers

I can tell you that I had it so bad, I almost quit shooting altogether. As a last desperate measure, I purchased a Tru-Fire 3D Hunter 4 Finger thumb release to replace my 30-year-old trigger. After a few months of diligent practice getting used to the new style, my symptoms improved dramatically. I attribute this to the ease with which you can utilize true back tension with the thumb release over a traditional trigger style.

I am sure you can use back tension with a trigger, but for me it was very difficult to achieve consistently. Using the thumb release, you simply close your hand around the release, making sure you set the knob of the trigger deep at the base of your thumb. I think it is important also to make contact between the tip of your thumb and the index finger as well. This forms a solid “fist” where no twitchy part of your anatomy, e.g. the tip of a trigger finger, has to “do” anything.

You simply put your sight on the target, allowing it to naturally float around the bullseye, and then pull with your back muscles, giving no thought at all to activating a trigger of any kind until the shot goes off.

Simple! If you are at your wits end with target panic or trigger punching, you owe it to yourself to give a thumb release a try. I know it really helped me.

SHOOT WITH A MAGNIFICATION PEEP SIGHT

by Dick Riemer, Cub Run Archers

About this time last year I was having some real shooting issues. I had just gotten a new prescription for my glasses, which were progressive lenses. Shooting from the ground with the glasses was ok, but I could not make it work from a tree stand. Shooting without the glasses, I would see ok during normal daylight but in morning and evening light I would have a halo effect all around the pins when sighting at the target in low visibility.

At a recent meeting on one of my hunt clubs a member discussed the magnification peep sight and explained how well it works for an older set of eyes. This item is available at archery shops so I stopped by and had one put on my bow string. The peep is put into place on the bow string, and then there are five powers of magnification available. The peep sight installer starts with the lowest magnification lens in the peep, then you draw the bow and check the clarity of your pins against the target. That lens is then removed and the next level of power lens is put into the peep to try. This progresses through all the five magnifications to see which level is the correct power level of magnification for you.

The magnification peep sight has improved my shooting skill and gives me more shooting time in low light conditions during mornings and evenings. Go to www.specialtyarch.com to check it out.

A BETTER FACE PAINT

by Mark Stewart, Cub Run Archers

It seems like I am always searching for something better than what I currently have. One example is camo face paint. The standard offering available from most sports stores squeezes out of tube and goes on like bacon fat. Smudges of this stuff manage to get on just about every piece of gear I own. It wouldn't be so bad if it didn't also get all over the interior of my car and other places that I would prefer not to be covered with brown turd-like smears.

But my make-up woes are now over! (Never thought you'd see that in an archery article, did ya?) Last year I stumbled upon a product called CarboMask. This stuff has to be used to be appreciated. It goes on like the regular stuff but after it dries you don't sit there feeling like someone just pied you in the face. Plus it wipes off easy – maybe too easy, that would be my only complaint.

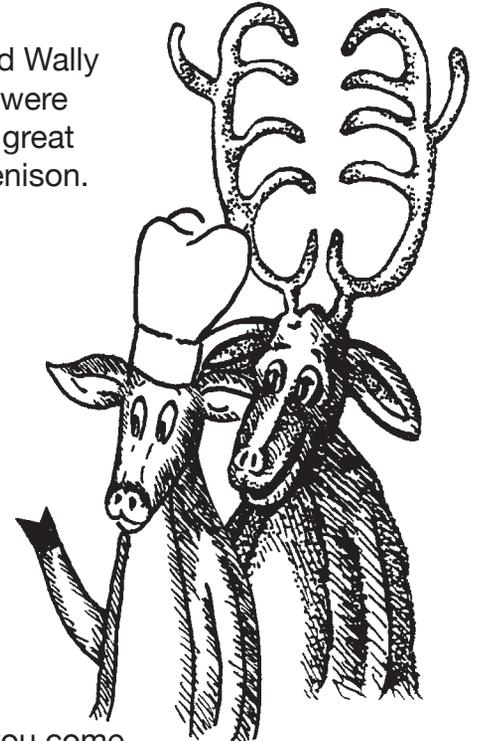
You can only buy it directly from the manufacturer. Get this, they don't take credit cards, you place an order and they send you an invoice with the product. I talked to the owner and he said he has never had a customer stiff him. Go figure. Check out Carbomask.com for more information. 

Winnie and Wally Recipe

Venison/Sausage Stacks

Randy Brookshire of Sherwood Archers was visiting with Winnie and Wally one day and they all got to comparing recipes. A lot of good ideas were discussed, but we think you will really like Randy's concoction as a great meal. It is a winner – especially for those who say they don't like venison. ENJOY.

- 1 Venison Backstrap
- 1 Cup favorite marinade
- 1 garlic salt shaker
- 1 seasoned pepper shaker
- ½ Pound Jimmy Dean pork sausage
- 1 Chopped red pepper
- 1 Chopped yellow pepper
- 1 Chopped onion
- 1 Pound bacon strips
- 1 Box toothpicks
- 1 Bottle Merlot wine
- 2 Cups sautéed mushrooms



Take a whole backstrap and cut it on an angle across the grain so you come out with 3" square pieces about 3/8" thick. Marinate these for several hours.

Then lay them out and put on a coating of garlic salt and seasoned pepper. Take about half a pound of Jimmy Dean pork sausage and break it up and brown it in a skillet. Take a red pepper, a yellow pepper and an onion and dice them up real small and then add them to the skillet with the sausage and its grease. Lower the heat and sauté for 30 minutes or so.

Then take two slices of uncooked bacon and lay them out side by side. Place one piece of backstrap on top of the bacon and then put a generous layer of the sausage/pepper/onion mix on top of it. Cover this with another layer of backstrap and then fold the bacon up and over it. Criss cross the bacon strips and then secure them in place with a toothpick(s). Continue this process until all the backstrap is used.

This is a pretty loose stack so use a spatula to place them on the grill. Let them cook on one side for a few minutes and then sprinkle with a little Merlot wine. Use the spatula to turn them and do the same process on the other side. The bacon shrinks while cooking and crisps up so that it does a good job of holding the whole concoction together. Remove and top the whole mess with sautéed mushrooms and Man! does that stuff come out good. Use a good sharp knife and cut through the layers. It looks like a thick roast or London broil that has been stuffed with peppers and sausage. The finished product is not only tasty, it makes a visually appealing package too. 🍷

VBA WEB PAGE SURVEY

A special VBA committee, led by Craig Torres of Cub Run Archers, is gathering ideas on how to improve the VBA web pages. The committee has developed a questionnaire and provided a copy to each Club Director. Please contact your Club leaders to obtain a copy and provide your input to this important effort. The VBA has a good web page; we want to ensure it serves your needs and interests. The deadline for submissions to Craig (craigtorres@yahoo.com) and Irene Stocksdale (istocksdale@rcn.com) is Oct. 31.

Idea Corner

Here are some ideas that came over the transom since the last magazine. Hopefully these and the previous ideas are helpful to Clubs. Keep 'em coming!

Augusta Archers gives a free club membership to members of the military (active/reserve/guard) and then the club pays the VBA dues. What a great way to recognize "service to the nation."

Small clubs might not be able to do afford this idea, but a partial discount might be in the cards. Also, the idea might be expanded by all clubs to give a discount to "first responders" – fire, police, EMS. The discount might involve membership or it might be a reduced rate for club shoots.

The Belvoir Bowhunters offer a perk – when you beat your previous best score you get an award. The award varies, but the achievement is recognized.

Kingsboro Bowmen have a couple of neat ideas. When a member wins an award at an event he/she is given the option of accepting the award or shooting the next event free. Also, the club gives a free shoot to members of the work party who help set up 3-D targets. Nice incentive!

A couple of other ideas were found at the VBA/St. Jude charity shoot. Both these events were entertaining and raised a LOT of money for St. Jude. The first idea originated with Bowhunters of Rockingham but was put to good use by Augusta. The idea (see photo) involved balancing two milk jugs filled with water. Archers then shot at a jug and the first jug to lose water and rise to the top won. This was a lot of fun, especially if compound and traditional archers competed against each other instead of in separate classes.

The compound guys were more accurate, but the traditional guys launched 3 or 4 times as many arrows.

The second idea (see photo) involved writing the name of a prize on the back of a small tag and then taping the tags to a board. Archers could then purchase shots at the tags and win whatever they hit. 🏹



Close, but no cigar -- darn it!

THE VBA TROPHY ROOM



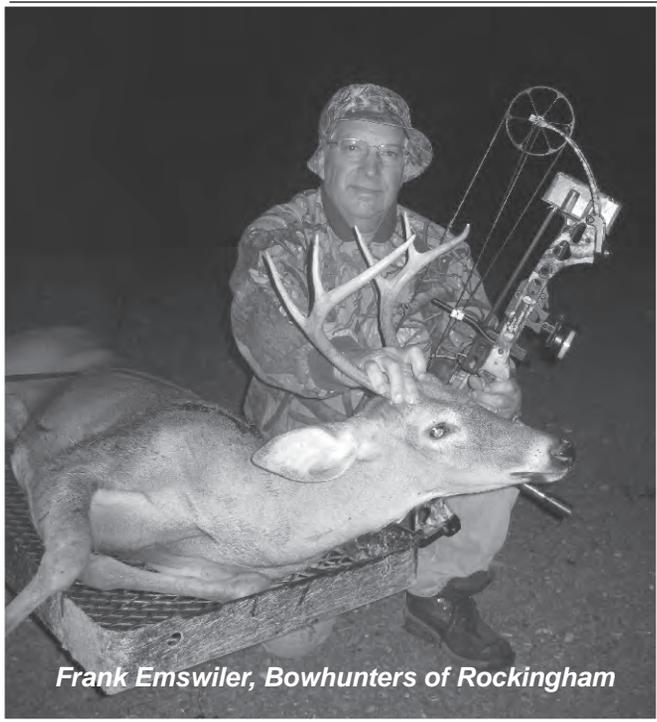
A nice Manitoba bear taken by Han Kwan, Belvoir Bowhunters



Paul Vogel, Belvoir Bowhunters, and his Manitoba bear



Buck Kline and his son Nathan, both Bowhunters of Rockingham, score on opening day in Madison County with Buck's 104 lb. 6-point (16 3/4 spread) and Nathan's 138 lb. 11-point (15 7/8 spread). They are the early leaders in the VBA Big Buck contest!



Frank Emswiler, Bowhunters of Rockingham



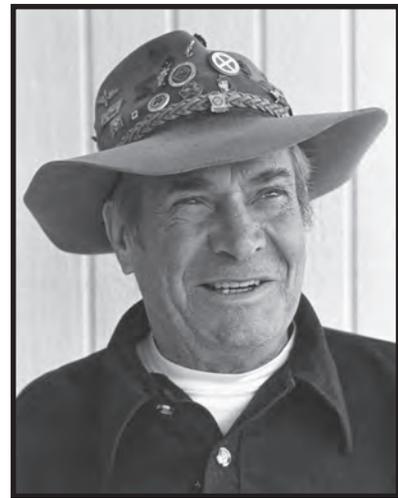
A nice doe taken by Tom Bohl using a Hummingbird longbow, Bowhunters of Rockingham

**The Order of the Golden Feather
Is sad to inform you that
OGF member**

Vic Matthews

passed away in September. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and his many friends around the world.

He was an international ambassador for the sport and will be missed.



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APPLICATION FOR VBA GAME AWARDS

VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Date: _____

I, _____, _____, _____
(Print name as it appears on VBA card) (VBA Number) (Street Address)

_____, _____, _____ hereby certify that I harvested a
(City and State) (Zip Code)

_____, (Buck) (Doe) (Bear) (Turkey) this year and that I am a member of the Virginia Bowhunters Association, Inc., and in good standing at that time. I hereby submit an application for one or more of the following VBA awards:

- Bill Bennett Award (bear, deer, turkey from any state) If first B.B. Award, check here
- Largest VA Buck by Dressed Weight
- Largest VA Doe by Dressed Weight
- Best Rack Score (in the VA System)
- Largest VA Bear by Dressed Weight
- Largest VA Turkey by Live Weight
- Double Grand Slam for: VA. Bear, Deer, Turkey (circle 2) From Spring Turkey Season
- Triple Grand Slam for VA. Bear, Deer, and Turkey through Deer season, same year.

Pertinent information is provided below: Signed: _____

VBA Club Affiliation: _____ State Game taken in _____

Date of Bow Harvest: _____ Big Game Tag Number: _____

Weight of Buck/Doe: _____ Weight of Bear/Turkey: _____

(Note: Provide copy of Check Station Transport form or other weight information)

Time of Day: _____ (a.m./ p.m.) Distance of Shot: _____

Type of bow: Compound _____ Recurve _____ Longbow _____ Other _____

Hunting method: Tree Stand _____ Ground Blind _____ Stalking _____ Other _____

Rack Score Using the Virginia System: _____

Name of Official Scorer (print): _____

(Note: Signed score sheet must accompany this application)

(If possible, include a picture with description of game harvested for publication in FLIGHT.)

Print Name and Signature of Witness: _____

(Person who saw game after it was harvested)

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN 90 DAYS OF HARVEST (BUT NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1ST AFTER THE SEASON) TO: VBA EXECUTIVE STATE SECRETARY, MARIE BELL, 1223 JEANETTE AVENUE, VINTON, VA 24179.

Note: If possible, please include a picture of yourself with the game giving the name and description of game on back for identification. First, second and third place awards are available for each size category. The first Bill Bennett award is a Plaque and following awards are cast arrows.

2011 VBA Calendar of Events

VBA Meetings

January 8 – 9
 Tournament Committee: Jan 8, 7pm
 Bowhunting Committee: Jan 9, 8am
 Mar 19 (Banquet) and 20 Meeting
 June 11 - 12
 September 17 (Scheduling Session and 18 (Meeting))

State Tournament

State Indoor Sectional: Feb 26 – 27
 Augusta Archers
 Belvoir Bowhunters
 Kingsboro Bowmen
 Spring 3D Classic: April 16 – 17
 Augusta Archers
 State Open: May 28 – 29
 Sherwood Archers
 Fall 3D Classic: August 13 – 14
 Manahoac Bowmen
 State Closed: September 3 – 4
 Two Rivers Archery Club

VBA Charity Shoot

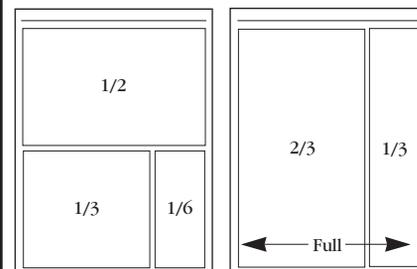
To Benefit Children's Miracle Network
 Co-Hosted by VBA at New River Archers
 July 30 - 31



Advertising Rates for Flight

- 1/6 page • 2 3/8" x 5" • \$20
- 1/3 page • 5" x 5" • \$35
- 1/2 page • 7 1/2" x 5" • \$60
- 2/3 page • 5" x 10" • \$70
- Full page • 7 1/2" x 10" • \$100

(Price is based on camera-ready art.)



Change of Address?

If you have had a change of address and are not receiving your *Flight* newsletter, please fill in the following information and send to

Marie Bell, Executive State Secretary
 1223 Jeanette Ave
 Vinton, VA 24179

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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WANTED: PHOTOS FOR 'THE FLIGHT'

Wally wants hunting photos for The Flight, and here are some hints for better pictures!



The best quality bowhunter success photographs exhibit four essential ingredients:

- The animal
- The bowhunter
- The archery equipment used
- The natural setting

Presenting the Animal

- 1) Place the animal so that it is in the approximate center of the photo.
- 2) Position the hunter so that he or she does not steal the show.
- 3) Blood, gaping wounds and hanging tongues are offensive and totally destroy an otherwise good quality hunter-success photo. Treat your trophy animal with the respect and dignity it deserves.

Presenting the Hunter

- 1) The hunter should be posed in hunting

clothing. Como, wool, or whatever you wear when seriously hunting is appropriate.

- 2) Relax and smile!

Presenting the Archery Equipment Used

- 1) The bow should always be shown clearly, but is best shown almost casually or incidentally in the photograph.
- 2) If arrows are displayed, clean any blood from them.

Presenting the Natural Setting

- 1) The natural setting is the key ingredient that ties all the other ingredients together. The setting can make or break most photographs. A completely natural setting is the only acceptable one.
- 2) ***Hunter-success photos should NEVER be taken in garages, on driveways, in pickup truck beds or on front lawns!***