



VBA



(200-220)

FLIGHT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

FLIGHT NO. 2

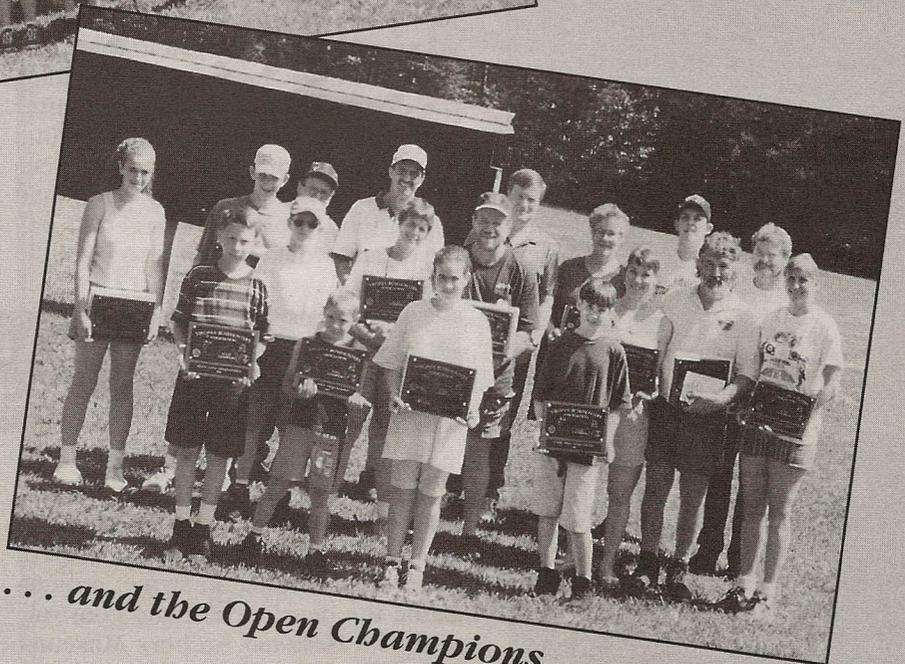
SUMMER 1996

VOLUME 39

The Class Winners . . .



VBA State Open 1996



. . . and the Open Champions.

V.B.A. OFFICERS

John McLaughlin, President
119 Polk Drive
Manassas, Va. 22110
703-368-7308 (home)
703-760-0208 (work)
johnmcl@patriot.net (e-mail)

Dave Proctor, Executive Vice President and Flight Editor
3730 Singers Glen Road
Harrisonburg, Va. 22801
540-867-0231 (home)
540-828-4663 (work)
540-828-4862 (fax)

Mark W. Lohr, Field Vice President
304 Jesse Lane
Strasburg, Va. 22657
540-465-4065 (home)

Clinton Western, NFAA Director
110 Dogwood Lane
Vinton, Va. 24179
540-890-3072 (home)

Ann R. Boyd, Corresponding Secretary
154 Wilkins Drive
Winchester, Va. 22602
540-722-9536 (VBA)
540-667-1320 (home)

Crystal Holmes, Recording Secretary
P.O. Box 415
Crimora, Va. 24431
540-943-7990 (home)

Robert M. Pecora, Treasurer
11211 Hume Road
Hume, Va. 22639
540-364-2158

Paul Vogel, Field Governor
7110 Wilburdale Drive
Annandale, Va. 22003
703-941-0073

Robert Seltzer, Hunting Vice President
7588 Woodstown Drive
Springfield, Va. 22153
703-644-9708 (home)

**Wayne DeShazo, Conservation/
Legislative Affairs Vice President**
10111 Shawnee Lane
Spotsylvania, Va. 22553
540-786-9448 (home)

John Stockman, NBEF Director
1301 North Utah St.
Arlington, Va. 22201
703-524-3389 (home)
703-418-6888 (work)

FLIGHT NO. 2

VOL. 39

Published Quarterly
Dave Proctor, Editor
3730 Singers Glen Road
Harrisonburg, Va. 22801
Bulk Rate Postage
Paid at Bridgewater, Va.

Flight Deadline

The deadline for the Fall issue of FLIGHT will be *September 2, 1996*. Submit your articles of interest to the editor prior to that date. I encourage readers to send in letters to the editor. Remember, this is *your* newsletter!

From the President

As I write this, I've returned from another successful State Open at Buggs Island. Although the attendance was somewhat lower than in years past, it was an enjoyable shoot. These shoots only come off with hard work and dedication. I do want to thank Ann Boyd for her continued work at State Championships. Ann was there first and last. I really appreciate all her help. Please say thanks next time you see her. The VBA also benefitted from its latest Dynamic Duo, Mark Lohr and Rob Pecora. Mark and Rob were invaluable in handling scores and awards. We also benefitted from Paul Vogel and our hosts, Jerry and Shirley Jordan. The Jordans personally put in weeks of preparation for the Open. We all reap the rewards of their dedication to field archery.

On April 13th and 14th, Manahoac Bowmen hosted the VBA 3D Spring Classic. Nearly 130 shooters enjoyed the hospitality of Manahoac, while engaging in the fastest growing segment of archery. If you have the chance, make sure to thank the President of Manahoac Bowmen, James Ashley for all the hard work his club put into the successful Spring Championship.

A quick check of the calendar in mid June shows us but four months from bowhunting season. Athletes will tell you, and hunters should tell you, that there's no such thing as the off-season anymore. I encourage you to start practicing for that whitetail now. Spending the occasional afternoon going after non-game or pest species, shoot in a local 3D, and practice, practice, practice with those broadheads. I've found some good broadhead targets in my travels and would be happy to share the

names with you. Give me a call. I'd like talking bowhunting. (Just ask my wife.)

So, to paraphrase a common question asked of me, "What's the VBA been doing?" In the past few months we've been asked to help out on a deer management advisory board by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. We've been invited by the State Department of Recreation to hold an Advanced Bowhunter Workshop at Sky Meadows State Park in September. We've held three State Championships. We've continued our scholarship at Virginia Tech. Our Bowhunter Education program is going strong with one even in Germany.

That's what the VBA has been doing for archery. Now here's what YOU can do for archery. Go find a kid, and don't limit it to boys. Take them out for an afternoon and show them the fun of our ancient sport. You'll be doing the kid a favor and you'll be doing archery a favor as well.

One of my real pleasures as President of the VBA is to talk about our best archers. At the '96 Indoor National Championships in Oklahoma City, the VBA did very, very well. I'm very happy to report that Joe Herbert is a National Champion in Freestyle-Pro; Cay McManus is a National Champion in Barebow, setting a new national record; Robin Vogel is National Champion in Bowhunter; and Paul Vogel is National Champion in FITA Barebow. Paul also set a new national record. Good Shooting!

See you all on the Range. ↗

—John McLaughlin

Pearson Chosen as Architectural Consultant for Archery Museum

Norva Archers member Charles A. Pearson, Jr., FAIA, architect of Arlington, Virginia has been selected as Architectural Consultant to the Board of a coalition, national in scope, promulgating the development and construction of a National Archery Museum. Charlie's role will include helping choose a location/site in the United States, preparation of a program of

requirements and, since this is a high profile project of considerable stature, helping select, possibly by competition, an architect of equal stature. He will work with this architect and the curators during design and construction. Charlie has been an avid field archer since his Eagle Scout days, and was chosen for this assignment from among several archer-architects across the nation. ↗

From the NBEF Director

National Bowhunter Education Program News

The National Bowhunter Education Program (NBEP) is a 10-hour course of instruction covering the fundamentals of safe, ethical bowhunting. The course is now mandatory in several states and several more are in the process of making it a requirement for anyone wishing to bowhunt. The NBEP is not required on a statewide basis in Virginia. However, some military reservations and game refuges within the state require bowhunters to complete the basic course prior to hunting. The course is beneficial to all bowhunters, but especially helpful to those just beginning to bowhunt. The course does not include any shooting proficiency tests. It provides attendees the opportunity to participate in a seminar type course in which bowhunting topics are discussed in a classroom setting. Additionally, several activities are conducted outdoors. For example, tree stand demonstrations, practice blood trailing, and range estimation exercises are conducted in realistic outdoor settings. Upon completion of the course, every student will receive a card certifying that he/she completed the NBEP. The card is recognized by every state as evidence that the bearer has completed the course.

At right is a list of NBEP courses scheduled to date. Additional courses will be offered in other parts of the state as details are finalized. The biggest demand for courses occurs just prior to bow season when bowhunters learn that the state or other jurisdiction where they plan to hunt requires the course in order to bowhunt.

Currently, the following states and Canadian provinces require the BEP in order to bowhunt: Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Brunswick, New Jersey, New York, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, and South Dakota. Several other states are considering making the BEP mandatory. To preclude the possibility of not being able to get in a class, register for one of the early courses.

On July 13, 1996 a Bowhunter Instructor course will be conducted at the Hilldrup Moving and Storage training facility north of Fredericksburg,

Virginia. The purpose of the course is to train new instructors and to update existing instructors. The course will provide advice on teaching methods, course content, and training aids used in presenting the basic National Bowhunter Education Program. (NBEP)

Persons desiring to become instructors must be at least 18 years of age and must have attended the basic NBEP course. Individuals attending the workshop as new instructors will be required to complete a background investigation application.

The instructor workshop is open to all instructors and is especially recommended for those who have not yet taught a course. A special invitation is extended to prospective female instructors. More and more women are becoming bowhunters, yet we have only a few female instructors.

If you have any questions regarding the course, please call:

John Stockman
(703) 418-6888 (work)
(703) 524-3389 (home).

Directions to the Hilldrup facility: If traveling north on Interstate 95, take Garrionsville exit. Go north on Rt. 1 for approximately four miles. Hilldrup facility will be visible from Rt. 1 on right. If traveling south on Rt. 1, take Quantico exit. Go south on Rt. 1 for about three miles to Hilldrup facility on left. For more detailed directions to the course, please call:

Charley Kappelman
(800) 476-6683 (work)
(540) 752-5129 (home).

The course will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Please bring your lunch. ↗

— John Stockman

Bowhunter Education Program Courses Scheduled in Virginia as of May 1, 1996



Locations

Fort Belvoir
Fairfax, VA

North West Park
Chesapeake, VA

Izaak Walton Park
Amherst County, VA

Dates

June 8
July 13
August 3
September 14
September 28
October 6
October 20
November 3

August 27/28
September 10/11

August 3/4

Contact

Call Fort Belvoir
Outdoor
Recreation
(703) 805-3781
to register.
Cost: \$7.50

Call Brian Hostetter
(804) 433-3438
to register.

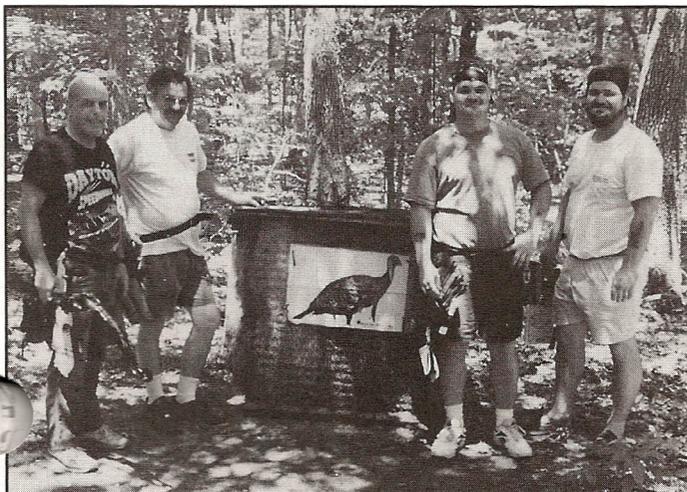
Call Al Baughman
(804) 525-7427
to register.
Cost: \$7.50

Virginia Bowhunters Association 1996 State Open Tournament

Rank	Name	Style	Class	Saturday Score	Spot	Sunday Score	Spot	Total Score	Spot
SC	Cay McManus	FABB	AA	507	44	546	27	1053	71
SC	Robin L. Vogel	FABH	AA	384	19	409	5	793	24
SC	Gwenda Willard	FABHFS	AA	521	45	522	15	1043	60
2nd	Auvray Shumate	FABHFS	AA	463	23	489	13	952	36
SC	Irene Stocksdale	FABHFSL	AA	420	26	478	14	898	40
1st	Sharon Hancock	FABHFSL	A	351	13	386	3	737	16
	Scarlet Rucker	FAFS	AA	468	26		inc.	inc.	
SC	Sarah L. Newmeyer	FAFSL	AA	494	33	518	20	1012	53
SC	Beth Pecora	FYBHFS	B	380	13	299	5	679	18
SC	Denya Pecora	FYAFS	A	337	19	497	8	834	27
SC	Phillip A. Cantrell	MABB	AA	516	37	532	19	1048	56
2nd	Rick Stark	MABB	AA	532	45	515	21	1047	66
3rd	Paul R. Vogel	MABB	AA	463	34	502	18	965	52
	William Keen	MABB	AA	463	26	492	17	955	43
1st	Chris Willard	MABB	A	440	21	458	15	898	36
SC	Howard Faris	MABH	AA	513	33	508	18	1021	51
2nd	John B. Boyd	MABH	AA	469	24	485	12	954	36
3rd	Carroll Willard	MABH	AA	458	17	469	8	927	25
	John Mason	MABH	AA	469	34	455	15	924	49
	Robert W. Baublitz	MABH	AA	438	17	444	11	882	28
	Joe McManus	MABH	AA	388	12	455	15	843	27
SC	Darryl D. Diehl	MABHFS	AA	558	87	560	42	1118	129
2nd	Michael Shupe	MABHFS	AA	548	80	554	40	1102	120
1st	Rick E. Dove	MABHFS	A	534	61	532	23	1066	53
2nd	Timmy Shelton	MABHFS	A	496	34	510	19	1006	53
3rd	Ricky Lee Blankenship	MABHFS	A	507	36	491	20	998	56
	Timothy W. Stanley	MABHFS	A	432	16	453	15	885	31
SC	Steven W. Walker	MABHFSL	AA	536	71	546	25	1082	96
2nd	Michael W. Smith	MABHFSL	AA	527	47	529	23	1056	70
3rd	James Little	MABHFSL	AA	512	49	540	28	1052	77
	Aubrey L. Self	MABHFSL	AA	506	42	528	21	1034	63
	David E. Dobbins	MABHFSL	AA	511	46	510	23	1021	69
	Christopher Williamson	MABHFSL	AA	484	35	536	24	1020	59
1st	Jerry L. Jordan	MABHFSL	A	474	24	505	13	979	37
2nd	Jamie Vargo	MABHFSL	A	464	29	473	11	937	40
3rd	James M. Mauk	MABHFSL	A	382	12	446	5	828	17
	Robert L. Mitchell	MABHFSL	A	352	11	448	11	800	22
1st	Jermey Vargo	MABHFSL	B	386	14	450	5	836	19
SC	Eddie Rogers	MAFS	AA	560	86	560	50	1120	136
2nd	Robert W. Kenley	MAFS	AA	560	89	560	40	1120	129
3rd	Bill Hamlin, Jr.	MAFS	AA	558	90	560	45	1118	135
	Bill Hamlin, Sr.	MAFS	AA	560	80	558	40	1118	120
	Kendall Woody	MAFS	AA	560	103	556	50	1116	153
	Doug Hale	MAFS	AA	558	83	558	39	1116	122
	C. D. Miller	MAFS	AA	555	97	560	51	1115	148
	Mark W. Lohr	MAFS	AA	558	79	554	42	1112	121
	Freddy D. Bailey	MAFS	AA	556	85	554	35	1110	120
	Philip Pritchard	MAFS	AA	554	79	554	39	1108	118
	Terry Pendley	MAFS	AA	553	71	555	40	1108	118
	Steve Lowe, Sr.	MAFS	AA	554	65	554	34	1108	118
	James N. Riddel	MAFS	AA	552	81	552	40	1104	121

Virginia Bowhunters Association 1996 State Open Tournament, (Cont'd)

Rank	Name	Style	Class	Saturday Score	Spot	Sunday Score	Spot	Total Score	Spots
	Phillip L. Ware	MAFS	AA	545	76	558	44	1103	120
	William D. Shumate	MAFS	AA	546	69	556	38	1102	107
	Ronnie L. Dove	MAFS	AA	546	67	554	28	1100	95
	Don R. Davis	MAFS	AA	542	51	546	37	1088	88
	David Crouse	MAFS	AA	527	47	545	27	1072	74
1st	David Keith	MAFS	A	554	66	548	28	1102	94
2nd	Danny Trent	MAFS	A	548	61	546	32	1094	93
3rd	Joseph L. Seagle	MAFS	A	543	62	550	38	1093	100
	Rob Pecora	MAFS	A	546	57	546	36	1092	93
	James R. Baugh	MAFS	A	533	49	548	27	1081	76
	Jason A. McGrady	MAFS	A	538	47	528	25	1066	72
	Terry Ballowe	MAFS	A	518	35	528	21	1046	56
	Benjamin Rinehart	MAFS	A	495	38	inc.	inc.	inc.	inc.
	Keith Trent	MAFS	A	493	40	inc.	inc.	inc.	inc.
SC	Buddy Lowman	MAFSL	AA	540	56	550	23	1090	79
2nd	Chester Hancock	MAFSL	AA	538	50	534	29	1072	79
3rd	Giles M. Gilley	MAFSL	AA	526	47	521	21	1047	68
SC	Christopher Shelton	MCFS	A	493	36	486	26	979	62
2nd	Timothy Stark	MCFS	A	465	17	408	10	873	27
SC	Patrick Vogel	MCBH	A	152	4	176		328	4
SC	Eric A. Rinehart	MCFSL		513	39	513	24	1026	63
won	David Schuab	MPFS		554	85	557	48	1111	133
	Dale Rucker	MPFS		537	52	inc.	inc.	inc.	52
on	Ronnie Lewis	MPFSL		543	56	544	35	1087	91
won	Joseph A. Herbert	MPSFS	AA	555	101	560	53	1115	154
SC	Larrie L. Emerson	MSBB	AA	401	12	476	12	877	24
SC	Billy Reynolds	MSBHFS	AA	494	20	535	18	1029	38
SC	Andrew Dobraski	MSFS	A	554	78	554	35	1108	113
1st	James E. Lowe	MSFS	AA	552	76	554	38	1106	114
2nd	George T. Harman	MSFS	A	540	55	546	30	1086	85
SC	Richard J. Merkel	MSFSL	AA	550	59	547	29	1097	88
SC	Steven Lowe, Jr.	MYFS	AA	538	48	542	29	1080	77
SC	Bobby Lowe	MYAFS	AA	511	40	536	30	1047	70
2nd	Michael L. Ware	MYAFS	AA	516	28	531	21	1047	49



Agony and Ecstasy Elk

The tension was unbearable, waiting for confirmation that could make or break the hunt of a lifetime. I was calling the New Mexico game department's 900 number to find out if Gary and I were successful in drawing bow elk tags for the coming fall season. Yes, applying for a tag in a draw area is as exciting, nerve racking and frustrating as the actual hunt, minus the fun.

We drew bow hunting elk tags for unit 36 which runs from September 1st through the 20th. The unit lies along the Northern border of the half-million-acre Mescalero Indian Reservation and contains the White Mountain Wilderness. We could hardly wait for September 1 to roll around when we would be hunting elk in the New Mexico wilderness on our own, listening to the bugles of 6x6 bull elk.

We would be staying in the resort town of Ruisido that is a two-hour drive from the nearest airports in Albuquerque, New Mexico or El Paso, Texas. Upon arriving we found hundreds of vacationing Texans visiting the mountains for the memorial day weekend. The Ruisido Downs racetrack was holding the season-ending race that weekend and a few miles away, on the Apache Indian reservation, vacationers played the slot machines at the elaborate Inn of the Gods casino. We didn't have time to play because we were after elk.

Wide awake at 4:00 a.m. the next morning, we were ready to go. You need to get an early start in the White Mountains since it is a wilderness area and the mountains are extremely steep, ranging in elevation from 9,500 to 12,500 feet. Around 6:00 a.m., after an hour and a half of climbing I could skylight shadows moving in the distant meadow with my binoculars. I stopped to catch my breath, which is a regular occurrence at that elevation, and wait for better light to make out the shadows. Within 15 minutes, about 20 cows and calves, two satellite bulls, two spikes and a majestic 6x6 appeared in the meadow. With adrenal pumping I could only watch as the elk fed undisturbed. They were three quarters of a mile away and a 500-foot canyon separated us. The elk took an hour and a half to enter the woods and bed for the day. Knowing their bedding area and using a topographic map I would be in position for the next morning's hunt. After the

two-hour walk back to the car I recounted my short and tiring adventure to Gary. He had a similar experience, seeing a number of cows, calves and bulls and hopefully he would also be in position the next morning.

New Mexico is a wonderful place to be in September. The temperature ranges from the mid 60's to the mid 90's, there is very little rain, very low humidity, no gnats, mosquitoes or black flies. To our disadvantage, the elk had not started bugling, water was everywhere in the creeks and springs along with hikers, backpackers and campers. We had never hunted this area before and only had topo maps to guide us. Yet, with all these obstacles we were encouraged by our sightings of elk that first morning.

Before the evening's hunt, we met some resident hunters who were very friendly and helpful. They provided us with information about the area and elk habits that would prove invaluable. One of the locals told me to hunt a certain ridge and I would be certain to see elk. Taking his advice, I started my trek to the promised land.

With a half hour of shooting light left I heard something coming down the slope. He was right, one, two, then four elk headed directly toward my ground stand. Straining to see past the string of 20 cows and calves there was not a bull in sight. For 25 minutes I waited for a bull to show himself as the elk fed, drank and played 15 yards in front of me. Light was running out fast and the excitement of having all those elk around me was too much. Drawing my bow I placed the 20-yard pin on the heart of the closest and largest cow. With a perfect release I heard a thaaapp. The herd looked up in unison and high-stepped in a five-yard semicircle, looked around for a minute then returned to grazing. My elk walked 10 yards and stood motionless, wondering what had happened. Darkness fell and the mortally wounded elk slipped into the woods to lay down. I thought it best to let the elk lay undisturbed and retrieve it in the morning.

Gary was already at the car and I recounted my ecstasy elk adventure to him. The hunt was so easy and I told Gary we needed to make it sound more exciting to tell folks back home. Little did I know what was to happen later in

the week. Gary also had a close encounter with a couple cows and a 4x4 bull he could have shot. He said that if he had known I had taken a cow he would have shot the bull and we could have come home early.

The next morning at 4:00 a.m. we were off to the wilderness. Gary decided to look at a different area as we had plenty of time left on our hunt. As the morning sky turned from dark blue to a dull red a silhouette formed on the horizon. The profile of the heaviest horned 6x6 Gary had ever seen was painted black against the sky only 150 yards away. As light trickled into the meadow, elk started to appear, a handful of cows and calves, a satellite bull and the monster 6x6. Knowing the elk would not hit the woods for about an hour and a half, Gary maneuvered into position. He dropped down the slope 100 feet and circled 400 yards around in front of the elk then back up to the edge of tree line. The elk were now heading in his direction and would cross within 75 yards of his position. Soft and continuous calls coaxed a satellite bull into perfect shooting position. The 4x4 bull, interested in finding the hot cow, stopped broadside 25 yards from Gary behind a two-inch sapling with a couple limbs. With confidence Gary drew his bow, relaxed and released the deadly arrow. The bull was off in a trot toward the other elk as they moved into the timber. With his heart pounding he went to search for the arrow and a blood trail. He found the arrow in short order, dripping with sap, as he had dead centered the trophy pine.

After each morning's hunt, which usually ended by 10:00 a.m., we would drive to new areas and glass for potential hunting sites. By noon we would hurry back to our accommodations to eat, watch TV, sleep and practice shooting. During midday we had some time to drive to town, wash clothes, shop and sightsee. By 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. it would be time to leave for the evening's hunt, depending on how long a hike we had to the hunting area.

The next week had its highs and lows. We would see elk every day but luck was on their side. In the morning they would be in the timber before we could get into position. Each evening shooting light would fade before we could get close enough for a shot. The

Elk *(continued from page 6)*

ombination of hunting pressure and high temperature made the elk scatter throughout the hunting area in smaller groups. This made it harder and harder to predict where to go each morning and evening. We were seeing elk every day and getting close so our hopes were high well into the second week. With continued persistence and some luck the odds would turn in Gary's favor.

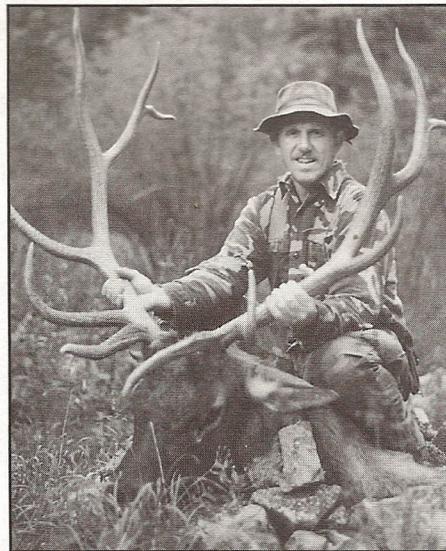
Sunday, the tenth day of our hunt, Gary decided to go to the top of Buck Mountain and sit and glass for elk. The three-mile walk to the top of the 10,500 mountain was interrupted as elk started appearing from the shadows of the pines. Slowly he tried to back off and slip around them. They seemed to be all around. An elk barked, a few trotted off, others continued feeding. Stuck in the open with swirling winds and dawn approaching Gary decided to take a straight line to the top of the mountain and hope for the best. After reaching the top, Gary looked back to see elk scattered throughout the area he had just walked. It was 6:15 a.m. The wind was in his face and elk were calmly feeding within 200 yards down the mountain side.

Gary cow-called every few minutes trying to entice some elk to feed his way. As time passed they had come no closer than 100 yards. At 7:30 a.m., the elk were starting their familiar routine of gathering together to start their trek, single file toward the timber and their bedding areas. Gary continued cow calling and at 8:00 a.m. antlers appeared over the crest of the hill. He knew it was a good bull but could not tell if it was the herd bull or not. When the elk's chest was in full view at 55 yards Gary drew his bow and held steady. With the release of the arrow the bull turned and trotted back toward the other elk and disappeared into the timber.

After waiting 30 minutes Gary searched for his arrow and blood in the tall grass of the meadow. Not finding the arrow or blood Gary started a criss-cross pattern from where the bull stood when he shot to the point the bull entered the woods. After 100 yards, a few drops of blood were found. Moving slowly along the trail more drops of blood were found along with hoof prints in the soft ground. After two hours and 500 yards Gary jumped the bull and he disappeared on down the mountain. There was a pool of blood where the bull laid down so Gary backed off and decided to

wait until that evening to continue tracking the bull.

At 1:30 PM that afternoon and a three-mile walk back up the mountain, 500 yards down the other side to the bulls bed, tracking resumed. At 7:00 p.m. Gary decided to quit for the evening and return to the car before it got dark. He had trailed the bull for two and a-half-hours and another half mile down the back side of the mountain. The bull was going downhill headed for the steepest, most inaccessible area on the mountain. Its hoof prints suggested the large bull was staggering. Drops of blood could be found every 10 to 30 yards. Gary concluded that he had a good chance of finding the bull in the morning.



Gary Wright in the White Mountain wilderness area of New Mexico with his 6 x 6 bull elk that, dried, scored 285 Pope & Young points.

Examining topo maps that evening, we found that the bull had headed deep into the wilderness area. The mountain's slope in that area was 70 degrees and contained many rock slides. If the bull continued downhill, it would be impossible for Gary to return the way he went. He would have to hike to the bottom of the mountain, find a trail and walk the five miles out to the trail head. I would pick him up at the trail head at noon. As it started to rain late that evening, we went to bed with high hopes of finding the bull.

By first light the next morning the skies had cleared and Gary had hiked the three miles to the top of the mountain. Thanks to orange trail markers it only took an hour to hike down the

back side of the mountain to where the bull was last trailed the evening before. There was no blood to be found because of the rain. It was slow tracking on the steep incline. A couple places Gary had to guess which way the elk went. After a couple hundred yards the silence exploded as branches cracked, rocks went sliding down the mountain and the bull stumbled and thrashed just 50 yards ahead. Within seconds everything went silent. Frustration, excitement and exhaustion consumed Gary. If left alone the elk would bed in a short distance so it was time to back off again.

At 2:00 p.m. Gary made it to the trail head. There was not enough time to go out that evening so we decided to rest and start fresh the next morning. Local hunters told us there were a lot of good bulls in the area since they are rarely hunted. It is too physically demanding to hunt on foot and impossible to hunt with horses. Gary was thankful that he was in training to run a marathon that October. He would have never made it the past two days without being in excellent condition.

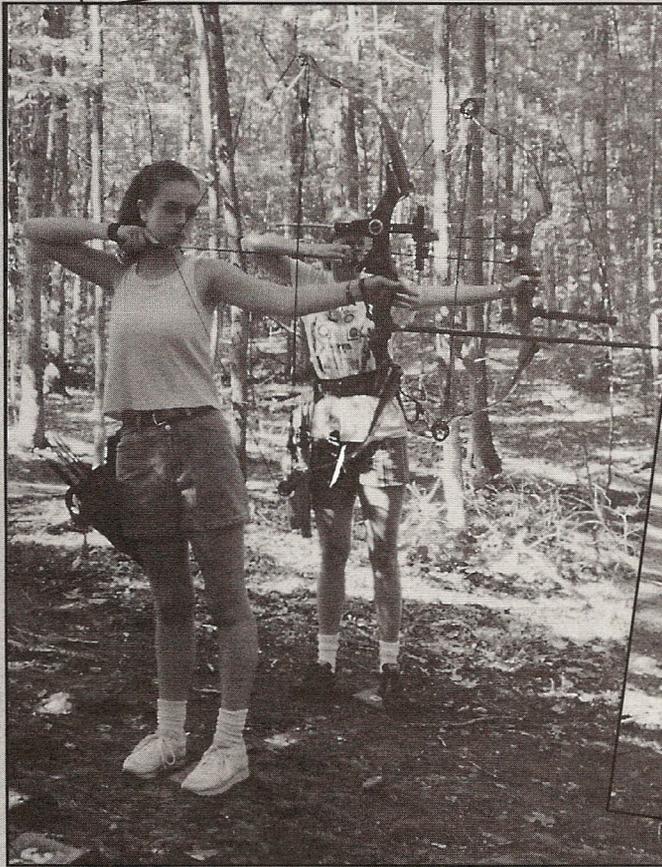
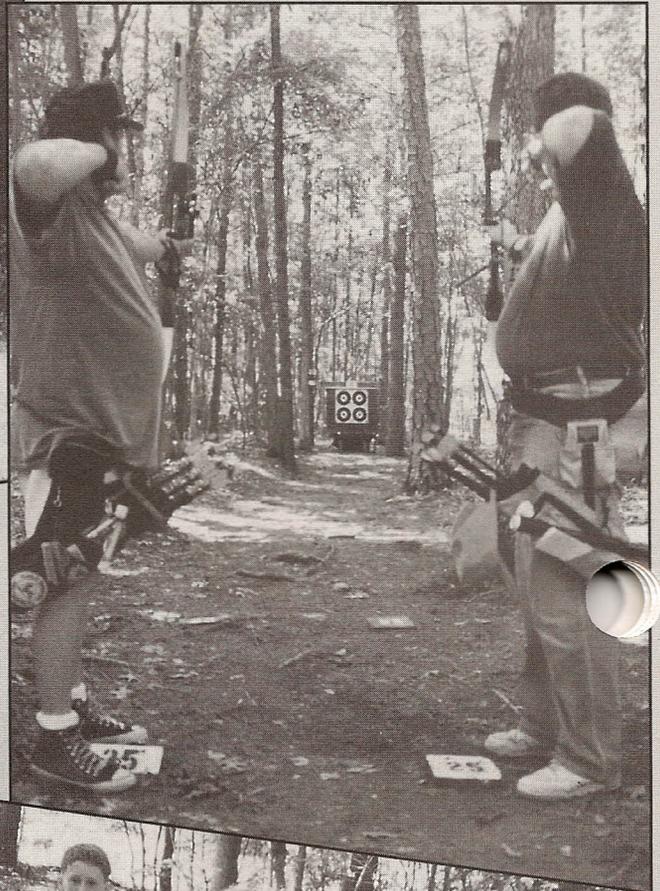
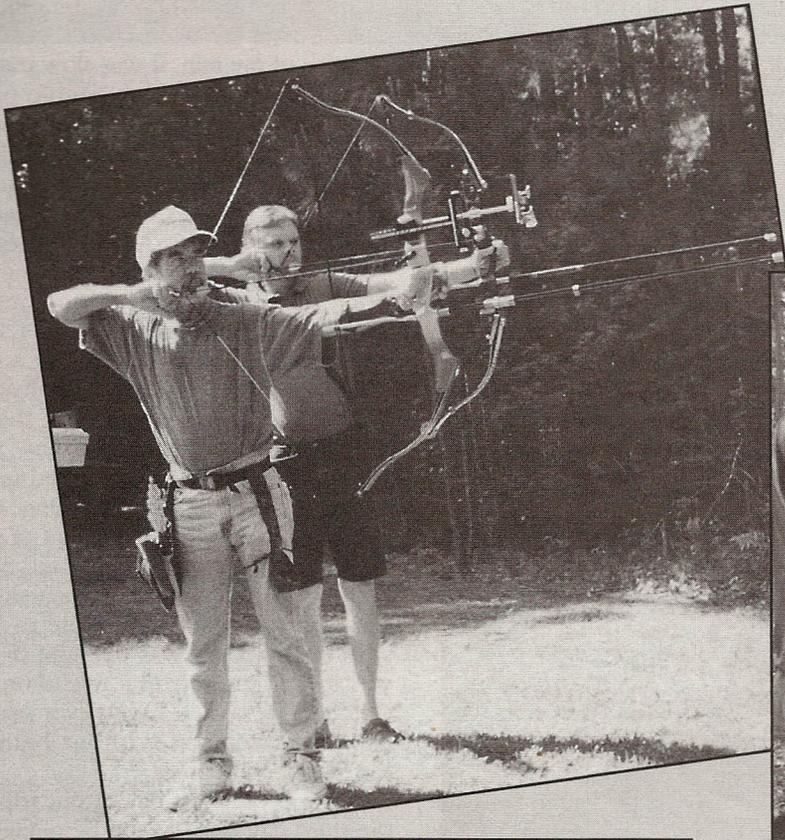
This was the last day of our trip and the third day Gary would be going into the wilderness after the bull. The plan was the same as the day before, except I would meet him at 4:30 p.m. at the trail head. That would give him as much time as possible to find the elk.

At 4:00 p.m. I was at the trail head. A half hour later, no Gary. An hour later, no Gary. An hour and a half later I saw someone dressed in sweat pants and tee shirt running down the trail. At first I didn't know who it was. Without his bow, backpack, pants, shirt and hat Gary ran up to me. His forehead and nose were bleeding and he was sweating heavily. Stunned, I could only ask, "Did you find the elk.". Breathlessly, he nodded.

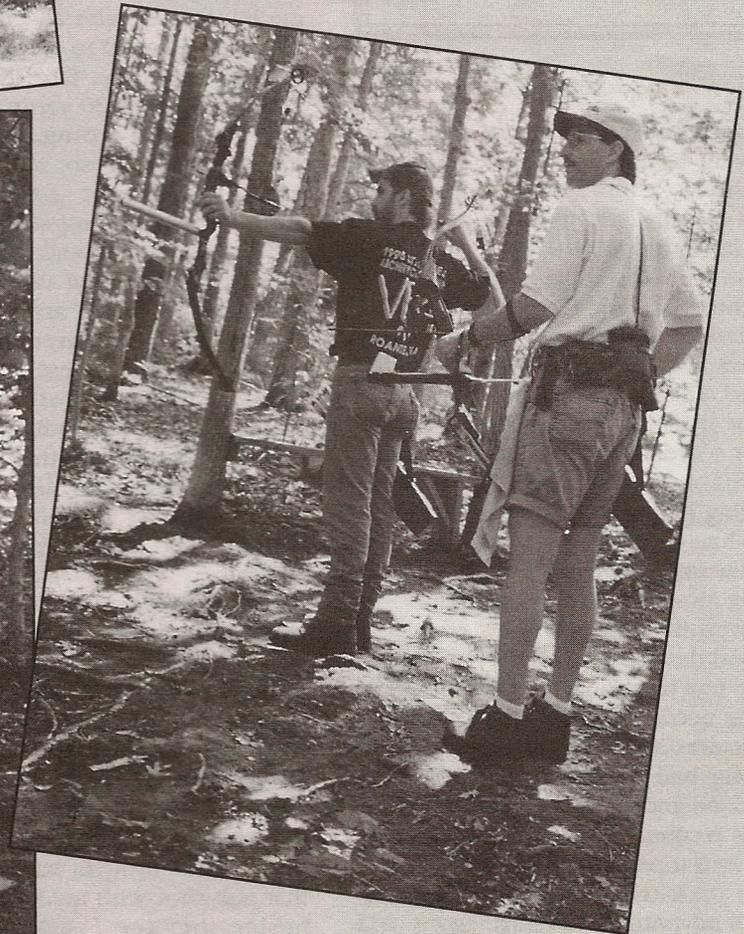
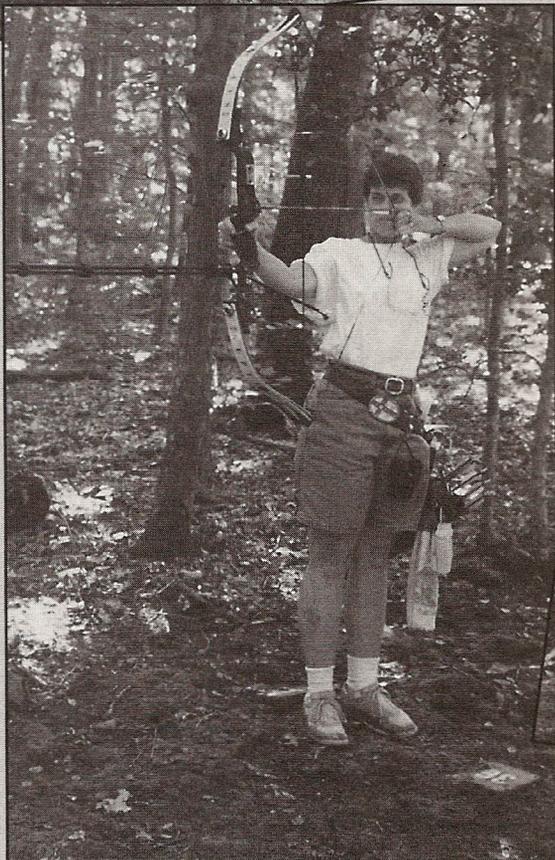
It took about five minutes before Gary could utter a full sentence. He said he hadn't stopped since he left that morning. Reaching the top of the mountain at dawn he started down the back side. Somehow, he ended up in an unfamiliar area and had to hike to the bottom of the mountain to get his bearings. After getting reoriented, he started back up the mountain. To make matters worse a quarter mile long rock slide was in his path that had to be transversed. It was noon by the time he reached the spot where he had last trailed the bull. With the day half gone and exhaustion

Continued on page 10

Virginia Bowmen Scenes from the



Archers Association 1996 State Open





Dear Fellow Archers,

It is with regret that we inform everyone that our pin shoot at Blackwater Bowhunters, scheduled for Sunday, June 23, has been cancelled.

This cancellation is due to a conflict with the A. S. A shoot being held in our area on June 22 & 23, 1996.

— Blackwater Bowhunters

Elk *(continued from page 9)*

setting in, he was not very optimistic. He went to the last spot he heard the bull the day before and found a bed with dried blood. Continuing on an old elk trail he found another bed within 50 yards. With the thought of giving up weighing heavily, Gary continued on one last time. Within minutes he saw antlers and froze. This time nothing moved. The bull was down for good.

The bull was a perfect 6x6 that later green scored 295 P&Y points. He had expired and rolled down the mountain wedging its antlers between some trees. Gary had to cut down a small tree to free the antlers and field dress the bull. Sliding most of the way down the mountain with the antlers and his gear, Gary reached the trail by 4:00 PM. He ran out to the trail head since it was getting late and he needed help to get the bull out. We decided to rent a couple horses and pack the bull out. By midnight the work was done and we were relaxing in our rooms recounting the day. It took three days, four trips into the wilderness and a horse pack train to recover the bull. Gary's adventure was pure agony and ecstasy and determination led him to the bull of a lifetime.

— Don Alan Quackenbush

I Gave Up Golf For This?

It all started when I had a little extra time on my hands, seeing as how I didn't play golf anymore. An impulse purchase (prompted by a friend who doesn't even own a bow) of a Browning Bow at a gun show and I was well on my way into the wonderful world of archery. This is great! I can shoot it in my own back yard any time I want and no expensive green fees. No more buying golf balls by the dozen, no more more expensive clubs that really didn't improve my swing — just me and my bow. Now, not wanting to be just your average bow hunter, I decided to do it right, so a quick trip to the local bow shop to purchase a half dozen arrows (the same cost as a dozen golf balls, but I'm sure that's just a coincidence. Besides, I'll be saving a lot of money stocking my freezer with all that deer meat!) and I'm off to practice for my very first time. Effective kill range should be 20 yards for a beginner, according to the local experts, so at my nephew's target bale, I stepped off 20 long strides and took what I thought was careful aim. Yep, that should do it right there! My first ever arrow traveled at the speed of light over the hay bales and landed somewhere in a neighboring field that was loaded with Black Angus cattle. (This reminded me of my first drive off the tee that ended up in the parking lot.) I didn't hear any moos, and after 20 minutes of searching the grass and checking cows for protruding arrows, I made the proper adjustment for my second shot. This could happen to anyone, I thought, so just take your time and drop this one in there. A little too much adjustment landed my second shot into a telephone pole that was laying across the ground in front of the target. Man, that thing really stuck in there, not to mention the fact that it was bent beyond repair. (This brought back memories — that golf shot with my ball laying right beside the tree . . . My seven iron developed a bend very similar to the arrow's!) After closing in my range, I finally got to where I could hit the hay

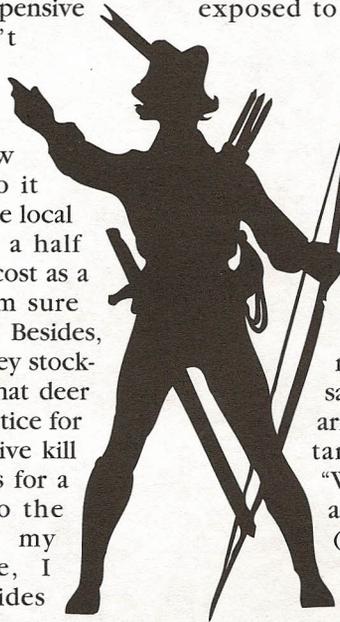
bales 90% of the time and the target about 30% of the time. (The same percentage of hitting greens on the course!)

Two years have passed and I am amazed at how well I have adapted to archery (an estimated \$957.78 later). My side yard will be discovered some day in the future and will surely have a monument erected marking one of the fiercest Indian battles ever. I have been exposed to Bow Buddies who have introduced me to Target Panic-Mind Games which I never even knew were possible (at least I didn't experience them on the golf course!) My all-time favorite was introduced at a 3-D shoot. As I was taking careful aim at a deer standing at 20 yards, my arrow followed the same path as that of my first arrow ever, and cleared the target by a good two feet. "What the heck was that?" I asked. My new Bow Buddy (who I would love to take golfing sometime) replied, "That was a brain fart!" Great! Now I have to worry about gas on the brain.

This sport should really be simple. All you have to do is keep your head still and follow through. Now where have I heard that before? I must admit that archery has proven to be a very challenging sport that has connected me with an interesting group of new "friends." I have been put in touch with a number of personal flaws which are liable to surface any time I draw the string. The great thing is that my humiliation needn't be limited to outdoor situations. I can even embarrass myself indoors in front of a crowd during the winter league or at 3-D shoots!

But I plan on sticking with my bow for a while, or at least until something else creates enough interest for me to change. Whatever it is, I'm sure it will be something as challenging as archery, and that makes me wonder on a regular basis, "WHY THE HELL DO I KEEP DOING THIS TO MYSELF?"

— "N-aim-less in Rockingham"



Virginia Bowhunters Association State 3-D Shoot

	Style	First Round	Second Round	Total	Rank	Name	Style	First Round	Second Round	Total	Rank
FLIGHT 1						Bruce Biscoe	MAFSL	259	248	507	SC
Timmy Stark	CUB	inc.	inc.			FLIGHT 1					
Rusty Brown	CUB	124	inc.	124		David Newman	MAFSUL	260	inc.	260	
Patrick Vogel	CUB	105	058	163	2nd	Danny Henshaw	MAFSUL	268	inc.	268	
Chad Detwiler	CUB	235	249	484	SC	Tim Branham	MAFSUL	264	222	486	
FLIGHT 1						Robert Wheeler	MAFSUL	266	234	500	
Cindy Henshaw	FABHFSUL	162	inc.	162		Earl McCauley	MAFSUL	263	249	512	
Jennifer Fisher	FABHFSUL	202	inc.	202		Kim Nail	MAFSUL	272	247	519	
Wendy Reichley	FABHFSUL	164	158	322		Timothy Garner, Sr.	MAFSUL	262	258	520	
Barbara Wilfong	FABHFSUL	199	186	385	3rd	Wayne Thacker	MAFSUL	265	257	522	
Cay McManus	FABHFSUL	224	239	463	2nd	Ricky Kelley	MAFSUL	265	257	522	
Robin Vogel	FABHFSUL	235	231	466	SC	Jeff Moyers	MAFSUL	268	257	525	
FLIGHT 1						Dwayne Risner	MAFSUL	271	255	526	
Irene Stocksdale	FAFSL	150	195	345	SC	Jeff Myers	MAFSUL	263	265	528	
FLIGHT 1						Jeff Hale	MAFSUL	265	268	533	
Stacie Hoofnagle	FAFSUL	244	inc.	244		Kirk Brandts	MAFSUL	274	266	540	3rd
Angie Lee	FAFSUL	220	227	447		Bruce Richter	MAFSUL	274	272	546	2nd
Linda Medford	FAFSUL	226	226	452		Roy Strong	MAFSUL	274	274	548	SC
Anna Goultrey	FAFSUL	239	214	453		FLIGHT 2					
Shelly Hofmann	FAFSUL	222	237	459		Benny Rankins	MAFSUL	243	206	449	
Ann Tiedemann	FAFSUL	220	242	462		Scott Branson	MAFSUL	258	215	473	
Crystal Holmes	FAFSUL	245	240	485		Jimmy Dove	MAFSUL	243	236	479	
Ann English	FAFSUL	242	244	486		Jeffrey Goultrey	MAFSUL	244	240	484	
Kathy Risner	FAFSUL	228	261	489		Craig Carney	MAFSUL	253	233	486	
Carla Rudacille	FAFSUL	259	242	501		David Crouse	MAFSUL	248	243	491	
Barbara Seale	FAFSUL	251	252	503	3rd	Greg Lee	MAFSUL	251	241	492	
Darlene Davis	FAFSUL	249	262	511	2nd	Bryon Batton	MAFSUL	243	253	496	
Chenee Tillett	FAFSUL	272	268	540	SC	Richard Bell	MAFSUL	247	253	500	
FLIGHT 1						Ken Davis	MAFSUL	253	248	501	
Joe McManus	MABBBH	142	192	334	3rd	Frank Mika	MAFSUL	254	252	506	
Bill Keen	MABBBH	199	186	385	2nd	James Holsinger	MAFSUL	260	246	506	
Howard Faris	MABBBH	205	224	429	SC	Gordon Perry	MAFSUL	255	260	515	3rd
FLIGHT 1						Dave Pyle	MAFSUL	258	260	518	2nd
Dee Mogensen	MABHFSL	174	inc.	174		Dave Harrison	MAFSUL	257	268	525	1st
Lowery	MABHFSL	201	207	408		FLIGHT 3					
Campbell	MABHFSL	223	195	418		Blair Peterson	MAFSUL	200	inc.	200	
Mike Heaster	MABHFSL	216	215	431		Robert Crocker	MAFSUL	203	inc.	203	
Mark Jenkins	MABHFSL	226	223	459		John Davison	MAFSUL	211	inc.	211	
Roger Almond	MABHFSL	253	217	470		Burton Smeltzer	MAFSUL	220	211	431	
Greg Kesner	MABHFSL	241	230	471	3rd	Lyle Vines	MAFSUL	218	217	435	
Buddy Altizer	MABHFSL	250	231	481	2nd	Greg Florence	MAFSUL	218	225	443	
John Hull	MABHFSL	247	252	499	SC	Jack Gordon	MAFSUL	228	216	444	
FLIGHT 1						David Lambert	MAFSUL	224	227	451	
Ricky Stark	MABHFSUL	241	inc.	241		Robert Dobson	MAFSUL	226	227	453	
William Hinkle	MABHFSUL	241	231	472		Patrick Lambert	MAFSUL	228	231	458	
Michael Rudacille	MABHFSUL	246	226	472		Shawn Pinn	MAFSUL	231	230	461	
Samuel Gilley	MABHFSUL	243	232	475		Roger Pearson	MAFSUL	228	239	467	
Mike Jarrells	MABHFSUL	255	221	476		James Godfrey	MAFSUL	218	256	474	
Quinter Cook	MABHFSUL	245	235	480		Joe Nixon	MAFSUL	237	242	479	3rd
Billy Burkholder	MABHFSUL	252	235	487		Stuart Nail	MAFSUL	240	243	483	2nd
Edward Spencer	MABHFSUL	249	245	494		William Hubbard	MAFSUL	238	258	496	1st
Thomas Lewis	MABHFSUL	251	247	498		FLIGHT 4					
Dave Wendt	MABHFSUL	252	253	505		John Tiedemann	MAFSUL	187	inc.	187	
Jimmy Halstead	MABHFSUL	253	256	509		Harold Snow	MAFSUL	169	175	344	1st
Craig Nail	MABHFSUL	264	248	512	3rd	FLIGHT 1					
Frank Farley	MABHFSUL	264	255	519	2nd	Robert Altizer, Jr.	MATRAD	146	152	298	
Larry Shrout	MABHFSUL	264	260	524	SC	Byron Altizer	MATRAD	183	132	315	
FLIGHT 2						Greg Hise	MATRAD	222	209	431	
Robert Mason	MABHFSUL	115	inc.	115		Doyle Ritchie	MATRAD	225	233	458	3rd
Todd Fisher	MABHFSUL	186	inc.	186		Purcel Jenkins	MATRAD	238	224	462	2nd
Todd Bound	MABHFSUL	196	inc.	196		Paul Vogel	MATRAD	247	231	478	SC
Marvin Sandoval	MABHFSUL	156	127	283		FLIGHT 1					
Larry Cook	MABHFSUL	208	202	410		Michael Tusing	YA	220	190	410	3rd
Jesse Bowers	MABHFSUL	224	191	415		Denver Nail	YA	255	254	509	2nd
Sam Reed	MABHFSUL	213	202	415		Daniel Smith	YA	258	257	515	SC
Brian Azais	MABHFSUL	210	222	432		FLIGHT 1					
Junior Jett	MABHFSUL	233	206	439		Nathan Keller	YABHFSL	224	189	413	SC
Robert Bush	MABHFSUL	237	223	460		FLIGHT 1					
Bill Damewood	MABHFSUL	230	231	461		Billy Snyder	YOUTH	66	138	204	
Bob Showers	MABHFSUL	237	228	465		Justin Campbell	YOUTH	224	161	385	
Janie Dove	MABHFSUL	219	246	465		Douglas Smith	YOUTH	248	215	463	
Sh Knight	MABHFSUL	228	241	469	3rd	Kenny Hale	YOUTH	255	240	495	
Les Hall	MABHFSUL	239	236	475	2nd	Stephen Stark	YOUTH	248	250	498	
Rick McCreary	MABHFSUL	231	256	487	1st	Kristina Marcum	YOUTH	261	243	504	
FLIGHT 1						Joey Minter	YOUTH	262	253	515	
Bill Hinkle	MAFSL	204	210	414		Steven Hale	YOUTH	266	265	531	3rd
Ron Snyder	MAFSL	225	215	440	3rd	Jason Banserman	YOUTH	263	274	537	2nd
Tim Buchanan	MAFSL	243	221	464	2nd	Randy Kelly	YOUTH	274	274	548	SC

The New River Bowhunters Invite You to the 4th Annual...
JULY 27TH & 28TH

Childrens Miracle Network Archery 3D Tournament



Fees

Adults	\$10 Per Day
Youth 13-17	\$7 Per Day
Cubs 7-12	\$5 Per Day
Under 7	Free
Family Maximum	\$25 Per Day
Money Division	\$25 Per Day
	50% payback each day

Binoculars are Legal

Sign ups Casual
 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

General Info

Limited Camping Available on the New River.
 Showers, Indoor Restrooms, and Food Available at the Clubhouse.

Shoots

Novelty Shoots
 Long Distance Shoots
 Coon Shoot Saturday Night
 \$3.50 with 100% Pay Back

Over \$2,500 in Door Prizes
 4 Bows will be given away!

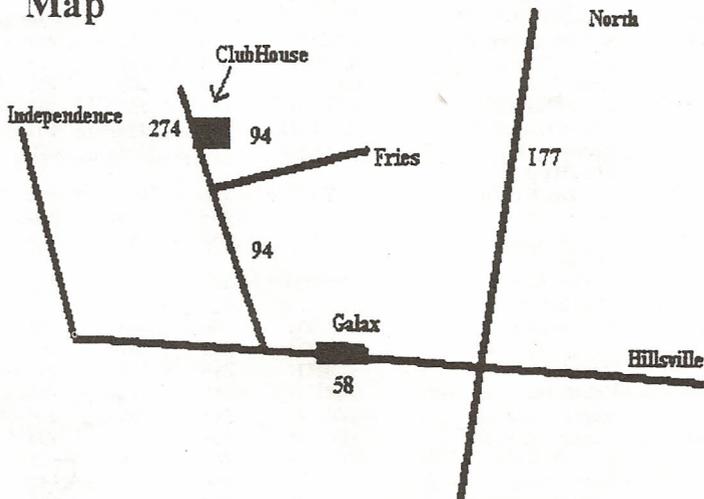
Bows donated by:

- Bear
- McPherson
- Golden Eagle
- Mountaineer

Spaces available for Dealers

Call Early
 540-236-3639
 540-236-8379
 540-728-5966

Map



How to Get Started in Traditional Archery

One of the fastest growing hunting sports is traditional or "stick" bowhunting. Some people who aren't bowhunters may express reluctance about taking up this pastime. But to many, this is a fun and uncomplicated way to pursue game. What's more, with a little bit of effort one can go afield with a weapon Native Americans used to successfully kill game for centuries.

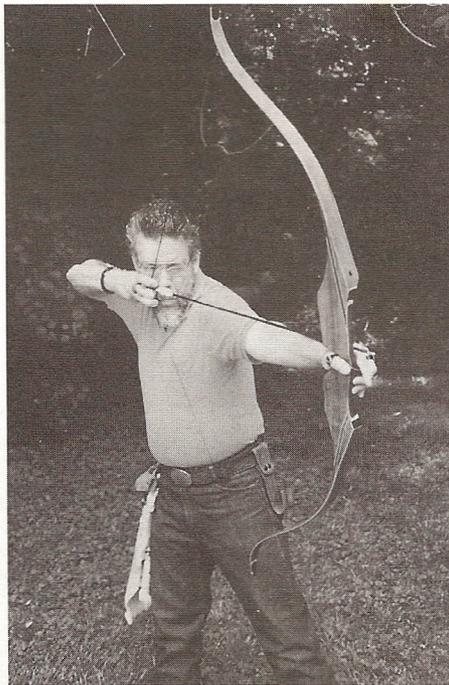
Bowhunters seem to share a kindred spirit with those who preceded them. Not only archery greats from the recent past, but also those throughout history. The bow was one of the most important tools ever invented. It changed mankind's destiny as he used it for better hunting and protection. Consequently, no sport is as deeply rooted in human history as is archery.

Traditional archery clubs have sprung up all over the United States and Canada in the past few years as traditional bowhunting has made a strong comeback after more than twenty years of domination by the compound bow. Much so that many compound bow manufacturers now offer a line of traditional bows, and many small-shop bowyers are turning out excellent custom-made traditional bows to match the demand. Some of the demand is coming from converts from compound bow users who see traditional archery as a new challenge, especially with the advent of 3-D target shooting. Others have friends who shoot a stick bow, and sooner or later their curiosity gets the best of them.

My own addiction to traditional archery started more than eleven years ago. I grew frustrated with the many gadgets and constant adjustments required to maintain my compound bow. Never having been a mechanical person, I ordered a recurve from a local bow-hunting supply house. I found myself in archery heaven three days later, upon its arrival. Although only the best of my arrows came close to the target I had set up on four hay bales, I had more fun that day than in all my previous years with a compound bow. The more I shot, the more I realized that this would be a great way to hunt. No distance calculations were necessary, as they had been with my compound bow, and a shot could be made at an odd angle or in low-light situations with

the stick bow using instinctive ability. This new-found freedom made shooting so simple (and fun) that I, like most traditional archers, seem to have acquired an addiction to practice year round. That's important because the most significant factors in traditional archery is practicing proper form.

Many shooters with accuracy problems are deficient in form. Having bought a book or video to learn the basics, they only glean what they deem



Tom Frye demonstrates proper form.

necessary and nothing more. Also many videos that I have viewed actually advocate bad form by informing the shooter to release upon the hand touching anchor (snap shooting). This type of shooting can be fairly accurate out to fifteen yards, but for the person who wants to achieve accuracy for longer shots, such as those in 3-D tournaments, holding at anchor is a must.

Another mistake that greatly affects form happens when an archer draws the bow using the drawing hand and forearm. The hand must only be used as a hook; the pulling is done with the shoulder muscles. This causes the archer to feel as though he is pulling with his elbow. When this is done correctly, the arrow is brought back in a straight line rather than the erratic line

attained when the string is pulled with the hand.

Follow-through is equally as important. Many archers drop their bow arms after release to watch the arrow's flight. That causes the arrow to follow the bow arm. The bow arm must never move until the arrow strikes the desired target.

For more than fifty years, Tom Frye, a former world champion in the Archery Shooters Association (ASA) traditional division, has been shooting longbows and recurves with amazing accuracy. His love of traditional archery exceeds that of most archers. His advice? Form! "Watch a champion compound archer. Most techniques used by them apply to recurve and longbow shooters also. Draw, anchor, aim and release, when executed properly, will always result in excellent form. Perfect your form, and accuracy will follow," says Frye.

Unfortunately, rather than the truly important issues such as form and technique, some archers put too much emphasis on the bow. A shooting acquaintance of mine has shot a recurve for fifteen years and has never mastered form. His bow arm is never still, nor does he ever come to full draw. Needless to say, he is extremely frustrated. Instead of honing in on form, he is forever buying the latest bow on the market that promises better accuracy. Not even the sweetest shooting bow made will make up for lack of form.

As in any sport, proper form must be achieved before traditional archery becomes a rewarding and enjoyable experience. It takes a lot of commitment and quality practice to become proficient with a longbow or recurve. The key word here is quality. Flinging arrows one after another into a target just won't do. I recommend taking only one arrow for practice sessions, instead of a quiver full because it allows you to think about what you're doing right and wrong as you walk to the target and retrieve your arrow. This also allows time for muscles to relax before the next shot, eliminating fatigue.

You have to study and practice the mechanics of proper shooting form, otherwise you set yourself up for future frustration and disappointment. An

Continued on page 14

Traditional Archery

(continued from page 13)

excellent instructive book on this is *Become the Arrow*, by Byron Ferguson. It's great reading for both beginners and the seasoned stick bow shooter.

On choosing the right bow, custom bowyer Larry Shoemaker of Desperado Longbows (804-985-7930) advises potential clients, "If you haven't shot a recurve or longbow before, first decide if it's for hunting or for pleasure. This will influence the length and poundage of the bow you choose. The next step would be to shoot as many different bows as you can, borrowing from friends or from the local archery shop, at 3-D shoots to determine what's right for you."

The beginning archer may want to purchase an older used bow of good quality or an inexpensive new bow with a weight that can be pulled back without undue strain and held at anchor for at least a couple of seconds before

release. Don't over-bow yourself. If you've been shooting a compound, drop down in weight at least 10-15 pounds, because shooting a bow that's too heavy can open up a Pandora's box of bad habits, which are easily acquired but hard to break. After purchasing a bow, the next most important item (possibly more critical than the bow) are the arrows. An important point to remember here is that if they're not spined correctly for the bow, they will fly erratically, which greatly reduces their accuracy and penetration power. It's better to hit what you are aiming at with a lower-poundage bow and matched arrows than to be a macho man with too heavy a bow and end up spraying your arrows all over the target area.

One of the best ways to practice, besides 3-D tournaments, is simply walking through the woods picking out rotten stumps, clumps of dirt or knots on trees to shoot at; you're only limited by your imagination. All that's required for an afternoon of fun is a quiver full of flu

arrows tipped with rubber blunts or my favorite, Zwickey Judo points. The amazing point is nearly indestructible and if the arrow misses its intended mark it's easily retrieved.

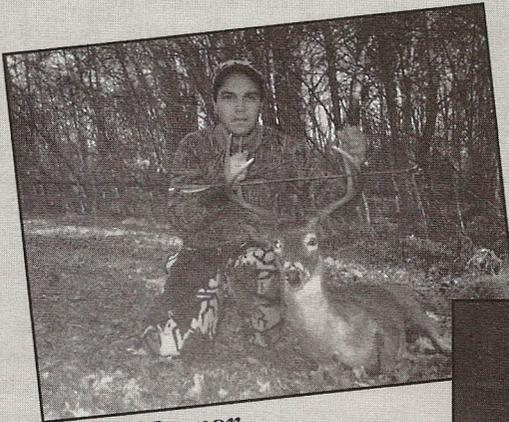
I practice like this frequently and often take my eight-year-old son and his twenty pound longbow along. He, too, loves the sport and the amount and quality of time we spend practicing together.

During my first traditional archery hunting season, I harvested two whitetails and haven't hunted with anything other than a stick bow since. Over the years, my longbows and recurves have helped me take caribou, javelina, mountain lion, antelope, black bear and over twenty-five whitetails.

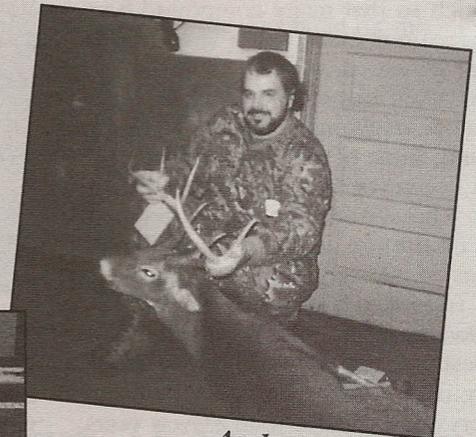
Traditional archery isn't for everyone. However, for those that choose a weapon still unchanged for thousands of years and willing to practice to accomplish the perfect form, the reward is unparalleled.

— Greg Hise

Echoes of the Season



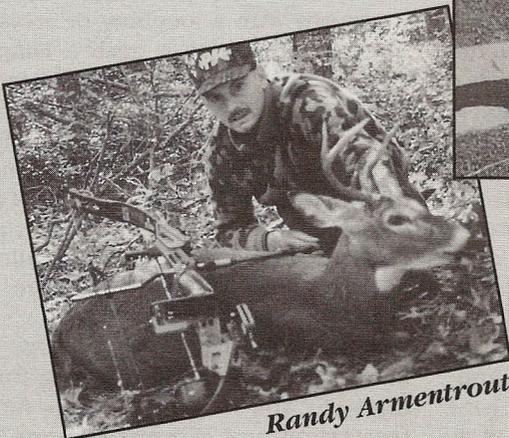
Mike O'Connor



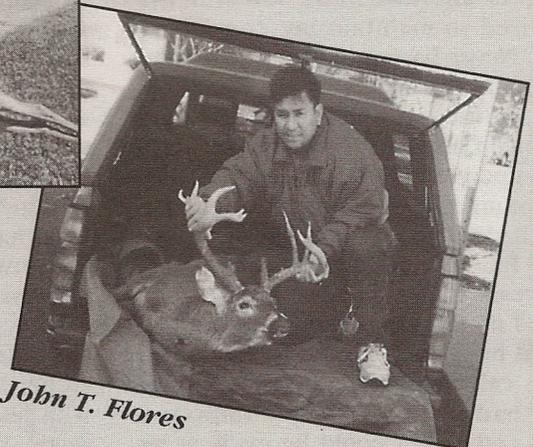
Andrew Denson



Greg Liskey



Randy Armentrout



John T. Flores



SHERWOOD ARCHERS

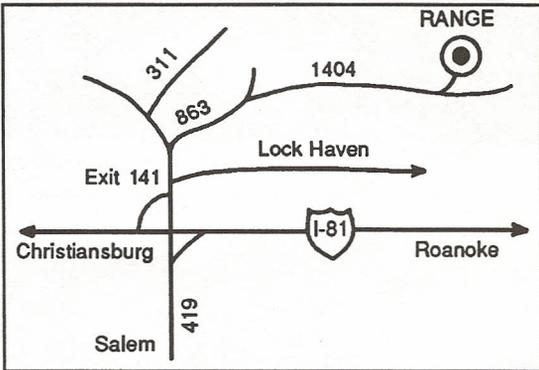
Host

1996 VIRGINIA STATE CLOSED

AUG. 31 - SEPT. 1

REGISTRATION FEES:

\$15.00 Single \$30.00 Family (3 or more)



REGISTRATION

TIMES:

Friday
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday
7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

START TIMES:

Saturday 9 a.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.

**NOVELTY SHOOT AND LIGHT DINNER
SATURDAY EVENING**

PLACES TO STAY:

- Primitive Camping Available at Sherwood.
 - Quality Inn Roanoke, Salem, (1-800-459-4949)
 - Holiday Inn EXPRESS, E. Main St., Salem, (1-800-HOLIDAY)
- Mention NFAA at Sherwood for corporate rates at both places.

SEND PRE-REGISTRATION TO:

David Keith
7281 Breckinridge Mill Road, Fincastle, VA 24090

Pre-Registration Form (Print Clearly)
One Person Per Form; For Family, Fill Out One Form Per Person
And Mail Together.

Name: _____
(As listed on V.B.A. Card)

V.B.A.#: _____ Average _____

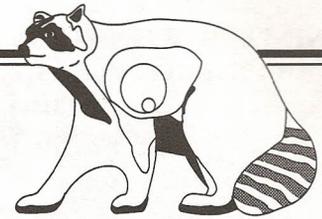
Circle Those That Apply:

SEX: M F **CLASS:** AA A B C Open Guest

STYLE: FS FSL BHFS BHFSL BH BB TRAD

DIVISION: PRO ADULT YOUNGADULT YOUTH
CUB SENIOR

You must have at least 2 scores within the last 12 months to be classified.
(prior to State Open). If you don't have 2 scores you must declare AA or
Open Class! To determine your average use your best 3 scores of last 7
and divide by 3, or the best 2 of last 5 or 6, or best score of last 2, 3, or
4 scores.



*The Bowhunters of
Rockingham will be
shooting*

*a combination
3-D/Field Round
along with the
regular scheduled
3-D Shoot on July 14.*

*The combination shoot
will consist of*

*7 Field Targets and
7 3-D Animals.*

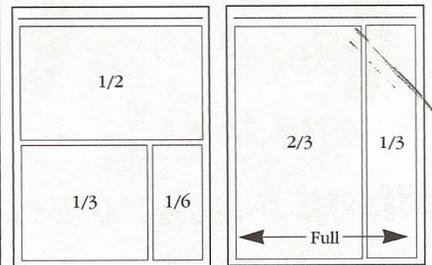
*Shooters may shoot
either round or both
if they choose to
register for them.*



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.)*



VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Ann R. Boyd, Corresponding Secretary
154 Wilkins Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 21
Bridgewater, VA
22812



***Support
your
local clubs
and the VBA -
attend a tournament
this weekend!***