

FLIGHT

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



FLIGHT NO. 4

JULY-AUGUST 1984

VOLUME 25

From The President

I want to take this opportunity to discuss three significant items of business which were put on the floor as motions during the June VBA meeting. Two of these deal with organizational changes which will significantly enhance our ability to serve the VBA's constitutional objectives, and thereby all of us as members. The third item is an appropriation item to permit the production tasks of the 1985 Bowhunter Rendezvous to begin by October of this year.

The purpose of the organizational changes is to put both a Field Archery Committee and a Bowhunting Committee on a permanent basis as "Standing Committees" with the VBA. The benefits of these two committees are considerable. First, they will provide the two VBA officers that have these missions (Field VP and Hunting VP) with a committee of VBA member advisors from each zone of the state. Of course, the officers are member ex-officio. Also, each club and individual member has an on-going direct contact to use as a sounding board for possible new by-laws or new programs (archery education, etc). Another major benefit is the existence of a permanent group to which to assign complex agenda items that required further study and wording before a vote of the Board of Directors is taken.

With the approval in September of the formulation of these two standing committees, the VBA will be in the best possible position to insure that the two purposes stated in our constitution are actively reviewed on a continuing basis. I hope that as you discuss these agenda items in your upcoming meetings that you will also conclude that these are very positive moves to strengthen VBA capabilities and to enable genuine and positive actions.

You have already seen evidence of the viability of the concept embodied in these two proposed committees in the work being done by the committee the classification system, chaired by Ann Boyd; and in the activities of the bowhunting committee, chaired by Owen Shifflett. Please give these two proposals your considered attention.

The third agenda item is a motion to

38th Annual

V.B.A. State Closed Tournament

Buggs Island Archers Host — September 1 & 2

The Buggs Island Fish and Wildlife Club will again be the site of the VBA State Closed Tournament on September 1 and 2.

The registration fee for the two days of shooting will be \$10.00 per shooter with a maximum \$20.00 fee per family.

The Buggs Island Archers have prepared a schedule of fun and food to accompany their 2 challenging archery ranges.

Breakfast and lunch will be available at the range both days. The schedule of events will be:

Friday, August 31

6-10 pm

Registration

Saturday, September 1

7-10 am

Registration

10:30 am

Opening Ceremony

11:30 am

Start of Tournament

7 pm

B-B-Q Chicken Supper

\$3.00 per plate

\$1.50 Children 6 and under

Live Entertainment provided by "Dixie"

8 pm

Sunday, September 2

8 am

Re-grouping

9 am

Start of Tournament

ASAP at Conclusion of Shoot

Awards Presentation

With the lake so close by and the water still so warm, bring the boat and the whole family for boating, fishing and swimming. There will be plenty of space for free camping at the club. There are also many other campgrounds in the vicinity.

For motel accommodations contact:

Clarksville

The Lake Motel

(804) 374-8106

The Lighthouse Motel

(804) 374-2123

Slagle's Motor Court

(804) 374-8820

South Boston

Crestview Motel

(804) 572-3022

Von's Motel

(804) 572-4941

Hudson's Motel

(804) 572-2959

Make your reservations soon for this holiday weekend.

Buggs Island Archers

Host Club

Betty M. Trent

Tournament Chairman

appropriate \$2500 for the Bowhunter Rendezvous, tentatively set for August 1985. At the June meeting the Directors approved that the VBA conduct such an event. As a result of that approval, I named Tom Kidwell as the Rendezvous Director. As in the movies, behind every director, there must be a producer who

foots the bills. . . that's us. Also, like in the movies, the producer must be willing to commit to production costs up front so that actors can be signed, etc. Thus, a risk is assumed. In our case, the risk of loss appears to be minimal. First, the VBA treasury can afford the appropriate

(Continued on page 6)

Highlights of the June VBA Meeting

1. VBA Field Governor, Bill Taylor has resigned.
2. Clinton Western has been appointed Parliamentarian for VBA meetings.
3. Hunting VP, Dave Proctor, will approach the Virginia Game Commission for a separate archery license or stamp with a separate bag limit of 2 deer license.
4. Bids for 1985 State Tournaments:
 - Closed—Augusta
 - Buggs Island
 - Open—Augusta—as second choice to the closed
 - Sherwood
 - Warwick
 - Indoor—Kingsboro
 - Triangle
 - Bowhunter Jamboree East—Princess Anne
 - West—Triangle
 - Sherwood—as second choice to the open
 - North—Two Rivers
5. Dates for 1985 State Tournaments:
 - Closed—August 31 and September 1
 - Open—May 18 and 19
 - Indoor—March 9 and 10
 - BH Jamboree—September 14 and 15
6. The Directors voted to use the Conservation Fund strictly for Conservation only.
7. Beginning in 1985 all VBA members will be issued a VBA membership card in addition to the NFAA handicap card.
8. The Directors voted to enforce range condition according to contract specifications for all state tournaments.
9. The Directors approved the purchase of 6 dozen screen printed hats with the VBA emblem.

Agenda Items for the September Meeting

1. Conservation VP, Jim Overfelt, moved that the VBA take a position on the Eastern Wilderness Act bill before Congress.
2. Sherwood moved to allocate \$2500 to the Bowhunting Committee to hold a "Bowhunting Rendezvous" event in 1985.
3. Field Vice President, Richard Dunn, moved that the VBH establish a Field Archery Committee.
4. Richmond Archers moved that the second year option for State Championships be discontinued except in the case of new range construction by a first time host.
5. Kingsboro Bowmen moved that the VBA change the Constitution regarding equal representation according to club membership. The number of votes would be one for each 25 members with no club having more than 10 votes.

A Jamboree Like Other States?

by Steve Capps

As a concerned VBA member I would like to express my opinion concerning an agenda item which will be facing the VBA Delegates at the September meeting.

There has been a lot of talk lately about the VBA "doing more for the bowhunters." One of the most frequently heard suggestions is, "Let's have a bowhunter jamboree like other states." Let me say that I think this is great, but, I wonder what constitutes a "jamboree like other states." Why do other states draw a thousand shooters to their jamborees?

Some may say the large turnouts are due to the type of target being shot; however, if this is true then why don't Virginia clubs have turnouts in mass at annual trophy shoots, as at least a third of them are shot on animal targets? Others contend that it is the non-competitive nature of the shoot and at the same time brag about the size of the trophy they carried home. Oh and then somebody says something about door prizes. Have you ever been to a trophy shoot that didn't award door prizes? I've heard about manufacturer's reps, fastest bow contests, IBEP clinics, and the list goes on and on.

While it is true that each of these is a drawing card, the most important ingredients to a successful jamboree are detailed advance planning and effective advertising. Any organization which feels it can hand somebody a check and say give me "a jamboree like other states" will soon find themselves in a financial nightmare. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for a bowhunter jamboree, and because I am strongly in favor of the idea I have spent a great deal of time in search of a viable alternative.

The alternative I found is a little known NFAA program called the Regional Bowhunter Jamboree. The NFAA jamboree is now in its third year and is steadily gaining popularity due to the fact that it is open to all bowhunters not just NFAA members. The Manahoac Bowmen have made a bid to hold this jamboree in 1985. With the support of all the VBA membership this jamboree should be a huge success and will provide a firm platform from which to launch a VBA bowhunter jamboree which is on par with any other in the country.

If, however, a VBA jamboree were to be held within a few weeks or even a couple of months of this proposed NFAA jamboree then in all likelihood both events would be handicapped. As I said, the Manahoac Bowmen have *bid* for

this event, which does not necessarily mean they *will* be hosting it. Should the NFAA decide not to award the jamboree to the Manahoac Bowmen, then the Manahoac Bowmen and the VBA could pool their resources to build a state jamboree from the groundwork which has already been laid.

I feel that this solution would be beneficial to all concerned. It offers both immediate and long-term dividends and should be seriously considered when the VBA delegates take action on this agenda item.

The VBA 1985 Bowhunter Rendezvous Proposal

by Tom Kidwell

Soon you will be asked to tell your directors how to vote on the appropriation of funds for a Bowhunter Rendezvous in 1985.

Don't confuse this Rendezvous with a Bowhunter Jamboree. There won't be any target course to shoot or competition of any kind. What is proposed would be educational and entertaining. Manufacturer displays, guest speaker seminars, and more. A "Bowhunter's Fair" of sorts that would last for two days and feature some well known bowhunters sharing their talents.

It's important that you consider the following facts, pro and con, before you decide:

- The appropriation of \$2,500 will probably be returned to our treasury with a profit from gate receipts—but there is no guarantee.
- The VBA Bowhunting Committee will work hard to make this event a successful venture—one that benefits the bowhunter.
- The very concept of the VBA Rendezvous is in answer to what the bowhunting members of the VBA have been asking for.

Make no mistake. This is an important issue and your vote is needed. If you feel this event is worthy, let's get it voted in. If you feel like it's not the best thing to do at this time then vote accordingly.

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Hunting Highlights

This will be a new section in the *Flight* consisting of pictures, articles, stories and other items pertaining to bowhunting. Anyone with material to contribute can send it to the *Flight* editor.

The bow season hadn't amounted to much as the first Saturday in November rolled around. I'd set my sights on a trophy buck, a Pope and Young qualifier, and this year nothing else would do. On the farm in Rockbridge County I was hunting there were over one hundred rubs. Scrapes were beginning to appear as the rut was quickly approaching. Some of the rubs were on cedars six inches in diameter and reached from the ground to a height of four feet. One particular scrape was about six feet in diameter and seemed to be drawing bucks like a magnet.

The morning hunt had produced the sighting of two does from a stand on a scrape line leading to the big scrape. The wind had slowly risen during the morning and by 11:00 a.m. was pushing twenty miles per hour. I headed to the truck for lunch and to cut a load of wood. The temperature rose slowly to the mid seventies, the wind increased, and the evening hunt was beginning to look like a waste of time.

None of my stands favored the southerly side and even the wind wouldn't cover the noise of a bowhunter still hunting in the foot deep dry leaves. A very slow hunt through a small neck of woods brought me beneath a huge red oak on the southwest corner of a rectangular hay field. A rock had been placed at the base of the oak for use during rifle season and I parked myself there for a rest. From the oak, I overlooked a field stretching one hundred yards to the east and three hundred yards to the north. The field was bounded on the west by an overgrazed pasture, on the north by a strip of woods fifty yards wide, and the woods to the east rose to a high point where I'd always found several beds. Below me was a small farmpond and though I couldn't see it I knew of a large apple tree beside it which drew deer.

Halfway along the eastern edge of the field, I could see the trunk of a twin red oak but the stand in it was well concealed. The far end of the field was getting dark and my thoughts were to hunting next Saturday at the peak of the rut when he appeared. The sun shone on his rack and his coat glowed red as he surveyed the field in my direction. What was he doing in that open field before dark?

After what seemed an eternity he

began to move along the eastern field line. With my binoculars I could count ten even times with a spread as wide as his shoulders. What to do now?? I figured to move down the field line but that would put me directly upwind of the buck and to try to get into the field with him would require the crossing of a barbed wire fence.

Every fifty yards or so the great buck would rip the ground with his hooves and have mock combat with the small saplings guarding the edge of the field. What a show! With a rifle he would be mine as easy as squeezing the trigger but with a bow in my hand it was a magnificent show. The buck stopped beneath the overhanging limbs of the red oak where I had my stand placed. What would I have given to be in that stand now?

Barely I heard a screen door slam over the wind but the buck snapped his head up and stared in the distance as his ears scouted for danger. Sensing no immediate trouble, he tore at the ground until a trail of dust was floating in the wind behind him. Rising on his rear legs he bit at the overhanging limbs and raked them with his rack. This exhibition continued for two or three minutes before he appeared to be satisfied with his handiwork.

He marched to the corner of the field opposite me and my view of him was obscured by a large cedar. I figured he'd jump the fence, pass through the thicket above the apple tree, and slip off through the woods toward the sag where the big scrape was.

Suddenly, I saw movement behind the cedar and could make out the outline of the buck as he headed toward me. There was a path under the fence at the cedar fifteen yards in front of me. I was finally going to get him! As he crawled under the fence, his view would be blocked by the cedar and a patch of honeysuckle at which time I would draw.

He stopped at the fence behind the cedar and only fifteen yards away! Could he hear my heart pounding? The seconds ticked away as the ten pointer stared at the fence line. He started for the crossing, the bow came up slowly, and BOOM! The buck had flushed the only covey of quail I knew to be on the farm. It was a miracle I hadn't screamed or jumped

five feet but the buck just stood there. His jet black nose checked the air as the ears twitched back and forth.

Then he turned and walked away. The buck stopped at the eastern woodline and looked over his shoulder before parting. I'll never know if he knew I was there or whether the covey of quail turned him.

by Ken Sorrels



A Tribute To Volunteers

by Tom Kidwell

As we travel through life we have occasions in which we are fortunate enough to observe unselfish, generous acts of kindness. It's been my privilege to witness these types of acts numerous times and most recently right here in the VBA.

As Virginia State Chairman for Bowhunter Education I receive many requests from individuals and organizations to provide everything from a short overview on Bowhunter Education to a full presentation of the program.

Recently I received a request from the Game Commission to provide volunteer instructors to operate a Bowhunter Education booth at a Sportsman's Show in Richmond, Virginia on October 13th and 14th of this year. Van Vanek, who is the District Bowhunter Education Supervisor of the George Washington District and Tom Schanbacher, District Supervisor of the Hampton Roads District immediately volunteered.

Now volunteering their time and services is not anything new to either of these men. They have high personal standards and both are super active in doing their part to perpetuate bowhunting in Virginia.

Why is this particular act so extraordinary? Because these men, these dedicated bowhunters, have donated their time and services on the very opening day of the 1984 bowhunting season!

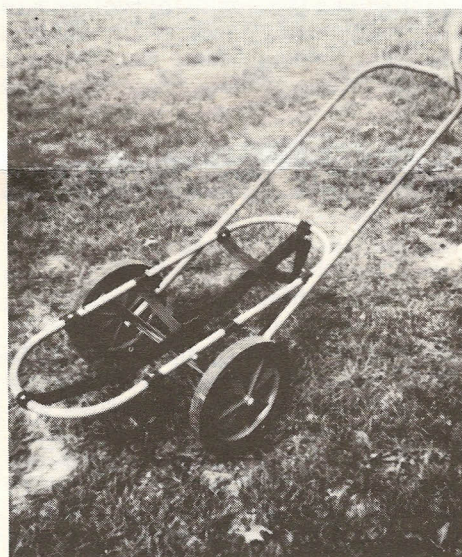
Tom Schanbacher and Van Vanek, I salute you!

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Club News

Bits from Buggs

On April 28 the Buggs Island Archers hosted our first annual bowfishing tournament. All the participants had a lovely day on the lake and some had good fishing also. They brought in a total of 370 pounds of gar and 127 pounds of carp. The winning team was Bill Colgate, Janice Colgate and Melvin Phillips. The largest carp, 7 pounds 2 oz. was taken by Ken Sorrels, and the largest gar, 19 lbs. 5 oz., was taken by Janice Colgate, the only woman participating in the shoot.

On April 29 we had our first pin shoot of the year with 34 shooters participating. This was the best turnout we have had at a pin shoot in sometime and we really appreciate everyone coming out.



The Big Apple Shoot

We at Buggs Island always look forward to the week of July 4th. We enjoy putting on the Big Apple Shoot and this year was a special event. There were 119 registered shooters and well over 200 rounds were shot. Division winners were as follows:

F/S men—Ricky Harper
F/S B/H-L Men—Richard Rhodes
F/S B/H-UL Men—Ronnie Layman
F/S Women—Eula Hogge
F/S B/H-L Women—Velda Chamberlain
BH men—Wilson Godfrey
Barebow Men—Dennis Cline
Barebow Women—Cay McManus

On Saturday night we had our usual Happy Hour and games for all. The horse shoe tournament was won by the team of Jim Overfelt and Earl Cash. Second place went to Robert Eason and Ed Dean. The ever popular Apple Flu-Flu shot was won by Mike W. Smith, with W. H. Thompson in second place. This year we also had a Coon Shoot (in the rain) which was won by Ronnie Layman.

To emphasize the "bugs" in Buggs Island, this year we had our first tick picking contest. There was a lot of exciting competition, but the "tick infested" sleeping bag was won by Robert Smithey and family with approximately 31 ticks collected. Everyone enjoyed the "tick roast" following the contest.

The Club Participation Trophy went to the Seminole Archers of Danville, with 23 members registered.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in Clarksville again in September for the State Closed.

Prince William Archers Club News

1. Will hold a two day shoot July 28 and 29.
2. Registration Casual and multiple, 9:00-1:00 Saturday and 9:00-12:00 Sunday.
3. Club participation trophy.
4. Coon shoot— 9:00 p.m. Friday night July 27.
5. Band Saturday night 9 pm-1 am.
6. Food and drink available both days.
7. Primitive camping available (Please contact secretary prior to shoot.) R. L. Jones, (703) 594-2214.

20-Pin Winners May-June 1984

Field

Wesley Stigall, Richmond
Phillip Schroeder, Harrisonburg
Emanuel Shifflett, Pen Laird
Patrick Kelly, Hamilton
David Boutillier, Harrisonburg
Donald Gonzales, Virginia Beach
Frank McComas, Front Royal
Bradley Baker, Rocky Mount
Brian Justice, Madison Heights

Hunter

Mike Malone, Purcellville
Roger Craig, Forest
Donald Gonzales, Virginia
Shepherd Clifton, Vluemont
Frank McComas, Front Royal
Bradley Baker, Rocky Mount
Mike Bennington, Danville

Flight Deadline

The deadline for the Sept.-Oct. issue of FLIGHT will be September 1, 1984. 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.

Shooting Schedule September-October

September 8 & 9

Northern Virginia Archers Annual Deerslayer Shoot, Fairfax Cas. & Mult. 9:00-2:00

Caney Ridge Bowhunter Championship All Animal Trophy Shoot Cas. & Mult. 9:00-12:00

September 9

Warwick Bowmen All Animal Trophy Shoot, Newport News 10:00

Cochise Archers All Animal Trophy Shoot, Pembroke 10:00

Walton Park All Animal Shoot, Lynchburg 10:00-1:00

September 15 & 16

V.B.A. Bowhunter Jamboree Princess Anne Bowmen—East, Two Rivers Archers—North, Wythe Bowhunters—West

September 22 & 23

V.B.A. Meeting

September 23

Augusta Archers, Staunton All Deer Cas. & Mult. 9:00-2:00

Smyth Co., Marion All Animal Cas. 10:00-12:00 Beer Creek Bowmen, Wise 3D All Animal Cas. & Mult. 10:—12:00

September 29 & 30

Manahoac Bowmen All Deer 3 D Trophy Shoot Cas. & Mult. 9:00-1:00 Saturday & Sunday

September 30

Triangle Bowhunters, Christenburg All Animal 10:00 Shenandoah Co. Archers, Mt. Jackson All Animal Cas. 9:00-2:00

October 6 & 7

Blackwater Bowhunters Annual Big Game Trophy Shoot & Tournament, Rocky Mount Cas. & Mult. 9:00-12:00 Saturday & Sunday

In Memory

Hasel Linkous was a long time member of Triangle Archers, VBA, and NFAA. He was an avid bowhunter and field archer. His love and enthusiasm for the outdoors and the sport of archery was always evident. In June, Hasel passed away.

He will be greatly missed by us all. We pay our respects to the family.

Triangle Archers

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From The President—from page 1

tion as our funds are substantial, maybe even embarrassing for a non-profit organization. Second, the "script" for our production is a good one and should insure good gate receipts that will more than cover costs. Based on the experience of other states, most notably West Virginia and North Carolina, we should judge that a showing of 1,000 attendees is low. Elsewhere in this issue, Tom Kidwell has an article on just what the Rendezvous is all about. What it is not is a "Bowhunter Jamboree" in the VBA sense of that phrase. I would like to ask that you consider the venture on its merits and look for reasons to vote for the appropriation. The national advertising alone will be a tremendous publicity boost for the VBA.

Good Luck and Good Shooting,

Van

Mel's Pro Shop



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