

FLIGHT

(200-220)



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

FLIGHT NO. 3

MAY-JUNE 1984

VOLUME 25

Results from Virginia State Open 1984

"Sherwood Archers"

Cub-FS-L

Kurtis Russell State Champion
Chris Blevins 2nd Place
Phillip Schraeder 3rd Place

Youth-FS

Charles Rhinehardt State Champion

Youth-Barebow

Tony Craig State Champion

Youth-FS-L

Mark Ledbetter State Champion
James Moore, Jr. 2nd Place

"A" Young Adult-FS

Andre Hertzler State Champion
Eddie Nelson 2nd Place

"B" Young Adult-FS

Patrick Kelley 1st Place

"A" Young Adult-FS-L

Travis Welch State Champion
John Blevins 2nd Place

"B" Young Adult-FS-L

Mike Malone 1st Place

"C" Young Adult-FS-L

Matthew Ledbetter 1st Place

"AA" Mens-B.B.

Russel Poe State Champion
Thomas Schanbacher 2nd Place

"A" Mens-B.B.

Bert Cline 1st Place
Beverly Hunter 2nd Place

"B" Mens-B.B.

Mickey Baugh 1st Place
Wayne Hopkins 2nd Place
Fred Holdren 3rd Place

Mens-B.H.

Robert Sovine State Champion
Larry Thompson 2nd Place
Robert Blosser 3rd Place

"A" Mens-B.H.

Claudie Gaskins 1st Place
Charles Hall 2nd Place
Richard Tickle 3rd Place

"B" Mens-B.H.

Dewey Reynolds 1st Place
Doug Click 2nd Place

Womens-FS-L

Barbara Gaskins State Champion

"C" Womens-FS-L

Dot Mitchell 1st Place

Womens BH-FS

Pat Sturgill State Champion

Womens BH-FS-L

Ruita Webb State Champion

Velda Chamberlain 2nd Place

"C" Womens BH-FS-L

Darlene Robinson 1st Place

Womens-FS

Nancy Thompson State Champion

Annette Brink 2nd Place

"B" Womens-FS

Betty Trent 1st Place

Mens-BHFS-L

Richard Rhodes State Champion

Joel Lecker 2nd Place

John Boyd 3rd Place

"A" Mens-BHFS-L

Charlie Waybright 1st Place

Robert Smithey 2nd Place

Louis Shumate 3rd Place

"B" Mens-BHFS-L

Michael Smith 1st Place

James Ledbetter 2nd Place

Kevin Webb 3rd Place

Mens-BHFS-Unl.

Lowell Hertzler State Champion

Doug Carico 2nd Place

Ronnie Layman 3rd Place

"A" Mens-BHFS-Unl.

John Price 1st Place

Jack Chamberlain 2nd Place

Mike Bennington 3rd Place

"B" Mens-BHFS-Unl.

Barry Wolfe 1st Place

Rick Moules 2nd Place

Continued on page 5

From The President

Mr. R. H. Cross, Jr.
Executive Director
Virginia Game Commission
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230

Gentlemen:

This letter is sent in the spirit of cooperation and support of the legislative, law enforcement, and wildlife management activities of the Commission. By making you aware of the position of the Virginia Bowhunters Association (VBA) on various bowhunting related items, we felt that it will give you some valuable input if and when these issues arise.

The VBA was formed in 1956. We have 1432 members from 32 clubs located throughout the state. Our hunting Vice President, Dave Proctor, attends nearly all of the Commission meetings. Over the years he has worked with some of the Commissioners on various aspects of bowhunting.

As the elements affecting the sport are constantly changing, our members have asked the VBA officers to relay their thoughts on some of the current issues. They are as follows:

The VBA recommends hunter safety courses for all hunters, but agrees that the introduction of a mandatory program would be of no benefit at this time.

We approve the use of an archery hunting license or stamp if and when Game Commission feels that it is appropriate.

The VBA is adamantly opposed to any consideration of recognizing the cross-bow as a legal hunting weapon.

We do not support a requirement for bowhunters to wear blaze orange during the archery season.

We oppose a deer dog training "season" during the archery hunting season.

The VBA is proud of the responsible ethical attitude and conduct of our members and welcomes the opportunity to assist by providing you with our opinions. Your consideration of our position on these issues would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

D. H. Vanek
President
Virginia Bowhunters Association

Shooting Schedule July-August

July 1

Wythe Bowhunters, Wythesville 10:00
Shenandoah Co. Archers, Mt. Jackson Cas. 9:00-1:00
Stoney Creek, Bedford 10:00

July 7 & 8

Bugs Island Archers Annual Big Apple Shoot, Clarksville Cas. & Mult.
8:00-12:00 Saturday—8:00-11:00 Sunday

July 8

Manahoac Bowmen, Fredericksburg Cas. 9:00-1:00
Two Rivers Archers, Front Royal Cas. 9:00-2:00
Bear Creek, Wise Cas. 10:00-12:00

July 15

Cochise Archers Annual Trophy Shoot, Pembroke Cas. & Mult. 10:00
Sherwood Archers, Roanoke 10:00
Caney Ridge, Route 2, Coeburn Cas. 9:00-11:00
Princess Anne Bowmen, Virginia Beach 9:00
Shawnee Bowmen, Winchester Cas. 9:00-12:00

July 21 & 22

Bowhunters of Rockingham Annual Turkey Shoot Harrisonburg Cas. & Mult. 9:00-2:00 Saturday & Sunday

July 22

Smyth Co. Archers, Marion 10:00
Seminole Archers, Danville 10:00
Boones Trail, Jonesville Cas. 10:00-1:00
Battletown Archers, Berryville Cas. 10:00-1:00

July 23-27

Nationals—Aurora—Illinois

July 28 & 29

Prince William Archers Annual Black Bear Shoot, Manassas Cas. & Mult. 9:00-1:00 Saturday—9:00-12:00 Sunday

July 29

Blackwater Bowhunters Safari Shoot Rocky Mount 10:00
Triangle Bowhunters Trophy Shoot Christiansburg 10:00

August 5

Augusta Archers Annual Trophy Shoot, Staunton Cas. & Mult. 9:00-2:00
Walton Park Archers Annual Trophy Shoot, Lynchburg Cas. 9:00-11:00

Two Rivers Archers, Front Royal Cas. 10:00-2:00
Caney Ridge, Route 2 Coeburn Cas. 9:00-11:00
Princess Anne Bowmen, Virginia Beach 9:00

August 12

Smyth Co. Annual Trophy Shoot 10:00
Stoney Creek Archers Annual Trophy Shoot, Bedford Cas. & Mult. 10:00-1:00
Northern Va. Archers, Fairfax 10:00

August 18 & 19

Seminole Archers Annual Trophy Shoot, Danville Cas. & Mult.

9:00-1:00 Saturday
8:00-11:00 Sunday
Shawnee Archers Annual Little Brown Jug Shoot, Winchester Cas. & Mult. 9:00-2:00 Saturday, 9:00-12:00 Sunday

August 19

Wythe Bowhunters Annual Silver Bowl & Trophy Shoot, Wytheville 10:00
Boones Trail Annual Trophy Shoot, Jonesville Cas. 10:00-1:00
Bowhunters of Rockingham, Harrisonburg 10:00

August 25 & 26

Shenandoah Co. Archers Annual
(Continued on page 3)

Letter to the Editor

The membership of the VBA is currently being asked to tryout a system classing all shooters into 12 competitive groups by average score. Though at first this system might seem fair, it has a major flaw that should be brought to the attention of the general membership. That flaw is that this proposed system does not make any allowances for the rapid learning curve experienced by most beginning archers. It is not unusual to see a beginning archer shooting a 50- to 100-point higher score than those first recorded after only one year. I, myself, experienced this rapid learning curve as I am sure many other VBA members have.

To demonstrate how this flaw in the proposed system will impact our sport, I will use the current classifications of Competitive Free Style Bowhunter-Limited (CFSBH-L) and Free Style (FS) as examples. Experience has proven that when any archer moves from "A" to "AA" class in their chosen shooting style, they are at a point when increases in average score come very slowly, point by point, and the result of very hard work. The break between "A" and "AA" for CFSBH-L is 475 and for FS is 525. Under the proposed system, we would have a CFSBH-L shooter with a 475 average competing with a FS shooter with a 475 average. Most FS shooters I have spoken to would consider a 475 average FS shooter as still being in the learning curve. Under the Proposed system, we would, in reality, be placing someone in the top of their style with a fairly stable average against someone in the learning curve of their style and still experiencing rapid jumps in scores. The only shooters that would not suffer this disadvantage

would be those shooters in FS/AA. But to see the full impact this flaw would have on our sport, we must explore the results of placing shooters at a competitive disadvantage. Shooters competing in a style with less shooting aids than used in FS would find little satisfaction "losing" almost everytime a beginner in FS showed up at a meet, and would be under great pressure to change to FS to regain a fair competitive situation. This would diminish the status of particularly the bowhunter styles and tend to isolate the VBA from its major source of new membership. As an organization with "bowhunter" as our middle name, I think this would be a totally unacceptable situation.

Some members might argue that those beginners with rapid score increases would soon move to a higher bracket; however, there will almost always be a flow of beginners somewhere in the system at all times. Also, some might argue that those with less shooting aids are not at a disadvantage by citing the scores of exceptional shooters like Mr. Denny Kline, but I feel any fair system must be based on proven majority averages rather than exceptions.

Any proposed system that is based on averages or handicaps will have to take into consideration the learning curve to maintain fair competition among all archers. Maybe this could be accomplished placing beginning archers in the separate division for one or two years to allow for score stabilization; i.e., "A" Division for experienced archers, "B" Division for beginners. I do not believe, however, that the currently proposed system would have any positive benefit other than to reduce the number of trophies awarded and other means to achieve that end without harming our sport must be found.

Club News

Seminole Archery Club Of Danville

1. Will hold a two day shoot August 18th and 19th.
2. Registration—casual—multiple
3. Registration fee \$10.00
4. Pre-register—\$9.00—call Steve Walker (804-799-2679)
5. Participation trophy
6. Trophy 1—2—3 places in each class
7. Free barbecue dinner Saturday night
8. Keg of beer
9. Soft drinks free with meal
10. Entertainment—Blue Grass Band
11. Motels, just minutes from range, also camp area
12. \$2.00 for non-shooters to eat
13. Meal time 6:00 p.m. Saturday
14. Five novelty shoots
Bring Broadhead arrows.

Archers Skewer Marksmen in 'Bang-Whoosh' Challenge

Story and photos
by J03 Pamela Belford-Mattern

The gauntlet was thrown when Naval Amphibious School archers challenged Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek Police Department marksmen to a "Bang-Whoosh" joust on March 5 at the PhiBase Pistol Range. Expertise and steadiness of hand were tested in 20 rounds at 20 yards and ten rounds at 15 yards.

"The first arrow shot was a bullseye," said Chief Boatswain's Mate Clyde Gaskins, lead archer and perpetrator of the the contest. "I knew then that the marksmen didn't stand a chance." His assumption came true with the archers flew past the marksmen with a team score 764-660 in the "just for fun" competition.

The marksmen kicked off their side of the contest with a few practice rounds. After the battle, marksman Robert Brinkman led the police roster with an individual score of 271. Richard Caldwell fired for 205 points, followed by Michael Leggiardro with 184.

BMC Gaskins led the archers with 274 points. Barbara Gaskins was close behind with 270 and Master Chief Radioman Bob Hron's bow earned 220 points.

"We usually fire only about once a year compared to the archers who practice a lot more," said Brinkman. "I think that if we had kept the competition at 25 yards the archers wouldn't have had a chance."

The outcome was expected, according to Rangemaster Chief Gunner's Mate (Guns) Walter Suarez. "Maybe the policemen need more practice. I suppose if the police need any back up in providing security, they can always call on the archers," he joked.

This isn't the end of the season for the archers, though. They will begin preparing for September's intramural archery tournament, according to RMCM Hron. The PhibScol archers garnered third place in last year's tournament, earning 14 team points. "In the meantime," said BMC Gaskins, "we're willing to take on all competitors."



Taking Aim...Archers Barbara Gaskins, Chief Boatswain's Mate Clyde Gaskins, and Master Chief Radioman Bob Hron of the PhibScol line up on target during the "Bang-Whoosh" competition against PhiBase marksmen on March 5. The archers won a speedy victory over the marksmen in the bout, scoring 764 to 660.

Cancellation

The Triangle Bowhunters will cancel the Trophy Shoot scheduled for July 29, 1984.

20-Pin Winners April-May 1984

Field

Mike Bennington, Danville
Alton G. Seamon, Newport News
Wesley Bommer, Jr., Virginia Beach
Velda Chamberlain, Stafford
Buck Williams, Front Royal
Myrel Greene, Pound
Jerry Williams, Front Royal
Rick Anderson, Front Royal
Thomas Stutz, Suffolk

Hunter

Brian Baker, Rocky Mt.
Roger Hickey, Virginia Beach
Kenneth Johnson, Norfolk
Rebecca Dunn, Virginia Beach
Jerry Williams, Front Royal
Mickey Baugh, Halifax



Shooting—from page 2

Trophy Shoot, Mt. Jackson Cas. & Mult. 9:00-2:00 Saturday, 9:00-12:00 Sunday

August 26

Bear Creek Annual Trophy Shoot, Wise Cas. 10:00-12:00
Warwick Bowmen, Newport News 10:00
Sherwood Archers, Roanoke 10:00

Results—from page 1

John Price, III	3rd Place
"C" Mens-BHFS-L	
Mike Young	1st Place
Mens-FS-L	
Bill Russell	State Champion
Don Brunk	2nd Place
"B" Mens-FS-L	
Louis Mitchell	1st Place
"C" Mens-FS-L	
Roger Hickney	1st Place
Mens-FS-Unl.	
Vernon Rhinehardt	State Champion
Jim Quarles	2nd Place
Barry McCarty	3rd Place
"A" Mens-FS-Unl.	
David Mullins	1st Place
Jimmy Bowers	2nd Place
Dana Gibson	3rd Place
"B" Mens-FS-Unl.	
Ed Dean	1st Place

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.

Hunting And Mother Nature

by Owen Shifflett

It all started in the Spring of 1983 when Dave Proctor and I went to Ontario, Canada for a Spring bear hunt. Mother Nature was at least halfway cooperative with about 3 days of decent hunting and Dave connected on the last day. When we returned, there was considerable interest by a number of the members of the Bowhunters of Rockingham to do it again in '84.

We contacted a number of outfitters in Canada and selected on outfit in New Brunswick. We telephoned the provided references and then made reservations in Dec. '83 with Jim Black's Hunting and Fishing camp in Nictau for six of our members and 2 friends from South Carolina. A \$75.00 deposit was required.

For a fee of \$500.00, the outfitter would supply all meals, cabins, linens, transportation to and from the stands, active baits and a guide per 3 persons. The outfitter would also guide and provide canoes for fishing on the Tobique River. A bear license of \$25.00 and a fishing license of \$17.00 are extra. A \$25 transportation fee would also be required if a bear was harvested.

We wanted to sort of fall in the crack between gun hunters, black flies and mosquitos and after snow and freezing weather. After consulting the almanac, picking the dark of the moon, fussing and agonizing, we picked the last week of May as the perfect week.

Everyone was all fired up. We all shot the club indoor shoots and tournaments for 3 months and then moved outdoors to practice from the tree stands. We practiced with broadheads, fine tuned bows, prepared equipment until we were really ready. All we needed was a bear.

We met at Dave's house at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 25. "D" day (Departure), a beautiful clear sunny day. We had phoned the outfitter a few days previous and had received a report that the snow was melted, weather was warming up and bear were hitting the bait. We had hit it just right.

Since it was Memorial Day weekend, 2 overnight motel reservations had been made on the way up and 1 night on the return. Time had been allowed for some sightseeing and a stop in Freeport, Maine and L. L. Bean.

The chatter on the CB's among the 3 vehicles made the trip seem short. After traveling through beautiful country and perfect weather, we arrived in Nictau at 12 noon on Sunday, 1057 miles later.

After a scrumptious meal, we all went out with our guides and hung our tree stands. This is sort of mountainous country, and the stands were mostly on ridges near a stream or swampy area, back from the main roads. (Friends, these streams can get deep, swift and hairy.)

Monday morning was a great day. We made final equipment preparations, practiced on our portable target and were ready to go. At 5 p.m. we were on our stands and were advised we would be picked up about 10 p.m. After returning to camp and dinner at 11 p.m. in the dining area, we all became excited to hear the report that three of our group had seen bear, but could not get a shot. We would

sure whomp up on them on Tuesday.

However, our wheels sort of ran off Tuesday. Mother Nature had decided to take a hand. Tuesday was cold and raining all day, followed by Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We were on our stand, every evening and we saw 1 wet grouse, 1 rabbit, 3 deer, a porcupine and no bear. At least there were also no black flies or mosquitos.

We loaded up on Saturday and returned thru flooded New England States and rain down to Pennsylvania before clearing.

Many people would consider this a complete bust. However, we had a group of hunters who realized this could happen and took it in good spirits. The two other outfitters in the area were having the same problem. Oh yes, there were a few "schucks and durns" about the weather, but there were a few parties at night, a few card games, visits around the area in the mornings, a few so called contests among us all and great food and conveniences. This is the first time for me, that I could sit down to a fine meal prepared by a good cook; eat, relax and get up without having to wash the dishes. Also great to come back from the stands and find your bed made up and the cabin swept.

I would like to say to Lenny Pannell, Richard Alexander, Dave Proctor, Kevin Wittig, Wayne Bowen, Richard Grubb and Chip Williams—"Thanks for a good week of hunting and fun."

We all returned with many good memories that we can talk and laugh about for a long time, and look forward to the next time. That is what it is all about.



New Brunswick bear hunters: (left to right) Richard Alexander, Lenny Pannell, Richard Grubbs, Owen Shifflett, Dave Proctor, Kevin Wittig, Wayne Bowen, and Chip Williams.



Left to right: Richard Grubbs, Dave Proctor, and Chip Williams.

Javelina Hunting

by Dave Proctor

One of the most frustrating parts of a bowhunter's life is the time when there seems to be nothing in season to hunt. This was the problem I was facing when I got a phone call from Richard Grubbs, a hunting partner from South Carolina.

The phone call was a typical conversation between hunters with the bottom line of the conversation being an invitation to hunt javelina in Texas the second week of April. Since the invitation caught me completely off guard, it took me some time to think about it and give Richard an answer, (approximately five seconds).

On April 6 I met Richard and Chip Williams, another South Carolina hunting buddy, at the Augusta Georgia airport. From there it took us 26 hours to reach Laredo, Texas. Time passed quickly—being filled with anticipation of getting a javelina, tales of past hunting experiences, and general good times.

We arrived in Laredo on Sunday and spent the rest of the day with our host Al Brothers. We admired his trophy room that was filled with mounts of javelina, pronghorn, elk, mule deer, and white-tail deer—the size of which I have only dreamed about. On Monday Al took us to the area where we would hunt and showed us the most likely places to find the javelina.

Al told us the only thing we had to watch for while hunting were rattlesnakes—kingsize Texas rattlesnakes. After our first evening of hunting we also learned to watch out for scorpions, spiders, cactus, and thorn bushes. The hardest things to avoid were the cactus and thorn bushes. As we ate supper that night

we agreed that hunting in Texas was a unique experience. We came to the conclusion that if it didn't bite you it would sting or stick you.

Even though our hunt was in early April the temperature averaged in the mid-90's. This made it difficult to hunt during mid-day. We had been told that we could possibly find javelina around water holes during the hottest part of the day, but evidently no one told this to the javelina. They must have found a cool place to hold up until evening. At the end of our second day of hunting we decided to hunt only in the early morning and evening.

One evening Richard, who hunted with a black powder rifle, got into a small group of javelina and scored on two. This got our spirits fired up, and Chip and I became even more determined to get one with our bows. The next morning broke a little cooler and we spotted a group of 12 javelina heading into the brush. We all jumped out of the truck and started to make our stalk. Javelina have fairly poor eye sight but excellent senses of smell and hearing. They're an excellent quarry for a bowhunter who likes to try his talents at stalking. We finally caught up with the javelina and I made a 20 yard shot on a good size one that ran about 50 yards before piling up. The rest of the herd scattered after my shot, Chip and Richard went off to try and put the sneak on some of the others.

As our hunt came to a close we ended up with four javelina weighing between 58 to 61 pounds each. For rookie javelina hunters we felt our luck had been pretty good.

As I sit and write this article for *Flight* the memories of my Texas hunt are many. That I was able to bag a javelina is just a small part of the

good times. The memories that will always return when someone mentions Texas are the trips across the Mexican border to buy souvenirs and see how the Mexican people live; eating really good Mexican food until our eyes were ready to pop; and the week long persuasion by Chip and myself to convince Richard that jalepeno peppers are good.

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Flight Deadline

The deadline for the July-August issue of *FLIGHT* will be July 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.



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