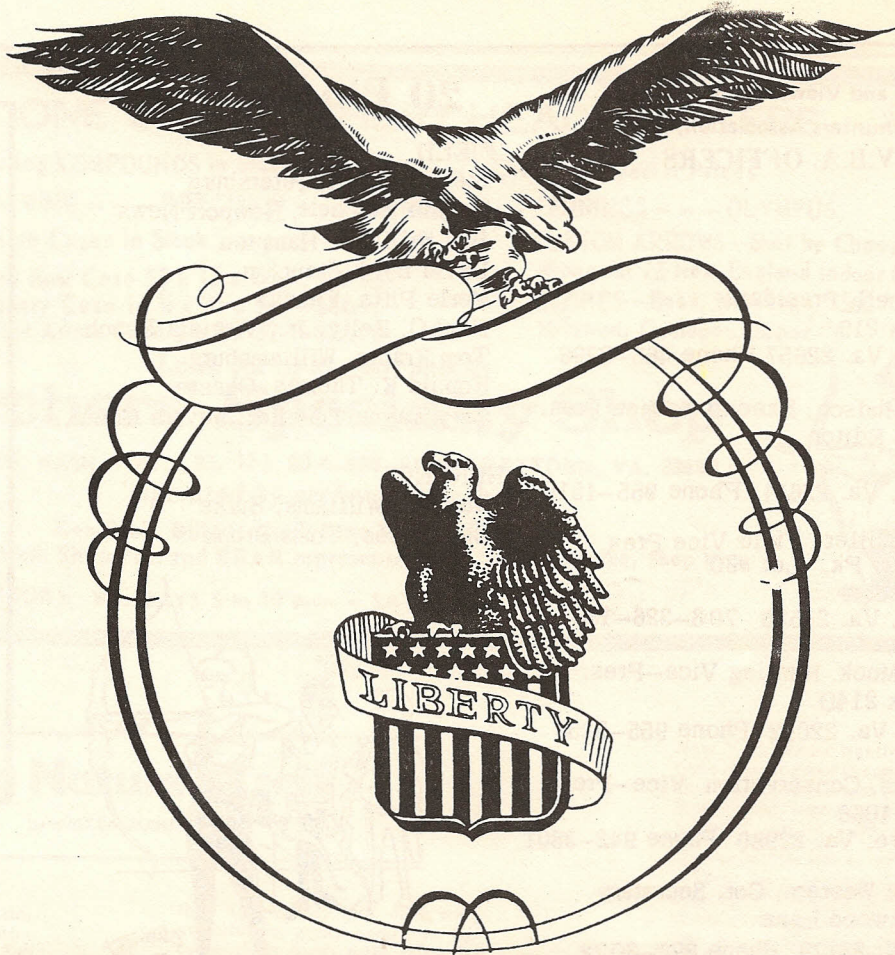


**F
L
I
G
H
T**



VOL 15

MAY - JUNE, 1976

NO. 6

PRIMITIVE WEAPONS SEASON EXPANDED

Two groups of primitive weapons enthusiasts, the muzzleloaders and the bowhunters, gained some long sought expansion of hunting privileges at the Game Commission's final regulation hearing in Richmond, May 7, 1976. With the approval of regulation R-6.-3.1 muzzleloaders gained access to the G. Richard Thompson Area in Northern Virginia and 350,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest north of the New River during their 6-day November 1-6, 1976 hunting season. New regulations do limit the black powder buffs to side-lock weapons only during this special season.

Archers gained more than 4 weeks of bowhunting when the Commission approved an extension of the archery season to begin following the close of the gun season west of the Blue Ridge and continuing through January 5, 1977. Archers will be allowed to take either sex deer provided they still have their number one tab.

Deer limits approved were similar to those in effect last season with slight reduction in doe shooting days in some counties. Either sex seasons Amelia and Powhatan Counties were shortened from the proposed 12 days to the last 6 days of the season..

The proposed shortened statewide turkey season was modified considerably to present little change from last year. Most significant was a reduction from 3 to 2 turkeys per license year and a limitation of one hen in the fall west of the Blue Ridge. Eastern counties will retain their 'Gobblers Only' fall season.

A detailed set of regulations governing falconry were approved, effective October 1, 1976 to make Virginia comply with new federal regulations. The new rules provide for an examination for prospective falconers and limitations on the type and number of birds each class of falconer may possess.

Persons who can produce a doctor's certificate stating that

they are permanently unable to walk and therefore cannot safely hunt except from a vehicle can now apply to their Game Warden for a permit to hunt from a vehicle. The vehicle must be stopped and more than 300 feet from a public highway. Such disabled permit holders may take deer of either sex during regular seasons.

Trout fishermen were granted two special areas where angling will be limited to artificial lures. On the St. Mary's River in the George Washington National Forest, anglers must use lures with single barbless hooks and may only catch trout over 10 inches in length. As three mile stretch of the Smith River below Philpott Dam was similarly designated. Anglers here are allowed to keep only one trout per day, 12 inches or more in length. These fishing regulations will become effective July 1, 1976.

from Federation Record, July

News and Views of the Virginia
Bowhunters Association, Inc.
V.B.A. OFFICERS

Hugh Darnell, President
Rt. 1, Box 215
Strasburg, Va. 22657 Phone 465-8796

Louis M. Hudson, Executive Vice Pres.
and Flight Editor
Rt. 1
Berryville, Va. 22611 Phone 955-1516

James W. Miller, Field Vice Pres.
Broyles Tr. Pk. Lot #30
Route 2
Tazewell, Va. 24630 703-326-1882

Roger L. Mock, Hunting Vice-Pres.
Rt. 2, Box 214D
Bluemont, Va. 22012 Phone 955-3258

C.J. Woods, Conservation Vice-Pres.
P.O. Box 1066
Waynesboro, Va. 22980 Phone 942-3801

Nancy Lee Western, Cor. Secretary
Rt. 2, Dogwood Lane
Vinton, Va. 24179 Phone 890-3072

Nina Enders, Recording Secretary
228 Hurdle Drive
Chesapeake, Va. 23220 804-482-1612

James A. Overfelt, Treasurer
550 Ellett Rd.
Christiansburg, Va. 24073

Murray A. Selby, V.B.A. Field Governor
7227 Auburn St.
Annandale, Va. 22003 Phone 941-2235

Wm. L. Enders, NFAA Director
228 Hurdle Drive
Chesapeake, Va. 23220 804-482-1612

20 Pin Winners

FIELD

Steve Russell, Petersburg
Ronnie Hatchett, Newport News
Bill Williams, Hampton
David Byrd, Staunt on
Merle Pitts, Fairfax
Paul C. Kelly, Jr., Virginia Beach
Tom Krantz, Williamsburg
Ronald K. Thomas, Chester
Gary Wayne Tutwiler, Weyers Cave

HUNTER

David S. Williams, Burke
Omer Wiles, Toms Brook



"And she's literally 'a sight for sore eyes' if you make noise while she's shooting!"

The Archery Shack

BOB PAULSEN - SHORTY DOUGLAS

5266 A Princess Anne Rd.
Virginia Beach, Va. 23462

PHONE 497-9071

FULL LINE

CUSTOM ACCESSORIES

CUSTOM MADE ARROWS

CUSTOM MADE STRINGS

COMPOUND & RECURVE BOWS

Hrs. Mon.-Fri. 5:30-9:30 P.M.
Sat. 9:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

DEADLINE DATES

The Deadline Date for the July-Aug.
issue of "Flight" is Aug. 1. This
issue should be in the hands of the
members by the last week in Aug.

Bowhunter Tom's Archery

THOMAS B. FRYE - owner
DEALER FOR COMPOUND BOWS
BY JENNINGS, PRECISION AND
ALL OTHER POPULAR BRANDS

"Factory Trained Jennings
Compound Dealer"

MODEL T - JENNINGS IN STOCK
USED COMPOUNDS IN STOCK

Tournament & hunting
arrows custom made
Authorized X7 dealer

Bow-tuning and instruction on my pri-
vate range at my shop - by appointment

Phone: 822-5953
Rt. 2, Box 43A
Lovettsville, Virginia 22080
See you at the Shoots!

National
Hunting & Fishing
Day

SEPTEMBER 25, 1976

SHAMBLIN HARDWARE

1929 Front Street
Richlands, Virginia 24641
Phone 703/964-5935

Bear Compounds
in Stock **NOW**

Also Jennings and
Complete Bear Line

X-7 ARROWS

**WRITE or CALL
FOR PRICES**

VOLUME 15 FLIGHT NO. 6

Published Bi-Monthly
Louis M. Hudson, Publisher
Route No. 1
Berryville, Va. 22611

Second Class
POSTAGE

paid at
Vinton, Va.

ADVERTISING RATES - \$2.50 per
column inch

Club Shirts and Jackets
in your Club Colors

YOUR ONE STOP ARCHERY HEADQUARTERS

Featuring COMPOUNDS in Stock ----- Check our Special Prices

BEAR --- WING --- PRECISION --- ALLEN --- JENNINGS --- OLYMPUS

--- Protecto Cases In Stock ---

Model #CB1 Compound Bow Case 53 x 15 x 4 1/2 ... \$49.95

Model #ACO15 Accessory Case 14 1/4 x 33 x 5 1/4 --- \$44.95

Model #ACO16 Compact Arrow Case 5 x 5 x 32 --- \$24.95

CUSTOM ARROWS -- Shot by Champions,

Winner at 75 New England Indoor Open

SCOPES---Boss, Norscope "560"

Miletron, Cyclopes, Super "6".

Sights and Stabilizers
Mounted



Archers' Specialty Shop

2478 GEO. WASH. HWY. (Rt. 17) 804-898-6878 YORKTOWN, VA. 23690

"operated by archers for archers"

Ken Seals, Bill Marshall, Emo Moore - Owners

Jack Cantwell, Shop Pro. and BEAR representative

Ted Tuerke, Shop Pro.

HOURS: WK. DAYS 5 to 10 p.m. - SAT. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Along Nature's Trail

by WALT BAUMANN

A MOST important factor in the birth of our great country was the bountiful supply of fish and game on the land. Without them it is doubtful that the settlements of the colonies could have progressed as they did.

Today more deer exist in the United States than ever before. The reason is know-how in game management and rigid enforcement of game laws. The knowledge and legislation have not come easily. Many well-intentioned people don't understand what is required to maintain adequate numbers of wild game. They speak as if protection is all that is necessary, and protection, to them, is "no shooting" laws. Such laws are not new, but many have been abandoned in favor of more realistic game management. Let's see how our present knowledge of game management developed.

Clearing land and getting crops to production took several years for the settlers. Before changing locations they had to be certain

that fish, turkey and deer were available in great numbers. Because these foods were there for the taking, the settlements spread quickly. Shipping between England and the colonies increased. Since they had little or no money, the settlers exchanged hides for farm tools, clothing, foodstuffs and the other staples.

As the settlements expanded, the bears, mountain lions, wolves and lynx were driven back. They soon learned they could not live in proximity with the settlers.

Deer, less concerned now with predatory animals, and knowing good things when they tasted them, began raiding the farmlands in increasing numbers. The farmers retaliated by stockpiling white-tail hides, and loading their dinner plates with venison.

From 1765 to 1776, Savannah, Ga., exported 2,600,000 pounds of deer hides from the backs of 600,000 whitetails. Trade in deer hides rapidly lowered the deer population in the colonies, and in 1629

New York passed hunting restrictions in an attempt at conservation. In 1646 Rhode Island passed the first closed season. Connecticut followed suit in 1698, and soon

Massachusetts fell in line.

Deer laws became the vogue, and by 1776 most colonies had them, a fact which did the decreasing deer herds little good, since enforcement was lacking.

In the years following victory, the young states worked hard and prospered. Pioneers leap-frogged westward, and market hunters with improved firearms followed close behind. Lumber camps demanded venison and got it. With their own deer herds down to minimal numbers, the eastern states looked to the West for deerskins, and got them in a steady stream.

The slaughter went on, tapering off in the late 1800's simply because deer were scarce. When 1900 rolled around, deer in the United States were almost a memory. Greedy men took such a toll that by 1850 the deer in Connecticut were wiped out. Thirty years later, they were a rarity in Pennsylvania.

Alarmed by the situation, sportsmen demanded restrictions. In 1901 California established the first "bucks only" law. It spread to Pennsylvania in 1907, and to New York in 1912. Michigan adopted the "bucks only" law in 1921. The success of this policy had sweeping impact upon the other states. They passed and enforced the law, and the deer numbers increased across the land.

The protection of does was not the only reason. Areas favorable to deer were set aside by several states. Outside stock was brought in and kept under study. Later, the healthiest of these deer were released to breed into the native herds. Thus the blood lines were strengthened, and the deer thrived.

Under the "bucks only" law in Pennsylvania the herds increased rapidly. In the timbered-off areas, where deer fed on lush new growth, the increase was especially rapid; so rapid that Pennsylvania led the states in the harvest of bucks during the 1920s.

ARCHERY

FISHING

HUNTING

CAMPING

The Sportsman's Store

Route 3 Box 114A

Bluefield, West Virginia 24701

AREA CODE (304) 589-6157

WE SPECIALIZE IN ARCHERY, FISHING, HUNTING
PRECISION - WING - OLYMPUS - BEAR

EVERETT BARNES
589-5520

OWNERS

RUSSELL FOR
589-5677

Everything was going fine until the deer nearly ate themselves out of available food. The cut-over lands were filled out; the tender new-growth was gone, and the browse line had grown beyond a

deer's reach. Hungry deer raided the farmlands in greater and greater numbers, eating into the farmers' profits. Food was very scarce in the winter — when it was most needed — and generations of deer suffered malnutrition and grew steadily smaller and thinner.

Deer were too plentiful for the amount of available food. Something had to be done, so Pennsylvania set dates for taking does in 1923.

After 25 years and the harvest of 1,000,000 deer of both sexes, the deer in Pennsylvania today continue to be smaller on the average.

This experience should have shown conclusively that deer should not be permitted to breed beyond the capacity of the land to support them. Let's look at another object lesson. A few years back, "No Hunting" signs were as numerous as the trees in the estate sections of Somerset County, N.J. Deer in nuisance numbers chewed away day and night on almost anything that grew. Cars killed them on the roads; wounded deer limped off into the brush. In the winter dogs ran them down in the snow and tore them apart. The older ones simply died because their teeth were worn away and they could no longer strip bark from the trees.

When the runted deer began eating up flower beds they lost their esthetic appeal, and even little old ladies began to scream. "Do something," they implored the Fish and Game Division. Eventually a special doe day was established, late in winter when the does were carrying their young. In one day the herds were thinned to numbers which the land could support. They must be kept that way.

Despite the facts shown by experienced game managers and biologists some tender-hearted people can't sleep at night because deer are being hunted. "Hunting is cruel," they say. It seems there is no way to convince these people that deer **must** be harvested, that deer **must** be protected from overpopulation, the dangers of inbreeding, malnutrition and disease.

At the very least these people could get the facts about game management. Sportsmen would be pleased for them to know all sides of the story. And I'm sure sportsmen would invite them to tax themselves to pay game managers and biologists, just the way the sportsmen have been doing for years when they purchase their licenses.



MEL'S PRO SHOP

1357 Longview Drive
Woodbridge, Va.
22191



**AUTHORIZED
JENNINGS & PRECISION
COMPOUND BOW DEALER**

**Compound Bows
Now In Stock**

**TOURNAMENT & HUNTING MODELS
COMPLETE LINE OF
COMPOUND PARTS**

**Dealer for HOYT, GROVES, WING,
DAMON HOWATT.**

**BLACK & BLUE
X 7 ARROWS IN STOCK**

Gift Certificates Available

*Custom made arrows, strings and other
equipment.*

"If I ain't got it, I'll get it."

Mark Lawrence Phone 703 491-2982

VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSN, INC.

Nancy Lee Western, Cor. Sec.

Rt. 2 Dogwood Lane

Vinton, Va. 24179

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE

PAID AT

VINTON, VA.