



VBA

(200-220)

FLIGHT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



Buck Kline, Bowhunters of Rockingham, has visual proof he can qualify for the VBA Double Slam. His 134 pound field-dressed 8 point was taken in Madison County on Oct. 8 and two days later in Rockingham County he took the 120 pound field-dressed bear.

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By the Executive board

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FLIGHT Deadline
*The deadline for the
Spring issue of FLIGHT will
be March 29, 2010. Please
submit articles of interest to
the editor prior to that date.
Send us your letters, stories
or photos. This is your
newsletter and we encourage
your contributions!*

From the President

I have heard a lot of things over the years that all center on one theme – The VBA officers control the organization. These misguided thoughts are usually stated by persons outside the organization who have an ax to grind, but it is also true that new VBA members or others who have not had a chance to personally see how the organization is managed sometimes have the same erroneous perception.

Yes, the VBA officers have specific duties and I will address them in my next column in the spring edition. First, however, in this column I want to emphasize that the VBA is a member-driven and member-based organization that is run by the members and not the officers. Let me set the record straight with an overview of how it really works.

There is no question that individual members are the bedrock of the VBA. And, the vast majority of them belong to VBA Clubs, each of which has as a part of its leadership someone who is elected by the Club members or appointed by the Club officers to be a VBA Director.

The Directors from all the VBA Clubs and the VBA officers gather four times a year – Jan., Mar., Jun., and Sep. – to conduct VBA business. The business meetings are conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order and a set of detailed minutes are published and distributed via the Directors with key points posted to the VBA Web site and published in *FLIGHT* magazine.

All VBA decisions are reached by a majority vote of the Club Directors present. The VBA officers do not have a vote on items that appear on the agenda.

To further clarify, let's take a hypothetical example. Imagine that an individual member from Club A has an idea he or she wants the VBA to adopt. This can be an idea associated with target archery, an initiative that the person desires be presented to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as a hunting idea, a recommended change to the VBA Constitution or By-Laws, or anything else desired that would be above the Club level.

The individual must bring this idea up at a Club meeting and get them to agree. If the Club agrees, the Club's VBA Director will bring the proposal forward and submit it as an official agenda item at one of the quarterly VBA meetings. After a full informal discussion, the agenda item is accepted and referred back to all the Clubs and at the next quarterly VBA meeting it will be on the agenda for vote.

Each Club will then discuss the item and based on a vote instruct their Director how to vote. Regardless of size, each Club will have one vote and the item will be adopted or rejected based on a vote of a majority of the Club Directors present. The VBA officers do not have a vote. This process gives equal weight to the large and small Clubs – much like the U.S. Senate gives equal weight to each of the individual states.

Any VBA member who wants to see the process in action is welcome to attend a quarterly VBA meeting, usually held in Harrisonburg. The member cannot vote at the meeting – only Directors can vote – but the process will be transparent.

So, the bottom line on why the organization works as well as it does is that it operates as a democracy. Individual votes determine Club positions on issues and Club votes determine VBA positions. Also, once every two years the VBA officers are elected by ballots mailed to individual members in the spring with installation of officers at the June meeting.

Continued on page 18

From the Executive Vice-President

A strength of the VBA is the diversity and energy of the individual members and Clubs. Recruiting, community relations, archery events, social opportunities, voting on VBA issues and many other activities all take place primarily at the Club and member level. As I travel throughout the Commonwealth and visit various Clubs, I see and hear about many great ideas being implemented to improve Clubs and give them their own distinctive identity.


You will notice elsewhere in this issue of *FLIGHT* the first example of what will be a constant effort to share some of these successful ideas that might be adopted by other Clubs. After all, why not – if a Club has a good idea that helps recruiting or participation in events, why not share the idea?

Of course, not all ideas will apply to all Clubs. The intent is to make Clubs aware of programs and activities that work at one location and then let other Clubs adopt them – either entirely or in a modified form – for use in their own particular circumstances.

The idea discussed in detail comes from the Bowhunters of Rockingham. Their “Southern Bowhunter” award has been very popular and is an innovative approach to encourage hunting diversity – something that is always important to the Virginia Bowhunters Association. In the next issue, you will find an article that has several short paragraphs that highlight a few of the good ideas “out there.” Many of these ideas center on Club-level initiatives that improve facilities or just plain made it easier or more fun to participate in an archery event.

The effort to share information will be best served if Clubs and members will send me items they want to see published in *FLIGHT*. Input can be provided by mail, e-mail, phone or via each Club’s VBA Director who attends the quarterly VBA meetings. You can see that this is a not too thinly veiled effort to say that the spread of future good ideas is up to YOU. YOU know the good things your Club is doing and *FLIGHT* is a great forum to politely brag while at the same time provide the VBA a service by sharing ideas. Get your ideas to me and I’ll take care of the rest.

In the meantime, the indoor season is well underway and the State Indoor Championship looms at four sectional locations. This is a super time for those who enjoy tournament archery to participate in lots of competitive events. It is also an ideal opportunity for those who primarily hunt to go to a range and keep their shooting skills sharp and, who knows, maybe even learn something.

Also, if each person took one friend with them to the range just once during a practice session to introduce them to the sport..... Well, the results would certainly be much better than not being a proactive recruiter. Remember, the VBA is not the officers. It is the individual members and Clubs. Success for the VBA has to happen via success at the local level and like it or not, that’s YOUR job. I’ll publish the magazine and do my best through it to give you a good recruiting tool. It is up to YOU and your fellow members to do the rest. Good luck. It is an honorable pursuit. 

From the Hunting Vice-President

Late last year I attended my first Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) meeting in years to represent the VBA as your Hunting Vice President.

The main reason for attending the Oct. 22, 2009 meeting in Richmond was a proposal by the Board of Directors to curtail hunting in 2009 for the existing elk herd in an effort to promote growth. A related proposal was to have an extensive study to make sure the introduction of an elk herd would not have a negative impact on the state or its populous.

The meeting started with the recognition of outstanding DGIF employees. Ms. Karen Holson, DGIF Outdoor Education Supervisor and Virginia National Archery Schools Program (NASP) State Coordinator, was honored for her work with the school archery program. Her efforts earned “the 200 NASP Schools in Virginia Award” and the “NASP in 10% of Virginia Schools Award” from the national NASP organization. Congratulations to Ms. Karen Holson!

A discussion was held on a possible study regarding the Rocky Mountain Elk population in Virginia. Mr. Bob Ellis, Director of the DGIF Wildlife Division, gave an excellent PowerPoint slide program telling the entire well thought out steps that have to happen to ensure minimizing impact on the people of the state and the existing game population.

The floor was opened for comments for or against the two proposals. The Virginia Farm Bureau had lined up six or eight people to express their concerns on farms, cattle operations, and damage by the large animals. I received my 5 minutes to speak for the proposals. My main emphasis was to support the impact study.

Continued on page 18

From the Publicity Director

There's something special in the air in November and December. The light is gauzy and golden, the breeze cool and crisp, the smells earthy and tangy, and the ground crunchy with the fallen reminders of a great year for the VBA winding to a close. The holidays we celebrate in the last two months of the calendar year resonate most clearly in our memories of family gatherings, childhood excitement and joyous traditions.

The Fall issue of *FLIGHT* was quite different, with articles from our new President, the Executive Vice-President, our Hunting Vice-President and even a contributing article from the VDGIF. We had two nice articles from Craig Torres (CRA) and Bob Foster (BBH.) It will be great to see a continuation of articles submitted by our officers, club archers and Bowhunters for *FLIGHT* and the website.

The inside back cover of this magazine lists the 2010 VBA Calendar of Events. Of particular note is a new addition -- the VBA St. Jude Charity Shoot. All proceeds from this event will go to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This will really be exciting, not only for the VBA, but for Augusta and Sherwood Archers who will be hosting the event on July 10th & 11th. The event committee, composed of Jerry Wenzel, Paul Vogel, Ed Bickham and two reps from the hosting clubs, will have more details at January's VBA meeting regarding the cost and format (½ Field & ½ 3-D unmarked targets). It will be a fun shoot for all the participants, but without awards. The committee will be soliciting contributions and/or donations from clubs, its members, archery shops and other retail businesses for door prizes and/or auction items such as archery/hunting items, potted plants, cakes/pies/cookies, homemade or custom pillows, quilts, arrows, bows, etc. Augusta Archers suggested that clubs bring some 3-D animals with their club name to be set-up on the range.

Ed Bickham, Hunting Vice-President, will be representing the VBA at all VDGIF meetings and will keep us abreast of developments. Any suggestions are welcome from the clubs, its members and/or Bowhunter Members.

Marie Bell, Executive State Secretary, reported that membership for the third quarter was 1,207, which was up by 5 over 2008. New members were down by 58. We also welcome Hoffman Archery pro-shop who has joined the VBA. Marie has also asked the clubs to send her their monthly newsletters. Let's keep working towards a goal for more membership that we all can be proud of!

If any member and/or club knows of any commercial or archery pro shop that would be interested in joining the VBA, please contact Marie Bell. The VBA charter fees are \$200.00 per year and VBA gives them a 1/6th page ad in the quarterly issue of *FLIGHT*.

Cay McManus announced there were 10 new records set and one tie at the VBA State tournaments last year. Also, there were more shooters in 2009 than in 2008, from 394 to 497.

The 2009 Double & Triple Crown winners who will be receiving their awards at the 2010 VBA Banquet are:

Double Crown – Josh Hopkins, YAMBHFS/R; Cory Mullins, YFBHFS/R; Ethan Mullins, PWMTrad; Gina Nadzam, AFBHFS/R; Cay McManus, AFTrad; Chris Willard, AMBB; Nichole Willard, CFBB; and Paul Vogel, AMTrad.

Triple Crown – Josh Hopkins, YAMBHFS/R; Cory Mullins, YFBHFS/R; Dewey Cash, CMBB; Brad Baker, Jr., AMFS/R; Jerry Wenzel, SMFS/F; and Sebastain Torres, CMTRAD.

A current copy of the VBA Constitution & By-laws was distributed to the club delegates at the January meeting. Much thanks to Cay McManus and Terry Ballowe for their time to update the documents. Please see your club president or delegate if you would like a copy.

The VBA Awards Banquet will be at the Moose Lodge just down the road from Pano's restaurant where it has been held in the past. See an ad for the event elsewhere in this issue of *FLIGHT*. For more details and tickets, contact Ed Bickham. Don't forget to get your 'Big Game Award' application(s) and/or picture(s) to Marie by March 1st.

The VBA and its Order of the Golden Feather (OGF) would like to congratulate Joyce Cameron, Jim Little and Joe McManus, the new honorary recipients of the Order of the Golden Feather who will be recognized at the March banquet.

Congratulations to the VDGIF for winning the Award of Excellence at the Virginia State Fair from a panel of State Fair judges. This is a high honor and the first for the VDGIF. At the fair, which was held from Sept. 24th thru Oct. 4th, many Conservation Police Officers, Hunter Education Instructors and Complementary Work Force volunteers had the opportunity to work side-by-side. Rick Atchison, President of Belvoir Bowhunters, volunteered several days working at the CWF Program exhibit and I worked at the VDGIF and CWF booths. On the last day of the Fair, I had the pleasure of working with Lee Walker, co-editor of Outdoor Life. What a fantastic and humorous person he is! Along

Continued on page 18

SOUTHERN BOWHUNTER AWARD

(*FLIGHT* Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles whose purpose is to share archery and hunting ideas throughout the VBA.)

The Southern Bowhunter Award, sponsored by the Bowhunters of Rockingham for Club members, began Oct. 13, 1984. The award has no time limit for achievement and a hunter is not limited to only one award. As a model for other Clubs, it is probably most effective in its basic configuration for a large Club but can be modified to be useful for Clubs with a small number of members. Likewise, the award itself can be modified/developed to fit the budget of the individual Club. Awards might include a letter, certificate, pin, belt buckle, knife, bow, etc.

The award is achieved by accumulating points through the harvesting of both small and big game animals. All game must be taken legally and under rules of fair chase. Award points must be earned by taking at least four different species of game.

All game harvested must be reported to a Club officer within 30 days of the harvest date. There are four possible awards, each of which is independent of the other. Once an award has been earned, the accrued points for that award are cancelled. The accumulation of points for the next award will be determined by the guidelines for that award.

FIRST AWARD: 50 points are needed to receive this award and four different game species are required, one of which must be a big game animal.

SECOND AWARD: 100 points are needed to receive this award and four different game species are required, two of which must be big game animals.

THIRD AWARD: 150 points are needed to receive this award and four different game species are required, three of which must be big game animals.

FOURTH AWARD: This award is known as the "Virginia Super Slam" and is awarded to an individual who harvests all three big game species in Virginia – whitetail buck (must have visible antlers), black bear and turkey.

The points are awarded as follows (NOTE: Any big game animal taken that scores Pope & Young minimum or larger earns an extra 5 points):

DEER: Whitetail, Coues, Mule, Blacktail

Buck – 10; Doe – 5; Button Buck – 5

ELK: Rocky Mountain, Roosevelt

Bull – 15; Cow – 10

CARIBOU: Mountain, Barren Ground, Woodland

Bull – 15; Cow – 10

MOOSE: Alaska-Yukon, Canadian, Wyoming (Shirasi)

Bull – 15; Cow – 10

ANTELOPE: Buck – 10; Doe – 5

BEAR: Black Boar – 15; Sow – 15

Brown (Polar, Grizzly) Boar – 25; Sow – 25

MOUNTAIN SHEEP & GOATS: Male – 20; Female – 20

MOUNTAIN LION: Male – 20; Female – 20

WILD PIGS: Russian Boar, Javeline, Feral Hog

Male – 10; Female – 10

TURKEY: Tom – 10; Hen – 10

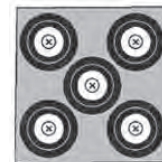
SMALL GAME: Rabbit, Squirrel, groundhog, carp, gar, raccoon, bobcat, fox (red, gray), opossum, skunk, and coyote – 1 point per animal, maximum of five points per year

GAME BIRDS: Quail, Grouse, Pheasant, Dove, Crow, and waterfowl – 2 points per bird, maximum of six points per year





2009 VBA Indoor Sectional Championship



Hosted by
Augusta Archers

February 27th – 28th 2010

Directions:

(north or south) Take I-81 to exit 222, then take Rt. 250 East towards Waynesboro, go to 2nd stoplight and take a right on Desper Hollow Road, go about 1 mile then take a right on Archery Lane and follow the road straight up to the clubhouse. (east or west) Take I-64 to I-81 North then follow directions above.

Registration

By Mail: Must be received by Wed. February 24th

Friday: 6pm – 8 pm

Saturday: 7am- 8am

Send Pre-Registration forms to

Dennis Wilfong

49 Freeport Lane

Staunton, VA 24401

Make Checks Payable To: Augusta Archers

START TIMES

Saturday Feb. 28th

1st 9am – 12pm

2nd 12pm – 3pm

3rd 3pm – 6pm

Sunday Mar. 1st

8am – 11am

11am – 2pm

2pm – 5pm

Contact Information

(540)849-8351 Email: martin4me2@yahoo.com

Lodging

Comfort Inn (540)886-5000

Econo Lodge (540)885-5158

Sleep Inn (540)887-6500

Camping available limited space
first come first serve _____

Food and Refreshments will be
available Sat. and Sun.

Must shoot both days (VBA Membership required to receive awards)

Fees: \$20 per person \$40 max per family

Fill out this form completely. Please print clearly and only one person per form.

VBA Indoor Sectional Championship Registration

NAME: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

VBA#: _____ HOME CLUB _____

Circle those that apply:

Division: Cub Youth Young Adult Adult Senior Guests Gender: M F

Style: FS FS/F BHFS BHFS/F BH BB TRAD

Class: Archers will be classed after the first days score.

Round Preference: Sat: 1st 2nd 3rd Sun: Will be determined after Sat's round.



VBA State Indoor Sectional Championship Hosted by The Belvoir Bowhunters



DIRECTIONS: Exit U.S. Route 1 (Richmond Highway) at traffic signal at Pohick Road. This intersection is the entrance to Fort Belvoir at Tulley Gate. Drive to the security control point and visitor center. Present your driver's license and government issued identification card (drivers license) for each passenger to the security guards. Proceed south on Pohick Road to the first traffic light at Theote Road and turn right. Proceed approximately one-half mile to a stop sign at Warren Road and turn right. Proceed to Tompkins Basin, turning right at the intersection at the bottom of the hill. The Indoor Range is the long, white building (Bldg 778) on the right and set back from the road at the base of the hill. The Fort Belvoir Archery Center is located in the same building. Detailed map at: <http://www.belvoirbowhunters.com/>

Registration: *Pre-registration is encouraged due to installation security.*

By Mail: *Must be received by Feb 20, 2010*

Friday: *6 pm - 8 pm at the Archery Center*

Saturday: *7 am - 8 am; pm round until 12pm*

Send Pre-Registration form(s) to:

**Kevin Brown, 6041 Bonnie Bern Court,
Burke, VA 22015**

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BELVOIR BOWHUNTERS

at the

***Fort Belvoir Archery Center
Tompkins Basin Indoor Range***

Ft Belvoir, VA

February 27 & 28, 2010

The Belvoir Bowhunters welcome you Friday evening (February 26) for Registration and Refreshments from 6 to 8 p.m.

Lodging

Best Western, Mount Vernon 703-360-1300

Econo-Lodge 703-780-0300

Hunter Motel 703-339-5400

Opening ceremony and reading of the rules: 8am, Feb 27

Rounds

	Saturday	Sunday
1st	9 am - 12 noon	8 am - 11 am
2nd	12 noon - 3 pm	11 am - 2 pm
3rd	3 pm - 6 pm	2 pm - 5 pm

A 30 minute practice period will be held prior to each round beginning at 8:30am Saturday and 7:30am Sunday.

VBA Membership required to receive awards.

Fees: \$20 per person \$40 max per family

Fill out this form completely. Please print clearly and only one person per form.

State Indoor Sectional Championship Registration

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

VBA #: _____ Home Club: _____

Circle those that apply:

Division: Cub Youth Young Adult Adult Senior Guest **Gender:** M F

Style: FS FS/F BHFS/R BHFS/F BH BB TRAD

Class: Archers will be classed based on first day's score.

Round Preference: **Sat:** 1st 2nd 3rd

Sun: Will be determined after Sat's round.

PLEASE NOTE: All shooters participating at Fort Belvoir MUST Pre-Register

KINGSBORO BOWMEN
and the
VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION
HOST THE
**2010 VBA Indoor State
Sectional Championship**

February 27th & 28th, 2010

AT
WILCOX INDOOR ARCHERY RANGE
9501 Jefferson Avenue
Newport News, VA
757-595-5537

\$20.00 per archer and \$40.00 maximum per family
Make checks payable to Kingsboro Bowmen

This is a two-day event and you must shoot both days

1 ST ROUND Saturday February 27 th	9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
2nd ROUND Saturday February 27 th	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
3rd ROUND Saturday February 27 th	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

1 ST ROUND Sunday February 28th	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
2nd ROUND Sunday February 28th	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
3rd ROUND Sunday February 28th	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

VBA membership required for VBA Awards

VBA RULES WILL BE FOLLOWED
300 ROUND EACH DAY 60 Arrows

REGISTRATION TIMES:
FRIDAY PM 6:00 –9:00

SATURDAY AM 7:00 – 9:00 FOR MORNING ROUND
TIME WILL BE EXTENDED TO 12:00 NOON FOR PM ROUND
PRE-REGISTRATION APPRECIATED!!!!

For Additional Information & Directions to Wilcox
Ed Bickham 757-255-2294, bick333@msn.com
Website: www.kingsboro.bizland.com

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) POSTMARK BY 2/14/2010

NAME _____ **Mail or email to Ed Bickham**
ADDRESS _____ **6353 Godwin Blvd**
CITY-ZIP _____ **Suffolk, VA 23432**
VBA # _____ **CLUB** _____ **Phone #** _____ **E-Mail** _____

One form per archer, circle or X what applies:

55+ _____ **Birthdate for YA, Youth, CUB** _____

DIVISION: SENIOR ___ ADULT ___ YOUNG ADULT ___ YOUTH ___ CUB ___

SEX: MALE ___ FEMALE ___ **Sat Round #** _____ **Sunday determined by Scores**

STYLE: FS ___ FSL ___ BB ___ BHFS ___ BHFSL ___ TRAD ___

Guest Class for Non-VBA members _____ **(No awards)**

2010 VBA SECTIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted By
SHERWOOD ARCHERS

February 27 & 28



Registration Time	Sat. Rounds	Sun. Rounds
Friday: 6:00-8:00pm	1 st 9:00-12:00	1 st 8:00-11:00
Sat: 7:00-8:00am	2 nd 12:00-3:00	2 nd 11:00-2:00
Sun: 'til noon for 3 rd round	3 rd 3:00-6:00	3 rd 2:00-5:00

Pre-registration is recommended

Fees: \$20 per archer \$40 max family

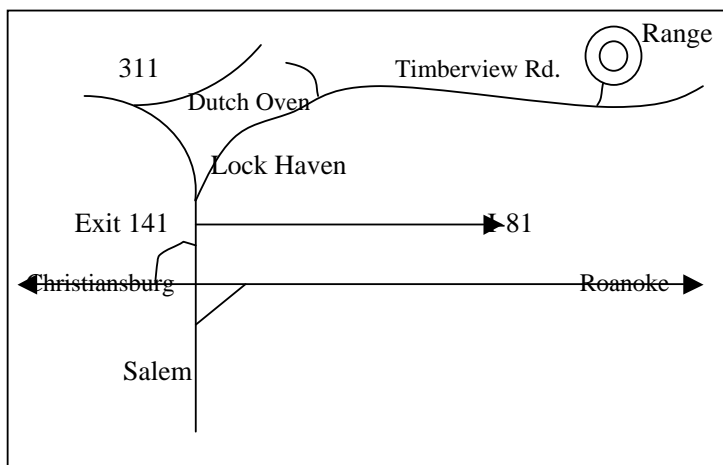
VBA membership is required to receive awards. Must shoot both days.

PLACES TO STAY

La Quinta Inn (3 Miles) 540-562-2717 Exit 141
 Quality Inn (3 Miles) 1-800-458-4949 Exit 141
 Holiday Inn Exp (5 Miles) 1-800-Holiday Exit 141
 Holiday Inn (6 Miles) 1-800-Holiday Exit 137
 Howard Johnsons (6 Miles) (540) 389-7061 Exit 137
 Super 8 Motel (6 Miles) (540) 389-0297 Exit 137
 Comfort Suites (6 Miles) (540) 387-1600 Exit 137
 Econo Lodge (6 Miles) (540) 389-0280 Exit 137

Primitive Camping at Sherwood (restrooms & showers)

Call for more information



Make checks payable to Sherwood Archers.

Mail to: Sherwood Archers
 P.O. Box 1272
 Salem, VA 24153

Phone: 540-520-6988
 Club: 540-366-3701

Fill out this form completely. Please print clearly and only **one person per form**

VBA Indoor Sectional Championship Registration

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

VBA#: _____ Home Club: _____

Circle those that apply

Division: Cub Youth Young Adult Adult Senior Guest Gender: M F

Style: FS FS/F BHFS BHFS/F BH BB TRAD

Class: Archers will be classed after the first days score.

Round Preference: Sat: 1st 2nd 3rd Sun: will be determined after Sat.'s round.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge 1st Annual Bowhunt

By
Ed Bickham, Kingsboro Bowmen

Five members of the VBA and Kingsboro Bowmen -- David and Chris Stepp, Ed Stevens, Andy Willman, and myself -- set out Oct. 26 -- 28 to participate in the first bowhunt at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Our quarry was the Sika, a small elk introduced into Maryland in 1916 by private citizens.

Sika are 2 ½ feet high at the shoulder, weigh 50-100 pounds and originate from Asia. The Sika's coat is dark brown to black. Some have faint white parallel spots on their back with a white rump. Males, referred to as "bulls," are larger than the female "cow" and have antlers and a shaggy mane running down their neck. Bulls bugle similar to Rocky Mountain Elk, although not as loud, of course.

The refuge enforces strict shooting and hunting regulations concerning the wildlife. Whitetail bucks and any other animal or bird except the Sika and Whitetail does were prohibited from being hunted. The NWR Island is about 12 miles long and varies from 100 feet to ½ mile wide. Marshes are everywhere and there are also pine forests and open fields.

The hunting permit allows taking 5 Sika each day, two of which could be bulls, and also two Whitetail does. WOW! Five bowhunters, seven animals per day times 3 days, equals a nice round number of 105 possible!! Hope we brought enough coolers!

We arrived on a Sunday for the required orientation at 10AM and used that afternoon for scouting out the perfect spot to find the Sika.

Led by Ed Stevens, who has hunted the island for 18 years, scouting allowed us to see several bulls with their harem. And, naturally, there is a wildlife observatory area where the Sika know they are safe. We saw two bald eagles, the endangered famous Delmarva Fox Squirrel and numerous Whitetail and Sika. Also, the wild Chincoteague ponies were very colorful and seemed relaxed among the hunters and observers.

Monday, 4AM! We had to be first in line to assure our scouting spots were acquired. The gate opened at 5AM and were in our stands by 5:45. Shooting light was at 7AM, but there were no sightings from my stand. The sound of the ocean and the birds and animals coming to life was a great experience. My excitement level was up when I did hear a bugle or two.


Andy had a successful shot on a cow elk at 7:15 AM. Ed and I helped track her and found her in the marshes about 10:45. Small, however supposed to be great eating! David and his son Chris did not see any Sika in the morning.

The afternoon hunt at different scouted spots did not change our luck. Animals were spotted, however no shots were available. Chris had a Whitetail spike buck directly under his stand, but he could not take a shot as only does could be hunted. Homemade spaghetti for supper helps our wounded pride!

Tuesday, 4 AM again, first again, light misty rain at daybreak on the stands resulted in zero shots. The weather was not ideal conditions for bowhunters, but we felt obligated to spend as many hours in the stands as possible. The small town of Chincoteague made some money that evening from our clothes that needed drying... The annual Pony roundup ends up in the town from the Island.

The afternoon hunt also resulted in zero shots. I had a wonderful time watching a raccoon finishing off the final persimmons in the top of a 30-foot tree. David and Chris had to go home Monday PM and Andy and I returned after the Tuesday hunt. Ed was rained out Wednesday AM.

Although we only harvested one Sika, the hunt was successful with five bowhunters enjoying the new hunting area and the camaraderie was great. The accommodations were adequate, food good. The weather could have cooperated a little bit better. We will definitely attempt to be drawn again next year to apply our lessons learned!

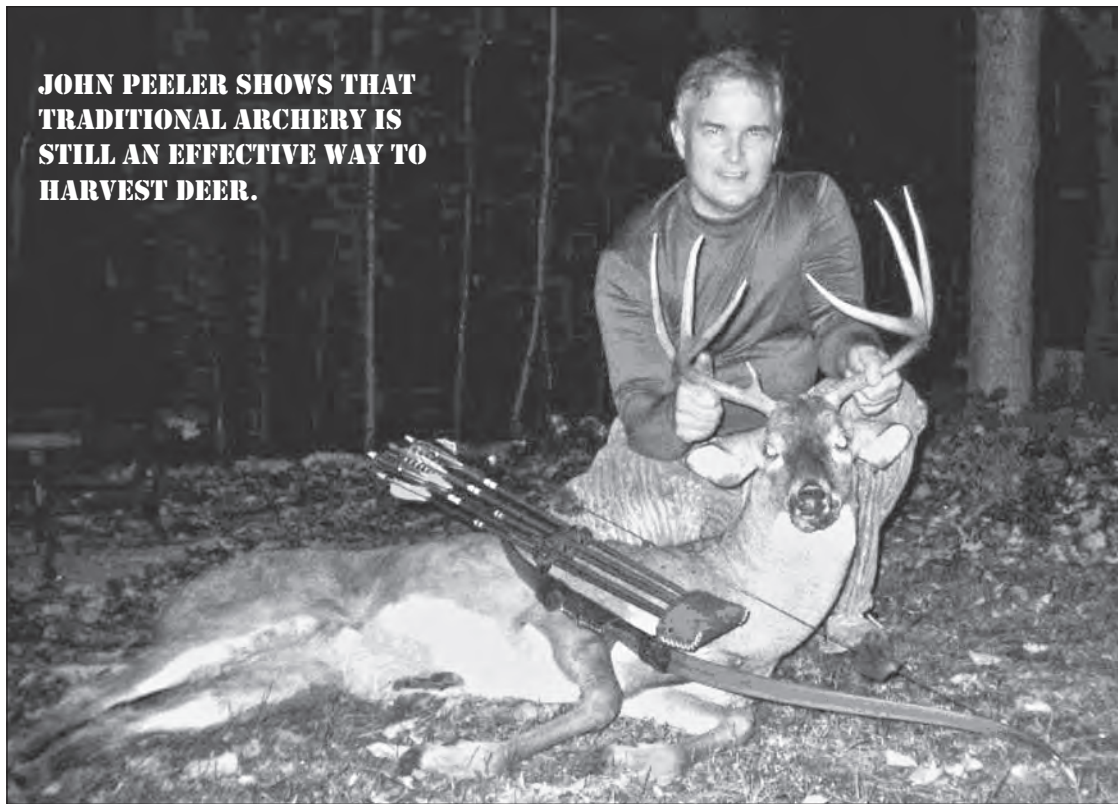
Information about entering the drawing and places to stay can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/chinco/>. 



Andy Willman and the results of his successful Sika hunt

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

by
John Peeler, Belvoir Bowhunters



I departed work early on October 26, but more than an hour later than I intended. Because I had to go home to shower and load my gear, it was almost 4:30 before I arrived at my hunting site on private property in Fairfax County. I changed into my hunting clothes, put my treestand on my back, grabbed my bow and started into the woods.


At that point I realized it really was later than I thought, and I decided to hunt out of Bob Seltzer's loc-on stand instead of taking the extra few minutes and getting sweated up climbing a tree with my portable stand. This turned out to be one of my rare good ideas. I slipped into the stand quietly and donned my head net, hat, and shooting glove, and then hauled my recurve up.

Less than 15 minutes later, as I was watching the downhill and left approaches that the deer typically use coming in to feed during early season on this property, I caught movement out of the corner of my right eye. The 7-point buck I had seen five or six other times was inside 20 yards and closing.

Caught sitting, I couldn't stand or even turn to get a shot to my right or directly in front of me. The wind was blowing from my left, and the buck stopped a few times to try to pinpoint the human scent he was detecting. When immediately in front of me, he lip curled a couple of times and finally settled down to eat some acorns. I still was unable to stand and knew if I moved the buck would bolt before I could even raise the bow from my lap.

After two or three minutes he decided it was time to move on, and he angled away down the hill. I raised the bow, and when his head passed behind a tree I quickly drew, anchored, and released the wood arrow. Due to the buck's movement the arrow hit a bit further back than I intended, but, as I discovered during my field dressing autopsy, drove deep into his liver.

The 145-grain Eclipse broadhead did its job well. The buck ran downhill, staggered and fell within 50 yards of where I shot him. I thanked God, took a few pix, field dressed the buck, and had him loaded into the back of my truck with 15-20 minutes of good shooting light remaining.

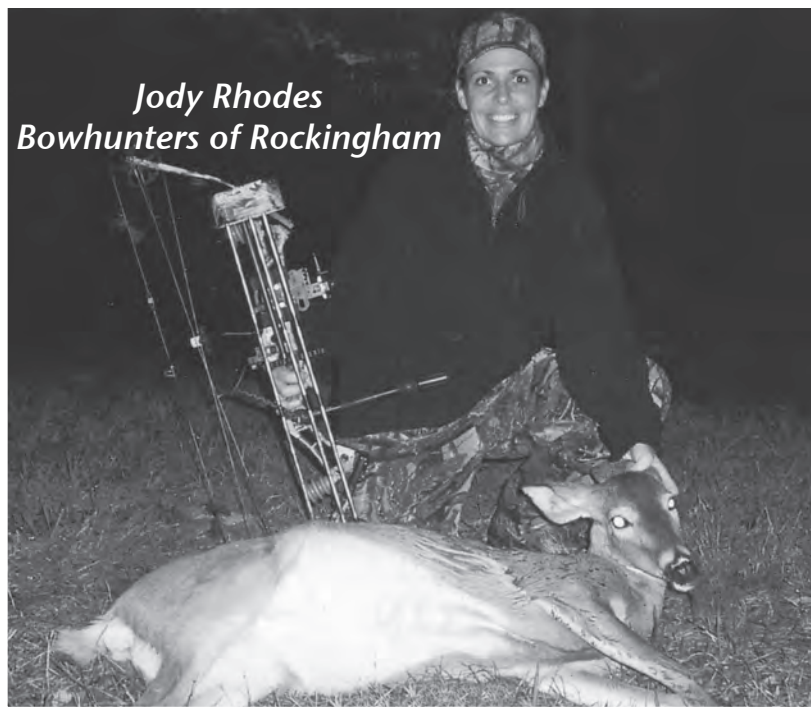
It sure beat the heck out of sitting in the office! 

THE TROPHY

*Erik Raynes
Bowhunters of Rockingham*



*Jody Rhodes
Bowhunters of Rockingham*

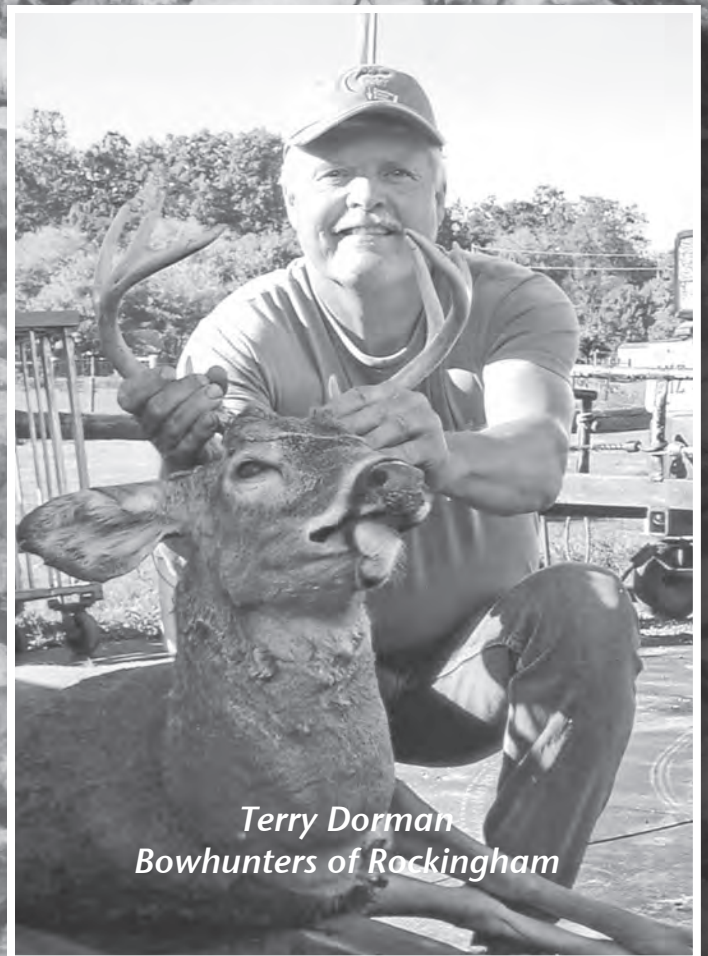


Greg Singleton, Belvoir Bowhunters, has taken several trophies. The buck above at bottom left is his first buck and weighed 150 pounds. Above top left is his second buck and weighed 180 pounds. His last buck of the year at top right weighed 200 pounds. All were taken on private property in Belvoir and his skills increased.

VBA Y ROOM



*Joe Coffman
Bowhunters of Rockingham*



*Terry Dorman
Bowhunters of Rockingham*

had a year most of us dream about. Immediately
of the year, a nice 7-point that field dressed 119
buck, a 113 pound field dressed 8-point. Finally,
was another 8-pointer that dressed at 118 pounds.
Virginia. Note the evolution of Greg's camo as his

THE TROPHY



*Brandon Houff
Bowhunters of Rockingham*



*Patrick Eppard
Bowhunters of Rockingham*



*Scotty Bare
Bowhunters of Rockingham*

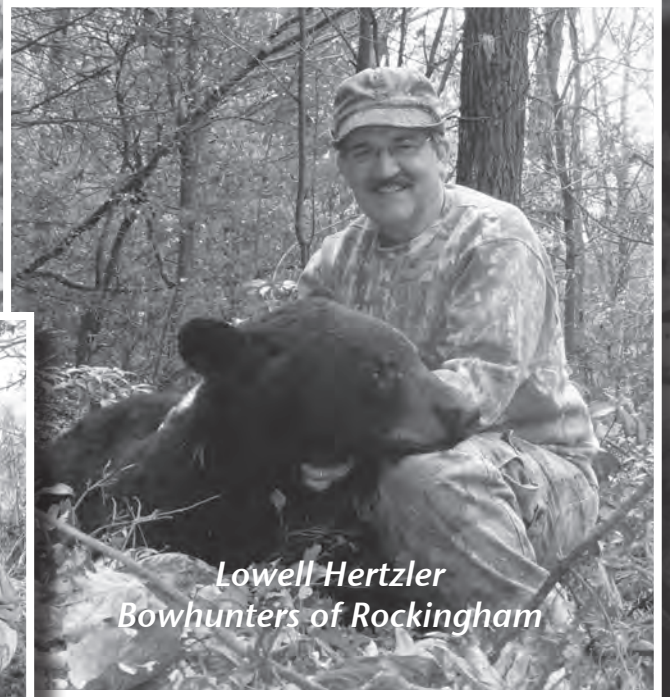


*Ron Blank
Bowhunters of Rockingham*

VBA Y ROOM

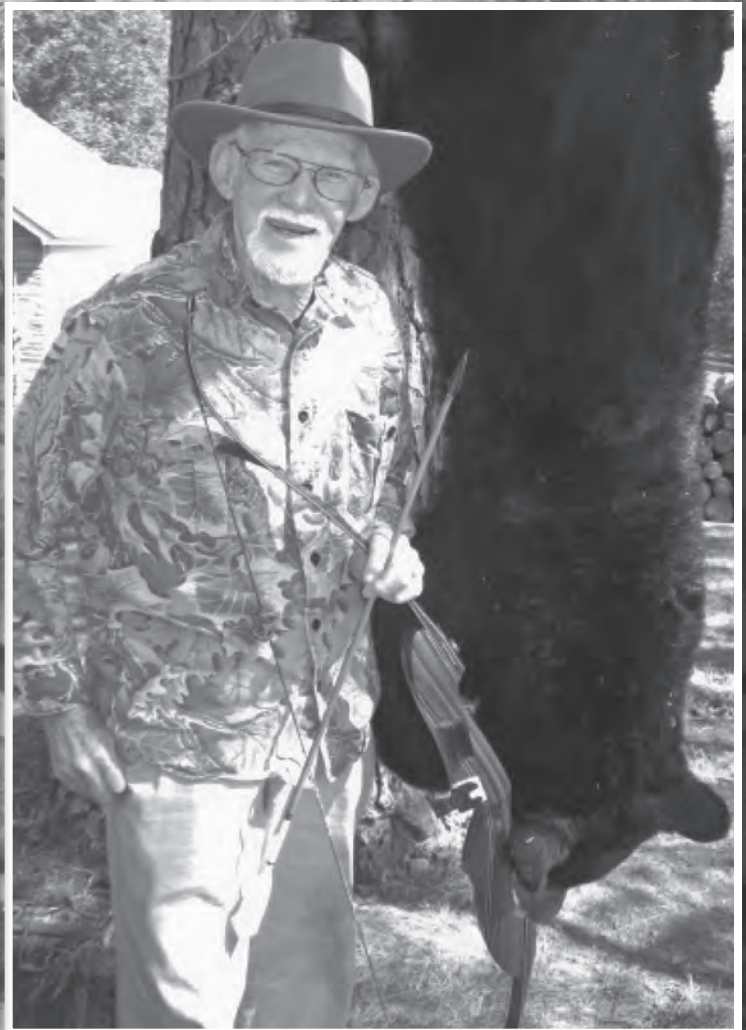


Lowell Hertzler
Bowhunters of Rockingham
Nebraska Buck



Lowell Hertzler
Bowhunters of Rockingham

Joe McManus, Staunton River Archery Club, with his boar bear that was taken with a five-yard shot in Bedford County, Va. using a 45# recurve and wood arrows. The bear weighed 225 pounds field dressed. Cay said they should have field dressed Joe instead, but that is another story..... The five-yard shot must also be a great story, especially since the bear ran about 100 yards before it died.



HUNT AND DEER OF A LIFETIME

by
Gregg Brown
Cub Run Archers

Just after daylight, I began rattling and grunting. A small fork horn came in from behind me, but got very nervous when he saw my doe decoy. He slipped behind a big holly tree, but I did not see him leave the area. About 15 minutes later I saw a deer and thought it was the fork horn coming back. As he popped out of the trees I saw that it was a much bigger deer and knew instantly that I would shoot if the opportunity arose. I did not study the rack and never looked at the antlers again until I tracked him down. No ground shrinkage! He was all keyed up when he saw the decoy.

He stopped broadside at 22 yards looking for the deer that he intended to fight. I could not believe how fast he moved when I shot. I never saw the arrow hit and did not know where he was hit, although I heard the arrow hit him. I watched him run and thought I heard him crash about 60 yards away. I found a good blood trail but did not immediately find my arrow. As I followed the blood trail a short ways I saw a deer walking away from me so I backed off.

Fifteen minutes after I climbed back into my stand, a nice eight point came in to check things out. I have never had such a good response to the rattle.

About an hour later I followed the blood trail several hundred yards and spotted him lying on the forest floor. He weighed 190 pounds field dressed, has an 18.5 inch outside spread and I rough scored him at 147 gross. This was the biggest buck I have ever seen while hunting.

(*FLIGHT* Editor's note: This article appeared in the Cub Run newsletter, "The Busybody," and is reprinted by permission. Newsletter editors are encouraged to send articles to *FLIGHT* for republication and enjoyment by all VBA members.)



Sometimes it all comes together, and when it does the result can be the deer of a lifetime. Just ask Gregg Brown. 🏹

THE DARK SIDE

By Dave Burpee

It's OK. There is nobody here but us. You can go ahead and admit it. Sometimes you do go to the dark side.

And, to be honest, so do I. Yes, occasionally I go to the field with a smokepole, shotgun or rifle.

Naturally I am often asked by my diehard archery buddies something along the lines of, "What the h... are you doing you #@\$%@!%!" Rather than answer them individually, I'll use this article to preempt their question and to set the record straight.

My basic response centers on the fact that there are lots of reasons to head for the woods to sling some metal that does not have a shaft and feathers attached.

One of the most important reasons is that throughout the Commonwealth there are efforts to harvest does as a key component of herd management. These management hunts are sponsored on county, state or federal lands. Anyone who has enjoyed these opportunities knows that the hunting rules often require use of a shotgun or blackpowder weapon. The hunts do a great service to the sponsor Agency and thinning the herd also helps a wide range of animals. If you have not participated in a hunt like this, you should. They are well managed and while success is never guaranteed, the odds are usually high because of the number of animals on the property.

On private land, hunting with a weapon other than a bow greatly increases the chances to take does and also contributes to the statewide efforts at herd management. Additionally, it is one more great way to add food to the freezer or increase donations to Hunters for the Hungry.

Remember, we call this hunting, not killing. (Just like it's called fishing, not catching). One of the main reasons we call it that is because the result is not guaranteed. Also, the biggest and best part of a hunt is often the interaction and camaraderie with hunting buddies. Going to the woods with something other than a bow not only increases the number of times you can interact with friends but it also means interaction with friends who do not bowhunt.

Additionally, hunting with a variety of weapons is one way to be positive your wallet is empty at the end of the month. Heck, if we only hunted with a bow we might actually have money to go on a trophy hunt instead of having to buy all the other weapons and associated "toys" (e.g. ammos, slings, cases, etc.) that go with weapon diversification. But always remember – when you die, the person with the most toys wins!

So, for lots of reasons – herd management, food in the freezer, donations to charity groups, camaraderie with hunting buddies, and "toy" acquisition – I will continue to be in the woods with both long- and short-range weapons. I hope to see you there. 🙌

From the President continued from Page 2

If you want the VBA to adopt a specific proposal, it is your duty to go to Club meetings and get your Club to agree and then have your Director represent that initiative to the VBA. This process makes it critical that you go to Club meetings and it is equally important that your Director bring back results from VBA meetings. Right now a potential weak link in that chain is that Directors either do not attend the meeting or they do not provide feedback to members on what happened. You can help this process by demanding that your Director attend quarterly VBA meetings. For example, the only meeting that has full attendance each year is the Sep. meeting where shoots are scheduled. All other meetings always have Directors absent. You should also insist that your Director provide feedback. It's not the VBA's fault if your Director does not attend or provide feedback. That issue rests directly at the Club level.

I look forward to increased involvement by all members in the management of VBA and its activities. It is your organization. Participate and enjoy!

As motioned above, in my next column I will write more about the specific responsibilities of VBA officers and Club Directors as outlined in VBA documents such as the Constitution and By-Laws. In the meantime, I encourage you to take part in our indoor archery activities and look forward to seeing you at the State Indoor Championship. 🏹

From the Hunting Vice President continued from Page 3

After much discussion, the board tabled the moratorium on hunting elk in 2009 leaving it legal to harvest an elk using a deer tag. Interestingly, during the discussions it was pointed out that only seven elk have been harvested in the past five years and only 30 during the past eight years.

The proposal to continue the study was passed. The plan will come with a recommendation. The recommendation could be (1) to go forward with elk restoration; (2) to have a passive program to grow elk in place; (3) or to not move forward with elk restoration.

I stayed after the meeting and held discussions with DGIF Executive Director, Mr. Bob Duncan, Mr. Ellis, and my district board member Mr. William T. Greer. I also received thanks from several Board members for them being added to the VBA FLIGHT magazine mailing list.

A few days after the meeting, Mr. Ellis followed-up on my discussion with him and agreed to be the guest speaker at the VBA Banquet in March. He will talk about the elk study and other topics of interest to Virginia hunters. Please make every effort to attend the banquet to hear Mr. Ellis and express your support for the day-to-day excellent work done by the DGIF. 🏹

From the Publicity Director continued from Page 4

with other CPO's and volunteers, we greeted many visitors, youths and school field trip students. We also answered questions about hunting and trapping, outdoor events, the new law that took effect on Sept. 1st to make it illegal to feed deer statewide in Virginia, tree stand safety, tips for dressing outdoors, the National Archery in the Schools Program, becoming a CWF, IBEP and/or Hunter Education Instructor and/or volunteer, how to prevent hunting accidents and much more. We showed and explained the various taxidermy animals that were on display, a close-up of the fresh-water fish that were collected, what Mother nature is all about and gave them their first opportunity holding non-poisonous snakes.

Again, don't forget to submit any articles/topics about club events and/or awards to Dave Burpee and myself. Topic ideas include Traditional Archery & Bowhunting, Bowhunting Tips & Tactics, Fine Tuning Your Bows & Arrows, Your Bowhunting Adventures and/or Experiences, Taking a Youth Bowhunting or any other articles that you would like to share. 🏹

Yours in Archery ~ Irene Stocksdale



Virginia Bowhunters Association

2010 Spring 3D Classic

April 17th –18th

And

AUGUSTA ARCHERS



25 3D targets each day at marked distances VBA rules apply

Directions:

(north or south) Take I-81 to exit 222, then take Rt. 250 East towards Waynesboro, go to 2nd stoplight and take a right on Desper Hollow Road, go about 1 mile then take a right on Archery Lane and follow the road straight up to the clubhouse. (east or west) Take I-64 to I-81 North then follow directions above.

Registration

By Mail: Must be received by Wed. April 14th

Friday: 7pm – 9 pm

Saturday: 7am- 8am

Send Pre-Registration forms to:

Dennis Wilfong

49 Freeport Lane

Staunton, VA 24401

Make Checks Payable To: Augusta Archers

START TIMES

Saturday April 18th

Shotgun start 9am and 1:30pm

Sunday April 19th

Shotgun start 9am and 1:30pm

Contact Information

(540)849-8351 or martin4me2@yahoo.com

Lodging

Comfort Inn (540)886-5000

Econo Lodge (540)885-5158

Sleep Inn (540)887-6500

Camping available limited space

first come first serve _____

Food and Refreshments will be
available Sat. and Sun.

Must shoot both days (open to all shooters)

Fees: \$20 per person \$40 max per family

Fill out this form completely. Please print clearly and only one person per form.

VBA Spring Classic Registration

NAME: _____ PHONE: () _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

VBA#: _____ HOME CLUB _____

Circle those that apply:

Division: PeeWee Cub Youth Young Adult Adult Senior Guests Gender: M F

Style: FS FS/F BHFS BHFS/F BH BB TRAD

Round Preference: Sat: morning afternoon Sun: Will be determined after Sat's round.

Virginia
Bowhunters Association
Announces its
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL AWARDS
BANQUET

Saturday, March 27, 2010
Moose Lodge # 1686
4550 Early Road, Harrisonburg
540-433-9704

(Call for directions or visit a Web search engine. Near Exit 243 off I-81)

Social Hour – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. • Dinner 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony – 8:00 p.m.

\$25 per Adult - \$12 for Ages 7 thru 12 and No charge for Ages 6 and under.

Advance reservations highly desired so we know how much food to order, but you won't be turned away at the door!

Meal features EXCELLENT buffet.

Bring your own booze/wine. Don't bring beer – they sell it.

HUNTING AWARDS

Biggest Buck – 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Antlers – Virginia Scoring System)

Biggest Buck (Weight)

Biggest Doe (Weight)

Biggest Bear (Weight)

Biggest Turkey (Weight)

Double Slam

Triple Slam

TOURNAMENT ARCHERY AWARDS

Double Crown

Triple Crown

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDER OF GOLDEN FEATHER MEMBERS

GUEST SPEAKER • Robert Ellis,

Director of the Wildlife Division -- VDGIF

Mr. Ellis will give a presentation on topics of interest to bowhunters, including status of a preliminary plan for the possible development of an elk herd in Virginia

**DOOR PRIZES • RAFFLE
BIG GAME TROPHIES
DISPLAYED**

*(Attendees are encouraged to bring
trophies for display and enjoyment)*

**Mail Application for VBA Game Award
to Marie Bell NLT March 1st**

**To Display Your Big Game Animal
and for Banquet Information**

Contact: Ed Bickham (757) 255-2294.



Holiday Inn

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Located at:

Exit 247-A (Route 33)

East off I-81

For overnight reservations:

Call (540) 433-2521

*For special room rate, tell them
you are a VBA member!*

HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY RAFFLE

The VBA has for many years enjoyed a special relationship with the Hunters for the Hungry organization in the Commonwealth. Each year they continue to receive more meat than they can afford to process so funds are critical to their success. Many VBA Clubs help by sponsoring shoots with the proceeds donated to H4H.

In addition, the H4H has introduced two raffles. Details about the raffles and the prizes are at <http://www.h4hungry.org> and MUST be viewed because all details about the outstanding prizes – including information about the donors – are not provided below due to space limitations. Here are the highlights:

The drawing for both raffles is on March 15th, 2010.

Tickets can be obtained by calling H4H at 1-800-352-4868 or sending an email to Gary at hunt4hungry@cs.com.

FALL / WINTER RAFFLE

Tickets are \$2 each or a book of three for \$5.

Prizes:

1ST Prize: Thompson Center Arms ‘Encore Pro Hunter’ Muzzleloader. Value \$1,000

2nd Prize: Parker Compound Bow. Value \$ 650.00

3rd Prize: Hand Made Quilt. Value \$600.00

4th Prize: Remington 11-87 Semi Auto 12 gauge Shotgun. Value \$550

5th Prize: Knight “Shadow” 50 caliber. Value - \$350

6th Prize: Hank Parker “Signature Series” Collectors Edition Knife. Value - \$250

7th Prize: “Here’s Looking at You” Print by Artist Jack Hagerman. Value \$20

8th Prize: Hunters for the Hungry Limited Edition Framed Print. Value \$120

9th Prize: Franklin Mint “White-tailed Deer” Collectors Knife. Value \$100

10th Prize: Mesh Pistol Case and Waterproof Shooters Jacket. Value - \$75

2010 HUNT RAFFLE.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00.

Prizes:

1st Place Prize: A White-tailed Deer Hunt for Two - 3 days of trophy white-tailed deer hunting in historic Central Virginia near the Civil War’s Sailors Creek battlefield. Bow, muzzleloader, or gun hunt. Includes meals and lodging, along with expert guide services. Hunt provides for a buck and 2 does to be taken by each hunter. Package also includes a Savage .300 Winchester magnum hunting rifle. Total Prize Value: \$3,000.00

2nd Place Prize: Bear Hunt In Maine - This bear hunt is for one person, 5 days, 5 nights in Allagash, Maine. Includes meals, lodging and transportation to hunting sites. Hunt provides one bear limit per hunter. Guide will allow extra slot should the winner desire to bring a companion. Extra hunter must pay for their hunt. Hunter(s) may use bow, rifle, shotgun, pistol, or blackpowder. Value - \$1,475.00

3rd Place Prize - 2 day Guided Spring Turkey Hunt - Two day guided spring gobbler hunt in the Smith Mountain Lake region of Virginia. The hunt includes meals and lodging as well as an outfit of Woodseye camo and a various assortment of turkey calls. This hunt will also be filmed and aired on Just Kill’n Time television. Value - \$1,000

4th Place Prize - Fly Fishing Experience for Two - This package is comprised of a full day which will include 4 to 5 hours of fly fishing lessons, a furnished lunch in the field, and then 3 hours in action on the water. Also includes all fly fishing equipment, lunch, and transportation to the class area and the waters to do some serious fly fishing. Value - \$400.00

5th Place Prize - Guided Fall Turkey Hunt - Hunt will be a full day and includes guide, meals and transportation to hunt property. Value - \$400



SHERWOOD ARCHERS

Invites you to the Club's

Annual Dogwood Tournament

May 1 & 2, 2010

Multi-Casual Registration

Sat. 8-12:00 and Sun. 8-11:00

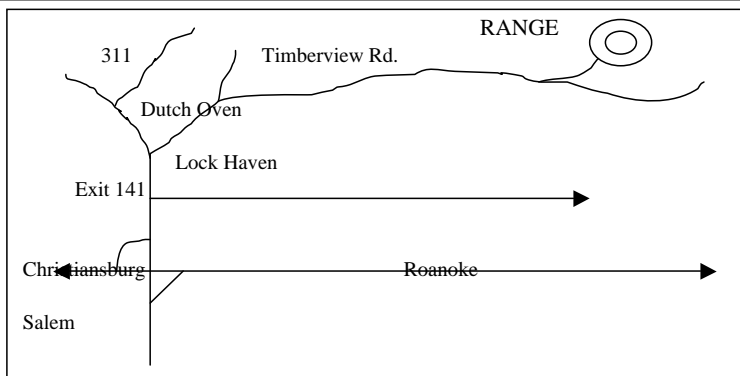
\$10.00 Single \$25.00 Family

Additional Round \$5.00 or \$10.00 Family

For Information Call (540) 520-8455

Club Number (540) 366-3701

www.sherwoodarchersroanokeva.com



14 Field 14 Hunter Both Days There is NO Animal Round

Trophies Awarded in All Classes Sun.

PLACES TO STAY

La Quinta Inn (3 Miles) 540-562-2717 Exit 141

Quality Inn (3 Miles) 1-800-458-4949 Exit 141

Holiday Inn Exp (5 Miles) 1-800-Holiday Exit 141

Holiday Inn (6 Miles) 1-800-Holiday Exit 137

Howard Johnsons (6 Miles) (540) 389-7061 Exit 137

Super 8 Motel (6 Miles) (540) 389-0297 Exit 137

Comfort Suites (6 Miles) (540) 387-1600 Exit 137

Econo Lodge (6 Miles) (540) 389-0280 Exit 137

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Bowhunting Records of North American Whitetail Deer, 3rd Edition 2009, Hardcover, 850 pages

- Listing more than 45,000 entries (all entries through 1/1/2009)
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SEE YOUR AD HERE

Clubs are welcome (and encouraged) to submit ads to *FLIGHT* to advertize key events. These might include annual shoots, speciality or novelty shoots, charity events or any other event the local Club wants to advertise to the full VBA membership.

There is no charge for the ads, but they must be submitted by the appropriate deadline as announced on page two of each *FLIGHT*.

2010 VBA Calendar of Events

VBA Meetings

March 27 (Banquet) and 28 Meeting

June 12 - 13

September 18 (Scheduling Session) and 19 (Meeting)

State Tournaments

State Indoor Sectional: Feb 27 – 28

Augusta Archers

Belvoir Bowhunters

Kingsboro Bowmen

Sherwood Archers

Spring 3D Classic: April 17 - 18

Augusta Archers

State Open: May 29 - 30

Sherwood Archers

Fall 3D Classic: August 14 - 15

Manahoac Bowmen

State Closed: September 4 - 5

Augusta Archers

VBA Charity Shoot

St. Jude Charity Event: July 10-11

Augusta Archers

Sherwood Archers



Advertising Rates for Flight

1/6 page • 2 3/8" x 5" • \$20

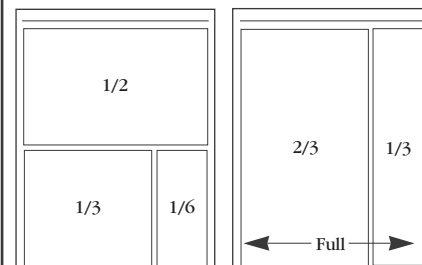
1/3 page • 5" x 5" • \$35

1/2 page • 7 1/2" x 5" • \$60

2/3 page • 5" x 10" • \$70

Full page • 7 1/2" x 10" • \$100

(Price is based on camera-ready art.)



Change of Address?

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Marie Bell, Executive State Secretary

1223 Jeanette Avenue

Vinton, VA 24179

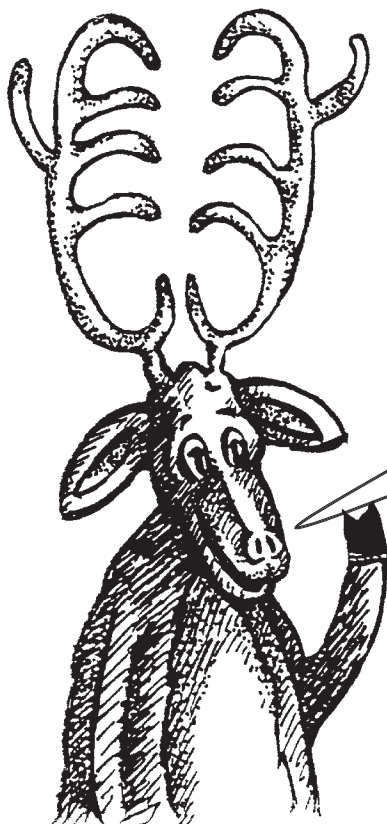
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Harrisonburg, VA



**Good job,
hunters! Now
turn your efforts
to indoor targets to
keep your skills sharp
– maybe join a league!
Also, see you at the
Banquet on Mar.
27.**

ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FEATHER *NOMINATIONS DUE IN MARCH*

The VBA Order of the Golden Feather was created to honor those persons who have given unselfishly of their time and talents toward the betterment of archery and archers. Recipients are persons who possess the virtues of sportsmanship, character, morals, integrity and friendship.

To be qualified, a candidate must be member in good standing of the VBA at the time of nomination, must have a minimum of ten successive years' membership in the VBA and must be sponsored by three VBA members of good standing or by a VBA Club.

This article is a reminder that candidates must be submitted to the Board of Directors at the March meeting for this year. Nominations must be in writing and be signed by sponsoring individuals or a Club officer. Successful nominees have always performed duties or had an impact outside their immediate club.

Details can be found in Article 16 of the VBA By-Laws.