

Mertie and Dutch Shultz of Front Royal were honored at the last V.B.A. Meeting with the highest award in archery, "The Order of the Golden Feather", an award which they so rightfully deserved. Shown in the picture above with Mertie and Dutch are Clinton Western on the left and President, Hugh Darnell on the right.

VOL. 15

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1976

NO. 4

Indoor State Tournament

Christiansburg National Guard Armory

March 5, 6 & 7

FRIDAY, MARCH 5	6:00 P.M. — 9:30 P.M. Registration and Practice
SATURDAY, MARCH 6	6:00 A.M. — 8:30 A.M. Registration and Practice 8:30 A.M. Opening Ceremonies 9:00 A.M. — 12:00 NOON 1st Round 1:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. 2nd Round
SUNDAY, MARCH 7	7:00 A.M. — 8:30 A.M. Practice 8:30 A.M. — Invocation 9:00 A.M. — 12:00 NOON 1st Round 1:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M. 2nd Round 4:30 P.M. Awards Ceremony

ALL DIVISIONS AND CLASSES WILL BE RECOGNIZED
Closed to all except 1976 NFAA MEMBERS, holding handicap card.

NO PRE-REGISTRATION — DON'T BE LATE!

See motel accomodations and map on page 4

POINT OF AIM

by your V.B.A. President

Your VBA Corresponding Secretary issued copies of the latest, revised VBA Constitution and By-Laws to all clubs some time ago. I am sure you will benefit by becoming familiar with these rules, which control the operation of your Association. Also included with the By-Laws is an article, entitled "What is VBA?", that you will find very interesting and informative. Along this line, I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of having your club to send a member to represent you at the quarterly VBA meetings. Only in this way can the Board of Directors be certain they are supporting the rules, procedures and programs that you archers and bowhunters really want.

I further hope you will see that your club sends the best qualified member you have to act as your Director. For one thing, he should be capable of presenting your ideas and proposals for consideration by the

News and Views of the Virginia
Bowhunters Association, Inc.
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V.B.A. Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee consisting of Clinton Western, Chairman, John Stockman and Jim Weidhuner offer the following slate for your consideration:

President
Executive Vice President
Field Vice President
Hunting Vice President
Conservation Vice President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Field Governor
Treasurer
NFAA Director

Hugh Darnell
Louis Hudson
Jimmy Miller
John Stockman
C.D. Tarter
Nina Enders
Nancy Lee Western
Murray Selby
Jim Overfelt
Bill Enders

There will be nominations from the floor at the March 28 VBA meeting, so anyone interested in competing for one of the above offices should make their wishes known.

Bowhunter Instructor Course Mar. 27

A Bowhunter Instructor course has been set up for 10:00 A.M., Saturday, March 27th, 1976 at the Mount Vernon Motel in Charlottesville, Va.. This is strictly an instructor course. Only persons interested in becoming an instructor and devoting the time necessary to teach the course should attend. Persons interested need not be a member of VBA or NFAA.

Both Part 1 and Part 11 of the course will be taught. It is necessary that you bring your hunting equipment, broadheads or change blades in razor type heads.

The following are NFAA requirements to become a Certified Instructor:

*an unquestionable record as a top quality sportsman in the eyes of his peers and will pledge to meet and uphold the covenants of the NFAA Bowhunter Instructor's Creed.

*hunted big game frequently during the last three years and has enough bowhunting experience to adequately fulfill the responsibilities of a certified bowhunter instructor.

*satisfactorily participated in a complete Bowhunter Education Course, Part 1 and Part 11, including the shooting competency requirement, using broadhead arrows. Part 11 shooting requirements may be waived if physical infirmities prohibit shooting.

*satisfactorily completed the Bowhunter Education Program's Instructor Certification Examination.

*received approval by the Bowhunter Education Chairman of his state.

*Instructor Certification will be continued provided at least one Bow-

hunter Education Course is taught in each calendar year. Expired Certifications may be reinstated by the state bowhunter education chairman upon written application within a period of one year from the date of expiration.

*a valid Hunter Education Instructor Certification issued by the State Department of Conservation. (Applicable after program is officially adopted by the state and legislation is enacted requiring bowhunter education as a condition for purchasing a license.)

If further information is needed, call Roger Mock, Hunting Vice President at (703) 955-3258.

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How To Increase Your Harvest of Deer and Turkeys

Progressive Farmer, Jan. 1976

by Earl Franklin Kenamer

How can you help increase your deer and turkey populations? First, aim for turkey management. Deer, if present, will benefit from your efforts. Deer compete heavily with turkeys for some foods such as acorns. In fact, deer are too numerous in many areas where they were restocked 7 to 10 years before, except where dog hunting has depleted herds.

Here are some general rules for increasing deer and turkey.

1. Maintain a good supply of mature hardwoods, especially oaks. Dogwoods, beeches, gums, wild pecans, greenbriers are excellent crops.

2. Burn old pinelands and broom-sedge fields every one to three years in rotation. This stimulates rebirth of legumes and other desirable plant species. Get help from your local state forester on burning techniques.

3. Have your wildlife conservation officer check occasionally for game poaching.

4. Keep timber-cutting operations to a minimum and to as few areas as possible, especially during spring nesting season. Frequent human activity disturbs turkeys.

5. Control free-ranging dogs, especially in spring and early summer when hens are nesting. Dogs will also hound deer to death once they become addicted to chasing deer.

6. Forget control of natural predators such as foxes and bobcats. They won't kill many turkeys, but they will remove weak and diseased birds so you will have strong, healthy flocks. Keep out or reduce livestock numbers whenever possible. Cattle and sheep eat seed-bearing plants. Hogs are especially detrimental because they eat great quantities of acorns.

7. Permit no shooting of turkey hens; follow all hunting regulations.

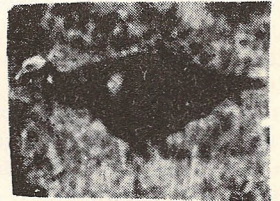
8. Discourage tenants' raising unfenced chickens or turkeys; they may carry diseases such as blackhead that

could kill off your entire turkey population. Because of potential disease spread, don't spread poultry manure on fields where turkeys roam.

9. Don't stock pen-raised "wild" turkeys. Turkeys have increased an estimated 1,000% in range and population over the past 30 years because trapped wild turkeys, not pen-reared birds hatched from wild turkey eggs, have been released to restock.

10. Clear all growth from selected spots if your woodland has no open areas. While 2- and 3-acre clearings are beneficial, 10- to 20-acre patches will be better.

Anything you do to increase numbers of turkeys also benefits deer.



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A Most Suspenseful 40 Minutes

by John Stockman

On the closing day of the 1975 Virginia bow season I climbed into my tree stand fifteen feet high in a thick cedar tree, well before daylight. I had built the stand several weeks earlier. It was situated about twenty-five yards off the side of a trail leading into a thicket which I knew from previous scouting was a bedding area. Immediately upon getting into my stand, I checked the wind direction again and faced downwind.

Shortly after dawn, I heard a slight rustling noise behind me. I turned ever so slowly toward the thicket just in time to see the rump of a deer pass under the thick boughs of my tree. I raised my bow and drew silently to my anchor, my movement screened by the limbs of the cedar tree. My thought was to nail the deer as it passed from under the tree. A seemingly interminable period of time passed but no deer emerged into view. I concluded that it must have stopped directly under the platform of the tree stand. I carefully lowered the leaden feeling bow and tried to relax my trembling body. Surely the deer could hear my gasping breath and pounding heart. The thickly interleaved boughs of the cedar tree almost obscured my vision of the area under my stand and made shooting through it impossible. Try as I might, I couldn't see any movement under me and the only sound I could detect was my own rasping breathing. I tried to convince myself that I hadn't imagined catching a glimpse of a deer slipping out of the thicket from the wrong direction and passing under my tree.

Just as my resolve to remain absolutely motionless and silent was stretched to the breaking point, I heard the faintest suggestion of sound under my tree. Through a tiny opening I could see a buck bedded at the base of my tree! I was not suffering from delusions after all. Twenty minutes had elapsed since I had first seen the deer. How long would it remain motionless and silent? Another agonizing twenty minutes passed before the buck moved again. As it arose from its bed I once again drew to my anchor point and released after the browsing buck was clear of my tree. The arrow sped downward and through the unsuspecting buck.

The forty minutes I had spent within fifteen feet of the deer were some of the most suspenseful have ever endured. Would I like to do it again? You bet I would!

MOTELS AND MAP FOR STATE TOURNAMENT

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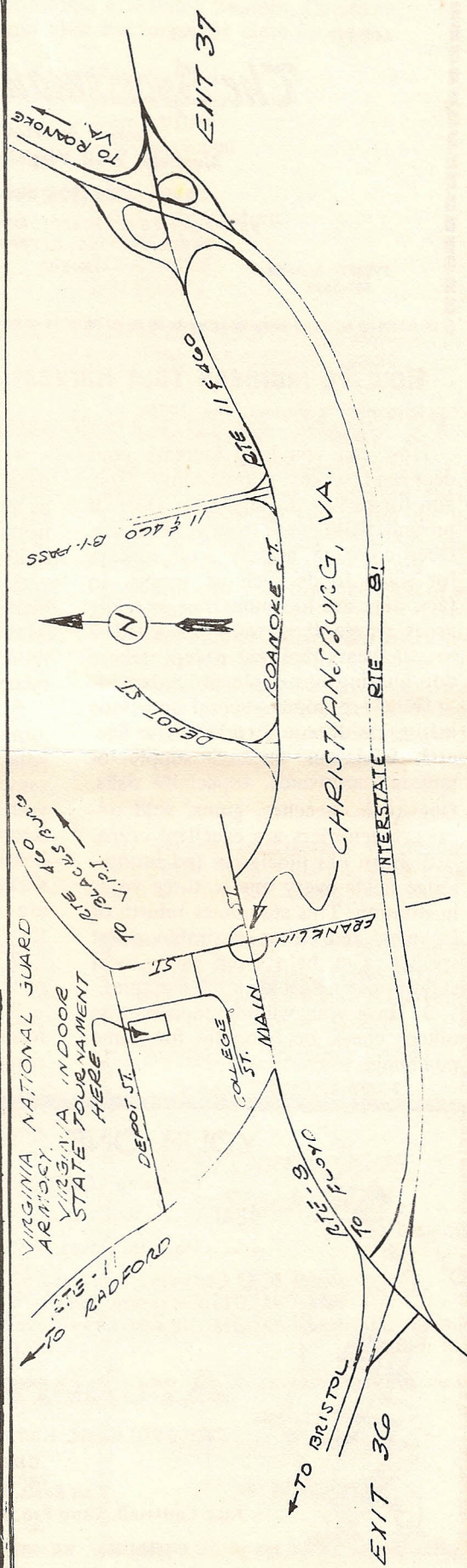
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Point of Aim

FROM PAGE 1

Board. For another, he must exercise good judgement in voting on the issues, in order that the best interests of the majority of VBA members will be protected. We also must keep in mind that these representatives of your clubs who regularly attend VBA meetings most often are among the ones nominated to fill the VBA officer positions. If the system works properly, there should be a continuous supply of well-qualified people who have a good knowledge of VBA affairs, past and present, to carry on as Directors and Officers. I am sure your club at times has felt the need for new blood. Doesn't it follow that the same situation might apply to VBA? Let's all pull together and renew our efforts to make VBA the best that archery has to offer.

If you have been reading your "Archery" magazines, you are aware of the NFAA Bowhunter Education Program. The Board has decided we will participate in this program, and we are to get rolling with a course to qualify Bowhunter Instructors at the March VBA meeting. We would be

very pleased to have the wholehearted and enthusiastic support of all members in this effort. A successfully-run program can go a long way toward protecting and expanding our bowhunting privileges in Virginia.

Much interest was generated at the January meeting in renewing our efforts to get an extra bowhunting season, West of the Blue Ridge, after the gun season for deer and bear goes out. One way to help in this is to get up as many petitions of the greatest number of bowhunters (VBA and non-VBA) as possible. The extent of our success will depend in large measure upon the strength of our efforts. Get your club organized on this, and mail your petitions to Roger Mock, Hunting VP not later than the first week in March. Sample petition recommended by VBA may be found elsewhere in this "Flight", or see your VBA Director.

Now is the time to renew your VBA/NFAA dues. The sooner you get them in, the sooner you will be qualified to participate in all our archery programs. See your club secretary.

For your interest and information, the Board voted to have Augusta Archers host this year's Virginia Open.

Bill Enders, NFAA Director, feels that NFAA is quite likely to adopt the flight system used at Jaye, Vermont, as our official classification system at the February National Meeting. Quite a few states have proposed this as an agenda item. Bill also reports quite a bit of demand around the country for adopting a Semi-Restricted Bowhunter Division as official.

The recent one-third increase in postal fees will make it increasingly difficult for VBA and clubs to meet expenses. Your club can help solve the problem by submitting requests in such a manner that the VBA Corr. Secy., Field VP, etc., can mail items to you in bulk, insofar as possible. Also take advantage of your VBA Director's trips to the quarterly meetings by having him pick up your orders in person.

The January meeting offered me one of the rare pleasures of holding the office of President. At that time, I was privileged to assist Clint Western in installing Mertie and Dutch Shultz in the Order of the Golden Feather. Congratulations to these fine representatives of our sport.

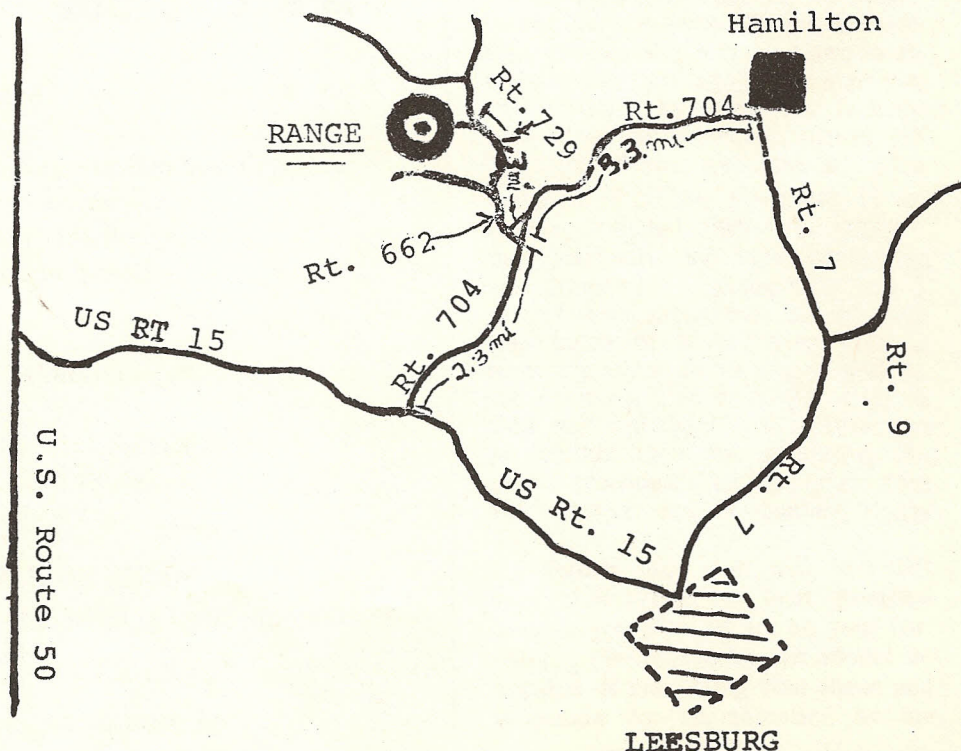
Loudoun Bowhunters have Hunting Success

Members of Loudoun Bowhunters had a very successful bowhunting season this past year. Jack Denbow, Roger Pearce, Bobby Gibson, Lewis Carr and Darlene Frye each got themselves two deer. The following members got one deer each: Hank Coombs, Tom Ott, Kathy Cissel, Bob Cissel, Tom James, Roger Mock, Luther Vinoski, Wayne Loveless, Woody Cooper, Tink Nathan, Bob White, Jerry Gibson, Tom Hancock & Bill Howard. Hank Coombs also got a black bear in Maine with the bow, and Tom & Darlene Frye each got a mountain lion with the bow in Colorado. Harold Kornegay (Himalayan) got a shot.

DEADLINE DATES

The Deadline Date for the Mar.-Apr. issue of "Flight" is March 15. This issue should be in the hands of the members by the first week in April.

Location of Loudoun Bowhunters New Range



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SAMPLE PETITION

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