



FLIGHT



From the Desk of The Corresponding Secretary

'Tis the season for many of our clubs to elect new officers. For the benefit of those new secretaries who will undoubtedly inherit an odd assortment of middle-aged forms from the retiring officer, here are a few reminders as to where to send the various forms after they have been correctly and legibly (please) filled out.

Send all scores—T-1 and T-2 forms—to the Field Vice-President. Send a copy of this form even if the shoot was cancelled.

Send orders for award pins to the Field Vice-President.

Duplicate classification cards can only be obtained from the Field Vice-President.

Send all club rosters, membership applications, "20" pin applications, changes of address, list of officers, and charter renewals to the Corresponding Secretary.

When sending in new memberships, please print or type applicant's full name and address. This includes middle initials and route numbers, box numbers, street numbers, etc. There may be only one Joe Smith in your club, but there are several in the State. Keep me up to date on changes of address. "Flights" addressed to the wrong place are not forwarded. Please make all checks payable to Virginia Bowhunters Association, and avoid sending cash through the mail.

(Continued on page 2)

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A "TOY" ARCHERY SET . . .

Any bow, and every bow, can be dangerous. It is the obligation of every experienced archer to impress everybody of this fact.

Bear Kills Wounded Deer

What was expected to be a routine hunting trip for Dr. McKelden Smith turned out to be an "exciting" one. The physician also learned that a bear will steal game that has been wounded by a hunter if given a chance.

Briefly, Dr. Smith wounded a deer which fled, the bear found the animal and killed it, mutilated the carcass, and managed to elude hunters although spotted several times by them. The bear also managed to elude an arrow fired at him by the physician.

It all began Tuesday when Dr. Smith and other members of a hunting party went to the George Washington National Forest in pursuit of deer, and just possibly a bear.

About 7:40 a.m. Dr. Smith shot a deer with an arrow but the wounded animal fled into the woods. About 10 a.m. he and another hunter, Mark Judd, of Rt. 2, Waynesboro, began to pursue the wounded animal.

The two men heard a loud crying noise, indicating that some animal apparently was in distress. A short time later they heard noises which sounded as if a bear was feeding in the oak trees. Dr. Smith said there had been many indications of bears feeding in the section.

At that time, Dr. Smith and Mr. Judd decided to investigate, and so each one took one side of a thicket to search.

At that time, Mr. Judd saw a bear dragging a deer away, but it was not known at the time it was the same animal wounded by Dr. Smith. The bear, with the deer, fled into a hollow.

Determined not to give up, Dr. Smith, Mr. Judd, and a group of other hunters in the party began planning a search for the bear and deer. Suddenly the bear appeared, dragging the deer toward the men.

Before those in the party could get over their surprise, the bear dropped the deer and ran.

(Continued on page 2)

Lethal Effectiveness Of The Arrow

"The bow is an inefficient weapon but not an ineffective one. The two terms should not be confused. The gun has replaced the bow and arrow because it can kill game with less effort and less skill on the part of the hunter.

"An arrow is not an 'in-humane' weapon and its effect should not be evaluated on the basis of the crude arrow points of the native people of the world, here or in any other lands.

"A hunted animal usually dies of cerebral anoxia, no matter what the wound or the instrument might be. If an animal is hit in the chest with a bullet, the energy is spent in concussion of the tissues. Capillary bleeding is actually interfered with. The entry wound frequently closes.

"If a similar animal is hit in the chest with an arrow, the wound is clear cut. Bleeding is enhanced. Furthermore, the lungs collapse with pneumothorax, preventing inspiration of more oxygen. Thus, there are two factors working synergistically to produce anoxia and a more rapid death. This has been shown to be a fact.

"An arrow wound in the spine produces paralysis the same as a bullet. An arrow wound in the abdomen produces bleeding greater than a bullet. An arrow wound in a leg, thigh, or neck that does not produce fatal bleeding

(Continued on page 4)

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country, its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife. And a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all your VBA officers

FLIGHT

News and views of the Virginia
Bowhunters Association, Inc.

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Shooting Problems Are Discussed

It is surprising when you analyze your shooting faults, just how large a part the bow hand plays. Of course we all know that it has to be positioned properly to get a hit on the target, but I mean the little variations in arrow hitting in the general target area that are so difficult to find a reason. In my own case, for instance, lousy shooting over the past several months has been attributed to a lot of different things. However, upon taking movies of my shooting form (in desperation, I might add) and carefully running over them in slow motion many times, the obvious of moving the bow hand, almost imperceptible, came to light. One can't expect miracles immediately even when you are aware of this fault, but by working on it and constantly practicing on keeping the bow hand out pointing at the target until the arrow hits, this shooting problem can be whipped. The light grip of the bowhand has to be an easy, comfortable, hold that can be duplicated each time an arrow is shot. It is very easy to try and counter other faults with a slight movement of the bowarm. This is murder! Believe me, I know.

Whether you use either of the two extreme bow grips, the California wrist hold, as I call it, or complete flexibility of the wrist, learn to shoot the bow by complete repetition of the bow grip. Whenever you heel the bow with the palm of the hand, you not only change your draw length, but completely unbalance the tiller of your bow, and get a resulting wild shot. Remember, it is the bow hand that shoots the bow, and don't forget it for even one shot.

"20" Pin Winners

OCT. - DEC. 1961

35 Yards

Doc Blankenship, Lynchburg
Freddie Blosser, New Market
Tom Bricker, Manassas
William Byers, Buena Vista
Robert Coeyman, Fishersville
Warren Cowles, Fairfax Station
Hugh Darnell, Sr., Springfield
George Deane, Jr., Hampton
Richard Dickinson, Newport News
Pete Ferrell, Annandale
Sam Hite, Rich Creek
Bunny Key, Bedford
R. F. LaRue, Jr., Buena Vista
William McCormick, Jr., Staunton
James McFadden, Lynchburg
Mike Zirkle, Edinburg

40 Yards

Bill Baugh, Wise
Bunny Key, Bedford
SFC Chester Kutzler, Ft. Eustis
Billy Martin, Pilot
Willie Moses, Radford
Joseph Selby, Alexandria
Earl Tweedy, Evington

45 Yards

James Caldwell, Glasgow
Doug Daniels, Danville
W. C. Farris, Saltville
Samuel Freeborn, Richmond
Doris Limerick, Fredericksburg
John Meeks, Staunton
Charles D. Stores, Fairfax
Mickie Weddle, Christiansburg
Frankie Mullins, Coeburn
Cecil B. Stevens, Newport News

50 Yards

Thomas Ford, Sr., Fairfax
Mark Judd, Waynesboro

55 Yards

William Byers, Buena Vista
John Ferrell, Annandale
W. G. Frye, Chilhowie
Susan Korzenewski, Alexandria
Joseph Piatt, Sr., Alexandria
Louis Spence, Winchester

60 Yards

Clarence Lineberry, Galax
Charles D. Stores, Fairfax
Vernon Rogers, Hampton
Jerry Walton, Lynchburg
Berkie Belcher, Haysi

80 Yards

Sherrill Overstreet, Bedford
C. R. Widner, Wytheville

From The Desk

(Continued from page one)

When requesting supplies of forms from me, try to give me an idea of the number you need.

Though I am still fairly new on this job of Corresponding Secretary, I will do my best to answer any further questions.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!

Sincerely,
Sue

Big Deer Contest

The "Big Deer Contest" sponsored by Sherwood Archers, was won this year by Maurice Phillips of Richmond Archers with a six-point, 160 lb. field-dressed, buck. Maurice's choice of bows was a Hoyt Pro-Custom, which has been ordered for him. We wish to thank all who entered our contest and to those of you who didn't get that "big one," better luck next year.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended our 8th Annual Turkey Shoot which was held on our new range. We had a beautiful day for this shoot which was attended by 56 archers. A good time was had by all. We would like to invite any VBA member, when in our area, to stop by our range and give it a try. The scenery is pretty and the walking easy. There are seven or eight permanent Adirondack-type shelters, fireplaces, a large main shelter, nice mountain stream, and plenty of well water.

AROUND THE STATE

Understand from the Tidewater country that a relatively new archer, "B" Gomery, downed a large buck on opening day that put all of the old timers to shame. Like I always say, fellas, some have it and some don't! Also, there is a factual rumor going around that there were four bear killed with the mighty bow and arrow. *Why don't you archers send in the hot dope to ye ol' editor and get some of this excellent publicity before the public?

* From the Wythe Bowhunters comes word that nine club members were successful deerslayers.

Bear Kills

(Continued from page one)

The deer, said the physician, had been mutilated by the bear and thus not fit to bring in. As a result, the carcass was left in the woods, but the hunters took a watch near it the next day with the thought that possibly the bear would return, which it did.

Dr. Smith was the one standing watch when the bruin returned about 9:15 Wednesday morning. He said: "I had an easy, close shot as the bear was not aware of my presence. However, I missed it." As a result, the bear fled and apparently never returned.

It was found later, said Dr. Smith, that the deer had apparently fallen close to the place it was shot and the bear found it. The crying noise apparently was the sound made by the deer when attacked by the bear, added the physician.

Dr. Smith, who termed the trip "very exciting," said he had never before seen a bear during his 13 years of hunting.

THE SPHERES

Recently, a small group of bowhunters were sitting around the fire in the evening and the subject of the "protective spheres of game" came under discussion. It was readily agreed that all birds and animals, domestic and wild, have basically three protective rings or spheres around them from their sense of smell, sight, and ability to hear. Of course this varies with the species, as some have senses that are more acute than others. Let's take the deer for example. He relies first on his sight, and this sphere extends in a radius from him of several hundred yards. His second protective sphere is the hearing sphere, and depending on the physical conditions of the area in which he inhabits, this can vary from a few yards to a few hundred.

The inner protective ring, or smelling sphere of the whitetail is also a varying distance, but is generally believed to be somewhat in excess of one hundred yards normally. We can take other kinds of game and project their different spheres such as the wild duck which relies chiefly on his so-called six-power binocular vision and practically none on his smelling ability. (For a matter of fact, I don't even know if a duck can smell.) The bear whose outer protective sphere is his uncanny sense of smell, and so on with other game.

In order to effectively hunt, give some thought as to how to break down or get inside these protective spheres that they rely on so completely. A lot of knowledge can be gained through reading, discussion with experienced hunters, and of course the real teacher, ol' man practical experience. Oh yes, we forgot the easiest way to get inside these protective spheres. Just plain, pure, unadulterated LUCK. However, the latter won't consistently pay off.

A lot of hunters, myself included, when hunting the whitetail will try to rule out as many of these protective spheres as possible by using various tried and proven methods. We are assuming for sake of argument that the deer's outer sphere is his ability to see, so we try and get inside this sphere by camouflage clothing and use of a blind. Secondly we get inside his hearing sphere by remaining quiet. Thirdly, by being on the downwind side of the expected approach of the deer we compromise his sense of smell.

Obviously, there are numerous reasons why the best layed plans often fail, but at times it does pay off and the resulting chance for a nice shot may prove rewarding.

I'm sure many of you hunters have gotten within the three protective spheres and have watched the utter confusion that exists in the reaction of the game. It is almost as if the game is saying "What's this?? This can't happen to me, I'm too smart"—all thus, as he pushes the PANIC button.

As we continued our discussion that evening, one of the bowhunters said that this same philosophy also was dominant in domestic animals. It seems they owned a cat and although the feline had explicit confidence in his wife, it didn't trust the bowhunter, and always either kept one eye open when he was around, or one ear cocked in his direction.

The bowhunter came to look upon it as a game, and awaited his time for the appropriate opportunity to get within the cat's protective sphere. It came sooner than expected in the form of the vacuum cleaner in the neighboring room by the bowhunter's wife.

Ol' Tom was stretched out on the rug with his eyes closed and one ear cocked in the hunter's direction, but because of the vacuum cleaner the noise level in the room had been raised to a point where the cat's sense of hearing was not the protective sphere that he thought it to be. With stealth the bowhunter approached the peacefully sleeping cat and reached down and touched him on the shoulder. PANIC BUTTON, PANIC BUTTON, PANIC BUTTON! The poor cat lost eight of his nine lives from the fright and almost tore up the rug getting out of the room!

Needless to say, this is an excellent example of protective spheres and the complete confidence game places in it. Other examples could be cited, and they all point to the spheres of protection that surround all wildlife. In becoming successful hunters we, of necessity, have to try and understand these spheres and learn to "get inside" them, thereby placing the hunter in an effective position to use the bow and arrow.

For You Camp Chefs

Here is a good recipe for venison steaks or chops. Flour the meat and brown in Mazola oil or Crisco. When browned on one side, turn and slice one large onion over the top; cover with a lid. When onion is tender, the underneath side of the meat will be browned. Add 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt, pepper to taste, 1/2 teaspoon Accent, one small can sliced mushrooms, and one undiluted can of chicken or mushroom soup. Stir, cover and simmer over a low fire for 30-40 minutes. Chow's down!!

Thank You, Mr. Nine Pointer

He did it again! That nine pointer made a monkey out of this archer in such an easy manner! He waited until the last day of the season to saunter down through the woods some sixty yards from my stand, and then obligingly gave me not one, not two, but three shots! I had visions of closing up the archery season with a real thrill, but as the saying goes, three rolls and no coffee. You could've bought a nice #75 hunting bow very cheap at that moment. Not the bow's fault, mind you, just a feeling of complete disgust with myself. I've come to the conclusion that I'm an excellent hunter, but a lousy archery shooter. Of course I missed a few other shots during the season, so it wasn't the hoo-doo of the nine pointer. And, as discussed in a previous article, all of my shots were high. For a matter of fact, the feather whipping that was given the deer in my hunting area was a crime. Almost every shot was right over the back above the shoulder. Honestly believe the deer are convinced there is a new type of bush fly! Eh bien, comes next year, then, pow!!

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Lethal Effectiveness

(Continued from page one)

usually heals after the arrow has worked out. Extensive damage to muscles and nerves is not produced.

"Arrow wounds are of little pain as has been attested by a few humans who have been struck by the modern arrow. Death by anoxia is not dissimilar to 'fainting,' quite devoid of pain.

"It must be remembered that we are discussing relative effectiveness of hunting weapons. If we are referring to a discussion of whether hunting is to be dispensed with completely or not, the above remarks are quite irrelevant.

"Another point that has come up is the penetration of arrows. The modern bow has an effective 'cast' or projective velocity for the 'draw weight.' The projectile is heavy and the point has a sharp cutting edge.

"The 'Broadhead' hunting arrow will penetrate over an inch of bone or animal antler, if cast from a good hunting bow.

"From personal experience I have seen black bear transfixed with one arrow, cutting ribs on both sides, producing death within ten seconds. I have seen mountain goat killed with one arrow passing thru almost full length of the body, one shoulder and beyond half the length of the arrow. I have seen game animals the size of deer killed with direct head shots.

"Of course the exploits of archers like Fred Bear and Howard Hill are not known to the general public which also does not know the effectiveness of the modern bow-and-arrow.

"Killing of Elephant, Grizzly Bear, Kodiak Bear, Elk, Caribou, and other large animals is not a rare accomplishment among archers.

"Bow-and-arrow hunting is an excellent conservation method, not because of its lack of effectiveness, but because of its inefficiency for the average hunter.

—Chas. E. Grayson, M.D.

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