



FLIGHT



1961 National Tournament To Be Non-Amateur Shooting Problems Discussed

The 1961 NFAA Tournament to be held at Crystal Springs, Arkansas, will be essentially non-amateur competition, that is, neither amateur nor professional. This decision was agreed upon by the NFAA Executive Committee after polling a majority of the NFAA members. Just what is this all about and just what does it mean to Mr. Average Archer? Well, it is probably best to start with the definition of Amateur and Professional. An amateur is a person who has never received money or merchandise prizes for participating in any sport. An amateur is eligible to enter the Olympics as a competitor or even F.I.T.A. On the other hand, a professional is a person who makes his living in some sort of archery activity. This may be competing for prize money, a specialist in conducting archery tournaments and related factors, an archery instructor, etc. As you can readily see, there are very few VBA members that come under either the amateur or professional status. Of course, the juniors and intermediates are the exception, and they are required by

the new NFAA ruling to shoot in amateur status. This brings us to the non-amateur archer. He is Mr. Average Archer.

He is the guy who isn't quite Simon Pure in all respects, and could care less. Maybe he was paid a little money for putting on an archery exhibition (expenses plus), competes in an archery league for merchandise prizes or a small cash prize, etc. He doesn't make his living from archery. Far from it. It costs him plenty each year to pursue his hobby, yet he isn't above receiving a prize or a little cash money if it comes his way. This is the non-amateur, you and me. Therefore, it is only natural, that since the NFAA National Tournaments are basically run for Mr. Average Archer, that the main emphasis is put on him, or the non-amateur. Our guess is that there will be very few amateurs entered in the adult divisions at the National. The majority of the archers will be competing in the non-amateur divisions, and this is as it should be.

Discussed

It is alarming to me to see the many equipment and basic shooting irregularities that one encounters among the archers. I know this is a rather delicate subject, to say the least, but someone has to take the bull by the horns and put the show on the road. We all know that we shoot archery for fun and relaxation, and there is nothing worse than shooting with a "know it all," but when mismatched equipment turns up, and basic shooting techniques are completely ignored, one can't help but open his big fat mouth. Guilty, yes sir, I plead guilty to talking at times when maybe I should be listening, but it just does something to me inside to see someone trying their darndest to score and it is almost a physical impossibility when because of mismatched equipment their arrows are darting all over the place.

The fault lies basically with the clubs. We are all trying to get new members and interest new people in archery, yet, how many of the clubs have their organization set up whereby newcomers to archery are led by the hand to avoid all the pitfalls that most of us had to find out the hard way? Not too many, I'll wager. Some clubs, I know, have an excellent program, whereby archers can work out their various problems under excellent tutorage, and experienced archers advise on the purchase of equipment. If all clubs would inaugurate such a program, I'm certain our attrition in archery would be greatly reduced, and less and less of these archery irregularities would be noted on the ranges.

Say, by the way, have you tried the "full" spiral fletch that is showing up on the ranges today? I thought there was nothing that could beat my ol' 6-fletch "bullets," but I was wrong. My new 3 fletch, full spiral are really stable, and fly like darts, straight that is sir, and believe it or not they have a very flat trajectory. Investigate it, maybe you'll like them too.

BOWFISHING

If you haven't been bowfishing yet, you are really missing out on some good fun.

Your editor has been fortunate enough to tie into a few carp this spring and have had some real thrillers.

Stalking the shy carp from the bank of a stream puts to use a lot of your deer hunting lore, and the resulting tussle with a big one if you are fortunate enough to connect is an experience you won't soon forget. I've been bowfishing for years, but didn't get any fish of any size until this year. Man, it's really worth it! Give it a run!

From The Corresponding Secretary

Notice of change of VBA and NFAA Field Governor: Franklin M. (Ike) Lewis, Rte. 2, Box 190, Portsmouth, Va. Please contact Ike for any information needed concerning your course approvals.

Congrats Martin

Martin L. Smith, former NFAA Field Governor for Virginia, has been selected as the new member to the Executive Committee of NFAA from among the nominees submitted by the seven states in the Mid-Atlantic Section. The NFAA needs men of Martin's caliber to help in making decisions that will so vitally affect the future of archery.

Good luck in your new job, Martin, and don't forget your old archery buddies in VBA.

FLIGHT

News and views of the Virginia
Bowhunters Association, Inc.

Colonial Press Printing
in Fredericksburg, Virginia

VBA OFFICERS: Ross E. Garletts, President, 730 Virginia Avenue, Harrisburg, Virginia, Ted Grefe, Executive Vice President and Editor, Box 352, Fairfax, Virginia; G. B. Booth, Jr., Hunting Vice President, 1812 Churchville Avenue, Staunton, Virginia; Harry W. Bunting, Field Vice President, 100 Williamson Rd., Portsmouth, Virginia; Pat Hamilton, Recording Secretary, Rt. No. 4, Glen Allen, Virginia; Edna Gillespie, Corresponding Secretary, 310 Hill Side Drive, Petersburg, Virginia; Al J. Lipske, Jr., Treasurer, 7414 Dickenson, Springfield, Virginia; Martin L. Smith, NFAA & VBA Field Governor, 733 Mayfield Avenue, Norfolk (3) Virginia.

VBA Manual Sales

There are still several clubs who have not ordered your VBA manuals. What are you waiting for, Christmas???. Most clubs have responded very well, but some of the clubs who do the most talking are doing the least buying.

If you would all have a VBA manual and read it carefully, you would have very few questions to keep bothering our very patient Secretary with, and the end result would be a smoother operating State organization.

Let's get on the stick, as the teenagers say, and buy up several hundred that we still have on hand for distribution. Once again, write me direct, Ted Grefe, Box 352, Fairfax, Va., and enclose your check for the number of copies you want, and they will be sent to you immediately. The cost is \$1.50 per single copy, or \$1.25 in multiple club orders. Also, send postage of 9 cents per copy. This is an excellent manual that was painstakingly edited by Gene Limerick and should be in the hands of every VBA member.

Flight Publication

It has been the desire to publish FLIGHT every other month for the past year. This has been followed. If there was sufficient advertising and information available to publish it monthly, it would have been done.

Without a doubt, all of VBA would like to read about the news concerning archery in our State every month, but the publishing of FLIGHT is costly, as the advertising doesn't begin to cover all the expense of printing and mailing. Therefore, FLIGHT will continue to be published every other month until further notice, and the next issue will be in August.

Bowhunting And Target Shooting

It seems there are a lot of pros and cons these days on the relative merits of bowhunting and target shooting and the comparison of the two for what ultimate conclusion I'm not quite certain. To me the relationship of field course shooting and shooting at deer or other big game is completely a minus quantity, and should not even be compared in any way. I'll concede that the field course was originally intended to provide practice for the hunting archer between seasons, but the manner in which the field course is shot today no longer accomplishes that purpose.

This doesn't necessarily mean that the field course doesn't serve a purpose because it does. In addition to the sheer enjoyment of field course shooting, it does several things for the archer.

First and foremost, it makes an archer out of a non-archer or would-be archer. By this I mean a fellow who thinks that maybe he would like to be an archer but doesn't know how to go about it, can cut his teeth, so to speak, on a field course and learn how to properly shoot and handle his archery equipment. This is extremely important in successful bowhunting, beginners luck excepted.

Secondly, field archery gives more than it takes. By this I mean that through organization and dedication of its members, those connected with field archery are always trying to further archery in all of its phases, and make it more enjoyable for all those who participate.

It is the field archer who tries to work out through his organization satisfactory bowhunting laws with the State game officials. Granted, there are many bowhunters in field archery, and favorable bowseasons are desirable to the field archer-bowhunter, but the point is that through the widespread field archery organization, more understanding is built up between lawmaker and game harvester.

There is a lot of misunderstanding about the difficulties experienced in converting from target equipment to hunting equipment when the deer season rolls around in the fall. To me this is a lot of nonsense. I can shoot field archery with light equipment successfully either fully instinctive or by the space gap method. Of course there is a great margin of difference in score between the two, and in order to meet competition one has to resort to some type of space gap method in order to duplicate shots on any given target. Therefore, since many of us use some specific method of field course shooting technique, what possible connection is there with the heavy equipment we use for hunting big game? None, in my book.

When I get serious with my heavy tackle in early fall, I work out somewhat on the field courses and targets

(generally animal targets), but the practice I am really interested in getting is off the range in the form of stump shooting or a reasonable facsimile, or any type of bow-shooting that is not man constructed and which will more resemble actual shooting conditions.

I don't "lay away" my bowhunting equipment either. My hunting bow and arrows are always available and I use them periodically throughout the year to keep in "tune" and strengthen my shoulder and back muscles.

I probably shoot a good deal heavier pull bow than most bowhunters, not only because I'm physically able to pull a heavier bow, but because I prefer the flat trajectory of the arrow for woods shooting, and am a firm believer in complete penetration of the arrow in big game. Thus, because of a heavy pull bow, it is necessary for me to practice occasionally throughout the year to remain in good physical shooting condition.

Of course there is another side of the story for those archers who use the same bow for field course shooting that they do for deer hunting. There is a lot of difference in trajectory in shooting a 325 grain aluminum field arrow and a 550 grain wooden arrow with a broadhead on it.

This is a problem that can only be solved with practice, and I personally don't believe the place to get it is on the field course range. It helps, of course, but the real practice for your hunting equipment is under as near hunting conditions as you can get.

While we're on the subject of light target arrows and heavy hunting arrows, I'll go out on a limb and wager that most of the misses that are made at deer are OVER and not under as you would imagine. Check your own record and see if this statement is correct. Naturally, most of our misses at long range (50 yards and over), are of the "under" variety, and is the exception to the above statement. Also, how many times have you heard somebody relate to you their prize deer story and say "the arrow went just over his back??" Too often, I'll bet.

There are probably a lot of you archers who do not agree with many of the statements that are made in this article, and if you don't, send your ideas to FLIGHT, and we'll surely print them. This is an old argument among bowhunters and target shooters, so don't be afraid to get in the act.

Flight Advertising Rates

All advertising in "Flight" magazine is based on a charge of \$2.50 per column inch. There is an additional charge of approximately \$5.00 if the ad contains a picture reproduction.

List of 20 Pin Winners

35 Yards

Walter C. Kello, Norfolk
 Henry Rodgers, Winchester
 John T. Stickles, Jr., Clearbrook
 Charles Payne, Luray
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 James Alexander, Winchester
 O. Claude Davis, Wytheville
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 Wilson Prillaman, Bedford
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 Berchie Belcher, Haysi (4 pos.)
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 Paul T. Bower, Christiansburg

Lee's Limericks

There was a young man from Khartoum
 Who surely caused his own doom
 Way up in the sky
 He shot an arrow so high
 The date is inscribed on his tomb

 We walked to the target, we three
 It was just as I feared it would be
 We all took our turn
 And I will be durn
 Everyone hit it but me

50 Yards

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 Mrs. Mickie Weddle, Christiansburg
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 Keith Webb, Lynchburg

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WHO DAT?

Did you hear about the fellow who called up the White House and wanted to speak to the President? He was told that the President was in Europe. He then asked to speak to the Vice-President, and he was informed that the Veep was away on business. "Let me speak to the Secretary of State," he then demanded. The operator answered, "I'm sorry, but he is also away trying to work out the Latin America problem." After a pause, the fellow inquired, "just who in the dickens is running the country, anyway?" From the operator came the nostalgic reply, "WE is, man, WE is!!!"

Twenty Pin-itis

With three in the five and one to go
 The adrenalin starts to overflow
 You draw and hold, then freeze off a foot
 To move your bow you're real hard put
 Then in a manner Oh, so grand
 You release the arrow with both hands.
 Shawnee Lee

How To Stage An Archery Exhibition

(Reprint)

Very likely, at some time or another, some of you folks have been asked to put on an archery exhibition, but for lack of knowledge of just what constitutes an exhibition and how to present it to the group who invited you—Rotary Club, sportsman's organization, etc.—you declined, even though you are considered an expert archer.

Now, any worries you may have had are over. Ike Abernathy, Southern NFAA Executive Committeeman, has been giving, or helping to give, archery exhibitions for many years, and has just finished an NFAA-sponsored booklet which tells, not only in words, but pictures, the types of exhibitions that appeal to the audience, and how to accomplish them.

Here is a paragraph taken from the pamphlet which was of special interest to me: "In setting up the stage, it is best to shoot at a 45-degree angle from the audience, though 30 to 60 degrees is still fine. Only as a last resort do you shoot directly away from an audience or cross-wise to them."

Ike describes 24 different shots, but divides them up into what he calls "Show A," "Show B," etc.

Here is a list of the shots Ike describes in the booklet:

1. Diminishing balloon shot. 2. Candle shot. 3. Trick candle. 4. Falling pie plate. 5. Two-balloon shot. 6. 45 r.p.m. record shot. 7. Revolving balloon shot. 8. Ping pong ball shot. 9. Five-balloon shot. 10. Cigarette shot. 11. William Tell shot. 12. Egg shot. 13. Falling balloon shot. 14. Tic-tac-toe shot. 15. Ricochet shot. 16. Blindfold shot. 17. Blunt shot. 18. Hoops shot. 19. Ping pong ball shot. 20. Ping pong ball shot. 21. Pin

(Continued on page 4)

ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY SHOOT

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Crows . . . Are Always In Season

So why not get in all the shooting you can—on live targets? You can call crows into bow range with decoys—and decoys are cheap and easy to make. Just bend old wire coat hangers into crow-like silhouettes, and sew or staple black tar paper or cloth over them. The hook part of the hanger can be straightened, so it will stick into the ground, or bend around a small tree or bush branch.

If snow is on the ground, a good camouflage is an old sheet, worn Arab-style. If the background is bushy or in low pine cover, a regular camouflage suit is well nigh perfect. Crows fly in colse set-ups of this kind, and a good caller can get a lot of action for his efforts.

State Championship Shoot

REMINDER: Don't forget to make plans now to attend the 15th Annual VBA State Championship Tournament on Sept. 3rd and 4th at Ft. Eustis, Va.

See April FLIGHT for details and any last minute dope will be printed in the next FLIGHT, some time in August.

How To Stage An Archery Exhibition

(Continued from page 3)

balloon shot. 22. Blunt penetration shot. 23. Rifle and arrow shot. 24. Pendulum shot.

The NFAA is distributing the pamphlet. So, if you and a buddy or two would like to form an exhibition team, write for your copy of Ike's booklet. Price is \$1.00. So you won't have to look up the address, here it is—National Field Archery Association, Route 2, Box 514, Redlands, California.



The enclosed picture is part of the 82 Archers who took part in the Two Rivers Archery Club's first Invitational Tournament, on their range, located at Virginia's famous Skyline Caverns, Front Royal, Va., March 26, 1961. Among those participating in the tournament were: present State instinctive champion—Kermit Whitacre of Winchester, Va.; former State instinctive champion—Eugene Limerick of Fredericksburg, Va., and present State champion in the Hunter division—Russel Hawes of Philmont, Va.

ELECTION BALLOTS

Ballots have been mailed to all VBA members for the election of officers for the new year. The ballots will be counted at the next VBA quarterly meeting to be held July 9th. If you haven't mailed your ballot yet, do it now, so that your vote may be counted.



BIG DEER CONTEST

The Sherwood Archers of Roanoke, Virginia are sponsoring a contest for the largest deer killed during 1961 bow season.

The prize: Any bow of your choice, value up to \$85.00

RULES

1. Largest deer bagged (either sex) in weight, field dressed (entrails, liver and heart removed before weighing).
2. Must be bagged with bow and arrow in State of Virginia.
3. In case of tie the earliest postmark entry sheet will determine the winner.
4. Contest runs from October 15th thru October 31st, 1961. All entries must be postmarked not later than midnight, November 2, 1961. Send \$1.00 contribution along with your name and address for entry blank before October 15, 1961 to:

Clinton Western
Secretary & Treasurer,
Sherwood Archers
4041 Virginia Avenue, N. W.
Roanoke, Virginia

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