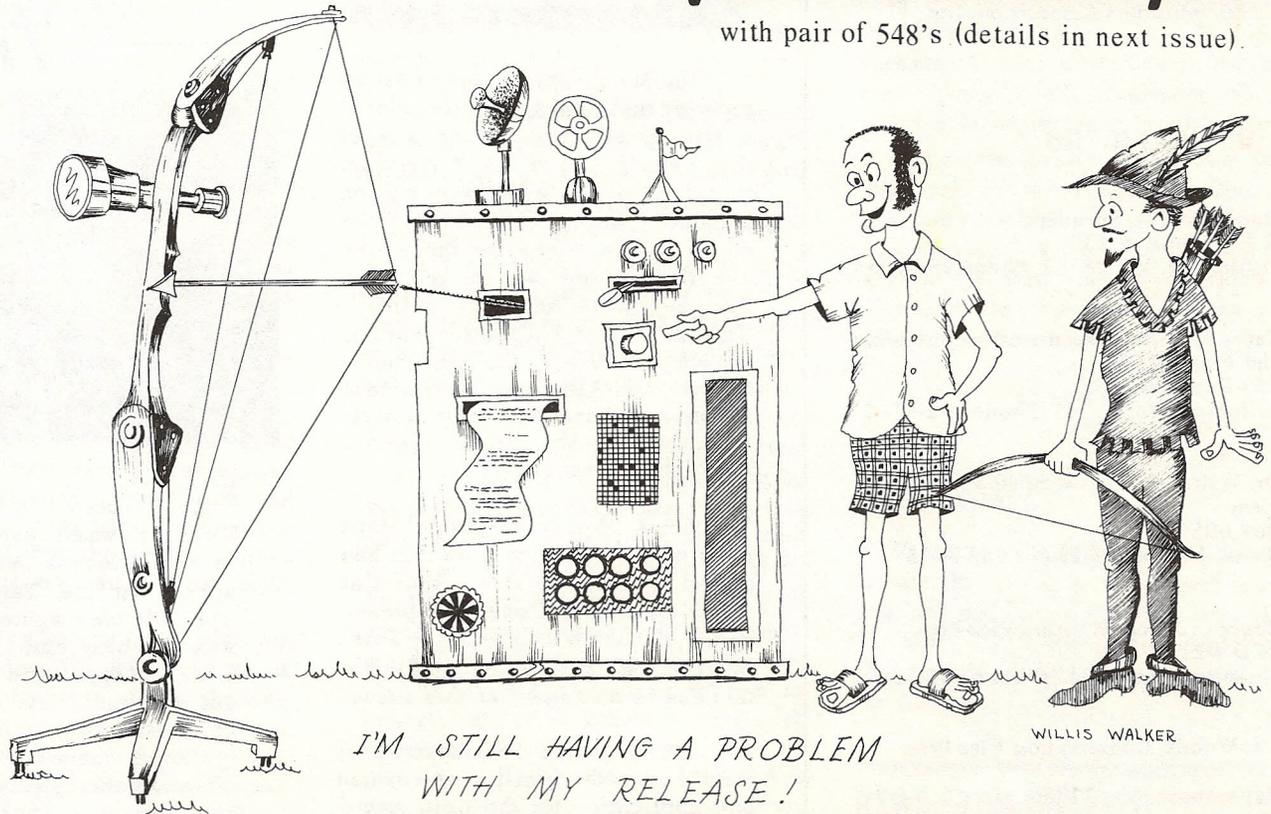


with pair of 548's (details in next issue).



VOLUME 12

MAY - JUNE 1973

NO. 6

Hunting Bows with Sights?

by Don Frenier of Dixie Bowmen

Back in 1956 I bought my first bow for \$13.00. I shot at cardboard boxes, tin cans, dirt banks, grass clumps, rocks, and anything else that caught my eye. You'd be surprised how much of that stuff I could hit. You'd also be surprised at how much I missed, but I kept on shooting. I'd shoot everyday; I really loved it.

I'd break up 3 or 4 arrows a day and I'd go to the hardware store and buy some more. Sometimes I could get them for 30¢ a piece, but other times they'd cost as much as 90¢ a piece. The 90¢ ones had bigger points on them and they wouldn't fly as far as the 30¢ ones, but they had larger feathers and they lasted longer. I shot both kinds equally well.

One day, my buddy called and asked me to come over to his house and see what he had invented. When I got there he was shooting at a jar top in the bank in his back yard. He had taken a coat hanger and made a one inch circle and taped it to his bow. He told me it was a sight.

Man! I must have laughed for 15 minutes. While I was laughing, he went and

got his arrows and shot them again. He put 5 out of 6 arrows in the jar top at 30 yards. He couldn't put 5 arrows in a bushel basket the day before.

I stopped laughing and made a circle sight for my bow. The first arrow I shot went right beside the jar top. The next arrow was way off. The 3rd arrow hit the jar top. I shot 8 or 10 arrows and I noticed that the 90¢ arrows grouped tighter than the 30¢ ones. I shot the 90¢ arrows again and shot a real good group. It didn't take me long to get rid of those 30¢ arrows.

After we shot the circle sights for a couple of days, we noticed that we could only shoot up to about 35 yards with it, so I made another sight out of a flat piece of brass and three small machine screws. The screws were adjustable, up and down and in and out. This sight worked just fine. We got fairly accurate up to 50 yards. In a week's time we were ready to go to Africa and hunt, but we settled for Hog Island instead.

In 1957 I joined the V.B.A. as an associate member. I went to a local archery club and shot on their range

(Continued on Page 5)

Cobo Hall Tournament

One of our members, Mark Lawrence, manager of Mel's Pro Shop, participated in the COBO Hall Tournament in Detroit on March 17th and 18th. As you may know, the tournament is sponsored by PAA & leading archery equipment companies. Some of the observations made by Mark are as follows: No compound bows or release aids were permitted in this tournament in which the Indoor PAA round was shot. Take down bows were the most common type of bow used with Bear and Golden Eagle predominating. Most shooters were using 3-3½ inch feathers rather than plastic vanes on their arrows. Over 500 archers participated. The score the archer shot in his first round determined what flight he was assigned to. Cash prizes were awarded to winners of the Championship Flight and archery equipment was presented to winners of other flights. There were seventy target butts in use with four shooters to a butt. Each shooter was allowed six minutes to shoot an end of 5 arrows. A visible clock kept archers from exceeding their time limit. Mark felt that the tournament was extremely well run. Although he did not finish among the

(Continued on Page 5)

News and Views of the Virginia
Bowhunters Association, Inc.

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V.B.A. Notes & Announcements

* The March-April issue of *Flight* reported that N.F.A.A. had declared a policy, effective 60 days after the Feb. 3 and 4, 1973 meeting, that the Free-style Division will be separated into Limited and Unlimited Divisions -- one for those who use fingers and one for releases. The key word here is "policy". This is an N.F.A.A. policy, but not an adopted V.B.A. policy. Therefore the Mid-Atlantics and National shoots will have the separate division, but not the closed Virginia State shoot over Labor Day.

* V.B.A. Master Directional Maps is to be revised. Any club that has moved its range or is not shown at all on the current Zone Map, please send an updated map to Carey Price by June 24th (V.B.A. meeting). His address is on page 2 of this issue.

* Hunting Vice President Roger Mock hopes there will be more than one application for the Carp award this year. He also feels a bit sad that only 40 applications for the Bill Bennett Big Game award have been turned in, especially in view of the fact that over 600 deer were killed with the bow in the state of Virginia.

(continued on Pg. 4)

DEADLINE DATES

The deadline date for the July-August issue of "Flight" is July 11, 1973. The issue should be in the hands of the membership by the first week in Aug.

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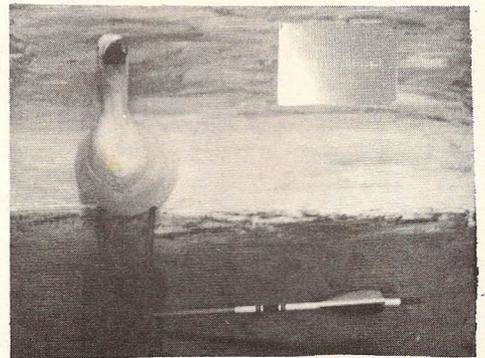
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See you at the Shoots!

Tidewater Tidbits



Hi Folks:

As I reported in the last issue, Warwick Bowmen issued a challenge to the Princess Anne Bowmen to appear on the Warwick range on Apr. 1 if they wanted to know which was the best club. Well, Princess Anne accepted and Warwick found out the hard way. Princess Anne carried home a mighty fine trophy (pictured above). Both teams had 25 shooters, plenty of sunshine, and, after the smoke had cleared, Warwick served free hot dogs, drinks and sweets. Thanks for a good time -- and, yes, we accept your challenge for a rematch on June 3. Special thanks go to Ben Ward of the Warwick Bowmen for the original trophy he designed. One final note on this shoot: one poor soul, initials T.S. (A W.B. member) went to the Princess Anne range all geared for the challenge shoot!

From the Dixie Bowmen comes a word that they are working hard getting ready for their June 10 Annual. They will have a Field and International round and are looking for a big crowd to show up to carry home the pretty trophies. Dixie is sad to report that a well-loved charter member of their club passed away. Percy Archer, known to many archers in Virginia, died the first week in April.

There has been a change in the Bowmen of York plans. They have postponed their Annual and will hold it on June 17th. On the card this is listed as a pin shoot, but, due to the fact that willing labor is so hard to find, their Annual will be held on this day, as their new range is not quite complete. They will have a Field and International Round.

See you next issue,
Nina

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

At present there are over 20,000 Bowhunters in the state of Virginia and the number is growing. At present there are about 800 members in the V.B.A. and the number is not growing. The situation on the national level is even worse. The number of bowhunters across the nation increases every year, while the number of N.F.A.A. members decreases.

Unlike the bowhunters of a few years ago, the majority of these new bowhunters use bows equipped with some combination of sights, stabilizers and clickers. Some even use release aids. The majority of them shoot a bow drawing over 45 pounds and use hunting weight arrows.

Some of these bowhunting archers are N.F.A.A. members. If they compete in authorized tournaments while shooting their hunting tackle, they must shoot in the Free-Style Division because they do not meet the equipment requirements of the Bow Hunter Division.

Recently the N.F.A.A. authorized separate classes within the Free-Style Division so that finger shooters would not have to compete against release shooters. It was hoped that this action would retain the finger shooters who felt that it was unfair for them to shoot against release shooters.

The archer who shoots hunting tackle also is at a disadvantage when required to compete against Free-Style shooters shooting tournament tackle. Some of these shooters will continue to compete in the Free-Style Division simply because they enjoy shooting despite the fact that they can't seriously compete with other Free-Style shooters on the basis of score. Others will drop out of organized archery because they don't like to participate when they feel they compete at a disadvantage.

We should strive not only to retain present N.F.A.A. members, but to attract some of the growing bowhunter population. I propose that one action that could be taken to achieve this is to establish either a separate Free-Style Bow Hunter Division or to modify the existing Bow Hunter Division to permit archers shooting hunting tackle that doesn't meet the present Bow Hunter Division equipment requirements to compete against other archers shooting similar equipment.

I feel that some of the "unorganized" bowhunters would be interested in joining the N.F.A.A. if they knew there was a division in which they could compete against one another.

As archery writer Milan Elott pointed out in the June issue of "Bow & Arrow" at least 50% of bowhunters use sights and a large number use releases. These items are prohibited in the present Bowhunter Division. He went on to point out that some tournaments have increased their attendance by permitting these aids to be used in an open bowhunting division. In my opinion this is a desirable trend. I attended a tournament last year in which a Open Bowhunter Division had been established. It was appreciated by the bowhunting archers. Based upon this success, at least one neighboring club now plans to establish a separate division for free-style bowhunters in its annual animal tournament. While such developments are encouraging, they are not sufficient. The bowhunting archers would like to compete with other archers using similar equipment at all tournaments, not at just a few novelty shoots. As N.F.A.A. president Eiv Kreisler stated in the April issue of "Archery", traditionally the N.F.A.A. has made room for new types of equipment and shooting techniques as the need arose. The need exists now to recognize the archer who shoots hunting tackle with sights and other aids in competition.

I propose that the V.B.A. President appoint a committee to study the feasibility of establishing another Division or modifying an existing one to allow archers who shoot hunting weight bows and arrows with aids acceptable to the present Bowhunter Division equipment requirements to compete against one another. The committee should be charged with polling the V.B.A. membership to determine if there is enough interest in such a change to justify making it. If there is sufficient interest, the committee should be required to develop equipment requirements and a scoring system.

Regarding equipment, almost without exception every archer I have discussed this with would retain the 45 pound draw weight and 125 grain point weight of the present Bowhunting Division. There is divided opinion, however, on what aids to allow. All would permit a sight of some sort. Some would permit releases, some would not. These are issues the committee should investigate.

Initially, the present scoring system of the Barebow Division could be utilized. If it proved not to be acceptable, it could be modified as scores dictate. I recommend it as a starting point since the "Free-Style" Bowhunter should shoot a higher score than an archer in the Bowhunter Division, but a lower score than one in the Free-Style Division.

To ease the burden on clubs in presenting awards, I would propose that the present D class in all divisions be eliminated to compensate for the establishment of a new division.

Sincerely,
John Stockman

EDITORS NOTE

V.B.A. recognized an Unlimited Bow Hunter Division, in fact it was a recognized division in the 1971 State Shoot at Warwick. It had 2 participants, Also its a Club option as to whether to open this division.

NEWS FROM TRIANGLE

BOWHUNTERS

Christiansburg

by Jim Overfelt

Our pin shoot started at 9:30 a.m. on a very cold, rainy Sunday morning with everyone, except for the hardiest, dreading to begin shooting in such disheartening weather.

It appeared from the beginning that Young Adult Free-Style David Thompson, of Triangle Bowhunters, was determined to overcome the problems of rain and cold weather.

While some of the big, strong, grown-ups dropped out because of the weather, David held fast and proceeded to shoot a 532 field round.

Not bad for a 16 year old that has been shooting only since this past Christmas.

David beat everyone on 28 field and finished 3rd over all after shooting 28 field and 14 hunter faces.

Winners were: 1st James Mitchell 797
2nd Ron Shamblin 792
3rd David Thompson 783

V.B.A. NOTES (cont. from pg..2)

ARCHERY EXCISE TAX:

* Effective July 1, 1974 archers will begin paying an 11% excise tax - the same as has been paid for years on guns, ammunition and fishing gear. Money collected will flow into a fund under the Pittman - Robertson Act to be returned to the States in the form of financial assistance. Fifty per cent of the revenues collected from the archery tax will be used for fish and wildlife restoration projects, and fifty per cent will support archery training and safety programs, including the building of archery ranges. Various sources estimate the archery tax revenue will raise \$1 to \$2 million annually.

* N.F.A.A. Cub Division is now in effect. V.B.A. Field Governor Bill Enders will be distributing to each club, instructions and distances.

* Sherwood had a tough time with their Annual DOGWOOD FESTIVAL Shoot. There was a delay in target delivery, so many archers had to wait for their turn to shoot. Sherwood expressed thanks to those who participated, and said that the shoot will be held at the range next year instead of the Stadium.

* NORVA will have a lighted outdoor 20 yard round starting on Thursday, June 7 at 8:00 p.m. with practice at 7:30. The outdoor round will be shot using the same rules as the Indoor NFAA Round. Shooting fees will be \$1.50 per adult and 50¢ for youths under 18. Everybody is invited.

* The Bowmen of York will conduct their Silver Medalion Shoot on the 17th of June at Ft. Eustis because their new range is not ready. The Annual will start at 9:00 a.m. and will consist of a Field and International round.

* Prince Wm. Archers will host their Annual Black Bear Shoot using multiple registration. In other words, a person can register in a different division for each round he shoots as long as he adheres to the rules of that division.

* The dates for the Annual Shoot at the Algonquin Bowman range in Culpeper have been changed from June 16&17 to July 14&15. Registration will be casual. The reason for the change is that June 16&17 are the dates for the Mid-Atlantics.

* Flat Top Archery Club of Bedford have moved their range behind the Moose Lodge on Rt. 460 (about 3½ miles west of Bedford). Shoots will be held there from now on due to destruction of the old range.

20-PIN WINNERS - March and April

FIELD

George Conkey, Falls Church
 Sonny Foster, Lynchburg
 David Thompson, Christiansburg
 Jerry Maxey, Elliston
 Rodney Lawhorn, Salem
 Paul Whitney, Norfolk
 Hattie Thomes, Culpeper
 David Ross, Newport News
 Anne Collett, Newport News
 Benson Collett, Newport News
 Stanley Ross, Newport News
 Ronald McGee, Newport News
 Richard Zilly, Yorktown
 Clarence Shrewsbury, Arlington
 William Ott, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.
 William Leigh, Paeonian Springs

HUNTER

George Conkey, Falls Church
 Carlton Conkey, Falls Church
 Ray Staub, Point of Rocks, Md.
 Kenneth Atkinson, Roanoke
 Arthur White, Hillsboro
 Rodney Lawhorn, Salem
 David Thompson, Christiansburg
 David Hart, Springfield
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Linda Mock, pretty wife of the Hunting Vice-President, wears a hat with the "Pitch In" slogan.

COBO HALL (Continued from page 1)

winners, he said that the trip was worthwhile. Like most serious A Class shooters, he is always looking for ways to improve his score. One method of achieving this is to observe other top flight shooters in action. Mark says he picked up some helpful hints from such stars as Vic Berger and John Williams.

HUNTING BOWS WITH SIGHTS?

(Continued from Page 1)

and was enjoying it very much, when a fellow walked up to me and gave me a mean look and said if I wanted to compete in tournaments, I'd have to get rid of that damn sight. I told him that I was just a guest and was not competing. He told me to make sure I didn't. Well, I made sure I didn't in fact, I didn't go to another archery range until 1961.

Now, I could have stayed away from organized archery, but I enjoyed bowhunting. I shot carp, I had some good hunting buddies, and we really enjoyed shooting together, but there was something fascinating about shooting with a group of guys at those paper targets.

I finally took my sight off and went down to Shouthampton to a pin shoot. I shot a score of 56 on 28 targets. Man, was I disgusted! There were little kids there that shot twice that much.

I didn't shoot the afternoon round, but instead, I got with a group and followed them around and watched.

They started on a 65 yarder and the first guy shot low. He turned to the other guy and said it should have been in there, because he had the point of his arrow right in the dot. The other guy said he used the arrow shelf at 65 yds. So the first guy tried that and the arrow went right in the white. They continued like this the rest of the day, using different parts of their bow to aim by.

Needless to say, I was shocked. Here these guys were using every bulge, knot, scratch, and lamination as a sight. I could hardly wait to get home and

and start figuring out some sights on my "bare bow".

It took about a week to find enough gadgets and work out my aiming system. The next tournament I went to I shot a 228. Boy, was I happy, I didn't win, but I did beat those little kids.

My shooting improved with each tournament and I managed to shoot my way into "C" class. That's where I was when the free-style division was adopted by V.B.A.

Being a free-styler in 1962 was not easy. Most of the wise cracks and insults were in fun, but some of the die-hards were down right serious about their disgust for free-stylers and made no bones about it. It took some people a long time to get enough courage to try shooting with a sight. Even to this day they are still ridiculed in some clubs.

I've used a sight, a clicker, a prism, a string peep, a level, a release aid, a kisser button, a head check, a hand locator, a sling, a compression, button, and low and behold, a compound bow with a 37" stabilizer! And I still haven't shot a 560.

The point I'm trying to make here is there's enough room in organized archery for every type of archer, regardless of how he shoots the bow or what kind of equipment he uses.

In the last few years, bowhunting has grown so that you hardly know a hunter who has not tried the bow. It's surprising how many of these new bowhunters already have sights on their bows.

I had the pleasure of introducing many of these new bowhunters to our club. They go out to the range and shoot and really have a good time. When we have our bowhunting seminar, they join in and shoot as well as most of us. They go carp shooting and ground hog hunting with us and we're glad to have them.

Just when we think they're ready to join the club, someone tells them that they can't use sights in the bowhunter division. Some of these fellows learned to shoot with sights and would be lost without them, so we lose several good members every year. I think we need these members. I think the N.F.A.A. needs them, also.

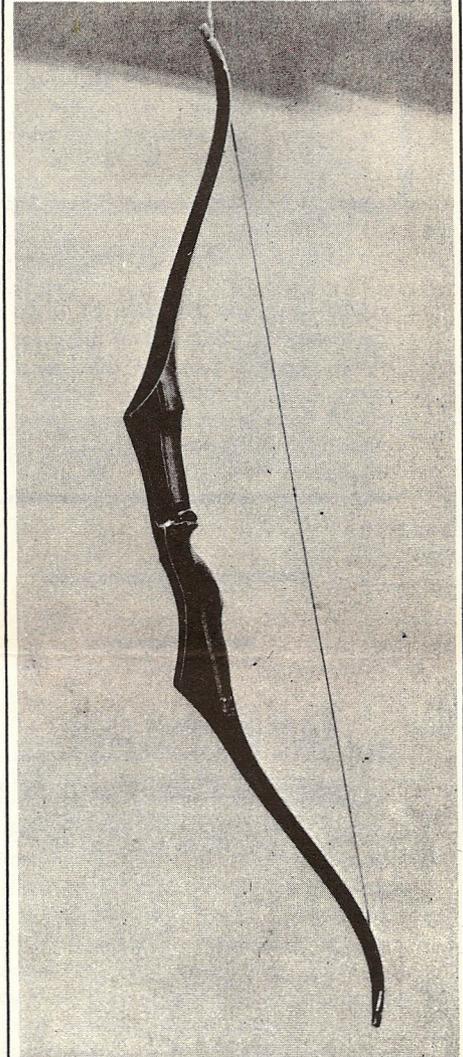
The Dixie Bowmen are encouraging these people to join in their tournaments. Their scores are being registered in the free-style column. They compete among themselves in an open class and they're really enjoying it.

This subject was discussed at a recent V.B.A. meeting and the delegates were asked to talk with club members about it. If you have an opinion about it, talk with your club members and your V.B.A. director.

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Cliff Lewis has both. Cliff just recently shot a perfect 300. The first 300 ever shot on the Broken Arrow Indoor Archery Lanes. He has had several 299's but this was his first 300. He shot 60 arrows into the middle with only one touching the blue ever so slightly - so Congratulations Cliff on your fine shooting.



Ted Grefe chats with Manahoac delegation at the March V.A.B. meeting.

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