



FLIGHT



VBA MANUAL NOW AVAILABLE

FIELD COURSE VS. BOWHUNTING

We must face the fact that shooting a field course does not improve one's ability in regards to bowhunting. Most of our successful bowhunters kill their deer from tree stands where the possibility of being detected is greatly reduced. How many targets do we have that are shot from trees?

Also, there is the no small matter of equipment. Most of us practice and participate in tournaments about 7 or 8 months a year using our tournament equipment (light bow and short flat shooting aluminum arrows). Come hunting season we do an about face, we get out our heavier bows and broadheads. The broadhead arrows are usually 2 to 3 inches longer than the ones we've used all year, not to mention the fact that they are considerably heavier. You can imagine what this does to the point of aim on space gap shooter (which the majority of us are). It is no wonder we hear stories of how Class A and B shooters miss a standing broadside shot at a deer at anywhere from 6 to 15 yards. (I'm not forgetting that "buck fever" plays a large part in this lack of success, but buck fever or not, we can all throw rocks better than that.

I feel that after shooting all year one becomes used to a certain bow and a certain weight and length of arrow. The mechanics of shooting become automatic. When a deer approaches to within shooting range we have too much on our mind (keeping still, being quiet, wind direction, etc.) to also keep in mind such things as longer arrows, higher trajectory, etc., so we automatically draw and hold just like we've been doing all year or even since we've been shooting. You know or have heard the results. Another miss or a poorly placed shot.

The point I'm trying to make is that at the present time and under the present

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Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee headed by Irv Sears, Cub Run Archers, and members Earl Carter, Flat Top Archers, and Bill Orth, Shawnee Bowman, made the following report of nominations for VBA officers for the coming year, and the same were placed on the slate for the coming election:

- President: Ted Grefe
- Exec. Vice-Pres.: C. J. "Woody" Woods, James Caldwell
- Hunting Vice-Pres.: G. B. Booth, Jr.
- Field Vice-Pres.: Harry W. Bunting
- Recording Sec.: Pat Hamilton
- Corresponding Sec.: Sue D. Price, Clinton F. Western
- Treasurer: Al Lipske, Jr.

Ballots will be sent out to all VBA members in the near future, and they should be returned so that they may be counted at the June meeting. The new officers will take over in July.

15th Annual VBA State Championship Tournament

September 3rd and 4th should be on your calendar, so get your Archery equipment together and get ready for this big event of the year—The Fifteenth Annual Virginia Bowhunters Association State Championship Tournament. The Fort Eustis Bowmen, one of the youngest clubs in the VBA, will be the host club for this big shoot.

Our range is located on the Military Reservation at Fort Eustis, Va., at the Fort Eustis Rod & Gun Club. All four ranges are adjacent to the Rod & Gun Club. Fort Eustis is located on US highway 60, eight miles east of Williamsburg. Participants utilizing US highway 168 will proceed south on US 168 to Junction of 168 & 105, turning right on Highway 105 for Ft. Eustis entrance.

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The long awaited VBA manual is hot off the press, thanks to the untiring efforts of Gene Limerick and his number one true blue assistant Doris Limerick! Yes sir, Gene rolled up to the VBA meeting in Lynchburg with the back end of his compact (Saab, that is) loaded with 500 copies ready for distribution. The directors got out their cash and before long the 500 were almost gone. However, don't worry if you didn't get yours, as we have another 1000 available for sale, and all you have to do is drop me a line, that is, Ted Grefe, Box 352, Fairfax, Va., enclose the money and postage, and you'll get yours by return mail. We had tentatively set a price of one buck for the manual, but because we ended up with 150 pages instead of 100, we had to increase the price to \$1.50. This is club price in multiple order before 1 July, 1961. The cost of printing, binding, etc. ran some 1600 plus dollars, so thus the increase in price. It is an excellent value though, and it puts the NFAA manual to shame. I'm sure you will agree when you get your copy. The main idea behind the publishing of a VBA manual is to put Virginia archery information into the hands of every archer. The manual contains everything a VBA member should know about the association, and can truly be used for a ready reference to any problems or questions arising. Use it wisely. Incidentally, postage for the manual should be based on a weight of 8 ounces per copy.

NEW HUNTING LAWS

The dates for the archery deer season have been tentatively set for the last two weeks in October, about the same as last year. Although not final as of this writing, squirrel and bear will be included in the archery season.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE CHANGES

There is an error on the May 28 date. It should read "Flat Top Archery Club, Bedford, Va.," not Damascus.

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, Harris-onburg, Virginia, Ted Grefe, Executive Vice President and Editor, Box 352, Fairfax, Virginia; G. B. Booth, Jr., Hunting Vice President, 1812 Church-ville 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 Dick-enson, Springfield, Virginia; Martin L. Smith, NFAA & VBA Field Governor, 733 Mayfield Avenue, Norfolk (3) Virginia.

Shooting Problems Are Discussed

Are you having trouble holding your bow arm still? Well, you're not alone, as most everyone else is having trouble too. Of course concentration on this phase of shooting just before release is the ultimate answer to this problem, but many of us have found that considerable assistance can be given to solving this obstacle if you use a heavier bow. No, not draw weight, but the actual physical weight of the bow. Many archers are "leading" up their handles to some total bow weight of 3½ pounds. Experimental lead weights are taped on the handle above and below the hand. In some cases this additional weight has steadied down the hand waving and increased scores by a fair margin. Try it, it works!

15th Annual VBA Championship (Continued from page 1)

For reservations in Williamsburg, write to: The Reservation Office, Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va., stating type of reservation desired; number of beds in room and other information to secure reservation. The office will secure a reservation, and inform you as to the motel/hotel and the other information on the reservation, then you will have to confirm with the motel/hotel, if you will accept the reservation booked. Reservations should be placed prior to 1 July, as Williamsburg is a tourist center.

The registration for the shoot will commence at 11 A.M. on Saturday, September 2, and the deadline for registration will be 8:30 A.M. Sunday, September 3. Bring your VBA membership card and all registration cards that have scores on them since the last state shoot. We wish to urge all register as soon as possible upon arrival. Don't forget the 90 day ruling concerning tournament scores in order to participate in the State Shoot.

Registration fees will be the same as last year which are as follows: Adults: \$5.00; Intermediates and Juniors: \$3.50. Maximum fee for any immediate family will be \$13.50.

We will have four target courses to accommodate the crowd. Camping space is available adjacent to the Fort Eustis Rod & Gun Club. (For those who wish Camping space please contact M/Sgt. Wightman, Bldg. 2344, Apt. F, Ft. Eustis, Va., no later than 10 August.

Last year the Augusta Archers, had a free drawing and it went over big, so the Fort Eustis Bowmen decided to continue this procedure. Tickets will be given to each individual that registered for the State Championship Tournament. This drawing will take place immediately before the presentation of awards on Monday. You must be present to win.

As you have two divisions in the State Shoot—Instinctive and Hunters. Those who plan to shoot in the Hunters Division plan to have your arrows checked for weight.

Three rounds will be shot—field, hunters, and animal; two of which will be shot on the first day and one on the last. Trophies are awarded to the Man and Woman State Champion in the Instinctive and Hunters Divisions. There are 12 VBA medallions awarded in each class as follows: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for aggregate score; 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for field; 1st, 2nd and 3rd for animal round.

As for the food accommodations, well we have a complete kitchen within the club house, which will cook a variety of fine meals for the State shoot. There is also a fine restaurant located just outside of the entrance of Fort Eustis.

One last item: all personnel entering Fort Eustis will abide by Military Regulations.

So here's hoping we see you all at the State Shoot, remember Rain or Shine, Sleet or Snow, we Shoot.

Field Course vs. Bowhunting

(Continued from page 1)

existing regulations, field archery has little or nothing in common for the bow-hunter.

The original concept of field archery was a device for practice for bowhunting. This is not true today. We have as many, maybe more, tournament regulations than the standard target archery (York, American, etc.). You say, we have unknown yardages, especially our animal round. Don't kid yourself, these yardages are no more unknown to the seasoned tournament archer than his own name. What with regulations as they are, all shooting stakes must be placed at so many yards here and so many yards there, that the guess work of yardage is no longer the prime object. This may sound as though I'm campaigning for marked yardages. I most definitely am not.

What we must do is to dispose of the mythical belief that field archery is pre-season practice for bowhunting. As things now stand, never the twain shall meet. Field archery has become just another competitive target sport, perhaps it's more physically strenuous but nonetheless it's target archery.

The solution to this problem is not easy. Most of us enjoy both tournament archery and bowhunting and this is where the problem starts. We try to become a "Jack of all trades," instead, we are "the master of none." There are so many different classes within field archery I shudder to suggest another (for instance, "Bowhunters' Division"). The heavy tackle division does not completely satisfy bowhunting requirements.

The solution I have in mind may or may not solve the problem, but I firmly believe it is a step in the right direction.

First we must set up a Bowhunter course, separate from the regular field course. It can consist of any number of targets situated in a variety of positions. The longest shot should only be about 45 to 50 yards. We should shoot from tree platforms, tree seats, from trees that have been only roughly converted to shooting, and a variety of ground blinds. Any number of targets in different directions can be shot from each position as would be the case in actual hunting conditions.

The necessity of target butts can be at a minimum. Only those positions that are shot from the ground blinds need have target bales. (These bales can be ones that have been discarded from the regular field range as broadheads do not penetrate as deep as do target arrows.) The shots from the elevated positions can have the cardboard animals placed at random, supported by stakes, etc., as long as there are no rocks, etc., to damage the arrows. Regulation broadheads should be used as well as your favorite hunting bow. All types of sighting aids should be allowed.

A scoring system may or may not be used, but in any case, extreme emphasis should be placed on hitting with the first arrow.

Now comes the most difficult part. Who's going to do the work of setting up such a practice course? All of us who enjoy bowhunting should be willing and ready to step up and say, "Count on me!"

The number of targets and the lavishness of such a course will be directly proportioned to the enthusiasm and desire of a club's bowhunting members.

Lee Collins

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.

Bringing Home The Bacon?

I wasn't behind the door when the brains were passed out. No sir-ree. When I went hunting, didn't I always bring home the bacon? This year's deer hunt wasn't going to be any different, you see I wasn't short on confidence either. In fact I was so sure, that I began to tell the fellows how I was going to let all of the scrubs and does go by and pick out only the best rack, anything less would be beneath the dignity of my bow. Some of the fellows looked at me as though they thought I was boasting, and then there were some that just looked.

I told them of my plans which were simple. I had two weeks of vacation starting with the local bow season. The first three or four days I would gambol through the forest, watching the deer play in absolute ignorance of my presence. During these days I would pick out my trophy buck. I had no intention of taking him so early, because I could do that anytime. I love the woods in October and had no intentions of bringing my hunt to such an early end.

About the fifth day I would bring home my buck. The next week of vacation I would spend doing the backlog of jobs around the house that I had promised my wife, Frances, I would do. This promise had enabled me to spend several hours helping build a new range for the Two Rivers Archery Club.

Several times in my mind I would vision the largest buck in the County, and confidentially I felt a little sorry for him.

My eager anticipation of the first day of hunting season didn't bring it a bit sooner. It arrived exactly as scheduled. As per plan I started gamboling in the field and forest, and although I made several starts, my plan never seemed to get beyond the point of gamboling.

Instead of the deer playing in the forest, I got the feeling that they were watching me. Several times I was fortunate enough to see white tails disappearing among the trees.

By the fourth day I was ready to admit or could I? Coming down the trail on my left was a big buck. His head looked like he had run into a rocking chair and couldn't get it off. My, what a rack. Like I said, this year I was going to bring home the buck of bucks.

As he moved behind a screen of brush, I positioned myself on one knee and took a half draw on the bow. On the trail, between two trees, was the best opening and he was there almost before I could picture that head on my den wall. I took full draw and released. Several things seemed to happen at once. My arrow clattered through the woods as though it was playing tag with every tree and bush in the area, starting with a small twig not over one yard in front of me. The buck took a leap plus a few excited steps and stopped fifteen yards away between me and the spring. With

a sinking feeling I realized I had not put out my extra arrow. I slowly reached over my shoulder to take one from my that just any buck would do, and so informed my hunting companion, Hal Meredith, President of Two Rivers Archery Club. It was only a matter of minutes for us to drive to the George Washington National Forest from our home town of Front Royal, Virginia, and we were there by day break.

Hal knew of a spring that showed signs of deer use, so we decided that he would still-hunt that area while I took to the mountain. At noon we would exchange areas.

By this time I had begun to "simmer down," and instead of trying to see what was behind each succeeding ridge, I spent more time in semi-cover along some likely looking trail. Each time I took a stand, I would take an extra arrow out of my shoulder quiver and place it near by. Of course this wasn't necessary. I didn't expect to miss with the first one.

These tactics gave no better results, and by noon I was back near the spring where Hal and I had agreed to meet. Hal had patiently stayed with his stand all morning but had seen nothing. We agreed that the deer in this area were probably attending a convention in some distant glen but decided we would continue the plan for the day. I took a

stand near the spring and Hal took to the mountain.

My place of concealment looked good. In front of me, about twenty yards, was the spring, bubbling out of the side of a ridge. To my right and parallel to the ridge was a wooded hollow extending farther than I could see through the trees. To my left was a side of the ridge which curved behind me and angling down this ridge to the spring was an old fire trail. In a semicircle immediately in front of me was a screen of spice bushes, their leaves turning yellow. On a line between me and the spring these bushes were too thick to see through, but from left or right approach there was room to get an arrow through. I settled back on my heels to wait. This position became uncomfortable so I sat down on the ground, keeping my arrow nocked in readiness. This position became too comfortable and I went to sleep. When I awoke the afternoon was far advanced. I wondered how many bucks had passed by. I couldn't tell Hal that I had been asleep, but I could say I hadn't seen anything, quiver and my feeling hit a new low. The quiver wasn't there. In my search for a comfortable position the quiver had slipped to a crossed position on my back, too low to reach over my shoulder and too high to reach under my arm.

(Continued on page 4)

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- Jack Craft, Hampton

80 YARDS

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- Stewart Bradford, Manassas

Bringing Home the Bacon?

(Continued from page 3)

Yes sir-ree I wasn't behind the door when the brains were passed out, I don't know where I was.

Around the right side of the spice bushes I could see the big rump of the buck quivering in excitement. He sensed danger but couldn't tell where. He looked like the back end of that big mule my uncle used to grind sargum with. Something had to be done.

With all the stealth I could muster under existing conditions, I switched the bow from my Left hand to my Right. Reaching behind me with my Left hand I straightened my quiver. I returned the bow to my Left hand and again reached over my shoulder for the the arrow. This time it was there, but there was one more difficulty. Around the top of my quiver I had fastened a heavy piece of leather, slotted to hold each arrow to prevent rattling. From this slot the arrow had to be pulled, and when it came loose I was sure the plop

could be heard throughout the woods. How much was this buck going to take? He was still standing there. Slowly I worked the arrow up and out of the quiver, that is until the four-edged broad head hung on that leather ring. After considerable turning and twisting the arrow came loose, but not without more noise. As I nocked the arrow a feeling of elated unbelief came over me. After all this I was going to get that second shot. I moved my bow into better position and ever so gently leaned to my Right to get a better view of what was in front of that rump. With a snort like a steam whistle that buck left for distant ground.

Would you like to know how I made out the remainder of the season? Let us put it this way. Frances is still wondering when I am going to do that work at home, and on the list of this year's successful hunters one name is conspicuous by its absence — Emory E. Clifton, Corresponding Secretary, Two Rivers Archery Club, Front Royal, Va.

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