

FLIGHT

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



FLIGHT NO. 2

MARCH-APRIL 1984

VOLUME 25

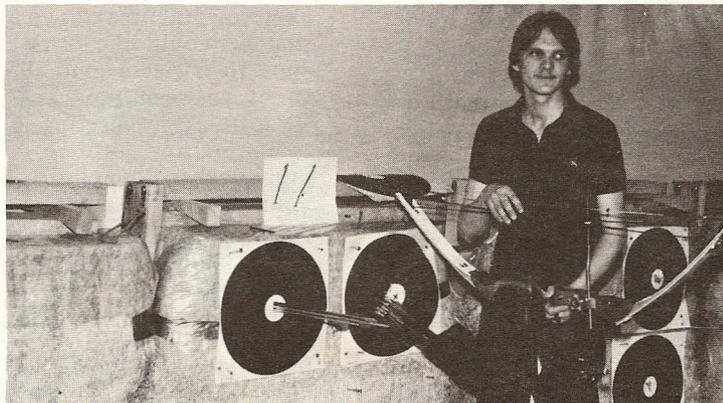
Woody Wins Shoot-off At 1984 Indoor Championship

by: Stephen Hiner

Archers, numbering 180, attended the 15th Annual State Indoor Championship held at the Christiansburg National Guard Armory. Triangle archers hosted the tournament for the tenth consecutive year.

Ricky Harper, Barry McCarty, and Kendall Woody, showing their freestyle savvy, shot perfect rounds with back-to-back 300's. In a shoot-off, Kendall Woody, last years YA-FS champion, prevailed by defeating McCarty in the third end. Congratulations to Kendall on his Freestyle victory.

The BHFS division again proved to be competitive. In the "limited", Richard Rhodes, Charles Garrison, Ken Haynes, and Rick Neupert were in a shoot-off. Ron Neville, Gary Meadows, Stacy Pennington, Terry Sturgill, and Phillip Schroeder participated in an "unlimited" shoot-off. Congratulations to all of you. Fine shooting!



Kendall Woody, score 600, Men FS-UL Champion from Lynchburg.



Tony Overfelt, score 600, YA-FS-UL Champion from Christiansburg.

Sherwood Hosts Virginia Open

State Open Championship—June 2 and 3, 1984

Registration—Friday, June 1st—7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 2—8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Announcements—10:00 a.m.

Shoots Start—11:00 a.m. Saturday—June 2nd

8:30 a.m. Sunday—June 3rd

Awards—Sunday, June 3rd—3:30 p.m.

For further information please call Reatha Atkinson at (703) 362-1093.

The VBA Open will be preceded by Sherwood Archers Annual Dogwood Festival on May 6th.

Plan now to help us celebrate the arrival of spring by attending either or both of these events.

MOTEL AND CAMPGROUNDS FOR STATE OPEN

Sheraton Inn
Exit 41 Off I-81
P.O. Box 432
Salem, Virginia 24153
Phone (703) 563-9711

Ramada Inn
8118 Plantation Road
Roanoke, Va. 24019
Phone (703) 366-0341

Econo-Travel-Airport
I-581 and Peters Creek Road
6621 Thirlane Road, N.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24019
Phone (703) 563-0853

Holiday Inn—Salem
1919 Frontage Road
Exit 40, I-81 at Rt. 619
Salem, Virginia 24153
Phone (703) 389-7061

Sun Valley Swim & Campground
RFD 6
Phone (703) 343-8766

Dixie Caverns Campground
RFD 3, Rt. 11, West, Box 214
Salem, Virginia 24153
Phone (703) 389-7588

Holiday Inn—Airport
I-581 and St. 117
6626 Thirlane Road, N.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24019
Phone (703) 366-8861

Thrifty Inn
Exit 42—off I-81 and
Peters Creek Road
South Exit 25
Phone (703) 563-2871

Winners of the VBA State Indoor Championship 1984

FS-Men-UL	
Kendall Woody	600
Barry McCarty	600
Ricky Harper	600
FS-Women-UL	
Marlene Vanek	594
Ann Boyd	587
Judith Paulsen	584
BB-Men	
Rick Stark	577
Thomas Schanbacher	546
Joe McManus	475
BB-Women	
Kay McManus	518
BH-Men	
James Griffen	567
Ken Sorrels	560
Larry Thompson	559
Young Adult	
FS-UL-Men	
Tony Overfelt	600
Wade Rose	595
Donnie Meadows	553
Youth FS-UL-Men	
Donnie Surber	586
Michael Lewis	572
John Christian	564
Cub-FS	
Brian Stafford	547
Donnie Edgeman	479
Joe Christian	262
BF-UL-Men	
Ron Tucker	597
Ron Neville	596
Gary Meadows	596
BF-L-Men	
Junius Sturgill	583
Richard Rhodes	578
Charles Garrison	578
BF-UL-Women	
Geraldine Sparks	561
Brenda Byington	554
BF-L-Women	
Ann Harper	494
FS-L-Men	
Ron Lewis	596

"Experimental" 12- Division Classification System Breakdown

by: Ann R. Boyd
Chairperson

The following 12-Division Classification System breakdown is only a proposed change and is simply an experimental breakdown at this time that we would like every club in the state to try at a club shoot or pin shoot between now and our next VBA quarterly meeting in June and to report any positive or negative input back to your club delegate or to your zone representative who I appointed at our March VBA meeting.

The committee believes this breakdown can work successfully in our state, if each club and member would give it a fair chance, and at least try the system. It will reduce our awards quite drastically and would be of benefit to small clubs with little treasuries and would allow clubs to spend their profits in other ways than buying expensive trophies. If each class showed up now for a tournament, there could be as many as 165 plus awards given out. Up to 36 awards would be given out if the 12-division system is adopted.

The breakdown is as follows and that no matter what class or division you are in, man or woman, Freestyle, BB, BH, FSBH, Young Adult, Youth or Cub, you will all shoot in this point spread system.

1. 550-560	7. 465-479
2. 540-549	8. 450-464
3. 525-539	9. 400-449
4. 510-524	10. 300-399
5. 495-509	11. 200-299
6. 480-494	12. 0-199

These are some guidelines to consider:

1. Unlimited class would shoot against Unlimited at State Championships and Limited will shoot against Limited.

2. At State Championships, in addition to the above awards, one Champion will be declared in each division and Championship awards will be given for the highest Freestyler, Man and Woman; Barebow, Man and Woman, Bowhunter, Man and Woman, FSBH, Limited, Unlimited, Man and Woman; Young Adult, Youth, and Cub division, etc.

3. To establish an average score, the score will be shot on the official NFAA Field and/or Hunter Round and shall be computed by the archer's average score—example being taking the 3 best scores of the last 7 scores

shot; i.e.: 430, 413, 440, 440, 450, 460, and 410. The best 3 scores are 440, 450, and 460 making 450 the average score and classifying that archer in Division #8.

The following people are serving on the committee as Zone Representatives. Please report to them if you try holding a shoot using this system and again any input you have.

Zone 1—Dwight Colley, Kingsboro Bowmen

Zone 2—Bob Keaton, Cub Run Archers

Zone 3—Dave Proctor, Bowhunters of Rockingham

Zone 4—Clinton Western, Sherwood Archers; Betty Trent, Buggs Island

Zone 5—C. D. Miller, Wythe Bowhunters; Steve Hiner, Triangle Archers; Jim Overfelt, Triangle Archers

Zone 6—Ken Sorrels, Bearcreek Bowmen

Zone 7—Mike Kenney, Two Rivers; Kathy Cissel, Battletown Archers; Dutch Shultz, Advisor, Two Rivers; Ann Boyd, Chairperson, Shawnee Bowmen, (703) 667-1320.

We are looking forward to positive reaction for clubs willing to try this breakdown and will hold further discussion at our June VBA meeting.

VBA Highlights

Presidents and or Vice Presidents of all clubs are asked to attend the June meeting of V.B.A. at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday night.

President Vanek will be conducting a 1½ hour session on Robert's Rules of Order. Two books you could bring along would be "Robert's Rules of Order," Jones Publication or "Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance"—New edition Garfield, Jones, Hawthorn & Dutton.

Starting with the next issue of *Flight* we will have the "Trading Post." You will be able to advertise your archery equipment you want to sell at 3 lines for \$3.00.

The agenda items for the June meeting will be:

1. Princess Anne moves that the Conservation Fund be used strictly for Conservation only.
2. Owen Shifflett, chairman of the Bowhunting Committee, moved that a Big Game Patch Award be established for the largest of each species (bear, deer, etc.) for game killed outside of Virginia.
3. Establishing a "Bowhunter Festival" held in the Fall of 1985. This was also presented by Owen Shifflett.

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Club News

Report From

Two Rivers Archery

At the annual club banquet February 25, president Mike Kenney introduces his fellow officers for 1984 as vice president Linwood Williamson, corresponding secretary Gary Williams, recording secretary Jerry Williams, treasurer Joe Bowers, and range captain Robert Marsh.

Bill Athey awards chairman gave the V.B.A. first deer kill plaques to: Bert Gilkey, Buck Williams, Bertha Updike, Richard Morris and Joey Bowers.

V.B.A. arrows were received by eleven members and T.R.A.C. deer patches were won by twenty-two members.

The Largest Carp award was given to David Cooper. Heaviest deer award, a 154 pound 9 point buck was shot by Skip Atkins. Richard Morris won for the most points by a Virginia measuring system over Skip Atkins and Sterling Davis all having shot nine point bucks.

The surprise of the evening for the club's roving trophy for the most improved archery member was presented to Jerry Wines.

We were happy to have Ann Boyd, past vice-president of the V.B.A. and a sixteen-year shooting member of the association, speak to us. She spoke of the association's responsibility to the thirty clubs which has approximately 1400 members of bowhunters and tournament archers in Virginia. Two Rivers club is one of the largest in the state with last years membership totaling 110.

Ann's theory is that each individual archer is needed to build a strong Virginia Bowhunter association that isn't ruled by the officers you elect, doing their appointed job and making their reports to you, but is strictly democratic and ruled by the majority of the members. Without you and your clubs there would be no purpose for it.

Her strongest advice to each V.B.A. member is to participate actively with your club. Educate yourself completely about what is going on within V.B.A. Be aware of the rules, changes, agenda items and other business we are working on at our meetings. Make your club delegate aware of your opinions and feelings. But most of all be objective. Put your personal feelings aside and concentrate on what is best for everyone in the V.B.A. Let's all work

together to help make the V.B.A. the strongest state organization.

For the bowhunter the V.B.A. is directly responsible for having obtained every bow hunting law which you are privileged to enjoy in Virginia. There are education programs to improve bowhunting skills and safety. The Bill Bennett Big Game awards provide recognition to the successful hunter and the annual Jamborees which the Two Rivers club has hosted gives these archers the chance to practice and compete with their hunting equipment.

The tournament archer may join in all these programs and his style is greatly improved by the rules and work of the National Field Archery Association to keep the game competitive and enjoyable at all times.

The buffet dinner was enjoyed by everyone and there was a lively orchestra for the dancers later.

News From Zone #3 Bowhunters of Rockingham

by Irvin Bodkin

The Bowhunters of Rockingham held their election of officers in January and are as follows: President-Lenny Pannell, Vice President-Darrell Hartman, Secretary-Sandy Proctor, Treasurer-Irvin Bodkin. Trustees elected were Randy Gehr, Kevin Wittig, and Leonard Dove. The Range Captains appointed were Jerry Blank, Darrell Hartman and Randy Gehr.

A special meeting was held to discuss the possibility of erecting an indoor range on our property. Our indoor range which we rent will close April 1. We held our first outdoor club shoot April 15. Our VBA scheduled shoots are May 20, August 19 as pin shoots with an annual being July 21-22.

We hope to see all of you on our range or we will see you on your range.

A Reminder From Sherwood Archers

Sherwood would like to remind everyone about the upcoming State Open Championship on June 2 and 3, 1984.

Also on May 6, 1984 we will be having our annual Dogwood Shoot. This is a VBA Open Shoot.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at one or both of these events.

For more information call Reatha Atkinson, (703) 362-1093.

A Tragic Loss

Danny Duane Madison, 44 of Izaak Walton Bow Hunters died Saturday March 24, 1984 at his home in Evington, Virginia. Danny was a long time member of the Walton Park Bow Hunters and held the office of Treasurer for the current Archery year.

As I am sure all of you were aware, Danny was a very dedicated Archer, not only as a shooter, but as a teacher. Danny was very willing to teach others what he had learned over the years about archery, especially the younger members of the club. Words cannot express the loss that our club will feel due to the untimely death of Danny; however, the poem below composed by one of our members I think is a fitting tribute to a friend and fellow Archer:

In Memory

Archers come and Archers go
But there's one, I'm sure glad we got
to know

He was a tall, quiet, calm man
You see, He's the one we called **Dan**

It was just two weeks ago, to be exact
Danny was with us at the Indoor State
Shoot

Just a bunch of happy Archers, one
and all

We never dreamed **Danny** would so
quickly be called

Two weeks exactly to the very day
The Lord had plans for **Dan**, he just
couldn't delay

A pot made of gold for his hand and
arrows for his quiver

Was the Lord's way of reminding us,
He's the taker as well as the giver

Walton Park Archery season starts in
just one week

And things just won't be the same—
though new members we may meet
But memories of **Danny** we'll all hold
dear

And that will help us through the
Archery year.

Ann Harper

Shawnee Bowmen Hosts No. VA Championships

We are again pleased to host the Northern Virginia Championships on May 27th. Due to the 10:00 am starting time, registration will close promptly at 9:30 am. We are working on putting new steps in at several targets and getting the range in A-1 condition for this shoot. Plan on joining us for a super time.

Warwick Bowmen Awards

by L. J. Pursifull

At its annual awards banquet, the Warwick Bowmen of Newport News recognized its outstanding archers of 1983.

In ceremonies held January 20th at the Officers Club at Yorktown, Virginia, President John Street made presentations to the winners:

Dottie McGuire—Archer of the Year
Iris Street—Ladies Champion
John Street—Male Champion
Pat Robinson—Big Buck
Virgil Gay—Big Doe
New Officers for the coming year were installed and are as follows:
President—John Street

Vice President—Jack Wedding
Secretary—Ron Estrada
Treasurer—Kenneth Johnson
Member-at-large—L. J. Pursifull
Corresponding Secretary—Diana Walker

Range Captain—Dennis LeFever
The Warwick Bowman annual Silver Bow shoot will be held May 5 & 6, Newport News; Cas. & Mult 8:00-11:00

\$ 8.00 Registration
\$ 2.00 Additional Round
\$20.00 Max. family

This years Silver Bow will offer an "Archers Flea Market". This will provide an opportunity for all archers to trade, sell or buy used equipment; after all, that equipment in someone's closet may be just what another archer needs. There will be no charge to participants.

Attention All Sportsmen!

ARE YOU AWARE there are two bills now on Capitol Hill, #HR2470 and HR3498 concerning the use of your excise tax money.

These bills propose to take tax dollars paid by law abiding hunters, gun collectors and shooting enthusiasts and place them in a special fund to be used to compensate *victims of violent crimes*.

Instead of a separate appropriation from general funds the bills HR2470 and HR3498 seek to take \$30 million annually from the Pittman-Robertson fund.

The source of that \$30 million annually is the excise tax sportsmen pay on archery, rifle, hand guns, ammunition etc. A tax Congress dedicated back in 1970 to go to state wildlife restoration, hunter education and purchase access hunting land.

We all sympathize with victims of crime but to go after the sportsman's dollars as compensation is unfair to sportsmen and to wildlife.

PLEASE write to your congressman and senator now urging them to protest the Pittman-Robertson fund being used for crime victim compensation.

Write to Senator John Warner, Senator Paul Trible and your District Representative TODAY in care of the U.S. SENATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510.

To all V.B.A. Members Interested in Helping to Attract New Members for Your Club, VBA & NFAA

Why not spend a few days each year to demonstrate archery to your local schools, 4-H groups, handicapped persons, playground in summer, conservation days and Hunting & Fishing Days.

Helping the youngsters get into Archery clubs can lead to additional members i.e. father and mother.

Instead of waiting for new members go after them!

Mertie and I have already been contacted by the Frederick County farm agent to demonstrate at several schools on May 15, 1984.

Can't some other club members do as much?

H. A. Shultz
"Dutch"

Shenandoah County Archery

Change of Location

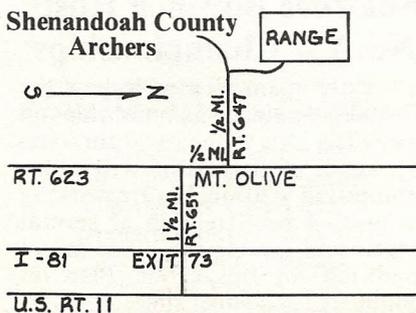
Shenandoah County Archery Club is now located in Mount Olive, Va. The club, formerly located in Mount Jackson, has a new range and invites everyone to visit. (See accompanying map for directions.)

The club recently elected the following officers for 1984:

President—Mark Sutherly
Vice President—John Pangle
Treasurer—Connie Drummond
Corr. Secy.—Dianne Sutherly
Recording Secy.—Michael Sparks
Range Captain—James Kimble
Publicity—Charles Rutz

Corresponding Secretary, Dianne Sutherly, also reports that the club had six members who had a successful hunting season:

Augie Whetzel—8 pt. and doe
Johnny Pangle—12 pt. (196 lbs.)
Travis Sutherly—(age 12) 5 pt.
Mark Sutherly—spike
Roy Wiles—doe
Ronnie Rau—4 pt.



Dear Mr. President,

We, the Manahoac Bowmen, wish to express our extreme displeasure towards the recent transfer of \$150.00 from the conservation fund to the general fund and subsequent disbursement to Triangle Bowhunters for the purchase of trophies.

Although such a move is allowed under current VBA guidelines, we feel that the spirit of the rule was to allow this type of transfer only when disbursement cannot be made from monies existing in the general fund. As this was not the case, we feel it our duty to protest.

We do not wish it to be said that the Manahoac Bowmen or any group with which we are affiliated have allowed actions which may some day have a negative impact on conservation and, by extension, bowhunting. We, therefore, request that a committee be appointed to study this matter in depth.

Sincerely,
Leonard Moran
President

Record Participation Indoors

by: Stephen Hiner

Triangle Archers would like to thank all who shot with us at our Saturday tournaments at the Christiansburg Armory. We had 85, 93, 76, and 84 archers participate in our four indoor shoots. These were excellent turn-outs. We all enjoyed seeing this increase in archery participation.

Thank you again and we hope you can join us during the outdoor season.

From The President

With the 1984 field archery season now well underway it seems to be appropriate to talk a bit about our sport. One item that struck me from John Stockman's NFAA report at the last VBA meeting is that we are now the second largest member of NFAA! This speaks well of the considerable support VBA members continue to give to field archery. This state-wide enthusiasm has been visible both at the club level and at State events, as well as our participation in Sectionals and Nationals. Even with my own interest in bowhunting, I looked at my NFAA card and saw that I had gotten to 10 shoots last year plus Nationals. Hopefully, 1984 will see all of us continue to pursue the sport with the same or more interest as last year.

State Open and the Mid-Atlantic Sectional are looming large in just a few weeks and I would like to see us all there. It is especially important for VBA members to be at the Mids since it is right "next door" in Baltimore. I figure that it is only fair that the second largest NFAA state have the largest participation. And, the State Open gives us all the opportunity to lend Sherwood Archers a diplomatic hand at making the out-of-state shooters feel welcome—and also know that they are up against some stiff competition.

As you may know by now from your VBA Director, Ann Boyd's committee on the flight system has asked that each club give the system a try out this year. I believe that part of any organization's strength and vitality comes from its ability to look at change positively and constructively. It is easy to list all the reasons why something should not be tried. All too often however, that is simply a way to avoid something new. Please try to take a position at your clubs of "let's see how we can make it work". Then, give the flight system a fair trial. In that way, your Director can report back to the committee with a good set of pros and cons for them to consider.

On the bowhunting scene, the VBA Bowhunting Committee has given us all interesting items to deal with. If I were to highlight the one of most significance it would be the recommendation for a 1985 VBA Bowhunter Rendezvous. With your approval through your VBA Directors at the June VBA meeting, a sub-committee of the Bowhunting Committee will be formed to produce the event. Like those held in other states, this event is

not a "shoot", but is a two or three day event filled with guest speakers, clinics, seminars, films, manufacturer displays, taxidermists, hunting guides, good food, and of course, a chance for some interesting shooting. I would like to ask that you support this committee recommendation to give the VBA an opportunity to try something else new.

Because of the number of items that are brought up at the VBA meeting it is important that you ask your VBA Director to give as full a report as possible at your club meetings. The VBA Director is THE "law-maker" of the VBA. All business, by-laws, etc. are vested in the actions of the Board of Directors—your directors. It is key that each of your clubs have a director at each VBA meeting so that your interests are expressed and properly represented.

Good Luck and Good Shooting!

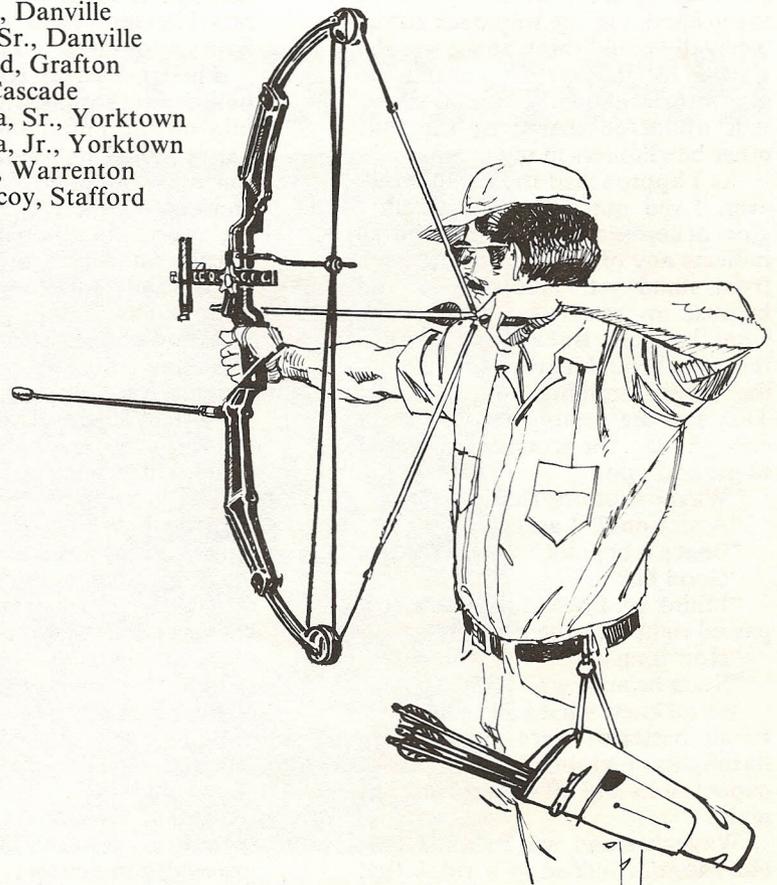
Van

20-Pin Winners

Jan. - Mar. 1984

Field

John H. Slaughter, Danville
Donnie DeVall, Danville
James Moore, Sr., Danville
William F. Nold, Grafton
Steve Harris, Cascade
Ronald Estrada, Sr., Yorktown
Ronald Estrada, Jr., Yorktown
Judith Anthon, Warrenton
Randall Van Scoy, Stafford



Come Join Us At The 1984 Northern Virginia Championships

Hosted by
Shawnee Bowmen

Date
Sunday May 27th

Time
10:00 am

Round
14 Field Targets
14 Hunter Targets

Awards Presentation
4:30 pm

Awards
Trophies will be awarded for
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place
in each class.

Hunting Highlights

This will be a new section in the *Flight* consisting of pictures, articles, stories and other items pertaining to bowhunting. Anyone with material to contribute can send it to the *Flight* editor.

Trail's End

by Tom Kidwell

To a bowhunter, these miserable cold days can be depressing. February is usually a time for sewing up the briar holes from the last hunting season and sitting close to the fire sipping coffee and thinking about some of the great hunts of seasons gone by. That's exactly how I spent most of the past week; thinking of some of the great hunts of the past. I remember one in particular.

Evening stand had just about come to an end. My toes had almost lost all feeling and I began shaking uncontrollably. I decided to call it quits for that evening and lowered my bow to the ground. On the way back to the cabin all I could think about was the warmth of the woodstove and the many stories about the evening's hunt that would be shared by the four other bowhunters in my camp.

As I approached the cabin, however, I did not notice the familiar glow of kerosene light from within to indicate any of the others were back from stand yet. This seemed odd because my stand was the farthest from the cabin. But as I got closer to the cabin I could see the silhouettes of the others standing on the porch. They saw me coming and as I drew closer Lester, the group elder, turned to me and said,

"Wayne shot one this evening."

"A nice one?" I asked.

"Bout a four point." Wayne replied.

"Good hit?"

"I think so. Looked like the arrow passed right thru the ribcage."

"How long ago?"

"Soon be an hour."

We all knew what had to be done. Fresh batteries were shoved into flashlights, I grabbed a handful of paper towels and off we went into the night.

Wayne's stand was in a majestic old chestnut oak atop a ridge that

runs parallel to the ridge the cabin is on. A short half-mile walk and we were there.

Wayne climbed up into his stand and directed us to the general area where the deer had been standing. It was less than a twenty-five yard shot and a quick search soon turned up an arrow and a bloodtrail. Dark red arterial blood—a good indication. The excitement started to build as the group progressed over a very distinctive trail.

"Here's some!"

"Here's some over here!"

Down through the woods we went. A strange looking procession as the flashlights bobbed back and forth through the tangles of maple and laurel. The bloodtrail was good and hopes were high.

The trail led us into an adjacent hollow over some of the roughest terrain on the mountain. And then it happened. The bloodtrail became sparse. We were finally on our hands and knees inspecting each and every leaf in order to proceed. What started out as a rapid dash down through the woods had now slowed to a snail's pace.

"I don't understand this. I know it was a good hit," Wayne repeated to himself over and over.

We had already covered a distance of nearly 250 yards and at 8:30 p.m. the bloodtrail stopped. There was no more. Wayne was heartbroken and frustrated. We turned off the flashlights and sat down to plan our next move. I remember there was no moon that night and we sat in complete darkness exchanging ideas. We were tired, cold, and hungry but not ready to give up. No one even suggested giving up. After exchanging ideas we decided to resume the search by making large, sweeping circles around the site of last blood. Wayne remained at the blood sign and the rest of us separated by about 30-40 yards and proceeded in a circle that covered the



entire hillside.

We had covered a 90 degree arc when the shout went out, "Here he is"!

Sure enough, he was a nice, fat four-pointer and needless to say Wayne was absolutely beside himself. As I think back, I believe it was his first deer.

Dragging the deer back to the cabin was a minor task with so many strong backs to share turns. Soon we were soaking up the warmth of the woodstove and gulping down hearty portions of hot stew and coffee.

Spirits were high and everyone shared Wayne's feeling of fulfillment. I couldn't help but think as I gazed around the table at all those ugly, bearded bowhunters that this surely must be the stuff memories are made of. The years have proven me right.

Sitting Tight

by John Stockman

One early December afternoon I quietly climbed the 20 feet to my portable stand in a huge, gnarled oak tree. The stand was located on a ridge with a trail about 20 yards in front of it. Laurel bushes surrounded the tree.

Shortly after tying myself into the stand, I heard a deer approaching from the rear. Rather than turn and risk spooking it, I waited for it to come past the tree where I could get a shot. The noise stopped very close to my tree—behind it. When I could no longer stand the suspense, I eased my head around to see what had approached my tree from the wrong direction. I was just in time to see a spike buck drop to his knees and settle down in the laurel. He was no more than twenty yards from my tree. I checked my safety belt to ensure that it was securely attached to both me and the tree and quietly inched my way to the extreme edge of the platform. I then drew my bow and leaned out as far as I dared (which wasn't far). There was simply no way I could swing the bow far enough around the tree to get a shot at the resting buck. Since darkness was about 1½ hours away I decided to wait quietly and hope that the deer had not bedded for the night. After

about a half hour, he got up, stretched and took a few steps to one side of the tree. Before I could shoot, he dropped to his knees again and settled down broadside to me. His body was concealed by limbs from a maple tree. I looked in vain for an opening large enough to shoot through. My vigil continued. About an hour later the young buck arose again and took a few more steps toward the trail in front of the tree. The laurel screened most of his body when he bedded again. Just minutes before dark, four deer passed through the laurel about 40 yards from my tree. The buck heard them but didn't get up as I hoped he would.

Since my unwilling patience had not provided me a shot and darkness was fast approaching I decided different tactics were in order. Now, deer are curious creatures and I thought that perhaps I could arouse the buck's curiosity and get him in position for a shot. I considered throwing my watch, wallet, or car keys behind him to get him up but rejected that idea out of fear of losing them. I decided to make some natural noises to arouse him. I began by scratching the rough bark of the tree. The buck turned his head toward me but remained where he was. I then made louder sounds by thumping the tree trunk. He still didn't move. It would soon be too dark to shoot and

I felt I had nothing to lose by making even more obvious sounds. I then rapped an aluminum arrow against my bow limb. The buck continued to look in my direction but did not move from his bed. It was time to escalate my efforts. Surely the sound of a human voice would jar the buck's composure I thought. I began talking to the buck (thankful that my hunting partner wasn't near enough to hear me and question my sanity). The buck was attentive but unmoved by my pleading. I then yelled at him, certain that he would flee instantly. He ignored me. Now I began to question my vision. Maybe the muted, rounded contour I had watched merge into the twilight shadows had not been a deer. Maybe he had slipped away undetected. Too dark to shoot now, I tied my bow to the hauling line and lowered it to the ground. I followed noisily. Once on the ground, I decided to see if the buck was still there. I proceeded one noisy step after another in his direction. When I was about five yards from him, he hurtled away through the laurel.

I've heard some knowledgeable people compare whitetail deer to rabbits. They will both sit tight when they think they are concealed. Believe it!



Tom Kidwell, the new IBEP Chairman with his 1983 buck. "Good hunting Tom."

V.B.A. OFFICERS

D. H. "Van" Vanek, President
Route 2, Box 404
Warrenton, Va. 20816
Phone: 703-439-3656

Dicky Hall, Executive Vice President
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**Flight Deadline**

The deadline for the May-June issue of FLIGHT will be June 1, 1984. Submit your articles of interest to the editor prior to that date. I encourage readers to send in letters to the editor. *Remember, this is your newsletter.*



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