



# FLIGHT

(200-220)

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

FLIGHT NO. 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1990

VOLUME 32

## Kingsboro Bowmen Host State Indoor Championship at

*Tidewater Community College,  
Frederick Campus, Suffolk, Va.*

March 10 & 11, 1990

**Registration Fees**  
\$15.00 Each  
\$30.00 Family

	Rounds	
	Saturday	Sunday
1st	9 am-12 noon	8 am-11 am
2nd	12 noon-3 pm	11 am-2 pm
3rd	3 pm-6 pm	2 pm-5 pm

### Registration

1. By Mail: Must be postmarked by March 5, 1990
2. Friday (March 9) 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
3. Saturday (March 10) (1 hour only) 7 a.m.-8 a.m.

**\$\$ PEARSON PAYS SHOOT \$\$**

**Please Note:** 3 Rounds Shooting will be on one side only.  
Practice will be available on other side!

### Kingsboro Welcomes You Friday Night

Refreshments—7-9 p.m.

at Tidewater Community College

#### Area Motels

Suffolk Holiday Inn  
Portsmouth/Portside  
Holiday Inn

#### Phone #

1-800-934-2311  
1-804-393-2573

#### Approx. Distance to Shoot

20 Miles  
10 Miles

At Portsmouth Holiday Inn ask for VBA special rates  
(you must make reservations before 2/9/90 for special rates: \$48.00/night-4 people)

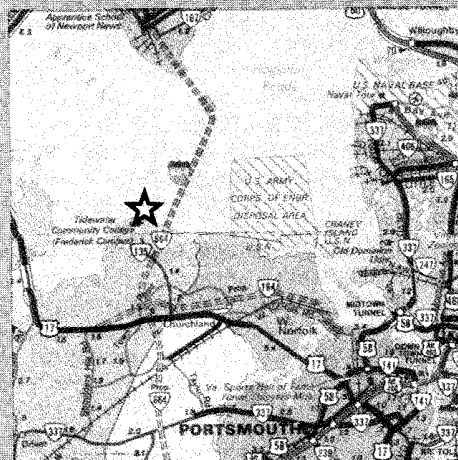
*Churchland Econo Travel	1-804-484-6143	3 Miles
Portsmouth Quality Inn	1-804-399-3066	7 Miles
Portsmouth Imperial 400	1-804-397-5806	9 Miles

\*Closest to College

#### Camping available at:

Northwest River Park, Chesapeake, VA 23322

Phone: 1-804-421-7151



### Things to See and Do!

Williamsburg Pottery—  
shopper's dream come true.  
Williamsburg, VA approximately 50 miles  
Colonial Williamsburg  
Yorktown  
Jamestown  
Virginia Marine Science Museum  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum  
Portsmouth, VA  
The Chrysler Museum  
Norfolk, VA  
The Waterside—Food, fun, shopping market  
place available by pedestrian ferry from  
Portsmouth waterfront.

More information on places to go, stay,  
dine and just plain have fun at will be available  
at registration table.

Things to do for the entire family.  
See you on the 10th!!!

For further information contact:

Kingsboro Bowmen  
c/o Ed Bickham  
6353 Godwin Blvd.  
Suffolk, Virginia 23432  
Phone: (804) 255-2294

### State Indoor Pre-Registration

Single \$15.00 ☐ Family \$30.00 ☐ Unlimited-Release ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Young Adult Youth Cub

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate if Young Adult, Youth or Cub

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Mo Day Year

VBA No. \_\_\_\_\_

Soc. Sec. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send Pre-Registration form to:

Division Circle One  
FS FSL BH BB BHFS BHFSL

Limited-Finger Shooter ☐ Yes ☐ No

Ed Bickham  
6354 Godwin Blvd.  
Suffolk, VA 23432

## From The Flight Editor's Office

### VBA Meeting Highlights

The next quarterly meeting of the Virginia Bowhunters will be held on March 17-18 at the Mt. Vernon Motel in Charlottesville. Room rates at the Mt. Vernon for the March and June meeting will be \$34/single, \$45/double, and \$50/triple.

Our last meeting was held on the weekend of Jan. 13-14 and was very well attended by directors from 20 clubs. This year three individuals were proudly installed into the Order of the Golden Feather by VBA President, Clinton Western. John Street, NFAA director, Kenny Sorrels, VBA Field Governor and myself were the 1990 recipients of this high honor. Former VBA officers and our good friends, Bill and Nina Enders drove down from their home in PA to join us for the weekend and it was a real surprise and certainly a pleasure to see them again. (By the way, Bill hasn't changed a bit!)

Much of the meeting was centered around the NFAA Director's report regarding the upcoming events that will take place at the National NFAA meeting next month in New Orleans. John Street will represent VBA at the meeting, which should prove to be an interesting one, and our directors expressed their opinions on the issues that will be decided at that meeting.


It was decided by the majority of club directors that we will stay with the present style of *Flight*. I am attempting to work with our printer and hope to give *Flight* a "face-lift" and do some changes to improve it. I'm still asking clubs and individuals

to submit items of interest and in the near future intend on appointing assistant editors from different regions of the state. If you would be interested in assuming this responsibility, get into contact with me with your ideas. I hope to have this accomplished by the June meeting.

Agenda items for the March Meeting: (Manahoc Bowmen) They request the directors to meet with their club membership to discuss the Jan. 6 letter submitted by Director Ronnie Lewis concerning a Statewide requirement for a completion bowhunters education course prior to issuance of a State permit. Additionally, the letter proposes the development of a current affairs program within the VBA. Further, it was requested that this letter be placed on the agenda for the March meeting for discussion. (Note: Have your club's director to read and discuss a copy of this letter which they should have.)

Spring seems to be in the air here in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and that means outdoor archery season is just around the corner. Hope all of you are getting ready for the '90 tournaments and this year will support your area clubs and state shoots in record numbers.

Till next time, good Shooting!




## How Do You Get The Public to Notice Organized Archery?

The Warwick Bowmen with its few members have done a real good job.

We gave the Boys Club of Newport News three months of instruction in the fine art of archery. The boys ranged from 7 to 13 and safety was a big part of the program yet the kids still had a great time. The Boys Club gave us an open invitation to come back anytime.

Next the Boy Scouts had a big meeting at Langley AFB. There must have been 2,000 scouts there (well it

seemed like that many). The Warwick Bowmen donated a booth on archery.

Equipment, targets, hunting and the NFAA were some of the subjects talked about. We had a real great time with this project. Cost was minimal and acceptance was high.

This is how you get the public in on archery. Let them know who you are and most of all *that you are there!*

—Submitted by Jack Wedding,  
Warwick Bowmen

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## Flight Deadline

The deadline for the March-Apr. issue of FLIGHT will be **MARCH 18, 1990**. 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.*

# Kingsboro Bowmen Host Mid-Atlantic Indoor

**TOURNAMENT DATE:**

March 2-4, 1990

**TOURNAMENT HOST:**

Kingsboro Bowmen

**DIRECTIONS TO RANGE:**

U.S. Route 17, turn east on Route 135.

Follow signs to Tidewater Community

College (Frederick Campus) Gym.

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**

February 23rd, 1990 (postmark)

**SEND APPLICATION TO:**

Ed Bickham, 6353 Godwin Blvd., Suffolk, VA 23432, 804-255-2294.

**LATE REGISTRATION:**

Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8

a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m.

**SHOOTING SCHEDULE:**

Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m., 12

noon, 3 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m., 12 noon.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Holiday Inn, Portsmouth, 804-393-2573

(20 miles); Holiday Inn, Suffolk, 804-

934-2311 (10 miles); Econo Travel,

804-484-6143 (3 miles); Quality Inn,

804-399-3066 (7 miles).

**CAMPING:**

Camping available at Northwest River
 Park, Chesapeake, VA 23322.

Phone: 1-804-421-7151.

## SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Complete and mail with your registration fees in accordance with your sectional instructions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Date \_\_\_\_\_

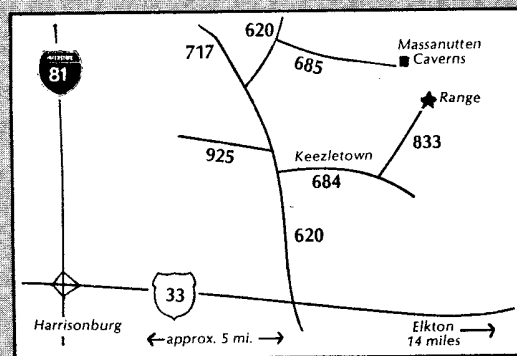
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate if Young Adult, Youth, Cub: MO: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

	Adult	Y/A	Youth	Cub	Family		Traditional	Senior (over 55)	Pro	Adult	Male	Female	YA (15-17)	Youth (12-14)	Cub (under 12)	BB	FS	Limited FS	BH	FS/BH	Limited FS/BH	Pre-Reg. Fee	Late Reg. Fee	Pro Fee	Total Fee	Rnd. Pref. 1-6
Pre-reg.	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$70.00																					
Late reg.	\$40.00	\$38.50	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$110.00																					
Pro Purse Fee:	\$25.00																									

## Bowhunters of Rockingham Host VBA State Open Championship May 19-20, 1990

**CAMPING**

 Gerundo Campground 1-703-289-5351  
Water and Electric

**VBA State Open Pre-Registration**

 Single \$15.00 ☐ Family \$30.00 ☐ Unlimited-Release ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Young Adult Youth Cub

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate if Young Adult, Youth or Cub

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Mo \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

VBA No. \_\_\_\_\_

Soc. Sec. No. \_\_\_\_\_

 Division Circle One  
FS FSL BH BB BHFS BHFSL

 Limited-Finger Shooter ☐ Yes ☐ No

Send Pre-Registration form to:

 Lowell Hertzler  
Rt. 2, Box 521  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

**REGISTRATION FEES**

\$15.00 Single

\$30.00 Family

**REGISTRATION TIMES**

Friday 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

**PLACES TO STAY:**

Shoneys Inn 1-703-433-6089

Comfort Inn 1-703-433-6066

Knights Inn 1-703-433-6939

Econo Lodge 1-703-433-2576

Sheraton Inn 1-703-433-2521

Need anymore information, contact:

Lowell Hertzler

(703) 833-5365

## CLUB NEWS

### Attention Bowhunter & Barebow Shooters

I would like to propose a State Fraternity for the Bowhunter and Barebow shooters, for the purpose of increasing the number of shooters shooting these styles. The bowhunters are doing this now on a small scale, by naming certain shoots as Bowhunter shoots. I think if we work together, we can have even better turn-outs of "sightless" shooters, and maybe convince some of the "sight" shooters to give it a try. Once they see that it's not "magic", and that it is fun and challenging, maybe we can increase our ranks. Some may find, as I did, that their scores may even go up.

If you are a Bowhunter or Barebow shooter, or are interested in learning to shoot one of these styles, and you think this idea is worth talking about, let me know. Maybe we can have an unofficial meeting Sat. evening at the State Indoor, and if enough people are interested, we can set up our first official meeting for the State Open. If you would like to see this happen, but can't make the State Indoor, drop me a line.

Jim Barker  
Rt. 1, Box 138A  
Shenandoah, VA 22849.

### Warwick Bowmen Update

Range closed!

Due to some unsafe factors the Warwick Bowmen along with the Newport News Park System are in the process of curing some Range ailments.

The Practice Range will be removed.

Due to limited space and safety guides we may not have enough room for a full 14 target round; but could be expanded if we are lucky enough to get a major shoot again.

A, B, & C Range will get some face lifting also.

After this, the plan is to qualify archers in safety and good shooting techniques. But these plans are subject to change upon review by the Newport News Park.

Hopefully within the next month or so all this will be completed.

Sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

### Loudoun Bowhunters

Loudoun Bowhunters will be having their 2nd annual indoor trophy shoot February 17 & 18, 1990.

Place: Loudoun Valley Archery  
118 W. Main St., Purcellville, VA.  
Sat. Flights 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m.  
Sun. Flights 10 a.m., 2 p.m.

Awards and door prizes follow completion of last round (flight).

All classes will be recognized by NFAA rules.

Everyone is welcome. Pre-registration on first come or call basis. For more information contact:

Gary Maggard: 703-554-8749 or  
703-338-6513

James Smith: 703-368-7188

Wilson Withers: 703-338-2517.

### New Schedules

May 27—New River Bowhunters will move their Pin Shoot back to May 26 from May 27.

June 3—Wythe Bowhunters will move their pin shoot back to Saturday June 2 from June 3.

Aug. 26—New River Bowhunters will move their pin shoot back to Aug. 25 from Aug. 26.

Sept. 8 & 9—New River Bowhunters will move their 3D shoot from Sept. 8 and 9 to Sept. 22 and 23.

Triangle Bowhunters will move their shoot from Sept. 9 to Oct. 6 and 7.

Attention: Due to scheduling, errors made, the following changes have been made to prevent clubs in the same zone from holding shoots on the same days. Please make note of these changes on your schedule cards.

### Two Rivers Archery Club

Happy Birthday to us!

Our club is now 31 years old. Dutch Shultz was one of the first members to help get us started and at age 83 is still quite active in our club. Some of the first members were also Howell Meredith, Evory Clifton, to be followed by Joe Ramey, Joe Bowers, Ronnie Wines, and Lewis Drummonds. By 1965 we had 75 members. Somebody started straightening his arrows with a ball-peen hammer! I wonder who?

Club Reporter, Ray Eshleman

### Membership

Some members keep their organization strong,

While others joke, and just belong. Some dig right in, some serve with pride,

Some go along just for the ride.

Some volunteer to do their share,

While some sit back and just don't care.

On meeting days some always show,

But there are those who never go.

Some always pay their dues ahead,

Some get behind for months, instead.

Some do their best, some build, some make,

Some never give, but always take.

Some lag behind, some let things go

Some never help their organization grow.

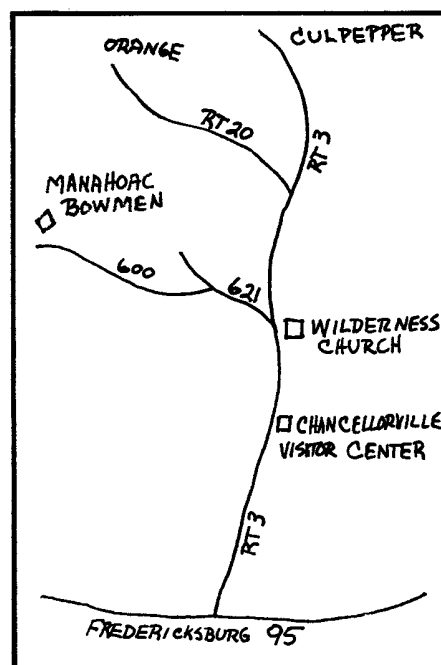
Some drag, some pull, some don't some do.

Which of these are you?

(Reprinted from Two River Archery Club, December '89 Newsletter, Ray Eshleman, Reporter)

### Manahoac Bowmen

Manahoac Bowmen has a new range this year. Everyone is invited to come out and shoot to make our new range a success. This is our annual shoot April 7-8—28 Field.





## "One Last Plea"

Dear fellow VBA Club members:

For the past year I have been compiling data for a Range book which will contain information, maps and interesting data on all ranges in the state of Virginia.

The clubs that are lacking information are as follows, as well as a copy of my original letter sent to all club presidents and secretaries. In order to get this publication to press I must put a **2-28-90** deadline on additional information. I will publish what information I have by the February deadline.

Loudoun Bowhunters: No response

Richmond Archers: No response

Shawnee Bowmen: No response

Triangle Archers: No response

Sherwood Archery Club: Flight info only.

Blackwater Bowhunters: No response

Prince William Archers: Map only

Bearcreek Bowmen: No response

Dixie Bowmen: Map only

Kingsboro Bowmen: Flight info only.

No additional response.

Massanutten Archery: Flight info only.

No additional response.

Princeton Archery Club: No response

Outdoorsman Archery: No response

Open Trail: No response

1. **LOCATION.** Include map and written directions, including accurate mileages from key crossroads or landmarks.

2. **DESCRIPTION.** Briefly describe the range, i.e., # of targets, # of practice butts, facilities such as clubhouse, restrooms, camping, etc.

3. **ACCOMMODATIONS.** Names, locations and phone numbers of nearby hotels, motels, and campgrounds.

4. **POINTS OF INTEREST.** Not everyone shoots. What are some of the "tourist" sights in the area?

5. **CLUB HISTORY.** What makes your club unique? What are the top scores ever shot? Anything out of the ordinary happen in your history? How old is the club? Size?

6. **MISC.** Any local Pro shops, sporting goods stores, etc., that may want to advertise in this guide (This will help offset the cost of printing.)

7. **Contact Person** and phone number for your club.

Please try to get this to me as soon as possible so we can get to work on the range guide in time for next year's shooting season. If you've got any questions, give me a call at the shop, 804-474-4601, or at home, 427-1242.

Thomas W. Schanbacher

## From the Field Governor's Office

Club	Outdoor Range Date	Indoor Range Date	BH Range Date	# 14 Target Units	Star Rating
Augusta Archers	6-88	6-88		4	5
Bearcreek Bowmen	6-89	6-89		1	3
Belvoir Bowhunters	4-88			1	3
Blackwater Bowhunters	5-88			2	3
Bowhunters of Rockingham	5-89	5-89		4	5
Bowhunters of Paradise	None				
Buggs Island Archery Assn.	7-89			3	4
Dickenson Cty. Bowhunters	9-89			1	3
Dixie Bowmen	9-89			2	3
Cub Run Archers	12-89			2	3
Kingsboro Bowmen	4-88	3-88		1	2
Loudoun Bowhunters	4-88			2	4
Manahoac Bowmen	7-88			2	3
Massanutten Archery Club	6-89			2	4
New River Bowhunters	5-89			1	2
Northern Virginia Archers	3-89			2	3
Outdoorsman Archers		3-89			
Prince William Archers	5-88	5-88		2	3
Princess Anne Bowmen	2-88			2	4
Princeton Archers	11-87			2	2
Richmond Archers	None				
Seminole Archers Club	4-89			2	2
Septa Bowmen	8-89			2	2
Shawnee Bowmen	3-89			2	3
Shenandoah County Archers	3-88			2	3
Sherwood Archers	4-88			4	5
Singers Glen Bow Benders	2-88	2-88		2	3
Smyth County Archery Club	5-88			1	2
Staunton River Archery Club	8-89			1	2
Triangle Archers	7-88	7-88		2	3
Two Rivers Archery Club	5-89			1	3
Walton Park Bowhunters	4-89			6	5
Warwick Bowmen	10-89			6	5
Wythe Bowhunters	5-88	5-88		2	5
Open Trail Archers					

# Hunting Highlights

## Blood Trail Challenge

by Dan Mathis

There is something very intriguing about blood trailing a deer. It is stark reality, suspense, drama and high art. It can be tougher than Rubic's cube. At other times a blood trail is a very simple affair; a well placed shot on bright yellow leaves or snow is a matter of walking the crimson road, yet, even then it's not boring. A blood trail fills me with life. It fills me with emotion. It seems ironic that my life would be enriched at the expense of another creature's life, but as the mystery unravels I feel more alive as the deer's life ebbs. The longer the trail the more intense the experience.

A tough trail is best. It's a hands and knees ordeal of infinitely intense concentration. You must take your time on a tough trail. The long distance and sparse sign requires olympian mental and physical endurance. A rush job will only obliterate the meager evidence and waste energy. On a blood trail I pursue the problem with a single minded concentration that is nearly impossible for me to duplicate at more mundane endeavors.

I become almost a different person with every sense intensified; clear vision, acute hearing, intense sense of smell. The world shrinks to a microcosm seldom exceeding three or four yards square. At times the physical sign becomes indiscernible. At these times the powers of abstract thinking intensify; judging paths of resistance, likely avenues of escape and reconstructing the surrounding terrain mentally to evaluate possible lie ups. At these times it's half skill and half luck, but when it gets you back onto the trail it's electric. Often you can take mental leaps that cover thirty or forty yards. When your feet take you there and the blood is once again visible it can run chills up and down your spine. I know folks who go get a partner to help work out a blood trail. What a shame.

If you have ever successfully worked out a tough blood trail I think you understand how I feel. If you work yours out with a bud, it will be just another hunting chore. Try it alone.

Blood trailing is one of the few legitimate adventures a person can take today. There is no predetermined solution, no artificial guidelines or boundaries. There are no established procedures, margins of error or second

chances. You will find no mediators or bodies of higher knowledge to intervene.

No rules. There is an obligation though and this obligation gives the whole endeavor impact. You have just mortally wounded one of God's creatures and in doing so assumed the responsibility to recover the animal.

You must analyze all types of sign. There may be hair and bone, initially, closely followed by blood. Broken twigs and bent blades of grass are there for the tracker who looks closely. If it is damp the moisture may be disturbed from understory. There are hoof prints in the earth as well, but it takes skill to interpret them and in areas of high deer density it may become difficult to distinguish which to follow. Analyze the hair and blood at the location of impact. It can give you an idea of the type of adventure you are embarked upon. Concentrate on small areas, where the trail is difficult, as no animal can pass through an area without leaving some sign. At the easier spots or at intervals open up your sphere of intensity to look for signs of disturbed wildlife ahead or maybe even your quarry. You may get frustrated. Generally this is an indication of fatigue. Remember, the sign is there. Sit yourself down and relax for a minute, even if it is raining or darkness is closing in. It does no good to pursue if you have not the ability to perceive. Regain your composure and rejoin the adventure.

Take your time. In today's high tech world not one man in a thousand gets an opportunity as challenging and rewarding as a blood trial.

## In Memoriam

The Virginia Bowhunters Association was deeply saddened to learn of the untimely passing of former VBA member William E. "Piggie" Hogge on November 24, 1989. Piggie is survived by his wife, Eula Hogge and by 3 sons, a step-daughter, his mother and 3 brothers. Those of us who knew Piggie over the years will truly miss him and extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to his family.

## VBA 1990 Tournament Schedule (Feb. thru April)

- Feb. 3**  
Wythe Bowhunters Indoor  
12 noon-8:00
- Feb. 10**  
Bearcreek Bowmen Indoor 7:00
- Feb. 17**  
Wythe Bowhunters Indoor 12:00 noon-8:00
- Feb. 24**  
Prince William Indoor Trophy Shoot  
Two Round 3:00-7:00  
Bowcreek Bowmen Indoor Pin 7:00  
Wythe Bowhunters Indoor 12:00 noon-8:00
- Feb. 25**  
Sherwood Indoor Trophy 10:00-1:00
- Feb. 25**  
Warwick Pin 10:00
- March 3**  
Indoor Mid's  
Wythe Bowhunters Indoor 12:00 noon-8:00
- March 4**  
Indoor Mid's  
Buckskin New York  
Shogun Sportsman New Jersey  
Mayberry, Maryland  
Kingsboro, Virginia
- March 10, 11**  
Virginia State Indoor Champions  
Kingsboro Bowmen
- March 17, 18**  
VBA Meeting
- March 18**  
Pin Warwick 10:00
- March 25**  
Manahoac Bowman Pin Shoot 9:00-1:00  
Dixie Trophy Turkey Shoot  
Unmarked Distance 9:00-11:00 cas
- April 1**  
NORVA Pin 12:00  
PAB Pin Shoot  
Pin Shoot Two Rivers Archery 1:00 cas  
Blackwater Bowhunters Pin Shoot 10:00
- April 8**  
Manahoac Bowmen Totem Pole annual  
9:00-1:00 Walton  
Walton Park Bowhunters Pin Shoot  
Field round 10:00  
Kingsboro Pin Shoot Field 10:00
- April 15**  
Cub Run Pin Shoot 9:00-1:00 cas
- April 22**  
Annual Warwick Annual Silver bow  
8:00-11:00 mult-cas  
Seminole Archers Pin F & H 9:00  
Pin Loudoun Bowhunters Pin AP Field  
& Hunter 9:00-1:00 cas  
Bearcreek Bowmen Pin cas 10:00
- April 28, 29**  
Sherwood Annual Dogwood  
Sat. 10:00-2:00 Sun 10:00-12:00
- April 28, 29**  
SEPTA Annual 9:00-12:00 Hunter cas  
Massanutten Archery Club Pin Field  
Hunter cas 8:00-1:00  
Augusta Archers  
Grady Armentrout All Silhouette Shoot  
9:00-2:00

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<b>110 Dogwood Lane, Vinton, VA 24179</b>		
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## A New Years Resolution "The Big Picture"

by Jim Barker

When is the last time you stopped and ask yourself just what this game we call archery is all about? Why do we drive countless miles, brave terrible weather, and climb what sometimes looks like straight up hills, to shoot a bow?

In the heat of the competition we sometimes forget why. We develop tunnel vision and forget the real reason we do this. We lose sight of the "Big Picture".

It happened to me at the State Closed this past year, and for a few moments I found myself giving our Field V.P., Gary Jenks, a hard time.

Fortunately, Gary and I are friends, and he just tuned me out while I was saying my piece. The problem is he can't do this with everyone. This brings me to the problem at hand.

If you go to a shoot and you don't like the way it is being run, step back and take a look. Most of the time you will see that they are doing the best that they can, most of the time with about half of the people that they need to do the job right. If you see this happening, and you feel something needs to be done, put your bow back in the case and volunteer to help instead of complaining. I'm sure they would rather have your help than listen to you tell them how bad a job they are doing.

If you go to a shoot, and for some reason you have some sort of equipment or scoring ruling go against you,

remember, these officials are shooters too. They are doing the best that they can do. These days it takes a lawyer to interpret the rule book, and I don't know of any lawyer officials in the V.B.A. Put yourself into their shoes and you will see at once that they don't have an easy job. Most of the time they are in a "no win" situation, and I can tell you, that's not a fun place to be. I know it's hard to do in the heat of the moment, but try to keep the big picture in front of you.

When you have a problem at a shoot and you go to an Official, remember, these people are human, just like you. Humans make mistakes. They don't do it on purpose, it's just human nature. I'll admit though, some of us are better at it than others.

Just what is this "Big Picture"? It all depends on why you are there. For most of us it's to have a good time. Maybe in the process you want to beat Joe Blow from down the road. Or maybe there is a certain score you want to beat, or you want to shoot a personal best. But in the end the real reason most of us are there is for the fellowship, travel, to shoot new ranges, to stay ready for that world record buck when he walks by our stand, but mainly to have a good time doing something we like doing with a bunch of people who like doing the same thing.

When you feel yourself getting upset about something at a shoot, take a few seconds to think about the "Big Picture". Most of the time you will realize that what a few moments ago was upsetting you really isn't worth getting upset over.

So, let's all of us make a New Years resolution to try and keep the "Big Picture" in focus this year. The better we get at doing this, the easier it will become to have a good time, and the easier it will become for the people around us to have a good time.

Rather than piling complaints onto your State and Club officials this year, let's make a New Years resolution to support them. I'm not saying that there isn't room for change, but that we should make these changes at the State and Club levels. Not by butting heads at a shoot with an official.

And one more thing. Remember what I said about humans making mistakes. If you see someone making a mistake and you feel that you just have to point it out to them, be aware of another human trait. Most humans don't like having their mistakes pointed out to them! Think about it.

So, let's keep the "Big Picture" in focus this year, and from my home to yours, may this be the very best of New Years.



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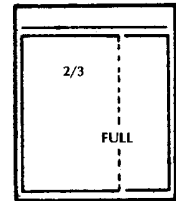
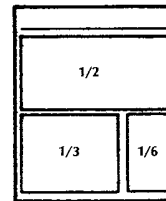
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