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Newsletter Deadlines

Henry Bertram (ed.)

Please have articles submitted by the end of the day on the second Friday following the club meeting. That is the second Friday after the first Tuesday. The best ways to submit articles are by email or by bringing them to the club meeting on a CD-ROM or a 3.5 inch floppy disk. A thumb drive will also work but you might not get it back. Warning: failure to submit articles may result in you having to read the mindless tripe that I write month after month. If that happens, the Surgeon General may want a disclaimer added to the masthead.

Indoor Shoot 2-3-06 (ed.)

The NFAA indoor 300 round was attended by Wendy Lewis, Ben Rogers, Ralph, Wayne and Diana Reader, Dave Shelton and Henry Bertram. Ralph and Wayne again demonstrated their fire making skills and brought the area around the stove to a reasonable temperature. We all had a great time. Wendy jumped to the top of the indoor board with an impressive bare bow showing of 212. Dave shot 33x 296 making the Free Style board.

Indoor Shoot 2-17-06 (ed.)

Linda and Ralph Adams, Ralph, Wayne and Diana Reader, Wendy Lewis, Ben Rogers and Henry Bertram got together at 7:45 for the second indoor of the month. Wendy again made her assault on the indoor board with a 5x 199 in Traditional Recurve.

Outdoor Shoot

Since the World Archery Festival and Vegas Shoot event was held on Outdoor Club Shoot weekend, the club shoot was not held in February. The first Outdoor Shoot of the year will be on Sunday, March 12. First arrow is at 9:00 AM so come a bit early for check-in. If you arrive later, grab a group of 3 and score cards and have a great time.

Tournament: Vegas Shoot

Henry Bertram

The World Archery Festival and Vegas Shoot is held in the Riviera Hotel Convention Center. The venue consists of two large convention center rooms, a few smaller rooms for bow storage and conferences, and a large ante room obviously intended for ticket purchases with a long counter opposite multiple glass doors to the exterior of the hotel. The counter was manned by people handing out competitor packs that contained necessities such as shooter and guest badges without which you could not enter the trade show or competition rooms. They also passed out "I shoot a STAN" tee shirts that could bring a few lucky winners a new Sanisloski release. That was an interesting marketing idea. You can probably find one of the tees on eBay this week.

Opposite the counter, to the right facing the doors, was a large open area where a number of practice mats were set up. To the left was a set of bulletin boards where shooting times were posted and, as the tournament progressed, the scores were posted. There was always a large group of people obscuring the information on the bulletin board; I brought my field glasses so I could plainly see the information at the top of the lists from a safe distance beyond the crowds. I was, of course, actually interested in information at the bottom of the lists.

The tournament shooting area spanned one and a half, very large convention center rooms with the Archery Trade Show taking half of the second room. You enter the main room in the center and immediately see two rows of bleachers facing away from each other. Each set of bleachers faces one set of target butts that covered both sides of the room. Each target butt services 4 archers. There are 70 butts in the main room and 35 in the second room. In the center of the room one set of bleachers is replaced by an elevated platform for the officials and a concession area where you can buy lunch, snacks and drinks.

Thousands of people showed up to watch Wayne and me shoot! I really didn't notice them because I was "in the zone." Unfortunately, the target butt kept moving around so hitting the 10 ring was harder than I had anticipated. Darn.

I had the opportunity to shoot facing a left handed archer for the first time. The experience was much better than I had anticipated. He was a JOAD coach from Canada and was apparently able to compensate for the moving target shooting 298 on day one and 299 on day two. It took me 4 ends to drop three matching points. His arrows were propelled toward the target by 39 pounds of force so they found the spot very slowly. He claims there is a lesson in there somewhere but my arrows found their mark significantly faster than his!

We entered the second room at the trade show side and had to pass by a red Mustang convertible that was either left there by an inebriated gambler looking for a poker game or was one of the prizes for the tournament winner. I didn't get the car so it must belong to the gambler.

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My favorite booth is at the back of the first row, it's the PSE semi trailer truck. The thing has a show room and two bow maintenance shops. It's a very classy setup. There are manufacturer's and sales booths there for bows, releases, scopes, optics, stabilizers, rests, arrows, quivers and more. In addition, the shirt sellers and archery magazine folks are there and Lancaster is there to sell things that the manufacturers will not sell due to their trade agreements with shops and distributors.

Behind the trade show you found another set of bleachers and target butts 71 through 125.

Between the bleachers and the shooting area there was a broad isle and 4 rows of chairs with a narrow table up against the shooting area for archers to set there sundries on. In front of the tables there was a ribbon barrier and a row of chairs for the archers then an open area with bow racks.

The shoot times were 7:30, 10:00 AM, 12:30 and 4 PM. They were set for Friday and Saturday when we arrived. Wayne shot at 7:30 and I shot at 4:00. Wayne's group shot on Friday and Saturday only (600 points max). The Sunday shoot times were determined by scores on Friday and Saturday. I shot at 7:30 but made my goal of being in the front room (last year it was 7:30 in the back room). Next year I need to shoot much better and get into the 10:00 group for, perhaps, obvious reasons.

Just after the 10:00 group finished on Sunday we got seating in the middle of the first side for the 3:00 compound unlimited professional

group and the shoot off. The ladies had shooting lanes between our seating position and the wall to the left and the men had shooting positions between us and the wall to the right. The leading men and women were in the center.

It was a bit difficult to see the action because of all the obstructions but you could easily pick up the deflated look on anyone who had shot clean up to a given arrow and then missed. At least one archer missed on the last shot.

Thirty seven archers were still in the hunt after Friday's action, having shot 300s. Only 13 archers had 600 after Saturday's shoot and only 5 archers made the shoot off with perfect 900s. The shoot off consisted of two ends (6 arrows) shot with the same rules as the rest of the tournament, one archer shot 29 on the second end and was eliminated. The rules then changed to count only the x as ten (same a FITA scoring). Only Jesse Broadwater shot a 30 on the first end with tightened scoring rules and he was the tournament champion.

	Score	Xs
Jesse Broadwater	990	89
Dave Cousins	989	87
Chris White	989	86

For comparison purposes only, here are the top 3 places for the Compound Unlimited Flights division.

Name	Total Score	Total	Xs
Rob Morgan		900	72
Nicholas Annen		900	66
Justin Howell		899	64

Subtracting the X count from the pro shoot off to get the 90 arrow

total, the competitors had 80Xs in first and 79Xs in second. Rob and Nicholas in the flights class beat a lot of the pros and would have been in the shoot off if they could have stood up to the pressure. Justin would have been 26th out of the 233 pro entrants.

There were also two 3D tournaments that I did not have the time to visit. Archery United Ultimate 3D Pop-Up involves a tree stand, 5 arrows and a set of 3D animals that pop up at random. I suppose it's a bit like the "Whack-a-mole" game or, for the shot gun enthusiasts among us, it's like sporting clays. They also have the Marked 3D tournament has stationary 3D targets out to 50 yards. Last year they had a qualifier for the ESPN Great Outdoor Games, it may have been going on next to the marked 3D tournament again.

As an adjunct to the trade show, one room was set aside for taking high speed motion pictures for diagnostics. The vendor took pictures at 2,000 and 5,000 frames per second. They use 2,000 fps for release photography and 5,000 fps for arrow rest and arrow flight. Here's the ZAP "Comfort" release right as it releases a 2512.



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cards that refused to work (doubtlessly stunned by the cost per gallon).

Getting to the WAF (e.) is significantly less than half the fun. The Bertrams and the Readers piled into the classic white Suburban and headed toward Los Vegas on Thursday morning. Along the way we had a bit of time on our hands and were able to devise a patentable idea for new free style scope technology. The project will be called The Force Trainer. At first inception, it consisted of a pair of optically perfect lenses separated by a small space containing a trapped fruit fly. Whenever you have the "dot" on the target, it moves. This promotes concentration and focus as well as a bit of a twitch in the non sighting eye. An improvement was required, however, because the fly would eventually just lie in the bottom of the sight. We decided to replace the fly with many identical dots, maybe fifty of them. One of these things just has to be the right one! Next we thought we should replace the dots with small lights that would be randomly illuminated by a micro-processor. The device would sense when you settled on target with one light then switch it off and light another one. Since the microprocessor would be expensive, and require an internet connection to reprogram, we settled on a single dot, a very large dot. The dot would have to be large enough, of course, to cover the entire interior of the scope, totally preventing light from getting through and saving money on optical glass. By then, it was time to buy a long bow.

Luckily, by that time we reached Baker and were blessed by a visit to "Alien Beef Jerky" where various treats of a questionable nature were purchased. Following that, it was on the Prim, just inside the Nevada border, where we were blessed with the most expensive gas in the history of time and credit



Wayne holds on target at the WAF



Waiting for the start at the WAF

More than Archery (ed.)

To break the intense tension of the tournament we found ourselves at a local attraction. One can actually rent automatic weapons to shoot in an indoor range under supervision. When we got out of the car, you could smell the spent gun powder. There was a substantial line. Taxis were bringing people to stand in the line. There was even a small group of Japanese business men, with a translator, eager to blast multiple holes in paper targets. Here are Dave Shelton and the Readers waiting their turn in the box.



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Last Month's Just for fun (ed.)

After the deluge of responses for last month's question I am loathe to ask another. Here's the answer: the entertainment receiving the glowing review quoted last month had production cost exceeding \$8 million (that's a lot of bows and arrows folks) and closed after only five regular performances. News-day writer Linda Winer wrote "stupidously, fabulously terrible; ineptly conceived, sleazy, irrational from moment to moment, the rare kind of production that stretches way beyond bad to mythic lousiness." It was, of course, the Broadway musical version of Stephen King's horror novel "Carrie".

2006 Santa Cruz Archers Activity Schedule		
February		
Sunday	12th	Outdoor Club Shoot - 9:00 AM
Friday	17th	Indoor Shoot - 7:45 PM
Saturday	25th	Outdoor Stump Shoot - 9:00 AM
March		
Friday	3rd	Indoor Shoot - 7:45 PM
Tuesday	7th	Club Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sunday	12th	Outdoor Club Shoot - 9:00 AM
Friday	17th	Indoor Shoot - 7:45 PM
Saturday	25th	Outdoor Stump Shoot - 9:00 AM
April		
Tuesday	4th	Club Meeting - 7:30 PM
Friday	7th	Indoor Shoot - 7:45 PM
Sunday	9th	Outdoor Club Shoot - 9:00 AM
Friday	21st	Indoor Shoot - 7:45 PM
Saturday	29th	Outdoor Stump Shoot - 9:00 AM

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Tech Note: Serving Finish. (ed.)

Through trial and error, I have settled on the best way to finish off servings, I will offer it here as this month's tech note.

There are a few recommended methods. The first I came across is to create a tool out of a bit of extra serving thread made into a loop. Simply place it parallel to the string with the loop end past the intended end of the serving. You then serve over it for 11 to 12 turns, spool off a few inches of thread, cut it from the spool and tuck the tag end through the loop. Next simply pull the loose ends of the tool loop through the serving, completing the tie off.

That sounds easy enough but, since a good serving is a tight serving, it is really difficult to pull the tool loop back through the serving without it breaking. After very few such efforts I quickly changed to using 30# monofilament fishing line. The monofilament is significantly stronger and more slippery than the serving thread and hence works better. It slides under the serving more easily and doesn't break.

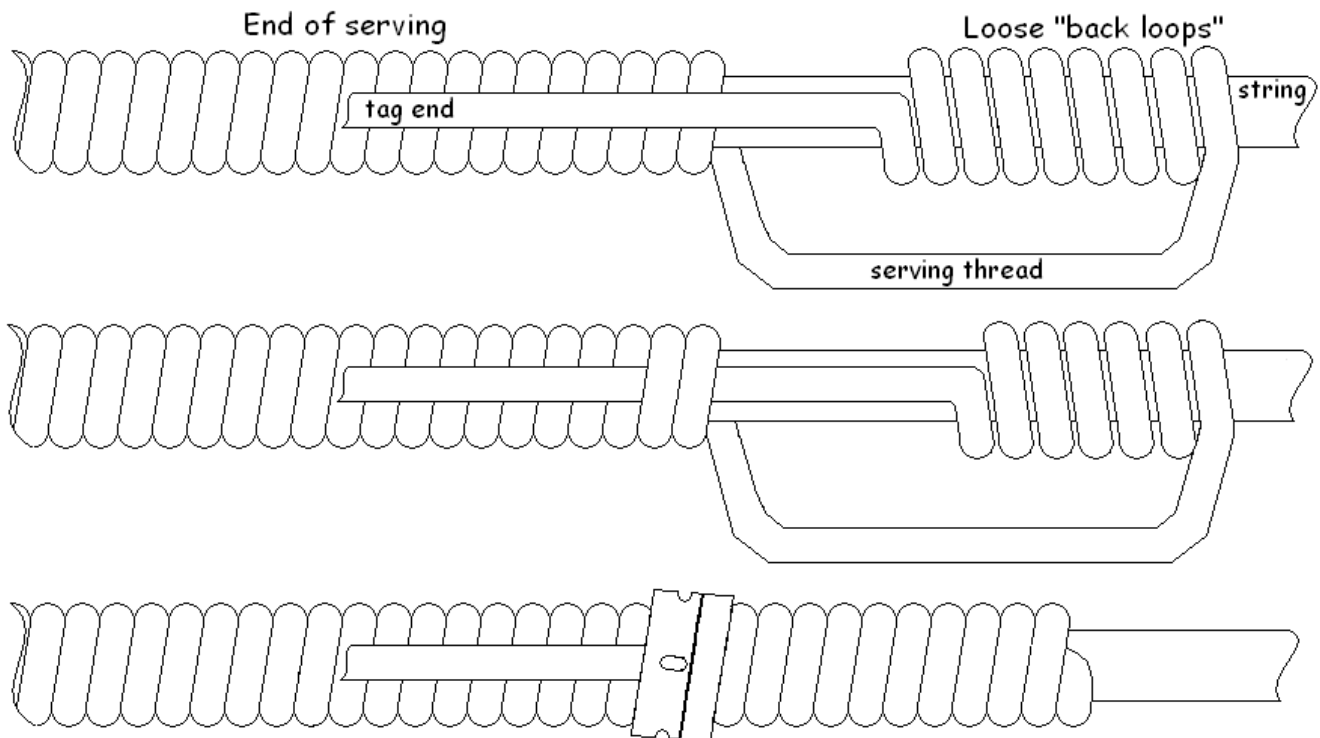
There is a better way. When you are ready to end the serving, spool off around 5 inches of serving thread and cut it from the spool. Make sure to control the end of the serving by pinching it between you thumb and finger so that it remains tight.

Now, move a few inches down the string away from the serving and begin looping the serving material loosely around the string back toward the serving for 11 to 12 loops. You must continue in the same direction around the string as the serving, if you served clockwise, keep going clockwise.

Once your 11 to 12 back loops are in place, hold the tag end against the existing serving, leaving enough that you can pull the slack through once the serving is complete. Continue serving by hand, making sure the turns are very tight. As you serve, the loose back loops will melt away (you are using them to complete the serving).

When the loose back loops are gone, hold the serving again to keep it tight and simply pull the tag end tight so that all the slack is removed at the end of the serving. This works under a tight serving because you are only pulling one thickness of serving thread. With the other way you were pulling two thicknesses and two loops under the serving.

Next, cut the extra material off using a sharp knife or razor blade held parallel to the serving to prevent damage. Some like to light the end of the serving to melt it. It is not necessary to do so and you risk heat damage to the serving.



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