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Newsletter Deadlines

Henry Bertram (ed.)

OK, I give up, there is not deadline, get it to me as soon as possible and I will get it into the next newsletter.

Stump Shoot 8-26 (Linda Adams)

The August Stump Shoot was our first exposure to the pure world of the Traditionalists. Since compound bows are not allowed at this event, Ralph and I unearthed his recurve and my longbow and arrived with time to spare for warm-up on Saturday morning, August 26. Gary Cramton was already there when we arrived at 8:30 am. We were relying on Gary to give us a crash course in Stump Shooting, because WE KNEW NOTHING.

We set out at 9:00 am to shoot the approximately twenty targets, each consisting of numerous wooden stakes that resembled ice cream bar sticks stuck in the ground. When I realized how small these targets actually were (about 6-8" high by 1.5 to 2" wide), I lowered my expectations, and hoped to hit my first stake within the next three months. As we started to shoot the targets, I came to really appreciate the hunting skills of our ancestors using traditional bows. How did they ever survive?

While Gary, Ralph and I were just into our first target, we were joined by Larry Yien. For those following the tragic story about Larry's archery equipment that was stolen just before his world competition, he happily informed us that it had been recovered by the Watsonville Police Department during a separate crime related bust. Luckily, the police were able to track down

Larry immediately with the good news since his name was on some of the recovered items.

Traditional equipment can vary, as it did within our group. Gary and Ralph used recurves and shot off arrow rests; and Larry and I were using longbows, shooting off the shelves. Other equipment combinations and variations are possible, as well, in the Traditional shooting styles.

As our foursome moved from target to target, it seemed that everyone was cracking stakes but me. In fact, Ralph was doing so well on his first time out that I began to develop an inferiority complex. I would miss the stakes by a couple inches, sometimes an inch and other times by only an eighth of an inch. . .SO CLOSE (but no point!). Fortunately, according to the odds of being so close, my arrows started to hit and I caught up with my three heroes.

Everyone took a turn in establishing the exact shooting distance and the body posture/position to be assumed during the shot. Sometimes, they shot while standing on a stump, and other times they shot through obstacles. And although I tried my best, they were also tolerant with me and realized that I was far from a mountain goat and allowed me some variations in my shooting stance.

Although the Stump Shoot course is essentially "unmarked" I would judge that the farthest target was probably no more than 50 yards, which is within the capabilities of most traditional archers. The vast majority of the shots probably ranged between 15 and 25 yards. I don't recall anyone losing an arrow

which may be due to these short shooting distances.

Although I spend most of my time shooting a compound, I'm glad that I took the plunge and tried the Stump Shoot. I would encourage other archers, whether normally compound or traditional shooters to try this traditional event, as well. It is a different mind-set than competition archery where the best archers bang away at the bull's-eye on 95% of their shots. It is a far greater accomplishment to hit the "ice cream bar stick" once, than to pulverize a bull's-eye. When you hit the stick with traditional equipment, it really means something.

From my initial experience, I also now realize that there may be times when I'm smashing stakes and other times when I have hardly a hit. Even on the occasions when only a few of my arrows hit the stakes, I think that there is real satisfaction in using bare minimal equipment and ingenuity, instead of being heavily fortified with high tech equipment. Going back to the basics and traditional equipment, periodically, helps archers improve their compound games when they were stuck on plateaus.

If you would like to participate in a future Stump Shoot, just show up on the scheduled date specified in the SCAN (Newsletter). Contact Gary Cramton if you have additional questions. And don't be discouraged if you don't own a traditional bow. It is always possible to contact Club officers to determine whether they know of another member who might have an extra traditional bow for you to borrow. So come on out and join the Stump Shooters; get some fresh air and exercise; and connect with your ancestors.

SCAN

Santa Cruz Archers Newsletter November 08

August

Club Meeting	7:30 PM	August 1, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	August 4, 2006
Outdoor Shoot	9:00 AM	August 13, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	August 18, 2006
Stump Shoot	9:00 AM	August 26, 2006

September

Club Meeting	7:30 PM	September 5, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	September 1, 2006
Outdoor Shoot	9:00 AM	September 10, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	September 15, 2006
Stump Shoot	9:00 AM	September 30, 2006

October

Club Meeting	7:30 PM	October 3, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	October 6, 2006
Outdoor Shoot	9:00 AM	October 8, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	October 20, 2006
Stump Shoot	9:00 AM	October 28, 2006

November

Club Meeting	7:30 PM	November 7, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	November 3, 2006
Outdoor Shoot	9:00 AM	November 12, 2006
Indoor Shoot	7:45 PM	November 17, 2006
Stump Shoot	9:00 AM	November 25, 2006

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