



Mt. MADONNA BOWMEN NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006

Presidents Message

This is the busy season for the Club. Friday night shoots are currently taking place. The Bug Shoot takes place on July 16th. Range target shooting stakes (hub) are in the process of being installed so that we can shoot a Hunter/Field or Animal round at each target. Maintenance continues on the range to make it a safe place to shoot. In order to make these activities a success we need members support in the months to come. Rich

Range Maintenance

Rain has hampered maintenance and improvements on the Mt. Madonna Archery Range. Even with the rain we managed to install missing hubs for Hunter/Field and Animal (H/F/A) rounds at each target. The next step is to go through the range and complete painting the hubs. The plan is to do this in August after the Bug Shoot and prior to the September regional H/F/A round. Several new target roofs have been installed and await roofing material. Matt Russo has volunteered to roof the targets that need repair. Other maintenance includes a new metal archery range rules sign replacing the well weathered plywood sign at the practice area. Stabilization and repair of the fence at the practice area was completed.

Shoots at the Range

We have managed several club shoots on the 2nd Sunday of the month weather permitting. The best one was a 3D unmarked animal shoot along the entrance road to the archery range. Currently we are doing unmarked 3D Friday night shoots that will continue through June. If you want to improve your skills at judging distances for hunting, this is an excellent activity. Hope to see you on Friday night.

Bug Shoot

The big activity of the summer for Mt. Madonna Bowmen is the annual Bug Shoot. Lots of preparation is needed to make this event a success. Work has already started. The Bug Shoot is July 16th. We need to do maintenance of Bug targets, weed-whack trails, blow-off trails, make sure shooting lanes are clear for all archers and set up targets the day before the shoot. To encourage more participation by club members and encourage new membership, we are going to allow members who pay to shoot the large bug targets Saturday afternoon (July 15th) if they are willing to work Sunday at the shoot.

IBEP Class

Two IBEP (International Bowhunter Education Program) classes will be held at Predatory Archery one June 9th -10th and the second on July 21st and 22nd. Class hours are 6-10 PM Friday and 8-about 4PM on Saturday. The class provides training on archery ethics, equipment needed to hunt with bow and arrow, conservation, survival gear and student shooting proficiency. Each student must pass a written test at the end of the course to receive certification. IBEP certification is required to archery hunt in many states. If you are interested in taking the class contact Predator Archery. Rich

May 20 frog shoot

The frog shoot was a great time. We introduced 5 new people into this sport at Los Banos Wildlife Refuge. Everyone was able to harvest some frogs and now their appetite hungry for more. Curtis

Tips from the Master

One of the most overlooked pieces of archery tackle are the arrows. Many of us look at the arrow as an expendable item and so cost becomes too much of a determining factor. Basic logic applies when shooting a bow: if the bow is shot the same way and aimed the same way AND THE ARROWS ARE THE SAME, then all the arrows will hit the same place. To make the arrows more identical these few points should be considered.

- 1) Fletching put on with a single jig. This will insure that all fletching are put on the identically from arrow to arrow.
- 2) Nocks rotated exactly the same from arrow to arrow (measure with nock tool or slide a small Allen wrench in the nock and check rotation of fletching)
- 3) Arrow weights are identical using a grain scale. Arrow weight off by more than a grain will result in larger groups at farther distances.
- 4) Inspect arrows for damage to any and all components and replace before using. Even tips that have been impacted will cause the arrow not to group.

Another item that we can not control is the consistency of the arrows from the manufacturer. When choosing an arrow it is important to look at the straightness factor of the arrow. The straighter the arrows are the better they will group. These shafts usually cost a little more but are well worth the investment.

Many of us are actually better shooters than we seem to be because of the arrows we use. Taking out any guess work will result in better grouping. Better grouping will result in better overall scores and more confidence when taking that important hunting shot.

Remember it is only a game Michael J. Pierce NFAA Master Coach