



Mt. MADONNA BOWMEN NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008

Presidents Message

Another year has passed. We were lucky and did not have severe weather in 2007 requiring extra maintenance on the range. Range work resulted in improvements that put the range in the best shape I have seen. **2008 parking passes are at Predator Archery and members need to stop by and renew membership and get a 2008 parking pass.** Rich Sandkuhle

Range Activities

The club did minimal maintenance on the range last fall. Ken and Kay Gardner made sure we had clean targets to shoot at on all targets. The range permit was renewed with the County of Santa Clara. NFAA range inspection, NFAA club membership, and renewal of range insurance (through International Bow Hunters Association) were completed. Plans for 2008 are to replace several bridges where needed, replace target butts, do some trail stabilization, and install more bow racks in the practice area. Rich Sandkuhle

Club Shoot Participation

A question was asked recently that inspired some thinking to answer. The question asked was as follows: "Do you think there are less target archers today than ten years ago." As a competitor, I feel there are less people at the shooting competitions. As an archery shop owner, I know that there are more recreational archers.

Over the years, I have seen club shoot participation drop down to two or three people per month. I have seen novelty shoots numbers drop to such low numbers that some clubs have cancelled shoots. Even the Bug Shoot attendance was lower in 2007. How do we raise the level of participation of our shoot and get more club member participation in club shoots?

One way of raising participation is to bring a friend to shoot. If each archer that shoots the club shoot brings one more person (and then gets them to come next month and they bring one more archer), then in four months we would have 24 competitors at our club shoot. This is a good solid number of shooters.

Another option is changing the time that we shoot our club shoot. Currently we put targets out around 8 AM Sunday morning and shoot at nine. If we were to move the shoot time to Sunday afternoon would this be a better time for club members? I like this idea because the morning is not and has not worked in years.

Friday night shoot, participation is way down compared to previous years. Back in the 1980's we would have close to a hundred people shooting the Friday

night 3D shoots. At that time, Mt Madonna was the only club holding an unmarked shoot. Now, with all the clubs in the region holding unmarked 3D's, attendance has dropped off at these shoots throughout the region. One possible way to raise the participation in the unmarked shoots is to start holding them on Sunday afternoon. Since less people are shooting the novelties and more people are shooting recreational, we may be able to raise the participation in our unmarked shoots and overall club shoot participation. We need to schedule shoots so that they do not conflict with shoots by other clubs in the region. Supporting other clubs is essential for the success of archery. I believe this change will also free up the one or two people that have been without help in setting up Friday night unmarked 3D's. Michael Pierce

Survey

As part of our effort to provide club members archery activities they desire Mike Pierce and I plan to do a phone survey of club members to get a wish list of activities the club members can provide to improve your archery experience. Several questions will be asked including the following:

- If you have email accounts what is your email address so we can better communicate club activities?
- What are the ways to better communicate club activities to interested members?
- When do members like to use the range or archery shop to practice archery?
- Who is interested in 3D animal target archery and the best time to have these shoots?
- Who likes to shoot targets and when?
- What type of archery training would club members like to have?
- How do we get more people (kids) interested in archery, like bring a friend?
- When is the best time to shoot on club shoot day (2nd Sunday of each month?)
- What other activities can the club participate in with members to further their archery experience?

Please review the above questions before Mike and I call you in early February.
Rich Sandkuhle

Bug Shoot

Curtis Campisi has ordered Buckle and Medal awards for the **2008 Bug Shoot**. Ken Gardner is working to have several Bug Shoot targets sent in for repair. Hopefully this early planning should give us a good head start for the shoot in July 2008.

State Hunter/Field/Animal (H/F/A) round at Mt. Madonna

Mt. Madonna Bowmen will host one of five state H/F/A rounds Sunday June 8th, 2008 at Mt. Madonna archery range. This shoot will allow interested club members and shooters from other clubs to shoot our beautiful range. We expect about fifty archers for this event. Archers interested in shooting this event will only be allowed to shoot one style of archery at each of the ranges holding a state shoots. Rich Sandkuhle

NFAA & CBH/SAA

Ever wonder about state and national archery association in California? The Mt. Madonna Bowmen club is a member of the NFAA (National Field Archery Association)...NFAA archery range certification is required in order to hold NFAA regional and state shoots. To be able to compete and win prizes in NFAA tournaments you need to be a member of the NFAA. NFAA membership provides tournament participation privileges, actively supports programs to protect archery hunting privileges and supports activities to teach archery. One of the challenging jobs of the NFAA is to establish rules for different type of archery tournaments and define safety requirements for archery ranges. The CBH/SAA (California Bow Hunters/ State Archery Association) provides state representation to the NFAA and supports many archery activities in the state. These state activities include state archery tournaments, archery hunter education, working to protect archery hunting, keeping records of big game animals, and small game animals. Both the NFAA and CBH/SAA strongly support hunting activities. The decline of the number of hunters is a concern as hunters are key players in conservation of wildlife. Over the years membership in the CBH/SAA and NFAA has declined. Support of the state and national organizations can help preserve archery. Rich Sandkuhle