

ON-TARGET NEWS

The Newsletter of the Fort Collins Archery Association

June, 2000

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Memorial Benefit Shoot Planned for June 24th

Our fraternity of archers suffered the tragic loss of two friends recently. Dennis Clendenning and Brian Balfany were killed in separate accidents, and a memorial benefit 3-D shoot in their honor will be co-hosted by Arrow Dynamics and the FCAA. Proceeds will be used to create a memorial at the range, and as a donation to a memorial fund. The shoot will be held at the Fort Collins outdoor range, and will be structured as the regular Arrow Dynamics shoots, with novelty shoots planned during the lunch break. Costs are the same, as well, with pre-registration discounts. Lunch is included. Shooting starts at 10:00, in all of the usual classes. Call 484-4900 to sign up in advance.

We look forward to a large turnout to honor two dedicated archers and friends who were taken from their families during the prime of their lives. They will be missed.

Youth Archery

Once again, several FCAA members have been heavily involved in promoting youth archery this season.

On May 10th, Jim Litchfield, Brian Ficker and Toby Trujillo organized an archery range for the 5th graders from a Greeley elementary school. The range was held at the Ben Delatour Boy Scout Ranch as part of the Learning For Life outreach program sponsored by Boy Scouts of America. Nearly 75 boys and girls were introduced to archery, many for the first time.

On May 20th, John Peters, Troy Tafoya, Jim Litchfield, Stacey Litchfield, Zack Litchfield and Toby Trujillo ran the archery range for a Boy Scout Spring Camporee. Approximately 70 Scouts between the ages of 12 and 18 participated.

Two 3 day ranges for Cub Scout Day Camps are scheduled for June 12-14, and June 19-21 in Loveland and Fort Collins. We expect over 300 Cub Scouts to shoot. If you've never helped out with this annual FCAA event, it's a hoot helping these kids shoot a bow for the first time! **You can volunteer by calling any of the Board Members.**

Also, the FCAA provided equipment for Jim and Joyce Litchfield to teach archery during a Cub Scout Pack outing, for John Chambers' Junior High outdoor adventure education class, and for Dennis Hansen's school program in Loveland.

Many thanks to those of you who donated time, effort, and money toward promoting archery to our young people. We look forward to growing the program, but we need more volunteers to help pass the gift of archery on to the video game generation.

Wednesday Leagues

The results of our first session of Wednesday 3-D leagues are listed below. A special mention goes out to the Hollenbecks, who won or tied for first in each of their classes. Great shooting!

Pee Wee:

Nate Hollenbeck	720
Tyler Clauson	391

Cub:

Isaac Hollenbeck	812
Aaron Chambers	495

Youth:

Phil Trujillo	312
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Young Adult:

Evan Peters	386
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Traditional:

Wayne Depperschmidt	719
Troy Tafoya	676
Rod Albers	643

Limited:

Mike Frey	818
Willie Slunaker	802
Alan Mathiason	559

Unlimited:

Sam Hollenbeck	778
Mark Mettler	778

Ladies:

Sam Hollenbeck	723
Carrie Ann Williams	291

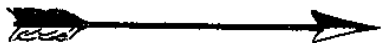
4-H Archery

Three local 4-H members have qualified for the national 4-H archery competition in July. The FCAA has voted to provide FCAA shirts for them to wear during the competition, and to allow them to shoot Wednesday night leagues at no charge until then. Congratulations and good luck to **Kristen Ratzlaff, Jeremy Lockman, and Clint McAdams.**

Membership Report

Membership renewals are coming in at a steady rate, but a number of 1999 members have not renewed. Those who have not renewed by the end of June will be dropped from the mailing list, so get that renewal in the mail or stop by the Wednesday night leagues. Also, we are attempting to gather the e-mail addresses for all members. That way, we can send out bulletins and announcements very quickly, while saving postage. No junk mail will come from us, we promise, so if you haven't given us your address, please e-mail one of the Directors.

If you don't have e-mail, well, it's time to park your horse and buggy and join us in the 21st century. There is all sorts of great stuff on the web, including many excellent archery sites, auctions, and articles. You can even find out your hunting license results. Get with the program, and get online.



Arrow Dynamics 3-D Shoots

Jim Widmier and Arrow Dynamics have been enjoying another season of great monthly shoots. One more regular shoot, planned for July 8th, will determine the Shooters Of The Year in each category. Turnouts have been so large that three ranges have need set, eliminating the backups and long waits sometimes experienced during past years at these popular shoots. Many FCAA members participate, some very successfully. At the June 10 shoot, all three top places in the Traditional division were captured by FCAA clubbers, with Troy Tafoya winning, Rob Tio placing second, and Toby Trujillo scoring third. Congratulations!

Jamboree

We hope you'll join us at this year's CBA Bowhunter Jamboree at Camp Hale on the weekend of July 14-16. As always, we'll have a group camping area along the north side of the creek (provided we can get there early enough to reserve a spot before one other large archery club ropes-off an area the size of Rhode Island). This is the one "must-do" event of the summer.



The Editor Shoots Back

Two fellow archers and outdoorsmen lost their lives in the last month. Two separate, unrelated accidents claimed their lives. These tragedies are harsh reminders of how fragile life is, especially for those of us who regularly test our wits and skills against the elements.

For all of us, and especially outdoors people caught in a crisis situation, simple safety precautions can decide the difference between survival and the other alternative. Sure, things like treestand safety belts are inconvenient. And some people, like the guy who argued with us during a recent Bowhunter Education course, believe that falling out of a tree is safer than dangling from a harness. Ten years ago, I fell out of a tree while stepping into a stand. I was careless, hoisting on a branch that had served me well during the past two months. I hadn't fastened my belt yet, and was off balance – two fatal mistakes in the treestand game. I recall the steel steps ripping past my face and chest in an out-of-control plunge, and the fallen log with the 12 inch stub that I was somehow able to straddle in my crash. I always thought I'd be able to bear-hug the tree if that ever happened. Wrong. I'm lucky to be walking today, and I learned a valuable lesson.

It is a part of our nature, we adventurers, hunters, and woodsmen, to push our luck; to confuse confidence with invincibility. A short walk into the woods without proper survival gear might be the last walk ever taken. An upward glance while running a chainsaw can lop off a foot. The short drive down a remote gravel road could be our last, if somebody roars around the corner on our side. This season, let's think about the consequences of a misstep, of a slip of the knife, and of the long walk back to camp in growing darkness and freezing drizzle. This season, let's pledge to make it back from our adventures safely. We've lost enough friends.

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