



ON-TARGET NEWS

The Newsletter of the Fort Collins Archery Association

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Arctic Shoot January 26th

The FCAA will be hosting an Arctic Shoot on Saturday, January 26th at the Fort Collins outdoor range on the I-25 frontage road south of Prospect. We will be using regular 3-D targets to eliminate some past problems with "pass-throughs" on the homemade targets. Cost is \$12.00 for members and non-members, with a cash payout in each class. We'll have a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m., shoot 20 targets, break for a chili lunch (included in the entry fee), and shoot 20 targets after lunch. Kids 17 and under shoot free and eat free, but won't be eligible for a payout.

Let's hope for good weather, but then again, this *is* an "arctic" shoot, so we'll have it regardless (unless it's the "blizzard of the century"!)

We'll see you there!

Club to Buy New Targets

After a complete inventory of the club 3-D targets, the Board voted to purchase a number of new targets for the upcoming season.

From the Rhinehart company, we'll be acquiring a ten point whitetail buck, a bobcat, a wolverine, a cougar, a javelina, and a wolf. Besides being interesting targets, we saw during the CBA Jamboree that they were extremely durable.

From McKenzie, we'll purchase an HD elk, a caribou midsection, an impala midsection, and a wolf midsection.

There are many other interesting target possibilities available today from several different companies, including dinosaurs and exotic critters. The Board welcomes input from the members as to what kind of targets you would like to shoot.



Clubhouse and Range Improvements Planned

Following discussions with the City of Fort Collins regarding the disposition of the existing clubhouse and work area,, it has been decided that we will proceed with improvements to the existing building rather than razing it and building a new metal building. The first step will be to install new carpet in the meeting area and an exhaust fan in the work room to better dissipate paint and glue fumes. Other improvements under discussion include interior painting and repair of damaged door frames.

On the range, we plan to rebuild the footbridge over the creek and improve the elevated stand at target number four. The Board welcomes any suggestions

for other improvements to the range, and several ideas are under consideration.

As always, volunteers are greatly appreciated. We'll give advance notice prior to any work days, and will look forward to seeing you there for an hour or two.

FCAA Website Affected by @Home Debacle

As many of you know by now, the demise of @Home as the high-speed data provider to AT&T Broadband has affected thousands of businesses and internet users across the country. One of those unwitting victims was our own excellent website, ftcollinsarchery.com.

Webmaster Tom Christian has been doing an excellent job of updating the site through alternate means, and hopefully, by the time this newsletter reaches you, the difficulties will have been resolved and we'll be back up to full speed with the excellent content and updates we've come to expect.



Memorial Tree for Michael Trujillo

A memorial tree will be planted on the practice range to honor one of our members, Michael Trujillo, who was tragically taken at an early age by a congenital heart ailment. A dedication will be held later this spring to remember Mike and to celebrate his memory.

As we enjoy the shade of Michael's tree, alongside the other memorial trees which honor former members, we can remember the joy he brought to his family and to those who he touched during his life.



January Club Meeting

The next meeting of the Fort Collins Archery Association will be held at the club headquarters on January 8th at 7:30 p.m. All members who are interested in the FCAA are urged to attend and participate. The FCAA Board welcomes and encourages member input into the direction of the club. We are always looking for fresh perspectives, as well as suggestions on what you would like to see for club activities and improvements to the range.

We will hold elections for Board members later this spring, and would encourage all members to consider becoming more active in promoting the FCAA as one of the strongest, most enjoyable archery clubs in Colorado.



Wildlife News

Early reports from the Colorado Division of Wildlife indicate that the 2001 rifle elk harvest may be the lowest in a decade. This, coupled with an already burgeoning elk herd, may lead to the most memorable archery elk season in history next year. The downside to this is that a hard winter could potentially lead to heavier than normal winterkill losses in areas where the winter range is already overstressed.

Reasons for the low harvest vary, ranging from the "warm weather keeping

them up high" theory, to "there's not enough snow for tracking", to a new theory from some in the Division that many of today's hunters are simply not willing to work as hard for elk as the hunters did a generation ago. John Ellenberger, Big Game Coordinator for the DOW, stated, "The most successful hunters generally are those who get away from vehicles and into small patches of heavy forest". Hmmmm.... Sounds like rifle hunters should adopt bowhunting techniques to enjoy more success.

There have been discussions regarding the possibility of an additional elk tag - antlerless only - in some units. Given the oversized herds, this seems like a good solution. If you are interested in a proposal of this type, contact a CBA rep and give them your opinion.

Wasting Disease Update: Good news from the near-crisis in North Park. After a WD positive bull elk was killed on a trophy shooter ranch near Cowdrey, a number of deer in the immediate area outside the high fence were killed by the DOW to test for WD. None tested positive, which means that the incident was probably isolated within the fence.

A new test has been developed for live deer whereby a scrape of the tonsils can be analyzed for presence of Wasting Disease. If any Club members are able to get close enough to a live deer to scrape its tonsils, please deliver your sample to the DOW and send your photo to the newsletter editor. Now *that* would be front page news!

A Letter From The President

Greetings fellow archers! I just wanted to update you on the status of the club as we go into the New Year. First, the club was scheduled to get a new facility which we had been saving \$\$\$ to do the finish work on. Due to budget constraints with the city this is not going to happen for the next seven years. The house is in serious need of paint, siding, windows and doors as it is an old house. The good news is, that the city is getting bids to get this work completed. The FCAA board has also voted to replace the carpet, repaint the inside and install a ceiling fan in the paint room. The net result will be a like new facility. At one point Rodney Albers (board treasurer, and longtime promoter of the club with the city) and I were concerned the city might scrape the current building and leave us with nothing due to the cost of renovation. At this point, I feel confident the building will be better than ever come this spring. We have also made significant investments in buying 12 new 3-targets combined with a new trailer that will allow us to keep our targets standing and in good condition during transporting about the range for shoots. Based on the possibility of losing our house earlier, I have renewed enthusiasm and gratitude for our facility and range. We are fortunate! It will be a prime objective in 2002 to make our facilities/range better than ever. Any help or ideas to the range would be appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all at the Artic Shoot this month!

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