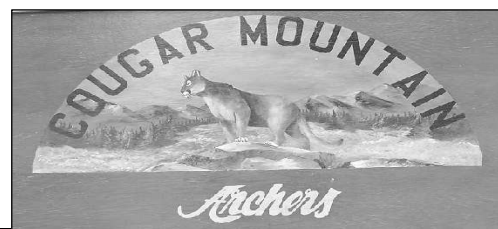


COUGAR MOUNTAIN

News Briefs

A Publication of Cougar Mountain Archers, Inc.

March 2016



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www.cougarmountainarchers.com

Please email News and /or Photos
of Member activities for our future
Newsletters.

CLUB MEETING:

March 1st 7:00PM at Mountain Mike Pizza in Oroville Shopping Center 1901 Oro Dam Blvd will be our next meeting. Come early and enjoy some dinner with other members, catch up on latest archery activity news stories.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE: "I hope everyone is getting their bow's back in tune as we are coming into spring. If you are planning a Turkey hunting trip, it may be worth your while to read the attached article. (pages 3-5) Also, if you are using a shotgun, I have attached a target to help pattern your turkey load. Best of luck to those of you hoping to bag a longbeard!!"

Matt Quentmeyer

2016 ARCHERY ACTIVITIES TO ATTEND:

For Tournament Flyers & Registration Forms, check Club Websites.

3/5&6 Yahi Bowmen, Spring Fling Unmarked 28 -3arrow

3/6 Eldorado Hills Bowmen, North American 3D 28 - 3arrow

3/12&13 Straight Arrow Bowhunters, Spring Warm Up/Cabin Fever 42 targets

3/20 Ishi Archers, Spring Fling 42 targets

3/20 Yolo Bowmen, Oasis Shoot 28 - 3arrow

3/26&27 Lodi Bowmen, Cartoon Classic 42 targets

4/2 West Valley Bowhunters, Evening Before Spring Shoot Unmarked 14 targets

4/3 West Valley Bowhunters, Spring Shoot 42 targets Marked

4/3 Horseshoe Bend Field Archers, 3D Buffalo Shoot 28 - 3arrow

4/16 Bowhunters Unlimited, Traditional Shoot 28 target Unmarked

4/17 San Francisco Archers, Pacific Traditional Rendezvous 3D 4- Unmarked

4/17 Maya Archers, Around the World 42 target

4/24 Ishi Archers, Rock Shoot 42 targets

5/1 Paradise Bowhunters, Mike Martin Annual 42 - 3D's

Your Pre-Registration, helps Clubs and generally saves you time and money.

Note from Treasurer Janelle:

This months Newsletter will not be mailed to past members who did not pay 2015 dues, let alone renew for 2016. If you hear of a previous member who states they did not receive this Newsletter. Please ask them to contact me for CMA dues correction updating of their membership. Ph:530-228-0476

One additional request for each family, as CMA is required to give an accounting of our CBH/SAA and NFAA members for our insurance and club certification as an affiliated club. I ask you to please phone me, your NFAA membership renewal date and family members who belong. Also if for some reason you are not receiving organization publications or communications let me help in getting your contact information corrected.

MINUTES:

Cougar Mountain Archers, Inc.
Mountain Mike's Pizza, Oroville
February 2, 2016

Present: Jim/Marilyn Perry; Joe/Joan Becker; Matt/Janelle Quentmeyer; Jim/Julie Clawson; Vena Sutton; Joe Little; David/Kristin Clayton; Jerry Johnson; Russ/Kerri Flores; Rebecca Sheldon; Nic Denny

Open: President Matt Quentmeyer opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: M/S Marilyn Perry/Joan Becker to approve minutes of the January 9, 2016 meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: M/S Jim Clawson/Joe Becker to approve treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Range Report:

1. The compound area looks good but roads are slick.
2. Two backdrop walls are done and will be delivered Saturday (Feb. 13).

Unfinished Business:

1. One adult invitational registration was swapped with Yuba-Sutter Bowmen.
2. Joe reported on the water pump. He will get it next trip to Chico.
3. Dave Clayton is going to order a couple member t-shirts and will bring one to see if we want to order more.

New Business:

1. Matt reviewed a calendar that he distributed and a couple of work party dates were chosen.
2. Jim Clawson gave a report on the CBH annual meeting.
 - a. CBH petition regarding members of the Big Game Committee was amended and passed.
 - b. California needs more Bowhunter Ed instructors. Contact Johnny Waddles if interested.
 - c. State Field shoot will be held at a single site.
 - d. There will be a new multi-site, mail-in tournament to start in 2017.
 - e. The annual field tournament will be held at Oranco.
 - f. Lodi was awarded the State Broadhead for 2016 to be held Memorial weekend.
 - g. The mid-year president's meeting will be held in Visalia the last weekend in June.
 - h. The 2017 CBH meeting will be held in Orange County.
3. Joe Becker and Jim Clawson have raffle tickets for the Big Game raffle. \$100 each for a possible \$10,000 prize. M/S Joe Becker/Joan Becker for CMA to purchase one raffle ticket. Motion passed.
4. Joe Becker added to the CBH report:
 - a. Bowhunter Ed instructors are required to be Hunter Ed instructors first.
 - b. They are required to teach one Bowhunter Ed class per year.
 - c. Mid-year president's meeting will also include a fundraiser banquet to benefit the legislative fund.
5. Jen Cordaro of Sportsmen's Alliance, spoke at the State meeting. She is willing to speak at a CMA meeting. Jim Clawson can make arrangements.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by Julie Clawson



THE QUIVER

JEFF JOHNSTON

Longbeard Lessons

Follow this guide to arrowing a big tom and you might just beat the odds, even if they're long.

If your priority is bagging a wild turkey, get a shotgun with a full choke, because a gobbler's spongy head accepts No. 6 pellets like a dartboard does darts. But if you're looking for one of hunting's greatest challenges, you'll find it by hunting turkeys in the spring with your bow. As with all tough pursuits, it takes the right know-how and equipment to beat the odds.

Perhaps the easiest way to take a turkey with a broadhead is with the use of a fully enclosed ground blind; it allows you to draw and aim undetected—the greatest challenge of turkey hunting with a bow. But a ground blind is cumbersome and prevents you from making the fast, stealthy moves that so often makes the difference. A good compromise between the camouflaging properties of a full-fledged ground blind and a more mobile one is the Backpacker Blind from Hunter Specialties. It can be unfurled in seconds, so you can draw your bow while remaining concealed. But when a cagey old gobbler does the unexpected and you have no time for ground blinds or magic, you'll need to have a few more tricks up your sleeve.

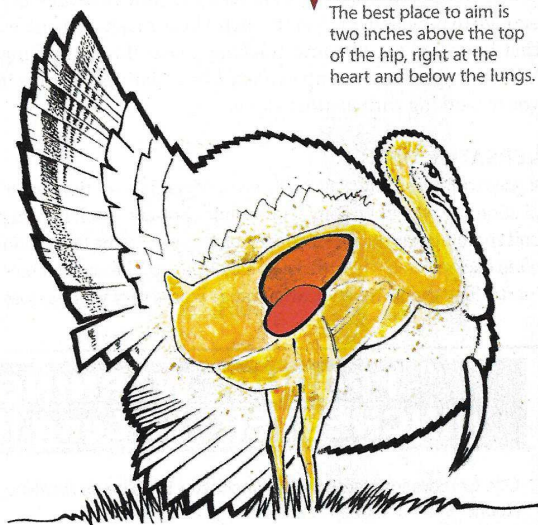
For starters, a short axle-to-axle length bow is desirable. My 26-inch PSE X-Force Super Short allows me to draw while sitting with my back to a tree without touching the lower cam to the ground. Mathews' new 28-inch Creed XS is an excellent choice. If your bow is longer, it's possible that you'll need to sit up higher than you would when gun hunting. Practice this first at home, because you don't want to discover you can't shoot your bow from a certain position while a turkey is walking your way. If you can't shoot your bow while sitting on the ground, consider a small, foldable stool because it's tough enough to draw your bow and aim on a turkey without having to rise and shift positions. A mouth call is a huge hands-free advantage, so learn it.

Use a decoy not only to attract him, but also to distract him while you draw. Be sure to set up the decoy to the side, not directly in line with the direction from which you expect him to come. Try to place it in a position where he must pass behind a tree or other natural screen when he advances toward it. If there are other turkeys with him, drawing your bow is even tougher, and you'll just have to gamble at some point.

If the turkey looks as if he will likely pass behind a tree while he's in range, draw your bow swiftly the moment his vision is obstructed. Don't hesitate. Rise to your knees if you must, draw swiftly, and find the tree in your bow sight. As soon as his vitals become exposed, take the shot, even if he's looking at you.

▼ BROADSIDE:

The best place to aim is two inches above the top of the hip, right at the heart and below the lungs.



Turkeys bob their heads when they panic, but they don't often duck their bodies like deer.

If there are no trees for him to pass behind, that's OK. My favorite technique when a turkey gets in range is to go completely silent. Eventually—usually a long minute or two—the gobbler will assume the hen he heard calling (you) has moved on, and he'll either guess which direction she's gone and follow, or turn around and go in the direction he came. Many times he'll walk right by you; let him get 15 yards past you then use your tree for cover to draw before easing around it to shoot. Either way, the moment you see the turkey's back draw, aim, and shoot quickly. If using a mouth call, draw when you see his back, then cluck. When he turns around with renewed hope, center your pin and release.

Be prepared to use these techniques as the scenarios unfold. After you shoot, nock another arrow and shoot again if his feet or wings are folded under him or if his head is up, because many a "dead" turkey has flown off as the archer approaches. I made that mistake once, and it was only because of a good bird dog that we ate fried turkey that evening.

MAKING THE RIGHT SHOT

As with any game animal, an archer must know a gobbler's anatomy before hunting. The vitals sit further back than expected. On most mammals, the heart is just behind the breast bone. A turkey's breast, however, can be eight inches deep (from the beard to the wing bone on a strutting turkey), and if you hit the breast from a broadside angle, you've merely hit muscle and haven't even entered the thoracic cavity. The bird will run or fly away. And remember, a strutting turkey appears three times bigger than it actually is.

The first and most logical angle to discuss is broadside. Past articles suggest the wing butt (where the wing bone joins the breast) shot is best, citing that it will disable the turkey's wing so it can't fly. I disagree. I've seen arrows deflect off of this heavy bone if struck at an angle, and even if you disable both wings, a turkey can still run like Walter Payton. If you miss by an inch forward, your arrow will pass through the breast, and the bird can run or fly. The best place to aim to reduce the margin of error is two inches above the top of the hip, which on a strutting turkey is concealed by the wing. The heart is located here, and if you hit a little high, you'll hit lung; if you hit a little low, you'll hit hip. A hip-shot turkey, like all animals, is often dead meat.

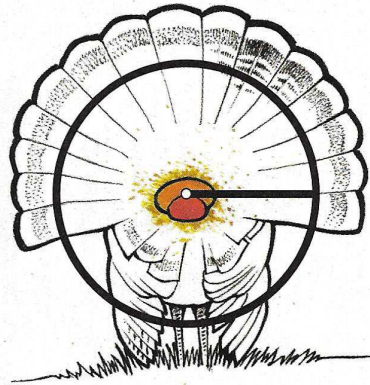
The trickier attempts to kill a bird with a bow come when the turkey is facing you or can spot you in his peripheral vision. These are great in theory, but difficult because the target is small and often bobbing like Floyd Mayweather. A headshot usually results in either a clean kill or a clean miss—a noble way to hunt turkeys with a bow, if you don't mind coming home empty-handed more than not.

The same goes for face-on shots. Unless you're in a blind, this is a real difficult notion. The bird is more apt to spot your motion and take off like a jumbo jet. If you decide to take this shot, aim at a strutting turkey's neck, or an inch above the beard on an erect turkey. If he's quartering toward you, however, it's a much better bet. An arrow through the onside breast, even in elevation with the wing butt, will send your broadhead traversing through the bird, taking out the lungs and/or the heart. Still, this can be difficult for the same reasons stated above.

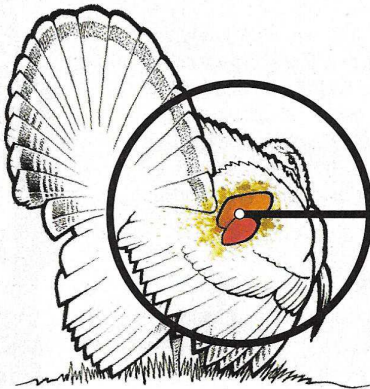
A turkey that's strutting, going straight away, is a better option. Aim for the white, bullseye-like cloaca (yes, that's what you think it is). If you have a downward angle directly away, a spine shot that runs down through the thoracic cavity can work, but if you are off by a hair left or right, it will result in a one-lung shot at best and that can often mean a lost bird. I'd wait until he turns broadside.

So what's the ultimate solution to all these varying opportunities? Shoot him at a low risk, high reward angle that ensures he will not get a glimpse of your movement.

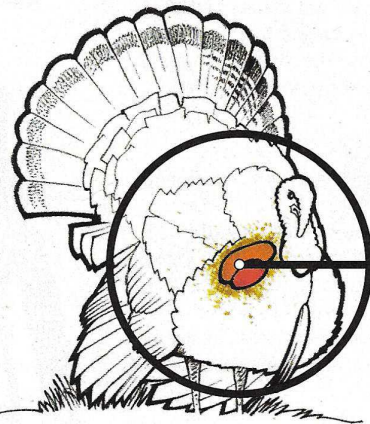
When a turkey struts, he'll usually turn around to show off his fan at some point. When he does, draw, because the gobbler's rear vision is shielded by his fan. I like to shoot when he offers a quartering-away angle. This is a great shot, and a common one, because you can draw, aim, and shoot without the bird seeing you, yet still have a chance to hit both lungs and heart. Aim for the offside breast. If everything goes right, he'll be dead meat and you'll have shot down the odds. ①



DIRECTLY AWAY:
Set your sights directly for the white, bullseye-like cloaca, better known as the anus. If you have a downward angle directly away, a spine shot that runs down through the thoracic cavity can work.



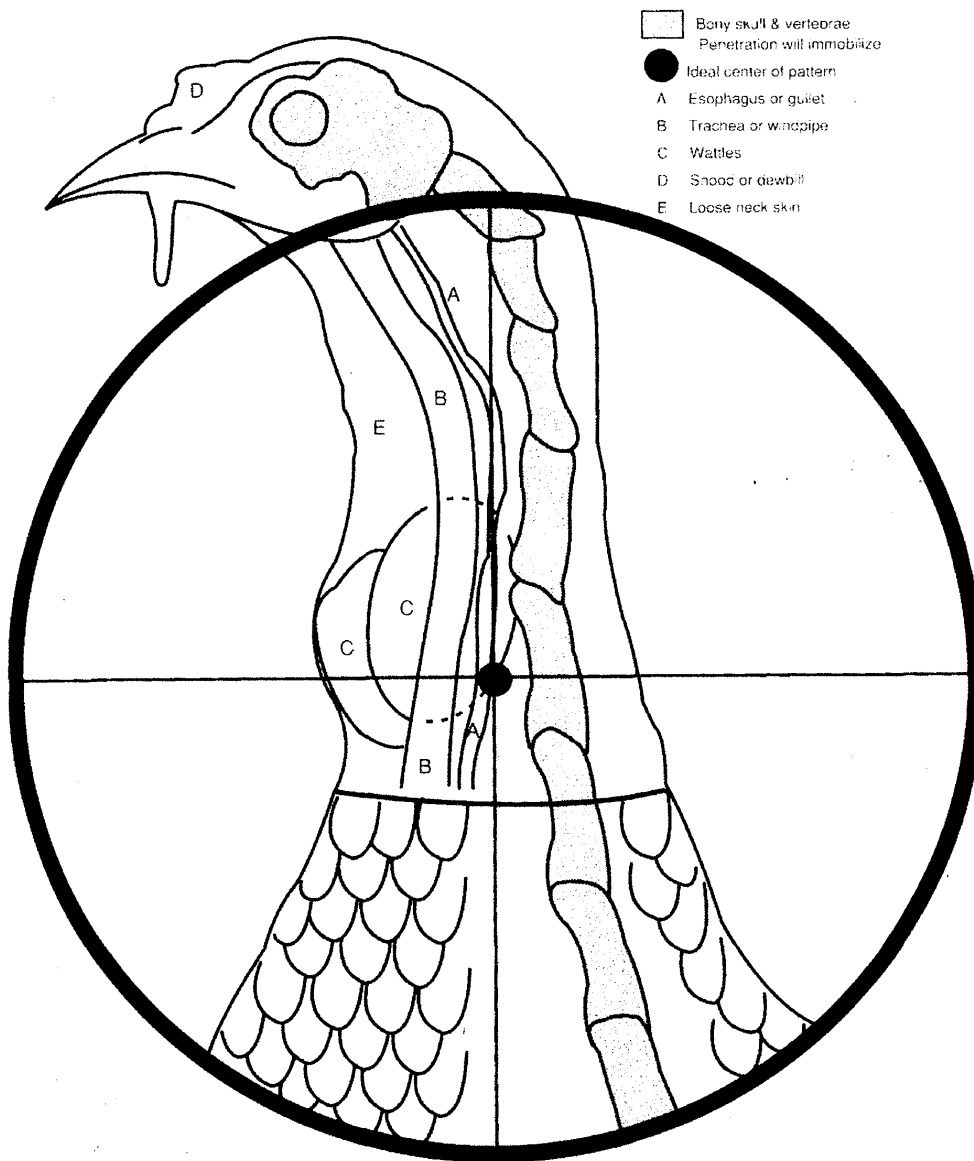
QUARTERING AWAY:
Aim for the offside breast and you'll still have a chance to hit both lungs and heart.



QUARTERING TOWARD:
An arrow through the on side breast, even in elevation with the wing butt, will take out the lungs and/or the heart.



FACE ON:
Aim at a strutting turkey's neck, or an inch above the beard on an erect turkey.



Patterning Your Turkey Gun and Load

To see how well your turkey gun and load pattern, copy this target and place it on a board at no more than 40 yards from where you plan to fire your gun. Then fire several loads at the turkey's head and neck each time counting the number of holes in the vital area (immobilization area). Six or more pellets in the vital area indicate a killing pattern. The ideal center of pattern is where the fleshy and feathered portion of the neck meet. Become familiar with the relative size of the turkey by patterning your gun at 25, 35, and 40 yards. Never shoot at a turkey beyond 40 yards.

GUIDE TO HUNTING WILD TURKEYS IN CALIFORNIA

State Archery News:

Our CBH/SAA website is back in operation, so if you have missed checking it during the past few months. Would ask that you once again type in www.cbhsaa.net/ and check for any information you have been missing.

David Bacon is our CBH/SAA new Webmaster. His email address is cbhsaa@outlook.com . To help all get acquainted with the renewed website, pasted below is an email from David to me on how to connect to our new website.

Hi Again Joe,

We built a new website last month. It doesn't look much like the old one so if when you go to www.cbhsaa.net and it looks just like the old one, that means you have a stored copy of the old site on your machine. You will need to refresh your browser which means pressing F5 on your keyboard or hitting the refresh icon in your browser. That will load the new website.

Please let me know if you have any trouble.

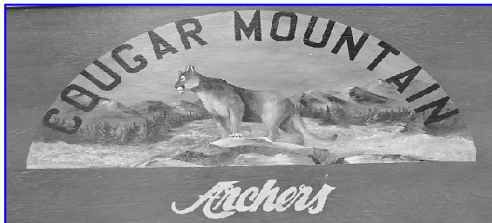
David Bacon

US Forest Service is once again proposing changes for us in Butte Counties "High Lakes Area", located above Pillbrook Reservoir east to Highway 70. (GOD'S COUNTRY)

Comments, written or oral, may be submitted to me, Kathleen Nelson, District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, 900 E. Highway 36, PO Box 767, Chester, CA 96020, 530-258-2141, or by facsimile to 530-258-5194, during normal business hours. The Almanor Ranger District business hours are from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Electronic comments, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-almanor@fs.fed.us with Subject: High Lakes Motorized Trail Reroutes and Staging Area Improvements.

A decision regarding this proposal is expected in December, 2016. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process. For more information on the project, please contact Doug Peters, Forest Soil Scientist, by phone at (530)-252-6456 or email at dwpeters@fs.fed.us.

Editor Note: To keep our Newsletter at one oz rate, have not included the entire letter and report for this project. But email address, phone number and Rangers name and address are all included. Report is on the their Website and I also have a pdf copy which I could email to you. Problem I see presently is they want our comments prior to the snow melting, thus wheeled access for inspection will be impossible.



March 2016, Newsletter
Joe Becker, Editor
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