



ON-TARGET NEWS

The Newsletter of the Fort Collins Archery Association

Volume 29, Issue 1

www.ftcollinsarchery.com

January, 2005

Inside This Issue

1	Appreciation
1	Who are we?
1	Bowhunting under attack
2	FCAA Donation
2	CDOW Report
2	Artic Shoot Coming Soon
2	Range Work Days
2	FCAA Game Feast
3	Time in the Prairie Prison
3	Upcoming Events

Appreciation!

We would like to start the new year off by appreciating YOU, our members. Without you the club wouldn't exist. Thank you for your support of the club and range by being a member! And if you are looking for that special gift for someone throughout the year, buy them a membership as well. Your money will be well used!

Who are we?



My name is Michel Magers and I am currently serving FCAA as Secretary. About 2 years ago, I asked to share Rod Albers workload as Secretary-Treasurer. Since then I've been the Secretary and

he's still the Treasurer. I have been active in the club since resuming archery 4 years ago. On my first visit to the range with a new bow I decided to become an active part of the club that maintained such a nice archery range for the public.

As a youth growing up in western Kansas and hunting pheasants mostly, Kansas did begin a mule deer season when I was in high school, so I rifle hunted a couple years before leaving home. I began bowhunting with a group of guys when I first moved to Boulder in the late 60's, but lost interest after getting married and changing jobs. When I shot my first compound bow in the fall of 2000 I was hooked again.

The mission of Fort Collins Archery Association is to promote archery. I try to exemplify that by helping maintain the range, actively participating in the Youth Outdoor Skills Day, and helping with the Scouts too. Additionally, I have introduced several groups of friends to archery through the range, and even have some new shooting buddies as a result.

I especially enjoy the 3D league shoots during the summer. Every week we have an interesting cross section of archers for a great time together. The other club events that I enjoy are the Artic Shoot and the Membership Shoot. I also participate in other local 3D Shoots.

My wife Bobbi, who is also my partner in TEAM Consulting, is very supportive of my archery activities. She is planning to begin shooting during indoor leagues this winter. I have two grandchildren, ages 12 and 7 who shoot with me every chance they get. My granddaughter will be taking hunter safety training so she can hunt KS turkeys with me this spring.

All resident and non-resident Colorado bowhunters are asked to join the CBA non-profit organization in an effort to increase our strength and financial resources.

I am a member of Colorado Bowhunter Association and Kansas Bowhunter Association to support bowhunting in the states where I hunt.

Bowhunting under attack

The **HSUS** (Humane Society of the United States) and **Fund for Animals** have joined forces in an effort to destroy hunting, starting with bowhunters.

Combined, these two groups have millions of dollars to spend on this attack. They see bowhunters as a small subset of hunters that they think they can attack. However, their aim is to eliminate ALL hunting so everyone should be concerned!

FCAA Donation

The FCAA donated \$125 (bronze level) to the Pope and Young Club. There will be an engraved brick placed in front of the entry to the P&Y Club/St. Charles Museum of Bowhunting. The Museum is massive and has much for both kids and adults. It is located in Chatfield, MN so stop by if you are in the area and look for our brick!

CDOW Report

Hunting and fishing license fee increase – The proposed fee increase is for resident hunting and fishing licenses and non-resident fishing and small game licenses. It will not be implemented for the 2005 season, but the DOW is definitely going to try and get something approved for 2006. Keep your eyes open for information about this.

Landowners wanted more limited licenses – A proposal was submitted to the CDOW to increase the number of limited licenses that landowners get. This was met with overwhelming dissent from sportsman across the state. Landowners get these licenses off the top of all limited permits so an increase such as this would reduce the number of licenses for the average hunter. The CBA was on top of this and the proposal was tabled pending more research and public meetings.

Check out the CDOW web site for more details.

Artic Shoot Coming Soon



The FCAA annual Artic Shoot will be held Saturday, Feb. 5, come rain, shine, or snow! This is a great event and a chance to limber up in the middle of winter. You'd

better start practicing now to shoot from dog sleds, skis, and snow shoes! It is a great time so be sure to join us at the archery range. Shooting starts at 10:00 am.

There will also be a short club meeting over lunch – which is provided by the club. Chili really hits the spot during these shoots! Dress up warm (if it is like last year) and come join in the fun.

Range Work Days

In order to make planning easier, we are going to have range work days the first Saturday of every month starting in April and going through August. We meet at the club house at 8:00 AM and are done by mid day, depending on



the amount of work to be done. The City of Fort Collins provides the facilities, but it is up to the club to maintain it. Sometimes it is normal wear-and-tear that needs to be fixed and sometimes it is vandalism. If you see anything suspicious, please report it to the Fort Collins Police immediately.

Please show your support for the club and the range by donating some time to keep things in working order. Mark your calendar NOW. Thanks!

FCAA Game Feast

Come prepared to share your bounty and enjoy the bounty of others! Our annual Game Feast will be held 6:00 pm., February 26 at the club house. Please bring a dish to share with everyone (no tag soup please). If you weren't successful, bring a dish of your choice (desserts are always nice) and enjoy trying various types of game.

It is a great time to catch up on how everyone did during the season, swap lies (er, that is true stories), and enjoy some fine eating. Please join us!

CBA Banquet in Fort Collins

The annual CBA Banquet is going to be held in Fort Collins on March 12th at the Mariott Hotel. There is a lot to see and a lot to do. Considering everything the CBA does, how about giving a membership as a gift to another hunter you know. If every member added on one extra person, our ranks would double! Check the CBA web site (www.coloradobowhunting.org) for more information.

Doing time in the Prairie Prison

By Phil Buxton



After quickly setting up the ground blind, I pulled my chair, bow and daypack in behind me. With only a couple of hours of daylight left, I knew there wasn't much time to hunt tonight. I opened all the windows and began getting my gear ready. I quickly scanned the horizon from each window of the blind. There was a buck to the northwest, but he was several hundred yards away and feeding in a direction that would not take him near me. I began looking through each window again and saw a couple of does approaching the waterhole I was once again staking out.

One thing I've learned from bowhunting is that persistence is a virtue. To be successful you have to be in the field. My wife Liz is also a bowhunter and understands my need to be away a lot during the seasons. Last year I hunted many days, with a whole lot of blown stalks and many hours spent watching the skyline from what my friend Stan calls the "prairie prison." To

a nonhunter, sitting in a ground blind all day must seem nuts. But, the more boring your time in "prison" is, the more exciting it is when you see a pronghorn. It's a rush, and it makes the many long, boring hours worth every minute.

On the particular evening described at the start of this story I was getting a bit fatigued with the season. That didn't matter now though, I was here now with antelope working their way towards me. As the first does reached the water and started to drink I saw the buck working his way in with another doe. Now I had a problem. I was shuffling between two windows of the blind trying to keep an eye on the buck while avoiding detection by the does at the water hole. As I was waiting for the buck to come closer, I heard the sound of antelope running and I thought the gig was up. When I looked back out the window, though, I saw the buck standing broadside in front of the waterhole and I decided to take the shot. I put my forty yard pin on his chest and released. I heard the arrow hit with a loud "thwack" and he turned and ran. I saw him fall about a hundred yards away, and when I reached him I was just ecstatic. He was a large bodied buck with scars on his back from years of crawling under barbed wire fences.

It was dark now, and a thunderstorm had rolled in, bringing rain and wind and lightning. I did my best to get some pictures, which wasn't easy to do alone in those conditions. I loaded him in the 4-Runner and headed home.

Every year I learn some new lessons in bowhunting. This year I learned a new lesson, and was reminded of an old one. Only have a couple of hours to hunt? Think it might just be a waste of time? Do it. You might just kill an animal, and even if you don't, hunting is rarely a waste of time. The old lesson was one I learn again and again, every year - *you have to be persistent*. Maintaining the drive to hunt hard throughout the season can be taxing, but regret hurts a lot more than fatigue. As long as I make some memories and learn something valuable each year, I know I'll be looking forward to the next season, and that's really all I need.

Upcoming Events

FCAA Artic Shoot	Feb. 5
FCAA Game Feast	Feb. 26
CBA Banquet	March 12
Work Day	April 2
Membership shoot/meeting	April 23
Wed. Night 3D League begins	May 4
Work Day	May 7
Work Day	June 4
FCAA Jamboree	June 17-19
Work Day	July 2
Work Day	Aug. 6

2004 FCAA Board of Directors

President:	Troy Tafoya	troyt@pds-co.com	226-4678
Vice President:	Stacey Litchfield	stacey1@peakpeak.com	667-9423
Secretary	Michel Magers	mdmagers@teamconsulting.biz	481-3903
Treasurer:	Rod Albers	ralbers@fcgov.com	223-4649
Range Directors:	Tom Hagerman	tomntrish1@msn.com	
	Phil Buxton	pbuxton1@juno.com	568-7335
	Ron Nelson		
	Willis Slunaker		482-6830
	Terry Chamberlain		
League Directors:	Tom Kelley	4tjk@verinet.com	221-1518
	Stacey Litchfield	stacey1@peakpeak.com	667-9423
	TobyTrujillo	ettrjt@comcast.net	226-6279
	John Price	j_s_price@msn.com	490-2509
Membership Director:	Marci Riddle	meriddle@frii.com	266-8084
Newsletter Editor:	Ken Yoder	ken.yoder@colostate.edu	493-7831
Web Master:	Tom Christian	twc@fc.hp.com	221-3319
Youth Archery Director:	TobyTrujillo	ettrjt@comcast.net	226-6279
Director at Large:	Louis Phillippe	loup@verinet.com	493-4931



The Fort Collins Archery Association

- We are a group of people united by an interest in archery.
- Our membership includes both active bowhunters and target archers who have never hunted.
- We maintain *for the public* the Fort Collins outdoor archery range on land owned by the City of Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Department.
- We work with local organizations and businesses to provide support for youth archery programs, sponsor benefit shoots and host competitions.

www.ftcollinsarchery.com

Fort Collins Archery Association
P.O. Box 270493
Fort Collins, CO 80527-0493