



# Broken Arrow

Volume 2008, Issue 4

August 5, 2008

## Newsletter Editor

I am still looking for a person to take over the Newsletter. As the demand on my time gets more and more demanding. It is affecting my ability to maintain this publication in the way I would like. I am very willing to work with anyone who would like to get involved with the process through the next few newsletters to make a smooth transition to a new editor.

The newsletter is in a simple WORD format that can be adapted to anyone's own style. We have a printer company that we use to produce the finished copy and you add a mailing page with member's addresses and send it out.

I won't tell you that it is easy all the time. Coming up with information to fill the newsletter is hard at times. Folding and mailing takes a few hours each publication. But it has been rewarding for me to do this for the club.

So if you're up to a challenge and want to get more involved with the activities of the club. I would love to hear from you and talk about your taking on the job. Russ Skaggs 303 427 7179 or [RSkaggs777@aol.com](mailto:RSkaggs777@aol.com) ■

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Five Reasons Why You Should Take Up Archery  
By  
[[http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jim\\_E.\\_Smithson](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Jim_E._Smithson)]  
Jim E. Smithson

Archery Enthusiasts will tell you that you have to be a special kind of person to take up archery. After all, it would seem to be going against the grain to learn to use a weapon that has been rendered obsolete by the use of modern day guns and technology. However, if you look closer, you will find that archery offers a great deal that other sports simply lack in comparison. Although the individual reasons someone likes Archery may vary, almost everywhere agrees with the following five benefits:

1. It is something novel and original. With so many hobbies and activities to choose from, archery certainly is a unique choice. Many people have not experienced archery since their days of past summer and scout camps. For this reason, the opportunity to try out this sport will get your creative juices flowing as you try to learn how to shoot like the best. With currently only few people experienced with archery, you are sure to have an interesting conversation topic when people find out you have taken up the sport.

2. It lets you try your luck as a modern day Robin Hood. For traditionalists, archery is a great way to see how past ancestors lived while trying their luck with a bow and arrow. This can be an initially humbling experience which will give you a new found respect of what your past ancestors have done, but also great satisfaction in knowing you too can master this skill.

3. It is not as physically intensive as some other

*Continued on page 3*

## Trailing Shot Deer -- Bob Foulkrod

Bowhunters have no higher priority than recovering the game they shoot. It isn't just a matter of ethics; it's where our sport is most vulnerable to opponents. Bowhunters know the 30- to 40-percent loss rate cited by animal-rights groups is greatly exaggerated. Learning how to lower your odds for losing a single deer is the best way to combat bow hunting's enemies. Prepare for a successful recovery by packing along a watch, notepad, pencil, compass, survey tape and flashlight. The first four items are needed to document what happens immediately after you shoot.

When a deer flees, listen intently for noise. Discern where the animal ran, listening closely to see if it fell or kept running. The longer you hear the animal, the farther it is probably traveling. Listen for the melon-plunking sound of an arrow striking flesh, or the crack of a broadhead hitting bone.

Immediately after the shot, catch your breath. Now record the time and the direction the deer fled. Sit tight and keep your composure. Inexperienced bowhunters mistakenly climb down too quickly to check the fruits of their efforts.

Unfortunately, all shots are not clean kills. When liver- or gut-shots occur, pushing the animal can be disastrous. Jumped too quickly after they have lain down to die, deer often get a "second breath" and can sometimes cover over a mile before stopping again.

Note how the animal reacts to the shot. Missed deer usually run away, but so do those that are heart- and lung-shot. A whitetail that prances off could mean a miss. Deer jumping up and bowing up in the middle are often gut-shot.

Wait 45 to 60 minutes before leaving your tree stand. When on the ground, it is time to solve the mystery of where the deer is. Gather all the evidence. Go to where the animal was shot. Are there blood spots or splatters? Is it a lot or a little? Is fluid other than blood present? Recovering the arrow is key. Fluids or substances other than blood on an arrow shaft can reveal if the animal was gut- or liver-shot. Resist the temptation to quickly trail such deer; it may take 4 to 6 hours, and sometimes longer, for them to perish. Wait 3 to 4 hours before tracking the blood trail.

Following a blood trail can be tricky. First, review your evidence. Mark the initial blood spot with a 12-inch strip of bright-orange surveyor tape tied well above the ground for visibility. In your notepad record the compass direction. Tie surveyor tape above the other blood drops. Do not walk on the blood trail. If you need to start over later, a walked-upon blood trail can be useless.

Accurately reading a blood trail requires time spent trailing. Each tracking chore is unique. Easy-to-follow gusher blood trails occur when primary blood vessels are severed. These are in the neck's carotid artery, the pyloric artery behind the stomach paunch, the aortic artery under the spine, or the hindquarter's femoral artery.

Not all mortally arrowed deer immediately spill blood, however. Hard-hit deer typically leave blood 15 to 25 yards from where they were shot.

The color and condition of the blood sometimes reveal the type of hit inflicted. Bright-red is a great sign, usually indicating an oxygen-rich artery has been clipped. Pinkish, frothy blood usually indicates a lung hit. Easy-to-follow dark-red droplets that disappear after a couple of hundred yards often indicate a muscle shot. Chances of recovering such deer are low.

Be alert for blood where you don't expect it. Take your time. Be observant. Understand that wounds do not always bleed externally, and that blood trails often "dry up". Many times your tracking efforts will move from following a blood trail to following nothing. This is a critical point. Look back at your surveyor-tape trail, and slowly move in the charted direction. Be alert for sign other than blood. Overturned leaves, hoof prints, trampled grass, and tufts of hair and leaves pressed flat when a deer lies down must be searched for.

Some hunting experts recommend a "circle search" when a blood trail is exhausted. Such a search starts where the last sign was marked, expanding from the center with each circle. This is largely a one- to three-man effort. It often works, but this random approach is not foolproof.

It is tough enough to find a buck during daylight hours when there's little blood. Night recovery is far more difficult, but it can be done if you are persistent. Flashlights such as the large Streamlite model I use project a bright beam and are a must to carry. My Streamlite's blinding light is great for illuminating wide areas of ground, actually making blood drops appear to glow.

Make sure you know the local hunting laws when trailing deer at night. Some states prohibit carrying a firearm or bow in the woods along with a light after legal shooting hours.

So you did all of the above and still can't find your deer? Believe it or not, there is a foolproof method for finding lost deer. Several years ago while running my deer hunting camp in northeastern Pennsylvania; I became frustrated with losing animals I knew were mortally shot. After considerable thought, I came up with what I named the "grid system for recovering animals". I recommend it as a last resort to those determined not to abandon a deer.

Once you have come to the end of the blood trail, initiate a "grid search." This is a manpower-intensive undertaking. I like to use eight to twelve people. Using a compass, I line people in a row, shoulder-to-shoulder, to go in one direction. The searchers must be close enough to one another to clearly see the feet of the person on each side. The line moves slowly, searching for the deer as it goes. After going 50 to 100 yards, or reaching a barrier such as a fence or road, the line "flip-flops", then moves across the same tract. This is repeated until a grid has been thoroughly searched. If the deer has not been found, the same thing is done in the direction the animal is thought to have gone. After using the grid system for recovery everywhere from Mississippi to Montana, I have yet to see it fail to turn up a lost deer.

Sooner or later, most bowhunters face the frustration of losing a trail or having it dry up because of rain, or just bad luck. Grid searches are not as well-known as circle searches, but in my opinion they are more effective. A grid search is something of a "community" effort. It may sound cumbersome, but it is without question the most foolproof approach to finding a lost whitetail.

## WHITETAIL MYTHS

Usually branched, antlers serve as weapons and as sexual ornaments.

The male deer sheds its antlers every year between January and April.

As the deer matures, the antlers become longer and acquire more points. A diet that includes certain minerals and vitamins is essential for normal antler growth.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### BOARD MEETINGS

DATE OCT 4TH

PLACE CLUBHOUSE AT THE RANGE

TIME 9 A.M. TILL 2 P.M.

Monthly Meeting of Board all members welcome

### BROADHEAD TUNE UP BIG GAME SEASONS

DATE AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup>

PLACE: THE RANGE CONTACT RUSS SKAGGS

TIME: 9 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

### TURKEY SHOOT HOSTED BY TANGLEWOOD

DATE: NOVEMBER 16TH

PLACE: THE RANGE CONTACT FRED SEYFRIED

TIME: 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 A.M.

### TOY SHOOT

DATE: DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

PLACE: THE RANGE CONTACT KAREN SEYFRIED

TIME: 10:00 A.M – 3:00 P.M.

### Board of Directors

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sports. Although archery does require some physical strength, compared to other sports, it is less physically intensive. Many people who have lost the use of their legs have been able to stay active because of archery. This aspect of the sport has great appeal for those who like to compete, but aren't necessarily as interested in risking injury or a serious sweat in more physically intensive activities.

4. Several options to choose from to match your own competitive desires and interests. Archery enthusiasts can take up target archery, archery hunting, field archery, or even bowfishing. Target archery allows you to shoot at bulls-eye targets and possibly compete in contests with other archers. Archery hunting allows you the chance to take down a big buck or bear with a bow. Field archery lets you shoot at different 3d targets of animals and other blocks and cubes for points at vary distances. Finally, bowfishing lets you go fishing with a bow. As you can imagine, each of these activities is slightly different, but they do offer you a chance to find one that best fits your personality and interests.

5. It can be challenging or it can be for fun. You get to control how competitive and challenging you want the sport to be. You can enter into contests that match your talent against other archers or you can practice for fun and not keep score. Whatever your competitive desires are, you will be sure to like the advantage of being able to go outdoors and let a few arrows fly. What you do beyond this, will be up to you.

The joy of archery is in its simplicity and complexity. At its base level, it is simply a bow and arrow, but to use these tools well, takes practice and a desire to improve. This fascinating dichotomy is what pulls more and more people into the sport each year and is why you will end up enjoying it too.

Jim Smithson is an archery enthusiast and fan of the sport. To read more tips like the ones in this article, please take a look at: <http://www.archery-supplies.org> or [<http://www.archery-supplies.org>] Archery Supplies

## Be Patient

I, like many other members of the board get calls all the time asking us to come out to the range to do this or that immediately. It is really the case with new members thinking that since they paid their money that they should be let in to shoot that day.

Let me state for the record again. We as a board of directors are volunteers. We have families, jobs and other hobbies that take up a lot of our time. As a service to our club we try and schedule shoots and work parties and meetings to cover the day to day things dealing with the club.

I think we do a great job, if I do say myself. But we cannot always be available to aide all members at the drop of a hat.

If you think we need to do better, please feel free to attend our meetings and volunteer to help out for things we have planned. Or come up with new ideals for the club. I really wish we could be around all the time but that is not going to happen. So please tell your friends or people wanting to join the club, it takes 1 to 2 weeks to process an application. Be Patient

Russ Skaggs ■

## Hunting Jokes and/or Stories

Two hunters got a pilot to fly them into the far north for deer hunting. They were quite successful in their venture and bagged six big bucks. The pilot came back, as arranged, to pick them up.

They started loading their gear into the plane, including the six deer. But the pilot objected and he said, "The plane can only take four of your deer, you will have to leave two behind." They argued with him; the year before they had shot six and the pilot had allowed them to put all aboard. The plane was the same model and capacity. Reluctantly, the pilot finally permitted them to put all six aboard. But when the attempted to take off and leave the valley, the little plane could not make it and they crashed into the wilderness.

Climbing out of the wreckage, one hunter said to the other, "Do you know where we are?" "I think so," replied the other hunter. I think this is about the same place where we crashed last year!"

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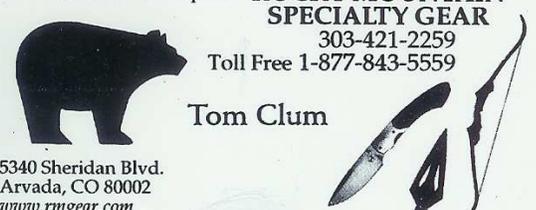
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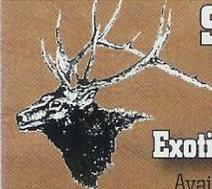
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## Buck Rubs Understanding buck rubs/scrapes

With the whitetail deer, glandular secretions and scent-marking play a more important role in communication than do visual signals and vocalizations. The latter serve only immediate, short-range purposes, whereas scent-marks serve as an extension of the animal itself, and remain functional long after the maker has left the area.

Mature whitetail bucks scent-mark vegetation year round, usually in a subtle manner which is difficult to detect. During autumn, however, they establish highly visible signposts, known as buck rubs and scrapes. The hunter who can learn to interpret these signs will add to their chances of success.

Few bucks' rubs are made while removing antler velvet, a process normally complete within 24 hours. Instead most rubs are made by few dominant bucks to advertise their superior social rank, allowing them to signal their readiness to breed and proclaim dominance in a given area.

Signpost rubs are eye-catching, and they are anointed with the maker's distinct odor. All whitetails possess specialized forehead skin glands that become very active during the rut, but tests indicate mature, socially-high ranking bucks exude greater amounts of the glandular secretion as compared to younger males and females. Because rubbing is done with the antler base and forehead, each rub carries the distinctive identifying odor of the maker.

While prime-age, dominant bucks are the primary signpost makers and message senders, young males and females are attracted to the signposts and are the primary message readers.

The chemical signals exchanged tend to suppress the aggressiveness and sex drive of young males, but stimulate females and help synchronize breeding. As a result, the presence of older bucks and their signposts help maintain social order.

When in the mood bucks will rub just about anything, including fence posts, and power line poles. Given a choice, however, they prefer to rub trees and shrubs, one-half to four inches in diameter, with smooth bark and no lower limbs. They generally avoid those with low limbs and warty bark.

In the southeastern United States, bucks seem to prefer aromatic species, such as cedars and sassafras's but readily rub alders, cherries, eastern juniper, witch hazel, winged sumac, sourwood, striped maple, and pines.

Trembling aspen is the most highly preferred species for rubbing in the Northeast and Upper Great Lakes region. In the smaller size classes, it has smooth soft bark that is easily stripped, and the inner wood is light colored, with long lasting brilliance once exposed. Stag horn sumac, red maple, black cherry, balsam fir, pines and willows are also frequently rubbed, whereas sugar maple, ironwood, beech and paper birch are usually avoided.

All bucks occasionally rub stems smaller than two inches in diameter, whereas only older bucks normally rub trees six or more inches in diameter. In addition, young bucks seldom rerub the same stem. So, large diameter trees that show frequent rubbing are a sure sign that older, rut-experienced bucks are in the area.

The timing of velvet shedding, and subsequent rubbing, is triggered by the shortening day length in autumn. Aside from a more prolonged velvet shedding season found in southern bucks, despite the north's early rut, peak velvet shedding dates normally vary by only a few weeks throughout the United States. On northern range, bucks generally rub off velvet during lat August or early September, nearly two months before the first does breed. Some yearling bucks and unhealthy older individuals are delayed by several weeks. In the south, expect mature bucks to strip velvet in the middle of September.

Mature dominant bucks maintain year-round supremacy over their peers and corral a stable male society within a given area. They began marking their domain soon after shedding velvet, without much prior combat or testing, and continue marking until they cast their antlers. Therefore, serious signpost rubbing in September is evidence of a big buck's presence.

By comparison, yearling and 2-1/2 yr old bucks have little status or rank to advertise. They also enter rutting conditions later than older males. Even in the absence of mature bucks, yearling bucks only make about half as many total rubs as prime age animals and show minimal rubbing activity until late October. Such delayed and low level rubbing is characteristic where antlered males are heavily harvested and few survive to maturity.

The amount of rubbing a buck does will depend upon his blood levels of the male sex hormone testosterone, which in turn hinge upon his age and dominance status. Prime-age bucks are the first to reach the threshold levels of testosterone that cause velvet shedding. They also achieve higher concentrations of the hormone, which contribute to their extreme aggressiveness, attainment of higher social rank and tendency to make more rubs.

Rub densities in any given area will depend upon many factors. Research shows rub densities even change from year to year, depending upon the nutritional status of the herd.

On good deer range, buck-rub densities may vary from a couple hundred to nearly 1000 per square mile, and will be closely related to the number of older bucks in the population. A fairly large number of young bucks may make relatively few total rubs, as compared to only a couple of older bucks in the same area.

Soon after "rubbing out", a dominant buck shifts his center of activity to interact with other deer over a breeding range of anywhere from one to five square miles. Bucks on northern range tend to travel a large autumn range when deer density is low. In the South, they're more apt to cover less area, especially where deer are plentiful.

Clusters of buck rubs are most likely to occur close to areas with abundant autumn food. This could be wooded cover near corn or alfalfa fields, oak habitat when acorns are abundant, adjacent to forest openings, or near artificial feeders and food plots. Such a rubbing strategy makes good sense, of course, because other deer would also likely concentrate near such choice feeding sites, making the buck's signposting most effective.

Also look for rubs along travel corridors such as deer trails, ridge tops, old logging roads, and in swales at stream crossings. Clusters of rubs in secluded patches of heavy cover may also reveal the favored bedding location of older bucks. Stand hunting along travel corridors, between bedding and feeding locations, will generally prove the most successful.

The presence of mature bucks and the availability of favorable rubbing stems are primary factors determining buck-rub density in any given area. In fact, some researchers speculate that clumping of rubs is primarily related to location of preferred stems.

Therefore, a scarcity of buck rubs sometimes may be due to a scarcity of preferred rubbing stems, not the scarcity of older bucks.

Article written by John J Ozoga  
Published in [Woods-N-Water News](#) Michigan's  
Premier Outdoor Publication November 1999 Issue

**Multidirectional Flight**  
Correct the nock point first. Once the arrow is straight left, follow instructions for left flight.

**High Flight**  
Raise nock point

**Field Point Group**  
**Broadhead Group**

**Left Flight Release:**  
Move arrow rest to the right in small increments.

**Fingers:**

- Slightly increase draw weight.
- Use a heavier broadhead.
- Decrease cushion plunger tension.
- Move plunger toward the bow in small increments.

*Reverse steps for left hand shooter.*

**Right Flight Release:**  
Move arrow rest to the left in small increments

**Fingers:**

- Slightly decrease draw weight.
- Use a lighter broadhead.
- Increase cushion plunger tension.
- Move plunger away from the bow in small increments.

*Reverse steps for left hand shooter.*

**Low Flight**  
Lower nock point

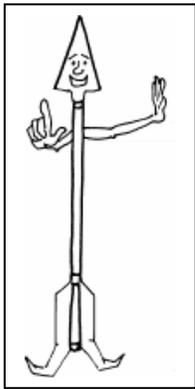
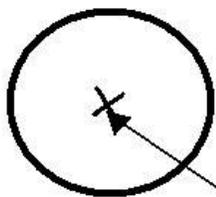
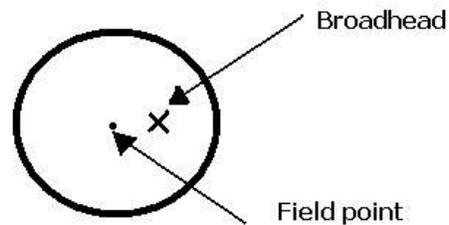


Illustration of how tuning affects broadhead flight for a release shooter.

Wind Resistance Direction

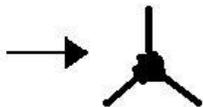
Broadheads will always impact opposite the paper tear whether shooting fingers or release.



Field point and Broadhead same POI

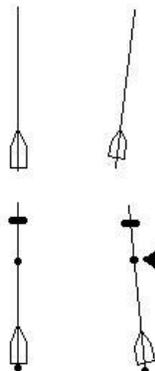
Broadhead arrow will plane right because of the wind resistance force pushing the broadhead blades in the direction they are facing.

Here is an example of a paper tear on a properly tuned bow.



Here is an example of what the paper tear will look like for this situation.

On a properly tuned bow the arrow leaves straight and the broadheads are not pushed to one side or the other by the wind resistance. Because the blades are not profiled to the wind.



Indicates center of gravity. Arrow will kick tail left as the fletching end of the arrow is pulled hard over behind the center of gravity. Which is forward of center.

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