

ARROW

San Francisco Archers

September 2005 Issue | *The Arrow is a publication of San Francisco Archers founded in 1946*

JIM ROBISON | *President of San Francisco Archers*

Hi all,

Well, it would seem that we've had another great year of shoots at our club! As you know the ONE MILLION B.C. shoot went really well with over 260 shooters attending and having a great time. I would like to thank those of you who worked for the shoot (set-up, tear down, kitchen, etc.) and let you know that if it wasn't for participants in the club like YOU the shoots would be a joke.

Wednesday Night 3-D has drawn to a close and with it the best excuse to go to the range and BBQ on Wed. That being said, the BBQ pit is still there and can still be used by those so inclined :)

And... in case you've never been out on Sunday night we're usually doing potluck BBQ of some kind so bring something and share in the fun.

OK, it has now been 5 years that I have had the privilege to be the President of SFArchers but it is time for some new blood to step into the light. This being said, I would like to point out the upcoming elections and (once AGAIN) ask that you consider serving your friends at the club and the archery world at large by running for one of the board positions. The accomplishments of the last few years need to be carried on to even greater heights and you could be a part of this on-going process. STEP UP and help YOUR club to keep improving.

Thanks-- See You At The RANGE,

~Jim



JOHN FLYNN | *VP of San Francisco Archers*

The One Million BC for 2006 is now history. Gone but not forgotten. We had a good turnout of 260 archers. Not our record, but given the decline in participation at other shoots around the state, 260 was an excellent result for all our hard work. It's impossible to thank everyone individually (although you all deserve it), so here it is...sort of by group:

Kitchen. What can I say, yet another stellar performance was put on by the tireless kitchen staff. OK, they WERE tired by the end of the day, but you wouldn't know it if you were a shooter. There was plenty of food available and it was tasting as good as ever.

Range Stands. These were manned throughout the day by an eager crew who kept the archers well watered. And they almost set a record for raffle tickets sold!

Runners. This is always a thankless job. Running up to a stand because they're low on hot dogs, only to come back to the kitchen and hear that the stand is now low on hot dog buns! Up and down, up and down.

Set-up. This crew has a load of work to do over several days. They're the ones that make sure that all the dinos are in good order, haul a ton of rubber up and down the hills, setting-up shooting stakes, and then having to get the dinos all off the range again at the end of the day. And the rest of us are just basking in the glory of it all.

Thanks to everyone who took part. Most of all, thanks to our guest archers.

~John



MARINA HAMACK | *Scorekeeper*
San Francisco Archers

Just a friendly reminder to our members that the club awards dinner is going to be here before we know it. There are a few faithful scorers out there and we would like to see more scorecards turned in before the dinner. Remember you only need to have three people to score & you only need to turn in three scorecards to be eligible to win club champion. I encourage you all to get out there and shoot. Although our Wednesday night shoots are over, there is still a group of us at the range on Sundays usually hanging out and BBQ/potlucking. Come out and join us!

~Marina

DON DONOUGHE | *Editor*
San Francisco Archers

As the year draws near an end, it's time for our Board Elections. There are many open positions that need to be filled. **The positions of President, Vice President, 2nd VP, and Editor are all going to be vacant unless someone steps up.** San Francisco Archers has much to be proud of over the last couple of years. Membership continues to improve, the range is in great condition. The Archery Outreach Program is always busy, and continues to draw many new archers, both adults and children. We have hosted the State two years in a row. Our Shoots are well attended and very popular. Our stock is going up! There's a lot to say about how this organization is doing, it's all good. However, I fear that some of our much needed members, who carry a heavy load, may soon get burned out if new members don't step up to help the Club stay healthy.

If you are interested in helping us continue on our positive path, I encourage you to consider running for one of the open positions. For all the Officers who are looking forward to a break in the action, thank you for all of your hard work!

~Don

BOARD ELECTIONS

Nominations for officers and board members were officially opened on August 31. A nomination board is (should be) posted in the clubhouse for those who'd like to take a more active and positive role in shaping the future of the club - just add your name. If you want to serve, and can't make

it the clubhouse to sign up, let one of the current officers know so we can make sure you're included. Nominations will be posted in the October newsletter, with ballots arriving under separate cover. Information on the due dates for the ballots will be provided with the ballots, and any new board members and officers will be sworn in at the annual awards dinner some time in mid-November (the date and location are currently under discussion).

Note: New members who haven't completed their work party obligation are not considered to be "in good standing" and will not receive a ballot. Contact the Treasurer to inquire about, or inform her of, your status.

FYI here is a list of the responsibilities of the various members of the governing board:



Duties Of The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and Board of Governors. The President shall appoint committees as deemed necessary. The President is ex-officer member of all standing committees and shall perform such duties as are prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order.

Duties Of The Vice-President. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President if the President is unable to act. The Vice President is automatically Chairman of the Tournament Committee. The Vice President may appoint as many assistants as necessary to carry out the assigned duties of the office of Vice President.

Duties Of Secretary. The Secretary shall keep all records of the Club and Board of Governor Meetings, have charge of correspondence, order all supplies necessary for the office of Secretary and present a report or reports as the President may direct: in general, shall perform such duties as are prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order.

Duties Of The Treasurer. The treasurer shall receive all monies of the Club and deposit them in the name of the Club and to its credit in Depositories approved by the Board of Governors, shall dispense them under the directions of the Board of Governors, shall keep records of receipts and disbursements.

Duties Of The Second Vice-President. The Second Vice President of Hunting shall take charge of any special shoots designed for the hunting members of the Club.

The Second Vice President of Hunting will research the Hunting and Conservation laws of our state and keep the Club informed of any changes in these laws, rules or regulations. The Second Vice President of Hunting shall keep records of game animals harvested by club members. The Second Vice President of Hunting shall promote bowhunter education and safety programs within the Club.

Duties Of The Scorekeeper. The Scorekeeper shall keep accurate records of all scores turned in for the purpose of deciding winners of various events in general perform all duties incident to the office of Scorekeeper.

Duties Of Publication Officer. Publication's Officer shall be responsible for editing "THE ARROW" and for preparing press releases, notices to members and other notices as may be needed, including archives of official club publications.

Duties Of The Range Captain. The Range Captain shall be responsible for coordinating all maintenance of the outdoor range, the supply of bales and target faces and all Club tools. The Range Captain shall appoint as many assistants as deemed necessary.

JACK RAUCH | Secretary
San Francisco Archers

OUTREACH SUNDAY (Some Observations)
by Jack Rauch

They start arriving before 9 AM. If you are on the hundred yard range waiting, you can see them walking up the road from the clubhouse. They will all be bent a little forward at the waist as they lean into the hill as they walk.. Older children will race ahead, eager to see what awaits and the little ones will lag behind with an up stretched hand firmly grasped by a parent. Bill will say, "Uh oh, here they come", and all the teachers will turn and look. Tim and Harri, who arrived early to load all of the equipment onto a truck and set up a firing line within ten yards of the targets, will hurriedly finish setting out the cones and putting up fresh targets on the bales. Gone are the casual discussions about the weather and the pastoral nature of the range. It is time to go to work.

The teachers hand out the bows and try to match the right bow to the size and strength of the prospective archer. Many are so young that they do not know if they are right or left handed. Those who have arrived earliest are lucky because they will not only get the best equipment but they will get the best instruction as there will be one teacher for each student. Later, time will have to be shared with too many and crowd control may become as big an issue as the instruction.

Basic safety procedures are explained. "Never point an arrow at anyone." "Never step in front of the firing line until you hear an instructor say the range is CLEAR and you can go forward and get your arrows." The most elementary archery instruction is given. "Stand with your feet shoulder width apart." "Make a T out of your body." "Three fingers under or one finger over and two fingers under." "Draw the string back until your middle finger touches the corner of your mouth", a phrase that will be repeated a thousand times this day.

The kids are anxious to learn but the equipment is alien to them and every movement is awkward. Clumsy fingers on chubby little hands fumble with tab, arrow, and string. Arrows fall off the arrow rest when inexperienced fingers curl too much as they draw back the string. After much practice and patient instruction they all get the hang of it but the girls seem to learn just a little bit faster than the boys. Little sisters positively beam with delight as they outshoot older brothers. Parents always let the children shoot first but it is really obvious that many of them want to shoot too. After some appropriate time and anxious waiting they break down and ask if they, too, can shoot. Told to select an adult sized bow from the tables they quickly join their children on the firing line.

Groups of people arrive continually and very busy teachers work a crowded firing line. Bill and Dick seem to have a knack for working with the really young kids and Mark and Tim work really well with the adults. Jim works up and down the line wherever he is needed and Dan's voice is heard time and again, "push and pull, push and pull".

Things settle into a pattern as everyone shoots their arrows and then follows the commands: "Last arrow", "Put your bow down", "The range is clear, go forward and draw your arrows", "The range is clear, you may open fire."

Now is the time when all the laws of physics are suspended. This is the time of the exception that proves the rule and only those who have ever taught someone to shoot a bow have seen it. Arrows shot from unskilled hands strike the targets at every conceivable and even inconceivable angle. Arrows hang crazily across target faces having only just barely penetrated the cardboard backing. Arrows glance off the top of the bales and shoot skyward to be lost in the trees on the hill. Arrows strike the target, fail to penetrate, and bounce back to the firing line. Arrows carom off the sides of the bales, strike the rebar anchoring straps, and turn in almost forty five degree angles to fall behind other targets farther down the line. This is a time of incredulity. "I didn't know an arrow could do that", Mark says in awe as others just stare open mouthed and shake their heads.

Slowly the new archers begin to group their arrows and the accuracy improves. Excited voices can be heard: "I got a bulls eye" and "I just missed a bulls eye."

Now it is time for the balloons and, as Tim affixes them to the bales, who could guess what joy could come from these simple air filled toys. "Yes, I got one", said with much pride as an arrow finds its mark. "I got two in a row" is exclaimed in an ecstatic tone as sharp pops announce more arrows have struck their targets.

As the hours go by, some of the children begin to tire and get sore fingers or lose patience with their slow progress and begin to throw pine cones or sticks for Guess (the wonder dog) to fetch. Little do they know that the simple act of throwing that stick has created an unwritten contract with Guess that will require them to continue this act for the rest of the day; and Guess is relentless. As they play with the dog, Dan gleefully grabs his bow and begins popping balloons.

Most of the hard part of the teaching is over now and the students just need time to practice their new skills. Teachers can stand back a little and be selective about those who really need help. Phrases like "keep your elbow up" and "draw the string all the way back" are frequently heard. Growling stomachs remind the instructors that it is almost noon and every one of them is hoping that Marina and Jeanine and Pat have prepared one of their famous five star lunches in the clubhouse. The lunch they prepare is worth more than a morning's work and if Marina has made breakfast burritos there will be a lot of happy smiles on teachers' faces.

By 11:45 things are winding down and people begin to drift away. Donations are solicited and received. The last round is announced and the last arrows fired. There is much hand shaking and many thank you's from the students as they turn to go. Errant arrows are sought and brought off the hill from behind the targets and the teachers load the equipment back onto the truck to be driven down to the clubhouse.

The excited and enthusiastic voices of the children can be heard as they recede down the path towards the parking lot: "Can we come back here again?", and "Can I buy a bow, daddy?" They have fulfilled their destiny on this day and joined the ranks of the small community of those who derive so much enjoyment from a bent stick and the practice of this stone age skill.

They're archers now.

Just like that.

Weary but contented the teachers walk away and nature's peaceful quietness returns to the meadow on the hundred yard range. But to those who give a backward glance there are already memories of the day's joys and the meadow, somehow, seems a little cold and barren without the children.

Some may wonder if the sacrifice of time they made today was worth it but know deep down inside that it was, because something more than archery was learned here today. Feelings of self esteem were raised as little boys

and girls discovered they could learn a new skill and be successful. Families were brought closer to one another as father and son and mother and daughter enjoyed an activity together. More than a few of the children were just happy that a sympathetic adult paid attention to them and cared about what they were doing. And everyone felt better because they spent the day outdoors in the fresh air enjoying the harmony of nature.

Satisfied, the teachers leave and know in their hearts that what Wordsworth said is true:

"...with an eye made quiet by the power
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things."

On Outreach Sunday.
Just like that.

~Jack

UPCOMING CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

24/25 TAC - Rancho Neblina - Traditional Rendezvous

OCTOBER

- 1 Election ballots mailed to members in good standing
- 2 Grape Stomp Lodi Bowmen
- 3 Board Meeting
- 8 Work Party
- 9 Club Shoot
- 9 NCFEA Regional Outdoor Championship
Redwood Bowmen
- 15 "Der Oktoberfest Jagd" Bow Hunters Unlimited
- 23 The shoot formerly known as the "Grade-All" - Briones

NOVEMBER

- 7 Board Meeting
- 12 Work Party
- 13 Club Shoot
- 17 Tentative Date for Annual Club Awards Banquet
- 18 Ballots due in for election

DECEMBER

- 5 Board Meeting
- 10 Work Party
- 11 Club Shoot

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1274, Pacifica, CA 94044
Phone: 650-355-9947



THANKS TO PAUL TEDRICK FOR THESE PHOTOS FROM THE ONE MILLION BC SHOOT!

