



Preserving and Promoting Traditional Bowhunting In Idaho



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Is this the future of bowhunting in Idaho?

Technology

—By Blake Fischer

In 1962 John F. Kennedy said to the American people "We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and

do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." This statement was given to a generation of bowhunters that still shot wood arrows from longbows and recurves, and hiked the mountains in wool clothes. Now, almost 50 years later, we live in an era plagued with get-rich-quick schemes and miracle diet pills, and we are seeing this same attitude leech into our hunting heritage.

You may not know it, but we are standing at a crossroads in bowhunting. With ever-advancing technology we could be working our way out of our sport as we know it. Currently, as bowhunters, we enjoy some of the longest seasons, and are allowed to hunt during the best times of the year, namely the rut, prior to rifle seasons, and during winter migrations. However, as the technology in our sport advances, and archery success rates improve, we may find ourselves losing the opportunities we now enjoy and hold dear to us.

Currently there are 14 states where crossbows, like the one pictured, are LEGAL DURING ARCHERY SEASONS. Pennsylvania and Texas are the two most recent states to fall. Pennsylvania legal-

ized the crossbow for use in archery seasons this year, and the National Rifle Association (NRA) supported this change. Why the NRA had any interest in legalizing crossbows in archery seasons is a question I can't answer, but I will assume they capitulated to pressure from the manufactures that support them financially.

Idaho bowhunters long ago drew a line in the sand to limit the advancement of technology in order to maintain our lengthy seasons and favorable times afield. Over time this line has slowly eroded as the waves of technology have repeatedly crashed upon it. It's time to reestablish this line in the sand and maintain it before it is washed away forever.

The crossbow shown is PSE's latest development. It is designed to fit on any AR-15 lower receiver, simply remove the barrel, attach the crossbow assembly, and you are ready to "bowhunt." Dubbed the "Tactical Assault Crossbow," the makers of the TAC 15 tout that it has the same three-pound trigger pull as your AR-15 and is the most accurate, powerful crossbow on the market. It is today's hottest miracle pill for the "bowhunter."

Manufactures continually try to convince us we need the latest

technology “to make us more effective bowhunters” and to “reduce wounding rates.” It seems these manufactures have missed the point of bowhunting—it is supposed to be hard!

If we only hunted to put mounts on the wall, wouldn't we all be hunting with centerfire rifles like the AR-15? We choose bowhunting because it is difficult. We choose bowhunting because we want to test ourselves against the mountains and against our quarry's senses.

Our current lengthy archery seasons were created because bowhunting required skill, was difficult, and success rates were considered low. If our bowhunting success rates continue to climb as skill is replaced by technology, we are likely to end up hunting shoulder to shoulder with the rifle hunters during “any weapons” seasons. We won't be bowhunting during the rut, prior to rifle seasons, or during winter migrations.

In recent years, we have seen some general archery hunting opportunities reduced to controlled hunts. And this year, general archery antelope seasons were eliminated and replaced with unlimited controlled hunts and some archery elk zones tags were capped and placed on a “first come” basis due to bowhunting's impact on antelope and elk numbers.

Increased success rates resulting from advancing technology have begun to reduce bowhunting opportunity in Idaho. It's time to change this trend and return bowhunting to its roots of man vs. beast, not gadgets vs. beast.



Mark Ulschmidt says he “just thinned another stupid one out of the herd” but we know better. Mark called this bull in on the 13th. He had to insult him a little, but he finally came around. “I was wearing the new shirt I got in Namibia. When the picture is black and white, I blend right in. Even my hair.”

Editor's Note: Mark and his hunting buddies killed five bulls during this year's archery season.

2009 Summer/Fall Tune-Up Shoot

ITB's Summer/Fall Tune-Up Shoot was held on the week end of August 8th and 9th in Garden Valley, off of Scriver Creek Road. We had 20 or so 3-D targets set out in various hunting-type positions and terrain. Some of our newest Rinehart targets were included in the mix. These targets not only look great but the arrow removal is a one-handed affair no matter what type of arrow you shoot. A great improvement from the old 3-D's back in the day.

The turn out was great considering it rained like cats and dogs every day for a week leading up to the

shoot. Some people decided to drive up Saturday morning rather than camp overnight because of the threat of rain. But we had our fair share of campers as well. A few wall tents, camp trailers, tents, and trucks were all used to live in for the weekend. As usual at our shoots, everyone was allowed to shoot anytime they wanted Saturday and Sunday with no real strict schedule to speak of. Some chose to hit the trail early to catch the animals before they bedded down and others chose to sleep in awhile longer and stalk up on the already bedded down animal.

Rain threatened to dampen our spirits with cloudy skies most of

the time, but only actually came down on us for about 30 minutes late Saturday afternoon during our money shoot. But rain, snow, or hail, when there's money on the line distractions like rain hardly went noticed. All in all, fun was had by all who attended and hopefully helped to insure that our arrows fly true this hunting season.

2009 Carp Shoot

Unfortunately our clubs yearly Carpe-Diem Carp shoot never happened. Mother Nature decided that June would be a good month to rain every weekend. For the 2010 Carp Shoot we will be adding rain-out dates and a phone number to call for up to date shoot cancellation information. With any luck at all, we'll figure out how to fool Mother Nature in 2010 and hit the Carp when they're hot.

2010 Club Calendar of Events

We have heard a few complaints that the news letters just talk about events already gone by and don't mention anything about upcoming events.

I personally know that this years newsletters have been filled with both past and upcoming events. Nevertheless, we as a club are going to do our best to get a 2010 club calendar of events included into the first newsletter in 2010.

We are also trying to have the Idaho State Bowhunters Club include our traditional shoots into their list of the 2010 scheduled shoots throughout the state of Idaho.

So keep and eye out for our new calendar and hang it in your trophy room, on your refrigerator or wherever it can be seen and remembered so you're not stuck reading about it a day late and a dollar short.

Nominations for ITB Election

Nominations for club officers, including President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be held at the December 9th monthly meeting at Cabela's in the south west corner conference room. If you're interested in one of these positions or know someone you'd like to see in one of these positions, then come on out and make your voice heard.

The actual elections for all those who were nominated for the aforementioned positions will take place in 2010 on an as-yet-to-be determined date.

Western States Traditional Rendezvous (WSTR)

ITB hosted the 20th annual WSTR this year. The WSTR shoot was started at the suggestion of the late Jim Brackenburg, and in his honor the WSTR will from now on be known as the WSTR Jim Brackenburg Memorial shoot.

Traditionally, the WSTR travels from state to state and is always held on Memorial Day weekend.

This year's event was on May 23rd through the 25th.



The scenery at Magic Mountain even makes these guys look halfway decent. Of course the huge rack on that buck helps a lot too.



The scenery from the top of the chair lift was exceptional.



As forecasted the “Water Torture” competition was a huge success. Everyone had fun throwing arrow after arrow at those elusive water-filled milk jugs. We even had one club member who unknowingly took on the dangerously ferocious frozen milk jug. Again we apologize—we really don’t know how that frozen jug got in the mix!



The new piñata shoot was great fun for all the kids. The piñatas looked like oversized pin cushions when they were finished with them. Aahh!! Bows, Arrows, and Candy —it doesn't get much better than that!



Blake's daughter having fun with her new longbow.

We decided to host the 2009 WSTR at the Magic Mountain Ski resort, just south of Twin Falls. When scouting the location two weekends before the shoot, we were unable to drive off the road due to the two to three feet of snow that covered the ground. To

say we were nervous was an understatement.

However, it was spring, and the snow was melting, and when we arrived to set up targets most of the snow was gone—but it did leave a little mud for us to play in. Other than a little mud, this was an awesome venue. We had two ranges set up where shooters were able to ride the ski lift to the top of the mountain and shoot their way down. Seeing people without skis or snowboards heading up the chairlift was an interesting sight, not to mention seeing everybody with their bows and arrows. We also had two other ranges that were accessible by foot, and a kids' range.

There were several novelty shoots including a smoker

round on Friday night, a flashlight shoot (which occurred in spite of the rain) on Saturday night, a money shoot on Sunday and a blanket shoot on Monday. There was also the infamous "Water

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From the young pups to the old timers, friendships were bonded that will last a life time.

Torture"shoot, I believe the highlight was when Jerry Stout slowly realized that his water jug somehow had spent the night in the freezer, and the ice wouldn't drain out.

The kids had a piñata shoot, and in classic piñata fashion there were many arrows shot at the piñatas, and then a crazy dash to acquire the candy that had spilled out.



Following weeks and weeks of non-stop rain, newsletter Editor Rik Hinton finally managed to get a bear down in the last weekend of June. A 160-grain Snuffer made a blood trail even a bowhunter from Horseshoe Bend could follow.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Send us your 2009 photos so we can share your hunting and archery adventures.

There were many generous donations, a very successful raffle, and an amazing collection of food at the Dutch oven cook off. I'd like to thank the many vendors who came and displayed their wares, and supported the WSTR and the ITB with their presence.

There were many volunteers both ITBer's and others that made this a hugely successful event, it sounds like we will be hosting it again in four years, so rest up and we'll be ready to do it again.

Thanks to all who helped, and to all those who attended to make this a great success. **The 2010 WSTR will be in Washington on May 29, 30, and 31.** Put it on your calendar, it should be a great event!

WSTR Donors and Supporters

The Idaho Traditional Bowhunters would like to thank all who donated the many items to our club for the raffle.

Without the many heart-felt donations made by everyday traditional archers and the many companies in the Traditional Archery industry, raffles would not be as successful as they are. Raffles are fun and help to raise much-needed funds for the club. Besides, everybody loves to win something at a raffle.

Below is the random list of donors who made the raffle the success that it was. We apologize in advance if we missed anybody who also donated to the cause.

- **Bearpaw Custom Arrows**
- **Mike Okamura**
- **Bill & Carol Kerr**



Your faithful Newsletter Editor somehow managed to make a long, long three-and-a-half yard shot on this bull in mid-September. Thank goodness for all those long-distance practice sessions all summer!

(WSTR DONORS, continued)

- Custom Knives by Victor Smith
- Sean Marchetti
- Jack's Traditional
- Eclipse Broadheads
- Little Hindu
- Cook's Mountain Archery
- Grizzly Bows
- Stitches, Steal and Stone
- Archery Past
- Black Rose Archers
- Wapiti Archery POC
- Snake River Yamaha
- Jerry Wilson

- Wayne Seward
- Shade Tree Shafts
- 3 Rivers Archery
- Shawn West
- Cajun Archery
- Sportsman's Warehouse
- Mike Miller
- Base Camp Creations
- Riley Perkins
- Camp Chef
- AA Leatherworks
- Sunset Hill Classics
- Traditional Bowhunter Magazine
- Salvador Ochoa



ITB Membership Renewal

A reminder to everyone, ITB memberships are per calendar year. All memberships will expire on December 31, 2009.

Please send in your membership dues as soon as possible, or bring your dues to our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at the Cabela's meeting room in the south-west corner of the store. Mail your dues to:

Idaho Traditional Bowhunters
Attn: Dave Ankenbauer
 526 Robie Creek Rd.
 Boise ID, 83716



ITB MEMBERSHIP FORM (Please Print)

Name: _____ Address: _____

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I would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail to reduce ITB's postage costs Yes No

I have enclosed: () \$10 for a one-year membership () \$20 for a two-year membership