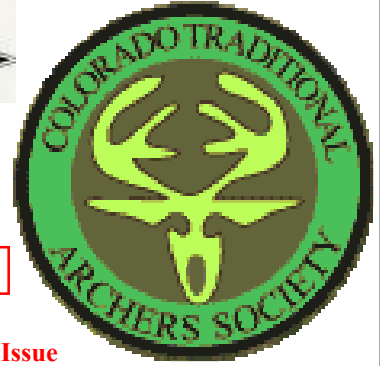




STICKS & STRINGS NEWS



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News and views

...The views expressed here in the editorial section are solely the editors views and do not necessarily represent that of the CTAS organization.

Well, the 2012 banquet is history and what a ball it was. We had Jake doing his selfbow instructions again. We had Mike Moore giving a flint knapping seminar for the first time and we have already asked him to come back next year. I know I learned more in the ten minutes that I had to watch him than I have learned about knapping in the last ten years. We Had Mike Hays and Mike Koenig doing their things with making strings. Our entries for all of the contests were great. Most everyone that I talked to liked the idea of adding an info. card with the arrow contest entries. This gives folks a chance to read about how it was put together and what was special about it. Nathan Andersohn was the main speaker and he talked about taking the North American grand slam of sheep with his longbow. Frank Adams spoke about the history of CTAS. He spoke about many tough times in the beginning and how we are really doing well now days. All in all it was a grand old time at this years banquet. Next years banquet will be the 3rd weekend in February.



Stone Point affixed with deer sinew and hide glue on a homemade poplar footed arrow

Inside you will find a story about a young man building a selfbow (page 5). You will see a couple of pages of photos of the banquet submitted by our own Jim Anderson AKA "CTAS Photo Man" (thanks Jim). I had an extra page near the end so I thought I would share with those that were not present one of the "Crazy Hunt of the Year" stories by John Boulton (page 11). This year we had two winners—the second winner was Brad Parkhill and a deer hunt he was on in Mexico. On page 7 you will see a photo of Phil Belchar receiving his award for the "Archer of the Year". He is the guy behind many, many events that CTAS puts on for everyone out there. He is a deserving soul and tell him congratulations when you see him next time.

We held the Board of Directors membership meeting on Saturday morning and during that meeting we elected 4 new board members. Brad Parkhill, Dirk Dieterich, Connie Renfro and Bill Lloyd. Welcome aboard guys/gals. Also during that meeting Mike Hays volunteered to build a half dozen kids bows in a hunting weight. Thanks Mike. He doesn't have anything better to do with his time anyway. **Continued.....pg. 6**

Chairman's Column.....Dean Derby

Hello all, Once again Larry and his crew put on a outstanding banquet. I look forward every year to seeing all of you and sharing your stories. Those of you that missed this year's gathering of your fellow bowbenders better not make the same mistake next year. You missed the auction, the seminars, the membership meeting and all kinds of other epic events. If you'd been there you would know that during the elections your board has four new members Connie Renfro, Brad Parkhill and Dirk Dieterich and Bill Lloyd. These new board members are an asset to CTAS and we are lucky to have them. Welcome aboard to you all. Take a moment in this newsletter (pg.3) to look at the list of your board of directors. The people on this list make sure the club keeps moving in a positive direction. I'm humbled and blessed to be working with them. Next time you see one of them just a quick thank you might be in order. I'd like to thank all of you who take the time and make our banquet the blowout it is. Plans are already in the works for next year's banquet and it sounds like it may even be bigger and better. I don't know if that's even possible. A big thank you also goes out to all the donors. Without your help our fundraising efforts would cease to exist. To our guest speakers Nathan Andersohn and Frank Adams it's hard to tell you two how much you're appreciated. You helped to make it an amazing evening.

CTAS will have a shoot at the American Bowmen in May. This will be a good start to a summer of flying arrows. Make plans to attend and hang out with some good people.

Let's talk about that summer of flying arrows. Two words HIGH COUNTRY. It will be on us faster than you think. Now is the time to mark your calendars and tell your friends. This is the greatest shoot of the year. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate. But even when she doesn't it seems the trad folk's just keep having fun. I think that's a testimony to attitude that most stick bow people have. Life's short, laugh a lot. If you ever stop by our camp (and you're all invited) you'll see what I mean. As always we need your help. There's plenty to do from the weekend before to clean-up afterward. Many hands make light work so sign up to keep this the greatest shoot on earth. Watch the newsletter and web site for more info.

Again to all of you that work to keep the CTAS strong I thank you. You are the backbone of this organization. Until we meet again shoot straight and have fun.....Dean



Dean with a beautiful 2011 black bear

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Gary/Connie Renfro



CTAS BOARD MEMBERS

Dean Derby (Chairman)
970-245-8859

deanderby@bresnan.net

Mike Koenig (secretary)
(Website) 970-468-1960

4koenig@comcast.net

Jim Shanks (Treasurer)
970-245-1121

240 Red Rim Drive
Grand Jct., CO 81507

Jimshanks_7@msn.com

Ron Rockwell

(303) 660-6879

Ron-Karen@comcast.net

Scott Hargrove (Member Services)
970-349-5816 hargroveconstruction@roadrunner.net

Mike Stewart 970-675-2523

stearrow@centurytel.net

Scot Hamilton

970-242-9837

belliham3@yahoo.com

Chris Reilly 970-641-0588

(High Country Competition)

crdir@q.com

Eric Sawyer (High Country Trailer)

H-970-487-3039

C-970-901-2124

CoArcher1@aol.com

Mike Hays C-719-250-5227

blackcanyonbows@q.com

Larry Alma 303-421-7534 (High

Country Kitchen & Banquet)

larryalmaco@yahoo.com

Mark Kadnuck (Country Store)

970-263-4712

mark_kad@hotmail.com

Phil Belchar Banquet

303-734-8886

phlbelch@aol.com

Bill Grammer

grambo3@earthlink.net

C-970-819-6248

Steve Shuey

ssll@frontier.net

(Shoot Pre-registration)

970-243-0444

Brad Parkhill

720-989-3389

brad@parksupply.us

Dirk Dieterich

719-440-7708

kddieterich@gmail.com

Bill Lloyd

720-935-8256

colloids@q.com

.....

Member Volunteers

Ted Grover 719-539-4723

Old Timers Column

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Gary & Connie Renfro

303-567-4226 (Newsletter Editors)

(Board members)

High Country Shoot info...

As the banquet fades in our memories it's time to look forward to the High Country Shoot. This year's High Country will be **June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th**. For this year's shoot my family and I will chair this awesome gathering of our fellow bow benders. Although we have some pretty big shoes to fill. Mike and Betty have brought this event to new heights. From all of us that love the H/C Mike and Betty thank you!



Someone is about to get wet

We will be on Forest Road 860 (3.2 miles pass the Gravel Pit) off Forest road 245. Same as two years ago. If F.R. 860 is to wet we will go back to the Gravel Pit site again. Look for the signs on your way up. Camping is primitive with no fee. There will be toilets on site. Please leave your ATV's at home or ride only on designated roads. Keep your camp, the common area, and ranges clean. We do have a 5 year permit in place. But each year we can come up for review and how each of us acts will reflect on all of us.

High Country will have the same outstanding 3-D Rhinehart targets. Like last year, we will have four main theme ranges and for our competitive folks we have the Fred Bear and the Three Arrow Challenge. All our youth competition is on the four main theme ranges. With all the ranges you can shoot as much as you want. But the first walk through will be for your score. Rules will be available at the registration booth. Once again Pee-Wees will have their very own Dino range and as many novelty targets as we can muster. Mix in raffles, prizes, fund-raisers and vendors and you have an awesome weekend.

The kitchen will serve breakfast and lunch Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. Although Saturday night make sure to be at the kitchen for the FREE CHILI and HOT DOG DINNER. We are still working on some campfire activities after dinner. Lunch will also be provided on Thursday and Sunday to those that help set up and tear down.

This brings us to the volunteers needed to make this wonderful weekend happen. All the targets, tents, trailers, flagging, etc. don't just jump out there on their own. We need you!!! The weekend before (June 15th-17th) for range set up. After that there's target and common area set up the week before. All the booths need help and at the end all the stuff will have to go back in the trailers. We'll have a sign-up list. Spend a couple of hours helping and meet some new friends. If we all grab a little bite out of this it won't be a burden on anyone. I'll thank you in advance.

Shoot fees will again stay the same this year. The only changes being considered are a non-member and a group shoot fee. We are trying to keep this family oriented shoot as reasonable as possible. We all understand how tough finances can be in this economy. It's hard to find anything that's this much fun and won't cost an arm and leg. **DEAN**

The Old Timer's Corner.....by Ted Grover

Once again another banquet is behind us and we're looking forward to the High Country Shoot. It was good to see people I don't see on a regular basis. I enjoyed both presentations by Frank Adams and Nathan Andersohn.

On the history of CTAS, I recall going to the 2nd shoot and every one since then. It's been a lot of fun mixed in with work in the kitchen. Unfortunately I will miss this years High Country Shoot. There is only one thing that would cause me to miss it and that is a hunting or fishing trip to Alaska. This will be my 6th trip up there going back to 1969. I have enjoyed success and harrowing experiences in Alaska. It's the last frontier and I suggest that everyone make a hunting trip there someday. I also recommend going when you are young. I did, and now at my age it would be difficult to do the type of hunts I did back then and it would not be as much fun.

On another subject I have read and seen a couple of disturbing occurrences in the bowhunting media. One was a show on television where a bowhunter (and I use that word lightly) shot a cape buffalo with a compound. Next scene, the tracker climbs a tree and announces the buffalo is still alive then the next scene a helicopter shows up and you hear a gunshot. My point is no one acted disappointed that it was killed with a gun and not a bow. I'm sure the bowhunter isn't going to say it was finished off with a gun and will not mention that it was not an archery trophy.

The other disturbing thing was an ad in an archery magazine. The National Field Archery Association Publication. There is a woman sitting on a Hippo. The caption reading "Due to equipment malfunction, she would have harvested this hippo with her crossbow but had to use a rifle instead".

This show me how far these people are off track from what the word bowhunting means. CTAS and all the other traditional clubs are on the right track. I am proud and I know everyone in traditional bowhunting is proud to "Do It The Hard Way". I know what "united we stand" means but it's hard to stand beside ego minded lazy so-called bowhunters with ethical standards so low they might as well be rifle hunters in the first place. I know good rifle hunters who would put these compound hunters and crossbow hunters to shame just on their hunting abilities alone.

I think history will show one day that traditional methods will be at the top of the list and high tech can never equal our endeavors. Kudos to all Traditional Bowhunters out there!—TED



Ted with his CO Moose from a few years back, ——— Congrat's Ted



Another Selfbow Builder

by Betty Koenig

This last fall I received an email from a Summit High School teacher that was in charge of helping students with their personal projects. (This is a Middle Years Program requirement for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Certificate) One of the projects listed was building a bow. Not having a clue who was attached to the project I came home and asked Mike if he would be interested in helping a student with this project. Mike agreed without hesitation. I provided Mike's contact information to the high school. As it turned out David Metzger was the interested sophomore and he was one of my soccer players when he was in 8th grade! (It's always nice to know who you are working with especially since it was Mike who would be working with David!)

David contacted Mike and this whole bow building project began. David had been shooting a compound bow for a few years and really wanted to build his own bow and hunt with it. The process started with a visit to the house and the general talk of what it would take to build a selfbow. They talked about staves, tools, and the process. Mike pulled out all his books, showed David his selfbows, provided internet sites and links and sent David on his way with more information than I'm sure he wanted. After many emails David decided to try building a board bow using red oak from the lumber yard for ease of acquisition, cost, and workability. He worked the wood down to a general bow shape and had it floor tillered. Another visit to the house and Mike made a string for the bow. With a few words of encouragement and advice, Mike sent David home to complete the tillering process. David completed the bow and presented his project in January. David did a fantastic job ending with a 77 inch bow, 50 pounds at 28 inches. The tillering was done so well you wouldn't guess a high school student had just built his first bow. The bow also was a "shooter", as Mike had David shoot the bow. It is truly amazing how archery motivated David to choose this project, and how traditional archery allowed it to come to fruition. David made this bow himself, using basic hand tools and a little advice. David is looking forward to building another bow and elk hunting this fall with his selfbow.



David Metzger about to try out his new Koenig mentored Osage selfbow



Glen Metzger (father), David Metzger (bowyer), and Mike Koenig (mentor)

Editors views... from pg. 1

One other thing that we talked about during the Board meeting was the lighted nocks issue that the CBA is wrestling with at this time. CTAS'S position is, that we will support the P&Y'S fair chase rules and at this time the P&Y does not support the use of lighted nocks. It seems so strange to me that the modern day bowhunter is working harder than ever to make bowhunting easier. What ever happened to plain and simple bowhunting? Heck now with 85% let off bows, laser range finders, lighted knocks it makes you wonder where it will all lead for our grand kids. Crazy. We can all lead by example with our methods.

In the last newsletter I stuck a few success photos from some of our members and I will stick in a couple more in this issue. One that I would like to mention is Chris Reilly's photo of his cow elk. He took it with an Osage selfbow that he built. Chris has been bitten by the selfbow bug. He also entered a selfbow in the banquet bow building contest that he made this past winter and I have to tell you that some guys have it and some don't. Chris does. Keep up the good work Chris (just get rid of your tool marks). I don't know if any of you remember a story that Connie wrote in the TBM a few years ago called "The Fat Head Club" It is a story about how your head swells up when you're successful with a bow that you carved out of a log. Now Chris is a full fledged member of the "Fat Head Club".

I am also sticking in Brad Thayer's photo of his mule deer buck. Brad among others, travels to out banquets (and shoots) from Nebraska every chance he gets. Nice buck Brad, congratulations to you too.

You know we must be doing something right because we get participants from all across the country and the world.

High Country Shoot information will be in the next issue of Sticks and Strings.



New member of the "FAT HEAD CLUB"



Brad Thayer with a nice Nebraska Mule deer

**2012 “Archer of the Year” Phil Belchar
An honor well deserved for a man that is
always there for CTAS.**



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Shots from the 2012 CTAS Banquet



Mike Moore giving a Knapping demo





Yes it's true, I do use lighted knocks!
But only to get myself back to camp.



Frank talking CTAS history



Man I've had it with them short jokes, how about you?



Winner!!!!!!—dang it!



Look at that fat head! (the one on the left)



I use lighted knocks too! What you going to do about it?



First timers award for Matthew Clyncke



First Timers award for —OOPS



First timer award for Owen Clyncke

Crazy hunt of the year story by John Boulton

This story is No Bull. I checked the mail today and **YES**, I drew an either sex elk tag for my archery unit. With much enthusiasm and my infinite wisdom of the woods I strategically locate a tree stand in a perfect location. Tracks tell me that they have been hanging around this spot a lot.

Opening day I make myself as comfortable as one can be in a tree stand. This includes a camo mug that holds about 5 cups of coffee and of course a pee bottle with screw on lid that is also camo-ed. Many hours go by and I can hear a bull whistling off in the distance. Is he coming closer? I can't tell for sure.

Suddenly I catch some movement off to my right, yes there's an old grey cow coming straight towards my stand. I FREEZE I have an arrow knocked and I am standing up at the ready. I don't want a cow dang it I want a bull and he should be following soon.

She then slowly walks away and returns with the harem. First one cow and a calf, then another and another and another. I can't believe my eyes because I know there will be a bull coming along soon. I'm so excited. I just can't let the lead cow spot me when she comes by so I don't move a muscle.

What the heck? I can't believe it, what are they doing? They are bedding down right beneath me. So I tried one of my wife's tricks, I closed my eyes so they wouldn't see me. Hey it worked, wow I'll have to tell her!!!

Last year while on a firewood mission, driving home my wife had to answer the call. So she walks out in front of the truck to do her duty and wouldn't you know it, a group of orange clad rifle hunters drive by -oh nooo I thought (and laughing under my breath!) When it was all over I asked what the heck happened? she said that she just closed her eyes when they went by and they couldn't see her. WHAT?

Meanwhile back to my tree. I have been standing absolutely motionless now for a good hour and I am beginning to cramp up. Not to mention the 5 cups of coffee are beginning to take their toll on my bladder and I really have to go bad. Did I tell you I'm wearing a ghillie suit?

This is horrible because I am surrounded by cows now and I know there has to be a bull come along any time, but I just can't hold it much longer. I wait another 15 minutes and that is it. I grab the camo pee bottle and very gingerly begin to go down to one knee.

Very carefully now I crack the lid loose and WOW! the lead cow jumps up as if **that wasn't a natural sound!!!!** Something is up !!!! "What was that she said as she was looking around in all directions"?

I again FREEZE. Finally she relaxes and beds back down. 10 minutes later I finally get the top off and begin to relieve myself when suddenly, Yep, you guest it. I now feel the need to pass wind.....And at my age you cant just relax the pee muscles without relaxing the other,!!!! So out it comes an abrupt **BRRRAAT!!!!**. The entire woods comes alive as all the elk jump to their feet and are extremely alarmed. They are staring off in the distance in all directions trying to see just where that noise came from.

I can't believe it!!! "Hell, It could have been one of you that did that" I kept thinking while still kneeling there with my hands full!!!

Again they finally settle back down and YES-again right under my tree and **Still NO BULL**.

It finally gets dark, real dark and it is time to climb out of the tree and go home. I still don't know why but I was able to very gingerly and ever so slowly climb down to the ground without spooking a single one of them. But while standing in their midst at the bottom of my tree, they suddenly all jump up and that's when I just turned ran off out into the woods as fast as I could go. It took some time to get home in the dark and when I got there my wife was in bed asleep So I woke her up and began telling her about my amazing experience with the lead cow and-and-and, well she sat up and grabbed my right ear and began to twist it and said **WILL YOU STOP WITH ALL OF THAT?-----** And that's **NO BULL**.

Editors note

My guess is that there was something other than coffee in that camo cup.

This is Johns second award for a crazy hunt story. If any of you get bored on your hunts and want a little excitement, -- GIVE JOHN A CALL.....

