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# ROYAL OAK ARCHERS

Member Newsletter

December, 2007

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

**Chili Champions!** The First Annual 2007 Chili Shoot Tri-Fecta concluded with ROA bringing home the trophy! Shoots were held at three MBH District 10 clubs during the months of January and February, each presenting a unique challenge to the shooters. The 2008 shoot will be our first chance to defend our title. We give many thanks to the competitors, supporters, gift donors and chefs who pitched in to make the events successful. What else is there to do in January ...? ROA has the first leg of the shoot in 2008 which will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars now! Gilberts will take the second leg, and the finale will be at Lapeer.

**Traditional Jamboree** The weather cooperated this year so that 150 or so traditional archers could show their stuff at our biggest single annual event. The 2007 shoot was the largest in ROA history, pulling in close to \$2000 for the club! Organizers advertised heavily in the local shops, purchased advertising space in Traditional Bowhunter magazine, and talked up the event at other shoots and meetings. Thanks to Doug, Rich, Mike, Jim and the many others who essentially lived at the club from Thursday to Sunday to ensure all the details were handled.

**Work Bee!** The Spring 2007 work bee is history. Several members and families pitched in with a rake or saw or trash bag to spruce up the clubhouse and grounds. Marty Kurkowski is shown at the left re-covering one of the targets on the MAA range. The Morrell targets have held up pretty well, considering the use they get, but the "popular" targets start looking ragged after a fair amount of arrows have been stopped. Two new targets were placed on the range, and several others were fitted with new covers and rotated.



Brian Fink brought out his crew of helpers who sorted through an age-old pile of lumber and other organic debris. Much of the lumber members have donated has gone into rebuilding walkways, tree stands, railings, and even parts of the clubhouse and other buildings. Some times the small pieces just don't get thrown out and the resulting jumble of wood makes it hard to find anything. Brian's crew



sorted the usable from the not (the “not” becoming fire wood) and arranged the remaining material so as to be more easily found.



Jim Salisbury, in addition to cutting down several trees and trimming several others, found time to pose with one of our new 3D targets. These animals were delivered to the club by Jim Morrow who insisted we assemble the mule deer to see the impressive set of antlers. These animals are well-appreciated by anyone who has set a 3D course and had to choose from a collection of targets that had seen (many) better days. Thanks again to Jim Morrow who allows

ROA to purchase these targets at wholesale prices through his MJC Archery shops.

Just about the time we were starting to get weary, Lynn Chalmers rang the dinner bell and served up a hot collection of pasta, ham and turkey, all from his own freezer. Craig Plowman provided elk burger, and several workers were lucky enough to snag one of these gems. Robert and Marty said they were wonderful – I couldn't find any more room in my stomach. Lynn and the kitchen crews



were a hit on both Saturday and Sunday by providing the hungry men, women, and youngsters a well-appreciated break and some good eats. Once the plates were scraped clean and the hunting stories were all told, we left Lynn to clean up, and headed back out to the grounds. Thanks to all who came out to lend a hand. I hope you all enjoyed the sunny days, the friendship, the exercise and good food as much as I did.



**3D Shoots** Attendance at 3D shoots started off good in 2007, but dropped off as the year progressed. According to scuttlebutt from other local clubs, all shoot attendance was down. The Michigan Longbow, Amy Pray, and Fred Bear shoot attendance were all down in 2007 from expected levels. High gas prices? Uncertainty about the new UAW contract? Something (or maybe a little bit of everything) was keeping archers at home this year. Members who help with the set-up of 3D ranges are welcome to shoot the courses after set-up is complete. Helping out is not all work and no play! Actually, it feels a lot like all play!

**Broadhead Shoots** Attendance at the broadhead shoots was down slightly this year, but still netted \$1050 for the club after banquet expenses. Was it the struggling economics in the state that kept people at home, or did we under-advertise? Well, we can't do much about the former, but we can surely address the latter. Broadhead shoots are attractive to the Michigan hunter as they simulate real hunting conditions, shooting at unknown distances with full hunting equipment down to the tip on the end of the arrow. Anyone who thinks arrows with fixed-blade broadheads fly the same as arrows with practice tips either haven't shot many broadheads, or have had expert bow tuning by the likes of Jim Morrow or Jerry Tesch! These shoots are attractive to the club because the cost of the targets are low netting the club more profit. John Parker, a member of the club since 1990, paints the cardboard targets every year to add realism and features to the animal forms that assist the archer in picking the proper spot to place his or her arrow. The set-up help in 2007 was good, and we are looking forward to the same kind of help in 2008. Doug Waite is running a 10 week Broadhead league in 2008 and is knocking around the idea of having 6 weeks of "singles" and 4 weeks of "team" shooting. Contact Doug if you have some thoughts or ideas on how to make the league even better for 2008. We'll need it to be great because...

**3D League** There will be no 3D League at ROA in 2008. The 2007 league netted the club over \$1000 largely through the efforts of Jim Morrow and a small band of helpers. Jim has had a couple knee surgeries and can no longer schlep around the woods carrying 60# animal forms. Nobody else has come forward willing to take over Jim's legacy, so the league will be discontinued. Many, many thanks to Jim and his team for making the league successful all these years. A special thanks to Duane Creviston who handled registration duties for the 3D AND the broadhead league as well as helping with set-ups. Thank you, Duane.

**Target League** There has been a void in the shooting portfolio at ROA for a few years. The target league has had a small but loyal following, but that diminishing crowd will get a much needed boost in 2008. The bow racks are being repainted, repaired or replaced, the blocks will be repainted, shooting lanes cleared, and most importantly, the targets themselves will be refreshed to prevent shoot-throughs (target arrows can be small diameter and very fast). Ron Rasnick has volunteered to lead this effort to make the league viable, attractive to shoot, and to recoup the funds we will lose due to the end of the 3D league. The league starts on April 17<sup>th</sup> and will run for 10 weeks. I will be there. I hope you will too.

**Projects** Several much-needed projects were completed in 2007. Perhaps the most important to the on-going viability of the club was the installation of the fence along the ROA property line. Safety of the members, guests, and surrounding community is the first priority. The fence will discourage wandering pedestrians from entering the club property and putting them in harm's way. Four of the six

antiquated, single pane windows were replaced in the clubhouse. These windows have brightened the place up, and already made a noticeable improvement in the comfort of the clubhouse. The clubhouse heating bills will reflect the improved thermal efficiency of the modern windows. Two thirds of the cost of replacing the tractor's clutch was funded by the generous donations of caring ROA members. As any of you who have assisted in setting up or tearing down a 3D course, the tractor is a necessity. It is also used to mow the property, deliver sand to broadhead pits, and a plethora of other tasks.

**Whitetails Unlimited** ROA again donated "A Month of Hunts" to Whitetails Unlimited for auction at their annual banquet. The lucky winner chose November for his hunt month, which left October and December available for our member raffle. Jim Salisbury won the October hunt, and John Parker the December hunt. Both of these men are active ROA members who volunteer much of their time to the club. I can't wait to hear the stories and see the pictures from their months of hunting the grounds. ROA netted \$830 from the raffle of club grounds for these two months.

**Sportsmen Against Hunger** SAH had a good shoot again at ROA in 2007. This year, SAH sought sponsors of the various targets, including Safari Club International and many local retailers. Due to the sponsorships, shooting the course was free to participants! Donations were accepted, of course, and were mostly generously given.

**Best Quote of 2007:**

(in my opinion)

**Fred Bear - Time Magazine 14 November, 1969**

"I crept out onto a creek bank, and about 100 yards upstream stood a deer. I raised my rifle and shot it. That was it; the season was just an hour old, and I already had my limit. Right there I decided to give up gun hunting. It was too darned easy."

**President's Corner:**

**by Doug Waite**

*Hey everyone! Another year goes into the record books! I hope you had a chance to enjoy the club as much as I did.*

*The Michigan firearm deer season is over, and for many of you, the archery season has concluded. I don't need to remind everyone that there is still good hunting in December! Let the holiday shoppers do battle at the malls – I find that a comfortable seat in the snow covered pines lets me relax and enjoy our beautiful Michigan winters. Not that my grand kids are to go without gifts under the tree ... As you reflect on the year past and do your planning for the new year, I ask that you take a moment to think about the work it took to keep the club running in 2007. If you were not able to make it out to a work bee or help out at a shoot event, I ask*

*you to thank those who did, and consider helping out in 2008. Those who came out to help, week after week, event after event and league nights in between, I thank you. You know who you are, and you do it because you love it, not for the praise, but darn it, you need some praise at least once a year!*

*We have a great club in ROA. The board and several members will be meeting in December, January and February to again get the club ready for the new shooting season. Drop on by the club the second Monday of the month at 7:30 or so and get a first-hand glimpse of our band of merry men. You are all welcome. It's your club.*

*See you at the club!*

*Doug*

#### Flower Fund Changes:

Members who fall ill or suffer the loss of a loved one are often comforted by knowing there are others who are keeping them in their thoughts and prayers. In the past, ROA has provided a bouquet of flowers to our members during these times. Recently, the flowers have been replaced by a "cookie bouquet". If you know a member who would appreciate a gift of cookies during a tough time, please contact Rich Dixon @ 248.583.4229.

#### Membership Cards: "Where's mine???"

Membership cards will be mailed out in 2008. We tried a couple of more cost-effective approaches to the handling of membership cards, but due to poor execution or communication (both by ME, by the way), they fell flat on their face. I want to create a place on the ROA website where members can go to print their own membership cards, but haven't figured out how to get all the electrons flowing in the right direction just yet. If anyone out there has website construction or HTML experience, please make yourselves known. We have work for you! We will plan a mass mailing in March after the 2008 billing cycle is complete.

#### New Correspondence Guy:

This will be my last newsletter as the ROA CG. Elections will be held at the December meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully someone with a passion for writing will step forward and take over the responsibility. It's been fun, and I fully intend to contribute articles and information to the new person.

#### **"Um... How do I get a hold of someone?"**

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