
ROYAL OAK ARCHERS

Member Newsletter

April, 2009

Chili Champions! The Third Annual Chili Shoot Tri-Fecta concluded with Lapeer Sportsman's Club walking away with the coveted (slightly tacky) trophy. This annual event requires archers to shoot at all three "legs" of the event to be qualified for the drawing for donated prizes. The event was a success for all three clubs – pulling archers off their warm, comfortable couches and getting them out in the woods (after passing the registration desks, of course!). Lapeer had 98 or so shooters register, ROA had over 140, and Gilberts inked a bit over 90. I apologize if the numbers are off a bit – I never received any "final standings", and am working from memory, which has been more and more entertaining as I get older.

Traditional Jamboree! Advertising has been placed, work bees scheduled and run, vendor contacts made, and tents aired out. We are nearly ready for another annual rite of spring at ROA – the Traditional Jamboree! Each year, our "hard core" members put together the single largest event held on the ROA grounds. Traditional archery equipment, traditional garb and artfully decorated fletchings take over the club for a long weekend in April. Held this year from the 17th to the 19th, Rich, Mike, Jim, Doug and a slew of helpers will host archers from around the state. In the past, events have included night hunts, moving targets, and bonfire stories that all can enjoy. You don't shoot traditional tackle, you say? No problem! Come on out and we'll break in to the JOAD cabinet for you, or find a member who is willing to let you borrow a bow and maybe even some arrows. Even if you don't want to shoot, come out and see what the club is doing to further the sport of archery in our area. You will not be disappointed!

Work Bees! The Spring 2009 work bees are (nearly) history. Several members and families pitched in with a rake or saw or trash bag to spruce up the clubhouse and grounds. After the "bees" last year resulted in the creation of the mother of all brush piles, we decided this year that chipping up the trimmin's was the right thing to do. Ron arranged for the rental of an industrial chipper (has anyone seen "Fargo"?) which was used to dispose of this year's brush. Kudos to all who participated in cutting and chopping so that the shooting lanes for the Field and Hunter courses will be clear. One last bee on April 4th and 5th will put the finishing touches on the clubhouse and grounds in preparation for the "TJ" (above) on the 17th.

Target League! April 16th will be the first week of the Target League at ROA. We will shoot a few weeks on the MAA range (just outside of the clubhouse), then move to the field courses once everyone has had a chance to "tune up" their

shooting. Dean and Ellen Hall will run the league this year, and as seasoned archers and proven leaders, we are looking forward to a great target season.

I need to say this again this year: a “league” at ROA is UNLIKE your bowling league, where you have to show up every week. Some DO show up every week, but many show up when they want, or when their work or social obligations allow. You will have the opportunity to pay up-front for the whole season (which, to be honest, we like), or pay as you shoot – one time or twice, or whatever you choose. Scores are recorded by some, not by others. There is no big money purse to compete towards, so if you choose not to record or turn in your scores, it’s your call. But I digress...

The target league will *make you a better shooter* if that’s what you want. It will provide you with a pleasant environment while enjoying an activity you enjoy, if *that’s* what you want. It will give you an excuse to leave the lawn mower in the garage and come out and have fun one night a week, if *that’s* what you want. I started for reason three and two, and benefitted from reason one quite by accident. OK – not quite by accident. Pete and Jerry were willing and able to provide tips and pointers to make my shooting better and the games (there were three) more enjoyable (I *like* hitting what I point at). I like 3D, I shoot broad head targets to ready myself and my equipment for hunting season, but I target shooting is my favorite of all. Maybe because I can see myself getting better week to week – I don’t know. I’ll be there on the 16th, and I hope to see you there too.

Clubhouse! The old single pane windows are gone, and new energy-efficient versions are installed in their places. Many thanks to Doug and his crew who made this much-needed improvement. Of course those new windows made the walls look a bit tacky...

The walls received a fresh coat of paint thanks to the efforts of several members. The Aesthetics Committee was deadlocked on a choice of color, so Doug pulled rank and made the decision. Nice call, Doug. Of course the new walls are making the ceiling look a bit tacky...

Billy G does a great job of giving the clubhouse a deep cleaning from time to time, but we all need to pitch in and help keep it presentable. Come on out and see what has been done. You will be amazed.

Projects There are always things to do out at the club. Our project discussions range from the seemingly unattainable (build an indoor range), through the mundane (who is going to empty the trash?). Several discussions have been started regarding constructing a deck on the front of the clubhouse (facing the creek), putting an addition on the target shed, and raising the JOAD shed off it’s sinking base. Targets need to be moved for the Target League, swapped on the MAA range, and constructed out on the White course. A level place to stand while shooting the MAA range would be nice – concrete work required. If you have a skill

that would be helpful to any of these projects, please contact Doug or Ron Kahle – our Range Manager.

Best Quote of 2009:

(the *only* quote of 2009)

Overheard at the 2008 Traditional Jamboree

"The only way I can get my arrows to group is to keep them in my quiver"

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

Membership cards will most likely be mailed out again in 2009. I will propose to the Board of Directors an alternative plan at the April meeting (April the 13th at 7:30 for those of you who'd like to come out) to save the approximately \$75 it will cost to mail them out. My proposal will be to print and have available at the registration window in the clubhouse all membership cards for all of the members. For those of you who object to this proposal, please come out to the meeting and be heard. We are a pretty friendly bunch of folks who are just looking for ways to make archery enjoyable for everybody and have a good time while we do it. Be not afraid of speaking your mind, but also be aware that if you attend three meetings in a row you may get elected to something!

"That's what it's all about"

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

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