

Myth or Reality?

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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Editorial

Gord Nuttall

Thanks to the few that submitted articles for the newsletter. Much appreciated, without them, we'd have no features for our membership to read.

Summer months are filled with much to do and there never seems to be enough time to do all the scouting I wish to do. Nevertheless, I grab my Bear Archery BR33 bow everyday and fling a few arrows to ensure I am ready for opening day. My bow feels like a natural extension of my arm now. I have the draw cycled memorized and I know right away when something isn't right. I guess Fred Bear was right when he said "nothing clears a troubled mind like shooting a bow". Since I have a desk job for 8 hours a day I have made archery practice part of my lunch time routine to get me out and about. It sure does help break up the day and ensures I'm ready for opening day.

Our annual bowhunter challenge 3D shoot is being held in Whitecourt, hosted by our affiliated club, Woodland Archers on August 12/13 weekend – see page 7 for more details. Hope to see you there.

This past winter I had a shoulder injury, initially caused by hauling a calf moose out of a pond last fall. I wish this never happens to anyone else. These injuries take a long time to heal and require many hours of exercises that seem like they are doing anything, but trust me, they are rebuilding the muscle strength surrounding the shoulder joint. My sheep hunting training pack (2 x 18 kg sand bags) seems heavier than usually this year, but I am working through it so I am ready to pack a ram off the Rocky Mountains. Can't wait.

Please keep the stories and pictures flowing this fall and good luck to all. Stay safe, shoot straight and cherish every moment a field.

Gord Nuttall





EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING

Editor & Graphic Designer: Gord Nuttall

SUBMISSIONS

ABA Newsletter welcomes input, photos and stories from its subscribers (ABA Members). For feature articles, please send one thousand words of your adventure along with three (3) high resolution digital photographs to email listed here. Your story (or photo) will be placed in the publishing queue. Send the highest resolution possible for brag board pictures.

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ROYEAR BULL

by Gun Lemke

2015 marked my 50th year of bow hunting. However, I didn't realize that until afterthe season.

When my wife, Yvonne, and I first moved to the Edmonton area 18 years ago from Calgary, I knew there were Moose around but I didn't realize we would end up near one of the highest densities in Alberta (according to Ryk). September is my favorite month for hunting. Deer are more visible and somewhat predictable. Elk are bugling. Moose are getting the itch.

In the first few years we lived on our acreage, I didn't spend much time hunting Moose because I wasn't sure how to call or what exactly to look for in setting up and figuring out where to hunt them. When I saw rut pits for the first time, I thought they were huge Whitetail scrapes. I got a bit more serious about moose hunting after my wife began working and when our girls started attending school. My wife's boss, Martin, was a moose-killing machine with a personal record at nearly 30 bulls with a bow. Martin took me out a few times and showed me what to look for and how to call. I have to admit, the big cow I took that year was luck—but I did have a plan. I had gone out in the morning and slowly walked some trails scouting a new area. Suddenly, I heard something running towards me. It was a pair of cow moose followed by a small bull. They milled around for a bit before jumping a fence onto a neighboring field. Later, I returned to hang a stand near their crossing point, in hopes that maybe they would come back through there in the evening.

I hung the stand and settled in to see what would develop. With about a half hour left before sunset I heard some brush breaking where the moose went in the morning. Pretty soon I saw a cow heading my way. She jumped the fence and started feeding, slowly getting closer. She eventually closed the distance to under 10 yds and was feeding past. I drew and shot hitting her mid body quartering away. She ran off and I soon lost sight of her in the brush and within seconds all was quiet. I waited a while, climbed down and slowly walked back to my truck. When I got home I called Martin and explained what happened. I wanted to wait for morning because I thought the shot looked a little back. He said that the meat will spoil by morning and we should go and look for a ways and check the blood sign.

With our flashlights we soon found the arrow and some blood. The signs looked good. We took up the trail and after about 50 yds the blood was pretty sparse. Martin walked up ahead on a trail, while I stayed to mark where the last trace of blood was visible. He wasn't gone very long when he yelled that he found her. She only went about 80 yds. The sight of her on the ground surprised me. She looked so big! Martin went home for his quad while I gutted her. When he came back he told me to lift her head up while he backed the quad up to her shoulders. Then, we tied her head onto the rear rack. I sat on the front rack to keep the wheels on the ground and we pulled her out to the trucks and quar-

tered her up in the headlights. He commented when we were done that I would never kill an easier moose. I like to hunt for whitetails the first week of the season just because they are still in summer feeding patterns and somewhat predictable. I start looking for fresh moose sign soon after that.

I had a new piece of property that looked promising and I had a couple ambush spots in mind. Towards the end of September, Ryk Visscher called me and asked if I could guide for a few days because one of his guides was hurt in an altercation with a Grizzly while sheep hunting the week before. I had guided for Ryk before and knew the area, so I helped out for a few days. We saw a few small bulls, but nothing a hunter would want early on in a hunt. On day three, one of the other clients(hunter?) shot his bull and I was free to get back to my own hunting.

That Friday I went to my new spot, intent on checking out a series of sloughs that showed quite a bit of rut sign when I scouted in the spring. I was slowly following a faint trail when I came to a bit of a rise and could just see the next slough. I leaned up against a tree and decided to wait there for a while and listen for any noise. After about fifteen minutes, I did a set of cow calls. I sat there for about half an hour and decided to slowly move through the last two sloughs (bulls sometimes bed near the sloughs and listen). I had only gone about 20 yds when I saw a moose body about 25 yds in front of me. His head was behind a poplar but the antlers were sticking out both sides. He had heard me and stopped to listen. It was a decent bull and I judged the spread about 42". Right then I could feel the wind change and he soon turned and trotted off. I slowly worked my way back to the truck.

The next day, rain was forecast late in the afternoon, so I took some pruners and a small saw and cleared a spot to set up ambush. Where the bull was the day before there was an intersection of 3 trails. I cleared out a spot just up hill a bit and had agood set up with any kind of west wind. As I walked out, a light rain started. Perfect!

I usually like to give a new set up a few days to cool off after a lot of activity. I had easy access in and out of the set and the wind was perfect so the next day I sneaked in. I settled in and decided to wait a half hour before I would call, just to let the squirrels and birds go back to their normal routines. About twenty minutes later I heard a crack and soon saw a large set of moose antlers coming west of my position. He was 50 yds and on a steady pace to come right down the trail towards me. Just before he got to the intersection, he paused for a bit and looked around. He put his head down to sniff the trail then started walking again. I was ready and as he walked by at about 15 yds I drew the vintage Bear Takedown Recurve and shot, hitting him behind the left shoulder. He ran across the slough heading east and I could hear brush breaking. Soon he came back into the slough, veered off south and after a few seconds all



was still. I sat still and listened for ten minutes then quietly gathered up my gear and sneaked out back to the truck. When I got home, my wife was surprised, since I hadn't been gone long. I asked if she wanted to come help track. She put on her boots and soon we were back and on the blood trail. We found the arrow after about 20 yds. Blood was fairly steady and it didn't take long to find him. He went just over 100 yds. Von was amazed at the size of him and we took some pictures before it got dark. I made some calls and managed to get a buddy from work

to come give me a hand. It took a little work with the

chainsaw to get the quad in close. When we hooked him up and started to pull, the quad wouldn't budge. I've never had that happen before. We ended up cutting him in half and skinning down the hind quarters a bit and getting a couple logs under them to help cool the meat. We pulled out the front half and got home by 11:00 that night. I skinned down the sides quickly so they would cool then off to bed. My weather app predicted a low of 5 degrees. The next day at the butcher's all the pieces weighed 985#. Head, hide, legs and quarters. The antler spread was 46". My best Bull to date.



3D REPORT

Kris Skelly

ABA Bowhunter Challenge 2017

Wow! Summer goes by so fast and here we are all preparing for the fall archery only seasons once again. What better way to make sure you are prepared and your equipment is all dialed in than to attend the 2017 ABA Bowhunter Challenge Final?

After review and committee input the 2017 Bowhunter Challenge Final host was voted on and by a narrow margin, Whitecourt has won the bid to host the final shoot August 12-13, 2017. Congrats! Thank you again to all the clubs who put in submissions and support this format.

We are starting to gather some excellent prizes for this shoot. All of which are handed out randomly to participants whether you are an ABA Member or not. Reminder though! To be eligible for placement plaques awarded at the banquet and to be able to qualify to participate in the Buckle Shoot-Up you MUST be a current member in good standing. Please make sure you have your membership



prior to attending the final.

Tell your friends, members of the ABA or not, no matter what discipline they shoot to come out for a weekend of fun as all archers are welcome. The random prize draw pool with include all participants competitive class or not.

The format remains the same, unmarked 40 yards maximum with simulated hunting situations and various shooting positions. You should be prepared to see a few targets you may have never shot before. The ABA has donated a new Rinehart target to Whitecourt for hosting the final.

The only major rule change this year is:

The stabilizer system can be any shape or cofiguration as long as it is contained within a theoretical sphere having a radius of 12 inches measured from the point of attachment on front or rear of bow. Example: front stabilizer 12" or less from main front attachment on riser, rear stabilizer 12" or less from lower offset attachment area (present on many new bow models)

We are hoping to surpass our previous event participation numbers (70+) so please pass along the info and refer to the ABA Facebook page often for updates on the shoot and the awesome prizes from our sponsors. Jim-Bows Archery has once again stepped up to donate the much coveted Championship Buckle.

Look Forward to seeing a bunch of you at the shoot!

Kris Skelly



Alberta Bowhunters Association
"Bowhunter Challenge" 3D shoot, WFGA
Woodlands Archers Host Club.
August 12/13 2017



2 Rounds of 20 targets on Saturday 1 Round of 20 targets Sunday Open to all Classes of Archery. With "Hunter Challenge" Scoring for ABA Members. Grand Prix Saturday evening. Shoot the Tube Sunday afternoon for a 2017Ranger 1000 Hunter Editions, Retail Value \$21,200.00 Registration 8:30 to 9:30 Saturday Starts at 10:00 Saturday, 9:00 Sunday Immediate Family=\$80, 18+=\$40,17-13=\$20, under 12=\$10 Concession available both days Rough camping available Travel west of Whitecourt 9.1km past Athabasca River on Hwy 43, turn south at sign If driving from West on Hwy 43, look for signs Contact Ron @ 780-512-7174 or Trevor

@ <u>780-706-5508</u> with any questions.

Dy Kris Skelly

The 2016 elk hunting season offered a little bit of everything weather wise and this Elk hunting trip I took with my Dad was no different. We arrived on Saturday to above zero and dry conditions with a slight wind. My father was quite tired after a long week of work so while he finished setting up camp I struck out to scout the area to see if there was any elk activity. We have several ground blinds, stands, and trail cameras so I walked the circuit to check things out. I checked out a couple of the cameras and they had some activity and on the way to the last area I happened upon some elk grazing a couple of hundred yards away. I found a spot where I was concealed and could glass the small herd. 7 cows and calves with two spikes. With light fading I decided to back out of the area and not disturb these elk. As I walked back to camp in the near darkness the temperature dipped and the snow started to fall as the wind picked up. I bumped another small group of elk not 400 yards from our camp and while it was difficult to tell how big he was there was a decent bull in that group.

All night the wind howled and the snow/sleet/freezing rain fell...come the dark hours of the morning there was no exception. We struck out in the dark, Dad to a ground blind and I headed towards a tree stand where I had taken elk on my first trip out the past two years. As I walked closer to my area trying to get to the stand before daybreak the freezing rain beat down on me and I could hear several bulls calling. They were on the move from the feeding ground to their bedding areas early and we are unable to access the area these elk go to during the day. So unfortunately with the sun coming up and the weather getting worse neither Dad or I were able to call

spot any elk that whole day.

The following evening we could hear the elk calling all night likely within 500-600 yards from our camp. We were camped on the edge of an alfalfa field and they were coming in to feed in the darkness. The next morning due to the wind we had to hunt a different area. Dad was headed to another blind and I decided to hunt from the ground, we both were going to sit at places the elk cross into neighboring property and hope that our prediction on where to be were correct. I kneeled down next to the fence line behind some light cover to settle in and Dad continued North into the wind to get to his blind. I could hear the elk calling to the South West and as long as they stayed West of our positions our scent would not reach them.

Looking down at my watch legal hunting time was upon us, I let out a couple of lost cow and estrous calls to try and coax the elk I could hear to come my direction. Seconds later I could see the heads and ears of three cow elk on the horizon....and they were slowly coming my way. I made sure to nock an arrow and get ready, I hadn't spotted a bull but this time of year a group of cows is rarely alone. Slowly the cows made their way towards me three at first, then two more, then one more....and right behind her a 6X6 Bull. Things always seem to take forever, when I spotted the bull I turned on my bow mounted camera...after checking the footage it took no time at all for them to get within range.

As the small group came toward the crossing I prepared for what could be a fairly close shot. My Bow



mounted camera then ran out of battery and with two vibrations it turned off. The lead cow that the bull was interested in must have heard the vibrations as her ears perked up and she started towards me. The bull was behind her and in his efforts to keep her in line, he broke away from the others. She was at 15 yards with him trailing behind and I had to stay dead still or risk spooking them all. In this sudden situation I had no chance to draw my bow. The cow then spooked slightly and so did the bull. This was my opportunity, I drew back my bow and got ready for a shot if one was presented. The bull stopped, quartering away, and looked back at me at 30-32 yards. I settled my pin behind his left front shoulder and released. The arrow with the lighted nock found its mark and he ran off 60 yards, and stopped. He stood there for a few seconds, I could see his head start to droop and he rolled over on his side as the six cows trotted away. I sent Dad a quick text to let him know the good news and I waited for him. I held off walking to the bull to take in the entirety of the hunt, and I wanted Dad and I to share the excitement of approaching him together.



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Anchor Points

Mark Twang



Angles of Attack

It was the peak of the mid-November whitetail rut and the frosty morning found me perched high in a poplar tree with rattling antlers in hand. The telltale sound of a deer's hooves shattering the crusted snow grabbed my attention and snapped me into action. It was a mature buck and with the direction he was headed, it would put him right under my tree stand. The string on my bow was already drawn as I watched him clear the last spruce bough at 20 paces. I pivoted at the hips while he continued to walk closer and I began to focus on where I needed my arrow to penetrate if I wanted a path of destruction



When shooting at a steep angle out of a treestand, your arrow's point of entry should be higher than if you were shooting from the ground. This will ensure that the wound channel travels through vital organs.



Getting the right angle on a shot from a treestand will make the difference between a full freezer or a missed opportunity.

through his vitals. He stopped less than eight yards from the base of my tree and at that moment, I sent a broad head on its way. A perfect heart shot with the arrow entering the top third of his body. With the angle of the shot from the height of my stand, if my arrow had entered the buck in the center of his ribs, I would not have watched him tip over within bow range. Understanding the angles is an important part of the game.

The point of entry that your arrow needs to impact the animal you're hunting is crucial. If you hit too low or too high, you will miss the vitals and end up with a dismal situation. In order to choose the correct point to aim at, you need to visualize the wound channel that will be created by your arrow. Ultimately, you want your broad head to travel through the heart or lungs to ensure a quick, clean kill. That being said, when you're looking down from your stand at the animal you're going to harvest, imagine his vitals in the center of mass in his chest.



A steep shot angle demands proper form by using your hips as a pivot point.

Use that point in the center of his body as a pivot point, or fulcrum, to know where your arrow needs to enter, penetrate and exit to leave a blood trail a blind person could follow.

Shot distance and tree stand height are the two variables that dictate how high you need to aim on your target. With an animal that is closer to your tree, the shot angle will become steeper; therefore you need to aim higher on his chest. Likewise, if your tree stand is high, your shot angle will be steep and you'll have to aim high. The further an animal is from your tree stand, the more conservative your angle will be, translating into an impact point in the center of his chest.

A common topic of conversation among bowhunters is deciding what distance to shoot for when taking a shot at an aggressive angle. The simple answer is the horizontal distance. Most rangefinders on the market these days have angle compensation built into them. Basically, the rangefinders will measure the line of sight and the angle that you are ranging to calculate the horizontal distance using trigonometry. Fortunately, you don't need to pull out

your calculator in the stand and dig deep in your memory to put SOH CAH TOA to use! Gravity works on an arrow in one direction and that is straight down. No matter the angle of the shot, gravity will only pull down on the arrow for the horizontal distance it travels, perpendicular to the face of the earth. Taking a 20 yard shot on the prairie will require the same pin as a steep mountain shot with a 20 yard horizontal distance, even though the mountain shot may have a line of sight close to 40 yards.

Different situations call for different angles of attack. If your tree stand is a mild four or five meters off the ground and the animal you're about to shoot at is 20 yards away, you will hold in the center of his chest and squeeze off the shot. In an extreme situation your stand may be situated 10 yards off the ground on a hillside and if you encountered a 10 yard downhill shot, you would definitely need to aim higher on his chest in order to breach his vitals.

Evaluate your shot angles and choose the right spot to aim this fall and you will end up with a freezer full of meat and some exciting stories to tell.

About Mark Twang

Mark Twang is an average Alberta Bowhunters Association Archer, with 20+ years of archery experience and has decided to share some of the archery technical information he has gathered over the years as a bow hunter, archery tech, competitor and coach.







PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hope you have had some success in the draws this year. I was going through mine and Carrie's this year, checking priorities, making plans a couple years down the road. Have seen discussions on some hunting forums from other provinces and Alberta is the envy of many jurisdictions. And for good reason. Our draw system is extremely fair, easy to use, makes planning ahead a real possibility. Couple that with an extraordinary number of draws available, species to draw for and hunt, the variety of terrain across the province to hunt them in, makes Alberta a premier place to be. One of the realities of the draw system that has surfaced is the increased pressures we have seen -- over the last decade the number of draw tags available has remained very consistent but the pressures from a huge increase in hunters participating in the draws has made draw wait times increase greatly.

This summer we spent a couple of weeks travelling through the south east part of the province. I had been there several times hunting mule deer and antelope but Carrie had never been. It is a very neat part of our province that many people over look. Alberta is well known for its "mountains" but there is lots to see and do on the "prairies" - the wildlife, the different flowers and vegetation, the flat and vast terrain but also the uniqueness of the Cypress Hills, the Sweet Grass Hills, the coulees, the history and most importantly, the friendliness of the local people. The next trip back will be for antelope again - likely next year as a few of us have lots of priority points and a plan is in the works.

We convened a committee at the last AGM to review the Member Conduct portion of the constitution. This was the result of dis-

cussions we initiated with a lawyer last December to review our entire constitution. The committee's findings were sent to the ABA Executive for review/comments and once this is completed, it will be sent to the lawyer once again. We will communicate all of these findings to the membership and then a vote on the recommended constitution/Member Conduct changes will be made at the 2018 AGM in Calgary.

We are a corporate sponsor of the Alberta Trappers Association and with that comes a 1/2 page ad in their newsletter. It is a brand new format - full color 52 page magazine and another awesome product. Latest issue came out in mid June and is also available to non-ATA members at some newsstands, trapping stores. Check out their website (www.albertatrappers.com) and if you are a trapper, consider joining the ATA.

We are getting lots of rave reviews about the newsletter, now being in color one of them. It is an awesome product and the envy of many organizations. Gord (Gord@ albertabowhunters.com) does an outstanding job putting it together. He has ZERO content for articles for the next issue (deadline October 10) and we really need some in order to keep the product at a high standard for you, the member. Also send pictures for the Brag Board!!

In looking at membership numbers over the last decade, we had seen a jump in membership numbers from a five year average of app 1172 (2006-2010) to an average of app 1595 (2011-2015). The high was in 2013 with 1790 members!! in 2016 our numbers dropped to 1297. That shows a drop of 493 from the high in 2013 to last year. Quite significant.

The best way to renew your ABA membership is to do it online (www.bowhunters.ca) (or through any of our affiliated clubs - list in the newsletter). Early in 2017 and again June 24th, we queried the membership database and sent a mass email specific to those members whose membership expired at the end of 2015 or 2016. Works awesome and is a very effective/efficient way to send reminders.

The mass email list we have built up over the last 7 years now has 2086 viable email addresses. Every one of these email addresses represents someone who was or currently is, an ABA member since 2010. Based on our 2016 ABA membership of 1297 and making adjustments for family members (as we only take one email address per membership for the email database), we have app 900 current members out of the 2086 email addresses. If we could get everyone on this email list to renew, we could potentially add a minimum of 1186 members -- what an incredible boost to the association!!

PLEASE think of rejoining the ABA, joining up a buddy - the benefits are many and numbers really do make a difference when we engage in the various stakeholder/government meetings.

Kris Skelly (our 3D Chairman) (Kris@albertabowhunters.com) and the committee have done a great deal of work with your ABA Bowhunter Challenge 3D shoot format. We had 3 affiliated club submissions for hosting the shoot and it was awarded to the Woodland Archers from Whitecourt, August 12-13. Great submissions from the other potential hosts!! From feedback through the 3D community and our members the decision has been made that this shoot going forward will be held this same weekend in August and

... CONTINUED

will be a standalone shoot. Look for more details as things progress on our Facebook Page and website, in the next newsletter.

3D is extremely popular and you only have to look at the number of 3D shoots across the province on any given weekend to see that it is a favorite of many people. Hats off to all the volunteers who make them happen - is not done without the help of many.

The latest ABA Raffle (our 3rd Cougar Hunt Raffle) sold out in less than three weeks. 97% of the tickets were sold through our online store. We applied and were approved by the ALGC to do the draw early on June 28th and the lucky winner was Chester Dodgson of Peace River. Congrats to Chester - a long time supporter

of the ABA in many aspects and well deserved. The winners of the last two raffles took great cats with Kelly and had great hunts!! We expect much the same with this one.

I have been attending the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council meetings and am on the Allocation Policy Review Committee. The Allocation Policy Review committee met again on Feb 9, 2017. The preliminary work of this committee is done. Its recommendations will be taken to AGPAC general, internal FW people and then the draft "policy" will be open to the public and organizations for their feedback and comments. We were hoping this would all be done by the end of June but things have been delayed and as committee members and stakeholders, we are waiting for the next move from

FW. Once we know more, we will keep everyone updated.

This Allocation Policy Review is looking at how the big game harvest/tags will be divided up among the residents, non-residents, bowhunters, landowners etc. There are a great many parts to this policy and some affect bowhunters. We need bowhunters to get engaged in the consultation process and make their voices heard. Stay tuned.

Hope you have been enjoying the summer and it is now time to get more scouting done, secure permission, get treestands up, tune your setup and shoot shoot and shoot some more. Good luck everyone!!!!

CWD Update

Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council (AGPAC) Stakeholders received the following CWD update in an email June 29, 2017 from Matt Besko (FW Director of Wildlife, Policy Division). Matt is involved with us regularly in the AGPAC meetings.

"I wanted to share some information with you regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) as it relates to new research and potential management changes to cervid populations in Alberta. As you may have heard, preliminary research results from a clinical study undertaken by the Alberta Prion Research Institute (APRI) in Lethbridge were presented at the Prion Research Conference in Scotland in late May of this year. These preliminary results show that some macaque monkeys (most genetically similar non-human lab animal allowed for testing) have developed Chronic Wasting Disease following long term oral ingestion of Prion infected tissue. In addition, recent research from other jurisdictions show effects of long term CWD infection in deer populations and their resultant declines. Alberta's rate of CWD prevalence doubles every 1.5 years, with the most recent data showing a 4% provincial average. In some WMU's in SE Alberta, the rate is substantially higher. The vast majority of positive cases of CWD (85%) occur in Mature Mule Deer bucks. Every year, the disease is found in 4-5 new WMU's, and projected westward expansion is significant. At this point, given source dynamics and potential environmental contamination of habitats in eastern Alberta, I do not believe that CWD can be eliminated provincially. However, I do believe we need to look at ways by which we can reduce the probability of CWD transmission in cervid populations in eastern Alberta such that we can minimize the rate of disease progression, or direct it away from disease-free areas. We will be working with you and other stakeholders in future meetings to discuss options for management.

In addition, Alberta Health is updating their consumption advisory to recommend that all cervids harvested in CWD-positive WMU's be tested prior to consumption, and continue with the messaging that CWD-positive animals should not be consumed."

A copy of the Health Canada's key messages around CWD can be found at the "Public Health Agency of Canada" website and in addition this is a link to CWD information on AEP's website.

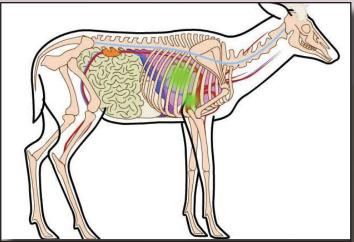
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THE VOID

Myth or Reality?

by Brent Watson



When I first started bowhunting in the early '80s, I remember bowhunters relating stories about hitting "the void". That dead zone/empty space between the lungs and spine. Back then, many of us just accepted the fact that this was true. Over the years, a lot of discussion has centered around the void and whether it exists or not. A local bear hunter shot a nice bear this spring and hit the "void" - after some discussion and showing anatomy pictures, he now understands what actually happened. I thought it was maybe time to add some light to this subject. There is a wealth of information available at your fingertips through the internet these days and I also talked to several doctors and surgeons about the "void."

A shot in "the void" is supposedly that non fatal wound where the arrow goes above the lungs and below the spine but it is a phenomenon that doesn't actually exist. The ar-

row cannot go above the lungs and below the spine - it is physically impossible as the lungs extend above the bottom

of the spine on both sides of the spine itself. The void claim comes from the idea the spine is at the top of the back when in fact the bottom of the spine (the shot placement needed to actually get under it) comes near halfway down in the chest at points and a third of the way down at best. To help further understand we need to know how lungs function. A void to some suggests a space with air, an empty space. In actuality, the only air in the chest cavity is in the lungs themselves. The chest cavity is a sealed chamber. The lungs deflate/inflate in normal breathing but that action does not result in a space above the lungs and below the spine. Rather, it is the rib cage and diaphragm that contract and expand but the lungs themselves remain in contact with the backbone and inner surface of the ribs



at all times. Lungs expand when breathing in but return to position at exhale.

If there is a leak, like an arrow wound, the ability of the lungs to inflate is compromised. In humans, a compromised chest wall is referred to as a pneumothorax and it is very serious. We all learned that in standard First Aid remember the "sucking chest wound" and how important it is to get that hole sealed otherwise the patient's lungs risk quick collapse and the outcome is not good.

Many bow hunting shots are at an angle shooting down from tree stands, and have a greater chance of hitting just one lung. Game can on occasion, survive a one lung shot, and if nothing else would go farther and be harder to track even when fatal. When shooting from tree stands, the angle you are viewing an animal from up in a tree is much different when compared to shooting from the ground. You see much more of the animal's back from up in a tree. This tricks hunters into thinking their shot was closer to



the center of the thoracic cavity, when in fact it was above the spine. This, along with incredibly fast ducking critters, plays a part into how hunters often times misinterpret a shot, especially with a bow.

High lung shots are hard to track because they do not spray much blood, especially in the critical early part of the track-

ing job.

A lower angle shot, using equipment with good design and energies that ensure a pass through of both lungs with a big hole greatly increases your odds of the lungs collapsing quickly, a better blood trail and quick demise of your quarry. Many times within sight.

The simple answer -- most of the time your shot is right above the spine (through the backstrap) and is non-lethal since it misses the lungs, aorta and spinal cord. There is a great deal of non-vital space to hit, but there is none of this space located below the spine -- "there is no void". If the shot is truly in the chest cavity, you should recover the animal. A shot north of that will just produce a muscle wound.

A great YouTube video "Deer Lungs" by Masterpiece Archery Targets explains this really well and can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6cLLHsMnL4



Alberta Pope & Young Measurers

2017 Alberta P&Y Measurers (April 2 - 2017)

Brian Rudyk	Athabasca	Home: 780-675-2579	brudyk@mcsnet.ca
Kevin Brayford	Calgary	home: 403-280-1655	kbrayford@shaw.ca
David Coupland	Calgary	Home: 403-249-6240	coupland@ckaid.com
		Work: 403-620-3360	
Chad Dillabough	Calgary	Home: 403-202-0796	chad.dillabough@omersenergy.com
		Work: 403-660-2247	
David Paplawski	Calgary	Home: 403-278-3741	dave@aheia.com
		Cell: 403-816-5334	
Sylvester Baier	Camrose	Home: 780-672-1186	forsly@gmail.com
		Work: 780-878-4096	
Terry Brew	Clive	Home: 403-784-2084	bowshot@gmail.com
Dean Bromberger	Edmonton	Home: 780-450-6124	bbromberger@shaw.ca
		Work: 780-983-5593	
Jack Graham	Edmonton	Home: 780-434-1198	no email
Dale Johnson	Edmonton	Home: 780-483-1721	arrowest@telusplanet.net
		Cell: 780-893-5892	
Ryk Visscher	Edmonton	cell: 780-445-0327	ryk@ryk.ca
Gord Ellis	Gr. Prairie	Home: 780-532-3275	GordE@bigtimberarchery.com
		Work: 780-539-9594	gpellis@telus.net
Brent Watson	Gr. Prairie	Home: 780-539-9811	bcwatson@telusplanet.net
		Cell: 780-978-1195	
Dennis Meyer	Lethbridge	Home: 403-381-1558	predatorcamo@hotmail.com
		Work: 403-380-6495	
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		Work: 403-308-0337	
Ab England	Lloydminster	Home: 780-875-2673	abe_pat@telus.net
		Work: 780-875-3215	
Lindsey Patterson	Pincher Creek	Home: 403-627-1532	drpatsy1@shaw.ca
		Work: 403-637-5119	
Mike Walliser	Red Deer	Cell: 403-396-5335	stealthm@telus.net
Dallas Kaiser	Red Deer	home: 403-224-2090	dkaiser74@gmail.com
Bob Daudelin	Warburg	Home: 780-848-7557	bob@aag-gis.com
		Work: 780-514-8783	
Curtis Siegfried	Whitecourt	Home: 780-778-4856	crsiegfried@hotmail.com
Eric Rauhanen	Yellowhead	Home: 780-723-3475	hunting@telusplanet.net
	County	Work: 780-723-3598	

ABA GAME AWARDS PROGRAM

Small Game, Big Game, Master, and Grandmaster ABA bowhunter Awards (no time limit to earn), as well as the Annual Big Game Awards program have been established for ABA members only. Applications for these awards will be accepted only if the bowhunter is an ABA member at the time the game entered is taken. Must be taken in a regulated hunting season and on a valid hunting license. All animals entered must be taken under "The P&Y Rules Of Fair Chase" (www.pope-young.org) (NOT allowed are draw lock devices, battery operated sights, bow mounted rangefinders, use of cellular trail cameras, etc.)(lighted nocs (Lumenoks) and bow mounted cameras ARE allowed). EEntries must be received by March 1 in the year following when those animals were taken – NO exceptions!! For example: any ABA eligible animal taken in 2016 must be entered by March 1st of 2017 – the only exception are Cougars taken in Dec 2016 as they fall in the following Awards year (2017) to be consistent with the dates of that particular Cougar season.

SMALL GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take 1 species from 5 of the following 6 categories:

Rodent

Jack Rabbit Snowshoe Hare Cottontail Rabbit Woodchuck Gopher Porcupine Beaver

Beaver Red Squirrel

Migratory

Ducks Coots Common Snipe (Wilson's) Geese Varmint

Crow Magpie Pigeon Starling Skunk

Free ranging wild

boar

Raven (private land)

Fish

Species according to Fishing Regulations. Examples:

Sucker

Lake Whitefish

Carnivore

Wolf Coyote Badger Fox Raccoon

Game Bird

Hungarian Partridge Grouse Ptarmigan Merriam's Turkev

Pheasant

For entries and any information regarding the ABA Game Awards Program contact:

Ryk Visscher 1166 68 Street NW Edmonton, AB. T6k 3K4 780- 445-0327 (Anytime) 780-450-0386((Fax) ryk@ryk.ca (Email)

BIG GAME AWARD (CERTIFICATE)

ABA Bowhunter must take any 3 of Alberta's 10 species (can be male or female)

Whitetail Deer Mule Deer

Elk Moose Bighorn Sheep Antelope Black Bear Cougar

Mountain Goat

Bison

MASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD (Personalized Buckle \$275 VALUE)

ABA bowhunter must take four of Alberta's 10 species and, with the exception of bears and cougars, all must be legal males (> 4" antlers, 4/5 curl, etc.). Two of the four must meet Pope & Young's minimum score. Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

GRANDMASTER BOWHUNTER AWARD

ABA bowhunter must take six species of Pope & Young animals.

Bowhunter must have already earned a Small Game Award, and have taken at least one carnivore.

ANNUAL GAME AWARDS (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest of Alberta's species. Typical and Non-Typical species for Whitetail and Mule Deer(Dec. 1st thru Nov. 30th).

TRADITIONAL AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

LADIES AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species

YOUTH AWARD (GOLD, SILVER, & BRONZE PLAQUES)

ABA Bowhunter must less than 17 years old on day animal is taken.)

ABA Bowhunter must take the largest percentage of P&Y minimum score of any of Alberta's ten species



GAME AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Deadline March 1st

(MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM FOR FUTURE USE, revised March 26, 2016)

BOWHUNTER (Please Print) ANSWER THIS QUESTION, Circle YES	_	ou an ABA member at the a	
Name:	Birthday (for youth o	entries 16 and under)	
Address:	City:		
Postal Code: Ph	one #	EMAIL	
ANIMAL			
*Species:**\$	ex***Pope & Youn	g Score (V,NT?)	_
Taken with recurve/longbow (traditional Equipment) Yes	No	
* For Small Game indicate C ** To be male, must have 4"ho *** Only official P&Y scorers indicates Velvet and/or Nor	orns or better	pelow; make sure scorer	
Date of Kill	Location of Kill (WMU)		
Signature & Phone # of Witnes Photo of Bowhunter with Big (s (Verification of Bow Kill) _s Same animal entries are requ	ested but not mandatory	Alberta Bowhunters Association
AFFIDAVIT OF FAIR CHASE	·		Association
of the bow and arrow, and in ac allowed are draw lock devices	cordance with the "P&Y Ru battery operated sights, bow bow mounted cameras ARE a	les of Fair Chase" (http://w/mounted rangefinders , use allowed). Must be taken in	e of cellular trail cameras, etc.) a regulated hunting season and on
& Young Animals. I certify that I have measured that (address) and that this score, is to the best			and the "Master Bowhunter" Pope the official scoring system of the
Pope & Young Club. Witness:Si	gnature (official P&Y measu	rer):	OM#
Mail, Scan & Email (preferred) 1166-68st NW, Edmonton, AB Email ryk@ryk.ca Cell 780 (DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES I 20 ABA Newsletter	T6K 3K4 -445-0327 Fax 780-450-038 MARCH 1 – NO EXTENSIO	86 <u>Call to confirm!</u>)

ABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

YES! I want to protect bowhunting in Alberta!

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	JD/MM/YY)	
MAILING ADDRESS							
СПУ				PROV.		P/C	
HOME PHONE		EMAIL		-			
APPLICATION DATE		MEMBERSHIP TYPE		FEES:	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS
		E SINGLE	SINGLE ADULT MEMBERSHIP	SHIP	□ \$35.00	□ \$65.00	00.068 🎞
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED*		SINGLE	SINGLE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	RSHIP	\$25.00 \$25.00	\$45.00	1 \$65.00
MAIN APPLICANT: MALE □	FEMALE	LI FAMILY	☐ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP		0.000 2 \$500.00	130.00	90.00
NAME		DA	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	(w)			
NAME		DA	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	(W)			
NAME		DA	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	(W)			
NAME		DA	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	(W			
NAME		DA	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	()			
NAME		DA	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)	(XX)			

 To qualify for the Family Membership or Youth Membership, children must be under the age of 18 as of January 1st in the application year. There must be a minimum of 3 family members

in order to qualify for the family rate.

WWW.BOWHUNTERS.CA JOIN ONLINE AT

Alberta Bowhunter Association * Make cheques payable to: Box 89021 McKenzie Town Calgary, Alberta T2Z 3W3

Keep Up the Fight to Protect and Defend Bowhunting in Alberta.

our wildlife resources. We are all benefited by the careful management and conservation of this rich natural heritage. The ABA is proud to work with governmental agencies and stakeholders to improve methods that protect and sustain







It has taken years of dedicated work by members of the Alberta Bowhunters Association to accomplish this. envied archery season of any province in Canada. It is not by accident that Alberta has the most

www.bowhunters.ca

Some Past Accomplishments:

- Allowing the use of Camouflage Clothing (1969)
- Allow the use of Aluminum Arrows (1970)
- Black Bear Baiting (1987)
- Archery Pre-Season province wide (1976/77)
 - Antelope archery season (1976/77)
- 410 and 408 Bighorn Sheep season
- Antlerless Deer tags in 212 and 248
 - Antlerless Elk tags in 212
- Archery pre-season for Elk (not requiring a draw)
- · Archery-Only Areas around Edmonton and Calgary (1975)
- · Lobby for Sunday Hunting in much of the province (2008-2011)
- Revamping of Cougar Management (2011) including a general boot license tag
- · Successful lobby to Keep Crossbows Out of the general archery season (2011)
- Successful lobby to retain Parkland County as archery-only (2009)
- · Successful lobby to stop further erosion of archery season by Muzzle Loaders
- Standardized Start Dates for archery (2011)
- Earlier Start and Later End Dates to Black Bear seasons in southern portion of the province (2011)
- Allow Non-trophy or Trophy Antelope to be taken in archery-only season in all antelope zones (2011)
- Archery Pre-season for Elk in WMU 164-166 and 208 (2011)
- Hunt WMU 164 Monday to Saturday (2011)
- Allow hunting of **Red Squirrel** on private land (2011)

This is our future.

ABA Program Participation

Membership... Join Now!

and attends all regulation meetings with government Game Policy Advisory Council, Hunting for Tomorrow, The ABA is a participating member of the Alberta and stakeholders.

Benefits of Membership

Participating Member of the Alberta Outdoor Coalition

Participating Member of AEP Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council Working with other outdoor user groups in protecting outdoor activities

Single voice for Bowhunters to the

Provincial Government

Focus on Youth Programs

Liability Insurance for clubs and members

Promoting International Bowhunter Educational **Programs** and the National Archery in Schools Program

Annual Banquet / Convention

(Guest speakers, Awards, Draws, Raffles, Displays, Stories and Laughs!)

Quarterly Newsletter



includes ABA Executive Reports, Future Events, **Hunting Stories Quarterly Newsletter** and much more! www.reportapoacher.com Dream Black Bear | Banquet Recap | Tale of Terror

-800-642-3800

Affiliated Clubs

Alberta Traditional Bowhunters Association

Calgary Mitchell Elser (403) 238-5989 mjelsér@shaw.ca

Bighorn Bowhunters Club

Airdrie Leslie Cuthbertson (403) 948-4004 BrentAlana@ bighornbowhuntersandarchers.com

Brazeau Bowbender Archery Drayton Valley

Dave Gauthier brazeaubowbenders@gmail.com

Calgary Archers Club

Calgary
Vickilynne Schleppe
vschleppe@shaw.ca

Cochrane Archery Club

Cochrane Tracy Kaczmer (403) 280-5442 kaczmer@telus.net

Jim-Bows Junior Archery Club

Calgary Dawn Groszko dgroszko@shaw.ca

Kneehill Bowhunters & Archers

Three Hills Shawn Kopjar (403) 443-7315 smkopjár@gmail.com

Oilmans Archery Club

Rimbey Shane Jeńsen (403) 350-1678 scjensen@xplornet.com

Parkland Bowbenders Archery Club

Spruce Grove Janet Normond (780) 916-8065 memberships@parklandbowbenders.ca

Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association

Lethbridge Tim Lysyk (403) 381-1796 timlysyk@gmail.com

Sherwood Park Archery Club

Sherwood Park Shannon Blyth shannon-don@xplornet.com

Springbrook Archers

Springbrook Donna Morency (403) 573-4451

Strathmore Archery Club

Strathmore Kevin Kemps (403) 934-6006 kevcinkemps@shaw.ca

Vermillion River Archers

Vermillion Ron Dixon (780) 853-5046 tpconst@telusplanet.net

Yellowhead Arrow Launchers

Hinton Tim Hooev yellowheadarrowlaunchers.ca

Woodland Archers

Whitecourt Ron Brown (780) 512-7174 ron.brown1@pentair.com

#91 Alan Southwood (2014)

Life Members

HONORARY

Jack Kempf (2006) Court MacKid (2003) Dave Coupland (1999)
Duane Hicks (2008)
Ryk Visscher (1998)
Mike Ukrainetz (1999)
Fred Walker (2008)

LIFE MEMBERS

#1 Ryk Visscher (1998) #2 Tom Foss (1998) #3 Duane Hagman (1998) #3 Duane Hagman (1998) #4 Steve Hagman (1998) #5 Terry Hagman (1998) #6 Des Quinn (1998) #7 Allen Avery (1998) #8 Archie Nesbitt (1999) #9 Eric Ruahanen (1999) #10 Mike Ukrainetz (1999) #11 Adam Foss (1999) #12 Cameron Foss (1999) #13 Flint Simpson (1999) #14 David Chorkwa (2000) #15 Dale Collins (2000) #15 Dale Collins (2000) #16 Darryl Kublik (2001) #17 Reg Adair (2002) #18 Bill Gustafson (2002) #19 Gregg Sutley (2002) #20 Joe Winter (2002) #21 Bob Gruszecki (2004) #22 Robert Heubschwerlen (2004) #56 Kurt Lund (2010)

#23 Dale Hislop (2004) #24 Percy Pyra (2005) #25 Mark Demchuk (2006) #26 David Little (2006) #26 David Little (2006) #27 Cam Johnson (2007) #28 Andy Wiese (2007) #29 Gary Gillett (2007) #30 Ted Hansen (2007) #31 Vince Aiello (2007) #32 Leon Groves (2008) #33 Erin Wilde (2008) #34 Dale Johnson (2008) #35 Rob Kubicek (2008) #36 Robert Giles (2008) #37 Terry Brew (2008) #38 Kelly Semple (2009) #39 Dale Heinz (2009) #40 Tim Sailer (2009) #41 Bradley Wells (2009) #42 Jim Valley (2009) #43 Lance Neilson (2009) #44 Ricardo Longoria (2009) #45 Julie Griffiths (2010) #46 Mark Barber (2010) #47 Curtis Cheney (2010) #48 Sandy Hrycyk (2010) #49 Wayne Didyk (2010) #50 Luke Viravec (2010) #51 Darrin West (2010) #52 Wes Pietz (2010) #53 Dwayne Huggins (2010) #54 Mike Stuart (2010) #55 Ted Brown (2010)

#57 Trevor Yurchak (2010) #58 Gunther Tondelèir (2010) #59 Jim Johnson (2011) #60 Joe Mungo (2011) #61 Hal Ziprick (2011) #62 Tom Kampjès (2011) #63 Daniel Wise (2011) #64 Dave Zimmermann (2011) #65 Jennifer Ukrainetz (2011) #66 David Schlottke (2012) #67 Leonard Verbaas (2012) #68 Geordie Lund (2012) #69 Joey Sr Busetto (2012) #70 Dave Van Belleghem (2012) #71 Steve Rogers (2012) #72 Robert Bennett (2012) #73 Mark Engstrom (2012) #74 Chester Dodgson (2012) #75 Derek Bruce (2013) #76 Neil Johnson (2013) #77 Jesse Wrubleski (2013) #78 John Warwa (2013) #79 Mike Wood (2013) #80 Peter Demchuk (2013) #81 Mackenzie Mayer (2013) #82 Ryan Kohler (2013) #83 Cody Sutley (2013) #84 Randy Repas (2013) #85 Jack Suggett (2013) #86 Dane Percival (2013) #87 Dale Grimstead (2014) #88 Mike Cameron (2014) #89 Sean O'Neill (2014) #90 Jody Vegh (2014)

#92 Jonathan Wrubleski (2014) #93 Eric Moland (2014) #94 Brandon Brown (2014) #95 Remington Dietzen (2015) #96 Chris Črispin (2015) #97 Carson Toy (2015) #98 Derald Stone (2015) #99 Bert Frelink (2015) #100 Dustin Wanke (2015) #101 Ryan Bartholow (2015) #102 Gord Nuttall (2015) #103 Darcy Barrett (2015) #104 Levy Groves (2015) #105 Wilf Lehners (2015) #106 Heidi Lehners (2015) #107 Cody Tomke (2015) #108 Tharen Soroka (2016) #109 Chris Kuhl (2016) #110 Riley Groves (2016) #111 Corey Friesen (2016) #112 Matt Hunter (2016) #113 Danielle Dickson (2016) #114 Cory Geier (2016) #115 Thanos Natras (2016) #116 Leanne McCabe (2016) #116 Learnie McCabe (2016) #117 Leighten Hauck (2017) #118 Tara Normand (2017) #119 John Moriarity (2017) #120 Jerid Waselick (2017) #121 Derrick Smith (2017) #122 Greg Gerlitz (2017) #123 Katie Lund (2017)



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