

Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters

The Broken Arrow Newsletter

JUNE 2011

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Hants West Wildlife Association

New Hunter Education Course August 27 & 28, 2011

The Hants West Wildlife Association was founded in 1980. Over the years the association has been involved with many fish and wildlife activities;

- ✓ river and stream restoration
- ✓ community trail construction
- ✓ stocking of trout in local ponds
- ✓ participating in deer pellet counts
- ✓ raising and releasing ring necked pheasants
- ✓ delivering both the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Atlantic Provinces Hunter Education Course
- ✓ assisting Nova Scotia Fisheries in research on local streams
- ✓ co-hosting Women in the Outdoors Program
- ✓ supplying scholarships to Acadia University students
- ✓ lobbying government for rainbow trout stocking of Meadow Pond, Hants County
- ✓ new hunter workshop
- ✓ an annual ice fishing tournament
- ✓ annual trout fingerling release.

Several years ago, HWWA was fortunate enough to be able to secure a lease on a piece of property and spent a few years raising funds to construct its own building. This building has proved to be most valuable in delivering the courses and programs HWWA provides as well as to provide a place for meetings and workshops.

This summer will see the introduction of the most comprehensive Hunter Education Course Hants West Wildlife has to offer. If you or someone you know is considering a Hunter Ed course, this is the one to attend. Brought to you by three of Nova Scotia's prominent outdoor associations; Hants West Wildlife, The Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association, The Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters and the Department of Natural Resources, the course will involve both classroom and hands on training over the two day course. Day 1 will have the students experience live fire exercises with rifle and shotgun shooting at the Stanley Range. A simulated bear bait site will be set up to introduce would be hunters to bear hunting and a simulated whitetail deer stand for crossbow hunting will be set up as well. Day 2 will be held back at the HWWA training center and will cover the theory portion and written tests. Cost for the two day Hunter Education course is \$25.00.



For more information or to sign up for this great new Hunter Education course, contact Hants West Wildlife, Mike O'Brien at 902-798-3684 or via email at hwwildlife@ns.aliantzinc.ns

6 Factors All Crossbow Buyers Should Know

By Barb Terry and Dave Robb of TenPoint Crossbow Technologies

And you thought your days of homework were long gone. If you want to make an intelligent purchase on a new crossbow so you'll have years of shooting pleasure, follow these practical guidelines to help you reach a decision so you won't be sorry once you take to the woods. OK, get crackin'—let's open the "books."

1: Does It Suit You?

First, the best advice is don't buy any crossbow without shooting it enough times to be able to decide if it suits you. Better yet, don't buy any crossbow without trying out as many of them as you can get your hands on. Crossbows vary considerably from manufacturer to manufacturer, and you want to be certain that you can operate yours without difficulty and that it offers you the right fit, feel and balance. Simply stated, the best crossbow for you will feel right when you cock, load, aim and shoot it.

2: Acknowledge Your Shortcomings

Before handing over your hard-earned money, recognize any physical limitations you may have. While the crossbow makes it possible for most everyone, regardless of age, sex, size and/or physical ability to bowhunt, not all crossbows are equally easy to operate for those with physical limitations.

A number of crossbow manufacturers offer cocking aids, which are the most common solution. But again, some are more user-friendly than others. If you need a cocking aid, make sure you try as many of them as you can before making a choice. TenPoint makes two integrated cocking devices noted for being dependable, durable, hassle-free and easy to operate: ACUdraw and ACUdraw 50.

There are other ways to address the physical limitation issue as well. For example, TenPoint also manufactures a model with an adjustable fore-grip and bow assembly (Pro Slider) that can be set at the shooter's draw-weight preference of 175-, 150- or 125-pound positions. It is a crossbow youngsters can purchase, for example, and grow into as they get bigger and stronger. In addition, TenPoint makes the SteddyEddy monopod system that mounts to the front of all of its models. The monopod absorbs about 90 percent of the weight of the crossbow, making it possible for a shooter to shoulder and hold a crossbow in the ready-to-shoot position without concern for the weight of the weapon.

3: Money Is a Factor

Consider cost before you enter the store. Crossbow prices range from about \$199 for a simple entry-level model to as much as \$2,000 for a precision-engineered, high-performance model that comes with every accessory you could ever want or need. Obviously, if you have a price in mind beforehand that you cannot exceed, let the salesperson know that up front. A good salesperson will probably ask you how much you are willing to spend anyway so that he or she can serve you better.

4: Trigger Pull

Trigger poundage and creep affect shooting accuracy. A trigger with no creep (one that releases without any travel or warning) is dangerous, and one with too much creep is difficult to squeeze steadily. Similarly, a trigger that is too light (a hair trigger) is dangerous, and one that is too heavy also is difficult to squeeze steadily. Crossbows with premium triggers shoot more accurately because they are more likely to have optimum travel and poundage.

Continued on page 3...

6 Factors continued.....

5: The Track Record

Check the track record of the crossbows you are considering. Again, not all crossbows or crossbow manufacturers are the same. You can tell some things about the quality of the crossbow by examining how well it is made. If certain parts look flimsy, cheaply made, or do not fit together well, you can expect them to fail under more-than-average use. An experienced salesperson should be able to tell you what kind of a failure rate to expect with certain models.

Also, your salesperson should have a good idea about the quality of each manufacturer's products, customer service department, and warranty claims department. Always ask about return rate of the model you are thinking of buying and the quality of the manufacturer's customer service department.

6: Speed, Noise, Recoil and Weight

Consider the crossbow's speed, noise level, recoil and weight. On average, today's crossbows shoot between 250 and 350 fps. Shooting at 250 fps is plenty fast enough to do the job efficiently, but a 350-fps crossbow will hit harder and have a flatter trajectory, making distance judging less of an issue.

Most companies achieve excess speed by adding cams, increasing the power stroke, and using heavier limbs. The tradeoffs for increased speed, however, are usually a louder shot, more recoil, and greater difficulty cocking the crossbow. To many archers, noise level is a primary concern. They want to be as quiet as possible in the woods. And, excessive recoil can affect shooting accuracy. There are exceptions to this rule, however. Due to design improvements, a few super-fast models are now available which are relatively quiet and have minimal recoil.

A crossbow can also be too light or too heavy for a particular shooter. A light crossbow with severe recoil can be hard to control. A crossbow that is too heavy can also be difficult to control. It is very hard to shoot accurately with a crossbow that wants to move around while you are aiming and shooting it.

In general, the more crossbows you test fire the better able you will be to zero in on the model that has the best speed, weight, noise and recoil configuration for you. You want to be comfortable shooting the crossbow you choose.



Homework

As you can see, there are several factors that go into making an intelligent purchase. Give these ideas some thought. Do your homework. In the long run, you'll be glad you did.

Facts To Consider Before You Buy:

- ✓ Does the crossbow suit you?
- ✓ Acknowledge your physical limitations
- ✓ Cost
- ✓ The crossbow's track record
- ✓ The crossbow's speed, noise level, recoil and weight

Crossbow Fun Shoot

We have an opportunity to utilize a local archery club for a crossbow fun shoot on July 16. The club is located near Truro, so it is somewhat central for all who wish to come out for an afternoon of target shooting.



The cost will be \$15.00 with all proceeds going towards the purchase of targets for future events.

If you would like to attend, please email us for detailed directions to the archery club.

We need at least 15 shooters, so round up some of your friends and have some fun.

Crossbow Fun Shoot

When: July 16, 2011
Time: 11:00AM-4:30PM
Cost: \$15.00 per shooter

We may even have a few new crossbows to demo!

Email us at ifno@nsach.ca for more information or to register for this event. If you would like to help out by volunteering during the event, let us know, as we will need 4-5 helpers to run the event.

2011 Membership Dues

Reminder to all members

This is just a short reminder to all members that yearly membership dues are now being accepted for the 2011 calendar year. Sign up your hunting friends and you could win a Trail camera!

NSACH members enjoy the prestige of belonging to the only crossbow hunting association in Nova Scotia. This is an association that works hard to protect the rights of its members every day.

A renewal application form can be found on the main nsach.ca web page, just print it off, fill it out and send it along to Lee, so we can get your new Membership card out right away.

As an added incentive to sign up or renew your membership for 2011, we are having a Membership Drive Contest. The prize is a new trail camera!

The rules are simple:

Every new member or renewal will have 1 ballot for the draw.

Current members who sign up a new member will get 3 ballots for the draw. Just write your name on the new member application to be eligible for the draw.

HCO ScoutGuard SG560V Trail Camera-Camo
Win a Trail Cam



Draw: August 20, 2011

Join The NSACH Today!

Individual Membership \$20.00
Additional family member \$ 5.00

If you hunt with a crossbow in Nova Scotia and are not currently a member of the NSACH, please consider joining today.

NSACH members enjoy the prestige of belonging to one of the newest hunting organizations in Nova Scotia today; an organization with a mandate to protect, improve and increase crossbow hunting opportunities for all legal game, across the province.

An application for membership can be printed from our website at www.nsach.ca.



Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters

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Check out the new forum.

The Broken Arrow Newsletter is published monthly, except during hunting season. Email your topic ideas or articles to info@nsach.ca.

Dates to Remember

Sand Hills Beach Provincial Park

June 11, 2011

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Exploring our Nature

This event is for everyone - the entire family can attend. Enjoy a scavenger hunt, nature walk along the boardwalk and the beach, and learning about the Piping Plover. Healthy snacks provided. This is a free program. Pre-registration is required as space is limited to 25 participants. Meet at the sheltered entrance to the park. Sponsored by the Municipality of the District of Barrington Recreation Department. To pre-register contact Anna at (902) 637-2903 or (902) 637-2775, or email barringtonrec@eastlink.ca

Taylor Head Park Society

June 18, 2011

9:30 AM-12:00PM

Nature Photography Walk

Join Robert and Sandy Moser from the Friends of Taylor Head Park Society for an informative walk along the beach area. This easy walk is suitable for adults only and participants must have basic knowledge of their camera. Topics such as composition, lighting, landscape and macro photography will be covered. Participants will be able to photograph various plants, birds, seascapes and landscapes. Bring your camera, water, snacks and proper footwear. Meet at the kiosk at the last parking lot. Contact Robert at (902) 885-2395 or email rmoser@ns.sympatico.ca. Or visit <http://taylorhead.wordpress.com>.

Shelburne County Fish & Game Association

June 11, 2011

1st Annual Antler Night

Barrington Curling Club

Join the SCFGA for their 1st Annual Antler Night. Drop off your antlers for scoring between 12 and 5PM. Dinner at 7:00 PM. \$15 per person.

For more information, contact Roger at 902-875-2046 or Richard at 902-768-277. The Nova Scotia Big Game Society will be on hand for scoring.