



Presidents Corner—December 2024

Greetings Archers,

We are in December and I hope all of you take some time with your family and enjoy the holiday's.

The first weekend of December saw a 2D/3D shoot, open house, and chili cook-off. The 2D/3D shoot went well. We had around 25 shooters and the shoot went well. After that the open house took place. It was slow starting but picked up a bit later in the afternoon. During the evening we had our chili cookoff. There were 7 different chili's and had a good turnout. Congratulations to Joe Baldus again this year for winning the chili cookoff.

As a reminder December there is no club meeting.

Starting January 5th we will have our indoor leagues. The cost is \$60 (members) or \$70 (non-members). Any additional league is \$30. The leagues are Traditional (Sun), Bowhunter (Tues), and Target (Thurs). Your traditional league you shoot at 2D targets with traditional bows (low bow or recurve, no compound bows). The bowhunter league you shoot at 2D targets with compound or traditional bows. The target league you shoot at a face target with traditional or compound bows. We hope to see you out there.

Take care and enjoy the holidays.

Tom Mally



Mustang Lane, Center Point,
319 343 0269



Waltonian Archers Event Calendar

January

Sunday 5th	4 PM	Winter Traditional League starts
Tuesday 7th	7 PM	Winter 2D Bowhunter League Starts
Thursday 9th	7 PM	Winter 300 Target League Starts
Saturday 18th	7 AM—1 PM	Indoor 2D/3D
Saturday 25th	Information/Registration	ISAA State Vegas
Sunday 26th	online at Waltonian Archers	ISAA State Vegas

For full schedule go to: <https://www.waltonianarchers.net/Shoots.htm>

There is a \$5/member fee for Indoor Open Shooting. If you're shooting often, the club offers Unlimited Open Indoor Shooting for \$200/yr. Full list of prices and fees are posted at the club and on the webpage

Waltonian Archers Winter League Jan—Mar 2025

The Waltonian Archers will be starting Indoor Leagues for the winter of 2025 the first full week of January at our range near Toddville, Iowa. We will be offering three leagues. They will run for ten weeks after the first week which is practice and team setup. The cost is \$60 for adult members and \$70 for adult non members. Young people up to fourteen years old pay half price. Fees are due the first night of league. You can sign up on the website at www.waltonianarchers.net or show up the first night.

The Traditional League will start on Sunday January 5th at 4 PM. This league is 24 2D animal targets at various ranges up to 20 yards with two arrows per target. Equipment is longbow and recurve only without sights or releases.

The Bowhunter league will start Tuesday January 7th at 7 PM. It will shoot 24 2D animal targets at various ranges up to 30 yards with two arrows per target. Equipment can be compound bows, longbow or recurve. Sights and releases are allowed.

The Target league will start Thursday January 9th at 7 PM. It will shoot an NFAA 300 Indoor Target round. That is five arrows per end for a total of 60 arrows at the blue and white round face. Equipment can be compound bows, longbow or recurve. Sights and releases are allowed.

Open shooting will be allowed on a week by week basis subject to availability of space. League members get first preference

Area Shoots/Events

Dec 20-22: ISAA ProAm Archery Tournament, Iowa Events Center, Clive, Iowa <https://isaaproam.com/>

Jan 3-5: MIDWEST Indoor Archery Tournament, Springfield Ill, <https://midwestopenarchery.com>

Jan 1-7: Anamosa Bowhunters, Winter League Signups, Leagues start Jan 8th, details on Facebook

Jan 11/12: Indoor 40 target 3D, Echo Valley Archers, Registration 7 AM—2 PM, Fayette County Fairgrounds, West Union, IA

Jan 18: 3D Money Shoot, Echo Valley Archers, , Details on Facebook

Daily: Echo Valley Archers, After 3PM weekdays, all day Sat/Sun

Jan 31: New Years Money Shoot, Vegas 3 Spot, F6 Outdoors, Montrose IA

Jan 31, Feb 1,2: State Indoor Championship Shoot,. Border Brigade Archery Club, WoolStock, IA

Iowa S3DA, Indoor Archery Tournaments, info at [HTTPS://BIT.LY/IAS3DA](https://bit.ly/ias3da)

Jan 12, F6 Outdoors, Montrose

Jan 25, Grand View University, Des Moines

Feb 2, State Championship, Waltonian Archers, Toddville

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Shavings Editor Bob Schell, rschell5gmail.com Please keep The Shavings in mind if you hear of area shoots, have a story, news or a good joke you'd like to share. Pictures are always welcome. Bob



Joe Baldus won the Chili Cookoff on Dec 5th. That's two years in a row for Joe.



A Waltonian Tale

Logan Smith sent me the picture you see here. It started a conversation, and a story from Logan about his bow & joining the Waltonians. It's a good story.

It starts here -

“Per Tom's request, see attached for the buck I tagged using my homemade recurve bow for the next Shavings newsletter. He was harvested from a saddle on public land at 15 yards on 11/15.

Logan “

“Thanks! Will be December. Nice buck, good looking bow too! Maybe you could add a note on the bow. I'm interested to know a bit more, think others would too.

Bob”

Turn the page....



2024 -2025 Club Officers

The Board and Officers of the Waltonian Archers.

- President:** Tom Mally 319-350-3722
- Vice President:** Joe Baldus 319-899-2683
- Secretary:** Carl Mally 319-365-4311
- Treasurer:** Don Parker 319-431-0979
- Board Member:** Darrin Silver 319-981-1153
- Board Member:** Larry Isaacs 319-721-8041
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And now, the rest of the story...

I love this bow and could talk about it all day. It has taught me just about everything I know about traditional archery and being an amateur bowyer. My foray into traditional archery stemmed from the intersection of a passion for woodworking and outdoorsmanship when I saw a YouTube video of a gentleman building a fiberglass laminate recurve bow. I did a little research and bought plans for a 64" recurve bow at Bingham projects in spring of 2020. I built it exactly as the plans showed - the bow was ordered to be 55# @ 29" and came out to within 1# of spec.

This was about the only thing the bow had going for it at this point. It wasn't very pretty as it was the first trad bow I had ever held or shot. I simply did not know what a recurve bow was supposed to look like. While I could group pretty well with it, arrow flight was erratic at best because I had no idea how to tune arrows out of a traditional bow.

I harvested a doe with it that same fall at essentially point blank range from the ground without a blind on public land and proceeded to hunt the following two seasons with traditional gear. Attached (upper right) is a picture of what it looked like when I made it in 2020. After a few years, the traditional archery bug really bit me and I wanted to join a club with other like-minded individuals to continue getting better at the craft. I found Waltonian Archers in the fall of 2023 and began shooting the winter league.

I got a lot of feedback on my bow that winter and was afforded the opportunity to shoot many other bows as well - mostly Black Widows. From this advice (shout out to Rick and Jerry) and experience shooting Widows (shout out to Joe and Mike), I learned that I could speed up my bow by reducing the massive tips that the plans called for, in addition to reprofiling the arrow shelf for more center-shot flight and less contact area. I also reshaped the grip for comfort and reduced some bulk on the riser that wasn't doing much other than *maybe* reducing hand shock. (photos at right and bottom)

I also learned how to properly tune arrows out of a traditional bow over the course of the last hunting season and properly place string silencers. My arrow speed went from about 175fps to 185fps while also increasing my arrow weight from about 7 grains per pound of draw weight to 11 grains per pound.

Even though the bow still stacks a little bit, it shoots about as good as any store bought bow I've picked up. I'm sure that's because this is my bow and I've just become accustomed to it. Nonetheless, I've found a hobby I'll have for life and made some pretty dang good friends in the process over the last few years.

