

BENTON BOWMEN HANDBOOK

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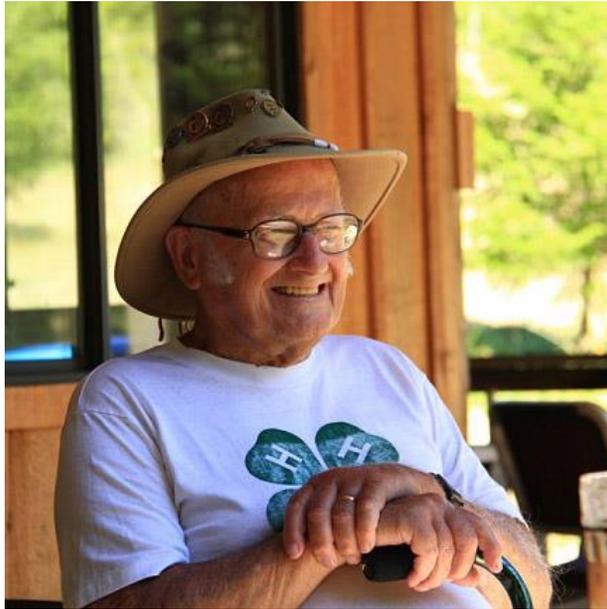
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BENTON BOWMEN, INC.

I. Introduction



Vern Struble

1920 - 2012

Vern was a very involved member of the Benton Bowmen for 45 plus years. He held every board position including president six times. During this time he also belonged to state and national archery organizations too numerous to name.

Vern was a beloved 4-H archery leader for 49 years. He mentored countless children and adults, donating his time and knowledge to promote quality outdoor experiences. He was known for his generosity, often donating archery materials so a child could participate. In 2009 Vern was inducted into the Oregon 4H Hall of Fame.

Vern was a lifelong hunter and fisherman and continued to hunt well into his 80s. He hunted Alaska, South Dakota, and the Pacific Northwest. His skill with the "traditional bow" and knowledge of archery was recognized by local and national members of the Professional Bowhunter Society and Traditional Bowhunters.

Vern will be missed but not forgotten

The Benton Bowmen, Inc., is a non-profit club organized to promote the sport of archery in the vicinity of Corvallis, Oregon. The club has a variety of activities including winter indoor shooting from December through March, a hunter awards program, a 3D shoot, and novelty shoots. The biggest asset of the club is 50+ acres north of Wren, Oregon, which contains the field range and a practice range.

The Benton Bowmen club is affiliated with the Oregon Bowhunters, Inc. The club also holds membership in the Western Oregon Archery Association.

The club was organized in 1949 with approximately 15 to 20 charter members. The first officers were: *President*, Paul Franklin; *Vice-President*, Merl Edwards; and *Secretary/Treasurer*, May Lee.

In 1950 the first range was 160 acres on Highland Way, which the club rented for \$7 per year. The club had an opportunity to buy this parcel for \$9,000 but turned it down. The next range was again rented property near Lewisburg. In 1967, 40+ acres north of Wren was purchased. In 2000 an adjacent 6.75 acres was purchased from our neighbor, Sara Leiman.

Some of the first members of Benton Bowmen were people like B. G. Thompson who learned to bowhunt with the Indians. The skill they developed was to sneak up on deer and shoot them in their bed. (how many of you have done this???) This man also developed quite a library on archery and wild animals. Another outstanding individual was Gilman Keasy who enjoyed making things out of various kinds of wood. He was the national champion archer from the Pacific Northwest for three years; 1937-1940. He won and held the title with a homemade yew-wood bow. He also wrote a book on archery, which is in the Corvallis Public Library. Other firsts were Dennis Cooter who shot from the belt (an old archery technique), Ned Meyers who often overshot the clout at 180 yards with a yew-wood bow, Lloyd Lee who was instrumental in getting the club started, and Frank Stovall who usually chopped the wood for the stoves when potlucks were held.

Another character was Harley Shaw who was always playing tricks on others. The club used to give a prize to the best dish at each potluck dinner. Frank Stovall worked quite hard to develop a special dish and sure enough, he won the prize. The prize was a really good looking meringue pie presented by Harley Shaw. Everyone watched with anticipation as Frank sat down to eat a piece of his pie. On his first bite he got a real funny look on his face when he realized the “meringue” was “shaving cream.” Frank said later, in a very serious tone, “Harley really shouldn’t have done that.”

The club used to have a bit of an initiation for new members. Harley and others developed a real crooked bow that was impossible to string. The new members were told they had to be able to string a bow before they could belong to an archery club and they, of course, would agree to this. The crooked bow was brought out and after about five minutes of twisting and trying (while everyone else was laughing) the new member became a little sheepish.

II. Activities

The activities of the club are many and varied with informality and enjoyment always in order. The club holds periodic meetings that consist of the normal business functions, committee reports and a special program. At the conclusion of the meeting coffee and cookies are available along with discussion about tournaments, excuses for missing the Big Buck, and general “crowing.” There are monthly executive committee meetings. This group consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Indoor Range Captain, Outdoor Range Captain, Past President and three directors. Subject to the stipulations in the constitution and by-laws, this group is charged with the control and management of the activities, policies and property of the organization.

Probably the most important asset of the Benton Bowmen is the **outdoor range**. The range is where members and guests gather to pursue the sport of archery.

The range is always open for informal shooting unless otherwise posted or notified.

There is generally one important shoot held on the range each year. This is a 50 target 3D animal shoot. This event draws 200-300 archers and constitutes a source of income for the club.

The **3D shoot** is an event looked forward to by all and especially by the hunters. Participation in this shoot does not require membership in Oregon Bow Hunters (OBH) or National Field Archers Association (NFAA). The course consists of life-size animal targets that are set at unknown but reasonable hunting distances. The animals range in size from bison, moose, deer, elk, and bear to smaller animals such as coyote, raccoon, bobcat, turkey and rabbit. For the 3D shoot the emphasis is to have fun and tune up our bow hunting skills. Food and drinks are available and, of course, good conversation is enjoyed by old friends and neighboring club members.

Our annual **Family Day BBQ** is a chance for the whole family to come out to the range for a day of fun, free food, and socializing.

There is **indoor shooting** during the winter months. There are organized shoots for club members and guests consisting of various target rounds. A 4-H archery club is sponsored by the Benton Bowmen and club members work with the Boy Scout troops giving assistance to those interested in the archery merit badge.

The highlight of the year is the annual **awards banquet**. This is a time when we get together for an evening of enjoyment and envy. There is a social hour and a special banquet speaker with a topic appropriate for the occasion. The speaker is followed by the “Big Game” and “Hunter of the Year” awards presentations. There is a very important and interesting “Boner/Goof Up” award for those who managed to blow it.

III. Rules and Awards

1. The Outdoor Range is the Benton Bowmen’s biggest asset. As such, membership in the Club includes an obligation to help maintain and improve the range. This obligation is commonly met through participation in periodic work parties organized by the Outdoor Range Captain. Several times a year, work parties are announced in the Club’s Newsletter.
2. Members should help participate in Outdoor Range maintenance and improvement efforts beyond periodically scheduled work parties. (E.g.: Targets need replacing, falling trees block trails, 3D mannequins need to be reset when wobbly, grass needs to be mowed, culverts get blocked with debris during storms, outhouses run out of toilet paper, gate locks malfunction). If possible, members should correct the situation themselves. If this is not possible, notify the Outdoor Range Captain so that (s)he can make arrangements to correct the situation.

3. There shall be no shooting on the range (practice butts excepted) on any day a work party is in progress, until the Range Captain has ascertained all working members are off the range.
4. Persons going behind a target, on other than scheduled workdays, should place their bow in front of the target face so as to advise others using the range, that (s)he may be endangered by their shooting.
5. Broadheads may only be shot at a location specifically designated for that purpose by the Outdoor Range Captain. Shooting broadheads on the practice range, the field range, and 3D animals is not allowed.
6. Animals (including birds and snakes) are not considered targets and will not be shot while in the confines of the range, except game animals in season and in accordance with all existing laws and regulations.
7. No shooting of firearms is permitted within the confines of the range at any time, or for any purpose.
8. The Outdoor Range Captain, with the assistance of all members, shall be responsible for the enforcement of the above rules.

Bowhunter of the Year

The following traveling trophies are awarded to members each year. Bowhunter of the Year trophy and one Runner-up, Dianna the Huntress (female member), and the Vern Struble Award. The first three are awarded on the basis of the accumulation of most points for animals taken within Oregon, within the calendar year, on the point scale that follows. The Vern Struble Award is presented in recognition of the animal judged by the executive board to be the outstanding animal taken during the year, and is not limited to Oregon

SMALL GAME

<u>Birds and Fowl</u>		<u>Furbearers*</u>	
Goose	15	Fox (red or gray)	25
Sage Grouse	15	River Otter	20
Chukar	10	Marten	20
Pheasant	10	Mink	15
Partridge	10	Beaver	10
Duck	10	Raccoon	7
Quail	5	Muskrat	5
Crow	5		
Pigeon	3		
Grouse	3	*Trapping or furbearer	
Dove	3	license required	
Coot	3		
Starling	2		

SMALL GAME

<u>Rodents</u>		<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Rock Chuck	10	Badger	10
Silver Grey Squirrel	5	Weasel	5
Nutria	5	Skunk	3
Mountain Beaver	5	Opossum	2
Snowshoe Hare	4	Nongame Fish	2
Gray Digger	3	Bullfrog	2
Cottontail Rabbit	3		
Jack Rabbit	3		
Porcupine	3		
Mice & Rats	2		
Mole	2		
Gophers, Ground Squirrel	2		

Responsibility for license and tag requirements, as well as open seasons, are the responsibility of every bowhunter.

BIG GAME

All horned and antlered species, Bear, Cougar, Wolf, Wild pig, Javelina, Coyote, Bobcat, and Wild turkey. score 50 points plus following bonus (where applicable).

Antler/horn scored game: Bonus = $(100 \times C) / B$

Skull scored game: Bonus = $(100 \times [C-D]) / (B-D)$

B = Current world record

C = P&Y score

D = Minimum for bonus (Bear = 13; Cougar = 12)

HUNTER AWARD point limits: Small game – **Maximum of 3 animals or 20 points/species, whichever is higher.** Big game – two entries per species.

Big game shall be defined in big-game award regulations and all rules pertinent to big-game awards will be applicable to points accumulated for this award on big game. (By-Laws, Article V)

Game cannot be counted for this award if: helpless in a trap, confined behind a fence (as on game farm, etc.), in defiance of game laws or out of season, taken with the aid of dogs or other methods considered by the Game Committee as unsportsmanlike. Game hit, but not recovered, cannot be counted for this award.

To be eligible for awards, all game taken must be reported to the Chairman of the Game Committee, on the form prescribed,

IV. Officers, Directors & Committees

The five officers are elected for 1 year terms and aren't required to pay dues.

1. **President:** Shall preside at all general Club and board meetings, appoint committees, and perform other duties incident to the office.
2. **Vice-President:** Shall work with the President and perform appropriate duties in the President's absence. Is charged with the management of all tournaments and the game awards program.
3. **Secretary/Treasurer:** Shall keep all records of the organization, collect dues and advise members when renewal is required, serve notice of all meetings, conduct all correspondence and present a written resume of club activities at the annual meeting, receive all monies of the Benton Bowmen, keep accurate records of the receipts and disbursements, and make a written financial report at the annual meeting.
4. **Outdoor Range Captain:** Shall be in charge of outdoor targets and range management.
5. **Indoor Range Captain:** Shall be in charge of indoor targets and the indoor shooting program.
6. **Board of Directors:** Besides the five officers, the Board of Directors includes the last years president and 3 board members. Board members are elected to 3 year terms with 1 being elected each year. The entire board is responsible for controlling and managing the activities, policies and property of the Club subject to the provisions of the constitution and by-law and actions taken by the general membership.
7. **Grounds Committee:** Chairperson is the Outdoor Range Captain and the committee is responsible for the general maintenance and improvement of the outdoor range. The Range Captain assigns targets and is in charge of work parties.
8. **Game and Hunter Awards Committee:** Chairperson is the Vice-President and is responsible for processing game applications and maintaining records for the Hunter of the Year program. The Vice-President is also responsible for conducting ceremonies at the annual awards banquet or assigning someone this task.
9. **Field Governor to Oregon Bow Hunters:** Appointed by the President and must be an OBH member. The Field Governor represents the Benton Bowmen at the annual meeting of OBH.

V. OUTDOOR RANGE

10 Conservation and Education Committee: Chairperson is the field governor and is responsible for informing the membership on legislation pertinent to bow hunting and is in charge of bow hunting clinics.

11. Other Committees:

Constitution: President is chairperson.

Membership and Publicity: Secretary/Treasurer is chairperson.

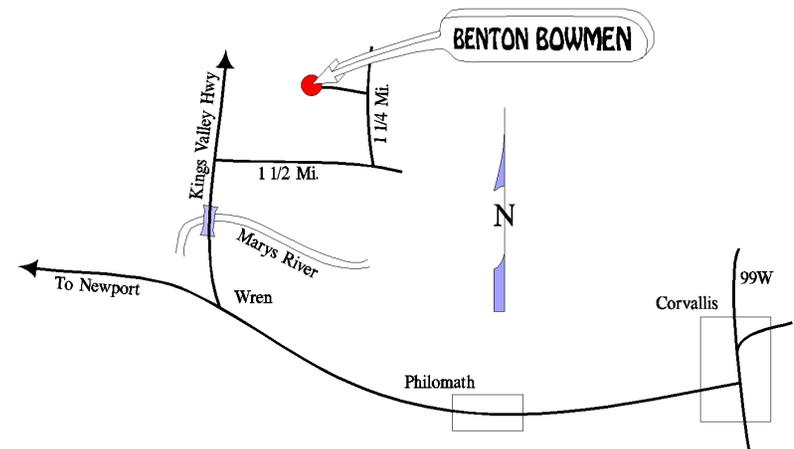
Family Day: Past President is chairperson

Tournaments: Vice-President is chairperson.

Other committees: to be appointed as necessary.

The Outdoor Range is located west of Corvallis, Oregon near the hamlet of Wren. From Hwy. 20, at Wren, take Hwy. 223 north to Cardwell Hill Rd., turn right and go 1.5 mi to Blakesley Creek Rd., turn left and go 1.75 mi. The Outdoor Range shares the driveway with a house at **35876 Blakesley Creek Rd.** The driveway entrance is on the left immediately past a very well-aged barn. The driveway has an old rail cattle crossing guard. About 400 yards up the driveway, on the right, is our neighbor. Go straight ahead to a swinging gate and sign marking the range entrance.

MAP TO THE RANGE



RANGE SAFETY RULES

There is one 14 target field course and a practice range.

Bows and arrows are not toys.
Please follow the safety rules as if you are handling a firearm.

No broadheads are allowed, except at the designated broadhead sight-in location!!
If you are using broadheads, be sure that they are adequately covered when not in use.

- Treat a broadhead with the same caution that you would a razor blade as accidental stabbings cause severe bleeding, loss of blood, and a quick death.

- Everyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Shoot only from designated shooting locations as these were established to ensure the safest possible direction of arrow flight.
- No discharging of firearms on Benton Bowmen property.
- No alcoholic drinks on the range.
- No shooting when the range is closed for work parties.

ALWAYS PRACTICE TARGET AWARENESS.

- Do not nock an arrow if anyone is ahead of the firing line/shooting stake.
- Drawn bows must be pointed toward targets at all times.
 - NEVER point a bow and arrow at another person
 - NEVER shoot an arrow straight up into the air.
 - NEVER shoot an arrow off into the distance where you cannot see where it will land.
 - ALWAYS be sure the target area is clear of people and animals before shooting.

OTHER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Wait until all parties are done shooting before advancing beyond the firing line/shooting stake.
 - Listen for a verbal "all clear," or whistle signal, to confirm it is safe to retrieve arrows.
- Never go behind a backstop without proper safety precautions including:
 - Informing all shooters. If you lose an arrow, tell other shooters when you are finished shooting.
 - If you are looking for a lost arrow behind a target, always leave your bow leaning against the Target face so that it will be seen by archers coming up to shoot. If possible, have one archer from your group stand in front of the target to prevent anyone from shooting. On Field Archery or 3-D courses, be sure to stay on the marked path and travel only in the direction in which the targets are laid out while shooting is in progress. Going backwards on the trail or across an unmarked area could place you in the path of a flying arrow, resulting in serious injury.
- If you are shooting wooden, or carbon, arrows, check them regularly for cracks. This is especially important if the arrow has hit the ground, or other hard surface. If one is found cracked, break it immediately to insure that it will not be accidentally shot again. Cracked arrows can shatter upon release and cause serious injury to the shooter.
- WALK, don't run, toward the targets. Remember that the arrows are sticking out and can injure you.
- When pulling arrows out of a target, stand to one side and insure that no one is directly behind you.

<u>Target#</u>	<u>Distance</u>
1	30 yd
2	Birdie
3	45 yd
4	80 yd walk up
5	20 yd
6	55 yd
7	15 yd
8	60 yd
9	45 yd walk up
10	50 yd
11	25 yd
12	45 yd
13	35 yd fan
14	65 yd