



Northern Virginia Archers

May 2023

Date of Meeting: May 4, 2023

NORVA members in attendance:

Joe Wolfe
Susan Erdos
Josh Shaf

John Shea
Jim Libovicz

Gerry Petraitis
Jordan Faircloth

Uwe Jacobs
Dave Grant

**The next Club shoot:
“Spring Fling” on May 20**

Message from the Board

As required in NORVA's by-laws, this Newsletter is a report to the membership of the Board's actions. It also constitutes the minutes from the May 2023 meeting.

General Items

The May 2023 meeting was led by President Joe Wolfe.

Update – Covering for practice targets

Treasurer John Shea reported that the County continues to have concerns with the plans for the proposed conversation. They insist that the construction must have wheelchair accessibility. John will ask the contractor to submit a request for an exception.

Fairfax County hunting program

The Fairfax County qualifying program has begun. It runs until June 25. Interested members should keep an eye on Facebook and the Club's web site for qualification dates and times. The application period runs from June 1 – June 25. The season starts September 9.

Hunters for the Hungry shoot

Joe has been in talks with Belvoir Bowhunters about having them host a money shoot at NORVA for Hunters for the Hungry. We will set up the course, and they will run the shoot. Look for an announcement soon on a shoot later this year.

Academy (Dave Grant)

Dave held a Level 1 and Level 2 instructor course at the clubhouse on May 13.

Membership (Gerry Petraitis)

In April, 38 members joined. At the orientation held on May 6, another 16 members joined. The Club membership total now stands at 701.

Tournaments (Susan Erdos)

The Club held a shoot in April. We had approximately 35 participants in nine categories between 3-D and Field courses.

The next shoot will be the “Spring Fling” Field, Hunter, and 3-D Pin shoot on May 20. You can sign up at the Club’s web page.

Treasurer’s Report (John Shea)

The Club took in approximately \$4,400 in March. The projected end-of-year balance continues to be \$13,000.

NORVA Treasurer Monthly Report for April 2023

Description	Credits	Debits	Notes
Membership renewal dues	765.59		via Square
New members	3,063.62		\$455 cash, rest via Square
Merchandise sales	77.38		
Fridge snacks/drinks income	51.50		\$45 cash, rest via Square
4/8 shoot fees, food & drinks	454.03		\$298 cash, rest via Square
4/8 shoot food & misc. supplies		613.60	Included extra for future shoots
Assorted insect repellent		284.45	for the year
Printer ink		122.86	two XL combo packs
Dunkin donuts & coffee		100.85	for 4/23 new member orientation
Two smoke detectors		44.97	for clubhouse — required by insurance company
iFastnet web & email service		19.99	New provider — monthly billing (old was annual).
Dominion Energy		0.00	Changed billing cycle
Waste Management		278.47	Every two weeks
USS Dons Johns		242.69	Weekly service
Verizon		71.95	
Totals	4,412.12	1,779.83	
Month-end bank balance	76,476.00		
Projected year-end balance	13,369		Based on recurring expenses and budgeted work.
Desired minimum reserve	-10,000		
Available	3,369		For additional work this year.

Instructional Tidbit: To be Left, or Left Alone

By Jason Middleton

Somewhat new to the compound bow and pin sight game, I began to realize that my lefthanded pin sight was merely a righthanded one that had been rotated 180 degrees. I wondered if the spirit level on the bottom made a difference, given that all the righthanded ones were there. As a longtime lefty, I'm conscious that 'ambidextrous' or lefthanded items sometimes aren't as functional as their righthanded counterparts.

I recently spotted a potential upgrade with much more variability in adjustments that was on clearance at Lancaster Archery: a Rocky Mountain \$45 sight. Some reviews said it was righthand only, while others had done the usual 180-degree rotation. I did spot four bolts holding the sight at the end, and I decided to have a go at swapping sides rather than a mere rotation. Below are some pictures and thoughts on the experience.

Firstly, as I hadn't gone much beyond 20 yards (no more than 35-40 yards max) in setting up my pin sights, taking it off didn't seem like too much of a risk in attempting this trade up to a new sight. I made sure before I sighted in the new sight to do this adjustment first and get the sight how I wanted it before mounting it to the bow.



On disassembly, the four bolts I had seen in the photo came off fine enough, but I discovered two other small bolts on the inside. Unless I tap some threads into the other side, this is one of the minor changes in the rebuild to lefthanded.



Four mounting bolts versus two on the side that were not used in the swap.

I tinkered with swapping all the adjustments over. In the end, I left the bow mount the same (which was pointing down, unlike the sight that came with my bow), which allows me to see the marker for the left-right adjustment.

I was able to remove the adjustment screw and swap both the adjusting know side (to now on the left/outer side of the bow) and the front half of the sight.

I did hit another stumbling block. The screw for the cover of the ‘fiber-optic’ nylon monofilament strands was threaded, whereas on the other side the level was not threaded and had a screw (original) in front of the level. Rather than try to drill out one thread for the new level location, tap its retaining screw (vice glue it in), and glue in the fiber cover retaining bolt, I decided this was the point to flip horizontally the sight. This allowed me to keep the level on the bottom, and the fiber cover on the top.

To do this though, I merely needed to re-route the monofilament (with some gentle bending of it at the base of the pins at times) and feed it back in the other side. I think I have still retained the option for a light, but possibly I fed these back into the threaded side . . . but not a great loss.

The other impact of this was that silver/grey paint outlining the sight now faced the target, but as a wearer of glasses, I don't think this is much of a change, and I can always cover them using permanent marker, and add some inside the sight with a silver permanent marker or model paint if I desire.



Grey surround now facing downrange, and the screw hole in the top, versus the level removed.

I then popped out to the Practice Range to sight it in. I decided to start at 40 yards, just to get an idea of where my center pin will be and then worked back to 20 yards and back again. With this sight much lower than my previous one, due to the different orientation of the bow bracket from upwards to downwards, I soon ended up with my 20-yard pin at the end of adjustment and moved the worm screw to suit – I doubt I'll be shooting much below 20 yards anyway.



In the end I managed an initial alignment within my usual variance, and I had a couple of groupings of two arrows touching (one which took out my knock). I now probably have enough if I want to go back on the 3D range, and still have two pins that I might put at 50 and 70.

Was it worth it? I cannot say I looked much at the level, whereas I previously did so. This new sight has 2nd and 3rd axis adjustment, which I may dabble with, as I tend to rotate my bow (and why I used to focus on the spirit level), but I probably should do some paper tests first and see if my whisker biscuit needs lowering a little, as my arrows tend to point down. The sight does feel a bit more natural, and I guess I have more visibility up-range without the level blocking my view of what is behind my intended target.



Final return to the 40m target

I hope you've enjoyed this little tidbit. If there's something you'd like to add, or to see, for the newsletter, please send it in. I've volunteered to edit the June newsletter, and with its digital version there isn't too much trouble to add some extra items to the minutes of the monthly meeting. Speaking of which, I'll flag that the meetings aren't a drag, and the minutes in the newsletter are only a summary, so I encourage everyone to dial in (or attend in person) for the monthly meeting. I'm assuming the Secretary's email address will be fine for newsletter submissions, with any submissions less than one week before publishing rolling forward to the next newsletter for consideration.