

ARROW

San Francisco Archers

March 2014 Issue | *The Arrow is a publication of San Francisco Archers founded in 1946*

TRICIA PORTER | President

President's Message

Feels like Summer with all this great weather we've been having and thank God for longer days! I'm buzzin' around like a little bee practicing for tournaments, coordinating group events & getting ready for all our upcoming shoots including the start of the Wednesday Night Shoots (sometime in May), **Trad Shoot in April** and even the One Million B.C in August! So I'm gonna keep this short and sweet.



>~~~~> Always practice safe &

courteous behavior while at the range.

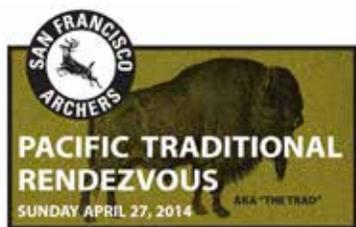
>~~~~> Be careful of any kind of fire danger as it is very DRY out there.

>~~~~> Don't be afraid to ask any board members if there's anything you can do for the club.

>~~~~> We especially need volunteers to help run all our events!

>~~~~> Check our website often for the most up to date news & information including special events and shoots in the area. We are constantly updating online & on social network to give you the most up to date archery information.

>~~~~> Have fun shooting and enjoy this beautiful weather! See you at the range. Shoot well.



~Tricia

Reminder: Members please renew your membership now!

JIM ROBISON | (Range Emperor :) Range Captain

Hi Everybody,

February had a rainy day work party but, I'd like to thank those hardy souls who showed up and helped with some locker inventories. We had about a dozen members and we were able to see what we needed for the bale mount 2-D targets used at our One Million B.C. shoot. Sometimes it's Baby steps and sometimes it's giant steps.

Speaking of giant steps, we had 55 (or more) people at our March work party and got a tremendous amount of things accomplished. We had a group of kids (the Captain's Clean Crew) who walked around with trash bags and tried to pick-up anything that wasn't supposed to be on the ground (including cigarette butts---shame on you adults) and I must say they did a pretty impressive job. They even went up to the 100yd range and cleaned the area. GREAT JOB KIDS.



We got W-4 & W-26 re-baled on White Range, Re-bale of the 60yd on the practice range & the 80yd in the alley. There are new stairs for the tool shed and new stairs at R-9 & R-12. A new platform at R-28 so you don't take your life in your hands trying to retrieve your arrows. All the old oak pallets were broken down and stacked for the fireplace. Lots of targets were glued and put away. Standing areas were cleaned on the Red Range in preparation for the Club Shoot the following day. Animal inventory and numbering was done to prepare for the Trad Rendezvous in April (nice to have something out of the way a month ahead of time). One guy walked BOTH ranges with a garbage bag to empty the trash and pick-up old targets.

I really have to thank Pat Heimsoth for bringing in the doughnuts early on work party days and coming back to prepare lunch for the crew---THANK-YOU PAT.

Once again we had to have some of the members

waste time going through the wood pile to remove GARBAGE that is not safe to burn. PLEASE don't put any of the 4 P(s) in the wood pile.



Pressure treated--- Particle (chip) board--- Painted wood--- Plywood ALL OF THESE are TOXIC to BURN and are therefore GARBAGE!!!

Please don't leave garbage at the range for others to clean-up!

The Range is looking pretty good and we have a lot of participation so, please come out and enjoy YOUR range and take pride in the care of the facility.

We'll see you at the next work party and , in the meantime, SEE YA at the RANGE!

~Jim

BRYAN OROSCO | VP

Club Shoot Qualifications & Scoring for Club Champion

After both shoots are complete in a single event, a position will be given based on highest score on that event. If only one of the two shoots in that event is shot, then the single score will be used. Based on your position you will be given a score in that event, for example if you place first you would get one point. If you place fifth you would get five points. Three different events out of the four are required to qualify for club championship. If an archer shoots all four events only their best three will count towards club champion.

Club champion will be awarded to the person with the lowest total score. Awards will be given to first, second and third in each of the four events. Shooting groups must be three or more with two scorekeepers. Both sets of cards must be signed and turned in at the black box if the scorekeeper is not present. If you wish to keep one of your cards for your records please mark return card on one of your two cards and make sure you name can be read clearly.

~Bryan



JACK RAUCH | Board Member

My parents bought a home in the Meadow Glen area of Millbrae right after the end of WWII and I was raised there until I reached the seventh grade. There were very few homes on the hills then and in the spring they were covered with dark purple lupin and golden California poppies. The hills were alive with thousands of birds. I can still see them. There were sparrows of every size, shape, and color you can imagine and startlingly shiny blackbirds; some with red on their wings. Robins, doves, quail, and crows abounded and the songs of all these birds were a daily symphony that my mother would never fail to mention every time she would hang clothes out to dry on the backyard clothesline. But, as an eight year old boy, I cared little for the songs of birds.

By the time I was ten my friends and I all had BB guns and in the summer we were unleashed on those hills like an avian death squad. The number of sparrows we killed as we reenacted Tarzan comic book episodes and every western movie ever made will never be known. Like thousands of other stupid kids who didn't realize what they were doing I must have killed hundreds. Thankfully, I outgrew that activity quickly and found other things to do. Regretful as I am about this activity of my youth, I take no solace in knowing that "pseudo" environmentalists, trying to create cheap electric energy, are massacring birds with their wind driven turbine blades at a rate of over 100,000 a year in California and over 500,000 nationally. These windmill like blades are not only killing smaller birds but bringing down hawks and eagles as well. Rachel Carson must be spinning in her grave.

Over increasingly large areas of the United States, spring now comes unheralded by the return of the birds, and the early mornings are strangely silent where once they were filled with the beauty of bird song.

I think I became a member of San Francisco Archers (SFA) around 1995 and many of the "old timers" like Bert Leroux, Bill Poggi, and Dick Moody were quick to show me around and tell me about the range. In every discussion we had about wildlife on the range they commented about how they used to see and hear birds all of the time but the birds had now seemed to disappear. They blamed it on feral housecats. Whatever the cause(s), I too noticed a surprising absence of small birds but never really thought much about it.

A number of years ago one of our members, Jerrod Feiner, was the leader of a Cub Scout den and asked if the Scouts could donate a bird feeder to SFA. SFA approved the action and a bird feeder was built and installed near the practice firing line. People bought birdseed and put it in a container in the clubhouse and the birds got fed. After awhile, SFA started purchasing the seed and it became a regular activity. Besides birds, the feeding station attracted

chipmunks and squirrels and any number of other species. The number of birds being fed was modest at first but quickly grew as did the number of chipmunks and squirrels. Once, upon seeing so many chipmunks, Lisa Wayne, biologist and Natural Areas Manager for San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, commented to me that she thought that the archery range was the only park in the S.F. system that still had them.

Parents who brought young children to the range would frequently stop and point out the birds and other animals and several of their comments still stick in my mind. A young woman with a three year old daughter scurrying in front of her said, "Oh, Elena, look at all the birds. We're really out in nature now." She and her daughter really needed to get out more often. In another instance I heard an adult woman comment to her male partner as she looked at the chipmunks, "Wow, have you ever seen so many baby squirrels?"

Everybody commented favorably about the feeding station; well, everyone but one person. About two years ago that person complained to the SFA Board of Directors that since it was against park rules to feed animals in the park the feeding should stop or he would report it to the SF Park and Recreation Department. Fearful of repercussions and despite arguments to the contrary; SF Park and Rec. biologists knew about the feeding and chose to do nothing about it, and Audubon Society members and other bird watching groups would have lunch by the feeder during their winter bird count and comment happily about the diversity and number of birds. SFA immediately stopped the feeding on the range and tore down the feeding station.

Since what happens off of the range is not under the control of SFA, I hacked some bushes down and started a new feeding station off the range. The bird population continues to grow and they are fed on a daily basis. The variety of birds attracted during the year is incredible. Just a partial list includes: many types of sparrows, juncos, doves, wrens, finches Steller's Jays, Scrub Jays, crows, quail, and occasional odd ducks. Happily, many people have missed the animals in their old location and have commented about it to board members. Recently the SFA Board has reversed its policy and approved birdfeeding in the old location. If you would like to contribute birdseed please put it in the birdseed container under the table in the clubhouse.

We all come to SFA to shoot our bows and enjoy the sport of archery. But it is also true that we all enjoy the bucolic and pastoral park in which we shoot and never fail to comment on the wildlife we see. There is something special about being so close to Mother Nature's wild creatures. It's fascinating. It evokes a sense of wonderment. It is somehow ennobling.

I think that if Bert Leroux and Bill Poggi were still with us that they would enjoy the new and increased songs

of flitting and fluttering birds and laugh at the skittering and scurrying of the squirrels and chipmunks. Unlike the little eight year old boy I used to be, I yearn to hear the songs too. But at seventy years of age I have lost my high decibel hearing. Who says God does not have a sense of humor?

*He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.
Coleridge*

~Jack

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UPCOMING CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

March 22 JOAD and Orientation
March 29 JOAD & Hunter Education
April 1 Board Meeting
April 3 Spring Outdoor League
April 5 JOAD
April 6 Archery Outreach Program
April 12 Work Party @ 9:00 General Membership meeting at 1:00 PM
April 13 Club Shoot
April 19 JOAD
April 20 (Easter Sunday - No Archery Outreach Program)
April 26 Special Work Party
April 27 Pacific Traditional Rendezvous

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