

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA ARCHERS

PROMOTING FUN AND FELLOWSHIP AMONG ARCHERS SINCE  
1948!

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## **January's Work Party - A Big Success!**

A big “thank you” to all who took time out of their Saturday to come to NORVA’s first work party of the year. We had an impressive turnout and we were able to complete projects that have long been ignored. We even saved money on the training academy. All sheds were cleaned and reorganized. Because of this, we now have room for Dave Grant to store all of the training equipment needed for the academy thus eliminating the need to purchase another shed. But it was not all work. When arriving we socialized, had donuts and coffee and for lunch, John Hoffman provided his specialty BBQ burgers.

## **Get to Know Who We Are**

NORVA is all about the fun and sport of archery and is truly is a place for comradery, learning, and of course shooting – whether it be targets or hunting with bows. NORVA has around 550 members and each member has their own talents and interests. Beginning with the March newsletter, we will be randomly picking one or two members in which they will tell us about themselves.

With the new year underway, we would like our members get to know who the volunteer board and chair positions are and how to contact them. Here are their stories:

### **Joseph (Joe) Wolf – Club President**

Joe was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas and he has hunted and fished his entire life - everything from wild boar in South Texas, deer and bear in Kentucky and Tennessee, and now deer and small game in Virginia.

Joe participated in archery at various points in his life but he did not begin to take the sport seriously until he moved to Virginia in 2005. Joe is a Level 2, USA archery instructor and he is proficient in both traditional and compound archery – although his preference is compound. Joe is a dedicated Elite compound bow archer.

Joe said that his, “elected position as NORVA’s club president is nothing short of an honor” and he will do his best to progress NORVA and the sport of archery during his term. Joe wants everyone to know that he, “looks forward to seeing each and every one of our members out at the

range,” and he looks forward to serving NORVA as long as the membership will have him.

Contact Joe at: [president@novaarchers.org](mailto:president@novaarchers.org)

**John McKenzie – Vice President**

John is active in the commercial property management field where he has specialized over the last 25 years. Throughout his life, he has been an avid hunter and outdoorsman. About ten years ago, John expanded his outdoor skills by taking up hunting and shooting with a compound bow. When not at the club or on the range, John enjoys spending time with his family or at their West Virginia property.

Contact John at: [vp@novaarchers.org](mailto:vp@novaarchers.org)

**Kevin Brown – Secretary/Treasurer**

Kevin was unavailable but we hope to put him in the spotlight at a later date.

Contact Kevin at: [treasurer@novaarchers.org](mailto:treasurer@novaarchers.org)

**John Soma – Membership Chairman**

John was born in Washington, D.C., “but got out as fast as I could...” John began archery two years ago with no prior experience other than a session in high school. He is not a hunter but would like to try. Enjoys competition but is not competitive. John also claims to have “very little rhythm, grace or coordination” but says, “if I can do it, you can too!”

When not shooting arrows, John spends time as a firearms instructor and he is an avid motorcyclist. Enjoying life to his fullest, he has been retired for the last 17 years or as John says, “unemployed.” John’s favorite charity is St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Contact John at: [membership@novaarchers.org](mailto:membership@novaarchers.org)

**Paul Vogel – VBA Representative**

Paul was unavailable but we hope to put him in the spotlight at a later date.

Contact Paul at: [vba\\_rep@novaarchers.org](mailto:vba_rep@novaarchers.org)

**John Parker – Field Course Captain Lane 1-14**

John started archery with a recurve around the age of twelve. By his late teens, he had progressed

to using a compound bow.

John became a NORVA member in 2013 so he could improve his skills and abilities. While at NORVA, he learned to shoot 3-D and he is currently learning to navigate the field archery course. John said he truly did not understand archery until he met NORVA member John Hoffman. John says, "For me, NORVA has been a great way to meet new people, make great friends, and bond with my two children."

John also appreciates the much needed exercise he gets with archery and by helping with NORVA projects. John can be found at the range every other Sunday – work or weather permitting.

Contact John at: [field\\_course\\_1\\_14@novaarchers.org](mailto:field_course_1_14@novaarchers.org)

#### **Mark Finkenstaedt – Field Course Captain Lane 15-28**

Mark Finkenstaedt is a professional photographer specializing in corporate and editorial photography and the range captain for field targets 15 through 28. He has been an archer for four years and his entire family has taken up the sport because of NORVA's incredible facilities.

Mark is deputy to Joe Wolf (NORVA president) as county sanctioned group leaders. These group leaders coordinate the efforts and safety of 50 volunteer archers within the Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program (FCDMAP) working to control the local deer population in 100 acres of public accessible woodland. Mark shoots at as many of the club events as possible but he always attends the Rinehard R100 in Staunton, Virginia along with a rowdy bunch of guys and girls that represent NORVA.

Contact Mark at: [field\\_course\\_15\\_28@novaarchers.org](mailto:field_course_15_28@novaarchers.org)

#### **Josh King - 3-D Course Range Captain**

Josh has been a NORVA member for four years and has served the club as 3-D range captain for two years. He is an excellent archer and is recognized as a national level competitor in 3-D archery and a sponsored pro. Josh enjoys bowhunting and he is a staff shooter for Hoffman Archery. Josh says, "All of my archery success has started right at our home range of NORVA."

Contact Josh at: [3d\\_captain@novaarchers.org](mailto:3d_captain@novaarchers.org)

#### **William (Willy) Whitlock (w/Russel & Paul Whitlock) - 3-D Course Cadre**

His name is William but everyone calls him Willy. Willy is second generation NORVA as his parents were members. In addition, Willy's two sons, Paul and Russell are also members which makes three generations of Whitlocks that became NORVA members!

Willy started archery at NORVA using a recurve bow during the late 1980's when he was five years old. He has now been shooting a compound bow for 25 years. Willy, Russel and Paul enjoy shooting 3-D. When not shooting, you can often find the Whitlocks helping and working on NORVA's ranges.

Contact Willy at: [3d\\_cadre1@novaarchers.org](mailto:3d_cadre1@novaarchers.org)

#### **Rodney Roberts – Tournament Chairman**

Rodney has been in the military for over 25 years and he still loves his job. He has two kids, ages 27 and 14 that both enjoy archery. Rodney has been an archer for 20 years or so and he shoots with Athens bows. He enjoys 3-D shoots and hunts deer and turkey. Rodney is a firm believer in our right to bear arms and he encourages everyone to get trained and carry a firearm. He is also a staff shooter for 60X Custom Strings and Black Eagle arrows. During Rodney's spare time, he enjoys working on bows and loves helping others become better archers.

Contact Rodney at: [tournament@novaarchers.org](mailto:tournament@novaarchers.org)

#### **David Grant - Academy Chairman**

David is a former NORVA secretary/ treasurer. He is a Level 2 archery instructor and he has been actively shooting for about six years as a traditional shooter, although David used to shoot some as a teenager. A true craftsman, David enjoys imitating a bowyer and he has been known to make a decent Hill style longbow in addition to the occasional self bow or laminated wood bow.

Contact David at: [academy@novaarchers.org](mailto:academy@novaarchers.org)

#### **Uwe Jacobs – Media Chairman**

Uwe joined NORVA in 2014 with his 16-year-old son and his 13-year-old daughter. Uwe does not have much prior archery experience but he is learning fast and taking advantage of learning from other NORVA members. He is a compound shooter and has participated in several shoots at NORVA as well as Cub Run and R100 (Staunton, VA). Uwe has also participated in the 2015 FFX county archery program (Cub Run Cluster). And whenever possible, Uwe enjoys his Sunday outings with the 3-D gang at NORVA.

Contact Uwe at: [webmaster@novaarchers.org](mailto:webmaster@novaarchers.org)

#### **Matt Bortniker – News Editor**

Matt joined NORVA last year with his nine year old daughter. Both are shooting with a recurve but Matt plans to get a compound later this year. He is interested in learning to shoot 3-D, is not

afraid to try competitive shoots, and wants to try bowhunting next year. He may not be able to hit the side of a barn but no one laughs, at least not in front of him. Instead, members always have given their guidance and encouragement. Because Matt found the “gang” at NORVA very approachable, he wanted to be more than just a member so he volunteered for the news editor position.

When not shooting arrows and trying to get biographies from fellow NORVA members, Matt is involved in real estate. He is an investor that deals with real estate development, investment properties, and sales of residential homes - all which allow him to actively partake in a wonderful club such as NORVA.

Contact Matt at: [newseditor@novaarchers.org](mailto:newseditor@novaarchers.org)

### **Recap of February’s Club Meeting**

We had a nice turnout of existing and new members during the February meeting. Joe Wolf conducted the meeting. Here are the highlights:

#### **Shoot, I Missed Again!**

We recognize that many members feel intimidated when various tournaments are discussed. So, we want to use the word “shoot” as opposed to “tournament.” Speaking of shoots, if you have never attended one, please give it a try. Shoots are more about having fun and there are plenty of classes where archers that are just starting out can compete with others with similar skill levels. Additionally, we have many members who truly enjoy sharing their knowledge. Come to one of our shoots, strike up a conversation, and have a great time – you will be glad you did.

#### **3-D Pin “Ice Breaker” Shoot**

Don’t forget NORVA's first shoot of the year. We are having a 3-D Pin Shoot which is scheduled for February 27, 2016. Rodney Roberts will be running this event and needs volunteers. This is a great way to accumulate volunteer hours and we will do our best to ensure that it does not interfere with you participating in the event. As a reminder, members that volunteer ten hours over the year are eligible to receive a 50% reduction on primary membership dues for the following year.

#### **Status of the Field Course as of February 02 Meeting**

John Parker reported that the majority of work for 1 through 14 is done, largely due to the fantastic turnout from our work party. He is still repairing/replacing bow hangers and he wants to install seats for every lane (1 through 28). Lanes 15 through 28 still have a fair amount of work to be done but he expects everything to be ready sometime in March.

#### **Proposed Charity Shoot for a Good Cause**

One of our NORVA members, Mark Combs’s son was born with a rare condition that required hospitalization. While at the hospital, Mark and his wife were offered to stay at the Ronald

McDonald House for \$37 a week or as much as they could afford. Mark and his wife ultimately declined the offer as they felt the room should go to a less fortunate family. They did however ask questions and obtain a lot of information about the foundation.

Mark's family became friends with a couple that had a baby boy that was born four months early and weighed less than a pound. At a minimum their little guy would be at the hospital for 5-6 months if he survived. The Combses were happy to learn that by turning their room down, this family received it. All of the parents they met had nothing but good things to say about the cleanliness of the house. Donations provide these facilities for families who truly need them.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a clean house to stay in while you have loved ones in the hospital. You may come and go as you please. The house in Fairfax even goes as far as providing meals for the people staying in the house. The Ronald McDonald House charges a very small fee to stay but does not turn folks away who cannot pay. This can be a simple one or two nights or an extended stay of weeks or even months. The houses are located all over the country and it is a great organization to support.

We are pleased to hear that Mark's son recently turned 11 months and is as happy and healthy as any normal baby with no lasting effects. Mark proposed that NORVA host a 3-D shoot to raise money for the Fairfax Ronald McDonald chapter. His proposal received positive feedback and further information will be provided during the March club meeting and a vote to have the charity shoot will be taken.

### **Attention Traditional Bowhunters**

David Burpee spoke about an organization in Virginia that is focused on and dedicated to bowhunters who use traditional equipment in all its various forms. The group is called, "Traditional Bowhunters of Virginia" (TBV).

The TBV is an energetic group of individuals who celebrate the special challenges of using traditional equipment in target sports and hunting. The club has been around for more than 20 years but recently it is making a strong push to increase membership across the state. It is a not-for-profit organization, operates on a low budget so the membership fee is nominal, and has a close relationship with the VBA – for example, most of the TBV shoots are held on VBA club ranges.

TBV conducts 3-D shoots at archery ranges across the state, has a summer picnic/fun shoot, and when possible joins together in small and informal groups for hunts in Virginia and elsewhere. The activities are always focused on fun and not competition.

If you use traditional gear or are just interested in talking with someone about traditional archery, visit their website and contact one of the officers:

<http://tradbowva.webs.com>

### **Belvoir Bowhunters Association**

NORVA and Belvoir Bowhunters share many events including the annual Belvoir Bowhunters 3-D shoot, "Hunters for the Hungry" charity which is hosted at NORVA. However, both clubs would like to form a stronger relationship. NORVA and BBH are separate entities but both clubs promote the sport of archery which we so much enjoy - and many members belong to both clubs. Last month, Bakari Dale, president of Belvoir Bowhunters invited NORVA members to attend a bus trip to the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, PA. During our February club meeting, Bakari invited NORVA members to several other events. As a note, BBH is open to the public; it is not just for military. For more information about Belvoir Bowhunters and future events, please visit their website at:

<http://belvoirbowhunters.com>

Bakari changed into his Virginia Bowhunters Association hat and talked about various VBA Awards. One type of award is competitive such as the largest, VA Buck, VA Bear, VA Turkey, etc. However, there is also the Bill Bennet award which is non-competitive. It is about harvesting an animal with a bow. With the first animal you take, you receive a very nice plaque. Afterwards, you receive a pin for each animal taken with a bow. This is a nice way to reward bowhunters for their accomplishments. All possible awards are on one easy to fill out form. To download a form, visit:

<http://vbarchers.com>

### **International Bowhunters Education Program (IBEP)**

If you plan to hunt on county or Belvoir land, you must complete the International Bowhunters Education Program (IBEP). Bill Foster is the president of the VBA and has offered free IBEP classes. If you are interested, please contact Paul Vogel our VBA representative:

[vba\\_rep@novaarchers.org](mailto:vba_rep@novaarchers.org)

### **Send Us Your Photos**

If you have not recently visited our website, the world is going to pass you by! Uwe Jacobs our Webmaster has revamped NORVA's site - and it looks great. We are in need of photographs of archers with NORVA shooting. If you have any photos that you would like to appear on our website, please forward them to:

[webmaster@novaarchers.org](mailto:webmaster@novaarchers.org)

### **Share Your News & Stories**

We are always looking for news items and stories that involve NORVA members. Do not worry about proper composition; bulleted items are fine. And if you prefer, Matt Bortniker can jot down your story over the phone. The deadline for news and stories is the 15th of each month.

You can contact Matt Bortniker, News Editor at:

[newseditor@novaarchers.org](mailto:newseditor@novaarchers.org)

**Join Us at Our Monthly Meetings**

Club meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month and begin at 7pm. It is a great way to meet other members, share some stories, and maybe learn a thing or two. I hope to see you there.