

Hi there,

I thought I'd share an update from this weekend's 2015 Archers Open that was held by the St. John's Rod and Gun Club on Saturday and sponsored by Coastal Outdoors.

To sum it up in one sentence it would be: "an amazing, fun filled day with something for all ages and skill levels".

There was roughly 25 to 30 people who participated in the events and everyone who was there had fun. Most people were using hunting bows with a few re-curves as well. The events were split between Male and Female in adult and Youth categories.

After registration, which started at 9:00, we had about 45 minutes to an hour to warm up on the practice field at distances right out to about 50 yards (see pics below).



The first event was a 3D shoot where groups of 3 to 5 shooters walked along a well marked trail where 15 targets such as white Tail Deer, Caribou, Bears, etc. had been placed at various distances. Each group took its turn shooting one arrow per person at the vital area marked on the target with 10 points awarded for the center circle, 8 for the second circle and 5 for any part of the target. Once all shooters took their turns the scores were recorded and the group proceeded to the next station. The shot distances were typically in the 20 to 30 yard range, with the caribou being about 50. This was a fun experience and created a "real hunt" feel. It took about 90 minutes to complete the 3d shoot and afterward we had a nice lunch of pizza, hotdogs and snacks (all included in the \$30 registration fee)! The meals and services by the two ladies working the kitchen was great!

Pics Below:

- A marker showing the target and the distances from each colored marker
- A white tail deer with the scoring rings and a nice grouping
- Zack getting ready to take a shot



After lunch we did a few skills shoots on the practice range, shooting standard targets, 3D targets at unknown ranges and ended off having a friendly competition shooting at "Buster the Bear".

Buster is a steel bear shaped figure with a hole left open for the target. Each participant gets only one arrow and everyone shoots at 20 yards trying not to hit steel! If you miss the target and hit the steel, game over, you're out!!!

Who even hits the target is in for the next round which is 10 yards longer than the previous round. This was a very fun event! I think there were about 10 participants who survived the 30 yard mark of which 5 hit the 40 yard shot and it all came down to the last shooter, Greg Elms, successfully finding the target at 50 yards!

Buster the Bear!!!



After the skills challenges, an awards presentation took place with a metal being given to each category winner of the 3D shot. Free prizes were also drawn with everyone getting something! Great job by the Sponsor, Coastal Outdoors for putting up a lot of prizes. The final draw was for a brand new bow!



It was a great day and the organizers did a fantastic job. I was nervous about going to be honest but I'm really glad I made the trip and I'd recommend it to anyone looking for a great way to spend a Saturday!

Greg Elems, the main organizer and his group did a really good job and I'm sure I'll be going to the next event! I've copied both Greg and Ken and the guys mentioned that there is another event taking place in early September.

Needless to Say, I've got archery fever now and hope to start shooting at the Clarenville range at our regular Thursday evening timeslot starting this week! Hope to see you all there!

Shoot 'em straight!

Joe Oliger