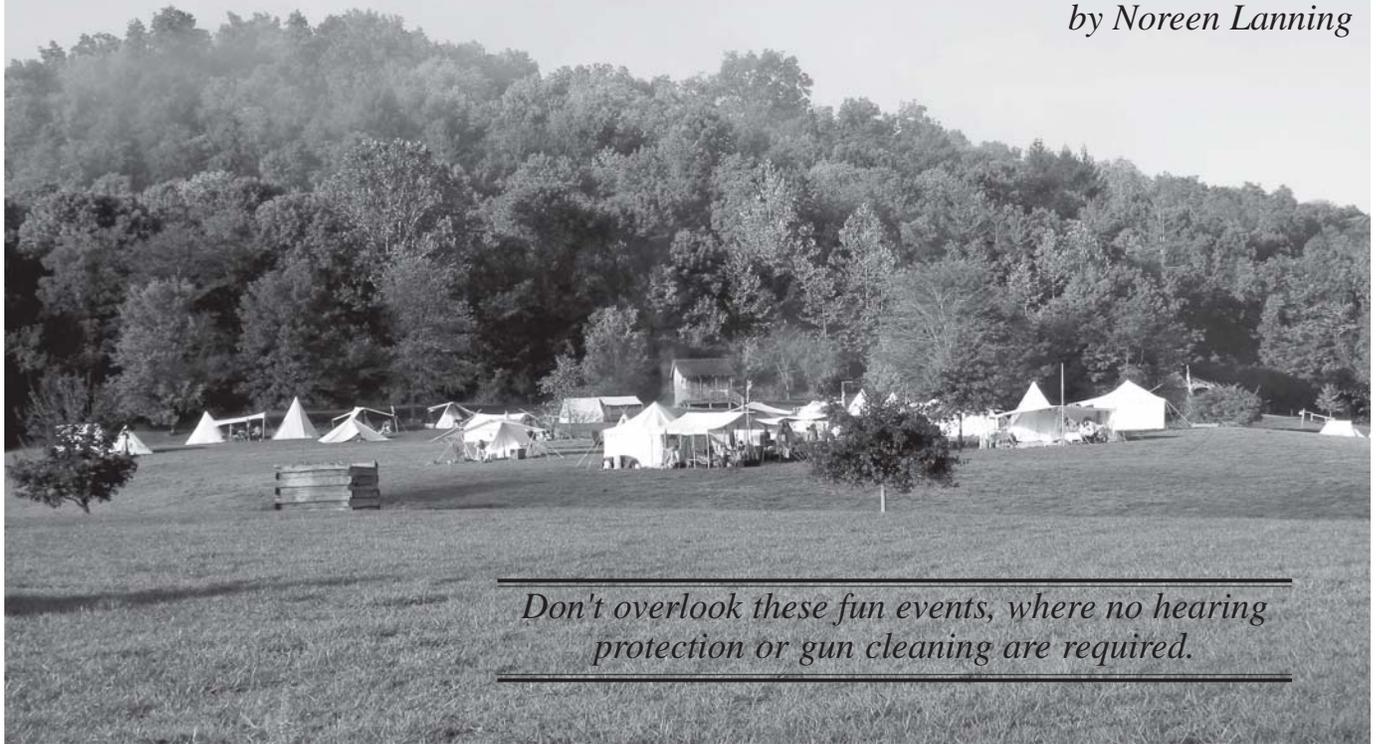


Bow Range Offers New Challenge

by Noreen Lanning



Don't overlook these fun events, where no hearing protection or gun cleaning are required.

On the edge of the primitive encampment next to the woods, stands a quaint cabin marking the primitive bow range. Photo by Dave Ehrig

No boom, no flash, no smoke – just the elegant swish of an arrow traveling down range to its target.

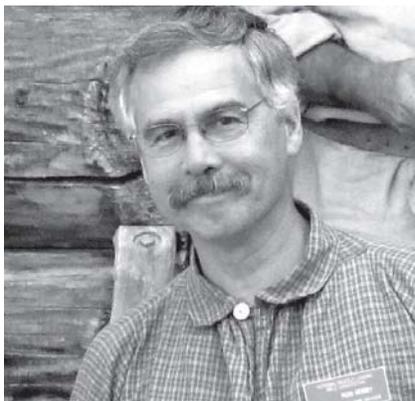
On the edge of the primitive encampment next to the woods, stands a quaint cabin marking the primitive bow range. Behind the cabin, you will find the targets. These include the junior turkey, the practice deer, and the five card poker board. A trail winds through the woods where twenty 3-D targets are tucked in amongst the trees. There is even a running deer target.

Archers use traditional long bows. Many of the bows have been made with great care and attention to detail by the individual shooters. Colorfully fletched wood-shaft arrows fly down the range towards the intended targets. No ammunition is used up; instead the arrows are retrieved to be used again and again.

The bow range is staffed by two extremely competent and helpful range officers, Navio Occhialini and Ron Gebby. They generously provide equipment and instruction to anyone interested in trying their hand at archery. Beautifully crafted bows and intricately woven quivers are also available for purchase.



Navio Occhialini



Ron Gebby

Archers at the range eagerly share their knowledge and experiences. Each year, archers return to the bow range to enjoy the challenge and experience the thrill of loosing an arrow at a target. Competition is keen as the archers work hard to better their individual scores.

An additional attraction occurs under the shelter of the primitive encampment, pavilion where for two work-filled days, energetic archers under the watchful eye of Navio and Larry Shaw create a hand-made bow. It is both science and an art. From a carefully selected stave of hickory the participants are guided as they rasp and sand the wood to the desired shape. It is almost magical how a bow with the desired draw weight and length gradually takes shape.

New and experienced archers are always welcome at the bow range, where they can participate in a ton of fun. On your next visit to the Nationals ask about the bow range at the twin block houses at the entrance to the primitive camping area. You'll be glad you did.

Note: Help is needed to set up the bow range for the Spring National Shoot in Friendship, IN on Thursday, June 12th at 10 am if you are able. **MB**