

**CONEJO QUIVER**



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Monthly Newsletter

**October 2013**

## **From the Prez**

**To all CVA member's**



As many of you know last month there was an errant arrow that went into the nursery next to our property, so we have closed several targets due to the potential safety hazard. There is a high priority to relocate these targets, but because of the large effort that is required we need to update our master plan so we do not interfere with future projects. This takes some detailed planning, which is in process. We should be ready to start moving the targets in the near future. I want to thank everyone in advance for their patience and understanding during this inconvenience and encourage everyone to come out and help when it comes time to move the targets.

The Board is actively pursuing several options to secure financial support for the tournament range. Hopefully, we can get the additional funding soon and start moving dirt next year. This project has been a long time in the making, but we continue to make forward progress.

Over the next few months, we are planning to update our long term plans for the range. The last time this was done was when CVA moved to Simi Valley. It is because of this plan that the tournament range is finally getting underway. There were a lot of ideas on the original plan that have fallen to the wayside, but some that could still be implemented. If anyone has any input please let a board member know so that we can consider your ideas.

The Fun in the Sun (Zombie Romp), chaired by John Downey, was a great success. You never know when you might have a zombie apocalypse so it was good training just in case. We had 89 shooters and lots of fun. If you were there please thank John for his efforts to make the shoot a unique offering.

The CVA annual end of year awards and BBQ is happening on Sunday October 27th. This is also a fun shoot, with several unique novelty targets. Since this is not a competition, there are plenty of opportunities to “adjust” how the targets are shot with your group to liven things up. It is 14 targets, 2 arrows each target. It should be possible to complete the course in just over an hour, so come out early and have some fun. This is a great way to meet club members, have fun and fling a few arrows.

Awards/Fun shoot Agenda for October 27th, 2014:

8:00- 11:00	Fun shoot
11:00-12:00	Awards
12:00-	Lunch

I want to thank everyone who voted for new officers during last month’s club elections. We have new members on the Board of Directors, with Norm Rice and Cher Riggs joining. I would also like to thank John Brix and Chuck Thurber for their service on the board. Their valuable insight and input has benefited the board over the years. This coming year should be an exciting year, with lots of new programs and projects starting up. Enough writing. I’m going to go out and shoot my bow.

Clark Pentico

### **CVA coaching policy**

The new coaching policy has been approved by the CVA Board of Directors.

The policy is available on line along with an application form.

If you wish to apply to coach on the CVA please get your applications into a Board member before the next Board meeting so it can be reviewed in a timely manner.

The Board would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the development of this policy, especially for all the vigorous debate during the club meetings.

From the Desk of the Vice Prez

Kurt Hoberg

I'm excited to be CVA's new Vice President. My family has been a member of CVA for many years (I'll need to synch with Bonnie Marshall for the exact number!) and in that time I have seen the club grow exponentially. I'm honored to have been provided this opportunity as the club's VP to help as our club continues to develop and expand.



When my wife and I started attending CVA's Saturday Public Sessions and enrolled our children in the JOAD program, twenty archers on the range was a 'big' Saturday. Now...we typically get ten times that many archers, many who are returning from past Public Sessions. To see a new archer's joy at hitting the gold for the first time, or hearing how impressed a new member is when first seeing our field course, well, it makes me proud to be involved with this club and excited for its future!

What a future it is. Here is a short excerpt of the 'to-do' list:

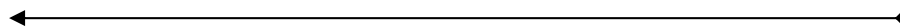
The FITA range continues to become more of a reality.

We have a Coaching Policy that outlines the specific requirements on how that activity will be conducted on our club's property.

CVA's bylaws and non-profit documents have been aligned.

I'm working on a scholarship program for JOAD or field archer youths that compete to help defer some costs of competing.

Our WEB site will be undergoing improvements.



That's just the brewmaster's sampler of exciting developments at CVA!

Now - I'd like to ask for your help in answering a question. What would you as a CVA member like to see the club focusing on in the short and long term? What do you think would be a positive improvement here at CVA? This club is about the membership and really I want to hear what you think.

Be sure to support your club in participating in the upcoming CVA Club Awards Banquet, the Halloween shoot/BBQ held during our Saturday Public Session, and the Toys for Tots charity shoot. All this before the end of the year too!  
See you on the range!

Your VP,

Kurt

Always remember, archery is easy. Shoot a 10, do it again!

## Membership Corner

I have to say, the end of the club year has gotten away from me along with other life duties and I have just our monthly anniversaries for you, so thank you to the following members, from old to new, who have been with over the years!! New member announcements to come next month!

Laurence Thomas – 38 years

Wanda Buffington – 18 years

John Brix – 6 years

Kevin Cloepfil and family – and Anthony Leonardi – 5 years

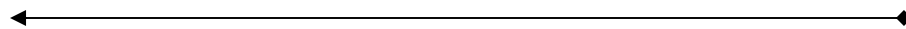
Ron Blum – 4 years

Rodney Karampour, Adrian William, and Ron Jones – 2 years

Terry Gieskewski, Robert Lind, Edwin Benedetto and family,  
Rod Fields and family, Gustavo Macias and Todd Schwartz and family –  
1 year

Have great month and go shoot!

Bonnie



OK So I have a story to tell.

As most of you know Emily's bike was stolen a couple of weeks ago and we have been trying to figure out a safe way to get her to the library every day to catch her bus to Moorpark. We have a friend who offered up his old bike. We arranged to meet, as he said he has "something for Emily", which we believed to be his bicycle. Lo and behold he shows up at our door without a bike but with a big folded piece of cardboard and he said he had a story. He said that his Dad had already gotten rid of his old bike and he felt bad that he couldn't follow up on his offer so this is what he did.



Kenny stood outside of the malls in Simi and TO and collected money! He got approached by security a couple times but even they believed his story and let him hang out! He said one old man at the Oaks Mall came up to him and read his sign said “You don’t look homeless”! And after Kenny told him the story he reached in his pocket and said: Here is the smallest bill I have” and handed him a \$50 bill! After laughing and crying over the whole story Kenny handed Emily a gift certificate for \$400 to the bike shop in Simi Valley! He had raised over \$340 dollars (plus phone numbers from two young ladies!!) and he and his Dad (we love you too John!) put in the rest. BTW he did this all on HIS birthday!

With all of our faiths restored again in humanity and counting our blessings all over again, we know how blessed we are as a family to have the people we have around us who know us and take care of us in so many ways and those around us who are strangers and in their own ways keep our faith that things will keep working out as long as we stay positive. We can’t tell you how much we love this guy!! Kenny you are so much more special than even you realize.  
Thank you!







**On Sunday September 29th Bonnie had organized on an event for National Charity League see below**

Hi Bonnie,

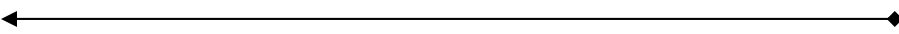
We just wanted to thank you and your fellow archers for helping our group from National Charity League, Vista Robles Chapter, have such a fun event last Sunday September 29th. Everyone really enjoyed being on the archery range, and for many it was their first experience. Many commented how great it was and that they'd love to come back and learn more about archery. Your group is very passionate about archery and we appreciated their enthusiasm.

Thank you so much!!

Kathy Kotin  
Tracey Carter  
NCL, Vista Robles Chapter  
Father/Daughter Event Coordinators







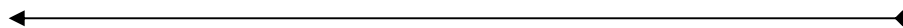




Everybody has their tastes and just how much they are willing to carry to meet their personal comfort level. I'm the minimalist in this group and willing to give up the comfort of a few square feet of shelter space for a smaller lighter pack, doing so makes gear choices quite critical but it is a challenge I like and have proven to myself to be quite good at over the years. Although each year I find something new and better (ie lighter, warmer and packs smaller) to add to or replace in my pack. This year I am waiting on the winter sale at my local REI store for a new air mattress that is 6oz lighter and takes up half the pack space without giving up any comfort.

Another variable in "High Camp" that one must deal with is altitude sickness. This requires a discussion with your doctor and some research on your part. I tried a new medicine this year and I had no side effects or symptoms of altitude sickness, I did however have terrible allergies and they were exasperated by the altitude, I have some questions about that being a side effect of the new altitude medicine and am going to discuss that with my Doctor on my next visit. The switch to the new high altitude medicine came about because I still had one side effect with the old medicine and that was that I would lose my appetite! It was an odd feeling, I never felt weak or hungry I just simply had no thoughts of- or interest in food. I usually pack about 10% extra when it comes to food, I came out with 60% of my supply, great for the waist line but not the ideal situation.

My first year in elk camp went as expected, I wanted to reunite with old friends, learn a new hunting area, get acquainted with their hunting methods and try to get a grasp on the big picture. Most of my elk hunting experiences had taken place in established wilderness (Roadless – no vehicle) areas, this was the first time in a long time where I had hunted that one could leave camp by vehicle and drive to within reasonable approach of elk country. I had to adjust to separate morning and evening hunts that might be miles apart- when I was used to leaving before daylight and returning late at night staying in one 5-6 square mile area.



Elk behave differently in areas where there is vehicle traffic and learning those differences took some time, in Colorado roads do change elk routes, so does the ease of terrain, the tougher the terrain the more likely one will be in to elk, in wilderness areas elk choose easier pathways and are not as restricted by the manmade elements of roads and so many hunting camps.

In Year two I began to learn some of my friend's techniques, blending them with my own and I began to pinpoint areas where I expected to hunt without interfering with places they had learned with hard work. So when year three came around, I finally had expectations of possible success and some real plans that I thought had a chance of panning out. Year three however had a new trick to add to the difficulty of hunting elk and that was rain, did I say rain – it wasn't rain it was a long monotonous twelve days of drizzle, downpour, with sporadic sunshine (just enough to get your hope up) and then rain, more rain and then more rain. There are good and bad side effects to lots of rain, rain does make the woods quieter and lessens the ability of both elk and humans to hear travel in the forest, it can also hold back your scent travel and its staying power. An example, most elk hunters have seen an elk cross their trail, stop instantaneously and do a 90 degree turn and disappear, sometimes as much as two hours after your passing, well in this rain Jerry and I had utilized an old logging road for about three miles to an old cut that was now a high meadow that we were interested in, on the way back out about an hour later we found elk tracks that were using the same path and they stayed with that path for about 150 yards before leisurely meandering off into some lower meadow! The rain had removed the entire scent trail and the elk was never on to our presence.

Rain also has other side effects and this year it took a toll on boots and feet, several of the guys had purchased some mighty fancy and expensive boots made in Montana that worked very well, as new boots should, but even with that they had to switch boots each day in order to let the old ones dry out.

Boots are a very personal thing with me and I'm very conscious of boots that are what I refer to as over built for hunting, some boots have great ankle support and are very good when packing out 70-80 pounds of elk meat on a freighter frame but not so good when stalking or trying to stay quiet in the forest. Trying to find a balance between the two is not easy and sometimes tradeoffs are part of the bargain, I like an air-bob sole as the round ends of the bobs seem to slide off debris and are more quiet yet I have had no trouble with traction or ankle support, other soles with hard edge grooves definitely make more noise.

I had taken three pair with me but when packing I put a fourth pair of rubber LL Beans back on the shelf, should not have done that, this was the year they were needed. My main hunting boot has been with me 11 years and were still in what I thought was great shape, they lasted seven days when the very front edge began to loosen slightly and let in a little water, thank goodness Jesse had brought boot dryers with him and we were all able to use them. My light weight boots did well for four days until I climbed up to 11,200 feet to Grey Rock peak, where the rubber sole got a small crack just under the ball of my right foot. I was never miserable and could hunt for about 2 ½ hours before I would feel the water seep in which worked well most days. Jerry lost his entire left sole on a very expensive pair of boots that were only four years old, hanging on by just the rear edge of his heel, thank goodness we had strong cord in our survival gear and was able to tie the bottom to the top and get him that last two miles out. Everyone had some boot/water issues of some sort during this season and many lessons were learned by all. So upon my return, I took my favorite boots to Pop's Shoe Repair and had them made better than new.

Steve Burns was able to fill his either sex tag with a yearling calf on an evening hunt in the rain, the day before he was to leave. He and Gary struggled with the blood trail as all blood was instantly diluted and barely visible when it came in contact with the wetted vegetation, they are determined hunters and did not give up and were able to recover the elk. It was a lesson Gary learned well and he now will not hunt on a raining evening as the possibility of not recovering a hit animal in the darkness of night and in the rain is so great.



This is a camp of good elk buglers, well that is everyone except me, I do ok at sea level but not so good a 10,000', although, I am getting better and this year had some response to my efforts, I am encouraged. Gary and Bill are both very good, the others good as well, I am the weak link in this department but it does not stop my observations and ability to analyze results. There are definitely differences between pressure areas and wilderness areas on how well elk respond to bugling. Here is what I have learned, it is best to sleep with one ear on alert, elk love to talk at night and hearing one from camp at 4:00 in the morning gives one several pieces of information, number 1 it tells you that you are in good proximity of elk, it gives you a bearing (direction) and a sense of distance and a time that they like to occupy that area. From your knowledge of the terrain around your camp you can make an educated guess that the elk are where they like to eat and spend the night at 4:00 AM and if the bugling seems to be getting farther away you can get a sense of direction of travel, a time they like to head toward a bed and predict with some guessing approximately where they may heading to bed. This works quite well when sleeping in a tent, not so well in the comfort of a well-insulated trailer, as we were all in this year. This works equally well in wilderness or pressured hunting areas.

Getting elk to talk to you in the dead of night is fairly easy, an hour after sunrise not so easy, so getting into a location thirty minutes before sunrise and getting an answer to your calls can be a start of a good thing and a desperate elk may talk with you for some time as you both try to close distance and identify each other from a secure and fairly hidden positions.

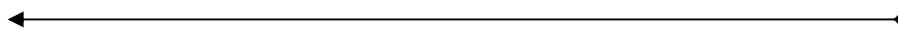
As the shooting light gets better and elk can see farther they may not respond to your call but sneak in and try to get a visual before answering, this happened this year. Jerry bugled, we waited 5-8 minutes and with no response moved out into the open into the center of an old logging road to move on up the mountain, it was here that the elk "chuckled" at us from some aspens some 80 yards away on a ridge and tried to determine if we were friend or foe. It was difficult for us to get out of the open into cover, keep him talking and try to close the distance, well we kept him talking but he was moving away, we did our best to try to keep up, he was now 150 yards ahead and gaining on a steep up grade, following a lead cow and several other elk, he was a 5x5, not a monster but very respectable. Jerry attempted to close the distance

, I had noticed many rubs from our position and feeling he was never going to let us get any closer, told Jerry to go ahead, I wanted to scout this area. Jerry returned a half hour later, the last he saw of the elk they were 300 yards ahead of him and had quit communicating and were not slowing down. In the mean time I had counted 19 rubs in that area, some old, some new, and it was very apparent to me that the bull liked this neighborhood and liked to spend his night time here, the next meadow over I found six more rubs. This spot will be a first check come next season.

The plan next year will be to arrive early afternoon, find good cover within 50-60 yards above the exit to bedding trail they took and some 300-400 yards up from the meadow wait for his evening arrival, this should connect us in the last of the shooting light, give me area with cover in which to close distance and if the air currents and spirits of the hunt are with me, a harvest.

The lesson learned from this encounter is that before you give up your cover during a bugle session, give another cow estrous call and wait a few more moments before stepping out into the open, you never know when an elk is sneaking in for a visual, wanting confirmation before responding to your calling. This would have been standard calling technique whether or not you were calling elk or predators or other game, we were both knew the technique, but when you get careless in the woods the elk usually wins.

Jerry and I wanted to hunt the north slope of the mountain behind camp and the position we wanted was less than three miles as the crow flies but the circuitous route to get there was a 6 mile drive and a 1.8 mile hike in the dark. So we left camp extra early one morning and when we parked we had a few stars but by the time our packs were shouldered and bows were in hand the rain clouds had completely covered the sky above. Head lamps on we headed into the woods anxious to cover the 1.8 miles before shooting light arrived. We had been making good time when a sudden “chirp” from dark not 30-40 yards away



identified a curious elk trying to figure who or what we were, switching to red lenses we still could not locate the inquiring elk. Using our “Hoochie Mama” cow elk calls we would “chirp” back and the woods would go silent, then as we moved on down the trail the “chirp” would sound again, this went on several times over the next 100 yards, Jerry and I both took separate positions that we hoped would give one of us a shot. 30 seconds maybe 45 and I will have enough light to make a shot was the thought racing through my head as my eyes searched the darkness for movement and my ears on intensified alert for any clue of the elks position, the grey light began to give some shape to the woods around me and I could not make out our target. Finally the minutes past and it became obvious that our “ghost elk” had slipped away silently into the woods. Jerry stated just as he had given his last “chirp” he had felt a light breeze on the back of his neck and of course that is all it takes, that is elk hunting at its most real.

Elk bugles intensify or escalates (like a well-planned marketing program) as the coming estrous cycle makes the cows more active. Cows come into heat every 21 days until they are bred, giving bulls ample excuse to advertise by bugling and extending their movements in search of estrous scent. Biologists believe that bugling allows the bull to advertise their dominance, wrangle herds and intimidate lesser bulls. My sense is that elk bugle more in an unmolested wilderness area than they do in areas of heavier hunting pressure. Although in areas of known wolf packs elk are resistant to bugling as a wolf pack can hear the bugles for a very long distance and zero into their location to remove a weak member of the herd.

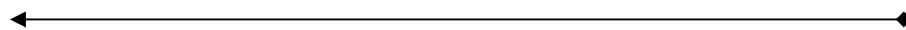
High ground allows your bugle to carry further and gives one a better chance of a response, one must be very conscious of the air currents (thermals) as elk never question their nose, one hint of human scent and they will put a good deal of distance between you. Your initial bugle is to contact and locate a bull, a response gives you a bearing or direction and a sense of distance

, your job at this point is to close the distance by physically moving in his general direction (if cover is available and air currents in your favor) and to tempt him to move in your direction, further closing the distance. Elk are very precise at locating the exact bearing and distance of a sound, far more precise than we are and will know exactly where you are located and will look intently for your presence before moving into shooting distance. It is best to have the shooter in the forward position and the caller a bit further back, that way the incoming elk will be focused on the position of the caller and not see the shooter.

A single bugle without the “chuckle” at the end impersonates a young bull looking to join a herd or to challenge the herd master. Add a cow mew (yearning love sick call) and you could irritate a nearby bull that thinks you may be tending estrous cows. This will not get a bull to leave his herd and move a long distance, it works only in close proximity. Don’t over call - that is the most common mistake I hear in the woods.

I’m not the best caller so I’m probably not qualified to give the best advice but there are some common knowledge points that are pretty universal. Don’t get caught up in the entertainment of calling, elk are used to hunters calling or over calling. Match their response and don’t ramp up the conversation unless they do so first. Your initial call should not include a chuckle at the end. This chuckle shows dominance and may intimidate a less mature bull into not responding, a bull that you would be happy with if you knew he was there.

So for three years now it has been tag soup at the end of the season for this hunter, but many lessons were learned and perhaps it is those who make the mistakes that eventually become better. Our most experienced hunter (Bill Vaughn) was successful about a week after Gary and I left camp, on his 22<sup>nd</sup> day of hunting he harvested a very nice 6x6 (Royal) bull elk proving that persistence and dedication along with time in the woods will pay



**off even for the traditional archer/bowhunters**



## Your CVA Officers

President	Clark Pentico	(805) 630-1749
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Range Captains	Keith Murphy	(805) 558-9312
Editor	Robert Luttrell	(805) 490-8601
CVA Answering Service		(805) 530-1339

### Reminder

Saturday December 7th  
Is Range Beatification Day  
Please come out and give us a hand





# Calendar of Events

## **Oct 27th CVA Fun Club shoot**

Nov 3rd San Diego Archer 28 unmarked 2 arrow

Nov 3rd Verdugo Hills Archers New Daze of Verdugo 28 unmarked 3  
arrow

Nov 17th Mojave Archers “Fall Back” 42 unmarked 1 arrow

Nov 17th Pasadena Roving Archers “ 21 or bust” Novelty

Nov 17th Riverside Archers William Tell” 30 Marked 2 arrow

Nov 17th San Diego Archers Hunter 28 marked 4 arrow

## **Nov 24th CVA Club Shoot**

Dec 1st San Diego Archers 3-D 28 Unmarked

**Dec 8th CVA Toys for Tots 28 targets 2 arrows**

Conejo Valley Archers  
P.O. Box 3982  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

*Remember with the  
time change next club  
meeting will start at  
11:00 AM*

**Reminder:** Range Beautification Days  
are the 1st Saturday of even months

