

Bow hunters on safari at Hoodoo

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

African animals scattered on ski slopes and bow hunters riding chair lifts is not what you'd expect to see at Hoodoo, unless it's time for the North American Longbow Safari, which returned to Sisters Country July 7 and 8. The event was last hosted here in 2014.

More than 200 traditional archery enthusiasts trekked from throughout the Northwest and Canada to the Hoodoo Ski Area for the 36th annual rendition of the event, filling the parking lot with campers.

Handcrafted wooden longbows have a much shorter range than more modern compound bows, meaning that archers not only have to be much closer to their target, but also develop skills that are quite different than those required for high-powered compound bows.

On both Saturday and Sunday mornings, the participants boarded the chairlift to the shooting courses laid out up high among the trees. To the south "hunters" stalked North American animals (life-sized models), while to the north, African animals could be found. Archers of all ages made their way through the courses, which is akin to disc golf or sporting clays in the sense that competitors move from station to station, earning points based on placement of arrows in the target.

While many participants chose not to score, those in the competition earned zero points for misses, one point for hits outside the kill zone and five points for arrows striking within the kill zone.

In addition to the safari courses, the event also featured a running animal challenge, a bow birds competition, and a long-distance shoot.

Ben Kurtz of Sweet Home, taking part in the safari for the first time, had a big smile on his face as he came off the



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

Bow hunters tested their skills on a "safari" shooting course at Hoodoo over the weekend.

first course of the weekend and explained his attraction to the sport.

"It's just part of history," he said. "I love all the traditional gear and get to meet lots of great people. It's fun."

When not nocking arrows, participants had time to shoot the breeze, visit vendors, and enjoy meals together.

Holly Akenson attended the event with her husband, Jim, who served as a participant as well as a guide, and said the event is designed to bring people together doing what they love.

"It's neat to see people

gathering together between events to share stories and discuss issues related to bow hunting."

The event alternates between four western states (California, Idaho, Montana and Oregon) of the U.S. and Canadian provinces each year, so next year's safari will be somewhere up north. It's uncertain if the safari will return to Hoodoo in the near future, but by all accounts the event met people's expectations.

One archer joked, "It's a lovely place to be out chasin' arrows."

Sisters-based charity helps World's Children

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

From an office on Hood Avenue in Sisters, World's Children reaches out across the globe to offer a helping hand to some of the world's neediest children.

World's Children was founded in 1965. David and Jean Purviance took over its operation in 2009 and moved it from Corvallis to Sisters last year.

"We were ready for a smaller town," David Purviance told *The Nugget*. "We looked all over Oregon to see where we wanted to live and have the charity. We feel really fortunate. We've got great employees and the future looks good for the charity."

World's Children was founded by the late Rev. Edwin and Mable Purviance in 1965 as a kind of a living memorial for an infant they lost at childbirth. Realizing the grief they felt was akin to the grief and helplessness

felt by children who lose their parents, the Purviances started World's Children to support orphaned children in developing countries. Using their own savings, they traveled to Central America and Asia seeking orphanages that provided loving care but struggled to meet expenses and began making appeals for support in the U.S.

"We rely on sponsorship, but that's not exclusively what we cover," Purviance said.

World's Children also provides a small scholarship program for children in India, is supporting a program to end child trafficking in a rural area of India, and researched, wrote, and illustrated a primary healthcare guide for child care workers titled "The Healthy Child Handbook: A Guide to Childhood Wellness In Developing Countries."

"I think we're pretty agile in how we meet needs," Purviance said.

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