

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The right bullet for the job

As I continue to get to know more and more hunters and shooters, I realize just how basic most folks' working knowledge is about rifles, ballistics, projectiles, etc. The magazines and internet are full of suggestions, pros and cons and some actual field performance reports. It can be confusing. The following are some tips about how to know which bullets to choose.

An honest self-examination must take place. Firstly, where do you like to shoot your game animals? Location is just as important as bullet performance. If you're a "behind the shoulder" type, most any soft bullet will penetrate the ribs and expand in the vitals. If you are an "in the shoulder" type, a thicker-jacketed bullet would be more reliable due to its



Dale Valade

increased penetrative abilities.

As the accompanying graphic shows, not all bullets are the same. Collected by myself or close friends from game animals or test media, you can see various bullets perform in various different ways.

Growing up, I constantly was brow-beaten with the two schools of thought. The first school of thought believed that ideal bullet performance occurred when a lighter bullet penetrated to the vitals and fragmented, theoretically expending all its energy within the animal. The second school of thought was that one should load a heavy bullet that would penetrate the



Contributed photo

Bullets penetrate differently based on their design. Choosing the right bullet that corresponds with the desired shot placement improves efficiency.

extent of the chest cavity, exiting the off side, theoretically causing more rapid hemorrhaging via both the entrance and exit wounds.

Neither are wrong in this case if your chosen bullet is compatible with your idea of perfect shot placement. Lighter, higher-velocity bullets with thin jackets seldom penetrate in heavy, bone dense areas such as the front shoulder. A bullet that splatters on the outside of the shoulder will not

provide any kind of mortal wounding, merely lesions in the skin and underlying tissue, leaving your game animal free to escape.

Likewise, heavier, thicker-jacketed bullets need greater resistance for positive expansion. Thinner tissues such as the ribs do not provide much resistance, and these heavier bullets commonly pass right through without providing much shock. This will still result in the death of your game animal, but they may

cover 100-200 yards before piling up.

The over-the-counter "Power Points and Core-Lokts" are very basic bullets and feature soft core, thin jackets designed to expand in minimal resistance. The "bonded core and monometals" are engineered to retain weight and require much more resistance for their expansion. Some efforts have been made over the years to combine the quick upset and deep penetration bullet the-

ories with mixed results.

Each kind of bullet will be effective on our intended quarry if we pay attention to shot placement. Whatever your idea of perfect performance might be, there are likely several bullets out there that would fit the bill, provided you're using an appropriate caliber for your intended game. If you do experience bullet failure, consider your shot placement — likely as not, you're using the wrong kind of bullet for your desired shot placement. My advice to you is once you've found a bullet that works, stick with it. As the old saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

What's your go-to bullet? Email us at shootingthefreezebme@gmail.com.

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a deep love for handloading, hunting and shooting.

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We did it! We survived winter. Spring began at 2:58 p.m., DST March 20. Now, if we can get rid of the Darn Silly Time...we will all feel better!

In our lost and found department is a nice

gray/tan sweater vest; it appeared after the reception dinner for Vera Clark. So, if you have any information on whose sweater this is, let us know. We would be happy to return it to its rightful owner.

Tom is still celebrating St. Patrick's Day, so the centerpiece on the tables were still green clovers. The first table to line up at the serving table had a blue hand in among the clover sprigs. Why? Because once you are in God's Hand you can't be "plucked" out, OK?

Our meal was delicious spaghetti and meatballs, a green salad, French bread and a choice of plain red Jell-O or orange with fruit Jell-O for dessert. Thanks to Amber and Barbara for a great-tasting meal. The March birthday recognition meal will be pork chops. Oh boy, oh boy. Carlos and Jay took care of the home deliveries, Juan led the flag salute and Jack asked the blessing. We registered 46 diners in all!

The winner of the gift certificate donated by Chuck's Little Diner was

Cathy Lewis.

Don't forget that there are activities before and after the meal in the old hall: Pinochle at 10 a.m. and tai chi around 1 p.m. If neither of those interests you, you can always settle down in the library with your choice of books: mysteries, romance, nonfiction, historical, etc. There are still lots of cookbooks to give away too. If you are still hard up to find something to do, visit the Senior Sales corner back by the piano. New things arrive every week!

Lorna and Krystin brought Marilyn Randall, Gordon Sindt and Lois Wacken from the Blue Mountain Care Center.

We do want to let you know that the board meetings have been moved to Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. to make it easier for all concerned to attend and hear; still on the third Tuesday of the month, though.

Another Prairie City announcement: there will not be a combined church Easter service at the school this year. It was decided that after 25 years, it was time for something different. So if you were planning on attending that service you can do something different too. There will be lots of different services throughout the county, so you needn't stay home. Get out and enjoy one or more!

Rom. 12:6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." I Cor. 4:7 "For who makes you different from anyone else?" I Cor. 12:4-6 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."

John Day Seniors

Dusty Harris



Spring has officially sprung! Though, the dusting of snow on Saturday night/Sunday morning wasn't very promising. But you can still see the little tulips and daffodils working their way

up! I wonder how much longer until we have tons of sunshine... hmmm.

Some news for April 1: meals will be going up \$1 for seniors and under so lunch will now be \$5 and \$6. Bingo will also be starting at 1:30 p.m. from then on. On March 18 our greeters were Everett and Gregg. There were 38 regular and 36 frozen meals delivered by David and Rodney who we appreciate so, so much. This week our meal was served by some volunteers from the First Christian Church; thank you all for being so kind and generous. The meal was BBQ chicken pizza, salad, cheese-filled breadsticks, honeydew melon, and pineapple cherry drop cake.

I don't recall who won the gift card from Len's Drug so I am sorry for not mentioning them! The free meals were won by Jean Willy and the sundae dessert donated by DQ was won by Carol Rowe. Are you guys getting

ready for Easter? I love seeing how festive the stores get with all the decorations and such. Hopefully the weather will be glorious for Easter service and all the little ones hunting Easter eggs. I think I'll start planting in May this year... mid to late? Maybe. It's hard to plan such things with the weather being as silly as it has been. All I know is I'm itching to get outside and spend time in a garden.

On March 21 our greeters were Everett King and Jeanette Julsrud. There were a total of 48 meals delivered by David and Rodney, and Dennis and Linda Dickinson. Randy Persinger won the Chester's Thriftway gift card, Joe Phippen won the free meals donated by Valley View Assisted Living and Balbina won the sundae dessert donated by DQ. Our delicious meal was Polish sausage with onions and sauerkraut, mashed potatoes with country gravy, bread and ice cream for dessert. Shay sends out a big thank you for the help when he was out of town to Linda, Veanne and Jean! Linda would like to thank Jan Ellison for donating items for the silent auction. And I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers, greeters, workers and attendees for being the best of the best!

Hebrews 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

Monument Seniors

Soo Yuhawa



Our cooks, Terry Cade and Carrie Jewell, have been getting pretty creative; they prepared for our lunch on March 19 something new again. We got served Philly style sandwiches, French fries, pasta salad and pudding with whipped

cream for our dessert. We had a bunch of happy people who enjoyed the lunch, thanks to our great cooks.

We had Jimmy Cole, Linda Blakeslee, Kristi Guimont and Bodean Andersen greeting everyone at the table. Bodean led us in the flag salute, made the announcements, and prayed the blessing over our meal, Jimmy and Linda collected and counted the money and Kristi helped to check in the guests.

We had a total of 50 guests on the books and 10 takeouts. The winners of the free meal tickets were Bill Nichols and Dorothy Jordan and Bob Blakeslee won the gift card to Chester's Thriftway. Donny Lippert's aunt and uncle joined us for lunch from John Day.

We had the K-6th graders come and give us a little preview with some songs and actions of the upcoming Spring Concert. Their music teacher, Janessa Pogue, did a great job with the kids. The Monument School Spring Concert will be held on May 22. I will have to get back to you as to the time, for I do not know at this moment.

We had something else exciting that happened at the Monument School. Our girls from Monument School won first place for the SKILLS program when they presented their project in Portland. They will be heading on over to Nashville! Congratulations to those hardworking girls; we are very proud of them.

There will be bingo for this last Saturday of the month of March. Bingo starts at 6 p.m. with the first set of 10 games, then everyone breaks for a potluck dinner and then will finish the next 10 rounds. Come try your luck.

So, I took a better look at Tigger and realized that the big tooth mark on the side of his face was not, and couldn't possibly have been, Smokey. It was like a fang mark and the size was not Smokey's at all. Also, I saw Smokey and she didn't look like she got into a tizzy fight with anybody. She would have had clumps of fur missing or another torn and bloody ear, but no such thing on her. I think Tigger must have been in a death fight with a larger animal. I decided to put some Bag Balm on him.

I think the Bag Balm healed him up pretty well; that is, until he decided to (and this time I believe he was being a big booger and messed with Smokey) get in Smokey's space again. I've caught him eating up all his food and then sneaking over to eat the rest of Smokey's food. He is kind of on the chunky side so I find it quite amazing that Tigger is able to catch birds! I found some feathers of a poor unfortunate bird the other day.

Proverbs 15:8 "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: But the prayer of the upright is His delight."

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