



ISA OnTarget
Irwin Sportsmen's Association Newsletter

www.irwinsportsmen.com
P.O. Box 225, (995 Oakside Dr.)
Irwin, PA. 15642



Issue 20-11
November 2020

Sharing the Harvest Program: Successfully Feeding the Hungry for 29 Years

Since 1991 Hunters Sharing the Harvest venison donation program, (HSH) has coordinated the processing and distribution of donated deer meat and wild game from hunters and municipal herd reduction sources to hungry people throughout Pennsylvania. An average-sized deer will provide enough high protein, low fat meat for 200 meals. This sportspersons'-inspired community service outreach effectively channels hunter donated venison through a network of approved deer processors, food banks, and some local charitable provider organizations throughout Pennsylvania's urban and rural communities. HSH has evolved as a respected partner with deer management practices throughout the Commonwealth.

This unique concept of sharing, developed by Pennsylvania hunting interests, is the foundation of the program's annual deer season accomplishments. It is based on the cooperation of our dedicated volunteer county coordinators, board of directors, Legislators, state and local agencies, in concert with our colleagues from the outdoor news media and our vitally important sponsors and benefactors. All these components work together with a common mission to maximize the best-utilization of a wildlife resource to help others needing food assistance.

The HSH program is a registered 501c3 non-profit charity with funding and support derived from a mix of public and private sources. Individual financial donations come from generous hunters and non-hunters, and the hunting communities, who uphold a strong belief in supporting the effectiveness and outreach of their own brand of social service. It has evolved into the preferred nationally recognized model many other states now replicate. From its inception, HSH was founded as the signature mechanism for Pennsylvania hunters to demonstrate their own personal and compassionate decision for helping those low-income individuals and families with extra venison. Many wildlife management units in Pennsylvania offer multiple deer tags, longer seasons and special hunting opportunities that result in extra deer being donated by sportsmen and women.

HSH remains as the most effective social-service program conduit for hunters and wildlife managers to directly make a difference, often from actions that take place in the fields and forests. More than 1.6 million Pennsylvanians are classified as food insecure, and with the recent economic downturn the need and requests for food assistance continues to grow. In an average hunting season, the HSH program's goal is to channel about 100,000 pounds of processed venison annually through the state's food banks who then re-distribute to more than 5,000 local provider charities such as food pantries, missions, homeless shelters, Salvation Army facilities and churches. A total of 160,445 pounds of meat donated 2019-20 season from at least 4,110 deer.

There is no need for anyone to work alone.
Please call one of the following so that they can assist and provide additional safety.
Smokey Burdin 724-396-9627 M-F 9-5
Kevin Kennealy 724-640-0726
Rich Boehm 724-953-4778



ISA member Dan Petrill and his boar. The story goes that Sam, his father, chased down the boar and held him until Dan could get a clear shot. Dan also brought home a boar in 2017, not sure of that story.



ISA Member Sean Sarge (on the left) arrowed an 8 point and ISA Member Michael Uliano arrowed a 10 point on the first day of Archery

Did you change your phone number, email account, or address? Please tell us so that we can communicate with you.

One morning in the Clearwater Mountains of Idaho, I watched two whitetail bucks skirting a hillside trail across a canyon. "Two hundred sixty yards," my friend Bob said from below his rangefinder. "Buck in back is bigger." I rested my .270 in the crotch of sticks and watched as the deer ducked in and out of thick brush, popping in and out of my riflescope, quartering away pretty hard. Tricky. When the big one stopped for a second in an open hole in the willows, Bob whispered, "Now." I aimed the crosshair on the animal's right shoulder, slid it back a foot, pinned the duplex on the last rib in front of the deer's hindquarter, and squeezed the trigger.

My first Idaho whitetail, a fat 8-pointer with tines white as bleached bone, slammed down into the hill and never moved.

When a deer is quartering away from you, aim for the heart/lung vitals behind the shoulder you can see, then slide the scope's crosshair back, pin it on the ribs, and press the trigger. The harder a buck is quartering away, the farther back you aim on the rib cage — 6 inches to 8 inches to even a foot.

The physics is for the bullet to punch through the deer's ribs, angle forward through the lungs/heart, and either lodge in the opposite-side shoulder or exit it. Since a pill has to travel a good way through an animal and do hard work as it goes, you'll do well to use a premium hunting bullet, like the Barnes TSX or Scirocco bonded, two of my favorites.

The lucky among us will fire one bullet at a big, mature buck in the coming weeks. One time in a magazine I wrote that in a tense hunting situation, with a split second to get over the jitters and ready a rifle and kill a big buck, most people couldn't hit an elephant in the a** past 200 yards. A good number of macho guys told me to stick it — they can kill deer all day long at 300 or 400 yards — but most hunters reluctantly agreed that I was right. Try to set up stands or stalk for rifle shots 200 yards and in (the closer the better) and you'll do fine. Of course, you might have to push a shot to 250 or farther on occasion.

Think out a shot before it happens. Say you're stalking on a ridge: What if a buck jumps out of that draw? Which way will he run? Is it 150 or 200 yards across that canyon? Stay sharp and try to foresee a quick shot as best you can.

ISA Info

746 Members, but less at the end of January due to lack of dues payments. No leeway allowed. Don't be shut out on all the fun of a membership.

Watch for new shoot starting in January, 22LR, indoors, bowling pins. Planned for 7 PM on Fridays.

"The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." And, for those that carry or have a defense weapon available, practice at the club makes for that perfect shot when required.

One Way to Zero a Rifle

Written by a veteran rifle hunter, with just a few decades of experience under his belt, shares his method for getting a scope on target without wasting ammo or time.

I prefer to initially zero any rifle at 100 yards. Most ranges are set up for this distance and most scopes are calibrated to work well with that range. Using a closer target may hide mistakes or problems. A more distant target can magnify shooting errors or allow environmental influences, like the wind, to skew the results. If you prefer a longer distance zero, allow for that by placing your point of impact higher on the target at 100 yards, and then confirm later at your chosen distance.

Make sure that the scope is bore sighted to the rifle, so it will at least hit the paper. There's nothing more frustrating than putting your reticle on the bullseye and not even seeing a hole...anywhere. I tack up four targets with their edges touching so there is no space between them, and then shoot at the junction of the four. If the optic is correctly bore sighted it should hit someplace on the targets, and you can begin your adjustments from there. If you're still having trouble getting started, shoot at 25 yards to get a shot on paper. Just remember, your adjustments will need to be multiplied by four at this distance. If four clicks are one inch at 100 yards it will take 16 clicks to move an inch at 25 yards.

The only way to zero any firearm is to shoot from a proper rest that will completely support the weight of the rifle. This is not a test of your shooting ability; it is an adjustment process for a precision instrument. You eliminate human error as much as possible. Use a shooting bench and sand bags, a Lead Sled, or another appropriate rest to zero an optic—not the hood of a truck. Support the forend of the rifle as well as the buttstock. *Always support the forend, never the barrel of the rifle.* The rest should be solid but with a bit of give, like a sandbag. This applies to both the front rest and the rear support under the toe of the stock. Your job is to aim the rifle and then pull the trigger without disturbing that aim. You should not support the weight of the rifle in any way, that's what the rest is for. When you try to hold the gun, you introduce movement, and we don't want that.

Set your scope on its highest power. Aim for the center of the target and carefully fire a shot. If it's on the paper, fire two more for a total of three shots. If you only fire one shot and you are flinching, or if the gun has some problems that are affecting accuracy, you can spend all day chasing bullet holes and never get the gun zeroed. Three shots will show any problems with your shooting technique or with the rifle right off the bat. If the group is as expected, something under two inches, you know the equipment is functioning properly and that you are shooting correctly. If it is a lot larger, then you have a problem with shooting technique or your equipment. Stop and correct that problem before attempting to zero the rifle. Remember, at this point we're concerned with groupings, not where the shots hit in relation to your point of aim. Your job is to keep the point of aim consistent for all three shots. It doesn't matter if all three shots wind up high left, as long as they all end up high left and close to one another. Find the center of the group and measure straight across, left or right to the vertical center line of your aiming point. If you are shooting at a single target it will be a line straight up and down through the aiming point. Eyeballing it and trying to draw a line with a pencil probably won't cut it, so bring along a straight edge, a marker, and a tape measure, which you should always keep stowed in your vehicle or range bag. Once you have measured from the center of the group to the vertical line, record your measurement. Then measure up or down to the horizontal line through the center of the point of aim and record that number, like plotting a point on a graph.

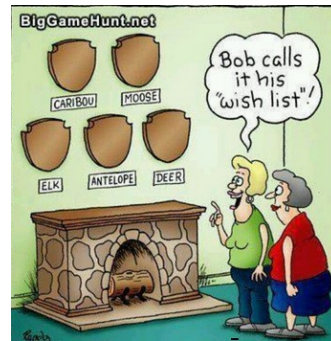
Find the increments of adjustment for your scope. It should be marked on the adjustment turrets or on the dust cap that protects the turrets. Most will be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA, which for all intents and purposes is the same. In inches, one click will move the point of impact .25-inch at 100 yards. [One MOA is 1.047 inches at 100 yards. With MOA adjustments, one click will move the point of impact .26-inch. We can ignore the extra tenth of an inch here.]

If the grouping is still not close to your desired point of impact, you should measure, adjust and shoot again. Continue and repeat until you are centered on your desired point of impact. Also, take it as a lesson that with optics you get what you pay for and while expensive, the better scopes cause less heartache. "Buy once, cry once" as they say.

I always like to shoot a few more groups just to prove the zero and to get a little practice with the gun before hunting. Let the barrel cool before firing your final group to see if there is a point of impact change from a hot barrel. Remember you will always fire your first shot of the day from a cold barrel. Make certain that you adjust your final point of impact from the same cold barrel. Good hunting.

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***** 2020 ISA OFFICERS *****

PRESIDENT	JOYCE LICHTENFELS	724-863-6940
VICE PRESIDENT	KEVIN KENNELTY	724-640-0726
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	SMOKEY BURDIN	724-396-9627
RECORDING SECRETARY	DAN NAVE	724-863-1392
TREASURER	MICHAEL SERLO	724-523-3748

***** 2020 ISA COUNCIL *****

JOE CURRAN (21)	412-610-3692	JOHN RUFFNER (19)	724-744-2514
JON GILMORE (21)	724-433-9854	ED GOLLINGER (19)	724-864-0687
LAUREN WEST (21)	724-244-9053	LARRY LICHTENFELS(19)	724-863-6940
AL CEOL (20)	724 396 7010	RICH LINDH(19)	412-817-4074
JIM FISHER (20)	724-863-3764	RON COINER (21)	724-396-4971
RICH WEAVER (20)	412-638-3063	KEN GRAY (21)	412-610-2963

***** 2020 ISA Contact Persons *****

ACTION PISTOL, thanks to Vince for years of leadership	Vince Benkovich Looking for Replacement	724-744-4437
ARCHERY	John Reed	724-864-2488
COUNTY LEAGUE	Samuel Petrill Smokey Burdin Kevin Kennelty	724-523-9216 724-863-7365 724-640-0726
JR RIFLE TEAM	Paul Angelicchio	724-864-2026
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LUCKY BB SHOOT	Al Ceol	724-396-7010
NEW MEMBER INFO UPDATES	Smokey Burdin	724-396-9627
MEN'S PISTOL/SELF DEFENSE	Larry Lichtenfels	724-863-6940
NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE	Ron Coiner	724-396-4971
NRA	Smokey Burdin	724-863-7365
PISTOL PINS	Rich Weaver	412-610-2388
PISTOL SILHOUETTE	Ed Onder	724-989-6595
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TRAP SHOOT	Lauren West	724-244-9053
WOMEN'S LEAGUE	Joyce Lichtenfels	724-863-6940
YOUTH DAISY BB COURSES	Ken Guidas	724-864-7318