

THE BEGINNING

Primitive cave paintings, such as those discovered in Eastern Spain, prove that man has hunted with the bow and arrow for at least 12,000 years. Ancient arrowheads found at Bir-El-Atir in Tunisia date back even further, some as early as forty thousand years ago.

Experts believe the bow and arrow is one of the three most important inventions in human history, along with the discovery of fire and the development of speech. The bow and arrow gave humans greater protection, a diet rich in protein, and also a more abundant supply of raw materials like bone, sinew and hide on which early man depended.

EARLY TOURNAMENT ARCHERY

By the time of 17th century England, lead bullets and gunpowder had replaced the bow as a weapon. However, there was still a large number of trained archers, and interest in the bow remained strong. Fairs and festivals included contests that captured the fun and challenge of archery.

Archers competed by shooting balls tossed in the air, by shooting for distance, or shooting arrows into and through armored shields.

Tournaments were held, and target archery evolved as a competitive sport.

In the United States, the Civil War was partly responsible for the rise in archery. After the war, Confederate soldiers were not permitted to own firearms. This forced two veteran brothers, Will and Maurice Thompson, to learn to hunt with the bow and arrow. Maurice's book, The Witchery of Archery, described their hunting exploits and captured their love of the sport. The book was

widely read and interest in archery spread throughout the country.

In 1879 the Thompsons helped organize the National Archery Association, and Maurice was elected president. The first tournament was held the next year. Will won and continued to win the next five tournaments.

Archery became an official event in the Olympic Games held in Paris, France in 1900.

COMMON ARCHERY ROUNDS

INDOOR- Consists of 12 ends or groups of 5 arrows (60 shots). The distance is 20 yards for a National Field Archery Association (NFAA) tournament or 18 meters for a FITA event.

TARGET ROUND- The most common format is the 900 round consisting of 30 arrows shot at each distance of 40, 50 and 60 yards in an open field. The FITA format consists of 36 arrows shot at each distance. The women shooting distances of 30, 50, 60 and 70 meters and the men shooting distances of 30, 50, 70 and 90 meters.

FIELD ROUND- This is a roving archery game in which successive targets, located in a wooded area, are shot, at varying distances and target sizes. Field archery has become one of the most popular archery formats, with more people of different ages participating than any other form of organized archery.

3-D ARCHERY- An archery format originally created to help hunters improve their shooting skills. This form of archery has seen phenomenal growth with the advent of several pro-am tours similar to golf. These events are shot on wooded ranges, most commonly of unknown distances, at three-dimensional animal targets.

Archery Events in the State of Florida

Year round shooting opportunities are provided through out the State. Nine **FAA State Championships** are held yearly, along with the FAA Sr Games and the Florida Sunshine Games. Most of these events last two days and start at 0800 hrs.

At the club level there is usually an event being held in each region on either Saturday or Sunday. A few clubs have the ability to offer a choice of events.

NFAA or NAA membership is required to participate. FAA membership is also required to compete in the State Championships.

Tournament dates, club listings, all contacts and maps can be found on the web site::

Florida Archery Assoc. www.floridaarchery.org



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