



# **SUFFOLK ARCHERS HANDBOOK**

# SUFFOLK ARCHERS WELCOMES YOU

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations and welcome to Suffolk Archers and Bowhunters. It is our pleasure to advise you that the Board of Directors has approved you for membership. Enclosed you will find information explaining the general nature of our Club, it's activities, member obligations and privileges, dues structure, and other facts concerning Club Policies and Operation. Prior to receiving this New Member Packet you should have received a membership card and access to the front gate.

If you have any questions, please call and leave a message on the clubs hotline, (516) 873-8898 and your call will be returned.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors  
Suffolk Archers and Bowhunters

## **New Member Information Kit**

### **An Introduction To Suffolk Archers and Bowhunters**

#### **Contents:**

- I Welcome to Suffolk Archers and Bowhunters.
- II Administrative Organization and Function.
- III Overview of Suffolk Archers and its Range Facilities.
- IV Committee System of Club Management and New Member Committee Assignment, Job Description.
- V New (Associate) Member Requirements, Privileges and Dues Policy
- VI Annual Dues Policy.
- VII Club Work Days.
- VIII Tournaments.
- IX Safety Rules.
- X Club Hotline.

## **II Administrative Organization and Functions**

Suffolk Archers is a private organization dedicated to promoting the sport of archery in all of its forms, including field and target archery in compliance with the National and New York State Archery organizations. In addition, we support and promote bow hunting and host 3D animal tournaments, Knock-a-Block shoots, novelty tournaments and hunting classes.

A Board of Directors governs the club. This Board of Directors, which meets once a month, consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 5 additional Board Members. A general membership meeting is held bimonthly for all club members. Attendance is encouraged at the general membership meetings.

All club activities are performed by committees, headed by a Committee Chairperson who answers to the Board of Directors. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help out with the operation of club activities as a way to meet other members and learn about how our club functions.

### **Directions to the Range:**

From Upstate NY and New England: Take the Throggs Neck or Whitestone Bridge to the Cross Island Parkway South, to Grand Central Parkway East, which will change to Northern State Parkway East, to Exit 41 South Huntington, Wolf Hill Road North. Take an “easy right” (alongside St. Anthony’s High School), at second light onto Pidgeon Hill Road at the 5-way intersection. The club is one mile from Exit 41.

From South and New Jersey: Take I-278 to Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge to Shore Parkway (Belt Parkway) to Cross Island Parkway North, to Grand Central Parkway East which will become Northern State Parkway East to Exit 41 South Huntington, Wolf Hill Road North. Take “easy right” (alongside St. Anthony’s High School), At second light onto Pidgeon Hill Road at the 5-way intersection. The club is one mile from Exit 41.

### Driving Instructions using a Commercial Vehicle:

Take the LIE 495 (Long Island Expressway) to exit 49 North (Route 110). Take Route 110 North and go 2 lights make a right onto Old Country Road. Go approximately 2 miles and at the 5 corner intersection make a soft left (alongside St. Anthony's High School) onto Pidgeon Hill Road. Go approximately 1 mile to Suffolk Archers Range (on right side).

### **III Overview of Suffolk Archers and its Range Facilities**

Suffolk Archers is a private archery club, owning approximately 20 acres of woodland at 86 Pidgeon Hill Road in Huntington, Long Island. The range is open every day for club members' use. Visitors are welcomed while accompanying a club member as a host, and are required to fill out a guest waiver.

The club is composed of a cross section of archers of all ages and shooting interests. These vary from backyard plinkers to formal target archers, field archers and bowhunters. Some members enjoy shooting with no thought of keeping score, while at the other end of the spectrum we have some national champions. Equipment selection ranges from recurves and longbows for instinctive archers to top of the line compounds with sights and release aids.

### Beginning Archers and Plinkers

You may shoot at your convenience and at any established target you wish. If need be, and at your discretion, while always keeping safety in mind, you may walk the course and shoot at the targets at a distance closer than the marked shooting spot, until you become more proficient. You MUST ALWAYS obey the club safety rules, which are in place for your protection and the continued safety of all involved. Of course, minors need to be accompanied by an adult at all times, while they are on club property.

## Field Archers

Our 28-target course is set up at regulation shooting distances of 20 feet to 80 yards, as sanctioned by the National Field Archery Association. Tournaments are held on scheduled Sundays through the warmer months, but you can shoot for practice at any other time. Normally 1 to 4 arrows are shot at each target. A standardized scoring system is used at the tournaments and awards are given out for the winning positions, taking into account archers of varying abilities.

The range is equipped with practice butts set up at ranges of 10 to 60 yards.

## Bow Hunters

Our woodland archery courses are a bow hunter's dream. Tournaments are scheduled using 3D Rinehart animal targets, arranged in wooded settings to simulate typical bow hunting shots. The club hosts a Traditional tournament for recurves and longbow shooters only. Targets consist of 3D deer and animal targets with running animals, flying disks and more. Our clubs Stump Shoots or Knock a Block Tournaments challenge the archer to knock foam blocks off stumps and are a unique practice experience for bow hunting.

## **IV Committee System and New Member Committee Assignment**

The work required to conduct tournaments, organize events and maintain our range facilities is under the control of various committees, which are assigned specific responsibilities. Members can receive credit towards their membership dues for **active committee participation** while helping out at events etc. All work credits will be tallied by that committee's chairperson. The Committee Chairperson will explain the duties or specific work expected from you as a volunteer.

You are required to complete 8 hours of work in each of your first 2 years of membership, including associates. Any work time completed in excess of the first 8 hours, will be credited towards the following year's dues. Work slips MUST be filled-out and approved by the Committee Chairperson at the time that the work is performed. THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!  
Keep the pink copy from the work slip for your records.

## **V     Job Description        Range Committee**

A Range Committee is responsible for maintaining the range in serviceable condition throughout the year. The Chairperson is the Range Captain who is solely in charge of the range property. He/ She is responsible to the Board of Directors. Maintenance includes repairing/replacing all target butts, knock-a-block posts and backstops, ethafoam blocks, shooting stakes, signs, picnic area, restrooms, sheds, practice areas, roads, front gate, target shooting lanes, course paths, storage lockers, bridges and platforms. Work possibly requiring contractor assistance, (i.e. roads and gates) may be referred to the Board of Directors. Any changes including target location, paths, structures, signs, security arrangements, etc. shall be under the control of this Committee Chairperson with approval by the Board of Directors, who may occasionally indicate that such changes be made.

### **Suffolk Archers Committees**

- Range Committee
- Field Tournament Committee
- Bow Hunting Committee

## V New Associate Requirements, Privileges & Dues Policy

When an application for membership is interviewed, accepted and approved by our club's Board of Directors, the Applicant immediately becomes an associate member. This status of Associate will last until an opening in the general membership body becomes available. This is done in order to maintain up to 500 members, as per our Constitution. Any questions that you have, should be directed to the Membership Chairperson.

Each new member or Associate must do 8 hours of work time for each of their first 2 years. This mandatory work time MUST be completed by October 31st of the calendar year.

Any member or Associate failing to complete the required work hours will be dropped from membership in Suffolk Archers.

An Associate is entitled to the full use of the range and to participate in all Club events. Associates do not have voting privileges, nor shareholder privileges.

## VI Annual Dues

**The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st.**

The Annual Dues of Suffolk Archers and Bow Hunters is \$300.00 per year, which MUST be paid prior to January 1st!

**If a hardship of your dues payment is encountered, you MUST inform the Board of Directors prior to December 15th, so that an arrangement for payment can be made.**



Members are eligible to earn credits to reduce their dues, up to the full dues amount, by participation in Club events as follows:

1. Attend any scheduled work days.
2. Participate in club committee work.
3. Work as assigned by the Range Officer.

Credits earned by participation in workdays or committee work will be deducted from the next year's dues. As a member or associate in the first 2 years of your relationship with the club, you are mandated 8 work hours without compensation.

Membership covers the member, spouse and any unmarried children up to the age of 21, who reside with the member. Grandchildren under the age of 18 are permitted to shoot as extended members, but **MUST** be accompanied by a family member.

Junior members (under the age of 18), pay one half of the regular dues, or \$150.00 per year.

Military personnel receive dues relief each year while on active duty, up to a maximum of 5 years of relief.

Suffolk Archers is a private club. The range is open to the public only by invitation and on certain days. Please make sure the gate comes down behind you when you enter and leave the range. Giving your access card to any non-authorized person is cause for expulsion from Suffolk Archers. **You must have your Membership Card with you at all times.**

## **VII Work Days**

Workdays are scheduled on certain days of each year in order to recondition the range and property. Consult the schedule of events section of the club's website for dates.

## **VIII Tournaments**

Field Tournaments - Sanctioned shoots that include Field, Hunter and Animal Rounds. The type of equipment that is used determines Shooting Class. Classification is in group competition, based on established shooting ability, as put forth by the National Field Archery Association. (NFAA).

The following novelty or hunting oriented shoots do not require any pre-established classification. Some tournaments are conducted on a handicap basis or "flight" system.

3D Animal Tournaments Consists usually of 30, 3D Animal targets. Targets are placed in typical hunting-type surroundings and yardages. These shoots are usually held in late summer and fall.

Knock-A-Block Stump Shoots Shoots consist of knocking foam blocks off of stumps set at hunting distances. Obstacles make it a challenge. Arrows need to be equipped with Judo™ Points or blunts.

## **IX Range Safety Rules**

Members of Suffolk Archers and their guests, attending scheduled shoots, as well as during shooting at any other times, shall observe the clubs range safety rules to insure the safety of all participants.

Following is a copy of Suffolk Archers safety rules. It is the responsibility of the primary member/associates to ensure that all family members and any guests entering our facility are familiar with all safety rules and that they agree to abide by such rules.

- 1. Absolutely NO broadheads or practice broadheads, are allowed to be used ANYWHERE on the range except at the Broadhead pit located at the top of the main road.**
- 2. NO crossbows or firearms are to be shot ANYWHERE on the property.**
- 3. Sharing or lending your access card to non-members is prohibited.**
- 4. Absolutely NO shooting or harming of any wildlife on the property.**
- 5. Possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is STRICTLY forbidden.**

**VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE FIRST 5 RULES IS CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION.**

- 6. Any person acting unruly or unsafe will be asked to leave the property.**
- 7. No pets are allowed on the property.**
- 8. Never shoot up into the air, or draw-back a bow while your bow arm is higher than the intended target. If the bow's draw weight is so high that you must point skyward to draw it, reduce the draw weight of the bow.**
- 9. Never put an arrow on the string until it is safe to shoot.**

- 10. Shoot only at the proper targets, not animals or trees etc.**
- 11. No one shall cross or move forward of the shooting line until all firing has ceased and a cease-fire is called.**
- 12. Members and guests will move in the direction of an ascending order of the target station numbers. Backtracking or taking a shortcut may cause you to move into the “line of fire” of the previous target station.**
- 13. When looking for lost arrows, someone must “protect the target”. If you are alone, remove the paper target from the butt and place your bow in front of the butt, knock-a-block or 3D target. In a group, have at least one person remain visible in front of the target.**

Keep Suffolk Archers a **SAFE** place to shoot.

**Archery safety is everyone’s concern.** It is a matter of common sense, and every precaution must be taken to insure the highest possible standards of **SAFETY and COURTESY.**

**REMEMBER - Safety is our #1 priority. If you witness someone acting in an unsafe manner, say something to them. Or call the Hotline number of 516 873-8898, with the time, date and the name of the person committing the unsafe infraction. This is your club, keep it safe for you, your family and other members.**

## **X     Club HotLine**

The club hotline, (516) 873-8898 is for member use to ask questions, or for prospective members to request membership applications, etc. Messages left in the voice mailbox will be returned.

Wi-Fi is available in the lodge, the password is 12345678.