



# Butte Falls Has A New Range

■ Frank Medicine Wolf **SPRINGER**

For many years there has been talk of the possibility of a Golf course coming to the small Cascade mountain town of Butte Falls. This is still just talk, however, to the hunting community of the Roguc Valley and beyond, a far more exciting build is near completion, and just in time for the essential practice prior to archery hunting season.

Located on the western limit of the town of Butte Falls, and nestled at the base of the imposing Beekman Ridge, is the newest 3-D archery draw in Oregon – Beekman Ridge Archery Range.

The one-hundred acre section of meadows and mountain slope owned by Mike and Liz Stritenberg was much like many mountain homesteads in the area. Once the yard was cut, and the level of the ponds checked, there was not much else to do on the other 95% of the property. And along comes son, Scott

Stritenberg, and his newly found favorite pastime – Bowhunting.

Over long family conversations, the idea of the land's new use was formed, and a dedication of tremendous effort and serious funds was committed. The result is two great 'trail' ranges, which have been well thought out and constructed. Both trails meander through the meadows and around the bass ponds and continue up the timbered side of the ridge. The madrones and firs have been left in their natural state, and with the healing of the newly cut trails, the archers will find themselves in as near-to-actual hunting situations as ever available anywhere.

For warm-up and field archery aficionados, there are currently four field butts at ranges from 20 to 50 yards. This mowed section of the meadow also has the 135 yard 3-D "Bigfoot" money-shot for those who wish to invest \$1 for 3 arrows and a chance to take home big money at

the end of the year.

The Grizzly Range offers 26 targets with 20 shot opportunities with ranges from 15 to 63 yards. This trail has a "shooting-blind" target on two turkeys, and a unique 'tree-stand' shot at two separate targets- a cougar crouched on a log, and a buck which is the cat's intended target. Just up the trail from this favorite stop, is the nearly completed running-bear target. A lot of thought and work has gone into this shot opportunity and will provide anyone with a thrill and a challenge. The targets are primarily North American game, with a mixed bag of four African game animals, and a water-shot at a beaver.

The Bigfoot trail currently holds 18 targets, with more to be added as the range is finished. This range consists of targets from foxes to bears, with a water shot opportunity at an American Gator.

With one small tournament under their belts, and another near the end of July, the Stritenbergs have already

placed their names with the publisher of the 'shoot card' and are planning their first regional shoot for next Spring. A couple of amenities, which will come along with an entry to one of their tournaments will be free fishing in the three bass and crappie ponds, and free 'overnight' camping for Shooters. Of course there will be NO alcohol allowed on the range, and no hard liquor at any time, yet the modest use of beer in camp will be allowed. Smoking in specific areas only, due to the wildfire danger, will be strictly enforced. A safe and clean environment is the family's desire as with all shooting sports.

Current hours of operation are from 7:00AM to Dark-seven days a week. However, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays a call to their contact number - 541-951-5581 is a good idea as maintenance and

the other aspects of the business may necessitate the closure of parts of the ranges. To reach the range from the west, travel Highway 62 toward Shady Cove and Crater Lake, to the Butte Falls/Willow Lake turnoff on the right. Drive the 15 miles East to the cattle guard at the edge of the town of Butte Falls. Signs on the right will direct you to the range a mile off the highway on this gravel road. If traveling from the East, take either Prospect highway or Highway 140 to the Butte Falls/Fish lake road towards Butte Falls and pass through town to the cattle guard and make the left turn toward the Beekman Ridge Archery Range.

For any further information on the facility or upcoming events call the number above.

THINK A GOOD THOUGHT!

