



2009 Inductee

Robert Ragsdale

Bob Ragsdale was introduced to organized archery in 1957 in San Diego by a fellow U.S. Marine. His buddy, Sgt. Rudy Folds, had been in organized archery for many years and shot for him there on the base, eventually taking him to his first indoor tournament in Balboa Park. In 1959 Bob returned to his fire department position in Odessa, later joining the Odessa Archery Club. After later resigning as a Captain, moving to White Oak, Bob, Ruth, Terry, Toby, Tim and daughter Toni joined the Longview club in 1970 and began a heavy tournament and hunting schedule.

As one of the earliest members of the Lone Star Bowhunters, he participated in a presentation to Texas Parks and Wildlife to originate a \$1.00 archery hunting stamp for the hunting license so there would be a way for them to know just how many Bowhunters there actually were. Prior to that, there had been no way of knowing if there were 150 archery hunters or 150,000. Having them know our precise numbers has served Texans well over the years to retain and improve our bowhunting privileges.

In the early 1970's he and his family opened R & R Archery shop in their White Oak home. Opening when everyone was shooting recurve bows, the entire family slowly converted to the compound bow over the next few years. As a dealer and shooter, Bob discovered many inadequacies in their original design and applied many modifications to their own bows to improve accuracy and above all, reliability. That knowledge served him well later while designing compound bow components as the Archery Engineer at PSE in Arizona for almost 18 years.

As a certified NFAA instructor he began basic archery classes in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department. Two of his first students were Mary and Kris Johnson, daughters of Earl and Betty Johnson which quickly caused them to "catch the fever" as well. He says that one of his biggest "claims to fame" was when Cub archer Kris went on to "steal the show" at the 1976 NFAA Nationals by recording four perfect 560 scores on the Field and Hunter rounds and dropping only one scoring ring on the animal for a score of 2796 out of a possible 2800.

Throughout the 1970's they continued to contribute to Texas archery by supporting other clubs at many invitational events as well as all the Sectionals and Nationals. In Texas then, there was extensive cub, youth and young adult participation and oldest son Terry, for example, shot the state field for nine years before ever winning a state title, which turned out to be Pro-Men at age 18. Bob's only shooting title claims are a BHFS Sectional Indoor and "an almost" with a state Pro-Men FS tie for first.

He served as Range Captain and Tournament Director for the Longview Archery Club when it was the largest club in Texas and also the Tournament Director for TFAA for 3

State Field Championships and a Southern Sectional event when the attendance was extremely higher than now. He also served 2 years as Texas Field Governor, gaining a reputation as a meticulous range inspector. He was awarded the TFAA Medal of Merit in 1976.

While the 1975-77 NFAA Director for Texas when release aids were just becoming more and more popular, he participated in the work that eventually made all designs legal to use. He submitted the idea for the current 10 foot line in front of the indoor shooting line that quickly indicates when an arrow has or has-not been "shot" and, heading an NFAA committee, submitted the final drawing for the design of the NFAA 5 spot indoor face we currently use. At one National meeting he was chairman of the committee that created and finalized the 30 yard Cub Round rules for those under 12 years of age. He later served 2 years as the NFAA Pro Chairman which included writing all the checks for Sectional and National Championships.

For the past 12 years he has assisted archers everywhere with his "Instant Answer" technical archery website on <bowhunting.net> and, after many years, only recently ceased being a regular technical columnist for the NFAA Archery magazine as well as the US & International Archer. Returning from Arizona 5 ½ years ago he and Ruth live on Lake Conroe and has since participated in some SYWAT events in Master Senior FS and even slogged through the now famous 2007 "underwater" TFAA State Field Championship held at Houston – Buffalo.

Written and Presented by Bill Bowen