



## Echo Valley Archers of West Union, Iowa

In 1999, the Hawkeye Archers of Hawkeye, Iowa decided to move to the dance hall at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in West Union. The club was re-named Echo Valley Archers the following year and has been operating in West Union ever since. Club members participated in a 2-person team league, where they shot at paper targets and the season lasted 10 weeks. By 2009, membership and interest in the club had dwindled and the club was in danger of folding. It was decided that the Echo Valley Archers would move to the Stephens Building at the Fayette County Fairgrounds, and host a series of indoor 3D shoots. In March of 2009, a group of 12 remaining members started fundraising to purchase thirty Rinehart 3D targets. After a grueling fundraising campaign, enough money was raised and the targets were ordered in August of 2009.

In December of 2009, preparations began for our very first indoor 3D shoot. Our membership had grown in the off-season from twelve to twenty members and everyone worked to get our new indoor course ready for the January opener. We held shoots in January, February, and March and had a grand total of 300 shooters in our first year.

March of 2017 marked the end of our eighth season of hosting indoor 3D shoots. Our membership has grown from the original 12 to 120 and 3D shoot attendance this year was over two thousand. E.V.A. members participate in a 10 week 2-person best shot league. We have also been host to the Iowa Indoor 3D Championship with the ISAA for the past two seasons.

While at a trade show in January of 2015, we were asked by a representative from Rinehart Targets to host the Iowa R100 held in August of every year. After meeting with officials at Volga Lake State Park, we agreed to the monumental task of hosting the event. Club members spent the entire summer carving two new archery courses into the landscape at Volga Lake. Thanks to those that came from neighboring clubs to help us set up for the first shoot. Even local IBA Board member Daryl Landsgard got his hands dirty a few times! Most of us have agreed that if we had to do that over again, we would not do it! We have hosted the R100 for two years now and we are getting ready for our third on August 18, 19, & 20 of 2017. We have also built a 40 Delta/McKenzie bag target archery course on the North American side that is open all summer and free for all to use.

It is hard to believe that 17 years has passed since we became the Echo Valley Archers. Lots has changed since then and we have been fortunate to have met and worked with so many great people along the way. A huge thank you to all of our sponsors. Without them, none of what we have done would have been possible. Thank you also to our club members! It takes us about one month each year to set up our indoor course. This is a job that is way too big for one or two people to accomplish. And, thanks to





everyone that is a member of the Iowa Bowhunters Association and for helping to preserve what we as Iowa Bowhunters hold most dear. We are looking forward to starting our 2018 indoor season on January 12-14 at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in West Union. Shoots are also scheduled for February 9-11, and our last indoor shoot of the year will be on the weekend of March 9-11.

Please look us up online at [www.echovalleyarchers.com](http://www.echovalleyarchers.com), or find us on facebook for announcements about our upcoming season. We hope to “see you on the trail” at some of many great outdoor shoots this summer!