2014 Wisconsin Crossbow Course

Presented by TenPoint Crossbow Technologies & Wicked Ridge Crossbows
Today’s Topics

- Why Should I Choose a Crossbow?
- What is a Crossbow?
- Selection, Maintenance & Range of a Crossbow
- Parts of a Compound Crossbow
- Sighting Systems
- Cocking Aids
- Cocking the Crossbow
- Safety
- Hunting Techniques
- State Regulations at a Glance
Why Should I Choose a Crossbow?

- Crossbows are user-friendly.
- Enables youth, women and physically challenged individuals to enjoy archery hunting/shooting who, for whatever reason, cannot draw a conventional bow back.
- Great urban management tool.
- A lot of people enjoy shooting and hunting with a crossbow vs. other methods.
- Great recruitment and/or retention tool.
- They’re fun to shoot!
What is a Crossbow?

Crossbows date back to the Stone Age. They were used in the early medieval times and were overshadowed by firearms in the 1500’s.

Crossbows are definitely not a new weapon!

Modern crossbows use limbs – either recurve or compound, and propel an arrow just like vertical archery. The limbs are mounted horizontally on a stock, which contains a trigger assembly, arrow groove, stirrup, and sight.

Although crossbows resemble firearms at a glance, they are still a short-range hunting tool. The high draw-weights for hunting are necessary to compensate for the short power stroke which provides trajectory and hitting power similar to all other vertical archery equipment.
What is a Crossbow?

Advantages:

- Crossbows are easier to master and obtain consistent accuracy for hunting ranges than vertical bows.
- When a crossbow is cocked it is ready to shoot.
- In cold weather, you can wear bulky clothing.

Disadvantages:

- Crossbows tend to be noisier than vertical archery equipment.
- Crossbows are heavier than vertical bows.
- With horizontal limbs you need to be more aware of objects to your left and right sides.
Choose a crossbow that fits your physical size and strength – you do not need the biggest, strongest, or fastest when it comes to success.

Thoroughly check all parts of the crossbow before shooting and perform recommended routine maintenance – your Dealer, the Manufacturer, or your Owner’s Manual are good sources of information regarding your crossbow.

A crossbow is a superb hunting tool at ranges of 40-yards or less – but practicing with your hunting arrows is important! *Remember - learn to judge distance and what happens to your arrows at different yardages.*
Parts of a Crossbow

Compound Crossbow
Sighting Systems

- Peep & Pin Sights
- Dot-Sights
- Telescopic Scopes
Cocking Aids

- Rope-style cocking aids
- Crank-style cocking aids
Cocking the Crossbow

Manual cocking:
- You pull 100% of the draw weight.

Rope-style cocking aids:
- You pull 50% of the draw weight (rope-cockers, ACUrope, ACUdraw 50, & ACU-52).

Crank-style cocking aids:
- You crank 5 to 6-pounds of the draw weight, the unit does the rest for you (ACUdraw, Crank Cocking Device, and various other systems).
Cocking the Crossbow

- Place the safety on “Fire”.
- Manual cocking – place ball of foot in stirrup, bend over and pull the string back (by hand or with a rope-type cocker).
- Latch string into trigger box.
- Engage safety if not automatic.
- Keep crossbow pointed in safe direction.
- Load arrow on flight deck or rail.
- Take safety off only when ready to shoot.
SAFETY FIRST!

Keep your thumb & fingers below flight rail when shooting.

Do not consume drugs or alcohol before, or while using the crossbow.

Do not store or transport your crossbow while it is cocked or loaded.

Always point your crossbow in a safe direction.

Do not put your finger on the trigger until you have made the decision to fire.
Safety

- Do not carry your crossbow while climbing up or down a tree.
- Always wear a fall-arrest system when hunting from a treestand.
- Make sure broadheads are protected by a quiver.
- When target shooting; set up in a safe, open area with a proper target and backstop.
- Do not use a crossbow if it is not in top working condition.
- Use arrows recommended by the Manufacturer.
Hunting Techniques

Ground Blinds
- Pop-up blind
- Homemade structure with branches, weeds, or deadfall.
- Small folding stool against a fence line or tree.

Elevated Stands
- Lock-on stand
- Ladder stand
- Climbing stand

Still Hunting or Stalking
State Regulations at a Glance

CROSSBOWS ARE:

- Legal for use in Archery Season. 23 States (46%)
- Legal during a portion of Archery season. 3 States (6%)(Dashed)
- Legal for use in Archery Season – private land only (FL). 1 State (2%)
- Legal for use in Archery Season beginning with 2014 season – will be reviewed again after three years. 1 State (2%)
- Legal for Hunters over a certain age: 70+ (IA). 1 State (2%)
- Legal for physically challenged hunters during Archery Season. 8 States (16%)
- Legal in Firearm Season. 12 States (24%)
- Illegal hunting equipment. 1 State (2%)

Original Data from Bowhunter Magazine – April 2006
*Updated December 2013  *Always check current regulations before hunting.
Thank You!

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