

Nostalgia Corner

30 Years Ago ... by Paul
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Let's go to a Sectional!



Although there have been NFAA Sectional tournaments ever since the NFAA had sections, they weren't publicized until thirty years ago. The NFAA By-Laws merely stated, "... (NFAA) may provide for mail and sectional tournaments of the various games adopted by the Association." That was it! National and State Championship tournaments were big in 1974. State Championships were well publicized in the State Association newsletters, while the NFAA National Field Championship was normally featured in three or four monthly issues of this magazine. Nothing was mentioned about Sectional Championships except for after-the-fact results, and these were generally noted in the "State News" portion of the magazine.

[A personal note: I attended two National Championships before going to my first Sectional. I didn't know how to pre-register!]

The first time all eight Sectional Outdoor tournaments were announced in the same issue of *Archery* was April 1974. There were six pages of maps, shooting schedules, accommodations, etc., and a single, generic, registration form that applied to all eight Sectionals. The Directors of each Section selected the rounds shot. Most Sections offered various combinations of Field, Hunter and Animal rounds, but one Section (Midwestern) added a 20-target International round to the mix. Ironically, the tournament results were never published. This came several years later when the Councilmen and/or tournament hosts were given the responsibility to report the results.

In the same April 1974 issue of *Archery* magazine, NFAA President Erv Kreisler proclaimed, "Starting

with the 1974-75 indoor season, each section will be encouraged to host an Indoor Sectional Tournament using the NFAA Indoor Round." Remember that the first NFAA National Indoor Championship wasn't held until 1980. In fact, indoor shooting was not very popular with NFAA members during the early years ... except in those states where it was too cold to shoot outdoors in the winter months. Although supported by the NFAA, the big national indoor tournaments, such as the Vegas Shoot and Cobo Hall, were sponsored by others. There were a few "regional" indoor shoots, too. These were generally sponsored and hosted by indoor shooting establishments ... mostly in the Midwest, Mideast and Northeast.

Today, every issue of this magazine has Sectional tournament information. Moreover, Indoor Sectionals get more "press" than Outdoor Sectionals, and 3-D Sectionals are gaining.

If you've never been to a Sectional, try it, it's great fun ... especially if the whole family goes! NFAA Sectionals (and Nationals) are not like the Olympics where only top shooters are invited. If go to a Sectional with no thought of being an elitist, then it's guaranteed that you'll have a great weekend!