

BIKE YOUR DEER OUT

By Barry Henningsen

Editor's Note: In October 1999, I read an article in the *Virginia Game & Fish* magazine titled "Virginia's Military Base Buck Hunts". When reading the section on Quantico, I read about a guy that biked into his hunting areas and then brought his deer back out with his bike. Needless to say, this impressed me (as did the pictures of the bucks he'd taken in the article.) At this year's Chantilly Expo, I had the pleasure of meeting Barry Henningsen, and asked him if he would be interested in divulging some of his secrets about the unique way he hunts. I'd like to personally thank him for providing us with this article and the pictures included. -KC

When I tell people about how great it is to bike your deer out of the woods, they say "sounds great, I'll have to look into getting a cart." I am talking bike, not cart. For the long haul, a bike is the only way to go. With a bike you can ride to the deer and use the bike as a scooter when bringing the deer out. I scooter the deer down most hills in the woods. On a gravel road, gated to restrict access, I coasted with deer down hill non-stop for 1/3 of a mile and reached speeds in excess of 20 mph. I have had visions of wiping out and getting gored by my 8 point buck. A bike is only 24 inches wide and maneuvers easily between the trees. The 26-inch wheels reduce roll resistance and going over a fallen tree is just a push over. The brakes come in handy for taking a rest during a hill climb. Also, a bike leaves no drag marks that lead back to your secret hunting spot.

The deer is hung on the bike, with the hind legs tied to the seat post and the front legs and neck tied to the

handle bar post. The body hangs low with the back just inches off the ground. The low center of gravity makes for easy handling. The shoulders are tied back to clear the front wheel. The pedal is positioned up above the stomach. This puts the pedal on the other side down to be used for scooting.

Instructions: Obtain 3 ropes about 4 feet

both legs and neck to the handle bar post. Now stand the bike up and position the pedal above the stomach. Rest the bike against a tree. Loop the last rope from the seat post down to where the shoulders interfere with the front wheel and back up to the seat post. Now synch it tight until the shoulders clear the front wheel. Stand on pedal opposite of the deer and away you go.



You can bike out 2 or 4 deer. It is done saddlebag style. Tie 2 deer to each other at hind legs and at elbows. Lay deer so the bodies are far apart. Lay bike on one deer as before. Flop other deer over bike. Position front and rear leg tie points to fall between seat and handle bar. Raise bike. The deer stay in place with out being tied to bike. Tie heads and shoulders away from front wheel. To do four deer prepare second set of deer just like first set of deer. Place second set on top of first set. Place bike on two deer. Flop other two deer over bike. Stand bike up and tie up heads and shoulders. With four deer the bike will not fall over. Let go and it leans only about a foot. When I brought four deer down a mountain hiking trail I had to ride the brakes and run fast to keep up with the deer. Good brakes are a must. I needed lots of help pushing four deer up hill though! Maintaining speed will get you to get up and over small hills. Someday, I hope to put a bear on my bike!



long. I like to tie a loop on one end of each rope for easy synching. Lay the deer on its left side if you want it to end up on the right side of bike. Cut a hole in both hind legs at the Achilles tendon. Take the front leg closest to the ground and pinch around the elbow joint until you find the thin spot the size of a dime. Cut a small hole at thin spot and use a stick to push one of the ropes through. Now place the bike on top of the deer, with the seat by the hind legs, handle bar by the front legs, and pedals over the body. Tie hind legs to the seat post with no slack. Take the rope that was strung through at the elbow and secure

