

To: Alaska Fish and Game Board

Subject: Proposal 17 in reference to Airbows

This letter is in support of the use of airbows in the state of Alaska. This is not a blanket request seeking complete approval now, it is specifically targeted for disabled hunters as a trial to evaluate the use, safety, efficiency and lethality of the airbow. When the results of a year or two are studied it may be apparent that this is a weapon that is here to stay. The use of airbows and restrictions to its use can be evaluated. Changes to regulations can be done in a timely manner to allow the widest possible opportunities for sportsman/sportswomen throughout our state to embrace the latest technological advances in hunting.

In particular I am addressing the use of a Crossman Pioneer Airbow, model BABPNBX and other models of similar design and performance. The reasons behind supporting the use of this new technology are specifically allowing better access for disabled hunters, and all hunters in general.

The airbow is capable of launching a full length arrow of 375 grains, (including 100 grain field tip or broadhead), at a speed of 450 feet per second. Accuracy is outstanding with 2" groupings at 50 yards. The airbow is as lethal as any traditional bow, compound bow or crossbow on the market. An arrow fitted with any existing legal broadhead gives the same, (or greater), killing power.

In an effort to evaluate the use of airbows in Alaska, I would like to see the approval of the use of airbows for disabled person much in the same fashion as the use of crossbows in an archery only hunt with a Method and Means Exemption.

Airbows would make hunting easier for a disabled person in several respects:

1. Handling – A normal crossbow is awkward to carry and maneuver in any brushy or thick areas. A crossbow is slow to use if a follow-up shot is required. Crossbows are difficult to transport on airlines.
2. Safety – Because of the size of an airbow, they are easy to move around. Arrows/bolts can be very dangerous when loading a crossbow because the broadhead that cuts, clips, nicks or otherwise damages the strings can lead to a catastrophic failure putting the hunter and anyone near the hunter in danger.
3. Shot placement is the major consideration when hunting game animals and the ability to consistently shoot the point of aim is paramount in any hunting configuration.

To gain a better understanding of this new type of hunting equipment a trial period may be used. In any hunt without weapon restrictions I feel an airbow should be allowed. Opening new hunts and allowing new equipment is the natural progression.

The Crosman Pioneer Airbow is the future. Alaska should take the lead in testing the use of these weapons. The disabled hunters are the perfect vehicle to test the safety and effectiveness of the airbow.

I urge the board to allow the implementation, at the earliest possible date, of airbows in hunts without weapon restrictions. I strongly urge the board to allow the use of airbows with the same restrictions as crossbows for use with the Method and Means Exemption for the disabled hunters.

Here are some important facts that are offered by Crosman about the airbow:

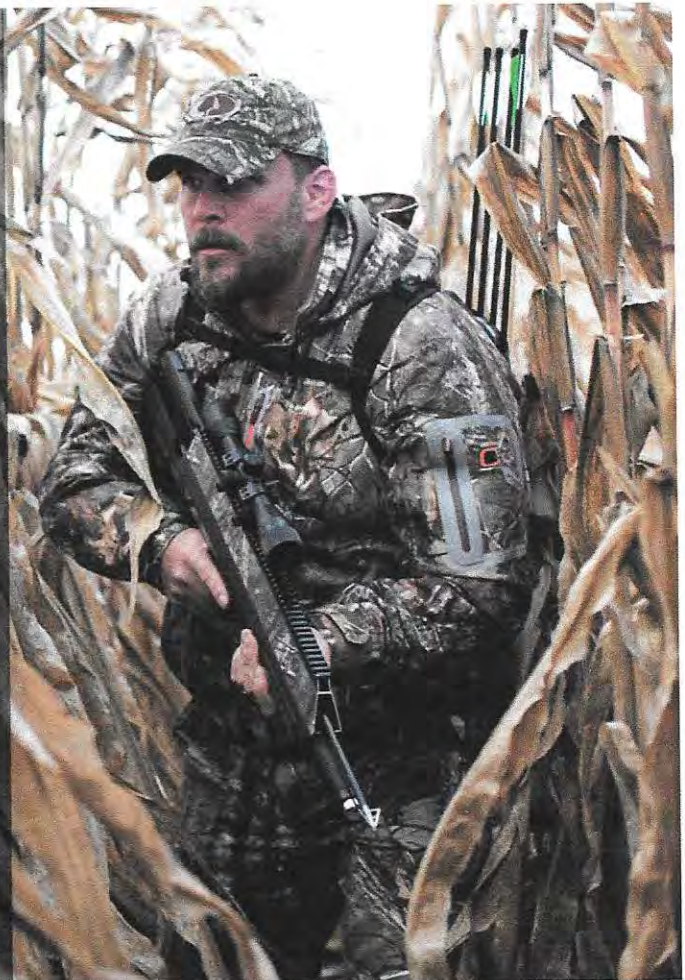
- Length is 33.5 inches
- Width is 2 inches
- Arrows are 26.25 inches
- Arrow weight is 375 grains (including 100 grain broadhead)
- Total Weight is 7 pounds
- Lever operated safety
- Velocity of 8 shots at full air charge 450 feet per second
- 168 foot pounds of energy with 375 grain arrow

Respectfully,

Jeffrey H Bushke  
Disabled Veteran  
Contact: 907-347-9666

# PIONEER AIRBOW

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE  
REVOLUTIONARY NEW  
HUNTING WEAPON



Pioneer Airbow by Benjamin

## Crosman Position Statement



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Crosman Corporation recently introduced its Benjamin Pioneer Airbow ("Airbow") as a revolutionary new hunting tool. Since launching the platform in January 2016, the Airbow has garnered an unprecedented amount of interest among bow and rifle hunters as well as those eager to participate in hunting. Because of the excitement about this product, we respectfully request that your agency review the Airbow for consideration as a legal method of take for hunting big game in your state in the same season that your state allows crossbows. The Airbow is more than capable of safely and efficiently harvesting both small and big game animals, and its ability to do so should be taken into consideration when updating the laws and/or regulations.

### Company Background

Crosman is an international designer, manufacturer and marketer of air gun products based in western New York. For more than 90 years, Crosman has been an American Icon with products for youth, competition, hunting and pest control. Today, our lineup includes air rifles and pistols, youth archery and adult crossbows, airsoft, optics, and shooting accessories.



### Pioneer Airbow Benefits Statement

The Airbow embodies some of the major advancements in air gun technology that have occurred in recent years. A pneumatic weapon designed, developed, and built in the USA, the Airbow functions like a crossbow in that it is a shoulder-fired tool that releases an arrow with the pull of a trigger. Instead of being powered by energy stored in limbs, however, the Airbow draws its energy and power from compressed air.

An integrated pressure regulator enables consistent shots at 450 feet per second (FPS). This equates to 168 foot pounds of energy (FPE), placing the Airbow in the same sub-200 FPE category of other archery products.

In contrast to a crossbow that pushes the projectile from the rear, the patent pending arrow rest of the Airbow enables the energy to be transferred to the arrow directly behind the broadhead or field tip. This results in an arrow that is stabilized immediately with none of the wobble or "archer's paradox" that occurs with a crossbow, compound, or recurve bow. The benefit is significantly greater accuracy and less chance of an errant shot or wounded game.

### Additional advantages of the Airbow:

- With no cocking rope to lose or tangle, the Airbow is easily operated by an ambidextrous cocking bolt, making it especially safe for tree stand use. Those who can not, or are no longer able to use a crossbow or compound bow because of physical limitations, may find the Airbow particularly beneficial.
- The arrow rest of the Airbow is enclosed in a protective shroud and there is no string to endanger the user during the firing operation.
- The Airbow can be de-cocked without firing. Users no longer need to worry about firing an expensive arrow or bolt into the ground or potentially damaging the weapon.
- While dry firing a crossbow can destroy the weapon, dry firing an Airbow is no more consequential than reducing the shot count.

Crosman is seeking approval of the Airbow in your state's crossbow season, whether that season is part of general archery, special use, or a separate season altogether. Where a crossbow is legal, we believe the Airbow should be an alternative method of take.

# Airbows and Archery

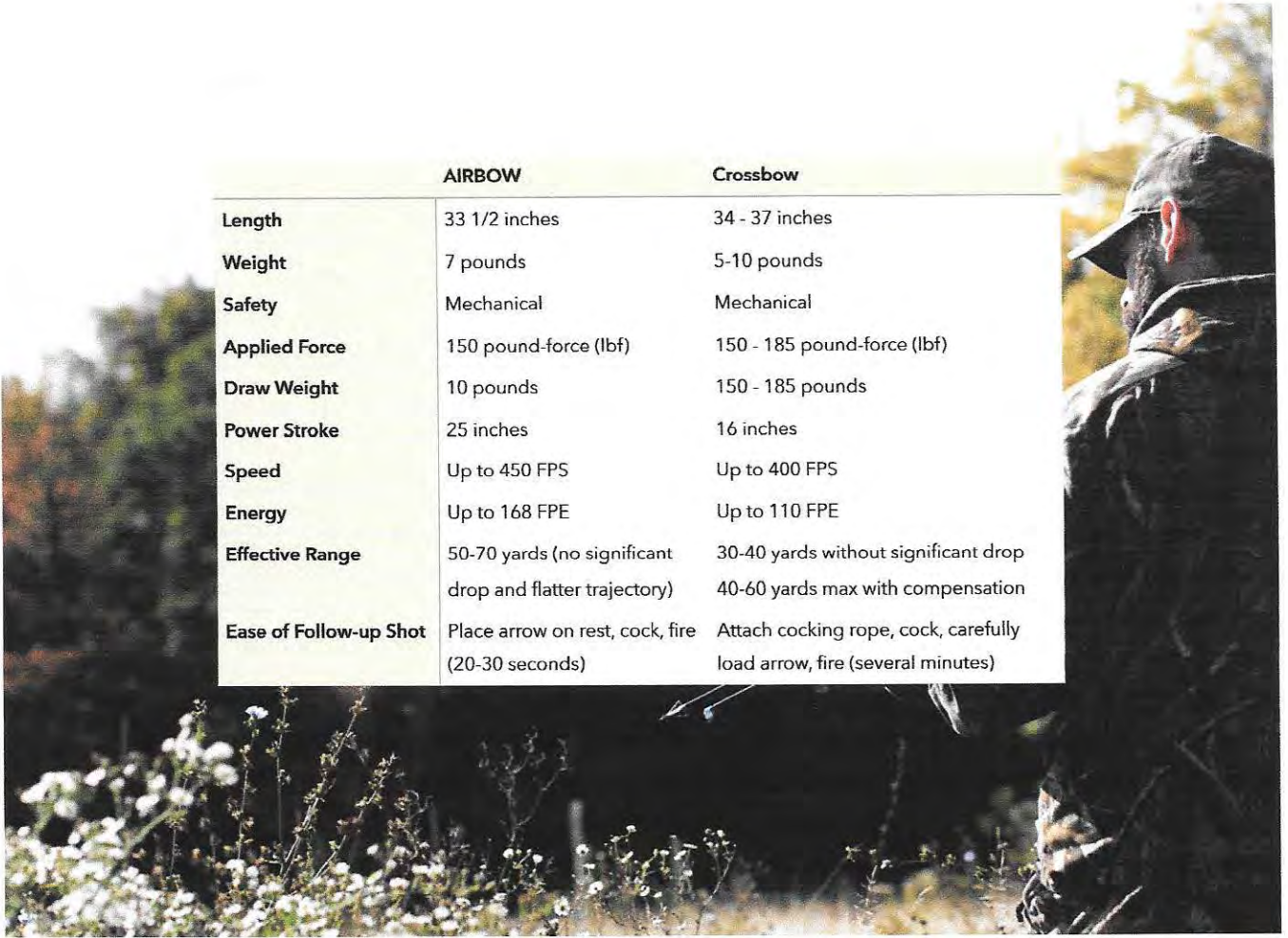
A crossbow applies up to 185 pounds (draw weight) of force over a power stroke less than 18 inches. A compound or recurve bow has a much longer power stroke but a draw of 50 to 90 pounds.

Comparatively, the Airbow applies 150 pounds of force in the form of compressed air to an arrow over a 25 inch power stroke.

The combination of greater applied force over a longer power stroke using compressed air results in a hybrid archery weapon that is truly revolutionary.



	AIRBOW	Crossbow
<b>Length</b>	33 1/2 inches	34 - 37 inches
<b>Weight</b>	7 pounds	5-10 pounds
<b>Safety</b>	Mechanical	Mechanical
<b>Applied Force</b>	150 pound-force (lbf)	150 - 185 pound-force (lbf)
<b>Draw Weight</b>	10 pounds	150 - 185 pounds
<b>Power Stroke</b>	25 inches	16 inches
<b>Speed</b>	Up to 450 FPS	Up to 400 FPS
<b>Energy</b>	Up to 168 FPE	Up to 110 FPE
<b>Effective Range</b>	50-70 yards (no significant drop and flatter trajectory)	30-40 yards without significant drop 40-60 yards max with compensation
<b>Ease of Follow-up Shot</b>	Place arrow on rest, cock, fire (20-30 seconds)	Attach cocking rope, cock, carefully load arrow, fire (several minutes)



# Jim Shockey

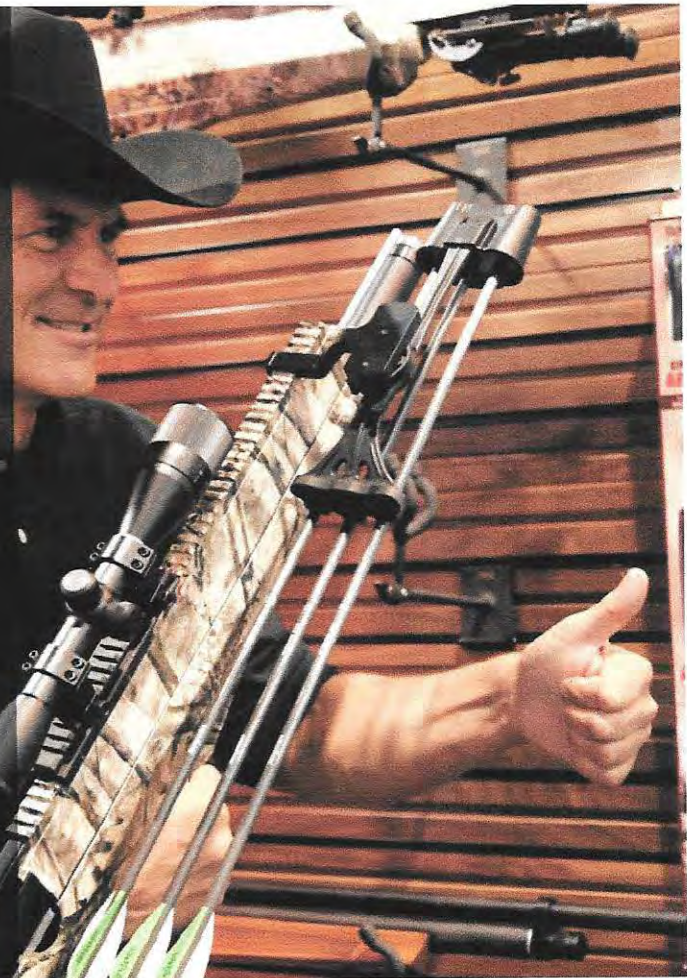
Jim has been an award-winning outdoor writer, wildlife photographer/videographer, wilderness guide, and outfitter for nearly 30 years. He has taken more than 350 species that include 88 World Records for Safari Club International (SCI) and 400+ total SCI recordbook entries.

Jim considers the Pioneer Airbow a "game changer" for hunting.



**CLICK HERE for a special message from Jim Shockey**

<http://bit.ly/shockeymessage>



January 27, 2016

Jim Shockey Crosman Airbow Position:

Recently there has been quite a uproar about the new Crosman Pioneer Airbow. You might have seen video of me using this amazing hunting tool to take a 2,000-pound bull bison. Some archery hunters are worried about this latest advancement in technology. I hear your concerns and understand. I, too, am an archery hunter.

We have all seen the crossbow revolution over the last few years. I'm old enough to have also lived through the compound bow and in-line muzzleloader revolutions as well! Now we have the "Crosman Airbow" revolution. Innovation. Progress. And each time we've gone through one of these revolutions, there have been improvements in performance and safety; and hunters have ended up with a better tool, an alternative tool.

Firearms perform differently than they did 100 years ago. Today we have better hunting calibers, better bullets, better loads, better manufacturing, etc ... Hunting optics, laser rangefinders and bows are much different than they were 100 years ago. Compound bows largely replaced longbows or recurves in the woods. Crossbows are much different than they were 100 years ago ... pulleys, easier cocking, etc...

... And now the Crosman Airbow. Progress is a fact and necessity the mother of invention. Today's crossbows have left many hunters wanting in a few critical areas ... ease of loading and unloading, speed of a follow-up shot, and, most importantly, safety. An arrow fired from a Crosman Airbow is slightly faster, but performs about the same as a modern hunting crossbow. Where the Crosman Airbow is a slam-dunk better tool is ease of use and safety. What's wrong with that?

Despite equipment innovations over the years, we hunters have learned to co-exist. I believe we've become more accepting of each other, no matter what type of hunting tool we choose. And this is a good thing for the future of our hunting heritage. As hunting

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equipment manufacturers have innovated, the hunting market has grown, more people have jobs in our industry, and wild places and wild animals are better off. More hunters mean more dollars for wildlife conservation.

If you worry that the Airbow will affect your favorite deer season, I highly doubt it. I expect that the Crosman Airbow will fit within the season frameworks that already exist ... when the states determine where it fits best.

Air bows will likely not appeal to most hard-core bowhunters. And that's OK! They will certainly appeal to gun hunters who do not want to learn and practice with a vertical bow and who are too afraid of the complications of crossbows. And, as stated, they will appeal to existing crossbow hunters looking for an easier, safer option ... especially for their kids. Further, the Airbow is an incredible solution for those with physical disabilities who would like to enjoy the flight of the arrow. Anyone ... anyone at all can shoot and/or hunt with a Crosman Airbow and have a great time doing so. Now what's wrong with that?

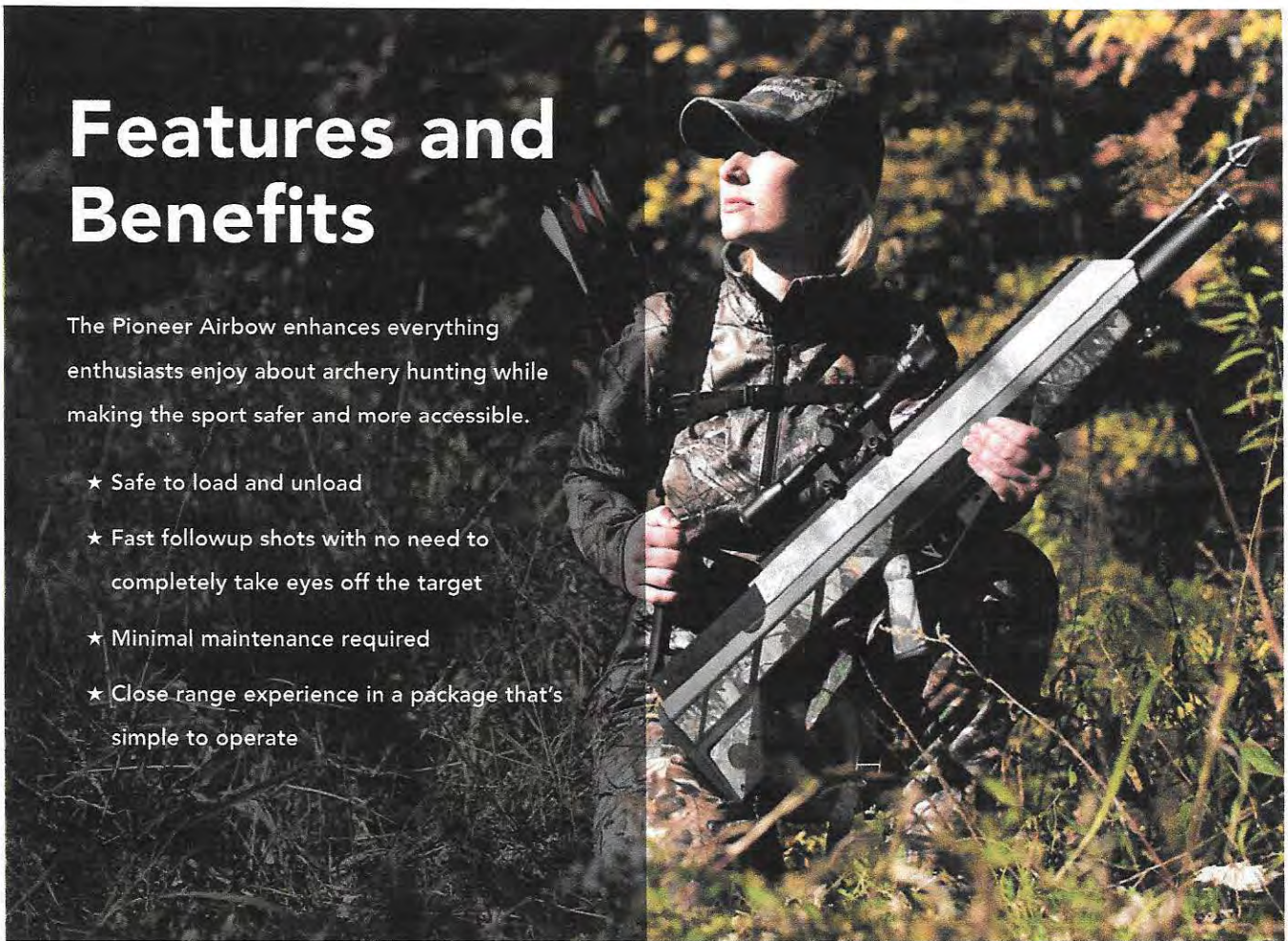


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# Features and Benefits

The Pioneer Airbow enhances everything enthusiasts enjoy about archery hunting while making the sport safer and more accessible.

- ★ Safe to load and unload
- ★ Fast followup shots with no need to completely take eyes off the target
- ★ Minimal maintenance required
- ★ Close range experience in a package that's simple to operate



Cocking Lever



Patent-pending arrow retaining collar

Patent-pending arrow rest damping system

Arrow Rest



Pressure Gauge



Regulator



Manual Safety



Air Reservoir



# Airbow Accuracy Explained

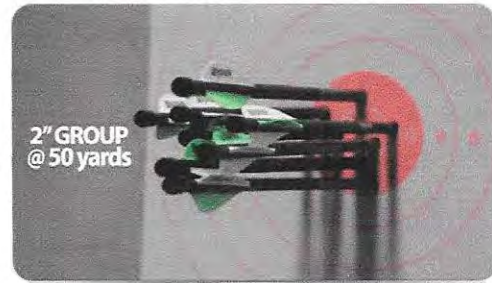
## Why is there no Archer's Paradox with the Airbow?

An arrow launched by a traditional archery product is *pushed from the rear*. This causes the shaft to bend because the mass of the arrow resists that push.

When an arrow is launched by the Airbow it is *pulled from the front*. This causes the shaft to straighten because the mass of the arrow resists that pull.

## Why is the Airbow more accurate?

- ★ Lack of the Archer's Paradox
- ★ Lack of recoil from limbs
- ★ The patent-pending arrow rest damping system



### Airbow Introduction and Accuracy

Learn how the Pioneer Airbow works, its features and see an Airbow arrow in flight.

[CLICK HERE to watch the video](#)

<http://bit.ly/airbowaccuracy>



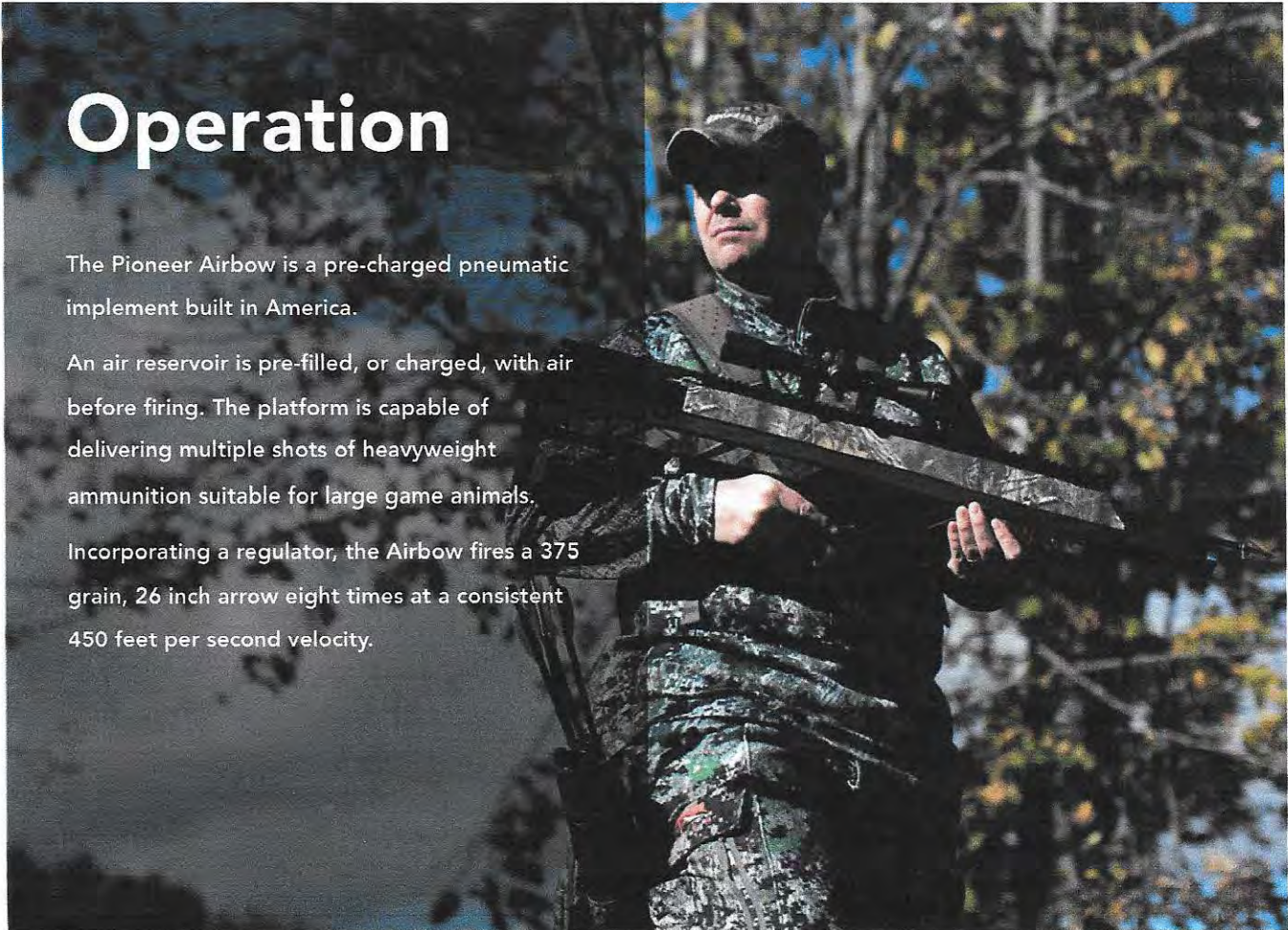
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## Operation

The Pioneer Airbow is a pre-charged pneumatic implement built in America.

An air reservoir is pre-filled, or charged, with air before firing. The platform is capable of delivering multiple shots of heavyweight ammunition suitable for large game animals.

Incorporating a regulator, the Airbow fires a 375 grain, 26 inch arrow eight times at a consistent 450 feet per second velocity.

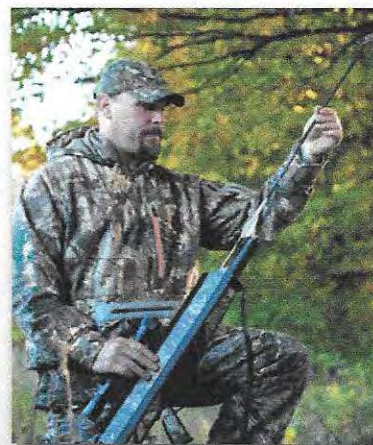






The Pioneer Airbow is driven by 3000 PSI of compressed air. An integrated pressure regulator delivers 8 shots at a consistent 450 FPS and the convenient fill nipple makes refilling quick and easy. Benjamin offers a High Pressure Hand Pump and 4500 PSI Charging System as filling solutions.

Arrows are slipped on to the Pioneer's arrow rest and pressed into a patent-pending collar that prevents the arrow from coming off the weapon even when held upside down, and creates a seal for maximizing air pressure within the shaft. Arrows may be removed easily.



The ambidextrous cocking bolt is simple to operate, especially in a tree stand. With no cocking rope to lose or tangle, anyone, regardless of size or strength, can operate the Pioneer. The Airbow is also easily de-cocked, a safety feature that eliminates the need to fire expensive arrows and broadheads into the ground as is required in de-cocking a crossbow.

# Media

Videos of the Pioneer Airbow have received over two million views and thousands of shares and comments. The verdict is in from consumers: they want to hunt with an Airbow.

These videos represent the near universal response to the Airbow and will further your understanding of this fantastic new tool.

## Everything Changes

Jim Shockey introduces the Pioneer Airbow with a remarkable demonstration of its capability.

[CLICK HERE to watch the video](#)

<http://bit.ly/shockeygamechanger>



## Reactions

Hunting and crossbow experts comment on the performance and advancements of the Airbow.

[CLICK HERE to watch the video](#)

<http://bit.ly/airbowreactions>



## Deer Hunting With The Airbow

Chuck Sykes, Director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries for the state of Alabama, reviews the Airbow for The Management Advantage during the 2016 whitetail season.

[CLICK HERE to watch the video](#)

<http://bit.ly/TMAirbow>



# Contact

We welcome the opportunity to visit with you about the Pioneer Airbow.

Demonstrations and hands-on experiences can be arranged at a location of your choosing and a time that is convenient for your team.



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