



April 2014

[Volume 2, Edition 2]

Mounted Archery Association of the Americas

2014 Texas Bi-Continental Championships Scores

Overall Winners

First Place

Lukas Novotny 436.49

Second Place

Trey Schlichtung 369.48

Third Place

Diana Troyk 281.33

Overall Advanced Class

Lukas Novotny 436.49

Trey Schlichting 369.48

Diana Troyk 281.33

Intermediate Class

Shelly Ryan 188.68

Serena Caballero 153.46

BJ Smith 110.23

Novice Class

Todd Mathis 190.33

Drake Gafford 141.89

Greg Ogborn 130.98

Youth Class

Maia Denzler 213.56

Kayla Nash 198.55

Eric Nash 188.23

Overall Winner
Lukas Novotny



Bei DeVold

2014 Bi-Continental Championships

By Michael Sabo

As I threw my archery gear into my pickup and headed down the road, the thrill of the coming mounted archery competition hit me like a tsunami of indescribable sensations. Thoughts and possibilities running through my mind were only interrupted by frequent calls from fellow archers: Trey Schlichting, Serena Caballero, and Todd Mathis. The competition would begin on Friday and end on Sunday. The events would include the Hungarian (my fave), the Texas Three Shot, the Texas Hunt course, the Qabaq, and the Comanche Attack course. This seemed to be a good combination of some of the old and some of the new and the weather was looking most agreeable.

The event was held at the Schlichting Ranch on the east side of New Braunfels, Texas. I would be camping on the site with quite a few of the other archers, which made for some great opportunities to visit with old friends, meet some new ones, drink beer, and tell lies.

Early the next morning there was a keen sense of happiness in the air. The life of the horse archer is the greatest lifestyle of all and the collective group consciousness was elevated and rising. While riders were finishing tacking up horses and making last second adjustments, I took

Diana Troyk and Todd Mathis



a few minutes to check out the various archery gear and accoutrements brought by archers from all over the United States. There was quite a variety, ranging from the newest “whiz-bang” bows to this season’s “must-have” hotshot speed loading quivers. Evidently, there had been much preparation for our monumental big day. Needless to say, I was feeling a bit outgunned...yeah right. As we say in Texas, “when in doubt, whip it out!” Make no mistake, I was ready to throw down on the Hun course.

Trey Schlichting



All riders were given six runs per event to achieve the most accurate assessment of their skills and abilities. This would ultimately give each rider thirty runs by the end of the competition, not a bad deal considering the nominal entry fee.

The riders were placed into one of three groups (A, B, or C) which included youth, novice, intermediate, and advanced categories.

The event started and the Hungarian course went off without a hitch. I found it interesting to see so many riders loading from their hip quivers on this course since the idea is to load from the hand, but, as they say, “Variety is the spice of life” and I enjoyed the many styles. We had thumb shooters, finger shooters, fast riders, slow riders, hand loaders, quiver loaders, good form, bad form, etc. I loved it all. Honestly, who wants to see a bunch of people all performing the same style and looking like carbon copy robots? Not me. Way too boring to watch.

BJ Smith



With Saturday morning came the Texas Three Shot and the Texas Hunt courses. The Hunt course featured life-size 3D targets, including two picks, one deer, and one bear. This course has no barriers. The idea is to put an emphasis on horsemanship and there is no reason to feel intimidated; if you can trail ride a horse, you can do this event with ease.

The youth riders proved this to everyone. By their second or third run on the course, most kids were not only developing and executing their own strategy, they were taking chances and exploiting every possible shot opportunity. Each young rider was like a slippery octopus with a trick up every sleeve. It was truly a sight to behold. Every completed run became a festive celebration for spectators and competitors!

There are points in every sport where significant events occur and define all that follows. The Texas Hunt course and Comanche Attack course (which was still to come) destroy the self-imposed status quo and challenge the idea of what is possible. Perhaps this will be the departure point for the next generation of modern mounted archers. By now all the kids know there is a dream out there and it can be theirs. Only time will tell.

Sunday morning reared its ominous head, shrugged its shoulders and bid the night farewell. Although we awoke to ethereal fog and skies the color of graveyard tombstones, we would all have sunburns by high noon. Today's events would be the Qabaq course and the Comanche Attack. By now, all the riders were comfortable with their mounts and surroundings. This would be the day most everyone scored big points on both events. Competitions frequently contain "thrills, spills, cheers, and tears." The Texas Bi-Continental was all cheers and thrills, no tears or spills! Not once were there any complaints, misunderstandings, exaggerated acts of drama, or self-serving "poop-in-the-pants" mentalities. This was refreshing considering how extremely valuable our time together is. What can I say? Mounted archery competitions are always the celebration of incredible joys of experience with our archery sisters and brothers.

By the way, did I mention the catered Texas BBQ was awesome? Well...it was! The awards ceremony and dinner was a grand old time and

everyone got their just deserts. Needless to say, there were quite a number of trophies and medals to award. Such tokens are great, but everyone walked away with the ultimate gifts that come from a mounted archery competition: the critical

Mike Sabo



lessons of higher level of awareness, the life and death importance of crisis management and split-second decision making on the fly, and the image of each moment burned into the memory, which will be a powerful source of inspiration to everyone's quality of life.

Monday morning, most everyone was headed back to his or her part of the USA, near and far. I remained at the Schlichting Ranch to help pick up trash, fold up chairs, pack up tables, etc. At this point in life, I have learned the importance of giving back more than I take out. By midday, the ranch was restored to its original appearance, as if the competition had never happened and was only a crazy dream. Maybe it was. But it's our crazy dream. Keep dreaming and dare to keep it crazy.

Maia Denzler



Thank you Bei DeVold for the great pictures and Mike Sabo for the story. Happy shooting!