

Mounted Archery Association of the Americas—MA3

Keeping Mounted Archery Alive



Cameron Momtaz, Texas Int'l Archery Festival, 2019; image by Vincent McLean.

In This Issue

- [Message from the Board](#) 1
- [MA3 Board Member Spotlight](#)2
- [New MA3 Chapters](#)2
- [Horse Archery National Ranking](#)3
- [New Central Region Liaison](#)3
- [First TX Int'l Archery Festival](#)3
- [New Club Spotlight](#)4
- [Updated New-Club Packets](#)4
- [Choosing Your First Bow](#)4
- [Training Tips for Mounted Archery](#)..4
- [MA3 Scholarship](#)6
- [Upcoming Competitions](#)6
- [2019 Grading List](#)6

The MA3 Board

Cody Lee Jones:	President
Stacey Youlios:	Vice-President
Celine Takatsuno:	Membership
Leah Earle:	Secretary
BJ Smith:	Treasurer
Michael Cain:	Board Member
Frank Silher:	Ranking System
Jennifer Larsen:	Social Media/Comm
Jessie Collins:	Board Member

Message from the Board from Cody Lee Jones, President

Hello fellow horseback archers! Happy Spring to all of you! It has been a very active season at MA3!

April 2019 saw the publication of the very first US Horse-Archery ranking list, detailing current competitor standings in order based on live competition results.

Congrats to our current top three, Greg Ogburn, Ashley Safa, and Tyler Horan. The bar has been set! As more and more international events such as championships and grand prix' call for National Teams from each country, this list will help us determine who gets to travel and represent the United States!

The year has started with a bang with no less than three competitions! This April, MA3 Chapter The Eastern Contingent held the first Horse Archery Festival in the United States in over a decade. The Texas International Archery Festival aims to celebrate the nomadic spirit with steppe style archery games and costumes, as well as Horse-Archery courses. This first year's competition featured Ottoman style events found in Turkish historical records, curated by one of our founders- Lukas Novotny. The event was a resounding success with competitors traveling in from over 12 countries! Congrats to Golden Age Champion, Kenton Miller from Canada, and Open-Class Champion Trey Schlichting!

(Message, cont. page 2)

(Message, cont. from page 1)

In March the South Texas Archery Riders held their fourth annual International Competition in Columbus TX. Congrats to Frank Sihler for taking first prize in a hard-fought event!

Earlier in March Greg Ogburn added another gold medal to his collection at the Desert Warriors of the Southwest's first Spring Mini-Duel! Nice shooting Greg!

Everyone, please welcome our newest chapters: Amity Island Horse Archers, from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts; Colorado Mounted Archers, from Denver, CO; and Eagle Eye Archers, Oak Harbor, WA! Welcome aboard! We look forward to seeing your clubs grow!

This Spring the MA3 Board of Directors will continue to organize and improve our Association in a number of ways. We will be creating new chapter packets, loaded with useful information on all aspects of starting and growing your chapter, holding a competition, safety, and horseback archery in general. Additionally, we are looking into a new online membership platform that will make it easier for chapter leaders to keep track of memberships. We're planning an all member web-meeting for the month of November to discuss this and more. That's all for now, thanks all and Happy Shooting!

MA3 Board Spotlight: Jessie Collins, Board Member

Hello all I am Jessie Collins, formerly known as Jessie Nelson, and I am a horse crazy gal originally from the Atlantic shores of NH, who after many hops around the world, settled down near Lexington, Kentucky. I started with horses when I was about six. I was lucky and lived next to an amazing eventer who babysat me all the time. I was lucky to be able to train with her and another talented trainer while I grew up. I think they and the horses saved my life and helped me stay on a path of success. I mainly did jumpers until my 20s and some in my 30s, but I stumbled across the amazing sport of mounted archery and well, I am hooked for life!



*Jessie Collins, Club Liaison for the Eastern US;
image by Vincent McLean.*

The MA3 community has shown me such compassion, knowledge, and friendship I knew I wanted to be a part of it and help spread its core mission. I look to every event whether it be a grading, competitions or practice days to learn more, improve my skill and connect with the amazing animals that make any of this possible! I hope to travel and compete internationally in the future as soon as I finish grad school!

(Board Spotlight, cont. page 6)

New MA3 Chapters!

Please join us in welcoming the newest MA3 Chapters!

- Amity Island Horse Archers, West Tisbury, MA. Contact: Annie Parsons, theannieparsons@hotmail.com.
- Colorado Mounted Archers, Denver, CO. Contact: Cassandra Moe, cassandramoe@gmail.com.
- Eagle Eye Rangers, Oak Harbor, WA. Contact: Michael Cain, jolierouge@msn.com.

For a complete list of MA3 chapters, and information about starting a chapter, please go [HERE](#).

US Horseback Archery National Ranking

Congratulations to everyone who has participated in the new US Horseback Archery National Ranking program! Ranking scores as of March 2019:

1. Greg Ogburn, AZ—71.10%
2. Ashley Safa, OR—66.3%
3. Tyler Horan, TX—63.17%
4. Frank Sihler, AK—57.18%
5. Cody Lee Jones, WA—55.84%
6. Joey Ogburn, AR—55.59%
7. Hilary Merrill, CA—54.01%
8. Cameron Momtaz, CA—50.28%
9. Stacey Youlios, UT—35.24%

Go [HERE](#) for ranking guidelines and for a complete breakdown of scores. As always, please don't hesitate to contact MA3 directly with comments or questions!

New Central Region Chapter Liaison

Please join us in welcoming Brandy Von Holten of Country Tough Mountain Archers as the new Central Region Chapter Liaison!



Brandy Von Holten, Country Tough Mountain Archers.

MA3 Chapter Liaisons:

Stacey Youlios, Western Region
Brandy Von Holten, Central Region
Jessie Collins, Eastern Region

First Annual Texas International Archery Festival

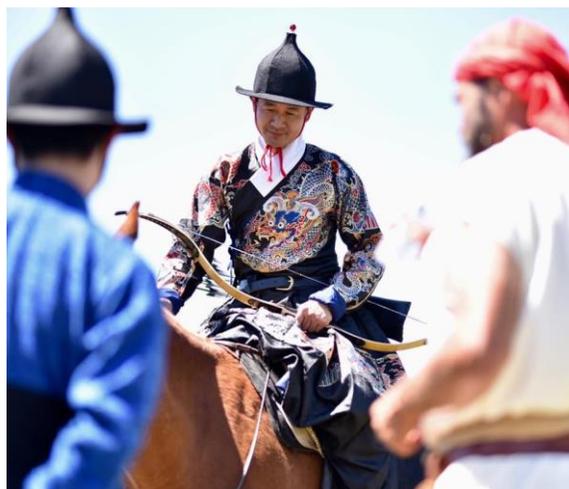
By Rob Morton and Jennifer Lynn Larsen, The Eastern Contingent Co-Leaders

America is a country of diversity, made up of every culture, ethnicity and creed you can imagine. This year The Eastern Contingent, a Texas MA3 chapter decided to honor a number of the traditions that are largely unknown here in the states.



*Takaski Nakahire and Jun Taketani;
image by Georges Schemagin.*

The TXIAF, also known as the Texas International Archery Festival was one of the very first international competitions of its type held here in the United States. It included both mounted and ground archers from 12 countries and boasted three unique and historic mounted archery tracks curated by our very own Lukas Novotny as well as four historic ground



Li Zhang of Ali Bow; image by Georges Schemagin.

(TXIAF, cont. page 7)

New Club Spotlight: Horse Archers of Fletcher Hill

by Nichole Lefevre, Co-Captain

The Horse Archers of Fletcher Hill story started with pigeons. In the Fall of 2018, the red-eyed flying buggers came home to roost in the eaves of Round Tuit Ranch in Enfield, Connecticut. In an effort to evict them, we picked up an old kid's bow and blunt arrows with the hopes that the noise and movement would encourage the squatters to leave for good. We immediately felt our inner warriors come to life and it only seemed natural at that point to learn more about Mounted Archery.



HAFAs member, Karen Coro. "We think her smile captures our club spirit!" –Nichole Lefevre, HAFAs Co-Captain.

After doing our homework, we became the first New England chapter of the MA3. In November 2018, clinician and certified Kassai instructor, Tom Kelner, made the journey from Montana to Connecticut to help us get started.

Since then, Horse Archers of Fletcher Hill has grown exponentially. Our focus is on family fun and skill building. To date we have started archers from ages 7 to 84! We have a passion for coaching and helping our members reach their individual goals in Mounted Archery. We welcome new members in the New England area and beyond and look forward to our continued journey with the MA3.



Updated New-Club Packets

By Stacey Youlios, MA3 Vice-President

The MA3 Board of Directors has been working hard on developing a more comprehensive new-club packet to help new leaders get their clubs off the ground! These packets will have all the information the club leaders need: how to put on a competition, safety guidelines, updated rules and by-laws, how to market and promote their club, how to set up their track, and so much more! We expect to be done with this huge task in the next month or two. When it's done we plan to send all current clubs the same packet, so all our amazing club leaders have access to the same great information. Thank you for being a part of our MA3 family!

Choosing Your First Bow

by Rob "The Hun" Morton, The Eastern Contingent

In the world of mounted archery, it can be daunting to get set up with the proper gear. 20 years ago, the choices regarding bows, arrows, and accessories were few and far between, but today we have a multitude of options—and thankfully, a wide range of prices as well.

Starting out with a budget is a huge help – most folks try archery by itself on a whim, and the mounted aspect of it is even more daunting. As a general rule to the new archer - my best suggestion is to start with some of the less expensive gear and find out if you actually like archery, mounted or otherwise. Before we get into the technical aspects – let's talk options and why.

There are four main types of eastern style bows – three of which only really apply to the new student of the art:

1. Fiberglass Core (\$60-\$350)– construction of the translucent fiberglass, wood siyahs and then wrapped in decorative leather. The solid fiberglass bows are heavier than the laminate bows, but at a fraction of the cost. They are the most economical

(Bows, cont. page 5)

(Bows, cont. from page 4)

option and unfortunately, quality tends to run the gambit. Those less expensive options found on Amazon and Ebay aren't up to the quality of an Alibow or similar.

2. Laminate (\$300-\$1400) – generally the laminate bows are traditional bows in shape, but built from carbon, fiberglass and wood. They are faster, lighter and are the most common choice for the modern, mounted archer.
3. Biocomposite (\$400-\$700) – for the history buffs, the biocomposite is the best of both worlds. It is a mix of both traditional and modern materials; they incorporate horn, sinew like the true horn bows – but also contain modern adhesives and stabilizing materials to create a functional and beautiful reproduction of the originals. Unusual to be used here in the states, but very common overseas.



*Author shooting Grozer Turkish Biocomposite;
image by The Modern Rogues*

(Bows, cont. page 7)

MA3 Instructors Moving Up!

Please join us in congratulating Frank Sihler, Mat-Su Mounted Archers in Alaska, and Kent Battenfield, The Eastern Contingent, TX, for moving from 'Registered Instructor' to 'Registered Clinician'! Way to go Frank and Kent!

Training Tips for MA

Series: Utilizing Dressage Principles to Train your Mounted Archery Horse, Article 3: Implementing Dressage Down the Track

by Stacey Youlios

Review of Article 2:

In the last article we discussed the principles of developing a true connection and balance in your horse. Developing a balanced uphill frame will make it easier to shoot and is safer then when a horse is barreling down the track on the forehand.

So Why is Balance and Connection Important to My Mounted Archery?

Some of you may be thinking, "learning how to help your horse travel in a balanced and connected manner is all good for the lower levels of our sport, but how does that have anything to do with going fast on the track to gain speed points?" I get that part of the appeal for some is flying down the track while shooting. Yes, this is a thrill for sure but how we get down the track is equally as important as just speed. Besides safety, if the horse is balanced and coming through from behind, they will actually go just as fast as horses traveling on their forehands. Well, balanced horses properly using their hind end can actually go faster because they are now pushing more from behind instead of pulling from their shoulders.



Image by EquuSmile Photography.

Impulsion and putting everything you have learned to good use on the track comes next in this article! Read the full article [HERE](#).

MA3 Scholarship

MA3 Scholarship Applications are due June 15, 2019. Click [HERE](#) for all the info you'll need to apply!

Upcoming Mounted Archery Competitions

- **Creekside Mounted Archery June Open Competition:** June 7-9, 2019; Waynesburg, OH. Contact Cynthia Bauman, creeksidehorsepark@gmail.com.
- **Alaska Mounted Archers, 2nd Alaska Horse Archery Competition and Midnight Madness:** June 27-30, 2019; Wasilla, Alaska. Contact Frank Sihler: 907-841-7468.
- **Creekside Mounted Archery July Open Competition:** July 12-14, 2019; Waynesburg, OH. Contact Cynthia Bauman, creeksidehorsepark@gmail.com.
- **Alpine Mounted Archery 3rd Annual National Competition:** August 1-4, 2019; Panguitch, UT. Contact Stacey Youlios: 801-712-9621.
- **Creekside Mounted Archery August Open Competition:** August 9-11, 2019; Waynesburg, OH. Contact Cynthia Bauman, creeksidehorsepark@gmail.com.
- **Creekside Mounted Archery September Open Competition:** September 6-8, 2019; Waynesburg, OH. Contact Cynthia Bauman, creeksidehorsepark@gmail.com.
- **Kansas State Fair National Mounted Archery Competition:** September 9, 2019; Hutchinson, Kansas. Contact Brandy Von Holten, vonholtenranch@yahoo.com.
- **Country Tough Mounted Archers 2019 National Competition:** October 25-26, 2019; Mora, MO. Contact Brandy Von Holten, vonholtenranch@yahoo.com.
- **Desert Warriors of the SW National Horse Archery Competition:** November 8-10, 2019; Arizona. Contact Diana Troyk, magicdi69@cox.net.

For more details about upcoming clinics, postal matches, and other horse archery events, please go [HERE](#).

2019 Grading List

Congratulations to all MA3 members who have participated in the Grading program to date! The numbers of members who are grading is incredible! For a complete grading list of MA3 members from S1 to H8, please go [HERE](#).

(Board Spotlight, cont. from page 2)

I currently have a small MA3 chapter in Kentucky where we train and spread the MA bug! I value every moment I get to spend in the saddle or just sitting quietly in the barn as my horses eat hay. Not only do horses make this world a better place, and help us keep our sanity, but combined with mounted archery they make riding fun, challenging and beyond rewarding! Mounted archery has helped me push through some fears after a bad jumping accident, it has allowed me to meet the most wonderful people from across the globe and has helped me find my way to the most wonderful people in my life! (Shout out to my Team Bluegrass BOD squad!).

I hope to meet many more archers in my lifetime as I always look forward to learning more, chatting about history and breaking bread with strangers who instantly welcome me as part of the tribe. Mounted Archery Association of the Americas brings a sense of community that is so unique in the equestrian world, I hope many more get to enjoy all of its possibilities. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or a seasoned archer—we all belong to an amazing collective of individuals who are paving the way and changing the world as one stride and one arrow at a time! See you out there, I look forward to shooting with you all!



International Archers Meeting at the 2019 TXIAF.

(TXIAF, cont. from page 3)

archery courses including the Kyrgyz, Turkish, Korean and Texas 3-D. The focus of the competition was the “Golden Age Classic”—a historically-based competition which required traditional garb, as well as traditional quivers and accessories. If that wasn’t enough, the festival had over 500 spectators over 3 days, 40 vendors, amazing food and was held at the beautiful and natural Sherwood Forest Faire grounds in McDade Texas.

Much of the event was influenced by the time spent in Kyrgyzstan during the World Nomad Games – of which a number of MA3 members were present as the first Americans to compete in both mounted and ground events.



Katie Stearns; image by Jeff Cohen.

The 2019 event was such a success the TXIAF crew is planning next years event – 2020 promises to be bigger and even more amazing.

www.TXIAF.com
www.theeasterncontingent.com

(Bows, cont. from page 5)

4. Horn Bows (\$1500+) – the most expensive and rare. True horn, sinew, and wood bows made the way the originals were built. They are typically very expensive, temperamental and unless made by a competent bowyer, need a great deal of extra “care and feeding”, above and beyond your run of the mill bow.

A couple things to consider:

As an archery instructor, I tell most folks that the lighter the bow, the more practice you can do without getting tired. Draw weight literally means the amount of force it takes to draw the bow back. It's a great thing to tell folks you shoot a 60-pound bow, but it's not a lot fun after a half a dozen shots. Shooting more builds consistency, and if you're not focused on all that weight being drawn back, you have more time to focus on building constant, repeatable form. For women, I generally say start out between 20-30-pound draw weights. For men, 30-35-pound draw weights – particularly if you are just starting out with thumb draw, stick to the lower weights until your fingers are trained.

Typically, thumb draw is the preferred choice of mounted archers. If you're an archer that's interested in trying it, it's going to be the weirdest thing you've ever done. It takes time, so be patient. There are a few schools of mounted archery around the world that also use the three-finger (the “Mediterranean” draw), but generally it's up to the individual.

For the entry-level archer one of my favorite bows is the Alibow Turkish or Crimean. It's a tossup for me, but generally I like as small and handy as possible. The Turkish being 44 inches long and the Crimean at 48 inches. As a rule, shorter bows tend to be less forgiving (by “forgiving” I mean that the shorter a bow is, the more prone it is to have your shot disturbed by your hand, or form – so a longer bow is generally more “forgiving” to new archers).

When you first start, the possible need to toss your bow off your horse is always there – throwing a thousand dollar bow off your horse doesn't sound too

(Bows, cont. page 8)

(Bows, cont. from page 7)

great. While learning (both you and your horse) utilizing a less expensive bow is a smart way to go.

Let's say though, you want to go straight into the mid-level; three notable options stand out. The Grozer L2 Crimean (\$650) is phenomenal, and on par with some of the best bows in the world. It is a relative newcomer to the sport; it features a re-shaped grip, lighter weight and is ultimately very fast. For the traditional archers, the Grozer Biocomposites (\$400-\$700) also fit nicely into this category. They are a bit heavier than the laminate offerings, but are still excellent, fast and accurate bows. One of the most popular options is the Nomad (\$300) – built by Alibow for Nomad Warriors Archery. A light, fast laminate and built to be a performer, the Nomad is rapidly becoming one of the bar standard bows.

And of course, for the highest-end offerings, the Saluki is considered by most to be the absolute best. Light, fast, and built by hand by Lukas Novotny. A number of the top mounted archers here in the USA use Saluki bows. If you want the best of the best in the laminate bow category – the Saluki is probably the finest fusion of old world style and new age materials.

For Alibows here in the USA – either retailer typically carries a good selection. The Flying Hun specializes in more historic archery, whereas the Nomad Warriors focus on mounted archery as a sport.

*Originally published in Sport and Trail Magazine, www.weride.us
www.theflyinghun.com / www.nomadwarriors.com*



*Texas International Archery Festival, 2019;
image by Vincent McLean.*



Tyler Horan, Texas International Archery Festival, 2019.



Di Troyk, TXIAF, 2019; image by JEJ Commercial Photography.