



Mounted Archery Association of the Americas—MA3

Keeping Mounted Archery Alive



Lucas Novotny, Duel in the Desert Comp., Scottsdale, AZ. Pic. by Jayme Alexander.

In This Issue

Message from the Board.....	1
MA3 Board Member Spotlight.....	2
New MA3 Chapters	2
Jojo, the Archery Mule!.....	2
New National Ranking System.....	3
New MA3 Instructors.....	3
2019 Board Election Results.....	3
Upcoming MA Competitions.....	3
Training Tips for MA.....	4
MA3 Membership Minute.....	4
Grading List.....	5
New Board Member Bios.....	5-6

The MA3 Board

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

Message from the Board from Stacey Youlios, Vice President

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you are staying as warm and dry as you can as it has been a wild winter for some of us in the northern parts of the country! First off I want to welcome our three newest directors to the board: Jennifer Lynn Larsen, Frank Sihler and Jessie Nelson Collins!! We look forward to having them join us in paving the way as we grow and improve procedures for our organization. Having nine board members will also make it possible to tackle more tasks and make faster headway with new programs and plans for the future. As we start a new year and my second on the board, I am looking forward to the new national ranking system and other projects still underway!

On everyone’s mind (including my own) is the ever-growing number of competitions being held in 2019! As we add more clubs the number of competitions will grow and gone are the days of only a few competitions per year! Having more choices is great and it has been fun to witness new clubs starting up and then seeing them put on their first event. There is so much excitement with having more choices and venue locations that may be closer to where we live. The more competitions and clinics there are, the more chances we have to meet up and share our love of mounted archery! I for one live for those handful of days we get to come together as a family and do what we love!

On an end note – if you have ideas, articles, or photos you would like to see in our newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me!

MA3 Board Member Spotlight: Michael Cain, Youth Program

Michael Cain was elected to the Board of MA3 two years ago. He has been a horse archer for seven years and has competed internationally.

In addition to promoting Horse archery within the modern world, Mr. Cain has been active in promoting and instructing historical horse archery with medieval organizations both here in America and in Canada.

He is currently the board representative for the MA3 youth program. Mr. Cain's focus is on education and Membership expansion.



Michael Cain, MA3 Youth Program.

New MA3 Chapters!

Please join us in welcoming the four newest MA3 Chapters!

- Shawnee Mounted Archers in Johnson City, IL. Contact: Kecia Morris
- Caballera Farm Mounted Archers in Youngsville, NC. Contact: Lila Corey
- Creek Side Mounted Archery in Waynesburg, OH. Contact: Cynthia Bauman
- The Eastern Contingent in Goldwaith, TX. Contact: Robert Morton

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

JoJo, the Archery Mule!

By Brandy Von Holten

JoJo, a 9 year-old Missouri Fox Trotter John mule, is rocking the mounted archery world! A national mounted archery competition was held Oct 26-28, 2018 in Mora, Missouri. With mounted archery just now making its way into Missouri and Kansas, every competitor present was able to say that it was their first competition!



Brandy Von Holten and JoJo the Mule.

Brandy Von Holten and JoJo won the Sharp Shooter title in cantering mounted archery, walking mounted archery, and ground shooting. They also won the Reserve Sharp Shooter in stationary shooting. Brandy is now a S4 ranking. The Warrior Champion in stationary shooting also used JoJo when their horse decided archery was too much to handle for one of the three days.

Brandy and JoJo are the first mule and rider pair to win a MA3 national competition.

Now, if you own a mule, you must know they are filled with quirks, surprises, and little loveable moments. JoJo and Brandy were disqualified three times; twice for breaking down from a canter to a trot, and one time because JoJo stopped and relieved himself on the course.

Mules are proving themselves to be valuable in yet another sport, all while being a species unto themselves!

New National Ranking System for Horseback Archers in US!

by Cody Lee Jones, MA3 President

Starting in 2019, MA3 will be keeping a running list of the best US horse archers ranked in order based on standard Korean and Hungarian course scores achieved in LIVE competition. It will be open to all horse archers based in the United States, REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION, according to the National Ranking System guidelines and rules linked below.

One of its primary functions will be to help with team selection for events such as IHAA and WHAF World Championships among other things.

It is worth noting that, in the United States, the term "ranking" was historically used for what we now know as "grading," the international standard for assessing skill levels. The grading system remains unchanged, and grades will not be affected by the new National Ranking System.

We are just at the first phase of rolling this out -- emails, application forms, and several other important details will follow soon.

[HERE](#) is a link to the guidelines. Please read carefully and as always, please don't hesitate to contact MA3 directly with comments or questions!

2019 MA3 Board Election Results!

by Cody Lee Jones

Please join me in welcoming Frank Sihler, Jennifer Lynn Larsen, and Jessie Nelson Collins to the MA3 Board of Directors! Click [HERE](#) to read their bios.

Frank will be serving on the National Ranking System committee, with Jennifer continuing on Social Media and Communications, and Jessie handling Club Liaison duties for the Eastern US.

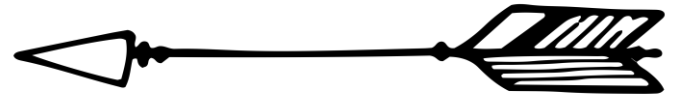
Thanks to all who stepped up and ran for the BOD this year! 2019 is looking to be a great year for MA3!

New Approved MA3 Registered Instructors

Congratulations to Sierra Stammen of Red River Horse Archers in TX for becoming the newest approved MA3 registered instructor!



Sierra Stammen, Red River Horse Archers.



Upcoming Mounted Archery Competitions

- **Desert Warriors SW Mounted Archery, Mini Duel:** March 2-3, 2019; Scottsdale, AR. Contact Diana Troyk: magicdi69@cox.net
- **STAR, 4th Annual International Horse Archery Competition:** March 15-17, 2019; Columbus, TX. Contact Serena Lynn: serena.caballero@gmail.com
- **The Eastern Contingent, Texas International Archery Festival:** April 26-28, 2019; Near Austin, TX. TXinternationalarcheryfestival@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

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

Training Tips for MA

Series: Utilizing Dressage Principles to Train your Mounted Archery Horse, Article 2

by Stacey Youlios

At some point, you have probably heard someone say “that horse isn’t connected”. But what does that even mean? In this Winter Newsletter, we present the second in a series written by MA3 Vice President Stacey Youlios on utilizing dressage principles in mounted archery. This season, she’s focusing on connection.

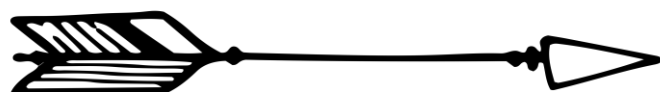


Stacey Youlios, MA3 Vice President

After reading the first post in this series, I hope you were able to put the principles of rhythm and relaxation to work in an arena or field; are better aware of your horse’s tempo and energy underneath you; and are able to maintain an even tempo that you choose (and not one the horse chooses).

Are you able to get your horse moving forward off your leg in a relaxed fashion? If so, you are ready for the third element: developing a connection that will lead to better balance and self-carriage in the horse. These are crucial characteristics of a great mounted archery form.

Read the full article [HERE](#).



MA3 Membership Minute

by Celine Takatsuno, MA3 Membership Officer

WOW! I can’t believe how much MA3 has grown over the last year. Every morning I check my inbox to find new applications and renewals from across the country, and beyond. Did you know we’ve welcomed members in 35 states, plus Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Hungary, South Africa, South Korea, The Netherlands, and Turkey?

With all the fun clinics and competitions coming up, a lot of members are messaging me with questions. I thought I’d answer the three most common ones here:

- Q. Help! I lost my card and now I don’t know my membership number!
- A. You can find your digital membership card in your Member Profile -- this way it never gets lost. Just login to ma3.wildapricot.org and download it to your phone (or even print one out) and you’ll have your Membership Number, Chapter, Membership Level, and next Renewal Date handy. If you are part of a Family Membership, you’ll have a single card and number.
- Q. I think I need to renew!
- A. We’ll send a renewal reminder to the primary email address on your profile 30 days and 14 days before your membership renewal date, then again on the day it expires. Just follow the instructions and the link in the email to renew. If you’re on auto-renew, it’s even easier: you don’t have to do a thing -- we’ll just send you confirmation that you’re renewed.
- Q. How do I get more involved?
- A. Ok, that’s not actually one of the three most frequently asked questions, but we’re always looking for new volunteers ;) Right now, if you can spare an hour a week to share your mad skills in Excel or online marketing tools, experience in Corporate Sales or Sponsorships, or your web development superpower, we would love your support as we continue our expansive growth!

(Membership, cont. page 5)

(Membership, cont. from page 4)

Hopefully I'll get to meet more of you in person this year -- my first stop is Texas for the ever-awesome STAR competition. Come say hello if you're there too! In the meantime, feel free to email me with any other questions at ma3celine@gmail.com. Until next time, aim true!

Click [HERE](#) for the MA3 website.

2018 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](#).

Bios for Newly Elected MA3 Board Members

Jennifer Lynn Larsen: Social Media and Communications

In the MA3 Community, I am the Co-Leader of The Eastern Contingent. I am the coordinator for the Texas International Archery Festival, and handle all aspects of venue coordination, competitor registration and communication, sponsorship seeking, and social media outreach. For MA3 directly, I have worked this year under Celine as a member of the Communications/Media committee. I created the MA3 Instagram page and manage all content there. I have recently been added to the team that manages the MA3 Facebook Page, answering communications there, creating social media posts, and scheduling content. I also volunteer my services at MA3 Competitions in both Scorekeeping and Announcing. I helped run Scorekeeping at the 2018 STAR competition with Celine, and with Beesh at the Duel in the Desert 2018, as "DJ Mayhem".

As a Competitor, I am the current Champion of Traditional Horsebow Archery for USA Archery, and have set 2 National Records for that organization. I was a member of The Western Horde team which competed at The World Nomad Games in Kyrgyzstan, and placed 4th in the Finals for Women's Korean Archery. We were the first American Archery team to compete in this prestigious event.



Jennifer Lynn Larsen, Social Media and Communications

In recent years I have created, coordinated, and run the Battle of the Bowmen, a Competition held at Sherwood Forest Faire that donates all proceeds to The Knights of the Grail, a Non-Profit organization which uses equine therapy techniques for veterans with PTSD. This event hosts between 50-100 archers from several different teams and has raised thousands of dollars for the non-profit.

All of this goes to show that I am capable and willing to handle many different projects at once. I am passionate, driven, and able to work with many diverse groups of people. I am never discouraged, and always working to build relations between people, to further public knowledge of our activities, events, and history, and to always encourage involvement from the community.

Frank Sihler: National Ranking System Committee

Born in Germany, Frank started archery in the 1980's. He competed in numerous traditional 3D archery tournaments there while also working on his career as a professional dog musher. The sled dogs eventually

(Sihler, cont. page 6)

(Sihler, cont. from page 5)

brought him to Finland, moving there in 1996, where he competed in sled dog races and used his bow and arrow to hunt for small game. He also worked as an outdoor and mushing guide, with tourists coming to him from all over the world.

In 2001, Frank married another German, Claudia, and they moved to Alaska, USA. Their recreational dog team grew and Frank finally fulfilled a lifetime dream, finishing the Iditarod (twice), a 1000-mile sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome. Embracing the outdoor life and challenges of being a woodsman, Frank obtained the Alaska Bow Hunter Certification and kept up his practice with different types of bows for sport and hunting.



Frank Sihler, National Ranking System Committee

Researching horses in Alaska, Frank found a love for the Mongolian Horse and the traditions around it. He found similarities in the Icelandic Horse and since 2014 he and Claudia have ridden Icelandic's in Alaska, Canada and the contiguous U.S. In addition to participating in Competitive Trail Rides, Mounted Archery became Frank's newest passion. He realized that he already had a lot of useful per-requisites for this sport from his early years and quickly moved up from an HA1 to his current HA4 grading and Instructor 1 level.

Frank loves the challenges of improving his skills as a horse archer and competing in mounted archery competitions around the U.S. and the world. He traveled to compete in Utah, Arizona, Texas and went to the famous international competition in Grunwald, Poland in 2018.

Frank also enjoys growing the sport by teaching others and founded the first Alaskan MA3 chapter, the Mat-Su Mounted Archers. He already held a first competition in Alaska in 2018 and will continue organizing competitions, postal matches, clinics and gradings.

Jessie Nelson Collins: Club Liaison for Eastern US

I have been working with or around horses since I was 6 years old. I have primarily been in the Hunter/Jumper world with some years in Eventing and competitive trail. After an Injury I took some time off and, in that time, discovered mounted archery in 2016 and have been hooked ever since. It helped me embrace my fears and get back in the saddle. I have been riding and shooting since 2016 and hope to do so for many more years. I have worked in and out of the equine industry most of my life from mucking stalls, catch riding jumpers, training and teaching lessons. I owned and equine based productions company from almost a decade until I got into Healthcare. Really, I am a horse crazy chick, who is enamored by mounted archery and wants to spread the sport wide and far.



Jessie Nelson Collins, Club Liaison for the Eastern US