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North American

AXEMAN'S NEWS

MAY 1996

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1995 ESPN Stihl

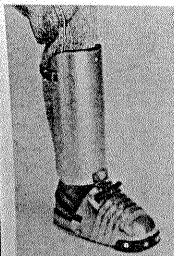
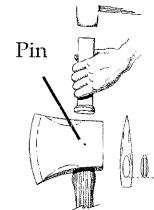
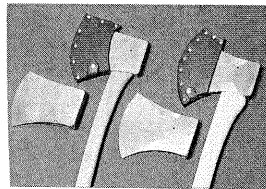
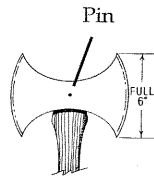
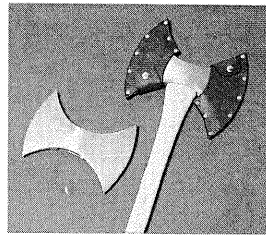
Timbersports™ Series Finalists

1st row left to right: Carson Bosworth, Arden Cogar Jr., Dennis Cahoon, Gaston Duperre. 2nd row: Mike Sullivan, Harry Burnsworth, & Mike Slingerland. 3rd row: Brad Turner, Karl Bischoff, Jim Taylor, & Billy Joe Kerr. Back row: Rolin Eslinger, Melvin Lentz, Matt Bush, Dave Jewett, (not pictured) Mark Etcheberry.

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NORTH AMERICAN AXEMAN'S NEWS
BOX 272
WEBSTER SPRINGS, WV 26288

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Secretary: Carol Cogar
Photographers: Bob Morrison, Sam Dufrense, Christine VanGee, and many others
Contributing Editors: Gary Hammond, Christine VanGee, and Everyone associated with Lumberjack Sports

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well it's been another year and despite a few obstacles I've been able to piece together another issue of the NAAN. They say that the third times the charm but a combination of law school, laziness, procrastination, and looking for work made this years edition a little hard on me. Upfront I want to emphasize how much I appreciate all the support the people of Lumberjack Sports have given me over the past three years. It hasn't been easy to put all this information together year after year, but it is getting easier with the help of people like Betty Hansen, Rod Cumberland, Gary Hammond, Christine VanGee, Rhonda Helsel, Shannon McBride, Mike Allen, and many others. You have no idea how much their support is appreciated and I hope they can continue to help the NAAN out in the future.

The NAAN would like to extend special thanks to Stihl for its continued support of Lumberjack Sports. Thanks to Stihl and the ESPN Stihl Timbersports Series, Lumberjack Sports is starting to develop a household name. Thanks to Jerry McKinnis, and J and M associates, for their support and courtesy extended to the competitors and the competitors families. Thanks to Bill Bailey and his continued support. Thanks to Army Archer, Lee LeCaptain, and TNN for their coverage of the Lumberjack World Championships. Thanks to Prime Network and CBS for the tips and potential for 1996 coverage. And above all else, the NAAN would like to extend its thanks to the fans, competitors, and everyone associated with Lumberjack Sports.

Lumberjack Sports is a part of our american society. Competition is deeply rooted into the fabric of American life. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the woods where for generations the qualities of strength, skill, and endurance have been prized by those working with potentially lethal equipment honed to a razor's edge

Lumberjack Sports has evolved over the years from a natural competitive spirit exhibited by people working side by side in their own special environment. Work in the woods developed a hardy breed of individuals out of necessity and now timber competitions attract athletes with similar instincts from all walks of life. The friendly camaraderie demonstrated by these competitions is also a mainstay of the sport. Around the world TimberSports athletes are distinguished and admired for their sportsmanship, an all to rare commodity in today's professional sports.

It is through this development of the professional attitude that separates Lumberjack Sports from other athletic endeavors. We are a family - a family of strong minded, independent, and loving people who enjoy seeing the betterment of ourselves and others.

We here at the NAAN are saddened by the loss of Big John Miller of Myrtle Creek, Oregon. He leaves behind his wonderful wife Mary, a big Little Bill, and a great group of grandkids. Big John was an old time logger who loved to take time to show young competitors the proper sawing and chopping techniques. Big John went out of his way to entertain, enlighten, and excite all of those who knew him. Big John was a multi-time world champion; he won the 14" Underhand World Title at the ATC in 1945, the doublehanded sawing title six times, and the singlehanded sawing title four times. Big John was the epitome of showmanship; his talents for exhibition and outspokenness led to him giving exhibition's on four continents. Big John twice represented the United States in international teams events. Big John was the team captain of the U.S. in the Canada Cup relay more than 10 times. Big John was a true gentleman and a true world champion-a champion in both heart and stature. We're going to miss you.

We here at the NAAN would like to extend our support to Terry Taylor of Winnfield, Louisiana. Two years ago Terry had a logging accident that rendered him paralyzed-but his competitive spirit lives on. Terry had won several speed stock sawing events and placed second in the 1992 World Championships stocksawing at the ATC. Although Terry is confined to a wheelchair he swears that he is going to design a special chair that will allow him compete in the axethrow. Terry believes in Terry,

and We believe in Terry - Go gettem.

As of presstime the NAAN was uncertain of Dave Jewett's, Carson Bosworth, and Tina Salzman's performance's down under. We are sure that these competent axemen did very well in their chosen events.

The NAAN would like to announce the engagement and probable marriage of John Hughes to a beautiful young Minneapolis woman. John's wit and articulation has gotten him through the past few years as an ESPN commentator, but the son of axemen great Cliff Hughes still is among the best axemen in North America.

The NAAN would like to extend our full support to the National Lumberjack Association which is being coordinated by ForestSports, Inc. ForestSports, Inc is a sports management firm that is trying to set up a world wide network for lumberjack competitors. ForestSports is not going to change anything about the existing shows or existing associations: ForestSports wishes to represent the entire sport where everyone will have a voice. A national organization will give shows and competitors a chance to garner larger sponsorships, larger purses, and intense competition. With a national organization Lumberjack Sports will garner the following: 1.Increased exposure and credibility of the sport; 2.Give professional athletes increased opportunities for furthering their accomplishments; 3.provide framework for world wide organization of sport and international competitors; 4.organize sport into a recognized professional endeavor; 5.increase exposure and purse for all shows; 6.provide networking and communication for shows and athletes. The 1995 endeavor of a national circuit consisted of four regional shows (WCWF, ATC, LWC, and Boonville) but due to administrative fiat and reliance upon the wrong individuals the finals was canceled one week from the date it was to be held. The NAAN hopes that competitors will extend their support by purchasing a membership into the National Lumberjack Association and encourage shows to do the same. ForestSports is trying its best to codify the and legitimize Lumberjack Sports in the United States, but they can't do it unless we (the competitors and the fans) give them our full support.

Again I would like to note that I have been in contact with representatives of the United Australians Axemen's Association and it is their aim to have Lumberjack Sports as an exhibition in the 2000 Olympic games. The Axeman's Association have drawn up a feasibility study to be presented to the government. This includes a format for countries to field a team of eight (two underhand, two standing, pair double hand sawing, and a single sawyer). A four day competition for these international teams will be held in conjunction with the New Year celebration in Hobart Tasmania. But the president of the Association, Denzil Munday, stressed that he had to convince the International Olympic Committee that Woodchopping/Lumberjack Sports was an international event.

What we, particularly in the United States, need to do is get behind the ForestSports National Association. Canada has CANLOG, we need something similar that can speak for Lumberjack Competitors as a group. As the old saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day", and it surely wasn't built by one person. The National Association would be a benefit to our sport, please give Mike Allen a hand.

The NAAN has attempted a new format - less on shows and more on substance. So as a result we have edited out several of the smaller shows prizemoney and event lists. We hope that this does not alienate anyone, but each year we try to better our publication and hope that we don't upset anyone. Please remember we are only trying to advance our sport - if you don't like something please write and tell us what it is, and If you do like something please write us and

tell us what it is. We are not totally in the dark, but we would much rather see something in print rather than have it come through the rumor mill.

We would like to apologize upfront for any misspellings in the upcoming pages. No matter how much we edit we'll never get everything. This years edition was more than just a test of wills (my will to stay sane versus my will to re-edit this edition extensively), but we put forth our best effort. WE hope that this years edition meets your expectations. Again, I stress that we are open to suggestions; if you want to submit an article or photo, please send'em. Please competitors and show officials send your results to the NAAN, if necessary I will return the postage to you.

I would like to send my thanks to the people who solicited advertisements. I hope that the arrangement works out good for your business.

I hope that all of you enjoy the book and I hope that it advances the sport. And again I stress that we are open to suggestions, so grab one of our staff members or mail it in (and please forgive me for mixing my tenses in this editorial, often I forget I'm for more than just myself).

Thanks again and yours in Woodchips (Thanks Rod)

Arden Cogar Jr.

SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS, RESULTS, ENTRY FORMS, OR ANYTHING TO:

THE NORTH AMERICAN AXEMAN'S NEWS

Box 272

Webster Springs, WV 26288

Phone: (304) 847-2353

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COMPETITORS AND SHOW OFFICIALS, IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR RESULTS AND ENTRY FORMS PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT NORTH AMERICAN AXEMAN'S NEWS PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRY FORMS AND RESULTS TO US AT

NAAN
 BOX 272
 WEBSTER SPRINGS, WV 26288

THE NAAN IS ALSO SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGIATE LUMBERJACK COMPETITIONS IN NORTH AMERICA. PLEASE SEND US THE SPECKS FOR YOUR MEETS AS WELL AS THE RESULTS, AND IF POSSIBLE A PHOTO OF THE WINNING SCHOOL.

THE NAAN IS ALSO INTERESTED IN YOUR IDEAS. IF YOU HAVE IDEAS, PLEASE SEND THEM IN, WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS. IF YOU HAVE ANY GOOD ACTION PHOTOS OF COMPETITORS THAT YOU THINK THE REST OF WORLD SHOULD SEE . . . HEY SEND IT IN, ALONG WITH A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE SO WE WON'T FORGET TO SEND IT BACK.

IN NEXT YEARS EDITION WE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE:

1. QUESTION & ANSWER SECTION (SO SEND IN YOUR QUESTIONS)
2. ARTICLE'S ABOUT IMPROVING YOUR PERFORMANCE
3. ARTICLES ABOUT MORE EFFICIENT TRAINING TECHNIQUES
4. ARTICLES ABOUT BRIAN HERLIHY, SVEN JOHNSON, BOB WAIBEL, BOB BOSWORTH, MERV LENTZ, PHIL SCOTT, FRED SCHEER, GUY GERMAN ->AND THE OTHER LEGENDS OF LUMBERJACK SPORTS.
5. ARTICLES ABOUT OBTAINING SPONSORSHIP FOR YOUR SHOWS (WE WILL NEED MEGA HELP ON THIS ONE)
6. ARTICLES ON HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LUMBERJACK SPORTS EQUIPMENT DURING BOTH THE SEASON AND THE OFF SEASON.
7. HOW TO MASTER CERTAIN EVENTS
8. ANY THING ELSE Y'ALL CAN THINK OF.

AGAIN, WE ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS, AND WE APOLOGIZE UPFRONT FOR ANY MISSPELLINGS OF NAMES, PLACES, OR ANYTHING ELSE.

PLEASE EXTEND YOUR SUPPORT TO FORESTSPOITS INC., IN ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF LUMBERJACK SPORTS.

PLEASE REMEMBER ALL WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS AID LUMBERJACK SPORTS AND MAKE IT BETTER FOR ALL OF US

THANK YOU

Yours in WoodChips

Arden Cogar Jr

NORTH AMERICAN CUSTOMARY LUMBERJACK COMPETITION RULES

(note that this has been compiled with the help of the American Lumberjack Association, CANLOG, New Zealand Axemans Association, Royal Agricultural Festival of NSW, and just about every Lumberjack contest on the North American Continent)

HEAD JUDGE:

A Head Judge (customarily someone who has had some experience competing in Lumberjack Sports) is appointed by the show administration. The head judge's job is to enforce the customary rules. The Head Judge must ensure that the timers are accustomed to timing Lumberjack events. The Head Judge must ensure that the chopping blocks and sawing position's are fairly drawn and that each competitor is issued the correct block. The Head Judge must ensure that any competitor guilty of cheating, or poor sportsmanship, shall be disqualified or appropriately penalized. The Head Judge must ensure that NO PERSON, other than the participating competitor, Wedger or Timer, shall enter or be within the chopping arena during the conduct of any event. The Head Judge must ensure that any competitor in violation of the slab rule (under the discretion of the individual show) must be disqualified. The Head Judge must ensure that any competitor in violation of cutting through "footholds" must be disqualified. **TAKE**

NOTE THAT IT IS BETTER TO USE INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH RUBBER BANDS, OR INNER-TUBE SLICES, INSTEAD OF NAILS FOR A PRECAUTION TO SLABBING; THIS IS BECAUSE THE RECYCLABILITY OF THE BLOCKS IS ENHANCED BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

EMCEE'S CADENCE:

The Emcee must attempt to make his/her cadence ("Timers ready, Contestants ready, One-Two-Go", or any variation) as consistent as possible to ensure that no competitor is advantaged or disadvantaged.

TIMERS AND OFFICIALS:

The Head Judge shall ensure that the timers are accustomed to timing Lumberjack events. There should be at least two timers on each contestant, with the average of the two timers watches constituting the contestants final time; note that if there is a large discrepancy in the two times that the head judge should determine which time is representative of the contestants performance.

The Timers are to all judge (time) according to the rules of the individual show. Customarily the commencement of timing for the Underhand, Standing, and Springboard occurs when the axe hits the wood or when the Head Judge or Emcee's cadence ("Timers ready, Contestants ready, One-Two-Go or any variation) reaches the word "Go"; and ends when the block severs. Customarily the commencement of timing for HotSaw, One-Man Buck, and Two-Man Buck occurs when the Head Judge or Emcee's cadence ("Timers ready, Contestants ready, One-Two-Go" or any variation) reaches the word "GO"; and ends when the "Cookie" severs from the log.

It is under the discretion of the Timers and Officials if a contestant is to be penalized or disqualified for "Jumping the Gun". It should be stressed that no favoritism is shown to any competitor and the same rules apply to everyone.

DISQUALIFICATION:

Indication of disqualification for any infraction should be made to the competitor concerned immediately at the conclusion of the event. It should be made verbally by the Timer (or by the Head Judge) direct to the competitor.

PERSONS IN THE CHOPPING ARENA:

Customarily, NO PERSON, other than the participating competitor, Wedger or Timer, shall enter or be within the chopping arena during the conduct of any event.

SUPERVISION: Novice, Women, and Boys under the age of 16 years should compete under the supervision of an accomplished axeman.

It is also recommended that these inexperienced competitors wear shin and toe guards during the chopping competitions, so as to lessen the chance of injury.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: Standing block dummies/Underhand cradles should be at least 11 feet apart, and at least 11 feet from the chopping arena fence.

Axe throwing targets should face the crowd (competitor's back toward the crowd), or have sufficient backing to protect the crowd in case of the event of an overthrow, etc.

It is recommended that all axeheads be pinned. Through the North American Winter axehandles tend to shrink, or dry out due to heat. Then in the Spring, when competition begins, it is highly probable, that during course of an event, that a slight slippage or even total loss of the axehead could result. The pinning of the axehead will stop the slippage. It is done by drilling a hole through the axehead and handle and placing a small "spring-pin" in the hole; the "spring-pin" is then dubbed off or flattened on the ends to avoid the slipping of the pin.

DRESS CODE:

We here at the NAAN realize that this is a rather asinine topic, but we think it needs to be discussed. It is best if contestants wear long pants, not shorts, when competing; preferably an off color such as black or white (not denim colored bluejeans or sweat pants). It is also recommended that competitors please wear a shirt during the competition.

This is an "iffy" subject, but all we are suggesting is upholding the integrity of the sport.

SPRINGBOARD EVENTS:

All Springboard poles should be as close to nine feet as possible, or 108 inches. The competitors are to use two "springboard's" to ascend to the top of the nine foot pole and chop a firmly attached block from the top of the pole. The Blocks are meant to cut from both sides, with a chip being taken in both the front and the back.

All Springboard must be balanced without any hanging device.

Competitors cutting into or through existing boardholes may be disqualified, under certain circumstance i.e., no more room on a given pole, the head judge must determine if the competitor is to move to another springboard pole or "to climb" at the corner of an existing hole.

It is the responsibility of the contestant to make sure the block is correctly secured on the top of the pole.

No competitor gets a second chance, unless the Head Judge determines that the competitor has been unintentionally wronged.

Time begins when the axe hits the wood and customarily ends when the block is severed on when it hits the ground.

Customarily no Contestants may be physically assisted by any other person. Customarily no Test "board-holes" will be allowed by any contestant into the Springboard pole until after the show.

HARD HITTING EVENTS:

(there are only a few of these events held in North America)

Customarily the wrenching of a chip must be the completion of a blow and must not be done by putting the axe back into the block. Wrenching is defined as the deliberate sideways or pivoting movement of the axehead by the competitor while still in the cut with the intention of assisting the breaking off or removal from the log of any wood irrespective of size.

A competitor removing chips by hand or deliberately prying chips with the axe may be subject to disqualification. If a chip is in the scarf in such a way that in the competitors opinion it would be dangerous to place another blow permission may be requested from the head judge to remove it with the axe head. The Head Judges decision is final, and thus the removal of a chip in such a manner should not constitute a blow.

In the event of a tie, placings shall be decided by the fastest time.

COMBINATION CHOPPING:

For those of you who don't know what a combination chop is, it is simply an Underhand Block Chop immediately followed by a Standing Block Chop. This event seems to please the crowd exceptionally well, especially if it is a close race. We here at the NAAN would like to see more of these events on the North American continent.

Possibly the best way to do this would be to handicap this event. Note there must be a restriction on the size of the Timber that is cut. God forgive me, but possibly the ideal timber would be 8x8 square. If 8x8's are not available 10" or 11" round's would be perfect.

CUSTOMARY CHOPPING RULES:

BLOCK SIZING: all blocks must be properly sized, to be within 1/4 of the desired circumference, prior to the drawing of the wood so as to not give an unfair advantage to any competitor.

DRAWING OF THE WOOD: contestants names, or log numbers, will be put into a hat and positions and logs will be drawn by the contestant or a disinterested third party.

SLABBING: a slab is defined as a portion of a log which has been dislodged as a result of a split off to a foothold or a "running up" of the first chip in the standing.

Any competitor who slabs and has not taken the necessary precautions to prevent slabbing, to the satisfaction of the Head Judge, shall be disqualified unless he or she cuts the slab during the course of the event.

Note that customarily no slabbing nails are necessary for squared timber.

IT IS BEST TO USE INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH RUBBER BANDS OR SLICED INNER-TUBE INSTEAD OF NAILS. THIS ALLOWS THE WOOD TO BE RECYCLED OR USED AS FIREWOOD WITHOUT HAVING TO REMOVE THE NAILS.

Note that certain species of wood, such as Yellow Poplar and Sweet Gum, are of such "hardness" that they do not customarily need slabbing nails.

FOOTHOLDS: any competitor cutting through any foothold in a round log shall be disqualified.

STRIKING OF BLOCK: a competitor should not be allowed to make any advantageous mark with an axe prior to the formal cutting of the block. (an advantageous mark is defined as a striking of the block, in any manner possible, in the area that is to be cut during the competition)

SHAVING OF BLOCK: a competitor may remove bark, loose fragments of wood or grit from his or her block, only under the supervision of the Head Judge.

TIMING: commences when the axe hits the wood (or when the guns sounds or when the emcee says "GO" - this is dependent on the individual show), and ends when the block is severed (or when the severed half of the block hits the ground).

PLACEMENT OF BLOCKS: all contestants should finish facing the spectators.

CUSTOMARY CROSSCUTTING RULES:

ONE MAN BUCK: Contestants may have a helper to wedge and spray/lubricate the saw. All helpers should stand on the log side of saw when possible. No Competitor is allowed to use a counter weight on the opposite end of the crosscut saw. Time begins when the emcee's cadence reaches "GO", and ends when the "Cookie" hits the ground. The helper must not touch the "Cookie" at any time during the event.

- the height of the wood is based on the bottom of the block and dependent upon the size of the wood.
- 20-24" block 12" from ground to bottom of block
- 15-18" block 12-14" from ground to bottom of block
- 12" block 16-20" from ground to bottom of block

Contestants may question the location of starting cuts (if given) designated on or near obvious knots. Alternative location of the starting cut will be decided by the head judge. Knots encountered thereafter will be considered luck of the draw. Cut-outs will disqualify the cut. Slabs of half inch or more must be severed before time stops, if not severed, the cut will be disqualified.

TWO MAN BUCK: Contestants may have a helper to wedge and spray/lubricate the saw. The helpers should stand on the log side of the saw when possible. The height requirements are the same as the one-man buck. Contestants may question the location of starting cuts (if given) designated on or near obvious knots. Alternative location of the starting cut will be decided by the head judge. Knots encountered thereafter will be considered luck of the draw. Cut-outs will disqualify the cut. Slabs of half inch or more must be severed before time stops, if not severed, the cut will be disqualified.

JACK AND JILL BUCK: same as the Two Man Buck

JILL AND JILL BUCK: same as the Two Man Buck

CUSTOMARY AXETHROWING RULES:

The center of the bull's eye is to be exactly 60 inches from the ground. The foul line is 20 feet straight out from the bull's eye then down.

Points will be scored in the highest point ring into which the axe has penetrated. If both points stick there should be no points given for that throw. The axe must stick in the target until the Judge removes

or instructs the contestant to do so.

Contestants must stand behind the foul line. The axe must be released before either foot crosses the foul line.

The axe must be double bitted of at least 2-1/2 pounds and having an overall length of no less than 24 inches and no greater than 40 inches (as measured from the top of the eye to the end of the handle). The blade width should not exceed 6 inches.

The single sticking edge of the axe will be the scoring edge.

One practice throw and a minimum of 3 throws for score. If the contestant does not wish to have a practice throw it is his/her responsibility to inform the judges before starting his/her first throw.

As noted earlier in Safety Precautions, the area behind the target must be kept clear of people in an area of at least 20 by 20 feet. If at all possible a "back-stop" should be used.

It is up to the axe throw judge to "back-out" the handle of the axe if the axe is on the borderline of a higher scoring ring. The contestant should not be allowed to touch the axehandle until the judge has scored the throw.

Note that there is a lot of variation in targets through-out North America. The following is only a guideline by which to follow.

The target should be approximately 36 inches in diameter with five scoring areas; 4 inch bull's eye with 4 1/4 inch width rings. The bull's eye shall score 5 points, the next outside area 4 points, the next outer 3 points, next 2 points and the next 1 point. If a hole is drilled into the center of the bull's eye for inserting a beer can, the scoring should remain the same except if the axe hits and draws liquid from the can; that throw should be scored as 6 points.

CUSTOMARY HOT SAW RULES:

This event is left up to the discretion of the individual show to decide, but there are a few rules that are customary.

The power saw will be of contestants' choice but limited to one cylinder.

Each Hot Saw may be used by only one contestant per show.

Shields of some type must be used front and back. If no shields are used the event should not be run.

CUSTOMARY SPEED CLIMBING RULES:

This event will be judged on time. Timing will begin with the starting signal and will end when the climber returns to the ground after he/she has climbed the required distance and strikes the bell with his body or any part of his/her equipment. The required height of the sparring pole will be of the show's own choosing. In a one way climb, the time will end when the bell is rung.

There will be no restrictions upon the type of descent except that no climb shall be allowed to free-fall or slide more than 15 feet without setting a spur.

The contestant must have at least one foot on the ground or starting platform at the starting signal.

A high topped footwear of climber choice, preferably boots, must be worn. Gloves, climbing belt and spurs may be of the climbers own design.

The climbing rope must be at least 7/8 inch diameter with steel cord. The side used for Tying-in and adjusting must be free of snaps. One climbing rope is to be tied at all times and two ropes are to be used if it necessary to cross guy lines.

Contestants will alternate trees in a two day show if two trees are use. In a one day show, if two trees, contestants will draw for the tree.

Note that it has been found that the best place for the bell is about 12 inches from the side of the tree on 9a safety line, guy lines or cross arm. It is recommended that foam padding be used at the bottom of the spar poles. If foam is not available then sawdust may be used.

CUSTOMARY TREE TOPPING RULES

This event will be judged on time. Timing will begin with the starting signal and will end when his/her cut hits the ground.

The contestant must have one foot on the ground or starting platform at the time of the starting signal. The other foot may be ready to begin his/her ascent.

The contestant must make his cut in the starting cut nearest to the top of the tree and must cut the top of the tree completely off, pushing it to the ground immediately upon sawing through.

Climbing ropes specifications are the same as speed climbing.

Equipment specifications are the same as speed climbing.

The contestant must lower the safety rope, if one is used, after he/she has made his cut to clear the starting cut for the next contestant. Failure to comply will result in loss of time for the particular day. The amount of wood to be sawed in the contest should be 40 inches in circumference measure through the starting kerf around the block. Again, The height of the tree should be of the show's own choosing. Once the cut has begun, the cut shall be completed before coming down or before the next competitor begins.

CUSTOMARY LOG ROLLING RULES: This is a timed event. The size of the log should be determined by the show, but it should be noted that the log should not be overly large.

No other contestants should be allowed to watch other contestants roll the log prior to his/her competing. The contestants are to roll the log a distance (under determination of the show) and strike two separated stakes with

log. The contestants are then supposed to roll the log back to its original spot, again striking two separate stakes with the log.

If the contestants deem it unnecessary to finish the roll it is their responsibility to return the log to original starting place.

CUSTOMARY BIRLING RULES: (this was taken from the ILRA) Note that there are slight variations in CANLOG's, ILRA's, and ALA's Birling rules of which the NAAN was unable to determine at press time.

LOG SIZES AND TIME LIMITS:

LOG I 15 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length.

Time: 2 minutes for men's open, men's novice, and amateurs. Women do not use this log.

LOG II 14 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length.

Time: 4 minutes for men's open, men's novice. 3 minutes for women's open, women's novice.

LOG III 13 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length.

Time: 6 minutes for men's open, men's novice. 4 minutes for women's open, women's novice and amateurs.

LOG IV 12 inches in diameter and 12 feet in length.

Time: Unlimited time for all

Each log has a 6 inch center band, the neutral zone, which log rollers cannot step on without losing a fall. There are 6 inch warning bands on each end, and Roman numerals I, II, III, and IV on the ends. All logs must be lathe-turned to the specific diameter with a 1/2 2inch plus or minus tolerance. The log must be of red or white cedar.

CONTEST:

All contests in all divisions will be run on a modified double-elimination basis. The contestant who takes first place will have not lost any matches. The contestant who takes will have lost only to the first place finisher. All other contestants who have lost one match can take as high as third place.

JUDGES:

There must be at least three judges per match. One will act as referee, starting and stopping the matches with a whistle and a stop watch to keep time. Two will act as polehandlers. When a fall occurs, the referee will make his/her decision and then ask even polehandler separately for his/her decision. In the event that a match moves out of the viewing range of judges, the referee should stop the match and reposition either the judges or the rollers.

MATCHES:

1. The referee starts each match. Competing rollers grasp pike poles after getting on the log and are pushed from the platform. The referee cautions rollers, "steady the log." When s/he is certain both rollers have equal control, she says, "Throw your poles." The match is on when the referee blows the whistle and continues until a fall occurs or until the time limit expires. If a fall occurs before the time limit is reached, or if the match is stopped by the referee, the clock resumes where it was stopped. The referee must stop the match by blowing the whistle anytime there is an obstacle within 6 feet of the log.
2. The referee may recall a quick whistle.

3. If one or both rollers fall in Before the time starts, s/he must get back on the log immediately, without leaving the immediate vicinity of the starting dock. A contestant may lose a fall or be disqualified by the referee for purposely jumping in the water before time is started, or for delaying the start of a match or fall.

4. A match will be decided by the best two out of three falls in regular consolation matches. In the semi-finals and finals of the open division the contest is decided by the best three out of five falls.

CHOICE OF ENDS:

If both contestants cannot come to an agreement on which end of the log they want to start on, then a coin toss will be used. The loser of the next fall will then have his/her choice of ends.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A FALL:

A fall takes place when: 1. The first person to lose control with both feet and falls in loses the fall. This often happens in conjunction with both rollers falling in together. The judges must then decide who was the first to lose COMPLETE control of the log. Jumping up to prolong hitting the water, straddling, sitting, falling to both shins, and laying across the log are considered out of control with both feet. 2. A roller steps on the center line. 3. A roller purposely jumps in the water before time is started or delays the start of a match or fall.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A DRAW:

A fall will be ruled a draw if the judges cannot see specific and noticeable difference in the fall. A judge must make a decision after a moment of recall. No discussion of the fall will take place between the judges except to the response as to who won the fall or if the fall was a draw. If there is the slightest doubt in the mind of the judge, it should be ruled a draw. The decision from the judges may be split in which case the majority call rules.

CUSTOMARY BLOCK SIZES:

STANDING EVENTS: 8X8 SQUARE, 9x9 SQUARE, 10X10 SQUARE, 10" round, 11" round, 12" round, 13" round, 14" round, 15" round

Minimum block length:

8x8 SQ to 11" round 22"

12" round to 14" round 24"

UNDERHAND EVENTS: 8X8 SQUARE, 10X10 SQUARE, 11" round, 12" round, 13" round, 14" round, 15" round

Minimum block length:

8x8 SQ to 12" round 24"

13" to 14" round 26"

BUTCHER BLOCK EVENTS: 12X12 SQUARE, 14" round, 15" round,

16" round, 17" round, 18" round

Minimum block length:

12x12 SQ to 15" round 26"

15" round to 18" round 28"

HARDHITTING EVENTS: 10x10 SQUARE, 12" round

SPRINGBOARD EVENTS: 8X8 SQUARE, 10X10 SQUARE, 10" round, 11" round, 12" round, 13" round, 14" round

Minimum block length:

8x8 to 11" round 22"

12" to 13" round 24"

COMBINATION CHOPPING EVENTS: 8X8 SQUARE, 10" round

minimum block length : 22"

CROSSCUT SAWING EVENTS: 8X8 SQUARE (2 or 3 cuts), 10X10 SQUARE (2 or 3 cuts), 12" round (1 or 2 cuts), 15" round, 18" round, 20" round, 24" round, 30" round

HOT SAW EVENTS: 8x8 SQUARE, 10X10 SQUARE, 12" round, 15" round, 18" round 20" round, 24" round, 30" round

ROUND BLOCK CIRCUMFERENCE:

10" ROUND	32 inches
11" ROUND	34 inches
12" ROUND	38 inches
13" ROUND	41 inches
14" ROUND	44 inches
15" ROUND	47 inches
16" ROUND	50 inches
17" ROUND	54 inches
18" ROUND	57 inches
19" ROUND	60 inches
20" ROUND	63 inches
22" ROUND	70 inches
24" ROUND	76 inches
30" ROUND	94 inches

HANDICAPPED EVENTS:

Whether it be Chopping, Sawing, or SpeedClimbing, Handicaps are a must event for the expansion of Lumberjack Sports on the North American Continent. It is the only hope for the youth in Lumberjack Sports.

Possibly the only way to make it as fair as possible is to use the heat system. The idea is to run heats of 6 or 8 in which the wood used in the heats all come out of the same tree or wood is selected to assure evenness.

It is rather confusing so it will be explained as simply as possible.

First, the competitors should be handicapped, i.e., given a mark based on their ability. Second, the competitors have to be seated based upon their ability; this is to ensure that none of the back markers (people with the highest handicap) would go in the same heat an example is provided following this explanation.

Third, the show would have to limit the number of entries in the event to either 24, 32, or 48 competitors. In the case that only 6 blocks can be taken from the same tree, the system of running 4 heats of 6 will be used (limited to 24 entries, unless there are two separate classes of handicaps). In this instance four heats of six will be ran where the top three placings in each heat will move onto a semifinal heats of 6. The top three finishers in the two semi-final heats will then go on to the finals. In the case that 8 blocks can be taken from the same tree, the system of running 4 heats of 8 will be used (limited to 32 entries, unless there are two separate classes of handicaps). In this instance four heats of eight will be ran where the top four placings in each heat will move on to a semi-final heat of eight. The top four finishers in the two semi-final heats will then go on to the finals. In the case that 12 blocks can be taken from the same tree, the system of running 4 heats of 12 will be used (limited to 48 entries, unless there are two separate classes of handicaps). In this instance four heats of twelve will be ran where the top six placings in each heat will move on to a semi-final heat of twelve. The top six finishers in the two semi-final heats will move on to the finals.

The same holds for crosscut sawing.

It is obvious that using the heat system will require the gathering of "helluva" lot more wood. These type of events are best suited where contestants help gather the wood for shows. It is also stressed that these types of contests are a must if we as competitors expect our sport to advance any further.

Handicaps should be assessed on the fairest means possible. If deemed necessary contact the NAAN.

It should be noted that there should be different divisions of handicapping for different levels of competition. For example, Top axemen such as Melvin Lentz, Rolin Eslinger, Carson Bosworth, Jack Brom John, Peter Colliver, Dave Jewett, Arden Cogar Jr, etc should be put into a first division. For example, up and comers such as Gary Hammond, Troy Daland, Gary Lester, Graham Lasure, etc should be put into a second division. This Would be to ensure that every competitor has a legitimate chance of winning. But the NAAN realizes that Lumberjack Sports in North America first has to crawl before it can walk; so for now 1 division would be great.

It is recommended that if shows are instituting handicaps for the first time, and they have no familiarity of a contestants ability in a given event, that the open (or championship) event be ran prior to the handicap so as to assess the unknown competitors ability.

It should be noted that the block sizing should be the same for the given heat, it does not have to be uniform throughout the entire competition. This is because the top three-four-six move on to the semi-final or final in which the wood will be sized the same. This should ease the waste of quality timber.

It should be noted that there are some maximum handicaps that should be assessed based upon the diameter of the wood.

If a heat system is impossible then the wood gathering group should try and ensure that the wood is as even as possible. Simply run a regular competition, but add a handicap system to it.

The following are the classifications of woods for Handicapped events (this is on average, and assuming proper care of the wood)

SOFT:	White Pine	MEDIUM:	Yellow Poplar	HARD:	Douglas Fir
	Aspen		Alder		Sweet Gum
			Cottonwood		Spruce
			Ponderosa Pine		Red Pine
					Yellow Pine
					Larch
					Lodge Pole Pine

The Following are maximum handicaps for events.

Underhand and Standing	
8x8 Soft	8
8x8 Medium	12
8x8 Hard	16
10x10 Soft	24
10x10 Medium	36
10x10 Hard	44
12" Soft	24
12" Medium	36
12" Hard	44
Springboard	
8x8	24
10x10	26
12	36
One Man Buck	
12"	12
15"	20
20"	30
Two Person Buck	
8x8 (2 cuts)	5
10x10 (2 cuts)	8
12" (2 cuts)	10
15"	10
20"	15

If there are any questions about this please contact us at the the NAAN and we will try to explain this system.

Again our hopes is only to improve the chances of the young axemen in the future.

An example of a heated handicapped event:

-12" yellow poplar Underhand -system: 4 heats of six -max handicap: 36

-note familial names in Lumberjack sports are being used so

as to increase the familiarity of the handicapping system

-NAAN hopes that no one is offended, or exhilarated, by the mark assessment.

Name	Mark	Name	Mark	Name	Mark
Mel Lentz	36	Carson Bosworth	35	Bill Miller	28
Rolin Eslinger	33	Mike Sullivan	33	Matt Bush	30
Arden Cogar Jr	35	Jerry Scutt	25	Leo Lassard	10
Harry Burnsworth	30	John Hughes	25	Gourdie Mauhl	12
2Rick Halverson	28	Gaston Dupere	26	Peter Colliver	35
Dave Jewett	28	Karl Hansen	16	Jim Colbert	22
Tiny Hammond	18	Don Quigley	25	Dave Engassner	15
Troy Daland	16	Mike Eash	24	Derek Pouchnik	12

Dividing the crowd

Back markers	next 4 markers	next 4 markers	next 4 markers	next 4 markers
Mel Lentz 36	Mike Sullivan 33	Bill Miller 28	Jerry Scutt 25	Jim Colbert 22
Carson Bosworth 35	Matt Bush 30	Rick Halverson 28	John Hughes 25	Gary Hammond 18
Peter Colliver 35	Rolin Eslinger 33	Dave Jewett 28	Dong Quigley 25	Troy Daland 16
Arden Cogar Jr 35	Harry Burnsw. 30	Gaston Dupere 26	Mike Eash 24	Karl Hansen 16

Front Markers

Dave Engassner	15
Derek Pouchnik	12
Gourdie Mauhl	12
Leo Lassard	10

Heat Assignment

Heat 1	mark	Heat 2	mark
pos 1. Mel Lentz	36	pos 1. Carson Bosworth	35
pos 2. Mike Sullivan	33	pos 2. Matt Bush	30
pos 3. Bill Miller	28	pos 3. Rick Halverson	28
pos 4. Jerry Scutt	25	pos 4. John Hughes	25
pos 5. Jim Colbert	22	pos 5. Gary Hammond	18
pos 6. Dave Engassner	15	pos 6. Derek Pouchnik	12
Heat 3	mark	Heat 4	mark
pos 1. Peter Colliver	35	pos 1. Arden Cogar Jr	35
pos 2. Rolin Eslinger	30	pos 2. Harry Burnsworth	30
pos 3. Dave Jewett	28	pos 3. Gaston Dupere	26
pos 4. Don Quigley	25	pos 4. Mike Eash	24
pos 5. Troy Daland	16	pos 5. Karl Hansen	16
pos 6. Gourdie Mauhl	12	pos 6. Leo Lassard	10

top 3 in heats 1 and 2 go on to a semifinal, top 3 in heats 3 and 4 go on to a semifinal top 3 in each of the semifinal heats move onto a final

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

World Championship Events have always been a very subjective part of Lumberjack Sports, but one rule holds strong in being considered a world championship event: a \$500 first (\$620 Canadian) and a purse that pays at least 6 to 10 places, with a total purse of at least \$2000 for the individual event. There are other individual (or team) events that have been recognized as world championships.

- Webster Springs, WV USA - Webster County Woodchopping Festival
 - .13" Standing .12" Powersaw .13" Underhand .10" Springboard
 - .12" Twoman Crosscut
- Albany, OR USA - Albany Timber Carnival
 - .12" Standing .25" OneMan Crosscut .15" Underhand .12" Springboard
 - .30" Twoman Crosscut .100' Speed Climb .100' TreeTopping
- Hayward, WI USA - Lumberjack World Championships
 - .14" Standing .20" OneMan Crosscut .14" Underhand .14" Springboard
 - .20" TwoMan Crosscut .20" Jack+Jill Crosscut .Womens' Birling .Mens' Birling

.90' Speed Climb

-Vancouver, BC Canada - Pacific National Exhibition

.11" Standing	.24" OneMan Crosscut	.12" Underhand	.11" Springboard
.24" TwoMan Crosscut	.15" Jack+Jill Crosscut	.8" Bowsaw	.ChokerSetting
.BoomRace	.Open Birling	80" Speed Climb	

World Championship Events at Individual Shows-

- .Shevlin, MN USA - 8x8 World Championship Bow Saw
- .Squamish, BC Canada - 18" Three-Man Standing Butcher Block .110" Speed Climb
- .12" Springboard(up-down-up) .22" TwoMan Crosscut
- .Championship PowerSaw Tree Falling
- .Orifino, ID USA - 18" Jack-N-Jill Crosscut
- .Elkins, WV .10x10 Two Man Crosscut .10x10 Jack-N-Jill Crosscut .Manual Tree Falling

The Australian Axeman's Association has taken a step towards legitimizing World Titles throughout the world.

The AAA has proposed requiring a total of purse of \$5,000 (Australian Currency) per event to be a legitimate World Championship event, and the final championship event (after preliminaries) to be blocks (or wood) out of the same tree.

We here at the NAAN would like to see this happen in North America. As we see it, there are only a few shows that would adhere to this approximately \$3,000(USD) per event requirement. At the present moment, most of the PNE's events would qualify; Hayward's- Birling, TreeClimbing, Chopping, and Sawing events- would qualify; Albany's - Climbing, Chopping, OneMan Sawing, TwoMan Sawing - would qualify; Webster Springs -TwoMan Crosscut, Underhand, and Standing - would qualify. But the remaning events would lack substantially in terms of money, and for our sport to further legitimize itself we must try to adhere to worldwide standards. With hope we can meet this standard in the future. This job will not be easy, it will take a lot of work on behalf of the show society and the competitors, but for shows to advertise themselves as World Championships they must strive to fulfill a worldwide standard.

Yours in Woodchops

Administrative Staff of the NAAN

Here are the 1994 World Champions in their individual events

Standing Blocks	Underhand Blocks
11" Carson Bosworth	12" Carson Bosworth
12" Melvin Lentz	13" Melvin Lentz
13" Melvin Lentz	14" Melvin Lentz
14" Melvin Lentz	15" Peter Colliver
18" (Butcher Block): Jack Brown-John Brian Herlihy-Peter Colliver	

Tree Falling Harry Burnsworth

Two-Man Crosscut	One-Man Crosscut
10x10 Matt Bush + Mike Slingerland	20" Matt Bush
12" Matt Bush + Mike Slingerland	25" Melvin Lentz (Albany)
20" Jeff Crago + Rick Halverson	24" Dave Jewett (PNE)
22" Peter Colliver + Jack Brown-John	
24" Napoleon Mercier + Jean Pierre Mercier	
30" Mike Sullivan + Dave Jewett	

Springboard Blocks Jack+Jill Crosscut

10" Melvin Lentz	10x10 Jill Bush
11" Jack Brown-John	+ Matt Bush
12" Melvin Lentz	12" Jill an Matt Bush
14" Melvin Lentz	15" JP Mercier + Sylvie Paquin
12" Gordon Blythen (2-up-2-down)	16" Matt Lentz + Laura Holyoke
	20" Rich+Penny Halverson

Bow Sawing	Speed Climbing
8" J.P. Mercier	80" Wade Stewart (PNE)
10x10 Gaston Dupere	90" Dennis Butler (Hayward)
	100" Wade Stewart (Albany)
	105" Wade Stewart (Squamish)
Obstacle Pole->Kim Olney (PNE)	
	Karl Bischoff (Albany)
Chokerman's Race->Tom Forrester (Albany)	
	(PNE) Wade Stewart

North American Lumberjack Records
as of 3/1/95

UNDERHAND BLOCK CHOP**YELLOW POPLAR**

8X8 Arden Cogar Sr	7.05
10X10 Mel Lentz	12.10
11" Doug Fleggle	24.16
12" Arden Cogar Sr	15.15
13" Melvin Lentz	18.85
14" Mel Lentz	30.29

WHITE PINE

8x8 Mike Sullivan	6.25
10X10 Mike Sullivan	10.60
11" Paul Cogar	12.15
12" Mel Lentz	14.10
13" Arden Cogar Jr	18.37
14" Laurence O'Toole	17.84
15" Mel Lentz	25.78

ASPEN

8X8 Arden Cogar Sr	7.10
10x10 Mel Lentz	13.45
11" Jim Colbert	20.22
12" Mike Sullivan	16.87
13" Kirt Hall	19.65
14" Mel Lentz	20.41

SWEET GUM

10x10 Mel Lentz	18.43
11" Mel Lentz	19.66
12" Mel Lentz	20.05

ALDER

12" Mel Lentz	14.25
13" Peter Colliver	15.64

14" Brian Hately	21.982
16" R. W. Dimick	1:29.00

PONDEROSA PINE

12" Mel Lentz	15.885
13" Mel Lentz	17.85
14" Mel Lentz	20.68
15" Mel Lentz	23.50

RED PINE

12" Mel Lentz	20.05
13" Gib Engel	37.56

COTTONWOOD-PNE aspen

12" Carson Bosworth	18.89?
13" Jack Brown-John	23.09

Standing Block Chop**YELLOW POPLAR**

8X8 Arden Cogar Sr	8.50
10X10 Arden Cogar Sr	16.20
10" Bill Cogar	16.65
11" Rolin Eslinger	14.46
12" Mel Lentz	15.97
13" Carson Bosworth	31.35

WHITE PINE

8X8 Mike Sullivan	8.68
10X10 Arden Cogar Sr	14.45
10" Matt Bush	12.45
11" Arden Cogar Sr	12.75
12" Mel Lentz	13.825
13" Arden Cogar Jr	19.22
14" Mel Lentz	22.05

ASPEN

8X8 Arden Cogar Sr	7.85
10X10 Arden Cogar Sr	14.60
10" Matt Bush	13.55
11" Arden Cogar jr	15.28
12" Mike Sullivan	18.74
13" Carson Bosworth	26.99
14" Mel Lentz	23.880

SWEET GUM

8X8 Mel Lentz	16.23
10" Mel Lentz	18.55
11" Mel Lentz	16.77
12" Mel Lentz	26.41

ALDER

11" Mel Lentz	13.08
12" Brian Herlihy	16.95
13" Jack Brown-John	30.20

PONDEROSA PINE

11" Karl Bischoff	16.15
12" Rolin Eslinger	16.84
13" Mel Lentz	19.54

RED PINE

11" Arden Cogar Jr	16.95
12" Arden Cogar Sr	20.50

SPRINGBOARD CHOP**YELLOW POPLAR**

8x8 Harry Burnsworth	45.22
10" John Gossow	43.24
10x10 Harry Burnsworth	1:04.80
11" Dave Jewett	1:06.63
12" Harry Burnsworth	1:04.80

WHITE PINE

10x10 Mike Sullivan	52.76
10" John Kroehnert	57.04
11" Carson Bosworth	46.16
12" Mark Etcheberry	54.75
14" Bill Youd	1:18.45

ASPEN

8x8 Mel Lentz	46.30
10" Warrick Hallet	44.23
11" Warrick Hallet	46.80
12" John Gossow	57.943
13" Warrick Hallet	1:06.61

SWEET GUM

10" Mel Lentz	1:19.05
11" Mel Lentz	1:25.13

ALDER

11" Clayton Stewart	48.35
12" Bill Youd	56.45

PONDEROSA PINE

10" Mark Etcheberry	42.45
11" Mark Etcheberry	55.485
12" Mel Lentz	55.54

REDPINE

10" Carson Bosworth	46.57
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TWO-PERSON CROSSCUT

this is assumed to be 2 cuts in wood smaller than 15"

YELLOW POPLAR

8x8 Gaston Dupere and Gilles Levesque	7.95 (3 cuts)
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Bill and Paul Cogar	5.14 (2 cuts)
10x10 Matt Bush and Mike Slingerland	6.65
10X10 (maiden) Linda Little and Beverly Wine	5.47
12" Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	8.14

WHITE PINE

8x8 Mike Slingerland and Matt Bush	3.68 (2 cuts)
10x10 Cliff Vroman and "Tiny" Gary Hammond	5.74 (2 cuts)
15" Rick Halverson and Jeff Crago	5.24
16" (maiden) Penny and April Halverson	9.85
18" Rick Halverson and Jeff Crago	6.65
20" Don Lambert and Gaston Dupere	6.00
24" J.P. and Napoleon Mercier	11.18

ASPEN

8x8 Gaston Dupere and Gilles Levesque	7.73 (3 cuts)
Gaston Dupere and Gilles Levesque	4.02 (2 cuts)
10x10 Mike Slingerland and Matt Bush	6.05
18" Rick Halverson and Jeff Crago	6.79

SWEET GUM

12" Jim Colbert and Mike Sullivan	10.58 (2 cuts)
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PONDEROSA PINE

18" Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	8.75
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DOUGLAS FIR

24" Arden and Forest Corey	21.40
30" Melvin Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	28.21

ONE-PERSON BUCK**YELLOW POPLAR**

15" Mel Lentz	17.75
18" Rolin Eslinger	21.44

WHITE PINE

14" (maiden) Sheree Taylor	17.01
15" Jeff Crago	12.80
16" (maiden) Penny Halverson	25.06
18" Mel Lentz	12.60
20" Mel Lentz	16.046
24" Dave Jewett	28.03

ASPEN

15" Jeff Crago	12.71
18" Jeff Crago	17.18

SWEET GUM

12" Mel Lentz	13.87
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PONDEROSA PINE

18" Mel Lentz	17.20
20" Mel Lentz	19.76

DOUGLAS FIR

22" Merv Jensen	40.23
24" David Hocquard	46.23
26" Mervin Lentz	57.70
37" Ben Lentz	2:50.20

SUGAR PINE

18" Carson Bosworth	17.25
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JACK AND JILL CROSSCUT

this is assumed to be 1 cut

YELLOW POPLAR

8X8 Charlie and Beverly Wine	2.95
10X10 Mike and Barb Slingerland	3.75
12" Gaston and Dany Dupere	4.39

WHITE PINE

8X8 Jim and Marion Colbert	2.01
10X10 Gaston and Dany Dupere	3.20
15" Matt and Sarah Mooney	7.15
18" Rick and Penny Halverson	7.15
20" Rick and Penny Halverson	8.23

ASPEN

15" Rick and Penny Halverson	6.32
18" Rick and Penny Halverson	9.25

SWEET GUM

10X10 Adrian and Brenda James	6.15
12" Adrian and Brenda James	6.69

PONDEROSA PINE

18" Rick and Penny Halverson	9.85
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DOUGLAS FIR

16" Mel Lentz and Liz Sears	8.70
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HOT SAW (MODIFIED AND UNLIMITED)

Note, 3 cuts and cold start on timber smaller than 30"

YELLOW POPLAR

8x8 Gary Hammond	3.16
10x10 Paul Cogar	4.11
12" Benny Whitefield	4.45
18" Gaston Dupere	6.75

WHITE PINE

8X8 Matt Bush	2.27
10X10 Chauncey Varney	3.95
12" Harry Burnsworth	4.47
15" Rick Halverson	4.47

18" Rick Halverson	5.75
20" Mike Sullivan	6.335

ASPEN

8X8 Rick Halverson	3.20
15" Rick Halverson	4.76
18" Rick Halverson	5.95

SWEET GUM

12" stock Mel Lentz	6.14
12" unlimited Rick Halverson	5.17

PONDEROSA PINE

18" Rick Halverson	5.74
20" Rick Halverson	7.15
34" Mel Lentz	4.85
36" Dennis Harvey	5.10

DOUGLAS FIR

30" Dennis Harvey	6.86
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BOW SAWING**WHITE PINE**

8" Gilles Levesque	2.4
8x8 Gilles Levesque	3.05
10" Gilles Levesque	4.1
10x10 Gilles Levesque	5.35
12" Don Lambert	5.455

ASPEN

8x8 Gilles Levesque	3.17
10x10 Gaston Dupere	5.67
12" J.P. Mercier	5.34

ALDER

8" (3 CUTS) JP Mercier	9.83
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SWEETGUM

10" Terry Warlick	8.50
12" Kirt Hall	11.84

SPEED CLIMBING

100 FEET: Guy German	24.82 (Albany)
90 FEET: Guy German	20.55 (Hayward)
80 FEET: Wade Stewart	18.74 (PNE)
60 FEET: Darryl Thomas	15.79 (Hayward)

TREE TOPPING

100 FEET: Guy German	58.95 (Albany)
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NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING ARE THE LUMBERJACK WORLD RECORDS SINCE THEY WERE ESTABLISHED AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

STANDING BLOCK

11" Alder (PNE)	Mel Lentz	13.08
11" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Rolin Eslinger	14.46
12" Alder (ATC)	Brian Herlihy	17.40
12" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Mel Lentz	15.97
14" Aspen (LWC)	Mel Lentz	23.880
14" WhitePine (LWC)	Mel Lentz	22.05

UNDERHAND

12" Alder (PNE)	Mel Lentz	14.25
12" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Arden Cogar Sr	15.15
13" Alder (PNE)	Jim Alexander	18.80
13" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Mel Lentz	18.01
14" Alder (ATC)	Brian Hatley	21.98
14" Aspen (LWC)	Mel Lentz	20.35
14" WhitePine (LWC)	Laurence O'toole	17.84

SPRINGBOARD

10" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	John Gossow	43.24
11" Alder (PNE)	Clayton Stewart	48.35
11" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Dave Jewett	1.03.65
12" Alder (ATC)	Bill Youd	56.45
12" Aspen (LWC)	John Gossow	57.943
12" WhitePine (LWC)	Carson Bosworth	55.743
14" WhitePine (LWC)	Bill Youd	1:18.45

SINGLE HANDED SAWING

20" WhitePine (LWC)	Mel Lentz	16.046
24" WhitePine (PNE)	Dave Jewett	28.03
24" Douglas Fir (ATC)	David Hocquard	46.23

DOUBLE HANDED SAWING

10x10 Yellow Poplar (FF)	Mike Slingerland and Matt Bush	6.65
12" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	8.14
20" WhitePine (LWC)	Mike Sullivan and Jim Colbert	6.25(?)
24" WhitePine (PNE)	Mel Lentz and Bill Miller	13.72
30" Douglas Fir (ATC)	Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	28.21

JACK-N-JILL SAWING

10x10 Yellow Poplar (FF)	Mike and Barb Slingerland	3.75
12" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Matt and Jill Bush	4.45
15" WhitePine (PNE)	Carson Bosworth and Ullanah McCoy	7.24
20" WhitePine (LWC)	Rick and Penny Halverson	9.49

HOTSAW

12" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Benny Whitefield	4.45
20" WhitePine (LWC)	Rick Halverson	7.453
30" Douglas Fir (ATC)	Dennis Harvey	6.86

OBSTACLE POLE

8" Alder (PNE)	Kim Olney	13.18(?)
9" Alder (ATC)	Rob Waibel	14.65(?)

BOWSAWING

8" Alder (PNE)	JP Mercier	9.83
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10x10 Whitepine (Shevlin) Gilles Levesque 5.35

SPEED CLIMBING

100 FEET:	Guy German	24.82 (Albany)
90 FEET:	Guy German	20.55 (Hayward)
80 FEET:	Wade Stewart	18.74 (PNE)
60 FEET:	Darryl Thomas	15.79 (Hayward)
TREE TOPPING		
100 FEET:	Guy German	58.95 (Albany)

1995 STIHL TIMBERSPORTS SERIES RULES & REGULATIONS

EVENTS, SCORING AND PRIZE INFORMATIONRegional Events

Contestants will have the opportunity to win extra prize money and qualifying points during the first **four regional events**. Points will be tracked for all STIHL TIMBERSPORTS competitors, and accumulated throughout all four events.

After the fourth event, invitations will be issued to the leading competitors to compete in the **STIHL TIMBERSPORTS Final Event**.

Trophies and prize money will be awarded according to the following for the four regional qualifying events.

This years' series will again be set up in two competitive divisions: The **Chopping** Division and the **Sawing** Division.

Events that qualify for STIHL TIMBERSPORTS:

<u>Chopping</u>	<u>Sawing</u>
Standing Chop - vertical	Hot Saw
Underhand Chop - horizontal	Stihl Stock Saw
Springboard Chop	Single Man Buck

Scoring for Stihl Points will be on a 10 thru 1 point basis; first place is awarded ten points and tenth place is awarded one point.

Prize Money for four regional events is as follows

Overall Competitor for each Division:

\$1,000 Overall Chopping \$1,000 Overall Sawing

Overall Top 10 Places (Combining all events for total Points)

1st Place - \$ 1,000	2nd Place - \$ 900.00
3rd Place - \$ 800	4th Place - \$ 700.00
5th Place - \$ 600.00	6th Place - \$ 500.00
7th Place - \$ 400.00	8th Place - \$ 300.00
9th Place - \$ 200.00	10th Place - \$ 100.00

Depending on overall points accumulation for the first four Stihl events, invitations will be sent to approximately **sixteen STIHL TIMBERSPORTS competitors to attend the final event**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: 25 BONUS POINTS per show will be awarded for attending each of the four preliminary shows, and added to your contest point earnings. For example, if you attended two of the four regionals you'd earn 100 bonus points towards your invitational total!

Final Event

All competitors at the FINAL EVENT start out equally with no points. Awards, trophies and plaques will not be given in each individual contest event, but will be awarded by overall point accumulation in both Divisions, plus overall awards for all events.

Awards will be given as follows:

STIHL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

DIVISION AWARDS: \$ 1500.00 each plus a plaque to the Chopping Division and the Sawing Division winners.

OVERALL AWARDS: 1st Place- Truck + \$2,000
 2nd Place- 8,000.00
 3rd Place- 7,000.00
 4th Place- 6,000.00
 5th Place- 5,000.00
 6th Place- 4,000.00
 7th Place- 3,000.00
 8th Place- 2,500.00
 9th Place- 2,000.00
 10th Place- 1,500.00
 11th Place- 1,000.00
 12th thru 16th Place - \$1,000.00

Gate Prizes

In addition to the awards given to the competitors, Stihl, J & M Associates and local sponsors are donating gate prizes for each of the five events. Gate prizes will consist of Stihl chain saws, trimmers, camping and fishing gear plus local prizes. To better hold the crowds at the shows, winners must be present to claim their prizes. A drawing will be held after the awards ceremony, and the winning tickets will be drawn by the overall lumberjack champion from each Division.

Tie Breakers

Tied events during all shows will be run off as determined by the individual show management except where there is a tie for the overall winners; places 1-3 at the regionals and 1-15 at the finals, and if ties occur in "overall" a Stihl Stock Saw cut-off will take place with the winner of each tie-heat getting one extra Stihl point.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITORSContestant Release Forms

To compete in a Stihl-sponsored event, a competitor must have filled out a Release, Waiver, Indemnity Agreement, and Covenant not to Sue to compete for Stihl Events. This form combines the Contest Release Form and the Model Release Form with which you are already familiar. This form must be filled out if he/she wants to compete for Stihl prize monies. These forms will be at each registration area prior to the various competitions.

Competitor Numbers

Competitors will be assigned a number that must be worn either on the front of the shirt or on the right pant leg. This is important to the production crew so they can identify you later for the E.S.P.N. television broadcast.

Dress Code

Long pants are required for the competition in all Stihl sponsored events, preferably dark in color. Points will not be given for competitors that do not have long pants.

In the Hot Saw, and the Stihl Stock Saw events, eye protection and chaps are required. We will have an ample supply of both available but feel free to bring your own.

No Clothing or other items which bear the logos, marks, or other product identification, of products competitive to STIHL INC., or sponsors, or any apparel deemed to be offensive may be worn by a competitor. STIHL officials and other involved sponsors reserve the right to determine at any time what is considered to be "competitive" or "offensive."

Equipment

All equipment must be in conformance with standard safety practices, such as sprocket covers or protective devices on hot saws and pinned axes. Show judges will determine if equipment is in compliance.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATIONWood

All wood for the Stihl events will be round wood in the following sizes:

* Stock Saw and Hot Saw: 18-20 inch Round

* Single Buck: 18-20 inch Round
 * Spring Board: 12-13 inch Round
 * Standing Chop: 12-13 inch Round
 * Horizontal Chop: 12-13 inch Round

Judging

All events judging and timing is by the standards of the individual contest rules. The events judge will have final say-so on any questionable scoring or disqualifications.

Tie Breakers

Tied events during all shows will be run off as determined by the individual show management. When a tie for overall winners exist for 1-10 at the regionals and 1-16 at the finals, a Stihl Stock Saw cut-off occur using the same saw, on the same log, one cut. The winner of each tie-heat will be rewarded with one extra STIHL point.

GOOD LUCK AND LETS HAVE THE BEST SERIES YET!

Here are the tentative show dates for next years shows

1st: 1st Weekend in June Memphis, Tennessee
 2nd: 2nd Weekend in August Morton, Washinton
 3rd:
 4th: Weekend in September Bowling Green, Kentucky
 Finals: 4th Weekend in September Disney World - FINALS

RESULTS FROM THE 1995 STIHL TIMBERSPORTS SERIES

RENO LOGGERS JAMBOREE**RENO, NEVADA****JULY 15, 1995**

All Ponderosa Pine Chopping, Sugar Pine Sawing

10" Springboard: ***1.Mark Etcheberry (42.97)*** 2.Carson Bosworth 3.Mel lentz 4.Dave jewett 5.brad turner

12" Standing: 1.Mel Lentz (23.17) 2.Karl Bischoff 3.Carson Bosworth 4.Matt Bush 5.Mike Sullivan

12" Underhand: 1. Mel Lentz (16.43) 2. Arden Cogar Jr 3.Matt Bush 4.Dave Jewett 5.Jack Brown-John

20" OneMan: 1.Matt Bush (15.03) 2.Rolin Eslinger 3. Mel Lentz 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Dave Jewett

20" HotSaw: 1.Gaston Dupere (6.42) 2.Matt Bush 3.Mel lentz 4.Mark Etcheberry 5.Mike Sullivan

20" StockSaw: 1.Karl Bishcoff (14.93) 2.Jim Taylor 3.Dennis Cahoon 4.Matt Bush 5.Tom Fales

MISSISSIPPI LOG BOOM**LACROSSE, WISCONSIN****AUGUST 5-7, 1995**

all aspen timber

12" Springboard: 1.Mel lentz (55.02) 2.Mark Etcheverry 3.Brad Turner 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Karl Bischoff

12" Standing: 1.Matt Bush (19.94) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Arden Cogar Jr 4.Dave jewett 5.Mark Etcheberry

12" Underhand: 1.Brad Turner (16.40) 2.Melvin Lentz 3.Carson Bosworth 4.Dave Jewett 5.Harry

Burnsworth

18" OneMan: 1.Matt Bush (15.16) 2.Dave jewett 3.Carson Bosworth 4.Rolin Eslinger 5.Mel lentz

18" HowSaw: 1.Mike Sullvian (6.79) 2.Jim Taylor 3.Matt Bush 4.Harry Burnsworth 5.Rolin Eslinger

18" StockSaw: 1.Mel Lentz (14.86) 2.Karl Bischoff 3.Mike Sullivan 4.Jim Taylor 5.Billy Jo kerr

SAM ADAM'S LUMBERJACK CHAMPIONSHIPS**LOON MOUNTAIN, VERMONT****SEPTEMBER 2, 1995**

All White Pine Timber

12" Springboard: ***1.Mark Etcheberry (51.345)*** 2.Mel Lentz 3.Harry Burnsworth 4.Matt Bush

5.Brad Turner

12" Standing: 1.Mel Lentz 2.Brad Turner 3.Mike Sullivan 4.Arden Cogar Jr 5.Matt Bush
 13" Underhand: ***1.Arden Cogar Jr (19.266)*** 2.Brad Turner 3.Matt Bush 4.Mel Lentz 5.Mike Sullivan
 18" One Man: 1.Matt Bush (15.33) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Rolin Eslinger 4.Gaston Dupere 5.Arden Cogar Jr
 18" HotSaw: 1.Jim Taylor (7.126) 2.Jim Colbert 3.Rolin Eslinger 4.Chauncey Varney 5.Mike Sullivan
 18" StockSaw: 1.Harry Burnsworth 2.3.4.5.

KENTUCKY WOOD EXPO
BOWLINGGREEN, 8KENTUCKY
SEPTEMBER 16, 1995

All WhitePine Timber
 12" Springboard: 1. Karl Bischoff (1.01.30) 2.Carson Bosworth 3.Harry Burnsworth 4.Mel Lentz 5.Dave Jewett
 13" Standing: ***1. Arden Cogar Jr (19.22)*** 2. Mel Lentz 3.Brad Turner 4.Matt Bush 5.Carson Bosworth
 13" Underhand: ***1. Arden Cogar Jr (18.27)*** 2. Mel Lentz 3.Matt Bush 4.Dave Jewett 5.Mike Sullivan
 18" OneMan: ***1.Mel Lentz (13.38)*** 2.Matt Bush 3.Dave Jewett 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Arden Cogar Jr
 18" HotSaw: 1.Mike Sullivan (6.25) 2.Gaston Dupere 3.Carson Bosworth 4.Mike Slingerland 5.Billy Jo Kerr
 18" StockSaw: 1.Harry Burnsworth (13.32) 2.Jim Taylor 3.Dustin Beckwith 4.Gaston Duperre 5.Lee Ridenour

STIHL TIMBERSPORTS SERIES GRAND FINALS
FORT WILDERNESS LODGE DISNEY WORLD, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 23, 1995

WhitePine Single
 Yellow Poplar Chopping and Power Saw
 12" Springboard:***1.Harry Burnsworth (1.05.93)*** 2.Karl Bischoff 3.Mark Etcheberry4.Carson Bosworth5.Mel Lentz 13" Standing: ***1.Carson Bosworth (31.30)*** 2.Arden Cogar Jr 3.Matt Bush 4.Brad Turner 5.Dave Jewett
 13" Underhand: 1.Mel Lentz (18.86) 2.Brad Turner 3.Arden Cogar Jr 4.Dave Jewett 5.Matt Bush
 18" OneMan Buck: ***1.Mel Lentz (12.60) 2.Matt Bush 3.Dave Jewett 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Arden Cogar Jr
 18" HotSaw: ***1.Gaston Duperre (6.75)*** 2.Mike Sullivan 3.Mark Etcheberry 4.Matt Bush 5.Harry Burnsworth
 20"Stocksaw: 1.Harry Burnsworth (14.52) 2.Rolin Eslinger 3.Karl Bischoff 4.Jim Taylor 5.Billy Jo Kerr

Overall REsults: 1.Mel Lentz 2.Arden Cogar Jr 3.Matt Bush 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Harry Burnsworth 6.Dave Jewett 7.Karl Bischoff 8.Mark Etcheberry 9.Mike Sullivan 10.Brad Turner 11.Gaston Duperre 12.Rolin Eslinger 13.Jim Taylor 14.Mike Slingerland 15.Billy Jo Kerr 16.Dennis Cahoon
 Various Lumberjack Tidbits:

She's thirty-six years old and she works as a pulp logging contractor. She's has the respect of everyone associated with lumberjack sports. She's outspoken, determined, and fearless. She has garnered respect worldwide.

To those of us who know her personally - she's the big sister we never had. To those of us who have alienated her - she's our worst enemy. She's known as the "Lady Lumberjack." Most people refer to her as "Penny", I prefer to think of her as an icon of Lumberjack sports and the epitome of the competitive spirit.

Her name is Penny Halverson. Her husband's name is Rick; Rick is a soft spoken gentle giant, or "Bear" as Penny likes to call him, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over 20 years. As a matter of fact, Penny first caught a glimpse of Rick competing at alma center a year before they went on their first date. She really didn't know what to expect when she went out with Rick, but she thought it was very interesting when Rick asked her to be his sawing partner while on this first date.

A first date predicated on crosscut sawing has lead to a very positive and prosperous marriage.

Penny put it best, "My family is very important to me . . . Rick is my best friend in every way; he is my coach in sport; my business partner in our pulp and logging business, and also the father of our children . . . We have shared our dreams and turned them into a reality . . . We have lived experiences that most people who compete in this sport only dream of. . . We are truly best friends, after all how many husband's and wives could compete together on the same level of competition."

When asked what is it like to compete against your husband

Penny responded, "we don't compete against each other, we compete together against everyone else."

Penny and Rick have a very unique working arrangement. Penny and Rick work together in the woods. Rick drives the processor, and Penny drives the skidder. Penny loads the semi-tractor trailer, and sorts the logs and pulp while Rick picks up the logs for the loader trader. Penny said, "We work well together; logging is challenging and I get to do it with someone I really enjoy working with. We work by ourselves . . I do all the paperwork, and right now I'm even fighting to prepare our tax returns."

Penny said, "this is my eleventh year of competition. . . I've made a lot of friends, and a few enemies . . . and I don't want to apologize for either one. . . my motto is I would rather be feared and respected rather than walked on in life; because if you don't believe in yourself and willing to take a stand, no one is going to do it for you."

Penny owes her drive and desire to succeed in Lumberjack Sports to several people. First, Marian Colbert has been one of biggest influences because of Marian's incredible crosscut sawing ability; "Marian is the perfect sawyer," noted Penny, "she has the right combination of power and finesse." Second, Shirley Smith laid the foundation for Penny knowing that she could do two things: 1. that a woman could do a hotsaw event and 2. that a woman could be successful at the hot saw event. Third, obviously Rick Halverson has been the biggest influence in the hotsaw because he has become a true legend in his own time in lumberjack sports. Forth, Mel Lentz is the best single bucker of all time - as Penny noted, "as a male sawyer he has it all - strength, finesse, great equipment, and mental attitude; Melvin knows how to compete at the top level under extreme pressure, and he knows how to win." Fifth, Penny noted that "Christine vangee is the best women chopper I've ever seen, I really admire her. It's a pleasure to watch her chop, she's smooth."

Penny said to become a champion you need, "three things in the sport . . . 1.physical ability; 2.mental-positive attitude; 3.best equipment best that money could buy."

Penny put it best, "I want to promote this sport, I want it to go to much higher of level than it has before. I want it to open up to more younger people. I am not a feminist, the woman must promote the men, and the men must promote the women. if we are going to make this sport widely accepted, after all we have a special group of people, we need to pull together so we can better the sport as a whole . . . I've learned to respect a lot of competitors. I never underestimate any competitor, I never assume I'm going to beat anyone. I have high expectations of myself, but I never assume that I'm going to beat anyone (another competitor) . . . I do my very best at the event, and the wining will take care of itself. If you give 100% of yourself the winning will take care of itself. . . I fit in with the guys- I can talk about sprockets, chains, everything. . . every time I walk onto the stage I'm proud to be there . . . its not what other people think. . . It's what you believe. . . and if you don't try new things, believe in yourself, and get good coaching you will stay where your are . . . If you can get new people excited, either men or woman, we can tradeoff with each other."

Penny has never be afraid to try new things; "you need to try new things, if you don't try you'll never know if you can do it." Penny went onto note that, "go back to the basics, anytime your sawing is going wrong - whether your single bucking or crosscut sawing, you can always pick up the speed but you have to go back to technique."

Penny has always said "the very best stuff that I have learned from the sport has come from the best men in the sport." Penny's desire is to develop the Jack and Jill to the extent of the two man crosscut.

Penny has always been one to uphold her words too. Two years ago Rick's steady Two Man partner, Jeff Crago, couldn't make the trip to the Kentucky Wood Expo - so Rick and Penny decided to saw in the TwoMan Crosscut. Rick and Penny ended up placing fourth overall, beating twelve teams of top men. That same year Arden Cogar Sr didn't have a two man partner at Loon Mountain, so there were several young competitors coming up to him and asking him to saw. Arden Sr prompted by the inquiry turned to Penny and asked, "Penny you wanna saw and beat these kids." Penny replied in the affirmative and she and Arden Sr went on the beat not only "these kids," but also eight other teams and

nearly placing in the top five.

Penny said that "Anyone who is starting out needs to be taught properly. . . because once the pressure hits any bad habits that you have will come to forefront when your under the gun." She noted that one should take the time to get the right techniques down so that you can deal with the given situation. Penny went on to note that the secret to hotsawing is to, "buy the best saw money can buy, take time to train, take time to get to know your saw. hotsawing is like wearing your favorite pair of jeans. once you get them to fit you, you can get used to any situation. you need to match up with your saw."

Penny's approach to Lumberjack Sports is very natural and down to earth, She noted that "when you go out to compete don't expect to outchop Melvin Lentz, our outsaw rick halverson . . . 2. only try to do what you can do, and go out there and give it your best and always strive for excellence. . . . strive to be like melvin and rick but be happy for where your at the moment. . . always know your capabilities but also know your limitations."

Last Winter Rick and Penny lost nearly all their equipment, there vehicles, and their home to a fire. "I lost my puppy, so this winter I got a new one." It is ironic that the very day that Rick and Penny set the world record in the Jack+Jill Crosscut at the LWC, Penny's new puppy was born. She named him "champion."

Penny sums up Lumberjack Sports in general by saying, "When you can compete like a champion, you'll become one; but you have to remember to lose like a champion."

Penny we here at the NAAN think you are the champion. And we are glad for what you have done for our sport. Thank You, you are a true icon to our sport.

Question and Answer: (please send more of these, we here at the NAAN would like more of these- if you don't know the answer we'll find someone that knows the answer)

Recently I received a question from Jeff Towner, a young promising axeman from New York. Jeff writes, "I wanted to know if there is a way to measure for the correct length axe handle a person should use. I know for golf clubs they measure the distance from your finger tips to the ground and thought there might be a similar way for an axe handle?"

Well Jeff to answer your question is a matter of personal preference, but there is a standard that many lumberjack competitors follow.

Traditionally the length of handle is irrelevant with the exception of short fellows who really hate cutting underhands (Mark Etcheberry and Myself [Arden Cogar Jr] come to mind); but the distance you are asking for, which we will call "chopping handle length", is determined by measuring from the base of the axehead to the top of the knob on the end of the handle.

Normally the distance from the bottom of the axehead to the top of the knob is between 23" and 24". But the difference in distances varies by the competitors preference.

For example: Melvin Lentz uses handles that have a chopping handle length of 23.5"; Carson Bosworth uses handles that have a chopping handle length of 23.25"; Arden Cogar Sr and Jr use handles that have a chopping handle length of 24"; Mark Etcheberry, who prefers to uses shorter handled axes in his underhands, uses handles that have a chopping handle length of 22"; more eccentric axeman, such as Bruce Winkle, use longer handled axes for standing blocks - sometimes having a chopping handle length of 24.5" - to using springboard axes that have a chopping handle length of 22".

To answer your question there is no real definitive answer but if the chopping handle length is between 23" and 24.5" you should be okay. Remember to experiment and try to see which works the best for you.

About a year ago, a young fellow by the name of Marty Dodge told me I ought to write a little article about reading wood and woodchopping in general. So here you go Marty this is my attempt to mount that crazy steer we call "axemanship." - ed.

Woodchopping is a science. Sure it may look like a combination of brute strength and sheer ferocity, but it takes more than that.

First you have to know what you are doing...ie., Circular hit scheme, controlling the axe (controlled loose-relaxed grip), proper swing, proper footspacement and movement (or lack of depending on your personal preference), learning to use your axe (by either splitting, or working with an axe regularly)

Second, once you learn what your doing you will need to learn how to "read wood." Arden Cogar Sr was and still is considered the master at reading wood; and it wasn't until the past year or so

that Arden Jr actually began to listen to him and applying his theories on setting up logs.

Arden Sr, felt it was time to share some information, so he and I sat down and talked about setting up blocks. I hope that these theories will help competitors in the future. Note that these theories are a combination of Arden Cogar Sr, Melvin Lentz, Jim Alexander, Jim Colbert, Mike Sullivan, Carson Bosworth, and everyone I've observed setting up logs. I have written this article in the form of brainstorm to aid in the simplicity in understanding of this rather complex side of woodchopping.

First, WhitePine. A soft timber in which nearly thin edged 14 to 15 degree, 7.5" plus width axe, with virtually any type of grind, will cut it. The brainstorm on whitepine blocks:

.big growth rings (1-4"+) usually means a soft block in plantation pine; small growth rings (<1-4") normally means a firmer log, big growth rings in native whitepine is the equivalent of the antichrist (ie., hard as hell-but note that native whitepine is very rare and will likely not be used for competition purposes); small goth rings in native whitepine is normally good as long as the chainsaw does not leave a glassy appearance on the end of log (ie., if the end is "fuzzed up" it's a signal of good-soft wood (note that the "fuzzed up" appearance is the normal signal of good wood in all types of timber).

.normally its nearly impossible to get a block w/concentric growth rings, or the tree may have grown faster on one side than the other; in whitepine its better to put the larger growth rings to the top of the log and the smaller growth rings to the bottom of the log because most axemen have the propensity to hit their bottom

of their logs harder than do the top; continuing with the circular logic, the larger growth rings would normally be softer than the smaller growth rings thus leading an axemen to put the harder timber in the bottom where s he will hit the block harder.

.normally white appearing-white pine is relatively soft

.a light white-pine block symbolizes two things: its dry, its "up the tree"; a dry block is harder to cut than a wet, fresh block; a block that is "up the tree" is normally softer than a block that is closer to the butt of the tree.

.continuing with the previous point a block that is closer to the butt of the tree has larger growth rings than the blocks that are further "up the tree."

.if there's a crack in this log your screwed, because that normally signifies an extremely dry piece of timber;

.hardness will vary from butt to head of tree, with the head of the tree being softer than the butt;

.normally red appearing-white pine is harder than a bulls forehead; a red seam or a place in the block that looks red, - contains pitch pockets or brittle crispy red appearing growth rings on one side of the block - should be placed on the bottom of the log where an axemen can strike this muther a heckuva lot harder.

Second, Alder. A moderately soft timber in which a rolled edged, 14 to 16 degree, 7"+ width axe, with flat or short banana grinds which are well polished, will cut. The brainstorm on setting up Alder blocks:

.Vancouver Island Alder is a helluva lot different than mainland and U.S. Alder. Vancouver Island Alder is soft as shit, and everything that applies to U.S. and mainland alder is the exact opposite to Vancouver Island Alder.

.Big growth rings means hard timber; small growth rings means softer timber; but be careful of knots and note that these knots are easily noticed if your block is properly inspected;

. "fuzzed up" end principal applies to this timber;

.If there are "tiny little redish-white spots" on the timber it normally signifies a soft log;

.a red appearing alder is hard;

.a white appearing alder is normally soft, but if it doesn't have the "tiny little redish-white spots" on the timber it might not be that great;

.butt of tree is normally harder than the head of the tree

.cut away from the crack of the log; ie., the crack in the log should be perpendicular to the ground;

.put bigger growth rings in bottom of the log, and the smaller growth rings in top of the log;

Third, Yellow Poplar. A moderately soft timber in which a rolled edged, 15 to 16 degree, 7"+ width axe, with banana or short chiseled grinds which are freshly ground, will cut. The brainstorm on setting up Yellow Poplar blocks:

.Dave Jewett once said "This wood is like a box of chocolates-You never know what your going to get," this timber is patchy and knots pop up anywhere, so be careful because these knots can ruin an axe

..fuzzed up" end principal applies to this timber;
 .heart wood is softer than sapwood, so put the heart wood in the top of the block
 .if the end is "glassy" forget it - the only chance you have is if the other competitors have knot laden timber that is virtually uncuttable; "glassy" ended timber is free of knots but its as hard as hell;
 .a light block signifies something really bad;
 .a heavy block is normally great, except when it has large growth rings;
 .a light green heart is normally good, but the dark green is definitely good;
 .cut into the crack of the log; ie., the crack of the log should be parallel to the ground;
 .the butt of the tree could cut better than the head of the tree because of the amount of water in the log;
 the heavier the log the better chance you have of having a pumpkin;
 .Put the heart up, and if the heart is off centered put the heart towards the front of the block-while maintaining the heart toward the top of the log.

Forth, Aspen. A soft timber in which a thin edged, 14 to 16 degree, 7.25" + width axe, with nearly any type of grind, will cut. The brainstorms on setting up Aspen blocks:

..fuzzed up" end principal applies to this timber;
 .white wood is normally hard;
 .dark colored wood is softer, especially if the heart wood is dark or tan colored;
 .."glassy end" is bad;
 .if the block is heavy its a godsend;
 .if the block is light give up;
 .put the heart wood toward the top of the log, with a majority of the heartwood toward the top;

Fifth, Red pine. A hard timber with hidden knots in which a rolled edged, 15+ degrees, <7" width axe, with a short chiseled grind, will cut. The brainstorms on setting up Red Pine.

.I hate this timber, I have broken so many axes on this shit;
 .big growth rings normally means softer wood, large growth rings are really bad; the bigger the growth rings, the heavier the pitch; the heavier the pitch, the harder the log;
 .weight is virtually irrelevant in these blocks, normally a heavy log cuts slower than the lighter logs;
 .put the heart towards the bottom of the log

Sixth, Ponderosa Pine. A moderately soft timber with no knots in which a thin edged, 14 to 15 degrees, 7"+ width axe, with a flat or banana grind, will cut. The brainstorms on setting up Ponderosa Pine.

.awesome timber, possibly the best to cut on in North America because of the lack of

Seventh, Sweet Gum. A very hard timber in which a rolled edged, 16+ degrees, <7" width axe, with a short chiseled grind, will cut. The brainstorms on setting up Red Pine.

Eighth, CottonWood. A confusing timber in which a thin but slightly rolled edge, 14+ degrees, 7" width axe, with a grind that I have no clue about other than flats and banana's, will cut. The brainstorms on setting up Cotton Wood.

To sum up the basic principals of reading wood

.fuzzed up appearance is the normal sign of good wood in all types of timber
 .normally put your heart wood in the top of the block
 .big growth rings normally signifies that the block is from the butt of the tree
 .experiment and try what works best for you

Tips from the pros and various quotes - ed.

Remember to be patient - Rome wasn't built in a day."

Arden Cogar Jr - When asked what it would take to become a good lumberjack competitor

"Strange as it may seem, top choppers have a combination of skill, strength, speed, endurance, and athleticism. Athleticism is probably the key ingredient..quite contrary to the normal perception of 'speed and accuracy' .. anyone can hit a log extremely hard, but it takes a true 'axeman' to chop a log faster than anyone else."

Dr. Don Quigley - When asked about the perception of lumberjack competitors

"I don't know?"

Mike Slingerland - We competitors are just waiting to her him say this, sorry Mike its a

misquote.

"This wood is like a box of chocolates....You never know what your going to get."

Dave Jewett - commenting on the dastardly yellow poplar timber.

"I've found that if you get really pissed before you go and chop you stand a better chance of cutting your foot off than you do of winning your heat."

Lindsey Dingle (youngest of the famous Dingle Family of Queensland) - when asked about motivation for chopping.

"I'll take a fit little fellow over a big fat fellow anyway - of course you have to realize that blokes like David Foster are a big, I mean 'REAL' big exception."

Ron Wilson (champion axemen of New South Wales) - when asked what type of people make good axemen.

"Hitting it hard and often."

Arden Cogar Sr - on how he became a champion axemen.

"Matt only thinks he knows what he's doing; I'm the brains of this operation."

Jill Bush - on one of the following things: 1. their marriage or 2. their championship Jack+Jill sawing. (Editors note-we think Jill has both ovem)

"Vigor is one of the keys to being a good axemen... It's not youth, It's not strength, It's something that you either have or your don't."

Brian Herlihy - on the mental side of Lumberjack Sports.

"Long swings are good - don't misunderstand me - but the more time the axe spends in the wood the better off you are... When I was competing in New Zealand I wasn't nearly as big as the other top axemen so I had to make up for my lack of sheer power [in comparison to the bigger axemen] with fast accurate hits."

Brian Herlihy - on the proper technique of chopping: long powerful strokes vs shorter quicker strokes.

"When you singlebuck always remember to guide the saw with the index finger on your bottom hand... point your index finger down the saw while gripping the handle with your thumb and the rest of your fingers...keep a relaxed grip on the handle with both hands...use your bottom to move the saw and your top arm to put the weight on the saw.... and don't put any weight on the saw until the handle gets past your back shoulder."

The late Big John Miller - on SingleHand sawing

"Moving your front foot in the standing block is a mistake, but I guess you 'short-sawed-off' fellows might have to reach the far wood."

Jim Alexander - when Arden Cogar jr asked him about moving the front foot in a circular rotation (following the hit pattern).

"Be as smooth and consistent on your switchovers as you can, only get 6 inches of wood. shoot for marks, make sure hits marks, if you don't hit marks your out of luck, you'll cut out or cut the line. ...if you know saw, with through away straps, be sure chain is tight. my biggest piece of advice with lumberjack sports is be safe. don't try to compete beyond your ability. train at home, not at the contest.

Penny Halverson

"Don't take your eyes off the trigger."

Paul Cogar - when asked what the key was to a fast start in the hot saw.

"Champion axemen are made not born."

Jim Foster - David Fosters great uncle who no one thought would ever when a championship event, but did so on several occasions.

"Two hits up in a ten inch log are a waste of axe."

Jack O'toole - on standing block hit schemes.

"You give those two [Martin and Lawrence O'toole] a day with a grinder, some stones, and a truck load of blocks...and they'll find an axe that cuts better than anyone elses."

Melvin Lentz on the O'tooles.

"Winning at Sydney is like winning the lottery. I'm not saying its impossible, but everyone whose anyone in Woodchopping is at Sydney. . . The best are at Sydney and winning there means you are the best."

Melvin Lentz - on winning the 15" underhand world championship at the Royal Sydney show in 1985.

"It's good to be fast, and It's good to be strong; but its even better when you know what you're doing."

Arden Cogar Jr - on Axemanship

"Big Wood separates the men from the boys."

Arden Cogar Sr - on chopping logs bigger than 12" in a contest or in training.

"When you think you're gone far enough in the front put a '1 and 1' in the bottom [bottom chip hit followed by a bottom drive hit]"

Cliff Hughes - on Underhand technique.

"You need control. You can't be angry or in a rage...when you chop and saw you need to be able to control your equipment and control yourself."

Carson Bosworth - on axemanship

"The harder the wood, the lesser the angles on your scarf..In softer wood you can get away with a lot of slope and still cut the log."

Dave Geer - on the proper hitting technique of different degrees of hardness of timber

"Four fundamental principals of Log Chopping are Relaxation, Concentration, Positive Thinking, and Breathing.... You have to be totally relaxed before you chop, not fits - no anger..You have to concentrate on what you are doing - how you prepare the log, how you intend on cutting the log, relax that grip on the handle . . . You have to think positively about your own chances on cutting the log - remember its you against the log, not you against anyone else. . . You have to breath with each swing, let your breathing flow with your swing, let it be relaxed and flowing not jerky."

Jim Alexander - on the basics of axemanship

"Down swings [in standing blocks] are an artform. Only a few great choppers like Brian Trow and Arden Cogar Sr have mastered it... it's a natural swing. . . its really pretty to watch . . I guess the swing down to hit down"

Cliff Hughes - on proper standing block swings

"I don't get serious until I bring blood."

Matt Bush - on the simple things in life

"Choke half-way up on your handle and keep your from elbow cocked and high [above you back elbow] . . use the heel of the axe to make the hole and remember to dig in your last two hits to clean the hole." Carson Bosworth - on springboard holds.

"Keep your front elbow high, and after you've made your first two hits dig in with the heel of your axe."

Carson Bosworth - on springboard holes

"A good beer gut is excellent for an underhand cutter... a nice belly keeps your balance on the log and lets you really smash those bottom hits."

Peter Colliver - on Underhands

"When you singlebuck or doublebuck you have to Imagine that your right arm [if your right handed] is like the hardarm on a steam locomotive. . . you want to keep the saw straight so it doesn't rub up against the sides of the wood."

Little Bill Miller - on sawing techniques

"Short fellows make better [standing] block cutters. I've only ever seen a few great short underhand cutters."

Ron Wilson

"If your not cutting right ask someone who is unknowledgable about the sport to watch you. Ask them to look for things that don't look natural"

Jim Alexander

"Cutting Big wood separates the mens from the boys. Anyone can cut a 10" or 11" block or even an 8x8; but if that's all they cut they won't ever get any better. You've got to cut big wood to become a better chopper, Big Wood teaches you how to control the axe and yourself."

Arden Cogar Sr.

"Having big muscles is nice, but I've never seen a muscle cut through a log."

Bruce Mooney - a massage therapist who comes from a long line of axemen.

"Always put three Hits for drivers in logs bigger than 12" . . The order is irrelevant . . some go from far to near because its a continuation of their hit sequence; others go form near to far because they believe its gets them around the block faster; . . . me I go near-far-middle to make sure I cut my corners, and maybe just to be different."

Denzil Munday - Australian Axemens Association president, on hit schemes.

"Crosscut sawing is like ball room dancing. You have to work together to pull it off."

Cliff Hughes

"I'll tell you about Arden, back in the winter on a Sunday morning early, I was going across the mountain and I saw him out chopping trees. He told me, 'Billy, I've been feeling bad lately, it's been getting worse, and this morning I woke up felling so bad I had to come out and try to work it off.' I don't know if Arden gets tired, but I know he never quits."

Bill Cogar, when asked about observing his first Cousin, Arden Cogar Sr.

"I told that old boy right where the wood was, and I marked it plain, and here he has hauled the wrong log. Them logs I cut was twins, to the quarter of an inch. I am ashamed to show them boys this wood. This is bad wood. . . Oh, logs is very different, - You get straight grain and curly grain, you get knots, you get top wood and butt wood, never two logs the same. We try to cut 'em all from as small a patch as possible, where you'd expect they'd grow alike, but they're still different. There is a world of luck involved in woodchopping, and if you draw bad wood, why it can put you out of business. . . "

Arden Cogar Sr from the Washington Post on June 3, 1976 and was written by Hank Burchard

"Of course if you hit a bad knot you're likely to throw the chain from here to Cincinnati...If an engine blows they might never find some your parts - you personal parts that is"

Jack Buhler, champion underhand cutter of the 1970's, on powersawing.

"If they're doing something dangerous I'll get in there straight away and try and correct them or if I

teach them a few of tricks of the trade but that's just for good of the sport. Axe work is especially dangerous....I guess its a feeling you're sharing all that and you don't mind passing it on to somebody else."

Ron Hartill on helping out novices

"It's dedication and determination and not liking to lose. I can get beat but I'll say to myself 'what can I do to get better? I'm never satisfied, even when I win. If you stay were you are, even if you're a champion, next year it might not be good enough."

Mike Sullivan on what it takes to be a champion lumberjack

"Damn I look good for a fifty-five year old man!"

Dan McDonough

"We [Jube and Ardiel] practice every spare moment we had. We used to go down to the harbor at Sooke and break the ice to practice in the late winter. That was the only place we get a log into the water. We didn't have wetsuits either. It gave you a real incentive to stay on the log because if your fell off you'd bloody near freeze.... We practiced way more than the fellows do nowadays, except for a few at the top-of-the-heap such as Dan McDonough from Michigan. He's a very dedicated person and he's earned everything he's getting now."

Jube Wickheim.

"Why I say you must have good wind is because, if you are put a little off balance by your opponent, it is natural to hold your breath, not like running where your breathing in a rhythm. To me its a wonderful sport, and it will never die."

Hank Peters

"Once I start hitting it's like I'm in a dream. My body takes over automatically. I'm not thinking of anything except that I have to kill that wood, have to attack it as though its my worst enemy."

Dave Geer

Heres an update on the Forest Sports Association-ed

Dear friends, businesses and fellow lumberjack competitors - I believe the formation of a professional federation is both timely and essential if we are to move the sport into a more visible and highly regarded sporting endeavor.

Increased opportunities for broadcast coverage both locally and nationally are on the horizon. This means larger purses, increased sponsorship for shows and athletes and finally, significant recognition for the high calibre athletes and quality people represented by this truly American heritage activity.

We are a lot like those involved in the rodeo circuit, both sports were derived from the work force. We are where the PRCA was 30 years ago and I have been consulting with the national association in Colorado Springs on how we can benefit from their experiences. For example, we must provide a united points race, with dollars linked to points won in sanctioned events, both large and small, regional championships and a true national championship final. To accomplish this, it will take all our work, faith and a sincere collective effort to be organized for the good of the whole. You can help by joining us. This organization was not formed to replace or change any shows or associations that currently exist. Instead, we want to work with all parties to enhance the sport and bring it to the level of a recognized [professional sport.

I believe this is all possible and have been working hard for the last three years to research the best way to organize the sport for the benefit of all and to ensure our dreams can become our reality. I have traveled to BC and have been in contact with CANLOG and past president, Jube Wickheim, and have consulted with Cliff Hughes, Denzil Munday, Arden Cogar, Jr. and Sr., Mel Lentz, Albany Timber Carnival, Dick Slingerland, Don Quigley, Phyllis White and Roy Palmer on the best way to form this federation. They all have given their overwhelming approval of my efforts.

This year, for the first time, we have the opportunity for a national finals that could be aired on Prime Sports National into the homes of 44 million people. Some of the regional shows have shown interest in taping and airing a lead-up to the national finals. If you are interested, please contact me.

We are in the first phase of a three phase process to develop the sport. Please keep in mind that we are in the developing stage, and even though we only want to move forward, there may be some set-backs, and if we can work together, we can accomplish our goals.

Forming an organization such as this will take a lot of work and a letter explaining it can raise as many questions as it can answer. I hope that you will call me if you have any questions and that you will want to join me in this endeavor. There are a few things that we need from you right away and an outline of the three phases at the bottom of this page. Thank you very much for the time and consideration.

Update from March 1996

Hi all,

We want to wish all of you a very happy new year with hopes that things are going well for everybody! First I want to apologize for length of time it has taken to getting out this news.

Over the past year, I have discovered that developing a national organization for lumberjack sports involves more than one person could ever manage. After several years of researching, I launched ForestSports National and International Lumberjack Federation with the idea that there were many people out there willing to help. What I found was not enough people willing to put in the time and effort that they promised. I have tried to meet the goals set, but I ran into many discouraging and costly roadblocks, some of them set by those I trusted to help me. One of those being Roy at Hocking College leading me on about a national finals, and then dropping out at the last minute for no apparent reason.

Anyone requesting information. As far as I know, all those that paid their membership dues got a membership card, the North American Axeman's News and a newsletter. I would have liked to give the members more, but I couldn't do more without some help. No one knew about the hours that I spent on the phone and on my computer writing letters to the networks about covering the affiliated shows and increasing sponsorship for events and athletes. No one knew about the months I worked on putting together a national finals, only to have it stopped at the last minute. As for your second concern, the financial aspect, let me tell you, it is not as lucrative as it seems. Much of my time was spent calling people and writing to people. My phone bill was astronomical and I was going to the post office constantly. When searching for support for an endeavor like this, you run into many dead ends and find yourself starting all over again. I consider my efforts "good for the sport" and for those involved, otherwise, none of this would be worthwhile.

With the first year behind me, I now envision ForestSports National Federation to be controlled by an executive board consisting of five members. These members can be from anywhere, but they must have access to a fax machine and a computer with AOL or an internet connection. These tools could be our way to keep in contact with each other. We could hold meetings in an on-line private chat room and converse with each other over fax machines. Each member could have certain responsibilities and should be compensated somehow for their efforts and have their expenses paid. I would like this board would be voted on by members. I see myself as the CEO of the sports management company the board has to manage the television production and national sponsors. I may or may not actually be on the board.

The board can have total say about all aspects of the organization and those existing shows having a major say, but my thought is for it to develop into something like the National Rodeo Cowboy's Association. Such organization can lead to more consistency between shows, safety, higher awareness of the sport and more sponsors and national television coverage. Let me tell you, in confidence, that the networks have contacted me by phone expressing their interest in airing some of the shows. I am in the process of writing back to them. But we need to have a National Organization to become a recognized professional sport and attract major national corporate sponsors which in turn will enable us to get Net t.v.

If YOU KNOW of a qualified individual please respond to me by mail, fax, or phone. The Executive board has these board members appointed so far Gordon Mauhl-Washington State, Arden Cogar- Webster Springs West Virginia, Don Quigley Lee New Hampshire. We need a total of five Executive Board Members other than myself for the national organization. The name should change from Forestsports National to the National International Lumberjack Federation as soon as we can raise enough money.

We need to move quickly to get business started for the "96" season, sponsors are the immediate major concern. I am in contact with the Networks and need to talk to all existing shows on possible airing, please respond ASAP. Those shows being considered are Webster Springs, Boonville, Albany Timber Carnival, Hayward. Any shows not on this list please contact me of your interest, and remember this is not a guarantee just an interest from the networks (CBS, NBC, Prime National, ESPN). Check out the National International FORESTSPORTS Web page on the world wide web Thanks to Slingerland Enterprises - [HTTP://www.starinfo.com/forestsport/](http://www.starinfo.com/forestsport/)

If there is not enough interest from the shows and competitors this time around than I will be forced to make "96" my last year to try and organize a National Organization. The cost (\$1,500 out of my own pocket) lack of support and most importantly the time it takes me away from my family and business are to great. I want to thank all those individuals who have supported and encouraged me to tackle this massive project. It was because of you folks (you know who you are) that I got involved in this sport, Thanks for the friendship.

Hope to see you this summer, Lets kick some butt and get Lumberjack sports A recognized professional sport on the national and international level! Notice membership fee is due before the end of march 1996. Dues will stay the same as 1995 at \$30.00 this is drastically needed and will be used for operations: Mailings and phone bills so the Executive Board can seek National Corporate and Regional Business support.

1996 News letter is targeted to come out also at the end of March 96 and North American Axemans News will be sent when it comes off the press's.

If you have any questions or input please contact Arden Cogar Jr. or my self thank you for your patience we're almost there!

Sincerely,

Micheal E. Allen

Micheal E. Allen, CEO, National And International Lumberjack Federation

Safety- enough said - ed.

Safety is the key to lumberjack sports - and don't ever forget that you are using razor sharp axes and saws. Here are some tips to avoid injuring yourself which training or competing.

When chopping do the following

1. wear shinguards and toeguards if your not sure of yourself;
2. always train with someone else around, preferably someone who knows proper technique and can assist you with techniques;
3. always keep a relaxed grip on the handle, remember to be relaxed and do not train when you can't concentrate on what you are doing.
4. always train when you are feeling well, don't waste wood if your feeling crappy. injury has a better chance to occur when you don't feel like doing something.

When Crosscut sawing do the following

1. wear kevlar chaps
2. always train with someone else around, preferably someone who knows proper technique and can assist you with techniques
3. always train when you are feeling well, don't waste wood if your feeling crappy. injury has a better chance to occur when you don't feel like doing something.

When Powersawing

1. wear kevlar chaps
2. wear shin and toe guards
3. wear gloves
4. if your using a motorcycle chainsaw be particularly careful of anyone that may be in the direction of the chain.

Always be careful. Lumberjack Sports is inherently dangerous, so always remember that you want to keep all your fingers, toes, and other appendages.

Top competitors for the 1995 season [compiled by looking at the results of the largest shows in North America]

Top Standing Block cutter: Melvin Lentz
 Top Male Underhand Block cutter: Arden Cogar Jr
 Top Female Underhand Block cutter: Christine VanGee
 Top Springboard: Mark Etcheberry
 Top Male Sawyer: Dave Jewett
 Top Female Sawyer: Penny Halverson
 Top HotSawyer: Mike Sullivan
 Top Birler: Sean Duffy
 Top Climber: Dennis Butler
 Top Obstacle Pole Bucker: Kim Olney

Excellent performances for the 1995 season

1. Carson Bosworth for his winning the 11" standingblock and the 12" Underhand world titles at the PNE
2. Mike Sullivan for his winning the 14" Underhand and the 11" Springboard at the North American Lumberjack Championships held at Torrington, Connecticut.
3. Melvin Lentz for his winning the 13" Underhand and the 13" Standingblock world titles at the WCWF and by shattering two records that had been set nearly 10 years earlier.
4. Dave Jewett for shattering the 24" WhitePine World Record at the PNE.
5. Arden Cogar Sr who can still whack off the standing block with the rest of em. At 62 years of age he won the 12" Masters Standing at WCWF from 25 behind with a winning cutting time of 28.35 seconds.
6. Peter Collier for cutting a 13" alder Underhand at Squamish in 15.64.
7. Rick and Penny Halverson for shattering the 20" whitepine world record at the LWC in the Jack+Jill Crosscut in 9.49.
8. Mark Etcheberry for his outstanding cut in the 10" Springboard at Reno, Nevada - 43.27 seconds.

World series of woodchopping

Last winter I received word that "The World Series of Woodchopping" may be a go for the week of January 1 through January 8, 1997 in the Northern part of the island of Tasmania. Its not set in stone, but the Australian Axeman's Association has raised nearly enough money to pull off this massive event.

You may ask, "what is the 'World Series of Woodchopping'?" Well its equivalent the Indianapolis 500 of Indy Car racing, or the World Series of Baseball, or the World Cup of Soccer, or the Superbowl of Football, or the Daytona 500 of Stock Car racing, . . . this list of comparisons could go on and on.

The World Series of Woodchopping could simply be put as the "Greatest Woodchopping Event of the twentieth century."

The World Series would bring axeman from Four Continents and over 10 countries. Axemen from the United States, Canada, all the Provinces of Australia, both of the Islands of New Zealand, Spain, Basque-France, England, Wales, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and possibly Russia.

Eight of the top competitors from these countries will be asked to compete in championship relay in which axeman will oppose one another in the following events in the following order: 15" Stock Saw, 13" Underhand, 13" Standing, 24" Doublehanded sawing, 15" Singlehanded Sawing, 13" Underhand, and concluding with a 13" Standing. This timber will be hard wood so our fellows would have to be fit to compete in these events.

The best of the world will compete against the best of the world. This event will be very much similar to the Centenary that took place in 1970 where 300 axemen marched down the street of Ulverstone, Tasmania wearing there country colors and proudly competing against each other in a gentlemanly display of sportsmanship. Australia had teams of axemen from all the provinces which nearly dominated all the teams race, except for a few races won by the New Zealand North and South Island teams. The North American teams were well represented but the wood was not to there liking as many of the Australians were secretive with their axe grinding and sawing. There were only four stand

out performances by North Americans during the entire week: 1. Mervin Lentz shattering the record in the singlehanded sawing in the preliminaries, but having the wood changed on him in the final thus favoring the Australians 2. Brian Herlihy making the final in the 14" Championship Underhand World Title and placing fourth (versus the likes of Jack O'toole, Gary Hewett, George Foster, Ken Divine, Jim Alexander, Clayton Stewart, Sonny Bolstad, Rugby Edwards, Geoff Hocquard, etc) 3. Earl Marcellus winning the 11" open standing handicap at Burnie; 4. Arden Cogar Sr making the final in richest woodchop of the world - "Tassie Thousand" at Penquin-the only North American to do so.

This "World Series of Woodchopping" is possibly the greatest thing to happen to our worldwide sport.

What this means for North Americans is that we must find a way to select eight team members: two Standing block cutters, two underhand cutters, one single handed sawyer, a doublehanded sawing team, and a stock sawyer. We should select the best competitors to fit the bill so that North America should be well represented.

The New Zealanders use a very intense selection system called the "New Zealand Trials." Where eight competitors are selected to compete in the four events - eight underhand cutters, eight standing cutters, eight singlehanded sawyers, and four doublehanded sawing teams. In the chopping and singlehanded sawing events, the eight competitors selected are asked to bring eight 13" logs (8 15" singlehanded sawing blocks) of timber from the same tree - numbered from butt of the tree to the top of the tree. There are to be heats of eight in which the eight competitors will compete against one another with butt log being on stand 1 and the head log being on stand 8. The competitors will then compete in eight heats of the event, rotating on the stands (ie., in heat 1, axeman 1 will chop on stand 1, with block 1; but in heat 2 she/he will chop on stand 2 with block 2 and so on - the idea is to make it as fair as possible so that luck has been minimized by allowing each axeman to getting the same shot at getting a top block (which is supposed to be softer); in the end each competitor will have chopped on each stand cutting a total of 8 blocks, varying from the butt position of the tree to the top of the tree.). The team member is chosen by who scores the highest in the heats - the winner of the heat will receive 8 points while the last place finisher will receive 1 point - all eight heats will be added up at the finish and the two top point getters are announced as the team members. The process is the same for the doublehanded sawing, but only four blocks are needed and only four cuts need to be made. This is an extremely intense way to garner team members but it hardens the axeman and makes them better team members.

The Australian Axeman Association uses a selection committee in which the Bureaucrats of the Association get together and select the team members. If there is a dispute in the selection the axemen may be asked to chop off, similar to the New Zealand test series, to determine the team members. Note that since New Zealand is a small country it is easy to run a day long test series as they have laid out, but Australia is much bigger so the selection committee works much better. If a chop off is required these chop offs are conducted in conjunction with a large show in which the wood can be gotten rather easily and the chop off can be conducted as part of the show.

The Spanish and Danish teams selection is very similar to Australia's. But the NAAN is not sure about there selection scheme but these are only examples for us to mill about selecting a team.

In the interim it would be the recommendation by the NAAN that the United States and Canada begin a test series against one another to prepare themselves for the onslaught of the Aussies, Kiwis and the Euro's.

Again this World Series of Woodchopping is not set in stone, but it does get the competitive juices flowing.

history of woodchopping

In North America Lumberjack Sports had its origins of the old logging camps of the late nineteenth century. Lumberjacks and Lumberjills of past toiled in the primeval forests to provide food for the families and loved ones; Lumberjacks and Lumberjills of today toil on Saturday and Sunday for the love of Sport and the thrill of the crowds.

In Australia the sport began a bit differently, and the following is a colorful excerpt from Racing Axeman: A history of competitive Woodchopping in Australia by James Preston.

Whatever business brought Jack Biggs from Warragul, Victoria to the unpainted, weatherboard hotel in Ulverstone, Tasmania in 1870 nobody knows. But there he was, leaning on the beer-stained counter boasting of his prowess with the axe. He took little notice until the quiet drinker

further along the bar until the other said softly.

"Want to put your money where your mouth is?"

Biggs put his beer down slowly and carefully before turning to the speaker.

"says who?" he demanded

The other took a drink from his pot, wiped the back of his hand across his moustache and smiled.

"Joe Smith," he said. "and I've got twenty-five quid to say you're not as good as * 39

Joseph Smith was an Ulverstone Veterinary surgeon but in his day he had done quite a bit of tree felling in the bush about the town.

Biggs pulled some notes from his pocket and slapped them on the bar. "You're on," he said.

The group about the two men quickly appointed a referee-who took charge of he stake money-and began to place their bets on the outcome of the contest. A site on the corner of Sprent and Castra Roads was agreed on as the site for the contest.

In due course the two men and their supporters gathered on the site and two trees of equal diameter were chosen. Biggs and Smith took off their jackets and jammed their hats more firmly on their heads. They waited, axes poised, for the referee to set them, and yelled "Go!"

The two axes bit deeply into the trees and the men swung their axes stroke for stroke. With every blow Biggs let his breath go explosively but Smith chopped quietly and with deep concentration. So evenly were the men matched that Smith's tree hit the ground, send up a cloud of dust, while the other was on its way down.

From some reason, again unknown, there was a difference of opinion among the supporters. Maybe Biggs' supporters wanted to protest and they did so in the only way the only way they knew. Whatever the cause, the argument became more heated and developed into a free-for-all brawl-a fitting climax indeed to the world's first woodchopping contest and the birth of new Australian sport.

In Spain, Lumberjack sports had different origins as Charles Van Hall wrote in The American

Axeman.

The Basque region axemanship comes about when a beautiful young woman came of the age for marriage in a village, the eligible young men would go the mountains with their fathers. There they would chop a large tree down, setting up the eight largest blocks from the trunk in a row. After chopping all eight blocks the young men would run eight to ten miles to the village square where they would lift a granite stone (approximately 275lbs) on his shoulder ten times in two minutes. Then with his father as a witness he would ask the young women's father for he hand in marriage. The father would of course grant the wish to the strongest young man.

The following is an excerpt from Racing Axeman: A history of competitive Woodchopping in Australia by James Preston on the technical side of the racing axeman.

To an axeman an axe is more than a thing of steel with a wooden handle-if has life, temperament and even a "voice" of its own.

"I can stand blindfolded", Bill Basse once said, "and tell by the voice of the axe what condition it is in. A good axe has a hollow sound when it hits the wood. A poorly prepared axe makes a clicking sound."

When an axeman buys an axe direct from the factory he must take the edge right down and back to the shoulder to obtain deep penetration into the wood. The secret of a good axe is in the grinding. Each man has his own method of grind his axes and these secrets are jealously guarded, and it could take weeks to get the blade right down to a razor finish with a rub stone. It is a fact that a well-prepared axe with a good finish will easily shave the hairs from a man's arm.

In each Australian State axemen have different methods of grinding their axes, according to the type of timber being chopped. Many use different size axes. The idea is to get just the right grind for the particular type of timber and the right weight for the build of the axeman.

Most men like to get a pretty big axe that they can cut down, and almost all of them replace the original handles to suit their own requirements. They balance the axe so that it goes forward slightly, thus giving a better sense of balance when cutting. Man axemen have some 40 or 50 axes and Jack O'toole had over 100. They were always searching for a better axe and so the number mounts up. Five or six of the best are usually kept in good racing order and carried in padded carrying cases.

If a chip is taken from the edge of the blade when chopping it must be ground back for the

entire length of the chip or the blade is liable to crack. Sometimes a crack is so tiny that it cannot be seen, but it shows up when the axe is driven into a piece of timber. While the cut made by a well-sharpened is smooth and sappy, small white ridges will show up where the fault in the blade has met the fibre of the wood. If the blade has not been properly prepared and is not cutting well the raw edge of the cut wood had a dry appearance. Some axeman roughen a handle of their axes with a raps so that their grip will not slip.

In 1930 Mr. William Turnbull of Hobart, Tasmania was taking part in competition chops with a plumb axe which was first purchased in 1890, proof of the contention of many old timers that "they can't make axes today like they did in our day."

Before he begins to chop the axeman carefully prepares his log. He cleans off any dirt which would dull his blade and notes the grain and the softness or hardness of the wood. He can learn a lot from studying the saw cut across the top.

In a standing black he draws a perpendicular line on either side of the log and then markers exactly where the top and bottom cuts will be made. As he waits for his signal to start he rest the toe of his axe blade lightly on the wood, balances himself with his weight on his black leg - the right leg if he is right handed - with his right hand grasping the handle six inches from the head and the left close to the slightly-turned end of the handle.

On the signal he swings his axe back and drives it forward with every ounce of strength he has, gathering power from his leg muscles, a power that flows through his whole body into his arms. His timing and precision are perfect - they have to be if he is to gain that precious fraction of a second which will give him victory. If he is to gain that precious fraction of a second which will give him victory. If his axe strikes the log before his handicap time is called he is qualified.

What makes a good axeman?

Well, he's got to be fit. He can drink, but not to excess. Many good axeman have worked most of their lives in the timber so that they are training all the time, but others come from all walks of life. He must have a keen eye, good judgment, a knowledge of timber and steady nerves. More than one man has been beaten because of the tension he is under while waiting for the word to start cutting.

According to world champion, Jack O'Toole, a top axeman, has got to have "a bit of weight, a bit of height and a bit of reach. And the most important thing is that he knows how to use an axe. Usually he's got to be around 12 stone to be in top class, even in tree-felling.

You've got to have temperament and everything that goes with it. Some men are good axeman but they suffer from nerves when the pressure is on. And chopping at the Sydney Show is a real pressure business. You've got to have a natural ability, like a good, natural swing. A lot depends on the speed of the hit and the wood itself."

Conditions for the many events in the woodchopping arena are exacting.

In tree-felling competitors must put the footboards above each other, the first 3 ft 6 in. from the ground, the second about 7 foot and the third 10 ft 6 in. from the ground. He does this twice. Up one side of the tree, cut half way through the log on top, down again, up the other side and complete the chopping of the log.

The hard-hitting contest is a standing cut on timber, usually 12 inches in diameter, and today it must be completed in two minutes, with a count-back in time if two axeman have the same number of hits. Standard axes are used and these must not exceed 6 and 1/2 pounds in weight and 7 inches cutting edge.

In the teams relay, underhand and standing cut, the timber is 13" in diameter and the four competitors in each team cut underhand and standing blocks alternately. In the team of two, standing cut, the timber is 16" in diameter. One member cuts half way through the log and then hands his axe to the next man, who completes the cut from the other side. In the team medley race the competitors cut in the following order: two cut the butchers block, one cuts an underhand, one the tree-felling, two the double-handed sawing and the last man cuts the standing block.

In the underhand chop the axeman stands on his log, after carefully preparing his footholds, and chops the log through between his feet, swinging to the other side when half way through the log. In a standing block, however, the log is set up vertically and the axeman stands before it, again cutting first from one side and then from the other.

Before commencing to cut a standing block an axeman usually drives nails the log around the top, or binds it with wire, to prevent the top section breaking away-slabbing-as he cuts. If that does happen he is disqualified.

Conditions for competitors in the woodchopping events in the various shows are many, varied and strict. In 1969 the number of conditions under which the axemen competed at the Sydney Royal Easter Show totalled forty-three.

The rules and conditions, the standard of behavior and the dress and the setting up of the logs have certainly changed since that day in U'Verstone, Tasmania when the volunteer starter cried "Go!" and Jack Biggs and Joseph Smith set to in Australia's first woodchopping contest.

Character Studies.

From the Outsider or spectators point of view, watching woodchopping is a very personal thing. Some performers attract, whatever their ability, for no logical reason. It is the same with any sport. Some spectators go quite often because of the power displayed, whether it be the physical power of the competitor or the individuals personal interest in the preservation of the logging heritage. Some fans at a woodchop scream for their friends or favorites, and some fans may fall into downright frenzies if a decision by the head judge is not to their liking.

Axeman past and present watch for quite a different reason; theirs is the critical eye. They look at the placing of both feet and axe, the cleanness of the cut, the ability to - in a split second - get around "something vile" found in the center of the log. Other people come simply because they find some the axemen mad. The axeman respond in their own rather indifferent ways because most of them don't regard themselves as performers as such, but slowly this attitude is changing.

In the age of television and mass media axeman have to regard themselves as performers. Soon the day will come when the captain of a winning relay team of axemen will be embraced by his colleagues much in the manner of other international teams events. Advertising has long since raised its presence on the shirts of axemen. Some axemen have garnered sponsorships, but these sponsorships are usually in the forms of gifts from friends; the other axemen who have managed to get good sponsorships are few and far between.

People love characters, and woodchopping provides them pretty much the same way professional wrestling does. In other words, there at any given championship a "Mr. Clean" and a "Dr. Evil."

Going around the Lumberjack arena we will come across the likes of the "Bushwhacker." Matt Bush is a slender man, over six and a half feet tall, whose boyish good looks and perpetual smile attract a lot of different people. He is often referred to as the "bushwhacker, legwhacker, toewhacker, wifewhacker" - because he has sliced and diced his toes, his knees, and even his beautiful wifes middle finger.

In the next corner we have "Melvis - the king of the Lumberjacks." Melvin Lentz is a rugged six foot five, two hundred and thirty pound man whose narrow frame is complimented by long powerful arms and hands that are large enough to palm a beachball. "Melvis" walks around eyeing his competition, eyeing his wood, saying little and always getting the job done.

Setting on the sawing stand we have the "Wonder Boy." Dave Jewett is a svelte six foot two, two hundred pound manchild, who when shirtless could be mistaken for a chippendale dancer. Dave's shyness and incredible veracity to consume large quantities of donuts and jolt cola make him a ball of nerves and sight to behold. When the countdown begins Dave's eyes become as large as "dinnerplates" and his feet begin to shift, but when the gun goes off there is only one word to describe the "Wonder Boy" - that word being "Intense."

Leaning on the fence and talking to the young ladies we have "The Sparkplug." Carson Bosworth is a sturdily built, blond haired, blue eyed handsome fellow whose controlled ferocity can be matched only by the most vicious of pitbulls. A gentleman by day, a gentleman by night, but once the emcee says "contestants ready" the "Sparkplug" kicks into high gear and is his melec is quite a sight.

Sitting on his axebox with young Nick on his knee we have "Hollywood." Mike Sullivan is the Adonis of the Lumberjack arena - good looks coupled with a perfect smile and deep articulate speaking voice makes "Hollywood" the attraction to the ladies and the envy of the fellows. But don't let "Hollywood's" looks fool you, he's the smoothest and most consistent competitor in the arena whose all-around talents can only be matched by a casual wink and a smile.

Standing in the middle of the arena bickering with his 62 year-old father, we have "Junior." Arden Cogar Jr is a herculean, overeducated, Arden Cogar Sr "wanna-be", whose emotional outbursts can only be matched by his ability to lift inordinately heavy objects. Well trained and well thought out,

"Junior" studies his log, studies his adversaries logs, studies his fathers advice, and usually doesn't listen to anyone - if he cuts well he's excited, if he messes up he stomps off like a raging bull.

Marking his springboard pole we have "Itch-and-Scratch." Mark Etcheberry is the mighty mouse of the Lumberjack Arena-one-hundred-and-seventy pounds of chiseled muscle whose technique in every event is practically flawless. "Itch-and-Scratch's" outwardly speaking nasal voice annoys some, but his words are the truth and to the point.

One thing is for sure - axemen are characters. Characters in a good sense, Characters in a sportsman like way - they represent our sport well. They are all human, none better than the rest, and they are the ones who entertain those of us who like to sit around and observe.

So you want to have a Lumberjack Competition?

By Gary J. Hammond

Popularity in lumberjack sports is on the rise with new competitions popping up all over America every year. So you say to yourself, "How do I pop one up in my hometown?"

The main item you will need to put on a successful competition is the universal catalyst-Money. Prize money, wood money, Etc.

Lets start with the prize money. If you want to have a good competitive competition and draw in the top notch competitions we need to entice them. Prize money. The big question is ,of course,- how much?

Lets say you are looking to do smaller competition. Its good to start small because it's easier to be successful with a smaller show.[less logistics]

Lets have six events: Log roll, underhand chop, two man cross-cut, Axe throw, chainsaw, cow tipping

Good prize money at a smaller show would be approx. First-\$50.00, Second- \$30.00 Third-\$20.00 Or somewhere thereabouts.

Keep in mind that world class cow tippers generally don't travel great distances to compete at smaller competitions.

After a little quick math we figure we need \$600.00 in prize money. The question is where are we going to get it?

If at all possible from somebody else. Those of you who have more money than you know what to do can jump ahead of the other 99.99% of us.

One option is entry fees. the problem is that if we charge large entry fees we will likely have fewer competitors and not as good a competition. Fewer competitors is also not good for the growth of lumberjack sports. If we charge small entry fees we will draw more competitors, but in doing so we will need more wood.[additional wood=additional cost]

Wood or more correctly timber, we can't have a lumberjack competition without it. So even if we scrape together the prize money, we still have to get the wood, and wood doesn't grow on trees, it grows in trees . We have to find suitable trees, harvest them, and get them milled so everyone has the same size blocks.

You say you've got acres of perfect white pine, a skidder, a sawmill, and nothing better to do. I'd like to say that you're not alone, but I think you are.

We will probably need to buy the timber also. so we need more money, using ours is out of the question, and we've got all we can get from competitors. What now?

We need donations, gifts, or sponsors. Donations and/or gifts would require someone to give us money out of the goodness of their hearts. Hey it could happen.

What we need is a sponsor. All we gotta do is have the local sawmill sponsor us. donate the milled timber, and deliver it to the competition area. Easy, but there is one small question.

Why should they?

One word-Publicity. Businesses pay for publicity through advertising, if we could provide publicity maybe they would pay us, or give us something we need.

So all we need is some publicity. To get publicity we need a public. To get a public we need to draw attention to ourselves and our competition, without getting arrested.

We need a festival, a fair, a frolic-anything that attracts the public. keep in mind that a logging festival will draw more spectators than a lady bug festival.

It does not necessarily have to a logging festival to draw a good crowd. Lumberjack competitions tend to draw a more "outdoorsey" sort of crowd although I'm sure city folk will find us

"quaint". I hate "quaint. Not that there is anything wrong with people who dwell in the city. I'm sure that many are lumberjacks at heart.(All hate mail Should be addressed To NAAN)

Outdoorsmen festivals, Farming festivals, Maple festivals Rural Fairs, ETC... are good places to get a lumberjack competition going. Back to publicity, if we can tell a sawmill owner that our competition will be at the local fair and that five thousand spectators will see his or her banner flying over the competition area, and that he or she will be thanked for their generosity of the P.A. system. This is good publicity and if a T.V. camera show up it could be a major bonus.

If we have all this publicity available lets put it to good use. Maybe the local hardware store will supply trophies in exchange for some notoriety. Maybe the local chainsaw dealer will donate some prizes or cash for prize money. If we put up a sign where spectators can see it.

The possibilities go on and on . It may require some leg work on your part , but it pays off in the long run.

A good idea before you start "legging It" is to put together a video tape of some competitions. Keep in mind it should be fairly brief. Not everyone like to watch hours of competitions, my family comes to mind. Your film should show highlights of the best competitors you can find. Show Melvin Lentz or Dave Jewett doing springboard chops in 59 seconds, not Gary Hammond at a pole for eight minutes. Also show the signs and banners. Position the camera so Gilles Levesque is bowsawing with the Fred's Hardware banner flying overhead. Get the picture?

Another thing you should do is pan the crowd at both a big and a smaller show. Don't just scream through the crowd as fast as you can move the camera. Do a slow pan showing the crowd smiling and applauding. The reason for the two different crowds is to show potential sponsors what to expect as far as a crowd goes and what they can expect after your competition takes off.

We will want to do this again the next year and if successful the crowd will get bigger. Bigger crowd- more publicity

Make your tape fun to watch and again be fairly brief. It is also a good idea to duplicate this tape so you have more than one copy. This can be done with two VCR's, the appropriate cables and somebodys teenager to show you how.

Another thing we will have to do is convince the fairboard they should have a lumberjack competition. The tape will come in handy here also. The thing to remember here is that the fairboard wants to draw a big crowd to make their fair a success. So you need to go to a fairboard meeting, believe me they not exciting. You may have to sit through two hours of "where are we going to put the chicken barbecue?" or "How many port a potties do we need?"

But be patient, wait your turn, and present yourself professionally. Have a VCR and TV setup, show your tape ,and narrate it with pride and conviction. Tell them what you can do for them.

Lumberjack competitions are fast paced and exciting, cross-cut, chainsaw, axe throw, chopping. Tell the fairboard you can entertain a crowd for 5-6 hours straight for the \$1,500. That's a cheap price for a fair attraction. The \$1,500 is an arbitrary price but a good one to start with. That's \$1,000 prize money and \$500 for wood. Maybe one of the fairboard members has thirty acres of perfect white pine. Maybe the fair will buy the wood. oftentimes the fairboard will do a lot of your "leg Work" to get sponsors and save themselves some money.

The fair will also have an ambulance on site, another thing you will ,god forbid, need. Fairs also have insurance. The fair may also have a grandstand and can take care of the advertising. Spectators won't come to see your competition if they don't know you're having one.

So, now we have our competition setup to go. Keep in mind that they ask you how much wood you will need that 10-20% of the timber will be knotty to use. Each competitor will need clear wood to chop and saw. The amount of wood you will need will depend on how many competitors and how many events you will have.

Keep in mind the better the wood the faster the times, the happier the competitors, the better the competition. Try to have a competitor assist with wood procurement.

O.K. we have the wood, sponsors, and a fair. What next? How about stations, stop watches, PA system, and oh yeah, competitors. The best thing to do is contact a lumberjack association, club, etc in your area. They generally have everything you will need including a mailing list if competitors looking for a block to chop.

And don't forget the newer additions to the sport. The last few years have seen the emergence of some top notch female competitors who are looking for competitions. In fact it's safe to say that if we add womens events to our competitions we will draw plenty of women competitors. We will need

more wood and prize money, but the womens competitors will add to the draw of our competition and increase media attention. The last five or six competitions put on by the New York Lumberjacks Association, that had media coverage, prominetly featured the womens competitors.

More media attention=bigger and better competitions for all competitions.

There are some competitions that are reserved for women competitors. These are usually held in conjuncture with separate mens competitions and generally are two day affairs. These competitions have been well received.

There are four more things you will need to make your competition run smoothly and be successful: Timers-Have sufficient timers, family, friends, people who owe you favors; Make sure your timers know what to do. Chasing dntimers or inept timers can totally bog down a competition; Timing can be a thankless job, so be appreciative. Scorekeeper- Someone to keep track of times and prepare prizes for the winners; A big lag between the last event and the awards and you will lose you spectators; The scorekeeper has a tough job, if you find sa good one treat them nice; Head judge- Someone who knows the rules, that can make decisions, and stand by them, preferably someone thick skinned. Dave Duerr comes to mind as one of the best; Again a tough job. Announcer- Without a good announcer three hours can seem like thirteen hours; A good announcer is a tough guy to find. You need a people person, someone Preferably familiar with the sport, who can entertain and keep things moving; Imagine a three ring circus without a ringmaster.

A competitors liability waiver form may be required to ease insurance tension. You can write one up, but the best way is to have a lawyer do it.

When scheduling your competition keep in mind almost all lumberjacks have real jobs to support their habit. Shoot for a saturday or sunday, late morning-EARLY AFTERNOON COMPETITION. ALSO TRY TO SCHEDULE YOUR COMPETITION ON A COMPETITION FREE WEEKEND. CONTACT A COMPETITOR SO YOUR SHOW ISN'T THE SAME DAY AS THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. The best way to ensure a good competitor turnout is to be the only show around. You will have to work around the fair dates of course.

I've dealt mainly with setting up a competition although many of these concepts should apply to competitors looking for individual sponsors. Although being sponsorless I could be wrong.

That about does it. There are, of course other details and complications which will arise- "You can't have the lumberjack competition Saturday morning. That's when we are having the Cluck like a chicken contest."

Please fell free to contact me if you are interested in having a competition in New York State.

Good Luck

Gary* Tiny Hammond
President

New York State
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The following is an excerpt from Racing Axeman: A history of competitive Woodchopping in Australia by James Preston describing the centenary year.

Throughout the history of competitive woodchopping in Australia there are many stories of the fortitude of the axeman and the year of 1968 had its share of accidents. Jac Tibas was practicing with an axe during the morning before the woodchopping events at the Royal Sydney Show when the axe slipped and sliced into the flesh of his left foot. Four stitches were need in the wound and that afternoon he paid off with Steve Sainty to gain a place in the strenuous Butcher's block event. Joe McKenzie, a competent and promising axeman, lost one two and partly severed two others, but he carried on and completed the vent. At Liverpool, New South Wales, Jim Burkes axe slipped through gathering a chip and he nearly severed four toes.

Although the professional axemen making the cutting of a 10" log appear to be comparatively easy, one only has to pick up an axe and try it for himself to quietly discover that it is not at all easy. How much more difficult therefore to chop with two axes, one in either hand! Impossible? Not at all. At the 1968 Sydney Show Les Edwards, of N.S.W., gave an exhibition of this difficult feat, swinging a

6 lb. axe in either hand. During this demonstration he cut through a 10" log in 69.8 sec. From time to time a number of other axemen have tried to emulate Edwards' feat, but none of them could get just the necessary precise timing.

The year 1970 completed one hundred years of competitive woodchopping in Australia and the occasion was celebrated by a series of competitions in various North Coast Tasmanian carnivals between 1st and 10th of January. Teams of axemen from the United States, Canada, the North and South Islands of New Zealand, and all of Australian States (Western Australia, Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania) took part in this World Centenary of Woodchopping.

It was fitting that a motorcade through the streets of Ulverstone - where the first contest was staged in 1870 - should launch the series. In launching the series of events the milestone in the sport of woodchopping in Australia and it was fitting that this should take place in the birthplace of the sport itself.

The series began, unfortunately, with a tragedy that placed something of a dampener on the events. Clyde Braslyn, a robust 63-year old of Howrah, and official ring master of the Southern Axemen's Association was in the timekeepers box at the Busby Park Show when he collapsed and died. The worried officials talked of abandoning the entire series, but finally agreed that Clyde would have "wanted the show to go on."

On 2nd January E.J. Morse wrote his name into the history of the sport when he won the first of the big handicap events at Burnie, for more than half a century before his grandfather, bearing the same initials as his grandson, had won the classic Henley Chop twice in the same town.

Gary Hewett, then only 25 years of age, also made history when he won his first underhand 13" world Championship title. Hewett, a Queensland standing block champion, defeated a "red hot field" of Tasmanian's, Victorians and fellow Queenslanders to win the event. He continued his success on the 6th when he won his second world title - a 12" standing block - in the series and so take a command lead in the \$1,000 (in 1970 dollars) Champion of Champions award. Then, on the 9th he won the 15" standing title - the biggest block of the series - to prove beyond doubt that he was the best and most versatile axemen competing in the carnival series.

On Monday 12th January 1970 the Hobart "Mercury" reported on the final day of the series as follows:

"A family tradition was perpetuated at the world centenary of competitive woodchopping carnival at Ulverstone on Saturday when Tasmania George Foster was acclaimed the best axeman in the world.

"Thirty-eight year old Foster was the star of the final carnival in the series. He not only caused an upset by defeating Queenslanders sensational Gary Hewett in the world Champion of Champions cut off, but was responsible for recovering and making up ground for Tasmania to defeat the fancied Victorian team in the international team race - and in doing so he brought back memories of another great world champion, his uncle, Jim Foster.

"Foster stole the limelight from Hewett in Saturday's three-race cut-off to decided the Champion of Champions and he proved that he was the most versatile of the series.

"The axemen-those who finished with most points after the seven world title contested early in the week-chopped off for the overall title through three different events

"Foster is a real champion and now holds three world records. Foster said, "When I made the top ten last week I knew I had a chance, so I spent a lot of time thinking about how I could win." The \$20,000 international teams race proved a clinker for the home state. After playing second fiddle to Victoria all the week Tasmania rose to the occasion to win by a clear margin, with Ken Devine, George Foster and Clayton Stewart Outstanding.

"In the national teams race between Australian, New Zealand and North American Sides, the Australians had an expected victory. Once again it was Foster who gave his team a clear lead, increasing a three-blow lead to ten blows for Merv Youd to punch three blows clear of New Zealand!"

"Yet another Youd entered chopping fame at Ulverstone, this time Kelvin. The 23-year old cousin of the famed brothers collected Tasmania's richest handicap, the Thousand. From the 10 sec. mark he proved to strong for Franklin's R. Cowan, with South Australian Ervin Schmidt taking third place.

"Bill Youd added to his stakes also by winning the world treefelling championship. He easily accounted for brother Ray, who was unchallenged world title holder for many years. It appeared

to be a two-man battle between the brothers but Bill finished up seven blows in front.

"New Zealand's top axeman, Geoff Hocquard, forth-one years of age, was chosen as captain of the world relay team at the end of the carnival and another New Zealander, North Island team manager, Mr. Jack Beasley was chosen as manager. Tasmanian gained tow representatives in the team - Merv Youd (45 years old) of Deloraine, who was vice-captain, and George Foster. Victoria also gained two representatives, Jim Alexander (39 years old) and Jack O'Toole (52 years old). Queensland lone representative is Gary Hewett, star of the world title events throughout the centenary series."

The World Champion of Champions cut-off (contested by 10 top axeman on points in world events throughout the series, in a three-race cut-off) resulted in - 13" standing championship-Gary Hewett; 14" Underhand championship-George Foster. In the final count, Foster finished up with 110, Hewett with 94 and Geoff Hocquard with 82.

The World Centenary brought to a close the first hundred years of woodchopping in Australia and in these pages have been recorded some of the interesting highlights of those years. But, as one browses through magazines and newspapers other interesting bits of history come to light. Unfortunately, however, these serve merely to tantalize the historian.

Like the story Olaf Ruhen tells in his memoirs of the South Pacific. "Tongaroa's Godchild." He tells of a big, handsome Maori named Albert, "an axemen working for a sawmill, strong and full of confidence, a swaggering, swashbuckler, unafraid, who practiced to be the best axeman who ever lived. In competition within the district he was unbeatable and his times were comparable to the best in the country. He was clever, energetic and ambitious. He could sing like a Polynesian angel, was a gifted orator and a happy personality."

One day Albert was sailing with his brother and companion in a treacherous sea and their boat was swamped. Albert swam ashore in his gum boots, placed them neatly side by side and went back to try and save the other two. He died with them.

Then there was Paddy Underdown of Mundaring, Tasmania, Bill Plunkett of Salman Gumms, Stow Marshall of Yarloop, West Australian handicapper "Sonny" Anderson and his son, Alan, who was W.A. champion for eleven years. He competed in 14 championships in 12" logs and won eleven of them. Bob Coleman was reputed to be the best axeman in W.A. in his time. George Law of Queensland and Garfield Robbins of Sydney, Zeb Jeffrey of Queensland and H.A. Nichols of Ulverstone, Tasmania - all men who gave the best years of their lives to the sport.

When he was almost fifty years of age "Bricky" Wood, a northern Tasmanian axemen, won a 12" contest in 22 seconds and Alf Engle of Queensland chopped for more than fifty years and was still chopping at 70 years of age. Amos Murrell, then nearing seventy years of age, had not fully recovered from a major operation when he took part in several standing block events. Although he was reputed to have won more championships than any other man living at the time, he never kept a record of his feats.

Where today, are the axes they treasured, the trophies they won and the records of their achievements?

A Three Year Trek by a lady lumberjack by Christine VanGee

Christine Van Gee is from Phelps, NY. and makes her career as a horse trainer and riding instructor. Christine has been competing in the timbersports field for three years. Previously, she gained experience and knowledge from the intercollegiate activities affiliated with the Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, N.Y., under the guidance of coach Marty Dodge, While getting her degree in Natural Resources Conservation.

Since 1985 timbersports have been a big part of Christine's life, but it wasn't until the 1994 season that she became a serious competitor when she ventured to eleven shows in her first full season. Under the expert guidance of good friends and fellow competitors, many techniques were learned and put to use. It wasn't until July of 1994 in Hayward, Wisconsin that she realized her efforts to improve her chopping were rewarded. At the Lumberjack World Championships in Hayward, she took first place in the women's underhand chop with a time of 52.9 seconds on an eleven inch round poplar. Also, she competed in the women's single buck saw to place in the middle of the pack.

That same year, the Lumberjill World Championships, held at Boonville, N.Y., were to prove very exciting and rewarding. Christine placed 4th overall and took first place in the bow saw, 1st in splitting, 4th in tree falling, 5th in log rolling, with veteran competitor Dany Duperre, and 5th in the underhand chop. The season ended up a success with a lot of anticipation of the next year.

1995 started off with the organization of a mixed women's professional team competing together at the 49th annual intercollegiate competition in Hanover, N.H. at Dartmouth College. The team consisted of Dory Kistner-Morris, Tina Scheer, Peg Pasek, Lori Church, Mary Dooley and Christine Van Gee. The women took 1st place overall with the highest point total; a union of women out to have a good time and prove a point under the title of "wild Women of the Woods."

Next for Christine on the circuit, was Webster Springs, W.V. to compete in the handicap underhand chop on ten inch round yellow poplar. She had a respectable chop with the leading time for the women.

Throughout the year Christine drove across the country to shows in Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Canada and New York, but the highlights fell on a few outstanding places. She took overall champion out of thirty-five competitors at the annual Lumberjack Contest in Deposit, N.Y., competing in eight events. Also Hayward proved to be exciting once again with Christine placing 3rd in underhand chop, 9th in Jack and Jill with expert competitor Jerry Scutt, and in the middle of the pack for the women's single buck. Boonville, N.Y. Lumberjill World Championships showed Christine a 4th overall once again with 3rd place in Jill And Jill crosscut with partner Dany Duperre, 3rd in the underhand chop, 2nd in bow saw and 5th in the single buck.

As a first time venture, she traveled to West Virginia once again to compete at the Elkins Forest Festival. The only women chopper in the yellow poplar. She finished 4th in Jack And Jill sawing with partner Jerry Scutt, then traveled to the Pumpkinfest for another round of chopping on ten by ten yellow poplar, again the only women competitor.

The year ended in Lindsay, Ontario, Canada in November, the 18th show she attended that year. A successful trip north was has as she finished 1st in the women's underhand chop and 1st in Jack and Jill sawing with her partner Jeffrey Towner.

The 96 season will start in March in Michigan, at an expo to include women choppers, sawyers, and log rollers. The next stop is the 50th annual intercollegiate spring meet held at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, N.Y. As part of the contest, Christine will compete in the professional women's events as well as on the "Wild women of the woods" mixed alumni team. The trip to Webster Springs will find her in the handicap underhand chop again as well as the Jack and Jill, and so starts another exciting season.

She plans to help in the promotion of Women's Timber Sports whenever possible and plans on chopping and sawing wood for an indefinite period of time.

Christine offers a heartfelt thanks to the many people that support women in Timber Sports and anticipates a marked increase in women competitors as well as supporters.

REPORT ON THE YOUNG AXEMEN

More events are coming around for the young axemen. First, the Webster County Woodchopping Festival has decided to allow Woman and Boys Under the age of 18 cut 10" round Underhands, rather than the customary 12". Second, Hayward has agreed to continue the Woman's World Championship Single Hand Sawing, and World Championship Maiden's Underhand. Third, the Lumberjill championships held in Boonville, New York, is looking toward a bigger and better 1996.

The WCWF has also agreed to add a handicap standing for younger and less experienced competitors. Other West Virginia and Southern Pennsylvania Shows are agreeing to run handicapped chops for the younger and less experienced competitors.

Nearly every show on the west coast runs novice and intermediate events. We are in hopes that the shows in the north east begin to develop events that cater toward the lesser experienced competitors and gives them incentives to stay in the sport and improve their performances.

The School of LogChopping conducted by Charles VanHall and Mark Etcheberry are looking for competitor interest. Mark has noted that he would like to conduct these schools in conjunction with large competitions, but no real specifications are available at this time, other than it looks more than likely that this will happen. The School will include general instruction by the likes of Mark Etcheberry, Charles VanHall, Arden Cogar Jr, Don Quigley, and many other top pros; The school will also include general troubleshooting on a one-on-one basis. Every individual will be videotaped and critiqued, and put in race situations once the school has been completed.

ForestSports Inc. is sponsoring training seminars as well. This will be one of the perks of the national membership. Similar benefits are put forth, but these training seminars will be more

personal and limited to certain number of people in a certain time slot. ForestSports has put together a Board of Directors and times and Dates for the seminars should be available a few weeks prior to the Webster County WoodChopping Festivals. The seminars will likely be held in conjunction with shows or during the days following the big shows. For those of you who are interested please call ForestSports, at 503-689-3612. These seminars are aimed at any questions that you may have - from logchopping to singlehand sawing to edges on axes.

Lady Lumberjack Promotions is putting on Lumberjack training seminars. These seminars are being conducted by Rick and Penny Halverson, and look to be garnering extensive support in the midwest region. If you are in the midwest and are interested in learning the skills of two of greatest competitors in North America please call - (715) 964-8451

Again we here at the NAAN stress that we need to develop our sport, and form a national organization. We start by organizing everything and developing some events for the younger competitors to compete in. Divisions would be the way to go. Maybe a handicap system if the competitor's help gather the wood and put on the show, but anything would do. To get our sport recognized we need a national organization, what ForestSports is attempting to do-so please support them, and events that allow everyone a chance.

This is a slow process, but with some perseverance and a little sacrifice we will propel our sport well into the twenty-first century.

This next article is an instructional tidbit-ed.

At first settlers cleared the primeval forests with axes and fires. Eventually, timber harvesting became a profitable industry; with the emphasis moving from survival to capitalism, businessmen forced the loggers to move to a faster way of felling the trees and sawing the trees up into millable lengths.

Axes remained the principal means of notching the trees, but crosscut saws moved in as the way of felling the trees and cutting the trees into millable lengths. As time passed, it was found that the big six man felling and bucking crews (two notchers, two fellers, two buckers) could be replaced by a five man crew, by having one "bucker" cut the logs into lengths instead of two.

Its from this history that singlehanded sawing had its origins. For those of us who have tried singlehanded sawing, we know that the "misery whip" has bettered us on most occasions.

ESPN commentator Tommy Sanders asked John Hughes once, "Is singlebucking a dying artform?"; John responded, "No Tommy, as a matter of fact there are several competitors out there who are great sawyers, and everyday more and more competitors are becoming more competent sawyers." Both Tommy and John are certainly right: Singlehand sawing is an artform, and there are ways to become a better sawyer.

This article is meant to be instructional to the best of my ability. First, I must make a disclaimer - I am not a good singlehand sawyer; I have become better since I began practicing these techniques, but I still have a lot to learn. Second, I must quantify the advice I am going to give - the secret to teaching yourself good technique in anything [be it golf, bowling, or crosscut sawing] is that you should try the advice a person gives and use what works for you and toss the other crap aside. Third, the following techniques are patterned after the top singlehand sawyers in the world - they use these techniques and they win; these techniques are effective and these sawyers have been taught by the best sawyers in the history of Lumberjack Sports.

These techniques follow these principles

1. to use your entire body to get the most out of the crosscut saw - particularly your hits and your shoulders.
2. your sawing stroke should use the entire length of the saw whether the saw is 6'6" or 5'6".
3. use a slight rocking of the saw after the third or fourth stroke in the cut. a slight rocking motion is usually identified by lifting the saw about .25" to 1" off the kerf when you bring the saw back past your right shoulder (If your right handed).

Figure 1 - Top of the log

the resting saw, after setting your teeth, should be at arms length, i.e., you should have your weight on your front foot and your arms straight, with approximately 3/4's of the saw on the other side of the log.

first stroke is always a pull stroke.

Note how Melvin Lentz has transferred all his weight to his back leg (the front foot is off the ground with the exception of his toe) as he pulls the saw past his body. He is using his front leg to pull the handle from the resting position to the front shoulder. He will then use his arms and hips - by swiveling the hips from right to left - to pull the handle past his body to the push back position.

Melvin will then transfer all his weight to his front foot and use his arms and hips - by swiveling the hips from left to right - to get the handle from the push back position to the front shoulder. don't rock the saw on the first push stroke

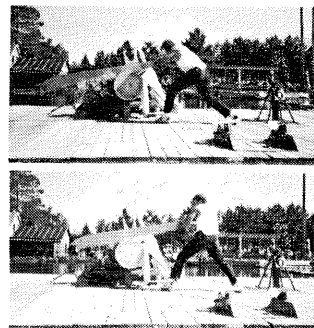


Figure 2 - Finishing the first push stroke

note how all of Melvin's weight has been totally transferred to his front leg, he is now beginning to finish this first stroke. note how his shoulders are being thrown forward as the entire weight of his body is being thrown behind the handle. there is hardly no rocking in the stroke at this point - only allow about 1/4" of rock in saw. meaning that the saw will be taken off the kerf about 1/4" in the far side of the log, and be raised about 1/4" when you get to the pushback position.

Figure 3 - Finishing off the stroke

note how both of Melvin's arms are completely straight and his shoulders are collapsed forward. note how his hips are nearly completely turned toward the log and all of his weight is on his front foot (the back foot is nearly off the ground, but remains in place for balance)

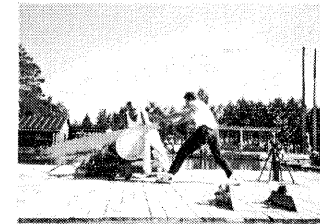


Figure 4 - Pulling the saw back

use your front leg to pull the handle away from the wood. begin to rock the saw by pulling down slightly to cut your corners, but you do not want the saw to come off the far side of the kerf by more than 1"

note how Melvin has stood up and uncollapsed his shoulders

the weight has shifted from his front foot to his back foot

he is using his front leg to pull the saw out of the wood

once the handle is to his shoulder he will swivel his hips from left to right to pull the handle past his body

Figure 5 - Finishing the stroke revisited

note how Dave Jewett has all his weight on his front foot

Dave is thrusting his body into the log; his shoulder are collapsed, his arms are straight, and his hips are turned toward the log.

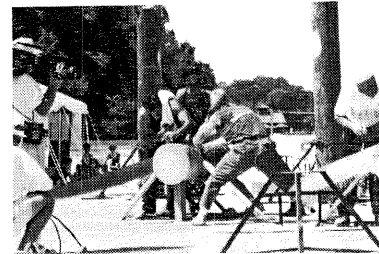


Figure 6 - Beginning of "heeling"

when you get to the bottom 3/4's of the log you need to apply a lot of downwards pressure towards the end of your stroke. You will also need to almost let the saw come out of the far side of the kerf by pressing down on the handle very hard.

note that you should not press down hard enough that the saw comes off the wood on the far side.

Note how Dave has his shoulders above the saw and the saw is completely on the kerf on the far side.

Dave will then apply excessive pressure by pressing down with his top hand and by shifting his weight with his hips

Figure 7 - Continuation of "heeling"

Note how Carson has finished his stroke but the saw is slightly off the log. Carson has applied the pressure with his top hand and allowed the saw to come off the kerf by about 1/4" to 1/2" as a result of this downward pressure

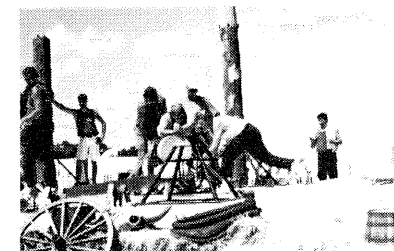


Figure 8 - The finish

Finish with a push stroke if you can

Note how Carson has done this; he has totally transferred all his weight to his front leg (to the extent that his back leg has come off the ground)

Again to rehash, this is meant to be instructional but remember a few things: 1. be careful - wear kevlar chaps to avoid cutting your legs; 2. be patient - Rome wasn't built in a day; 3. be happy - remember Lumberjack Sports is fun. Thank you - yours in woodchips - Jamie.