

North American
AXEMAN'S NEWS
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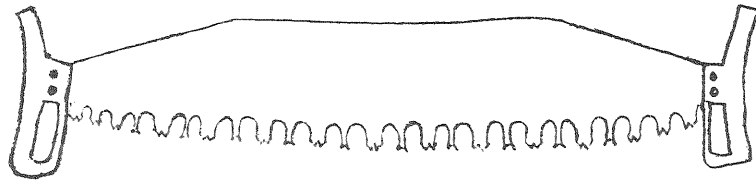
1996-97

Stihl Timbersports™ Finalists

Front Row (L to R): Gaston Duperre, Arden Cogar Jr., Karl Bischoff, Harry Burnsworth, Carson Bosworth, Warrick Hallett, Rob Waibel.

Back Row (L to R): Rolin Eslinger, Jerry Scutt, Matt Bush, Jason Wynyard, Dave Jewett, Melvin Lentz, Mike Sullivan, Rick Halverson, and Jim Taylor.

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

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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. Up-front 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, John Barr, Dave Engasser, Shannon McBride, Gary Hammond, and many others.

The NAAN would like to extend special thanks to Stihl for its continued support of Lumberjack Sports. Thanks to Stihl and the ESPN Stihl Timber Sports Series, Lumberjack Sports is becoming more popular. Thanks to Jerry McKinnis and J and M Associates for their support and courtesy extended to the competitors and the competitors families. Thanks to all of you out there that keep the ball rolling.

We here at the NAAN are saddened by the loss of Alan Woodrow of Comox, in British Columbia. Alan's life began in Cobble Hill, BC. His family moved to Perth, Australia for several years then returned to Canada. Alan left a legacy in the logging industry throughout the Pacific Northwest. His life saw all phases of the working in the woods, starting with rigging on steam donkeys, hand falling, scaling and bull-bucking. His logging career ended in 1975. During that time Alan fell in love with Lumberjack Sports. Alan traveled all over the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. After his competitive days were over, Alan took up judging. As a judge, Alan will be remembered for two things: 1. His strict adherence to the rules and 2. His fairness. Alan will be missed, but not forgotten.

The NAAN would also like to wish its best to Jack Cogar. Jack is the brother of chopping great Arden Cogar Sr. Jack has competed in Lumberjack Sports just as long as Arden has, but never had the opportunity to travel like Arden had. Recently it was learned that Jack has a malignant brain tumor and it is unknown the status of his future. Jack has been a strong fixture in the West Virginia Axeman's Association for several years - he has always helped organize every show that the WVAA has hosted. Jack, we wish you the best and hope you have a swift recovery.

The NAAN would like to announce a birth of a new baby, Emma to Rob and Shannon Waibel. It also looks as though there are going to be several births for several of our top competitors this summer.

Folks, I am going to address this issue until I'm blue in the face. Please, please, we need to get a nation wide Lumberjack Association established in the United States. Don Quigley has come up a brilliant idea, but it needs our support. First the objectives of this Association should be - 1. To advance the sport: in the perception of the public at large, in the quality of competitions, an increased participation at all levels. 2. To improve the rewards of each participant in the sport: monetary reward, recognition of peers and public, and opportunities for growth, advancement and participation.

The goals of the Association should be: 1. provide professional representation in all matters of negotiation, public relations and communications to the benefit of the sport. 2. be a regulatory agency with the power to properly set rules for a wide variety of events and competitions; These rules should address fairness, consistency, spectator appeal and safety. 3. Influence, if not control, those organizations which host, sponsor or administer competitions by providing services and/or sanctioning. 4. Provide a wide range of benefits to individual members such as: (not limited to) - opportunities to participate in organization governance; periodic communications/newsletters; a system of rating or ranking so each member can be competitive at his/her skill level; insurance; equipment acquisition; opportunities for national and international representation (team events).

There is only one way to form an association. And that's by doing it. We don't want to start too big. So what we need to do is work on Associations in our own little areas, for example Connecticut and Maine-New Hampshire-Vermont, Pennsylvania, as well as the people down in North Carolina.

We need to start small by forming our little axeman's clubs then form an umbrella organization - or even have the umbrella organization be the ALA-east coast. It's up to us. If we want to see our sport progress, we are the only people who can push the ball.

There was one heck of good showing of North American Axeman at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney Australia. The following competitors were in attendance: Matt Bush, Carson Bosworth, Harry Burnsworth, Arden Cogar Jr, Gaston Duperre, Kirt Hall, Mel Lentz, and Mike Slingerland. While no one shocked the world several of the competitors chopped and sawed well. Matt Bush won the B division hardhitting championship and placed in an open standing block. Carson Bosworth placed second in the first division springboard. Harry Burnsworth won the axe throwing. Kirt Hall placed fourth in the Stock Sawing event. Arden Cogar Jr placed in two open underhands. But above all else, these competitors represented their countries with pride and excellence.

A big thanks to everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to write letters and articles for the North American Axeman's News (NAAN). Although I am the initiator and editor of this publication, I need to take this opportunity to remind everyone that holds an interest in Lumberjack Sports that this is your publication - the direction that this publication takes is up to you.

As a group we need to have a vehicle to voice our concerns, and it is to be hoped that we can use the NAAN for this. We will take no letters to the editor personally unless of course the letters to the editor are about us personally. I will not discriminate for or against any letters that are sent to the NAAN. Although I may or may not agree with the content of the letters, it is not up to me personally to decide what gets published and what does not.

I am not saying *no* discretion is used, but I will not use my personal biases to decide what gets into the NAAN and what does not. The NAAN encourages those of you who do feel you have something to say to use prudence and good taste in the letters you write.

Also, because the NAAN is an annual publication we encourage letters that will better the sport as a whole and discourage letters that take on personal issues and vendettas among individuals that would best be resolved privately. Letters that could be viewed as offensive or in poor taste will not be published.

We hope the NAAN will better the sport through positive feedback and constructive criticism. As important as it is to hear the positive aspects of Lumberjack Sports, it is as equally important to hear the negative, as with out the negative we will never learn and grow. The NAAN welcomes and encourages feedback from everyone concerned about the sport as well as the direction the NAAN is taking. If you have any ideas on how you feel the NAAN can be improved please write or call. We need to keep an open mind and support one another as we've still got a long road ahead of us.

Thanks again and yours in Wood-Chips (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
PH: (304) 847-2353

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LUMBERJACK WORLD RECORDS AND CHAMPIONS 5
ESPN STIHL TIMBER SPORTS SERIES 15
VARIOUS LUMBERJACK TIDBITS 23
CANLOG AND BRITISH COLUMBIA 36
NEW BRUNSWICK LUMBERJACK'S ASSOCIATION 55
NOVA SCOTIA LUMBERJACK'S ASSOCIATION 63
ONTARIO TIMBER SPORTS ASSOCIATION 64
WEST VIRGINIA AXEMAN'S ASSOCIATION 67
SOUTHERN AXEMAN'S ASSOCIATION 81
PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO 85
NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, AND MASSACHUSETTS 91
VERMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND MAINE 99
AMERICAN LUMBERJACK ASSOCIATION
AND THE WEST 103
MIDWEST 119
OVERSEAS INFORMATION 126
RESULTS FROM THE COLLEGE CIRCUIT 129
CUSTOMARY RULES AND REGULATIONS 133

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

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

PLEASE EXTEND YOUR SUPPORT TOWARD ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF LUMBERJACK SPORTS - WE WILL BE MEETING AT THE BIG COMPETITIONS THIS YEAR (WEBSTER, HAYWARD, BOONVILLE, POSSIBLY LOON MOUNTAIN)

LOOK TOWARD ESTABLISHING AN AXEMAN'S CLUB IN YOUR OWN AREA SO THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD IN ESTABLISHING A LUMBERJACK ASSOCIATION THAT WOULD COVER ALL OF THE UNITED STATES.

-these axeman's clubs are groups of ten to twenty people from say a state the size of Connecticut who band together to organize shows, gather wood, raise money

-basically the axeman's clubs work together, buy equipment as a joint project and help each other out.
-this is what we need, so please end your differences with everyone and establish a axeman's club

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

THANK YOU

Yours in Wood-Chips

Arden Cogar Jr

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 Wood-Chopping Festival

.13" Standing .12" Power saw .13" Underhand .10" Springboard
.12" Two-man Crosscut

-Albany, OR USA - Albany Timber Carnival

.12" Standing .25" One-man Crosscut .15" Underhand .12" Springboard
.30" Two-man Crosscut .100' Speed Climb .100' Tree Topping

-Hayward, WI USA - Lumberjack World Championships

.14" Standing .20" One-man Crosscut .14" Underhand .14" Springboard
.20" Two-man Crosscut .20" Jack+Jill Crosscut .Women's' Birling .Mens' Birling
.90' Speed Climb

-Vancouver, BC Canada - Pacific National Exhibition

.11" Standing .24" One-man Crosscut .12" Underhand .11" Springboard
.24" Two-man Crosscut .15" Jack+Jill Crosscut .8" Bow Saw .Choker Setting
.Boom Race .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" Two-man Crosscut

.Championship Power saw 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, Tree Climbing, Chopping, and Sawing events- would qualify; Albany's - Climbing and Two Man Crosscut - would qualify; Webster Springs -Two-man Crosscut, Underhand, Standing, and Springboard - would qualify. But the remaining 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 Wood-Chips

Administrative Staff of the NAAN

Here are the 1996 World Champions in their individual events

Standing Blocks	Underhand Blocks
11" Jason Wynyard	12" Jason Wynyard
12" Melvin Lentz	13" Arden Cogar Jr
13" Arden Cogar Jr	14" Jason Wynyard
14" Jason Wynyard	15" Jason Wynyard
18" (Butcher Block): Brad Laughlin/Brian Herlihy/Jason Wynyard	

Tree Falling Harry Burnsworth

Two-Man Crosscut	One-Man Crosscut
10x10 Matt Bush + Mike Slingerland	20" Matt Bush (Hayward)
12" Carson Bosworth + Dave Jewett	25" Dave Jewett (Albany)
20" Mike Slingerland + Matt Bush	24" Matt Bush (PNE)
22" Carson Bosworth + Bob Bosworth	
24" Napoleon Mercier + Jean Pierre Mercier	
30" Arden Cogar Jr + Carson Bosworth	

Springboard Blocks	Jack+Jill Crosscut
10" Carson Bosworth	10x10 Gaston and Dany Duperre
11" Carson Bosworth	16" Bob Bosworth and Megan Bosworth
12" Melvin Lentz	12" Gaston+Dany Duperre
14" Melvin Lentz	15" JP Mercier + Sylvie Paquin
13" Jack Brown-John	20" Rick and Penny Halverson

Bow Sawing	Speed Climbing
8" J.P. Mercier	80" Wade Stewart (PNE)
10x10 Gaston Duperre	90" Wade Stewart (Hayward)
	100" Wade Stewart (Albany)
	100" Wade Stewart (Squamish)

Obstacle Pole->Kim Olney (PNE)
Karl Bischoff (Albany)

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Lumberjack Records
(as of 4/21/97)

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
16"	Arden Cogar Jr	1:23.15

WHITE PINE

8x8	Mike Sullivan	6.25
10X10	Mike Sullivan	10.60
11"	Paul Cogar	12.15
12"	Dave Jewett	12.
13"	Arden Cogar Jr	17.25
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	20.4148

SWEET GUM

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

ALDER

12"	Mel Lentz	14.25
13"	Jim Alexander	18.80
14"	Jason Wynyard	21.72
16"	R. W. Dimick	1:29.00

PONDEROSA PINE

12"	Jason Wynyard	15.01
13"	Jason Wynyard	17.09
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"	Jason Wynyard	15.89
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
15" Arden Cogar Jr	54.18

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	19.16
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" Jason Wynyard	12.38
12" Brian Herlihy	16.95

PONDEROSA PINE

11" Karl Bischoff	16.15
12" Jason Wynyard	16.15
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" Carson Bosworth	1:04.23
12" Harry Burnsworth	1:04.80

WHITE PINE

10x10 Mike Sullivan	52.76
10" John Kroehnert	57.04
11" Carson Bosworth	46.16
12" Carson Bosworth	55.743
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

RED PINE

10" Carson Bosworth	46.57
---------------------	-------

TWO-MAN CROSSCUT

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

YELLOW POPLAR

8x8 Gaston Duperre and Gilles Levesque	7.95 (3 cuts)
Bill and Paul Cogar	5.14 (2 cuts)
10x10 Matt Bush and Mike Slingerland	6.47
12" Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	8.14

WHITE PINE

8x8 Mike Sullivan and Jim Colbert	3.24 (2 cuts)
10x10 Cliff Vroman and "Tiny" Gary Hammond	5.74 (2 cuts)
15" Rick Halverson and Jeff Crago	5.24
18" Mike Slingerland and Matt Bush	5.60
20" Matt Bush and Mike Slingerland	6.675
24" JP Mercier and Napoleon Mercier	11.18

ASPEN

8x8 Cliff Helsel and Jason Helsel	6.71 (3 cuts)
Gaston Duperre 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" Kirt Hall and Harry Burnsworth 9.95 (2 cuts)

PONDEROSA PINE

18" Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger 8.75

DOUGLAS FIR

24" Arden and Forest Corey 21.40

30" Melvin Lentz and Rolin Eslinger 28.21

ONE-MAN BUCK**YELLOW POPLAR**

15" Mel Lentz 17.75

18" Rolin Eslinger 21.44

WHITE PINE

15" Carson Bosworth 9.80

18" Mel Lentz 14.030

20" Mel Lentz 16.046

24" Matt Bush 25.23

ASPEN

15" Jeff Crago 12.71

18" Jeff Crago 17.18

SWEET GUM

12" Mel Lentz 13.87

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

JACK AND JILL CROSSCUT

this is assumed to be 1 cut

YELLOW POPLAR

8X8 Rob and Theresa Taylor 2.35

10X10 Mike and Barb Slingerland 3.68

12" Gaston and Dany Duperre 4.39

WHITE PINE

8X8 Jim and Marion Colbert 2.01

10X10 Gaston and Dany Duperre 3.20

15" Carson Bosworth and Ulhana McCoy 7.24

18" Rick and Penny Halverson 7.15

20" Rick and Penny Halverson 8.735

ASPEN

8x8 (2 cuts) Mike and Barb Slingerland 4.95

10x10 Mike and Barb Slingerland 7.10

15" Rick and Penny Halverson 6.32

18" Rick and Penny Halverson 9.25

SWEET GUM

10X10 Adrian and Brenda James 6.15

12" Mike and Barb Slingerland 5.32

PONDEROSA PINE

18" Rick and Penny Halverson 7.44

DOUGLAS FIR

16" Mel Lentz and Liz Sears 8.70

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 3.97

12" Benny Whitefield 4.45

18" Rick Halverson 6.95

WHITE PINE

8X8 Matt Bush 2.27

10X10 Chauncey Varney 3.95

12" Harry Burnsworth 4.47

15" Rick Halverson 4.95

18" Rick Halverson 5.75

20" Rick Halverson 6.665

ASPEN

8X8 Rick Halverson 3.20

15" Rick Halverson 4.76

18" Rick Halverson 5.95

SWEET GUM

12" Mel Lentz 6.14

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

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	5.81

ASPEN

8x8 Gilles Levesque	3.17
10x10 Gaston Duperre	5.67

ALDER

8" (3 CUTS) JP Mercier	9.83
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SWEET GUM

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" White-pine (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	18.83
14" Alder (ATC)	Jason Wynyard	21.95
14" Aspen (LWC)	Mel Lentz	20.28
14" White-pine (LWC)	Laurence O'Toole	17.84

SPRINGBOARD

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

SINGLE HANDED SAWING

20" White-pine (LWC)	Mel Lentz	16.046
24" White-pine (PNE)	Matt Bush	26.33
24" Douglas Fir (ATC)	Dave Jewett	42.57

DOUBLE HANDED SAWING

10X10 Yellow Poplar (FF)	Mike Slingerland and Matt Bush	6.47
12" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Mel Lentz and Rolin Eslinger	8.14
20" White-pine (LWC)	Matt Bush and Mike Slingerland	6.675
24" White-pine (PNE)	J.P. and Napoleon Mercier	11.18
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)	Gaston and Dany Duperre	4.39
15" White-pine (PNE)	Carson Bosworth and Ullanah McCoy	7.24
20" White-pine (LWC)	Rick and Penny Halverson	9.49

HOT SAW

12" Yellow Poplar (WCWF)	Benny Whitefield	4.45
20" White Pine (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(?)

BOW SAWING

8" Alder (PNE)	JP Mercier	9.83
10x10 White-pine (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)
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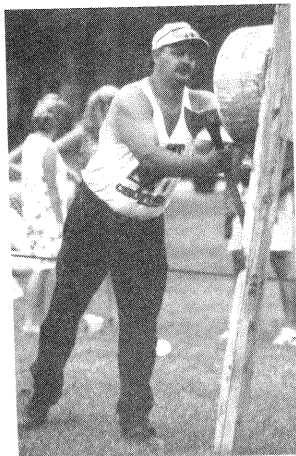
**Need an Axe Handle?
How about an Axe?**

How about an Axe Sheath or Cover?

Call Arden Cogar Sr: (304) 847-2353

**Need any Lumberjack Supplies?
Axes, Saws, Jigs, Whet Stones, etc**

Call Carson Bosworth: (208) 267-2725



Rudy Sanetta, of Pittsburgh, PA shown winning the axe throw at Coalton, WV. He is one of the choice up and coming standing block cutters in the USA. Watch for Rudy this summer -- he's bound to open some eyes!

1996 STIHL Timbersports SERIES RULES & REGULATIONS**EVENTS, SCORING AND PRIZE INFORMATION**Regional 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 there will be one cumulative division with the **Chopping** Division and the **Sawing** Divisions points being combined for an overall winner.

Events that qualify for STIHL Timbersports:

Chopping

Standing Chop - vertical
Underhand Chop - horizontal
Springboard Chop

Sawing

Hot Saw
Stihl Stock Saw
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. In addition there will be individual cash prizes for first through tenth place in the following descending order: \$100, 80, 70, 60, 50, 35, 30, 25, 25, 25. In addition the same prize listing will be available for a Jack-N-Jill cross cut sawing event.

In addition there will be cash prizes for the overall winners in the following descending order (from First to Tenth): \$1,000, 900, 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 200, 100.

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**.

In addition to being invited to compete at the finals, the top sixteen point earners will receive an individual cash prizes for all sixteen finalists for first through sixteenth place in the following descending order: \$1,600, 1,500, 1,400, 1,300, 1,200, 1,100, 1,000, 900, 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 200, 100.

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 regional's 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

OVERALL AWARDS:	1st Place-	Truck + \$1,500
	2nd Place-	7,500.00
	3rd Place-	6,500.00
	4th Place-	6,000.00
	5th Place-	5,500.00
	6th Place-	5,000.00

7th Place-	4,500.00
8th Place-	4,000.00
9th Place-	3,500.00
10th Place-	2,500.00
11th Place-	1,000.00
12th thru 16th Place -	\$ 1,000.00

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 regional's and 1-15 at the finals, and if ties occur in "overall" a Stihl Stock Saw time during the finals will determine 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 **Contestant Release Form** if he 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.

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.

GOOD LUCK AND LETS HAVE THE BEST SERIES YET!

Here are the tentative show dates for 1997:

1 st qualifier : A Weekend in August	Norfolk, Virginia
2 nd qualifier: 4 th Weekend of August	Trenton, Maine
3 rd qualifier: Labor Day Weekend	Loon Mountain, VT
4 th qualifier: 3rd Weekend in September	Bowling Green, Kentucky
Finals: 2rd Weekend in October	Branson, Missouri - FINALS

RESULTS FROM THE 1996 STIHL Timbersports SERIES**Ducks Unlimited- Memphis TN**

13" Underhand: ***1.Arden Cogar Jr (17.25)*** 2.Dave Jewett 3.Mike Sullivan 4.Matt Bush 5.Mel Lentz

11" Springboard: 1.Mel Lentz (49.64) 2.Carson Bosworth 3.Harry Burnsworth 4.Karl Bischoff 5.Rob Waibel
 17" Stock Saw: 1.Terry Warlick (14.00) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Matt Bush 4.Mike Sullivan 5.Mark Etcheberry
 12" Standing: 1.Arden Cogar Jr (16.95) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Matt Bush 4.Dave Jewett 5.Carson Bosworth
 17" Single: 1.Rick Halverson 2.Mel Lentz 3.Matt Bush 4.Dave Jewett 5.Carson Bosworth
 17" Hot saw: 1.Mike Sullivan (7.70) 2.Jim Taylor 3.Harry Burnsworth 4. Tom Fales 5.Rick Halverson

Lumberjack World Championships- Hayward, WI

12" Stock Saw: 1.Jeff Towner (12.37) 2.Rolin Eslinger 3.Karl Bischoff 4.Rick Halverson 5. Rodney Kolpein
 12" Springboard: 1.Carson Bosworth (1.13.00) 2.Karl Bischoff 3.Warrick Hallett 4.Brad Turner 5.Harry Burnsworth
 14" Standing: 1.Jason Wynyard (24.05) 2.Dave Jewett 3.Matt Bush 4.Mel Lentz 5.Brad Turner
 20" Single: 1.Matt Bush (16.27) 2.Jason Wynyard 3.Rick Halverson 4.Dave Jewett 5.Mel Lentz
 14" Underhand: 1.Jason Wynyard (20.75) 2.Brad Turner 3.Mel Lentz 4.Arden Cogar Jr 5.Rolin Eslinger

Ellitch Gardens, Denver CO

17" Single: 1.Jason Wynyard (16.15) 2.Arden Cogar Jr 3.Matt Bush 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Mel Lentz
 13" Underhand: ***1.Jason Wynyard (17.09)*** 2.Arden Cogar Jr 3.Jerry Scutt 4.Dave Jewett 5.Mike Sullivan
 17" Stock Saw: 1.Mel Lentz (20.52) 2.Mike Sullivan 3.Tom Fales 4.Jerry Scutt 5.Harry Burnsworth
 17" Hot Saw: 1.Jim Taylor (8.20) 2.Matt Bush 3.Rick Halverson 4.Gaston Duperré 5.Harry Burnsworth
 12" Standing:***1.Jason Wynyard (16.15)*** 2.Carson Bosworth 3.Mel Lentz 4.Dave Jewett 5.Harry Burnsworth
 11" Springboard: 1. Matt Bush (56.42) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Mark Etcheberry 4.Karl Bischoff 5.Carson Bosworth

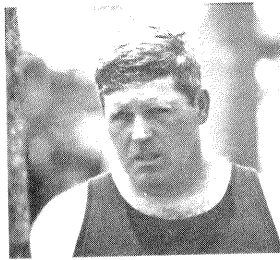
Ellitch Gardens, Denver CO

16" Single: 1.Jason Wynyard (14.87) 2.Matt Bush 3.Arden Cogar Jr 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Dave Jewett
 12" Underhand:***1.Jason Wynyard (15.01)*** 2.Arden Cogar Jr 3.Brad Turner 4.Mike Sullivan 5.Mel Lentz
 16" Stock Saw: 1.Jim Colbert (18.46) 2.Dennis Cahoon 3.Jim Taylor 4.Gaston Duperré 5.Carson Bosworth
 12" Standing: 1.Jason Wynyard (18.38) 2.Carson Bosworth 3.Harry Burnsworth 4.Brad Turner 5.Rob Waibel
 18" Hot Saw: 1. Harry Burnsworth (9.01) 2.Matt Bush 3.Rick Halverson 4.Mike Sullivan 5.Dennis Daun
 12" Springboard: 1.Warrick Hallett (1.20.18) 2.Carson Bosworth 3.Mel Lentz 4.Brad Turner 5.Mark Etcheberry

Grand Finals at Silver Dollar City, Branson MO

11" Springboard: 1.Mel Lentz (49.56) 2.Harry Burnsworth 3.Carson Bosworth 4.Dave Jewett 5.Jason Wynyard
 16" Stock Saw: 1.Harry Burnsworth (12.39) 2.Rob Waibel 3.Gaston Duperré 4.Karl Bischoff 5.Matt Bush
 12" Standing: 1.Jason Wynyard (17.95) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Arden Cogar Jr 4.Matt Bush 5.Harry Burnsworth
 17" Single: 1.Dave Jewett (12.97) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Matt Bush 4.Carson Bosworth 5.Gaston Duperré
 13" Underhand: 1.Arden Cogar Jr (18.72) 2.Mike Sullivan 3.Jason Wynyard 4.Rob Waibel 5.Dave Jewett
 17" Hot Saw: 1.Rick Halverson (5.95) 2.Mel Lentz 3.Harry Burnsworth 4.Matt Bush 5.Karl Bischoff
 Overall: 1.Harry Burnsworth 2.Mel Lentz 3.Dave Jewett 4.Matt Bush 5.Jason Wynyard 6.Carson Bosworth 7.Arden Cogar Jr 8.Mike Sullivan 9.Gaston Duperré 10.Karl Bischoff.

Bio's of the 1996 Stihl Timbersports Finalists



Harry Burnsworth. Harry was the 1996 Stihl Timbersports champion. Harry is a thirty-nine year old father of two, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for nearly twenty years. Harry is from a small town in Southwestern, Pennsylvania called Mill Run. Harry is a stocky man, standing about five feet nine inches tall and weights about two hundred and fifteen pounds. Harry is a carpenter by trade, but specializes in building custom homes. Harry is possibly the quietest lumberjack on the circuit, never saying much - and always remaining modest. A tree champion, Harry and his family run two lumberjack competitions every year (New Centerville, PA and Confluence, PA) and Harry

always takes time to answer questions. Harry's best event is the Springboard where he holds several North American Records; Harry is also starting to raise some eyebrows in the Hot Saw competition, as he and his 320 Rotex are bringing home many wins. Harry's son, Little Harry, is possibly the best "under twenty-one" axeman in North America.



Melvin Lentz. Melvin is a thirty-eight year old father of two, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over twenty-five years. Melvin is from the Wood-Chopping capital of North America - Webster Springs, West Virginia. Melvin is a tall thin man, standing about six feet five inches tall and weighting about two hundred and twenty pounds. Melvin is a logger/timber faller by trade, but will always be known as "Melvis-the king of the Lumberjacks." Melvin is a very outspoken competitor, as he is the one of three North American competitors to win World Championships in the Southern Hemisphere. Melvin is the only North American to ever win the 15" World Championship Underhand

at the Royal Sydney Show; Melvin is also the only North American ever to make the final in all four of the big world titles in Australia. Melvin has no best event - he's good at every event. His strongest event is probably the singlehanded sawing or the Underhand, but Melvin is good at everything. Each year Melvin puts a lot of time and effort into organizing lumberjack competitions every year (including Webster Springs and several other shows in West Virginia) Melvin has a eleven-year old son, Jason, who is looking to follow in his father's footsteps.



Dave Jewett. Dave is a single twenty-eight year old, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for about ten years. Dave is from a small town in Upstate New York, called Pittsford. Dave is built like Tarzan, standing about six feet two and weighing a svelte two hundred and five pounds. Dave is a freelance artist by trade, he has achieved notable success creating intricate three-dimensional wood scenes. Dave is a very fiery competitor, intense and always up to the challenge. Dave is one of three North American competitors to win a World Championship in the Southern Hemisphere. Dave won the big single hand sawing title at the Royal Easter Show in Auckland, New Zealand in 1994.

Dave's single hand sawing technique is among the best in the world, so if your into learning proper sawing technique watch Dave single buck.



Jason Wynyard. Jason is a single twenty-four year old, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for about eight years. Jason is from a small town in North Auckland New Zealand, called Kawakawa. Jason is a man-mountain, standing about six feet four and weighting about two hundred and eighty pounds. Jason is a truck driver by trade, but spends most of his time competing on the Lumberjack circuit in both the Northern an the Southern Hemisphere. Jason is possibly the strongest competitor to pick up a axe, but he is very nice and sincere. Jason has won several World Titles in the Southern Hemisphere and is possibly the best axeman in the World. Jason also spends a lot of time organizing shows

in New Zealand and gathering wood for the North Auckland Axeman's's Association. Jason is possibly the first big man ever to master the proper swing and stance for Wood-Chopping and crosscut sawing; that's what makes him so powerful and darn near unbeatable.



Matt Bush. Matt is a thirty-one year expecting father, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for about ten years. Matt is from a small town in Upstate New York, called Croghan. Matt is a tall slender man (much like a praying mantis), standing six feet six inches and weighting about two hundred pounds. Matt is a surveyor by trade, but has since given up his trade for a myriad of trades which include saw milling, logging, and a gravel pit excavating. Matt is a very good all-around competitor who is known best for his cross-cut sawing abilities. Matt and his lovely wife, Jill, have won several World Titles over the past five years, and with the exception of this summer (due to their

baby) they will contend for World Titles year-in-and-year-out. Matt has his own fan club that makes the annual trip to Boonville, New York for the New York State Woodsmen's Field Days.



Carson Bosworth. Carson is a single thirty year old, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over fifteen years. Carson is from a good sized town in Northern Idaho, called Bonners Ferry. Carson is a sparkplug of a man, standing five feet ten inches and weighing about one hundred and eighty-five pounds. Carson has a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering (wood science), but has spent the past six years traveling the world competing in Lumberjack competitions. Carson has competed on three different continents and is considered the best springboard cutter in North America. Carson is a very fiery competitor who is truly a champion. Carson helps with the organization of

several lumberjack competitions in Idaho, and helps train several of the college competitors in the Pacific Northwest. Carson is one of three North American competitors to ever when a World Championship in the Southern Hemisphere; Carson won the 18" Single hand Sawing World Title at the Hobart Regatta in 1993. Carson is a top all-around competitor, and if there is one competitor who uses every ounce of his body for every hit and every stroke, its got to be Carson. For younger competitors Carson's technique is virtually flawless - so he's a good one to watch.



Arden Cogar Jr. Arden is twenty-seven year old expecting father, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for about eight years. Arden is from the Wood-Chopping capital of North America - Webster Springs, West Virginia. Arden is a mountain of muscle, standing five feet ten inches tall and weighing about two hundred and thirty pounds. Arden is a corporate lawyer by trade, but spends all his spare time with his beautiful wife and his axes. Arden is a pretty much a windbag, but a true statesman to the Lumberjack Sports; always one to take interviews, Arden never shies away from Cameras. Arden is one of the best Axeman's in North America, and is coming towards contention with the best the

Southern Hemisphere has to offer. Arden is the editor of the North American Axeman's's News, runs several lumberjack competitions during the course of the summer, and exceeds several competitions as well. Arden is best known as a chopper, but his sawing abilities have begun to come par with the best in the world. For younger competitors watch Arden for his standing block technique, its fluid and smooth and beautiful to watch.



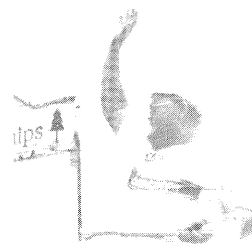
Mike Sullivan. Mike is a thirty-seven year old father of one, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over twelve years. Mike is from a small town in Western Connecticut, called Colbrook. Mike is a muscular handsome man, standing six feet tall and weighting about two hundred and twenty pounds. Mike is Arborist by trade, but spends a lot of time with his son, Nick, and training for Lumberjack competitions. Before Mike took up being a Lumberjack, he was a title winning body builder, and even before that he was a catcher in the Cincinnati Reds organization; Mike caught Tom Seaver back in the early eighties. A phenomenal athlete, Mike is a very gifted chopper and

sawyer. He and his two man crosscut partner, Jim Colbert, have won several World Titles. Mike and Jim run several Lumberjack Competitions during the course of a summer (Walcott and Torrington, CN).



Gaston Duperre. Gaston is a forty year old, father of three, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for about twelve years. Gaston is from a rural area in Quebec, Canada, called Shipshaw. Gaston is a very muscular man, standing about five feet eight inches tall and weighing about two hundred pounds. Gaston is a machinist by trade, but spends a lot of his time making and filing crosscut saws. Gaston is a very gifted man, he has the ability to figure out just about anything mechanical. Gaston and his wife, Dany, have won several World Titles in the Jack-n-Jill, and Gaston and his partner, Gilles Levesque, have won several World Titles in the two-man crosscut. Gaston is one of the

fastest hitters in the chopping field, but we often worry where his hits are going - but that has changed as Gaston chopped in the Southern Hemisphere this past year. Gaston is one of the true gentlemen of Lumberjack Sports, always helping others and making sure that everyone is safe. For you younger competitors, watch Gaston for his two person crosscut technique.



the same agility as the average person would in controlling an 044 Stihl. Rick and Penny are possibly the greatest Jack-N-Jill crosscut sawing team in World; they routinely win World Titles year in and year out.



Rob Waibel. Rob is a thirty-one year old, father of two, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over fifteen years. Rob makes his home in the suburbs of Portland, Oregon - a fairly large town called West Linn. Rob is a very handsome fellow, standing about five feet ten inches and weighing about one hundred and ninety pounds. Rob is an Arborist by trade, but spends a lot of time doing exhibitions and competing in all the events that Lumberjack Sports has to offer. Rob is possibly the best all-around Lumberjack in the World: He Tree climbs well, he log rolls well, he chops well, and he power saws well. Rob is the only competitor who competes in all three facets of Lumberjack Sports

(Chopping/Sawing, Climbing, Log Rolling) at a top-notch level. Rob is a modest man who always takes time to promote Lumberjack Sports; he and his wife are among the people who run and support the American Lumberjack Association. Each year Rob and his father, Bob, run several Lumberjack competitions during the course of a summer (including the Rose Festival and Brownsville). For you younger competitors watch Rob for his beautiful Underhand technique.



Jerry Scutt. Jerry is a forty-five year old, father of three, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over fifteen years. Jerry lives in a rural town ten miles from the New York/Pennsylvania border, called Portville, New York. Jerry is a linebacker of a man, standing about six feet two inches and weighting two hundred and twenty-five pounds. Jerry is a tool and die plant foreman by trade, but spends a lot of time watching his three teenage children compete in high school and collegiate athletics. Jerry is one of most competent all around competitors who is equally skilled in chopping and sawing as he is in chain sawing and axe throwing. Jerry has won several crosscut sawing titles with

several different people; Jerry is especially known for his ability to adapt his crosscut sawing technique to anyone. Jerry is also a very competent axeman, always making the finals in the big underhands. Jerry puts a lot of work into assisting the New York Lumberjack Association with training seminars and setting up shows in Southern New York. For you younger competitors watch Jerry for his very good Underhand technique.



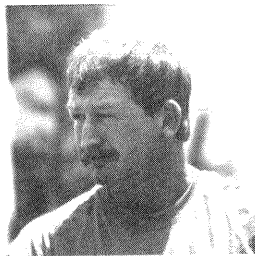
Jim Taylor. Jim is a fifty year old, father of two, who has been competing in Lumberjacks Sports for over twenty years. Jim lives in the beautiful picturesque northern California town of Redding. Jim is a very fit man, standing about five feet nine inches and weighing about one hundred and sixty pounds. Jim is timber faller by trade, but spends a lot of time making and filing cross cut saws. Jim is one of best saw filers in the World - his single buck saws - "the Shark" were being used by five of six finalists at the Lumberjack World Championships during the summer of 1996. Jim and his beautiful wife, Carol, travel extensively during the summer months competing and making friends. Jim, a very

knowledgeable man, is among the true trouble-shooters on the lumberjack circuit - if he can't figure it out, no one can. Jim is an active member in the American Lumberjack Association, and is always trying to progress the sport.



Karl Bischoff. Karl is a forty-one year old, father of three, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over fifteen years. Karl lives near the beautiful Shuswap lake in the interior of British Columbia, in small town called Celista. Karl is a rugged man, standing about five feet nine inches and weighing about one hundred and eighty pounds. Karl is a logger by trade, but spends a considerable amount of time working his farm in mountains of the Interior. Karl is the only North American competitor to ever win a big three board jigger board championship in the Southern Hemisphere (Tokorora, New Zealand - 1991). Karl is one of the top all-around competitors in Canada. Karl excels at the logger

driven events such as Obstacle Pole, Choker-Man's's race, and cable splicing. Karl is a very competent axeman and has placed very high in the Standing Block event, and has won several world titles in the Springboard Chop. Karl is a big supporter of the CANLOG (Canadian Logger's Sports Organization), and routinely assists with the running of several shows in British Columbia.



Warrick Hallett. Warrick is a thirty-nine year old, father of three, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over twenty years. Warrick, a former native of Wackworth, New Zealand, now resides in a small dairy town in Minnesota, called Plato. Warrick is a stocky man, standing about five feet eight inches and weighing about two hundred pounds. Warrick is a carpenter by trade, but also does some work on his father-in-law dairy farm. Warrick is possibly the quickest boarder in the springboard event in North America. Warrick has struck the log on top of a nine foot pole in an astounding time of fourteen seconds. Warrick is very competent axeman, who cuts standing and underhands very well. Warrick

routinely makes the final in the Springboard at the Lumberjack World Championships, and has been a finalist in the Standing Block several times. Each summer Warrick hosts a large lumberjack contest help in Plato; Warrick works hard to preserve the Lumberjack heritage.



Rolin Eslinger. Rolin is a single thirty-nine year old, who has been competing in Lumberjack Sports for over twenty years. Rolin lives at the foot of the majestic Mt. Shasta in the Northern California town of McCloud. Rolin is a powerful man, standing about six feet six inches and weighing over two hundred and eighty pounds. Rolin is a timber faller by trade, but spends a lot of his time gathering firewood and painting Sugar Pine cones for the people and tourists of Northern California. Rolin Eslinger has always been one of the top Lumberjack competitors in North America. A top axeman, whose sawing abilities are world renown - Rolin was the first North American Axeman to win a Championship

Event in the Southern Hemisphere - he won a 12" standing in Tasmania in 1979. Rolin is a very gentle man; he is most often described as a "big kid" with a kind heart. Rolin has traveled to compete in Australia over five times, and each time he does extremely well. Rolin is a big time supporter of Lumberjack Sports; a member of the American Lumberjacks Association, Rolin also hosts several lumberjack competitions during the course of a summer (McCloud, Mt. Shasta, Westwood, Quincy, etc).

Axeman Tidbits

Growing up in the sport by Arden Cogar Jr.

Growing up in Lumberjack Sports has left a lasting impression on my life. I have spent every summer of my life traveling and competing ever since I can remember.

My next birthday I will be twenty-seven years-old. Barring injury and Good Lord willing, this will be my twenty-sixth year and the LWC in Hayward, WI. The first year I can remember was when Dick Herrling cut himself when he bowed a crosscut saw and cut his arm. I don't remember what I said to Dick that day, but during the summer of 1996 Dick reminded me what I said to him. "Saw bite man", he laughed, trying to mimic a southern accent, that's what I said to him on his way to the hospital.

I was there when Fred Scheer won his first world title in Birling. I was there when Clarence Bartow climbed the 100 ft pole in an unbeatable 30 seconds. I was there when a 64 year old Merv Jensen bested a 22 year old Melvin Lentz in the finals of the single hand sawing. I was there the year that there were four Aussies and two kiwis in the finals of the Underhand and Standing and only one kiwi team in the finals of the double handed sawing; that year Lee Lecaptain said, "One things for sure, there not going to beat us in the double." That was the year Jim Alexander won the Underhand, my father-in-law Brian Herlihy won the Standing, and Brian and Alistair Taylor shocked everyone by winning the double.

I was there when Dennis Butler fell 90 feet at the LWC. He broke his collar bone, and his left leg. It was quiet unique watching Dennis downing

his beers in the stand while he was obviously on several painkillers.

I was there the first time Matt Bush ever cut in a professional Competition. he was twenty-one or twenty-two and the storky looking Matt was wearing grey sweat pants over top of his mammoth toothpick legs. He ended up placing 6th in the handicap underhand and he and dick Slinger land placed 4th in the double.

I was there when Sven and Ron Johnson were routinely in the finals of the hot saw at both Hayward and Webster. I remember everyone making such a big deal of Sven's 250 Can-AM motorcycle chainsaw. I remember Sven putting a block of ice on the pipe to get the saw to cool down - Those were the days when the competitors at the LWC had to cut in the heats of six and then the top two finishers had to do it all over again for ABC.

Even though I remember all of this stuff those of you who watched me grow up, your probably remember me more for playing in the muck at the pond in Hayward, and playing on the monkey bars at Webster springs, or even bugging you if you wanted something to drink or eat. I can always remember going to get something for someone; kinda the way I've turned out-I write this book for some odd reason-I don't make a damn dime but yet I persist-I grew up in this sport, I will likely die in this sport, but one thing is for sure - I do love this sport.

The Natural Axeman

A natural axeman is something of a phenomena. There are a few axeman out there that are so beautiful to watch that you can't help but appreciate their form.

Sadly enough these axeman are often ignored

because they don't seem to hit the block with the same force that heavy-hitters such as Jason Wynyard, David Foster, Arden Cogar Jr, and Nelson Parker. These natural axeman are always consistent, they always manage to place or win, and they always seem to do well in effortless fashion.

Sometime when you are at a contest where one of these axeman are competing, watch them and appreciate their technique its really quite beautiful to watch.

My mother-in-law put it best when she described this technique as "poetry-in-motion." She described this to me when I was trying to describe to her what I want myself to attain in this sport.

To me when an axeman chops I like to watch and admire. When the axeman "comes over the top" in the standing block it is truly a wonderful thing to behold. There are only a few axeman out there that actually do it. "Coming over the top" is when the axe goes over the head on the down swings and the axeman strikes the log with straight arms.

To me when an axeman "shoots the axe at eleven o'clock" in the Underhand and "whips it" it is truly a wonderful thing to behold. There are only a few axeman out there who actually do it. "Shooting the axe at eleven o'clock" is when the axe is shot out at full arm extension in front of the axeman at about eleven o'clock as in on the hands of clock. "Whips it" is when the back and legs strike like a cobra propelling the axe into the wood with a much effortless force as could be imaginable.

This describes to me what I think axeman-ship is all about. Axeman-ship is not brute strength. Axeman-ship is not the perfectly cutting axe. Axeman-ship is the technique that is effective, efficient, and fluid.

I don't know if I will ever be able to attain this "poetry in motion" but it is what I am striving for.

Sometime if your fortunate to chop in West Virginia, take a look at Paul Cogar. Paul is 39 years old, he's a logger by trade and he has been competing for about 25 years. He followed his brother Bill and his cousins Arden and Jack, into the sport. Basically Bill wanted to someone to saw with at the shows, so he brought his kid brother along to lend a hand.

Paul's technique has always been flawless. Just watch it sometime. It's so beautiful, I don't know how to describe it. Arden Cogar Sr. described Paul as "the best axeman that no one has ever seen or heard of."

The first time Paul ever traveled out of the

South East was when he went to Park Rapids Minnesota (the Park Rapids-Hayward circuit of the seventies and early eighties was always my favorite trip of the year - but the Scheer Lumberjack Shows took over the Park Rapids Lumberjack Contest and began running exhibitions, they also did this to several other Lumberjack competitions in the Midwest) and then on to Hayward in 1981. Everyone was there-Jim Alexander, Brian Herlihy, Merv Jensen, Cliff Hughes, Melvin Lentz (although just a kid), Jim Wass, and Arden Cogar Sr.

Park Rapids had all three chops. Somehow this brash young hillbilly managed to win both the Underhand and Standing, and place second to Brian Herlihy in the Springboard. He had only cut five springboards before this miraculous placing. Paul had never trained for the springboard, he had very seldom trained for any of the other events but instead relied upon his sheer ability.

During the week prior to the Hayward show, Paul spent the week with Tom Bildoueux and contracted a severe cold somehow and was only a shadow of himself at the LWC. He managed to make the finals in all the chops but didn't cut with the same finesse and fire that he had chopped with the previous weekend. That was Paul's only trip to Hayward. shame, he could have done so well.

Another great natural axeman is Arden Cogar Sr. While he is sixty-four years old, his standing block technique is still perfect. He still brings the axe "over the top," and brings his up hits "from the ground." From the ages of sixteen to nineteen, Arden notched trees for falling in logging camps. He chopped standing blocks for ten hours a day, six days a week, for about two hundred and twenty days a year, for three years.

That's a lot of training. I've always said I could cut four logs a day for everyday until I die and I would never train as much as my father did when he was a teen-age. But that's what it takes - it takes cutting big wood with a small axe for several minutes, or in my father's case, several hours.

Arden's standing block technique has been described as very "efficient." He has no loose motion, and he never throws hits away. That is what a natural axeman does.

For example take a look at Rob Waibel cut an Underhand - its beautiful. Same holds true for a lesser known axeman in West Virginia - Randy Coots of Summersville. Randy's Underhand technique is beautiful - he shoots the axe out at eleven o'clock and he "whips it" with the best.

Other examples of beautiful standing block technique are myself, Arden Cogar Jr, "Little"

Harry Burnsworth, and a young axeman from Pleasantville, Pennsylvania named Quinn Shreve.

Quinn is another natural axeman. Every way he chops, whether it be a Underhand, Standing, or springboard is very technically precise. I have my faults with his up hits in the standing but all-in-all Quinn is a very natural axeman.

This natural axeman-ship is what younger or novice competitors should strive for. A beautiful poetic swing complemented by a forceful but effortless driving of the axe. My father once said, "You've got to learn to chop smart, otherwise you're wasting your time." That's what a natural axeman does, they chop smart - they don't waste hits and they make everything look completely effortless.

1996 Collegiate Axeman of the Year:

Hugh Hawley

Up at the University of New Brunswick there's a tall gangly fellow who really chop well. His name is Hugh Hawley. He's single and his twenty four years old. Hugh is a splitting image of Matthew Modine (Vision Quest, Married to the Mob, etc) in that he stands six feet four inches and weighs about two hundred pounds. Hugh remarked that he would weigh about two hundred and ten after holidays at home.

He's only been chopping for two and half years. And during that two and half years he has chopped on the collegiate circuit in the North East, some smaller pro shows in New Brunswick, and he during the summer of 1996 he completed one full season of chopping in British Columbia.

Hugh is from Smith Falls, Ontario. He grew up on a farm working and doing chores before the crack of dawn. Since moving to Fredericton, New Brunswick to go to school Hugh has attained a bachelor of science in forest engineering and is in the midst of starting of own company- designing a wear resistance coating for saw blades for sawmills.

Hugh has an interest in applying the wear resistance coating to his competition axes. But he was warned from the start that this "Teflon" coating had already been tried - and failed. But Hugh has confidence in his abilities both as an axeman and as a businessman.

Hugh's goal is to win a world championship at one of big north American shows by the time he's thirty. He would like to win an all-around title at one of the big shows. This is all realistic - Hugh is a very talented axeman, especially in the standing block. He has a quick swing and with a little tutelage he is bound to take the next step towards

competing with the best professional axeman.

Hugh is the captain of the University of New Brunswick Woodsmen's team and also doubles as their coach. He has studied Lumberjack Sports in the same manner that he has studied his text books. He remarked once, "If I could only get my degree in wood chopping I would be alright....Hell, I'd graduate with highest honors but no, I'm stuck with the mundane and I'm forced to fight my pain with beers."

And being a Canadian gives Hugh the ability to consume large quantities of beer. And during the time that I have been around him he has done just that. But he has also chopped and sawed very well.

Hugh told me that he would especially like to thank three people: Arden Cogar jr, Gaston Duperre, and Don Lambert. He told me that these people had always taken time out of their days to give him advice on what avenues to take with Lumberjack Sports - This meant an awful lot to him.

Good luck Hugh, we wish you the best.

Chopping in the pro's is different is because it is round and it is so much bigger. And the professional shows help in the mental preparation for the collegiate shows.

The Bag-Cutter: A True Story

Somewhere out there in lumberjack land there is an axe known as the "bag cutter." She has an Eagle on her left cheek and a "NTH" "AME C N" written on her right cheek.

She was conceived from a cast of Charlie Bishop's over three years ago. She came out of the cast heavy, thick, and in desperate need of a good grinding.

She sat on Charlie's work bench for a while wondering what type of wood she would get to taste. Would it be Pine- "Oh Boy," she thought - "how soft, how wet, how sweet pine would be. Pine - White pine, not that damn red pine. White pine - I know my master who ever my master may be, could drive me up to my eye in a soft slushy piece of white-pine."

Yellow Poplar she though, "Yuck" she exclaimed. "Yellow Poplar is gritty, knotty, and no fun to cut at all." Yellow Poplar knots come up unexpectedly, "they'll hurt me," she thought at the thought of sinking her blade into a piece of yellow poplar.

Alder she thought. "Oh" she exclaimed, "I hope my master lives on Vancouver Island. That

Vancouver Island Alder is so soft, so chippy, so crisp and crunchy. Vancouver Island Alder is so, so, so good. But that mainland Alder, the stuff they cut in the states is different - so different," she thought, that "the mainland alder and Vancouver Island alder, if they are in fact twins, they were switched at birth. "Ones red, the others white," she said. "I could probably cut one, but not the other."

From time to time she consulted the other axes on the bench. She would ask them "who do you think your master will be? Do you think Melvin Lentz or David Foster will drive us to the handle? Or will be a handsome tall red-haired collegian from Unity College in Unity, Maine?"

The other axes didn't care, but she knew she was destined to be ground, hung and stoned by the congenial red haired collegian.

Charlie picked her up, put her in a duffel bag and she knew that her destiny was upon her. She knew that much like Charlie Brown, "the little red-haired boy (red-haired girl for Charlie Brown) was hers."

She remained in the bag for some time. It was cold, damp and stuffy. She could barely let the sand bubbles near her eye breath. But she persevered. She knew she was going to meet her little red-haired boy.

Finally, she was removed from the bag. She breathed-exhaled, inhaled, and peered around impatiently looking for her little red-haired boy.

There he was-smiling saying something in a strong Northeastern accent. She instantly fell in love. She heard the little red-haired boy say "Do ya reckon I'll get her to cut?" Charlie reassured the little red-haired boy - "she's a good axe, she's always stood apart from the rest."

The little red-haired boy bought her. He wasn't sure what to do with her. So he began asking questions to his friends. "That's an eagle isn't it - I thought it looked like a crow - but I'm sure its an eagle." She was insulted- "that's an eagle you boob!!!!!!!" she exclaimed. "I'm sorry", the little red-haired boy replied. "I'll never make that mistake again", he said in hushed tones. "What shall I call you?" the little red-haired boy asked. She said, "Your my master....why don't you shape me, grind me, stone me, and hang me - then we'll talk!!"

The little red-haired boy did just that. He shaped her, he ground her, he hung her, and finally he stoned her. He labored for hours sweating and stoning, smiling and perspiring. He found himself with a finished product - a beautiful axe - a one inch chisel with soft supple wings, a straight hickory handle, and an edge that could make the hairs jump off his arm. "I had to use so many belts

on you!" replied the little red-haired boy. "You'd better cut!" She could only sigh and blink her eye as she had fallen in love as she could simply not control herself.

As time passed she began to wonder if she was ever going to be named. "Relax", the little red-haired boy would tell her. "I'm waiting for the perfect name - a name that will stand out - a name that will always be remembered."

So the little red-haired boy began using her. At first she didn't cut too well. The little red-haired boy was to blame for that. He was hitting straight in, no angle, and he had forgotten to re-edge her after he trained with her. She couldn't help turning her edge because the little red-haired boy hadn't rolled her edge to withstand chopping the frozen wood.

Finally one night the little red-haired boy went on a "bender." He drank Wild Turkey and chased with Bud Lite - he drank Crown Royal and chased it with Steinlager - he drank Jack Daniels then he drank the Coke. Finally he scarfed down five shots of tequila without the salt and lemon.

He and his roommates (three girls and two guys) staggered home at four in the morning. He saw her in his bedroom. She was right beside the little red-haired boy's 064 Stihl.

The little red-haired boy got an idea, "Ya know - I don't really like that kitchen table!" So at first he grabbed her and said, "Lets go make some chips!" "NO!!!!!!!" she pleaded, "You'll ruin my edge on the stained hardwood." "Oh yeah," so he through her on his bed and grabbed his 064 Stihl. He removed the chain guard and through it on his bed. He then calmly walked to the living room, 064 in hand, quant smile on his face. He stopped, looked at his roommates, grinned, and calmly said "Lets make some firewood." The little red-haired boy then fired up his 064 Stihl ran to the kitchen A LA leather face (of Texas Chainsaw Massacre fame) and cut the legs off the table as though he was falling a tree. "Timber!!!!!" the little red-haired boy yelled as he back cut the third table leg. His roommates watched as he scarfed the fourth and final table leg. Three of roommates watched in disbelief, as the faint at heart had already fled.

When the little red-haired boy back cut the fourth and final table leg he cut the top off one of his roommates book bag, as well as shredded almost all of the bags contents.

The little red-haired boy then shut off his 064 Stihl. He sat the Stihl down, raised his arms and yelled - "Lets make a fire!!!!" He picked up his Stihl, turned to his roommates, smiled, and politely said "Goodnight." The little red-haired boy then silently walked to his room, returned the chain

guard to the Stihl, and placed his beautiful axe back into the corner. He then removed his clothes and went straight to sleep.

A few hours later the red-haired boy awoke to the barking sounds of "Lets go train!!!! Lets go train!!!!" He didn't have a clue why his room smelled like gas, he couldn't remember anything about last night. So he rubbed his eyes, got dressed, picked her up and walked to the kitchen. In the kitchen sat all five of his roommates. They were sitting in chairs and they were surrounding a big pile of wood which was lying in front of them - where the kitchen table used to be.

The little red-haired boy asked, "What happened?" His roommates commenced to telling him what he had done - the mild mannered little red-haired boy's jaw hit the floor. Finally, his one BIG roommate said, "Yeah, you stupid \$#%& - you sawed up my book bag and my research project for my Psychology course!!! - YOU BAG-CUTTER YOU!!!!"

A moment of silence struck the room, instantly a ray of sunshine peered through the kitchen window. The sun rays struck her. The little red-haired boy raised her high into the air as the sunlight followed her glimmering face. She shined, she glamed, she stood out proudly....the little red-haired boy proudly exclaimed, "I have a name for you now - From this day forth you will be known as 'the Bag-cutter'."

The room grew noisy, the sun went behind the clouds, and the little red-haired boy and the Bag-cutter proudly walked out of the door - handle in hand - to make chips of some unsuspecting tree.

The Love of the Sport: Lumberjack or Lunatic?

I have always asked myself why I pain myself so severely to maintain the "Olympics of the Forest." I often think it's because I am a true statesman to the sport. Other times I just think I'm a raving lunatic.

This article is about some of the crazy stuff I've heard about or some of the crazy things that I've actually done. Hopefully this article will make you laugh, scratch your head, and wake up and take notice how much some people really love to compete in this sport.

Story #1

This past winter Harry Burnsworth and I trained extensively for a trip to the Royal Easter Show in Sydney, Australia. I skipped a week and half of classes from my final year of law school to take the trip- so I guess you could say I started the new year out acting like a raving lunatic.

But the real lunacy began in trying to get the

hardwood (i.e. Oak and cherry) for us to train on. I had been training at Harry's for several weeks - cutting his wood without bringing any of my own. I felt guilty so I had to do something.

I had previously gotten permission to chop fallen trees in a state park. Tree's that had blown over or had the tops blown out of them. Although this gave me pretty much an inexhaustible wood supply, I had to fight off the firewood pilfers or go way back into the forest, off the main road (where there was no roads) to find training wood.

The best place I found had several blown down cherry trees and a few oaks. But the problem was it was about a quarter to four/tenths of a mile from an accessible road. I went ahead and cut the trees in block length and left them way back away from the road so the firewood getters wouldn't get them.

I had originally intended on taking a stand back into the woods and chopping the blocks where they laid, but I never had the opportunity to do so.

Finally the winter and spring of 1997 came and Harry Burnsworth, Myself, and Rudy Sanetta were training and we had nearly ran out of wood.

Rudy told me he had a deer hauler that he had made out of light reinforced aluminum and a old motorcycle wheel that would be perfect to haul blocks out of the woods. He said it was kind of like a light wheel borrow that was light but really strong. Rudy can make and fix just about anything - so I asked if I could borrow it.

I borrowed the hauler, then the next day I took it and some bungee cords to haul the blocks out of the woods. I pulled the hauler down into the woods with no problem. But when I lifted the 16 inch oak block onto the hauler and tried to strap it in I knew I was in for one hell of a day.

I began pulling the hauler, the block was resting in front of the wheel and I was in front of the block and the wheel. I moved about ten feet when the block shifted. The handle bars that I was holding onto caught my left side and completely threw me off my feet.

I landed on my side - kerplop. Thank God it had snowed about eight inches the night before I decided to do this, otherwise I would have been in trouble.

Then I tried again. I remounted the block, re-secured it with the bungee cords, and centered it on the hauler. I went to the front of the hauler, picked up the handlebars and began pulling. I made it another five feet when the log shifted its weight again, this time to the other side.

The handle bars caught my right side this time. And again the result was that I was

completely thrown from my feet. Have you ever seen those still photos of people who look like superman flying. Well, that's what I looked like - for about 1/5 of a second I was airborne with no appendages on the ground. I landed on my side - Kerplow. At that point I decided to unstrap the block and myself and the hauler were getting the hell out-of-there. I went to my truck. Through the hauler in the back, hopped in the truck, and looked at the clock. I had spent two hours moving a 16 inch red oak block seventy feet!!!! I couldn't believe it. I gave up, I decided that I would do this another day when I had some help. So I left.

Story #2

Quinn Shreve is known as "The Live Wire" of Lumberjack Sports. He's not a big fellow, about six feet tall probably one hundred and seventy pounds soaking wet, but he has one of the biggest and most feared tempers in the game.

He's not afraid of anyone or anything. If you've seen the movie "Michael" with John Travolta playing the angel, and you remember the scene where Travolta yells battle and charges the Bull - Well, that's Quinn; he would charge a bull straight on and try to head butt it. He's not crazy, just fearless.

Anyway, this is a story that was told by his father about Quinn. One day Quinn was out training in his backyard - by the way Quinn is the only human that I know who can cut a 17 inch underhand and 17 inch standing back-to-back and not have through up afterwards - Anyway, Quinn was training in his backyard.

Yogi, his father, was setting at the kitchen table inside the house having dinner and listening to the hits that Quinn was putting into an underhand.

About five minutes after Quinn had commenced training, Yogi said he heard this awful racket. He heard "CENSORED you - you piece of #\$\$%&!!!! - I hate you!!!, ya hear me - I hate you!!!!!!!"

Yogi thought one of Quinns ex-girlfriends had showed up. But just as he turned to stand up and peer out the kitchen window, he saw a shiny racing axe flying through the air, end over end, up into the tree tops and out into the middle of woods behind his house. Yogi then stood up, peered out the window and there was Quinn, fuming and kicking gravel. He asked Quinn, "what's wrong?", Quinn replied, "the damn axe won't stop sticking - so I heaved it!"

No lie - true story.

Professionalism

I hate to really address this issue, but after returning from the Royal Sydney Show I have no choice.

For starters, for Lumberjack Sports to be considered a professional sport, we, that means everyone of us, have to unite to form a lumberjack association.

Second, for Lumberjack Sports to be considered a professional sport, we, that means everyone of us, have to support the sport if it is going to survive.

Third, for Lumberjack Sports to be considered a professional sport, we, that means everyone of us, have to avoid being petty and letting our attitudes interfere with what's really important.

Now I have been purposely vague on all three of these issues because I want every person who reads this to come to their own conclusion. I don't want to put any words into any ones mouth and I don't want to upset anyone.

But I do want people to realize that this is a sport, but it's more of a hobby. Why? Because there's not enough money in the sport to make a living from it.

No matter how good you are, no matter how much you win, there will never be enough money in this sport. The only way that we can increase the money is if we do something about it. That means everyone, everyone needs to become involved. I don't know if this means running shows, helping gather prize monies, or what - but we need to think about the sport rather than about ourselves.

Arden Cogar Sr once said, "If you keep taking the fruit from the tree, without watering it or helping it grow, the tree will die." And that is exactly what's going to happen to our sport if we don't start standing together and organizing larger shows with larger purses. I'm not just talking about staring a \$50 show, I'm talking about forming a local axeman's club and the club (ten to twenty people) banding together and getting the wood, setting the show up, and probably getting a \$250 first.

This is not going to be easy, but it takes competitors or at least competitor input to run a show effectively. That's where all of us come in. Instead of loading up our vehicles every weekend during the summer to go off and win the prize monies that someone else has raised, why don't you put a little bit back into the sport.

This little bit back into the sport could be a training seminar for the novice competitors; it could be a show in your hometown that has events

geared toward your specialties; it could be you being the impetus toward forming an axeman's club in your area that could put on the shows help raise the purses for the events; it could be you, instead of putting the money that you have taken for yourself as a sponsorship, putting money into a handicap chop or an association; it could be you seeing this sport go well into the twenty-first century.

As I said earlier this is a hobby. It's a healthy hobby - it's clean, it's fun, it gives you the opportunity to travel, but most of all it gives you the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

That's what it is - to be a professional lumberjack we must be professional in ourselves and make strides to seeing our sport advance. If we continue with this idea of serving ourselves, which is a primary human interest, the sport will die.

I guess I should hope that there were more people like Jim Colbert, Betty Hanson, Cliff and Rhonda Helsel, Gary Hammond, Rob Waibel, Shannon McBride, Penny Halverson, Mike Sullivan, Arden Cogar, Charlie Bishop, and the many others who work hard to get shows established. If we had more people who had the best interest of the sport in mind then we would call ourselves professionals. But until that time we are just axeman, and we are just having fun.

Big Axes?

You want to know something that's not worth a crap - try chopping with a big axe.

Big axes are pretty. They shine and look really mean - but they are not worth a bucket of "pee".

Before I go any further, let me quantify what I am saying. First, by a big axe I mean an axe that's bigger than seven and one-quarter inches wide and seven and half inches long. Those big eight inch axes - they're frigging useless. Now I'm going to spend the rest of this article telling you why those big axes are frigging useless.

First, while big axes cover more wood they don't teach you how to be a better axeman. Big axes give younger, less experienced competitors, the opportunity to be sloppy and get away with it. Being sloppy is nothing to be proud of. By using a big axe, you may be getting the job done, but you are not doing the job as efficiently as the job could be getting done.

Competing with a big axe is okay, but train with a small - say six or six and half inch axe. Learn to place your hits with the small axe and you'll become a much better cutter. Placement of hits is possibly the most difficult thing to master when it

comes to axeman-ship. So use a small axe, and I'll guarantee your performances with improve.

Second, when big axes cut they cut really well, but big axes simply will not cut firm wood. If a block of wood is just a little bit hard, the big axe will turn its nose up and make you beat your brains out.

This is not good. Especially with timbers like Sweet gum and virtually all the timber in Australia (except Mountain Ash - which can be softer than white-pine - but a white-pine axe would not cut Mountain Ash). Big axes are good for soft white-pine, but not hard white-pine. Big axes are good for soft Yellow Poplar, but definitely not hard yellow poplar. Big axes are good for soft aspen, but not hard aspen.

It's part of the learning curve. When I first started competing, all I wanted to use was a big axe. I stayed with that attitude for about five years until over the past two years I began to realize how beneficial smaller axes can be.

Third, when big axes are cutting well they cut well, but when you hit a knot and have to repair a big axe - let me tell you, you're in for a lot of work if you expect to get that axe to cut as well as it did prior to hitting the knot.

Big axes are high maintenance unless the bit is relatively square. And if you do "gap" or "ding" a big axe, the likelihood of repairing it perfectly is impossible.

Finally, I have looked at the record times that axeman such as Jack O'Toole, Tom Kirk, Joe Julian, Dinny Hoey, and many other axeman of the 1940 and 50's. The record times that these axeman cut were not much faster than the record times of today. The difference, when compared to the record times set by axeman of today, is that the old axeman were using five and 1/2 and six inch axes. They were using their axes efficiently and remarkably well.

Today the axeman are sloppy and can get away with a lot more mistakes. But I believe we can learn from there example. To be great doesn't mean you have to use a big axe. At least train with a small axe so that you can learn to chop properly.

The Caravan Axe.

Down in Tasmania there's a great axeman. He's possibly the strongest quick hitter ever to pick up an axe. He has sashes and trophies galore at this home, but none of his trophies bear the same fondness as does the "Caravan axe."

One day a young "bloke" decided he wanted to learn to chop. He called up an older axeman who ground the axes for the great Tasmanian axeman.

The older axeman told the young bloke to come over to his home that Sunday because the great Tasmanian axeman was coming over to test some new axes.

The young bloke had read a lot about the great Tasmanian axeman. Just last week he had read about how the axeman had won the 15" standing block world title and had bested the previous world record by over five seconds.

The Sunday came, the young bloke was anxious. He went to the older axeman's home, and there standing in the drive was the great Tasmanian axeman. The young bloke jumped out of his car and stuck out his hand, he shook hands with the six foot two, seventeen stone great Tasmanian axeman. The axeman's blue eyes peered into the young blokes psyche; "wow" the young bloke thought.

The young bloke told the great Tasmanian axeman that he wanted to learn how to chop. He went on to tell the axeman why he wanted to chop and how fast he wanted to cut.

The great Tasmanian axeman scratched his grey haired covered head, showed the young bloke the "whites of eyes," and said "follow me."

The great Tasmanian axeman thought to himself, "I'll show this prick how to chop!" The older axeman already had a block rigged up in the standing block dummy in his back yard. So the great Tasmanian axeman picked up one of the axes that the older axeman had freshly ground. It had a left-handed handle in it (meaning that the axe was centered but sat a little off kilter, it would be better if it was used by a left-handed axeman), but the great Tasmanian axeman didn't care - he wanted to show this young bloke that he meant business.

The great Tasmanian axeman addressed the log and pulverized to bellowing up-hits, he quickly followed with two pounding down-hits. A big chip nearly two inches thick fell out of the log. The great Tasmanian axeman was set on following with his next two powerful up-hits when that left-handed handle caused some problems.

As the great Tasmanian axeman shifted his weight from his front foot to his back foot, the left handed handle caused him to glance the axe up the stump. The great Tasmanian axeman had been trying to hit hard the log too hard - as a result the axe went flying out of his hands, way - way up in the air.

The axe seemed to be in the air for almost an eternity until it came crashing down into the hood of the older axeman's caravan parked in the front of the house.

The great Tasmanian axeman was bewildered. The older axeman was shocked. But the young bloke just stood there.

The young bloke never changed expression during the whole time he watched the great Tasmanian axeman was chopping, when the great Tasmanian axeman glanced the axe, or even when the axe struck the hood of the caravan.

The great Tasmanian axeman stood up, looked at the older axeman, but didn't say anything. The young bloke continued to remain silent. Finally, he unfolded his arms and calmly said - "Do you do that often?"

The greatest thing I have ever seen in Wood Chopping

Everyone likes to win. Everyone who competes in athletics competes to win. Everyone who competes in Lumberjack Sports competes to win.

Everyone who has seen Lumberjack sports realizes that the winners in our sport react differently.

Dave Jewett raises his arms. Arden Cogar Jr screams. Carson Bosworth pumps his left arm. Penny Halverson raises her arms and waves. Matt Bush points and wipes his forehead. Melvin Lentz reacts spitefully responding to what the last competitor did to him when they beat him. Arden Cogar Sr and Rolin Eslinger do nothing when they win, except go about their business.

Everyone reacts differently. But possibly the greatest thing I've ever seen was when Dale Ryan, of Katoomba (New South Wales, Australia), won the 15" Underhand World Championship in Sydney, Australia on March 28, 1997.

Basically no one gave Dale a chance to win the "big one." David Foster had won every Underhand Championship that he had cut in for over a three month period. David Bolstad was the only person seen as capable of knocking Foster off his current win streak.

Dale had barely qualified for the final as he placed second to Harold Winkel by over ten seconds in the second heat of the three qualifying heats.

The final was out of the same log - numbered one through nine. The nine finalists lined up like this: David Bolstad (New Zealand), David Foster (Tasmania), Harold Winkel (New South Wales), Jason Wynyard (New Zealand), Dale Ryan (New South Wales), Nelson Parker (New Zealand), Laurence O'Toole (Victoria), and Kyle Lemon (New Zealand).

Dale had drawn the butt log and Laurence O'Toole had drawn the next block above it. I'm not sure but in Silver Top Ash, the closer the log is to the butt the better the log is supposed to be; the more sap wood a log has, the harder it will be. But

anyway, the logs were hard as hell (I know I couldn't even get my log off in the heat - Harold Winkel won my heat with a time of one minute and thirty four).

"Axeman stand your logs, get ready. One..two..three." They were off. For the first time the entire show I didn't see David Foster lift a big chip with his first four hits - I thought there's wasn't a species of timber in the world that David Foster can't lift a chip in. Thus I concluded they were going to be in a marathon - and you could tell that by watching everyone chop - everyone was pacing themselves, except one - Dale Ryan.

Dale Ryan was going as flat out as I've ever seen him cut, you could almost tell he was the only man on the grounds that had any piss and vinegar. Dale turned well in front of everyone - everyone watching thought he had cut a short front. Laurence O'Toole was about five hits behind him. David Foster and David Bolstad hadn't even finished doing chip hits in the middle of their logs.

"Whoa!" I thought. Dale must have cut it short. But as the race progressed Dale kept on pulling further ahead. No one was close. Dale was driving before Foster, Bolstad, and Wynyard had their big wood out in the back.

When Dale drove the log off he looked down the line, then he looked up the line. He was the clear winner.

What happened after that was possibly the greatest thing I have ever seen happen in Lumberjack Sports.

Dale was obviously excited, so excited he couldn't yell. He bounded back and forth in front of the other competitors, but he couldn't say anything. He began to cry. He couldn't scream in excitement. All he could do was cry. He was so excited to win, so he cried. He was so happy to win, so he cried. He was so proud to win, so he cried.

The expression and look that Dale Ryan had on his face was worth the price of admission. It was worth making the trip to Sydney. It was his raw emotion that brought out so much in the people who were watching the event.

He was modest and he cried.

The movie and book industry has always sold itself on emotion, and for one instance in my own life I understand why. Emotion sells - and it was Dale Ryan pure unadulterated emotion that made me realize that there is hope that anyone can win Sydney, if you believe and commit yourself to the idea.

The Professor

Mike Slinger land is probably one of the most intelligent persons you could ever meet. He even looks smart - glasses, a moustache, and a little pot belly. He even sounds smart - verbose, articulate, and a virtual grasp of quantum physics. But don't let his "Professor" like image confuse you - Mike Slinger land is a very talented lumberjack competitor.

Mike is known as the "professor" because of his inability to say "I don't know." For as long as I have known him, I've never heard him say "I don't know." He always has an answer for something whether it was about Michael Jordans shoe size, or angle on the saw tooth that would cut white pine best.

Mike is a graduate of Columbia University. Mike attained his masters degree in Physical Therapy over eight years ago and has been practicing in New York, and now resides in Turkey, North Carolina. Mike specializes in working with handicapped children.

Mike is a thirty three years old, father of two, who has been competing since he was thirteen years old. For over twenty years he has been traveling the North American landscape in search of setting and breaking crosscut sawing records.

Mike began competing with his father, Dick, back in the late seventies. Dick Slinger land is the pioneer of the modern day peg-n-raker crosscut. It was Dick's impetus that led to the current record times in North America. It was Dick's influence that has laid the foundation for several of saw makers of today.

Mike learned to cross cut saw properly at a very young age. And as result of his father's tutelage and perseverance, Mike is considered one of the best crosscut sawyers in the World.

Mike a physical therapist by trade, but he really enjoys traveling with his lovely wife, Barb, and their two six year-old sons - Eric and Matthew. Barb, a speech pathologist, is also one of the most competent Jill competitors on the lumberjack circuit. She routinely places extremely well in the Maiden Single and is among the finalists in the Maiden Underhands.

Mike and his partners in crosscutting - Matt Bush and Barb Slinger land have won several titles. Mike has won the double at the IWC twice, he has won the double at the WCWF three times, he has won the jack+Jill at the WCWF twice, he has won the double at the Forest Festival twice, and he has won the Jack+Jill at the Forest Festival twice. Mike stated that he had "Won the double at almost everyplace competed except Sydney [Royal

Sydney Show in Sydney, Australia]."

Mike and Barb began dating while he was an undergraduate. Barb didn't compete until about ten years ago. Mike and Barb were dating, while living in Manhattan, and they decided they were going to go to a show in Massachusetts. When they showed up, Mike had his customary Jill partner already there - so he had no need to saw with Barb. One of the other competitors who was there wanted someone to saw with in the Jack-n-Jill so he asked Barb. And she accepted. Barb and her pick-up partner ended up beating Mike and his steady Jill Partner, so Mike had a bright idea - why don't we, meaning Mike and Barb, start sawing together

Mike began Competing at the LWC 1983. He has seen the sport grow and progress over the years. Mike is also one of main people who are driving to establish a Lumberjack Association that covers all of the United. The professor is a statesman to the sport of Lumber jacking, and is always willing to take time out to help those who are in need of assistance.

Mike has spent a considerable amount of time working with NC state and their forestry club to develop their woodsmen's team. This past year NC state broke every record at the Southern conclave at University of Georgia (The southeast collegiate lumberjack championships). Mike feels partially responsible for this result, and rightly so - he is a perfectionist who deserves a lot of credit for his accomplishments.

The professor will answer any question any one may have, even though it may not be the right answer. He doesn't even guarantee its the right answer, but he will guarantee that he will have an answer.

Mike credits his dad, Dick, for anything that he knows about sawing. And Mike was quoted as saying, "And the reason why I am successful at Lumberjack Sports is because of what my father has taught me."

Logrolling, Past and Present

by Tina Salzman

Precision footwork. Balance. Endurance. Power. All of these are characteristics of a modern day log roller. While "birling," as it is formally known, is not a widely known sport it is one that has roots deep within the history of our nation.

The sport of logrolling developed from the working day skills of the lumber camps. In lumber camps logs were cut up and hauled to the frozen river. There they were stored until the spring thaw. When spring came and the rivers thawed it was the

"river pigs" job to ride the logs down the river to the mill sand prevent them from jamming. The job of the "river-pig" was particularly dangerous since one wrong step meant certain death by being crushed or drowned in the frigid waters below.

While logrolling today does not require one to ride logs down river it does still require the same balance, precision footwork and agility that was needed in the past. Today's "birlers" balance two people on a log, the object being to get the opponent off. There are two simple rules, first, one can not touch the opponent and second, one cannot step over the center line painted on the log.

In total there are four cedar logs used in men's pro-logrolling and three used for the women. On each log there is a time limit and when that time limit is met rollers advance to the next smaller log. With each log advancement the logs become smaller and therefore faster. Log sizes and time limits are as follows:

<u>Men's Professional Logrolling</u>	<u>Women's Professional Logrolling</u>
I--15"2 min. time limit	II--14" 2 min. time limit
II-14" 4 min.	III-13" 6 min.
III-13" 6 min.	IV--12" unlimited
IV-12" unlimited	

In professional competitions rollers compete in preliminary matches consisting of the best two out of three falls. Once a roller makes it to the semi-finals and finals, matches are three out of five. Falls are accumulated over the entire match and rollers advance to the next log when the time limit expires, even if there has already been a fall. Logrolling is a sport that looks easy to many but in reality is very difficult. In logrolling there is but one basic thing to remember. NEVER LOOK AT YOUR OWN FEET! A roller is always concentrating on his or her opponent's feet. By doing this it is possible to tell if an opponent is going to kick water or bob the log. Each of these things are legal and are used by rollers to try and blind an opponent with water in the eyes or to throw an opponent off balance.

Rollers use corked (spiked) shoes in professional competitions. These shoes are specially hand made using soccer shoes and loggers spikes. Younger rollers, in the amateur ranks, roll in light tennis shoes or in bare feet. This prevents them from injuring themselves while they learn the correct footwork and style.

Today rollers start as early as the age of four and some rollers are still rolling past the age of sixty. Programs around the Midwest at several universities and YMCA's are helping to ensure the continuation of this historically relevant sport.

For more information about logrolling,

lumberjack exhibitions, logrolling/sawing shoes please contact Tina Salzman or Carson Bosworth at the following number and address. P.O. Box 963, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805 ph: 208-267-2725

On the Collegiate Lumberjack Circuit

by Hugh Hawley

The northeastern college woodsmen circuit continued to enjoy many successful competitions in 1996. An ever increasing number of teams are appearing at all of the competitions and this has provided for friendly rivalries and heated competition. This is what makes the college circuit so easy to enjoy and I hope that this success will continue for years to come.

The 1996-97 season starts with a trip from our school, the University of New Brunswick, down to Unity College in Unity Maine for the season opener. Many great friends have been made between our team and the team from Unity, but heading into the last event, the Pack-board/Kettle Boil relay, it was obvious that they were the ones that we had to beat to ensure victory. When the smoke had all cleared the team from UNB emerged the victors, friendships resumed and a party ensued. I don't have a copy of the results for this competition but perhaps the NAAN will receive one before next years issue is printed. Teams from Unity, UNH, UMO, Colby College and UNB all took place in the days events, including singles events for individual awards during the morning. The Lumberjack and Lumberjill of the day were Hugh Hawley (UNB) and Nancy Ouellette (UNB) respectively.

On October 19th, 34 teams arrived in the early morning at the University of New Brunswick for the 31st annual UNB International Woodsmen's Competition. Teams from as far away as Thunder Bay, Ontario (Lakehead University, at least a 24 hour drive away) made the trip down to Fredericton to test their skills against Lumberjacks and Lumberjills from across the northeastern USA and Canada. A powerful mens team from Macdonald College in Montreal dominated the field, finishing more than 200 points ahead of the next closest competition. Excellent sawing in the afternoon wrapped it up for 'MAC', winning both the team crosscut and team bow saw events. Placing second in the fell and twitch event was the only thing that kept MAC from sweeping the four team events of the day, as they also won the pulp pits event in the morning. Other mens highlights included a stack of 14 disks in the power saw/disk stack event by the Sault A competitor, as well as a

5.6 second climb to the bell at 40' by the UNB A climber. The women's team from Sault College made their long trip worthwhile by taking home the women's overall trophy as well as first place finishes in quarter splitting, underhand chopping and power saw events. Sault needed every one of those first place finishes as well as NSAC and UNB both finished within 7 points of the leader. Women's highlights included excellent sawing by the team from NSAC, winning both sawing events. If not for their second place finish in the fell and twitch, NSAC would have swept all of the women's team events on the day. An 8 second climb to the 40' bell by the MAC A women's representative left all other climbers in the dust. On behalf of the UNB woodsmen's team and the competition organizers, I would like to thank all of our sponsors, including STIHL chainsaws whose sponsorship has provided us with the ability to travel to as many competitions as we do. Thank-you all very much.

The arrival of the first snow usually means that it is time for the Sir Sanford Fleming College International Collegiate Timbersports Competition. This was the case in 1996 although snow only covered the field for a brief part of the competition and went unnoticed by most of the enthusiastic competitors. Only those kettle-boiling in the midst of the wet snow squall at the end of the day might have a few coarse words for Mother Nature.

Syracuse University of New York walked away with both the mens and women's overall trophies, the women besting 1 0 of the competing mens teams as well to finish 13th overall.

Highlights of the day included a dominating doubles standing block chop by the UNB A team, cutting two 8x8 poplar blocks in a mere 25.73 seconds. The choppers were Eric Robson and Hugh Hawley who turned in 13 and 11 second chops respectively to blow away the rest of the field. A 2:53 clocking in the water boil event by the NSAC A representative left all others standing in the smoke wondering what happened. The Finger Lakes College single buck competitor bested all others by cuffing his block in 7.?? seconds, far ahead of the second place sawyer. The Macdonald College teams had obviously prepared for the Pack-board relay, winning both the mens and women's events convincingly.

With Christmas exams ahead, teams will take a break until the Macdonald College competition in Montreal next January, followed by the NSAC competition in February.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that these competitions are the highlights of my University career and I hope that they will continue to improve. An issue that needs to be addressed

immediately is the nature of "pranks" that go on between rival teams. They have become costly to teams, and detrimental to the continuation of essential support by sponsors. I am guilty, as well as many others from different schools and I think we all realize that things are going too far. I hope that we can all keep pranks in good fun in the future and our schools will all be able to continue to enjoy intercollegiate competition for years to come.

I would also like to extend my personal gratitude to all of the people who organized the intercollegiate competitions this season. I know how much work it is and often the thank-you's are few. There are rarely many hitches at these shows and the professionalism with which they are run is truly impressive. Thank-you very much.

Letters to the editor:

Dear, American Axeman's News

I have been wanting to write this letter for some time, after reading the 1996 edition I have concluded on a few thoughts.

I am referring to the editorial that Mike Allen sent in and was published. I am very concerned as the information was very negative, this may be fine for all who know the circumstances and the individuals involved, though I think it is very important to realize that this publication will reach more than people involved with the sport. Another concern I have is that this publication is produced on an annual basis which gives no opportunity for response from disagreeing other.

I refer people to your publication all the time as I do the American Lumberjack Association news letters because they are a reliable and good source of information.

I commend you for your efforts and dedication to the sport via the Axeman's News.

I think we need to concentrate on positive information/quality information. I do not believe it was your intention to offer your publication to be a forum for slander and personal opinion.

I tell you this now so that the future may bring good things for all of us involved.

I hope I have been clear enough and that you also understand that I regard the Cogars as friends and want to keep a positive relationship.

Sincerely, Dwight Severson a Timbersports competitor of now and the future.

To ALL, it may Concern-

My fellow competitors WAKE UP!!!

The time has come for all of us to band together

and form a U.S. Lumberjack Association. Men and Women competitors together!! Our sport is growing at such a rapid rate in all areas that we must establish an association for all the U.S. lumberjacks & Lumberjills to have a base in which, rules, a code of ethics, and sanctioned shows are regulated from. How much longer are we going to put up with the shows doing as they please?? Lack of prize money, Judges that do not follow the rules set for the show, bad wood where the wood can determine if you make the finals or you are out because of it. Using the competitors just to promote that particular show not the competitors as well!

Perhaps a few of you know that I have written to many shows and or people who are now in control of our sport on your behalf, Yes for my male competitors! In many cases I have gotten several changes made. although I have gotten little personal benefit from it, So please don't be so quick to judge me for speaking out so boldly! If we do not stand together nothing will ever change. Individually we the out spoken competitors may make some changes for the better but together we all can make this sport great for all of us.

I have competed for many years in this sport and seen more than my share of injustice that is why I am speaking out. How many of you top competitors want to keep doing this sport just for the fun and or the small prize money? Lets face it, any of you who compete all across this country year in and year out need sponsorship, good sponsors! If not, you must come from a rich family, because any one of us can total up our expenses for the year in travel and in equipment and see just how many thousands of dollars it takes to do this sport successfully. My point being we the competitors should see a profit from this at the end of the season and how many of you even break even?? You can be sure some one is making good money from all of this.

Things need to change!!!

I have spoken with several of my fellow competitors and now I must speak out on doing television shows- BEWARE!! A few of our fellow competitors have done these, I was outraged when I saw these shows. What are you people thinking???? Did you stop and consider for one minute how this would impact our sport??? How we are looked upon"??

You made all of us look bad! We are, I thought, trying to raise up this sport to be considered as professional athletes, to make this sport respected world wide, however that certainly was not the impression that was given. I personally was very embarrassed and ashamed, and I am not alone, that two of my fellow competitors could be used in

such a manner.

Please do not waste your time thinking that I am just jealous that it wasn't me, to the contrary I was offered first but when I was told what was expected I had absolutely no problem in saying NO. After all I am a many time world Record Champion and my sponsors, once the shows aired, were very pleased & happy about my decision to turn down that type of opportunity.

It is wonderful to go on television and promote yourself and our Lumberjack Sport, however I have done several interviews in which I simply spoke about the sport in general and to promote my fellow competitors, and did it in good taste and did it with common sense.

If your agents are advising you to do this I would find myself a new agent **fast**. Was the Money that Good?" Maybe it was because you are naive and simply did not consider the reaction to your actions, however you have to remember that we all effect one another.

So lets stop and think before we go running down hallways with racing axes chopping down doors or chopping up desks! It was an insult to every axeman out there and to every women competitor who has worked very hard to make this sport respected and excepted world wide!

Sincerely,
Penny Halverson

**Remember Competitors!!!
Legitimize our Sport -
Form a East Coast
Association that will be
part of the American
Lumberjacks Association.
But start by forming an
axeman's club in your
own local area!**

**Want to learn how to saw
from the best?
Attend a Team Halverson
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Call Rick and Penny at
(715) 964-8451

**Thanks to everyone who sent
in
everyone who sent in articles,
results,
letters to the editors, photos,
and
just being part of the
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