



Quivers & Quarrels

A.S. 47 XLVII • Summer 2013 • Vol. I • Issue 2



Merlin, the Bewitching
Archer of Eastwatch

~ Pages 2-3



ALSO IN THIS EDITION

Chivalry, Cupid & the Blackguard

Becoming a Combat Archer of Legend

Local Archery Practice Schedules

The Scores!

Making Bowstrings for your Crossbow

*Nicholas Tomihama: The "Backyard
Bowyer"*





Quivers & Quarrels



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About Membership in the SCA

With a few clicks and a credit card, you can become a new member of the Society for Creative Anachronism or renew your existing membership online. <https://membership.sca.org/>

Membership in the SCA has numerous benefits, including:

- The ability to hold office
- The ability to compete in Crown / Coronet Tournaments
- Discounted entry fees at some events
- Sustaining and International members receive their kingdom's newsletter, and can subscribe to additional publications.

Additionally, your fees help support the SCA infrastructure, including worldwide liability coverage for our chapters, and the ability to maintain consistent rules and standards throughout the Society.



Vase Painting in the Polygnotan Style - Louvre

**Merlin, the Bewitching Archer of
Eastwatch:
THL Ambrosius filius Merlinus,
C.G.C.**



by Ouregan filia Flaviani



Merlin, on one of his quarter horses

42 years ago, a young military officer standing on a street corner in California, was knocked off his feet by a tractor trailer. Gary Kingston, who had survived the Korean War and Vietnam, spent the next two-and-a-half years in a coma. When finally he awoke, it was to life as a paraplegic.

Also known as THL Ambrosius filius Merlinus C.G.C. (and more commonly, "Merlin"), he acknowledges the immense difficulties he faced, but refuses to wallow in self-pity.

The first challenge was rehabilitation. "I had to re-train myself to do the simplest things."

"People teaching those classes walk around on two legs – they have no idea what it's really like for us: How we manage to go to bed every night, and get up and dress ourselves. You figure out how to do these things on your own, and once you do, you're motivated to do more."

Merlin had been an archer his whole life -- he started shooting when he was 8 years old.

Painstakingly, as part of his rehab, he taught himself to shoot from a wheelchair. Today, this 80-year-old undefeated warrior does trick shooting archery demos using bows that would stagger an ordinary human.

His regular equipment is an 80-lb Howard Hill longbow. He's comfortable shooting 90 to 110-lb bows. From a wheelchair.

Horses had also been a part of his life since childhood. Now, he had to retrain himself how to ride. Merlin lacks the leg muscles to control the horse. In collaboration with other horse trainers, he devised a way to train his horses to respond to vocal commands and upper body movements.



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**THL Ambrosius filius Merlinus, C.G.C.
Seneschal for the Shire of Eastwatch
Northern Oaken Regional Archery Marshal**

How many of us able-bodied archers would even attempt to shoot from a moving horse?!

Merlin does it – masterfully – at a gallop, shooting targets at 20, 30 and 40 yards. His faithful ride is a 14-year-old Clydesdale gelding, who weighs over 1,500 pounds and stands 17.2 hands high. When more speed and faster cornering are required, one of Merlin’s two quarter horses are utilized.

Don’t know about you, but I’m impressed.

Two months ago, Merlin’s mounted archery demo was the hit of the Lake Metropark

Farmpark HorseFest in Chardon, Ohio. Between demos, he trained kids to shoot from a saddle mounted on a bar stool. They lined up for the privilege. He was originally booked for a one-day event and got held over for an additional day, because he had so completely bewitched the youngsters.

“I trained 150 kids in two days,” he said.

Archery is a family sport, which Merlin loves promoting. He points out the many benefits: “Everybody in the family can participate. It’s good exercise; it helps children develop focus, to put forth the spirit of determination.”

But it is also imperative to remember to be safe. “When you have a bow and arrow in your hands, you’re holding a lethal weapon. You need to practice in order to learn how to handle that weapon responsibly,” he says.

Just about every evening, you will find Merlin sharing his love of archery and horses at the Free Spirit Farm in Novelty, Ohio, a riding center dedicated to teaching both able-bodied, and the disabled to ride horses. Free Spirit Farm is in the process of setting up a riding program that can be utilized by members of the Wounded Warrior Program.

“Getting disabled people out to ride a horse is so good for them,” Merlin says, and he should know.

One of two things happens when someone becomes disabled, Merlin explains. “A person either becomes fiercely dependent or fiercely independent.” Both extremes are unhealthy. “When you are fiercely dependent, you generally will not try to do new things. When you are fiercely independent, you want to try to do everything, and have a tendency to overlook your physical limitations. You need to strive to achieve a balance between the two.”

“Many people, when they first come in are downhearted and despondent,” he says. Their expectations are low. All they’ve heard from



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others is what they **can't** do. But, "when they get on a horse and start riding, or pick up a bow and start shooting archery," a transformation takes place.

"Being in a wheelchair, I know I have physical limitations, and that I will encounter obstacles in front of me. I expect that. But if people will give me a chance to figure out how to do something, and once I have figured it out, just stay out of my way, I can manage to get it done. I believe in that old saying "Lead, Follow or Get Out Of The Way."

Trust me, I wouldn't dream of getting in this person's way.

I asked him, "How do you manage to mount a horse?"

He improvises, when necessary.

Merlin explained: "Usually, I sit in the bucket of a frontloader, and they lift me up and unload me on the horse. Yesterday the front loader was somewhere else, so we took hay bales, stacked them up so I could get on the hay wagon, then I transferred to the horse."

Merlin has a 20-yard range inside his house, where he shoots 400 arrows **every single day**. If Merlin can do it, what's your/my/our excuse??

He says, "It takes that much practice to stay good." And, yep, he's good. His SCA rank is Bow Master 95 – 104; his IKAC score is 280. He belongs to the National Archery Association, National Field Archery Association; has affiliations with FITA, and the Mounted Archery Federation; and is a member of the Geauga Bowman Archery Club located in Chesterland, Ohio



Merlin shoots 400 arrows per day

I asked: how do you spend a typical day?

Like this: "Yesterday, I finished making 3 dozen arrows, then, I worked for 4 hours on a long bow (he makes his own wooden bows, too). After that, I went to a friend's house where I repaired her water heater. Then I came home, went down to the stables, did some work on my horse, getting him all cleaned up, then helped a disabled lady with her riding -- she's a very nice lady. I sat down and talked to her, made sure when she got up on the horse she was all right. Then I mounted up and did some riding."

That's a day in the life of Merlin.

A member of the SCA for 12 years, Merlin is the Seneschal for the Shire of Eastwatch. He's also the Shire's Group Archery Marshal, and The Northern Oaken Regional Archery Marshal.

Local archery practices are twice a week: during spring, summer, fall, on Tues from 6-8:30p.m., and on Sundays between 4 – 7 p.m., all year round. When the weather turns cold, archery practices are conducted inside the indoor riding arena where a full 40 yard range is set up. Merlin says, "We can shoot an entire royal round in here."

Location: **Free Spirit Farm, 13987 Watt Road, Novelty, OH 44072.**

During the past 12 years, he has attended ten Pennsics.

“I pretty much live on the range if I go to Pennsic. I usually put in 100 – 125 hours of volunteer service on the archery range.” Unfortunately, for everyone at the range this year at Pennsic, Merlin won’t be there. He’s experiencing some serious health issues.

Please join me in wishing this inspiring archer a return to good health.

[SCA ranking: THL, AoA; Dragon’s Barb (for service to archery – Kingdom level award); Purple Fret (for service to archery - Kingdom level award); Companion of the Greenwood Company – elite archers in the Middle Kingdom – Kingdom level award); and Dragon’s Heart (for extraordinary service to the archery community – Kingdom level award).]



By Sir Jon Fitz-Rauf

SCA Archery, PVC Bows and the Backyard Bowyer

Perhaps you’ve admired the beauty and performance of Eastern style recurves and horse-bows, but were unable to afford one.

Nicolas Tomihama, known as “The Backyard Bowyer”, has solved this budgetary dilemma by employing a common material found at the corner hardware store -- PVC water pipe.

Bows made from PVC (otherwise known as polyvinyl chloride) have a reputation for being ugly and inefficient. They’re nothing more than a piece of unmodified pipe with a string attached. Perhaps they’ll fling an arrow in a forward direction, but not predictably.

What’s different about Tomihama’s bows, is that he’s tapered the limbs. As a result, he’s managed to improve both the appearance and performance of PVC bows.

His current improvements in design include modern center-shot bows, tapered limb ends and a double limbed bow.





Tomihama's 2-piece takedown bow with wooden siyahs. It pulls 35#@28" and is 47" long nock to nock. It has 6 inch poplar siyahs with 4 inches visible. It is painted with a rust red primer.

A skillfully made PVC bow will potentially shoot better than a solid fiberglass bow and as well as some laminates.

If you'd like to try this at home, you'll need these basic tools:

- a saw
- file

- heat gun or stove-top burner, and
- two boards

For medium weight bows use schedule 40 pipe. A 10-foot length will cost you around \$3.00. That's long enough to build two bows.



Some examples of Tomihama's latest recurves and longbows made from PVC pipe.

The bows may be made as plain or as decorated as you wish. You can make plain bows for an inexpensive supply of loaner bows or you can build highly decorated bows with limbs that are painted or covered with leather, fabric or wooden siyahs.



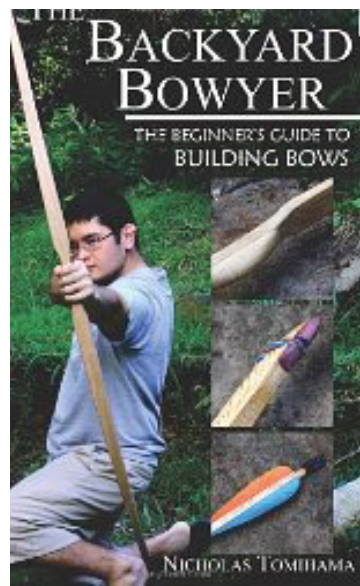
PVC bows are currently being used for target archery in several kingdoms. However, their use for SCA combat is not approved at this time and testing is underway.

This innovative bowyer also has over 200 videos on YouTube on how to make various designs of bows and construction tips, as well as information on building longbows, recurves and crossbows. He also provides instruction on making thumb-rings, releases, strings, quivers, and other archery gear.

See the Backyard Bowyer's videos at <http://www.youtube.com/user/BackyardBowyer/videos>

Tomihama, a traditional archer and bowyer for many years, recently joined the SCA, and lives in Antir. You can find his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BackyardBowyer>.

Tomihama's three bow building books, as well as a book on arrow construction and another on PVC flutes may be found at Amazon.com. The books include charts for bow sizes for different draw weights and complete instructions with illustrations on how to make the bows. Just search for the "Backyard Bowyer".



His books are available on Amazon.com at: http://www.amazon.com/Nicholas-Tomihama/e/B004Q2LJLM/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pe_l_1

LOVE, DISHONOR AND CHIVALRY: THE CUPID AND THE BLACKGUARD

by Arianhwy Wen, Archery Protector of Insulae Draconis
incoming Lt-Genl of Archers for the principality of Insulae Draconis,
Captain of Archers of West Dragonshire, and First Blackguard of Drachenwald

[Editor's Note: Drachenwald introduces two new novelty target shoots rife with drama and romance.]



The Cupid

Both the Cupid shoot and the Blackguard shoot are essentially royal rounds with twiddles on top. Any archer shooting either shoot will be able to submit a royal round score at the end.

As these are highly theatrical shoots, I recommend that the results be announced in Court, with the victor of the Cupid shoot being praised and cheered, and the audience being encouraged to boo and hiss at the Blackguard.

The Cupid shoot uses a FITA 60 cm face as per Royal round. Hearts are cut out of red card of

about the width of a band of color and attached to the target, with one in the ten ring and the rest glued to the target (I use superglue, as it leaves the least residue to gum up arrows) in the shape of a heart (see photo).

Notice the hearts are most concentrated in areas that are low-scoring, and hearts even protrude into the non-scoring area. The exact placement only needs to imitate the photo; don't worry about millimeter-perfect replication.



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Ideally, for this shoot, each archer will hold the favor of someone else, as heavies do in a list, though the round can be shot without. A normal royal round (40, 30, 20, speed at 20) is shot, with scores as normal, except that an archer scores a “point of honor” for each red heart s/he hits. (Linebreakers count.) The winner at the end (though everybody winds up with a score to submit!) is the one who has scored the most points of honor. (Any given heart can be hit any number of times—hearts are not removed from the target after being hit.)

The crux here is that since the hearts are predominantly in outer rings, the archer who wishes to gain points of honor has to deliberately score low to hit them (unless s/he can hit the centre consistently). This is intended to mimic the self-sacrificing ideal we play with: choosing honor, especially of a loved one, over a high score and one’s own immediate personal gains.

The Blackguard shoot also uses a FITA 60 cm face as per Royal round. Hearts are cut out of black card in two sizes, large (the same size as for the Cupid Shoot) and small (roughly half the size, able to fit in a single band of a ring without overlapping). A large black heart is put in the 10 ring, with a big black X of the rest across the target (in saltire, if you’re a herald), and then the smaller ones in the centre of the scoring area in each band, in a cross formation (see photo).



The Blackguard

In this shoot the archer shoots for her or himself alone. A normal royal round (40, 30, 20, speed at 20) is shot, with scores as normal, except that an

archer scores a “point of dishonor” for each red heart s/he hits. (Linebreakers count.) The Blackguard at the end (though everybody winds up with a score to submit!) is the one who has scored the most points of dishonor. (Any given heart can be hit any number of times—hearts are not removed from the target after being hit.)

The archer who scores the highest in this round is much more likely to hit the dastardly black hearts and earn dishonor, as the inner target is peppered with them. This impulse behind this shoot is, again, for the archer to make a choice between honor and scoring well. In an unforeseen circumstance, in the first Blackguard shoot last year, the Blackguard was won by an archer (myself) shooting to save the Queen from dishonoring herself. Upon my victory being known, Baron Pol challenged me for the right to be Blackguard, offering to ransom my honor with his own.

That’s right, by gaining dishonor, he’ll actually be being honorable, by ransoming a lady’s reputation (if he “wins”). Don’t tax your brain thinking about it. It’s too much like hard maths.

These shoots were designed to be complementary, though there is no reason they could not be shot separately. There is absolutely nothing to prevent the winner of the Cupid shoot also entering and even winning the Blackguard shoot as well. In this instance I suggest working with the victorious archer and the herald of the court at which the results will be announced to come up with a bit of theatre that’s fun both to participate in and watch. As an example, I publicly announced that I was sentencing myself to write “I shall not be smug” one hundred times. Her Majesty then stipulated that it should be in my most difficult calligraphic hand.

That’s the key. These shoots are designed for archers to have fun with, and to raise the profile of archery in the kingdom. By having archers as well as heavies and fencers take favours, you may increase the audience at archery—and audience may turn into future archers. By bringing the business into court and awarding prizes in court,

as the other martial arts do, you also spread awareness of the fact that archery can and does uphold the ideals of the society.

As a last note, please encourage young archers to shoot—maybe provide cheap theatrical black moustaches for any who take part in the Blackguard shoot, and some sort of flower for the Cupid—but remember they may well be shooting at shorter distances than adults, so plan, research distances beforehand and mark your range with the shorter distances accordingly!



Becoming a Combat Archer of Legend and Renown

by

Sir Jon Fitz-Rauf, O.L., O.P., R.M.C.

with

Ouregan filia Flaviani

Individual Basics

1. Know and understand your kingdom rules regarding war combat. The SCA Marshal's Handbook includes all forms of Armored Combat, including Combat Archery and is available on the Society's website:
http://www.sca.org/officers/marshal/docs/marshal_handbook.pdf. In order to be authorized as a heavies fighter or combat archer, you need a good grasp of the rules contained in this manual.
2. In the field, don't look down to nock your arrow, or this could be your last act before "dying". Learn to nock your arrow, while keeping watch for oncoming hostiles – without needing to look down at your bow. If using a crossbow, learn to cock it without bending over. It is helpful to have a rigid abdominal plate for this reason. Then you can cock it on your

person. Some archers use a deep sea fishing belt for this purpose.

Always observe:

- the enemy,
- incoming arrows, and
- where you are going.



From Stephen Vandevander

3. It's impossible to avoid what you cannot see!



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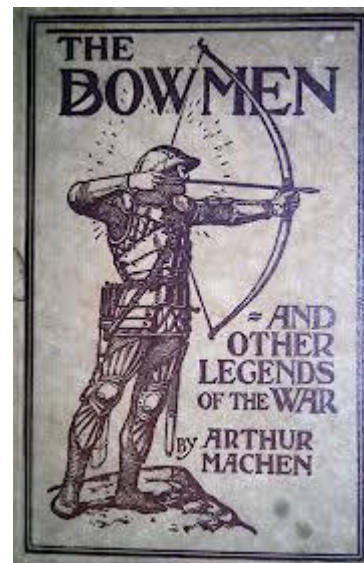


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4. Shoot first at “good” targets in your effective range that are unprotected, or which pose an immediate threat. Even if your arrow does not kill or wound, it may distract your target and allow someone else to take them out.
5. Cross shoot at targets to either side of you, instead of directly in front. It is usually a waste of arrows to try to hit someone that is watching you. It’s too easy for them to duck and dodge.
6. Keep covered. Use any of the following: natural cover, heavies with shields, a pavise, walls, etc. If possible, arrange for one of your fighters to stay with you and provide cover with their shield.
7. Be smart. Be unpredictable, or you’ll experience a quick demise. When shooting from behind cover, such as a wall or line of fighters, never pop up in the same spot each time. An enemy arrow may be waiting for you to show up there again. On the other hand, watch for and shoot opposing archers *not as smart as you* -- that fail to heed this advice.
8. When aiming at a single target, know your limits. Avoid shooting out of your effective range. You may hit a group by chance, but seldom a single target. You’ll waste an arrow.
9. When possible, make fullest use of your mobility. Move around. Don’t grow roots. Don’t move the same way each time when dodging enemy arrows, as this sets a pattern which a good enemy archer will utilize. You’ll come to an untimely end.

10. If you are wounded and no longer able to shoot in a particular battle, give your arrows to another archer that can make use of them.
11. Save your best arrows for longer shots or small targets.
12. Make sure your arrows are neatly stored in your quiver, so that when you pull one out it does not bring its friends with it. While you’re struggling to untangle them, they’ll kill you.
13. As you draw, nock and aim remember to verify that the head is still attached to your arrow. You have the final responsibility for the safe condition of your weapons.
14. Identify and keep track of enemy leaders and the more dangerous fighters, both heavies and archers. Point them out to other archers to kill first when possible. You should try to take out immediate threats first.



15. The bow is a distance weapon. Unless it is necessary to shoot at close range in order to get through pikes and spears,



strike from longer range. Keeping distance between you and the enemy will prolong your life..

16. Avoid targeting the same opposing fighter too many times. You'll make an enemy who hates archers.
17. Keep your head – and your temper -- if a fighter refuses to accept a kill. Sometimes in the heat of battle, even the cleanest shots may not be noticed by your target. If you feel that someone is repeatedly ignoring shots, politely talk to them between battles.
18. If one of your friendlies and an enemy fighter are engaged in a “one on one” fight, do not intercede unless ordered to do so. Once the fight is over and the enemy has a chance to recover, he's fair game. If one of your fighters and an enemy are working out a point of contention, hold your fire until they are finished and have again engaged.



Mongol Fighter

19. Practice shooting while wearing your helm, hand protection and other gear that affects your shooting. Practice nocking while on the move, shooting from different positions and anything else that

helps to simulate what you will be doing in combat.

20. Have fun and let's keep our wars fun and safe for everyone else.

Unit Basics

21. Your battle plan should be based on:

- Your objectives for the battle.
- The strengths and weaknesses of the enemy.
- The strengths and weaknesses of your forces.
- The terrain.
- Any special rules or conditions for that battle.

22. Understand and know well the quality and quantity of your warband and its equipment; be familiar with the approximate number of missiles, range of bows, armor, pavises, and the ability and experience of the individuals fighting with your unit.

23. To the best of your ability, know the same about the enemy. This is the purpose of mead at wars, offered by spies to the enemy the night before. The resulting hangovers are similarly useful.

24. With the battle plan in mind, divide your forces in units. Provide a mix of forces, when possible, for both offensive and defensive capabilities.

25. A warband will operate most successfully when there is a commander, and a second in command. The most devastating warbands regularly practice drills and melees. They communicate and respond well to commands long before going to war.



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>26. Communication is critical and valuable. Teamwork enables your fighters to provide protection without getting in your way. They can also point out critical targets to you.</p> <p>27. Two or more small units may be grouped under the command of a single leader.</p> <p>28. A combat archer is most successful when fighting with a pair of shield men. This provides defensive capabilities, cover from missiles and protection from enemy heavy charges.</p> <p>29. Whenever possible, take and hold the initiative. Force the enemy to react to you.</p> <p>30. Obtain a local superiority in numbers and destroy that part of the enemy force, then move on to the next.</p> | <p>31. Concentrate a hammering barrage of arrow attacks on one portion of an enemy squad at a time. This cripples and disables. If you have multiple archers in your warband, the others can be engaged in another area of enemy assault.</p> <p>32. Flank an opposing line and shoot down the length of it. This gives you a larger target area. They won't see you coming if you shoot from an oblique angle.</p> <p>33. Maneuver your forces to shoot the enemy from at least two directions at the same time. This will make it harder for them to see and avoid or block all the arrows.</p> <p>34. Practice working as a unit and your unit should practice working with other units.</p> <p>35. This will make your warband a fearsome and mighty force of legend.</p> |
|---|---|

Two Happy Memories: SCA Archery Anniversaries in 2013

This year we celebrate two important anniversaries in the history of SCA archery.

The first, was the forty-seventh anniversary of the very first SCA target archery competition, which occurred at the **SECOND TOURNEY** of the SCA. This momentous event occurred on June 25, 1966 in Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland, California, Kingdom of the West. You can view this historic tournament on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M79ZyxSi8tA>

The second – coming up – is the forty-sixth anniversary of the first use of combat archery in an SCA war. It was held on July 29, 1967, at the First Island war at Nicasio Reservoir in Marin County, California, Kingdom of the West. The combat arrows were fourteen inch long bamboo garden stakes with foam rubber tips held on with white bandage tape.

We have come a long way since then and with the continued support of the archers of the SCA we shall continue to evolve and grow. ~~**Sir Jon Fitz-Rauf, West**



The Barony of Andelcrag presents

A Day of Archery

September 28, 2013

Barry County Fairgrounds, 1350 N. M-37 Hwy. Hastings, MI 49058

Site open 9 am - 10 pm

Adults (18+) - \$10; Children (6-17) - \$5; \$5 NMS applies
Feast - \$10 (lapsitters free)

Autocrat : Baroness GenRose (Patresha Roehre)
ladygenrose@gmail.com, 616-821-7274 before 9 pm EST please

Join us for a day devoted ENTIRELY to archery!!
We will have classes, demos, target archery,
combat archery "paintball", merchants
and an equipment swap meet.
If you don't get enough archery activity this weekend,
it's only you that's to blame.

Feast will be themed to a Hunter's Feast,
and may include different types of wild game.

Welcome to Scores-SCA.org!

The SCA Scores Site was created to help archers and marshals get their scores reported and recorded in a more timely fashion. In 2012 it was approved by the Board of Directors and is now a part of the SCA.org system. (<http://scores.sca.org>) It is currently in use by 15 Kingdoms in the



Knowne World and is open to all! It hosts both Archery and Thrown Weapons scores. It is also the one stop submissions site for the Inter Kingdom Archery Competitions (IKAC and IKCAC), the Thrown Weapons Inter-Kingdom Competition (TWIC), the Society Seasonal Archery Competition (SSAC), the new Grand Archery Tournament(GAT) and Quivers and Quarrels, this Archery Newsletter!

Archers and Throwers of Weapons can check the site to track their own scores from around the Knowne World, see those of a friend, or even compare against a rival! Marshals can submit scores online by inputting data from traditional score sheets, or to really speed things up, they can use the Mobile Scoresheet on the range via a mobile device (if it's smart enough!). Kingdoms can post their practice times and locations, promote local merchants, create their own shoots and share them with other Kingdoms. They can even keep track of badges to be awarded and maintain a roster of active marshals.

A short introductory guide is available on the homepage (<http://scores.sca.org>) which displays basic features of the site and illustrates how to access the information that the SCA Scores Site makes available to the entire Knowne World. Since marshals have access to more tools, a more thorough guide is available for them.

HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND.....

On arrival you will find a column on the left of your screen which gives you options. Go to your Kingdom, search for a Name or Local Practice, see the results of Seasonal and Inter-Kingdom Challenges or check out merchants sponsored by marshals.

FINDING SOMEONE...

The Name Search option in the left column takes you into the details of one archer's experience displayed by scores-SCA.org. Search for yourself or friends!

Creator of the SCA Scores Site, Meister Jonathas Reinisch of Atlantia continually improves the site to meet each Realm's specific needs. His mailbox is always open. (Jonathas@RedFoxDen.org). In future articles, the Scores Site will explain new updates and detail specific tools. Let us know which aspects you are most interested in hearing about first! (Contact for guided tours and future 'schpiel': johannatrueshot@gmail.com)



SCA Local Archery Practices

[Editor's Note: Please send updates on your local practices to us at QuiversQuarrels@gmail.com]

Ansteorra

Northkeep

Missile practice scheduled every Sunday from noon till whenever people go home.

9737 W. 61st Street S. Sapulpa, ok.74066 918-200-5584. Calling 1st is a good idea, as I may be gone to an event.

Random cook out / pot lucks. Thrown weapons practice from noon till 2pm. Children's archery practice from 1pm till 2:15pm. Adult archery practice from 2:30pm till people go home. Submitted by Arthur Blackmoon, Baronial Missile Marshal - Barony of NorthKeep.

Cancellations: For major regional archery events and if the temperature is below 40 degrees.

Atenveldt

Barony of Sundragon and the Barony of Atenveldt

The baronies practice together on Sundays at El Oso Park This is for Royal Rounds and Tournaments only at this time for Target Archery. October thru April 9 AM and May thru September 7 AM

Kingdom of CAID

Altavia: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of every month at Woodley Park 11:30am-3:30pm

Angels: See webpage at <http://www.sca-angels.org/> or contact Lady Rayne Archer of Annan at raynearcherofannan@gmail.com.

Calafia: Sundays from 10:00 am to noon, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at UCSD Thornton Hospital from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Dreiburgen: 1st and 3rd Sundays, 10am at House Montrose in Pedley, 2nd and 4th Sunday at Paganus and Rekon's

Dun Or: Unofficial Practices Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm at H&W Archery on Trevor St. in Lancaster and Last Sunday of the month at 2:00 in Littlerock

Gyldenholt: every Sunday at 10:30am in Mile Square Park Archery Range in Fountain Valley.

Lyondemere: El Dorado Park (north of Spring Street), Long Beach 7550 E Spring St, Long Beach, CA, 90815

- Sundays from 1-5; and Thursday nights from 7-9 PM at Rancho park in Cheviot Hills.

Naevehjem: At Baldwin's keep, a private residence. For more info contact jotl2008@wildblue.net

Nordwache: No Info

Starkhafn: Clark County Archery Range (6800 E. Russell, Las Vegas, NV 89112) located behind Sam Boyd Stadium/Old Silver Bowl Park. Tuesday: 6:00pm till 7:30pm (or dark) Saturday: 10:00am till noon.

Western Seas: no info

Shires:

Al-Sahid: same as Dreiburgen

Carrweg Wen: On Hold

Darach: No Archery Practice



Kingdom of Lochac

Barony of Southron Gaard: conducts weekly practices from 2pm to 4pm every Sunday, weather permitting, on the back field of Kirkwood Intermediate. We also have our Baronial Anniversary happening on the 23rd of March to be held at Cust.

At our Baronial anniversary we will be deciding the champions for the next year, including archery and crossbow. Submitted by Darayavaush Ah.r'r. Captain of Archer for Southron Gaard and current Baronial Archery Champion, MKA Damon Daines

Kingdom of Meridies

Barony of Thor's Mountain, Knoxville, TN

The Barony of Thor's Mountain holds its practices on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, 3:30pm to 5:30pm, with reservations (no practices on weekends with Kingdom-Level Events or TM events. We post updates on our website calendar.

Midrealm

Barony of Ayreton (Chicago Area)

Wednesdays: 6:30PM, 7240 Madison Street, Forest Park, (708) 366-4864

Confirm with: Forester Lukas Mesmer [Stoutmaker at hotmail dot com](mailto:Stoutmaker@hotmail.com)

Barony of Cynnabar Ann Arbor, Michigan

"Official Archery Practice in the Barony of Cynnabar is held Sundays from 2-4pm, weather permitting, at the archery range of The Honorable Lord Forester Dillon ap Dillon. **Regular practices for 2013 will begin around Sunday, April 14.** More information regarding archery in the Barony of Cynnabar can be found at our Website: <http://www.cynnabar.org/archery> .

For all questions regarding practice dates, times, and the location of the official Baronial archery range, please contact Lady Godaeth se Wisfaest, GM, archery@cynnabar.org ."

Barony of Flaming Gryphon

Archery practice at Wildlife District 5 at 1076 Old Springfield Pike in Xenia, OH will resume August 4 and continue every week through Labor Day weekend. The schedule after Labor Day will be determined when I know my Sunday work schedule. In November we'll go indoors

-Madame Bertrande Fresneau, CDB, AOA Order of the Flaming Brand June 2007

Flaming Gryphon Deputy Archery Captain mka Kristen Allen-Vogel

The Shire of Eastwatch (Cleveland Ohio area)

The Shire of Eastwatch has archery practice every Sunday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Free Spirit Farm located at 13987 Watt Road, Novelty, Ohio 44072.

The Shire of Eastwatch (continued) In addition to the regular Sunday practices, beginning on June 4th, and continuing throughout the summer and early fall, we will also be holding archery practice every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the same location.

If people would like to contact us about attending, they can email me at whgkingstone@ameritech.net or they can call me at (216) 246-0085.

This way, people will have 2 different practice session to choose from each week. Our practices sessions will also be announced on the Facebook Pages for Eastwatch, Barony of the Cleftlands, March of Gwyntarian, Northern Oaken Archery, as well as the Eastwatch Yahoo group page.

Besides archery, horseback riding is also available at Free Spirit Farm .

Shire of Mnynydd Seren (Bloomington, IN):

When: 2:00 P.M. every Saturday

Where: Shire of Mnynydd Seren (Bloomington, IN)

5501 South Rogers St, Bloomington Indiana

Contact: Eogan - Baiofred@gmail.com

Cancellations: For major regional archery events and if the temperature is below 40 degrees.

Barony of Sternfeld (Indianapolis Indiana)

(Constellation Region, Middle Kingdom) has practice Wednesday evening 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Yurts of America, 4375 Sellers Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226.

Outdoor practices will be announced on the Sternfeld Facebook page and on the Yahoo group page. Come have some fun!



Greek Archer – New York Public Library

Making Bowstrings for your Crossbow

By Brun Canutesson

(Mka: Wm. Bryan Fountain)

The very first thing you will need to do is to determine how long you want your bowstring to be. You want your bowstring to be the right size – if it is slightly too long you can take it off your prod and twist it to shorten it. But don't try to shorten a string more than about a ½ inch. If you twist the string to shorten be sure to twist the same direction that the serving is wound, or you will loosen the serving and it will be damaged.

So how can you determine what is the right size? Well, measure your prod from shoulder to shoulder and subtract ½” (The shoulder is the resting place for your string loop ends.) Or you can measure the current string. In any case you want your string to have a fist of about 4”. (The fist is the at rest distance from the prod to the string)

Once you have determined how long you want your string to be – you can move on to the rest of the project. If you want a string that is a length of other than 26” you will need to modify the center-to-center distance on the jig. Everything else will be the same, no matter what length string you are working on.

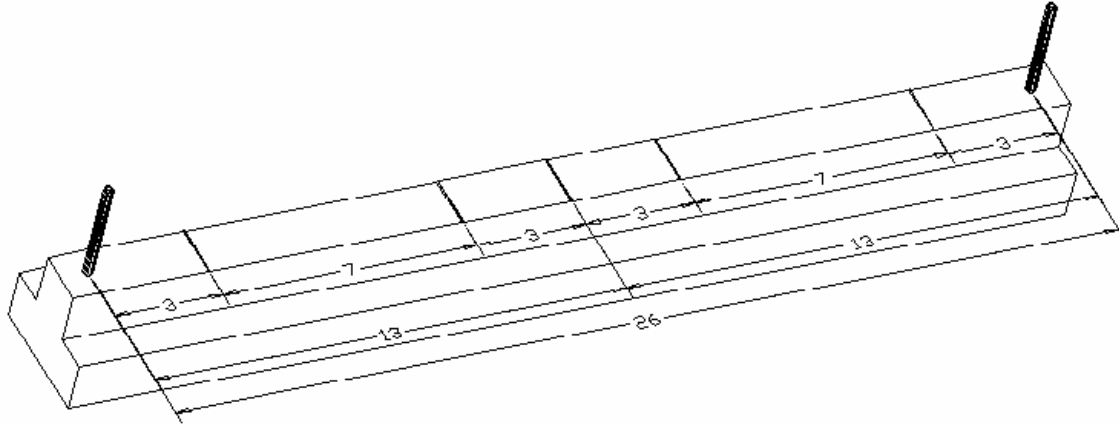
In order to start tying your bowstring you will need to get a decent supply of artificial sinew. In total it takes about 65 yards of sinew to make a bowstring 26 inches long. I like to use two colors when making my bowstring, because if you use contrasting colors for the main body and bindings any wear that occurs will show up quickly. With a moderate amount of maintenance a bowstring should last you a long time. As wear starts to show up during use, switch to a new bowstring. That way when you get home you can repair the damaged string, and put the repaired string aside for use later.

You can get artificial sinew from a variety of places, but I like to get mine from an online company called Primitive Originals. (www.primitiveoriginals.com) They sell sinew in 450 yd spools for 7 bucks. This is enough for approximately 7 strings, so you might want to split this with a buddy.

While you are waiting for your sinew to arrive you may want to start working on your jig. This will not take you very long, but hey – you got to do something while waiting.

A simple jig consists of nothing more than a board with two ¼” holes drilled in it. (Drill your holes as close to perpendicular to the board's surface as possible at a distance of 26”. I like to add another board to the first one as a base. This gives you the ability to clamp the jig to your work surface. Clamping your jig down isn't required, but some folks find that it gives them a bit more stability, and speeds up the string making process.

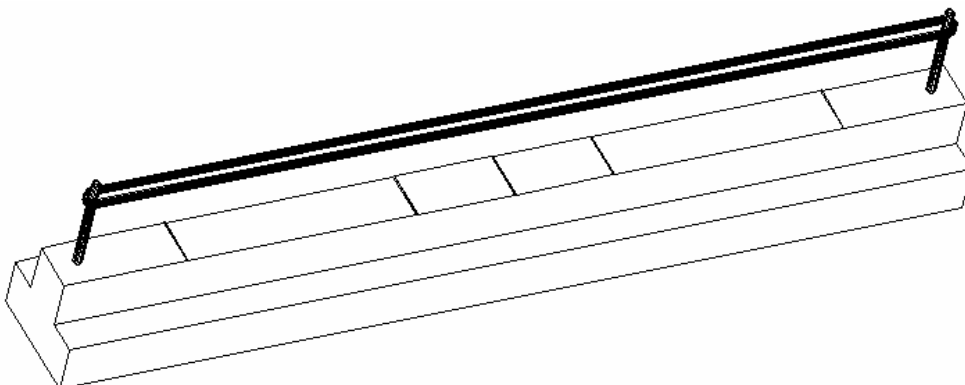
Once you have the base done, cut yourself two rods $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter and approximately 4" long. Round and smooth off the ends. Make the end that sticks up from the jig as smooth as possible. Then stick the rods into the holes. Mark your jig with lines at the center of the string and at 3" from each end and from the center. These lines will be used for reference when you start binding the core together.



The first “real” step is to start winding the string core onto the jig. You can begin this process only after you calculate how many times around the pins you will have to wrap. You want to have a string that is at least 5 times as strong as the pull of your prod. So take the Pull of your bow and multiply this by 5. Then take this number and divide it by the “test” of your sinew. (If you use artificial sinew from Primitive originals – you probably have 70 lb cord.) This should give you the number of laps you should need. In this case you will come up with needing 6 laps. This is the minimum number, and since I always have a lot of wear on my string I usually double this for a total of 12 laps. (Note: this also gives you a nice medieval looking string, since most strings in period were rather beefy.)

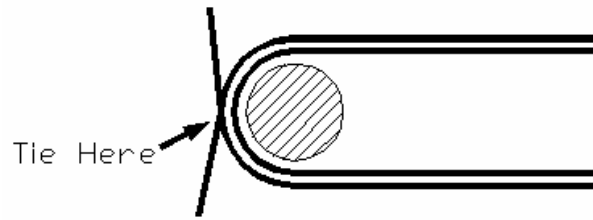
Step 1

Wrap sinew around the posts
– 12 complete wraps are needed.

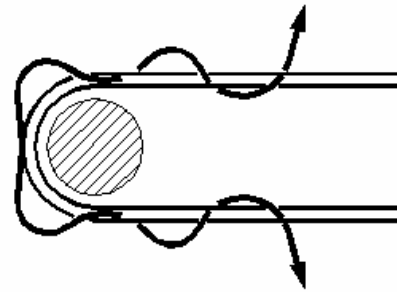


Step 2

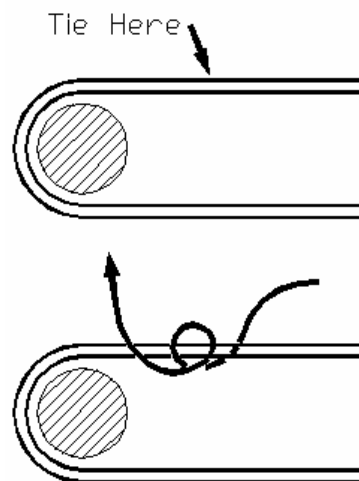
Tie sinew off to the starting end with a square knot.

**Step 3**

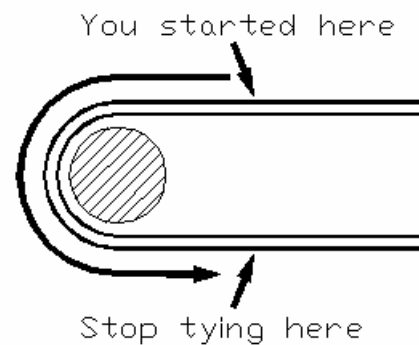
Wrap or weave loose ends of sinew into the loops of sinew so that when you cover the ends with a protective layer of sinew (serving) the ends will be permanently secured inside.

**Step 4**

Cut two pieces of sinew from your roll approximately 36" long. Tie one to the main core with a half hitch. This knot should be placed midway between your 3" mark on your jig and the post..

**Step 5**

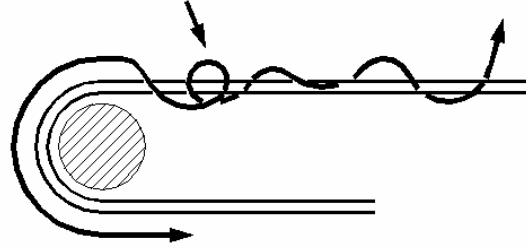
Continue tying a series of half hitch knots along the outside edge of each end loop to cover and protect it. Be sure to cinch the knots up tight to each other. Once all the way around, continue out over the shaft of the string until you get to a point across from where you started..



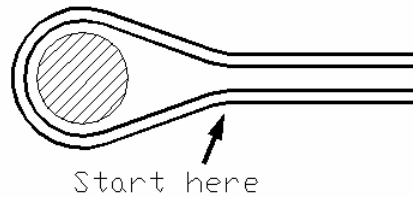
Step 6

Weave your loose starting end in among the loops of the core so that when you cinch the loop into “eyes” and tie the serving around the entire core, you will permanently secure the end.

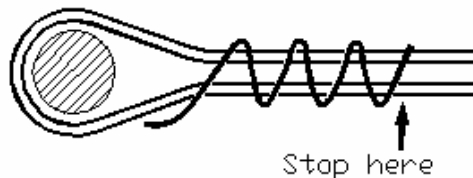
You started tying here

**Step 7**

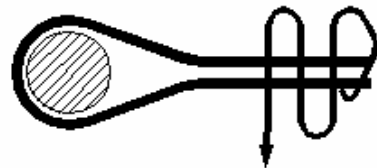
Start tying your half hitches around all of the core sinew. This should cinch the bundle together tightly.

**Step 8**

Continue this for about an inch. You should stop when you get to your 3” mark on your jig.

**Step 9**

Using a sharp needle, sew the loose end back through the knotted section a couple times.

**Step 10**

Pull the end tight and trim off the excess.



Step 11

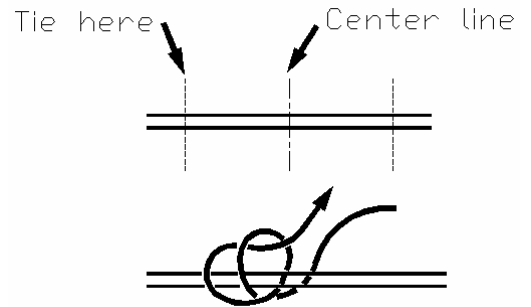
Repeat steps 4 through 10 on the other end of the string.

Step 12

The center of the string should now be marked, and a mark made on each side of the center at 3" away. (I use a felt tip pen to mark my strings.)

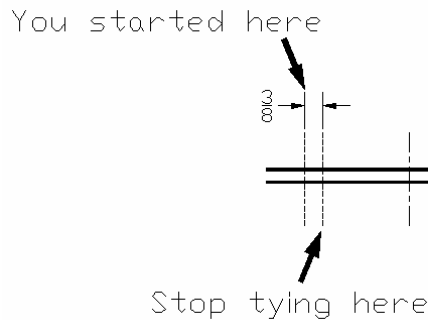
Step 13

Cut a piece of sinew from the roll approx. 36" long. Locate the mark on your jig 3" from the center. Tie the sinew to the main core above the mark. (Use a half hitch knot.)



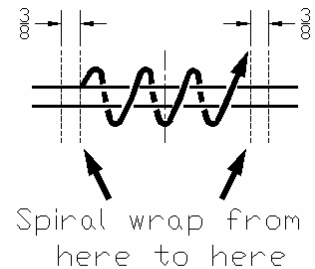
Step 14

Continue tying half hitches for a distance of approximately 3/8". (Work towards the center of your bowstring.)



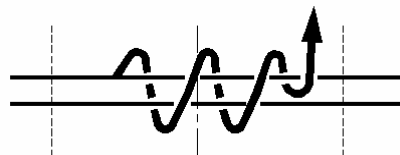
Step 15

Spiral wrap the center portion of your bowstring until you get to a point approximately 3/8" from your other 3" mark.



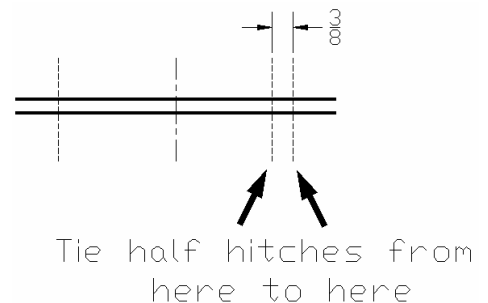
Step 16

Using a needle slide your thread end through the center of the core.



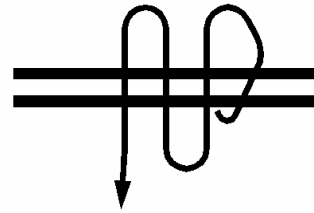
Step 17

Tie half hitches around the core until you get to the 3" mark.

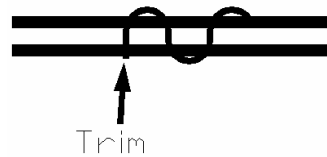


Step 18

Using a sharp needle sew the loose end back through the knotted section a couple times.

**Step 19**

Pull the end tight and trim it off.

**Step 20**

Using a tube of commercially available bowstring wax, apply a good coat of string wax to your bowstring.

Step 21

Place bowstring onto prod and adjust as needed. If your combat bows string is too low (rubbing on the deck), the string is too long. Take one end off and twist it a few times, then restring the bow. Recheck the height of the string. It should be about 1/16" above the stock. If you are building a string for a target bow, your string should not be "Flying" at all. It should have minimal down pressure (about 5 lbs). More down pressure only wastes energy and actually causes the string to apply force to the quarrel over a shorter distance. If your string is too short, make a new one...