

THE SCMSA SHOOTER

ISSUE 01 2017

FREHLICK QUARTER HORSES

FROM THE ROAD

SASKATCHEWAN
SHOOTING
FAMILY

THE EPPS

MEET THE
NEW KID

DWAYNE SAVAGE

WRANGLERS WRITE UP

THE DEAD-EYE
UPCOMING STAR IN THE SPORT
MARKUS HOFER

SPONSORSHIP
INFORMATION



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UP!





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2017 - Saskatchewan Cowboy Mounted Shooters Board of Directors

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Please Note the Annual General Meeting will be held January 20, 2018.

Location and Agenda details will be found at www.saskcowbomountedshooting.com

The SCMSA Shooter - Issue 1 - 2017

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Thank-you for reading the foundational issue of the SCMSA Shooter. This magazine was developed to celebrate the accomplishments of our club and its members, while also recognizing our sponsors for their very important role they play in our success.

Cowboy mounted shooting is one of the fastest growing equine sports in North America. This fast-paced sport is one of the most exciting spectator sports to emerge in the horse industry for decades. With the hard work of our sponsors, not only have we obtained our ambitious goals, we have surpassed them and set our sights higher for the future of our sport.

The Saskatchewan Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association strategy to affiliate with the international governing body known as CMSA (Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association) and adhere to their rulebook put us in the big pond, so to speak. This affiliation allows us to attract international shooters to our events.

The SCMSA was also involved in the inception and implementation of a Canadian year-end champion. The creation of a Canadian year-end points race brought all the individual clubs in Canada together to work for a common goal. As a result, it raised our profile on a national and international level, while bringing a high level of competition to our province. The SCMSA was the first club to bring the prestigious classes to Canada that previously were only held at the largest shoots in the U.S. As a result, we have been able to showcase our sport and our sponsors at prestigious events like Agribition, Moose Jaw hometown fair and the 2017 Canadian Finals in Saskatoon at Prairieland Park.

In September of 2017 the SCMSA will host the first ever Canadian finals. This event will be the largest single cowboy mounted shooting event in Canada to date. It solidifies our national identity while strengthening our position as a player in the international arena of the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association.

Hope to see you all down the road.

Cain Quam

President Saskatchewan Cowboy Mounted Shooters

SCMSA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HOW TO BECOME A MOUNTED SHOOTER

1. Acquire your federal restricted PAL (Possession Acquisition License).

This can be acquired from any firearm training facility. Assume this course will take you two days to complete

2. Submit your PAL paper-work.

Make sure to submit this as soon as possible, turn-around on this can take from 2 – 6 months. You need this in order to purchase your guns.

3. Order your holsters, chaps, and cowboy hat.

Quality leather work takes time, give yourself from 1 – 3 months to have these built.

4. Order your guns.

Your guns, must be a .45 Long Colt. These are not a common hand gun, although they are growing in popularity it can take time to find a pair of guns. Most guns need to visit a gunsmith to be 'shooter friendly'

5. Become a member.

You need to be a SCMSA (Saskatchewan Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association): www.saskcowboymountedshooting.com. This membership acts as your range membership to allow you to shoot.

SHF (Sask Horse Federation) member:

www.saskhorse.ca this membership acts as your insurance in order to be a member of the SCMSA.

CMSA (Cowboy Mounted Shooters Association):

www.cmsaevents.ca. This is our international club, this allows you to register in club events and start chasing buckles and points.

6. Come out to practice and shoots.

Get in touch with anyone of our board of directors, they will help you find a group of great people to ride with.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

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- SCMSA Jacket
- Targets with your logo on them at 2 shoots
- Two Page Advertorial in our Year Round Magazine - read by thousands
- (4) x Pro Rodeo Ticket to Canadian Western Agribition
- (4) x Rider Dinner Tickets
- 4ft x 8ft Banner Flown at all allowable shoots
- Digital Advertising at Agribition on the Jumbo-Tron
- Sponsorship Announcements at all Saskatchewan Shoots
- (4) x Canadian Finals Tickets a Meet and Greet with the Riders

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- Targets with your logo on them at 2 shoots
- Full Page Colour Ad - In our incredibly well read magazine
- (4) x Pro Rodeo Ticket to Canadian Western Agribition
- (4) x Rider Dinner Tickets
- 4ft x 8ft Banner Flown at all allowable shoots
- Digital Advertising at Agribition on the Jumbo-Tron
- Sponsorship Announcements at all Saskatchewan Shoots

GOLD SPONSORS (\$1500.00)

Best Value

- Targets with your logo on them at 1 shoots
- (4) x Pro Rodeo Ticket to Canadian Western Agribition
- 2ft x 4ft Banner Flown at all allowable shoots
- Digital Advertising at Agribition on the Jumbo-Tron
- Sponsorship Announcements at all Saskatchewan Shoots
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- (2) x Pro Rodeo Tickets - Canadian Western Agribition
- Sponsorship Announcements at all Shoots
- Acknowledgement on the Jumbo-Tron at Agribition

BRONZE SPONSORS (\$250.00)

Thank-you

- 1/2 Page Colour Ad in our incredibly well read magazine
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SCMSA 2017 MOUNTED SHOOTING FAMILY OF THE YEAR – THE EPPS

Mounted shooting is very much a family affair. You'll often find couples who travel and compete together, with their children, parents and extended family members cheering from the crowd – or competing themselves. Here, Marissa Epp shares why her entire family loves mounted shooting, and how she and husband Chris make it all work. It's no surprise that the Epps are the SCMSA's Family of the Year.



WHY WE LOVE MOUNTED SHOOTING

Chris found mounted shooting back in 2013 and liked the idea of a competitive sport that didn't require cattle or a partner. I have always barrel raced, and although Chris enjoys coming along, he didn't really have an event to compete in. No cattle to practice team roping, and age wasn't really on his side for bull riding anymore.

So he pulled old faithful out of the pasture, and a-shooting they went. In 2015, I decided I was too competitive to go along and just watch, so I got my restricted gun license and started shooting as well. Ace started entering the wrangler events that year as well, at only two years of age. It has been such a great way to boost his confidence on his horse — and be "just like his dad."

We LOVE mounted shooting. We love that we can both compete, involve our children, and don't have to compete directly against each other (because let's be honest, I'll die of old age before I outrun Chris).

We love the people. Bringing two small kids along is tough — especially when you are both competing. But there are so many wonderful people who will push a stroller, hold a baby, or even just watch Ace while he plays in the sand.

I love being able to strategize with Chris. That we are passionate about the same sport, and we can grow together at it (well, maybe he grew a bit faster). We can talk about different courses, encourage each other, and travel together as a family.

MARISSA'S TOP THREE TIDBITS ON TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN:

1. Bring someone along to help. My mother is our lifeline. She comes along to lots of shoots, helps with kids, and cheers us on. We couldn't function without her.
2. If your child is old enough (and this probably only applies to boys), teach them to pee in an empty pop bottle. This will save you numerous, and I do mean numerous, stops.
3. Pack everything you own. When we show up to a shoot, we usually take up about three acres of space. We apologize. Kids have A LOT of stuff.



Photos by: Jennifer Oliver Photography



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THE NEW KID: DWAYNE SAVAGE



Although new to mounted shooting, Dwayne Savage has been tearing it up across Western Canada. This August in Regina, we got him off his horse Skip long enough to catch up and get to know him a little better.

Tell us a little about yourself Dwayne? What do you do when you aren't training?

I grew up on the family farm at Windthorst, Saskatchewan, where I was involved with horses from a very young age doing gymkhana and breaking horses.

I moved to Regina in 1981 and became involved in the trucking industry for 36 years, and I'm still at it. I started working for Federated Co-op, then went hauling cars over the Coquihalla Pass into Seattle, Washington. Then, in 2006, I came full circle and became a leased operator at Federated Co-op. In 2010, two million miles later, I gave up driving to be at home.

In 2013, I opened an eight-bay truck wash with a mechanic's bay. We are very fortunate to have professional drivers, mechanics, and other great employees on the truck wash side, and two exceptional managers that keep everything working. My wife Jackie still oversees both businesses; however, she has recently hired a wonderful lady (maybe a future mounted shooter) to work in the office. All of these people make it possible for myself and Jackie to be able to go to so many mounted shooting events.

Can you tell us about your family?

Jackie and I have been married for 30 years. While I was driving, she was home with the kids. We have two beautiful daughters – Jayd and Sarah – and Mitch, our wonderful son-in-law. They attend as many shoots as possible, as do many family members and friends. The girls each have a horse and enjoy spending time at the acreage.

When was the first time you saw mounted shooting? What got you hooked?

The first time I saw mounted shooting was in 2014 at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina. I didn't start shooting until the spring of 2016, when I took a three-day clinic at Cain Quam's. After I did it once, I was hooked. There are no judges, it's a timed event and there is always room for improvement. And I have met so many great people.

How did you get so good?

We have 80 acres with an approved indoor arena. I'm at the acreage every day when at home. I practice twice a week.

Tell us about your horse power?

My main horse is Skip. He's a nine-year-old registered quarter horse gelding. My back-up horse is my daughter's six-year-old registered quarter horse filly. Both are very fast and improving all the time, but I'm always looking for another horse.

What has been the highlight of your mounted shooting career so far?

Winning two buckles and being in the top ten in 2016 at Agribition, where I first saw mounted shooting.

How is your 2017 season going so far?

I started the season out with a win at Northlands in Edmonton in November 2016, and had a win at Agribition 2016.

In Moose Jaw, June 2017, I placed second in SM1 and won senior incentive. Ponoka was good -- won shot gun, had my fourth win, received my third buckle and moved up into SM2. The first time I entered the Calcutta, I managed to place seventh and win my buyer back his money and a little more.

I didn't do well in Weyburn.

Going to Las Vegas was an amazing shoot. The facility was impressive. I didn't do well, but had lots of fun with some great friends, new and old.

What is your goal for the rest of the year?

I want to run fast at the Canadian Finals in Saskatoon, then finish the year off at Worlds in Amarillo, Texas.

Who is your arch nemesis?

Even though we aren't in the same class, Mark Hofer and I started at the same time and he had a rock star first year. This is who I want to run as fast as and hopefully beat in the eliminator someday. I'm still two to three seconds off his time.

That's funny. Mark is my arch nemesis as well. Maybe we can team up and beat him! What kind of guns do you use?

I use Ruger 45s. My shotgun is a .410 Stoeger, and I have a Browning rifle that I have yet to use.

What do you think the SCMSA should do to advance the sport?

It would be nice to see more showcases at the shoots and to have a facility to host big events in.

Good luck in the Canadian Finals and in Worlds in October. Keep riding hard!



FREHLICK QUARTER HORSES

CONTINUALLY PRODUCING EXCEPTIONAL HORSES

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend the day with two of my favorite horse trainers. I was asked to take write an article covering Frehlick quarter horses, one of Saskatchewan's premier horse breeding and training programs in Saskatchewan. I convinced Cain Quam, SCMSA President, and owner of Quam Performance Horses to find time in his busy schedule to come along for a ride to look a current horse prospects, but most importantly take time to.



Owned by Ray and Doris Frehlick, tucked away in the far southeast corner of Saskatchewan, just outside of Estevan Saskatchewan is where we found manager and trainer Rod Thiessen. Rod graciously took time out of his morning to discuss his program, prospects, and philosophies that make Frehlick Quarter Horses premier place to buy a quality – good minded horse.

Rod came to manage Frehlick Quarter Horses 11 years ago. Rod was operating a training facility near Drake Saskatchewan, when he heard that the Frehlicks were looking for a trainer and manager to relocate to Estevan and run their training and breeding program.

As the story goes, Rod was at a horse auction in Melfort, Sk when a friend asked him if he knew of any trainers looking for an opportunity to manage and run the Frehlick facility. Rod went home and told his wife, Fern who thought it was a good opportunity for their family. At the time Rod move to Estevan while Fern and youngest son Lukas (SCMSA World Champion) finished high school. The following year, 11 years ago, Fern moved to Estevan where they currently reside.

Rod told us there have been numerous advantages to running the Frehlick facility, but the biggest one has been the creative process, and control in developing the current breeding program that they are operating. When Rod came to manage Frehlick quarter horses, there were over 70 horses on the property, of those 70 horses only two remain. These two remaining broodmares have produces offspring with over \$40,000 in earning, and continue to produce good minded, trainable foals.

When Rod came to manage the operations the existing breeding program was focused on AQHA show and pleasure horses, combined with working cow horse and reining. As many in the horse industry know, the AQHA shows have been declining in popularity since the early 2000s. Rod saw and opportunity to develop a class of horse that the public was wanting.

Thiessen states ' it was simple people wanted to ride a horse, not show and haul a horse. So we needed to create a simple, athletic, good minded horse that people could ride'

Rod goes on to discuss that, for the most part, the current horse owner is one who rides less, which results in them requiring a better horse. Horsemanship skills have drastically reduced over the past 30-years, and in turn a horse needs to be better. Combined with our busy modern day society causing many people not to be able to ride consistently, trainers need to be producing a very high quality horse.

This is where Frehlick Quarter Horses is capitalizing on the market. While many breeding and training facilities are focusing on specific disciplines and building fantastic horses in their area, Ray, Doris and Rod are building fantastic all-around horses.

Rod exposes horses to cutting, rope work, cattle, cow-horse, and recently, as demand is growing, mounted shooting. At the 2016 Agrhibition Select Horse sale, Frehlicks' sold AQHA mare BR Star Lit Nic to a mounted shooter out of Alberta. This well minded mare was the second high-selling horse, only to a High Brow Cat mare that Frehlick's bought to have in their breeding program.

When asked how the Frehlick team has been so successful in recent years Rod told us simply that he has had better access to better horses. With the decline in the US economy from 2009 through 2012, and a strong Canadian dollar, the Frehlick breeding program was able to attract better, bloodlines and build better riding horses. This was a necessity in Saskatchewan, as our economy strengthened and people became more self educated the customers



created demand for better more expensive horses. People want to ride great horses.

Rod sees mounted shooting as a fantastic up and coming horse sport in our province. Mounted shooting is a sport in which you can haul alone, is not judged, and you do not need buckets of money to be part of. Combine this with guns and adrenaline and you have a recipe for success.

Currently the Frehlick breeding program has two stallions and 6 broodmares.

Chexboonsmal was the first stallion Rod added to the breeding program. Son of number 5 NCHA cutting sire Pepto-Boonsmal, and out of NCHA earning mare Chex Hickory, Rod wanted to go out and find a cutting bred stallion that would excel in real-world activities not just the show pen.

Chex is consistently producing quiet, user-friendly horses that are excelling in all horse sport. Consistently his offspring have size, are big boned, and all have been a pleasure to work with.

Recently Rod set out to find a stallion that could produce colts that would perform at a higher level in cutting. To do this Rod acquired 2012 stallion Secrets Smart Cat, a very



flashy and athletic bay with plenty of cow sense. Currently Secrets Smart Cat has long yearlings that will be starting their training in the upcoming year.

Currently Thiessen thinks the Saskatchewan horse industry is evolving into prominent place to raise, and ride quality horses. The horse industry, as all industries, has had to diversify to survive. Frehlick Quarter Horses is the prominent facility that is breeding and marketing horses to sell as versatile horses. Thiessen knows his team needs to be creating the best horse that can be used for everything, in an industry that is being replaced by technology and engines, it is necessary to develop a horse that everyone in the family can ride. Rod prides himself on having building the horse that dad ropes on, mom runs barrels, and the kids use on trail rides – sounds pretty much like everyone's ideal horse.

For your next, and best performance horse contact:

**Frehlick Quarter Horses, Rod Thiessen
306.421.6755**

Or just drop by for coffee like we did, the horse talk will be plentiful.



CHALLENGING THE PATTERN, AND WINNING

AN INTERVIEW WITH KRISTY THIESSEN

This August we had the pleasure of catching up with Kristy Thiessen, up and coming ladies level one super-star. We wanted to find out what drew her into the fastest growing horse sport, besides being married to a world champion.

So, how did you get your start with horses?

I grew up on a dairy farm and never had the opportunity to work with horses. That changed in a hurry after I got married in 2012 and went north to the Yukon Territory to work for a hunting outfit doing pack trips.

My first trip with the horses was 6 hours of straight riding, hike straight up a mountain, pack out part of a Dall sheep and then 6 hours straight back to the cabin. I didn't think I would be able to stand straight again.

Sounds like quite the honey-moon, when did you start to learn to ride?

About 2 years ago I started learning to ride horses with the intent of being competent with a horse and with a goal of competing in Cowboy Mounted Shooting. My husband, Lucas, started competing in Cowboy Mounted Shooting 3 years ago and he loves every minute of this sport.

What is your secret to tearing it up, so soon after learning to ride?

I am lucky to have such a great coach in my husband, I watched Lukas for a couple years before I started this year. Within my first year it took a couple shoots to get the feel for things, then it all came together to win my Ladies 1 class in Moose Jaw.

What keeps you loving mounted shooting?

There is something new to learn every time. It teaches so much about communication between horse and rider and how to keep strengthening your mental game.

Do you have some advice for new shooters?

My advice to any one just getting started is:

1. Start with good guns and a good horse
2. Things just take time. Your horse needs to take to shooting, and sometimes that takes time. some just need time to figure it all out.

Cowboy Mounted Shooting can be so challenging and a huge thrill at the same time, but it is worth all the work.



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WRANGLER WRITE UP

In our first magazine, we wanted to demonstrate the family nature, grass-roots, inclusiveness which is mounted shooting. Mounted shooting is competitive, but more importantly it is reminiscent of a time that, I believe, is slipping away on us. A time when we had time for conversation, community, but most importantly family. The Wenger's are a fantastic, salt of the earth father and son duo that embody our sport.

We asked Colby, this year's Wrangler Write-Up author to tell us about himself. If you ever get the opportunity to meet Colby, take the time to get to know this young man. He loves to chat, and the story will be great.

● ● ● ★ ● ● ●

MY NAME IS COLBY WENGER I AM 12 YEARS OLD AND LIVE IN PARADISE HILL SASKATCHEWAN. THIS IS MY 4TH YEAR OF MOUNTED SHOOTING, I WON RESERVE CHAMPION IN 2015 AND CANADIAN CHAMPION IN 2016.



MY HOBBIES ARE HOCKEY, TRAIL RIDING, RIDING DIRT BIKES, AND OF COURSE MOUNTED SHOOTING! MY DAD SHOTS AS WELL AND HE GOT ME HOOKED ON THE SPORT.

I LOVE MY COMPANION, BREEZE, HE IS A 7 YEAR OLD SORREL QUARTER HORSE WITH ONE WHITE SOCK ON HIS BACK LEFT LEG (I STOLE HIM FROM MY DAD!!!)

I LOVE THE FRIENDLY COMPETITION AND ALL THE PEOPLE I HAVE MET ALONG THE WAY.

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WESTERN CANADA AND NORTH DAKOTA**



We (Bob and I) along with my sister (Barb Munn) never would have imagined travelling across Canada and parts of the United States for five months in a horse trailer with a living quarters. The motive for such an adventure was to shoot balloons off horseback in a sport called Cowboy Mounted Shooting.

Our home is located in Oxbow, Saskatchewan and as a result, every time we leave the yard to attend a shoot in Saskatchewan, Alberta or Manitoba, we drive an average of nine hours. Often times our trips are longer than a day's drive so we will stay overnight along the way. These stops are at rodeo grounds, fellow shooter's acreages or farms, or stockyards, etc.

Networking with others is key to making trips more enjoyable. Over the 2017 season, we have travelled to ten CMSA sanctioned Canadian shoots. A competition is held over two days, most often on weekends. We have also attended a number of American shoots.

Looking back to our first year of shooting, we participated in a major national shoot. CMSA Jeffers National Championship 2014 was in Tunica, Mississippi. This shoot was the biggest we had ever attended. With two arenas and 295 entries, we learned a lot about this sport and competing.

Hanging out with the top shooters in North America was exciting. There is always someone willing to help beginners in this sport and the family atmosphere makes for a welcoming experience. Since our first long journey with our horse pals, we have become savvy travelers and most often have a number of shoots lined up so we can go from one to the next. Britt Needham (Barb's daughter) often hooks up with us on our travels, coming from Ontario.



Preparation for what the road has to offer comes, like anything else, with experience. Your organizational skills become tuned to absolute necessities due to space constrictions. One becomes very good at using every inch of space. Having said that, there is always room for 1800s fashions, which includes hats, bustles, shirts and bustiers to complete our mounted shooting attire.

Planning your route, including stops for horses and humans, is key to reducing the stress of travelling long distances. Patience and a "go with the flow" attitude is also a requirement to make your travels enjoyable.

Where will 2018 find us?

Perhaps to Oklahoma where we will have a tour of nine days of shooting. Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the Eastern US Championship is also on our wish list. We had qualified and attended the World Championships in 2016 that were held in Amarillo, Texas. On our last trip to Worlds, we enjoyed staying on the grounds, which made it easy to access the barns and arenas, so we would like to make a return trip to Worlds.

What keeps us motivated to plan, travel and haul our horses over long distances to compete?

You get caught up in the passion of the adrenalin rush, the moment when you put it all together for the chance of a reward in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting arena. Your horse and you become a team through many hours of riding, training and practice. Your mind, body and soul become engaged. It's what being alive is all about!



MARKUS HOFER: RISING STAR

By Dora Hakl

Reasonably new to our club and sport, Markus, Mark, has been reeking havoc across north America in mounted shooting. Mark is the SCMSA's 2017 – Rising Star.



Markus Hofer is an men's level 2 shooter, and a member of the Saskatchewan Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association. In 2016, Markus won the CMSA World Championship in the men's level one class, in Amarillo, Texas. He also became the men's level one champion at the Lonestar Classic 2016 held in Vernon, Texas.

In 2017, Markus attended the Lakota Western USA Championship that was held at the end of July in Las Vegas. He finished 34th out of 283 entries and also earned 2nd place in the level two men's class. His proudest moment at this competition was when he snagged 1st place in the A division of the Double Down with a time of 9.384 seconds.

To achieve this kind of success, Markus says the biggest challenge is to keep your horse and yourself healthy and both of you in top physical condition. Markus works with his AQHA horse – Striker five times per week. He wants Striker to be supple throughout his body so that he can easily turn a barrel running at top speed, moving freely and relaxed.

There are many drills in the arena that can accomplish this. In a practice, Markus will work with Striker on barrel turns, as well as on transitions and rating his speed. Just as a rider needs a strong core and balance, so do our horses. Markus

will choose activities and exercises that will work Striker's rib cage and core so that he is able to compete at a higher level.

Another important part of keeping your performance horse healthy is their feeding program. Feed and supplements should be based on your horse's needs. Markus likes to use flax seed for joints and coat. Top quality hay is very important. Rice bran pellets can be used as a good fatty supplement.

Markus's personal fitness program includes running, weight training and swimming. Balance and core exercises are also part of his training. Markus says if we expect our equine partners to be in good physical shape, then we should also be as riders to enhance our success in the competition arena.

Cowboy Mounted shooters need to develop physical muscle memory in our gun changes. We need to run patterns mentally with gun changes —the line you are going to maintain through the course, where you will rate your horse, and where you will begin and end your turns. Correct shooting form also needs to be practiced physically and mentally. A common teaching phrase is "Find it (meaning the balloon), Follow it, Fire and Watch the balloon Break".

The Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association has developed a level system for competitions for all riding and shooting abilities. It also takes age into consideration and has developed a Wrangler program for children under 12 and has classes for seniors (50+) who so choose. There are also men's and lady's classes. Level 1 is the introductory level with Level 6 (professionals) Pistol, Rifle, Shot gun and Calvary classes. This system allows all participants to compete and find success based on their ability.

This sport is about teamwork between you and your equine partner. It is a timed event and penalties are assessed for missed balloons, knocked over barrels, etc. The recipe for success: "Ride fast and shoot clean!"

As a club, we are excited to follow Mark through his development in our sport, it is amazing to watch such a humble champion shooting out of Saskatchewan.



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