

BladeSports

INTERNATIONAL, INC.

We are a Texas non-profit corporation formed to promote knife safety, provide workshops and cutting events for its members, and to inform and educate the public with regard to the safe use of a knife as a tool



TED OTT, SPONSORED BY BENCHMADE, SHOWS WINNING CAN BE DONE WITH GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Wrapping up this season

It has been an exciting season. I would like to welcome you to Blade Show, where the world champions will compete.

This season has been full of close competitions, and new insights as to the direction our sport is going to take. As we gain more competitive contestants, the scores have tightened. As of now, there have been no ties, but I see in the future there might be. Competition has become fierce, and there have been some tense moments.

The new season will bring some changes. One of which will be how we choose the US

“The new season will bring some changes.”

representatives to the world championship. In the past we have had very few international participants. This season has brought us a new international region, the Netherlands (BladeSports NL). They are well organized, and have already started a website and have held several competitions. We have a representative, Ed DePauw, from that region competing at the world championships.

We have had our United States points championship at the Ozark Folk Center in Arkansas. Until this next season we have calculated the points championship by how

Continued on page 5



FOUNDERS BLADESPORTS NLD WITH SPONSOR: FROM LEFT TO RIGHT JURGEN KREBBEIKX, ROB (YANKEE), KOEN ZEGGELAAR, ED DE PAUW, TONI OOSTENDORP, MISSING IN PICTURE ERIK MARKMAN.

The Dutch Are Coming

By Toni Oostendorp

On December 2009 it was approved by the board, BladeSports Netherlands is officially a new affiliate of BladeSports International. Like in America, testing of knives is an important part of knife making in Europe. Chopping wood, cutting cardboard and lots of other tests are being performed to test the knives which are being made. To turn this into a competition is only a matter of time. The big difference between Europe and America is the fact that BladeSports has given these competitions a good framework of safety rules and regulations, which is necessary to let the sport grow.

When we organized a cutting competition in Holland during the Dutch Knife Exhibition in 2008, a big guy from the United Kingdom asked if he could participate. Ian Rowlandson of BladeSports UK came over, participated and won.....We Dutchies lost to an Englishman on our own turf....Good thing that Ian happened to be a great guy who helped us getting in contact with BladeSports International and later on certified all our members.

“BladeSports Netherlands is officially a new affiliate of BladeSports.”International”

Why join BladeSports?

So why join BladeSports and not start our own cutting competition in Europe? When Ian Rowlandson of BladeSports UK suggested that we joined BladeSports International we thought about this question. Times have changed and the world has become much smaller since we



Co founder Koen Zeggelaar cutting "the tube"



Co founder Erik Markman splitting the straw.



Co founder Koen Zeggelaar cutting "the tube"

have the internet. Joining and communicating with an organization which is located in another country is no trouble at all, reinventing the wheel is not our cup of tea and what is nicer than to have a big competition among different countries that compete on the same rules?!

The process

Becoming a BladeSports affiliate is rather easy. With Jose Diaz as the contact point for the board and Ian Rowlandson as the contact point for certification and instruction in Europe, things are set up very efficiently. We can recommend any other country who is thinking about a nation wide cutting

“Joining and communicating with another organization in another country in no trouble at all...”

competition to contact one of these persons, and see what BladeSports can mean for you.

Where are we now?

So what is the status of BladeSports NLD at the moment? Well we have 15 certified members at the moment and have a list of people who are interested in BladeSports. We are organizing training moments and competitions, but we really start in July. With the beginning of the season 2010/2011 BladeSports NLD will officially start.

We are working on our marketing and are lucky to have found a Dutch magazine that is read nation wide, who is going to print a 5 page article. Sponsors are found and we have a very nice new website: www.bladesports.nl

BladeSports NLD is really looking forward to the coming season 2010/2011. We would like to thank BladeSports international for there support and Ian Rowlandson for his time and enthusiasm to come over to Holland on several occasions.

BladeSports NLD



Co founder Toni Oostendorp just cut the tatami roll.



www.dmtsharp.com

Diamond Machining Technology

85 Hayes Memorial Drive
Marlborough, MA 01752 USA

Phone: (508) 481-5944
Toll-Free: (800) 666-4DMT

Do you have anything to add?

We are always looking for articles, photos, and essays for the newsletter. The newsletter content is dependent on contributions from the membership. The more content we get the more newsletters we can have.

So, please send those along to Jose Diaz at washclimber@yahoo.com

BLADE SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

PO Box 205

Waxahachie, TX

751068



www.petersheattreat.com

Peters Heat Treating
P.O. Box 624
215 Race Street
Meadville, PA 16335

Phone: (814) 333-1782

many points a competitor has earned throughout the entire season. We have found that it has become difficult for those who cannot travel, and who are not sponsored to accumulate enough points. Therefore the next season will bring a new system.

To qualify for the new United States National Championship, a competitor must compete at a minimum of 4 competitions. The top 13-15 competitors from that group will qualify for the United States National Championship. At this event there will be several contests held throughout the day to determine who will represent the United States at the World Championship held at Blade Show in Atlanta.

Next season, due to the increased participation of other countries, including Australia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom; there will only be six United States representatives at the World Championships. Therefore it is our intent to make the United States National Championship a more grand event.

The other countries will be allowed two representatives each, making a total of ten



**LARS ROSENBLAD DEMONSTRATES
THE 1.5 INCH ROPE LOOP CUT AT THE
NORTHWEST CUTTING SCHOOL.**

competitors. The reason we are limited to ten competitors is for one reason and one reason only, time. At Blade Show, we are only allowed one hour for our "demonstration." Because of this limitation, we are limited to the amount of competitors we can allow this event. One day, this may change. The board, and many of its members, see the world championships becoming an event in and of itself. Over time, and with increased popularity, this will become a reality.

Continued on page 5

2010-2011 SEASON EVENTS

**JUNE 20, 2010 RODEO CITY CUTTING COMPETITION-
ELLENSBURG, WA**

**AUGUST 21, 2010 MONTANA KNIFEMAKERS
ASSOCIATION- MISSOULA, MT**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 SHEPERD HILLS- LEBANON,
MO**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 NORTHWEST KNIFE
COLLECTORS- SHELTON, WA**

**OCTOBER 16, 2010 SMOKEY MOUNTAIN KNIFE
WORKS- SEVIERVILLE, TN**

**NOVEMBER 13, 2010 ROCKY MOUNTAIN KNIFE
SHOW, BOISE, ID**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2010 VOLENTE CUTTING
COMPETITION- VOLENTE, TX**

**DECEMBER 4, 2010 AND 5TH LONESTAR CUTTING
SCHOOL AND COMPETITION- WAXAHACHIE, TX**

**DECEMBER 11, 2010 SoCAL SLICE SCHOOL AND
COMPETITION- ANAHEIM, CA**

**APRIL 2-3, 2011 NORTHWEST CUTTING SCHOOL AND
COMPETITION- ELLENSBURG, WA**

**MAY ? OZARK FOLK CENTER- US NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP MOUNTAINVIEW, AR**

**JUNE 10-12, 2011 BLADE SHOW WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP- ATLANTA, GA**



Spyderco.

Spyderco Inc.

www.spyderco.com

820 Spyderco Way

Golden, CO 80403-8053

Phone: (303) 279-8383

Toll-Free: (800) 525-7770

BENCHMADE

www.benchmade.com

Benchmade

**300 Beaver Creek Road
Oregon City, OR 97045**

Toll-Free: (800) 800-7427

Another change that will come is an increase in the amount of competitions held across the United States. In this newsletter you will see dates for the upcoming competitions. Some have not been set yet, some have not yet even been announced. With this increase in competitions, we will see more competitors. This will increase the chances that a competitor may qualify for the United States National Championship, and potentially for the World Championship.

With the increase of competitions, our greater presence on Youtube, on knife forums across the web, and coverage in magazines there will be an increase of the amount of scrutiny of our safety practices, sportsmanship, and how we conduct ourselves in general and in the knife community. I have no fear of this increased attention. We have an integral group with high moral character. I am simply gratified to say that I am proud to be a part of this organization and community.

It will be all of our responsibility to recruit new participants, and new sponsors. I am also encouraging the membership to come up with new events, and venues as well as ideas to help increase the popularity of our sport. Please feel free to contact me, or any board member to assist in this endeavor.

Yours respectfully,
José Diaz

Tell us what you need

There will be a board meeting here at Blade Show and at Warren's school in December. The board members have asked for any input from the membership be submitted to the board in writing. Well, here's your opportunity. I am hoping to receive comments, suggestions, concerns, compliments from our membership. Please email or write to me anything you would like me to present to the board meeting. We need your input to grow. We need folks to tell us what you want or need to help us get what you want out of Blade Sports.

- Jose Diaz
Executive Director

PRECISION WELDING
Certified Welding & Metal Fabrication

sing@austin.rr.com

Precision Welding & Metal
Fabrication
7330 Reed Drive
Volente, Texas 78641

Phone: (512) 335-7563



www.diaztools.com

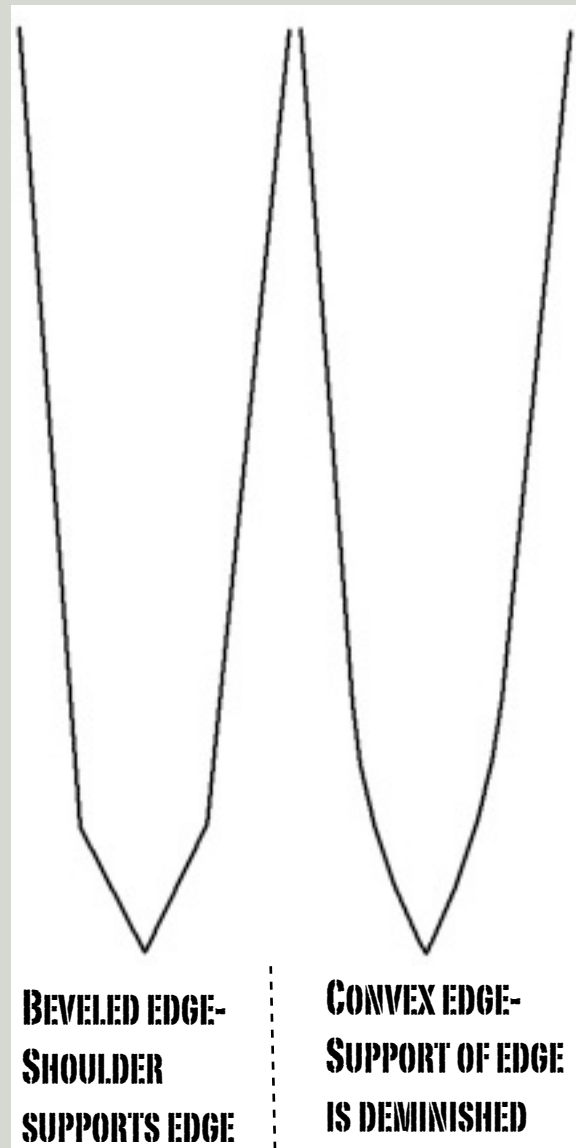
Diaz tools
jose@diaztools.com

Phone: (509) 760-5563

Edge Geometry

By Warren Osborne

Over the last six or so years I have made many cutters using numerous types of steel, utilizing many designs and experimenting with heat treatment and edge geometries. Probably the most revealing and beneficial piece of information I can share with you is about edges.



Since the beginning I have always used the convex or apple seed edge on all my cutters. Not being able to see as well as I used to (best excuse I can offer) I ground my last two knives a little too thin, to about .015 of an inch.

Generally a cutter that thin with a convex edge will tend to wrinkle or chip due to lack of support for the edge.

One of these knives was for Gary Bond who hits extremely hard. I've always struggled finding an edge that would cut but not wrinkle for Gary. Consequently he has been at a disadvantage edge wise.

With these very thin knives, instead of convexing the edges after the initial bevel, I just put a straight single bevel on each side with about a 14 degree angle.

Both of these knives hold up really well; actually the best I have ever had. They don't chip or wrinkle (yet), cut like crazy and deflect less than any knife I've used.

So my conclusion so far is that a knife can be thinner, hold up better and deflect less when using a flat secondary bevel than the convex edge I have used previously.

Note: this really only works on very thin edges, as far as cutting ability. Convexing a very thin edge serves to diminish support. A thick edge like .025 of an inch will not cut as well due to the thicker shoulder causing a more compressed cut.

Mantis Gets Involved

Blade Show West was the first time that I ever witnessed BladeSports first hand. To say It was love at first sight would be a gross understatement. Finally, a group of individuals had formed an organization that encompassed two of my favorite hobbies; knives and competition!

Upon my return back to Mantis HQ in Anaheim, CA (now home of the 2010 SoCal Slice Competition for Bladesports in December), I wrote Jose Diaz right away and asked him how I could get involved on a personal level. Weeks later I traveled to Ellensburg, WA and learned from Jose himself. During our 1 day training seminar, we talked about opportunities for Mantis to get involved on a corporate level and how Bladesports and Mantis could help each other to reach their respective goals. Soon after that conversation, Mantis made the decision to become a Primary Sponsor of BladeSports International.

For companies, there are countless ways to benefit from becoming a sponsor of BladeSports. First, the research and development that the custom makers/competitors use on their own knives can help larger



MANTIS KNIVES' 2 SPONSORED CUTTERS JARED WEST AND OTTO OJEVAAR

manufacturers to find the most economical way to manufacture a competition cutter out of the latest, greatest SUPER-STEEL. As a primary sponsor of BladeSports, Mantis has the ability to sponsor two cutters at each competition. This gets the name out there and puts the logos in the right places. We're able to place some great banners on areas surrounding the events so that the spectators know who was responsible for putting such an exciting event together. But mostly; knife companies in general have a few responsibilities that should always be thought about with regards to society and the knife industry as a whole. Participation as a BladeSports sponsor helps to satisfy some of those responsibilities. Every knife company wants their customers to stay safe, and safety in knife handling is at the top of the list from BladeSports. Nearly an entire day is spent teaching competitors how to handle their new tool safely, so that they don't put themselves or any of the other cutters at risk. Another responsibility is the cultivation of the knife market as a whole. It's events like BladeSports, and events like The Blade Show, that keep the knife industry alive and well in the USA even in economic times that would be considered less than desirable. Finally, even though every manufacturer has a different style, and every custom maker has a different way, we must all remember that we're bonded to each other by a common love of mankind's very first invention and BladeSports is a great way to live that love.

Thanks for taking the time to read!

Jared West

GEO- MANTIS KNIVES INC.



www.mantisknives.com

**Mantis Knives
1580 NORTH HARMONY
CIRCLE
ANAHEIM, CA 92807**

(714) 701-9136

Phone: (512) 335-7563

A note from a founding member...

What a great year for BladeSports. I just wanted to thank you all for your commitment, sponsorship and continued dedication to this sport.

Its a difficult sport, an unusual past time and hobby. And highly rewarding for those pushing the envelope on design, steels, heat treating and function. For those who first gathered here to play, it's so rewarding to see the vast improvement in design, cutting ability, instruction, addition of more schools and direct involvement by our members. The founding members are starting to see the vision evolving, so I encourage everyone to become as involved as possible, to be a part of seeing this vision come to fruition.

The competitions are becoming more an more competitive and the December school here in Waxahachie was no exception.

What a competition. We had 18 cutters and everyone had a ball.

One addition to the school was a 2x4 derby. This is a one on one 2x4 cut and is basically the



DONAVON PHILLIPS LISTENS AS WARREN OSBORNE PERFORMS THE SAFETY MEETING AT TH POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP

last man standing, so to speak. It is bracketed like a basketball tournament. This is a fun event and hopefully we can expand it to a 2x6 derby in the future.

In addition, I would like to suggest that if you intend to build 2x4 brackets for a cutting bench, that you make them to hold a 2x6 plus a

2x4. This way we can cut the 2x4 using the 2x6 as a backer and visa versa.

P.S. To any established cutters Please think about what you would like to see at schools that can be beneficial and interesting to you, and give me a call.

-Warren Osborne

EXTREME MAGAZINE

1234 Main Street

Anytown, State ZIP

**Trenz Pruca
4321 First Street
Anytown, State ZIP**