

WORLD FIELD 2006 Sweden

My reasons for writing about the events of this trip is to share the experience with family and friends, but also to have a memory for myself of this past nine days. Some entries may seem trite, but it is for me to remember the feelings and observations I had during this time.

I wanted to make daily entries for the journal but alas, find myself in the Gothenburg airport needing to rely on memory of the events.

I had two and one-half months after the team trials in Spokane to prepare for the trip. I felt that I was the best prepared equipment-wise and mentally calm than I had been for any tournament. I was looking forward to ending work for the week and leaving for Sweden. After a normal work schedule on Thursday, Barbara and I did the last bit of packing, got two hours of sleep because we needed to be up at 1:30 a.m. to leave at 2:30 for Phoenix. Our friend, John Phillips, drove us down and saw us off. No problem in checking in. The airport scale registered my large bag at 50.0 pounds for the maximum limit. Not a bad guess while packing! The bags were shipped through to Gothenburg. We won't know until then if all make it. I survived our four hour and forty minute flight to Newark, NJ and even slept a couple of hours on the plane. We landed at 2:30 p.m. It was my first time in New Jersey.

Barbara and I split a sandwich and drink, then boarded SAS, leaving for the long leg of the trip. Flying east, we left at sundown to arrive in Copenhagen, Denmark after sunrise. What a plane! I was really impressed. The seats were comfortable and the back of the seat in front had a monitor. There were free earphones to use! The plane had a forward camera and a downward camera. We could watch the take off from the "pilot's perspective", then view the ground straight down. Also, there were several channels for music and free movies. I was able to sleep some despite being distracted by the "toys."

We landed in Copenhagen knowing we had a tight schedule to catch the plane to Gothenburg. We went through a security check, then passport control. I thought we were given an itinerary "too tight" until people (Americans) in line next to us mentioned their connecting flight was leaving at that moment and they were going to miss it.

We did get to our gate for the Gothenburg flight in time. We were taken by bus to an out-lying area of the airport to a commuter "puddle-jumper" plane. I haven't been on a commercial prop plane for a long time. I was glad to see an archery case on the baggage cart to be loaded. When we boarded the plane, I saw Vic Wunderle seated. Nice to see a fellow American archer.

After a half-hour flight, we arrived in Gothenburg ready to get our luggage and go through customs. As the bags came out on the conveyer belt, I walked over to what

looked like my archery case and checked the name on the tag. It was Vic's. But it sure looked like mine! Our three suitcases arrived, then the belt stopped. Where is my bow case??? Memories of Australia '87 flashed through my head. I had my back up equipment, but not my main stuff. I checked with the baggage information desk and was told the case was in Copenhagen. It should be on a later flight in four hours, and they would send it to our hotel. At least it made it across the pond. We thought we'd have to pass through customs here in Sweden; however, no check, no baggage claim check, no passport control, etc! There were drivers waiting for us to take us to the hotel.

On arriving at the Hotel Gothia Towers, we were immediately sent up to the second level for accreditation. Our pictures were taken and we were issued photo ID cards. Mine was labeled "Participant" and Barbara's was labeled "Guest." Next, we checked into the hotel and went to our room. We were on the ninth floor and had a decent view. There were two beds, each larger than an American single, but smaller than the double size. There was a walk-in shower with a curtain, a stool with an aggressive flush that you wouldn't want to activate while sitting. The phone rang at 4:30 . . . my bow case had arrived. Now I feel better.

A light rain was falling, but Barbara and I walked around for a half hour before dinner. Our hotel registration included two meals daily - breakfast and dinner. The food was good, but not much variety from meal to meal. We went to bed early. Sunday is an unofficial practice day.

During the night, I tried to sneak up and put Barbara's card and present on the table for Sunday morning. It was our 40th anniversary. It took me two or three tries to get it out of its hiding place and not be heard.

In the morning, the first bus was to leave at 10 a.m. for the 10 mile trip to the practice range. They didn't expect so many archers for the unofficial practice. I did catch the second bus 45 minutes later.

The practice range was at a local club. It was a very nice venue, with an indoor range larger than any in Arizona, an outside practice lawn, and a 14 target field range for practice. There were not enough targets, but we managed. It did sprinkle and rain at times, so I was able to test my Gortex rain coat. I did practice some with my marked and unmarked tab. Some local FITA personnel (not officials) questioned whether I could use the marked tab. You can see a picture of it on www.fieldarcher.org in the video for Sunday.

http://www.fieldarcher.org/gallery/albums/WC_Sweden_2006_videos/WC2006_08272006_001.wmv

or still photo:

http://www.fieldarcher.org/index.php?set_albumName=WC_Sweden_2006_ZORE&id=DSC_8711&option=com_gallery&Itemid=12&include=view_photo.php

I took the last bus back to the hotel after practice.

Back to our room . . . the TV had 17 channels. Some were in English with subtitles, some in another language with subtitles in a language other than English, some in non-English with no sub-titles. The sports channel primarily covered soccer, golf, or poker.

Mark Applegate, acting as our barebow team captain, called to talk about my tab, and we decided to get a determination on the tab before the official practice day. We went to the tournament office and Mr. Balstead was there. He was the one who sent the e-mail to Tom Green about my tab before the trials in Spokane. He said the judges had a meeting in 1-1/2 hours and we would take it to them. He was a FITA official, but not a judge. I met Mark before the meeting, talking with Eric and Martin from Sweden. Both archers looked at my tab and said it was O.K. A few minutes before the meeting, Mr. Balstead took Mark and me to the meeting and saw Morten Willman (from Norway) Mr. Balstead showed him my tab and Morten said "Not legal." Mr. Balstead replied tersely "Then we have a misunderstanding." I get the feeling that the officials make changes in the rules, with reasons for them, but the judges interpret those changes without input as to the reasons they were made.

Morten took my tab and "sight card" into the meeting. I had no input to the judges. About 10 minutes later, he came out and said I couldn't use the tab or the card. I could (1) use another tab, (2) tape over the marks or (3) file off the marks. If I wanted to appeal the ruling, I could pay \$50. If I won, I get the money back; if I lose but the question had merit, I might get it back, or I might lose the appeal and the \$50. I didn't want the hassle of waiting for a ruling with only one practice day left, and by their schedule, we only had about two hours of practice on Monday. Each team was on a 1/2 day schedule which included inspection of equipment.

After dinner . . .

We discussed my tab some. Rick McKinney relayed past experiences with FITA judges. I decided to file off my marks. It took 2-1/2 hours using Barbara's nail file, but - no problem. I memorized the stitch markings.

Monday practice went well. They had lots more targets out, including the ones for 25, 35, 45 and 55 meters. Rain started as we went inside for inspection. The U.S.A. is always last, as the inspections are alphabetically by nations. My equipment - tab included - passed inspection. The photographer for fieldarcher.com asked about the ruling on my tab. I told him what happened. His immediate response was "I would have paid you the \$50. to appeal the ruling!" I sure made lots of friends over my tab (except Morten). I wanted to ask Marty Swanson how my request was handled in the judges meeting, but I never had a chance.

See photo at:

http://www.fieldarcher.org/index.php?set_albumName=WC_Sweden_2006_MAGE&id=DSC_4052&option=com_gallery&Itemid=12&include=view_photo.php

Tuesday was the marked round of competition for barebow archers. The others shot unmarked. There were three courses laid out. Barebow was #1. It was crowded at the warm-up line and we had to alternate turns to shoot. During the practice Mr. Balstead walked by and said he got an e-mail from Don Rabska (head of FITA Technical Committee) saying that my tab was legal. It wouldn't help at this tournament, but they will get it fixed for the future.

At 9:30, we went to a stake that corresponded to our beginning target number. Mine was #2, shooting with Eric Jonssen (Sweden), Michael Turner (Australia, and Ferruccio Berti (Italy). The course was not hard. There were a lot of flat or nearly flat shots. Some were angled, but not extreme. None of them were harder than the trials in Spokane. I shot average. Not what I wanted, but that's what I scored. I noticed that my bow string caught on my arm guard four times during the round. That didn't help the arrow flight or score. Also, about 2/3 of the way through the round, my serving came loose at the bottom. I did a repair in the field and finished the round.

Wednesday I was determined to shoot good form and not have my bow arm out of position. I made sure I got on the first bus to the venue, and quickly put my bow together to get some practice time. I shot the bunny targets and mainly shot into the bales above the top target face. At 15 meters, I tended to shoot high, but was making an adjustment. Just before going out on the course, Becky Nelson-Harris came by and put some super glue on my string. I noticed I did a good repair job; it looked as good as the original.

Wednesday we shot the unmarked round on course #3. The archers were ranked by score from the first day. I was with Turner again, plus Andrew Reed (Great Britain) and Pasi Ahjokivi (Finland). In contrast to the first day when I started two targets from the staging area, course 3 target 69 was about a ½ mile walk. I needed to catch up some points. I had some good targets. I remember one slight up-hill, 44 meters, shot a 15. Others like 20 meters, a 12. When I finished the round, I saw two of the three archers I had shot with the previous day and got a picture of us. Then I turned to Barbara and said "Where's my bow?" She said "It's right here." My brain said "No, this bow has G-3 limbs and I shoot X-F's. Then I looked at the riser and my weights were on it. I shot the whole day with my G-3 limbs on my Avalon riser. I didn't realize it in the warm-up or the competition. How many times did I pick up the bow and not see it??? No wonder the serving looked good! It wasn't the one I repaired. What a goofy mistake. The reality is that I would have had to shoot a 320 on the unmarked round to make the cut. That would have been quite a feat, even on a good day and an easy course.

Well, I had missed my goal of being in the top 16. I told Barbara before we left that if I get eliminated, we would do some sight-seeing for our anniversary part of the trip. We each got a 48-hour Gothenburg Pass, which gave us free or discounted admission to numerous places, sites, tours and unlimited rides on the city tram system.

Thursday morning, we checked out an indoor market place while waiting for a boat tour of the harbor to begin. We found a wonderful candy booth and purchased a chunk of chocolate with cashews to munch on while we toured the harbor. After the harbor tour, we walked up to the top of a hill to see part of an old fortress, and in circling the structure, ran into Ty and Teresa Pelfry. We visited a while, checked out a few antique shops, then had lunch together at a small pizza café. After lunch, we went to the large Nordstan's Mall and the Pelfry's headed another direction. We returned to our hotel for dinner.

Friday morning I woke up and my right shoulder was painful. I don't remember any time of pain before, but it was there. I can't raise my elbow horizontally. If I had made the cut, I couldn't have shot. (Monday, today, it is as bad as since last Friday. I don't know if I can work tomorrow.)

We went downtown for a bus tour of the city, stopping first at the market place for another chunk of chocolate, this time with peanuts. I wanted to see the team round, but also owed it to Barbara to be with her. In the afternoon, we went to the Universeum display across from the hotel. Fish, frogs, snakes, birds, etc. in aquaria and terraria.

Back at the hotel, we checked the results of the team round and saw that the USA men won the gold medal. We went to Mark's room and congratulated him. He shot very well and I am so happy for him. I hope to get a video copy from Ty.

That evening, we had our belated anniversary dinner. We booked a harbor dinner cruise. The boat's name "The Poseidon" - scheduled for a three-hour tour. At least it wasn't the "Minnow", so if we don't capsize, I may see tomorrow. The tour was interesting. The dinner was all-you-can-eat shell fish - crab legs, clams, crayfish, prawns, etc. I tried a couple of crab legs and settled in on the prawns. We ordered sparkling water to drink. The rest of the crowd must have been locals celebrating Friday night. After a few drinks and singing along with the entertainer, it became amusing. I took some photos. We didn't get back to the hotel until 11:30 p.m.

I needed to go to the finals on Saturday as Marjan said we would get our indoor barebow medals. I watched several of the competitors. There was one interesting shot from the balcony of a building. We watched the awards. Marjan said we would get the medals before the closing banquet that evening at the hotel.

Mark, Ty and I were at the banquet at 6:50 as asked. Finally, about 8 p.m., Marjan took us out to the lobby and presented the medals to us, saying they wouldn't give him any time for in inside. After the formalities and the overpriced dinner, we left at 10 p.m. We heard it got lively around 11:30 or 12.

Sunday was our last day. It was rainy and windy in the morning. They really lucked out as the weather for the competition on Tuesday through Saturday was good. Sunday would have been interesting!

Barbara and I rode the tram into the center of town. It was too far to walk. We took a couple of other trams to the end of their line, walked around, shopped a little, then rode back downtown. We did our final shopping at Nordstan's Mall then rode back to our hotel. We went downstairs for dinner, but discovered that breakfast that morning was the last meal included in our hotel charges. Most of the archers had left for home. They did give us a 150 kroner allowance at the restaurant on the 23rd floor. We ate with Ty and Teresa, Mich (Australia) and his girlfriend, and a man from Ireland who knew a lot about archery and the construction of bows. Then we returned to our room and packed. Oh, yeah, today I turned 62.

Monday we got up at 5 a.m. to catch the driver and car that were to take us to the airport. It was *windy!* Glad no one is shooting today! We went outside and waited at the curb until 6 a.m. At 6:10, no one had shown up, so I started looking for information to call someone to help us. Of course, no numbers were available. When I asked at the hotel front desk, they pointed out a lady sitting in the lobby. We had hauled all of our stuff right past her at 5:45, checked out, and took our baggage outside - as obvious as could be. I think she had fallen asleep! She was our driver. Whew! We got to the airport and had to repack a couple of overweight bags, putting some heavier items into the lighter bags. We flew to Stockholm, had a long, long walk between terminals and gates. There was a special screening and x-ray of carry-on for flights to the USA. There was a long delay before we finally left, as it took forever to get everyone through screening.

We are now reaching North America. We'll have almost three hours in Chicago and will have to get our luggage, go through customs, then recheck our luggage. Maybe my bow will make it. Both bows are in the bow case going home.

I don't want to sound like a wimp, but my left hip and lower leg have been hurting for two months (protruded disc and nerve impingement). My shoulder has been throbbing since Friday morning. I can't shoot now, and maybe can't work tomorrow. Should I continue archery? If so, should I continue shooting like I have, doing a variety of styles and be a big fish in a little pond? Should I concentrate on barebow field and try again to compete with the big boys again in two years? Or is my body saying, "grow up and realize that this structure won't take the abuse anymore?"

Addendum, Friday, September 15th

I went to the doctor first thing Tuesday morning on the 5th. I had very inflamed tendons, but didn't seem to have rotator cuff damage. I cancelled my patients for the week, was put on ibuprophen and percocet, and was to use ice 20 minutes of each hour that I was awake.

During the week, I was able to check web sites. This tournament seemed to have the largest photo documentation of any I have seen. You can check sites at:

<http://www.fieldarcherysweden.com/>

<http://www.fieldarcher.org/content/section/9/61/lang,en/>

<http://www.fieldarcherysweden.com/album/>

http://portland2000.mine.nu/roro/gallery2/main.php?q2_itemId=24201

<http://dutchtarget.phoic hosting.com/album/thumbnails.php?album=19>

http://timppa.kuvat.fi/kuvat/world_field_2006_sweden/

In looking at the pictures, there is one of my bow during the first day of scoring. I had the G-3 limbs on my riser that day also!! What a goof. Then I saw a picture from the official practice day; again the G-3 limbs! So I did sight-in with the limbs I used. There was not enough difference to blame the score on, but probably I didn't have the best brace height or nock-set position. It just makes me feel stupid.

I think I know what caused the shoulder problems. Shooting arrows was not it; I am used to shooting many in a day. In the unmarked round, a method of determining distance is to raise the bow and see how much of the target face is visually covered by the bow. An archer is to act like he is shooting, not just raise the bow. Since I don't want to launch an arrow at that time, I grab the string lightly and pull back. I tend to pull with my shoulder and not back muscles for this. I practiced a lot the last three days before the trip, doing this distance determination. I remember the last two pulls, I felt tender, so I quit on the Thursday before the Friday departure. I just thought it was tender due to a lot of practice. Wednesday of the tournament (second scoring day) is when the barebow archers did the unmarked round. I did a lot of distance determination pulling that day. I fee that is the reason for the shoulder problem. I need to change pulling methods in the future.

Harold Rush