



NRA

Mystery Mountain 3-Gun Match



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Shooting SPORTS USA

NRA'S COMPETITIVE SHOOTING JOURNAL



Kenda Lenseigne

World Mounted
Shooting Champion

ALSO FEATURED:

National Firearms Museum Private Tour



WESTERN SHOOTING HORSE MAGAZINE

Mounted shooters use Colt .45 black powder blanks. The burning powder breaks the balloon targets from a distance of 6 to 10 feet.

SSUSA: What are the events in your sport?

KL: The main event is a six-stage match with an accumulated time score over the six runs. The pattern changes for each run. There's also a rifle competition, where the competitor will shoot the first five targets with their revolver and then pull a rifle for the second five.

SSUSA: Are you holding onto anything other than the reins while you're shooting the rifle?

KL: (laughs) No. After turning a barrel, we drop the reins and race toward the finish line while shooting our targets. Most horses that are rifle trained will run a straight line.

SSUSA: How fast are your patterns?

They vary with each set pattern, some are more technical or long and some are just fast. The "fast" patterns can be run in the 10 second range. To put it into perspective, a full size rodeo arena is usually about 200 x 300 feet, with 10 targets involving one or more turns and a gun change.

SSUSA: While cocking a single-action revolver! You're shooting at balloons, but without a projectile, correct?

KL: That's right. We shoot match-provided .45 caliber blanks filled with black powder. It's the burning powder that breaks the balloon. The standardization of the blanks is good from a competitor standpoint because it levels the playing field across the country, so if I shoot in Washington or Florida, the ammo is the same. Our blanks are certified to travel no more than 20 feet, making it a safe spectator event in an arena setting. The optimum range for accuracy is to engage the targets from 6 to 10 feet.

SSUSA: Similar to traditional shooting sports, you have studied Lanny Bassham's *With Winning in Mind* as part

of your training to become a world champion. With all that is going on in your sport, you must have looked at Bianchi and thought: "Is that all there is? You just stand here and shoot?"

KL: No! (laughing) I wish it were that easy. I'll admit I was a little intimidated because I had never shot that type of gun before, firing at a tiny little target. It's completely different than what I am used to. On the day I arrived, I received a crash course from Don Golembieski, a high master competing at the Cup. From there it was time to compete. I felt the pressure of expectation as a world champion shooter, even though it was a completely different style of shooting, which is where Lanny Bassham's mental management program came in handy. Just remembering the sequence of how to load a semi-automatic, take the safety off and shoot with a scope was challenging.

SSUSA: Have you done much live shooting since then?

I haven't picked-up a live gun since then! I told Scott Carnahan of Safariland, one of my new sponsors and partner for a new mounted shooting line of equipment, that I only have a few good shots in me so I might as well not waste them on practice. (laughs)

SSUSA: Well, I saw you shoot and you did very well. That's a testament to your status as a world-class athlete with essentially one afternoon of training.

KL: Well, thank you. I credit most of that to the good coaching I received from Don. But Bianchi was a great experience and I'm really excited to be a part of it again.

SSUSA: Thanks very much for sharing your perspective on what may become a new sport for some of our readers. ☺

For more information about Kenda's many awards, national clinics and competition schedule, see www.kendalenseigne.com.

Watch Kenda's video where, after this interview, she set a new world record in Guthrie, OK. www.youtube.com/watch?v=iq6M1YrBTg8

At right, Lenseigne reholsters her open class gun after the celebrity speed event during the 2011 Bianchi Cup Championships.

