

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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Slander and Libel

I have finally realized what I find most difficult to accept about those who advocate stricter gun control.

Those who advocate gun control continue to condemn (class as an evil person) anyone who owns a firearm that they have identified as an assault weapon. They do this in face of the clear fact that they are wrong. They continue to state that the many millions of us who own this type of firearm are somehow responsible for the actions of that infinitesimally small number of mentally ill people who commit evil with such a firearm.

How can this be the case? This is libel and slander of epic proportion and it has gone on far too long. Such verbal and written statements are malicious and false. Yet, we allow them to be repeated daily. Why do we put up with this?

First, their condemnation is obviously false. If the ownership and use of a firearm of this type is somehow inherently evil, where is the proof? The many millions of us who enjoy the legal ownership and use of such firearms obviously do not condone or promote the use of these firearms in any of the evil acts perpetrated by those mentally ill.

Our nation has suffered over 30,000 vehicular fatalities this last year (add the number of vehicular accident injuries to see the truly staggering cost associated with misuse of a vehicle). These fatalities are for the most part not accidental. They are most often the result of a driver who is not paying proper attention to his operation of the motor vehicle. Are the many millions of us who own and operate automobiles safely and legally in any way responsible for those actions of the few who are careless and inattentive? Shall we enact stricter measures to prohibit those who are inattentive, careless or simply evil from owning or operating an automobile? For years and years now, we have sadly looked the other way, when a young person drives his automobile though a stop sign in front of a bus full of young people.

Distracted driving, specifically cell phone use, is a serious issue on our nation's roadways. Since California outlawed handheld cell phone use while driving, the CHP has written hundreds of thousands of citations for people doing just that. But, these citations do not result in loss of the irresponsible person's license to drive or own an automobile or cell phone.

A recent study of California's Kern County's most serious traffic fatalities over the last three years determined that unsafe behavior, including drunken driving and texting while driving, was overwhelmingly the cause of their most serious traffic fatalities. In 53 percent of these deaths, the driver was above the legal limit for alcohol. In 45% of these deaths, the drivers were texting and driving at excessive speeds.

Think about it, in no case do we in any way attribute these automobile fatalities to the millions of responsible owners and operators of automobiles in the USA.

So, why do they insist that the NRA is promoting evil by insisting that our nation's Second Amendment to the US Constitution is an individual right? We do not condemn our automobile manufacturers and dealers for the injuries and fatalities that are caused by the misuse of their product.

I believe that it is a significant waste of time and resources to continually attempt condemnation of those who legally own and use firearms in our nation.

That time and resource can be far better used to identify and treat those who are mentally ill or deficient. Those who are dangerously mentally ill are nearly always identified long before they commit an atrocity with a gun, knife or vehicle. Unfortunately, that identification is not followed by action to prevent that mentally ill individual from committing the atrocity that also commonly includes suicide.

It is time to stop those who advocate gun control from making the liable and slanderous remarks by which they continually refer to those of us who legally own and use firearms of any description. Ownership of any firearm is no more inherently evil than ownership of an automobile.

Neither automobiles nor firearms are in any way inherently evil. Neither the bullets nor the guns are the source of atrocity. It is always the individual who misuses any object who is responsible for its misuse.

If we chose to restrict ownership and use of firearms in our nation, the only restriction should be based on the physical/mental health or the criminal background of the prospective purchaser. Any other restriction is ideological rather than practical in nature.

Those who advocate gun control need to grow up and recognize that assigning evil to an object does not accomplish any reasonable result. It's the perpetrator not the projectile that is evil.

Maybe we should file a class action lawsuit seeking a public retraction of these many slanderous and libelous statements which have been uttered and written about us for years and years now. I certainly think it is time that we called these people to task for their malicious words.

By enacting stricter gun control measures to be applied to those of us who legally and properly use and own firearms, they have done nothing to solve any of the problems that they profess so loudly that they intend to solve.

Rick Jorgenson

Editorially Speaking

Normally, I like to have articles about competitive shooting dominate this newsletter. In this issue, you will find some articles that should get you thinking about the media's continually inaccurate portrayal of those of us who own what they like to term assault weapons. I am tired of them saying and writing about us as being in any way responsible for the evil use of firearms by the criminally insane. Let your representative know what you think about gun control. Let's stop this malicious and useless slander and libel of those of us who have nothing to do with the evil use of firearms.

Thanks to Tom Thompson for his efforts to compile the North Dakota state shooting opportunities schedule. I received a nice article from Tom Reiten for this issue. I can sure use contributions from others who have information to report about the shooting sports. I appreciate those who make the effort to send an article or bit of information that our members might enjoy. I'll edit as necessary; so write what you can and get it to me sooner rather than later.

Our association's annual meeting and banquet is now complete. We celebrated and recognized our shooter's accomplishments over 2012. You will find an insert in this edition of The Target displaying our 2012 State Champions. I enjoyed seeing many of you there. Plan to attend our next annual meeting at Bismarck in February 2014.

The North Dakota State Indoor Pistol Championship will likely have to be held either in Fargo or Bismarck, but right now, the location and date are not set. Check the match calendar on our NDSSA website for updates. It is certainly a good thing that Bismarck, West Fargo, and Grand Forks stepped up to the plate over the last few years to build quality indoor shooting facilities. The people involved in the development and construction of those new shooting facilities cannot be congratulated too much for their foresight and significant efforts to our benefit.

Get your guns and equipment ready and attend the matches held at these ranges as often as possible. Join their clubs and offer your services in support of their club's efforts. Many of you have a skill that they need, and they will greatly appreciate your involvement.

NDSSA is a small organization that gets a lot of good things done. We are always searching for people to **join us** as members or officers. If any of you have a prospective member, share your copy of our newsletter or help them fill out the membership application that is on page 5 and send it in to **P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228.**

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

— [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

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The Target

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The Junior Olympic Selection Match in North Dakota

The cold January weather was again dispelled by the warm hospitality of the Minot Rifle & Pistol Club for the JOSC matches held January 19 & 20, 2013. The Minot Rifle & Pistol Club has generously hosted this match for quite a few years now. This is a very important match to those young people who would like to compete in the Junior Olympic National Championships held each year at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Any Junior who hopes to receive an invitation to shoot in the Junior Olympic National Championships must fire a qualifying score at this match.

For the past few years, we have been able to provide competition in the disciplines of air rifle, air pistol, smallbore rifle and sport pistol. The ability to offer all four of these disciplines is a testimony to the dedication of many individuals as well as the members of the Minot Rifle & Pistol Club. While there are many individuals who make valuable contributions to this match, I will point out as an example Eric Pueppke's contribution which has involved the transportation of the sport pistol target system to and from Minot, North Dakota each of the last four years. That is no small task during late January when poor weather is the rule rather than an exception. So far as I know, this is the only portable sport pistol turning target system in the state of North Dakota, and it was built by Eric with the aid of other members of the Gateway Pistol Club of Fargo, North Dakota. The system and Eric's transportation and operation of the system are absolutely essential to our being able to provide the discipline of sport pistol at this match.

Junior competitors in our sport pistol match have successfully earned invitations to the Junior Olympic national championships in each of the four years we have been able to offer them the opportunity to compete in this discipline.

For whatever reason, the state of Minnesota does not offer the pistol disciplines at their Junior Olympic Selection Match. Those Junior pistol competitors from Minnesota have traveled roughly 350 miles one way in order to compete in our JOSC match at Minot, ND. They come with their coach and parents to spend the weekend in an effort to secure an invitation to the Junior Olympic National Championships.

When I first became involved in the Junior Olympic competition back in the middle 1990s, it was a very small match. We were lucky to have five or six young people to compete in the disciplines of air rifle and three position smallbore rifle. Most often, there would be less than five competitors in the discipline of air pistol. Over the years, it has grown steadily, and we are now at a point where the number of competitors has grown to nearly exceed the capacity of the Minot Rifle & Pistol Club's indoor range.

It is great to see the enthusiasm and competitive spirit of the young people who compete in this sport. My wife, Connie, and I have enjoyed acting as match director and statistical officers at this match for over 15 years now. The quality of competition at this match has substantially improved in the rifle events to the point where the qualifying scores are now set at levels that are just short of what were world class scores only a few years ago. Our Junior competitors who have earned invitations to the Junior Olympic national championships over the last 15 years or more have represented North Dakota very successfully.

We now have Junior shooting programs in large and small towns across North Dakota in 4-H, BB gun, high school athletics and college club sports. Almost every one of our competitive shooting sports clubs in North Dakota have a very active Junior shooting program, and it seems most likely that the annual Junior Olympic Selection Match will continue to grow in the number of competitors and the quality of scores fired.

If you have a young person who would like to get involved in the sport of competitive shooting, you won't have to look far to find a club that you can join.

This is a great improvement over the opportunities that were available only 15 years or so ago, when our Junior programs were in their infancy or, in many places, nonexistent.

Congratulations to all who have contributed their time, expertise, and money to develop ranges and shooting programs for those young people who wish to pursue the disciplines of rifle and pistol in the state of North Dakota. These contributors are too numerous to name individually. Many of them are members of our North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame, and many of them remain fiercely active in the continued support of our junior shooting competitors.

Many of our young people have gone on to compete nationally and internationally as a result of those contributions. In every case, the junior competitor has learned a useful life lesson while enjoying the sport of competitive shooting.

Rick Jorgenson

"The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil interference - they deserve a place of honor with all that's good." **George Washington**

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something in your life. **Winston Churchill**

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."
— **Theodore Roosevelt**

VINTAGE MILITARY MATCHES

By
Tom Reiten

Like most of the shooters out there, I have always been fascinated by old military rifles. In my case they are the US rifles used in World War I and II. In the fifties and early sixties, the pages of the *American Rifleman* magazine were full of ads for surplus military firearms of every description at prices that would now make a grown man cry.

In the late fifties my uncle, Ed Reiten, convinced my dad that he should purchase a 1903A3 Springfield from the Department of Civilian Marksmanship. Needless to say, I was all in favor of this undertaking. As I recall, the cost was something like \$14.25, and when you added on the Railway Express fee, it came to something over \$17.00.

It seemed like months passed, then one summer day we got a phone call from the depot agent in Petersburg. We had a package. A quick, unscheduled trip to town was made to recover our prize. Before heading home, we stopped at Adamson's Lumber Yard and picked up a box of 30-06 ammo.

Opening the cardboard box reveal a brand new Smith and Corona 1903A3 Springfield encased in a thick layer of Cosmoline. Growing up on a farm, a little grease was no problem. The rifle was soon scrubbed down with gasoline. (This was pre- OSHA.)

After milking the cows and eating a quick supper, I was joined by my cousins, who lived on a farm about a mile and a half away. We headed out on the prairie trail to see if we could find something to test the new rifle out on, but it was too late in the day for any gophers to be up. Then we spotted a skunk who had made the mistake of emerging from an overgrown culvert. His hasty retreat back into the culvert did not spare him.

We returned to the farmhouse in triumph, shoulders a little bruised, and with the not-so-faint scent of our quarry wafting about us. We were all thoroughly impressed with the rifle. The visiting Norwegian relatives, who had shown up after supper, were equally impressed by the smell of the skunk.

I must admit that I had mixed feelings, when a few weeks later my uncle took the rifle back to Cooperstown to sporterize it. Later, it would become my first match rifle. In the years to come, I would sporterize numerous Springfields for my own use and for others, but I always had a fascination with the rifle in its military form.

Years later, I reversed the process and started restoring sporterized Springfields back to their original military configuration. I still haunt the gun shows and the used gun racks for rifles that have not been cut down and refinished. However, for the most part these bolt rifles sitting in my gun rack were basically unemployed, since you couldn't shoot a bolt gun in a DCM leg match.

Then the Civilian Marksmanship Program introduced the M1 Garand matches as part of the National Matches at Camp Perry. These were immediately immensely popular, and one was allowed to shoot a Springfield in the match. These matches were not limited to Camp Perry and soon clubs all over the United States were holding matches.

It took only a couple of years for the CMP to establish a separate Springfield Match at the National Championships. This match also allows other vintage military bolt action rifles to compete. All of these matches consist of 5 sighter shots and 30 shots for record (10 prone slow fire, 10 prone rapid fire, and 10 standing slow fire) all fired from 200 yards on the conventional high power rifle target.

This past summer at the Forks Rifle Club matches there were 1903 and 1903A3 Springfields, 1917 Enfields, Krag, 98 Mausers, Swedish Mausers, Arisakas and Moisin Nagants on the firing line. Though they may be on the firing line at the same time, the Garands, Springfields, and other vintage military bolt rifles each compete in their own separate categories.

This summer the Forks Club plans to introduce one more match, the Vintage Sniper Rifle Match, which is shot with scoped sniper rifles used through the Korean War era. This 40 shot match is fired by two man teams at the ranges of 300 and 600 yards on conventional high power rifle targets.

So, if you have a Garand, Springfield or other vintage bolt action military rifle sitting around gathering dust, it is time to put it back into action. All you need is two boxes of ammo and a rifle to get started. It is guaranteed to put a smile on your face!

The U.S. Treasury hit its \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling, the legal amount it is allowed to borrow, on Dec. 31, 2012. That debt ceiling will be reconsidered (revised) this spring. During Obama's first term our debt increased by \$6 trillion. Of course, Congress helped.

It took us over 200 years to deficit spend our way to our first trillion dollars in Federal debt. We now add another trillion dollars debt about every nine months.

Dakota Marksmanship Foundation, Inc.

**P O Box 518
Bismarck, ND 58502-0518
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**Provides support for North Dakota shooting
programs through distribution of donated
funds entirely within North Dakota.**

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the Foundation's effort to benefit shooting marksmanship and safety programs within North Dakota, please send us a note or contact:

Thomas Thompson – 701-255-4601
Eric Pueppke – 701-967-8450

Spring 2013 Schedule of Opportunities

Mar 2	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-220-8131
Mar 2, 3	Junior Air Sectional (Standing)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 2, 3	Open Air Rifle State Championship	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 9, 10	Junior 4P State and Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 5, 9 & 12	Pistol Sectional (Conv, Air, Standard, Free)	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Mar 10	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Vollmer	701-226-4156
Mar 16	Action Pistol Match	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Mar 16, 17	Open 4P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Mar 23	Bismarck/Mandan Junior Club Champ	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 22, 23, 24	Red River Valley Championship	Halstad, MN	Todd Westcott	218-456-2507
Mar 22, 23, 24	NRA Junior 3P Air Sectional/USA 3P Air Rifle	Buffalo	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
Mar 23, 24	ND Indoor Pistol State Champ - Conv. & Std	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Apr 6, 7	Light Rifle State Championship	Bottineau	Gary Siverston	701-243-6413
Apr 13	Bullseye Pistol (22 cal only)	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Apr 13	N D High School Rodeo Ass'n Qualifier Match	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
April 14	ND Indoor Pistol State Champ - Free & Air	Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Apr 14	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Vollmer	701-226-4156
Apr 20	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Apr 20	Bullseye Pistol (indoor)	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Apr 21	Action Pistol Match	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Apr 28	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-220-8131
May 3	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 4, 5	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), Highpower, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
	Check our NDSSA website for events not yet listed and more details- http://ndssa.org/			

-Application-

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228

Also join via the web: <http://www.ndssa.org>

Yes, to protect my right to keep and bear arms; I would like to join the NDSSA and support the legislative efforts of the NDSSA. My dues for a membership as noted are enclosed.

Please return this form. Print name and address as you wish it to appear in our records.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective July 1, 2006)

Life.....\$200.00 One Year\$15.00 Clubs One Yr.....\$15.00
5 Year.....\$60.00 Junior.....\$5.00 Club 5 Yr..... \$60.00

Interests
 ___ Legislation ___ Jr. Program
 ___ Hunting ___ Conservation
 ___ Collecting
 ___ Bullseye Pistol
 ___ Air Rifle ___ Hi-Power Rifle
 ___ Air Pistol ___ Smallbore
 ___ Police PPC ___ Other
 ___ Rifle Silhouette
 ___ Pistol Silhouette
 ___ Hunter Safety

Make check payable to: North Dakota Shooting Sports Association and mail to above address.

(July 2006)

Treason?

Thomas Jefferson, one of those most responsible for the language in our US constitution wrote that: The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.

And he also wrote that: The beauty of the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it.

Hubert H. Humphrey, one of our more liberal politicians wrote that: The right of citizens to bear arms is just one more guarantee against arbitrary government, one more safeguard against the tyranny which now appears remote in America, but which historically has proved to be always possible.

William O. Douglas, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (Holds the record for the longest continuous service on the nation's most powerful Court at 36 years) wrote: Since when have we Americans been expected to bow submissively to authority and speak with awe and reverence to those who represent us?

It seems that Charles Austin Beard (1874-1948) was correct, when he stated that: You need only reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the great struggle for independence.

After the Korean War, research into battlefield survival of troops determined those troopers who had trained and gained proficiency with firearms before entering the armed services had a substantially higher survival rate than those who first trained with arms after they entered the military.

So, as a parent of a young man or woman who might enter the armed services, don't you think that you should make certain that your child gains proficiency with arms before entering the armed services? Of course, in order that it will be most effective, that training should involve the armament most likely to be issued to troops (exactly that firearm which is currently identified as an assault rifle by most of those who wish to either ban such firearms or severely restrict our rights to own such firearms).

Our very own US government promotes such ownership and training through the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

A recent editorial printed in our Devils Lake Daily Journal provided to them by Other Words.org goes so far as to suggest that it is treason to own and train with the civilian version of our United States military battle rifle. This editorial even suggests that simply by owning such a firearm, I am likely to use it to terrorize or harm innocent people. Again, I am personally offended by any suggestion that I am somehow treasonous in my ownership and use of such a rifle and any high capacity magazine. I share no sympathy toward those who have used arms such as these to terrorize or harm others throughout history. I consider this writer's suggestion that I do, based only on my ownership of what he terms an assault rifle, defamatory and libelous. The editorial's author knows better.

Rick Jorgenson

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