

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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Good News from the Green and Gold (Yellow?)

Some days we just wish there was some good news out there about shooting. Anyone who watches the news and reads the paper knows that we as shooting enthusiasts face challenges in many ways. Many of us remember the "good old days" and wonder if the younger generation will have the same opportunities we had, or will even want to be involved in our sport. If good news is what you're looking for, read on!

I've had the privilege of working with the North Dakota State University Marksmanship Club since its inception back in 2010. I'm happy to report that the club has solidified and grown since then to become one of our nation's top university club teams.

For those of you that don't understand quite how these things work, here's a little background. The NDSU Marksmanship Club is an NDSU club which is under the Student Activities part of the university. It is not an NDSU athletics sport like football or basketball, at least not at this point. The club does receive limited funding from Student Activities for which we are very grateful. Keep in mind that we compete with schools with 6 figure budgets, some with 20 times the financial resources we have! Anyone who has bought a gun or ammunition lately knows the cost. Add to that the fact that our nearest competing school is over 700 miles away, and you see that our biggest challenge has been money.

Many have stepped up to the plate for us, or we wouldn't be here. The North Dakota Shooting Sports Association, The Friends of the NRA, USAS Development Program, Minot Rifle and Pistol Club, Gateway Pistol Club, the Red River Regional Marksmanship Center and the Dakota Marksmanship Foundation have all been very supportive. There are also several individuals and businesses who have donated money as well as equipment to the NDSU Marksmanship Club, some on a continuing basis. These organizations and individuals share our vision of not only putting North Dakota State on the map in collegiate shooting, but ensuring the longevity of the shooting sports for generations to come.

In 2010 the Marksmanship Club hosted its first NRA Collegiate Sectional. A team must compete in a Sectional and qualify in the top 30 individuals and top 10 teams for the open categories, and the top 15 individuals and top 5 teams in the women's events to get an invitation to the National Intercollegiate Championships. Back in 2010 our air pistol team managed to qualify in 10th place for an invite to Nationals, and one individual shooter qualified in two pistol events. That team fired their way to 6th place that year at National Intercollegiate Championships, and our individual medaled.

With the help of additional funding for travel and equipment, as well as some outstanding performances by our shooters, the NDSU Marksmanship Club really came into its own this last

season. Things started off in December with a trip to USA Shooting's Winter Airgun Match at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Ten of our rifle and pistol shooters competed and several fired personal bests. This was the first major match for several of the group. The Collegiate Sectional that we hosted in West Fargo was well attended with rifle and pistol shooters from 5 states. Our NDSU club qualified individuals in both men's and women's pistol events, and in rifle as well. They made an excellent showing at the 2013 Nationals in both rifle and pistol.

In smallbore rifle, we had the 7th place individual and the 6th place team.

In air rifle we had the 2nd place individual and 5th place team.

In women's air pistol we had the 3rd place individual.

In free pistol, we had the 2nd individual and 4th place team.

In open air pistol, we had the 2nd and the 3rd individual and the 2nd place team, just 5 points behind the National Champion Team from the US Military Academy!

Then, this past July, during the off season for most college shooters, three of our women's air pistol shooters traveled (on their own dime) to Ft. Benning, Georgia, to compete in the National Progressive Pistol Championship. After two qualification matches the top 8 shooters were called to the line for finals. ALL THREE of our NDSU girls made the finals, which was a first for all of them in a National Championship! As Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty fame says, "Happy, Happy, Happy!"

Not all the NDSU Marksmanship Club members have been able to travel to matches, at least not yet. Training nights are challenging but are always fun, and everyone enjoys our in-house league/postal match. We welcome walk-ons and new shooters. The group is excited about shooting and improving the club!

Looking forward to this coming season we have set some goals and have outlined some challenges. Our success in both rifle and pistol has led to several invitations to compete with top universities during the season. Places like the US Military Academy, Ohio State University, and Michigan State University want to shoot against us. Our rifle side has been accepted into the Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference and has the opportunity to shoot against member teams in not only a postal, but shoulder to shoulder as well. A new Western Collegiate Pistol Championship is to be held at the Olympic Training Center and we are invited. We have more NDSU students interested in learning the sport, but more equipment is needed to facilitate this. We have never turned anyone away that wants to learn about the sport! - - Eric Pueppke - Head Pistol Coach - NDSU Marksmanship Club

Editorially Speaking

Since our last issue, I have been able to shoot in a few more Conventional Pistol matches here as well as out of state. I was able to attend the Bruce Alexander Memorial High Power match at the improved range in Rolla, and greatly enjoyed that experience. This was my first 80 shot across the course match. I have only fired in the Service Rifle matches up until this match. I still fired my service rifle and invite more of you to bring your service rifle to one or all of the "cross the course" matches next year. Thanks, Coby and Andy, for your work to make the Rolla match a resounding success.

Again, articles about competitive shooting dominate this edition of our newsletter. Thanks to Tom Reiten, Eric Pueppke, and Tom Thompson.

This issue of our newsletter is, again, fashionably late. I must still be having a lot of fun, as time is still flying by. As I write this, we are getting our junior shooting program started here in Devils Lake. If you have not volunteered to help with a junior program in the past, now is the time to do so. I believe that you will find it very rewarding. All of our junior coaches can use help to improve their programs.

Plan to fire in the Ayr Rifles Sportsman's Club Inaugural International Air Rifle and Air Pistol Match scheduled at their new indoor facility in Ayr, ND, on November 3, 2013. This is great news for those of us who enjoy shooting airgun in North Dakota. It is also a tribute to how much a very few dedicated individuals can accomplish here in rural America. Every one of these individuals responsible for the development of this facility is engaged in other volunteer efforts related to our shooting sports. Yet, they made this happen without holding their hand out or waiting for someone else to get it done.

I would be there to shoot with you, but my son Travis, my son-in-law Bill, my friend Doug Darling and I will be in Wyoming hunting elk. I am sorry that I cannot join in the match, but I hope that you will fill all of their relays without me. I am sure the match will run smoothly and will be enjoyed by all who can attend.

So, get your guns and equipment ready and attend the matches held at our North Dakota ranges as often as possible. I look forward to seeing you there. Encourage your friends to join their local clubs and offer your services in support of your 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**.

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

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

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VINTAGE SNIPER RIFLE MATCH

Now that we have the kinks pretty well worked out of our "as-issued vintage military rifle match" equipment, it is time for another challenge. The challenge is the "vintage sniper rifle match". What shooter who has watched the movies, "Saving Private Ryan" or "Enemy at the Gate", wasn't interested in the sniper rifles that they were using? Well, now you can shoot them in a match. Like the as-issued vintage military rifles, the vintage sniper rifles are sixty years old or older. The requirements for the vintage sniper rifle are spelled out in the Civilian Marksmanship Programs match rules. They are as follows:

Rifle: 6.4.3 Vintage Sniper Rifle

The rifle must be a manually operated or semi-automatic rifle of U. S. or foreign manufacture that was either an original military rifle issued for sniping in 1953 or earlier or a commercial replica rifle of the same type and caliber. Vintage Sniper Rifles and Sights must be listed in Table I and must fulfill these requirements:

- The bore diameter may be no larger than 8mm (.315 caliber).
- Must be in as-issued condition. No fiberglass stocks, special bedding (glass bedding, etc.), match triggers or other special accurizing are permitted.
- Rebarreling with a barrel of as-issued dimensions is permitted. A replacement barrel must have the same exact contours and cuts as the original as-issued barrel.
- Triggers on semi-automatic rifles must have a trigger pull of at least 4.5 lbs. Triggers on manually operated rifles must have a trigger pull of at least 2.5 lbs.
- A strap-on, lace-on or detachable wooden cheek-piece may be used if it was original to the rifle when used for sniping purposes.
- Sights must be original issue optical sights with as-issued reticle or sights may be commercial replicas of as-issued optical sights. In addition, specific non-issue scopes that are listed in Table I may be used. Such nonissue scopes may only be used on the rifles for which they are specifically listed. Replica or non-issue sights may have only crosshair, post or post with crosshair reticle. Scope mounts and rings may be original or reproduction replicas. Scope rings may be sleeved or modified to accept a non-original scope diameter.

It takes a little work and investment to put a rifle and its optic together. The most popular rifle at this point seems to be a 1903A4 Springfield with a Weaver 330 scope in the vintage Redfield Junior mounts or a reproduction built on a 1903A3 with a reproduction of the Weaver 330 scope and Redfield mounts. You can buy the complete reproduction rifles or "roll" your own.

Springfield 1903A3's that have been "sporterized" back in the 50's and 60's but have not had their barrels cut off are good candidates, especially if they have been tapped and had their bolt handle modified for a scope. These rifles

are of no interest to the collectors, so the prices tend to be fairly reasonable. Just add a C-stock and you are in business. Mind you, you are not likely to find one new in the cosmoline for \$14.50 like they came from the DCM in the fifties and sixties.

Another popular rifle is USMC Model 1943 reproductions. These are built on a 1903 Springfield rifle with a Unertl 8 power scope or Hi-Lux reproduction which is also available from Leatherwood. These are a little more spendy because of the scope.

The M1D and M1C can also be used. Other rifles that are being used include the Enfield SMLE .303 sniper rifles, Swedish Mauser 6.5 m/m sniper rifles, German Mauser 8m/m sniper rifles, and the Mosin Nagant 7.62 m/m sniper rifles. The CMP rules indicate substitute scopes that are allowed in lieu of original or reproduction scopes.

On August 17, 2013, the Forks Rifle Club had its first "real" vintage sniper rifle match, since the first match which was held in June was impacted of rain and wind. We once again had the wind, but after all, this is North Dakota.

The course of fire is as follows:

The two-man team on relay one starts on the firing line at 300 yards. One member of a team on relay two starts in the pit while the other is on the line scoring the firing team. All firing is done from the prone position either off the sand bags provided or with the use of a sling, but not utilizing both. The two man team firing is allowed 5 minutes for unlimited sighters. Then, one team member spots while the other team member fires 10 shots for record. The target is exposed for 20 seconds and then down for 20 seconds. The range officer announces when the tenth target is to come up. After the tenth shot, the team is allowed 2 minutes to switch positions. Then, the second team member fires 10 shots for record. After the first team has completed firing, it rotates with the team on relay two. The second relay fires from 300 yards. This process is then repeated at 600 yards, with relay one again firing first. The match is fired on the standard 300 yard and 600 yard high power rifle targets. The Forks Rifle Club has chosen to have two relays to keep the time to fire the match as short as possible.

This weekend we got a chance to put into practice what we learned from the first match and to learn some other things. Foremost, it is critical to have a range officer running the line and a pit officer. They do not have time to do anything other than run the line or pit. This is a problem if the number of sniper teams is not even. Then you need two non-shooting volunteers, one to pull and one to score. Since you never know how many teams are going to show up at a match, the sponsor needs to have two people lined up to help out.

Have I got you thinking about putting together a sniper rifle? As many as four shooters (two teams) can shoot the same rifle. (There is nothing quite so humbling as being beaten with your own rifle.)

If you have a rifle but don't have a partner for a sniper match, it is not a reason to stay away. Just bring some extra ammunition; you can probably recruit a teammate from the vintage rifle match shooters. The same applies to you vintage rifle shooters, if someone needs a partner don't be bashful, volunteer; this is not the army.

We are also looking at the feasibility of next year including a 50 shot CMP sanctioned carbine match along with the as-issued military rifle match and the vintage sniper rifle match. Since the carbine match is all shot at 100 yards, pits are not required. That means that you could have everyone fire on one relay. The match should take no more than two hours to complete. It would give all those unemployed carbines which are gathering dust something to do. If you are going to shoot all the matches, it will make for a full day with a lot of shooting but appears to be feasible.

Let me know what you think. I would especially like to hear from you carbine shooters out there.

Tom Reiten - You can e-mail infor@forksrifleclub.org for Tom or call him at 701-775-0008.

**2013 Northern Great Plains Regional Championship
SPONSORED BY:
BISMARCK/MANDAN RIFLE AND PISTOL
ASSOCIATION
FIRED September 7 and 8, 2013**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2013 Northern Great Plains Long Range Regional Championship on September 7 and 8. This year we had 20 competitors compared to 28 competitors at last year's event – so we were down a bit this year. However, given the difficulty in obtaining components for reloading and current gas prices – I feel this turnout was fairly good. Hopefully, we can get some more shooters into the sport and get them on the line next year. I know there have been a LOT of firearms sold in this country in the last year – we need to find these folks - get them on the firing line and get them hooked on the shooting sports.

Thanks again to Earl Garbina for, once again, coming down from McClusky to run the line at our match on Saturday, and also to Bob Cunningham for doing our stats and helping score on Saturday and then running the line on Sunday. I couldn't get the match done without their help – THANKS AGAIN!

Congratulations to our 2013 Northern Great Plains Regional Match Winner, Tom Thompson (Bismarck). Tom fired a 995-47x for the match win. In the F-Open Class, Eric Johnson (Detroit Lakes, MN) took the Gold firing a very good 972-38x. Travis Carico (Valley City) was the top F-Class-TR shooter (using the standard 308 cartridge) firing an 899-9x. Due to the lower numbers this year, I was only able to award the Gold Medal in the Open F-Class category. I need at least 8

competitors to award a Gold medal, 10 competitors to award a Silver medal, and 15 to award a Bronze.

Well - given the weather this past weekend - you knew the train wreck was comingwait..... wait..... here it comes.....wait.... hey - the match is over - we made it - no TRAIN WRECK! We only had a little delay on Saturday while it sprinkled and it did get wet on the last relay to fire on Saturday. Looked like it was going to pour and it kept thundering - but the bad weather kept going around us. Sunday looked like trouble again. The wind seemed like it was going to blow and it looked like it was going to pour. The wind started to get ugly on the last relay to fire (but then check out Kohl's Match No. 5 score).....then it was over - we put the targets away - the sun came out and the wind dropped to EXACTLY ZERO. All in all I'd say, it was a great match - wind wasn't too bad - stayed fairly constant for every relay except the first relay to fire in Match 1, Day 1. For those unfortunate souls that fired on that relay - if you finished quick, you didn't get caught in the 180 degree 5 - 7 minute change at the end of the string.

Despite the rather weather-challenged (sort-of) weekend, we had a couple new state records fired. Tom's score of 995-47x surpasses his own record of 981-41x fired on September 16, 2007. In addition, Tom's 200-8x (iron sights/1000 yards) is also a new state record surpassing Duane Holien's score of 200-4x fired on July 8, 2007. Finally, Mike Cobert's score of 963-25x is a new state record (the North Dakota resident record) surpassing Brian Shur's score of 956-26x fired on September 8 and 9, 2012.

Well – this season – is once again coming to an end – the High Power season is very short in the Northern Great Plains. Our last High Power event of the season is in Rolla, North Dakota, the weekend of September 28 and 29. On Saturday, the Turtle Mountain Rifle Club will host the North Dakota Mid-Range State Championship – 3 – 20 shot strings (with unlimited sighters) at 600 yards. This will be for Conventional, F-Open and F-TR Classes. Then, on Sunday, September 29, we'll have the annual Bruce Alexander Memorial High Power match (80 shot over-the-course).

Coby and other friends of the Turtle Mountain Rifle Club have put in some back breaking work this summer to expand the David Disrud range from 5 firing points to 8 firing points. So, we should be able to host a good number of competitors this year (32 competitors if we have 4 relays). Given the attendance we had last year, we might make the range capacity (so call Andy NOW!). [Ed. I was there, and it was a great match]

The first match of 2014 at our range in Bismarck will most likely be the first weekend in May, 2014. I hope to see all of you and more new shooters on the firing line. Thanks to all of our high power competitors and those who helped make these matches possible!
Tom Thompson

Fall & Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Oct 15	Sign up for the LRSSA Airgun Postal Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Nov 2	Lever Action and Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Volmer	701-226-4156
Nov 3	Ayr Rifles Sportsman's Club – air rifle & pistol	Ayr	Rand McLeod	701-219-3657
****	*note this is the first match at their new range*			
Nov 16	Indoor Action Pistol Match	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Dec 7	Lever Action and Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Volmer	701-226-4156
Dec 8	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-220-8131
Dec 14	4 position smallbore	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-749-6959
Dec 15	Air Rifle & Air Pistol	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 18 & 19	Junior Olympic Selection Competition	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Feb 1	NDSSA Annual Meeting	Bismarck	Gary Vinnie	701-516-3427
Mar 1 & 2	North Dakota State Open Air Rifle Champ.	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 1 & 2	NRA Junior Air Rifle Sectional	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Check your	local club website for more information about	more local	club matches	
	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: _____	Interests
		___ Legislation ___ Jr. Program
		___ Hunting ___ Conservation
Address: _____	E-Mail Address _____	___ Collecting
		___ Bullseye Pistol
		___ Air Rifle ___ Hi-Power Rifle
City: _____	State: _____ ZIP: _____	___ Air Pistol ___ Smallbore
		___ Police PPC ___ Other
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
		___ Rifle Silhouette
		___ Pistol Silhouette
		___ Hunter Safety

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

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The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



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The Target

July, August, September 2013

Dakota Marksmanship Foundation, Inc.

P O Box 518
Bismarck, ND 58502-0518
501 © 3 Public Charity

**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 our marksmanship and safety programs within North Dakota, please send us a note or contact:

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

NDSSA Junior Match Support Policy

One of the major objectives of the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association is to promote and foster junior shooting programs and junior shooters across the state. Many of our junior shooters excel and reach the next level to compete nationally in their discipline. Some of you may not be aware, but for many years now, our North Dakota Shooting Sports Association has provided monetary support to North Dakota junior competitive shooters attending major matches outside of our state. In an effort to make this support as uniform as possible, we have established the criteria that we will use to provide such support in the future. In a nutshell, the three important points follow:

- Juniors, their parents, or coaches must inform the NDSSA Board of Directors should they receive an invitation to, or intend to attend, one of the qualifying National Championships.
- Upon approval, the NDSSA treasurer will send payment to the parent of the qualifying junior in a timely manner before the travel date to the match.
- Recipients of funding will agree to refund NDSSA in full in the event that match attendance was cancelled.
- These funds are to be used for match entry fees and travel expenses.

The full text of this policy is available for your review at our website <http://www.ndssa.org>. Please check it out. We have a raffle in progress to raise support money. If you wish to support our efforts in this regard, tickets are available from our board members. If you would like to purchase one or help sell them, contact one of our officers. Thanks.