

# THE TARGET

## THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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### 2015 USA Shooting Junior National Championship Matches

As many of you know, our Jr Olympic selection match in January allowed our North Dakota junior rifle and pistol competitors to earn an invitation to the National Jr Olympic Championships held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. This year 15 young men and women along with their parents and coaches made the trip to compete in the disciplines of Air Rifle, Smallbore Rifle, Air Pistol, and Sport Pistol. They were excellent representatives of our North Dakota shooting sports programs. Some of them have enjoyed the opportunity to compete at these National Junior Championships in years past, but many made the trip to the championships for the first time. Our youngest competitors produced some of the most outstanding results. Some of them even medaled.

The first matches were Women's Air Rifle where Mari Butler, Casselton, Karleigh Gause, Grand Forks, Emily Haag, Harwood, Emma Tichy, Tower City, and Katie Zaun, Buffalo, competed. Mari was ill the first day and had to leave the match before she could finish. But she was able to recover well enough to fire an excellent score the second day. All five young women performed very well. Katie Zaun's performance was exceptional and it earned her the Women's Air Rifle J3 Gold Medal. Mari and Katie then continued competition in Women's Smallbore Rifle where they each fired personal bests. Katie's outstanding performance in the J3 category won her another Gold Medal. I believe that her second day score of 573 is a new J3 National Record!

In Junior Women's and Men's Pistol competition, Hannah Walsh, Wolford, represented North Dakota in Women's Air Pistol and Women's Sport Pistol. Hannah's performance with her air pistol earned her an 11<sup>th</sup> place final ranking out of 58 competitors. Her Sport Pistol performance was also commendable particularly since Hannah's mom had to go into the hospital during her match days and remained there throughout the matches. We are glad to hear that she was able to leave the hospital and fly home in better health.

Luke Simon, Fargo, was the lone North Dakota Men's Sport Pistol competitor. He had a very tough match. Following that, Luke competed in Men's Air Pistol with Max Schuh, Devils Lake, Nicholas Dorscher, Harwood, and Dylan Markwardt, West Fargo. Luke's first day was average and his second day was quite a bit better. Max Schuh, in his first year at the Jr Olympics, had a great first day, but found it difficult to repeat on the second day. In the end Luke ranked 19/70 and Max 39/70. Nicholas and Dylan competed in the J3 category where Nicholas earned the Silver Medal and Dylan earned the Bronze Medal. It was a pleasure to watch them compete.

The next competition was Men's Air Rifle where Joe Martin, Emerado, Brett Christianson, Casselton, Brady Fried, Bismarck, Brandon Alexander, Devils Lake, and Jacob Vaagen, Devils Lake, represented North Dakota. Joe and Brett weren't able to produce standout performances in this match.

On the other hand, our rookie competitors put forth some stellar performances. Brady Fried entered the competition ranked as 121<sup>st</sup> in a field of 195. By virtue of his 2-day aggregate, he earned a final ranking of 46<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who may be math-challenged, this is a 75 place improvement.

Brandon Alexander came into the match ranked 176<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the match he had earned 60<sup>th</sup> place for a leap of 116 places. As J2 competitors Brady and Brandon acquitted themselves far better than anyone would have expected of them. They didn't medal, but as close as I can tell, they likely were the most improved competitors in the tournament.

Finally, 12-year-old Jacob Vaagen, at his first Jr National Air Rifle Championships, fired a very respectable 1096 to step up 10 places from 182<sup>nd</sup> place to a final ranking of 172<sup>nd</sup>.

The final matches were Men's Smallbore Rifle where Joe Martin was North Dakota's lone representative in his final Jr Olympic competition. In the Men's 3-P event, Joe earned a 27<sup>th</sup> place finish in the field of 65 competitors. In the Men's prone event, Joe earned a 33<sup>rd</sup> place finish among the field of 64 competitors. In both events, Joe put up a respectable score on Day 1, but he was unable to equal or exceed his first day's score in either of the second matches. I wish Joe the best in his college shooting experiences. It has been a pleasure watching him develop his skill over the last few years.

Overall, the 2015 Jr Olympic National Shooting Championships provided an arena for our young North Dakota shooting sports competitors to stand out once again. I hadn't been able to attend these national championships for almost 20 years, and find that the matches have improved greatly. They now provide our juniors the opportunity to get a much better taste for what it is like to compete internationally. Electronic target systems and the match personnel provided a very professional atmosphere. This atmosphere was not only good for the shooters, it also offered parents and coaches a real opportunity to see what is really involved in the competitive shooting sports at the highest levels.

Only about 8 months remain until our ND Junior Olympic Selection Match. Those who yearn to compete in the 2016 Junior Olympic National Championships are likely training now. Rick Jorgenson

## Editorially Speaking

Our winter indoor shooting season is now complete. I am not sure how that happens every year, as when it starts, it looks both full and long. But daylight savings time and the weather are sure signs that the indoor shooting season is on its last legs. It has been another great indoor season of matches with some great scores from our junior shooters that have earned a record number of them invitations to USA Shooting's Junior National Championships. Connie and I were able to attend the Men's air pistol and air rifle matches in late April at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. It has been nearly 20 years since we were last there for the matches, and we sure enjoyed the trip.

There are many outdoor matches and championships in the pistol and rifle disciplines, and I will likely see some of you at some of these matches. Take a look at our Schedule of Opportunities and plan to attend a match soon. As Rand says in his article in this issue you will "maybe end up having some fun."

As I have said many times before this, it is a bit of a challenge to produce this newsletter without including a substantial amount of my own thoughts. Thanks to Rand and Tom for their contributions to this issue. Without them, you would be reading more articles by me alone. So, if any of you have what you think is an important thought about the shooting sports in North Dakota, write it down and email it to me. Maybe I will be able to include it in our next issue.

During the next few months, volunteer to help our match directors and coaches who make the matches possible. Almost all of our match directors would welcome your help, and you will learn more about what it takes to put on a good match. I think you will enjoy yourselves while you help.

The members at our annual meeting voted to increase our association membership dues in an effort to insure the continued good health of our association. Thus, you will find our new dues structure outlined on Page 5.

This dues structure is effective May 1, 2015. Thank you all for your continued support of our association and its efforts to support marksmanship and the safe use of firearms by everyone in North Dakota.

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**.

**I still find merit in these thoughts by Twain and Roosevelt:**

"The government is merely a servant—merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong, and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them."

— **Mark Twain**

"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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### **So, will you shoot in the next match?**

We recently held an NRA National open 3-p air rifle and air pistol match here at Ayr. The matches are shot throughout the US, and the scores were posted in real time on Orion in order to compare ourselves to the rest of the nation shooting the same match. It was a blast. Both adults and kids shot, and as per normal the kids pounded the adults. If a person were to look at the scores that were being shot 10 years ago and compare them to the ones being shot by our juniors today, they would see quite an improvement. Better equipment, better coaching, more dedication on the shooters part, who knows? Probably a little of all mentioned and even some not mentioned. But it is great to see.

I know that we are encouraged as parents and coaches to always have positive feedback for our kids. Let them know what they have done right, not what they have done wrong. I am going to go against that politically correct philosophy and instead of asking why we shoot, I want to ask why we don't shoot. Rich Butler and I have discussed this off and on while driving to matches. There is definitely the financial side of paying another match fee in an already expensive sport. It seems like a few days before any match, I go through all the excuses I can think of to not shoot. The weather is too cold to drive all the way to GF or Bismarck, my back hurts, I would rather stay home and do things around the house or maybe just sleep. I am sure we have all been there, and most of the excuses may be legitimate. Some of the time I will give into the excuses and not make it to a match and end up regretting that decision.

I have at times wondered if one of the reasons we don't participate is that we are afraid of not meeting the expectations we have set for ourselves; not being able to shoot the scores that we were able to shoot in our younger days. Are we afraid that our kids will kick our rears? As coaches and parents we want our kids to look up to us, if they shoot better than us is that a kink in the façade of how good we used to be? I truly feel it is important for our youth to see their peers participating in the sport that we all love and not just talk about our past accomplishments. Yesterday's news is today's trash. That's not to say that a person has to shoot every match available or any match at all. Shoot at your club with the kids; let them see your position, maybe they will see something that never registered through discussion. Let them see you compete, warts and all. In my mind it is not about beating the person next to you, it is about improving your last score, comradery and fun with like-minded people.

This past match, there was a pretty good representation of older than average shooters in both pistol and rifle, they creaked and groaned, maybe even swore a bit under their breath trying to get into positions that were not made for people on the wrong side of the hill. The scores were respectable. The satisfaction of participating and finishing was admirable; and I think it's important for the kids to see that it doesn't have to stop once they leave high school. If you want to shoot but don't have a gun, there is always

someone willing to lend their gear. NDSSA also has some to lease. SO, when that opportunity to participate shows up along with all the excuses not to participate, I hope you will risk it and maybe end up having some fun. Rand McLeod

### **2015 5-Buckle Overshoe Matches BIS/MAN R & P ASSOCIATION**

Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2015 5-Buckle Overshoe matches on May 2 and 3, 2015. We had an excellent turnout for our first event of the 2015 High Power Season again this year. A big thanks goes out to my statistician - Bob Cunningham. Bob fired the Vintage match on Saturday morning and then stayed around the rest of the weekend to help me run the line and post scores. Also thanks to Brian Akhavan. Brian showed up a bit early on Saturday morning and graciously accepted the position of the Pit Officer for the Vintage Rifle Match. Then there's Hal Eschenko - Hal kind of loaded his 30-06 ammo a bit long for the chamber so he was done for the day. However, Hal stayed very late on Saturday and helped me run the line during the long range match. Hal was home visiting family near Grassy Butte so he came down for the match. He had a long drive home at the end of the day (back to Grassy Butte) - like many of you do - but he was gracious enough to help out even though he drove all that way and couldn't shoot - THANKS! I couldn't do these matches without the help I get from volunteers and others that just pitch in. Be sure to thank them if you see them down the road at some events in the future.

The 2015 North Dakota High Power Season kicked off Saturday morning with our Vintage Rifle Match. Travis Carico from Valley City, using his 1903-A3 Springfield, fired an impressive score of 275-5x for the match win and high score.

If you wish to purchase an M1 Garand from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), you must be a member of a CMP affiliated organization and you must have evidence of rifle marksmanship activities. The Bismarck/Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association and the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association (NDSSA) are both CMP affiliated organizations. If you join one of these organizations, you will have met CMP's membership requirement in order to purchase your M1 Garand rifle. Please considering joining one (or both) of these organizations - and if you want an M1 - get it now - the CMP is beginning to run low on these rifles, and once they're gone, they are not coming back.

The Long Range shooters had to put up with what seems to be our usual 15 - 25 mph winds in the afternoon matches. We had south wind at 25 mph but then it played havoc with just about everyone as it switched around to the northwest by the end of the day. You have to pay attention to the wind in this state - especially at 1000 yards.

(Continued on page 6)

## **N D STATE RECORDS – JUNIOR (As of April 17, 2015)**

### **FOUR POSITION GALLERY RIFLE**

Course of Fire	Individual	Score	Place	Date
<b>10 Shots Prone</b>	Mike Hall	100-10x	Cando	3/7/84
	*Byron Bjordal	100-10x	Minot	4/5/86
	*Sandy Kraus	100-10x	Minot	4/6/86
	*Mark Martz	100-10x	Minot	4/6/86
	*Natalie Carey	100-10x	Bottineau	4/5/87
	*William O'Connell	100-10x	Bismarck	3/24/96
	*Levi Geurts	100-10x	Bismarck	3/13/05
	*Darren Dyk	100-10x	Bismarck	3/13/05
	*Ethan Headrick	100-10x	Bismarck	3/13/11
	*Joe Martin	100-10x	Bismarck	3/10/12
	*Tyler Linneman	100-10x	Bismarck	3/9/13
	*Lana Fairbanks	100-10x	Bismarck	3/8/14
	<b>*Brett Christianson</b>	<b>100-10x</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>3/15/15</b>
	<b>*Katie Zaun</b>	<b>100-10x</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>3/15/15</b>
10 Shots Sitting	Gregory Erickson	100-10x	Bottineau	4/5/87
10 Shots Kneeling	Lana Fairbanks	100-9x	Bismarck	3/9/14
10 Shots Standing	Levi Geurts	100-9x	Bismarck	3/13/04
400 Point Aggregate	Dacotah Faught	398	Bismarck	3/9/13

### **INTERNATIONAL GALLERY RIFLE (NRA/USA 50 Target)**

<b>20 Shots Prone</b>	<b>Tyler Linneman</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>1/18/15</b>
20 Shots Standing	Dacotah Faught	190	Minot	1/26/14
20 Shots Kneeling	Bennett Christianson	193	Minot	1-26-14
600 Point Aggregate	Soren Butler	574	Minot	1/28/10

### **INTERNATIONAL AIR RIFLE**

10 Shots Standing	Matthew Pueppke	100	Devils Lake	3/2/08
	*Soren Butler	100	Minot	1/28/09
	*Kelsey Hansen	100	Devils Lake	3/6/10
	*Bennett Christianson	100	Devils Lake	3/2/14
40 Shots Standing	Soren Butler	392	Devils Lake	3/1/09
60 shots Standing	Soren Butler	583	Minot	1/28/10
<b>20 Shots Prone</b>	Joe Martin	200-19	Buffalo	3/23/13
	<b>*Emily Haag</b>	<b>200-19</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>3/29/15</b>
20 Shots Standing	Levi Geurts	197	Valley City	2/5/05
	*Soren Butler	197	Buffalo	2/6/11
<b>20 Shots Kneeling</b>	<b>Katie Zaun</b>	<b>200-18</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>3/26/15</b>
<b>60 Shot 3P Aggregate</b>	<b>Katie Zaun</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>3/26/15</b>

### **INTERNATIONAL AIR PISTOL**

10 Shots	Travis Jorgenson	97	Rolla	3/16/96
40 Shots	Macy Nelson	330	Minot	1/26/14
60 Shots	Travis Jorgenson	566	Rolla	1/16/96

### **INTERNATIONAL SPORT PISTOL**

10 shots	Matthew Pueppke	93	Minot	1/28/10
60 Shots	Matthew Pueppke	519	Minot	1/28/10

\*Indicated Co-holder

\*\* Indicates current high score, but the course of fire has not been shot 3 times to establish a record

(x) Indicates number of times fired

## Summer Schedule of Opportunities

May 30	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
May 30	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
May 31	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Volmer	701-226-4156
May 30, 31	ND Outdoor Smallbore State Champs, Prone	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jun 6	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jun 6, 7	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Jun 13, 14	Palma (Sat) ND Long Range State Champ (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jun 20	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Jun 20	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
Jun 21	Pistol Regional w/Leg	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jun 19, 20, 21	Perry on the Prairie Highpower, 3 times X-course and Garand Match	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687
Jun 27, 28	Highpower Regional, 600yd Team, Garand, Leg	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jun 27	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-515-3427
Jun 28	Highpower Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Jul 4, 5	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), X-Course HP (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jul 11	Muley Days	Bismarck	Jeff Burgois	701-426-6966
Jul 11, 12	ND Highpower and M1 Garand State Champ w/Leg	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jul 12	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Volmer	701-226-4156
Jul 18	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-516-3427
Jul 18	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194

### -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: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Interests

\_\_\_ Legislation \_\_\_ Jr. Program

\_\_\_ Hunting \_\_\_ Conservation

\_\_\_ Collecting

\_\_\_ Bullseye Pistol

\_\_\_ Air Rifle \_\_\_ Hi-Power Rifle

\_\_\_ Air Pistol \_\_\_ Smallbore

\_\_\_ Police PPC \_\_\_ Other

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

Life.....\$500.00      One Year .....\$25.00      Clubs One Yr.....\$25.00  
5 Year.....\$100.00      Junior.....\$10.00      Club 5 Yr..... \$100.00

\_\_\_ Rifle Silhouette

\_\_\_ Pistol Silhouette

\_\_\_ Hunter Safety

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

(May 1, 2015)

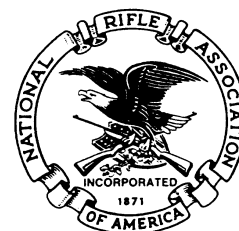
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## The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



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The Target

April, May, June 2015

### 5-Buckle Continued from Page 3

Wind changes of 10 mph (or wind direction changes) will change the drift of a 30 caliber, 175 grain bullet with a muzzle velocity of 2850 fps by about 87 inches (or about 8.7 minutes of angle - MOA) at 1000 yards. The center of the target to the edge of the target is 36 inches (or 3.6 MOA) and our targets in Bismarck are 8 feet on center – or 96 inches (or 9.6 MOA. Catch the drift (literally). A 10mph wind change will just about put you in the center of your neighbor's target, if you don't make a sight correction. We had plenty 5 and 10mph wind changes (and a big direction change) on Saturday afternoon. That is why it is such a challenge to shoot long range well in this state.

Neil Jenson (Fargo) fired a 538-7x to win the Conventional category. Brian Suhr from Rogers, ND, fired a 548-6x to take the F-Class Open Rifle category. We had 10 competitors in the F-Class Target Rifle category this year. We keep picking up those that like to shoot the 308. Drew Rutherford from Horace, ND, won the F-TR firing a 531-11x.

Sunday was our 80-shot over-the-course match. Ryan Holien from Ipswich, SD, won the X-Course 5-Buckle with a 760-14x under some challenging wind conditions again.

**The next High Power event at our range will be the North Dakota Long Range State Championship over the weekend of June 13 and 14. We will have a Palma match on Saturday. Then on Sunday we will have the ND Long Range State Championship. Please plan to attend – pass the word and bring a friend along.**

If you plan to participate in North Dakota Championship events, I encourage you to join the NDSSA. In order to be eligible as a state champion, you must be a resident of North Dakota, and a member of NDSSA. . Non-residents can be the match winner however; the high overall resident is recognized as the North Dakota State Champion. NDSSA is the NRA state affiliated organization. NDSSA is a great organization. In addition to promoting the shooting sports, the association has also helped pass some pro-gun legislation in North Dakota. Check out their web site at <http://www.ndssa.org> for additional information.

Tom Thompson

**“In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.”**

— Eleanor Roosevelt