

THE TARGET

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Competitive Shooting

A few years ago, I wrote an article reflecting on the relative cost of ammunition for the various shooting competitions. The other day, I was reading a magazine article that brought me back to that same thought. Those of us who have been bitten by the competitive shooting bug do not only need good quality ammunition, we need that quality ammunition in uniform quantities. Many of us still reload every round of our centerfire rifle and pistol ammunition, but some of us now find that the current factory ammunition is suitable in both quality and cost for at least some of our competitive shooting efforts.

As an example, the 69 grain Sierra Match King hollow point boat tail bullet sees heavy use in high-power rifle competition at 200 and 300 yards. To handload 500 rounds of this bullet will cost about \$60.00 for the bullet, about another \$60.00 for the brass, \$7.50 for the primers, and at least \$30.00 for the powder, for a grand total of just about \$160.00.

I recently saw a listing in MidwayUSA for Black Hills Remanufactured 69 grain Sierra Match Kings at a cost of \$231.00, if purchased by the box. I also saw a MidwayUSA special listing for Black Hills Remanufactured 77 grain moly-coated Sierra Match Kings at a cost of \$198.00, if purchased by the case. If you wanted to shoot Black Hills' offering of 52 grain Match Hollow Points, they are available from MidwayUSA for a cost of \$150.00 for 500, when purchased by the case.

Even under the best conditions (not considering any of the time required for the necessary brass preparation), it would take 3 hours with a progressive press to load 500 rounds of good quality .223 match ammunition. With a single stage press, you might spend 8 or even 9 hours at the task. I have seen even better pricing on match ammunition from time to time. Of course, after you have the brass to amortize over many reloadings, the cost of reloading comes down quite a bit. Still, it is really hard to justify the time spent on reloading rifle ammunition, except to produce match ammunition.

Similarly, MidwayUSA sells 500 rounds of Black Hills 45 ACP 200 grain Match Semi-wadcutter ammunition for \$170.00. Here, the Bullseye pistol reloader can save some money with good quality cast bullets. The cost for the first 500 rounds in powder is only about \$5.00, primers at \$7.50, bullets at \$35.00 and brass at \$60.00 for a total cost of about \$110.00. Here the subsequent cost of reloading comes way down, as the brass can be amortized over many reloadings to bring the cost to near \$60.00 for those 500 rounds of match Bullseye 45 ACP ammunition.

Of course, the real winner as the least expensive and most accurate match ammunition is still the air gun pellets and the compressed air or CO-2 it takes to send them to the target at no more than about \$7.50 for 500 rounds. This is over \$50.00 cheaper than any kind of good reloaded centerfire pistol ammunition. It is over \$100.00 cheaper than the match high-power rifle ammunition, even if we amortize the cost of the brass over many reloadings.

The original acquisition cost of the competitive firearms used in these various disciplines is reasonably similar. The cost of the match ammunition and the true cost of practice are the real difference. When you consider the fact that many of us can find a place inside our own home to practice with our air guns rather than incurring the cost to drive to a club or public range, the air gun competitor is really enjoying a cheap competitive shooting sport. Further, the high-power rifle shooter will need to incur the cost of replacing his match rifle barrel after only firing 5000 rounds through it. The air rifle barrel with only reasonable cleaning will just keep right on shooting X's for maybe even beyond 50,000 rounds.

Further, if you take part in our North Dakota State air gun postal competition over the winter, you can shoot in 6 monthly matches without leaving the comfort of your home, except to mail the fired targets to us.

I know that many of you have figured this out already. I believe every one of our North Dakota State Champions in the Bullseye Pistol and High-power Rifle disciplines have fired a large number of pellets down range. Certainly they recognize the substantial value of this cross training with an air gun. I invite those of you who do not currently own an air gun to get a match air pistol or rifle and join us in the fun of cheap and very worthwhile competition and practice. You will then enjoy the very best firearm available capable of supporting perfect practice in your own home.

Rick Jorgenson

PS: As many of you know, I really enjoy casting bullets and handloading ammunition. Both of these activities are great hobbies that produce great satisfaction and pride to anyone who pursues them with an effort to produce the best results. I still do not think that the factory ammunition is as good as the tailored, reloaded ammunition that I or any of our other serious competitive shooters can produce, but it now certainly requires a lot more work and attention to detail to beat the factory fodder that is available to us today as compared to only five or ten years ago.

Rick

Editorially Speaking

Thanks to Tom Thompson for all of his efforts to support this newsletter and the shooting sports in North Dakota. Tom will be recognized and inducted into the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame at our Association's annual meeting on **February 12, 2005**, at the Grand Forks Ramada Inn. I look forward to seeing you all there. We have included the registration form and flier for the annual meeting in this newsletter. Please register for the event ASAP. Early registration really helps the event coordinator in his work to make this event a success.

I hope that those of you who enjoy hunting had as much fun as I did this fall. My son, Travis, and I were able to successfully harvest does in 3 management units during the regular season, and we were successful with our Muzzleloader tags as well. The weather was just great. If we were to try to duplicate this deer hunting experience as an out of state hunter in any other state, we simply could not do so. Even to enjoy the Muzzleloader hunt would have cost each of us over \$1500 for license fees, transportation, meals and motel.

We saw a lot of no hunting signs, but also found excellent opportunities on public land and many private land plots open to public hunting. We purposely hunted in many areas where we had never been before, and had no problem finding deer. We certainly appreciate these hunting opportunities. I will look back on this 2004 deer season as the best in my experience as a deer hunter over the last 30 years. Again, I hope that you each enjoyed similar success.

The indoor shooting season is in full swing. Those of you who have not taken part in the indoor matches in the past should make it a point to support those matches this winter. I am sure that you will enjoy yourself. The match directors need your support.

The Air Gun Postal match that Connie and I run from November through April is in full swing, but it is not yet too late to join us. Give me a call, if you are curious. I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have about the Postal. If you have a 33-foot shooting distance in your home, you can enjoy the competition of shooting without the cost of travel.

I thank Tom Thompson who took the time to put together his article summarizing the Camp Perry rifle experience this year. He left out the details of what I am sure were many trips to Commercial Row and maybe even to Andy's for ice cream to soothe their nerves after the daily matches. I am still looking for articles to include in our next newsletter.

Thanks to all of you who remembered to vote in the November election.

Please also remember to contact our senators and congressman to encourage them to represent support of those North Dakota attitudes about firearms use and ownership that are clearly documented in our state's gun laws that include:

1. Concealed Carry.
2. Protection of manufacturers and sellers from those nuisance lawsuits that are so costly to defend and that threaten to inflate the cost of firearm ownership out of the reach of any ordinary citizen.
3. Shooting range protection for our existing outdoor ranges.

The following is still my favorite assertive statement:

If guns cause crime, then pencils cause misspelled words, and guns kill people just like spoons have made Rosie O'Donnell fat.

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Mark your calendar for our Association's **Annual Meeting and Recognition Banquet to be held on February 12, 2005, at the Grand Forks Ramada Inn in conjunction with the Forks Friends of NRA Banquet.** Please plan to attend.

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

2004 State Champions

Event	State Champion	Home Town	Score
Men 3-Position Junior Olympic	Levi Geurts	Buffalo	580/600
Men Air Rifle Junior Olympic	Levi Geurts	Buffalo	577/600
Women 3-Position Junior Olympic	Kaylee Kuntz	Bismarck	517/660
Women Air Rifle Junior Olympic	Kaylee Kuntz	Bismarck	364/400
3P Open Indoor	Tom Thompson	Bismarck	863/900
3P Junior Indoor	Levi Geurts	Buffalo	578/600
3P Open Indoor Team	No Competitors		
3P Junior Indoor Team	Bismarck/Mandan R&P Juniors	Bismarck	1662/2400
4P Open Indoor	Russ Theurer	Bismarck	1184/1200
4P Open Womens	Kaylee Kuntz	Bismarck	1141/1200
4P Junior Indoor	Levi Geurts	Buffalo	393/400
4P Open Indoor Team	Bismarck/Mandan R&P	Bismarck	1542/1600
4P Junior Indoor Team	Bismarck/Mandan R&P Juniors	Bismarck	1416/1600
4P Open Outdoor	Tom Thompson	Bismarck	1143/1200
4P Junior Outdoor	Loren Vogt	Grand Forks	1009/1200
Smallbore Prone Open Outdoor	Tom Thompson	Bismarck	1589/1600
Smallbore Prone Junior Outdoor	Levi Geurts	Buffalo	1582/1600
200 Yard Smallbore Prone	Jim Barner	Emerado	196/200
Light Rifle	Dennis Skarphol	Bottineau	967/1000
Open Air Rifle	Levi Geurts	Buffalo	578/600
Highpower Rifle	Duane Holien	Cando	771/800
Service Rifle	Jim Barner	Emerado	753/800
Junior Highpower	No Competitors		
Highpower Team	Forks #1	Grand Forks	1918/2000
Smallbore Silhouette Hunting Rifle	Tim Frank	Mandan	22/40
Smallbore Silhouette Heavy Rifle	Tim Frank	Mandan	14/40
Highpower Silhouette Hunting Rifle	James Ladwig	Argusville	19/40
Highpower Silhouette Heavy Rifle	James Ladwig	Argusville	19/40
Men Junior Olympic Air Pistol	No Competitors		
Open Air Pistol	William Brackin	West Fargo	556-6x/600
Indoor Conventional Pistol	William Brackin	West Fargo	875-25x/900
Standard Pistol	William Brackin	West Fargo	552/600
Outdoor Conventional Pistol	Travis Jorgenson	Devils Lake	2617-110x/2700

In order for the individual or team to be recognized as a state champion by the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association, the match **must** be sanctioned by NDSSA and the governing body of the shooting sport discipline (such as NRA, USA Shooting, etc.)

In addition, the individual must be a resident of North Dakota **and** a member of NDSSA.

2004 Camp Perry Highpower Report

Date: November 14, 2005

It's been a few months since the conclusion of the National Matches and my deer are now in the freezer, so I thought I'd better get my 2004 Camp Perry report off to Rick and The Target. This year a new champion was crowned and there was some exceptional weather and an incredible score posted in the long range phase.

Once again we had a good contingent of NoDak's representing our state at the Nationals. This year Dan Marquart and Russ Theurer (both from Bismarck) took part in the Service Rifle phase of the National Matches. The rest of the crew showing up for the NRA champs included yours truly, Tom Thompson (Bismarck), Coby Dalglish (Sarles), Denny Coulter and Tom Reiten (Grand Forks). We were also joined by Tony Kozojed (Thief River Falls, MN).

SERVICE RIFLE PHASE

The Service Rifle phase was plagued by winds and rain. A quick check on the pistol and small-bore phases revealed that they also suffered from the wrath of Mother Nature. The great weather didn't show up until the long range phase. Anyhow, one note for the Service Rifle phase, a junior, Christopher Atkins from Georgia won the Presidents Rifle Match firing a 298-15x over the 300 point course. This appears to be the first time that a junior won the Presidents Match. This year 1243 competitors fired the Presidents Match.

Dan Marquart fired a 295-6x in the National Individual Trophy Match (the Leg match) good enough for 14th place in the field of 1021 competitors. The Leg match was fired over 2 days due to inclement weather. This hurt the number of finishers this year. The final course of fire was cut from 50 to 30 shots.

A few of us arrived early to take part in the Springfield and the Garand Matches. Coby fired a 276-5x for a Gold medal and 25th place in a field of 686 competitors in the Springfield Match fired on August 6. The next day was the Garand Match. The Garand Match now draws more competitors than any other match at the Nationals. This year saw 1318 competitors take to the line. Medalists from North Dakota included Coby firing a 279-5x for 79th place and Tom Thompson firing a 278-4x also for a gold medal and good enough for 104th place.

NRA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NRA matches kicked off on Sunday, August 8, with the Rumbold Team Match. We fired a great score (1915-57x) this year to take the High Master State Association category. Firing members included Coby, Tom, Denny and Tom Reiten.

The individual NRA champs began on Monday, August 9. As usual the champs are fired over 4 days, with 60 shots for record each day. The total possible is 2400. Norman Houle (West Warwick, RI) lead the field out the gate this year firing a 199-9x in the Members Trophy Match which is the first 200 yard standing match. Houle continued to put the heat on the field going clean in the Scott Trophy (200 yard rapid fire sitting) with a 200-11x and the Coast Artillery Trophy Match (300 yard rapid fire prone) with a 200-9x. Day 2 conditions deteriorated a bit with the winds once again picking up. However, there always seems to be someone who can shoot standing in just about any condition. Karyne Manges (United States Army, Georgia) fired a 197-4x for the Navy Cup win. Tom Thompson picked up a 3rd overall in the 600 yard Army Cup Match on Day 2 despite the winds and the itsy bitsy .223 firing a 198-8x. It was interesting to note that the winds were strong enough that there were no clean scores fired at 600 yards on Day 2. Day 3 brought windy conditions again. However, no offhand is fired on Day 3, so you still see some great scores fired despite conditions. And once again no clean scores were fired at 600 yards which says something for the windy conditions. Finally, the weather broke on Day 4 with great conditions. Alexander Arrieta won the final 200 yard offhand Crescent Cup Match firing a 199-7x. The great conditions stayed for the day as Sherri Gallagher fired a 200-17x in the final 600 yard Crowell Trophy Match.

Once scores were tallied, Norman Houle won his first National Championship firing an impressive 2381-105x. The perennial national champion David Tubb finished 2nd with a 2375-116x and Sherri Gallagher was third with a 2370-97x. Sherri also was the Collegiate Champion. The top 3 shooters all used the Tubb 2000 rifle.

LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Things were just starting to get interesting as we geared up for the Long Range National Championship Matches. This year we enjoyed absolutely the best weather conditions I have seen in my 17 years attending the National Matches. Winds were light, never more than about 5 mph, steady and not switching. Temperatures were in the mid 80's with low humidity. Not typical conditions for mid-August in a corn belt state.

Day 1 of the Long Range champs starts out with 3 matches at 600 yards, 20 shots for record in each match. David Tubb absolutely pounded the course firing an incredible 200-15x, 200-15x and 200-19x (that's a 600-49x). As stated, weather conditions were just about as prefect as they could be. In the 3rd 600 of the day, 53 clean scores were fired (as opposed to 0 clean scores fired at 600 yards the 2nd and 3rd day of the x-course champs).

Day 2 is the Leech Cup Day and David Tubb prevailed again with a clean 200-12x, then firing a 100-4x in the shoot-off. However, Nancy Gallagher and Tubb went an extra 15 shots in the shoot-off of their tied scores, before things were done. Nancy finally fired a 9 to give Tubb the win.

Day 3 is the Wimbledon Day (any sight and any rifle). Michelle Gallagher took the Wimbledon with a new national record of 200-16x. Tubb fired a record tying 200-15x, however; HE DIDN'T even make the shoot-off with this score. As stated scores in the long range phase were going through the roof.

The final day of Long Range is the individual Palma Match and Tubb was on the line again winning the Palma with a 450-25x.

After the Long Range scores were tallied, it was David G. Tubb taking the National Championship with an incredible 1450-101x - a clean Long Range score which has never been done. **(Continued on Pg 6)**

Schedule of Opportunities

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
Dec 11	4-P Smallbore Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 12	Air Rifle/Air Pistol Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 7, 8, 9	Open International Sectionals (Air, 3P)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 15, 16	State Junior Olympics (Air, 3p, Air Pistol)	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 15, 16	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-673-3321
Jan 22	Gun Show	Mandan	Roger Krumm	701-336-7533
Jan 22	Bismarck/Mandan Friends of NRA	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Feb 5	Junior 3P Air Sectional	Valley City	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
Feb 6	100 Shot Offhand Match	Halstad, MN	Dan Duklet	218-456-2312
Feb 12	Forks Friends of NRA	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 12	NDSSA State Convention	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 19, 20	Junior 3P State and Sectional	Minot	Wes Thomas	701-839-6075
Feb 26, 27	Open 3P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 26, 27	1800 Pistol	Valley City	Brian Kiefert	701-845-0501
Feb 26	Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Mar 5, 6	Junior Air Sectional (Standing)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 5, 6	Air Rifle State Championship	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 5, 6	Light Rifle Match	Cooperstown	Larry Wathne	701-797-3327
Mar 12, 13	Junior 4P State and Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 19, 20	Pistol Sectional	Valley City	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Mar 19, 20	Open 4P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Apr 2, 3	Indoor Pistol State Championship	Valley City	Brian Kiefert	701-845-0501
Apr 2	Bismarck/Mandan Junior Club Championship	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Apr 1, 2, 3	Red River Valley Championship	Halstad, MN	Dan Duklet	218-456-2312
Apr 2, 3	Light Rifle State Championship	Bottineau	Gary Siverston	701-243-6413
Apr 24	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454
Apr 29	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Apr 30, May 1	Highpower, X-course and 1000 yard matches	Bismarck	Leon Nesja	701-663-8818

-Application-

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 9242, Fargo, ND 58106-9242

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 on our records.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Interests

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

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective July 1, 2003)
 Life.....\$200.00 One Year\$15.00 Clubs One Yr.....\$15.00
 5 Year....\$65.00 Junior.....\$5.00

Make check payable to: North Dakota Shooting Sports Association and mail to above address. (July 2003)

(Continued from Pg 4)

NEW STUFF

As usual, new equipment and ideas dot the firing line. AR-15's and their equivalent space guns just about rule the line as far as numbers at the championships. The bolt guns are disappearing. Tubb's own design, the Tubb 2000, which is a modified bolt gun, is showing up on the line. As stated above, his gun went 1, 2, and 3 in the individual championship this year. The MAK Tube gun, which I talked about last year in my 2003 report, is also showing up on the line. These guys have now come up with a repeater model. It uses your standard Remington 700 short action glued into an aluminum sleeve. The cost is quite a bit lower than the Tubb gun.

Cartridge design continues to evolve. Tubb used his 6mmXC cartridge design at 1000 yards during the long range phase. This case is based on the 22-250 case, and then modified. However this year, Tubb used a 115 grain 6mm bullet at the 1000 yard line. He fired this bullet using a 1 x 7.5 inch twist barrel.

The vast majority of space gun shooters are using the .223 Remington case, however a few shooters are starting to fire wildcats. During the individual champs, I was paired with a shooter using the 6BR case with the case head turned down to the size of the 6mm PPC case. These cases were modified by Scott Medesha of Arizona. Medesha builds lots of AR's. According to this shooter, these cases will soon be available on the market (but I haven't seen them yet). Medesha was also showcasing the 6.5mm Grendel. This case is basically a PPC case with the shoulder blow forward. This adds about 15% more powder volume. Finally, Remington has come out with the 6.8 SPC (270 caliber). This case is based on the old 30 Remington case. Although I didn't see any at Perry this year - I wonder how long it's going to take someone to size this one down to 6mm.

Anyhow, that's it for the 2004 Camp Perry NoDak report. Another great year is now behind us - and it's only 8 months till Camp Perry 2005 - got to get going and get more stuff on order before its too late for next year. If you're interested in joining the team and making a trip to the Nationals, give me a call (701)255-4601.

Tom Thompson

The Official NRA State Association Newsletter

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