

# THE TARGET

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

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### STATE OF THE STATE

After this year's North Dakota Shooting Sport Association annual meeting, I was asked by several folks in attendance if I could print my State of the State address for the benefit of those of you who could not attend. I'll let you read it in just a second, but first I'd like to mention a few recent developments.

Our North Dakota Junior Olympic Championship once again was an exciting match! When the "smoke cleared" and the scores were tallied by USA Shooting, 6 junior ND shooters received invitations to the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships in 11 events. Congratulations to Dacotah Faught for Air Rifle, Kelsey Hansen for Air Rifle and Smallbore, Soren Butler for Air Rifle and Smallbore, Brandon Godbout for Air Rifle, Joe Martin for Smallbore, and Matt Pueppke for Air Rifle, Smallbore, Air Pistol, and Free Pistol. Some fine scores were fired by several shooters who didn't receive invitations as well! And not just at the JO's. Junior Smallbore State Records have been falling like cottonwood leaves in the fall lately. Come to next year's Annual Meeting when the certificates are awarded, it's a great time!

Speaking of the 2010 Annual Meeting, it's going to be held at the Governor's Inn in Casselton. We've got some big plans for this meeting, but more on that later.

The ground breaking for the long awaited Red River Regional Marksmanship Center in West Fargo will be this May! Plans are to open in October! Congratulations to each and every one on the RRRMC board! It's been a long road that's been really bumpy at times, but you're getting there! The Bismarck Range officially opened in January. Another great effort! This is undoubtedly one of the finest new ranges in the country!

With no further ado, the 2009 State of the State address!

It's been another active year in the shooting sports here in North Dakota. Though our activities are sometimes tempered by snow and wind, we continue to keep quality competitive programs growing across this state. As I travel the nation with our junior shooters as well as with my National Coach Development Staff activities, I'm often asked just how it is we get so much done, especially with our relatively small clubs. I'm virtually certain that we've built more new shooting ranges in the last few years in this state than in any other state in the union. Our juniors as well as adults continue to place very well in the various NRA sectional matches, the results of which are one of the few solid indicators of how well a shooter stands up against others around the country. More often than not, wherever I travel around the nation, someone asks me about the North Dakota Junior shooters, and they quite often can tell me their names! Two weeks ago, I was doing a coach school in Florida. Someone from the Gateway R&P Club (membership 1200+) in Jacksonville asked me if I'd heard of a

Gateway Club somewhere in ND because there are some really good teams from there at Camp Perry sometimes!

So how do we accomplish these things? Contrary to popular opinion, it's not the water, least I'm pretty sure it isn't! What sets us apart is the dedication of our coaches coupled with the work ethic of our shooters. It comes from all those folks behind the lines who work on building and maintaining the ranges, as well as the folks that run the matches. It comes from those parents who sacrifice precious time and money to get everyone to practice and matches. In recent years, getting these ranges up and running has taken countless hours of planning, fundraising, meetings and headaches, and time. Many of you (myself included!) are spread thinner than the frosting on a store bought cupcake (and that's pretty thin). Don't ever think that your efforts are going unnoticed, and not just by the rest of us here in North Dakota. I wonder why HQ Moody, head of rifle competitions at the NRA, is coming to the 4-position State and Sectional match in Bismarck.

We've accomplished a lot, but that doesn't mean work is over. We've got a new administration in Washington and we are facing the unknown right now. Policies may change, I hope they do not. It is our prerogative to stay on top of things, to watch legislation, to do our best to hold the line.

We've got new ranges and now we need to take advantage of our increased number of firing points and get some programs going. Here are a couple of examples of what we could do: First is Sporter Air Rifle. This is basically 3-position air rifle but without the clothing and top end rifles used in precision air rifle. It does not exist yet in this state. It's a great feeder for precision air rifle, smallbore or even highpower. To get this going would require new coaches to run the programs...we've got the ranges. Our active coaches already have their plates full, so to speak, and can't take on something else. We need to get new people involved. My second example is in Air Pistol. This past December, I met with USAS National Team Coach, Sergei Luzov. He wants to expand his feeder program and give more young people a chance to get some major match experience. He told me that if we can get a Jr. state championship going, he will provide some funding to get the top two or three competitors to some national matches or clinics at the OTC in Colorado Springs! Right now, we only have one Jr. Air Pistol Club in the state. What better reason to start more! My third example is a brand new event that USAS will most probably be introducing at their National Matches this summer. It's called 5 shot Air Pistol.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Editorially Speaking

Many of you have told me how much you enjoyed Eric's President's Message about integrity in our last issue. Eric has another great article in this issue which I believe you will also enjoy. I also thank Soren Butler for his article about the Rocky Mountain Championships. By the time that you read this, spring will be getting under way. I made every effort to take advantage of the winter shooting available here in North Dakota, and remind you to plan your spring and summer participation in the shooting sports by reviewing the event schedule on page 5. You will also find our 2008 State Champions listed on page 3. Since our last issue, I have enjoyed shooting conventional pistol in the new range in Bismarck. Now, as I write this, I have just returned from shooting my air pistol at the second new range situated in the small community of Ayr. These two ranges are great additions to the shooting venues in our state. Congratulations to everyone responsible for their development!

The clubs and the match directors put their time and effort into running these matches to benefit the shooters. So, get your guns and ammo ready and head out to these matches. You will almost certainly enjoy yourself. Your participation and enjoyment are the most important payment that the clubs and match directors need in order to continue their efforts.

Remember to exercise your privilege to participate in the shooting sports. Failure to exercise a privilege often results in its loss. We have lost too much to apathy.

I also invite you to share an article with our membership. Write one and email it to me ASAP. I cannot always use everything that I receive, but lately I need more input. I appreciate everyone who makes an 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 soon.

Ours 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**.

### NDSSA State Convention

Those of you who missed our annual meeting and convention in Minot on January 31, 2009, missed a great opportunity to honor **Dan Geurts** as our newest member of the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame. Many of us are active in the NDSSA principally to facilitate a successful junior marksmanship program in North Dakota, and Dan is sure a great example of how much one person can accomplish with junior shooting programs.

The one thing that stands out in Dan's accomplishments is that you should not wait for someone else to do what you can do for yourself. Even if you don't really know how to do that thing that needs doing, start. Start, and commit yourself to do your best to accomplish your goal. Dan made his commitment to our junior marksmen. He then worked his way through a continual learning process over many years in order to make his program a success. He didn't do this in order to win an award or for some personal gain. Dan is an inspiration to all of us. It was an honor to introduce him and be a part of his induction into North Dakota's Marksmanship Hall of Fame.

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### The Target

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### North Dakota Shooting Sports Association 2008 State Champions

Event	State Champion	Home	Score
Men 3-Position Junior Olympic	Matthew Pueppke	Amenia	559/600
Men Air Rifle Junior Olympic	Matthew Pueppke	Amenia	573/600
Women 3-Position Junior Olympic	Jennifer Garbina	Bismarck	545/600
Women Air Rifle Junior Olympic	Kelsey Hansen	Minot	376/400
3P Open Indoor	Thomas A. Thompson	Bismarck	852/900
3P Junior Indoor	Jennifer Garbina	Bismarck	558/600
3P Open Indoor Team	Bismarck/Mandan R&P	Bismarck	1093/1200
3P Junior Indoor Team	Buffalo Sharpshooters	Buffalo	2155/2400
4P Open Indoor	Dale Clemens	Noonan	1187/1200
4P Open Womens	Jennifer Garbina	Bismarck	1175/1200
4P Junior Indoor	Brandon Godbout	Casselton	394/400
4P Open Indoor Team	Buffalo Sharpshooters	Buffalo	1564/1600
4P Junior Indoor Team	Buffalo Sharpshooters	Buffalo	1557/1600
4P Open Outdoor	Dale Clemens	Noonan	1159/1200
4P Junior Outdoor	Loren Vogt	Grand Forks	1120/1200
Smallbore Prone Open Outdoor	Dale Clemens	Noonan	1586/1600
Smallbore Prone Junior Outdoor	Loren Vogt	Grand Forks	1564/1600
200 Yard Smallbore Prone	Thomas A. Thompson	Bismarck	198/200
Light Rifle	Terry Moe	Bottineau	975/1000
Open Air Rifle	Matthew Pueppke	Amenia	585/600
Highpower Rifle	Duane Holien	Cando	778/800
Service Rifle	Dale Clemens	Noonan	746/800
Long Range	Thomas A. Thompson	Bismarck	759/800
Junior Highpower	Ethan Headrick	Bismarck	673/800
Senior Champion	Tom Reiten	Grand Forks	769/800
Highpower Team	Cancelled by weather		
F-Class Long Range	Nathan Dagley	Center	728/800
Smallbore Silhouette Hunting Rifle	Tim Frank	Mandan	27/40
Smallbore Silhouette Heavy Rifle	James Ladwig	Argusville	17/40
Highpower Silhouette Hunting Rifle	Lee Widdell	Minot	17/40
Highpower Silhouette Heavy Rifle	Lee Widdell	Minot	20/40
Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle - Silhouette	Ken Heier	Bismarck	42/80
Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle - Target	Rick Jorgenson	Devils Lake	502/600
Men Junior Olympic Air Pistol	Matthew Pueppke	Amenia	535/600
Open Air Pistol	William Brackin	West Fargo	563/600
Indoor Conventional Pistol	Rob Sailor	West Fargo	860/900
Standard Pistol	William Brackin	West Fargo	549/600
Outdoor Conventional Pistol	William Brackin	West Fargo	2551/2700

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.

## Buffalo Sharpshooters excel at Rocky Mountain Nationals

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, with the help of Eric Pueppke, three shooters from North Dakota flew down to Colorado Springs. The three shooters were Brandon Godbout (son of Mitch and Cindi Godbout), Matthew Pueppke (son of Eric and Char Pueppke) and Soren Butler (son of Richard and Carrie Butler). We flew into Denver, rented a car and drove to Colorado Springs that night. The match is held in Colorado Springs because that's where the Olympic Training Center is. The shooting center there is a top of the line place with 72 air rifle spots, and 28 smallbore spots that are all serviced by electronic targets.

The next day Brandon shot air rifle and ended with a score of 546/600, Matthew shot a score of 563/600, and Soren had the day off. The next day everyone shot smallbore or .22 caliber rifle. Brandon was the early riser with his shooting time starting at eight AM. The smallbore match we fired consisted of 60 shots prone, 40 shots standing, and 40 shots of kneeling. That morning Brandon shot a score of 1086/1200. The next relay was at one o'clock and Matt and I fired on this relay. Matt shot and ended up with an 1118/1200, and I shot an 1132/1200.

After we left the range for the day, we drove around Colorado Springs, and capped the day off with a bowl of Josh and John's ice cream. This ice cream stop is a famous stop for shooters visiting Colorado Springs. On Friday Matt was the early riser and shot at eight o'clock. That must have been his time because he shot an excellent score of 1133/1200. Brandon and I shot on the next relay and Brandon shot a fine score of 1099/1200 and I shot a score of 1128/1200. After that we had the rest of the day off. After the second day we found out that I was in eighth place junior and was going to get to shoot in the finals. The finals are where the top eight shooters shoot ten shots at the end of the match to finalize placing. After the finals were complete I had moved up into seventh place.

That night I had to shoot my first air rifle match while Brandon and Matt had the night off. I ended up with a 577/600. That night we packed up our belongings and had a nice supper. The next morning we all shot the early relays. Matt shot a 572/600, Brandon shot a 540/600, and I shot a 585/600. The second day's score bumped me up and I ended up fourth out of eight. In the air rifle finals I shot a score of 102.0/109 and it bumped me up into third place for juniors.

After awards and farewells we packed up the rental and drove back up to the Denver International Airport. We dropped off the car, checked in our bags and went through security. We spent our last four hours of our trip at the Denver Airport walking around and checking things out. We boarded our flight which happened to be a propeller plane, but was still really nice! We landed in Fargo around 10:00 that evening

where we met everyone and said our final goodbyes and got our bags and headed for home. Our trip to Colorado Springs was filled with tons of good times and I think we would all definitely do it again. I thank Eric Pueppke for traveling down there with us and taking care of us. I also thank Char Pueppke for setting up all of our travel plans and other important issues.  
Soren Butler

### 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 Foundations 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

### Raffle Results

Our raffle was a success. John Hoflen won the raffle.

Thanks to each of you who sold or purchased tickets.

The profit is used to support our junior shooters and our junior programs. They need the money.

### STATE OF THE STATE (continued from Pg. 1)

It will consist of two events, 10m Air Pistol Five Target and 10m Air Pistol Standard. These events are designed as grassroots feeder programs for International Rapid Fire as well as Sport and Standard Pistol. Again, if anyone ever wanted to get in on literally the ground floor of a new shooting event, this is it. I'm going to challenge you today. If you can find the bodies, I'll bring in the instructors to train new coaches, rifle or pistol. Current coaches, this is a great way to further your education and your credentials as well!

A long time ago, someone stepped up and gave me some help to improve my shooting. Without that help, my involvement in this sport may have not come to be. Then I think about all of those that I've helped along the way, I'm sure my mentor never dreamed just how many shooters he would indirectly influence by helping me out! That's coaching, you reach more people and more generations than you realize. It's a really rewarding endeavor!

I'm really proud to be a part of the Shooting Sports here in North Dakota. I can't think of a better group of people that I'd rather be involved with, both young and old. Keep up the good work!

Eric Pueppke  
President, NDSSA

## Spring & Summer Schedule of Opportunities

### 2009 North Dakota Shooting Sports Association Schedule

<b>Apr 4, 5</b>	<b>Light Rifle State Championship</b>	<b>Bottineau</b>	<b>Gary Siverston</b>	<b>701-243-6413</b>
Apr 18	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Apr 19	Bullseye Pistol	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Apr 19	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454
Apr 26	Cowboy Lever Action & Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
May 1	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 2, 3	Long Range (Sat), Highpower, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Leon Nesja	701-663-8818
May 9	Bullseye Pistol	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
May 16	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675
May 17	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454
<b>Jun 6, 7</b>	<b>ND Outdoor Smallbore State Champs, Prone</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
Jun 6	Cowboy Lever Action & Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Tim Frank	701-663-3856
Jun 13, 14	Palma (Sat), Highpower X-Course (Sun)	Bismarck	Leon Nesja	701-663-8818
Jun 20	Silhouette Rifle Match	Bismarck	Tim Frank	701-663-3856
Jun 20	CMP - John C. Garand Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
<b>Jun 21</b>	<b>Pistol Regional w/Leg</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>Kevin Hertz</b>	<b>701-223-4225</b>
Jun 21	X-Course Highpower Practice	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
<b>Jun 27, 28</b>	<b>Highpower Regional w/Leg, Team</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
Jul 5	Cowboy Lever Action & Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Jul 11, 12	Palma (Sat) ND Long Range State Champ (Sun)	Bismarck	Leon Nesja	701-663-8818
Jul 18, 19	Highpower, 2 times X-course & Garand Match	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687
Jul 19	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454
<b>Jul 25, 26</b>	<b>ND Highpower State Champ w/Leg, Team</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
<b>Jul 26</b>	<b>ND Outdoor Pistol State Championship</b>	<b>Valley City</b>	<b>Bill Brackin</b>	<b>701-282-7158</b>

### -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
		<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. Program <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting <input type="checkbox"/> Bullseye Pistol  <input type="checkbox"/> Air Rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Hi-Power Rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Air Pistol <input type="checkbox"/> Smallbore <input type="checkbox"/> Police PPC <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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
<input type="checkbox"/> Rifle Silhouette <input type="checkbox"/> Pistol Silhouette <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Safety		

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

(July 2006)

**Some rambling thoughts:** Lately, we have been beaten up by the substantial economic problems of our nation. We all have some thoughts about whom or what might be responsible. Many blame the banking industry. Others blame Congress or our past President. Some blame the real estate agents, real estate appraisers or the stock brokers. Some blame the very existence of sub prime and adjustable rate loans for the economic problems that we face. But it is not an easy subject and does not lend itself to an easy solution.

In my opinion, each individual who entered into a loan with a bank or other credit company is personally responsible for deciding that they could afford the mortgage and for signing the loan papers. No one forced them to take on a sub prime or adjustable rate loan that they couldn't afford to pay back.

Still, the vast majority of those who entered into a sub prime or adjustable rate loan are still paying on those loans and keeping their promise to repay the loan. There is no question in my mind that there are some people in default who have been caught in the places whose economies have stagnated — the hurricane-torn communities on the Gulf of Mexico and the industrial Midwest states like Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, where the domestic auto industry has suffered. Many if not most of these people are in default on their loans because they have lost their job and not in default simply because of sub prime lending practices. The auto industries failure to adjust to the high price of oil has certainly hurt their employees and those who invested in the auto industry stock.

Moving forward with brute force and massive ignorance, our past and current Congress and Presidents have passed and signed legislation to bail out and jump start our economy at a cost of far more than one trillion dollars. In fact, they and the Federal Reserve are committing and spending money so fast that they cannot be sure how much they have spent already or will spend. There is no evidence that this is a proper solution to the economic woes of our nation. It looks to me like they are firing our dollars at a target 10 miles away, when our dollars have a range of only 5 miles. No matter how many dollars that they fire, there is no hope of hitting that target. I hope that I am wrong.

Our nation's Congress sees very little turnover and has full authority and responsibility for spending our tax dollars. We have not held them accountable. Again, it comes back to personal responsibility. Maybe we will finally recognize that government intervention is not the solution. Remember this next time you get a chance to vote. — Rick Jorgenson

**Here are a couple of quotations attributed to Ronald Reagan**

'The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'

'The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so.'

**North Dakota Shooting Sports Association, Inc.  
PO BOX 228  
BISMARCK ND 58502-0228**

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