

THE TARGET

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President's Message

Where did the summer go? If you're a farmer like me, you could say that there just plain wasn't much summer this year. I'm hoping there will be a long, warm fall! Now, one could sit around and worry about the weather. We choose to keep busy with all that's going on with the shooting sports. Here's a few highlights from the last few months.

In June Matt and Soren headed up to Grand Forks for the ND State Outdoor Smallbore matches. They drove up the night before and camped out at the range, which was a real highlight for them! I commented on "roughing it" to them as they stuffed the color TV into the car!

A short time later, Char, Matt, Soren and Kelsey headed to Fort Benning for the USAS Nationals. They spent two weeks in the Georgia heat shooting the Nationals and then attending the USAMU's smallbore rifle camp. The three ended up in Eric Uptagrafft's group for the week. (Eric just shot back to back 600's in 50m prone at the Champion of Champions match last week at Benning) Matt worked with Matt Rawlings on his standing position, and our three young shooters all got their rifles tested with several lots of Eley ammo by none other than Lonas Wigger himself. Char braved a bad part of town to procure some primers for me, something for which I will be forever grateful.

In July, I actually finally broke away and joined Matt, Soren, Char, and my oldest son, Chris, at the USAS 3P Air Rifle and Progressive Pistol Nationals held at Camp Perry, Ohio. The boys shot the rifle matches and on changeover day, we took them down to Wright-Patterson AFB and toured the US Air Force Museum. Then we came back and they fired the pistol matches. Soren shot back to back personal bests with his pistol which is really an accomplishment at a National Competition. Matthew took second place overall in Pistol, receiving his silver medal from Mike Krei, Director of NRA Competitive Shooting. I kept busy as well, making a presentation of the Steve Faught-designed "Pistol Sling" at the coaches meeting, as well as doing some brainstorming with Bob Foth and Sergey Luzov on upcoming camps, clinics, and the direction on International Pistol in general. We headed for home the day before the National Pistol Matches started at Perry, and heard that the incoming shooters found some flavors of ice cream "out of stock" at Andy's Ice Cream parlor in Port Clinton. Soren, Matt, and I don't know anything about that!

In August, Matt and I attended a bullseye match hosted by the Knob Hill Sportsman Club in Wadena, Minnesota. It was the first time Matt and I have shot a 2700 side by side. It was one of the nicest days I can remember for shooting, and the first time I'd shot an outdoor bullseye match in quite a while, a fine day all in all.

Late in August, Char and I flew to San Jose, California, and drove up to Redwood City, where I held a two-day pistol clinic for the Palo Alto Gun Club. My students were both old and young, and it was a pleasure to work with them. We took a couple of extra days of R&R and then headed homeward.

September found us at Bismarck for the grand opening celebration of Bismarck R&P's new 50 meter indoor range facility. Keynote speakers were Sam May of Bismarck R&P, Terry Steinwand, ND Game and Fish Commissioner, and Bill Roy, Director of Operations for USA Shooting. A first shot ceremony was held with Bill Roy giving the commands. Matt and Jacob Longlet chose to attend this ceremony instead of attending their senior homecoming back at Northern Cass High School! It was a tremendous event with over 150 people in attendance!

That brings us up to present, but the year isn't over yet. The Red River Regional Marksmanship Center will be opening in October. A lot of folks have been working feverishly at that project, and it looks first rate! Look for various events, clinics and training to be held there soon.

I guess what all of this proves is that if you want to be involved and busy with the shooting sports, there's lots of opportunity out there! If you live near the Fargo or Bismarck areas, they are in need of more people to volunteer or participate in the many activities with the new ranges. And let's not forget about our other existing clubs and facilities around the state where there's always room for new faces as well.

Good Shooting,

Eric Pueppke
President, North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

Editorially Speaking

Well, the spring and summer got to me again. I managed to bite off more work (both for pay and volunteer) than I could chew. As a result, this newsletter is, unfortunately, late. I believe that I have fixed the work for pay problem, and if I can stop myself from volunteering for too many more activities, I should be able to keep the newsletter on time in the future.

I was unable to follow my own advice to get my guns and ammo out and travel to the matches that I had planned to attend. I hope that the rest of you enjoyed participation at the many matches that were sponsored around North Dakota this year. Your participation and enjoyment are the most important reward that the clubs and match directors need in order to continue their efforts. I know that I will do better in the future.

As I have said before, 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 again 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

Our annual general membership meeting/convention will be held beginning at 2:00 PM in the Governors Inn, Casselton, ND, on January 23, 2010. We will take care of the NDSSA business and follow with a social hour at 5:00 PM and a meal and program beginning at 6:00 PM. We will congratulate and induct Leon Nesja and John Hoflen as our newest members of the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame. Leon and John are active in the NDSSA and in their local clubs helping to facilitate a successful junior marksmanship program in North Dakota as well as helping with range construction and support of bullseye pistol and high power rifle competition. If you have been to a bullseye pistol match or a highpower rifle match, you will likely have seen one or both of these men either helping to run the match or shooting or both. They have been committed to the betterment of the shooting sports in North Dakota for over 20 years now, and I look forward to working with them to better the North Dakota shooting sports for many more years.

Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth.

It may be laid down as a primary position, and the basis of our system, that every Citizen who enjoys the protection of a Free Government, owes not only a proportion of his property, but even of his personal services to the defense of it.

George Washington

NDSSA Officers and Chair people

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Morgan at the DCRA Nationals

(The following is an update from Morgan Dietrich on shooting the fullbore Canadian Nationals. Fullbore is fired with the .308 and no greater than 156gr bullets.

Morgan was shooting the new Sierra 2156 155 gr bullets, 43.5 gr of N-135 in a Lapua case, with BR2 primers. His rifle is a Barnard action, with Krieger 1-13 twist barrel. All gunsmithing was done by Randy Gregory) (editor)

This year I attended the DCRA Nationals in Ottawa, Canada, as Part of the USA National Development team. The matches ran at the same time as Camp Perry Long Range, so it was an either or situation of deciding which match I would attend. The US Palma team has changed their selection process for shooters to be on the 2011 Palma Team to Australia. You now shoot a selection match under coaches and are evaluated on your elevation as compared to needing to shoot high scores without coaching as in the past. Two other Minnesotans have made the first round of selection. They are Steve Knutson, as a coach, and Stacey Tamulinas, as a shooter. Other people have been named from other states but there is one more selection match to take place at Butner, NC in November before the final. Roughly forty people will be named.

Connaught, Canada is the location of the 2007 Palma Match. The US team is trying to offer more international venues to the team for the shooters and coaches to gain more experience shooting abroad. That is why I chose to attend this match, I had never shot out of the US before and never on the US National Development team against other countries.

The team shot three different team matches while we were in Canada. The Outlander, The Commonwealth Match, and finally the Canada Match (which the US had never won). Our coaches did a great job of gauging the correct sight settings, and the shooters fired the best shot they could giving us many 5's and V's (They still shoot on the 5V Target in Canada). We shot against teams from Germany and Canada while attending. The US won every team match they entered, including the US Young Eagle teams that were there, too.

The US has many talented shooters and coaches; many were placing very highly in individual matches and aggregates. I had been shooting below my average all week, but had been shooting well in the team matches. Finally the last match of the individuals: the Gatineau (2SS and 15 shots for record at 900M) I finally shot well. I fired a 75-10 in 2 to a mound format with another shooter from the US-Scott Fullmer. There were two other 75-10's on the line, but they do not use the Creedmore rule as we do in the US. Instead you have a shoot off. After I fired

for the US team on the Commonwealth team match, I was instructed to move to the low end of the line and we would fire the "shoot off" while the team match was still in progress.

In the shoot off you get one convertible sighter and 5 shots for record. The targets are pulled after each shot and not raised into the air until all firers have shot each round. I wasn't nervous at all; I just laid down, put what I thought I needed for wind on the gun, and shot my shot. First shot was a 5 that I converted, made a couple minor sight changes and kept going. My last shot I needed 1/4 more wind as I got a four at 9 o'clock just out, for a 24-1. That was the high score of us three shooters and I won the match.

For the win I get my name engraved on the Transvaal Cup. This is a Challenge Cup presented by Major Sir A.C.M. Bell, ADC, Scots Guards, as a memorial of the services with the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, during the South African War, 1899-1902. I got to hold it for about a minute and got some very nice pictures.

I have had success at Camp Perry over the years, but still have not won a match or an aggregate. I have been second a few times and third a few more. Now I have won a National Championship- just in another country.

We had a great team of shooters and coaches in Canada. I was very proud to represent my country and for us to win every match that we entered. We are poised for a great showing in Australia in 2011!

Regards,

Morgen G.B. Dietrich

Congratulations to Melissa Langer

Melissa is our new North Dakota State Light Rifle Champion. She is the first women to win the Championship, and she is also the first junior shooter to win the championship match. Melissa fired in the Expert Class, but her score of 972 placed her high overall, a full 2 points better than the high master class shooter. Her parents, Bill and Sheri, both competed in the match as well, so they had a chance to enjoy her win as it happened.

If you have not tried Light Rifle Competition, get your .22 rifle and some shells out and head to a match. You will enjoy the competition. Your fellow shooters will help answer any of your questions.

Buffalo Sharpshooters excel at Rocky Mountain Nationals

On February 10th, 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 shop 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

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Provides support for North Dakota shooting programs through distribution of donated funds entirely within North Dakota.

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the Foundation's effort to benefit shooting marksmanship and safety programs within North Dakota, please send us a note or contact:
Thomas Thompson – 701-255-4601
Eric Pueppke – 701-967-8450

North Dakota State Long Range/Palma Championships

Twenty-nine rifle shooters from North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Michigan competed in the North Dakota State Long Range Championships and Palma matches held this past weekend.

On Saturday, Lusty Leo Cebula of Northville, Michigan won the conventional Palma match and took high Senior honors with a score of 439 with 16 x's out of a possible 450. The Palma match consists of three separate 15-shot matches, shot at 800, 900, and 1,000 yards, respectively. A possible score in each match is 150.

In the F-class match fired concurrently with the conventional match, Michael Cobert of Bismarck took first place honors, scoring 415 with 10 x's. F-class is fired with any rifle, any sight and any reasonable support, while the conventional Palma is fired only with the .308 Winchester cartridge and iron sights. The F-Class target has smaller scoring rings than the conventional Palma target.

In the North Dakota State Long Range Championship match fired Sunday, last year's winner, Thomas A. Thompson of Bismarck defended his title by firing a 784 with 34 x's. The championship consists of four 20-shot matches, all fired at 1,000 yards. Two matches are any sight, and two require iron sights.

(Continued on pg. 6)

Fall & Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Now	LRSSA Airgun Postal League	Your home range	R. Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Nov 22	Open NRA 3P, Air Rifle, Air Pistol	West Fargo	T. Thompson	701-255-4601
Dec 12	Minot Rifle & Pistol Club Cowboy ROI class	Minot	Doc Hell	701-852-1697
Dec 12	Open 4-Position Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 13	Open Air Rifle Match	West Fargo	T. Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 2, 3	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-751-0609
Jan 2, 3	Bullseye Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 9, 10	NRA/CMP/USA Level 1 Pistol Coach School	West Fargo	T. Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 16, 17	Open Inter Rifle Sec (Air, 3P), Air & Free Pistol	Bismarck	T. Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 23	NDSSA State Convention	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
Jan 24	Light Rifle Match	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
Jan 30, 31	Junior Olympics (Air, 3P, Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)	Minot	R. Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Feb 6	NRA Junior 3P Air Sectional/USA 3P Air Rifle	Buffalo	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
Feb 7	100 Shot Offhand Match	Halstad, MN	Todd Westcott	218-456-2507
Feb 13	Cowboy Action Match	Minot	Doc Hell	701-852-1697
Feb 13, 14	Open 3P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 20, 21	Junior 3P State and Sectional	Minot	Wes Thomas	701-839-6075
Feb 20, 21	Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
	Light Rifle Match	Cooperstown	Larry Wathne	701-797-3327
Feb 27, 28	Tentative - 50 Meter Rifle/Free Pistol/Air Rifle/Pistol	Bismarck	T. Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 6, 7	Junior Air Sectional (Standing)	Devils Lake	R. Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 6, 7	Air Rifle State Championship	Devils Lake	R. Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 13, 14	Junior 4P State and Sectional	Bismarck	T. Thompson	701-255-4601

-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.

(July 2006)

North Dakota State Long Range/Palma Championships (continued from Pg 4)

In the F-class match, Sherrill Sullens of Billings, Montana posted the high score of 748 and 12 x's, while Elizabeth Dagley of Center was the high North Dakota State resident with 740 and 10 x's, and thus State Champion.

The 6.5x.284 cartridge was the most popular round for the conventional matches, with nine competitors choosing that wildcat. Four shooters chose .243 and 6mm cartridges in both standard and wildcat configurations. Three big magnums were represented: the .300 Winchester Short Magnum, the 7mm x .300 Winchester Short Magnum wildcat, and the 7mm Remington Ultra Magnum. The remainder of the competitors fired the standard .308 Winchester round. As a general rule, a long bullet with a high ballistic coefficient, a fast twist barrel, and high velocity are needed to stabilize the bullet for the long ranges involved. July 14, 2009
Mandan, ND

Leon Nesja, Match Director
708 Sweetbriar Road, Mandan, ND 58554
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(Yes, "Lusty Leo" is his real name.)

Some rambling thoughts: The concealed carry laws (now in all but two states - Wisconsin and Illinois) appear to have had beneficial effects on deterring crimes in the street. Vermont already boasts a high rate of gun ownership along with the least restrictive laws of any state - it's currently one of only two states (Alaska is the other) that allow a citizen to carry a concealed firearm without a permit. Vermont's combination of plenty of guns and few laws regulating seems to go hand in hand with their crime rate that is the third lowest in the nation.

Since high rates of private gun ownership have been shown to deter crime, is it reasonable to require, or at least, reward, gun ownership? State Rep. Fred Maslack of Vermont feels that it is reasonable for Vermont to assign a tax (\$500) to all those who, even if they don't own or carry a gun, are just a bit safer thanks to the millions of Americans who do? I am not sure that I can advocate any additional tax, but I can sure see his point. George Washington seems to agree (consider his quote on a US Citizen's duty as shown on the editorial page).

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