

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

“To a lesser extent”

Hi, I'm Rob Sailer, I have to admit I was a bit peeved when I read "... and to a lesser extent Rob Sailer in West Fargo" with respect to junior pistol programs in the last issue of the "Target". While I certainly don't want to down play the efforts of other coaches in the state, I would like to give people a bit of back story here that is not well known. I also have some thoughts on how to improve attendance on the pistol side of things for our juniors later.

Growing up in southwest ND, I've been around firearms all my life. I shot and hunted as a young kid and by the time I was in high school was "proficient" in shotgun, rifle and pistol. I went to college at NDSU and dabbled in handgun silhouette with a buddy during this time. I joined the NDSU Marksmanship Club in 1997 (pistol) and went to my first National Matches at Perry in 1998. It was a pretty small group then with only three of us making the trip. My teammate Curt Clays, won the collegiate division and I took second. It was the first time I had ever "placed" in a competitive event, and I was hooked.

After graduation I lived in Minneapolis and competed down there, but came back to Fargo in 2004 and started shooting with the "locals". We shot in Valley City on Sunday afternoon/evenings as the law enforcement range in Fargo had closed to public access. Sitting at the Pizza Corner in Valley City after one of the practice sessions is where the group hatched the crazy scheme of opening a range in Fargo which became a reality in 2009 as the Red River Regional Marksmanship Center, or RRRMC for short.

Around this time, I started to see if the assets from the old NDSU Marksmanship Club still existed. The club had disbanded shortly after I left, as the range in the basement of the Benson Bunker field house was removed. I found the guns were still in NDSU inventory and started the process of reforming the club. I met Loren Vanderhoff (Vogt), then a student at NDSU, and together we reconstituted the NDSU Marksmanship Club. Loren and the Club ran the first junior rifle program at the RRRMC. From an organized marksmanship standpoint, it was a spectacular failure, but the kids had fun and the club members got a taste of how hard it was to run a program. They certainly had more appreciation for the efforts of the parents and coaches that were involved when they were young. I was grateful when Jim Ladwig, Eric Pueppke, and Mitch Godbout got involved a few years later and I was able to focus on Jr programs for younger kids.

The RRRMC has been running a junior air pistol program for the past 12 years and I've been heavily involved with it for all but two years, during which I had to step away for personal reasons. We've had some very successful years running multiple air pistol and rifle matches and having kids going to JO's and Progressive Position Pistol Nationals. With the ebb and flow of life, I'm now in a position where we can again start working toward regaining the "competitive" program we had several years back.

The program we run, with lots of help from Chris Marquardt and Steve Faught, partners with West Fargo Park District. WF Parks advertises, registers, and collects fees for the program and gives us freedom to teach as we want to. We hold between 7-12 four-week introductory classes per year, depending on the coaches' availability. These classes teach basic firearms safety rules, sight alignment, and trigger control from a seated supported position. Kids range in age from 8-16, but generally fall on the younger end of the spectrum. After four weeks, most kids are holding all shots in the scoring rings and many students have all their shots in the black. Our average attendance for the past three years is about 150 kids annually.

We also run "intermediate" classes made up of those that have taken the intro class and are interested in continuing. About 20% of the "intro" students come to the intermediate program and typically stay for one or two months, and about 20% of these get serious about shooting. This means for 150 students annually, I may get three or four students per year that are serious about shooting at a higher level. Which is why it takes time to grow programs in this way.



So why do we have such a low rate of long term competitors? In my situation, range time is a major issue. We have one night a week on a 10-point range. The intro class starts at 6, the intermediate/advanced at 7 and by 8:30 kids are ready to head home to bed as it is a school night. It's challenging to run a serious program on 1.5 hours per week starting later in the evening. We're looking for additional options for range time, but with a facility as busy as the RRRMC, it's tough.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Editorially Speaking

LIMA, Peru – November 2022 - Ali Weisz added three medals to her collection at the CAT Championships in Lima, Peru, winning gold, silver and bronze this week. She also set the 10m Air Rifle World Record firing a blistering 635.3 in the qualifying stage. This is an amazing accomplishment in a very competitive environment.

I challenge any and all of our air rifle shooters to set themselves up in the prone position and attempt to duplicate this over 60 shots. Use the Orion system to score and see how close you can get to her standing score. Some of you may actually post a better aggregate, but it will be challenging.

Some of you have been following the USA Shooting website to keep up with the accomplishments of Katie Zaun: Some outstanding results - [Events | USA Shooting](#)

As most of you know, we are running our LRSSA Airgun Postal again over the next few months, and we have some very competitive and even outstanding scores fired already. Take a look at the November results for air rifle and air pistol on the Orion Results page: <http://www.orionresults.com/lrssand>. We developed and introduced this postal competition over 25 years ago, and we initially had more pistol competitors than rifle. That is not the case today, but we feel that it is a great format for training and competition with air pistol and air rifle for both beginners and accomplished.

Remember that our North Dakota clubs and their match directors are essential to the strong competitive shooting programs that we enjoy here in North Dakota. Support them any way that you are able. Support by registering and competing at a match. So get out your rifle or pistol and do that. Also, consider offering to help with the match setup and operation.

Happy winter. I hope to see you at an indoor match soon.

"Firearms stand next in importance to the constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence ... from the hour the Pilgrims landed to the present day, events, occurrences and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable ... the very atmosphere of firearms anywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

George Washington
First President of the United States

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 4 and send it in to **P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228**.

"The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms." Samuel Adams, Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, 1788

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“To a lesser extent”

(Continued from Page 1)

The Fargo metro area also has a lot of opportunities for kids to do other things; so the competition for kids' time is fierce. Many kids hop to different activities on a whim and never really get serious about anything, which is part of our society, unfortunately. I'm not going to try to change that and will continue to hold the intro classes to give kids and parents a (hopefully) positive experience. If they continue; great; if not, so be it.

Thinking more globally, kids today are different (I'm not a Boomer, but I sure feel like one), and the instant gratification aspect to their lives is strong. They have access to any information they want/need and they expect everything to be easily obtainable. Good marksmanship scores are anything but. Many kids that have some initial success get frustrated at the first plateau and give up. As a coach, I'm happy to get any input that people may have to get kids across this and keep them interested. I've been trying to get a conversation going with some local high schools, to start teams similar to shotgun, but "pistols" are "evil" and discussions are hard to initiate. This indicates that the stigma associated with pistols runs pretty deep and can cause some significant head winds to start competitive groups.

I also think at all levels, local, state, and nationally, pistol disciplines are just not promoted even within the shooting community. As an example, in the most recent CMP magazine, I believe there were two, perhaps three articles that mentioned pistol and seven or eight pertaining to rifle. This is nothing new and if we, as a shooting sports community want to change it, the shooting community in general needs to do more to promote the sport. What little you do see on TV/media is invariably Action Pistol, which is fun to shoot, but doesn't always promote the actual reality of what it requires to participate in Olympic/precision pistol sports.

Systematically, looking at our state, we are, and, to my knowledge, have always been heavily skewed toward rifle. That's not meant to be a criticism, it's just the reality. We're a hunting state with a lot of open land and good rifle ranges, so I can't fault people for shooting rifle. We've also got a lot of great rifle shooters that mentor new people so that grows their sport, as it should. Also, the NDSSA has air Rifles, smallbore rifles, and service rifles that can be checked out to juniors and new adults to use for a nominal annual fee which lowers the financial barrier/commitment to participation.

So why doesn't/can't the NDSSA do more to support and grow pistol programs in the state? Yes, there are some air pistols, but they are typically spoken for and come available so infrequently that I quit sending people to the NDSSA years ago. Why can't they have some higher end standard/sport pistols that could be loaned out to kids once they reach a certain level of proficiency and dedication? Better yet, how about providing a "starter" kit that could be placed in a community that has a person/people interested in starting a program? I've got several ideas here if anyone is interested in hearing them.

I don't think it's any secret that one of the major hurdles to starting a program is volunteer coaches. Those of us that coach do it because we're passionate about the sport, regardless of what sport it is. It takes a ton of work to run a program. I talked with Rick Jorgenson earlier this fall, and to use a dairy farmer

analogy, it's a lot like milking cows. Someone's got to open/setup the range, make sure the guns/ammo/targets and other miscellaneous equipment is ready, make sure kids are supported properly by parents, deal with... ahem... "Challenging" parents, and of course interface with the facility that we use for the activity. And have we talked about finances yet? Even given all this, I would encourage ANY parent or shooter to consider starting a program in their home town. I'm happy to provide the materials and curriculum that I use to anyone who wants it. I'm also happy to meet with them to help guide them through setting up a program and running classes. I'm not saying my way is the best, but it's a good start at least.

Another hurdle is match availability/promotion. When I first started trying to schedule matches, I was told by an "experienced" rifle shooter "you can't schedule over a rifle match", and there were rifle matches of one type or another almost every weekend. Luckily, the vast majority of people realize that there are just too few weekends a year for this to be realistic. That said, the only locations I know of that routinely schedule air and/or sport pistol matches are Devils Lake, Ayr, and the RRRMC. It would be great if we could get matches in other locations across the state that our kids could experience. I've currently got three Air/Sport matches scheduled at the RRRMC this season and hopefully they're on the schedule at the end of this edition of the Target.

So, now that I've taken up a page or two of space in the Target, and you know a bit more about me, let's have a conversation to see how we can improve junior pistol competition in the state. I'll be working toward a more competitive junior team in West Fargo with the hope I can give Rick's and Bill's teams a little more competition. Let's get something more going in Bismarck, Dickinson, Minot, Jamestown, and everywhere in between.
Rob Sailer

“The most dangerous myth is the demagoguery that business can be made to pay a larger share, thus relieving the individual. Politicians preaching this are either deliberately dishonest, or economically illiterate, and either one should scare us. Business doesn't pay taxes, and who better than business to make this message known? Only people pay taxes, and people pay as consumers every tax that is assessed against a business. Begin with the food and fiber raised in the farm, to the ore drilled in a mine, to the oil and gas from out of the ground, whatever it may be -- through the processing, through the manufacturing, on out to the retailer's license. If the tax cannot be included in the price of the product, no one along that line can stay in business.”

— **Ronald Reagan**

“Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.”

— Mark Twain

2022/2023 Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Dec 17	Open 4-Position Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
Dec 17, 18	Open Air Rifle/Pistol Matches(17 th Pistol & 18 th Rifle)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 7	Air/Std/Conv 1800	West Fargo	Rob Sailer	701-541-6427
7-Jan-08	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
7-Jan-08	59th Annual Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
14-Jan	Junior Olympics (Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
14-Jan-15	ND Junior 3P State Champ and Jr 3P NRA Sec	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
14-Jan-15	Open Air Rifle Sectional and Open 3P Metric Smallbore	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
21-Jan	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
21-Jan-22	Junior Olympics (Air, 3P Smallbore Rifle)	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
22-Jan	Military/Lever Action Silhouette (outdoor, weather permitting)	Bismarck	Dallas Quamme	701-426-3846
28-Jan	NDSSA State Convention	Valley City	Garth Weber	701-330-3284
28-Jan	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Brian Stonecipher	218-779-7802
29-Jan	22 Blackpowder Cartridge Silhouette (Indoor)	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
29-Jan	Indoor Varmint Match	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
Feb XX	Collegiate Sectional, Rifle and Pistol	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
4-Feb	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
4-Feb-05	Light Rifle Sectional Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
5-Feb	Military/Lever Action Silhouette(outdoor, weather permitting)	Bismarck	Dallas Quamme	701-426-3846
11-Feb	Precision Pistol Match - 1800	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
11-Feb	Precision Pistol and Air Pistol Matches	West Fargo	Rob Sailer	701-541-6427
12-Feb	22 Blackpowder Cartridge Silhouette (Indoor)	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
12-Feb	Indoor Varmint Match	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620

-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 _____

Rifle _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

City: _____

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

Silhouette			
Life.....\$500.00	One Year\$25.00	Clubs One Yr....\$25.00	
5 Year....\$100.00	Junior - Under 21...\$10.00	Club 5 Yr..... \$100.00	

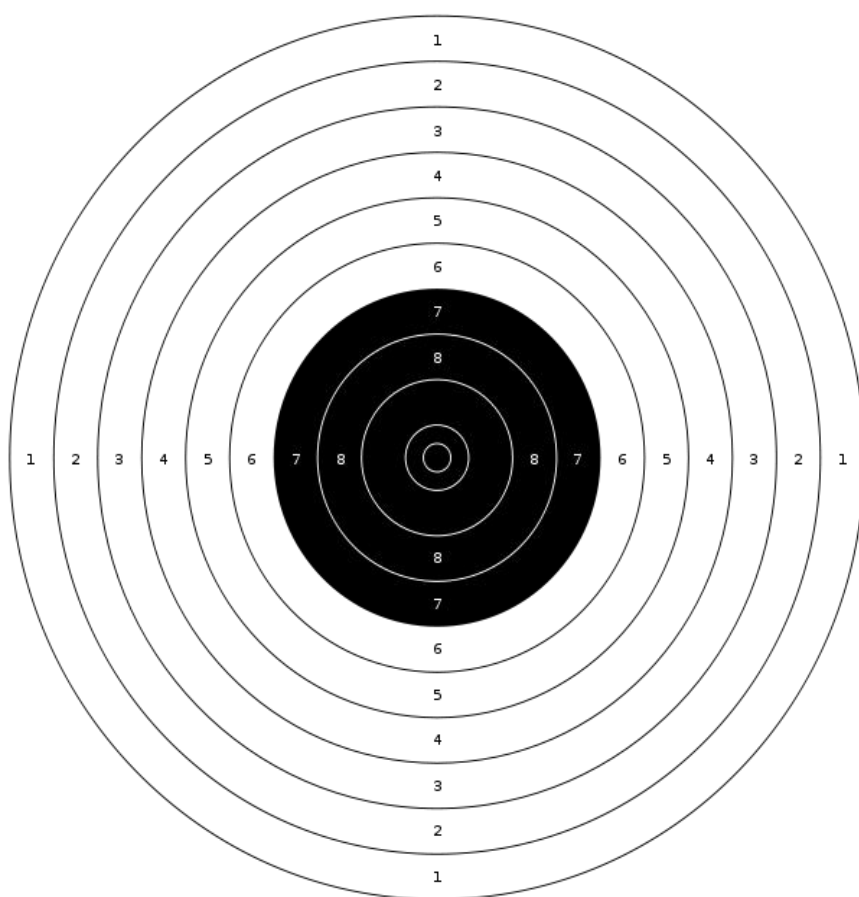
Make check payable to: North Dakota Shooting Sports Association and mail to above address. (May 1, 2015)

- Interests
- Legislation Jr. Program
 - Hunting Conservation
 - Collecting Bullseye Pistol
 - Air
 - Hi-Power Rifle
 - Air Pistol Smallbore
 - Police PPC Other
 - Rifle
 - Pistol Silhouette
 - Hunter Safety

A good shot must necessarily be a good man since the essence of good marksmanship is self-control and self-control is the essential quality of a good man. Theodore Roosevelt

“Then came the gadgeteer, otherwise known as the sporting-goods dealer. He has draped the American outdoorsman with an infinity of contraptions, all offered as aids to self-reliance, hardihood, woodcraft, or marksmanship, but too often functioning as substitutes for them. Gadgets fill the pockets, they dangle from neck and belt. The overflow fills the auto-trunk and also the trailer. Each item of outdoor equipment grows lighter and often better, but the aggregate poundage becomes tonnage.” ~ Aldo Leopold

10 Meter Air Pistol Target



The air pistol target is 17x17 cm with concentric score zones, the innermost (worth ten points) having a diameter of 11.5 mm. Of course, it is fired at 10 meters with one hand and open patridge sights. Air pistol is scored by the integer value of each shot over 60 shots. In the US, a score of 570 to 575 would win most qualification matches. In the world, it takes a score of 580 or more to place in the top 10 at the Olympics or in many World Cup matches.

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The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and starting on the first one."

— [Mark Twain](#)

10-meter Air Rifle

In this event, standing and 3 position shooters shoot a target 10 meters away using a single loaded air rifle in 4.5mm or .177 inches caliber. The rifle can weigh not more than 5.5 kilograms (just over 12 pounds) and can only have metallic sights.

Targets have a total diameter of just 45.5mm or 1.79 inches. The inner ring is a mere .5mm in diameter.



Small; isn't it?

It takes a decimal score of roughly 625 to place in the top 10 in the US. That is an average of **10.4 per shot**. The World Standing Air rifle record is held by Ali Weisz at 635.3 which she set in Peru this November.

I still like this quote.

No possible rapidity of fire can atone for habitual carelessness of aim with the first shot. — Theodore Roosevelt, (26th President of the United States) - The Wilderness Hunter, 1893

**INVITATION
TO THE
2023 NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
&
AWARDS BANQUET
Saturday, January 28, 2023
Eagles, Valley City, ND**

Please attend the annual membership meeting at 2:00 pm. Topics of discussion will include our junior shooting sports programs and other shooting sports programs around North Dakota and the USA. The Eagles Club is located at 345 12th AVE NE, Valley City, ND.

Schedule of Events Saturday, January 28, 2023

Annual Membership Meeting (Eagles)	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Social Hour (Eagles) – cash bar.....	5:30 pm
Dinner (Roast Beef & chicken breast, mashed potatoes, salad, & ice cream).....	6:30 pm
Annual Awards Presentations, Guest Speaker, HOF Ceremony.....	7:30 pm

Guest Speakers –Dan Durben

NDSSA HALL OF FAME INDUCTION – Duane Holien

Also, plan to vote on the change to our NDSSA By-laws:

Amendment to our North Dakota Shooting Sports By-laws as presented at our September 2022 Board of Directors Meeting:

Section 7 of the NDSSA bylaws: “will become the property of the NRA/ILA” is deleted and “will become the property of NDSSA Affiliated Clubs” is inserted in its place.

Rooms: AmericInn at 280 Winter Show Rd SW in Valley City, ND has a small block of rooms available for NDSSA Banquet attendants. The block reservation is good thru January 3rd. The rate is \$109.99+ tax for a 2 queen bed room. They do offer free breakfast, indoor pool, fitness center and they are pet friendly. Call 701-845-5551 for reservation and listed under NDSSA.

Contacts: For additional details on the membership meeting, dinner, awards banquet, contact Garth Weber 701-330-3284 or garth.weber@gmail.com

TICKET ORDER FORM - NDSSA BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Adult(s) \$30 each ____ (\$35 at the door) Junior (s) \$20 each ____

Please order tickets in advance before January 13th. Make checks payable to NDSSA and mail to: **Garth Weber 714 11th Street NW #6, Valley City ND 58072**

Guest Speaker

Dan Durben

Dan has been a competitive shooter since he was 13 years old, competing in smallbore rifle, air rifle, high power, and biathlon. He is a National Champion (smallbore and air rifle), World Champion (air rifle), and Olympian (smallbore), representing the USA in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. He was the Rifle Coach of the 2000 Sydney and the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Teams and the Shooting Coach of the 2004 Athens and 2008 Beijing Paralympic Teams, with his athletes winning two Gold and two Silver medals in the Games. Dan was the Director of the CMP 3-Position Air Rifle Summer Camp program for 15 years and is currently on the CMP Board of Directors. Dan recently completed his career as a Physics Professor at Black Hills State University with over 50 research publications and conference presentations on materials at ultra-high pressures, underground physics, neutrinos, dark matter, sport science, and aquaculture. Dan was the Faculty Athletics Representative for BHSU for over a decade, acting as a liaison between academics and athletics, ensuring institutional compliance with NCAA regulations, enhancing the student-athlete experience, and ensuring student-athlete health, welfare, and well-being.

Hall of Fame Inductee

Duane Holien

We will induct Duane Holien into the North Dakota's Marksmanship Hall of Fame and hope that you can join us. We will recognize Duane's efforts and commitment to improve the shooting sports in North Dakota from his home in Cando, ND.

- Duane has been involved in shooting sports since he was 10 years old.
- Duane has been a life time member of the NDSSA since the 1970's. He is also a life time member of the NRA.
- Duane was the president of the Cando Rifle Club. He also coached juniors at the Cando Rifle Club in the smallbore and high power rifle disciplines from 1974-1979.
- Duane was on the North Dakota National Guard Rifle Team. He was also on the All-Guard Team made up of this nation's best National Guard shooters from 1984-1989.
- Duane served this country for 22 years with the United States Army and National Guard.
- Duane was activated for Operation Desert Storm in the fall of 1990.
- Duane holds Distinguished Rifleman's Badge No. 518 which he earned as a civilian in 1984.
- The Civilian Marksmanship Program has also recognized Duane with the Army's Distinguished Rifleman's Badge that he received on August 6, 1987.
- Duane has won approximately 50 state championships including 18 High Power Rifle, 7 Service Rifle, 5 Mid-Range Rifle (sling), 2 Long Range Rifle (sling), 4 Outdoor 4-Positon Smallbore Rifle, 3 Outdoor Prone Smallbore Rifle, 6 Indoor 4-Position Smallbore Rifle, and 2 Indoor 3-Position Smallbore Rifle.
- Duane currently holds 5 State Records including High Power 200 Yard Standing, 600 Yard Iron Sights, the High Power Rifle National Match Course, and the 300 and 600 Yard Any Sight records.