

# THE TARGET

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

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### President's Message

Winter has arrived! The snow is falling as I write this, and the wind is howling. The days out on the 600 yard line shooting High Power, as well as those shooting Bullseye in the shade of the covered firing points are just a memory for now. But my time by the fireplace dreaming of summer will be quite limited. The schedule is full and spring will be here before we know it!

On January 9-10 Steve and I will be doing a Level I Pistol Coach School at the RRRMC in West Fargo. We're looking at over 20 students for this one, which is one of the largest we've ever done!

The RRRMC is up and running! Several of the disciplines are up and running. Junior programs will be starting in January. Membership has shot up to over 150 even though opening was delayed into mid November! There have been two matches held there already and a big thanks to Tom Thompson and Dan Geurts for their help running them!

Make plans to attend our NDSSA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game and Fish Commissioner, is the featured speaker. We'll be inducting John Hoflen and Leon Nesja into the Hall of Fame in honor of their many years of service to the shooting sports in North Dakota. I've got a couple of other things up my sleeve as well, but you'll have to be there to find out what they are! Don't forget that on the following day there's a Light Rifle match just down the road at the RRRMC!

Rifle shooters take note! I just finalized plans for a Level I Rifle Coach School to be held Feb. 27-28<sup>th</sup> at the RRRMC. Former National Team member William Boyle and yours truly will conduct the school. Bill hails from San Mateo, California. He assists National Coach Dave Johnson taking teams around the world as well as conducting shooting camps like the Junior Olympic Development Camp for Rifle. Contact me (701-967-8450) for details.

Check the NDSSA website for updated match schedules. If you haven't looked lately, you'll find a very full schedule!

Juniors, I have some really big news for you! About a week ago Rob Sailor, Steve Faught, and Yours Truly along with Loren Vogt and Matt Pueppke sat down around a large conference table at NDSU. At the head of the table sat Gene Taylor, NDSU's athletic director. (Can you guess where I'm going with this one??) Well, hang on to your chairs! Taylor has officially sanctioned the NDSU Marksmanship Rifle and Pistol Club! The RRRMC will be sporting a new NDSU logo for

passersby to see! Some of the NDSU rifles and pistols have been located and we're working on getting things back up to snuff. Loren is the club president and doing a great job getting things going. We want to build a first rate program for our ND collegiate shooters. It will be what we make of it, and its going to need some financial support, especially to get some needed equipment. But if we do this right, an NDSU Division I team is not out of the realm of possibility.

There's a lot of ways to be involved with our shooting sports around the state. There's a niche for everyone, so get involved!

I'd say more, but there's a pile of postal targets from Rick and Connie Jorgenson lying here, and as usual, I'm behind! See you at the Annual Meeting!

Eric Pueppke  
President, North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

#### **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

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.  
Thomas Jefferson

But with respect to future debt; would it not be wise and just for that nation to declare in the constitution they are forming that neither the legislature, nor the nation itself can validly contract more debt, than they may pay within their own age, or within the term of 19 years.  
Thomas Jefferson

## Editorially Speaking

I hope that you all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and wish everyone a Happy 2010. I have just returned from a great holiday visit with my children and grandchildren in Iowa. Over the last couple of months, I have enjoyed hunting deer with my son here in North Dakota and my son-in-law in Iowa. I was lucky enough to harvest deer with handgun and rifle. However, my valiant effort to do so with my muzzleloader was unsuccessful. I had a great time. Our privilege and opportunity to hunt deer, waterfowl, upland game and furbearers in North Dakota has improved greatly since I began hunting back in the mid-1970s. I hope that those of you who hunt enjoyed a great fall hunting season.

I look forward to competition in the indoor shooting sports the rest of this winter. As you know, our opportunity to do so has been greatly enhanced over the last few years. We have more and better indoor ranges and committed match directors around the state. The efforts of our clubs in Ayr, Bismarck, and Fargo continue to improve their facilities. Thank them by firing a match at one of these new ranges over the next few months. Bring a friend. I will do my best to do just that, and I look forward to seeing you at a match in North Dakota soon.

As I have said before, remember to exercise your privilege to participate in the shooting sports. The improved opportunities I have mentioned above are a boon to us all.

I 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.

I have inserted some quotes by Thomas Jefferson in this issue. It is amazing how pertinent they are now some 225 years after he said and wrote them.

### NDSSA State Convention

Our annual meeting/convention is nearly upon us. It will be held in Casselton, ND on January 23, 2010. We will take care of the NDSSA business and will then proceed with the induction of Leon Nesja and John Hoflen as our newest members of the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame. Leon and John are very active in the NDSSA and in their local clubs. They have helped to facilitate a successful junior marksmanship program in North Dakota. They have also helped 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 running the match or shooting or both.

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.

I think we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious.  
Thomas Jefferson

### NDSSA Officers and Chair people

#### Web site <http://www.ndssa.org>

President: Eric Pueppke, 14926 25th St. SE, Amenia, ND 58004  
<mailto:cpueppke@polarcomm.com> Home & Bus 967-8450  
 Vice Pres: James Ladwig, 17321 27<sup>th</sup> St SE, Argusville, ND 58005  
<mailto:james@curtslock.com>. Home 701-484-5236.  
 Exec Off: Rick Jorgenson, 4931-81<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Devils Lake, ND 58301  
 Email: <[rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net](mailto:rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net)>. Home 662-4760 Bus 662-5301  
 Sec/Treas: Steve Faught, 2581 149<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Amenia, ND 58004  
 Email: [rushridge2@anyconnect.com](mailto:rushridge2@anyconnect.com) Home & Bus: 347-5903.  
 Mbr Sec: John Hoflen, 2921 Winnipeg Dr, Bismarck, ND, 58503  
 Email: [jhs1h73@bis.midco.net](mailto:jhs1h73@bis.midco.net) Home 701-224-6841  
 Newsletter Editor: Rick Jorgenson, 4931 81<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Devils Lake, ND 58301  
 Email: <[rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net](mailto:rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net)>. Home: 662-4760 Bus 662-5301.  
 Director 1/10: Jimmy W. Barner, 1713 22<sup>nd</sup> St. NE, Emerald, ND 58228  
<mailto:barner@gfwireless.com> Home & Bus 967-8450  
 Director 1/12: Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051  
<mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net> Home 255-4601, Bus 250-4242, Ext-3620  
 Director 1/08: Mitchell Godbout, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, Casselton, ND 58012  
 Email: <[mdgodbout@hotmail.com](mailto:mdgodbout@hotmail.com)>. Home & Bus 701-347-5593.  
 Past Pres: Walt Fairbanks, 5515 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Bismarck, ND 58504-9000  
 Email: [upnorth@bis.midco.net](mailto:upnorth@bis.midco.net) Home 673-3321 Bus 250-4242 ext 3605  
 Light Rifle: Terry Moe, RR 2, Box 70., Bottineau, ND 58318.  
 Home & Bus: 228-3882.  
 Web Mgr: James Ladwig, 17321 27<sup>th</sup> St SE, Argusville, ND 58005  
<mailto:james@curtslock.com>. Home 701-484-5236  
 HG Silhouette: Cathy Logosz, 9211 62 Ave NE., Dickinson, ND 58601-8534  
<mailto:dcllogosz@ctctel.com> Home & Bus: 225-9461  
 Junior Programs:  
 Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051  
<mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net> Home 255-4601, Bus 701-221-1220  
 Highpower Rifle:  
 Dennis Coulter, 3306 Walnut St. Grand Forks, ND 58201-7667  
 Email: <[dennyc@lunseth.com](mailto:dennyc@lunseth.com)> H 746-6959, Bus. 772-6631, Fax 772-7932.  
 Pistol: Steve Faught, 2581-149<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Amenia, ND 58004  
 Email: [rushridge2@anyconnect.com](mailto:rushridge2@anyconnect.com). Home & Bus: 347-5903.  
 SB Rifle Programs: See Junior Program Chair. Tom Thompson above.  
 Rifle Silhouette: Tim Frank, 10 Div. St., Mandan, ND 58554-1925  
 Home: 663-3856  
 NRA Field Rep: Clay Pederson, P. O. Box 8, Morristown, SD 57645  
 Email: [cpederson@nrahq.org](mailto:cpederson@nrahq.org) Home & Bus: (701) 522-9622.

#### The Target

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Rick Jorgenson  
 Editor, The Target  
 4931 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE  
 Devils Lake, ND 58301  
 Email: <[rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net](mailto:rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net)>

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The following is from Russ Theurer. Russ is originally from Carson, ND. They used to have quite a strong smallbore club in Carson. They used to shoot in an old restaurant in town and Russ's dad was very active in the old club. The Carson Club is gone now. Russ lived in Bismarck for several years before moving to Memphis, Tennessee. For the last few years, he has been working very hard at the highpower rifle and long range rifle game. This complements Morgan Dietrich's story in the last issue of the Target and tells of his efforts and accomplishment during the 2009 highpower season. Good shooting for an old (however still relatively young) North Dakota shooter.

The table at the bottom is the first cut of the US National Rifle team that will shoot the international Palma matches in 2011 in Australia. It will probably be hard for Russ to make the final cut since he will probably be deployed next year. Russ is serving our country in the Army Reserves. Also, notice in the table that Morgan Dietrich (formally from Crystal, ND) made the first cut.

Congratulations to Russ and Morgan!!

## Made the Cut

Ultimately 18 shooters will shoot on the Palma team in Australia. These are the shooters the team will be working with till then. The World Long Range Championships are held just ahead of the Palma Match which includes individual and team matches in the World Championships. In the past they have taken only 18 shooters to the Palma Match. I THINK they will be taking about 25 -30 shooters this time and will then pick the 16 shooters that have been shooting well all week from their grand aggregate scores to finally make up the Palma Team. This would make sense and presents the best opportunity to place the best shooters on the line at the right moment.

I'm not sure how my deployment will affect my selection, but I have a feeling it will not allow them to select me for the trip to Australia in 2011. I will miss out on some major training sessions and international matches with the TEAM. While everyone else will be working with the team, I'll be off on vacation on this deployment.

I have at least given myself the CHANCE to prove that I have the skill and equipment to make it this far which is the reason I went for the team tryouts. On the other hand, I don't feel I'm the same caliber of shooter as the Gallagher's and the Mayo's and Tomkins and Litz, and Widden. Or at least I'm not yet firing at their level.

Its been one heck of a ride this year, setting lots of Midrange National Records, making the National Rifle team, winning a major match at the Fullbore

Nationals, shooting a 449/450 in the Camp Perry National Palma Team Match, making it to the National Leech Cup shoot off and finally winning two Regional Gold Medals in the across-the-course-highpower matches. Wow what a year. This last month of the year will close a great big chapter on my life and it's been a good one. I could never have done it without the help of my good friends and family in their support of what I do, or more importantly what I did NOT do and should have been doing instead.

Thank you to Tom & Tina Thompson and **All** my friends in North Dakota for getting me started and helping me along in those early years. You have really inspired me to keep going. Also to my new Tennessee friends who keep going to the range with me and allow me to practice and get better several times a week all year long. Doug, Rick, Boyd, David, and Mark, Thanks for pushing me and keeping me sharp.

Sincerely, Russ Theurer

## Current National Team Shooters from all Tryouts:

Bachand, Kelly	Gamboa, Bob	Pagel, Sandy
Budbill, Wayne	Gallagher, Michelle	Reeve, Kent
Buxton, Lane	Gallagher, Sherri	Rhynard, Jon
Clark, Charles	Gregory, Randy	Sasic, Vaso
Cloft, David	Gustin, Bob	Sekellick, Ron
Cooper, Ty	Haislip, Jason	Skaret, Justin
Crawford, Norm	Henry, Gary	Solis, Bud
Crandall, David	Hengehold, Trevor	Storer, Michael
DeCosta, Jerry	Landwehr, Bryan	Suave, Brad
Delatorre, Andy	Hopper, Lance	Tamulinas, Stacey
<b>Dietrich, Morgan</b>	Howell, John	Tompkins, Nancy
Dunia, Michael	Hunt, Rick	Tuck, Mike
Fay, Trudie	Littlefield, David	<b>Theurer, Russ</b>
Forshee, Wayne	Litz, Bryan	Chuck Umberger
Franklin, Johnnie	Massey, Trevor	
Friguglietti,	Mayo, Noma	

In 1785 Thomas Jefferson wrote to his fifteen-year-old nephew, Peter Carr, regarding what he considered the best form of exercise: "...I advise the gun. While this gives a moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise, and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body, and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun, therefore, be the constant companion of your walks."

## Rambling thoughts about Shooting

I have been hunting with a handgun and shooting International Handgun Metallic Silhouette targets since 1978. I have to admit that I still enjoy the thrill of deer hunting with a .44 magnum and knocking down a metal silhouette target today almost as much as or in some ways even more than I did back when I started over 30 years ago. I didn't take up the sport of Bullseye pistol shooting and international air pistol until sometime around 1992. By that time I had mastered the skill of firing a big bore or rimfire handgun with two hands or from the freestyle handgun silhouette position. I have yet to master the skill necessary to fire the bullseye pistol or air pistol with one hand. However, I am addicted. I enjoy every practice session and match that I am able to attend. I regret that I did not get involved in the competitive shooting sports when I was a teenager.

I did not have a coach to guide me through the learning process, and taught myself a number of bad mental and physical habits along the way. It is extremely difficult to break these bad habits, but it is a lot of fun to make the effort to improve. Our beginning shooters here in North Dakota are blessed with a great number of skilled coaches and we will soon have more. Eric and Steve have made the commitment to attain certification as pistol coach instructors and their school at West Fargo may certify as many as 20 Level 1 pistol coaches. If each of these coaches is able to help one new shooter get started on the right path every year, we will have the shooters needed to fill our new indoor shooting facilities and to add to the ranks of our existing competitive pistol shooters. They will improve rapidly and should enjoy themselves immensely. Every new shooter I have taken to the range has enjoyed their experience firing a handgun. Of course, I limit their exposure to the smaller calibers and light loads in the larger calibers for this first experience.

Indoor ranges with .22 rimfire or .177 air pellet guns are a great format for the introduction of new shooters to the shooting sports with rifle or pistol. Together with good coaches to introduce them to correct method of firing a good shot on the target, we will have a great opportunity to elevate the level of shooting competition in our state. We may never get back to equal the number of competitive shooters that enjoyed the shooting sports back in the 1950's, but we can sure improve our numbers dramatically from our current few.

Every year people purchase quality handguns and rifles and shoot them only infrequently. I believe that anywhere from 30% to 50% of the households in North Dakota have at least one rifle or handgun that a member of that household could use comfortably to get started in one or more of the shooting sports. In many cases, all they need is an invitation or

introduction to the sport of competitive shooting and a little good coaching. The Level 1 rifle coach course scheduled on Feb. 27-28<sup>th</sup> at the RRRMC in West Fargo is another great opportunity to add competent coaching for the new shooter in North Dakota.

Unlike football and hockey, a person can enjoy participation in the shooting sports throughout their lifetime with almost no risk of injury. Their skill may even improve as they mature. Certainly, they can enjoy shooting, and they may find that they enjoy reloading ammunition, casting their own bullets, or any of the other skills that are a part of the shooting sports.

I cast my own rifle and handgun bullets and enjoy working up a good hunting load or accuracy load for competition with them. The deer that I harvested this year were all taken with ammunition that I loaded myself. The .44 magnum that I used to harvest deer in Iowa with my son in law over the Christmas holiday fired bullets that I cast and loaded. The gun and ammunition performed superbly. The revolver I used to hunt is also a revolver that I have used with substantial success in International Handgun Metallic Silhouette competition.

Many people don't realize that they can use one of their hunting rifles or handguns in one of our competitive shooting sports. They think that they need some specialty or custom gun in order to be competitive. While we can all use another reason to purchase a new gun, often we could make use of the gun we already own to be quite competitive in one or more of the shooting sports.

The Bismarck/Mandan Rifle and Pistol Club is now running light rifle and bullseye pistol matches concurrently at their new range. I think that is a great idea. Many of our pistol shooters need an introduction to the rifle, and the reverse is true of our rifle shooters. I have enjoyed every shooting sport that I have tried so far. So, take a new shooter or yourself to one of our new ranges and have some fun. Rick Jorgenson

The constitutions of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed; that they are entitled to freedom of person, freedom of religion, freedom of property and freedom of the press.  
Thomas Jefferson

No free man shall ever be de-barred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain their right to keep and bear arms is as a last resort to protect themselves against tyranny in government.  
Thomas Jefferson

If the people let government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny. Thomas Jefferson

## Fall & Winter Schedule of Opportunities

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
<b>Jan 23</b>	<b>NDSSA State Convention</b>	<b>West Fargo</b>	<b>Eric Pueppke</b>	<b>701-967-8450</b>
Jan 24	Light Rifle Match	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
<b>Jan 30, 31</b>	<b>Junior Olympics (Air, 3p, Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>R. Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
Feb 6	NRA Jr. 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
<b>Feb 13, 14</b>	<b>Open 3P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
<b>Feb 20, 21</b>	<b>Junior 3P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>Wes Thomas</b>	<b>701-839-6075</b>
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
<b>Mar 6, 7</b>	<b>Junior Air Sectional (Standing)</b>	<b>Devils Lake</b>	<b>R. Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
<b>Mar 6, 7</b>	<b>Air Rifle State Championship</b>	<b>Devils Lake</b>	<b>R. Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
<b>Mar 13, 14</b>	<b>Junior 4P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>T. Thompson</b>	<b>701-255-4601</b>
<b>Mar 13, 14</b>	<b>Pistol Sectional (Conv, Air, Standard)</b>	<b>West Fargo</b>	<b>James Ladwig</b>	<b>701-484-5236</b>
<b>Mar 20, 21</b>	<b>Open 4P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
Mar 27	Bis/Man Junior Club Championship	Bismarck	T. Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 26, 27, 28	Red River Valley Championship	Halstad, MN	Todd Westcott	218-456-2507
	<b>ND Indoor Pistol State Championship</b>	<b>Valley City</b>	<b>Brian Kiefert</b>	<b>701-845-0501</b>
<b>Apr 10, 11</b>	<b>Light Rifle State Championship</b>	<b>Bottineau</b>	<b>G. Siverston</b>	<b>701-243-6413</b>
Apr 18	Bullseye Pistol	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225

### -Application-

#### North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228

Also join via the web: <http://www.ndssa.org>

**Yes, to protect my right to keep and bear arms; I would like to join the NDSSA and support the legislative efforts of the NDSSA. My dues for a membership as noted are enclosed.**

Please return this form. Print name and address as you wish it to appear in our records.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### Interests

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

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

(July 2006)

**STATE RECORDS - JUNIOR (As of December 31, 2009)****FOUR POSITION GALLERY RIFLE**

Course of Fire	Individual	Score	Place and Date
10 Shots Prone	Mike Hall	100-10x	Cando - 3/7/84
	*Byron Bjordal	100-10x	Minot - 4/5/86
	*Sandy Kraus	100-10x	Minot - 4/6/86
	*Mark Martz	100-10x	Minot - 4/6/86
	*Natalie Carey	100-10x	Bottineau - 4/5/87
	*William O'Connell	100-10x	Bismarck - 3/24/96
	*Levi Geurts	100-10x	Bismarck - 3/13/05
	*Darren Dyk	100-10x	Bismarck - 3/13/05
10 Shots Sitting	Gregory Erickson	100-10x	Bottineau - 4/5/87
10 Shots Kneeling	Kaylee Kuntz	100-8x	Bismarck - 3/14/04
	<b>*Matthew Pueppke</b>	<b>100-8x</b>	<b>Bismarck - 3-8-09</b>
10 Shots Standing	Levi Geurts	100-9x	Bismarck - 3/13/04
<b>400 Point Aggregate</b>	<b>Matthew Pueppke</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>Bismarck - 3-8-09</b>

**INTERNATIONAL GALLERY RIFLE (A-36 Target)**

20 Shots Prone	Natalie Carey	200-18x	Minot - 3/28/88
<b>20 Shots Standing</b>	<b>Matthew Pueppke</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>Minot - 2/21/09</b>
20 Shots Kneeling	Sandy Kraus	194	Minot - 2/25/89
	<b>*Matthew Pueppke</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>Minot - 2/21/09</b>
	<b>*Soren Bulter</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>Minot - 2/21/09</b>
<b>600 Point Aggregate</b>	<b>Matthew Pueppke</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>Minot - 2/21/09</b>

**INTERNATIONAL AIR RIFLE**

10 Shots Standing	Matthew Pueppke	100	D Lake - 3/2/08
<b>40 Shots Standing</b>	<b>Soren Bulter</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>D Lake - 3/1/09</b>

20 Shots Prone  
 20 Shots Standing  
 20 Shots Kneeling  
 60 Shot 3P Aggregate

\*Indicated Co-holder

**INTERNATIONAL AIR PISTOL**

10 Shots	Travis Jorgenson	97	Rolla - 3/16/96
60 Shots	Travis Jorgenson	566	Rolla - 1/16/96

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**PO BOX 228**  
**BISMARCK ND 58502-0228**  
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