

# THE TARGET

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

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### Message from the Chief Cat Herder

Steve and I have been getting ourselves into trouble for years. I guess it all started in Kindergarten when we just couldn't see the point of taking a nap in the middle of the day. Our kindergarten teacher didn't see it that way, and we were in trouble. The years passed and we just kept getting ourselves mixed up in things like state shooting sports associations and pistol clubs and range boards; you know... real trouble! Then came the day down at the Olympic Training Center when I emerged from the office and went over to Steve, who was just sitting out in the hall enjoying the peace and quiet and said something like, "They want me to get on this National Coach Development Staff...wanna get in on this too?" He said "Why not!" and the next thing we knew we were in West Texas teaching a coach school! (Well, almost that fast!)

Seriously though, it's been great helping out the NRA and USAS with their coach and junior programs, and we were excited when Sergey Luzov, our USAS National Pistol Coach, asked us to assist him with the junior pistol team traveling to Munich, Germany, for the World Championships. This meant conducting a pre-event training camp at the Olympic Training Center (OTC) in Colorado Springs for 6 days, and then flying with the team to Germany for the matches. We would be gone from the 21<sup>st</sup> of July to the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.

This was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Shooting Championships and the Germans pulled out all the stops to really make it a grand event. The first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship was held in 1897 in Lyons, France. Since the mid-1950's it has been held every 4 years in various countries around the world. This time it was in Munich at the range used for the 1972 Olympic Games.

We were told that this was one of, if not the largest shooting match that has ever been held. This match consisted of rifle, pistol, and shotgun events, including 15 Olympic events as well as several non-Olympic events, such as 300 meter rifle and standard pistol, to name two. There were over 2500 shooters from 104 nations competing for 49 slots for the London Olympic Games in 2012. Over 1500 officials were present overseeing the 3,670 "starts". (Some shooters competed in more than one event.) The USA contingent consisted of 115 people, including 85 shooters, with the balance made up of coaches, medical people, sports psychologists, media folks, and a couple of farm boys from North Dakota. Of the 85 US shooters, 23 were pistol shooters.

Steve and I were in charge of the 9 junior (under 20 years old) pistol shooters. There were 5 girls and 4 boys, including a third North Dakota farm boy by the name of Matt Pueppke.

Among the 9, we had one or more competing in the events of Men's Air Pistol, Women's Air Pistol, Men's Sport Pistol, Women's Sport Pistol, Standard Pistol, Rapid Fire, and in Matt's case, Free Pistol.

We spent 6 days in Colorado training the seven different events with kids. Most days we'd train till early afternoon, and then spend the rest of the day doing something fun with the group. Some of the National Pistol Team members were very helpful with setting up the electronics on the ranges as well as giving some positive input to the juniors. It was a great time to hone skills as well as getting these young people from around the nation together, getting to know each other, and building a team. We had our room and board at the OTC, but also took everyone out to some meals and, of course, that little ice cream shop in downtown Colorado Springs. (One can really build some team solidarity in that place!)

Departure day started early, and we got on the OTC bus at 5am heading for the Denver Airport. Now if you've never tried traveling across the world with a group of young people with handguns, I must warn you that it isn't for the faint of heart! Add to that some small details like the fact that we weren't all on the same airplane from Denver to Atlanta, and the two that were on the other plane had a very short connection time. Definitely makes things interesting. (If you've never tried to line up plane tickets, hotel rooms, foreign firearms permits, etc, etc, for 115 people, just ask our US Team Leader, Bob Aylward. It just doesn't go totally smoothly! I must say that Bob deserves an Olympic Medal for pulling it off as well as he did!)

We got everyone on the same plane in Atlanta, and at sometime past 4 pm we took off for the land of weinershnitzel. We arrived just before 9am. The trick to avoiding jet lag is to stay up till bedtime and that's what we did, to the tune of being up for 30 some hours. Matt Emmons had sent me an e-mail a few days before we left Colorado and advised us to stay up late the night before we departed so we would sleep on the plane and it was sound advice.

The next morning, Matthew had pre-event training for Free Pistol, and in the afternoon we all donned our new team uniforms and were bussed downtown for the Opening Ceremonies. (Continued on page 3)

Eric Pueppke  
Past President, North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

## Editorially Speaking

The summer shooting season is nearly over. As you know, our opportunity to shoot indoors has been greatly enhanced over the last few years. We have more and better indoor ranges and committed match directors around the state. The big challenge continues to be the addition of more competitive shooters to our ranks. We have a surplus of recreational shooters in the state, but only a very few competitive shooters. Our competitive shooters seem to have more than the average skills, and often rank high nationally. Their commitment to excellent effort at the match and during practice may intimidate some of those who are just beginning to explore their interest in competitive shooting. I know that most of us who shoot competitively are avidly interested in broadening our ranks. Still, I can see how our appearance at a match or practice with all of the equipment that we bring might intimidate many people who do not know what they are getting into. I firmly believe that the early investment in good equipment will reward anyone who decides to take up the sport of competitive shooting. At the same time, often, those who have no background in the sport think that investment will involve a lot of money. As we all know, there is a lot of good used equipment out there.

I recently fired my first F-Class match using a Remington 700 in .308 and a 4.5 to 14 power scope without any special bullets or target equipment. I didn't even use my spotting scope. I forgot my rear sandbag at home and used an old regular Harris bipod. I came to the match alone. I had a good time and shot better than I expected. There were a lot of guns and scopes on the line tailored for the open class that might have intimidated a newcomer. I look forward to seeing you at a match 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, but our participation is crucial to their long term success.

I again invite you to share an article with our membership. Write one and email it to me ASAP. I have some content to carry over to our next issue, but I can always use more. 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.

The 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 5 and send it in to **P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228**.

In the past few issues, I have inserted some quotes by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. I have added C. S. Lewis in this issue. It is amazing how pertinent they are now many years after they said and wrote them.

**Thomas Jefferson: The beauty of the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it.**

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**Cats** (continued from page 1)

Our German hosts absolutely outdid themselves! The Marionplatz square was filled with thousands of people and the ceremony lasted nearly 3 hours. It included speeches, entertainment, and a ceremony consisting of a member of each country's team carrying in their national flag. Jamie Beyerle was our flag bearer. Aylward and Dave Johnson (National Rifle Coach) asked me to be in charge of getting everyone organized for this (chief cat herder), but luckily it went very smoothly.

Our daily schedule consisted of a good deal of "herding cats" as Steve put it. Everyone trained and shot on different days at different times. Those heading to the range had to get on the right bus while those back at the hotel had to be doing something besides just sitting around watching TV in German. My wife, Char, was able to travel over with another "shooter's mom", and the two did some touring with some of our shooters who had a particular day off. It was a big help. We'd usually have supper together, often at the small restaurant across the street from our hotel. Steve spent the better part of a couple of days with one of our younger juniors who took ill and got a little scared as well. You just don't know what's going to happen, so you have to be prepared for anything. We held a team meeting every night to organize for the next day. Much of the time Steve was at one range while I was at another. We both made a little time to hit commercial row where we were relieved of some of those pesky Euros in our pockets!

I could write a whole article on how everyone performed at the match. Instead I'll just say that they all did well. None of our pistol juniors made finals, but they did shoot up to the level they are at right now. They had the opportunity to stand up with the very best shooters in the world. It was humbling as well as inspiring. For example, Matthew shot the second highest score he's ever posted with a Free Pistol at this match. One could not expect a better performance. He placed 42<sup>nd</sup> in the match, about right in the middle of the pack. Of course he'd have liked to do better, but he wasn't unhappy. Our purpose was to get our juniors to a world level match and "get their feet wet" so to speak. Several of these young people may soon be, if they aren't already, on the National Team and this experience is essential. Coach Luzov was very pleased with them.

One evening we all found cause to celebrate. The US had set four World Records that day. Two in Women's 3P team events, one in a Shotgun team event, and the fourth in an individual Shotgun event. This hasn't happened since the beginning of time and it was exciting!

I'm fortunate in that I know most all of both the rifle and the pistol team members very well, mostly from

the many years of Matthew's involvement in both rifle and pistol. Out at the range complex, if I wasn't busy with one of our shooters, I'd walk over and watch some rifle events. Though I don't know much about the shotgun side of it, I really enjoyed watching them shoot as well! In fact, I saw a lot of camaraderie between the disciplines. There were several of the AMU rifle shooters watching Matthew shoot his Free Pistol match. Often the more experienced main team members would stop by to watch the juniors and offer encouragement and advice.

All good things eventually come to an end, and so it was with this trip. Steve and I are back on our farms, and Matthew has started his freshman year at NDSU. We've got lots of great memories and some US Team uniforms in our closets to prove we were there! You know, the first time I walked into Gateway Pistol Club with an old duffel bag with my Ruger Blackhawk in it, no one could have told me where I'd be today. I'm sure Matthew never dreamed what that Buffalo Sharpshooters BB gun shooting would turn into. We've got some excellent shooting programs, some new ranges, and some absolutely first rate people in this state. There's lots of opportunity for shooters, coaches, and anyone who wants to be involved in our sport to go far. Don't be afraid to get into a little "trouble"!

Eric Pueppke  
Past President, NDSSA

**Dakota Marksmanship Foundation,  
Inc.**

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Thomas Thompson – 701-255-4601  
Eric Pueppke – 701-967-8450

Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience. - C. S. LEWIS

### The Value and Cost of Competitive Shooting

A few years ago, I wrote about the cost of shooting solely from the standpoint of ammunition cost. This is an extension of that analysis to include the cost of the firearm and equipment as well as a comment or two on the value or benefit of being a competitive shooter. I have included only the four calibers that I find most commonly at the firing line. These are only coincidentally those that are relatively less expensive to own and shoot. I will leave out the obvious winner which is the air rifle or air pistol. No matter what the initial cost of the air rifle or pistol might be, the cost of shooting the air gun sports is minimal because the cost of the ammunition is so low, and most of us do not need to leave our own home (start the car) in order to fire for practice or competition (postal matches).

Each of the other shooting sports will require most of us to start the car and drive at least a few miles to practice or to a match. Not that the air gun sports will not occasionally require some travel, but that travel cost can be held to a minimum.

The .22 rimfire is the first step up from the air gun in cost. A new good quality pistol will cost from as low as \$600 to as high as \$2,000. State and national records have been set in North Dakota with the low cost Browning Buckmark target pistol and other pistols with a new or good quality used cost near that \$600 mark. Competitors in conventional and/or international standard pistol can come to the line well-equipped with the pistol (\$600), a couple of boxes of ammunition (\$10 to \$15) an inexpensive spotting scope (\$75), and a gun box of some sort (\$50 to \$100). So their total cost would run as little as \$800 in gun, ammo and equipment to fire their first pistol match. Thereafter, the only cost beyond transportation is the ammunition, as the pistol will fire many thousands of rounds without any appreciable maintenance cost.

A good quality rimfire rifle for the conventional NRA events or the international rimfire events will run a bit more than the cost of the rimfire pistol. Let's just say that even a good used rimfire rifle will run from \$900 to \$1,000 today (maybe a bit more for the international events) unless you can find a special deal. The cost of ammunition is a little higher, but not appreciably so. The spotting scope might be only a bit more expensive (\$125) and its stand (\$125) must be added. An inexpensive shooting jacket (\$125), glove (\$40), kneeling roll (\$50), mat (\$75), sling (\$60) will all be required to get you to a match. So the total cost would run around \$1,600 in gun, ammo and equipment to fire their first match.

Fortunately, here in North Dakota, we have a number of clubs and the NDSSA that have stepped up to the plate to offer firearms and equipment for use by the junior and often the adult who is interested in getting

involved in air gun or rimfire competition. Otherwise, it is only the rare junior or adult who would be willing to lay out this much money to become involved in a sport about which they are uncertain and unfamiliar. Of course, we have to remember that these same people will buy a snowmobile or boat, so these costs really should not be intimidating. Still, for some reason, they often are a very big part of what makes a new shooter hesitate to get involved in the shooting sports.

Now, we move to the centerfire pistol. My favorite .45 ACP can be purchased at a cost from roughly \$1,000 to \$2,000 in many makes, with or without a dot sight. Let's say that the gun will cost \$1,500 with good sights. We now have a choice of reloading or purchasing factory ammo off the shelf. Reloading the .45 ACP for conventional pistol, action pistol, etc. can be accomplished at a significant savings. In a conventional 2700 pistol match, most competitors will shoot 180 rounds of .45 ACP. At retail, 4 boxes of target ammo will run around \$100, if not more today. These same 200 rounds can be reloaded for less than \$20, and will shoot as good as or better than factory. The equipment costs are detailed as a part of my earlier outline of the .22 pistol, so there is really no additional equipment cost to add the .45 ACP to the .22 except the cost of the gun and ammo. Let's just say that our total cost to add the .45 ACP to the first match should be no more than \$2,000, and could be considerably less than half that with some careful shopping for a good used firearm and reloaded ammo.

The .223 Remington for a Service Rifle match will run roughly \$1,250 to \$1500. The match ammo for the Service Rifle match is 50 rounds for a total cost of \$50 retail. Reloading your own ammo will shave the ammo cost to roughly \$25. If you are already involved in rimfire rifle, you should be able to get by with much of the rimfire rifle equipment for your first few Service Rifle matches, but an upgrade of the spotting scope and a new shooting coat might be necessary thereafter. Otherwise, the cost of additional equipment would be slightly higher than those costs for rimfire rifle competitors. On the bright side, the NDSSA has some service rifles for juniors and adults to use while they are exploring their interest in service rifle competition. Total cost for the first match with your own rifle is around \$1,500.

Finally, the .308 Winchester for still sees a lot of use in F-class competition, Silhouette rifle, etc. Here, the cost of the rifle will likely be similar to the Service rifle, and match ammo is only very slightly higher in price than the .223 Remington. So, let's say the first match will require your initial investment of roughly \$1,500.

(Continued on Page 6)

## 2010 & 2011 Fall & Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Sep 25, 26	Bruce Alexander Memorial Highpower	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687
September	Sign up to secure targets for Connie & Rick's LRSSA Air Gun Postal Matches	By Mail	R & C Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Oct 2	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Dave Reiswig	701-250-0673
Oct 2, 3	Bismarck 11th Annual Sighting Inn Days	Bismarck	Sam May	701-258-2360
Dec 11	Open 4-Position Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 12	Open Air Rifle Match	West Fargo	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 1, 2	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-751-0609
Jan 1, 2	Bullseye Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 8, 9	Open Inter Rifle Sec (Air, 3P)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 15	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
<b>Jan 22, 23</b>	<b>Junior Olympics (Air, 3p, Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>Rick Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
Jan 22	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Dave Reiswig	701-250-0643
<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>NDSSA State Convention</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>Dave Tokach</b>	<b>701-663-8626</b>
Jan 30	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Feb 5	NRA Junior 3P Air Sectional/USA 3P Air Rifle	Buffalo	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
Feb 5	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Dave Reiswig	701-250-0643
Feb 6	100 Shot Offhand Match	Halstad, MN	Todd Westcott	218-456-2507
<b>Feb 12, 13</b>	<b>Junior 3P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Minot</b>	<b>Wes Thomas</b>	<b>701-839-6075</b>
<b>Feb 19, 20</b>	<b>Open 3P State and Sectional</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
Feb 19, 20	Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Feb 26, 27	50 Yard Smallbore Regional Rifle Match	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
<b>Mar 5, 6</b>	<b>Air Rifle State Champ, Jr Air Sectional</b>	<b>Devils Lake</b>	<b>Rick Jorgenson</b>	<b>701-662-4760</b>
<b>Mar 12, 13</b>	<b>Pistol Sectional (Conv, Air, Standard)</b>	<b>West Fargo</b>	<b>James Ladwig</b>	<b>701-484-5236</b>
<b>Mar 12, 13</b>	<b>Junior 4p State and Sectional</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>Tom Thompson</b>	<b>701-255-4601</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  
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 \_\_\_ 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)

**Costs & Benefits** (Continued from Page 4)

Obviously, these firearms will fire many thousands of rounds before requiring a barrel replacement. The rimfire rifle, rimfire pistol and .45 ACP will fire as many as 50,000 or more rounds before requiring any significant outlay for a replacement barrel. The .223 Remington may run up through 10,000 rounds and the .308 Winchester may go from 6,000 to a few more before losing its accuracy. For many competitors, the barrel will serve them for their entire competitive shooting life.

Again, compared to the total cost of fishing with a boat, motor and trailer and the gas, fishing equipment, the competitive shooting sports are truly very inexpensive. For a competitive fisherman, the comparative cost of the shooting sports is mere pocket change, and there are a great many people who lay out between \$25,000 and \$35,000 to pursue the sport of competitive fishing.

As you can see, a prospective conventional pistol shooter might need to spend as much as \$2,500 to \$3,000 for guns, ammo and equipment to compete in his first match. The costs for ammunition, practice, travel and match fees are the only costs thereafter, and they will vary by competitor. Any individual rifle event will require a smaller outlay, but most rifle shooters will find themselves involved in at least two of the rifle events requiring an outlay of close to \$3,000 to compete in their first events.

Now the benefits offered by the shooting sports for young people and adults who make the effort to become better at the sport are substantial. The mental discipline and responsible behavior required in order to succeed in the shooting sports carryover into any work or school endeavor that a competitive shooter might pursue throughout his life. The benefits are unquestionably worth the investment, and adding the fact that the shooting sports are just plain fun makes their pursuit one of the most worthwhile endeavors that you will ever undertake. Just ask Eric Pueppke, his son Matthew, or Steve Faught whether their time and effort in the shooting sports has been worthwhile. Those of us who have been involved in the shooting sports for many years see the benefits in our effort to excel even when we do not reach our goal. The popular lyric in Miley Cyrus' song, "The Climb", applies.

Of course, I am speaking to the choir, but I think that much of the above is often not understood or not considered by those who are contemplating the sport of shooting for the first time. Rick Jorgenson

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