

THE TARGET

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My Trip to Colorado Springs

My trip and experience in Colorado Springs for the Junior Olympics was a very fun and exciting opportunity many dream of; that I gladly got to experience.

My exciting trip all started out with the qualification match held in Minot, ND. To be invited you had to shoot a 370/400. I shot a 360. Luckily not enough people shot over a 370 so USA Shooting lowered the standard to a 355, so I was invited to go. I wasn't the only North Dakota girl that got to go either. There was me, Lana Fairbanks, J3, Mari Butler, J3, Megan Tichy, J3, Dakotah Faught, J2, and Kelsey Hansen, J1. A J3 is from ages 10-14, J2 ages 15-17, and a J1 is from ages 18-20.

After a 14-hour drive, we finally arrived in Colorado Springs. We got there a day early so we had a day to sight see. We climbed up Helen Hunt Falls, visited Manitou Springs, walked in cliff dwellings, and looked at cool rock formations at the Garden of the Gods.

The next day we had to register and go through equipment control. It took us close to a half hour to go through the registration line. It took us even longer in the equipment control line where we spent over two hours. People can be very picky, when it comes to being fair. At the equipment control they measured EVERYTHING. Here are just a few things they measured: your pants, coat, glove, and boots. Luckily, everything of mine passed inspection. They don't only check your clothes; they also weigh and measure your rifle. After checking everything, we got to train. You can only have so many targets to shoot; so you have to shoot multiple shots on each one.

The next day we had a match. It was 40 shots. One of the match officials kept telling me to fix my coat because it was touching my air rifle. At this point I felt a little nervous because I didn't want to be disqualified. Then, Kelsey Hansen let me borrow her duct tape and the official taped my coat down. With all this stress that the official was putting on everyone, I overcame it and shot a personal best of 375! At the end of the match I was in fifth place in the J3 category and only 5 points from the Silver. That was the end of my first match.

The next day was my second match. We put some new duct tape on my coat so we didn't have to worry about the official bugging me to fix my coat. I was a lot more nervous this match. I knew I had to shoot really good in order to get my goal of a Bronze medal. I did my best and, amazingly, I beat my personal best again! I shot a new personal best of 378. We all thought I had won the Bronze medal.

Soon after that match, the finals were held to determine the match winner. They took the top eight shooters overall to shoot in it. They shoot ten shots on electronic targets. This means there is a monitor that displays what the person shot. I thought the monitor and electronic targets were pretty neat.

After the finals were done they had an award ceremony. I got a Bronze medal. The top two shooters of the match get invited to the Development Team which is the top young shooters that are being trained to be on the Olympic Team. The two shooters this year that were invited on the development team were Emily Holsopple and Sarah Beard.

Lones Wigger put the medals around everybody's neck. He has won the most medals in world and national competitions. He has 65 gold, 38 silver and 8 bronze medals. He set 13 individual records and 16 team records. He has won two gold medals and one silver medal in the Olympic Games. He has achieved more accomplishments than this.

I thank Matthew Pueppke for letting me borrow his air rifle, Dave and Mary Kay Tokach, North Dakota Shooting Sports, and Bismarck/Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association for donating money for the trip. I also want to thank my dad for taking me to all my matches and supporting me. - Lana Fairbanks

I again invite you to share an article with our membership. Write one and email it to me ASAP. I received some great articles for this issue. I wish I could have been able to produce them in a timelier manner, but I think that you will enjoy them even if they are a little late. I hope their authors will forgive me. - Rick Jorgenson, Editor

Editorially Speaking

Since our last issue, I have managed to get an awful lot of work done, but that has not allowed me time to produce another issue of the Target. This same thing happened to me to a slightly lesser degree last year. Adjusting flood insurance claims for a living is a real unscheduled event. New records have been set for flooding in Devils Lake, Minot and Bismarck. I am finally getting caught up around Devils Lake. So, I have now finally been able to work on the Target. Thank you all for your patience.

As I have said before, remember to exercise your privilege to participate in the shooting sports. The improved opportunities are a boon to us all, but we need to get up from in front of the TV and go out the door to enjoy them. I do not watch much TV, but I have taken a couple of breaks from work recently to enjoy shooting in some pistol and rifle matches. I missed Camp Perry again this year, and I am going to do my best to see that not happen again next year.

The NRA Pistol Sectional results showed up in my mailbox a few weeks ago. Those who shot in our ND Pistol Sectional ranked very respectably against other competitors around the nation. Those of you who haven't seen the results can view them at the NRA website.

Thanks to Tom Thompson for his efforts to compile the North Dakota State shooting opportunities schedule. 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.

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 first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."
— [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

The danger (where there is any) from armed citizens, is only to the *government*, not to *society*; and as long as they have nothing to revenge in the government (which they cannot have while it is in their own hands) there are many advantages in their being accustomed to the use of arms, and no possible disadvantage.

-- Joel Barlow, "Advice to the Privileged Orders", 1792-93

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NDSU pistol team goes to the intercollegiate national pistol championship in Ft. Benning, GA

Tim Jacobson

For the first time ever an NDSU team represented North Dakota in the intercollegiate national pistol tournament. I was lucky enough to experience this event as a member of that team. It would prove to be a very successful and memorable trip. The level of professionalism and sportsmanship I witnessed from the other teams and coaches at this tournament was unreal. It was an honor to shoot alongside of them while proudly representing North Dakota.

The chain of events began when I checked my phone after work. I had a voice mail from our pistol coach, Rob Sailer. Along with that was a text message that read "CALL ME ASAP!" Normally, when I get texts like that it's not a positive thing. However, when I called Rob back his first question was about my plan for spring break. When I answered that I didn't really have one, the follow up question was, "How would you like to shoot in the national tournament down in Fort Benning, Georgia?" I had planned to work that entire week, but a trip to Georgia to shoot in the collegiate national tournament sounded like a better alternative.

Members of the NDSU Marksmanship Club shot in the North Dakota Collegiate Sectional on Feb. 19th at the Red River Regional Marksmanship Center in West Fargo. This allowed us to submit a team score in International Air Pistol from our top four NDSU air pistol scores. Only ten teams in the nation are invited to the national tournament based on scores and, unbelievably, we had made it qualifying 10th. Our air pistol program at NDSU had only been in full swing since January with club members shooting once a week. So to field a team to the national tournament, with members like me having no previous experience, was something to be excited about. The four member team consisted of three other Bison marksman. Matthew Pueppke is our most experienced shooter and is a freshman from Ayr, ND. Jacob Longlet is also a freshman from Arthur, ND. Jesse Meyers is from St. Louis Park, MN and is a senior at NDSU. Rounding out our four person team would be me, Tim Jacobson, a senior from Barnesville, MN.

On Monday, March 14, we took off cross-country in a Yukon XL, borrowed from Jacob's bighearted family. Our coach, Eric Pueppke, was at the wheel as we hit the interstate loaded with our equipment and a week's worth of luggage. The radio was never really turned on during the trip as we were busy telling stories and collectively solving the world's problems. Twenty-some hours later and with only one minor detour, where four of us ended up with new cowboy boots, we arrived in Columbus, GA.

The next morning we headed to Fort Benning, home of

the infantry, to complete our registration and check out the shooting range there. When we arrived at the gate, the guards checked our identification and asked a few questions. With a wave and the infantry slogan "follow me" we were on base, headed to the home of the Army Marksmanship Unit. It was mid-morning as we arrived and there were soldiers shooting trap and skeet at the open ranges on either side of the road. It was still cool during much of the first half of the day. Although, I was told multiple times during the trip, this is not the case during the summer here. It was an average high of 88 when we were there, but it dipped into the 30's at night. When we arrived at the air range, we completed registration, which consisted of a few forms and an equipment check. They checked certain details of our pistols, such as the trigger weight and overall length to make sure they met regulations. We received our competitor numbers and went to check out the air range we would be competing on. Unlike the paper targets and spotting scopes I was used to, the range had completely electronic targets. A shot's location on the target would immediately be shown on a screen at the shooters station, and facing spectators above each shooters head was an electronic scoreboard. Jesse and I had never used electronic targets before, but immediately liked the setup. It was a bit of a challenge to follow through on a shot when you could immediately look over to the screen to see where it had gone. After a few minutes of practice on the air range, we packed back up and drove over to the service pistol range. We ran into Army Marksmanship Unit coach, Rick Hawkins, shortly after arriving. Our coach introduced us and it was immediately clear to me that this guy was passionate about marksmanship. He was nice enough to grill our team on the physics of shooting in a standing position. A small part of a long string of questions was, "if our base was doubled from 12 to 24 inches with an initial movement of 1mm, what now will the new movement measure?" It was the only question I answered correctly with a quick guess of "3mm." When we left, he shook our hands and wished us all the best of luck. He was just one of many great people we would meet before, during, and after the match.

The next morning Matthew had a pistol match at 9 a.m. He qualified individually in the event at sectionals in Fargo and would be shooting for the national 50 meter pistol championship. A "free pistol" as it is called, is a type of single shot .22 caliber pistol held with one hand. He shot a great match and finished fourth out of sixty competitors, securing a place in the Finals as one of the top eight shooters.

(Continued on page 4)

As with other sports, Finals are exciting to watch. Team members, coaches, family and staff pack in to get a good view. The shooters have numbers on their backs; 1 through 8 and are lined up left to right based on score. All competitors shoot one shot out of ten total and then the scores from that shot are read out loud with 10's (bull's-eyes) receiving applause. In Finals shots are scored by the tenth of a point; so every millimeter counts. When the match scores were added to the Finals scores, Matthew placed 4th overall in the nation. It was a great accomplishment and it was even better that he was in one of our Bison uniforms. The next match would be air pistol, and four shooters in green and gold would be facing off against teams from: MIT, Yale, U. S. Military Academy (defending champions), U.S. Naval Academy, Ohio St, Citadel, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Michigan St, and Texas A&M.

The final event at the Intercollegiate Pistol Championships was the Air Pistol Championship. Shot from a distance of ten meters, competitors shoot 60 shots worth ten points each over one hour and 45 minutes. We would be trying to hit a ring smaller than a dime for a "10." Rings also go outward from the bulls-eye denoting point values 9 through 1. Competitors were assigned shooting stations away from teammates and after topping of my air cylinder, I waited to take my place on the firing line. They announced our preparation period and everyone began setting up their stations. After ten minutes, they announced "Shooters to the line. Attention. Start!" The match had started and I began shooting my "sighters." These shots are unlimited and do not count towards the final score, but the number of these shots you take is important. During this time the match clock is running and it takes a little bit of effort to hold the gun up on every shot. Back on the line, my sighters were going very well, and I shot seven 10s in a row. I wondered to myself if I should be putting those 10's towards my match score. I checked behind me to see if Coach Pueppke was in the vicinity for a second opinion, but couldn't spot him. Now a mental debate was playing out in my head. In the past I had needed a few more shots to get the sights and my stance dialed in. I was shooting well though, so I decided to start my match. Without much delay the match pressure set in, along with a slight shake. I wondered a few times just how my pellets were hitting anywhere close to the center. The shots were just not landing like they were during my warm up, which only created many unhelpful thoughts. Worse yet, during the heat of the match, I accidentally double loaded my air pistol. I had forgotten during a break between shots that I had already put one pellet in. Luckily I noticed my mistake before taking a shot and was able to call an official over. If I had not cleared the extra pellet, I would have incurred at least a 10 point penalty. After the commotion with my pistol, I took a break and

looked across to the other shooting lane where Jesse was stationed. He was the only teammate with a scoreboard facing me, and I was relieved when I saw how well he was shooting. Not wanting to let NDSU or my team down, I returned to the line determined to finish strong. When I had fired my last shot, I signed my match record and went to see how the other Bison were doing. Jesse and Jacob had finished around the same time so we compared notes and kept an eye on Matthew. Jesse had shot a personal best during the match (537), Jacob shot phenomenal as well (525), and I had finished just shy of my goal (518). When the match was over, Matthew had finished second overall with a score of 568, and he would again be shooting a Final match. In the meantime, we had added up our team score and would now have to wait for the other team scores to be posted. Finals started not long after the match, and we grabbed a few spots behind the line. Final scores are added to match scores to decide a winner and the gap between Matt and the shooter in third became razor thin with each shot of Finals. There is enormous pressure for these finalists to make ten good shots. The shots of Finals are taken and again there is applause for each 10 that is announced. On the last shot of Finals, the third place shooter overtakes Matthew by nine-tenths of a point. Matt finishes individually with 3rd place in Intercollegiate National Air Pistol. The team scores were compiled and we looked over the results. NDSU with a team score of 2148 had placed 6th edging out the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, MIT, Yale and Michigan State.

Many thanks to our coaches and anyone involved with the club, those pulling for us back home and at NDSU, and everyone at the RRRMC. The results exceeded the expectations of many and our performance was an incredible entrance for NDSU into the collegiate shooting arena. – Tim Jacobson

Final Results

USMA – 2224	Ohio State – 2191
USNA – 2180	Texas A& M – 2175
Citadel – 2175	NDSU – 2148
USCGA – 2126	MIT – 2119
Mich. St. – 2088	Yale – 2082
USMMA - 2041	

2011 Fall Schedule of Opportunities

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
Sep 4	Lever Action and Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Sept 10	Approved 2700 Bullseye	Valley City	Bill Brackin	701-282-7158
Sep 10, 11	Highpower Long Range Regional	Bismarck	Leon Nesja	701-663-8818
Sep 17	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454
Sep 17, 18	BPCR - Silhouette State Champ	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675
Sep 24	Action Pistol	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Sep 24	Mid-Range State Champ (conventional and F-Class)	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687
Sep 25	Bruce Alexander Memorial Highpower and Garand Match	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687
Oct 1	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454
Oct 1, 2	Bismarck 12th Annual Sighting Inn Days	Bismarck	Sam May	701-258-2360
Oct 15	Action Pistol	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Nov 19	Action Pistol	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Dec 10	Tentative - 4-Position Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 11	Tentative - Air Rifle Match/Air Pistol Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Dec 17	Action Pistol	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
On Sale now	NDSSA Raffle Tickets to benefit Jr. Shooters & Junior Shooting in ND Prize: \$500 Scheels Gift Card Drawing on February 4, 2012 at Forks Rifle Club	\$5.00 tickets or 5 for \$20.00	Contact any NDSSA officer to purchase a ticket or to secure some tickets to sell	Thanks for your support of the NDSSA and Junior Shooting in North Dakota

-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: _____

Interests

Legislation Jr. Program
 Hunting Conservation
 Collecting
 Bullseye Pistol

Air Rifle Hi-Power Rifle
 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)

2011 ND STATE LIGHT RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP Fired in BOTTINEAU, ND on APRIL 2 & 3, 2011

Congratulations LEE WIDDEL on a terrific score of 986-15x to set a new North Dakota State and National Record.
Good Shooting!

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the match. It was much appreciated. Sunday wasn't the best weather, but most of the shooters still came to shoot. Thanks much!

It's nice to see so many people supporting this great sport of Light Rifle. We've had a lot of light rifle matches across the state this season which helps keep this great sport alive.

Melissa Langer with a 982-16x for second overall will have a new National Record for High Woman and High Jr.

Jim Budeau will break his old National Record in the senior division.

We have a lot of good shooters in ND. - Gary Sivertson

On a sadder note, we are sorry to hear that Pat Patterson has passed away. If you think about the following, you can see that our sport has changed a great deal over the last 50 years. In many ways it is better, but we have come a long way in the wrong direction from the point where the shooting sports were readily understood, encouraged and enjoyed by most in our society. – Rick Jorgenson

G.W. "Pat" Patterson was one of the organizers of North Dakota Rifle & Pistol Club (now known as the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association), and was one of the original club members of the Des Lacs Valley Rifle Club of Donnybrook. For several years they hosted the largest NRA 4P Sectional in the country with well over 100 competitors at the school in Donnybrook. Pat was one of the most colorful guys you would ever want to meet; there was never a dull moment, when Pat was around. He served as a NDR&P officer and worked several High Power Regionals at Camp Grafton as Range Officer.

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