

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

2020-21 ASSA National Collegiate Rifle Championships April 10th & 11th

Ft. Wayne Indiana
X-Count Range

NDSU's (North Dakota State University) Marksmanship Team headed to Ft. Wayne, Indiana on April 8th for the Collegiate Club Rifle National Championships. Team members Brandon Alexander, Amanda Hintz, Tyler Linneman, Sara Bauman and Olivia Nellermoe are coached by Mitch Godbout and Dacotah Faught. The team is made up of 5 members for each shooting discipline, Air Rifle and Smallbore. The top four scores on each team are counted towards the team's aggregate score.

On Saturday, April 10th the NDSU Marksmanship team fired on the first relay for Smallbore at 9am. Smallbore is a three-position match, kneeling, prone and standing, shooting 20 shots in each position fired in that order. NDSU scores were as follows:

Brandon Alexander 565
Amanda Hintz 555
Tyler Linneman 552
Sara Bauman 547
Olivia Nellermoe 531

Their benchmark score of 2219 would have to wait for the next relays to be fired. At the end of the final relay NDSU had finished in second place behind Akron Ohio's score of 2237 for the National Smallbore Title. This put NDSU 18 points behind Akron for the overall aggregate. Individually, Brandon's 565 put him in second place, one point behind the leader.

On Sunday, April 11th the NDSU Marksmanship team again fired on the first relay for Air Rifle at 9am. Air Rifle is a 60 shot standing match. NDSU scores were as follows:

Brandon Alexander 583
Amanda Hintz 580
Tyler Linneman 558
Sara Bauman 572
Olivia Nellermoe 527

The team's air rifle match total was 2293. That score is a new Collegiate Club Nationals air rifle match record. The old record was 2282 set in 2012 at Nationals in Ft Benning, Georgia. With the NDSU team sitting on the edge of their seats (literally) at the local Dairy Queen we watched the results on Mega-Link unfold. It all came down to the last few shots from the Akron Ohio team. As the Akron team finished their first 40 shots of this 60 shot match, they had gained two more points to lead NDSU by 20 points for the aggregate. NDSU's aggregate is now 4512.

All four NDSU team members had closed out their last 20 shots of the air rifle match with some outstanding

performances, most particularly on the part of Amanda (her final 20 shots were a 98 followed by a 97) and Sara (her final 20 shots were a 98 followed by a 96). The NDSU team gained 21 points on the Akron team over these last 20 shots of the air rifle match. The Akron team score of 2274 left NDSU commandingly in first place in Air Rifle and narrowly in first place overall (aggregate) with their combined score of 4512 to the score of 4511 posted by the Akron Ohio team. **One point!!** What a finish!!

You will recall that Brandon trailed by one point after smallbore, but he gained 4 points over his competition in Air Rifle to earn the aggregate win along with his top score in the Air Rifle match.

NDSU finished as the new 2020-21 ASSA (American Smallbore Shooting Association) National Champions. The awards banquet was held at the X-Count Range Sunday evening following the competition. The team had earned many awards.

The Individual and team awards for the NDSU Marksmanship team are as follows:

Air Rifle All Star Team: Brandon Alexander, Amanda Hintz and Sara Bauman.

Smallbore Rifle All Star Team: Brandon Alexander.

Air Rifle Individual Place:

Brandon Alexander (583) 1st.
Amanda Hintz (580) 2nd
Sara Bauman (572) 8th
Tyler Linneman (558) 17th
Olivia Nellermoe (527) 26th.

Smallbore Rifle Individual Place:

Brandon Alexander (565) 2nd
Amanda Hintz (555) 8th
Tyler Linneman (552) 11th
Sara Bauman (547) 12th
Olivia Nellermoe (531) 19th.

Aggregate Individual Champion: Brandon Alexander (1148)

Smallbore Team: (2219) 2nd Place

Air Rifle Team (2293) 1st Place

Aggregate Team (4512) 1st Place

New Collegiate Club Nationals Air Rifle Team Score: NDSU (2293)

The 2020-21 National Collegiate Club Champions:

North Dakota State University Marksmanship Team (NDSU). Go Bison!!

(Ed. We have some photos on the last pages)

Mitch Godbout

Editorially Speaking

Our last issue was an abbreviated issue, but this one is not.

The 2021 National Junior Olympic matches are going to be held, but USA Shooting has not said how, when or where the Pistol matches will be held. Rifle will be held at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan. I understand that the rifle matches will be fired at Hillsdale with the cooperation and assistance of the CMP. Quite a few of our North Dakota juniors have invitations to compete and we wish them all a safe trip and a great experience.

As far as we know, these JO invitations have been issued:
Women's Air Rifle – Katie Zaun, Casia Steinhaus, Jordyn Ewine, Lauren Stiven

Women's Smallbore Rifle – Katie Zaun, Casia Steinhaus

Men's Air Rifle – Kemper Pearson, Nate Steinhaus

Men's Smallbore Rifle – Garrett Langerud, Dylan Zaun

***For the first time ND will have a Paralympian competitor. Wyatt Rollman, Minot, has received an invitation to compete with his air rifle.

These are the pistol JO invitees from North Dakota:

Women's Air Pistol – Emily Yoder

Women's Sport Pistol – Emily Yoder

Men's Air Pistol – Dylan Markwardt

Thanks to Eric, Tom and Mitch, the vast majority of this issue is not based on my writing. Remember, I greatly appreciate articles for this newsletter from members. I sure look forward to receiving more for our next issue.

This is another reminder that the NDSSA has a Facebook page. We encourage members and match directors to forward/post their bulletins and results to that page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Dakota-Shooting-Sports-Association-757181884660730>

"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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Vision

As the Ferrari screams through the backstreets of New York City with blind Colonel Slade at the wheel, Charlie yells, "Slow down, Colonel! You're gonna kill us!" to which Slade replies, "Don't blame me Charlie, I can't see!" After listening to Tommy Lee Jones and Clint Eastwood read the eyechart in a matter of seconds, a nearly blind Donald Sutherland steps up to the line and recites the last line of the eyechart perfectly, (ensuring his astronaut status), and then as he walks out comments, "I may be blind but my memory is perfect!" Two quite funny scenes from the movies "Scent of a Woman" and "Space Cowboys".

It's funny because no one would ever think of driving a Ferrari or piloting a rocket ship when they can't see! Yet there are lots of competitive shooters out there that are striving for excellence, but aren't really seeing the sights clearly. What is both surprising and unfortunate is that they actually don't realize it!

We are used to seeing things the way we see them. Those that use no correction quite often don't get their eyes checked very often, if at all. Change in our vision often comes slowly and isn't noticed. The result is that we don't really realize that there's a problem. The fact of the matter is, when it comes down to it, in the shooting sports, one cannot see "too well". The sights have to be kept as perfectly aligned as humanly possible. Misaligned sights have an exponentially adverse effect on shot placement than does our hold movement. In fact, I would wager that most of you actually have a better hold than you think you do. But, do you have perfect sight alignment? I've found through the years, working with a goodly number of shooters, that they think they see well, when they really don't!

We may wear glasses, but are they really set up for shooting? Are we looking through the optical center of the lens? Are our lenses focused at the right distance? Are those sights really clear, or is it that we are used to the way they look so that must be the way it is? Is it possible that there's another problem that we have that we are so used to experiencing that we don't even realize anything is wrong?

Some years back, I was working with a shooter on the SCATT machine at the Olympic Training Center. At one point in the session, she raised her pistol and lowered into the hold area, and softly remarked, "I just never know which target to aim at". This comment caught me squarely by surprise, and a quick check confirmed that there was only one target hanging downrange, and for that matter, it was the only target visible anywhere in the room! She explained that the one target quickly turned to two as she lowered her sights on it and she had to keep track of which was the real one. Now, I had been working with this shooter for all of 4 years and she was on the National Development Team! "How long have you had this problem?" I asked. "It's always been like that" was the answer. She thought it was normal, because that's the way she had always seen it. In all of that time she had never mentioned it to me. We put her together with a good optometrist and got the problem corrected.

I recently took the NDSU Pistol Team members to a very qualified optometrist to get their vision checked. Some of the team members wear glasses and/or contacts, and some don't. The results of this visit were, well... a real eye opener! They got a thorough exam, including looking at things specific to shooting, like pupil size and natural depth of field, to name a couple. Vitamins and diet were discussed. A target was hung and measurements and corrections were made while holding an air pistol and actually aiming at the target. Lenses were cut for their Champion Shooting Glasses, and a couple weeks later, the optometrist visited our range during practice to make further adjustments. Most team members were absolutely astounded at how much better they could see. Every one noticed a major improvement despite the fact that many of them already had glasses and "thought" that they could see well. One of the team needed an adjustable iris on top of the new corrective lens and now, for the first time, can really see correctly. It goes without saying what their scores have done, and all are really looking forward to next season!

All of us who have a few years under our belts can attest to what age does to our vision. The inclination is to put the guns away and take up fishing. Don't do it!! Think of all of that powder and all of those primers that you have stuffed away!! Know that quite often, corrective lenses, sometimes in conjunction with an iris can extend those good shooting years out by quite a bit. My advice is to put that Daredevil back in the tackle box, get yourself to a good optometrist, and see what can be done. You might be surprised.

I would be remiss if I wouldn't pass on a first rate recommendation for Looyzen I Care in Valley City (and Jamestown). Dr. Steve Looyzen is not only an excellent optometrist, but has a background of working with shooters vision while in the Army. He knows the special needs of shooters, when it comes to vision, and he is most conscientious and thorough. We knew we were in the right place, when the first thing handed to us was a questionnaire that asked, among other things, what calibers and events we participated in, at what distances, and in what sort of light conditions! Check out www.looyzenicare.com

Good Shooting!

Eric Puepke

"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

In case of panic, sometimes it's often best to just aim at the damn bullseye!

2021 Spring Schedule of Opportunities

2021	Find More Events on the NDSSA Website	Location	Contact	Phone
Apr 30	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 1, 2	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), High Power, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 8	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Doug Kitzen	701-214-1417
May 8	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Brian Stonecipher	218-779-7802
May 15	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
May 15	Bullseye Pistol (Indoor - 50 yards)	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
May 16	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675
May 22, 23	Garand Match, Mid-Range (3x20x600yds) (Sat), - Leg Match or x-Course match (Sun)	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634
May 22	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
May 29	CMP Vintage Rifle, M1 Carbine and Vintage Sniper Matches	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
May 29	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle - RIMFIRE Silhouette	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
May 30, 31	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Dallas Quamme	701-426-3846
Jun 5, 6	ND Outdoor Smallbore State Champs, Position, 200yd, Prone	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jun 5, 6	North Dakota Lever Action Silhouette State Champ (.22, Pistol Caliber, 30/30)	Bismarck	Tom Liebel	701-226-3620
Jun 12, 13	ND Long Range State Champ (Sat), Palma (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jun 19	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Jun 19	F-Class Speed Racer Match	Grand Forks	Fred Martinez	701-212-3383
Jun 20	38th Annual Pistol Regional w/Leg High Power Regional, 600yd Team, Garand, Leg	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jun 26, 27	High Power Regional, 600yd Team, Garand, Leg	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jun 26	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Doug Kitzen	701-214-1417
Jun 26, 27	Smallbore and Bigbore Silhouette Matches (conventional)	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Jul 9, 10, 11	Perry on the Prairie High Power, 3 times X-course and Garand Match	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634

-Application-

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228

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

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

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

Name: _____	Phone: _____	Interests
		___ Legislation ___ Jr. Program
		___ Hunting ___ Conservation
Address: _____	E-Mail Address _____	___ Collecting ___ Bullseye Pistol
		___ Air
Rifle		___ Hi-Power Rifle
City: _____	State: _____ ZIP: _____	___ Air Pistol ___ Smallbore
		___ Police PPC ___ Other
Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)		___ Rifle
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
		___ Pistol Silhouette
		___ Hunter Safety

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

(May 1, 2015)

Airgun Cleaning and Maintenance

There's no denying it, we have developed into a "clean" society. We constantly clean everything. There's always a line at the carwash. Dogs get more baths nowadays than people used to years back. Go to a county fair or the ND Winter Show and you'll see folks back there scrubbing up cows and pigs and sheep. People are washing those carrots they just pulled out of the garden instead of giving 'em a good rub on their pant leg and calling it good. It's an obsession! Well, that is true right up till you ask them when they last cleaned that Air Pistol or Air Rifle. Yup, the dog gets more cleanings than that airgun!

Airguns do need cleaning. Accuracy will degrade without proper care, and I've seen a couple that really got bad. A glance at the scoreboard will tell you that tenths of a point can make all of the difference and several tenths of points can be lost with an inaccurate dirty barrel.

Airguns should be cleaned every 500 to 1000 rounds or so. There's a certain amount of fouling from the soft lead pellets that does build up and this can cause inaccuracy. It's fairly simple to do, but you have to do it correctly. I recommend using a pull-thru system to clean an airgun. Their barrels are delicate and there's a definite risk, when using a cleaning rod. Fortunately, a cleaning rod is usually not even possible to use without coming in from the muzzle end, or dismantling the gun, neither of which is recommended!

You can either purchase or make a pull-thru. You can make your own with some monofilament fishing line (from that rod you put on the shelf back in my Vision article!) Use a heavy enough line that has some stiffness to it, as it's easier to thread through the bore, especially if there's a compensator to go through. Just tie a loop in either end of a length of line. The line has to be long enough to go thru the barrel you are cleaning plus a few inches. One loop is to put a patch on, the other to hang on to when pulling the patch thru the barrel. Use a good quality and tightly woven cotton patch. Experiment with patch sizes, starting small and working up to a size that pulls snugly through the bore, but isn't going to stick. If you stick a patch, you may end up dismantling the gun to get it out. I saw this once, and would advise not going there.

The other, and in my opinion, better option would be to purchase a pull-thru kit. VFG's Match-Set Pocket is a good one and available on Amazon. It consists of a limp cable with a tapered, threaded end that you screw a felt cleaning "pellet" to. As you thread it on, it expands, and ends up being the optimum size for the bore. One can either get regular felt pellets or ones that have some brass fibers impregnated into them. I've had good success with the regular ones. Many people have asked me about the "shoot thru" pellets that can be purchased. Though they are extremely easy to use, I've found that they don't fit quite tight enough and they can leave residue in the bore from being blasted through it.

So, you've got your pull-thru ready to go and need some solvent to wet those cleaning pellets or patches. Listen up!! **DO NOT** use regular, petroleum-based solvents such as Hoppe's #9, Shooter's Choice, Butches Bore Shine, etc. It is possible for these petroleum-based solvents, if present in the bore when the gun is fired, to "diesel" or explode under compression, which would just ruin your day, and your gun. Secondly, and even if you've dried the bore before using the gun, these products are very hard on the rubber seals in the action and regulator of your airgun, and will invariably cause premature failure! This will equally ruin your day when your gun starts leaking air in the big match!

There are several products offered specifically for airguns, and the best I've found is TSI 301. It's an excellent cleaner and is good on seals. Wet the first cleaning pellet/patch with some, pull it through the bore and follow with a couple of dry ones. Repeat until you get clean pellets/patches coming out. If your bore is quite dirty, this can take a few repeats, but if you're following a good cleaning schedule it cleans quickly. TSI 301 has some lubrication properties, and it is good for lubricating the O-rings on the airgun bolt etc. It does not leave things dry like brake cleaner would do. Sending a few shots downrange to get the bore settled back in after cleaning is a good idea as well. This is also a good time to send a few more shots downrange over a chronograph. Large standard deviations, and/or large extreme spreads in velocity are signs that something isn't right. That something is quite often a regulator that needs attention. Chronographing an airgun once a year is a great idea!

Now for outside of the bore. Use a good quality swab with a little TSI 301 to clean around the bolt area and forcing cone of the gun's action, as well as any exposed seals. Now is also a good time to inspect those seals and make sure they look good. The threads that the air cylinders screw on to the gun also need cleaning, as well as lubrication. A non-petroleum grease such as PTFE Superlube is excellent for this. Don't skip this part of maintenance, or let those threads get too dry. I could tell you several stories about what happened when the air cylinder got stuck... and most of them are horror stories!!

Now, the air cylinder should not be left loose on the air rifle. Tighten it onto the air rifle. The cylinder should not be left loose to move around during transportation. Even for fairly long term storage, the cylinder is better left tight on the airgun. Another very good product to use around the action and sights of an airgun is canned air. It's just an aerosol can with compressed air in it, but its small straw nozzle can direct a mild blast into sight apertures and assorted nooks and crannies that attract dirt. The external surface of the gun can be wiped down with a cleaning patch or lint free cloth with a little TSI 301 as well, especially if your airgun gets exposed to some humid conditions.

(Continued on Page 6)

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The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



(Maintenance continued from Page 5)

And last but not least, and the thing that should be cleaned the most often, in fact, should be cleaned almost every time you use it, is... Your CBI or Safety Flag!! There's nothing worse than picking up that CBI off of a dirty floor, most probably covered with grit and who-knows-what, and shoving it back into the barrel of your \$2000 - \$3000 gun!

Meanwhile, back at the 4H barn, little Billy has just finished blow drying the hair on his prize show steer, Angus. Now, do you think Billy, after hours of work is going to turn Ol' Angus back out into the barnyard to run and jump in the dirt? "Why, there's no way he'd do that" you say. And yet, we take that nicely cleaned airgun and put it back in that dusty, dirty, full of spilled pellets and old ear plugs gun box!! I guarantee that I have put new regulators and seals into airguns that got the dirt into the gun from the case that they were stored in. You've got to keep that case spotless! That is where a whole lot of dirt gets into your gun. It only takes a very tiny speck to get into your air gun's internal valves and ports to cause a real train wreck!! The family vacuum cleaner works really well in this department! Use it often.

A properly cared for Air Rifle or Pistol can last years, even decades, and still shoot as good as the day it left the factory. With just a little care and maintenance it will faithfully give you inner 10's every shot, if you do your part!

Good Shooting!
Eric Pueppke

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

The 2021 Desert Midwinter Championship – The “Best of the West”

By Tom Thompson

Folks who know me in the shooting sports world probably know that the primary game I enjoy is High Power Rifle. To me there's nothing like shooting string of 10's and X's at 600 yards, rapid fire stages and the challenge of offhand. However, I do dabble in several of the other shooting sports games. I would shoot more of them – but heck – there just ain't enough time. Anyhow, for those Bullseye Pistol Shooters out there (a game now called Precision Pistol) I HIGHLY recommend attending the Desert Midwinter Championship. You definitely need to put this event on your bucket list (but you should shoot it every year – not just once). This annual event is held in February in Phoenix, Arizona, at the Phoenix Rod and Gun Club's range on the south side of Phoenix (also called South Mountain). What could be better for a NoDak than to attend an event in a very southern and warmer area of this country in the middle of winter? This is an excellent event for the advanced pistol shooter as well as the not-so-advanced pistol shooter. If you're into this game – shoot this match – and bring plenty of ammo.....no... you weren't listening – I said BRING PLENTY OF AMMO.

Course of Fire (as stated you need a lot of ammo for this event) is as follows. Day 1 is an International Day which is a lot of fun to shoot. The International events include a 60 shot Free Pistol match (you can shoot your standard .22 for this although you have to use iron sights), 60 shot Standard Pistol, 60 shot Centerfire Pistol and a 60 shot Air Pistol match. They do have a small 5-point indoor range for the air event. The International Centerfire event is usually fired with the 32 Smith and Wesson round but there were various calibers on the line for this event – 9mm, 38 revolvers, etc. You can use a 38 revolver that many shooters are using for Distinguished Revolver matches (now becoming very popular at Bullseye events).

Day 2 is the Service Pistol day. A 45 ACP (or 9mm) 900 point match – 90 shots for record. Day 3 is the 22 day – 900 point match and also a 30 shot team match for .22 and Centerfire. Day 4 is Centerfire day – 900 point match and a 30 shot team match for 45 ACP and Service Pistol. Day 5 (the final day) is the 45 day – 900 point match. In addition, they ALSO offer Distinguished Revolver and Distinguished .22 matches (30 shots each match) and, of course, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Excellence in Competition (EIC) “Leg” match – another 30 shot match. So, if you shoot everything it adds up to 810 rounds for record over the 5 days. Team matches are 2 or 4 firing members. If you're not on a 4-man team, find someone and shoot the 2-man team.

Tony Silva, Mike Yates (the event contacts) and other local club members are gracious enough to be at the club facilities for practice sessions before the event starts. There is an open practice session on Tuesday, noon till 5pm. However, there might be someone around on Monday before it all starts for another practice day. Contact the match director for additional information for practice sessions. It's nice to get there early to work the kinks out of your game before it all starts on Wednesday. If you can get away for a few more days in Phoenix this time of year, they also run a 2700 pistol match the weekend before the Midwinter starts. So, if you really need to work the bugs out of your game, show up for the 2700 (another 270 shots for record – back to that BRING plenty of ammo statement).

This year the weather (as was last year) was just about perfect. Daily highs in the mid 70's, clear, and no bugs - although cool in the morning – usually mid 40's (not much of a problem for us northerners). The match sponsors limited attendance this year due to COVID. We used every other firing point; however, the match sponsors added another relay. Attendance was limited to 60 shooters this year (the norm is 80) and most years the match is full. As a result of the additional relay this year, firing went until 6pm on a couple days. Lunch (for \$6) is catered each day. Finally, they provide very nice awards for the winner of each class – a pistol. This year they also gave away a Dillon 550 and some Dillon “extras”.

Overall, the NoDaks fared well this year. Rob Sailer (West Fargo) took home the Dillon this year winning the Master Class. Good shooting, Rob! I was in the running for a Gun Prize too - but there weren't enough shooters in my class (the lowly Marksman), so we were moved up to the Sharpshooter class...dang...oh the luck.

If you're interested in attending this event, send Tony Silva (n9911c@sbcglobal.net) an e-mail and ask to be put on his contact list. Tony will send you the Midwinter and other Bullseye events on their schedule at the Phoenix Rod and Gun Club facilities. I would like to thank Tony Silva and Mike Yates for the excellent event they provide to the shooters – this is a very nice match to attend.

I'm looking forward to going back again next year, however there is another event I usually attend in Phoenix this time of year – that is the Southwest Nationals. The Southwest Nationals is a High Power long range event at the Ben Avery range on the north side of Phoenix. The Southwest Nationals was cancelled this year due to COVID, although they did have a smaller long range event at Ben Avery the weekend before the Midwinter. There are other events at the Ben Avery Range and other clubs in the Phoenix area – USPSA (United States Practical Shooting Association – the run and gun events), Cowboy Action, Lever Action Silhouette and a Smallbore Prone 6400 match (the Western Wildcat in March)... so many matches and so little time.

Take care and hope to see you on the firing line.

Tom Thompson

The 2021 NoDak Phoenix Crew (with Travis from MN)



Keep scrolling down to the next page for a photo of the NDSU Rifle Team together with some of their trophies and prizes:



The NDSSA Champion team coaches and advisor. Check their Facebook page for more highlights.

Lots of hardware!!