

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

“Teddy”

I have always enjoyed Theodore Roosevelt and encourage those of you who have not read one of his biographies to do so. He was a very interesting man with strong opinions. The following are a couple of his opinions expressed both in his writings and in his public speeches:

We should insist that if the immigrant who comes here does in good faith become 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 birth-place or origin.

But this is predicated upon the man's becoming in very fact an American and nothing but an American. If he tries to keep segregated with men of his own origin and separated from the rest of America, then he isn't doing his part as an American. There can be no divided allegiance here. . . We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language, for we intend to see that the crucible turns our people out as Americans, of American nationality, and not as dwellers in a polyglot boarding-house; and we have room for but one soul loyalty, and that is loyalty to the American people.

The above was written in a letter by then former president Roosevelt on January 3, 1919 to the president of the American Defense Society. It was read publicly at a meeting on January 5, 1919. Roosevelt died the next day, on January 6, 1919.

Today, these views are seemingly held by fewer people every year. The first is really rather straight forward regarding citizenship. The many who travel to the United States and pursue citizenship here and yet wish to be understood in their native language rather than learn English really are not embracing United States citizenship. Of course, your view may differ from mine, but I strongly agree with Teddy. I also find it interesting that over 100 years ago, this was a serious topic of discussion and that it persists today without any real resolution.

The next is very pointedly about the value of competition in one's life.

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be

with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

Theodore Roosevelt, "Man in the Arena" Speech given April 23, 1910 - 26th president of US (1858 - 1919)

Today, we seem to reject the idea that failure at any endeavor is ok and even something that we should expect.

It seems that most people do not persevere to attain success. Rather, they simply quit and pursue some activity or endeavor that will reward them with instant success.

It also seems that many, if not most, people define mastery of a skill much differently than it has been defined historically. We seem to be content with mediocracy.

Those few who hold themselves to a higher standard in their pursuit of skill are most commonly not really celebrated in school for their scholastic achievements nor in our sport of shooting for their diligent incremental effort over time in pursuit of excellence. Most people simply envy rather than make the effort to be as good as they can be.

As Teddy said, without failure, there is no success. In the sport of shooting, skill is attained only after many failures over many hours, days, and years of effort.

You do not have to win in order to succeed in your efforts to attain a skill. Your effort will produce a skill level that you can be proud of so long as your efforts are made with sincerity and over a long enough time frame.

Historically, many people would apprentice to a master for years in order to learn and master a skill and an attitude of excellence. Instant gratification was not ever expected. Today, it seems that most people pursue instant gratification as their sole goal in life. They really never make a commitment to master a skill, as they are really too ready to fail.

Those few who do not fear failure are those who can actually achieve success and a high level of skill in life or sport. That is what Teddy is celebrating in his statement that it is not the critic who points out failure but rather the strong person who is not afraid to fail on the road to master a skill.

Our sport of shooting is one that really only attracts and retains those who strive valiantly to succeed and recognize that failure will occur along the way. The road to success is not an easy one. It cannot be driven while texting or playing a game on the phone or watching commercial television. The rewards of your effort to achieve even reasonable mastery in the sport of shooting are many. The most important might be simply confidence in your ability to achieve something difficult.

Rick Jorgenson

Editorially Speaking

Later in this newsletter, I invite you all to celebrate the accomplishments of Katie Zaun at the 2023 Junior Olympic National Championships. She serves as an outstanding example of someone who has attained her skill through dedicated effort over many years. Even at her current skill level, she experiences both victory and defeat often separated by only an hour or so. Her continued dedicated effort to excellence is a joy to watch.

The Junior Olympic Pistol National matches are going on as I write this, and I hope you are watching. You can see the results at: - [Events | USA Shooting](#)

I am writing this edition today because winter kept me from competing at the pistol match in Bismarck. The spring weather is a month overdue.

As most of you know, we have been running our LRSSA Airgun Postal again over the past few months, and we have some very competitive and even outstanding scores fired so far. Take a look at the results for air rifle and air pistol as they are completed so far on the Orion Results page: <http://www.orionresults.com/lrssid>. We developed and introduced this postal competition over 25 years ago, and we initially had more pistol competitors than rifle. That is not the case today, but we feel that it is a great format for training and competition with air pistol and air rifle for both beginners and accomplished. Registration for next season will be available in late September or early October.

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

Happy Spring. I hope to see you at an outdoor match soon.

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

George Washington
First President of the United States

NDSSA is a small organization that gets a lot of good things done. We are always searching for people to [join us](#) as members or officers. If any of you have a prospective member, share your copy of our newsletter or help them fill out the membership application that is on page 4 and send it in to **P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228.**

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

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The Target ISSN: 1086-4172

PUBLISHED quarterly (four issues a year) by the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association, Inc., P. O. Box 228, Bismarck, ND 58502-0228.; a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Rifle Association of America, for the purpose of promoting safety and education in the sport of shooting. The Target is provided to all members of the NDSSA via electronic media, email, etc. The editorials and articles appearing in the publication reflect the differing views present among sportsmen and gun owners, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Target, P. O. Box 228, Bismarck, ND 58502-0228.

DEADLINES: Closing date for material for each issue is the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Publication dates are: January, April, July, and October. All materials are to be provided to the Editor of The Target at the following address:

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The publication of material will be subject to the discretion of the editor.

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Some thoughts about firearms law

Thomas Jefferson, one of those most responsible for the language in our US constitution wrote that: The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government. And he also wrote that: The beauty of the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it.

Hubert H. Humphrey, one of our more liberal politicians (a native of Minnesota) wrote that: The right of citizens to bear arms is just one more guarantee against arbitrary government, one more safeguard against the tyranny which now appears remote in America, but which historically has proved to be always possible.

William O. Douglas, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (He holds the record for the longest continuous service on the nation's most powerful Court at 36 years) wrote: Since when have we Americans been expected to bow submissively to authority and speak with awe and reverence to those who represent us?

It seems that Charles Austin Beard (1874-1948) was correct, when he stated that: You need only reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the great struggle for independence.

After the Korean War, research into battlefield survival of troops determined those troopers who had trained and gained proficiency with firearms before entering the armed services had a substantially higher survival rate than those who first trained with arms after they entered the military.

So, as a parent of a young man or woman who might enter the armed services, don't you think that you should make certain that your child gains proficiency with arms before entering the armed services? Of course, in order that it will be most effective, that training should involve the armament most likely to be issued to troops (exactly that firearm which is currently identified as an assault rifle by most of those who wish to either ban such firearms or severely restrict our rights to own such firearms). Our very own US government promotes such ownership and training through the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

On the other hand, California has passed AB 2571 which prohibits "a firearm industry member, as defined, from advertising or marketing any firearm-related product, as defined, in a manner that is designed, intended, or reasonably appears to be attractive to minors." If anyone is found in violation of the statute, the civil penalty is \$25,000 for each violation.

Some other states have passed similar legislation. So far, North Dakota is not one of them.

A Editorial, once printed in our Devils Lake Daily Journal as provided to them by Other Words.org, went so far as to suggest that it is treason to own and train with the civilian version of our United States military battle rifle. This editorial even suggests that simply by owning such a firearm, I am likely to use it to terrorize or harm innocent people. Again, I am personally offended by any suggestion that I am somehow treasonous in my ownership and use of such a rifle and any high capacity magazine. I share no sympathy toward those who have used arms such as these to terrorize or harm others throughout history. I consider this writer's suggestion that I am somehow sympathetic, based only on my ownership of what he terms an assault weapon to be ridiculous.

Of course, my view is becoming more and more a minority view in many areas of the United States and throughout the world.

Rick Jorgenson

"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

2023 Spring/Summer Schedule of Opportunities

May 5	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Headrick	701-7415133
May 6, 7	M1 Garand, Long Range (Sat), High Power, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
May 19, 20, 21	3-Days Blackpowder Cartridge Silhouette Matches	Bismarck	Shane Kraft	701-527-4111
May 20	Bullseye Pistol (Indoor - 25 yards)	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
May 20, 21	Mid-Range (Sat), Garand, Leg Match (Sun)	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634
May 27	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
May xx	CMP Vintage Rifle, M1 Carbine and Vintage Sniper Matches	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-739-1988
Jun 3, 4	ND Outdoor Smallbore State Champs, Position, 200yd, Prone	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
Jun 10, 11	ND Long Range State Champ (Sat), Palma (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
Jun 17	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Jun xx	F-Class Speed Racer Match	Grand Forks	Fred Martinez	701-212-3383
Jun 18	40th Annual Pistol Regional w/Leg	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
Jun 24, 25	High Power Regional, 600yd Team, Garand, Leg	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-213-0238
Jun 24, 25	Smallbore and Bigbore Silhouette Matches (conventional)	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Jul 2	22 Blackpowder Cartridge Silhouette	Bismarck	John Horner	701-426-9305
Jul 7, 8, 9	Perry on the Prairie High Power, 3 times X-course and Garand Match	Rolla	Coby Dalgliesh	701-370-0634
Jul 15, 16	Long Range (Sat), Leg Match and M1 Vintage Match (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
Jul xx	Approved F-Class Mid-Range Prone Match	Grand Forks	Fred Martinez	701-212-3383
Jul 23	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Jul 30	Bullseye Pistol Match - 2700 (Outdoor)	Bismarck	Rick Pfenning	701-426-7661
	Many additional matches can be found on the NDSSA website.		Check with the clubs for more information and to reserve a spot	

-Application-

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228

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

Yes, to protect my right to keep and bear arms; I would like to join the NDSSA and support the legislative efforts of the NDSSA.

My dues for a membership as noted are enclosed.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail Address _____

Rifle _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

City: _____

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

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

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

(May 1, 2015)

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

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

10-meter Air Rifle

In this event, standing and 3 position shooters shoot a target 10 meters away using a single loaded air rifle in 4.5mm or .177 inches caliber. The rifle can weigh not more than 5.5 kilograms (just over 12 pounds) and can only have metallic sights. Targets have a total diameter of just 45.5mm or 1.79 inches. The inner ring is a mere .5mm in diameter.

It currently takes a decimal score of roughly 625 with a precision air rifle in order to place in the top 10 in the US. That is an average of 10.4 per shot. The World Standing Air Rifle record is held by Ali Weisz at 635.3 which she set in Peru this past November. That is very nearly an average of 10.6 per shot. Last month I challenged you to attempt this from the prone position or even off the bench. Those of you who attempted no doubt found little success. This is just an outstanding accomplishment that is not celebrated nearly enough.

10-meter Air Pistol

The air pistol target is 17x17 cm with concentric score zones, the innermost (worth ten points) having a diameter of 11.5 mm. Of course, it is fired at 10 meters with one hand and open patridge sights. Air pistol is scored by the integer value of each shot over 60 shots. In the US, a score of 570 to 575 would win most qualification matches. In the world, it takes a score of 580 or more to place in the top 10 at the Olympics or in many World Cup matches. That is roughly a 9.7 per shot average. Of course, that is an integer score rather than a decimal score. You might attempt to fire a 580 from the bench, and only those of you who can approach 570 from the standing position will find any success from the bench.

Still, you should put forth the effort to see just how well you can score from the bench to really understand the skill and confidence (developed through incremental effort over time) that it takes to accomplish these scores from the freestyle position. It is not luck or innate talent, it is skill and confidence gained through dedicated effort and many failures along the way that allows anyone to achieve these outstanding results.

Junior Olympic Results to celebrate

This year at the Air Rifle Junior Olympic National Championships, Katie Zaun from Buffalo, ND fired an aggregate score of 1253.2 over the 2 qualification matches to place first overall in the Women's Air Rifle competition. That is an average score of 10.4333 per shot. She fired a 9.7 for her first shot on the second day and then followed with 10s for the next 59 shots and an integer score of 599/600 and a 627.9 or 10.465 per shot average. Pretty outstanding stuff!!

The JO competition decided the Women's Air Rifle team for the 2023 ISSF Junior World Championships in Changwon, Korea, July 14-18. The following athletes qualified:

Men's: Braden Peiser, Tyler Wee, Parker Haydin, Gavin Barnick, and Matthew Sanchez

Women: Rachael Charles, **Katie Zaun**, Camryn Camp, Natalie Perrin, and Peninah D'Souza

Katie also finished 3rd in the Women's Smallbore Rifle Junior Olympic aggregate.

The competition also decided the Women's Smallbore team for the 2023 ISSF Junior World Championships in Changwon, Korea, July 14-18. The following athletes qualified: Elizabeth Probst, Alivia Perkins, **Katie Zaun**, Lauren Hurley, and Katrina Demerle.

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association, Inc.

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The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



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

— [Mark Twain](#)

The NDSSA has spent and continues to spend considerable time and effort in the effort to introduce and train young people in the shooting sports. For the most part, these efforts have been very successful. However, it doesn't seem that many of those young people have continued to embrace the shooting sports in their adult lives. In my experience, less than 5% continue as competitors after they reach adulthood. It really seems to be far less than 5%

Every so often, we do see one of these young people return as competitors after they attain adulthood. Still, it is a very rare occurrence. Our open matches are dominated by junior competitors.

Maybe we should spend a bit more time and effort to attract adults.

I am not sure that coaching adults would be as fun as coaching juniors, but I have to admit that I have not really committed anywhere near as much time to adults as I have given to juniors.

Maybe it would be as simple as making a strong effort to retain our seniors and young adults. A very few of them do continue to shoot competitively in college.

I wonder if it might be as simple as making the effort to personally invite them to matches. We all have a lot going on in our lives, and have difficulty fitting everything we would like to do each day into the time available. A personal invitation and maybe even an offer to ride along to the match might go a long way.

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