

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Katie Zaun at Changwon, South Korea

Those of you who have been following air rifle and smallbore shooting in North Dakota are certainly aware of Katie Zaun, who is now 15 years old and has been shooting competitively since she was 8. Katie earned the opportunity to compete in the World Championships in Changwon, Korea by placing 2nd overall in the 2018 USA Shooting National Prone Smallbore Rifle Championships held at Fort Benning, GA from June 10th thru the 17th. We reported on this in our last issue.

She traveled to Korea with her mother. Her dad, Todd, had to stay home on their family farm to harvest.

She fired on the junior USA team with Morgan Phillips and Elizabeth Marsh; and Katie fired a very competitive score to help her team earn the Bronze medal.

A synopsis of the USA Shooting Press release about the World Championships follows.

Women's Junior Prone Rifle Team Wins Bronze Medals at ISSF World Championship

CHANGWON, South Korea (September 9, 2018)

As Prone Rifle is no longer an Olympic event, Finals were not contested in these events and medals were based on Qualification performance. Team medals were based on the cumulative score of a nation's athletes in Qualification.

The Junior Women's 50m Prone Rifle bronze was won by the United States with their cumulative score of 1846.3. The U.S. team won silver in this event at last year's Junior World Championship in Suhl.



The top finisher for the U.S. in Junior Women's 50m Prone Rifle was **Morgan Phillips** (Salisbury, Maryland), who finished in fifth place with a score of 618.8. Phillips won gold in this event at the Junior World Cup in Suhl earlier this year, setting a Junior World Record of 626.8. **Katie Zaun** (Buffalo, North Dakota) finished in 19th place with a score of 614.2 and **Elizabeth Marsh** (Searcy, Arkansas) finished in 25th place with a score of 613.3.

Additional results are available here:

<http://www.usashooting.org/news/2018/9/9/1106-shaner-womens-junior-prone-rifle-team-wins-bronze-medals-at-issf-world-championship>

Good Enough?

I look back on my first ventures into the various competitive shooting competitions and realize that many people do not ever step one foot into the competitive shooting sports for one reason. That reason is that they worry that they will be embarrassed and maybe even ridiculed. Now, those of us who have been actively part of the shooting sports for quite a while now, know that is just not going to happen. While we all are humbled at times during a match, we are not ridiculed or embarrassed by the other competitors unless we commit some egregious safety violation.

Rather, you will find that the other shooters will do everything that they can to make you feel welcome and to improve your experience at the match. Elsewhere in this issue, I mention Leon Nesja loaning his M1 Garand to me along with his own ammunition for it so that I could compete in my first Service Rifle match. There are many others like Leon at shooting competitions around North Dakota and around the USA.

We all have to start somewhere, and we should not expect to win at our first competition or even anytime shortly after we begin to compete in the shooting sports. It takes time to acquire a skill even if you happen to have a talent or affinity for the sport.

Look at Katie Zaun who I have mentioned in other sections of this newsletter. She has been putting her best effort into the sport of international air and smallbore rifle competition for 6 years now, and she has made a great deal of progress. Still, she did not start out winning matches immediately.

Many of us will never be champions. That should not be our goal, and it should not hold us back from participation in the competitive shooting sports. The tangible rewards of competition are few, but the intangible rewards are many. I just returned from a North Dakota 4H Shooting Sports meeting where we were presented with the results of a parental survey asking how their child has benefited from participation in the 4H Shooting Sports programs.

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Editorially Speaking

My good intentions to get this issue out months ago have not born fruit. I have enjoyed a great summer and fall shooting here in North Dakota, Minnesota, and at Camp Perry.

Here in Devils Lake, it is trying hard to be winter, and most of us are thinking about hunting rather than competitive shooting. Still, we have some shooting activities in front of us. The CMP offered a 3 position rifle clinic in cooperation with the Bismarck/Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association on October 19, 20, & 21. I attended and enjoyed the opportunity to improve my skill as a coach.

Our first indoor Airgun match will be in Ayr on November 17th, so blow the dust out of your Airgun and get it ready. This is an air rifle and air pistol event, and it is coming up soon. Also, we are taking registration for our winter Airgun Postal matches now. These will start in November. Take a look at our schedule of matches on page 5 for further shooting opportunities. I hope to see you at a match soon. Midterm elections have run their course and I hope that you all got out and voted. Our national media has certainly pressed for what they call reasonable restrictions on firearms ownership and use. I have to say that I find little that I can call reasonable in their recommendations. Our North Dakota congressional representatives will have a lot to do with making sure that the pressure to "do something" does not produce more invasive and restrictive firearms legislation. Voting for the candidate who will stand firm in face of the national pressure to add more restrictions to your ownership and use of firearms will do a great deal to allow us to enjoy the shooting sports now and in the future.

Again, if any of you have what you think is an important thought about the shooting sports in North Dakota, write it down and email it to me.

Any one of our members who has some insight into the match competition can send me an article. So, take a few minutes and write a summary of the match, maybe I can get it into our next issue.

"A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks." - Thomas Jefferson, letter to Peter Carr, August 19, 1785

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**.

"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 following is a link to an interesting article/match report for the North Dakota Midrange Championship and the Bruce Alexander high power rifle match held in Rolla over the weekend of September 21, 22 & 23:

<https://lifeofashooterswife.com/match-reports/2018-north-dakota-mid-range-state-championship-memorial-david-disrud-high-power-range-rolla-nd/>

It appears that the scores reported are incomplete (maybe someone will fix that). The blog also fails to include any real comment about the Vintage Rifle match and Service Rifle matches held on Friday the 21st which were slightly delayed by some white stuff (snow) in the early morning. I thought you might like this photo of the early winter taken just before we began the match.



Only a few of our most hardy rifle competitors managed to find their way to this Friday match. We did not have enough non-distinguished shooters to award any distinguished rifleman points for the Service Rifle match, and we had only a few Vintage riflemen, but it was a fine day to shoot rifle at the Rolla range, and I hope that we have better attendance and maybe a little warmer weather next year.

Spoiled

I have heard many good things about the Ben Avery shooting range in Arizona, so when Connie and I traveled to Phoenix in April this year, I made a point of stopping to shoot there. We arrived on a Wednesday about an hour before noon, and we checked in to the public range. We watched their 7 minute mandatory safety video and then walked to our firing point on their main range (#48 of what I believe were about 65). Even on this weekday, it appeared that about 90% of the range tables were occupied by people who were for the most part firing pistols and AR-15 rifles at distances of about 15 yards to 50 yards. I saw very few targets set at longer ranges. With nearly all of the AR-15s equipped with muzzle brakes, the range was very loud.

The many RSOs were busy keeping everyone safe. This is a publicly operated range with a fairly large staff, and it is obviously very well attended, but it was not as enjoyable for Connie and me as I had anticipated. In fact, Connie decided not to shoot. I shot some pistol for about a half hour and after that decided to pack it in.

Connie and I are spoiled. The ranges we have shot at here in North Dakota are rarely crowded, and quite simply much

more enjoyable even when there are more people. At our Lake Region Shooting Sports Association range north of Devils Lake, I can shoot rifle or pistol at distances from close range to over 300 meters. For the most part, our members are very easy to be around and quite considerate of those shooting beside them. Even when we have a few people shooting magnum rifles, we can set up far enough away to keep the noise to a reasonable level.

I can set up a chronograph or use a ransom rest at our LRSSA range without interfering with anyone else. Recreational shooting is just pleasant. New and inexperienced shooters find other more experienced shooters helpful and welcoming at our range. That really was not the atmosphere at the Ben Avery range. The facility at Ben Avery is very well maintained and safe. Although the RSOs were quite sharp with their criticism of anyone who failed to follow their range rules, their criticism and actions were certainly well meaning and directed toward keeping the range safe for everyone. Unfortunately, the RSOs were kept quite busy.

I had planned to shoot for an hour or two at the Ben Avery range, but we left after about 45 minutes.

No doubt there are other more enjoyable club ranges in the Phoenix area, and maybe they offer a more enjoyable experience.

Your mileage may vary, but I was surprised that I have found another reason to stay in North Dakota.

Leon Albert Nesja

Leon Albert Nesja, 77, Bismarck, passed away on September 5, 2018 at Sanford Health, Bismarck. He is a member of our North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame and an avid promoter of the shooting sports. I have some fond memories of Leon including using his M1 Garand and his ammunition to fire my first Service Rifle match many years ago now.

The following is from his obituary:

One summer day in 1976 Leon and two friends were at the local shooting range where they saw a gentleman getting ready to go to a high-power match in Devils Lake. The three entered the match, and Leon was hooked. He shot mostly for the fun of it, for the free ammo, and the comradery. Leon set a goal of Distinguished Rifleman and at the time it seemed like an impossible dream for a 40+ year-old out of shape, bald guy with glasses and a plastic pocket protector in his shirt pocket. With lots of practice, swimming laps three to four times a week, and talking with other shooters, the goal was achieved in 1987. Along the way a master classification was earned with the service rifle. Leon competed 13 years at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio with the North Dakota team. In 1996 he won the North Dakota State Service Rifle Championship. Leon taught Hunter Education for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Women on Target classes. He was inducted into the North Dakota Shooting Sports Association - Hall of Fame in 2010.

We hope that his wife of 52 years, Janice can find comfort in her good memories of Leon. No doubt, he is telling an Ole and Lena joke at a rifle match in Heaven.

Here is a link to his full obituary:

<http://bismarckfuneralhome.com/obituaries/leon-nesja/>

Fall/Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Nov 17, 2018	Air Rifle and Air Pistol	Ayr, ND	Rand McLeod	701-219-3657
Dec 9, 2018	Open 4-Position Match	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Dec 10, 2018	Open Air Rifle/Pistol Match	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
	JANUARY			
Jan ?????	Air pistol/rifle	Ayr, ND	Rand McLeod	701-219-3657
Jan 5, 6	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Jan 5, 6	Bullseye Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 12, 13	Junior Olympics (Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 12, 13	Junior 3P State and Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 12, 13	Open Inter Air Rifle Sec, 3P Metric Approved Match	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 19, 20	Junior Olympics (Air, 3P Smallbore Rifle)	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 19	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jan 26	NDSSA State Convention	Minot	Tami Ware	701-385-3045
Jan 27	Light Rifle Match (with State Convention)	Minot		
Jan 26	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Del Ray Bergan	701-220-6986
	FEBRUARY			
Feb 2, 3	Collegiate Sectional, Rifle and Pistol	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
Feb 2, 3	Light Rifle Sectional Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 2	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Feb 3	55th Annual Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
	Up to date information is available at the NDSSA	http://www.ndssa.org		

-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 _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

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

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

- Interests
- ___ Legislation ___ Jr. Program
 - ___ Hunting ___ Conservation
 - ___ Collecting
 - ___ Bullseye Pistol
 - ___ Air Rifle ___ Hi-Power
 - ___ Air Pistol ___ Smallbore
 - ___ Police PPC ___ Other
 - ___ Rifle Silhouette
 - ___ Pistol Silhouette
 - ___ Hunter Safety
- (May 1, 2015)

North Dakota Shooting Ranges & the opportunities available

We are very fortunate to have some very forward thinking individuals and clubs in North Dakota who have, over the past 15 years, significantly improved the opportunities available to those of us who enjoy the shooting sports. These individuals and clubs have built or improved indoor ranges and outdoor ranges across the state.

If not for these facilities, our competitive shooters would be a very small group and the competitive atmosphere that we currently enjoy in most all of the shooting sports would be nearly non-existent.

The Forks Rifle Club (website: <http://forksrifleclub.org/>) range is a notably improved and highly utilized indoor and outdoor facility providing opportunities for youth and adults interested in the shooting sports. The club is able to provide Hunter Safety and Concealed Carry classes to area residents as well as high power rifle, air gun and smallbore rifle and pistol competition.

The Minot Rifle and Pistol Club (website: <http://www.minotrifleandpistol.com/mrpsc/>) indoor and outdoor ranges have really enhanced the opportunities for their area residents to access and enjoy the shooting sports. Their indoor facility offers not only a very nice range but also a classroom. The classroom and indoor range is a huge asset for the shooting sports community not only in the Minot area. Their club facility supports law enforcement training efforts in addition to offering Hunter Education and Concealed Carry classes. The club is a very integral part of our effort to provide a quality North Dakota Junior Olympic Selection Match each year. We look forward to seeing many of you there again on January 19 & 20, 2019 for the Junior Olympic rifle matches. The outstanding support that the Minot Rifle and Pistol club provides to junior shooting is largely possible because their club leadership stepped forward to build the indoor range and keep it in good repair.

The Bismarck Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association (website: <http://www.bmrpa.org/>), is in my mind the premier indoor shooting facility in the state of North Dakota. While their outdoor shooting range offers competitors some very challenging weather at times, that range offers High Power rifle competition out to 1,000 yards, full scale and rimfire rifle and silhouette, bullseye pistol, cowboy action, benchrest as well as a very nice clubhouse. Their indoor range is the largest in the state of North Dakota and includes a classroom and even a kitchen. Their club leadership has provided significant opportunities for both youth and adults. The facility also supports law enforcement training efforts in addition to offering Hunter Education and Concealed Carry classes. The dedication of the BMRPA leadership to the development of junior competitive shooters has been unwavering and has been quite successful. Their decision to host another CMP junior 3 position rifle clinic for our area juniors and their coaches and parents recently is another outstanding example of what can be accomplished in a first class facility.

The Fargo – West Fargo area residents are served by the Red River Regional Marksmanship Center (website: <http://www.rrrmc.com/>) which provides indoor shooting opportunities for rifle and pistol. Most notably, for those interested in the shooting sports, they have a nice airgun range and they also provide support for the NDSU Marksmanship Club. While they do not have a large dedicated classroom area, they do offer instruction in Hunter Safety and Concealed Carry. They house the only indoor 100 yard rifle range in the state.

Ayr, North Dakota offers a unique and very well operated facility for the airgun competitors. With 9 points and returning targets as well as a kitchen and meeting area, this is a significant asset to the shooting sports community. This small club is made up of competitive shooters whose mission is to promote and facilitate the shooting sports throughout the state. Their first match of the indoor shooting season is on the 17th. If you have an air rifle or pistol, contact Rand McLeod at rand.mcleod4522@outlook.com for an available relay spot.

In Devils Lake, the Lake Region Shooting Sports Association has been able to negotiate agreements with the City of Devils Lake and the County of Ramsey for a limited indoor range and a very decent outdoor facility. We are able to support a very successful 4H Airgun, Smallbore Rifle, Shotgun and Archery Shooting Sports program. We offer Hunter Safety and Concealed Carry classes as well as 4H training in each of these disciplines. We have offered the Junior Olympic Selection Matches in Devils Lake for years and will again offer the North Dakota and Minnesota Pistol Junior Olympic matches here on January 13, 2019.

While I may have neglected to include a club facility, these are the most active not for profit club ranges in the state of North Dakota. If you do not already belong to one of them, join and enjoy the opportunities that they provide. When I started shooting competitively, the facilities were not at all this outstanding. In fact, very few indoor ranges existed. Those that did exist offered a less than stellar atmosphere to those who were dedicated enough to actively participate in the shooting sports.

Rick Jorgenson

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**The Official NRA State
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Good Enough? (Continued from page 1)

The overwhelming response was positive with the single most common answer that their child showed substantial improvement in their self-confidence and, of course, gained skill in the discipline. Obviously, these children did not all win matches. The survey results also clearly show that the young people learned safety, how to set goals, and the value of dedicated effort. Further, the parents noted that their children have become notably more independent and better problem solvers.

You do not have to be a child to earn these benefits. Get out to a match soon.

The improvement in skill instills confidence and a positive self-image. The shooting sports are a true gender equity sport where the girls compete on a level playing field with the boys and often win.

Rick Jorgenson

**NDSSA Annual Meeting and North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame induction
Saturday January 26, 2019 – Minot, ND**

Knights of Columbus, 2601 North Broadway, Minot, ND

2:00 PM Annual Membership meeting

6:30 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Annual NDSSA Award Presentation & Hall of Fame Induction