

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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The Best of Times and the Best Place

I do not know how many of you think about how fortunate we are to live during the best time for human beings to live on the earth and then to also live in the best place on earth. I have thought about this off and on for years. The average citizen in the United States enjoys far more freedom and better living conditions than kings and queens did up until about 1900. We can get in our car and travel to an airport and be in Hawaii by plane in less than 15 hours (barring flight cancellations or delays). Our homes have from one to three bathrooms with hot and cold running water and showers. Our homes are warm in winter and cool in summer. Kings and queens lived in cold damp stone castles. A trip to Hawaii took them months by ship, and they could not go. They did get to hunt and often shot in sporting events against other royalty. Their subjects could not hunt, as the game animals were owned by the king.

Thanks to Theodore Roosevelt and others with a similar spirit and mindset, wildlife is again abundant and available for the average person to hunt and/or enjoy in our United States of America. It really is hard to believe the good fortune that has paved our way to this abundance. Theodore Roosevelt as President of the United States from 1901 thru 1909 set aside 84,000 acres each day for our public use in the form of 5 national parks, 150 million acres of national forest, 51 bird preserves, and our first four federal game preserves. In all, Teddy set aside over 230 million acres for conservation. Most of this is readily available to the citizens of the US who enjoy the sport of hunting. It was our unbelievable good fortune to have Teddy as President of our nation at the very last time that it was possible to achieve this result. Had he not done this, we would not have anywhere near this much public land available for our enjoyment.

It has also been our good fortune that our nation's founding fathers recognized that it is imperative that the individual people of our nation have the right to bear arms. The right to bear arms is available to each of us regardless of our economic status. Similarly, Teddy Roosevelt made it clear that it is an essential democratic effort that the government of our nation preserve large tracts of wilderness and preserve game animals "for all lovers of nature, and to give reasonable opportunities for the exercise of the skill of the hunter, whether he is or is not a man of means." I see a significant parallel in the actions of our founding fathers with regard to our right to bear arms and Teddy Roosevelt's sincere commitment to insuring we also have the opportunity to go hunting and to walk wilderness lands. Our opportunities to enjoy the sport of shooting and hunting remain the envy of others in the world.

Here in North Dakota, we can enjoy great fishing and hunting of big game, waterfowl and upland game. Our shooting sports programs are well managed and we can have a great time at a match somewhere in our State nearly every month in the year. Just take a look at our schedule of match opportunities on page 5 to plan your winter match travel. Load up your gun and get out the door or grab your air rifle or pistol and fire a postal match in your own home.

We should celebrate our good fortune daily, not just on Thanksgiving Day. We also need to dedicate ourselves to making sure that the right to bear arms and the opportunity to hunt remain available for our children.

We need to do our best to keep the passion of Theodore Roosevelt and our nation's founders burning brightly in our own hearts for the individual freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today, so that our children and grandchildren will enjoy them throughout their lives as well.

I hope that you all enjoy a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you as well.

Rick Jorgenson

Join us for the NDSSA annual membership meeting and awards banquet on January 29, 2011 at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck, ND.

We have inserted a flier with an order form for tickets to register for the banquet. Our banquet is a great opportunity to make new acquaintances and to renew contact with other members and their families. We will enjoy a good meal and a program about the worldwide opportunities that the shooting sports afford for young people and adults. Ours is a true family sport where the young people in the family shoot right alongside their parents and most often where the younger shooters win or place highly in those matches where they compete on equal footing with their parents and other adults.

If you have not ever attended, you will be welcome, and I am sure that you will enjoy yourself. We would like to see you and hear from you at our annual membership meeting as well. I look forward to seeing you there.

Editorially Speaking

I have been hunting deer now for almost 40 days, and I have to admit that I am still not tired of it. In fact hunting deer ranks right up there with competitive shooting. The activities are very different, but hunting certainly makes use of the skills learned in the competitive shooting sports. I have been able to make a couple of shots on deer this year that would have been nearly impossible without the effort that I have spent in the various shooting sports.

I began my involvement in the shooting sports over 35 years ago by building and then shooting a Muzzleloading rifle and pistol at semi-formal rendezvous. I hunt deer with that same rifle as well as some others of that same traditional sidelock trade rifle and Hawken rifle style. It is really rewarding to make the effort and occasionally succeed with traditional equipment.

We are so fortunate here in North Dakota to have great water fowl, upland bird, and big game hunting available to us right in our own state and often only a very few miles from our home. The row crops provide great feed for the wildlife. Looking back to the period from 1965 to 1985 when deer were scarce and not nearly so well-fed, it is clear that we live in the good old days right now.

The same cannot be said about the shooting sports in North Dakota or around the nation. However, we are gaining back some of the ground that we have lost. We have some real quality indoor ranges and some really excellent people running them.

As I have said before, remember to exercise your privilege to participate in the shooting sports. It is a lot like hunting. The improved opportunities I have mentioned above 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 again invite you to share an article with our membership. Write one and email it to me ASAP. I have some content to carry over to our next issue, but I can always use more. I appreciate everyone who makes an effort to send an article or bit of information that our members might enjoy. I'll edit as necessary, so write what you can and get it to me soon.

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**.

George Washington

"The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil interference - they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

"Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses."

"When firearms go, all goes. We need them every hour."

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The Junior Olympic Nationals - 2010

Rich Butler was kind enough to put some thoughts down on paper about the highlights of his trip down there for the matches shortly after Easter. The following is a summary that I believe you will find interesting:

I came home the night of the 13th after working out West and South of Mandan on that ice storm that came through there on Easter weekend, and Soren and I flew out to Colorado Springs the next morning. We had some great shooting by all of the Juniors who competed down there. Kelsey Hansen of Minot, ND, shot a 387x400 in Air Rifle on the first day and a 389x400 the second day giving her a total of 776, which put her into second place for the J2 division. Dacotah Faught of Amenia, ND also shot Air Rifle with a fine score of 375x400 the first day and a 380x400 the second day giving her a total of 755. Next they shot the Women's 3x20 Smallbore match. Kelsey shot a 543x600 the first day and a 565x600 the second day giving her a total of 1108. Dacotah shot a 546x600 the first day and a 546x600 the second day giving her a total of 1092. Both of the girls did an outstanding job representing North Dakota in the women's competition.

Soren Butler of Casselton, ND competed in Men's Air Rifle. He shot a 585x600 the first day and a 584x600 the second day. This put him in the finals where he fired a 99.9 for a total of 1268.9, which put him in third place, just missing second place by .1 of a point and missing first place by .4 of a point. Next he fired the 3x40 and the 60 shot prone matches. The first day he fired a 578x600 and the second day he fired a 589x600 in the prone match giving him a total of 1167. In the 3x40 part of it he fired an 1143x1200 and an 1129x1200 for a total of 2272.

Next Matt Pueppke of Amenia, ND and Jacob Longlet of Arthur, ND shot Air Pistol and Sporter Pistol. Matt shot a 553x600 on his first day of Air Pistol and 559x600 on his second day. This put him in the finals where he fired a 92.3 for a total of 1204.3 which put him in second place overall. A great finish along with the big honor of being placed on the National Development Team. The first and second place overall finishers get this award. Matt should fit on the Development team nicely. Jacob Longlet also shot very well with a 506x600 on his first day of Air Pistol and a 525x600 on his second day, giving him a total of 1031. Matt and Jacob shot Sporter Pistol next with Matt shooting a 248x300 on his first day and a 262x300 on his second day for a total of 508. Jacob shot a 221x300 on his first day and a 180x300 on his second day giving him a total of 401. All three boys did an outstanding job representing North Dakota in the men's competition.

I volunteered as a range officer down there for the Air Rifle and the Smallbore matches. It was fun to stay in the dorms where the athletes stay and eat in there dining area. They keep everything real neat and clean around there. When you sit or stand around and watch as many good shooters as I did, you begin to see why they shoot so well. A lot of time goes into gaining the experience that they have that allows them to get to matches like the Junior Olympics. For the most part, the kids were all well-disciplined kids. I was proud to hear how our two girls handled themselves.

Rich Butler

Dakota Marksmanship Foundation, Inc.

P O Box 518
Bismarck, ND 58502-0518

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Provides support for North Dakota shooting programs through distribution of donated funds entirely within North Dakota.

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the Foundation's effort to benefit shooting marksmanship and safety programs within North Dakota, please send us a note or contact:
Thomas Thompson – 701-255-4601
Eric Pueppke – 701-967-8450

You might be a redneck if: *It never occurred to you to be offended by the phrase, 'One nation, under God...'*

You might be a redneck if: *You've never protested about seeing the 10 Commandments posted in public places.*

You might be a redneck if: *You still say 'Christmas' instead of 'Winter Festival.'*

You might be a redneck if: *You bow your head when someone prays.*

You might be a redneck if: *You stand and place your hand over your heart when they play the National Anthem.*

I think I am a redneck. How about you?

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

Case Weight Makes a Difference

For many years, I weighed cases for use in competition for silhouette pistol and paper targets. I had tested weighed cases against those that were not weighed, and the uniformly weighed cases always produced more uniform and smaller groups.

However, I have somehow not carried this over to my hunting rifles and pistols. I have often weighed my cast bullets used for hunting, but I have not been weighing the cartridge cases. Typically cases made by the same manufacturer will vary only slightly in weight – often 2 grains or less which will not create any problem in, say a .30-06 case that might typically weigh an average of around 200 grains. Even a 2 grain variation in a lighter .243 Winchester or a 7mm-08 Remington will not produce any real detectible difference in groups. So I have been simply sorting brass by manufacturer head stamp and checking for overall length, chamfering the case mouth and loading the brass with a good bullet and powder combination for typically good results. I do not shoot much hunting ammunition during any one year, so a batch of 50 rounds lasts a few years. This year, I was running low on hunting ammo for my Ruger #1 in .30-06 with a fixed 6 power Leupold scope. I had not loaded hunting ammo for this rifle for eight years. I decided to try something new, a Berger 168 grain hunting bullet, and began to work up a load in some Federal brass that I had prepared years ago. That was a mistake. It is one that I think many of us would find easy to make.

I fired a 5 shot group with each of my first three test loads at 100 meters to find that the groups varied from the largest of 2.75 inches (first group with the lightest powder charge) to the smallest of 1.5 inches (last group)with the largest powder charge. The groups seemed to be shrinking, and I had over 1.5 grains to go to the maximum recommended powder charge, so I went back home to load again with a bit more powder. I also checked the forend of the rifle to make sure that it remained bedded properly. See, the groups were strung vertically with no more than a ¼ inch width. I had some vertical stringing with this rifle back when I had first purchased it over 15 years ago, and wanted to make sure that the forend bedding had not changed. When checked, it seemed fine, so I assumed that the bullet simply needed more Reloader 22 behind it.

My next test was of groups with .5 grains and 1 grain more powder than I had loaded in the test group that had produced my smallest group earlier. The first group of 5 shots landed in a vertical string 2.25 inches high and only .375 inches wide. It was a bit windy, so the width of the group was exceptionally good. The next group of 5 shots landed in a group 1.5 inches

high and only .625 wide. I thought about this for a while and had a bit of an epiphany. I went home and weighed the empty cases to find that the first group's 5 cases weighed from a low of 187.5 grains to a high of 210 grains (this includes the fired primer). 22.5 grains difference with the same overall length indicates a very substantial difference in internal capacity. The second 5 cases weighed from 195 grains to 206 grains for a difference of only 11 grains. Still, this is clearly not the uniform one to two percent variation that I look for in any brass.

I found no indication of any high pressure in any of the brass, so I then loaded 15 rounds in some old LC 64 brass which weighs an average of 202 grains with a variation of only 1 grain on either side of that average. With a load of 60.5 grains of Reloader 22 and the Berger 168 grain hunting bullet, I went back to the range. I fired 3 shots at a 100 meter target into a group of .8 inch. I then moved my target out to 230 yards and fired a 6 shot group into 2 inches and another 5 shot group into 2.25 inches. I was still getting some vertical stringing, but this load would certainly hunt.

I have been shooting the .30-06 for over 35 years now, and my father hunted with a .30-06 for many years. I have accumulated a substantial amount of once-fired brass over that time, and somehow never gave it a thought to weigh my hunting brass. I have used various lots of military Lake City brass in competition with the other rifles, but never used anything but Federal and Winchester brass in my hunting ammunition. I have since weighed all of my Federal hunting brass to find that much of it is an average of 198 grains but over 30 percent of my carefully prepared Federal brass is more than 3 percent above or below that average. In fact, only about half of it is less than 2 percent above or below that 198 grain average.

Clearly accumulating brass over 35 years or more is not a good plan unless the brass is weighed and inspected to make sure that it is uniform within no more than 2 to 3 percent of the average. I will bet that there are many of you out there who reload brass accumulated over many years and or loaded ammunition accumulated over many years. Maybe you have been as lucky as I have to not suffer for failing to manage the brass or ammunition, but I recommend that you now consider taking an inventory of your brass and sort it by weight in the ever challenging effort to keep your groups uniform.

Of course, you could also just find some old military brass and just shoot it, as it seems to be generally quite uniform. Bill Brackin uses military brass older than Moses to compete with the .45 ACP in the conventional pistol centerfire and .45 matches.

Rick Jorgenson

2011 Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
Now	Light Rifle Postal Match	Your range	Myron Hanson	701-243-6386
Jan 1, 2	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-751-0609
Jan 1, 2	Bullseye Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 8, 9	Open Inter Rifle Sec (Air, 3P)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 15	Action Pistol	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Jan 15	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Jan 15	Viking 1800	Valley City	Bill Brackin	701-282-7158
Jan 22, 23	Junior Olympics (Air, 3p, Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 29	NDSSA State Convention	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Jan 30	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Feb 4,5,6	3-P Air Rifle Sectional	Buffalo	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
Feb 5	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Dave Shaffer	701-255-4947
Feb 4,5,6	Jr Olympic, CMP 3-P Air Champ	Buffalo	Dan Geurts	701-633-5553
Feb 5,6	Light Rifle Match	Rolla	Bill Langer	701-656-3415
Feb 6	Action Pistol	Bismarck	Bruce Magstadt	701-426-5927
Feb 12, 13	Jr 3P State and Sectional	Minot	Wes Thomas	701-839-6075
Feb 19, 20	Open 3P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 19, 20	Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Feb 26, 27	50 Yard Smallbore Regional Rifle	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
March 4,5,6	Light Rifle Match	Cooperstown	Larry Wathne	701-797-3327
March 5, 6	Jr Air Rifle Sectional – Standing	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
March 5, 6	Open Air Rifle State Champ	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
March 12, 13	Jr 4P State and Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
March 12, 13	Pistol Sctional (Conv, Air, Standard)	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236

-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)

North Dakota Long Range State Championship Fired July 10 and 11, 2010

The matches were fired at the Fried Family Shooting Complex southeast of Bismarck.

Twenty-five shooters from North Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska fired this year's long range events. The Long Range State Championship includes classes for both F-Class and Conventional Highpower shooters. The course of fire includes a Palma match fired on Saturday, July 10, however, the Palma course of fire is not included in the overall long range state championship aggregate score. The Long Range State Championship match was fired on Sunday, July 11. The course of fire for the long range state championship includes 4 – 20 shot strings fired from 1000 yards. Conventional NRA Highpower shooters fired 2 strings with iron sights and 2 strings with any sights.

Saturday was hot with temps in the upper 90's. Winds were very light. However the mirage was extremely tricky. Tom Thompson (Bismarck) fired a 434-16x (possible 450) to win the Palma Conventional Class. Brian Suhr (Page), fired a 432-16x for the F-Class match win.

A front came through Saturday night which brought lower temps – mid 80's, and much lower humidity. The wind picked up with gusts in the 15 miles per hour range from the northwest on Sunday. Tom Thompson won the 2010 North Dakota Long Range State Championship – Conventional - firing a 759-27x. Brian Suhr fired a 754-13x to win the 2010 F-Class State Championship.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2010 North Dakota Long Range State Championship matches, it was great to shoot with you all. Thanks to the volunteers that helped run the matches including Leon Nesja and John Hoflen and thanks to our pit boss – Earl Garbina!

Plan to come and shoot with us next year. I know that you will enjoy yourself, and we would be glad to have you.

Tom Thompson

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