

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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January, February, March 2014

Do you want to be a Shooting Sports Volunteer?

I have written previously in this newsletter about the rewards of being a volunteer in the shooting sports, and I know many of you who are very active volunteers. Our basic and advanced marksmanship programs here in North Dakota are almost exclusively dependent on volunteers who act as coaches, match directors and support personnel as well as range managers and club officers.

I don't know of a club or marksmanship program in the state that has too many volunteers to assist with the development and continued operation of their programs to improve marksmanship and safe handling of firearms. If you are not currently a volunteer and would like to get involved in the support of marksmanship programs, you can do so quite easily. I suggest that you first of all become more active in your local Shooting Sports Association. You can do that by simply calling one of the match directors listed in the calendar of activities that you find on page 5 of this newsletter. Our match directors can always use people to help set up and maintain the range where they operate their shooting matches. You might also want to help with the administration of the match or maybe you'd like to be a range officer. None of these tasks are really difficult. However, they often fall to a single individual who would really appreciate some more support whether those who volunteer are experienced or inexperienced.

José Figueroa-Dias and I just returned to North Dakota from a trip to the NRA Whittington Center near Raton, New Mexico where we became certified to act as state instructors for the North Dakota 4H shooting sports programs in the disciplines of rifle and pistol. We hope to assist in making the 4-H shooting sports available to many more young people and in more communities around the state of North Dakota. These 4-H shooting sports programs provide a very sound basis for young people to develop safe firearms handling practices and basic marksmanship skills. Those young people who begin their experience with firearms through the 4H shooting sports program can quite easily cross over to participate in the NRA, CMP and USA Shooting programs, should they desire to do so.

Incidentally, while we were on our way down to Raton, we stopped in Colorado Springs, CO to visit the Olympic Training Center. Joe Martin and Bennett Christianson were firing in the 50 meter smallbore rifle event of the Junior Olympic National Championships, and we enjoyed watching them compete. The training center has undergone substantial improvement over the years since Connie and I were last there for the Junior Olympic National matches back in 1997. The facility itself is

barely large enough to fulfill its task. It would certainly not operate successfully without volunteers to assist with the operation of the matches and the many other tasks related to training our Olympic team members and developing our prospective team members.

They say that time flies while we are having fun, so I must have been having a lot of fun over the last 17 years. A lot of that time has been devoted to marksmanship either at our local club here in Devils Lake or as an officer in our State Association, etc.

There are many training opportunities available across the nation offered through the auspices of the NRA, CMP, USA Shooting and 4-H. We have been fortunate to have training opportunities offered right here in North Dakota in the past, and we hope to have one or more training opportunities here in North Dakota in the near future. With the ranges developed here in North Dakota over the last few years, we now have great facilities available for marksmanship trainers.

We will be sure to announce any opportunities for marksmanship training in our newsletter and on our NDSSA website.

I am certainly not suggesting that you have to become a trainer, coach or officer in your local club in order to support the development of marksmanship skills in the state of North Dakota. Whether you are young or old, experienced or inexperienced, you can simply offer your assistance in any way that you feel comfortable.

In order to properly utilize the ranges that we have developed over the last 15 years, we need to expand our pool of volunteers who help to keep our marksmanship programs going throughout the year. You will enjoy being involved in the development of those young or old people who are involved in those marksmanship programs in which you volunteer.

You will also learn a lot, and you will really have fun helping us to develop the skills of marksmanship that carry over to success in the daily lives of those who commit themselves to the incremental effort at excellence that is essential to development of any skill. Rick Jorgenson

What do we really mean, when we talk about perfect practice? Check out my thoughts on the back page.

Editorially Speaking

Since our last issue, I have been able to attend a couple of light rifle matches, I have shot some bullseye pistol and Connie and I have run the Junior Olympic Selection Match in Minot and the Junior Air Rifle Sectional and our North Dakota State Open Air Rifle Championship here in Devils Lake. She and I have also run a 4-H sporter air rifle match here in Devils Lake. So, we have been busy with that. I have also taught a Hunter Safety class and we coach air rifle and air pistol one or two nights each week. Anyone who thinks there is nothing to do in the winter in North Dakota is welcome to come and lend a hand. We could certainly use some more volunteers to help our match directors and coaches who make it possible to provide the shooting opportunities that we enjoy across the state of North Dakota. It is fun.

Our NDSSA Annual Meeting/Banquet was a success. The North Dakota Attorney General's chief deputy enlightened us about the responsibilities of the Attorney General and some of the actions that the Attorney General and his staff have taken in support of our Second Amendment rights. We recognized State Champions and new State Records for 2013. Thanks to the Bismarck Mandan Rifle and Pistol club for managing this event. Next year's meeting will be held in Grand Forks.

In order to accommodate the growth in our competitive shooting programs, we will all have to look for ways to expand the facilities we now enjoy. Many of these are relatively new, but the growth we have experienced will shortly require expansion. This is particularly true of the air rifle and pistol ranges.

As an example, in order to accommodate all of the airgun competitors at the Junior Olympic Selection Match in Minot this year, we had to add one additional air rifle relay, and we filled the air pistol relay. I am not interested in turning shooters away because the facility is too small to accommodate them all. Now is the time to figure out a way to fit them into the existing facility. I think that we can do that. However, if the facility cannot be expanded, the match will have to be fired over an additional day or we will have to get creative and develop a different solution.

I ask that you all think about this until our next issue and see what solutions we can develop. It is a great problem.

HAPPY SPRING.

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 government is merely a servant—merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong, and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them."

— [Mark Twain](#)

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."

— [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

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BATTLE OF THE BULGE VINTAGE SNIPER RIFLE MATCH

On January 11, 2014, The Forks Rifle Club held a vintage sniper rifle match to commemorate the World War II Battle of the Bulge on its outdoor high power rifle range at Grand Forks. CMP Rule 6.4.3 Vintage Sniper Rifle or Section 6.3 As-Issued Military Rifle were allowed. As it turned out the team members used Springfield 1903A4 or 1941 sniper rifles or clones.

Each team fired 20 rounds of ammunition. There were no sighting shots. Competitors provided their own ammunition, but no tracer, armor piercing or incendiary-type ammunition or projectiles were allowed and ammunition had to be capable of being inserted into the magazine.

There were 4 firing lanes. Each lane consisted of one cardboard head and shoulder silhouette, one half-body silhouette and one full-body silhouette. All silhouettes were stationary and in stands on the berm in front of the pits. Hits were not scored until the relay completed the entire course of fire. The targets were left brown.

The firing teams on a relay formed up at the club house. Carrying their rifles (with ECIs inserted), ammunition, spotting scopes and back packs (which can be used as a rest), the teams moved on foot to the 300 yard firing berm and set up on the rear slope of the berm. At the direction of the range officer, each team was allowed a total block time of 10 minutes for both team members to fire 5 shots at the silhouettes in their lane. This included switching shooters and spotter. While changing shooters the rifles have to be unloaded and ECI's inserted. The team had the choice to forego having a spotter to allow both team members to fire at the same time during the 10 minute block time.

Upon completion of firing at the 300 yard line, all rifles were unloaded and ECI's inserted. The shooters packed up their equipment and withdrew back to the 600 yard firing line where they set up on the rear slope of the berm. At the direction of the range officer, each team was again allowed a block time of 10 minutes for both team members to fire 5 shots at the silhouettes in their lane. This completed the course of fire.

Once the line was cleared and equipment stowed, officials and competitors moved down to the pit area and scored the number of hits on each of the targets and patched the targets.

Each hit on the head and shoulder silhouette was worth 3 points, each hit on the half-body silhouette was worth 2 points, and each hit on the full body silhouette was worth 1 point. Any team failing to score at least one hit on each of the 3 targets would be disqualified. If there are more than a total of twenty hits on a team's three targets, the team got the value of the low 20 shots. Any team observed firing more than the allowed number of shots was disqualified. The maximum possible score was 57 points.

Since there was snow on the ground, team members were expected to wear white camouflage (a white sheet secured with a rope around the waist qualified). Failure of both team members to wear some manner of white camouflage would result in a 5 point penalty for the team.

Results:

Team Members	Head/Shoulders	Half Body	Full Body	Total
Kevin Fire / Tom Reiten	6x3=18	9x2=18	5x1=5	41
Marcus Moeglein / Kevin Fire	4x3=12	7x2=14	1x1=1	27
Jeff Hammonds/ Ron Depue	1x3=3	8x2=16	3x1=3	22
Jorgen & George Tollefson	2x3=6	2x2=4	6x1=6	16

Tom Reiten

Dacotah at Murray State - 2014

Many of you have followed our North Dakota junior shooters progress at matches here in North Dakota. Some of them move on to other competitive shooting programs. The following is from a February press release outlining some of Dacotah Faught's accomplishments so far as a freshman at University of Tennessee at Martin:

MURRAY, Ky. – The University of Tennessee at Martin rifle team saved its best team performance for last, as the Skyhawks smashed three program records at this weekend's NCAA Qualifier at the Pat Spurgin Rifle Range on the campus of Murray State University.

UT Martin's 4,626 aggregate score was six points better than the previous school record, while its 2,347 air rifle points are 10 points better than the former UT Martin benchmark. Individually, Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year Dacotah Faught shot a remarkable 597 in air rifle, which is five points better than the previous University of Tennessee at Martin school record.

"This was truly an exceptional team performance, with 14 of our 16 athletes posting scores above their season average and seven of them contributing to a new team aggregate record," Skyhawk head coach Bob Beard said. "I am very proud of the entire team."

Faught's remarkable performance will certainly catch the eye of the NCAA selection committee, who will choose four at-large individuals in both air rifle and smallbore to compete in the NCAA Championships, ironically held at the Pat Spurgin Rifle Range on March 14-15. The NCAA entrants will be announced this Thursday, Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. CST. Faught will be making the bid to become the first UT Martin shooter to advance to the NCAA championships since Jaymi Collar and Heather Tillson shot a 589 to qualify for the 2006 NCAA championships, held in Colorado Springs, Colo. [\[Ed. Cody made the cut\]](#)

"As for Dacotah's individual school air rifle record, I have never, in 32 years of coaching, seen a better performance," Beard said. "The three times she missed the 10-dot were evenly distributed across the 60-shot course of fire and each registered 9.9 on the computerized Olympic target, meaning she missed the 10-dot by a little more than the width of a human hair."

Dacotah at Murray State – 2014 (cont.)

Dacotah Faught's 597 air rifle score ranked first out of all shooters in the stacked field this weekend that included West Virginia, Jacksonville State and Murray State. Jessica Cobb fired a 588 while Dana Maurizio (582) and Nikki Kroll (580) also factored into the team score.

The Skyhawks produced a 2,279 total in smallbore. Faught's 575 paced the team, followed by Joe Barefoot's 572, Maurizio's 567 and Breanna Flint's 565.

Aside from the fact that three of the program's most hallowed records fell, the team's effort this weekend meant even more to Beard, who has announced his intent to retire after this season.

"We have had such a great year both athletically and academically," said Beard, who won his fourth OVC Coach of the Year award two weeks ago. "The team sure has sent me out in style. *This had the potential to be my last match, but now I hopefully get to coach another three weeks and I couldn't be happier.*"

The NCAA Rifle Championships were fired beginning on March 14, 2014. I believe that Kelsey Hanson of Minot, ND was there shooting for Nebraska. To get a taste for the matches, check for results and videos at: <http://www.ncaa.org/championships/statistics/2014-ncaa-rifle-championship-results-and-records>.

Rick Jorgenson

Obamacare and Gun Control

In response to the introduction of Obamacare, the company that I work for recently had to drop its insurance plan and change to something more affordable. (Back in October my company reassured us that our insurance coverage would stay the same and that Obamacare would not affect us or our premiums). My employer had a meeting that all employees were invited to so that one of the insurance representatives could explain why this was necessary and how it would affect us.

The younger employees were not going to be affected as much as the older. In fact some would actually see their premiums become lower (although we have a \$1900 deductible under the new insurance plan instead of a co-pay, so if the younger employee has to receive medical care, he will be responsible for the first \$1900). On the other hand, it affects the older employees more, (me being one of them). My premium has almost doubled and every birthday from here on out, the insurance company estimates that my premium will increase by roughly \$30. The insurance company

representative went on to explain that this was now the law of the land and there wasn't anything that we or his company could do (other than apply for Obamacare). Not being very impressed with any of this I had to ask what real advantage there was in this new plan for me. I felt and still feel that my premiums are being raised to support a system that is broken, charges too much, is rampant with fraud and waste, and that all the new money raised by the additional premiums is basically paving the way for socialism. The insurance company representative offered a glib comment to the effect that we all have differing opinions and he then thanked us for coming. He also said that he could be reached at his business, if there were any questions. It looks like I and many of us throughout the United States should have asked more questions before Obamacare became the law of the land. Now, it may be too late.

Don't get me wrong, I am all in favor of health care for everyone, the key word missing in that statement is AFFORDABLE. Anyway, what has all this to do with the shooting sports and firearms ownership?

Complacency!! Two years ago, if someone had told me that my health care coverage was going to be dictated to me by my Government because they know what is best for me, I would have laughed in their face. Looking back through history Complacency has negatively affected the lives of millions, and it is the basis for the ability of a few to rule many. How many nations watched Hitler take over Germany and eventually Europe? It didn't happen overnight, but the end result was catastrophic. Complacency in Germany and throughout Europe and the United States allowed Hitler and the Nazi party's beliefs to blossom.

I have many good friends that say to me, "the NRA is overreacting; the Government will never take our guns away; there is nothing wrong with sensible gun control". The people that commit crimes with guns are not sensible people and from what I have witnessed these past few years, I am very uncomfortable leaving it up to the Government to define what is sensible. I have no answers but many questions. I plan on keeping my eyes and ears open and becoming more involved. I do not see how I can remain sitting on the side lines and watch our government decide what is best for me with regard to firearms use and ownership. There is just too much at stake. Complacency allowed Hitler to disarm Germany before implementing his most hateful programs.

Rand

"Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience."
– **Mark Twain**

Spring & Summer Schedule of Opportunities

May 31, Jun 1	ND Outdoor Smallbore State Champs, Prn	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jun 1	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Volmer	701-226-4156
Jun 7, 8	Palma (Sat), ND Long Range State Champ (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jun 14	Varmint Rifle Bench Rest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-515-3427
Jun 14	Action Pistol Match	Bismarck	Travis Ktytor	701-426-3811
Jun 14	Vintage Rifle Match and Vintage Sniper Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Jun 15	Pistol Regional w/Leg	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jun 20, 21, 22	Perry on the Prairie Highpower, 3 times X-course and Garand Match	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687
Jun 21	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jun 21	IHMSA (Handgun Silhouette Match)	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Jun 22	3-Gun Lever Action Rifle Silhouette Match	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Jun 28	3-Gun Match	Bismarck	Travis Ktytor	701-426-3811
Jun 28, 29	H-power Regional, 600yd Team, Garand, Leg	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jun 29	Highpower Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Jul 5, 6	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), X-Course HP (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jul 12, 13	ND Highpower State Champ w/Leg, Team	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jul 12	Muley Days	Bismarck	Jeff Burgois	701-426-6966
Jul 13	Lever Action and Military Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Volmer	701-226-4156
Jul 14	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jul 19	Action Pistol Match	Bismarck	Travis Ktytor	701-426-3811
Jul 19	Varmint Rifle March	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-516-3427
Jul 20	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jul 20	IHMSA (Handgun Silhouette Match)	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
Check your	local club website for more information about	more local	club matches	
	Check our NDSSA website for events not yet listed and more details- http://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 _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Interests
 Legislation Jr. Program
 Hunting Conservation
 Collecting
 Bullseye Pistol
 Air Rifle Hi-Power Rifle
 Air Pistol Smallbore
 Police PPC Other
 Rifle Silhouette
 Pistol Silhouette
 Hunter Safety

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

(July 2006)

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The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



Page 6

The Target

January, February, March 2014

Perfect Practice

So, you have committed yourself to improving your marksmanship skills through perfect practice. Do you really have any idea what commitment you have made? Are you planning to shoot only perfect shots in practice and perform in a manner that avoids all mistakes? Where is the joy in that?

I think not. When we adopt the no-mistakes-allowed concept of perfect practice, we are stunting our growth in fear of attempting to change our current technique in order to improve our skill over the long term. As we all know, change in technique can often result in a temporary drop in our score performance which many of us find embarrassing. If we are truly interested in refining our skills in marksmanship, we must be willing to adapt as we grow in order to improve our score performance over the long term. We should approach practice with an eager and positive attitude.

We need to practice our skills deliberately during our efforts at perfect practice. Very few of us take notes charting our progress and including our mistakes. By not articulating in written form both our mistakes and those techniques that we have discovered to work well for us, we are failing to formally recognize those mistakes and the solutions that we have developed as we incrementally work to improve our marksmanship skills. We are all working to develop ourselves to the point where we can perform in a match with a good plan and without fear.

Through our deliberate practice of our shooting techniques, we can identify what works for us and also what does not work for us. By all means take the time to write down a short clear explanation of what you find along the way that works for you while it is clear in your mind so that you can incorporate that into your match plans and shot plan.

Far too many of us are caught in the trap of limiting our growth by failing to refine and analyze our technique as we practice and develop. Practice is the place to refine and confirm our skill. It is also the place to work on our weakness in order to develop strength in those areas where we are currently weak. Perfect practice embraces and confirms our strengths and it also demands that we deliberately analyze and articulate our mistakes and weaknesses so that we can improve. It is certainly not the place or time for fear or lack of deliberate effort. It is the place to smile and enjoy your progress. – Rick Jorgenson