

ON THE MARK



THE NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR MARKSMEN © JUNE 2010

One for All...All for One

Calvin leads Siegel HS to JROTC Precision Championship



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Cadets shine at JROTC National Air Rifle Championship

Written by Steve Cooper, CMP Writer

ANNISTON, ALABAMA - Several individual and team champions were crowned at the Eighth Annual JROTC National Air Rifle Championship here on 25-27 March, but according to the event's founder, the biggest winner of all was the sport of JROTC marksmanship.

Gary Anderson, CMP Director of Civilian Marksmanship Emeritus, explained to participants, coaches and guests at the awards banquet that JROTC air rifle marksmanship scores are nearing the same level as junior air rifle shooting disciplines across the country.

Anderson established the current JROTC competition format eight years ago and said he has seen scores rise through the 570s and now into the 580s, which puts JROTC shooting on par with the best in junior shooting.

Richard Calvin, 17, of Siegel High School Army JROTC, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, won the precision class championship with a consistent two-day performance, shooting an aggregate score of 1282-87. Carrying Day I and finishing second on Day II, Calvin maintained a high average to outdistance the field to win his final high school match. He will report to Army basic training on 28 June and has been accepted to the US Military Academy at West Point and will compete on their rifle team.

Calvin said he spent a considerable amount of time in practice and participating in as many matches as possible this past year.

"It was just a great one to finish on - it was my last big competition in high school," Calvin said. "It was good to go



Richard Calvin won his last high school match. He will attend West Point this fall.



The CMP's Anniston (Alabama) Air Gun Range was the location for the 2010 JROTC National Air Rifle Championship.

out on top. And I'm really proud of my team, especially our sophomore (Teodor Ilkov), who really stepped up."

He also credits his success to goal-setting. "I read a book by Lanny Bassham about setting goals. I followed that process and through a lot of practice and dedication I was able to reach my biggest goal."

In the process of winning his championship, Calvin also set a new Army JROTC record in 3x20 individual of 594-46 and 3x20 individual plus final of 693.8. He also tied the Army JROTC 20-shot kneeling record of 200-17.

Thomas Wheelless, 16, of Phoebus High School Marine Corps JROTC, Hampton, Virginia, won the sporter class championship, coming back from a fifth place finish after Day I and a Day II second place to win the crown after a typical topsy-turvy sporter final on Day II. Wheelless fired an overall score of 1199.1-39 to win the sporter championship.

Wheelless said the finals "were pretty crazy." He was right. The start list in the two finals were dramatically different with Wheelless emerging from the pack as the most consistent finalist. There were at least 10 other shooters combined in the two sporter finals who had a realistic opportunity to beat him.

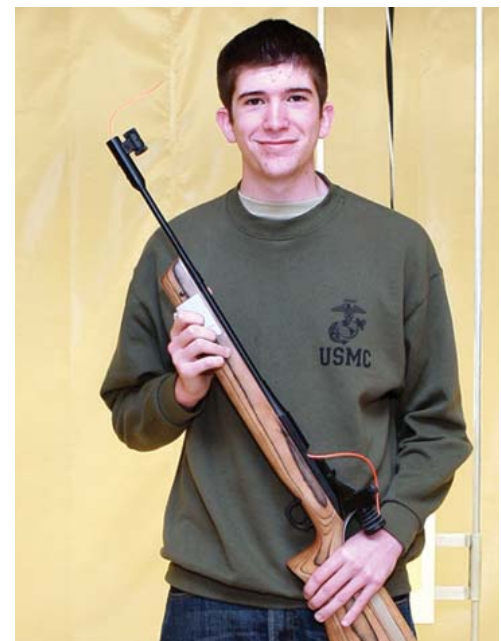
When asked about riding the roller coaster ride to the top Wheelless said "To be honest, it came as a surprise to me after

those finals. I thought I wouldn't even be in the top three and when they called Phoebus High School I was amazed."

"It's crazy in the final sometimes because it seems anyone can win - there was a lot of jumping around in there," Wheelless said.

Reflecting on his road to the championship, Wheelless credits his work ethic. "My goals were to constantly beat my own scores - to improve on my position and make myself a better shooter

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Thomas Wheelless won the JROTC Sporter Class Individual Championship.

⊙ **Sighting Shots** ⊙

- ⊙ **CMP Scholarships for Junior Rifle Shooters.** The CMP ROTC Scholarship Program annually provides one-hundred \$1,000 college scholarships to high school seniors and college underclassmen that excel in rifle marksmanship, who are enrolled in JROTC or ROTC and who have excellent academic and leadership records. The CMP Scholarship Program is available to Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force JROTC and Army and Navy ROTC cadets through agreements that the CMP established with the Cadet Commands. Applications for the 2011-2012 school year will be available in December 2010. For a list of the 2010-2011 Scholarship Winners, log onto http://www.odcmp.com/programs/honor_roll.htm.
- ⊙ **New in 2010, the CMP awarded 75 \$1000 one-year JROTC scholarships** to JROTC cadets who excelled in rifle competition as members of their JROTC unit rifle team and graduated from high school in 2010. The cadets must have participated in the Annual JROTC Postal Championship and was a firing member or alternate member of a JROTC unit rifle team that qualified for and participated in the 2010 JROTC Service Championships or was an individual at-large qualifier for the 2010 JROTC Service Championships. The CMP JROTC Scholarships can be used to pursue post-secondary education. For a list of the 2010-2011 JROTC Service Championship Scholarship Winners, log onto http://www.odcmp.com/programs/honor_roll.htm.
- ⊙ **Junior Highpower National Matches Support Program.** The CMP provides financial assistance for eligible members of junior highpower rifle teams that compete in the National Trophy Rifle Matches during the 2010 National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. This program was developed to support the junior highpower service rifle programs of CMP-affiliated state associations and clubs and to encourage junior shooters to become actively involved in highpower service rifle competition. The primary purpose of the program is to promote junior participation in the National Matches. A top priority is to encourage new junior participation. Support provided is limited by the total funds in the

CMP budget for this program, by the age of junior participants and by the number of times juniors can participate. For more information about financial support of junior highpower shooting, log onto <http://www.odcmp.com/NM/JrHPSupport.htm>.

- ⊙ **CMP-USMC Junior Highpower Clinic at Camp Perry.** One of the most popular CMP youth marksmanship clinics during the National Matches is the CMP-USMC Highpower Rifle Clinic from 30 July to 1 August. Participants must have some previous highpower rifle competition experience and must have attended the Rifle Small Arms Firing School or the Eastern Junior Highpower Clinic at Butner, North Carolina. The CMP organizes the clinic and members of the U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Team provide instruction. For more information about the CMP-USMC Junior HP Clinic, log onto <http://www.odcmp.com/NM/JrHPclinic.htm>.
- ⊙ **CMP's New Photo Gallery.** Visit the CMP's new on-line Photo Gallery at <http://cmp1.zenfolio.com/>. The new Zenfolio Gallery allows visitors to view, download and order prints directly from the web site. The most recent photo upload was the Eastern CMP Games Award photo gallery. Be sure to bookmark the new photo gallery and visit often to view photos from CMP events! There is also a link on the site to our photo archives.
- ⊙ **CMP State Junior Director News.** CMP is pleased to announce two new State Junior Directors: David Boldt (Louisiana) and Tom Monto (Michigan). The mission of the State Junior Directors is to provide leadership, resource and program information, coordination, networking, motivation and publicity for junior shooting within his or her state. The CMP currently has openings for State Junior Directors in Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Maine and North Dakota. For more information on application requirements you may contact Lue Contreras at (419) 635-2141, ext. 1107 or email lcontreras@odcmp.com.

ON THE MARK

www.odcmp.com/OTM.htm

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ON THE MARK is published quarterly by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. It is dedicated to disseminating news and information about junior shooting activities to leaders and coaches of junior shooting clubs, teams and camps. Its primary purpose is to help youth shooting leaders teach firearms safety and marksmanship more effectively.

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ON THE MARK Wants Your Input: We want your correspondence and opinions. **ON THE MARK** will dedicate space to publish letters from readers. Though we may not be able to publish them all, will make every effort to provide comments that will be beneficial to the broadest audience. If we do something you like or dislike, let us know. If there is a story you feel we should cover, notify us. Send your comments or questions to: Letters to the Editor, CMP Headquarters, P.O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452 or email your letters or comments to scooper@odcmp.com.

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The **Civilian Marksmanship Program** is a non-profit organization chartered by the U. S. Congress to promote marksmanship training and firearm safety, with a primary emphasis on youth. The CMP is authorized to receive and sell surplus government rifles and ammunition that are suitable for marksmanship. Proceeds from these sales are dedicated to CMP programs. CMP enabling legislation requires that its highest priority must be given to "activities that benefit firearms safety, training and competition for youth." **ON THE MARK** is a vital part of CMP efforts to fulfill its mission to serve and develop junior shooting in the United States.

Information about the CMP may be viewed on the CMP web site, www.odcmp.com or on the CMP on-line newsletter, *The First Shot*, at www.odcmp.org.

On the Cover: Siegel High School Army JROTC precision air rifle team at the 2010 National JROTC Championships. Team members from left are Richard Calvin, Maya Arredondo, Coach MSG Jim Thurston, John Carter and Teodor Ilkov.

Gary Anderson Tribute Dinner Celebrates 10 Years of Leadership

By Steve Cooper, CMP Writer

ANNISTON, ALABAMA - Inspired by 1950s Soviet rifle world champion Anatoli Bogdanov, and with virtually no money for proper shooting equipment or ammunition, Gary Anderson set his sights on the highest goal in shooting as a teenager - to be the world's best.

He earned two Olympic gold medals, seven world championships, six world records and 16 national championships. No other American has won more Olympic and world championship three-position rifle titles.

Anderson eventually transitioned from world champion to mentor - authoring, instructing and leading thousands of US shooters, young and old, civilian and military alike down a path of marksmanship, firearms safety and sportsmanship. It's a never-ending path he says and the past 10 years at CMP has been a rewarding chapter in a career that remains open-ended.

While the face of marksmanship and firearms safety at the Civilian Marksmanship Program has changed from a single leader to an empowered team of CMP staffers, one thing is certain - Anderson's legacy and impact on CMP programs will remain forever indelible.

The soft-spoken Nebraskan, with the help of a creative staff, grew a fledgling national civilian marksmanship and firearms safety program into the premier organization of its kind today. The CMP's programs have touched hundreds of coaches and thousands of shooters across the US.

Anderson, who was appointed Director of

Civilian Marksmanship in 1999, announced his retirement in December. He was honored here on 28 March at a Tribute Dinner one day after the close of the 2010 National Junior ROTC Air Rifle Championship - a program he fostered eight years earlier.

The dinner, presided over by CMP Board Vice Chair Judy Legerski, was attended by friends, family, CMP Directors, staffers and dozens of Anderson's extended family - military and civilian coaches of youth marksmanship programs from across the country. Several others who could not attend the dinner sent cards and letters to Anderson, which were displayed in an album.

In appreciation of Anderson's service, CMP Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Charles Maddox presented him with a Creedmoor Sports/Anschutz-built National Match Air Rifle, bearing serial number 1.

Maddox explained to the audience that Anderson inspired the development of the new competition rifle - an air-powered pellet-firing twin of the popular AR15/M16 highpower rifle. Creedmoor Sports markets the rifle commercially as the Gary Anderson Signature Model in his honor.

Later in the evening, Anderson explained how much he appreciated the NM Garand because as a young Corporal in the US Army in the early 1960s, he couldn't afford the \$102 cost to purchase the National Match M1 that was issued to him for firing in the National Matches.

Col. James Vanderbleek, Army JROTC Director, presented Anderson a specially engraved Daisy Model 887 sporter air rifle in appreciation of his development of the National JROTC Air Rifle Program.

"I gave him three rules upon his retirement. You won't be organizing my spices, you won't



Mr. Charles Maddox, CMP Board Chairman, presented Mr. Gary Anderson with the NM AiR-15 Rifle bearing Serial Number 1.



Gary after earning a Gold Medal in Tokyo.

be grocery shopping with me and you will be making your own lunch." she joked.

Mrs. Anderson reflected on his devotion to family, shooting sports, theology, bird watching, photography and world culture. She had fond memories of hosting the first-ever summer rifle camp at their home in Axtell, Nebraska in 1970.

She shared a tender moment in 1964 when Anderson was given a parade through Hastings celebrating his first Olympic gold medal awarded in Tokyo - the first ever won by a Nebraskan in any sport.

"He stopped the parade and got out of the



CMP North General Manager Christie Sewell presented Anderson with a National Match M1 Garand Rifle as a token of the staff's appreciation for his role as mentor, leader and partner in guiding the organization's marksmanship and safety programs for a decade.



Anderson's wife Ruth Ann served as the evening's guest speaker and shared several personal memories and anecdotes from their lives beginning at Hastings College in 1962 through nearly 45 years of marriage.

convertible to greet my grandmother who was sitting in a wheelchair along the road. They exchanged a really big hug," she recalled, emotionally.

Mrs. Anderson discussed the many exciting events in their lives including Anderson's presentation of the first Distinguished International Shooter Badge by President John F. Kennedy in the Oval Office in 1963, a second gold medal in Mexico City in 1968, his Masters of Divinity degree, his term as a Nebraska State Senator, his appearance on the television show *To Tell The Truth* and their many travels abroad.

"We have a wonderful life. We have raised extraordinary children. We have the brightest and most adorable grandchildren," she said.

"Gary is a multi-tasker, he does not waste time - ever. He does not watch movies and he does not play games. He has little tolerance for negativity or things not intuitive," she said.

The Andersons will be spending more time with family and they are interested in supporting the creation of a Shooting Sports Museum. Future travel plans include more tours of Germany - a favorite destination, she added.

"We have an abundance of friends from all over the world. We have had phenomenal travel experiences and we enjoy good health," she said. "God has richly blessed us."

Anderson gave closing remarks about his upbringing, shooting career and his interests in furthering the development of shooting sports at home and abroad.

With the help of his father, who taught him to hunt birds and small game on their farm, Anderson sponged up every bit of shooting knowledge he could absorb and melded it with countless hours of self-driven practice.

Growing up in Nebraska with no shooting aids, no coaches and very little ammunition, his drive to become a world-class marksman overcame all of those obstacles.

Since the USSR was dominating shooting sports in international competition in the 1950s, he modeled his training after Russian champ Anatoli Ivanovich Bogdanov, who credited dry-firing as one of the most important parts of rifle training.

"The dream of becoming as good as Bogdanov inspired me," Anderson said, in spite of rising political tensions between the US and Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Anderson said Bogdanov was "the greatest shooter in the world," whose accomplishments included Olympic gold medals in three-position, 300 meter free rifle in Helsinki, Finland in 1952 and the 50 meter smallbore free rifle in Melbourne, Australia in 1956.

"The importance of dry-firing resonated very well with me because I didn't have the money to buy bullets," Anderson said. "I improvised and went to work and things began to come together for me."

"I came to the conclusion though, that the only real way I could realize my dreams was to get to the Army Marksmanship Unit," he explained.

He said he solicited a tryout with the AMU, penning a letter and submitting sample scores to then Col. Thomas Sharpe, the head of, and considered by many, the founder of USAMU. Though many speculated that Anderson's scores couldn't be trusted, Col. Sharpe "for some, yet unknown reason" granted Anderson a 90-day trial, he said.

After 30 days of dry-firing, he was allowed to fire a 40-shot standing match and his score, the second best in the unit that day, sealed his AMU assignment.

Anderson then posed a few hypothetical questions to the gathering: "What if I had been a member of a regular shooting club, with a regular coach or instructor where my model would have been the best shooter in the club? What would have happened to Gary Anderson?"

"How would shooting history been different if Col. Tom Sharpe had decided that this kid was lying and hadn't given me a tryout with the unit? History sometimes depends on those kinds of decisions."

He answered his final question by describing what it was like to make the transition from a competition shooter to a career of devoting his efforts to serving shooters and the sport of shooting, like he had for the last 10 years at CMP.

"To be a champion, your egos have to be totally focused on 'Me.' To be a teacher, a sports administrator, a coach - to be a leader, your ego has to be totally focused on 'You.' "

Anderson said he has "very vivid memories of being blown off by many experienced



Gary talking to his dad on the farm in Nebraska.

shooters who told me to figure it out for myself" when he was a young competition shooter on the Army International Shooting Team.

"The culture then was not one of sharing information with new shooters," he said.

But he credited three mentors who made a huge impact on his ability to transition when the time came - International Rifle Coach Bill Krilling, 1964 Olympic 300 meter bronze medalist Martin Gunnarsson and world champion pistol shooter Bill Blankenship - all of whom answered his questions and made a very deep impression on him.

"I swore to myself that if I ever did make it to the top, I would do my best to share what I had learned." He also said it always gratifies him to see young people reach their goals in shooting - he said it's as rewarding as all the medals he's won in competition.

In the end, Anderson thanked his wife, the CMP Board, its staff and the shooting sports community for making his career at CMP at success.

"No one ever does anything great alone. Our quest at CMP has always been one of "we" not "me," he added.

The reality is "retirement" is a word that can't be found in Anderson's lexicon - at least not one that applies to him. He hit the marksmanship accelerator as a youngster growing up on a farm in Axtell and hasn't let off - and he shows no signs of doing so anytime soon.

"Retirement is a negative concept to me. There's still a lot of work to be done in shooting sports and I will do my share," he said.

Today Anderson serves a DCM Emeritus where he will provide occasional instruction and consulting. He will remain busy in the US and abroad as Vice President of the International Shooting Sports Federation (the first American to serve in that capacity) and as President of the Board of USA Shooting.



Ruth Ann and Gary with their daughter, Kirsten.

CORRECTING ERRORS—SOLVING CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW SHOOTER

By Gary Anderson, DCME

Shooting coaches and instructors are responsible for quickly recognizing and correcting beginners' errors. If the coach or instructor does this well, new shooters will almost certainly have good experiences and want to continue shooting. This article discusses how coaches should evaluate the first shots that new shooters fire and how to correct any errors or serious problems that occur during those initial live firing experiences.

This discussion is applicable to a wide variety of new shooter experiences. Most coaches now have their prospective marksmen do their first live firing from a supported position, especially when working with juniors. Highly skilled instructors may start older juniors in the standing position. For outdoor highpower rifle shooting over popular As-Issued Military Rifle courses, the first firing position is most often prone. Whether the firing position is a supported position, standing or prone one thing is certain, however. Some shooters are going to present challenges that need to be identified and solved.

TYPES OF ERRORS AND CHALLENGES. There are three types of beginners' errors or challenges that coaches must be alert to detect and fix. They are 1) gun handling or safety errors, 2) catastrophic errors where shots strike completely off the target and 3) wild shots or large shot groups where shots are fired inaccurately. Proper error correction also depends upon having the right number of qualified coaches in the right position to provide timely assistance.

COACH-SHOOTER RATIO. When beginners first advance to the firing line, it is especially important that the coach-shooter ratio be small enough to ensure that they receive the supervision and instruction they need. In the Small Arms Firing Schools each summer at Camp Perry, a one coach to two shooters ratio is maintained. Some programs try to have a one-on-one ratio. In no case should the ratio be larger than



There should be one coach for every two to five new shooters. When new shooters begin firing, coaches should position themselves immediately to the rear of their shooters so that they can observe all aspects of their performance.



Coaches should approach new shooters on the right and get close enough to the shooter that instructions can be given clearly and in a low voice.

one-to-four or one-to-five. The second consideration here is that coaches of new shooters must know what they are doing. They are not there just to monitor gun safety. They need to be individuals who understand shooting and who are trained to apply the procedures and instructions discussed here.

COACH POSITION. When working with shooters who are firing their first shots, the coach should take a position immediately to the rear of the shooters. The coach should remain standing so that he can act quickly if intervention is required. Under most circumstances, the shooter should be approached on the right (right-handed shooter). Get close enough to the shooter so that instructions can be given in a clear, calm voice. A second reason for approaching on the right is so that the coach can quickly take control of the rifle if the shooter should unexpectedly attempt to swing the rifle muzzle around. An important safety admonition for coaches to remember is to never interrupt a shooter while they are attempting to fire a shot unless there is an immediate safety hazard. A shooter with a loaded rifle and a finger on the trigger could become a safety hazard if distracted.

KEEP ERROR CORRECTION POSITIVE. A starting point concerns how coaches should communicate with shooters. A fundamental rule is that responses to new shooter errors should never be "don't do that (the error) again." Appropriate responses should always be a version of "do this (the correct action) on the next shot." Telling a new shooter not to do something does not help them because while it suggests they did something bad, it does not tell them what they should do. Remember that new shooters are people who have very little knowledge of correct shooting fundamentals. A vital part of successfully coaching them through their mistakes is to display an underlying conviction that everyone who tries shooting is not only capable

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of hitting the target, but of shooting good groups and scores. Under no circumstances should a coach approach new shooters with a belief that some people are just not meant to be marksmen. Another coach virtue to be applied in abundance when working with beginners' challenges is patience. Have a willingness to continue working with their problems until a solution is found.

SAFETY. The first possible errors that must receive the coach's attention are gun-handling errors. New shooters may have been taught about muzzle control and keeping their index fingers off of the trigger until they start to aim, but until they actually have a rifle in their hands and practice those lessons, they may not have sufficient muzzle and index finger awareness to actually do this. Continually watch the rifle muzzles and patiently remind new shooters about keeping muzzles pointed up or downrange. Watch where their trigger fingers are placed when the rifles are lifted into firing positions. Corrections are warranted when the finger does not remain outside the trigger guard until aiming begins. A coach's first responsibility is to ensure that safe gun handling skills are mastered.

CATASTROPHIC MISSES. A catastrophic miss is a shot that completely misses the target. Such shots almost always occur during the first few shots new shooters fire, so it is critically important for the coach to confirm that those shots are "on target." New shooters will sometimes not even know they are missing the target. On-line instructors should have spotting scores (not needed with electronic targets) so they can immediately determine if each shooter is hitting the target. As soon as you determine that a shooter has missed the target, go to that shooter and begin this error correction sequence.

Step 1a, Check for Cross Dominance. Have the shooter place the rifle in the firing position and aim at the target. Stand behind or above the shooter so that you can see where the muzzle points. The most common cause of catastrophic misses is cross-dominance. If a shooter whose dominant eye is opposite the shoulder used to support the rifle, the dominant eye may take over aiming responsibility. If it does, this eye will see the front sight and align it on the target. If you stand behind or over a shooter who is attempting to use the left non-aiming, but dominant eye (right-handed shooter) to align the front sight with the target, you will quickly see that the barrel points way to the left of the target (or to the right for a left-handed shooter). If you see this, stop the shooter from firing any more shots until you correct the problem.

Step 1b, Cross Dominance Correction. If you detect a cross dominance problem, correcting this is simple for air rifle, smallbore rifle or BB Gun shooting. Attach a blinder to the rear sight. The blinder must be shaped so that it blocks the non-aiming eye's view of the front sight.¹ Cross-dominance problems can also be fixed by placing a strip of translucent tape on the lens

of the shooting glasses or eyeglasses so that the tape blocks the non-aiming eye's view of the front sight.

Step 1c, Switching Shoulders. Occasionally, new shooters will attempt to contort their head and neck so that they can use a dominant eye that is opposite the shoulder supporting the rifle to try to look through the rear sight. This is an obvious clue that the shooter has a cross-dominance problem. You may be able to fix this problem by attaching a blinder. A better solution to this problem is often advising the new shooter that they would be better off shooting from the same shoulder as their dominant eye.

Step 2a, Sight Alignment Failure. A second cause of catastrophic misses is failure to look through the rear sight and attain proper sight alignment. This error manifests itself when the first shots fired strike high off the target. You can readily detect this by standing to the side of the shooter so you can see where the aiming eye is looking. If the shooter is looking over the rear aperture, it will be obvious.

Step 2b, Sight Alignment Correction. If a new shooter is looking over the rear sight to see the front sight, explain how the eye must look through the rear sight aperture. On occasion, an extra large temporary blinder on the rear sight may be needed to force the new shooter to look through the rear sight aperture. Have the new shooter try looking through the sights to achieve sight alignment while you observe from the left side of the shooter (right-handed shooter).

Step 3a, Firing in Panic or Fear. The third common cause of wild shots that hit completely off of the target occurs when new shooters slap at the trigger, often while closing their eyes. Sometimes, this comes from attempting to fire in an unsteady position. Sometimes, this occurs when new shooters have so little concentration on the sight picture that they simply close their eyes and grab the trigger. Error detection in this case is relatively simple. Stand to the side of the shooter and observe



Placing a simple blinder on the rear sight will solve almost all cross-dominance problems.

Continued on the next page

¹ ISSF, USA Shooting and National Three-Position Air Rifle Council rules all specify that the maximum permissible size of a blinder that is attached to the rear sight is 30mm X 100mm. Binders can easily be made out of translucent plastic such as a milk container.

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the eye and trigger finger while the shot is fired. If the eye closes before the shot or the trigger finger convulses, the cause of missed shots is obvious.

Step 3b, Shot Technique Correction. Shots fired out of panic or fear are more difficult to correct. First, make sure the shooter understands proper shot technique. Explain that they must continue to look through the sights and aim until after the shot is fired (follow-through). Emphasize how the front sight movements must be centered over the target and the trigger pressed while those movements are centered. Make sure the new shooter understands what a smooth trigger release really is. At this point it may be necessary to invite the new shooter to watch your trigger finger while you describe and demonstrate a smooth trigger release. After that, have the shooter dry fire several shots while you observe the eye and trigger action. Then do closely supervised live firing.

BIG SHOT GROUPS. When new shooters successfully advance beyond their first firing experiences by placing all their shots on the target, their next test concerns how large their shot groups are. The causes of large shot groups and wild shots are legion, but there are several things to look for. The “*Live Fire Progression for New Shooters*” chart gives you a rough guide for evaluating new shooters’ first shot groups. When they have shooters shot groups are unacceptably large, go through a series of checks to determine if they are applying good position and shot technique fundamentals.

Step 1, Support Arm Elbow Placement. Placing the elbow of the support arm in the correct location of the support elbow contributes significantly to the stability of any firing position. If the elbow is in the right place, the support arm or support arm and sling will be configured in such a way that muscle effort is not needed to hold up the rifle. Conversely, if the elbow is in the wrong place, shaky muscles are likely being used to hold up the



Closely observing new shooters while they shoot can usually detect fundamental errors in shot technique.

rifle. Start by checking the shooter’s position to be sure it fulfills these requirements for support arm elbow placement:

Supported Position. The elbow should be placed so that the left hand grasps the fore-end lightly with the elbow resting on the table or mat while 100 percent of the rifle weight rests on the support.

Standing. The elbow must rest on the side or hip directly under the rifle. In standing, it is also important to make sure the hip is directly under the rifle so that there is a solid column of support from the rifle, down through the left elbow and left hip to the left foot. Turning the body 90 to 100 degrees away from the target orients this solid column of support.

Prone. The elbow must lie directly underneath an imaginary line drawn from the left hand through the left foot. Another way to check this is to look at the support triangle formed by the upper and lower arm and sling. If a plane cutting through this support triangle is vertical, elbow placement is correct.

Kneeling. The best way to check elbow location in kneeling is to look at the support triangle formed by the left arm and sling. If it is vertical, it is right. Some additional position checks are necessary in kneeling to ensure that proper support is given to the rifle. Is the body weight resting back on the heel; if not, try to get the shooter to shift the weight back. Is the left lower leg pulled back? If it is, the left foot needs to be moved forward until the lower leg is at least vertical.



All coaches who work with new shooters need a good understanding of fundamental position checkpoints such as elbow placement, head position and proper sling adjustment.

Live Fire Progression for New Shooters - Use this guide to evaluate new shooter progress when firing at 50 ft./10m from a supported position (*adjust the shot group standards if initial firing is done from the standing or prone positions*).

Step 1: All shots hit the target

Step 2: All shots (5-shot groups) within 30mm circle

Step 3: All shots (5-shot groups) centered within 30mm circle.

CORRECTING ERRORS—SOLVING CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW SHOOTER

By Gary Anderson, DCME

Step 2, Head and Aiming Eye Placement. Another key to good shooting comes from being able to see the sight picture clearly. This is possible only when the rifle is placed high enough in the shoulder to keep the head reasonably erect and to allow the eye to comfortably look straightforward through the rear sight. A variation of this problem sometimes occurs when shooters who wear eyeglasses tip their heads down and end up looking over their glasses while aiming. A blurred sight picture may result. The solution is to build a position where the rifle is well up in the shoulder. For shooters who need eyeglasses to see a clear sight picture, make sure they are actually looking through their glasses while aiming.

Step 3, Relaxing and Using the Rifle Support. Every good position, whether supported, standing, prone, kneeling or sitting has a means of supporting the rifle so that the muscles of the support arm (left arm for right-handed shooter) are not used to hold the rifle steady on the target. In standing, this means getting the elbow under the rifle with the arm or elbow resting on the side. For prone and kneeling, this means using the sling properly. To get sling adjustment right, you may need to go back through the steps for building the position starting with the sling adjusted loosely on the arm. After building the position, the last step is tightening the sling so it takes over the work of supporting the rifle.

Step 4, Center Sight Picture Movements. Many beginners have difficulty comprehending how to deal with the large sight picture movements that are common for all beginners, especially when they try the standing position. With the front sight ring or post moving all over the entire target, they try to grab the trigger as the sight flies by the bull. The result is almost always a bad shot. Help the shooter understand that no matter how large the front sight movements are, they just need to center those

movements over the target and squeeze the trigger. A good way to get this lesson across is to have the new shooter fire at a blank target with no aiming bull.

Step 5, Smooth Trigger Release. Coaches with shooters who are doing poorly need to closely observe them while they fire. This will often show that the shooter is slapping the trigger like they are firing a shotgun or simply attempting to snap it as quickly as they can. Again, explain and demonstrate smooth trigger release. Dry and live firing on a blank target is a good way to focus attention on attaining a slower, smooth trigger release.

A FINAL CHALLENGE--I Can't Do This—I Don't Want to Be Here! Every large group of new junior shooters seems to have one person with an attitude problem. This can be a challenge to turn around, but the message from the coach should always be “you can do this and I'm here to do the best I can to help you learn to shoot.” As long as an attitude problem does not become a safety issue or be disruptive to other shooters, demonstrating patience and confidence that everyone who tries can become a shooter will often turn this challenge around. Non-judgmental acceptance can be a powerful tool in helping people change.

The first shots that new shooters fire in any position are not an indication of talent or ability to shoot. They are simply an indication of whether the new shooter is applying the fundamentals of marksmanship that you are teaching them. If they don't hit the target or they shoot bad shots, it is your responsibility as a coach to determine which fundamental is not being followed so that you can show them how to do it right. If you fulfill your responsibility, your new shooters will learn to shoot well.



A big part of helping new shooters learn to apply the marksmanship fundamentals you are teaching them is to build a relationship of trust and respect that shows new shooters you believe they can learn to be good shooters.



A coach who knows how to quickly detect and correct new shooter errors can ensure that the first experiences in target shooting are fun and rewarding.

Cadets Shine at JROTC National Air Rifle Championship

Continued from Page 2

by competing against myself and not worrying about the other competitors.”

Both Calvin in precision and Wheelless in sporter said they were looking forward to participating in the upcoming Junior Olympic championships in Anniston in July.

In team competition, Siegel High School Army JROTC captured the precision class title with an aggregate total of 4633-280. Siegel’s team of Richard Calvin, Maya Arredondo, John Carter and Teodor Ilkov was coached by MSG (Ret.) Jim Thurston. Siegel High School also set a new Army JROTC team record of 2321-141 on Day I competition.

Ozark High School Army JROTC of Ozark, Missouri won the sporter championship with an aggregate total of 4376-151. The Ozark team of Chelsy Howald, Tessa Howald, Tyler Ferguson and Lacie Norris was coached by 1SG Terry Thompson.

Also in precision shooting contention were Alivia Yeager, 18, of Seneca High School Marine Corps JROTC, Louisville, Kentucky, who placed second with an

aggregate score of 1273.35-69 and Maya Arredondo, 17, of Siegel High School Army JROTC with an aggregate of 1271.6-77 placed third.

Finishing second in sporter class was Michael Hudson, 18, of South Effingham High School Navy JROTC, Guyton, Georgia, with an aggregate score of 1198.9-33. Hudson came within two-tenths of a point of tying Wheelless overall. On Day I, Hudson set a new Navy JROTC record of 95.9 in 3PAR.

Tyler Ferguson, 18 of Ozark High School Army JROTC took third place in sporter with an aggregate score of 1196.2-45. Ferguson held the lead entering the Day II final. He also set a new open/overall and Army JROTC record in the kneeling phase of his 3x20 Day II match, firing a 197 with 14 center shots.

The runner-up in precision team competition was Chattahoochee County High School Army JROTC, Cusseta, Georgia, with an aggregate score of 4609-237. Team members are Alex Malagon, Breanna Kasl, Andrea Vautrin and Andrea Malagon and they are coached by LTC (Ret) Gary Keown.

Seneca High School Marine Corps JROTC took third place in precision team competition with a aggregate of 4600-241. Alivia Yeager, Karina Schmidt, Joe Zoeller and Amanda Schmidt are team members and they are coached by SgtMaj. (Ret.) Gary Wilson.

In sporter team competition, Zion Benton High School Navy JROTC, of Zion, Illinois captured second place with an aggregate score of 4336-118. Team members are Ariel Morales, Yvonne Swiontek, Renz Ibarra and Alyssa Siegfried. The team is coached by Dan Hackstein, USN.

Third place was won by Daleville High School Army JROTC, Alabama. Team members are Mikaelah Atchley, Joshua Ranes, Daniel Ord and Joshua Nabinger. Daleville is coached by LTC (Ret.) Ralph Aaron.

The event concluded the 2009-2010 JROTC season and featured 142 cadets, representing 53 JROTC units from 23 states in qualifying for the event. The championship capped a season which began in the fall of 2009 with postal competitions fired by Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force cadets.

The field of more than 6,768 cadets from Alaska to Maine and everywhere in between began their quest for a chance to shoot in the national championship by firing in matches at their home ranges and mailing their targets into CMP for scoring. Shooters whose scores meet qualifications received invitations to participate in semifinal matches by service at Camp Perry, Ohio, and eventually the national championship in Anniston, Alabama. Less than one percent of the entire field of shooters qualified for the championship.

For the competition, shooters fired two 3x20 matches over the course of two days. The top eight individuals in both the sporter and precision classes then shot a final on each day and their final average was added to their two-day aggregate score to determine the Individual National Champions in each class. Team scores consisted of the two-day aggregate scores of the four-person teams.



Missouri's Ozark High School Army JROTC took the JROTC Sporter Team Championship with an aggregate total of 4376-151.

The overall winning precision and sporter teams received \$2,000 each, while the top sporter and precision teams representing each service received \$1,000 each.

Gary Anderson, who retired from the CMP at year-end 2009 as Director of Civilian Marksmanship, was also recognized at the banquet. Anderson was lauded by several dignitaries during the awards program for his lifelong contribution to youth marksmanship development and his past 10 years of service to CMP.

Anderson will continue his involvement in shooting sports as Director Emeritus of CMP and as Vice President of the International Shooting Sports Federation and President of the USA Shooting Board of Directors.

Complete scores and rankings from the 2010 JROTC Air Rifle Championship can be found on the CMP website at http://clubs.odcmp.com/cgi-bin/report_matchResult.cgi?matchID=5640. Photos can be viewed at <http://cmp1.zenfolio.com/>.

The following are overall and service champions from the 2010 JROTC Air Rifle Championship:

Precision Class Overall Team Champion:

Siegel HS, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 4633

Precision Class Overall Individual Champions:

- 1st - Richard Calvin, Siegel HS, Murfreesboro, TN, 1282
- 2nd - Alivia Yeager, Seneca HS, Louisville, KY, 1273
- 3rd - Maya Arredondo, Siegel HS, Murfreesboro, TN, 1271

Sporter Class Overall Team Champion:

Ozark HS, Ozark, MO, 4376

Sporter Class Overall Individual Champions:

- 1st - Thomas Wheelless, Phoebus HS, VA, 1199
- 2nd - Michael Hudson, South Effingham HS, Guyton, GA, 1198
- 3rd - Tyler Ferguson, Ozark HS, Ozark, MO, 1196

Army Final Rankings:

Precision Class Teams:

- 1st - Chattahoochee County HS, Cusseta, GA, 4609
- 2nd - Marmion Academy, Aurora, IL, 4595
- 3rd - Del Valle HS, Del Valle, TX, 4593

Precision Class Individuals:

- 1st - Bryan Zavala, Central Catholic HS, San Antonio, TX, 1270
- 2nd - Juan Arceo, Del Valle HS, TX, 1269
- 3rd - David Hall, Daleville High School, AL, 1252

Sporter Class Teams:

- 1st - Daleville HS, Daleville, AL, 4315
- 2nd - R.L. Paschal HS, Fort Worth, TX, 4147
- 3rd - Brandon HS, Brandon, MS, 4098

Sporter Class Individuals:

- 1st - William "Trey" Eades III, C.E. Byrd HS, Shreveport, LA, 1195
- 2nd - Mikaelah Atchley, Daleville HS, Daleville, AL, 1193
- 3rd - Tyler Rico, Flowing Wells HS, AZ, 1191

Marine Corps Final Rankings:

Precision Class Teams:

- 1st - Seneca HS, Louisville, KY, 4600
- 2nd - Eldorado HS, Albuquerque, NM, 4587
- 3rd - LaCueva HS, Albuquerque, NM, 4571
- 4th - Colquitt County HS, GA, 4529

Precision Class Individuals:

- 1st - Vincent Ford, Eldorado HS, Albuquerque, NM, 1268
- 2nd - Adam Grumbling, East Coweta HS, Sharpsburg, GA, 1266
- 3rd - Melissa Quartarone, Parkview HS, GA, 1264

Sporter Class Teams:

- 1st - R-S Central HS, Rutherfordton, NC, 4310
- 2nd - Des Moines North HS, Des Moines, IA, 4230
- 3rd - Tuba City HS, Tuba City, AZ, 4208
- 4th - LaCueva HS, Albuquerque, NM, 4127

Sporter Class Individuals:

- 1st - Logan Hartzog, R-S Central HS, Rutherfordton, NC, 1195
- 2nd - Hunter Firebaugh, LaCueva HS, Albuquerque, NM, 1194
- 3rd - Stephen Goldtooth, Tuba City HS, AZ, 1095

Navy Final Ranking:

Precision Class Teams:

- 1st - Luella HS, Griffin, GA, 4599
- 2nd - Chugiak HS, Chugiak, AK, 4583
- 3rd - Union Grove HS, McDonough, GA, 4576
- 4th - Manzano HS, Albuquerque, NM, 4509

Precision Class Individuals:

- 1st - Steven Frazier, Union Grove HS, McDonough, GA, 1270
- 2nd - Matthew Martin, Chugiak HS, Chugiak, AK, 1264
- 3rd - Beatriz Santiago, Henry County HS, McDonough, GA, 1163

Sporter Class Teams:

- 1st - Zion Benton HS, Zion, IL, 4336
- 2nd - King George HS, King George, VA, 4291
- 3rd - Reed HS, Sparks, NV, 4200
- 4th - Westside HS, Macon, GA, 4177

Sporter Class Individuals:

- 1st - Ariel Morales, Zion Benton HS, Zion, IL, 1193
- 2nd - Yvonne Swiontek, Zion Benton HS, Zion, IL, 1191
- 3rd - Elizabeth Hampton, King George HS, VA, 1088

Air Force Final Ranking:

Sporter Class Teams:

- 1st - South Anchorage HS, Anchorage, AK, 4089
- 2nd - Woodlands HS, The Woodlands, TX, 4054
- 3rd - Clearfield HS, Clearfield, UT, 4023

Sporter Class Individuals:

- 1st - Cooper Barry, Woodlands HS, The Woodlands, TX, 1073
- 2nd - Roberto Mota, Clearfield HS, Clearfield, UT, 1059
- 3rd - Katherine Beasley, South Anchorage HS, Anchorage, AK, 1036

2010 Summer Camps

By Steve Cooper, CMP Writer

CAMP PERRY, OHIO – The 2010 summer three position air rifle camps are underway and CMP Camp Director Sommer Wood is excited about enhancements to camps taking place here at CMP North and at CMP South in Anniston, Alabama. The camps are designed to teach intermediate and advanced rifle marksmanship skills to junior shooters and their adult leaders

“This is my seventh summer with the camps,” she says. “I started as a counselor after graduating from Clemson University where I shot on the air rifle team. I took over as Assistant Director and Camp Coordinator for four years and then took on the role of Camp Director last year.”

Wood said the camps have a pretty big change in format this year – all being full-length camps for high school-aged shooters. Each camp will host 55 to 65 athletes.

“In the past the camps traveled to different locations, but this year we will be holding three Western Outreach clinics in place of full traveling camps, each being three-day, three positions air rifle clinics,” she said. All other camps will be held at the CMP Marksmanship Centers.

This year also marks the first year that CMP will be working jointly with the US Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) to hold an advanced smallbore camp at Fort Benning, Georgia. Though she’s not saying, there will be some surprises with a new curriculum for summer campers this year. Calling it



Back Row L to R: Natasha Dinsmore, Colleen Tillson, Heather Greathouse, Sarah Broeker, Ashley Rose, Carmen Luke, Kellie Zurowski, Camp Director Sommer Wood. Front Row L to R: Brian Carstensen, Michael Kulbacki, Kasey Meyer, Keegan Singleton, Kyle Rebellion, Ed Ryznar, Paul Miller.

the 2010 Camp Experience, Wood will be using high tech electronic targets as a focal point in the camps. With new 80-firing point marksmanship centers featuring the MEGALink target scoring systems, camp participants will experience a state-of-the-art classroom using TV monitors to assist in presentation of the camp.

Participants will hear from some of the top shooters in the country via video recording during the camp series and will be treated to interactive question and answer sessions.

Wood has enlisted the help of several experienced scholastic shooters from across the nation including:

- Kasey Meyer, Murray State University, Senior (class in school is what they just completed), 4th yr (with the camps)
- Sarah Broeker, University of Kentucky, Junior, 3rd yr
- Ashley Rose, Murray State University, Sophomore, 2nd yr
- Colleen Tillson, University of Mississippi, Junior, 2nd yr
- Paul Miller, West Virginia University grad (University of Nebraska grad student), 2nd yr
- Heather Greathouse, University of Kentucky, Freshman, 1st yr

- Carmen Luke, University of Nevada-Reno, Freshman, 1st yr
- Kellie Zurowski, University of Tennessee-Martin, Sophomore, 1st yr
- Brian Carstensen, Jacksonville State University, Sophomore, 1st yr
- Kyle Rebellion, University of Tennessee-Martin, Freshman, 1st yr
- Ed Ryznar, University of Kentucky, Freshman, 1st yr (transferring from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia)
- Michael Kulbacki, University of Kentucky, Sophomore, 1st yr

She will also be assisted by:

- Natasha Dinsmore- Assistant Director- West Virginia University grad 5th summer with the camps
- Keegan Singleton- Gunsmith-Assistant Director, University of Memphis, Senior, 4th summer with the camps

All these counselors shot or currently shoot for their respective schools on NCAA rifle teams.

CMP Junior Three Position Air Rifle Camps are for school-age junior shooters with three-position air rifle competition experience. Athletes should have completed basic rifle marksmanship training and at least one season of three-position competition shooting.



Camp participants will get to experience the CMP’s state-of-the-art air rifle ranges. Both ranges are equipped with MEGALink electronic targets.

The camps are designed for students who will be in grades 9 through 12 during the coming school year; admission of athletes who have not yet reached high school will be at the discretion of the Camp Director. There is no minimum score requirement for the weeklong camps--CMP camps are open to all athletes who want to improve their rifle marksmanship and competition skills.

The camp schedule includes a variety of instructional topics and activities designed to help the participant develop the tools necessary to excel as a three-position air rifle shooter. Participants will learn how to: construct stable and balanced prone, standing, and kneeling positions, personally tune their positions through an "inner position" approach, effectively analyze performance and training, set effective goals, control anxiety and self-talk, improve confidence, train efficiently,

optimize the performance of their rifle and equipment, understand safety and rules, design a physical training program, shoot finals, and optimize their performance in competitions.

An important feature of the CMP camp format is the emphasis on athletes and adult leaders learning together. At least one adult leader (coach, team or club leader, parent, etc.) must accompany each athlete or group of athletes who attend. Adult leaders are encouraged to attend all instruction and coaching sessions with their athletes. Sessions specifically covering coaching topics will be held for interested adults. Adult leaders are also responsible for providing transportation for their campers.

A formal competition (3x20 plus final) will be conducted on the last day of each camp. Medals will be awarded for both sporter and precision classes after



Camp counselors present several instructional topics and activities during the Summer Camp Program.

each camp competition. The End-Of-Camp Competitions for all three-position air rifle camps also are part of a combined CMP Cup Match where the top 10% of all sporter class and the top 10% of all precision class competitors earn credit points towards the prestigious Junior Distinguished Badge.

For more information about the CMP summer camp program, log onto <http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/camp.htm>.

Junior Distinguished Badge Program

The National Three-Position Air Rifle Council established the Junior Excellence-In-Competition Award Program to provide incentives for junior three-position air rifle competitors to improve and excel. This program awards prestigious badges of distinction to the most outstanding junior shooters.

Junior shooters earn EIC credit points by placing in designated competitions in accordance with the requirements of this program. The Junior Distinguished Badge is awarded to school-age junior three-position air rifle shooters who attain a series of high rankings in designated major junior air rifle championships that include the State Junior Olympic Qualifiers, CMP Cup Matches, National Junior Olympic Championships and other National Council Three-Position Air Rifle Championships.

Congratulations to the juniors listed here who recently earned their Junior Distinguished Badges. **ON THE MARK** will recognize all juniors who achieve this outstanding goal in each upcoming issue. A complete list of juniors who have earned their Junior Distinguished Badge is at www.odcmp.com/3P/EIC.pdf. If you would like more information on this program, visit the CMP website at www.odcmp.com/3P/EICProgram.pdf or email CMP Competitions at 3PAR@odcmp.com.



Badge #	Name	Hometown	Badge #	Name	Hometown
278	Justin Nix	Thomaston, GA	300	Lacie Norris	Ozark, MO
279	Nicholas Uribe	McAllen, TX	301	Casey McGrath	Burtonsville, MD
280	Alyssa Siegfried	Zion, IL	302	Bill Harvey	North Huntingdon, PA
281	Alex Green	Round Rock, TX	303	David Hall	Daleville, AL
282	Kaitlin Pennell	Antelope, CA	304	Brianna Bonfantini	Las Cruces, NM
283	Rachel Martin	Peralta, NM	305	Charles Kilby	Jonesborough, TN
284	Kyle Rebellion	Tacoma, WA	306	Eric Bearss	Montevallo, AL
285	Katie Fretts	Scottsdale, PA	307	James South	Iuka, MS
286	Tiffani Potter	McDonough, GA	308	Stephen Brown	Huntsville, AL
287	Emma Lorenz	Issaquah, WA	309	Carrie Garvin	Hollywood, SC
288	Deckard Day	Albuquerque, NM	310	Adam Grumbling	Sharpsburg, GA
289	Caroline Barber	Lincoln, NE	311	Logan Hartzog	Lake Lure, NC
290	Janine Dutton	Eagle River, AK	312	Kimberly Heitmeyer	King George, VA
291	Allison Egan	Las Vegas, NV	313	Stephanie Hernandez	Middletown, NY
292	Matthew Pueppke	Amenia, ND	314	Renz Ibarra	Beach Park, IL
293	Tyler Ferguson	Ozark, MO	315	Ariel Morales	Beach Park, IL
294	Kyrstin Karr	Ozark, MO	316	Catherine Green	Coventry, RI
295	Cydney Horne	Charleston, SC	317	Meredith Carpentier	Waukegan, IL
296	Bryan Zavala	Lytle, TX	318	Ashley Brown	Prince Frederick, MD
297	Maya Arredondo	Murfreesboro, TN	319	Stephen Wiest	Albuquerque, NM
298	Thomas Wheelless	Hampton, VA	320	Soren Butler	Casselton, ND
299	Michael Matthews	Norcross, GA	321	Chris Weaver	Marion, NC

Summer Shooting Opportunities for Juniors

By Steve Cooper, CMP Writer

School will soon dismiss for the summer. For many junior shooters this means a busy summer shooting season lies ahead of them. In addition to the extra time for training that the school break allows, there are also many major competitions and camps for juniors that are only available during the summer. We will outline some of these opportunities to help you plan your summer break.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Many top athletes focus their training on a long range goal like shooting in a national championship. Many shooting national championships that attract the best junior and open (adult) shooters take place in the summer. These events typically have a long history and prestigious awards for winners and almost every national championship offers national junior titles as well. Some championships require qualification in state championships or postal competitions, some require membership in the host organization like USA Shooting and some are totally open for anyone to shoot. Several also offer reduced entry fees for juniors as a way to encourage more juniors to attend. Some juniors attend these events hoping to win a title, while others attend for the learning opportunities they gain by shooting against the best shooters in the country. Regardless of the outcome, shooting in a national championship is always a great experience. For juniors who dream of

making a college or even an Olympic team, national championships are a must attend event. Championships taking place this summer that are of particular interest to junior shooters are:

USA Shooting National Championship (Rifle and Pistol)

12-20 June, Fort Benning, GA

This is the national championship for Olympic and world championship shooting events in rifle and pistol. Every event offers both open and junior titles. Events include prone and three-position smallbore rifle shot at 50M, standing air rifle, air pistol, free pistol and rapid-fire pistol. More information can be found on the USAS website at <http://www.usashooting.com/matchInfo.php>. Open registration, requires USAS membership.

Eastern Junior Highpower Clinic and Championship

19-25 June, Camp Butner, NC

This is a service rifle event specifically for juniors. It is a great opportunity for shooters to sharpen their skills and prepare for the National Trophy Rifle Matches at Camp Perry in August because the program offers both instruction and several competition events. More details can be found on page 3 of this edition of *On the Mark* or online at <http://www.odcmp.com/Competitions/EasternJrHPClinic.htm>. Open registration. Travel grants from the CMP are available.

National 4-H Invitational Shooting Championship

27 June -2 July, Kerrville, TX

This is a great national festival of competitions in 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines. Individual State 4-H Program Leaders determine how teams are selected to represent their state. Individual and team competitions are held in archery, air pistol, air rifle, hunting, muzzle-loading, shotgun and smallbore pistol and smallbore rifle events. To find out more information, contact your

state's 4-H Program Leader or visit <http://shootingports.unl.edu/index.html>. Competition requires qualification.

NRA Junior Air Rifle Championship

23-26 June, Albuquerque, NM

The NRA offers a major national air rifle championship in three-position air rifle. Teams that enter this event may be all-star teams where members are selected from different clubs or schools within a state. Team and individual titles are awarded. More information can be found at http://www.nrahq.org/compete/nm_jr-airgun-champ.asp. Open registration, requires NRA membership.

Daisy BB and Air Gun Invitational

2-6 July, Rogers, AR

The Daisy BB and Air Gun Championship is the oldest continuous youth air gun championship in the country. The BB Gun competition is open to 4-H and other junior programs that offer BB gun shooting. Teams must qualify in state competitions. The age range for BB gun competitors is 8-15. The Air Gun match is a three-position event open to all school age juniors. It has both individual and team events, and offers precision and sporter categories. More information can be found at <http://ibbgcm.home.att.net/>. Register online at <http://clubs.odcmp.com/cgi-bin/matchInfo.cgi?matchID=4749>. BB Gun competition requires qualification, Air Gun open registration.

National Junior Olympic Three-Position Air Rifle Championship

8-13 July, Anniston, AL

USA Shooting, the CMP and the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council sponsor this competition. It is regarded as the major national championship in three-position air rifle. To participate, teams and individuals must qualify in Junior Olympic state championships. These events usually take place in the winter and early spring. Competition is broken into sporter and precision divisions and



The National Junior Olympic Championships are the major National Championships in three-position air rifle.

individual and team titles are awarded in each division. A complete program for the 2010 National Junior Olympic Three-Position Air Rifle Championship can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com/3p/jo.htm>. Competition requires qualification.

USA Shooting National Championship (Shotgun)

2-13 July, Colorado Springs, CO

These events are the national championships for Olympic and world championship shooting events in shotgun. The National Championship offers both open and junior titles. Events include skeet, trap and double trap. More information can be found on the USAS website at <http://www.usashooting.com/matchInfo.php>. Open registration, requires USAS membership.

USA Shooting and NRA National Junior Olympic Progressive Position Air Pistol Championship

9-11 July, Camp Perry, OH

Like the Junior Olympic Three-Position Air Rifle Championship held at Camp Perry in July, the Progressive Position Air Pistol Championship requires shooters to qualify for the nationals from state championship events held in the winter months. Team and individual titles are awarded and competitors are divided into supported and unsupported categories. A complete program for the 2010 National Junior Olympic Progressive Position Air Pistol Championship and registration can be found at <http://www.usashooting.com/youthPistol.php>.



The National Trophy Junior Pistol Matches will take place on 18 July at Camp Perry, Port Clinton, OH.

CMP & NRA National Trophy Pistol Matches and Small Arms Firing School

12-18 July, Camp Perry, OH

Juniors who plan to attend the Junior Olympic Progressive Position Air Pistol Championships should strongly consider staying at Camp Perry for a few extra days to participate in the National Pistol Matches and Small Arms Firing School. The Small Arms Firing School is on 12 July and pistols are provided for this event. Junior pistol shooters who have their own .22 cal. pistols can shoot in the 40-shot CMP Service Pistol Warm-Up Match on the morning of 13 July. The NRA Pistol Championships on 14-17 July have junior categories. Junior pistol shooters can also shoot .22 cal. pistols in the National Trophy Pistol Matches on 18 July, which feature the 40-shot President's Pistol, 30-shot NTI and 2x30 NT Team event. More information on these matches can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com/NationalMatches.htm>. Open registration.

NRA National Smallbore Rifle Championships

21-29 July, Camp Perry, OH

The NRA Rifle Position and Prone Championships are always popular competitions for juniors. NRA smallbore championships offer juniors several daily events with junior competitors divided into classifications from Marksman for newer shooters to Master for advanced shooters. This is a great opportunity for juniors to participate in the historic National Matches at Camp Perry. For more information, please visit http://www.nrahq.org/compete/nm_camperry.asp. Open registration, requires NRA membership.

CMP National Rimfire Sporter Match

24-25 July, Camp Perry, OH

This competition offers juniors and adults an opportunity to compete with sporter-class smallbore rifles like those used in many 4-H Shooting Sports and junior club programs. Rimfire Sporter



The National Rimfire Sporter Match will feature a new Youth-Adult Partner Match.

rifles can weigh no more than 7 ½ pounds and categories are offered for both open sights and scopes. Many shooters compete in both categories with different rifles. This event offers a fun-filled competition in a less formal atmosphere. More information can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com/NationalMatches.htm>. Open registration.

USA Shooting National Junior Olympics (Shotgun)

17-22 July, Colorado Springs, CO

USA Shooting sponsors this junior event that features competition in skeet, trap and double trap. Juniors must qualify in State Junior Olympic Events to advance to the national competition. More information can be found on the USAS website at <http://www.usashooting.com/matchInfo.php>. Competition requires qualification.

CMP National Trophy Rifle/CMP Games Matches, Small Arms Firing School and USMC Clinic

30 July-7 August, Camp Perry, OH

The National Trophy Rifle Matches are the premier event each year for service rifle competitors. The best shooters from across the country make their way to Camp Perry each summer for these matches, so it is an excellent opportunity for juniors to improve their shooting and gain experience. The first step for juniors who want to participate in these events is to find out if your state has a State Junior Highpower Team. Competing at Camp

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Summer Shooting Opportunities for Juniors

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Perry as part of a team can add to your experience and opens up the number of awards that you will be eligible for in the competitions. Next, register for the Rifle Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) or USMC Junior Highpower Clinic at Camp Perry, which take place 30 July-1 August. The USMC clinic will include a 50-shot special 4-point EIC match. Also take the time to determine if you are eligible to apply for support from the CMP National Matches Junior Support Program. This is available to juniors in their first two years of competition in the National Matches. Finally, shoot in the National Trophy Rifle Matches and be sure to consider the new National Trophy Junior Team Match where 2-person junior teams will compete for the new Freedom's Fire Trophy. More information on these events can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com/NationalMatches.htm>. Open registration.

OTHER COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the numerous national championships that take place in the summer, there are also smaller competitions that juniors can take advantage of over their break.



The USMC Junior Highpower Clinic and Rifle Small Arms Firing School will be held during the National Matches at Camp Perry, Port Clinton, OH on 31 July - 1 August.

CMP Monthly Air Gun Matches

24 July at Anniston, AL

These competitions are part of a series of matches that take place at the CMP North and South Marksmanship Centers. They are open to both juniors and adults and feature three-position air rifle, standing air rifle and air pistol competition. The Camp Perry matches also offer events in the new National Match Air Rifle and Novice Supported Prone events. Awards are given in each event. More information can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com/MarksmanshipCenters.htm>. Open registration.

National Matches Air Gun Events

12 July-7 August, Camp Perry, OH

These unique competitions give National Matches competitors as well as many other competitors who come to Camp Perry just for these matches a unique opportunity to fire in the new Camp Perry Marksmanship Training Center air gun range during the National Matches. The Center has 80 firing points all equipped with electronic targets. Two events, a 20-shot standing National Match Air Rifle reentry and center-shot prize shoot and a 20-shot Novice Prone re-entry match for juniors 12 and under are open throughout the Matches from 12 July through 7 August. Air pistol daily re-entry, best center-shot and championship events are offered from 12 July through 18 July. Standing air rifle daily re-entry, center-shot and championship events are open from 21 to 28 July. National Match Air Rifle full course (3x20) re-entry and championship events will be fired during the highpower phase from 30 July to 7 August. Several junior clubs are expected to plan trips to Camp Perry to be able to shoot these matches and be part of the National Matches. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com/NM/AirEvents.htm>. Open registration at the range.

JUNIOR SHOOTING CAMPS

One of the best ways for juniors to improve their competition scores



The CMP Three-Position Air Rifle Summer Camps will take place at the CMP Marksmanship Centers in Port Clinton, OH and Anniston, AL.

is to attend a junior shooting camp. The CMP, NRA, USA Shooting and Army Marksmanship Unit all sponsor outstanding shooting camps lead by instructors with impressive teaching and shooting credentials. In addition, there are many regional and local camps that offer opportunities to learn and improve skills. Camps typically have counselors or coaches who are accomplished competitors and who provide lots of hands-on coaching during range firing sessions. Almost all juniors who attend camps report significant improvements in their shooting scores. We will list a few national level camps, but we encourage you to contact your state's CMP State Junior Director to see if they know of any local camps in your area. CMP SJD contact information is found at <http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/SJD.htm>.

CMP Three-Position Summer Camps

All Summer, Various Locations

This very popular camp series consist of seven one-week three-position air rifle camps and one advanced standing camp. Camps are held at different locations across the country, with several new locations each summer. Counselors and Staff for these camps are NCAA athletes from some of the top college rifle programs in the country. The camps also feature Olympians and National team members as guest speakers. These camps fill quickly and registration opens

each January. More information can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/camp.htm>.

NRA Camps

The NRA conducts or sanctions a wide variety of camps that are organized or sanctioned by the NRA Education and Training Division. Camps are offered in rifle, pistol and shotgun. There is also a NRA Junior Smallbore Camp held during the National Matches at Camp Perry. To find out more information, please visit <http://www.nrahq.org/education/shootingcamp.asp>.

USAMU Junior Smallbore Rifle Camp

21-25 June, Fort Benning, GA

The Army Marksmanship is offering an intermediate to advanced junior smallbore camp for shooters in ages 14 to 20 with at least two years of competitive experience. Instructors will be members of the Army International Rifle Team. More information can be found at <http://www.usaac.army.mil/amu/InternationalRifle/internationalrifle.html>.

OTHER SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Summer is a Time for Extra Practice

During the school year, when schoolwork and school activities take precedence and the time available for shooting practice is often limited, it is difficult to do enough training to accomplish especially challenging shooting goals. Even juniors who work in a full or part-time job typically have more time available to train during the summer. Some JROTC units and club teams make their ranges available for team members to train even after school is out. Juniors who own their own air rifles can easily set up a 10-meter range in a basement, garage or utility room. All that is required is a minimum clear distance of 40-45 feet in a location where outside entrance can be restricted. With a range at home, young shooters can train as much as they want. Devoting two to five hours a day to improving firing positions and techniques can pay huge dividends when the school-year shooting season starts again in the fall.

Sometimes Summer is a Time for Taking a Break from Shooting.

Anyone familiar with the principles of athletic training knows that rest is part of a sound sports training program. For most junior shooters, the shooting season begins in the fall shortly after school starts. If the fall, winter or spring was filled with lots of competitions and regular practice, a break might be beneficial. The best way to decide whether juniors are ready for more shooting during the summer is to evaluate their motivation to shoot. Are they eager to get back to the range and do more shooting? Are they excited about going to a big match? The answers to those questions will tell you whether your junior shooters are ready for a break this summer or are ready to take advantage of the many summer shooting opportunities available to them.

Also make sure to watch the CMP website, www.odcmp.com for additional event postings.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Calendar of Events is featured in every issue of *On The Mark*. If you would like your match or clinic listed, please contact the CMP at onthemark@odcmp.com, or call 419-635-2141, ext. 1111. Please include the name of the event, date, whom the event is open to and contact information and web site (if available). The CMP will do its best to accommodate each request to be included in the Calendar of Events.

4-6 July 2010

Daisy Air Rifle Championship, Bowling Green, KY

8-10 July 2010

National JO Precision Championship, Anniston, AL

9-11 July 2010

National Progressive Position Pistol Championship, Port Clinton, OH

11-12 July 2010

Pistol Small Arms Firing School Registration/Class/Firing, Camp Perry, OH

11-13 July 2010

National JO Sporter Championship, Anniston, AL

12 July - 7 August 2010

National Matches Air Gun Events, Camp Perry, OH

13 July 2010

Pistol Warm-Up Match, Camp Perry, OH

15-17 July 2010

Junior Air Rifle Western Regional Outreach Clinics, El Paso, TX / Linn, MO / Phoenix, AZ

18 July 2010

National Trophy Pistol Matches, Camp Perry, OH

19-23 July 2010

Junior Rifle Camp, Anniston, AL

24 July 2010

National Match Rimfire Sporter Clinic, Camp Perry, OH

25 July 2010

National Match Rimfire Sporter Match, Camp Perry, OH

26-30 July 2010

Junior Rifle Camp, Anniston, AL

30 July-1 August 2010

Rifle Small Arms Firing School and USMC Junior High-power Clinic, Camp Perry, OH

2-6 August 2010

National Trophy Rifle Matches, Camp Perry, OH

5-7 August 2010

CMP National Games Events, Camp Perry, OH

21 August 2010

Monthly Match Anniston, AL

18-19 September 2010

SEARC Clinic Anniston, AL

25 September 2010

CMP Monthly Air Gun Matches, Camp Perry - Port Clinton, OH & Anniston, AL

16 October 2010

CMP Monthly Air Gun Matches, Camp Perry - Port Clinton, OH & Anniston, AL

16 October 2010

Garand-Springfield-Military Rifle Clinic, Ben Avery - Phoenix, AZ

16-19 October 2010

Western CMP Games, Ben Avery - Phoenix, AZ

20 October 2010

Highpower Rifle Shooting Clinic, Ben Avery - Phoenix, AZ

21-24 October 2010

Western Creedmoor Matches, Ben Avery - Phoenix, AZ

Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Interpretations

These rule interpretations are based on questions received by the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council Rules Hotline and are answered based on the *National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules*.

Q: Rule 8.5.3 states that the “Scoring rings printed on paper targets used in a VIS system are for the shooter’s reference only. They may not be used to determine the value of a shot.” Does this mean that you can only use the Kruger targets when using ORION (VIS system) and not at matches where hand scoring is performed?

A: The scoring rings on the Orion targets are in full compliance with ISSF standards. If the Orion scoring system is not used, these targets can be scored manually according to manual scoring rules and the results will count for any event sanctioned by the CMP/ National Three-Position Air Rifle Council.

Q: What is the “equipment check” process and what do I need to do to make sure I am ready for it at upcoming events?

A: During the equipment check or equipment control, match officials examine competitors’ rifles, clothing and equipment to be sure they comply with the rules. Equipment control is not mandatory, but it is encouraged, especially in larger competitions. Common equipment control checks include weighing the rifle, weighing the trigger (sporter class only), checking the rifle dimensions (templates are available for this), checking shooting jackets for thickness (a special gauge is required) and overlap and an inspection of accessories such as the sling, kneeling roll and glove.

When a competition has equipment control all competitors must have their equipment checked before they are allowed on the firing line for the competition. Officials go through a competitor’s equipment to make sure that everything conforms to the rulebook. The following items are required at equipment control: start number (also referred to as a bib number, which is to be worn on the back above the waist during training and competition), equipment control form with applicable information filled in, air rifle (with full or empty cylinder), sights, sling, hand stop, glove, kneeling roll, and any blinders that used during firing. Sporter class shooters must wear the clothes that will be worn during the match, including shoes. Precision class shooters should wear their jacket, pants (belt if used), and underclothes but should carry their boots.

If any item does not pass, but can be altered in some way to make it legal, the competitor will be given the opportunity to do so. Once all equipment is cleared for use a sticker is usually placed on the start number and on the rifle. The equipment control form is signed and the original is kept by the competitor while match officials will hold the carbon copy. Each competitor must present their copy of the cleared equipment control form when they report to the firing line for each day of the competition.

Spot checks can also be performed on the firing line by range officials. This is done by looking at the equipment itself. If anything is not legal and needs to be changed, the competitor must be notified by a range officer, preferably in preparation period or while the competitor is still in sighters. The competitor must then correct whatever is not legal. If the competitor fails to correct the problem and continues to fire without making any changes, the shooter will receive a two point penalty. If the competitor still continues to fire after receiving a penalty without any corrections the shooter will be disqualified.

* Rules 7.3, 7.18.1

CMP Marksmanship Instructional DVDs



If you’ve ever wanted to learn from the legendary Army Marksmanship Unit’s key instructors, now is your chance. These 3 new DVDs were produced by the CMP in cooperation with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. The **BASIC RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP DVD** walks you through everything you need to know about shooting a rifle, from safety to accounting for the wind at long range. The **CLOSE QUARTERS MARKSMANSHIP DVD** includes in-depth classroom instruction, a dynamic set of range drills and the tools necessary to excel at high speed close range shooting. The **SQUAD DESIGNATED MARKSMAN DVD** teaches what it takes to make consistent hits on target at long range and how to take the knowledge saving lives on the battle field home.

Order your DVDs today! Log onto the CMP EStore at www.estimate.odcmp.com.

Basic Rifle Marksmanship DVD.....	Item # 784DVDBRM	\$6.95
Close Quarters Marksmanship DVD.....	Item # 784DVDCQM	\$6.95
The Squad Designated Marksman DVD.....	Item # 784DVSDSM	\$6.95

Georgia Teen Coping With Physical Challenge in Precision Air Rifle

By Steve Cooper, CMP Writer/Editor

CAMPERRY, OHIO - Kelsey Moral looks like any other teenager, except maybe for the funky multi-colored canvas suit, ear plugs and flat boots. Okay, she looks like any other teenage precision air rifle shooter, and that's just fine with her - in fact that's exactly how she wants it.

The red-haired 16-year-old junior at East Coweta High School in Sharpsburg, Georgia, also enjoys photography, working with her dogs, traveling from state to state to competitions and buzzing her grandparents' lawn on their zero-turn mower.

Unlike most teen shooters, Kelsey is dealing with a physical challenge that's similar to that of an injured athlete who is rehabilitating from ACL surgery. But in her case the pain has always been there, and therapy has always been a way of life.

"I was born with a mild case of spastic cerebral palsy," Kelsey says. While the words cerebral palsy evoke images of wheelchair-bound youngsters, the reality is about 80 percent of the approximately 800,000 CP sufferers in the US fall into Kelsey's type, known as spastic diplegia, which primarily affects leg muscles.

According to the National Institutes of Health, cerebral palsy doesn't always cause profound disabilities. While one child with severe cerebral palsy might be unable to walk and need extensive lifelong care, another with mild CP might be only slightly affected and require no special assistance.

Kelsey's condition is characterized by having one or more tight muscle groups which can limit movement and it's why she walks with a limp and sometimes has difficulty getting into and out of shooting positions.

"Prior to joining the rifle team, she would never tell anyone what her disability was," Kelsey's mom Janice said. "Once she made the team, she soon felt comfortable with her disability. It's small compared to what it could be, and now she tells people she has CP."



Kelsey's coach, USMC MSGT Joel Skinner, Kelsey, and her mom, Janice, at the 2010 USMC Service Championship.

"Competitive shooting has given Kelsey an opportunity to take her mind off CP and the courage to talk about it," her mom says.

"When I asked her how she would like to explain her situation for this story, she said 'I want to tell the truth, I have mild spastic CP - no big deal Mom!'"

"By no means is CP going to get the best of me," Kelsey said emphatically.

"Thankfully, it only affects my legs," Kelsey explained. "Because of my CP, I have had some hurdles to overcome. Some days my legs hurt so bad, I can hardly stand it - other days they're okay."

Cerebral palsy isn't a disease. It isn't contagious and it can't be passed from one generation to the next. There is no known cure for CP, but supportive treatments, medications and surgery can help many individuals improve their motor skills.

Kelsey's first appearance in a big match came in February at the Marine Corps JROTC Championship at Camp Perry. Though she finished in the middle

of the pack, she scored second highest on her high school team in the postal qualifier leading up to the Service Championship, scoring 277 out of a possible 300 in Three-Position Air Rifle (3PAR).

The MCJROTC Service Championship marked the first time Kelsey was able to get into the kneeling position for an important match. Though she cannot completely flex her legs, Kelsey was able to achieve a stable position and fire the match. Kelsey had only been practicing kneeling two months prior to the match.

"Because of my muscle tone, I have not been able to kneel. So for about a year I shot standing twice. One day I decided that I really wanted to kneel like everyone else."

"Some days I can't kneel at all; my legs just won't let me. I'm in physical therapy and I work hard everyday with exercises to help me kneel more comfortably. Sometimes I worry that I'll fall over because I feel unstable."

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Georgia Teen Coping With Physical Challenge

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Kelsey's coach, USMC MSGT Joel Skinner, says he's proud of Kelsey's remarkable progress since joining the team. "She is a really determined young lady and continues to improve at every match," he said.

Her mom said Coach Skinner has been very patient in working with Kelsey and he motivates her on a daily basis.

"I shoot in every match I can – I strive to shoot in every match possible as I know this only builds my experience and my strength," she said.

"Coach Skinner has helped me a lot to stabilize myself while kneeling – I have a long way to go, but I work everyday at it."

"Being on the rifle team has been one of the greatest things I've seen happen to Kelsey," Janice said. "She has blossomed. It's built her self confidence, her self esteem and now I see pride in her."

"When school is out for the winter or Christmas break she has her grand-dad drive her to the school everyday in hopes that Coach Skinner will be there so she can practice."

"She absolutely lives for that rifle team and she strives to keep her grades up so she can remain on the team," Janice added.

Kelsey's entrance to shooting happened by chance when she accompanied her mom to the pistol range and as fate would have it, Kelsey has become the primary shooter in the family and mom accompanies her to matches near and far away from home.

"I got interested in shooting with my mom. I wanted to shoot her 9mm and she let me! After practice we looked at the targets and she told me that I was a great shot and I should think about trying out for the rifle team at school, so I did!"

Kelsey said she really enjoys being on the East Coweta team – one of the most competitive JROTC teams in the nation.

"Being on the rifle team has been great, because it has built my confidence up – I like being part of a team," she added.

"There are days that she comes out of practice in real pain," Janice said. "I can tell by her face when she walks outside, however; she waits until she opens the door of the truck to show any emotion."

Movement is good for her, Kelsey says. "I do exercises daily and go to therapy twice a week. It's painful but I know it helps."

"She's been in riflery for about one and a half years and not once has she wanted to quit or even take a break – it has made her

one determined young lady," Janice said.

"Kelsey is a delightful young lady and I'm very proud to be her mother," Janice said. "It's just overwhelming to try and explain what shooting has done for her – how it's helped her overcome her disability and how it's given her the determination and ambition to succeed in it. I truly can't find the words to tell how it's helped her."

"Kelsey is a delightful young lady and I'm very proud to be her mother," Janice said. "It's just overwhelming to try and explain what shooting has done for her – how it's helped her overcome her disability and how it's given her the determination and ambition to succeed in it. I truly can't find the words to tell how it's helped her."

It's Kelsey's intention to shoot for a college program after high school, and given her determination and progress to date, she's headed in the right direction.



Getting Started In Highpower Rifle

By Steve Cooper, CMP Writer

If you're a junior three-position air rifle shooter looking to move outside where there's a bit more kick and a big difference in climate, you'll be in good company as more and more juniors join the highpower rifle ranks.

One of the first things you'll look at when adding highpower to your resume is equipment. The type of rifle you shoot and the matches you fire will help determine where to direct your equipment spending priorities.

Though precision shooters may seem more prepared than sporter shooters because of all the sophisticated gear they've accumulated over the years, a lot of that gear isn't going to work outside. The practical concept behind most of that gear still applies to the outdoor sport, however.

The key difference between indoor shooting and highpower obviously is the environment. Most of the gear air rifle shooters are accustomed to simply won't work in the heat, cold, wind and rain of the outdoors. The good news is that you

don't have to spend an arm and a leg on gear until you're ready to.

As always, safety is the first priority. Hearing and eye protection are critical for both comfort and safety. Even a stray blade of grass or grain of windborne sand can incapacitate a shooter. Both on the firing line and in the pits when scoring targets, safety glasses and ear plugs or ear muffs are necessary equipment. Hot flying brass from a neighboring firing point is now a part of your world.

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South Eastern Air Rifle Conference Brings Collegiate Events to CMP South

By Sommer Wood, CMP Program Coordinator



The CMP Air Gun Ranges host numerous junior events from the JROTC Championships to the Three-Position Summer Camps; and for the 2009-2010 competition season collegiate shooting events were also added to the list. CMP was excited to host several events for the South Eastern Air Rifle Conference at the South Competition Center in Anniston, Alabama.

The South Eastern Air Rifle Conference (SEARC) is an air rifle only conference, which consist of both NCAA and collegiate club rifle teams from the southeastern United States. Schools from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama are represented, with 9-10 schools participating each season.

During the 2009-2010 school year, CMP hosted the SEARC Clinic in September to kick-off the leagues season, and then wrapped-up the year by hosting the SEARC Championship in February. The clinic is an annual tradition of the conference, and has been hosted at Wolf Creek, Fort Benning, the Citadel and now CMP South.

Outside of conference matches hosted at the Citadel, the facility at CMP South provides the only other electronic target venue that SEARC shooters participate on during the season. For CMP it is a rare opportunity to work with college shooters. Most collegiate rifle programs compete in both air rifle and smallbore, and CMP does not have an indoor smallbore range. This limits the support CMP can provide to collegiate rifle events, particularly NCAA programs.



The top eight precision finalists compete in the Final to decide the champion.



The CMP Marksmanship Center in Anniston, Alabama, hosted the South Eastern Air Rifle Conference. The Air Gun Center is open every Tuesday and Thursday evening for Open Public Shooting. Visit <http://www.odcmp.com/MarksmanshipCenters.htm> for more information.

Taking the top honors at the SEARC Championship in February was North Carolina State University. The school is one of several NCAA programs that compete in the conference. The Citadel and North Georgia State College and University, also both NCAA programs, rounded out second and third place respectively.

On a SEARC side note, Clemson University was the only club team in the conference to qualify for the Inaugural Collegiate Club National Championship that was hosted at Purdue University in April. The Tigers won the 2010 Club Air Rifle National Championship, and finished second overall. To compete for the overall title required that the team shoot in the smallbore portion of the competition, and Clemson is an air rifle only program. The team borrowed rifles for the event and still managed to finish third in smallbore. The University of Michigan finished first in smallbore and first overall.

To find out more about the South Eastern Air Rifle Conference contact John Cummings at cumminj@clemson.edu.

Getting Started In Highpower Rifle

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Before making major purchases, talk to your friends in highpower and find out what's working for them. Used items are a lot less expensive than new and may be just the ticket until you develop a sense of what may work better as you grow into the sport.

If you're already thinking about highpower, you probably have a rifle type in mind. If not, the AR-15 platform is a popular place to start.

If you choose to go the AR-15 route, for practice you can keep in touch with your indoor roots by practicing with the new AiR-15 Rifle marketed by CMP and manufactured by Creedmoor Sports. The AiR-15 Rifle is an air rifle with a self-contained, rechargeable air cylinder and is based on the AR-15 platform. If you live near either CMP Marksmanship Center in Anniston, Alabama or Camp Perry, Ohio, each center has a supply of AiR-15 Rifles to try out. It's a great way to simulate highpower shooting indoors. Several rifle manufacturers now sell tactical .22 caliber uppers or complete AR-15 or A4 style rifles which are good for practice when the cost of ammunition is a factor.

Starting from the ground up, a good basic shooting mat that insulates you from damp ground and provides a consistent base to shoot from is your first concern. A good mat will help even out the rough spots and allow you to settle into a solid shooting position. Sewn-in rubber patches will provide non-slip anchorage points.

As in precision or sporter shooting, boots or shoes that allow you to hold your position for lengths of time and stabilize your stance in wind and rain will greatly help you score in poor conditions. You never know how uneven or muddy your firing point will be until you arrive so you'll need footwear that's comfortable yet stable. Hiking boots or flat-soled athletic shoes are a good start.

A shooting coat is very important in stabilizing your shooting platform. There are many providers of shooting coats and they can range from simple cotton coats with reinforced elbows and shoulders to

expensive tailored leather coats. A good rule of thumb, which is common to most any new endeavor, is to spend what you can afford on good equipment and work to improve on it as your experience and budget allows. In the absence of a shooting coat, start with a T-shirt and snug-fitting sweatshirt.

As in air gun shooting, a good shooting mitt or glove provides a non-slip grip on your non-shooting hand and helps reduce pulse from transferring to your rifle. A leather work glove is a good starting point if you don't have a shooting mitt. A ball cap or boonie hat that protects your eyes from sun and rain will be very helpful.

Scorebooks and data books are important to keep track of your progress in practice and in matches. Unlike indoor shooting, the effects of weather and unique conditions at each range you fire on need to be documented. Weather continuously changes in places like Camp Perry where heat, cold, humidity, wind, snow, rain and sky conditions can all come into play – even on the same day!

Like indoor shooting, particularly those coming from precision air rifle, you need a transport system for all of your gear. Wheeled travel boxes that roll smoothly through indoor ranges and airport concourses just won't cut it on the Camp Perry ranges.

Once you've decided where you want highpower rifle to take you, then you can master the organization of your gear and where you want to take it. There are many homemade and store-bought range carts out there. In the meantime, organize your gear and find the most effective way to transport it to the firing line.

Finally, a great way to launch your highpower career is to participate in clinics and camps. A great clinic to start with is the US Army Marksmanship Unit's Small



For indoor training, highpower competitors can use the new AiR-15 Air Rifle. For more information on the NMAR program, visit <http://www.odcmp.com/Competitions/NMAR.htm>.

Arms Firing School which is held each year at the outset of the National Matches at Camp Perry.

Once you've gotten SAFS behind you or some match experience, the CMP-US Marine Corps Junior Highpower Clinic, also held during the Matches, will provide outstanding instruction and experiences that will boost your capabilities on the highpower match circuit. There is also a week long Eastern Junior Highpower Clinic held at Camp Butner (NC) each June prior to the National Matches.

For more information about the Small Arms Firing School, log onto <http://www.odcmp.com/NM/SAFS.htm>. For information about the CMP-USMC Junior Highpower Clinic, log onto <http://www.odcmp.com/NM/JrHPCLinic.htm>. For more information about the Eastern Junior Highpower Clinic, log onto <http://www.odcmp.com/Competitions/EasternJrHPCLinic.htm>.



Many competitors use various kinds of shooting carts. At Camp Perry, there have been guitar cases, wagons, strollers and many more homemade carts.

Parting Shots: Photos from Recent Junior Events & Competitions



Members of the South Anchorage High School Air Force JROTC team proudly display their \$1,000 award check as the highest scoring Air Force sporter rifle team at the JROTC National Championship. The team was coached by MSGT Kenneth Coulter.

The Union Grove High School, Navy JROTC team from Georgia sported ceremonial mustaches in honor of their coach, SCPO Ralph Warren Varnadoe at the JROTC National Championships in March in Anniston, Alabama.



CMP Board Member John Crosby presents Robert Davis, 16, of Wichita Falls, Texas the award for winning the 2009 M16 Excellence in Competition (EIC) Rifle Match. Davis, a member of the Texas State Junior Service Rifle Team, will return to defend his title in 2010.



Gary Anderson, DCME, hoists the trophy named in his honor at the 2010 JROTC National Championships presented to the Navy JROTC Team Champion air rifle sporter class winner, Zion Benton High School, Zion, Illinois.



Junior shooters try the new AiR-15 Rifle during the NMAR Match in Richmond, VA.



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