

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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Old Time Shooting

I have heard several comments over the years from different people, mainly juniors, when they're looking at past match scores, plaques, trophies or memorabilia hanging on the walls. Like, "boy that's a low score" or "they must not have been very good back then" or "what's that all about." They are looking at a local club's piece of history which at one time meant a lot to the members of that particular club (it still does to many of us who were there back then).

I guess I just shake my head and think that they don't appreciate what they've got to work with now for equipment, ranges and the opportunities that have been made available to them.

I'm going to start by talking about ranges. Back in the day (which was before my time; imagine that) most small towns did have a range in them. Usually though, it was in the basement of an old hardware store, National Guard Armory, an old building converted to a range (like the chicken coop in Halstad, MN), or the basement of the NDSU fieldhouse, where it literally sounded like a herd of buffalo thundering over your head while they played basketball there or sometimes even a local farmer's shop. Some of these are still being used. But by and large most everyone shoots in a nice well-lit, well-ventilated range. I will always remember old Bill Coulter (Denny Coulter's dad) talking about shooting at the U of M Range where they had to shoot offhand first, prone last because before they were done the smoke was so thick 3-4 feet off the ground that they couldn't see the targets. I will say this though, I'm glad we don't have to shoot in those kind of conditions anymore.

Now I'll talk about equipment. A lot of those records or state championships were shot by guys (and a few gals) that practiced (sorry I forgot that we're supposed to call it training now) once or maybe twice a week, and then showed up at matches with cow crap, concrete or the remnants from whatever job they did, still on their shooting boots. Yeah, that's right; their work boots were the same as their shooting shoes. The next time you see some old dusty cloth coats hanging on the wall at some ranges look at them with a little reverence because those were the coats that they used. Think of the tens of thousands of rounds that they've seen. If you wonder why there aren't any shooting pants hanging up there too, it's because their jeans usually wore out after a while.

The guns themselves haven't changed much, but they might have been re-barreled once or twice. The real changes are in the stocks; you have adjustable everything now. If you wanted to adjust the length of the stock back then you had to get out the saw, an adjustable hand stop was installing

another sling swivel, a hook was just that, a hook with not much to adjust.

Now these aren't the only changes that have happened over the years. When I first started in 1979 (that's AD not BC), there was only one women shooter that I remember and that was a woman who worked for the ND Game and Fish. Then came a few juniors, Natalie Cary and Sandi Kraus are the first two that come to mind. My wife, Barb, shot for a few years before and after we got married. Tom Thompson's wife, Tina, also shot before and after they got married. By and large though, there haven't been too many women shooters over the years until recently. Now there are quite a few women shooters, which I'm glad to see (I guess maybe I wouldn't be if I had to compete against them). To me though, this is the sign of a very healthy sport that is getting healthier by the day. I would also like to take the time to mention one other woman shooter from my High Power shooting days and that would be Pat Weber. The reason I want to mention her, is for the reason that for two weeks in the summer at Camp Perry, you've never seen a more popular woman than Pat. She had to turn down more dates and marriage proposals than any ten women ever got.

Now I want to bring your attention to stuff that hangs on the walls. Pictures of old club members that have long since left the range, crying towels, old trophies or plaques that few people still remember the names on them. They are all important reminders of our past.

So next time before you say anything, try asking one of the older club members "who's that?" or "what's that all about hanging on the wall there?" Chances are someone knows and they'll be glad to tell you (please don't act bored though). More than likely there's a good story behind whatever it is and those good stories are all part of the roots of shooting that shaped our shooting sports into what they are today.

To keep our shooting sports healthy, be proud of your shooting, take the time to talk to your friends or classmates about your shooting sport. Invite them to come out and give it a try. Hopefully, 30-40 years from now, there'll be 50 or more kids looking at the same old plaques and trophies sitting there or hanging on the wall with a lot of new names on trophies and plaques there as well. Hopefully they'll be asking the same questions I mentioned earlier to a few of our current junior shooters who might still be shooting. To sum it all up, every one of us has to be a good will ambassador for the sport, if you even care a little bit about the shooting sports continuing on into the future.

Steve Martin

Editorially Speaking

As I write this, our great winter weather is giving over to spring. So, many of us are getting ready to put an end to the winter indoor shooting season. We have enjoyed a great indoor season of matches with some outstanding scores from our junior shooters. We are proud that many of them have earned invitations to USA Shooting's 2016 Junior Olympic National Championships. Connie and I look forward to traveling to the Olympic Training center to take in the women's events at the Junior Nationals in a couple of weeks.

There are many outdoor matches and championships in the pistol and rifle disciplines, and I look forward to shooting with many of you over the next few months. Take a look at our Schedule of Opportunities and plan to attend a match soon.

Thanks to Rand's initiative in the creation of something new for our readers, we offer a new segment (Shooter to the Line) in this edition of the Target. We also have a great article from Steve Martin. Sam's article on bullet casting is great. I had to cut it a bit to fit this issue, and hope to include more of his article for our next issue. I have not had this problem for a while and welcome it with open arms.

Thanks to Rand, Steve and Sam for their contributions to this issue. If any of you have what you think is an important thought about the shooting sports in North Dakota, write it down and email it to me.

During the next few months, volunteer to help our match directors and coaches who make the matches possible. Almost all of our match directors would welcome your help, and you will learn more about what it takes to put on a good match. I think you will enjoy yourselves while you help. Our crew here in Devils Lake just finished getting ready for our North Dakota 4H State Airgun match, and it is great to have help from our club members. I hope that our other match directors are as fortunate.

The members at our annual meeting voted to increase our association membership dues in an effort to insure the continued good health of our association. Thus, you will find our new dues structure outlined on Page 5.

This dues structure was effective May 1, 2015. Thank you all for your continued support of our association and its efforts to support marksmanship and the safe use of firearms by everyone in North Dakota.

NDSSA is a small organization that gets a lot of good things done. We are always searching for people to **join us** as members or officers. If any of you have a prospective member, share your copy of our newsletter or help them fill out the membership application that is on page 5 and send it in to **P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228**.

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

— **Mark Twain**

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

— **Theodore Roosevelt**

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Why cast bullets?

I read Rick's article with interest "Why are there not more bullet casters?" in the last issue of "The Target". As a bullet caster I have asked the same question and have been questioned by shooters about bullet casting to the point where I think it would be a good idea to give some more information about this subject in future issues of "The Target".

Rick and I visited at the NDSSA annual meeting, and I asked if he had any intention of taking this further. He said he didn't know but wanted to know why I was asking. I told him of my idea to write a few more cast bullet articles to help people who might be interested but who don't know where to start or where to get information and so on. He said "go for it", so here I am wondering if I did the right thing to take this on and contemplating subject matter and number of articles necessary to help a prospective bullet caster. Another reoccurring consideration about me doing this is whether I have enough experience or expertise to help people who might want to try casting and loading cast bullets. My reason for questioning this stems from my quest to answer questions I have even after all these many years of casting and loading lead bullets. Sometimes I feel like there is still so much to learn, so would like everyone reading this to know that I certainly don't feel like a "know it all". I decided this title would be appropriate for the first attempt and will take it one article at a time. I also invited Rick to chime in and add (or correct) anything I write to make sure it is understandable and helpful.

Many seem to think that cast bullets (from now on CBs) are only used as a cheaper (and inferior) alternative to jacketed bullets. This simply is not the case. When I first started casting bullets, I wanted quality along with economy and the few outfits casting CBs for sale left much to be desired. Back then if you looked into a box of CBs sold at sporting goods stores, they looked bad. Wrinkles, voids, rounded bases and so forth characterized every box you looked into. I decided it had to be better and found it relatively easy to make good cast bullets after reading, studying and working at it with a friend. To expound on the idea of CBs being a cheaper and inferior alternative to jacketed bullets, many gun writers and people who hunt big game with handguns recommend cast bullets, not only for accuracy but also for their superior terminal performance.

The situation concerning commercial CBs has changed today from the time referred in the above paragraph. Now there are many companies making and selling cast bullets and generally they all look good. However, the other issue with cast bullets today is they almost all say they are hard cast which sounds good to most people but it isn't always better, especially in revolvers. Another situation with revolvers is the diameter. Revolver bullets need to be

sized to closely fit the cylinder's throat which may be different from the normal sizing for a caliber. There appears to be more variation in throat diameters in the 45 Colt caliber. So, as a bullet caster, you can choose the alloy which is going to determine the hardness and then you can size as needed for your revolver's cylinder. Rick and I were discussing the pitfalls of in front of new cast bullet shooter who decided to use cast bullets in his .357 mag revolver. He buys hard cast commercial bullets sized .357" and uses them in his .359" cylinder throats with the same kind and amount of powder used with his jacketed bullet reloads. He ends up with a very badly leaded barrel and bad accuracy before he has shot his first 50 rounds. He subsequently concludes that CB's are bad and he will never use them again and proceeds to broadcast this to the world. If he would have used a softer CB at a diameter of .358" that allowed the base to obturate to seal the throat and bore along with the correct charge of a faster powder, his results would have been dramatically different. Chances are that the results with a larger diameter bullet, softer lead and a slightly faster powder would have been good accuracy and very little or no leading.

Another example of needing to make your own is my 9mm. It isn't particularly accurate with factory jacketed bullets and was the same with the prescribed CB's sized at .356". The writer for an article in the latest Lyman CB manual had the same issues so slugged his barrel and found it to be .357". Now his .358" sized bullet works great and so does mine when sized to .358".

So, in summary, if we cast our own CB's, we have a lot of things we can control. If we want the bullet harder, we can use a different alloy or use heat treating to harden. If our bullets are too small from the mold, we can use a different alloy to make them larger and vice versa. If they are sized too small or too large, we can control by selecting the lube sizing die we use. We can make the bullet the way we want or need the finished product to be. And, as previously mentioned or alluded to, CB loads, if made and loaded correctly, require less cleaning.

I am now searching for an answer to what would be the best topic in the progression for helping our newbie CB caster. I'm thinking of attempting to help by listing CB information sources, both written and websites followed by equipment needed.

Sam May

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Shooter to the Line.

Bill Langer is the newest member to the NDSSA Board of Directors. I have been toying with the idea of highlighting an area club, have the coach give a little history on the club, give his/her philosophy on coaching and also pick out a couple of shooters to interview.

Bill says he started shooting in Southern Iowa at about 5 years old with a bb gun and plinking with his grandpa. In 1983 he was invited to try his hand at bullseye at the Turtle Mountain Rifle and Pistol Club and, as with most people, was hooked for a lifetime of sports shooting. Through the years he coached his kids, Matthew and Melissa, and states "I'm not sure you can really coach your own kids, but I gave it my best shot". Back then Bill didn't know of any formal coach's training available. He just watched other good shooters and tried to learn. In 2006 Bill took an NRA Coaches class and became an "official Coach". Superintendent Larry Zavada was looking for a way to give students that were not involved with varsity sports at Wolford an opportunity to participate in something different. Since Bills kids were already involved with the Jr. Shooting program in ND, Zavada asked Bill to start something up. The Wolford Wolves have been going strong for 9 years now with 50% of the 7-12 graders participating in the club. The club travels to state matches, shoot the LRSSA Airgun Postal League, The Wolves " hold a club championship match in April, have gut matches, fun shoots and shoot to win a soda at weekly practices to keep life and shooting interesting."

"I don't know if you call it a philosophy, but my idea about coaching Jr. Shooting is to introduce them to a life sport that I enjoy and which will teach them about who they are and who they can become. I want each athlete to decide what they want out of the shooting sports. If they want to shoot for fun, that is fine. If they wish to compete at a higher level, I do everything I can to help them accomplish this. My greatest satisfaction from coaching Jr Shooters is watching them mature both as shooters and individuals. They generally teach me as much as I teach them."

Bill would like to thank "all the shooting athletes at Wolford High School for trying a new and challenging sport. Also a big thanks to my kids, Matthew and Melissa, for giving me so many good memories as a dad and coach. From Matthew shooting one of the first JO pistol matches in the Jorgenson's basement, both kids competing side by side at 4P and 3P matches in the old Bismarck Armory. Matthew surpassing his dad and obtaining master classification in NRA Light Rifle; Melissa fast asleep on the couch in Bottineau after winning her first State Light Rifle Championship and nobody wanting to wake her up to let know she won. On top of that I now have grandkids to coach in the shooting sports."

Hannah Walsh and Madison Marchus are both seniors at Wolford High School, Parents are Jeff & Lynn Walsh, and Jason & Deanna Marchus. Bill Langer is their coach.

Hannah started shooting air rifle in her freshman year. During her sophomore year, she added air pistol, and in

her junior year sports pistol was added to the repertoire. This year she is concentrating on air pistol more than her sport pistol.

Madison has been competing with air rifle since the 7th grade.

Thank you ladies for taking the time to answer these few questions.

Interview Questions for Hannah Walsh:

Who is the person who has most influenced you to shoot or who do you aspire to emulate?

Hannah: My Coach Bill Langer and the National Pistol Coach Eric Pueppke

In your mind, the most significant accomplishment, victory, or goal that you have attained to this date in your shooting career?

Hannah: Placing 11th in Air Pistol at the 2015 National Junior Olympic Pistol Championship at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Average hours per week you practice during shooting season?

Hannah: 2-3 hours during volleyball and basketball season, probably double that after BB ends.

What has the discipline of shooting taught you?

Hannah: It has taught me a lot about sportsmanship, friendship, dedication, and trusting in yourself.

Other interests or something most people may not know about you?

Hannah: I play both volleyball and basketball.

What role do you see the shooting sports playing in your future?

Hannah: I want to continue to shoot throughout college and my future. I want my children to shoot someday.

Rand McLeod

(See page 6 for Madison Marchus' interview)

Dakota Marksmanship Foundation, Inc.

P O Box 518

Bismarck, ND 58502-0518

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

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the Foundation's effort to benefit shooting marksmanship and safety programs within North Dakota, please send us a note or contact:

Thomas Thompson – 701-255-4601

Eric Pueppke – 701-967-8450

Spring Schedule of Opportunities

Apr 17	ND Indoor Pistol State Champ, Air and Free	West Fargo	Jim Ladwig	701-484-5236
Apr 23	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
Apr 23	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
Apr 24	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Vollmer	701-226-4156
Apr 29	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Apr 30, May 1	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), High Power, X-course (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
May 7	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-515-3427
May 7	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
May 14	Bullseye Pistol	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
May 15	Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675
May 21	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
May 21	IHMSA Pistol Silhouette	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
May 22	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Jim Vollmer	701-226-4156
May 28	Vintage Rifle, M1 Carbine and Vintage Sniper Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008
May 28, 29	Junior High Power Clinic And Practice 80 Shot Match	Grand Forks	Tom Thompson	701-220-4601
Jun 4, 5	ND Outdoor Smallbore State, Position, 200yd, Prone	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jun 4	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jun 4, 5	North Dakota Lever Action Silhouette State Champ (.22, Pistol Caliber, 30/30)	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626
Jun 11, 12	Palma (Sat), ND Long Range State Champ (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jun 17, 18, 19	Perry on the Prairie High Power, 3 times X-course and Garand Match	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687
Jun 19	33rd Annual Pistol Regional w/Leg	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jun 25, 26	High Power Regional, 600yd Team, Garand, Leg	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959

-Application-

North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228

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

**Yes, to protect my right to keep and bear arms; I would like to join the NDSSA and support the legislative efforts of the NDSSA.
My dues for a membership as noted are enclosed.**

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Interests

- Legislation Jr. Program
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 Air Rifle Hi-Power Rifle
 Air Pistol Smallbore
 Police PPC Other

 Rifle Silhouette
 Pistol Silhouette
 Hunter Safety

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

Life.....\$500.00 One Year\$25.00 Clubs One Yr.....\$25.00
 5 Year.....\$100.00 Junior.....\$10.00 Club 5 Yr..... \$100.00

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

(May 1, 2015)

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The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



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The Target

January, February, March 2016

Shooter to the Line. (continued from page 4)

Interview Questions for Madison Marchus:

Who is the person who has most influenced you to shoot or who do you aspire to emulate?

Madison: I would say my shooting coach, Mr. Langer. He has always pushed me to do my best and has never stopped believing in my ability.

In your mind, the most significant accomplishment, victory, or goal that you have attained to this date in your shooting career?

Madison: I would say that my most significant accomplishment would have to be qualifying to go to Ohio to shoot 3-position air rifle at the CMP Regional Championship two years in a row.

Average hours per week you practice during shooting season?

Madison: Usually 2-4 hours except this year I have been slacking a bit.

What has the discipline of shooting taught you?

Madison: Shooting has taught me to take things one step at a time, and that if something does not go right, to keep your head up and aim again.

Other interests or something most people may not know about you?

Madison: I love to go hunting and fishing. One of my dreams is to go on a hunting trip to Africa.

What role do you see the shooting sports playing in your future?

Madison: I plan on doing into Criminal Justice so these experiences will definitely help me in the future.

“In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt