

# THE TARGET

## THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

### 2017 Annual Meeting Highlights

Our outgoing President, Rand McLeod was unable to attend the meeting but offered these comments on the state of our Association through our able Master of Ceremonies, Kevin Fire, and I have included some of Tom Reiten's comments here as well:

As has been the case over the past several years, our juniors are improving their skills and scores by leaps and bounds. Our small ND population and relatively few competitive shooters have enjoyed some pretty fantastic shooting success.

NDSSA originated as the ND Rifle and Pistol Association sometime in the 50s. Somewhere in the 80s it was changed to NDSSA in hopes of representing more than just rifle and pistol shooters and tonight we finally break the glass ceiling of recognizing only High Power, Bullseye and Smallbore shooters and coaches to truly represent what the name North Dakota Shooting Sports Association was intended to describe. We welcome Jim Shulind to our banquet as our 2017 inductee to the North Dakota Shooting Sports Hall of Fame. Jim has been actively involved in the shooting sports since 1977 when he became one of the first volunteers to teach the new Hunter Education Program under the guidelines of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Jim's passion in the shooting sports is in the disciplines of trap, skeet and sporting clays. For years Jim has been involved in the Grand Forks Park District trap shooting program, where he has been responsible for organizing and introducing thousands of young athletes to the shotgun sports in Grand Forks.

Another accomplishment that our Board of Directors has achieved this year is the creation of an endowment through the Midway Foundation. Many of you may recall three years ago at the Fargo banquet, we had a representative from Midway as a speaker and he explained the benefits and process of joining the foundation as an association or club. The process is a bit different as an association, but as of 2019 and each year thereafter, we will have \$1500 to use to further the goals of our Association. Since one of our stated goals in NDSSA is to support Junior shooting, I can see this money going towards the yearly amount budgeted to help support Juniors to the Junior Olympic National Championships or to Camp Perry for the NRA and CMP National Championships.

At our annual banquet, we recognize the top shooters from this past year. It is through competition that we force ourselves to become better. Although there can be only one winner in each match, I believe each and every one of you that put in the practice and hard work to try and improve your skills are the real winners. Set goals, work hard, practice good sportsmanship, be safe and make it fun. Hope you all have success in the shooting sports in the year to come.

### Our Incoming President, Mitchell Godbout, offers these comments:

Well, as our North Dakota Shooting Sports Association new year begins with new leadership in place, I would like to first thank the following individual for his time, service and support to the NDSSA's organization.

Our past president, Rand McLeod, who has served the past two years as NDSSA's President, Thank you, Rand, for the past two years. As our organization continues to grow, Rand was always looking for better and more favorable ideas to support the youth programs in the state of North Dakota. Through some of his ideas and those of our board members we, continued to work harder each year for the youth programs as well as for the many other disciplines that NDSSA supports.

I would like to welcome our newest board members to the NDSSA's organization. The following individuals were elected last February at our annual banquet held in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Tami Ware-Director, Garth Weber-Vice President, Melissa Carson (Langer)-Membership Secretary. Again, thank you for becoming a part of NDSSA's organization. Your roles are most valuable to the shooting sports activities we have in North Dakota and for the future of our organization.

As president I will continue to work hard for the shooting sports activities and youth programs in the state of North Dakota. We are always looking for better and more affordable ways to continue these activities. If there is anything that comes to mind, please bring it to our attention and we will take a look at it and present it to the board. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a member, please contact us.

I'm looking forward for the next few years to be exciting, rewarding and memorable.

## Editorially Speaking

Thanks to Mitch for the content he provided for this issue. I hope to have more submissions for our next issue which is passed due now.

As you can see, I am late again, and I am sorry that is getting to be a theme for our newsletter. Time flies, when we are having fun. Connie and I have been busy this spring and it is already summer with the longest day past.

Camp Perry and the NRA Pistol National championships begin in only a little over a week as I write this. Travis, Garth, Al and I will take off with our pistols in one week.

Our 2018 Summer Schedule of Events is updated in this issue. Get your guns out and plan to attend as many matches as your schedule will allow. Maybe I will see you at a match soon.

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

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

Ours is a true gender equity sport which does not require a mandatory concussion seminar for junior or adult competitors. The gender equity is obvious when you take a look at the results of the USA Shooting National Championships, the CMP Junior 3-P Nationals and the Junior Olympic results where men and women fire the same courses of fire now. Take some time to look at the results (I have provided links in later articles in this issue of the newsletter).

One thing stands out though. We need more participants in the pistol events. Few girls pursue the competitive pistol competitions, and they would find them rewarding and fun.

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

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

"The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms." Samuel Adams, Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, 1788

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## Some thoughts on Competitive Shooting

As many of you know, I have been an active competitive shooter for a long time, actually since 1978 (for those of you who don't want to do the math yourselves, that is now 40 years).

I often reflect on why I have continued to pursue this sport for so long and thought I would share some of my reasons with you. There are more, but these will do for now.

I find that in order to shoot well, I have to mentally step away from my daily problems. I have to focus on the process of delivering a shot to the center of the target rather than difficulties in life such as mortgages, appointments, politics and other of the many causes of stress. The better I am able to focus on the process of delivering a shot to the center of the target, the more I find that I am relaxed. Making a large hole in a paper target is a stress reliever (small holes in small targets work almost as well).

I have also found that the self-control I have developed in order to shoot well has helped me in almost every other endeavor that I have pursued in life.

I initially began to shoot competitively in order to gain the skill necessary to hunt large and small game with a handgun. But, I cannot cite hunting as a major reason why I continue to enjoy shooting. While many of us competitive shooters are hunters, most hunters are recreational rather than competitive marksmen. Even though I really enjoy hunting, hunting is only one component of the many reasons that I remain an active competitive shooter.

Competitive shooting is a mental exercise. Success (even if that success is only periodic) in a competitive shooting event results in the release of a lot of dopamine and endorphins within our bodies. These are powerful stimulants that most of us really don't often enjoy during our daily lives. This positive feedback encourages me to continue to gain skill and to prove that skill in further competition.

I find quite simply that the efforts that I make to pursue higher skill in the competitive shooting sports is fun. We all share the urge to compete to a varying degree. To be able to compete at a high level in the shooting sports requires incremental effort over time. Instant gratification is rare and not sustainable. One or even a few lucky shots don't hold a candle to being able to produce a quality shot on target repeatedly.

Another aspect of fun in the competitive shooting sports is the act of coaching someone young or old to improve

their skill. I have been able to enjoy being involved in coaching young people in the competitive shooting sports more over the past 5 years than I ever had time for in the first 35 years of my competitive shooting career. Of course, I have more time now than I had while I was working for a living.

There have been many scientific studies to determine what is required to foster positive life skills in young people (I am pretty sure that this works for older people as well). A few of the most important components have been found to be competence, confidence, connection, character, and caring.

The effort to develop skill in the shooting sports will involve each of these five components to some degree. Obviously, as we progress in the development of skill in the competitive shooting sports, we will earn documentation of our skill level or competence in the form of trophies of one form or another. Those trophies may be recognition in the form of a Classification card (marksman, sharpshooter, expert, or master) issued to you by the governing body of the shooting sport that you pursue, or they may ultimately be an actual championship trophy.

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

As you gain skill, you will improve your character or integrity, because a competitive shooter does not operate in a dream world. The more integrity and character you develop, the greater you will actually develop your skill.

And, one of the more enjoyable forms of the competitive shooting sports is shooting as a member of a team. You will learn to care for your teammates, and you will make lasting friendships.

In other words, there is a good chance that participation in the competitive shooting sports will result in your development as a confident, competent, self-reliant and independent, productive adult. I am still working toward adulthood, but I have developed substantial skills in each of the five components outlined above. My participation in the competitive shooting sports has been the path that I have found most enjoyable in my journey to adulthood. Fortunately, competitive shooting is a lifetime sport, and I hope to have a few more years to compete.

There are certainly other paths (although I am not too sure about golf or tournament fishing). Rick Jorgenson

## **NDSU Air Rifle Team Competes in Conference Championships**

The NDSU Marksmanship Club Air Rifle Team traveled to Purdue University to compete in the Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference (WIRC) 2018 Championship Matches, February 23-25, 2018. Team members included Sarah Biggers (Jr. Radiological Sciences) of Buffalo, ND; Colin Larrabee (Sr. Finance) of Princeton, MN; Madison Marchus (Jr. Criminal Justice) of Woford, ND; and Andrew Wherley (Sr. Natural Resources Management) of Mohall, ND. Eighty-seven air rifle shooters from 10 conference member schools competed in the championship matches. The NDSU team finished with a season high score of 2154 points and a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish overall. With a maximum individual score of 600 points, Marchus finished with 558 points and 11<sup>th</sup> place overall, Larrabee with 540 points and 18<sup>th</sup> place, Biggers with 528 points for 22<sup>nd</sup> place, and Wherley with 528 points and 23<sup>rd</sup> place overall.

Larrabee received the WIRC 2018 Most Improved Shooter Award with a 26.5-point score improvement over the WIRC competition season which began with postal matches in October. The team has qualified as one of the top 10 collegiate air rifle teams in the nation and will be competing in the NRA National Collegiate Rifle Club Championships at Ft. Benning, Georgia March 21-26, 2018. The team is coached by Mitchell Godbout of Casselton, ND.

Submitted by Larry Cihacek, Faculty Advisor.

## **NDSU Marksmanship Club Shooter Wins Silver and Bronze Medals in National Competition**

NDSU pistol shooter Pryce Pinney (Sr., Ag Systems Management, Ainsworth, NE) won an individual silver medal in 50-meter free pistol competition and a bronze medal in 25-meter men's sport pistol competition at the 2018 NRA National Intercollegiate Pistol Championships March 17-20 held at Ft. Benning, GA. Pryce is a member of the NDSU Marksmanship Club which was also represented by Krista Dvorak (So, Animal Science, Wagner, SD), Seth Perkins (Fr., Pharmacy, Bemidji, MN), Caitlyn Fleahman (Sr., Pharmacy, Bemidji, MN) and Kaitlyn Steffl (Fr., Radiology/Sonography, Redwood Falls, MN).

The NDSU Free Pistol Team of Pinney, Dvorak, Fleahman and Perkins finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall with nearly 90 shooters competing. The top pistol teams and shooters were invited to the matches based on the ranking of their scores in sectional matches held early in February.

In other matches, the NDSU Women's Sport Pistol Team consisting of Dvorak, Fleahman and Steffl finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place and the NDSU Standard Pistol Team consisting of Pinney, Perkins, Dvorak and Fleahman finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place. The NDSU Open Air Pistol Team made up of Pinney, Perkins, Fleahman, and Dvorak finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place nationally.

Pinney also won First Team All American honors in Free Pistol, Standard Pistol, and Open Air Pistol. All American honors are based on scores from the National Matches in addition to scores from other qualifying matches and academic eligibility. The teams are coached by Eric Pueppke and James Ladwig.

The NDSU Marksmanship Club also had three rifle shooters competing in the 2018 NRA Intercollegiate Club Rifle Championship Matches March 23-25 also held at Ft. Benning, GA. Shooters representing NDSU included Sarah Biggers (So., Radiological Sciences, Valley City, ND), Colin Larrabee (Sr., Finance, Princeton, MN) and Andrew Wherley (Sr., Natural Resources Management, Mohall, ND). Shooters were invited to the National Matches based on their minimum qualifying scores in sectional matches held in February. Wherley and Larrabee competed in the 3-position small bore rifle competition and Wherley, Larrabee and Biggers competed in the 10-meter air rifle match. The rifle shooters are coached by Mitchell and Brandon Godbout. Larry Cihacek, Professor of Soil Science is their faculty advisor.

Submitted by Larry Cihacek, Faculty Advisor

## **Phillip W. Johnston**

Phil passed away this year on May 22<sup>nd</sup> after a long battle with lung cancer at the age of 71. Phillip served on our NDSSA Board of Directors and was active in the NDSSA for many years. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association for 9 years. He is a member of our North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame and was a strong voice for pro-gun legislation in North Dakota.

Many of you may not know Phil, but he was an active competitive shooter and hunter as well as an author. You will find that his full obituary is available here: <http://www.amundsonfuneralhome.com/obituary/4930516>

We wish his wife Cindy, son Paul, and daughter Victoria all the best and hope that they can keep their best memories of Phil with them every day.

## Summer Schedule of Opportunities

Jul 14	Military/Lever Action Silhouette	Bismarck	Dallas Quamme	701-426-3846
Jul 15	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jul 21	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-516-3427
Jul 21	Approved F-Class Mid-Range Prone Match	Grand Forks	Fred Martinez	701-212-3383
Jul 28	Muley Days	Bismarck	Jeff Bourgois	701-426-6966
Jul 29	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Del Ray Bergan	701-220-6986
<b>Jul 28, 29</b>	<b>ND High Power and M1 Garand State Champ w/Leg</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-746-6959</b>
<b>Aug 4, 5</b>	<b>ND Smallbore and Big bore Silhouette State Champs</b>	<b>Bismarck</b>	<b>Dave Tokach</b>	<b>701-663-8626</b>
Aug 4	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
	Mid-Range Prone Regional, Conv and F-Class	Billings, MT	Matt Waite	
Aug 11, 12	Vintage Rifle and Garand (Sat), Long Range (Sat), X-Course HP (Sun)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Aug 18, 19	ND IHMSA Handgun Silhouette State Champ	Bismarck	Ray Utter	701-595-1136
<b>Aug 18, 19</b>	<b>Mid-Range Prone Regional, Conv and F-Class</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Denny Coulter</b>	<b>701-749-6959</b>
<b>Aug 25, 26</b>	<b>High Power Regional, Team, and Leg Match</b>	<b>Billings</b>	<b>Matt Waite</b>	
<b>Aug 25, 26</b>	<b>CMP Sanctioned Vintage Military, Carbine, and Vintage Sniper Rifle State Championships</b>	<b>Grand Forks</b>	<b>Tom Reiten</b>	<b>701-775-0008</b>
Aug 26	Varmint Rifle Benchrest Match	Bismarck	Gary Vennie	701-516-3427
Aug 30, 31, Sep 1, 2	Cowboy Action - Annual Roughrider Roundup	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Sep 1, 2	ND Outdoor Pistol State Championship	Valley City	Jim Ladwig	701-484-5236
	Some of these match dates are still tentative.			
	Always check and reserve shooting times with the match director before traveling to the match.			
	Up to date information is available at the NDSSA	<a href="http://www.ndssa.org">http://www.ndssa.org</a>		

### -Application-

### North Dakota Shooting Sports Association

P O Box 228, BISMARCK ND 58502-0228

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rifle \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective May 1, 2015)

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

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

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

(May 1, 2015)

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## USA Shooting Nationals & CMP/USA 3-P Nationals - Update

Todd Zaun, Katie Zaun, Dacotah Faught, and Luke Simon traveled to the 2018 USA Shooting National Championships held at Fort Benning, GA from June 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 17<sup>th</sup>. Katie and Dacotah competed in the rifle matches and Todd and Luke shot pistol. They all performed very well. Todd was brave (foolhardy) enough to compete in the rapid-fire pistol event, and probably surprised himself with a credible score and only one frame hit. Rapid-fire pistol is quite challenging. Todd and Luke fired some real solid air pistol scores and Luke finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the junior Air Pistol standings after the finals.

Katie and Dacotah finished 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 50-meter open 3-P event. In the junior Women's 50-meter 3-P results, Katie finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the open 10-meter Air Rifle women's, Katie is 17<sup>th</sup> and Dacotah is 30<sup>th</sup>. In the junior standings, Katie finished 10<sup>th</sup>.

The most outstanding result was in the 50 meter prone event for women with Katie finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. The match winner, Morgan Phillips is also a junior, so first and second place were earned by junior women. Of course, Katie is a little more junior than many.

Last issue, we celebrated some of Katie's accomplishments in 2017. As you can see, she is off to a great start this year. I recommend that you spend a few minutes on the USA Shooting Event results page: <http://www.usashooting.org/7-events/101-match-results/nationalresults> to review Katie's accomplishments so far this year as well as the fine performances of our other North Dakota juniors in the Junior Olympics and National Championship matches.

In 2017, Katie finished in first place at the CMP/USA Shooting 3-P Air Rifle National Championships in Camp Perry, OH. This year, we were able to qualify 2 teams to compete in those matches. Katie traveled as one of the Buffalo Sharpshooters with Brett Christianson, Jordyn Ewine, and Alex Flores. The Lake Region Shooting Sports Association team included Brandon Alexander, Jacob Vaagen, Hannah Vaagen and Chris Morstad. All 8 of these young people fired some respectable scores during this two-match tournament.

Katie had another outstanding tournament, winning the first match and finishing in second place on Day 2 with some strong competition on both days. Results: <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&tab=results&match=17067>