

THE TARGET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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Unintended Consequences

I imagine that each of you can identify a decision that you made many years ago that has produced a result that you had not intended in any way. We are each a product of the decisions that we made earlier in our lives and our current decisions will determine who we will be in the future.

I have recently spent quite a bit of enjoyable time preparing to hunt this fall and winter. I have been loading shells for deer hunting and elk hunting. Of course, I have also found my way out to fire this ammunition to keep my skills sharp.

I developed an interest in reloading ammunition and casting bullets in the late 1970s, almost 35 years ago now. Back when I first started to reload ammunition, I did so in order to save some money and allow myself to shoot enough to become proficient with the firearms I planned to use in the hunting field. At that same time, I decided to start shooting in the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette matches being held around the state of North Dakota and its bordering states. Over the next few years, I enjoyed hunting and competitive shooting exclusively with ammunition that I had prepared myself outside of the rimfire .22.

Competing in the handgun metallic silhouette matches certainly improved my shooting skills, and along the way they improved my handloading skills as well. I began to cast bullets in quantity and in good quality. This allowed me to compete with my own cast bullets and to hunt with them as well.

Over the past 35 years, I've expanded my competitive shooting activities to include black powder cartridge rifle, high-power rifle, some smallbore rifle, bullseye pistol and air rifle and pistol. I have found that I enjoy the preparation of good quality ammunition almost as much as I enjoy shooting it in competition and in the hunting field.

I really had no idea what I was getting myself into when I began to get involved in the discipline of casting my own bullets and loading my own ammunition for literally every cartridge that I shoot today.

I've enjoyed the opportunity to pass on these skills to my son and to help introduce others to the pleasure of loading their own ammunition and casting their own bullets.

There's a great deal of personal satisfaction involved in the shooting sports outside of the actual competition. I didn't know that 35 years ago, but I certainly do now. Winning a rifle or

pistol match with ammunition that I've loaded myself and often with bullets I cast myself is extremely satisfying. In fact, it's very hard to put a price tag on that feeling of satisfaction. You might even say that it's priceless.

On the other hand, there is obviously a substantial savings in cost to those of us who load our own ammunition and cast our own bullets. I have outlined the cost savings a couple of times in past articles published in previous issues of the Target newsletter. So I'll just give one example here to illustrate what I'm talking about in today's prices.

In preparation for deer hunting, I cast roughly 500 bullets for my 44 magnum revolver out of a Saeco four cavity bullet mold that produces a finished bullet weighing 245 grains. I've owned this bullet mold for a few years now, and I've used bullets cast from it in order to successfully hunt quite a few deer. Currently, this bullet mold can be purchased for roughly \$150 or a bit less if you shop carefully.

The lead and bullet lube as well as the gas check that I use on each of these bullets involves a total cost of roughly 4 cents per bullet. I load these bullets in cartridge cases that I've reloaded many times. Considering the number of times good brass can be reloaded, the brass cost is no more than five cents per bullet and probably a lot less. I typically load 23 1/2 grains of Winchester 296 in each cartridge, and this adds another eight cents to the cost of each loaded round. So, this gives us a total cost of no more than \$.20 per loaded round.

Good quality 44 magnum commercial shells are currently priced at anywhere from a low of roughly \$.85 per round to a high of near \$1.50 per loaded round. At \$.20 per loaded round, my 500 cast bullets involve a total cost of \$100 out of my pocket. Keep in mind that these cast bullets, as I load them, will shoot groups out of my revolver that are less than 1.5 inches at 50 yards and 3 inches or often less at 100 yards. In other words, they are customized to my revolver while the more expensive factory ammunition (roughly running \$425 each 500 rounds) may or may not shoot this well in my revolver. I haven't fired many factory rounds through my revolver over the last 10 or 15 years that I've used it. However, those factory rounds that I have fired have not grouped anywhere near as well as my own cast bullets.

Continued on Page 6

Editorially Speaking

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR ARE APPROACHING RAPIDLY, AS I WRITE THIS. I WISH EACH OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND AN ENJOYABLE 2015.

Our winter indoor shooting season is well underway. There have already been air rifle and pistol matches in Ayr, Fargo, and Devils Lake. If you will look at our schedule of opportunities on Page 5, you will see that our North Dakota clubs are offering matches in many disciplines over the next 4 months. It is often a bit of a challenge to produce this newsletter without including a substantial amount of my own thoughts. Thanks to Kevin Fire and Rich Butler for their contributions to this issue. Without them, you would be reading articles by me alone. So, 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. Maybe I will be able to include it in our next issue.

During the next few months, volunteer to help our match directors and coaches who make the matches possible. Almost all of our match directors could use your help, and you will learn more about what it takes to put on a good match.

Our officers and board of directors have decided that an increase in our membership dues is necessary for the continued good health of our association. Thus, you will be asked to vote on a new dues structure at our annual meeting January 31, 2015. Please attend.

Our current dues remain in effect until then, so take advantage of the discounts that these current dues afford.

We will induct three worthy candidates into the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame at our annual meeting and banquet. They are Steve Martin of Grand Forks, Eric Pueppke, and Steve Faught of Amenia. Many of you know these men and are aware of their significant contributions to marksmanship not only in North Dakota but also in the United States.

We hope that many of you will join us to induct them into the North Dakota Marksmanship Hall of Fame at our association's annual convention in Grand Forks. I look forward to seeing you there.

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](#)

NDSSA Officers and Chairpersons

Web site <http://www.ndssa.org>

President: Rich Butler, 411 Cottonwood Dr., Casselton, ND 58012

Email: rcbutler@far.midco.net Home 701-347-5089.

Vice Pres.: Rand McLeod, 700 Main Ave, Erie, ND 58029

Home 668-2214

Exec Off: Eric Pueppke, 14926 25th St. SE, Amenia, ND 58004

<mailto:cpueppke@polarcomm.com> Home & Bus 967-8450

Sec.: Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051

<mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net> Home 255-4601

Mbr. Sec/Treas.: Walt Fairbanks, 4600 Boulder Ridge Rd., Bismarck, ND

58503; Email: walt@midco.net Home 701-751-0690

Newsletter Editor: Rick Jorgenson, 4931 81st Ave NE, Devils Lake, ND 58301

Email: rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net Home: 662-4760 Bus 662-5301.

Director 1/20: James Ladwig, 17321 27th St SE, Argusville, ND 58005

<mailto:james@curtslock.com> Home 701-484-5236

Director 1/18: Dennis Coulter, 3306 Walnut St. Grand Forks, ND 58201-7667

Email: denny.brenda@gra.midco.net H 701-746-6959

Director 1/16: Mitchell Godbout, 401 9th Ave. N, Casselton, ND 58012

Email: mdgodbout@hotmail.com Home & Bus 701-347-5593.

Past Pres.: Kevin M. Fire, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Email: kfire@hearingnd.com Home 701-775-2863

Light Rifle: Gary Sivertson, 10476 1st Ave NE, Souris, ND 58783.

gcs@utma.com Home: 243-6413, Cell: 263-5266

Web Mgr.: James Ladwig, 17321 27th St SE, Argusville, ND 58005

<mailto:james@curtslock.com> Home 701-484-5236

HG Silhouette: Ray Utter, 3061 Sand Hill Road, Bismarck, ND 58503-6467

rayutter@netscape.net Home & Bus: 701-595-1136

Junior Programs:

Tom Thompson, 2708 Stevens St, Bismarck, ND 58503-1051

<mailto:tnt@bis.midco.net> Home 255-4601, Bus 701-221-1220

Highpower Rifle & Property Custodian:

Dennis Coulter, 3306 Walnut St. Grand Forks, ND 58201-7667

Email: denny.brenda@gra.midco.net H 701-746-6959, Fax 772-7932.

Pistol: Rick Jorgenson, 4931-81st Ave NE, Devils Lake, ND 58301

Email: rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net Home 662-4760 Bus 662-5301

SB Rifle Programs: See Junior Program Chair. Tom Thompson above

Rifle Silhouette: Tim Frank, 10 Div. St., Mandan, ND 58554-1925

bsupp1@bis.midco.net Home: 663-3856

NRA Field Rep: Clay Pederson, P. O. Box 8, Morrissetown, SD 57645

Email: cpederson@nrahq.org Home & Bus: (701) 522-9622.

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Rick Jorgenson

Editor, The Target

4931 81st Ave. NE

Devils Lake, ND 58301

Email: rcjorgenson@dvl.midco.net

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Try it (Light Rifle Competition). There is a really good chance that you will enjoy yourself a lot.

At first glance, shooting well in Light Rifle competition would seem to be an easy thing to do. In some ways this is quite true. It is a simple course of fire. You take a .22 rimfire rifle to the firing line with any sights, stand 50 ft. away from an A32 target and you find that the 10 ring is quite a bit larger than the 10 ring on the A17 target that many of you have experience with in smallbore rifle competition. The 10 ring on the NRA 50 foot A-17 target is .150" and the 10 ring on our light rifle target A32 measures .439 inches. Good scores should be easy, right? Well, that is relative, as even experienced Smallbore and high power shooters find that off-hand unsupported shooting is a challenge no matter the size of the 10 ring.

While the NRA light rifle rules provide a format for matches to be fired indoor or outdoor in the positions of prone, kneeling and standing, all of the matches offered in North Dakota seem to be limited to standing and are fired indoors.

Light Rifle competition allows an inexperienced shooter entry to the competitive shooting sports without requiring purchase of expensive or extensive equipment beyond the .22 rimfire rifle that he or she may already own. All that's really required is a rimfire rifle chambered in .22 rimfire that weighs 8 ½ lbs. or less including sights. That rifle must have a trigger pull of not less than 2 Lbs., and it must be capable of being single loaded. No special rigid coats, butt plates or adjustable stocks are required – or even allowed. While the equipment is straightforward, the shooting demands skill and discipline. Light Rifle shooting will help you develop or improve your existing shooting skills. Since the cost of .22 rimfire ammunition is still very reasonable, as compared to the cost of centerfire rifle ammunition, the sport is within the economic reach of nearly anyone who has any interest in the competitive shooting sports.

The NRA rules allow for many match formats within the Light Rifle discipline. The most common held in North Dakota involve either 60 shots or 100 shots for score at 50 ft. on an A-32 target indoors. Some other matches are held around the nation outdoors where a competitor will fire 30 or 60 shots at the 50 yd. A-31 target. The 30-shot matches are fired on the A-31 target in three 10 shot stages at 50 yards. These would be a fun addition to any of our outdoor smallbore matches.

Again, nearly all of the most popular matches are fired indoors from a standing position with any sights. The 60-shot matches are fired in 6 stages of 10 shots, with two shots for record fired at each bull of an A-32 target. A perfect score is 600 points, with center shots (shots inside the 10 ring that do not touch the scoring ring) also recorded. The 100-shot course of fire has been the standard for our North Dakota State Championship match

and is fired in 10 stages of 10 shots each on the A-32 target, 2 shots per bull. Of course, you should always read the match bulletin to be certain that you understand the course of fire offered for any match in which you intend to compete.

Whether it is placed at 50 ft. or 50 yd. each target is fired with a time limit of 1 ½ Min. per record shot. This time limit includes unlimited sighter shots. No additional time is allowed for the sighting shots. These sighting shots must be fired into the sighting bull. The top center bull is the sighter bull for these unlimited shots, and the sighting shots can be fired at any time throughout the time limit for that target. 2 shots are then fired for score at each of the other five bulls. With 2 shots per bull for score, each target is fired within a total time of 15 minutes no matter how many sighting shots the competitor may choose to fire.

In our 50-foot Light Rifle matches, the NRA allows us to hang two A32 targets giving the shooter a total of 200 points possible at each stage. Teams may consist of 2, 4, or 5 firing members, but most commonly are made up of 2 or 4 firing members. The NRA Sectional match allows 4 member teams.

These Light Rifle matches are a lot of fun and so easy on the competitor from the standpoint of necessary equipment that I challenge anyone with a reasonably accurate .22 rimfire rifle to register and compete in at least one of the matches offered around the state of North Dakota this winter. I am almost certain that you will enjoy yourself.

Rick Jorgenson

Katie Zaun fires a new J3 Record with her air rifle.

19 shooters from North Dakota traveled to compete in the Winter Airgun Championships in Colorado Springs in December, 2014. They were members of the NDSU shooting team, some members of the Wolford, ND high school rifle team and individuals from the Buffalo, ND shooting club. Everyone shot some great scores. One of the special highlights of the match was the performance of Katie Zaun, age 11, of the Buffalo Club, who on her second day of the match shot a 411.0 (decimal scoring in a 40 shot match).

In Sept of 2014 USA Shooting started with some new USA Shooting records by switching some of their shooting disciplines over to decimal scoring. Some of the old records were retired and some are still being used. Katie's 411.0 is a new National USA Shooting J3 Women's Air Rifle record. Along with this, she was also able to tie the old J3 record with an integer score of 395. She deserves our recognition for this exceptional achievement. Congratulations to Katie and to everyone who made this trip possible. Katie was notified of her record achievement December 16, 2014. – Rich Butler

Forks Rifle Club Second Annual Winter Vintage Sniper Match

On December 6, 2014, the Forks Rifle Club hosted an outdoor vintage sniper match. This was the second winter sniper match hosted at the club. The first winter sniper match was held in January of 2014 and presented shooters with a course of fire that was designed to commemorate actions of the American forces during the Battle of the Ardennes Forest, also known as the Battle of the Bulge.

The December 6, 2014, match was designed to commemorate the actions that took place on the battle of Fox Hill which occurred during late November 1950 in Korea. This battle was one of the winter actions around the Chosin Reservoir. The winter of 1950 was the coldest in 100 years in Korea. During the battle, the temperature reached 20 below zero.

The battle received its name because it principally involved the actions of Fox Company, Second Battalion, Seventh Regiment, of the First Marine Division. These 234 Marines were emplaced along the ridge later known as Fox Hill. They were tasked with keeping the only route open that would allow 8000 other Marines to withdraw from the Chosin Reservoir. During this five day battle, the 234 men of Fox Company held off a force of 10,000 Chinese, and successfully allowed the remainder of their regiment to escape.

At the end of the battle there were 50 men left alive of those original 234 emplaced along Fox Hill. Two Medals of Honor were awarded to the Marines of Fox Company during these actions, as well as numerous other citations for valor.

The course of fire developed for this match commemorates these actions of Fox Company. The sniper match competitors were squadded into two-man teams, alternating between sniper and spotter. Each team member was to fire 20 rounds for a match total of 40 shots per team. The teams were allowed a total of 25 minutes in which to fire their 40 shots, including the time required to switch between spotter and sniper.

Sniper teams carried their equipment to the line, and were allowed to use only a sling and their pack as a support for their rifle. No other artificial support was allowed.

The teams engaged groups of targets placed at 200 meters, 300 meters, 385 meters, and 500 meters. There were three targets placed at each of the distances. As a way of increasing the difficulty, the closer targets were significantly smaller. At 200 meters the cardboard cutout used as a target was the

approximate size of a man's head and upper shoulders. At 500 meters the targets increased in size to a man's torso roughly from the waist up.

The teams used vintage rifles and scopes appropriate to those used by the Marines on Fox Hill. The shooting was quite challenging. With little snow on the ground, picking out the brown cardboard against the backdrop of brown grass became increasingly difficult as distance to the target increased.

A number of period correct firearms and scopes were seen on the firing line this day. These included 03A4 Springfield's, British Enfields, Swedish Mausers and an M1D.

Each team had to hit each of the 12 targets at least one time to have a qualifying score. The highest possible score was 40 hits on the 12 targets, with ties broken by the number of hits on the furthest target.

The winning team of Marcus Moeglein and Kevin Fire achieved a score of 40 hits. The second place team of Coby Dalglish and Don Granlie achieved a score of 37 hits. All of the sniper teams that participated in the match were able to neutralize a number of the targets.

Planning is underway for the next Winter Vintage Sniper Match which will commemorate the Battle of Attu, which was a battle that occurred in the Aleutian Islands. The course of fire during this match will likely begin at 600 yards, with the sniper teams moving forward to engage targets up to a range of approximately 200 yards.

These winter vintage sniper matches have served as a way to shorten the winter and decrease the time to the next outdoor shooting season. In addition, these have served as a nice way to commemorate the winter engagements endured by our Armed Forces in defense of the freedoms that we enjoy.

Submitted by Kevin Fire

You can't hire someone else to do your push-ups for you. - Jim Rohn

Accept responsibility for your life. Know that it is you who will get you where you want to go, no one else. - Les Brown

"A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have." --Gerald Ford

"Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first." - **Mark Twain**

Fall & Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Jan 3, 4	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-751-0690
Jan 3, 4	Bullseye Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan 10, 11	3x Air Pistol Match	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Jan 10, 11	Open Inter Rifle Sec (Air, 3P)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 17, 18	Junior Olympics (Air, 3p, Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 17	Action Pistol Match - USPSA	Bismarck	Delmer Dky	701-222-4194
Jan 25 & Feb 1	Light Rifle Sectional Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
	100 Shot Offhand Match	Halstad, MN	Todd Westcott	218-456-2507
Jan 24	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jan 31	NDSSA State Convention	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 1	Light Rifle Sectional (continued)	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 7	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Feb 7, 8	Junior 3P State and Sectional	Minot	Wes Thomas	701-839-6075
Feb 7, 8	Collegiate Sectional, Rifle and Pistol	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
Feb 13, 14, 15	Open 3P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 15, 16	Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Feb 21	Air Rifle & Pistol match	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Feb 21, 22	Open 50 yd. Regional SB Match, 3-Position (any sight)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Feb 28	Action Pistol Match - USPSA	Bismarck	Delmer Dky	701-222-4194
Feb 28, Mar 1	Junior Air Sectional (Standing)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Feb 28, Mar 1	Open Air Rifle State Championship	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Mar 7	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Mar 14, 15	Junior 4P State and Sectional	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Mar 14, 15	Pistol Sectional - Air, Free, Standard, & Conventional	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Mar 20, 21, 22	Open 4P State and Sectional	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

___ Hunting ___ Conservation

___ Collecting

___ Bullseye Pistol

___ Air Rifle ___ Hi-Power Rifle

___ Air Pistol ___ Smallbore

___ Police PPC ___ Other

Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective July 1, 2006)

Life.....\$200.00 One Year\$15.00 Clubs One Yr.....\$15.00

5 Year.....\$60.00 Junior.....\$5.00 Club 5 Yr..... \$60.00

___ Rifle Silhouette

___ Pistol Silhouette

___ Hunter Safety

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

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The Official NRA State Association Newsletter



Page 6

The Target

October, November, December 2014

Unintended Consequences

(Continued from Page 1)

As you can see, it wouldn't take anyone very long to amortize the equipment necessary to hand load ammunition and cast bullets. I have amortized all of my reloading equipment and casting equipment many times over the last 35 years that I've used it to produce excellent quality ammunition. As I mentioned earlier, the satisfaction that results from this successful casting and reloading process is substantial as well.

Saving money and improved ammunition performance are the two main reasons given by most everyone who gets involved in the process of hand loading and casting bullets. However, as you might expect, the cost savings that you enjoy will likely be spent buying more reloading components and tools. You will find that a lot of pleasurable effort is required to improve upon the results that you can attain by simply purchasing and firing today's factory loaded cartridges. As you acquire the skills necessary and the knowledge necessary to improve upon today's factory loaded ammunition, you also gain a substantial sense of self-sufficiency.

Now, many of you knew this already, as I know many of you do reload your own ammunition and have been doing so for quite some time now. Those of you who do not are missing the economic benefits and personal satisfaction available to you through the great hobby of ammunition reloading.

As I have said many times before this, it is the road less traveled that offers the most unforeseen opportunities and experiences. In my experience that less well-traveled road offers the greatest opportunity for those of us who are interested in personal growth in skill and knowledge as well as the pleasures of a new experience.

Get out there and try something new that has intrigued you for a while. You will likely find an unintended result that may add substantial joy to your life. Rick Jorgenson

**"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