

THE TARGET

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Memories in Shooting: Rick Jorgenson

How I got involved in the shooting sports over 40 years ago, and why I still compete

My first contact with the shooting sports was back in 1975, when I decided to build a muzzle loading rifle from a rather difficult kit produced by the Sharon Barrel Company in Montana. With substantial help from a friend who was also a muzzleloading enthusiast and part time gunsmith, I was successful in my effort to build my percussion plains rifle. I initially used this rifle to participate in some informal rendezvous style shooting competitions with some friends down on the Sheyenne River south of Devils Lake. I still have this rifle, and used it to take my first deer with a muzzleloader. My son also used it to enjoy the best single day of hunting we have ever experienced together. My-son-in law also used it to successfully harvest his first deer with a muzzleloader. I once took it to our North Dakota State Capital to testify before the Senate committee on the firearms that should be allowed in our state's special muzzleloading deer season (your mileage may vary in an effort like that today). Obviously, I have a lot of fond memories associated with that rifle.

A couple of years after building that muzzleloading rifle, I decided that I wanted to hunt deer and other game animals with a pistol. I purchased a High Standard Victor .22 and a Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 magnum revolver with a 10 ½ inch barrel. I practiced with these informally and almost immediately realized that using these handguns in the handgun silhouette shooting sports would be excellent practice. I was right. At that same time, by participating in the handgun silhouette shooting sports, I saw the benefit and challenge that reloading and bullet casting would add to both silhouette competition and to deer hunting. The Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 magnum revolver fired thousands of cast bullets down range at targets and harvested deer and rabbits as well as quite a few ground squirrels and prairie dogs.

The art of bullet casting and the details that need to be considered in order to produce quality custom bullets for handguns and rifles really exemplify what a great lifelong hobby is all about. Casting quality bullets and loading them for use in a good quality handgun or rifle can be simple or complex depending on your attitude and what you find to be "good enough". For those who are interested in shooting at targets that are located at a distance out to 25 yards or maybe a few yards further away, almost any fairly well cast bullet will do. For accurate fire at targets from 100 to 300 yards, you need a bit better quality bullet.

With my cast bullets, I have been able to assemble ammunition with which I have won shooting competitions and

to also very successfully harvest deer and other game. I have enjoyed passing these skills on to my son and to other friends who have shown interest.

Obviously, I have cast bullets in quantity for short range competition (cowboy action, bowling pin matches) as well as in quality for use in longer range rifle and handgun competition and for the hunting of big and small game.

I cast bullets and load them for bullseye pistol competition that are absolutely capable of putting 10 shots inside the X ring on the 50 yard target with my 45 ACP. I cast rifle bullets for my rifles that are capable of 5 shot groups of between 1 to 1.5 inches at 100 meters. I cast quality bullets for my black powder cartridge rifles that are capable of accurate fire at 600 yards and beyond. You can learn to do this, if you really want to. Or you can simply cast and reload bullets for plinking and recreational shooting, if that is what you enjoy.

The research and practice that I have done over that past 40 years has been very enjoyable in itself. The application of the knowledge I have acquired to produce quality bullets and assembled ammunition has been very rewarding as well. It has kept my interest in the shooting sports alive for 40 years and it looks like it will do so for the foreseeable future.

I am convinced that many of those of you who are currently not casting bullets and reloading ammunition for use in your competitive shooting activities would enjoy doing so. Many of you think that these activities take too much time. However, I am a real good example of someone who has not had much free time over the past 40 years. Still, I have been able to find the time necessary to enjoy these hobbies. You can do that too. I am certain that you could enjoy these hobbies for life as I have. They have added a real spice to the competitive shooting sports for me.

As you can see, these hobbies have kept me interested. I would not be your Newsletter editor, if I were not still interested in the shooting sports. Whether that is a good thing is something that you will have to decide for yourself.

The master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labor and his leisure, his mind and his body, his information and his recreation, his love and his religion. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him he's always doing both."

— James A. Michener

Editorially Speaking

Many of us have snow on the ground now, and the outdoor shooting season is basically at an end for 2016. As I write this, the indoor shooting season is underway with the first match in Ayr completed and our Devils Lake Airgun match just around the corner. Many of our juniors are training in hopes of earning invitations to USA Shooting's 2017 Junior Olympic National Championships. That is not an easy task at the competitive level that exists around the nation today.

Take a look at our Schedule of Opportunities and plan to attend an indoor match this winter. I know that I will be at as many as I can manage.

Our 2017 schedule of events is a bit different in order to fit matches around the change in the NRA and CMP National match schedule. We do not know if they are done adjusting their schedules, but they say that what we have now will stand. In case there are other changes, keep an eye on the match schedule here and on our NDSSA Website for up to date information on matches in North Dakota.

Last issue, we had many articles for you from members of our association other than me. This issue is almost exclusively mine. I hope to have more from others for our next issue.

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.

During the next year, 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.

As I write this, it appears that Donald Trump will become our next President. I said that the 2016 political climate was not for the fainthearted. It looks like 2017 will be every bit as contentious. The Electoral College has yet to register its vote, and there is a nationwide effort by the Democratic Party to persuade the electors to vote for Hillary and void the election result as we currently see it reported in the news. Jill Stein has filed for a recount in three key states to add additional cost to the election process. Keep in mind that she garnered only about 1% of the vote. A recount cannot serve her at all, unless she really would like to see Hillary as President. Obviously, no one expects a different outcome than has been reported so far. Even the Democrats state that they do not expect the recount to serve up any different result.

Apparently, the States must recount the votes. Then, the Electoral College will finally meet to finalize the election process on December 19th. So, for those of us who are fond of saying that the match is never over until the last round is through the target, December 19th will finally resolve the most contentious election ever.

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**.

"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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The Target

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More about bullet casting

Sam has been great about giving us the basics of bullet casting. Sam and I have each been casting bullets for rifle and pistol for roughly 40 years. Clearly, bullet casting is a hobby that we find enjoyable to the point where it has become an integral part of our competitive shooting and hunting endeavors. I have used cast bullets in Black Powder Cartridge Rifle, Silhouette Pistol, Bullseye Pistol, Bowling Pin shooting, Action Pistol and Cowboy Action Pistol with great success. I have hunted big and small game with cast bullets with equally great success. Those of us who cast bullets have competed head to head with many other good shooters who were using commercial jacketed bullets. More often than not, we have won those competitions firing our own cast lead bullets. All or nearly all of the North Dakota Bullseye Pistol State Records have been fired with cast bullets. In fact, most of those records have been set by shooters who have cast and loaded their own ammunition.

In the sport of Black Powder Cartridge Rifle, a match winner is not only determined by the shooter's skill with the rifle. No matter how skillful a shooter may be, if he does not cast and assemble good ammunition, he has no chance of winning. That may be the reason that the sport of Black Powder Cartridge Rifle only seems to attract people who have already developed their skills in casting quality bullets and assembling quality ammunition. Sam and I believe that there are many more people out there who would enjoy this hobby than those few of us who are enjoying it now.

It is with that in mind that Sam began this series of articles about bullet casting. Obviously, we hope that you are finding our articles informative and enjoyable.

Last issue, Sam put forth a number of resources that you would find useful in learning about the art of bullet casting. In this issue, I am going to discuss just how simple it can be to get started.

The easiest bullet to cast is one that you will use in a revolver or semiautomatic pistol almost regardless of caliber. Most of you who have any acquaintance with cast bullets have read the term "hard cast" in the commercial bullet caster's advertising, as if "hard cast" bullets were somehow the best available. I have not found that to be the case at all. For most of our casting efforts related to bullets for revolver and semiautomatic pistols, we need to cast a bullet that is of the proper dimension to match the cylinder throat of the revolver or the chamber throat and rifling of the semiautomatic pistol. The actual hardness of the bullet is far secondary to the fit of the bullet to the gun in which it is going to be fired. This is where the independent bullet caster has it all over the commercial bullet manufacturer. We can cast bullets that fit our firearms, and the commercial bullet manufacturer has to produce a bullet that is a compromise unless that manufacturer will produce very small lots of bullets to different dimensions for individual orders from their customers. There is very small profit to be made catering to the needs of individuals, as there is no room for the economics of scale to turn small profit into a large number over a large production run.

So, as a bullet caster intending to produce a bullet that will match your revolver or semiautomatic pistol, you need to look for a bullet mold that will suit your needs. Then you must match that mold with the casting metal mixture that will result in that bullet of the proper dimension. By varying the amount of tin, antimony and lead in your cast bullet metal, you will produce bullets of different diameter and weight. While this may sound complicated, it really is not so difficult. While the mixture of the casting metal can be varied to produce a bullet of larger or smaller dimension, that is not the only way to control the dimension of the bullets you plan to produce. Today, we have quite a few custom bullet mold manufacturers with the ability to produce bullet molds that will drop bullets of larger or smaller diameter according to their customer's order. So, you can order a mold to meet your needs with whatever bullet casting metal you may have available. A search of the internet will reveal many of those commercial bullet mold manufacturers.

But, to make it even simpler, you could simply order a bullet mold from Lee Precision that will cast a bullet that you can then simply lubricate with their Lee Liquid Alox. Then you may either size the bullets in Lee's inexpensive sizer or simply load and shoot them without sizing. I have four Lee bullet molds. One of them has been customized to produce hollow point bullets for my 10mm semiautomatic pistol. The others are 6 cavity bullet molds that produce a large quantity of bullets at each casting session for .38, .44 and .45 caliber. These Lee molds work well, and they are inexpensive. They typically produce a bullet that is a little larger in diameter than a commercial jacketed bullet of the same caliber. Fundamentally, a cast bullet of slightly larger diameter will work well.

For instance, my Lee 10mm mold produces a bullet that is .401 to .402 inches in diameter. I can then lubricate that bullet with Lee Liquid Alox and then size that bullet in Lee's inexpensive sizer. Or, I can lubricate and size the bullet in a more expensive lubricating sizer manufactured by Lyman, RCBS, Saeco or Star adjusting the diameter to .401 or even .400 and applying a different commercial lubricant, if I think that might work better. In most cases, I simply cast this bullet and lubricate it with Lee Liquid Alox. I load it and shoot it with good results at velocities from 1000 fps to 1150 fps. I may size and lubricate it with a different commercial bullet lubricant, if I want to shoot it at a higher velocity. However, for the most part, Lee Liquid Alox works well on the unsized bullet and this is the fastest way to produce cast bullets ready to be loaded. Even with this two cavity Lee mold that has been modified to produce hollow point bullets, I can cast two hundred bullets in an hour.

The simplest method is to simply cast the Lee bullet with whatever metal that you have available and then see if you can just lubricate it with Lee Liquid Alox, load it and shoot it in your handgun to see how well it works for you. (Continued on Page 6)

Politics

You will have to forgive me for the following. This past election has put me in a bit of a foul mood. It is almost impossible to ignore the effect that politicians have on our lives. According to a dictionary, “a politician is a person who is professionally involved in politics, especially as a holder of or a candidate for an elected office.”

That would be in stark contrast to those of us who simply vote or testify in front of a city commission, county commission or state legislative committee about something that we feel needs to be considered. We are not professionals in the political process. However, we are an essential part of representative government. If left alone, a politician will prepare and support legislation that affects all of us without any real input from his constituents. Obviously, that is not the best way to make laws. Still, it is very common in most of the world and even in our City, State and National government. This is simply because most of us are not willing to present ourselves and our knowledge to the politicians either in a personal meeting on a local level or at a hearing on the state level. Some of you may see some relevance in the following quotes:

“No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.”

— [Mark Twain](#)

“If voting made any difference they wouldn't let us do it.”

— [Mark Twain](#)

“Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.”

— [Mark Twain](#)

The last of these quotes may be one of the more fundamental reasons that our recent election resulted in the rejection of Hillary as a professional politician in favor of Donald Trump who is obviously not yet a professional politician. I am convinced that Mr. Trump rose to win the Presidency not on the basis of his credentials for the job, although we should all hope and pray that he is far more competent than he often appears. I think that our nation's voters simply voted to reject someone whom to most of us was wearing a diaper which was very clearly full.

Many who supported Hillary in this election are people who are quite passionate in their beliefs. Still, the rhetoric and fear mongering coming from both Hillary and Donald during their long campaign brings to mind the following quotes by H. L. Mencken. It seems that both Hillary and Donald have very little regard for our intelligence and good sense.

No one ever went broke underestimating the taste of the American Public. — H. L. Mencken

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary. -- H.L. Mencken

I don't know that all of the “hobgoblins” proffered by the parties involved in this election are imaginary. In fact, I believe that we who voted rejected the majority of those put forth by Hillary. Still, both Hillary and Donald made a concerted effort to frighten us often and in no uncertain terms. Fear is not the proper foundation for any coherent decision. Living in fear is paralyzing to progress and to a life of substance.

I am glad our nation decided not to be led by the Left in our society. At the same time, I am very concerned that we might not have chosen the best candidate from the right. As I stated earlier, I hope that Donald Trump proves himself to be more competent than he often appears.

“Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.”

— [Mark Twain](#)

I think that our nations voters chose to reject Hillary and those on the Left because they engaged in what a liberal columnist Froma Harrop recognized in her November 15th column as bad politics “Obsessive appeals to racial, ethnic, sexual and gender identity groupings are bad politics”.

While both Hillary and Donald spent too much time putting forth their “obsessive appeals”, it appears that most voters rejected the dire warnings that Hillary made about the end of the world as we know it, if Donald is elected President of the United States of America. That together with the elitist view that anyone who has not graduated from college is most likely to be a voter for Donald Trump simply because they are thus not capable of critical thinking, didn't sell well with many of Hillary's strongest supporters.

The next 4 years are set up to be much different than the past 8. Hang on for the ride. When you have something about which you could testify, make sure that you give testimony either in your city, county or at the North Dakota State Legislature. Your participation makes North Dakota one of the best places in the nation to live.

“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](#)

Winter Schedule of Opportunities

Jan 7, 8	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Jan 7, 8	Bullseye Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Jan	Approved Sport Pistol Match	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Jan 14	Junior Olympics (Air Pistol, Sport Pistol)	Devils Lake	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan 14, 15	Open Inter Air Rifle Sec, 3P Metric Approved Match	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601
Jan 21, 22	Junior Olympics (Air, 3P Smallbore Rifle)	Minot	Rick Jorgenson	701-662-4760
Jan	Pistol Sectional Match (Standard and Free)	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Jan	Approved Air Rifle and Air Pistol Match	West Fargo	Theresa Simon	701-200-0725
Jan 21, 22	Light Rifle Sectional Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Jan 21	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Jan 28	NDSSA State Convention	Fargo	Rich Butler	701-261-2431
Jan 28	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
Jan 29	Light Rifle Match	Bismarck	Walt Fairbanks	701-400-8421
Jan	Air Pistol Sectional	West Fargo	James Ladwig	701-484-5236
Feb 4, 5	Light Rifle Sectional Championship	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-695
Feb 4, 5	Collegiate Sectional, Rifle and Pistol	West Fargo	Eric Pueppke	701-967-8450
Feb 4	Indoor Cowboy Action Shooting	Bismarck	Mike Ripplinger	701-223-3085
Feb 11, 12	Junior 3P State and Sectional	Minot	Wes Thomas	701-839-6075
Feb 11	USPSA Match	Bismarck	Delmer Dyk	701-222-4194
Feb 18, 19	Open 3P State and Sectional	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959
Feb 18, 19	52nd Annual Von Bismarck Pistol Match	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225
Feb 25, 26	Open 50 Yard Regional SB Match, 3-Position (any sight)	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601

-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 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

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



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The Target

October, November, December 2016

More about bullet casting (continued from Page 4):

I have a .38 wadcutter mold made by Redding/Saeco that I use to simply cast bullets which I then lubricate by tumble lubing with Lee Liquid Alox.

I load these bullets in my .38 revolvers and .357 magnum revolvers with excellent results. With this four cavity mold, I can cast three hundred to even four hundred good bullets in an hour. These bullets are as good (I am convinced that they are better) as any bullet that you can purchase from a commercial caster or any commercial jacketed bullet manufacturer.

We bullet casters are the ultimate recyclers. We take a material which many label as toxic waste and remanufacture it to produce a truly quality product. All you need is some lead and maybe some antimony combined with a small amount of tin (roughly 2% tin in the mixture). Most commercial wheelweight metal contains all three of these elements. You may have to add 1% to 1.5 % tin to this straight wheelweight metal in order to form good bullets, but many of us have successfully cast good bullets without having to add any tin at all.

You can purchase a 2- cavity Lee bullet mold with handles for as little as \$25, a Lee electric casting furnace for \$75 or so, a bottle of Lee Liquid Alox for another \$7 or \$8, and their Lee bullet lube and sizing kit for another \$30 or so (this kit includes a tube of Lee Liquid Alox). So, in all, you will have spent somewhat less than \$150 to cast your first bullets. If you purchase a few books on the art of bullet casting (The Lyman Cast Bullet Manual), you will both enjoy reading them for the knowledge that you will gain, and you will then likely produce a better product.

If you take care of your bullet mold, it will cast thousands of bullets. I have some molds that have cast over 100,000 bullets, and they will likely cast as many more. Now, 100,000 quality cast bullets would cost you \$8,000 to \$10,000 or more. You can purchase a lot of casting and sizing equipment and bullet lubricant and even bullet casting lead for that amount of money. Most of all, you can enjoy a very rewarding hobby and you can take pride in your product as you use it in competition, for hunting, or just plinking.

Maybe some of you have questions about bullet casting that you could send to me or Sam. We will do our best to answer them in a future article. 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