THE TARGET

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April, May, June 2008

The cost of shooting is still rising, but so is the quality of ammunition.

In 2004, I wrote an article outlining the relative cost of ammunition used in the various shooting competitions. I was recently reading a magazine article that brought me back to this subject. Those of us who have been bitten by the competitive shooting bug not only need good quality ammunition, we also often need that quality ammunition in large quantities. Many of us have been committed to reloading every round of our centerfire rifle and pistol ammunition regardless of cost. Others of us have found that factory ammunition has been a better choice for at least some of our competitive shooting efforts even at a slightly higher cost than our own reloaded ammo. Many of the current costs detailed below may be even higher by the time you read this.

In 2004, the 69 grain Sierra Match King hollow point boat tail bullet saw heavy use in high-power rifle competition at 200 and 300 yards. To load 500 rounds with this bullet costs about \$60.00 for the bullets, another \$60.00 or so for the brass, \$7.50 for the primers, and at least \$30.00 for the powder, for a grand total cost of just about \$160.00.

Today, the 500 bullets are \$90.00, the brass is near \$95.00, the primers are closer to \$15.00, and powder is at least \$40 for a total of \$235.00 or an <u>increase of \$75</u> over the last 3 years.

In 2004, I saw a listing in Midway/USA for Black Hills Remanufactured .223 ammo w/69 grain Sierra Match Kings at a cost of \$231.00/500. I also saw a Midway/USA special listing for Black Hills Remanufactured .223 ammo w/77 grain molycoated Sierra Match Kings at a cost of \$198.00/500.

Today, Midway lists their Black Hills Remanufactured 69 grain Sierra Match Kings at a cost of \$325/500. The Black Hills Remanufactured 77 grain Sierra Match Kings sell for \$330/500. That is an increase of \$100 or even a bit more.

Even under the best conditions, it takes 3 to 4 hours with a progressive press to load 500 rounds of good quality .223 match ammunition. With a single stage press, you might spend 8 or even 10 hours at the task.

So, if you want to shoot the 69 grain Sierra Match King, you have to decide whether you are going to spent the time at the reloading bench to save \$90 to \$100 for every 500 rounds that you shoot. On a single stage press, that amounts to an hourly wage (without benefits) of about \$10/hr.

For many people, it is still really hard to justify the time spent on reloading rifle ammunition, except to produce match ammunition that is not readily available in the configuration that your gun shoots well. The real winner as the least expensive and most accurate match ammunition remains the air gun pellets and the compressed air or CO-2 it takes to send them to the target at no more than about \$9.50 for 500 rounds. This is only about \$2.00 more expensive than it was 3 years ago. It is over \$200.00 cheaper than the cost to reload 500 rounds of match high-power rifle ammunition, even when we amortize the cost of the brass over many reloadings and ignore the cost of our time spent to perform the reloading.

The original acquisition cost of the competitive firearms used in these various disciplines remains reasonably similar. The cost of the match ammunition and the true cost of practice are the real difference. When you consider that most of us can find a place inside our own home to practice with our air guns rather than incurring the cost to drive to a club or public range, the air gun competitor is really enjoying a cheap competitive shooting sport. Practice and matches can be fired at any time of day. Further, the high-power rifle shooter will need to incur the cost of replacing his match rifle barrel after only firing 5000 to 7500 rounds through it. The air rifle or pistol barrel with only reasonable cleaning will just keep right on shooting X's for maybe even beyond 50,000 rounds.

As a further benefit, if you take part in our North Dakota State air gun postal competition over the winter, you can shoot in 6 monthly matches without leaving the comfort of your home, except to mail the fired targets to us.

I know that many of you have figured this out already. I know that every one of our North Dakota State Champions in the Bullseye Pistol and High-power Rifle disciplines have fired a large number of pellets down range. They recognize the substantial value of this cross training with an air gun. I invite those of you who do not currently own an air gun to get a match air pistol or rifle and join us in the fun of cheap and very worthwhile competition and practice. You will be firing the very best firearm available to enjoy perfect practice in your own home even when it is snowing outside.

PS: As many of you know, I really enjoy casting bullets and hand loading ammunition. Both of these activities are great hobbies that offer great satisfaction and pride. I still do not think that the factory ammunition is as good as the tailored, reloaded ammunition that I or any of our other serious competitive shooters can produce, but it certainly requires a lot more work and attention to detail to beat the factory fodder that is available to us today as compared to only five or ten years ago.

Rick Jorgenson

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Editorially Speaking

Thanks again to Sam for another fine column about the 1911 for this edition of our newsletter. Our North Dakota indoor shooting season is nearly done, and I have been able to shoot all of the pistol matches so far, but haven't done so well getting to the rifle matches. We still have a few indoor matches left, but I am looking forward to the outdoor season.

Our North Dakota clubs offer a very full slate of shooting events in 2008. I hope you will take time to plan your participation by reviewing the event schedule on page 5. Again, the clubs that sponsor these events don't do it for the money. They and the match directors put their time and effort into running these matches to benefit the shooters. So, grab your guns and ammo and head out to these matches, and enjoy yourself. Your participation and enjoyment are really the payment that the clubs and match directors need in order to continue their efforts. Remember how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to take part in the shooting sports here in North Dakota. There is a great article in the latest edition of USA Shooting's Newsletter about the volunteers who make the shooting sports what they are today.

Remember to exercise your privilege to participate in the shooting sports. Failure to exercise a privilege often results in its loss.

I also remind you again that if you have an article you would like to share with our membership, you should email it to me ASAP. I appreciate all of your help, and your input does a lot to make this newsletter informative and worthwhile. I look forward to printing some thoughts from our new/old President Eric Pueppke here in our next issue. Eric has been rather busy running around with Steve teaching pistol coaching schools and will be heading out to Colorado Springs for the Junior Olympic National Championships shortly.

I hope that you will take note of our association's new directors and officers shown on the right side of this page. They have all made a substantial commitment to support and improve the shooting sports in North Dakota and I look forward to working with them to the continued benefit of North Dakota's competitive and recreational shooters. Ours 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 a 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.

Latest shooting results from Grand Forks-Bill Coulter Range 4-P Open State & Sectional Smallbore matches:

Sectional Champion – Matt Martin with a <u>792</u> State Champion – Dale Clemens with an <u>1187</u>

4 new NRA National Records: old records in ()

Sub Junior Standing – Soren Butler – <u>199</u> (195) Sub Jr. 2 person team–Soren & Codie Faught-<u>777</u> (764) Inter. Jr. - The 2 person team-Matt Pueppke & Brandon Godbout fired a 787 to break the old record of (782) Inter. Jr. - The 4 person team of Brandon, Codie, Matt, & Soren fired a <u>1564</u> to break the old record of (1557).

What a great way to close out the indoor season with 30 shooters in 2 matches over 3 days & great results.

NDSSA Officers and Chair people

Web site http://www.ndssa.org

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The Target

The 1911 Corner

"What makes a match pistol"?

Pistol shooters vary a lot in their understanding of what makes a match pistol. Some want to know in considerable detail what is being done to their 1911, and on the other end of the spectrum some could care less except that it has to be very accurate and dependable. So, this edition will probably be of interest to some of you, but I suspect that others could care less. However, I think it is important that pistol shooters know what has been done to their 1911's to make them "match grade". Information is knowledge here and knowing what has been done to the pistol can't do anything but help the owner take better care of it and appreciate the extra work and money that has gone into making it "match grade". So for this edition, I will do an introduction to this topic and get very specific on what is done to the 1911 in the next edition.

A competitive shooter needs a gun that is accurate. It used to be that the only way to get that accuracy was to have a pistolsmith accurize it. Generally and fortunately some manufacturers are doing a better job today of making a 1911 accurate and dependable. There are even some companies making "match grade" 1911's that are good. On the other hand, some companies that are marketing their 1911s as "custom" or "match" guns are not so good. I am reminded of a true story from the old days as John Hoflen tells of the guardsman who was a National Match pistol armorer for the NDARNG prior to my tenure in that position. He was going to take a short cut and purchase a Gold Cup, so he wouldn't have to accurize a 1911 to get a match grade gun. On the ransom rest this Gold Cup, new out of the box, would just barely hold a group on the paper target and didn't even come close to holding the group inside the scoring rings. Of course, it was even further from holding its entire group of shots inside the10 ring, which is what we need. The punch line of this true story is how angry this fellow became when John pointed out how loose the slide and barrel was in this Gold Cup and how it could not possibly be accurate. Even though 1911's are generally better today, except for the reputable manufacturer who indeed does make quality match grade guns, unfortunately most still need to be accurized to be accurate and dependable. Production guns are made from standard parts that will fit into the gun with minimum (usually no) fitting and a goal to go bang when the trigger is pulled. This is probably good enough for the occasional shooter who just likes to hear the pistol's report and see that the bullet has hit somewhere. It is not too much unlike the person who shoots fireworks on the 4th, as they both like the bang. We, as precision shooters, are in the minority here and so we need to get this gun reworked or purchase a true match gun from a reputable manufacturer to get the accuracy and dependability we need.

I have mentioned the word "dependability" a couple of times already and by that we mean that the 1911 will function or will not malfunction. There are many things that go into making a gun dependable besides the gun. How the gun is held, lubricated, cleaned and the quality of ammo fired in it are all factors here. One master bullseye pistol shooter from ND told me that he put 40,000 rounds through his match 1911 with only one malfunction and that was the fault of the ammo because somehow he had failed to do an adequate taper crimp on the one round that caused the malfunction. Now, that is dependability!! Next question, of course, is how accurate does a 1911 have to be or what is an accurate 1911 for the bullseye shooter. In the national match pistol armorers school we were taught that a wad gun had to produce a group 3" or smaller and a hard ball gun had to be 4" or smaller at 50 yards from a ransom rest. Today's standards have to be better, and with the better barrels and better ways of doing things, these figures are now cut in half, I believe. I expect to learn even more about this as I use my new ransom rest this coming summer.

From notes taken during the days of national match pistol armorer's school, I developed a 3 page checklist of jobs to make a match grade gun. These 3 pages do not include the barrel fitting as I use the booklet from Fred Kart to do that. I plan to tell what is done here, and not necessarily how I do this, not because it is a secret or I don't want you to know but because it would take up all the room in the next several issues if I did, and Rick would probably forbid me to write any more. (Not much chance of that. Ed.)

The job starts out with measuring the rails of the slide to determine if there is enough thickness because it is only practical to bend the frame rails so far, when fitting the slide to the frame. In the past year I have seen 2 guns that have not met the minimum rail spec. This situation is rare as most slides meet the minimum spec. So, before committing to making a match gun, I measure the slide rails with a little micrometer type tool that costs just short of \$200. If there is not enough thickness, then the customer has to get another gun before we can proceed.

Well, there you go. I've rambled on, used up a bunch of space and still haven't told you a thing about the changes in the gun that make it match grade. Still, I hope this introduction has answered and explained some of the "whys" that you may have been wondering about. In order to prepare you for the next edition, be warned, that it won't be pretty!! Your 1911's slide will be squeezed in the vice and I will hammer on the frame rails. It is almost enough to make you cry, when you think about what you paid for this gun. What will make you cry for sure is to learn what the pistolsmith will charge you for this abuse to your 1911! But like the pain of child birth or any other number of things in life, it has to suffer before getting better.

Here is wishing you only 10s & Xs and if I can be of any help with your 1911, please call me at 258-2360 or e-mail at snmmay@bis.midco.net.

Hall of Fame Nominations should be presented to our Association's Board in writing with the basic credentials (shooting accomplishments and service to the shooting sports) of the nominee included for the Board's consideration no later than August 31, 2008.

Nominations should be made by affiliated clubs or by individual members of our Association. Every nominee will be recognized at our Association's annual meeting. Merely being nominated is a great honor. If a nominee is not voted to the Hall by the board the first time his/her nomination is presented, they may simply have to be nominated again in another year when their accomplishments have grown to the point where they have met the criteria under which the board must judge them.

It is not too early to submit a nomination for the board to consider in 2008.

2008 NRA OPEN 3-POSITION SMALLBORE

& AIR RIFLE INTERNATIONAL SECTIONAL MATCHES JANUARY 11, 12 and 13, 2008

The 2008 indoor season kicked off with the NRA Sectional matches fired at the old Memorial Building in Bismarck, and our shooters came ready to shoot some great scores. This match has turned into a nice event over the years. This is always a good tune-up match for the Junior Olympic Shooting Championship (JOSC) matches held later in January in Minot.

This year's 3-position sectional champion was Soren Butler from Casselton. Soren fired an 1142 over the 1200 point course for the win. Soren's kneeling score of <u>385/400</u> was a **new state record**. However, Soren's aggregate score of <u>1142/1200</u> set a **new NRA National Record** for his age group (NRA Sub-Junior). In addition, Soren's offhand score of <u>370/400</u> equaled the **NRA National Record** for a Sub-Junior. Matthew Pueppke (Amenia) fired an 1135/1200 to win the silver medal including a <u>378/400</u> in the standing portion of the 3P match. This standing score was also a **new state record**. Jennifer Garbina (Bismarck) fired an 1106/1200 to win the Sharpshooter class and Codie Faught (Amenia) fired a 1060/1200 to win the Marksman class.

Soren also took the gold medal in the Air Rifle Sectional match firing a 574 over the 600 point course. Matthew Pueppke was the silver medallist with a 570 and Kelsey Hansen (Minot) fired a 560 for the bronze medal. First place in the Expert class was Brandon Godbout (Casselton) firing a 558 and first in the Marksman class was Tina Thompson (Bismarck) firing a 549 and a personal best score. Second place in the Marksman class was Ethan Headrick with a 538.

The Dakota Sharpshooters of Matthew, Soren and Brandon won the Air Rifle team event firing a 1702 (possible 1800). The Sharpshooters of Matthew, Soren, Brandon and Codie also won the Smallbore team event firing a 4438 (possible 4800).

This year we had 18 shooters in the Air Rifle Sectional match with 12 shooters firing scores above 500. Last year 57 percent of the shooters fired scores about 500, this year we had 67 percent of the shooters firing scores above 500. We continue to see overall improvement in the air rifle and the smallbore games. We're not a big state – but we continue to have some outstanding scores fired by our shooters.

Tom Thompson

For Sale Our Association still has a few used M-14 parts for sale on a first come first served basis:

M-14 Magazines --- \$35.00 and M-14 Barrels --- \$80.00

Please contact High Power Rifle Chairman Denny Coulter to arrange purchase.

North Dakota State Air Rifle, NRA Junior Sectional

& USA Shooting Jr. Olympic Results

The Lake Region Shooting Sports Association hosted the North Dakota State Air Rifle Championship and the North Dakota portion of the National Junior Sectional Air Rifle Championship in Devils Lake, ND over March 1 & 2.

The State Air Rifle Championship is a competition open to adult and junior competitors who shoot side by side firing a total of 60 record shots for a possible score of 600. Our 2008 North Dakota State Champion is Matthew Pueppke, age 16, of Amenia, ND. He tied the North Dakota State record with his aggregate of 585/600. He also set a **new North Dakota State record** for the highest score on a single 10 shot target during the match by firing ten 10s in a row for a perfect 100.

Matt's closest challenger was Kelsey Hansen, age 15, of Minot, ND who ended the match with a score of 582/600 for second place. Soren Butler, age 13, of Casselton, ND captured 3rd place in the State Championship with a 577/600. As you see, the match was dominated by the junior shooters. Our best adult finish was fifth place by Tom Thompson of Bismarck, ND with a score of 554/600.

The Junior Sectional is fired by junior shooters under the age of 20. This match is a 40 shot match with a possible score of 400. Soren Butler fired a 385/400 to win the Gold medal. Matthew Pueppke followed for the Silver medal with a 382/400 and Brandon Godbout, age 14, of Casselton fired a 378/400 for the Bronze medal. Each State's sectional match results are then compiled nationally by the National Rifle Association to determine the overall top shooter in each of 3 age groups and an overall National champion.

In January, many of these same young air rifle shooters competed in the North Dakota Junior Olympic State Air Rifle Championship. This was a selection match sponsored by USA Shooting, the national governing body for the United States Olympic Shooting Team. Matt, Soren, Kelsey and Dacotah Faught, age 13 of Amenia, ND all fired qualifying scores in that selection match and have received invitations to represent North Dakota at the Junior Olympic National Air Rifle and Smallbore Rifle Championships held in Colorado Springs, CO at the Olympic Training Center in early April 2008. Congratulations and good luck to all 4 of them.

Rick Jorgenson

Dakota Marksmanship Foundation, Inc. P O Box 518 Bismarck, ND 58502-0518 Solo 501 © 3 Public Charity 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 Foundations 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

age 5		The Target		Iay, June 2008	
	Spring and Summer S 2008 North Dakota Shooting				
Date	Event	Location	Contact	Phone	
Apr 5, 6	Light Rifle State Championship	Bottineau	Gary Siverston	701-243-6413	
Apr 12	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle - Clinic	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008	
Apr 19	Light Rifle Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008	
Apr 20	Bullseye Pistol	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225	
Apr 26	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454	
May 2	Highpower Clinic – issue NDSSA Rifles	Bismarck	Tom Thompson	701-255-4601	
May 3, 4	(Sat)Lng Range -(Sun) H P X-course	Bismarck	Leon Nesja	701-663-8818	
May 10	Bullseye Pistol	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225	
May 17	Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette	Bismarck	Ken Heier	701-255-0675	
May 18	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454	
May 18	IHMSA	Williston	Ray Utter	701-770-0546	
May 31, Jun 1	ND State Outdoor Smallbore Prone	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959	
Jun 7	Blackpowder Cartridge Midrange Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008	
Jun 7	Cowboy Lever Action & Military Rifle Sil.	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626	
Jun 8	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454	
Jun 8	IHMSA	Williston	Ray Utter	701-770-0546	
Jun 14, 15	Palma (Sat), Highpower X-Course (Sun)	Bismarck	Leon Nesja	701-663-8818	
Jun 21	Garand Match	Grand Forks	Tom Reiten	701-775-0008	
Jun 21	Silhouette Rifle Match	Bismarck	Tim Frank	701-663-3856	
Jun 22	X-Course Highpower Practice	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959	
Jun 22	Pistol Regional w/Leg	Bismarck	Kevin Hertz	701-223-4225	
Jun 28, 29	Highpower Regional w/Leg, Team	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959	
Jun 28	Cowboy Action	Bismarck	Vern Hoggarth	701-663-2454	
Jul 6	Cowboy Lever Action & Military Rifle Sil.	Bismarck	Dave Tokach	701-663-8626	
Jul 12	Silhouette Rifle Match	Bismarck	Tim Frank	701-663-3856	
Jul 13	IHMSA	Williston	Ray Utter	701-770-0546	
Jul 13,14	Highpower, twice X-course & Garand	Rolla	Andy Johnson	701-477-6687	
Jul 19, 20	ND Highpower State w/Leg & Team	Grand Forks	Denny Coulter	701-746-6959	
Jul 27	ND Outdr Pistol State Championship	Valley City	Bill Brackin	701-282-7158	
	North Dakota Shoot P O Box 228, BISM	ARCK ND 58502-(eb: <u>http://www.ndssa</u> to join the NDSSA a ship as noted are er)228 . <u>org</u> and support the legislat	ive efforts of the NI	
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Membership Dues Schedule-(Effective July 1, 2006) Life\$200.00 One Year\$15.00 Clubs One Yr\$15.00				e Silhouette ol Silhouette	

Hunter Safety

(July 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

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

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2008 NORTH DAKOTA JUNIOR 4-POSITION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

&

2008 NRA JUNIOR 4-POSITION SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2008 junior indoor Smallbore rifle season wrapped up on the weekend of March 8 and 9 and it has been one heck of a junior indoor season. Swimming with the Sharks – that's kinda what it's been like this season. If someone slips up they get eaten alive – and there's plenty of hungry sharks out there. Many times over the years there have been 1 or 2 dominant shooters who go home with just about everything. However, this year there are several excellent shooters and anyone of them can post a great score at a match - and if you slip up – you're shark bait, plain and simple. This level of competition has a great benefit as it pushes everyone. As a result everyone is posting higher scores. You had better bring your A-Game to junior matches in North Dakota this indoor season and I expect this level of competition will continue next year.

We had 30 competitors fire the Junior 4P State Championship and 30 competitors fire the NRA Junior 4P Sectional match. Brandon Godbout (Casselton) is our 2008 North Dakota Junior 4-Position State Champion. Brandon fired an excellent score of 394-28x (400 possible) in the state match out "x-ing" Matthew Pueppke (Amenia) who fired a 394-25x. Loren Vogt (Grand Forks) took the junior class with a 389-19x. Matthew won the Intermediate Junior class with his 394-25x and Kelsey Hansen (Minot) fired 389-26x for second place in the IJ class. The Sub-Juniors were lead by Soren Butler (Casselton) firing 386-19x, second was Codie Faught (Amenia) with a 383-17x and third was Joe Martin (Emerado) with a 366-11x. The Junior State Championship team was the Buffalo Sharpshooters, Matthew, Soren, Brandon, and Codie with a score of 1557-89x.

Jennifer Garbina and Brandon Godbout also fired perfect 100-10x's in the prone phase of the state championship which equals the current state record now held by several individuals.

The sectional match was fired on Sunday. Jennifer Garbina (Bismarck) took the gold medal in the sectional firing a 389-21x. Codie Faught followed that score with a 388-24x for the silver and Soren Butler fired a 387-20x for the bronze medal. First Junior was Loren Vogt with a 384-18x. First Intermediate Junior was Matt Pueppke with a 386-19x, second IJ was Brandon Godbout with a 385-20x and third IJ was Kelsey Hansen with a 381-13x. Luke Preszler (Bismarck) lead the Sub-Juniors with a 374-13x, second went to Joe Martin with a 368-10x and third was Rachel Thompson (Grand Forks) with a 315-1x.

The Buffalo Sharpshooters took the Team match with a 1546-83x. First Junior Team was the Bismarck/Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association Gold (Jennifer, Luke, Ethan Headrick, and Andrew Wiseman) with a 1499-61x. First Intermediate Junior Team was the Forks Bullseye Babes (Madi Alme, Becky Martin, Becca Thompson and Rachel Thompson) firing a 1328-19x.

Needless to say, scores were tight in the sectional match. After scores of 389, 388 and 387 for gold, silver and bronze, the followed scores were 386, 385, 384 and a 381.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2008 Junior 4-Position State and Sectional Matches. It was great to see the number of shooters, and it was really great to see the number of young shooters at the match. Steve Martin brought a whole bus load from Grand Forks and Emerado. I've been running matches since 1993 and this is most competitors I've seen in the last 15 years of running these matches. A big thanks goes out to the competitors, coaches and parents involved in the shooting sports. Finally, thanks to the volunteers that helped out running the line, and setting and scoring targets during the match including Brendan Headrick, Earl and Bernice Garbina (lots of FOOD), Tina Thompson, and Char Pueppke for the cookies.

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