

# ON THE MARK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR SHOOTERS © FALL 2019



## FASTER THAN A SPEEDING PELLET

TARGET SPRINT TESTS ENDURANCE DURING DIXIE DOUBLE AIR GUN EVENT

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- New Athlete's Days on the Range From Gary Anderson



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## ON THE MARK

<http://thecmp.org/communications/on-the-mark/>

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**ON THE MARK** is published quarterly by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. It is dedicated to disseminating news and information about junior shooting activities to leaders and coaches of junior shooting clubs, teams and camps. Its primary purpose is to help youth shooting leaders teach firearms safety and marksmanship more effectively.

**Subscriptions:** One free **ON THE MARK** subscription is provided to each junior club that is affiliated with the CMP, JROTC unit with a marksmanship program and 4-H Shooting Sports Club. Individual subscriptions to **ON THE MARK** are available at \$8.00 per year. To subscribe to **ON THE MARK**, contact: 419-635-2141, ext. 724 or email [onthemark@TheCMP.org](mailto:onthemark@TheCMP.org).

**Back Issues of OTM:** To view back issues of **ON THE MARK**, log onto <http://thecmp.org/communications/on-the-mark/>. Address Changes: To submit address changes or corrections, contact: 419-635-2141, ext. 724 or email [onthemark@TheCMP.org](mailto:onthemark@TheCMP.org).

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**ON THE MARK Wants Your Input:** We want your correspondence and opinions. **ON THE MARK** will dedicate space to publish letters from readers. Though we may not be able to publish them all, we will make every effort to provide comments that will be beneficial to the broadest audience. If there is a story you feel we should cover, notify us. Send your comments or questions to: Letters to the Editor, CMP Headquarters, P.O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452 or email your letters or comments to [abrugnone@TheCMP.org](mailto:abrugnone@TheCMP.org).

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The **Civilian Marksmanship Program** is a non-profit organization chartered by the U. S. Congress to promote marksmanship training and firearm safety, with a primary emphasis on youth. The CMP is authorized to receive and sell surplus government rifles and ammunition that are suitable for marksmanship. Proceeds from these sales are dedicated to CMP programs. CMP enabling legislation requires that its highest priority must be given to "activities that benefit firearms safety, training and competition for youth." **ON THE MARK** is a vital part of CMP efforts to fulfill its mission to serve and develop junior shooting in the United States.

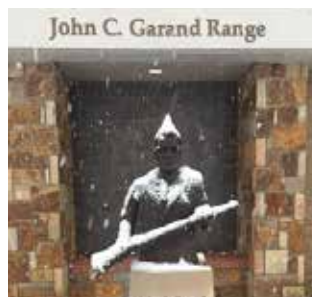
Information about the CMP may be viewed on the CMP web site, [www.thecmp.org](http://www.thecmp.org) or on the CMP online newsletter, **The First Shot**, at <http://thecmp.org/communications/the-first-shot/>.

## © Sighting Shots ©

- © **Western CMP Cup & CMP Games Matches, March 13-22.** The 2020 Western CMP Cup & CMP Games Matches is set to fire in its new spring time slot, March 13-22. The rifle-only event features modern and vintage firearm competitions, along with learning opportunities like the Small Arms Firing School (SAFS). The events are open to both new and experienced competitors. For more information, visit <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-travel-games/western-games/>.
- © **Marksmanship Nights at CMP Competition Centers.** Shooters, including aspiring new shooters, who visit or live in the Camp Perry, Port Clinton, Ohio area or Anniston, Alabama area are invited to take advantage of the opportunity to do practice shooting at the Competition Center air gun ranges. Both 80-point, 10-meter air gun range are fully equipped with optical target scoring systems that accommodate air rifle, air pistol or National Match Air Rifle shooting. For more information, please visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-centers/open-public-shooting/>.



- © **Winter Events at Talladega Marksmanship Park.** Although the weather is cooling down, the happenings don't slow down at CMP's own marksmanship facility in Alabama. The park will be open to the public Wednesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility offers pistol, rifle and shotgun opportunities all year long, including monthly competitions and educational events. Find all of the park information on the CMP web page at <http://thecmp.org/competitions/talladega-marksmanship-park/>.



- © **Remembering a hero: Joshua Kaleb Watson.** The tragedy at the Pensacola Naval Air Station on Dec. 6 claimed the life of Joshua Kaleb Watson, 23, a recent graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and former captain of the Navy Rifle Team. He was also a small arms instructor and a wrestling coach. Though wounded heavily during the shooting in Pensacola, he still found the strength within him to reach first responders in order to give them an accurate description of the shooter, which, they say, helped to save countless lives. Watson later succumbed to his injuries. A former CMP competitor as a junior, our deepest condolences go out to his loved ones as they cope with the loss of this remarkable human being.



**On the Cover: Tymaris Odoms achieved the fastest time during the Target Sprint event at the 2019 Dixie Double Match in Anniston, Ala.**



# Garand Collectors Association Offers Additional Scholarship Funds to CMP Youth Athletes

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

Each year, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), an organization dedicated to its commitment to youth programs, offers \$1,000, one-year scholarships based on merit and rifle or pistol marksmanship participation to current high school seniors.

Since 2005, CMP has awarded over \$1 million in scholarship prizes. Through these scholarships, the CMP is able to uphold one of its missions of awarding those who present exceptional talent, motivation and determination within the field of marksmanship by furthering the education of the successful young adults involved within it.

Along with the \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the CMP, the Garand Collectors Association (GCA) has generously donated \$10,000 to the CMP to be used for additional student-athlete scholarship earnings. The Top 10 recipients, determined by CMP staff and board members, will receive an extra \$1,000 toward their furthered education.

“Through strong and steady membership growth, along with good financial stewardship, the GCA has been able to assist several organizations over the years fulfill their missions,” said Andrew Hall, GCA vice-president. “We are proud of our existing relationship with the CMP.”

The mission of the GCA is: To exchange information and expand knowledge of the U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1; to preserve and publicize the history of the rifle and its inventor John C. Garand; to assist and encourage new collectors; to assist authors in writing new reference works; to assist members in their collecting; and to encourage competitive and recreational safe shooting of the rifle.

“We at the GCA always refer to our mission statement when conducting GCA business, and this is no exception,” Hall continued.

“[This scholarship donation] is a little outside of the normal boundary of our mission statement. That said, we as an organization recognize that to continue our mission, younger people must become aware of our efforts,” he said.

At a recent GCA Board meeting, Hall and his associates discussed at length areas where they could emphasize youth participation.

“It seemed that a natural fit would be to focus on youth that already are in the competitive shooting world.”

The GCA has long encouraged the competitive and safe shooting of the M1 rifle and has worked closely with the CMP – even participating in the naming of the John C. Garand 600-yard range at the CMP’s Talladega Marksmanship Park.



“In that our relationship with the CMP has been healthy over many years, we saw an opportunity to help in another way,” Hall said. “We are excited at the opportunity to provide funding to deserving student/athletes with the knowledge that the legacy of the creative, unselfish and patriotic immigrant turned American, John C. Garand, will continue.”

Application forms and other CMP Scholarship information can be found by visiting <http://thecmp.org/communications/cmp-scholarship-program/>. For specific questions, please contact Kathy Williams at 419-635-2141, ext. 709 or email [kwilliams@thecmp.org](mailto:kwilliams@thecmp.org).

About the GCA: Since its beginnings in 1986, the GCA and its members have worked diligently to expand knowledge on the M1 Garand, preserve its history and to encourage and assist others in collecting the historical rifle. The GCA has also worked closely with the CMP since 2000 on sorting/grading M1 Garand rifles and encouraging competitive and recreational firearm safety.



# Demerle Reclaims Overall Title at 2019 Gary Anderson Invitational Air Rifle Event

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



*The Gary Anderson Invitational is a 3x20 air rifle event for scholastic and club junior teams, held in both Ohio and Alabama.*

CAMP PERRY, Ohio; ANNISTON, Ala. – For the second consecutive year, Katrina Demerle, 15, of Hamilton, OH, was the overall winner of the precision class during the 2019 Gary Anderson Invitational (GAI) air rifle event. Demerle claimed the win with an aggregate score of 689.6.

The match was conducted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) over the weekend of Dec. 7-8, 2019. Nearly 300 junior athletes from around the country traveled north or south to the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Ohio and the CMP South Competition Center in Anniston, Ala to compete. The 3x20 aggregate air rifle event allows competitors to go “shoulder-to-shoulder,” even while miles apart, by combining scores from both locations to determine overall winners.

Following Demerle in second place in the sporter class was Brianne Staton, 17, of Deatsville, AL, with a score of

686.2, while Angus Babcock, 16, of Lithia Springs, GA, took the third place spot with a score of 685.0.

In sporter, Zion Benton High School athletes overtook the first three places, with Jeremiah Vonzell, 17, firing a score of 640.8 for first overall. Teammates Alexia Resendiz, 17, trailed just one point behind, with a score of 639.8 for second, as Halie Creekmore, 16, recorded a score of 635.8 for third.

A team competition was held concurrently during the event, combining the individual scores of a four-person team. Overall top precision and sporter teams receive \$500 checks, second place teams receive \$300 and third place teams receive \$200. Additionally, teams were ranked as either Scholastic or Club, based on affiliation.

With members earning the Top 3 places in the individual sporter class, Zion Benton High School from Illinois led



overall in the sporter team competition by nearly 40 points, with a score of 2180-69x. Firing members were Jeremiah Vonzell, Alexia Resendiz, Halie Creekmore and Donovan Reno. The team is coached by Master Chief Dan Hackstein. Zion Benton was also the High Scholastic team of the match.

Ozark High School in Missouri landed in second, and Cross Creek High School in Georgia took third. Pierce Red of Georgia was the High Club team.

Northside High School in Georgia claimed the overall win in the precision class team event with a score of 2305-127x. Team members were Jacob Day, Kaya Smith, Elijah Hawkins and Josephine Daggerhart. The team is coached by Luis Hernandez.

Only three points behind was East Coweta High School in Georgia in second place, as Shelby County Shooting Sports Association 4-H in Alabama earned third overall. Northside was the High Club team, and East Coweta took home the High Scholastic title.

For a complete list of results, visit <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&match=18732&tab=results>.

Photos can be found on the CMP Zenfolio page at <https://cmp1.zenfolio.com/f570598079>.

#### **About the Gary Anderson Invitational:**

The Gary Anderson Invitational is a three-position air rifle tournament that follows the 3x20 course of fire. Each shooter fires 20 record shots from prone, standing and kneeling positions, with the Top 8 shooters advancing to the final. Winners are determined from overall scores comprised from competitors at the CMP Gary Anderson Competition Center located at Camp Perry and CMP South competitors in Anniston (3x20 plus Final scores). Schools, junior clubs and individuals are welcome to participate in the annual competition.

#### **About Gary Anderson:**

Mr. Anderson is a two-time Olympic gold medalist and also holds seven world championships, six world records and 16 national championships. He has won more Olympic and world championship three-position titles than any other American in history. In 1999,



*The 3x20 event requires athletes to fire from standing, prone and kneeling positions.*

Anderson began a 10-year reign as Director of Civilian Marksmanship and retired in December 2009.

Today, Anderson serves as DCM Emeritus and remains a mentor for new and experienced, old and young shooters around the country through his articles and classes. Anderson's advice is regularly featured in CMP's junior magazine, *On The Mark*, and throughout the year during the clinics he leads at CMP events. In 2014, the CMP North Competition Center was renamed the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center, in honor of his years of dedication to the sport.



*Sporter and precision class competitions are fired during the GAI event.*

## A New Athlete's First Days

# A New Athlete's First Days on a Shooting Range

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus



*No junior shooting program has the resources to produce a huge painted mural like this one depicting the iconic Taj Mahal on the downrange wall of a finals range in New Delhi, India. Nevertheless, this massive work of shooting range art can inspire junior shooting programs to produce modest artistic displays on their shooting ranges. The messages shooting range art conveys to youth and their parents should be obvious.*

The first days a young person who wants to learn how to shoot spends on a shooting range will have a decisive impact on their future in the sport of shooting, whether they progress to become successful competitive shooters, lifelong shooting sports participants or citizens who look back at their junior shooting experiences with fond and positive memories. This ***On the Mark*** article examines what those first impressions and lessons should be. There are lessons on gun safety, safe range firing procedures and how to clear, load and unload rifles or pistols that youth must be taught before firing can begin. There are other lessons that are taught in indirect ways through the range environment and the words and actions of coaches and adult leaders. These include learning how shooting is a sport, how the program is committed to protecting junior athletes' safety and health and how the program will help them achieve excellence while respecting the bounds of ethics and fair play.

This article is especially oriented to the development of new coaches, adult leaders and junior programs. Information in this article should be part of their training. The topics in this article can also be used by any junior shooting program to evaluate their instruction, range firing and competition activities to be sure their youth are having safe, enjoyable and healthy experiences.

## The Shooting Range Environment

The first impressions new shooters and their parents have regarding the sport of shooting are likely to be visual and aural. If the shooting range is well-lighted and clean, its furniture and equipment are neatly arranged and its walls display attractive messages or images of target shooting, those first impressions will be positive and encourage further active participation. What new youth and their parents hear on a range will also be decisive. If the coach and range officers speak in calm, respectful terms and if the youth who are there speak with voices that show how they are enjoying themselves, that too will be a positive motivator.

There are several steps junior programs and leaders can take to ensure that the first and lasting impressions of young participants on shooting ranges are positive:

- Keep the shooting range clean, orderly and painted in warm colors.
- Make sure the instructional area, firing line and targets are all well lighted.
- Find instructional posters or photos to place on the walls. All images should portray shooting as a sport.
- Display images of shooting heroes to inspire athletes to strive for excellence.
- Have a firm policy that expects coaches and adult leaders to speak firmly and respectfully to youth, and never to yell or use abusive language.



## Shooting is a Sport

One of the first lessons to convey and continually reaffirm is that young shooters are participating in a sport. Help them understand how target shooting is a sport in the same way soccer, basketball, swimming and gymnastics are sports. The modern marksmanship sports, shooting, biathlon and modern pentathlon, have histories that go back to the training of warriors and soldiers, but today they are sports and are no longer about military, police, hunting or self-protection training.

It may be helpful to explain how so many modern sports originated as life protection or martial activities, but today have become pure sports. Archery, fencing and throwing the javelin in athletics are obvious examples. Wrestling, boxing and taekwondo began as forms of hand-to-hand combat. Equestrian activities once figured prominently in military training. Gymnastics and weightlifting were practiced to better prepare soldiers for the rigors of war.

Participants must be taught to think of themselves as athletes in a sport and of their rifles and pistols as sports equipment. The vocabulary used by coaches and adult leaders is critical in teaching this. The term “weapons” should not be used; rifles and pistols used in target shooting should be described as sports equipment in the same way that a skier’s skis are sports equipment. Another key word is to call participants in the sport of shooting “athletes,” just as participants in youth soccer, volleyball and baseball are called athletes.

Learning about the fascinating history of target marksmanship can become a source of pride for juniors. A starting point for sharing this heritage with youth could be an **On the Mark** article (Winter 2016) titled the “*History of Marksmanship*.”<sup>1</sup> Coaches who are aware of this 3,500 year history will know how humankind’s marksmanship purposes have changed from enhancing combat effectiveness and civic protection to producing higher scores in sports contests while focusing competitive energies against inanimate targets, never against opponents. In this sense, target shooting is a sport that teaches non-violence.



The three key components in the sport of shooting are the athlete, a rifle, pistol or shotgun (sports equipment) and a target. In shooting, an athlete’s competitive energies are directed against the target, never directly against an opponent.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCORING RIFLE SPORTER TARGETS**

**TARGET SCORING INTEGRITY:**  
Anyone who acts as a target scorer is serving as a match official. Scorers are responsible for accurately and impartially scoring all shots on the targets they score.

**SCORING IN PAIRS:** A convenient method of scoring is for competitors to score in pairs. In this method, competitors on odd and even numbered firing points exchange conventional (O, S, B, C, 10, X, and) and score for each other. If family members or close friends are present, they may assist in the scoring process.

**SCORING:**  
1. Check if they are in  
2. Count 1 score then only the 10 EXTRA  
3. Score a score of 10 on and above  
4. Score a score of 10 on and above  
5. If a shot is above 10 on and above  
6. If you are 10 on and above  
7. After an stage and 10 on and above  
8. After an stage and 10 on and above

**HOW TO BUILD A STABLE PRONE POSITION**

**STEP 1:** Place the shooting mat or ground cloth on a 20-30 degree angle to the firing line. Kneel on the mat, put the rifle on the mat and prepare to lie down. Be sure the sling is extended so it will be too long at first.

**STEP 2:** Lie down on the mat. Extend the left elbow to support the rifle and upper body. Imagine a straight line from the left hand down the left side of the body to the left foot. Place the left elbow under that "spine."

**STEP 3:** Place the butt plate in the shoulder as looking through the sights in coordination. Adjust the height of the rifle by moving the left hand forward or backward until the sights are at target level. Keep the sling loose during this step.

**STEP 4:** With the sights at target level tighten the loose sling until it is tight enough to fully support the weight of the rifle. Then rotate the body over the left elbow (pivot point) until the sights point naturally at the correct target.

**HOW TO BUILD A GREAT STANDING POSITION**

**STANDING Position Key:**  
1. 90 degree body turn  
2. Left elbow directly under the rifle  
3. Erect, coordinated head position  
4. Hand- wrist configuration allows rifle to target  
5. Position is relaxed and balanced over both feet

**STEPS TO BUILDING A GREAT STANDING POSITION:**  
Step 1 - Take your position on the firing line with your rifle. TURN YOUR BODY 90 DEGREES AWAY FROM THE TARGET. Your left side and hip should point towards the target.  
Step 2 - Lean back slightly as you shoulder the rifle. Place the butt plate high enough in your shoulder to give you a reasonably erect head position. Keep your wrist straight as you hold the rifle.  
Step 3 - Support the rifle with your left arm resting on your left side or hip. Let the left arm relax onto your side WITH THE LEFT ELBOW DIRECTLY UNDER THE RIFLE.  
Step 4 - Relax as you hold the rifle. If the sights point above or below the target, change your hand-wrist configuration to a lower (a below) or higher (b or c) hand position.

**HOW TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE SITTING POSITION**

There are two good sitting positions: crouch-legged and cross-legged. The best choice for each shooter depends on their body proportions. Shooters with proportionally longer arms and/or longer torso are best suited for the cross-legged position. Shooters with proportionally shorter arms and longer torso are best suited for the crouch-legged position. Keep shoulders ahead of crossed-leg position.

**Building a Cross-Legged Sitting Position:**  
1. Sit on the mat and turn the body 45-60 degrees away from the target.  
2. Cross the left (support) leg over the right.  
3. Pick up the rifle and put the sling on-keep it long and loose just like you started in prone.  
4. Shoulder the rifle to be sure to keep it well up in the shoulder—place the elbows in the V formed by the knees.

**Sitting Position:**  
must get both elbows down  
A leg can still hold a steady  
crossing the left leg over the  
perfecting only the left elbow as  
the arm remains free just as  
in a kneeling position.

Placing instructional posters on shooting club or classroom walls helps to make a program’s training more effective.

<sup>1</sup>This OTM article can be downloaded at [http://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/OTM\\_History-of-Marksmanship\\_web.pdf](http://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/OTM_History-of-Marksmanship_web.pdf).

## A New Athlete's First Days

### FUNDAMENTAL GUN SAFETY RULES

*Whenever handling guns on or off the range, always apply these safety rules:*

- *Keep gun muzzles pointed in safe directions, never at another person.*
- *Keep gun actions open and unloaded until you are authorized to shoot.*
- *Keep your finger off of the trigger until starting to aim at your target.*

An early lesson that resonates with youth is learning that shooting is an Olympic sport. It is one of 28 sports on the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic program and is actually

members of their high school or JROTC rifle teams and hundreds who go on to shoot on college rifle teams.

one of the most popular Olympic sports. In the 2016 Olympics, shooting proved its popularity when the 15 shooting finals attracted an average worldwide television audience of 48.1 million viewers.<sup>2</sup>

Very few junior programs will ever have an athlete become an Olympian, but all young athletes in shooting can live the Olympic dream by practicing the Olympic values of "excellence, fair play and respect." Moreover, thousands of programs will have juniors compete as

### SAFETY FLAG USE IS MANDATORY



### Gun Safety Knowledge and Performance

Every junior shooting program must be prepared to present gun safety instruction before participants can begin shooting. It is not necessary to devote a lot of time to this instruction, but it is absolutely essential that these topics be taught and understood:<sup>3</sup>

- **Fundamental Gun Handling Rules.** The starting point for all marksmanship activities is making sure participants know and practice basic safety rules. Three fundamental, redundant rules focus on key features of every gun, the: 1) Muzzle, 2) Action and 3) Trigger. These rules are simple, but active supervision is required to help new athletes master the habits of always pointing gun muzzles in safe directions and keeping their fingers outside of trigger guards until starting to aim.

- **Safety Flags.** A safety flag is a device inserted in rifles or pistols to visibly confirm that guns are unloaded and cleared. Depending upon the type of gun being used, the safety flag may have a probe that inserts into empty chambers and a flag that protrudes from an open action or it may be a length

<sup>2</sup>Shooting's average worldwide viewership of 48.1 million ranked well above the average Olympic sport that had 40.9 viewers and compared favorably with the highest ranked sport that had an average of 62.4 million viewers.

<sup>3</sup>Many air rifle programs use a CMP publication entitled "A Junior Shooter's Guide to Air Rifle Safety" as a student text for teaching rifle safety and safe range procedures. Copies of this guide are available free from the CMP or copies may be downloaded at <http://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/JrSafetyGuidetoARSafety.pdf>.



continued...



of weed trimmer cord that protrudes from both the breech and muzzle when inserted in the bore. Rifles and pistols used on target ranges must have safety flags inserted in them at all times except when on a designated firing line during authorized dry or live firing.

• **Rifle and Pistol Terminology.** While teaching safe gun handling, range procedures and marksmanship techniques, it is necessary to use specific terms to describe parts of rifles or pistols. To be sure all youth understand terms being used, programs should obtain or create charts like the one illustrated above and post them on the range.

• **Parts of the Shooting Range.** Another set of terms that needs to be taught early are the parts of a shooting range and what their functions are. Key parts of target ranges are: 1) the assembly area or ready area, 2) firing line, 3) firing points, 4) targets and 5) backstop. The firing line has particular significance in ensuring range safety. It is a defined line at the front of the firing points that firers cannot touch or step in front of, except after the range is cleared, and the Range Officer authorizes downrange movement.

## HOW TO LOAD AN AIR GUN



To load an air rifle, place a pellet on the loading ramp and close the bolt



## A CLEARED GUN

1. Is **UNLOADED**
2. Has an empty or removed **MAGAZINE**
3. Has an open **BOLT** or **ACTION**
4. Has a **SAFETY FLAG** inserted
5. Has been **CHECKED** by a **Range Officer**

## A New Athlete's First Days

### STANDARD RANGE COMMANDS

- **TAKE YOUR POSITIONS**
- **YOUR PREPARATION PERIOD STARTS NOW**
- **YOUR PREPARATION PERIOD HAS ENDED**
- **LOAD**
- **IS THE LINE READY?**
- **START**
- **STOP**
- **CLEAR ALL RIFLES/PISTOLS**
- **IS THE LINE CLEAR?**
- **THE LINE IS CLEAR**

• **Safe Loading Procedures.** New athletes must learn two safety-critical procedures before they can do any live firing: 1) how to clear their rifle or pistol and 2) how to load and unload it. The word “cleared” is an especially important term in controlling range safety. Learning how to clear a gun starts with learning how to open and close the gun’s action. With that established, teaching how to load and unload the gun can proceed. Depending upon the gun being used, there are fixed steps to follow to properly load and unload it. Charts or instructional slides like the one on the previous page should be developed to provide instruction. Visually checking gun chambers (and magazines) is the standard way to make sure firearms are unloaded.

The only sure way to confirm that air rifles or air pistols are unloaded is to insert an air gun safety flag (clear barrel indicator).

• **Dry Firing.** Initial instruction must explain dry firing, namely that it is cocking the firing mechanism without loading a cartridge or pellet and going through the steps for firing a shot to simulate the firing of a shot. It is an especially effective method of practice. Good programs incorporate dry firing repetitions in most range firing exercises. Developing a positive attitude towards dry firing and its benefits is an invaluable early lesson for successful future shooters.

• **Range Safety Procedures.** Range safety procedures ensure the well-being of all competitors, Range Officers and spectators. This instruction can be brief, but it is necessary for everyone who fires on supervised ranges to know these key concepts:

- There is always someone in charge. This may be a Range Officer or Coach, but their instructions and commands must be followed. All actions on the range are controlled with standard commands given by Range Officers.
- Assemble in the ready area with equipment and move onto the firing line only when instructed to do so.
- After athletes are called to a firing line, there will be a pre-preparation period and a formal preparation period. Athletes may set up equipment and

take their firing positions during pre-preparation periods, but they may not remove safety flags. During preparation periods, they may finish their preparations, remove safety flags and dry fire. The lengths of these periods vary according to the stage of athletes’ instruction or competition rules.

- No gun may be loaded until the Range Officer has given the command **LOAD**. No one may fire a shot until the command **START**<sup>4</sup> is given.
- Firing periods in practice may or may not have time limits. Firing periods during competitions are governed by specific time limits defined in the rules.
- The command **STOP**<sup>5</sup> is given at the end of a firing period. The **STOP** command may also be given at any time in an emergency. This command must be strictly obeyed. It means take your finger off of the trigger and do not attempt to fire any more shots.
- After a **STOP** command, all rifles or pistol must be cleared and checked by a Range Officer. No gun may leave a firing line until it has been checked by a Range Officer.
- **Range Commands.** Range Officers must use “Standard Range Commands” to control range firing activities. Using established standard commands ensures that anyone who fires on a range will know how to respond, whether they are new juniors or experienced champions. The chart (above) identifies standard commands that must be explained during initial instruction.

<sup>4</sup>Some shooting disciplines use the command COMMENCE FIRING or TARGETS to authorize firing.

<sup>5</sup>Some shooting disciplines use the command CEASE FIRING to stop firing.



• **Safe Storage of Guns and Ammunition.** Policies for the safe storage of rifles or pistols and ammunition vary from one program to another. Safe storage begins when a firing activity finishes and guns that have just been fired are cleared and checked. Many programs require guns to arrive at the firing line and depart from it in gun cases. When guns reach the armory or home where they are stored, safety flags are normally removed, actions closed, and triggers released. Program policies must define whether this occurs when guns leave the firing line or when they reach the storage facility and how youth share in the responsibility for safe gun and ammunition storage.

### Instituting Program Values

Youth who participate in your program are participating in a youth sport where program leaders are responsible for fostering program values and priorities that make youth sports experiences safe, fun and healthy. This requires paying special attention to:

• **Participant Safety.** Junior programs must take all necessary steps to ensure that no injury-causing incidents involving the use of guns ever occur. Every youth shooting program must provide: 1) required safety instruction, 2) posted safety rules, 3) the mandatory use of safety flags, 4) the regular use of safety briefings and 5) Range Officers trained in safe range operations.<sup>6</sup>

• **Participant Health.** Primary health concerns in youth shooting involve the use of lead pellets in air gun events, exposure to loud sounds in firearm events and exposure to airborne lead in unventilated firearm ranges.

- Everyone who shoots air guns must be required to wash their hands after each range session.
- Indoor air gun and smallbore rifle and pistol shooting produces lead deposits in the range that must be controlled with a lead management and cleaning program.<sup>7</sup>
- Participants must always be required to wear hearing protection during smallbore and highpower rifle firing activities.



*Joy is also an important value to encourage in youth shooting. Here two junior competitors embrace each other to express their joy after finishing a 50m 3-position final in first and second places.*

- Participants must always be required to wear eye protection during highpower rifle firing.
- Indoor ranges where firearms are fired must have ventilation systems that prevent firers from breathing air that might have airborne lead.<sup>8</sup>
- **Commitment to Safe Sport.** “Safe Sport” is a national program where adult leaders are trained to prevent the emotional, physical or sexual abuse of youth and to facilitate the reporting of any abuses. U. S. Olympic sports governing bodies are being urged to offer Safe Sport training for their youth sport leaders.<sup>9</sup>
- **Worth of All Participants.** Junior programs must regard all youth who participate as persons of worth who are capable of learning to shoot. During initial instruction, there are some young athletes who struggle to even hit the target. This value holds that every youth is capable of learning to shoot and that it is the program’s responsibility to give instruction that will help them do that.

<sup>6</sup>Completing a CMP Range Officer Training Course is a good way to fulfill this requirement. Detailed information is available on the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-range-officer-program/>.

<sup>7</sup>The CMP/USA Shooting “Guide to Lead Management for Air Gun Shooting” prescribes a lead management program for air guns. It can be downloaded at <http://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/LeadMgtGuide.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup>Air gun firing does not generate airborne lead, so this ventilation requirement does not apply to indoor air gun ranges.

<sup>9</sup>Information on the Safe Sport program is available on the USA Shooting website at <https://www.usashooting.org/11-resources/safesport>.

## A New Athlete's First Days



*Youth also come to shooting ranges to have fun. The German Shooting Youth organization adopted a mascot named Shooty who attends shooting events and serves to remind youth it is OK for them to have fun in shooting.*

- **Ethics and Sportsmanship.** A duty of every junior shooting program is to instill the standards of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship in its participants as well as to reflect those values in the efforts of its adult leaders.<sup>10</sup>

- **Opportunity for All.** Healthy youth shooting programs teach how developing marksmanship skills has little to do with talent and almost everything to do with each athlete's work ethic, that is, how well and how much they practice. They also understand that shooting is a sport where boys and girls can compete on an equal basis and how size and strength are mostly irrelevant.

- **Marksmanship is a Skill.** Strong youth shooting programs reflect a sincere view that marksmanship is about learning shooting techniques and doing the necessary practice to master the skills required to repeatedly hit target centers. To them, marksmanship is more than safely launching bullets, it is also not about "firepower" or how loud the bang is. In this context, these programs understand how hitting target centers with air rifles or pistols requires just as much skill as it does to do this with smallbore or highpower rifles or pistols.

- **Teaching & Learning Life Skills.** One of the benefits of athlete-centered youth sports is that they are one of the most effective ways for youth to learn life skills that will benefit them in school and later in their family lives and careers. Youth shooting coaches must be alert for opportunities to instill in their juniors life skills such as concentration and attention skills, self-control, self-discipline, emotional control, goal setting, fair play, sportsmanship and the rewards of hard work.

### The First Range Firing Activities

A final set of checkpoints for introducing young boys and girls to the sport of shooting concerns how their first range firing activities are presented. There are several guideposts to observe:

- **Start Soon.** This article describes a long list of preliminary instructions that responsible programs must cover, but the good thing is that well prepared instructors can cover those topics in about an hour. Depending upon how long program sessions last, initial range firing should be done during a young athlete's first or second session. They joined your program to shoot, not to sit in classrooms.

- **Eye Dominance Checks.** Before going to the range for the first time, take a few minutes to do eye dominance checks. Make sure that any rifle athlete who identifies as cross dominant has a blinder on his/her rear sight or in a hat band.

- **Initial Shot Technique Instruction.** It will be necessary to explain shot technique basics like aligning the sights, acquiring the sight picture and exhaling and stopping breathing while applying smooth pressure on the trigger to fire a shot. That's as much as a new athlete can master; more complex instruction can come when they are ready for it.

- **Size Appropriate Rifles or Pistols.** Expecting an undersized youngster to struggle to hold up an adult sized rifle is an inducement for that youngster to want to find another sport. Successful junior shooting programs make special efforts to acquire size-appropriate rifles or pistols

<sup>10</sup>The author published a comprehensive article on "Ethics, Fair Play and Sportsmanship" in the Winter 2019 *On the Mark* that can serve as a guide for doing this. Copies can be downloaded at <http://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/Ethics-Fair-Play-and-Sportsmanship-in-Youth-Shooting.pdf>.



continued...

for new participants to use while they are learning and deciding whether they want to continue shooting.

• **Start in Supported Positions.** Young rifle athletes first range firing should be done in supported prone positions. Starting positions for young pistol athletes should also be supported positions. After young athletes become comfortable with firing shots correctly and are producing acceptable shot groups, they can and must advance to learning regular firing positions.

• **Instructional Progression.** Even when youth are doing their first range firing, adult leaders should be projecting what lies ahead, namely, that young rifle and pistol athletes are expected to progress from firing in supported positions, to learning regular firing positions and shot techniques that are used in sports competition events to participating in actual competitions. Then, if your program presented the sport of shooting to young athletes in a setting where their participation and joy was valued, their safety and health was protected and their target shooting skills were properly instructed, it will have fulfilled its responsibility as a youth sports program.

## Supported Rifle Prone and Pistol Firing Positions



**Young athletes' first range firing should be done from supported positions like these.**



*The flags of the 97 nations that qualified athletes to participate in the sport of shooting flew over the Olympic Shooting Center venue in Rio de Janeiro during the 2016 Olympic Games. Only three other sports had more participating nations.*

### About the Author

Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship Emeritus, retired as the full-time CMP Director at the end of 2009. He continues to work with the CMP as the senior marksmanship instructor. During his remarkable career, he won two Olympic gold medals, seven World Championships and 16 National Championships. He served as a Vice President of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) from 1990 through 2018. He is a former Nebraska State Senator and Past President of USA Shooting. He served as a Technical Delegate for Shooting during the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games as well as for the 2014 and 2018 World Shooting Championships.

In 2012, the International Olympic Committee awarded Gary Anderson with the Olympic Order, its highest honor "for outstanding services to the Olympic Movement."

In 2014, the CMP expanded its world-class air gun center at Camp Perry and renamed the facility the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center, in honor of Anderson's contributions to the organization and the marksmanship community.



# CMP's South Range Staff Presents Air Gun Basics to Local High Schools

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



ANNISTON, Ala.—In October, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) opened the doors to its South Competition Center air gun range in Alabama and welcomed area youth for a day of marksmanship learning and fun.

Five neighboring high schools participated, with a total of 55 students from Anniston High School, Etowah High School, Talladega High School, Gadsden City High School and Hokes Bluff High School.

CMP staff walked the high school teams through a basic rifle familiarization course, with discussions in the classroom consisting of the three basic safety rules of M.A.T. (Muzzle, Action, Trigger), understanding of the parts of the rifle and the five fundamentals of shooting.

Lead instructor of the course was CMP South programs supervisor, Matt Carroll.

Last December, Carroll attended a seminar for career opportunities for high school students—the Joint Leadership Development Conference. There, Carroll met SMG Taylor of Etowah High School and later traveled to the school to help him set up a range and equipment. SMG Taylor mentioned the efforts of Carroll and the CMP to other North Alabama JROTC instructors, quickly attracting the interest and eventual involvement of the rest of the schools with the organization.

Carroll has also been involved with an additional collaborator, who approached him with the positive youth marksmanship project last spring. Members of the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America spoke with Carroll about the notion of getting JROTC units involved with the Scouts Venture groups, one of the core programs of the Boy Scouts organization. Carroll cleared the idea with the JROTC instructors he was working with and gave the Boy Scouts their contacts.

The Boy Scouts provided transport and supporting range fees for participating units.

“The session went well,” Carroll said. “I always wish we had more time to get into position shooting. But what it felt like is that they were able to take away from the training correct aiming, importance of grouping and sight adjustment.”

At the end of the classroom portion, teams were taken into the air gun range for a live-fire period, followed by a 20-shot bench match.

“The benefit, for me, is seeing the local schools getting involved with the shooting sports,” said Carroll. “Also, seeing the instructors becoming interested in air gun and starting to join or form air gun leagues is another benefit.”

These programs are just a few of the examples of the encouraging progression of junior marksmanship training being generated by the CMP and its affiliates. The CMP is constantly at work, finding new ways to involve interested youth in proper instruction and safety – fulfilling its mission and responsibility to current and future firearm supporters.

To learn more about the CMP or to become involved with the organization, visit [www.TheCMP.org](http://www.TheCMP.org).

**About the South CMP Competition Center:** For competitors of a variety of disciplines, the South CMP Competition Center includes an 80-point indoor air gun range that is equipped with electronic targets, as well as the CMP South Store, which is fully stocked for equipment and memorabilia needs. Marksmanship Nights, held year-round at the range for the public, allow visitors of virtually any age and experience levels to try their hands at air rifle or air pistol shooting. For more on the South CMP Competition Center, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-centers/>.





# JROTC Air Rifle Regionals Set to Fire in February

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) invites the public to explore the exciting and fast-growing world of air rifle competition Feb. 6-8 and Feb. 14-16, 2020, as hundreds of coaches, competitors and spectators take part in the 2020 JROTC Regional Air Rifle Championships, held at the CMP's South Competition Center in Anniston, Ala., the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Ohio, and on the CMP's mobile range in Chandler, Ariz.

The three-position event showcases high school Junior ROTC athletes from around the country who use precision air rifles (mirrored from Olympic-style competitions) as well as classically-designed sporter air rifles to fire pellets upon state-of-the-art electronic targets at prone, standing and kneeling positions. Nationals for the event will be fired in Ohio in March.

The high-tech Kongsberg Target System (KTS) targets used in CMP's air gun range in Anniston are powered by OpticScore technology, which are scored optically by internal LED lights. Monitors at each firing point instantly display scores, and button functions with an LED lighted screen allow ease of use for individuals of all ages and experience levels.

Large LED screens placed throughout the range space display each competitor's target, making the match spectator-friendly. CMP staff members are also on hand to answer questions for those wanting to learn more about the safe, fun and growing sport.

To reward the hard work of dedicated junior athletes and coaches, the CMP administers thousands of dollars in monetary funds towards teams who qualify for the Regional events, with additional funds presented to qualifiers reaching the National Championship. The funds serve as symbols of the organization's continued support of junior marksmanship for the current generation and into the future.

For more information on the JROTC Service Championships, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/jrotc-air-rifle-national-championship/>.



# CMP Announces New Improvements, Added Programs for 2020

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

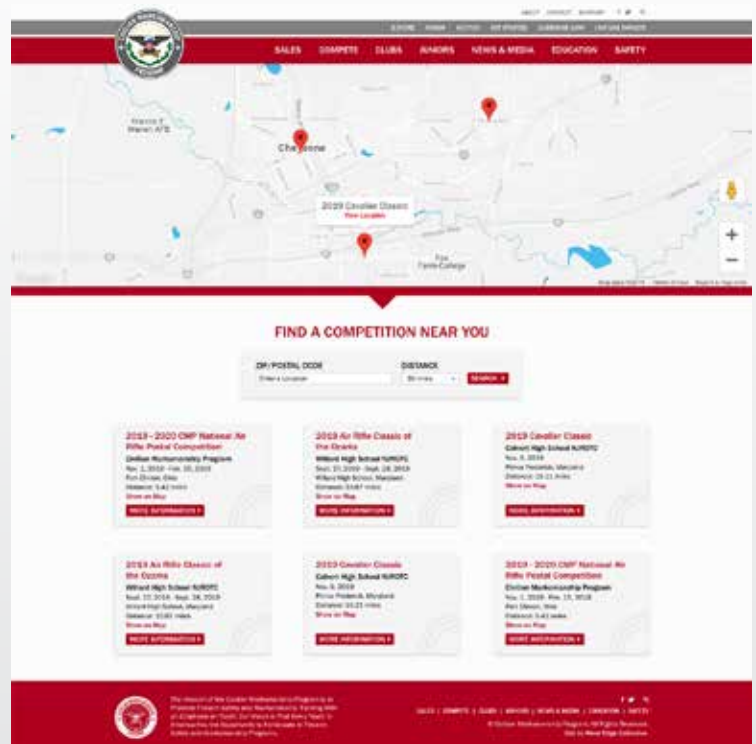


Above: Unknown Distance Range; Right: Website Example

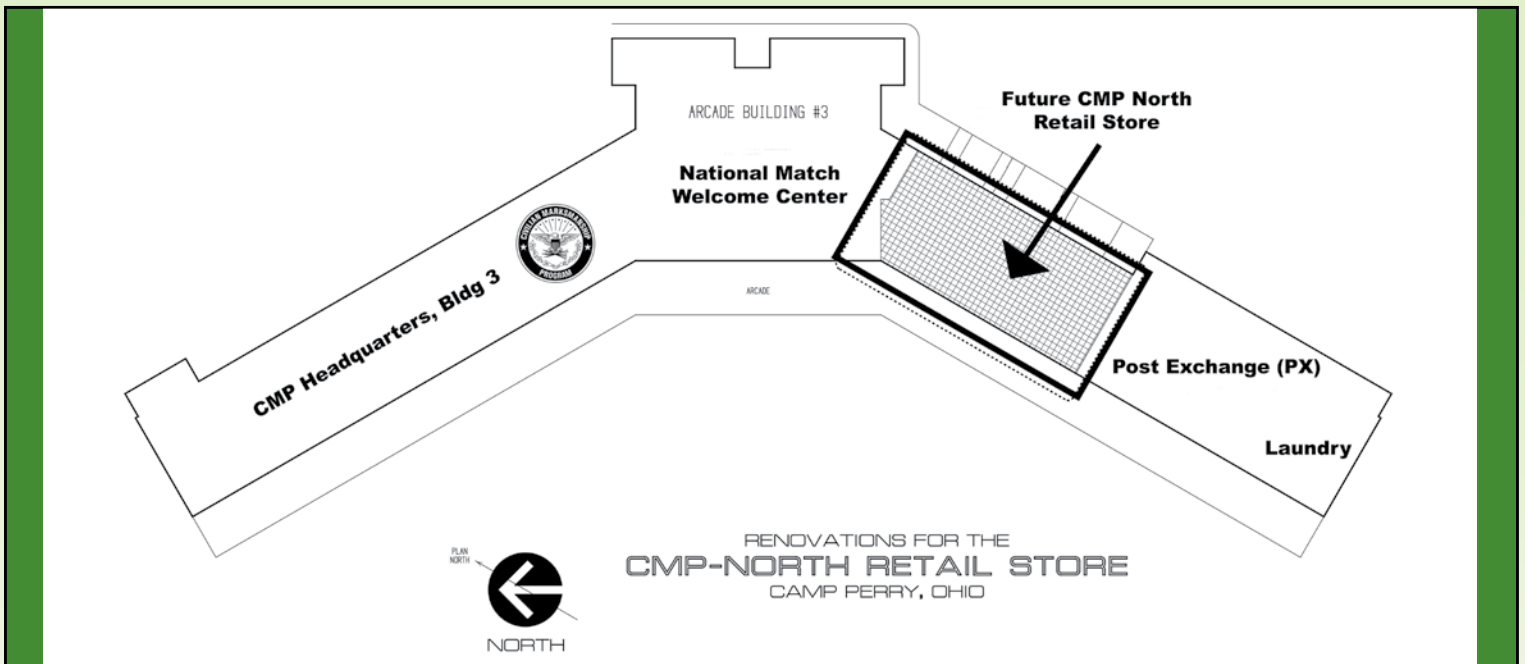
As part of its mission, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) is dedicated to firearms safety, marksmanship training and to the promotion of marksmanship competition for citizens of the United States with an emphasis on youth. To fulfill that mission, the organization is constantly finding ways to evolve in order to amplify public awareness and to provide broadened opportunities to new and existing CMP supporters.

Over the last year, CMP staff members have been thoroughly revamping a variety of elements that will benefit individuals already associated with the organization as well as those yet to discover its value in the marksmanship community.

Changes for the coming year include updated CMP Rulebooks for Pistol, Rifle, Games, Smallbore and Long Range Matches. Also, the Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) remote clinics held around the country, formerly known as "Traveling SAFS," will now be called "Rifle/Pistol Marksmanship 101" – with a new line of locations, set to be announced in 2020.







Other improvements/changes coming soon include:

#### **CMP Website Improvements:**

CMP's website, [www.TheCMP.org](http://www.TheCMP.org), has undergone updates that include a new design and layout, improved navigation and search functions, user-friendly maps to easily locate CMP Affiliated Clubs and upcoming matches and clinics.

#### **Smallbore:**

The growing CMP Smallbore department will be offering match sanctioning for smallbore to include Outdoor 3P and Prone matches, along with Indoor 3P 50-foot matches. With more opportunities to compete, two new Distinguished Badges have been implemented for 3P and Prone smallbore competitors.

#### **NEW North Store Location:**

The CMP's North Store will be moved from its previous location on Camp Perry to Bldg. 3, next to CMP Headquarters and the CMP Armory – still on the grounds of Camp Perry.

#### **Expanded Pistol Program:**

The CMP has added Pistol events to the National Matches schedule for 2020 and to club sanctioning events, including a 2-Man Team event and a 4-Man Team event. A "Triple Crown Award" from the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo, Ohio, will also be awarded from scores combined from matches fired at Canton McKinley Rifle and Pistol Club in Canton, Ohio, Cardinal and CMP Pistol National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

#### **Rimfire Sporter SAFS at the National Matches:**

A new Rimfire Sporter Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) has been added to the 2020 schedule and will take the place of the Rimfire Sporter Clinic, given every year the day before the Rimfire Match, individuals participating in the Rimfire Sporter SAFS will have the chance to learn more about Rimfire Sporter in the classroom and on the firing line before competing in the match.

Instruction will be led by talented members of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. The SAFS event is set to be held July 18, with the Rimfire Sporter Match following on July 19.

#### **NEW Unknown Distance Range at Talladega:**

An Unknown Distance Range at CMP's Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama, featuring over 100 steel targets, out to 625 yards.

#### **GCA Scholarship Donation:**

Along with the \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the CMP, the Garand Collectors Association (GCA) has generously donated \$10,000 to the CMP to be used for additional student-athlete scholarship earnings. The Top 10 recipients already earning a \$1,000 scholarship from the CMP will receive an extra \$1,000 toward their furthered education.

Since its beginnings in 1986, the GCA and its members have worked diligently to expand knowledge on the M1 Garand, preserve its history and to encourage and assist others in collecting the historical rifle. The GCA has also worked closely with the CMP since 2000 on sorting/grading M1 Garand rifles and encouraging competitive and recreational firearm safety.

# Coaching for Accuracy: Improving Your Trigger Technique

*Submitted by Hannah Sones of ELEY*



*Test range manager for ammunition manufacturer ELEY and GB coach, Martyn Buttery, knows a thing or two about shooting in the center of the target. Here, he gives his advice on perfecting your trigger pull.*

What causes poor trigger technique? As Martyn Buttery simply states, "It's the shooter". The only external influence affecting the trigger is the user. Perfecting your trigger pull is one of the earliest things you'll learn when starting out, but how many of us actually put the theory into practice when out on the range?

First things first. Let's look at what the correct position should be. Good trigger technique involves placing the trigger in the middle of the pad of your fingertip so that it forms a right angle to the barrel.

Pressure needs to be applied in a straight line towards the rear of the gun. The tendency is often to apply pressure to one side of the trigger in effect pulling or pushing it at a slight angle. This smallest bit of movement can negatively impact the accuracy of a shot.

Finally, it's important to follow through when pulling the trigger, continuing to hold it down until recoil has subsided.

How do you know where you're going wrong and how you can improve?

Martyn uses a Scatt trainer, which involves an advanced optical sensor being mounted onto your firearm to record its position during aiming and impact. This then provides visual feedback on your barrels position when focussed on the target. It is not a scoring mechanism, but purely an analysis tool. It will tell you if you have good approach, good hold and good follow-through – all vital elements to perfecting your trigger pull.

Martyn notes, ideally when taking aim at the target, you want to be bringing your barrel down between 11 and 1 o'clock until you're straight above the target. Then take a breath allowing your diaphragm to open up and your body to be in a completely relaxed and natural position. Then you're ready to drop down onto the bullseye. When the trigger is pulled, the Scatt trace should be short. The shorter, the better.

If the trace is pulling to one side for example, this means that you're not pulling the trigger back in a straight line and could be causing shots to go off horizontally.

Once the Scatt data has provided visual feedback, the only way to improve is practice. As the saying goes, practice makes perfect.



# Team ELEY Take Top Titles at World Cup Final

*Submitted by Hannah Sones of ELEY*

The ELEY team have put on yet another spectacular performance at the ISSF World Cup Final this week. Rifle and Pistol shooting's elite athletes were pitted against each other in the last event of the season. Hosted in Putian, China, the ISSF welcomed the topped ranking athletes from 34 countries competing in eight individual events.

ELEY shooters using [tenex](#) and [tenex air](#) came away winning a combined total of 14 medals across both the small-bore and air disciplines.

## Small-bore events

The first day of the finals got off to a flying start with both the 50m 3P rifle men's and women's event. Seonaid McIntosh capped her memorable year with a solid performance to claim a gold medal win. The British shooter was in third place after the kneeling position, but a strong start in prone and standing secured her victory with a final score of 462.1.

Second place went to Ruijiao Pei (CHN) and third, Nina Christen (SUI). All three shooters in the final put their trust in ELEY tenex to secure a medal.

It was also three for three in the men's event with all three shooters using ELEY tenex. Filip Nepejchal of Czech Republic struck gold and secured a new junior world record at the same time with a score of 462.9. Silver went to Serbia's Milenko Sebic with 461.5 and Russia's Sergey Kamenskiy rounded out the podium after recording a final

score 449.8.

The second day of finals shone a spotlight on the pistol disciplines. In the 25m pistol women's event, Chinese shooter Zhang Jingjing won gold in Putian. This makes her a three-time world champion after hitting 37 out of 50 targets to win China's first gold on home soil.

## Air events

Day three highlighted the individual 10m air rifle and pistol events with all four finals. Sponsored shooters Artem Chernousov and Zorana Arunovic came away victorious with a bronze and silver medal respectively.

In a World Cup Final first, the 10m air pistol and air rifle mixed team events were included in the program with the athletes competing for the new 'President's Trophy'. Each international pair was determined by a random draw.

First up, the 10m air rifle discipline. Team ELEY's Snjezana Pejicic clinched the gold with partner Divyansh Panwar from India. Britain's Seonaid McIntosh won her second medal of the event, securing bronze while paired with Chinese shooter Yu Haoan.

In the 10m air pistol event, ELEY shooter Artem Chernousov secured the top spot with partner Manu Bhaker from India. This was closely followed by Anna Korakaki and Saurabh Chaudhary. In third place, Zorana Arunovic bagged bronze with Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi.



# CMP's Monthly Match Air Gun League Final Results Now Viewable

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has wrapped up its series of Monthly Match League competitions for the 2019 season.

The CMP Monthly Matches, where competitors have the opportunity to be ranked amongst other match participants from across the country, include a Junior 3x20, Junior 3x10, 60 Shot Air Rifle Standing and 60 Shot Air Pistol set of competitions. A Monthly Match League recognizes the averages of repeat participants from both of CMP's air gun ranges in Alabama and Ohio.

The first three highest participants in the Monthly Match League receive plaques, while places one through five collect monetary prizes based on the number of entries.

Winning overall in the 3x20 Sporter event among 260 total entries was Samuel LeMaster, 18, of Montgomery, AL, with an average score of 532.5. For his win, LeMaster received \$200.

Following in second and earning a prize of \$150 was Danielle Chapman, 14, of Piedmont, AL, with a score of 526.3. Devyn Chapman, 13, claimed the third place spot and \$100, with a score of 509.3.

Also recognized is the Most Improved competitor. In sporter, Austin DeMerchant, 10, of Heflin, AL, obtained the title.

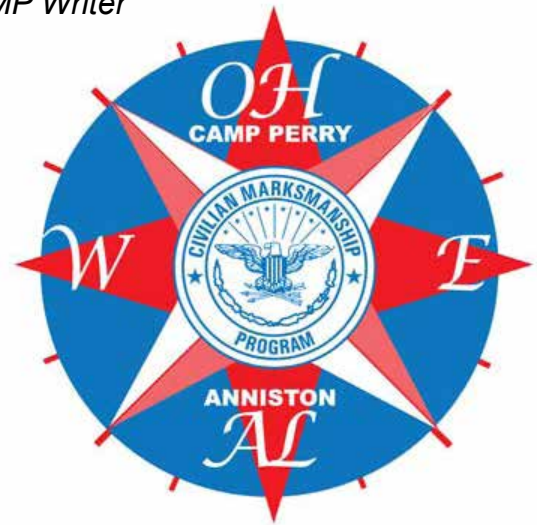
In 3x20 Precision, Gavin Perkowski, 17, of Bolivar, OH, topped the field of 352 entries – compiling an average score 589.8. Perkowski claimed \$250 for the win. Landing in a close second place position was Natalie Perrin, 17, of Coopersville, MI, with a score of 588.5 to receive \$200. Taking home a check for \$125 in third was Katrina Demerle, 15, of Cincinnati, OH, with a score of 585.0.

James Shipley, 13, of Williamstown, WV, was the Most Improved competitor of the precision event.

The 60 Shot Rifle Match, attracting 426 entries overall, was led by Molly McGhin, 18, of Griffin, GA, with a score of 618.2. She received \$275 for her consistent performances. In an extremely tight battle for second, Andrew Duryea, 17, of Crossville, AL, claimed the spot by only one-tenth of a point, with a score of 610.8. He received \$250 for his efforts. Following in third was Katrina Demerle, with a score of 610.7 (earning \$150), while Julie Klusmeier, 24, of Cincinnati, OH, just missed her chance at earning a plaque, with a score of 610.6 for fourth.

Most Improved in the 60 Shot competition was Lucinda Peters, 17, of Monroe, GA.

Ramesh Basineni, 44, of Edina, MN, topped the 60 Shot Pistol event, earning \$150 and an overall average



score of 551.3. In second, Mark Hayford, 64, of Tipton, MI, reached a score of 543.0 for \$100, as Renay Woodruff, 47, of Alexandria, AL, took home \$75 in third, with a score of 521.3.

Sydney Gray, 17, of Howell, MI, was the Most Improved competitor of the event, which saw a total of 260 entries. Reagan Phillips, 16, of North Canton, OH, was High Junior of the match.

For a complete list of results, visit the CMP's website at <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/monthly-air-rifle-and-air-pistol-matches/>.

Photos from the Monthly Matches can be found on the CMP Zenfolio page: [www.cmp1.zenfolio.com](http://www.cmp1.zenfolio.com).

## About CMP Competition Centers:

For competitors of a variety of disciplines, the South Competition Center in Alabama includes the CMP South Store that is stocked to fulfill equipment and memorabilia needs. Marksmanship Nights, held year-round at the range for the public, allow visitors of virtually any age and experience levels to try their hands at air rifle or air pistol shooting. For more on the South Competition Center, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-centers/>.

The Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Ohio features authentic Olympic and other memorabilia from the career of celebrated American marksman, Gary Anderson. The facility also holds Marksmanship Nights regularly each week for the public to enjoy. For more about the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-centers/>.

The CMP air gun facilities are open to the public, year-round, and feature 80-point ranges filled with CMP's own electronic targets.



# Junior Distinguished Badge Program

The National Three-Position Air Rifle Council established the Junior Excellence-In-Competition Award Program to provide incentives for junior three-position air rifle competitors to improve and excel.

This program awards prestigious badges of distinction to the most outstanding junior shooters. Junior shooters earn EIC credit points by placing in designated competitions in accordance with the requirements of this program.

The Junior Distinguished Badge is awarded to school-age junior three-position air rifle shooters who attain a series of high rankings in designated major junior air rifle championships that include the State Junior Olympic Qualifiers, CMP Cup Matches, National Junior Olympic Championships and other National Council Three-Position Air Rifle Championships.

Congratulations to the juniors listed here who recently earned their badges. **ON THE MARK** will recognize all juniors who achieve this outstanding goal in each issue.

For more program info, log onto <http://thecmp.org/air/junior-distinguished-badge/> or email CMP Competitions at [3PAR@TheCMP.org](mailto:3PAR@TheCMP.org).



Badge #	Name	Hometown	Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1389	Justin Asbury	Leland, NC	#1402	MacKenzie Strauch	Belgrade, MT
#1390	Amanda Benetin	Pacific, MO	#1403	Garrett Boggan	Leeds, AL
#1391	Gwen Ellis	Tampa, FL	#1404	Emily Endecott	Cleveland, MO
#1392	Melissa Geiger	Brooksville, FL	#1405	Raven Hudson	Batesville, MS
#1393	Alyssa Kiser	LaFayette, GA	#1406	Bryn Preston-McGahn	Reno, NV
#1394	Elizabeth Lucero	Albuquerque, NM	#1407	Kaleb Rutgers	Mendota Heights, MN
#1395	Mariano Ortiz	Albuquerque, NM	#1408	Claire Vonderau	Helena, AL
#1396	Taylor Christian	Spokane Valley, WA	#1409	Joshua Campbell	Fort Mill, SC
#1397	Lauren Crossley	Oak Harbor, WA	#1410	Keith Fatula	DuBois, PA
#1398	Kennadi Barker	Porter, TX	#1411	Anthony Gorczyca	Medina, OH
#1399	Braeden Lewis	Joshua, TX	#1412	Ty Lance	Tallmadge, OH
#1400	Hannah Deems	Chucky, TN	#1413	Madelynn Erickson	Sutter, CA
#1401	Lyndy Powers	Belgrade, MT	#1414	Megan Nelson	Gulfport, FL



**Want to Earn YOUR Junior Distinguished Air Rifle Badge?**

Visit <http://thecmp.org/air/junior-distinguished-badge/> or contact the CMP by calling (419) 635-2141, ext. 702.

# Kozeniesky, Hall Top Rifle and Pistol Events During CMP's 2019 Dixie Double Event

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



*Lucas Kozeniesky, a former junior competitor, led the Open Rifle competition during the Dixie Double.*

ANNISTON, Ala. – On the weekend of Nov. 1 through Nov. 3, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) held its annual Dixie Double event for air rifle and air pistol competitors at its South Competition Center in Alabama.

The two-day Dixie Double competition features some of the best men, women and junior competitors from around the country, including members of the Army Marksmanship Unit and other national-level athletes. The Dixie Double serves as a learning opportunity for upcoming shooters as well as a worthwhile challenge for experienced marksmen.

Lucas Kozeniesky, 24, of Colorado Springs, CO, topped the 60 Shot Rifle competition with a score of 1272.3. Kozeniesky, who was a member of the NC State Rifle Team and also fired at the 2016 Olympics in Rio, overtook the top spot in both Day 1 and Day 2 of the competition.

“The Dixie Double is one of the biggest competitions of the year, and it is a great opportunity for a tune-up match for Olympic Trials,” said Kozeniesky, who is currently training

at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. “CMP runs great matches, and I like competing in those when I can. I felt pretty confident, however there were many good shooters there, so I was focused on performing and executing what I know best.

The Dixie Double 60-shot international rifle and pistol competition is designed for both adults and juniors, with an Open and Junior match fired simultaneously, along with a final to end each day. A two-person aggregate team event, which combines the skills of an adult and junior competitor, is also held concurrently with the Open competition. Overall competitors are awarded each day as well as from the combined, two-day aggregate scores.

“CMP matches are just fun!” Kozeniesky added. “The range officers are friendly and create a welcoming environment, the staff who set up the matches are incredibly generous and courteous, and there’s so much fun associated with the matches. I really enjoy going down





*Angeline Henry led the Juniors, along with Gavin Barnick and Matthew Sanchez.*

there (Alabama) for those matches.”

Kozeniesky led the rifle field by nearly 10 points over second place finisher, SPC Tim Sherry, 25, of the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), who finished with 1264.8. His AMU teammate and last year’s Dixie Double overall rifle competitor, Sagen Maddalena, 26, earned third, with a score of 1262.7.

Leading the Junior Rifle Match was Angeline Henry, 19, of Fort Worth, TX, with a score of 1255.3. Trailing just behind Henry was Gavin Barnick, 16, of Mora, MN, with a score of 1253.0 for second, as last year’s top junior, Matthew Sanchez, 17, of Tampa, FL, claimed the third place spot with a score of 1252.3 – just one point behind Barnick.

Sanchez and SPC Sherry joined forces as the duo “Last Minute,” establishing a score of 2499.1 to overtake the Rifle Team competition.

In pistol, James Hall, 35, of Columbia, MO, and USA Shooting, earned wins on both Day 1 and Day 2 – reaching an overall aggregate score of 1165-30x. Hall led by more than 30 points over Sandra Uptagrafft, 48, of the U.S. Army Reserve, who earned a score of 1133-19x for second. Richard Gray, 48, of Fredericksburg, VA, compiled a score of 1127-27x for third.

Returning to the Dixie Double in 2018 was the Target Sprint competition, which welcomes individuals ages 10 and up who have completed a basic rifle safety class. During the event, participants run along a path, occasionally stopping to fire air rifles at five 10-meter falling targets, knocking all over before continuing on. The first to cross the finish line is declared the winner.

Winning the 2019 event was Tymaris Odoms, 22, of Jacksonville, AL, with a time of 5:38. Following only one second behind was Angus Babcock, 16, of Lithia Springs, GA, as last year’s winner Chance Cover, 28, of the CMP, recorded a time of 5:51 for third.

For a complete list of results, visit the CMP Competition Tracker page at <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&match=18930>.

Photos are available for free download from the CMP Zenfolio page: <https://cmp1.zenfolio.com/f315263286>.



*The Target Sprint event combines running and shooting upon collapsible targets – a fun challenge!*

# Junior Marksmen Stories...

## Texas Junior Feature: Charisma Owen

The answer was quick and simple. No, not until she's Distinguished. Surprised, the inquiring junior looked at Charisma Owen and back at Charisma's coach, Dan Ramsey. The question: whether or not Charisma was shooting the next day's John C. Garand Match at the 2018 National Matches. A year later, Charisma had excelled enough in her shooting career to finally earn that chance.

Seventeen-year-old Charisma Owen currently competes in service rifle and bullseye pistol, starting into the shooting sports after her move from Las Vegas, Nev., to Wichita Falls, Texas. She started shooting with 4-H Shooting Sports in 2012, when she was in the fifth grade.

Throughout her 4-H experience, she made new connections and has been introduced to a variety of shooting disciplines. She joined the Texas Junior Service Rifle Team in 2015 and two years later started shooting pistol with 4-H, along with the Texas Junior Pistol Team, shortly after.

Her various commitments do not come without passion.

"Shooting has transformed for me over the years, from something interesting to something I really, really love," Charisma attested. This transformation happened "immediately," according to Charisma. "Shooting has taught me skills that I use every day in other areas of my life."



*Charisma Owen wearing her Distinguished Pin during the 2019 United States Marine Corps Junior Highpower Rifle Clinic.*



*Owen had the opportunity to shoot the John C. Garand match for the first time this year.*



*...from CMP Contributor, Serena Juchnowski*

The shooting sports are about much more than people realize, teaching patience, time management, self-control, focus and dedication, along with a host of other things. No one does it alone. Charisma is grateful for the opportunities she has had to meet people from other countries and for the life-long friendships she has made with people from across the United States –opportunities that she never would have had without the shooting sports.

Acutely aware of this, Charisma’s favorite thing about marksmanship is not the potential for a shiny reward.

“I love going to a match, and a big part of the match isn’t about winning. It’s about being there for fellow shooters and having fun,” she said. “I love how we become a family on the line, giving hope and encouragement at matches.”

This support does not end on the firing line. Charisma earned Distinguished Rifleman Badge #2440 on May 4, 2019, leading to an outpouring of congratulations from the highpower community.

Owen knows the badge is a great honor, and to her, “It represents how far I have come since the first day I picked up a rifle [until] now and where I will go in the future...I am so proud to have the decal on my cart and my number on my sling. But most of all, I love the memories that I made while on the journey to be pinned.”

For Charisma, like many other shooters, it is more about the journey than the award. Charisma, who aspires to shoot on a college team or adult team in the future, advises all competitors to be patient, to not compare oneself to others.

“Compare yourself to you, try to beat your own personal bests. Not somebody else’s.”

This does not mean that she does not appreciate hard work and success. Charisma was on the high junior team for the 2018 Rattle Battle, marking the first time Texas juniors had won the Junior Infantry Team Trophy.

With four points towards her Distinguished Pistol Shot badge, Charisma is not stopping anytime soon and constantly seeks to improve and expand her skills.

This year, that growth included the John C. Garand Match, where she finally got to compete and earned a score of 267-5x out of 300. Charisma received a bronze medal in the match and spurred her excitement for next year.

Always humble, Charisma did not mention earning an achievement medal in her first match, noting that, “I might not have shot very well, but it was so fun!”

Charisma sets a great example for youth in the shooting sports, both in her attitude and her ability.

# North Carolina Junior Feature: Katie Ezell

*By Serena Juchnowski, CMP Contributor*

Hard work and tenacity pay off.

Hailing from Denver, N.C., Katie Ezell, 18, has been one to watch. At the age of 10, Katie's parents introduced her to marksmanship, wanting their daughter to have hands-on instruction in firearm safety. Thus began a love affair that has only evolved since then.

"The first time I ever went shooting, I knew this was something that I would want to continue to do," Katie said.

Since she was so young and unable to join the teenage pistol team at her club, Katie applied to the women's team, which had no specific age restrictions, and proceeded to compete with those far older and more experienced. Katie accredits much of her competitive drive and how she handles match pressure to pursuing the competition venture at such a young age.

After pistol came skeet, in which Katie traveled to national and international competitions. Thinking about the future, Katie soon realized that a shooting scholarship would allow her to continue in the shooting sports while funding her education. Precision rifle appeared to be the best avenue for this, leading Ezell to move into rimfire

sporter for four months before making the jump into precision air rifle.

Ezell cites her greatest accomplishment as "getting accepted to be on The Ohio State [University's] rifle team after shooting for a year and a half." While Ezell had been shooting for eight years, she had only been training and competing in precision rifle for 18 months when she was accepted onto the team, where she made her dream a reality.

After signing on, Katie's first competition was the Junior Olympics, which added some extra pressure to the already prestigious event. This was not the only special part of the occasion. Katie's father, a deployed military member, was in town, and this was the first time he would watch her compete in person, since his deployment makes attending matches difficult.

Katie notes that after she set the nervousness aside, she found herself excited and shot a personal best in smallbore. She had hoped to shoot better with her air rifle, but she knows that being part of a college team will help her to improve her skills.



*Ezell graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2019 and is attending The Ohio State University. Ezell is a member of the OSU Rifle Team.*





*Ezell competes in the standing position in the 2018 Nationals at Fort Benning, GA.*

Katie is nearing the end of her first semester at Ohio State and has surpassed her previous bests in smallbore and air rifle. Her coach has changed some of Katie's positions, and she is improving.

This fall has been quite the change for Katie, who previously had to drive three hours to get to the range, with coaching only available once or twice a month. Thrilled to have people to coach her regularly and to practice with, she is appreciative of the support and challenges they offer.

"Marksmanship has taught me a lot about self-control. If the shot does not look right, then I reject it and try again. I have learned that failure is okay, that it is actually encouraged," she said.

Katie recognizes that failure can inspire one to do better and to learn. She advises competitors "to not be afraid to fail." Katie started into precision shooting at a much later age than most, especially those who end up with a college shooting career. Though it took time, she learned to appreciate the experience and to not bury herself in expectations.

"I use[d] to be afraid at failing at things that really mattered to me, but now the only thing I'm scared of is only succeeding at things that do not matter to me," she said.



*Katie Ezell poses in front of a sign at her first visit to the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center in 2018 for Winter Air Gun.*



Throughout its history, the CMP has prepared an ever-growing number of shooters with firearm safety and marksmanship skills through its programs, clinics and other events. With the hope to spread the promotion of marksmanship and shooting sports, other organizations have joined CMP in its efforts by creating their own hometown clubs. Whenever possible, we recognize these clubs and their achievements in our publications. If you would like your club recognized, please email photos, captions and a short article to [abrugnone@thecmp.org](mailto:abrugnone@thecmp.org).

## Clay High School NJROTC Unit Participates in Postal

*Submitted by Jackson Green, Clay High School Public Affairs Officer*

Athletes on the Clay High School Navy JROTC rifle team in Florida fired in the AA09 Rifle Postal event.



**If you have a story or photos you'd like highlighted in *On The Mark*, submit your items for consideration to Ashley at [abrugnone@thecmp.org](mailto:abrugnone@thecmp.org).**



## CMP Welcomes Our Newly-Affiliated Clubs

The CMP welcomes clubs and associations to affiliate with us to help develop firearm safety and marksmanship skills. See our clubs page on the Web for more information about the benefits of club affiliation at <http://thecmp.org/clubs/>.

Chinese Gun Club of HI, Waipahu, HI  
 Island Pacific Academy Riflery Team, Kapolei, HI  
 X Shots Shooting Club, Honolulu, HI  
 Elm City Gun Club & Junior Division,  
 West Haven, CT  
 Mattabassett Rifle and Pistol Club (MRPC),  
 Berlin, CT  
 Kennebunk Fish and Game Club,  
 West Kennebunk, ME  
 Blue Hill Rifle and Pistol Club, Blue Hill, ME  
 York County Fish and Game Association, Lyman, ME  
 Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club, Haverhill, MA  
 Bass River Rod & Gun Jr. Club, Yarmouthport, MA  
 Chicopee Sportsmens Club Inc., Chicopee, MA  
 Leominster Sportsmen Association, Leominster, MA  
 Lenox Sportsmen's Club, Lenox, MA  
 Northampton Revolver Club, Northampton, MA  
 Mansfield Fish & Game Protective Assoc Inc.,  
 Mansfield, MA  
 Marlboro Fish & Game Association Inc, Marlboro, MA  
 Marshfield Rod & Gun Club, Marshfield, MA  
 Pemigewasset Valley F&G Assoc., Plymouth, NH  
 Old Bridge Rifle and Pistol Club, Old Bridge, NJ  
 Massena Rifle & Pistol Club, Brasher Fall, NY  
 Coxsackie Sportsman's Club & Jr. Division,  
 Coxsackie, NY

Richmond Boro Gun Club & Junior Division,  
 Staten Island, NY  
 Walkkill Rod & Gun Club & Junior Division,  
 Newburgh, NY  
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice,  
 New York, NY  
 Long Island Practical Shooters Inc.,  
 Massapequa, NY  
 Pine Tree Rifle Club, Johnstown, NY  
 Walton Pistol & Rifle Club, Walton, NY  
 Willsboro Fish & Game Club, Willsboro, NY  
 Metropolitan Rod & Gun Club, Brooklyn, NY  
 Bear Lake Rod & Gun Club, Inc,  
 Cassadaga, NY  
 Warwick Range Activities Committee,  
 Warwick, RI  
 Newport Rifle Club, Middletown, RI  
 Manville Sportsmen Club, Manville, RI  
 Highland Rod and Gun Club, Hope, RI  
 Rhode Island Fish and Game, Coventry, RI  
 The Proctor Fish & Game Club, Proctor, VT  
 Homewood Rifle and Pistol Club,  
 Sparrows Point, MD  
 Campbell County Game & Fish Protective  
 Assoc., Newport, KY  
 The Lowellville Rod & Gun Club Inc.,  
 Lowellville, OH

***Zion Benton Navy JROTC (Illinois) members celebrate Halloween at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center.***



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Calendar of Events is featured in every issue of *On The Mark*. If you would like your match or clinic listed, please contact the CMP at [onthemark@thecmp.org](mailto:onthemark@thecmp.org). Please include the name of the event, date, whom the event is open to and contact information and website (if available). The CMP will do its best to accommodate each request to be included in the Calendar of Events.

### January 2020

25 Jan  
**Area 8 – JROTC 3P Air Rifle**  
 Anniston, AL

25 Jan  
**T3G 3-Gun Monthly Match,  
 800 Agg. HP Rifle Match**  
 Talladega, AL

31 Jan-1 Feb  
**Dixie Challenge – 3P Air Rifle,  
 BB Gun and Air Pistol**  
 Anniston, AL

### February

1 Feb  
**TDS IDPA Monthly Match**  
 Talladega, AL

6-8 Feb  
**JROTC 3P Air Rifle Service  
 Championships - Army, Navy,  
 Air Force**  
 Chandler, AZ  
**Army, Air Force**  
 Anniston, AL

8 Feb  
**V3G Steel Challenge**  
 Talladega, AL

14-16 Feb  
**JROTC 3P Air Rifle Service  
 Championships – Army,  
 Air Force**  
 Camp Perry, OH  
**Marine Corps**  
 Anniston, AL

15 Feb  
**TPS USPSA Monthly Match  
 3 x 600 High Power Rifle Match**  
 Talladega, AL

22 Feb  
**T3G 3-Gun Monthly Match,  
 800 Agg. High Power Rifle Match**  
 Talladega, AL

### March

7 March  
**TDS IDPA Monthly Match**  
 Talladega, AL



7 March  
**American Legion 3P Air Rifle  
 Commanders Cup**  
 Anniston, AL

13 -22 March  
**Western Games**  
 Phoenix, AZ

14 March  
**V3G Steel Challenge**  
 Talladega, AL

14 March  
**CMP Monthly Match**  
 Anniston, AL  
 Camp Perry, OH

19-21 March  
**National JROTC 3P Air Rifle  
 Championship**  
 Camp Perry, OH

19-21 March  
**USPSA Alabama Sectional  
 Championship**  
 Talladega, AL

21 March  
**3x600 High Power Rifle Match**  
 Talladega, AL

21 March  
**North Alabama Rifle League**  
 Anniston, AL

26-28 March  
**CMP 3P Air Rifle Regionals**  
 Camp Perry, OH

28 March  
**T3G 3-Gun Monthly Match,  
 800 Agg. High Power Rifle Match**  
 Talladega, AL

28 March  
**4-H State Match – 3P Air Rifle**  
 Anniston, AL

### April

2-4 April  
**CMP Regionals – 3P Air Rifle**  
 Anniston, AL  
 Sandy, UT

4 April  
**TDS IDPA Monthly Match**  
 Talladega, AL

11 April  
**V3G Steel Challenge**  
 Talladega, AL

**Visit our Competition  
 Tracker**  
 - [ct.thecmp.org](http://ct.thecmp.org) -  
**for ALL upcoming clinics  
 and competitions!**



# Parting Shots: Photos from Recent CMP Events & Competitions

*Junior shooters left their mark on several recent CMP events including the Dixie Double Air Gun Match, the Gary Anderson Invitational and the Talladega 600.*



*Dixie Double Air Gun Event*



*Gary Anderson Invitational*



*Talladega 600*

# ON THE MARK

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