

# ON THE MARK



THE NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR SHOOTERS © FALL 2016

## Field of Dreams

Talladega Marksmanship Park Facilitates Junior Shotgun Field Events



*Also...*

- New Air Gun Target System Preview
- New England Games Review
- Competitor Feature Stories, and more!

*Inside...*

- Summer Camp Stats
- GMP Scholarship Information
- JROTC, CMP 3P Postals
- Dixie Double Results

## 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 on-line newsletter, **The First Shot**, at <http://thecmp.org/communications/the-first-shot/>.

## ◎ Sighting Shots ◎

- ◎ **CMP State Directors.** The mission of the State Directors is to provide leadership, resource and program information, coordination, networking, motivation and publicity for junior shooting within his or her state. The CMP is currently taking applications for the following states: **DE, LA, MT, NJ, ND, NH, NV, and WI**. For more information on requirements on applying for a State Director position, visit <http://thecmp.org/training-tech/state-director/> or contact Lue Sherman at (419) 635-2141, ext. 707 or email [lsheerman@thecmp.org](mailto:lsheerman@thecmp.org).
- ◎ **Save the Date: April 5-9 Join Us at the Oklahoma City Gun Club for the CMP Games Oklahoma. Clinics, Rifle Small Arms Firing School, Pistol and Rifle Matches** - It's going to be a great time!! Make plans and Save the Date: 5-9 April. For more information, visit [http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-travel-games/cmpgames\\_ok/](http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-travel-games/cmpgames_ok/).
- ◎ **CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park.** The latest addition to the CMP is its 500-acre outdoor marksmanship facility in Talladega, Alabama. The CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park is the first of its kind in the country and is one of the most sophisticated in the world - housing electronic targets similar to those used in the CMP air gun ranges. Several events have been planned at the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park. To learn more about the available events at the park, please visit <http://thecmp.org/competitions/matches/>.
- ◎ **Marksmanship Nights and Monthly Matches at CMP Marksmanship Centers.** Shooters, including aspiring new shooters, who live in or are visiting the Camp Perry, Port Clinton, Ohio, or Anniston, Ala., areas are invited to take advantage of the opportunity for practice at the Marksmanship Center air gun ranges' Marksmanship Nights. Both 80-point, 10-meter air gun ranges are fully equipped with electronic targets that accommodate air rifle, air pistol or National Match Air Rifle shooting. For more information, please visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-centers>.
- ◎ **The CMP "Aces" Postal satellite match** offers all junior and adult air rifle and air pistol shooters a program designed to encourage participation in the sport and test marksmanship skills nationally with their peers. The program consists of Air Rifle, Air Pistol, and Para-Air Rifle/Air Pistol events. For more information, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-aces-postal/>.
- ◎ **Affiliate your club with the CMP.** We look forward to working with you to assist your club in reaching its goals and in reaching the mission and vision of the CMP - to promote marksmanship training and firearms safety for all qualified U.S. citizens with a special emphasis on youth. Visit <http://thecmp.org/clubs/affiliate/> for more information or contact the CMP Affiliate Relations Department at 419-635-2141, Ext. 782 or email [clubs@thecmp.org](mailto:clubs@thecmp.org).



**On the Cover:** With its own Sporting Clay and 5 Stand shotgun fields, Talladega Marksmanship Park is able to hold weekly events – hosted by the CMP as well as outside entities. The junior event featured on the cover is showcased on page 15 of this issue.

# Marksman Student-athletes Apply Now for 2017-2018 CMP Scholarships

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

CAMP PERRY, OH – The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) is delighted to again award exemplary student-athletes for the 2017-2018 school year in their future endeavors through its annual scholarship program. The CMP offers \$1,000 one-year scholarships based on merit and rifle or pistol marksmanship participation to current high school seniors only.

Since 2005, CMP has awarded over \$1 million in scholarship prizes. Last year, the CMP again received a record-setting number of applications and awarded over \$150,000 in scholarship money. Winning recipients came from a mix of JROTC schools, 4-H groups and other shooting clubs.

**TO BE CONSIDERED**, applicants must turn in a list of past and present rifle or pistol competition history, awards, involvements and future expectations for the sport. **Proof of participation**, including match bulletins, photos or CMP Competition Tracker printouts (for example), **MUST** be presented in order to be considered for the scholarship. **Applications without this will be discarded.**

Those interested must also provide **academic information** such as GPA (3.0 or above – anything below 3.0 will not be accepted), test scores and a list of extracurricular activities. Additionally, an **official transcript** must be provided, along with a **letter** explaining why the applicant is applying and what future plans the money will fund. A **nomination/recommendation letter** from a coach or instructor is also required.

**Incomplete applications will not be considered, so please check that all required information is sent.**

Because the CMP takes great care in personally reading each application, all mandatory information (including forms and other necessary materials) must be sent to the CMP in its entirety. **We are eager to recognize praiseworthy student-athletes for their hard work – so please take extra precaution in sending all application requirements.**

The deadline for application submission is **March 20, 2017**. Scholarships may be used to pursue post-



## Scholarships

secondary education or vocational programs for the upcoming school year.

The CMP is dedicated to its commitment to youth programs and furthering the education of the successful young adults involved within them. 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.

Application forms and other 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).

Civilian Marksmanship Program Camp Perry Training Site, Bldg 3 PO Box 576 Port Clinton, OH 43452		Date <u>April 1, 2017</u>
		
Pay to the order of <b>YOUR NAME HERE</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	
<u>One Thousand Dollars</u>	$\frac{00}{100}$ Dollars	
Memo <u>CMP Scholarship Winner</u>		

# CMP Junior Rifle Campers Learn Olympic-style Training During 2016 Camps

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



*Along with air rifle fundamentals, campers will learn life skills and mental aspects like competition and sportsmanship.*

With the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro adding an extra element of athletic prowess and national pride to the year, the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Junior Rifle Camps took the opportunity to teach its participants corresponding lessons on mental preparedness and fundamental skills – the same training given to two former campers who made their debut at this year's Olympic Games.

The CMP's Junior Rifle Camps and Clinics train high-school age (9-12 grade) junior shooters on intermediate and advanced air rifle marksmanship skills through various exercises and demonstrations. More Outreach Clinics and Advanced Standing Camps were added for the 2016 camp season, with 12 Junior Air Rifle Camps, five Clinics and five Standing camps – the most standing camps in the history of the program.

Participation in the camps also slightly increased from 2015 and previous years, with a total of 1,131 campers attending in 2016. The affect of these participants sharing info from camps with others gives the camp material the potential to reach roughly 6,500-7,000 additional people.

Camp events were held in 10 different states and drew participants from 37 different states, including Alaska and Hawaii, with a continued trend of growth among female participants.

In 2004, campers were only 25 percent female, but in 2016 the campers were 45.7 percent female (in 2015 the campers were 41.5 percent female). The earliest data on female coaches dates back to 2006 when 15 percent of female coaches attended the camps. That number has grown modestly, but has still improved to 27.6 percent in 2016.

Exciting news in CMP Junior Rifle Camp history came when Ginny Thrasher of the West Virginia University rifle team became the first Camp alum to make the 2016 Olympic team that traveled to Rio this summer. She went on to become the youngest female ever to earn the first gold medal of the Olympic Games and set a new Olympic Record score.

"The Olympic Dream, and other big goals like NCAA Rifle Scholarships, become more real when these high school athletes get to see shooters who are practically their peers making the Olympic team, and when they get to interact with the NCAA athletes on our staff," said Sommer Wood, Camp director. "Part of the great excitement of having two camp alumni make the 2016 team, and Ginny winning Gold, was the potential inspiration it could provide other young shooters."

Other camp alumni making an appearance in Rio on the 2016 Olympic Team included Lucas Kozeniesky, who was also the first athlete from the North Carolina State rifle team to make the Olympic team and who is mentored by Jennifer Marshall – a former Camp counselor.

Sarah Scherer, who represented Team USA at the London Olympics in 2012 and again in Rio this year, is also a former Camp counselor, while Ashley MacAllister, former camp assistant director, coached the Puerto Rico rifle team in Rio.

"We did incorporate the Olympics heavily into the theme this year, as we do each Olympic year, even coordinating the staff shirts to match the Olympic Ring colors," said Wood. "We wanted to get the point across that only a few years ago, members of the 2016 Olympic team were sitting in the same seats as our current camp athletes. We wanted the campers to realize that it is okay to dream big now, rather than push big goals like the Olympics into the future."

She went on to say, "In fact, now is the best time

for many of these young shooters to pursue big goals – when they have the support system, coaching, and most importantly, the time to put into training. It gets much harder to stay on track for those lofty goals as other life demands start to compete for a person's time once he or she is an adult."

Each summer, campers are trained by qualified student athletes from the top NCAA rifle teams in the country – the majority of whom had participated in the camps themselves as juniors. These camp counselors lead the juniors in discussions and drills during the camp in small groups where they are able to give each participant personal attention.

This year, 26 counselors, two gunsmiths, four assistant directors and two directors made the large operation work, along with the support of people at the CMP headquarters who were also vital to the success. The counselors on staff represented 13 different NCAA and College Club Programs.

Sommer Wood and Dan Durben are the chief instructors for the camp programs, with over 20 years combined air rifle summer camp counseling experience between them.

Both holding notable accomplishments of their own, Wood is a graduate of Clemson University, where she was an athlete on the air rifle team, while Durben is an Olympic athlete and former U.S. Olympic Rifle and Paralympic Shooting Team coach.

"In 2017, we will continue to provide comprehensive



*The number of campers has steadily risen over the years, including the number of females, which has increased from 25 percent to nearly 46 percent over the last decade.*

training through our Three-Position and Standing Camps," said Wood. "After each Olympic quad, we evaluate the trends of the tops performers at the Olympics and make adjustments and additions if we see anything new."

"We are still in the process now of updating the 2017 curriculum, and I am excited to see how it comes together," she added.

For more on the Junior Air Rifle Camps and Clinics, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/junior-air-rifle-camps-and-clinics/>. View photos from the 2016 camps and clinics at <http://cmp1.zenfolio.com/p494930847>.



*The 2016 Summer Air Rifle Camps visited 10 states and welcomed juniors from 37 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.*

## Shooting's Greatest Days of Glory

# The 2016 Rio Olympic Games: Shooting's Greatest Days of Glory

*By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus*



*The 2016 Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies were spectacular. In this Closing Ceremony scene, fireworks exploded as a "tree of life" rose from the stadium floor after the Olympic Torch was extinguished. The tree is a symbol of hope for the future of the Games and of mankind.*

The Olympic Games are the world's greatest sports competition and Shooting is a major sport in those Games. Every four years the Olympics give Shooting and its best athletes television and media coverage that far exceeds anything achieved in the previous three years and 11 months. This is vital to junior shooting programs all over the world because having Shooting in the Olympics affirms how their sport is one of the world's great sports.

The Games of the 31st Modern Olympiad took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 5-21 August. They featured competitions in 306 medal events in 28 different sports for 11,303 athletes from 206 countries. In Rio, 390 athletes from 97 countries participated in 15 Shooting events. Shooting ranked fourth among the 28 sports in national participation; only Athletics, Swimming and Judo had qualified athletes from more countries. The 390 Shooting

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athletes emerged from an Olympic Games qualifying process in which 4,412 athletes from 117 nations competed in 23 qualifying competitions between September 2014 and March 2016.

Here are 2016 Games Shooting highlights that will be of special interest to junior shooting leaders and programs in the USA.

### The Games First Gold Medal

Shooting once again enjoyed the unique honor of presenting the very first medal of the entire Games. The 2016 first gold medal was extra special because a 19 year-old athlete from the USA won it. Virginia Thrasher from Springfield, Virginia was already well known in the USA because she won both the smallbore and air rifle 2016 NCAA rifle championships, but she was completely unknown to the rest of the shooting world. She had only competed in three ISSF World Cups in 2015 and 2016 and had not qualified for a final in any of them.

In the Olympic Women's Air Rifle event, Thrasher finished 6th in the 40-shot qualification to qualify for the final. The eight finalists included three athletes who had already won four Olympic medals and five world championship medals between them so no one expected her to beat all of them. The final was incredibly close and hard fought as Thrasher quickly advanced into 3rd, then 2nd and, after 12 shots, into first. She held onto first place the rest of the way with a fantastic performance (see chart) to become the 2016 Olympics first gold medalist.

### The Greatest Shooting Performances in Rio

Every Olympics are distinguished by athlete performances that rise above the rest. In addition to Thrasher's unexpected victory, the greatest performances in Rio belonged to Korean pistol shooter Jin Jong-oh, Italian rifle shooter Nicco Campriani, Vietnam pistol shooter Xuân Vinh Hoàng and a young pistol shooter from Greece, Anna Korakaki.

Going in to the Games, the 37-year-old Jin was one of



*Korea's Jin Jong-oh made Olympic history by becoming the first shooter to win four individual gold medals.*

only three athletes to ever win three individual Olympic gold medals in Shooting. He competed in both precision pistol events. In 10m Air Pistol on the first day of competition, he had a disappointing 5th place finish, but four days later, he won the 50m event with an unbelievable come-from-behind performance. In the final, his quest to become the first shooter to win four gold medals looked bleak after he shot a disastrous 6.6 on his ninth shot. That dropped him to last among the remaining seven finalists and placed him in grave danger of being eliminated. But he proceeded to shoot eight tens in his last ten shots to climb back to the top after he passed Vietnam's Hoàng on their last two shots. Jin's 50m Pistol performance in Rio was a great example of never giving up even when there appears to be no hope. He became the first athlete in the 120-year history of Olympic Shooting to win four individual gold medals.

Italy's Nicco Campriani is well known to U.S. shooting enthusiasts because he attended the University of West Virginia and shot on their NCAA Championship Rifle Team. Campriani won the 50m 3-Position gold medal in the 2012 Olympics under the old finals rules where qualification scores carried forward into the final. The ISSF changed to start-from-zero finals in 2013 and Campriani suffered through several disappointing finals finishes during the last four years.

### Ginny Thrasher's Path to Olympic Gold

After Shot #	3	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Eliminations			8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	1st & 2nd
Margin to/from 1st	-0.2	-0.7	-0.4	-0.1	+0.7	+1.3	+0.5	+0.7	+1.0
Place	3rd	2nd	2nd	2nd	1st	1st	1st	1st	GOLD

Ginny Thrasher shot a 10.9 on her first shot and a 9.7 on her second shot. Her next 18 shots were all 10s.

## Shooting's Greatest Days of Glory



*Nicco Campriani, Italy, became only the third shooter in 120 years of Olympic history to win two individual gold medals in one Olympics.*

In Rio, however, his two gold medals became another great example of perseverance through adversity. He had a strong finish to win the Air Rifle Men's event and, on the last competition day, overcame Russia's Sergey Kamenskiy on the last shot to win the 50m 3-Position gold medal. Campriani became the fourth athlete to win three individual gold medals in Shooting and only the third athlete to win two gold medals in one Games.

Vietnam's Xuân Vinh Hoàng has become one of the world's best precision pistol shooters so his medal wins in Rio were hardly surprising. On the first competition day, he and Brazil's Felipe Wu fought for first and second

places in the Men's Air Pistol event. Wu had a slender 0.3 lead going into the last shot and shot a 10.1, but Hoàng shot a 10.7 to win the gold medal by 0.4 points. The finish was especially exciting because the home crowd enthusiastically shouted "WU-WU-WU-WU" throughout the final. Hoàng became the first athlete from Vietnam to ever win an Olympic gold medal while Wu won Brazil's first medal of the Games. Hoàng's outstanding Olympics climaxed when he nearly won another gold medal in the 50m Pistol event where he finished with a silver medal.

Three other athletes in Rio won two Shooting medals each; two of them are married. Anna Korakaki from Greece placed third in the Women's Air Pistol event and then won the Women's 25m Pistol event after a back-and-forth 8-6 gold medal match duel with Germany's Monika Karsch. China's Du Li won gold medals in 2004 and 2008. In Rio, she finished second to Thrasher in Air Rifle and third in 50m 3-Position to add two more medals to her collection. Du is married to China's Pang Wei who won silver and bronze medals in Rio in the Men's Air Pistol and 50m Pistol events.

### Junior Successes in Rio

The successes several junior-aged athletes had during the 2016 Olympics should inspire junior shooters in the USA to believe it is possible for juniors to win in international competitions. According to international rules, a junior is anyone who is 20 or younger. In Rio three juniors won four medals. These included Thrasher's gold medal, Korakaki's gold and bronze medals and a silver medal won by Russia's Vitalina Batsarashkina in Women's Air Pistol. In addition, four other athletes who were 21 or 22 years of age won medals. Athletes who were 22 or younger won eight of the 45 medals (18%) awarded in Rio. Modern training methods and equipment are making it possible for junior athletes to develop faster than ever before. All of these medal winners had no prior Olympic experience, but most had records of success in ISSF Junior World Cups or the 2014 Junior World Championships.

### The USA Shooting Team Performance

The USA Shooting Team entered the Olympics with a very strong team that included several athletes with "podium potential." Ten of the 20 USA team members were ranked in the top ten in the world before the Games and they had a great start. Ginny Thrasher won gold on the first day and trap shooter Cory Cogdell won a bronze medal on the second day. They won only one other medal

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*Junior athlete Anna Korakaki, Greece, won medals in both women's pistol events, gold in 25m and bronze in 10m. The photos show her competing in the two finals.*

in the remaining seven days, Kim Rhode's bronze medal in Women's Skeet.

Rhode went to Rio with the distinction of having won medals (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) in five consecutive Olympics. She had to win a one-shot sudden death shoot-off at the end of the Skeet bronze medal match, but her bronze medal in Rio made history. The 37-year-old skeet shooter from El Monte, California became the first athlete in any sport in Olympic history, male or female, to win medals in six consecutive Games.

The 2016 USA total of three medals compares favorably with USA results in previous Olympics (1988 = 3, 1992 = 2, 1996 = 3, 2000 = 3, 2004 = 3, 2008 = 6, 2012 = 4). However, compared with the possibilities that existed before the Games, the 2016 medal total was disappointing. In Rio, the USA had three world number one ranked athletes finish 19th, 19th and 15th so it is easy to understand the disappointment. Officially, the USA finished 5th in the medal count behind Italy, Germany, China and Korea.



*USA skeet athlete Kim Rhode (on right) finished behind gold and silver medalists from Italy, but her bronze medal made her the first Olympic athlete to win medals in six consecutive Games.*

## Shooting's Greatest Days of Glory

### The Rio 2016 Organizing Committee

The Rio de Janeiro Games were unique because they were the first to be held in South America where **Rio 2016**, the Olympic Games Organizing Committee, successfully combined Latin culture with the Games. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The Rio ceremonies were not the costly technological extravaganzas of Beijing or London; rather they were joyous celebrations of Brazilian culture and music. Brazilians are a happy people whose 'joie de vivre' came alive in the Games great celebrations.

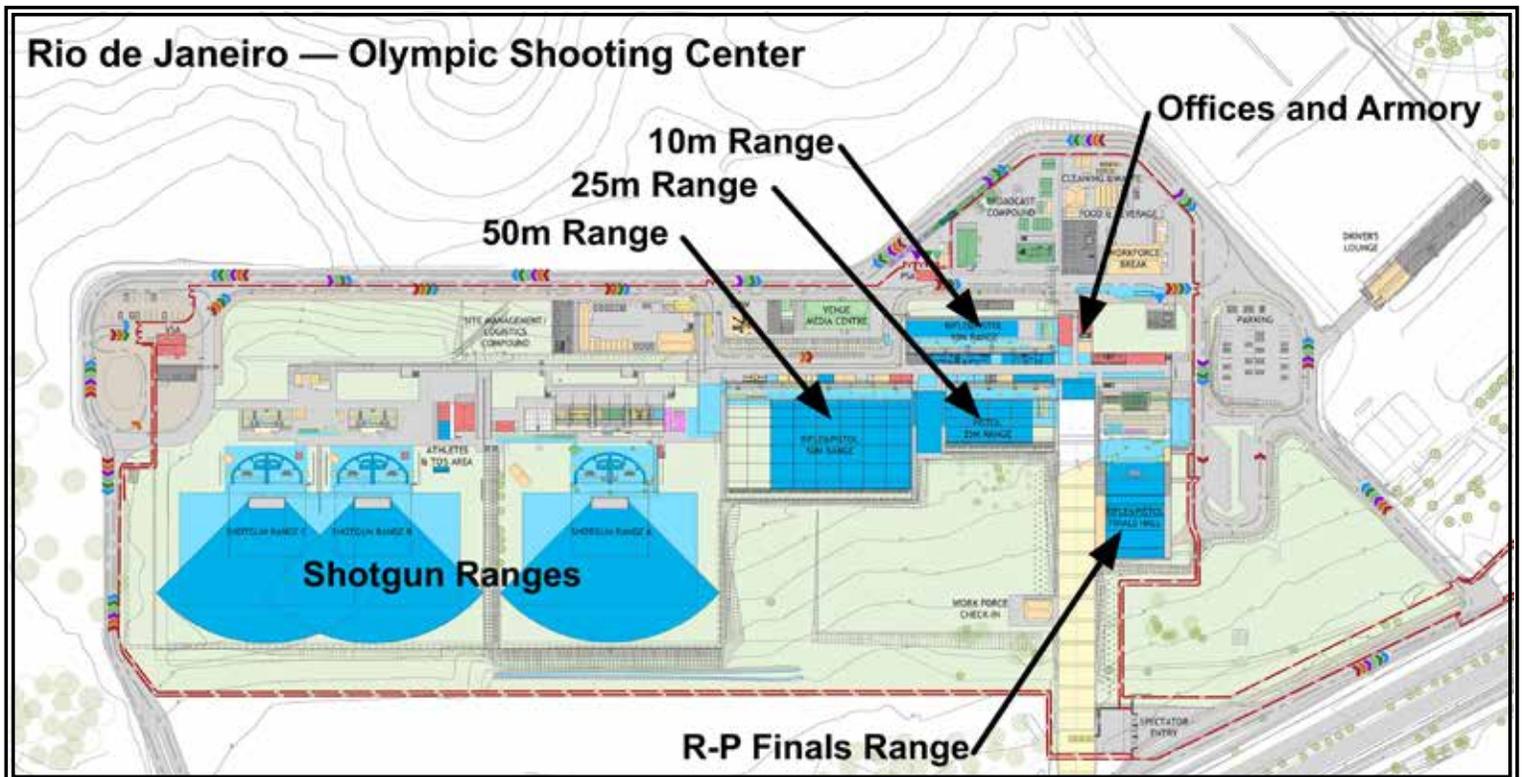
In judging the Rio Olympics, it is important to acknowledge the obstacles **Rio 2016** had to overcome just to conduct the Games. Prior to every Olympics there is always a flood of negative media stories about the Olympics. In the months before Rio negative stories focused on mosquitoes and the zika virus, dangerous pollution in water-based sports venues, huge budget cutbacks caused by Brazil's severe economic downturn, Rio's horrendous traffic and systemic threats of crime.

None of these "the-sky-is-falling" scenarios prevented Rio from giving the world a great Olympics. Very few people complained about ever seeing mosquitoes. Water pollution was never entirely cleaned up, but there also were no widespread reports of illnesses. Brazil conquered its traffic problem by providing Olympic lanes and new highways that drastically reduced travel times for athletes

and officials to reach sports venues. The most serious crime story during the Games was about three American swimmers who trashed a gas station and lied about being robbed. Budgets were tight and cutbacks had to be endured, but the quality of the sports competitions was never compromised.

In the Olympic Games, the IOC chooses the host city and provides overall supervision for Games preparation, but the IOC delegates responsibility for governing and supervising the sports competitions to each sport's international federation (IF). The IF for the Olympic sport of Shooting is the ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation). IFs provide competition rules and appoint Technical Delegates who work directly with the host city's organizing committee to plan and prepare the competitions in each sport.

A key requirement for Olympic host cities is to provide a venue or sports facility that complies with IF rules. Rio de Janeiro had an existing shooting venue that was located in the suburb of Deodoro in the northwest part of the city. This venue was originally built for the 2007 Pan American Games, but it was completely refurbished for the 2016 Olympics. The Olympic Shooting Center has three shotgun ranges, 60 50m firing points, 60 10m firing points, eight 25m bays and a Rifle-Pistol Finals Hall. ISSF and Rio 2016 officials were able to make the refurbished venue work quite satisfactorily.



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The actual conduct of the competitions is done by the NTOs (National Technical Officials) from the host country. Brazil started with very few trained, experienced Range Officers, but they appointed a group of enthusiastic volunteers, many with military backgrounds, to serve as NTOs (Chief Range Officers and Range Officers). They participated in a rigorous training program and served with distinction during a Pre-Olympic Test Event in April and again during the Olympics. The **Rio 2016** NTOs became some of the best Range Officers in the world who helped to ensure that the 2016 Olympic Shooting competitions were outstanding.

The consensus among ISSF officials is that the 2016 competitions were the best ever for Shooting. All 15 Shooting events started and finished on time, there were no protests and amazingly few even minor incidents. The conduct of the 15 Finals went without a single glitch or significant incident. There were no anti-doping violations. The objective of providing absolutely fair, optimum conditions for the athletes was achieved. A new innovation during the 2016 competitions was the use of music during qualification and final round competitions. This was one of several sports presentation procedures used by Shooting in Rio to bring it more in line with how other Olympic sports are conducted.

### The Impact of Start-from-Zero Finals

The ISSF made a major rule change in 2013 immediately after the London Olympics. ISSF finals rules that have been used since 1986 allowed the top eight or six athletes to keep their qualification scores and finish with a short, ten-shot final. The new 2013 rules changed that format by providing for longer finals (more shots) and no longer allowing finalists to carry qualification scores forward into the final. The Rio Games were the first Olympics to use the new format. Qualification competitions earned the top athletes places in the final, but in line with how almost all Olympic sports now conduct final round competitions, finalists must follow with a second great performance in the final in order to win a medal.

The competitions in Rio proved that this new finals format generates a lot more drama and excitement. Under the old rules only the top two or three in most qualification competitions had a chance to win. In Rio, every one of the eight finalists had an opportunity to win. Two rifle gold medalists, Henri Junghänel of Germany, who won in



*The Rio 2016 Shooting Range Officers (“NTOs”) turned out to be some of the best Range Officers in the world. The NTO team in this photo conducted all firing on the 50m Range.*

50m Rifle Prone, and Nicco Campriani of Italy, who won in 50m Rifle 3-Position, finished their qualifications in 8th place. Women’s Air Pistol gold medalist Mengxue Zhang of China qualified in 7th. Ginny Thrasher qualified in 6th and Women’s Rifle 3-Position gold medalist Barbara Engleder of Germany qualified in 5th. Under the old system none of them would have had any real chance to win.

Every rifle and pistol final was not decided until the last



*Vietnam’s Xuân Vinh Hoàng passed Brazil’s Felipe Wu on the very last shot to win the 10m Air Pistol Men gold medal. Here they are embrace each other after that fateful, but tremendously exciting shot.*

## Shooting's Greatest Days of Glory

shot. Campriani went from second to first on the last shot in the 50m 3-Position final. Vietnam's Hoàng jumped from second to first on his last shot in the 10m Air Pistol final. Jin Jong-oh moved from 2nd to first in the 50m Pistol final on the second to the last shot and needed a great last shot to ensure his victory. Germany's Christian Reitz scored a perfect five hits on his last 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol series to secure his gold medal. The 2016 Olympic finals truly were the most exciting ever.

### The NCAA Connection

One of the most interesting observations that came out of Rio is the impact that NCAA college rifle programs have had on rifle athlete development. Nicco Campriani, who won two rifle gold medals, is a graduate of the University of West Virginia and shot on their very successful rifle team. Ginny Thrasher is a current WVU sophomore. 50m Rifle Prone gold medalist Junghänel is a graduate of the University of Kentucky. Current or former members of NCAA rifle teams won four of the five 2016 rifle gold medals. Three other rifle event finalists had former NCAA rifle team connections.

### How Much Is an Olympic Gold Medal Worth?

An Olympic gold medal is made of silver with gold plate on the outside so its intrinsic value is not exceptional. The last solid gold Olympic medal was awarded in 1912. Forbes Magazine calculated the "podium value" of a 2016 gold medal at \$564, based on current prices for gold and silver. Nevertheless, the real value of a gold medal to an athlete who wins one is much higher because it commemorates becoming the best in the world in an international sports event and because it brings substantial financial rewards.

Almost all Olympic medal winners receive money for their victories, some of them a lot of money. Many national shooting federations like USA Shooting now provide financial rewards for winning Olympic medals. Most national Olympic Committees provide cash awards. Some government agencies also provide financial incentives. Ginny Thrasher received a total award of \$75,000, \$50,000 from USA Shooting and \$25,000 from the U. S. Olympic Committee. German gold medalists Engender, Junghänel and Reitz each received 20,000 Euros (22,000 US\$) from the German Sports Aid Foundation. In addition their coaching staff received 40,000 Euros for each gold medal. Credible reports from China state that Chinese gold medalists receive well over a million dollars in payments from sports agencies and governments that support them.



*Lucas Kozeniesky, age 21, shoots for the North Carolina State Univ. Rifle Team. He was one of several promising young athletes on the 2016 USA Olympic Shooting Team. He finished 21st in Men's Air Rifle.*

### Celebrity and Television Support for Shooting

In addition to receiving unprecedented worldwide television coverage during the Olympics, Shooting once again attracted enthusiastic attention from many government and sports leaders. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and Chinese Vice Minister Liu Yandong attended the Women's Air Rifle final, where IOC President Thomas Bach presented the Games first

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*IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach (on right) is accompanied by ISSF President Olegario Vázquez Raña as they are introduced prior to the presentation of the Games first medals for the Women's Air Rifle event.*

medals. At least four royal family members visited the Olympic Shooting Center including Princess Ann of Great Britain, Prince Albert II of Monaco, Prince Frederik of Denmark and Princess Nora of Lichtenstein. At least 29 IOC members attended, along with numerous other government and National Olympic Committee leaders.

All relevant television viewer statistics are not yet available, but initial indications are that Shooting did very well in attracting TV viewers. The Games attracted an overall worldwide TV audience of 3.5 billion people; that's half of the world's population. NBC live streamed all 15 Olympic Shooting finals via the Internet for viewers in the USA. German television reported over six million viewers for each of the two 25m pistol finals where German athletes won gold and silver medals. Similar reports are coming from several other countries.

The 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro have once again demonstrated how Shooting is a well-established and highly respected sport within the Olympic movement. Young shooters can be proud of their participation in Shooting, be inspired by the accomplishments of its great athletes and enjoy their engagement in the Olympic dream.

## Resources

For anyone who wants more information about the 2016 Olympic Shooting competitions, two good resources to check are:

- **The Shooting Results Book**, a complete list of all athletes, all scores and all rankings for the 15 2016 Olympic Shooting events. Download from the ISSF website at: <http://www.issf-sports.org/media/calendar/2016/1664/completeresult/OG%20BRA%202016%20Results%20Book.pdf>.

- NBC Olympic Live Stream Videos. Archived copies of NBC Olympic coverage can be found at <http://www.nbcolympics.com/video/shooting>.

## About the Author

Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship Emeritus, retired as the full-time CMP Director at the close of 2009. He continues to work with CMP as the senior marksmanship instructor. During his remarkable career, he won two Olympic gold medals, seven World Championships and 16 National Championships. He is a Vice President of the International Shooting Sports Federation, the President of USA Shooting, a former Nebraska State Senator and was one of the two Olympic Games Technical Delegates for Shooting during the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

In June, 2012, the International Olympic Committee awarded Gary Anderson the IOC's highest honor, the Olympic Order, "for outstanding services to the Olympic Movement."

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



## Ginny Thrasher – Olympic Gold Medalist

Since 1984, Shooting has awarded the Olympic Games' first gold medal among all sports. Early on Saturday morning, 6 August, before any other Olympic sports events started their finals, 51 athletes from 38 nations began the 40-shot qualification course for the 10m Air Rifle Women event. Two USA athletes were among them; Sarah Scherer finished in 5th and 19 year-old Virginia Thrasher finished in 6th. Both qualified for the final that started one hour later. Sherer had three nines in her first eight shots and finished eighth. Thrasher shot her only nine (9.7) of the final on her second shot and was in second place when Scherer was eliminated. What transpired after that stunned the shooting world. Who was this young, unknown American who was battling for the lead with two previous Olympic gold medalists? She was already in first place after 12 shots. Under the pressure of an incredibly close final, in the most watched Shooting event ever, she held her lead to the end. Her last two shots were a 10.5 and a 10.4. The USA's Ginny Thrasher became the 2016 Games first gold medal winner.



*The 10m Air Rifle Women Olympic medalists (from l. to r.): Du Li, China, silver; Virginia Thrasher, USA, gold; Yi Siling, China, bronze.*



*The photo on the left shows Thrasher while she competed in the qualification completion. In the photo above, she acknowledges the TV camera and spectators while she is introduced at the start of the Final.*



*The victory smile! Just as soon as Thrasher fired her last shot and saw that it was a 10.4, she knew she was the gold medal winner.*



*On left: The Olympic TV production's split screen shows Du Li and Thrasher firing their 20th and last shots.*

*On right: The three Olympic medalists on the Victory Podium.*



# October Shotgun, Rifle Weekend Events Fill Talladega Marksmanship Park

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

TALLADEGA, Ala. – On Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama was a busy place – full of learning and competitive opportunities for marksmen of a variety of disciplines.

Supporting a growing number of shotgun events over the last year, Talladega stood as the venue for the Harvester Christian Shotgun Sporting Clays Shoot. A total of 64 marksmen from eight middle school and high school private Christian academies involved within the Georgia Independent Christian Athletic Association fired in the event.

Scott Cosper, a Harvester Christian member who coordinated the match, decided to hold the shoot at Talladega after taking his 14-year-old son there in the winter of 2015 to practice sporting clays. Cosper and his son, a member of the shotgun team, enjoyed their time on the shotgun fields and knew others would as well.

"We shot several clays events there, and the people were wonderful to work with. It was unheard of to shoot 100 rounds of sporting for only \$25," he said. "We really loved the setup, and each time we came the course was different, which helped in our practice."

The Harvester Christian Shotgun Sporting Clays Shoot at Talladega featured 100 rounds of sporting clays throughout 15 stations of Talladega's carefully designed sporting clay field – covered with details Cosper finds rare in other shotgun field arenas.

"It's like no other in this area. It's fun but challenging," said Cosper.

Not only did Cosper praise the course itself, but he also went on to compliment those who run it as well.

"The people who work there are so helpful and friendly. They made us feel at home while we were there. They treated us like we own the place," he said. "During and since our event ended, I have received nothing but great reviews about the CMP. They LOVED it and want to come back."

"We appreciate all the hard work that was put in by the CMP," he added. "We will make plans to host an event there again in 2017."



The Georgia Independent Christian Athletic Association holds six to eight events per season, with 18 teams throughout the state of Georgia. State finals will be held in December in Savannah.

Occupying other ranges on the grounds was Project Appleseed, a nationwide program that teaches rifle marksmanship skills that originated at the roots of America and reconnects participants with the people and events of the colonial era.

The Talladega camp focused on Known Distance – an intermediate level class for rifle shooters who have some experience but wish to learn longer distance shooting. Class time was spent less on the fundamentals of marksmanship and concentrated on more specific elements.

During Project Appleseed, students are taught accuracy out to 500 yards using a standard rifle with iron sights, known as the "Rifleman's Quarter Mile." The Quarter Mile is an American tradition that has been celebrated since the beginning of the nation. Participants also learn little-known Revolutionary War history and other facts about the American heritage.

Talladega Marksmanship Park is home to 500 acres of meticulously crafted ranges that cater to an endless number of rifle, pistol and shotgun opportunities and is one of the most advanced outdoor facilities in the country.

Events are held every week at the range, so check them out for yourself! Match Schedule link at <http://thecmp.org/competitions/matches/>.

# JROTC, CMP 3P Air Rifle Postals Underway

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

## JROTC Postal Competition

The 2016-2017 JROTC Postal Competition has completed. The event officially opened, as it does annually, on Sept. 26, 2016, for young cadets in Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force JROTC programs who are interested in competing in this three-position air rifle match with other talented juniors across the nation. Last year, over 7,000 juniors competed in the match that serves as the first step on the road to Nationals.

To compete, registered participants will each receive three targets and instructions for recording scores. Shooters will fire in each of the three positions (prone, standing, kneeling) at their home ranges – using one target for each position. Once record shots are fired, shooters will return the targets to CMP for scoring.

CMP staff members will verify scores using the Orion Visual Image Scoring system. Results will be posted within Competition Tracker for teams and individuals to check during the postal season.

As in years past, Larry and Brenda Potterfield, co-founders of the MidwayUSA Corporation, will provide generous fund donations to winning teams of the JROTC Championships.

The funds will be placed in each team's endowment account with the MidwayUSA Foundation. The MidwayUSA Foundation is a 501c(3) public charity that helps communities and organizations raise funds to support youth shooting teams and activities. The Foundation is an endowment that helps fund team expenses today and into the future.

## Noted Dates for the 2016-2017 JROTC Postal Competition:

- Sept. 26, 2016 – Online Registration Opened
- Nov. 16, 2016 – Online Registration Closed
- Dec. 1, 2016 – Targets must have been received by CMP for scoring (Late targets will not be scored.)
- Dec. 5, 2016 – Preliminary Results Posted
- Dec. 9, 2016 – All scores final (Protests cannot be made after 8 a.m.)

Top scorers of the Postal competition will qualify for Regionals, which will be held in February at three locations: Anniston, Ala.; Camp Perry, Ohio; and Las Vegas, Nev. Nationals will follow in March in Anniston for all service branches.

For more information, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/jrotc-air-rifle-national-championship/>.



## CMP 3P Postal Competition

The CMP National Postal Championship officially opened for registration on Nov. 1, 2016, for any junior air gun marksman involved in 4-H, Scouts, American Legion, club or JROTC air rifle programs. The competition is designed for those interested in testing their three-position competition skills against some of the top shooters in the country, while firing from the convenience of their home ranges.

Registered shooters will receive CMP competition targets by mail to record shots upon at each of the three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. Targets are then mailed back to CMP headquarters for official scoring by staff members. Final postal scores will be available for viewing through CMP's Competition Tracker system (<https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php>).

The top shooters of the Postal competition will qualify to participate in one of three CMP Regional Championships, held at Camp Perry, Ohio; Anniston, Ala., in March 2017; and Layton, Utah, in April 2017. The National Championship will follow at CMP's Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry in June.

To reward the hard work of dedicated junior athletes and coaches, the CMP administers monetary donations towards teams who qualify for the Regional and National events. A scholarship check for \$1,000 is also available for each of the Top 3 highest-scoring senior athletes in both the sporter and precision classes at the National competition.

For registration and more information on the CMP Postal Competition, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/three-position-national-postal-competition/>.

## 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.



### 2016

#### December

17 Dec  
**USPSA**  
Talladega, AL

### 2017

#### January

6-8 Jan  
**American Marksman Nationals**  
Talladega, AL

7 Jan  
**Bass Pro**  
Orlando, FL

13-15 Jan  
**Camp Perry Open**  
Camp Perry, OH

#### February

9-11 Feb  
**JROTC Service Championships**

16-18 Feb  
**JROTC Service Championships**

22 Feb  
**Shocco Springs Conference**  
Talladega, AL

#### March

10-12 Mar  
**Scholastic National Pistol Match**  
Talladega, AL

11 Mar  
**F-Class**  
Talladega, AL

16-19 Mar  
**A Girl and a Gun**  
Talladega, AL

18 Mar  
**CMP Monthly Match**  
Camp Perry, OH  
Anniston, AL

23-25 Mar  
**JROTC National Championship**  
Anniston, AL

30 Mar-1 Apr  
**CMP Regional Championships**  
Camp Perry, OH  
Anniston, AL

#### April

6-8 Apr  
**CMP Regional Championships**  
Layton, UT

4-9 Apr  
**CMP Oklahoma Games**  
Oklahoma City, OK

15 Apr  
**CMP Monthly Match**  
Camp Perry, OH  
Anniston, AL

#### May

17-21 May  
**Area 6 Steel Challenge**  
Talladega, AL

20 May  
**CMP Monthly Match**  
Camp Perry, OH  
Anniston, AL

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

# JROTC Junior Earns Top Place in His Debut M16 Match at Western CMP Games

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*



*Caden (far left) and other members of the Flowing Wells JROTC attended SAFS for the first time. Coach Jeff Schneider (far right), served as an instructor during the course.*

PHOENIX, Ariz. – First-time Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) attendee and junior competitor Caden Gamblin, 16, of Tucson, Ariz., not only earned the High Junior honor during the M16 Match at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Western Games in October, but also claimed the third place spot over a field of nearly 40 adult and junior competitors and earned his first 4 EIC points towards the coveted Distinguished Rifleman Badge.

Finding his way to the top of the pack of new and experienced marksmen came to Caden as both a surprise and a privilege as he gained his first taste of highpower competition.

"This was my first M16 match, and I'll tell you what – it was amazing," Caden remarked. "When I found out how

well I did, I was just peachy. It was a real honor to me."

Caden is a student at Amphitheater High School in Tucson and a member of the Flowing Wells High School JROTC air rifle team. He's been shooting since he was very young – too far back to remember exactly when he began! He decided to take part in SAFS this year after his coach, Jeff Schneider, invited Caden and a few of the other cadets to give it a try.

Schneider is a talented competitor himself and a familiar face at Western Games, having attended every year since 2005. At this year's Games, Jeff was the High Senior and overall winner of the Vintage Military Match and the Modern Military Match courses. Jeff was also one of the CMP certified instructors that led the SAFS course.



*Caden Gamblin (right) earned the High Junior award and also landed in third place overall during the M16 Match at Western Games in October. Caden also earned his first EIC rifle points during the match.*

“Working with him always is an asset to my shooting,” said Caden. “He gives you straight-forward advice on positions or anything. I take his advice because of his experience. We’re very lucky to have him as a coach.”

Caden learned right away how similar firing the highpower rifle is to his air gun and even enjoyed the difficult sitting position – something he had never tried before. He even had the chance to fire beside three other members of his JROTC unit also there to challenge themselves with highpower for the first time during the SAFS course.

“It was good shooting with some of my fellow cadets!” he said. “I had two new shooters and a buddy of mine I’ve known for a while. I love being able to see others get into the thing I love the most – shooting!”

“And yes, we were all somewhat nervous,” he joked.

Providing even more help to Caden during the match was his father, Preston (a veteran of the United States Marine Corps), who took time off of his day to walk him through each aspect of the competition process, including the pits.

“He’s also the one who introduced me to shooting. Since he’s a veteran, this is the type of stuff he enjoys,” Caden said.

Since 1918, the SAFS courses have been a staple at the coveted National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio – with the involvement of over 1,000 pistol and rifle participants continuing each season. As the CMP added Travel Games



*Caden credits his coach Jeff Schneider in his ability to teach, saying, “Working with him always is an asset to my shooting.”*

events around the country throughout the years, it was of vital importance to the organization that the SAFS courses be added to the match schedule in order to extend the teaching of marksmanship fundamentals and safety to adults and juniors across the nation.

“I would love to motivate others to try the school out,” Caden said. “It teaches others safety and just how to shoot! It also shows how much respect you should give a firearm, which is a must in this day and age.”

From here, Caden is looking forward to competing in the JROTC air rifle Regional and National competitions to come in 2017.

“I would like to say thank you to the CMP for hosting such an amazing event, thank you to my friends and family for helping to motivate me to be a better shooter overall, and lastly Jeff Schneider and the JROTC that is able to present the awesome opportunities for me to be apart of.”

**The next Rifle Small Arms Firing School will take place in Arcadia, OK, at the CMP Games-Oklahoma (Wednesday, 5 April) and at Camp Butner, NC, at the CMP Eastern Games (Friday, 28 April).**

# Dad and Daughter Take on First M16 Match at 2016 Western CMP Games

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Like tumbleweeds in the wind, nearly 200 marksmen and women rolled through the desert to fire in one of the CMP's most unique matches of the year – the Western CMP Travel Games. Under the hot sun at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, participants compete in popular CMP Games matches, including the John C. Garand Match, Vintage Sniper and Rimfire Sporter – all while immersed in the stunning scenery that can only be found in Arizona.

Attending for the first time was father/daughter duo Blue Beckham, 42, and McKenna Beckham, 13, of Phoenix, AZ. The two participated in the CMP's Small Arms Firing School (SAFS), which is designed to teach new and experienced marksmen AR-15 rifle fundamentals through classroom and hands-on demonstrations from qualified CMP instructors.

McKenna is currently a smallbore shooter but hopes to soon add highpower to her repertoire through the local junior team, the AZ Junior Highpower Scorpions. For McKenna, shooting is a sport she takes on both for fun as well as to train for her future dream job.

"I want to be in the Secret Service when I'm older, so shooting is a good skill to have," she said. "And I love it – that helps."

During SAFS, McKenna learned the essentials of firing a rifle and also fired in the true M16 match that is always held at the conclusion of the course.

"I thought it was really fun. I had never shot an AR before," she said. "I had never really been to a highpower match before, so that was really cool. And I liked learning how to operate the pits."

Her dad, Blue, is also new to the highpower competition



*Blue Beckham and his daughter McKenna attended Western Games for the first time this year. Both participated in the Small Arms Firing School, where McKenna fired in her first M16 Match.*

world, generally partaking in rifle shooting as only a hobby instead of competitively. A common interest he and McKenna share, rifling with his daughter is something Blue cherishes as he watches her grow into a talented young woman.

"It's the most exciting thing in the world," he said. "My son shoots and my nephew shoots, but they aren't as competitive this way as she is, and to see her out here competing with people who have been doing it for 40 years is just an incredible, proud moment, for sure."

"Lots of pictures were texted afterwards," he added, with a smile.

McKenna equally enjoys delving into the highpower rifle realm with her dad, saying, "It's cool because, like in smallbore, he has no experience at all so he can't really help me, but he has more experience with ARs and other rifles, so it's nice to hear his opinion on them compared to just hearing my coaches."

"She'll do it for the rest of her life. I have no doubt," Blue added.

# CMP Athletes Take Over in Monthly Match Air Gun League Results

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



*Chance Cover, CMP staff member and former CMP air rifle camp counselor, landed in first place during the 60 Shot rifle match.*

After months of intense competition, the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Monthly Match League has come to a close. The league is an added competition between North and South Monthly Match competitors that accompanies CMP's existing Monthly Match events, held at the South CMP Competition Center in Anniston, AL, as well as the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, OH.

Overall winners were chosen from averaged combined scores, accumulated from at least three Monthly Matches at both locations, with lowest scores being dropped. Most Improved awards were also determined by comparing lowest score to highest score of participants who fired in three or more matches.

A total of 170 marksmen participated in the 60 Shot Rifle competition, with CMP's own Chance Cover, 25, of Anniston, AL, recording a score of 612.2 for first place overall. Following close behind in second place was fellow CMP employee Elijah Ellis, 23, of Kingsport, TN, who fired an average score of 610.6. High Junior Ryan McAndrews, 17, of Remlap, AL, claimed third with a score of 607.8.

Derek King, 17, of Raymond, OH, won the Most Improved award in the 60 Shot match – enhancing his score by a margin of 93 points.

In 60 Shot Pistol, CMP's James Hall, 32, of Anniston, AL, bested a field of 63 competitors – firing a score of 576.7 for a commanding lead to first place. Sandra Uptagrafft, 45, of Phenix City, AL, earned the second place spot with a score of 566.0, as High Junior Zachary Miller, 16, of Sylacauga, AL, reached an average score of 554.0 for third.

Most improved was Kyle Klinehoffer, 13, of Zanesville, OH, with an astounding 144-point increase.

## Winners of the 3x20 air rifle competition were:

### Precision Class (117 total competitors):

- 1st – Joseph Hoover, 18, of Sterling Heights, MI – 587.0
- 2nd – Jared Minor, 17, of Circleville, OH – 584.3
- 3rd – Brandon Mach, 17, of Riley Twp, MI – 583.3
- Most Improved – Abigail Johnson, 18, of Suwanee, GA (47 points)

### Sporter Class (191 total competitors):

- 1st – Max Martinez, 15, of Circleville, OH – 545.0
- 2nd – Anthony Kissik, 14, of Matthews, AL – 532.0
- 3rd – Julia East, 13, of West Point, MS – 531.3
- Most Improved – Aidan Warner, 13, of Fremont, OH (149 points)

Along with the opportunity to improve their skills over time, winners earn a check from the CMP based on participation in each event and/or a plaque for their hard work and successes.

Monthly Match League results, including prize money amounts, can be found by visiting <http://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/LeagueResults-1.pdf>.

For a complete list of competitor results over each individual Monthly Match, visit the Monthly Match webpage at <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/monthly-air-rifle-and-air-pistol-matches/>.

\*\*\*The 2017 Monthly Match dates have already been announced! The next round of matches will be held the following days: **March 18, April 15, May 20, Sept. 16 and Oct. 14, 2017. Check the Monthly Air Rifle and Pistol Matches page on the CMP website soon for registration info!\*\*\***

# Sign Up Now to See New Feature at CMP's 2017 Camp Perry Open

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*



matches, breaks from the traditionally quiet finals administered during marksmanship events by allowing loud music and crowd participation at an attempt to distract competitors from behind the firing line. Additionally, spectators and competitors alike

have been known to dress up in costume to add even more excitement to the event.

Guests who have never seen the Super Finals are encouraged to attend and be a part of the fun by bringing noise makers, air horns and echoing voices to be as loud as possible! This year's Super Finals will be fired on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Join us for one of our most exciting events of the year at the Camp Perry Open! Visitors are welcome into the range to observe at any time during the match, with free admission. Registration will continue until the start of each event.

For more on the Camp Perry Open, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/camp-perry-open/>.

## **About the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center:**

The Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry includes an open reception and common area, fully equipped classrooms, projection screens and flat-screen television sets, as well as authentic Olympic memorabilia and other notable items from the outstanding career of Gary Anderson.

CAMP PERRY, Ohio – For the last decade, the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Camp Perry Open has been a thrilling and unique destination for air rifle and air pistol competitors. Held at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Ohio, this year's event will feature new electronic air gun targets, fitted exclusively for CMP's air gun range.

The targets, equipped with Kongsberg Target System technology, include some of the latest advances in electronic airgun systems to provide our competitors with the best possible competition experience.

The Camp Perry Open is set to fire on Jan. 13-15, 2017, and is open to competitors of all ages and skill levels. Adults and juniors participating in the match will be given the rare and inspiring opportunity to fire alongside some of the most talented marksmen in the country, including members of the Army Marksmanship Unit and the USA Shooting team.

Matches to be fired during the competition include the Men's and Women's 60 Shot Air Rifle and Pistol matches and the 3x20 Junior Air Rifle individual and team events. Informal awards ceremonies will follow both the 3x20 and the 60 Shot Matches each day.

The Super Finals, which is arguably the highlight of the Camp Perry Open and sets it apart from other

# 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
#1040	Brooke Gilliard	Nicholls, GA
#1041	Leah Martin	Cartersville, GA
#1042	Zachary Eisenberg	Burke, VA
#1044	William Pittman	Monroe, GA
#1045	Lilyanne Wade	Orlando, FL
#1046	Destry Brooks	Lebanon, OR
#1047	Max Martinez	Circleville, OH
#1048	Samuel Oravec	Warrenton, VA
#1049	Cody Dykstra	Manhattan, MT
#1050	Autumn Varela	Sapulpa, OK
#1051	Brittany Bowling	Penhook, VA
#1052	Brayden Jeffries	Oak Harbor, OH
#1053	Katy Nevins	Gulfport, MS
#1054	Alessandra Carter	Kenton, OH
#1055	Aaron McCommon	Tucson, AZ
#1056	Abram Baer	Warrenton, VA
#1057	Makiah Stacy	Freeport, IL
#1058	Molly Power	Franklin, TN
#1059	Micaela Lefever	DuBois, PA
#1060	Ryan Habeck	Ft Pierre, SD
#1061	Amity Ermarth	Springfield, VA
#1062	Grace Taschuk	Andover, MN
#1063	Calista Smoyer	Slatington, PA
#1065	Shauntae Daily	Dix, NE
#1066	Aaron Dorfmeier	Lemoore, CA
#1067	Erika Bradley	Ozark, MO
#1068	Savannah Reid	Sarasota, FL

Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1069	Chloe Odle	Allons, TN
#1070	Sune Venter	Sarasota, FL
#1071	Brielle Smith	Albuquerque, NM



## 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.

# Former CMP Counselor Makes Bold (and Cold) Moves to Fulfill Dreams

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



*During college, Natasha (first row, far right) was a CMP Summer Camp counselor. She later went on to become the assistant director after graduation.*



*While in Germany, Natasha fell in love with the sport of competitive shooting. There, she bought her equipment and started practicing as often as possible.*

Thinking back to her senior year of high school, Natasha Dinsmore, now 30, remembered how she thought she had it all figured out. She had earned a scholarship to play field hockey (the sport she loved) at a university in Pennsylvania and had landed one of the few slots in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange – a scholarship program designed for students wanting to become completely immersed in the German culture.

The trip to Germany was, in her mind, just something fun to do before college – but in reality, it was the start of a chain of events that would lead her to some of the most unique experiences of her life. They were her “it happened for a reason” moments.

“It was October 16, 2003 – it was a Tuesday. I will never forget it!” Natasha said as she laughed.

That day, one of her fellow classmates in Germany struck up a conversation with her through note passing. Through that piece of paper, she learned about the existence of rifle shooting. Curious about the sport she knew absolutely nothing about, she visited a shooting club in Germany to get a better idea.

“I did not even know what rifle was – I had never even heard of it,” she said. “I saw it, and I was like . . . what are these spacesuits and weird gloves these people are wearing?”

Though she was oblivious about what was happening on the firing line in front of her, she still took a rifle in her

hand and gave it a try. Instantly, she was hooked, and she never missed another day of practice.

Very much a detail-oriented person, Natasha fell in love with the sport that constantly calls for perfection. After telling her parents about her new infatuation, her mom mentioned a boy in Natasha’s high school back in the United States who received a scholarship for rifle shooting. Natasha contacted him and came up with an idea that would completely change her future – beginning her own rifling career.

It was a tough decision. Shooting in college meant she would have to give up field hockey, but, with confidence, she decided that she was going to give it a chance. This was her moment – when rifle began to lead her on an incredible journey.

Born and raised in Morgantown, W.Va., she got in touch with West Virginia University (WVU), expecting to join a shooting club. To her surprise, she ended up a walk-on member of the WVU NCAA rifle team – with less than a year’s experience in her rifling career.

“I was blessed to be involved, because I was still a baby!” she said. “My teammate had to teach me everything because I didn’t know any of the English words for the parts of the rifle, since I only had heard them in German.”

She explained as she laughed, “One time, the head coach asked, ‘What kind of pellets do you guys want to shoot?’ And I leaned over to my teammate and said, ‘Well what are pellets?’”

Wanting to learn more about the sport she had just begun, Natasha was urged to become a counselor at the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Summer Air Rifle Camps, where many collegiate shooters spend their summers. She returned to the camps year after year of her college days – teaching others about rifle while also learning more for herself along the way.

“I loved the camps. It was super fun,” she said. “Everyone helping me become a better shooter – I felt amazing and made life-long friends. I feel very thankful and blessed from the things that came from that.”

As part of a team at the beginning of a rebuilding period, her collegiate career was full of ups and downs. But her fondest memory came during her senior year, on the very last string of her last home match.

She was talking to her teammate and told him that her last shot needed to be a “10.” Not paying much attention to her scores, she finally looked down at one point to see that her entire string had been all 10s – with one shot to go. She closed her eyes, pulled the trigger, held for a moment, then looked at her monitor: 10. And she began to cry.

“I didn’t come into college being the best, but I finished on 100, and that was my shining moment,” she said. “I was really there for the experience. And I got better and better.”

After college, Natasha served as the CMP Summer Camp assistant director, where she taught camp-goers about nutrition, exercise and mental aspects. She also performed many other tasks, which helped her develop organizational skills and leadership abilities.

From her connections with the camps, and after receiving her bachelor’s and first master’s degree from WVU, she decided to take a grad assistant position on the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) rifle team for a year, followed by an assistant coach position for the next three. It was there that she earned her second master’s degree.

During that time, a devastating personal tragedy made her reflect on her life, and after some soul-searching, she decided to take on her third master’s degree at Ole Miss. That’s what led her to the Mississippi Teacher Corps – a select group of college graduates sent to teach in high-poverty public schools. After graduating from the Corps in May 2016, Natasha became a licensed teacher.

Her degrees in hand and a new freedom in front of her, she was ready to make the final step toward a goal she had dreamed about for years: living in Alaska.

“I’ve kind of been obsessed with Alaska for a while now,” she admitted. “And after my personal tragedy, I realized that life is too short. I really need to do what I want – it’s now or never. I have to do this.”

With new determination, she found a website showcasing open teaching positions throughout the entire state of Alaska and applied to a biology teacher posting – not anticipating much. That same day, she received a call. Natasha expected to hear about the teaching position, but the very first thing the voice on the other end said was, “I see that you’ve worked with the CMP – we have a team here, and we’d love to get it going.”

The call was from Nome-Beltz Junior/Senior High

School in Nome, Alaska, where Natasha will serve as teacher and new administrator of the school’s rifle team beginning in the fall of 2016. She will also be conducting a rifle class period during the school day.

“Rifle is going to be my comforting moment. I’ve been doing it for so long, I’ll be able to just fall into it, hopefully,” she said.

Always an assistant during her other rifle instructor positions, this will be the first time she will be the sole leader of a group. Though slightly nervous, her entire life after high school and her rifling career has led her to this opportunity – to make a difference in the lives of others while also fulfilling her own dreams.

“My dad reminded me that you don’t necessarily have to be the best athlete to be the best coach. But it’s a lot like teaching,” she said. “I like to work one-on-one with people and troubleshoot things. And I think it’s so fun when you are able to help shape and mold somebody else so that they are able to be successful.”

After a trip to Germany and a nonchalant tour of a shooting range, Natasha managed to receive a spot on a NCAA rifle team, spend summers traveling the country as a CMP camp counselor, earn four college degrees, and now, she will be reaching yet another remarkable life goal with a move to Alaska. To Natasha, each phase was a tier leading to something even greater, and each moment put her where she needed to be – it all happened for a reason.

“I owe it all to being able to try new things and take risks – to just go for it,” she said. “I want to show my students that they shouldn’t be afraid to do what they want. I want them to see that if they want to do something bad enough, they should pick up and go. There’s nothing stopping them. I’m hoping that it’s inspiring to them – because you only have one life, and you really need to do what you want.”

“I’m going to take a shot in Alaska – metaphorically and physically,” she said with a laugh. “I’m sure it’ll be hard at times, but I am so ready. I’m definitely up for the challenge.”

## UPDATE! November 2016 From Natasha:

“Alaska has been great! I’m really enjoying the kids and people I work with! I have met so many wonderful people and have been able to see and participate in so many neat things, like seeing a Beluga whale being tagged, watching my students sing and dance in their native languages and even getting to go bear hunting in the tundra!

Sadly I haven’t gotten a team started yet – just too busy with trying to adjust. But my rifle class is relaxed and is going well. My superintendent and I just completed a request for gear to start a precision team! Hopefully we get some funding and by this time next year we will have a team!”

# New Tradition Set at Well-attended Inaugural New England CMP Games

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

JERICHO, Vt. – Those who missed the inaugural New England Games passed up an incredible opportunity for leisurely competition, social amusement and unforgettable marksmanship memories below the beautiful Vermont mountains, Sept. 14-18, 2016. An eager group of over 150 rifle and pistol competitors arrived at the Camp Ethan Allen Training Site (CEATS) to fire in the latest installment to the growing number of the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) travel matches.

A combination that can only be found in the North, the competitive characters on the firing line were immersed in the breathtaking natural surroundings at the New England Games – creating a unique arena that facilitated competition and learning fun for the budding crowd of devoted gun enthusiasts.

"I was blown away by the facilities at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site," said Steve Cooper, CMP North general manager. "The grounds were neatly manicured, our offices for registration and sales were very convenient and the classrooms were perfect for our clinics."

He went on to say, "As beautiful as the surroundings were, the people were even better. They truly wanted us there and they enjoyed the matches, clinics and other activities. It will be a pleasure to return next year for an even bigger and better event."

Though the CMP worked diligently for months to prepare for the Games, its staff members received an overwhelming amount of support on site from the Vermont National Guard as well as from host club, the Vermont Rifle and Pistol Association. The unshakeable teamwork between all of the entities blended nicely to create an exceptionally smooth and enjoyable event.

"It's clear to me that the Vermont National Guard at CEATS and our host club work very well together," said Cooper. "That's a must when holding an event of this scale."

In competition, Franco Scarpino, 69, of Pembroke, MA, was the big winner of the Games – pulling in overall victories in the Garand Match and the Vintage Military Match, which helped him become the Three Gun and Four Gun Aggregate champion. He was also the High Grand Senior in the Garand, Springfield, Vintage Military and Modern Military matches.

Brian Williams, 42, of Granby, MA, also had a notable showing at the New England Games as he overtook both the EIC Rifle Match and the Carbine Match.

In pistol, David Lange, 48, of Glen Rock, NJ, bested the field in the Military & Police Service Pistol, .22 Rimfire Pistol and Pistol EIC Matches, as CW2 Cara Krauss, 35, of Bristol, VT, managed to surpass Lange in the As-Issued 1911 Pistol Match by 10 points to become the overall leader.

Krauss was also the High Woman in the O-Class of the



Rimfire Sporter Match, which was topped by Doug Payne, 49, of Euharlee, GA. National Record holder Sam Payne, 17, of Kingston, GA, led the T-Class – dropping only five points. CW4 Lawrence Grace, 55, of New Haven, VT, was the winner of the Tactical Class.

Steve Cooper and CMP Board member Cris Stone rose to become the overall duo in the Vintage Sniper competition, winning by only two x's. They were just a few of the many competitors that made their marks in the matches.

"We were impressed by the warmth shown by the participants, not only from the Green Mountain state of Vermont, but neighboring states like New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and some of our regulars who made the trip from as far away as Oklahoma and Georgia," said Cooper.

"At the awards ceremony when we announced we are coming back next year, the room erupted with cheers. It's hard to beat that kind of reception," Cooper added. "It fits right in with our family of Games events around the country."

Mark your calendars! Next year's New England Games are already scheduled – Sept. 20-24, 2017.

The CMP would like to sincerely thank Camp Ethan Allen's members of the Vermont Army National Guard and the Vermont Rifle and Pistol Association for being such gracious hosts to our new tradition in the Northeast. We hope to see our inaugural competitors back in 2017 and are anxious to see many new faces too!

# Olympians, World-class Athletes Take the Line at 2016 Dixie Double

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

ANNISTON, AL – The Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) annual Dixie Double was held earlier than usual this year (Friday, Nov. 4 through Sunday, Nov. 6) at the CMP South Competition Center, but the event still drew a weekend of intense, exciting competition. The match served as the last on CMP's old target system, with an entirely new firing line of technology installed after firing completed in the range on Sunday.

Over 100 junior and adult participants competed in the two-day, 60-shot air rifle and air pistol Dixie Double event. Overall winners were determined from Day 1 and Day 2 aggregate 60-shot scores combined with Finals scores.

Winning the 60 Shot Pistol competition was CMP's own James Hall, 32, of Anniston, AL, with a score of 1172. Hall finished in first on Day 1 and Day 2 – ultimately firing 10 points above second place overall finisher SSG Greg Markowski, 42, of the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), who ended with 1162. AMU's SFC James Henderson, 49, rounded out the top three with a score of 1143 for third.

Multi-National Champion USA Shooting team member Dempster Christenson, 26, of Sioux Falls, SD, fired an aggregate score of 1259 in the 60 Shot Rifle Match to earn first place overall. Daniel Lowe, 23, a 2016 Rio Olympian, followed in second with a score of 1253, followed by SSG George Norton, 32, of the AMU, with 1251 for third.

High juniors of each match were also determined and included Angeline Henry, 16, of Fort Worth, TX, who fired the high junior rifle score of 1249. She also impressively out-fired both Christenson (who was the Day 1 champion) and Norton during the Finals on Day 2 of the competition.

Katie Zaun, 13, of Buffalo, ND, landed in second with 1242, followed by Adriana Hickerson, 17, of White Bluff, TN, in third with a score of 1232. Katelyn Abeln, 15, of Douglasville, GA, was the High Junior in the pistol competition, with a score of 1123.

Concurrent with the individual competition, a team event paired an Open competitor's results with a Junior marksman's score. The overall rifle team was Along Came Molly with a score of 2459. Members were SSG George Norton and Molly McGhin, 15, of Griffin, GA. Grip It & Rip



*Angeline Henry fired the high junior rifle score and also impressively out-fired two veteran competitors during the Finals on Day 2. Katie Zaun landed in second, followed by Adriana Hickerson in third.*

It, James Hall and Zachary Miller, 16, of Sylacauga, AL, earned the top spot in the pistol competition, firing a score of 2246.

To add an extra element of competitive flair, a Target Sprint ran on Saturday with a group of many excited competitors. Created by the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF), the Target Sprint challenges participants to run a 400-meter course before firing from the standing position upon a box with five biathlon-style knockdown targets. After two rounds of firing and running, the competitor with the lowest time is considered the overall winner.

We hope everyone enjoyed their time at the Dixie Double, and we can't wait for next year!



*Katelyn Abeln was the overall junior competitor in the pistol competition.*



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).

## CHS Adds Riflery to Competition Catalog

Carrollton High School will now offer every competitive activity sanctioned by the Georgia High School Association with the addition of Precision Air Rifle this school year.

Mike Lewis, CHS graphics arts teacher and yearbook adviser, is the head coach of the new program. Lewis will be assisted by Joel Grubbs, who is head coach of Carroll County's champion 4-H rifle team. These coaches held an informational meeting in August that drew nearly 50 students interested in competing in the co-ed sport.

"I have been hoping for the addition of this sport for years, hoping CHS would add it," said Lewis, who was a member of the North Cobb High School team that placed second in the nation in .22-caliber (small bore) Rifle competition in the mid 1980s. He also ranked 17th nationally as an individual competitor in the sport as a senior.

GHSA discontinued small bore competitions in 1995, a sport that was sanctioned by GHSA since 1944. For the past 25 years, GHSA has sanctioned 3-Position Air Rifle contests for competitors to demonstrate their marksmanship and acumen.

"One of the things I love about this sport is the extreme focus required to be successful at it," said Lewis. "You can't shoot well when you're distracted. The mental toughness that comes with this level of focus is a skill that will serve students well the rest of their lives."

Lewis also noted the natural diversity that comes with the sport - not all students are football players, for example, he said, but are terrific competitors. Since it is co-ed, boys and girls actually compete against each other. Another group that doesn't have many opportunities to be part of a school team can also be successful in this sport - students who may suffer a physical disability and others who are sidelined by an injury.

"I am thrilled we have an opportunity for some students who cannot compete in more traditional programs to have the chance to be a state champion," said Lewis.

There are 128 high schools in Georgia that have rifle teams. They are divided into Areas for competition instead of the traditional GHSA Regions. Carrollton is part of Area 7 and will compete at that level against Hiram, South Paulding, Chapel Hill, Douglas County, North Paulding,



Lithia Springs, South Cobb, Paulding County and Haralson County high schools.

Like several other sports, there are opportunities to win as a team and as individuals. Last year's state championship team, East Coweta High School, also produced the individual state champion. Precision Air Rifle also doesn't fall into traditional classification ranks - all schools compete in one.

Lewis noted the opportunities to compete at the next level are growing. Though Georgia colleges and universities have been slow to field rifle teams, the sport is gaining attention of the NCAA. Georgia Southern and the University of North Georgia now have 3-Position Air Rifle teams. Other states' colleges and universities, however, have been fielding teams for years and a highly-skilled high school marksman graduate has many opportunities to continue the sport and to earn scholarships.

"We have been considering adding a rifle team for quite a while," said CHS Principal David Brooks, who served as the school's athletic director prior to his promotion to principal this school year. "We feel like this sport complements our other offerings and provides even more proof that Carrollton High School seeks out programs and opportunities that allow our students to achieve and excel across the gamut."

**\*\*If you would like to learn more about how you can get an air rifle team started at your school with assistance from the CMP, contact James Hall at [jhall@thecmp.org](mailto:jhall@thecmp.org) to learn more about our Program Outreach.**

## ***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/>.

Woodbridge HS MCJROTC,  
Greenwood, DE  
Boy Scout Troop 405,  
Rittman, OH  
BSA Crew 4562 Jedediah  
Keeners, Freeville, NY  
Pottawatomic County  
Scholastic Marksmanship  
Program, Shawnee, OK  
Sons of the American Legion  
Squadron 21, The Colony, TX  
Trafford Sportsmen's Club,  
Trafford, PA  
Salem Rifle and Pistol Club,  
Salem, WV  
American Legion Post 157,  
Elmwood City, PA  
B & D Shooting Club,  
Lorain, OH  
Conestoga Rod & Gun Club,  
Southampton, PA  
Mendon Fish & Game Club,  
Inc, Rutland, VT  
Winnebago Shooting  
Sports 4-H, Rockford, IL  
Center Line HS AJROTC, Center Line, MI  
Transylvania County HS MCJROTC, Brevard, NC  
Kennewick HS AFJROTC, Kennewick, WA  
BSA Crew 301, Dallas, GA  
Predator Callers of Orange Co, Irvine, CA  
Cumberland Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc,  
North Yarmouth, ME  
Isabella County Sportsman's Club, Winn, MI  
Fraternal Order Of Police Lodge #82, El Paso, TX  
American Legion Paradise Post 149, Las Vegas, NV  
Rolette County 4-H Program, Rolla, ND  
Morgan County HS AFJROTC, Madison, GA  
Sullivan South HS AFJROTC, Kingsport, TN  
Dayton HS MCJROTC, Dayton, TX

### **New England CMP Games**



Hawkeye Area Council BSA, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Seneca Waterways Council- Boy Scouts of America,  
Naples, NY  
University of Missouri Extension - Marion County 4-H,  
Palmyra, MO  
Boy Scouts of America Troop 17- Hasbrouck Heights,  
Woodridge, NJ  
Ward 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders, Wickett, TX  
Long Lake Fish & Game Club, Long Lake, NY  
Waynesboro Fish & Game, Waynesboro, PA  
Willsboro Fish & Game Club, Willsboro, NY  
Teens on Target, Matthews, NC  
Ragged Raiders Black Powder Club, Kinmundy, IL  
The X Count, Fort Wayne, IN  
Doherty HS NJROTC, Colorado Springs, CO

# CMP Air Gun Ranges Receive Electronic Target Equipment Upgrade

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*



CAMP PERRY, Ohio; ANNISTON, Ala. – The Civilian Marksmanship Program’s (CMP) Competition Centers in Ohio and Alabama underwent extensive renovation projects in November to improve the quality of equipment within their ranges, replacing the old target systems with some of the top technology available on the market today.

The targets, exclusively crafted by Kongsberg Target Systems (KTS) for CMP’s ranges, were installed Nov. 7-11 at Anniston’s South Competition Center and Nov. 14-18 at Camp Perry’s Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center. Each range’s targets were placed in the same configuration as in the past, with 80 sets at each location.

The new systems are OpticScore targets, which are scored optically by internal LED lights rather than acoustically like the prior target systems that relied on microphones to capture the sound of the pellet as it penetrated through a paper roll. In fact, there are no paper rolls on the new target system, meaning less maintenance between firings.

Once a pellet is fired at the target, the target determines the location and records the score. The shot pellet is then captured by a metal backstop and collects behind the target in an environmentally-safe chamber.

Along with the advanced scoring technology within, the targets have a much cleaner appearance – positioned on a single leg stand and powered by a quiet motor to operate the lift. The targets themselves, which were previously encased in a metal frame, are now surrounded by a magnetized plastic face to give a sleek, uniformed look and profound security.

The monitors at each firing point are similar in function to the previous system, but are closer in

appearance to the robust monitors currently installed at CMP’s Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama and at the renovated Petrarca Range at Camp Perry in Ohio. Button functions and an LED lighted screen allow ease of use, even for individuals who may not feel technologically-savvy.

Besides new targets installed at each stationary location, the CMP’s mobile range will convert to the new target systems as well and will also increase to a 100-target set. The mobile range is scheduled for its debut in January.

The NCAA Championships in March will serve as the last match fired on the current MegaLink targets. All mobile activities after will be conducted on the new systems.

Come see the new targets for yourself! The Gary Anderson Invitational in December, fired simultaneously at both the Alabama and Ohio locations, will be the first match conducted on the target systems. Marksmanship Nights, open to the public, have also resumed and are open to curious individuals of all ages and experience levels.



# Parting Shots: Photos from Recent CMP Events & Competitions

*Junior shooters left their mark on several recent CMP events including the Western CMP Games and Talladega Marksmanship Park Shotgun Events.*



*Western CMP Games*



*Talladega Shotgun*



*Western CMP Games*

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Caden Gamblin Places in M16 Match... 18

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