



ON THE MARK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR SHOOTERS © SPRING 2022

THE ROAD TO NATIONALS

CMP Hosts Regional JROTC Service Championships for High School Cadets

Featuring:

- Daniel Boone High School Rifle
- Going Distinguished: A Rifleman Story
- GunPort Academy Boy Scout Experience

Learn More:

- CMP Jr. Rifle Camps
- National Matches History
- How To Shoot Bullseye Pistol
- Marksmanship 101 Schedule

Meet:

- USAMU's SPC Ivan Roe
- SFC Alexander Deal: Tomb Guard



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.

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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.

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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 or on the CMP on-line newsletter, **The First Shot**, at <https://thecmp.org/news-media/the-first-shot/>.

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© **CMP 2022 Rulebooks Now Available.** CMP rulebooks, updated annually, may now be downloaded on CMP's website. Learn more at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-2022-competition-rules-are-now-online/>.

© **Talladega D-Day Matches Return in June.** Mark your calendars as the CMP will again welcome competitors and guests to its annual Talladega D-Day rifle and pistol event, set to be held June 8-12, 2022, at the CMP's own Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama. Registration is currently open, so sign up now to join in on this commemorative occasion! Talladega's D-Day celebration honors the anniversary of the 1944 Allied Forces landing at France's Normandy Beach. Visitors to the event are able to pay homage to the valiant heroes of the World War II generation through the diverse marksmanship competitions and activities scattered throughout the 500 acres of Talladega Marksmanship Park. For more information on Talladega D-Day, visit <https://thecmp.org/cmp-matches/talladega-d-day-matches/>.



© **CMP Introduces League Matches for Affiliated Clubs.** The CMP will sanction a series of simulated head-to-head rifle, pistol and CMP Games events for competitors to participate in from their home ranges. Known as the CMP League Matches, the new program will be open to any CMP Affiliated Clubs which may hold these events on a weekly, monthly or bi-monthly schedule. An average score will be computed by CMP's Competition Tracker, with awards distributed to the top competitors from around the country. Information on the CMP League, including designated dates, can be found on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-league-matches/>.

© **Hear from a real Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Guard in CMP Podcasts.** In the latest episode of CMP Podcasts, we talked to SFC Alexander Deal, current member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. He sat down with us at the 2021 National Matches to talk about his time as a guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Learn all about how to become a Tomb Guard and what it's like to walk the honored role through SFC Deal's words. Find this and all of our Podcasts on our website at <https://thecmp.org/news-media/cmp-podcasts/>.



© **Get ready for the 2022 Camp Perry National Matches.** The CMP National Matches will resume in July and August, featuring a variety of competitions and clinics within the highpower/vintage rifle, pistol, smallbore rifle and long range rifle phases! The annual event will be held on the historic grounds of Camp Perry National Guard Facility in Ohio, where it has been set for over a century. Registration for the event opens March 1, 2022. All ages and experience levels are welcome, so come learn from and shoot alongside some of today's best marksmen! For more information, please visit the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-national-matches/>.



On the Cover: Cadet Nole' Smith of Stuttgart High School Army JROTC gives a smile as she's introduced on the line prior to Camp Perry's Service Championship finals. Smith was the seventh highest Army precision competitor from the combined Ohio, Alabama and Arizona scores.

CMP Junior Rifle Camps Return for Summer 2022



Each year, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) hosts a series of hands-on, highly informative camps for junior rifle athletes. Running from May to August, the CMP Junior Rifle Camps present opportunities for high-school age students to receive valuable lessons on intermediate and advanced marksmanship skills through various exercises and demonstrations.

The Junior Rifle Camps are designed to train young athletes on air rifle fundamentals and techniques, through group discussions and personal guidance from collegiate mentors on the firing line, and also include an arrangement of instructional smallbore camps – set to be held in Ohio and Massachusetts in July.

The camps are excellent tools in further developing each athlete's strengths within the physical and mental aspects of the sport while also refining trouble areas that may need more attention. Students are able to apply the constructive lessons learned in camp to their own budding marksmanship careers, with many even moving on to college programs and beyond.

Don't miss out on this fun and enlightening opportunity! **Registration for the 2022 Summer Camps are now open.** Classes fill quickly, so sign up early!

About CMP Junior Rifle Camps:

Athletes in the CMP Summer Camps are coached directly, one-on-one, by qualified student-athletes from the top NCAA rifle teams in the country. During the week-long camp sessions, juniors learn tips for both the physical and mental aspects of competition shooting, such as:

- Positioning
- Goal setting
- Anxiety control



- Optimizing equipment performance
- Building self-confidence on the firing line
- Many other meaningful lessons to use on and off the range

Outside of the week-long curriculum, there are other options for juniors, including **Advanced Standing Camps** (designed to be a follow-up program for those who have attended one or more of the three-position camps or clinics) and **Outreach Clinics** (nearly identical to the full-length course, with a compressed three-day format).

For a list of dates and more detailed camp information, visit the Junior Rifle Camps and Clinics page on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/youth/junior-air-rifle-camps-and-clinics/>.



Junior Kyle Orr, Granbury Team Earn Records at 2022 JROTC Service Championships

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) recently hosted the 2022 JROTC Service Rifle Championships, with sporter and precision air rifle athletes and teams reaching new national records. The regional event was held in three locations (Arizona, Alabama and Ohio) over the weekends of Feb. 3-5 and Feb. 10-12.

The JROTC Air Rifle Service Championship is a 3x20 air rifle competition, where competitors fire 20 record shots from three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. The final stop in the JROTC Championship competition series will be the National Championship, set to be held at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Ohio, March 17-19.

During the JROTC Service Championships, Nation Ford High School from South Carolina overtook six of the top 10 places in the overall Marine Corps sporter category, with Kyle Orr, 17, earning the highest score of 1210-35X. Orr also fired a new Marine Corps JROTC national record score of 189-9X as part of his match performance. Following close behind were teammates Maya Cameron, 17, who placed second and Isabelle Fetting, 17, who took third. Unsurprisingly, the team led the Marine Corps sporter team results with their outstanding combined scores.

Likewise, Granbury High School from Texas claimed eight of the top 10 places in the Marine Corps precision competition. Parker Haydin, 18, fired a score of 1292-



100X to overtake the lead position, as teammates Kaylynn Slaughter, 16, and Ashton Arlington, 17, landed in second and third, respectively.

Not only did Granbury earn the highest score out of all Marine Corps precision teams, but its members also reached a new Marine Corps JROTC national record score of 2367-172X.

Leading the Army athletes in the sporter class were members from Ozark High School in Missouri. Frontrunner



Left: Granbury High School also set a new national record in Arizona, firing an overall score of 2367-172X.

Right: Kyle Orr of Nation Ford High School set a new Marine Corps national record while competing in Arizona.



After firing the regional event in Arizona, Alabama and Ohio, top competitors will return to Camp Perry to compete at the National Championship.

Elijah Glenn, 18, fired a score of 1191-35X, followed by teammates Sydney Broussard, 17, and Asa Wells, 15, who landed in second and third. Broussard earned a score of 1187-36X, while Wells marked 1184-32X. With the success of its members, Ozark was the top Army team of the match.

In Army precision, Kendall Goebel, 17, of Sarasota Military Academy in Florida, recorded 1281-87X to take the top spot and help lead the team to the overall score in the precision competition. Alysa Yancey, 16, of Marion High School in Indiana, claimed second with a score of 1278-91X, as Alex Pall, 17, of Marmion Academy in Illinois reached 1269-72X for third.

Amia Demuth, 18, of Freeport High School from Illinois, fired a 1105-41X to earn the overall score in the Navy sporter category, as Madeline Vetting, 15, of Patuxent High School in Maryland, earned a score of 1103-36X for second. Patuxent was the leading Navy sporter team of the match. Aidan Gutierrez, 17, of Vista Ridge High School in Texas, tallied a score of 1096-34X for third.

Ahead in the Navy precision event was Chris Jennings, 17, of Floyd Central High School from Indiana, with a score of 1172-80X. Following close behind Jennings was Abigail Swain, 17, of Camden County High School in Georgia, with a score of 1171-68X for second and Alyssa Ward, 17, of Caney Creek High School in Texas, with 1169-70X for

third. Swain's Camden County was the top scoring Navy precision team of the match.

The Air Force sporter class competition saw a notable performance from Perry McCool, 18, of South Panola High School in Mississippi, who earned a score of 1181-36X. McCool helped lead his team to the overall high score in the Air Force sporter competition. Charles Bratton, 17, of Clover High School in South Carolina, recorded a score of 1176-26X, as Austin Dickey, 18, also of Clover, claimed the third highest score with 1173-27X.

Mateo Moreno, 17, of Del Norte High School from New Mexico, went on to net the top spot in the Air Force precision match with a score of 1243-60X – with Del Norte earning the overall team win in the match. Emma Wray, 18, of Dalton McMichael High School in North Carolina, landed in second with a score of 1235-54X, while Madison Landers, 16, of Burleson High School in Texas, acquired a score of 1232-45X for third.

For a complete list of results of the JROTC Service Championships, including top scorers from each location, visit the CMP's Competition Tracker page at <https://ct.thecmp.org/22JROTCServiceChampResults>. More on the JROTC Air Rifle Championships can be found on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/youth/jrotc-air-rifle-national-championship/>.

NATIONAL MATCHES HISTORY AND APPEAL

THE NATIONAL MATCHES – THEIR HISTORY AND APPEAL

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus

*The National Matches are a U. S. national championship for rifle and pistol target shooting, but they are so much more than that. This **On the Mark** article seeks to answer these questions: “What are the National Matches?” “Why has ‘going to Camp Perry’ become such cherished experiences for competitors?”*



*The National Matches offer multiple training and competition opportunities designed especially for Juniors. This poster commemorates the 2021 **CMP-USMC Highpower Rifle Clinic** where 81 Junior Service Rifle competitors benefitted from three days of intense instruction from Marine Corps Rifle Team members.*

The National Matches are frequently called “*the World Series of the Shooting Sports*” but that description is a serious misnomer. If a successful Little League baseball team wanted to participate in baseball’s World Series, they would receive nothing but derisive laughter. If a well-prepared junior rifle team wants to participate in shooting’s National Matches, they will be welcomed with open arms. This comparison underscores how the National Matches are much more than a national championship for the best rifle and pistol competitors. Shooting’s National Matches are open

to junior and senior competitors of all levels. Another huge difference is that while most people who attend the World Series are spectators who don’t play the games, virtually everyone who goes to the National Matches goes to be a

NATIONAL MATCHES ORGANIZATIONS

- NBPRP – National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice
- NRA – National Rifle Association
- OHNG – Ohio National Guard
- USAR – U. S. Army Reserves
- CMP – Civilian Marksmanship Program



Shooting's National Matches welcome competitors of all levels.

competitor, not to be a spectator. They go to compete in one or more of the dozens of National Matches events, but they also go to learn new and better marksmanship skills, to update their equipment, to experience the sights, sounds and activities of a truly unique place and to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of a special group of people.

Creation of the National Matches

The first step in understanding the appeal of the National Matches is to know something about their history. Dreams of having a U. S. national rifle and pistol championship go back to the 19th century and the first decades after the Civil War when rifle and pistol competitions were gaining popularity. A primary interest of many military and political leaders was to promote military rifle competitions because they were concerned about poor marksmanship skills among military personnel. There was a growing conviction that the best way to improve those skills was to have Soldiers, Sailors and Marines use their rifles in target competitions.

The first attempts to put these ideas into practice were led by two young New York National Guard officers, Col. William Church and Capt. (later General) George Wingate. Their leadership efforts led to the formation of the National Rifle Association of America in 1871. The new NRA acquired the legendary Creedmoor Range on Long Island and conducted its first competitions there in 1873. All but one of the 12 events were military rifle events for military personnel only.

During this same era, the active Army also began promoting marksmanship activities. Army Department and Division level competitions were fired with M1873 Trapdoor Springfield .45-70 rifles at distances up to 600



Trophies in the CMP's National Trophy Collection preserve National Matches history. This Soldier of Marathon Trophy entered NRA competition in 1875 and became a National Trophy in 1903. Its brass plates on the base are inscribed with trophy winners' names.

yards. A bi-annual All-Army Match began in 1882. The first gold Distinguished Marksman Badges were awarded in 1884. The Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard also initiated their own marksmanship and Distinguished Badge programs.

By the end of the 19th century, rifle and pistol marksmanship activities in the U. S. featured NRA Annual Matches and Armed Services championships. Matches were generally restricted to military personnel and military rifles, but there were also pistol competitions. These programs, however, lacked national coordination and

NATIONAL MATCHES HISTORY AND APPEAL

adequate funding. Marksmanship leaders of that day decided a U. S. government agency, with Congressional funding, should be established to address these problems and organize a national shooting championship.

NRA leaders took the lead in lobbying Congress to pass legislation that established a **National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice** (NBPRP) and annual **National Matches**, with federal funding to support them. President Theodore Roosevelt was a marksmanship advocate. When Congress finally acted in early 1903, the President signed the legislation, and the new program was launched.

Growth of the National Matches

The new NBPRP utilized Department of War resources to organize the first National Matches at Sea Girt, New Jersey, in 1903. Their first event was a military rifle team match that was destined to become the **National Trophy Rifle Team Match**. Fifteen teams representing the Navy, Marine Corps, Infantry, Cavalry, and several state National Guard organizations competed with U. S. Krag rifles. Congress had provided funds for a **National Trophy**, now revered as the “Dogs of War Trophy.” The New York National Guard team was the first winner. In addition to the National Trophy Rifle Team Match, regular NRA Annual Matches events, including the President’s Match, Leech Cup, and Wimbledon Cup, were also conducted at Sea Girt during those first National Matches.

The new National Matches met with an enthusiastic response and the NBPRP worked with the War Department to organize the next Matches. An early problem involved finding adequate facilities to host the competitions. The 1904 National Trophy Rifle Match was moved to Fort Riley,



Camp Perry is named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the 1812 Battle of Lake Erie. The Battle took place in Lake Erie waters not far from Camp Perry. Perry's heroism was celebrated in this 1911 painting by Edward Percy Moran.

Kansas while the NRA matches remained at Sea Girt. National Individual Pistol and Rifle events were added to the National Trophy program and civilians were allowed to participate. Rifle events were fired with U. S. Krag rifles; pistol competitors fired U. S. Service Colt or Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolvers.

After the NBPRP National Matches and NRA Annual Matches were separated in 1904, the two organizations agreed to combine their championships in future years. Increasing participation, however, required a facility larger than Sea Girt. Ohio Adjutant General Ammon Critchfield had selected a site on the south shore of Lake Erie, and in



Competitors in the first National Trophy Rifle Team and Individual Matches used U. S. Krag rifles. The M1903 Springfield was accepted as the National Match Rifle in 1908.

1906 secured \$25,000 in funding from the Ohio Legislature to purchase land there for a “state rifle range.” He proposed this new range as an ideal long-term solution for the Matches. The NBPRP and NRA agreed to conduct the 1907 Matches at Camp Perry. This site ultimately became the home of the National Matches.

The National Matches were comprised of NBPRP Matches, which became known as **National Trophy Matches**, and NRA Annual Matches, which became **NRA National Championships**. The National Trophy Matches were service rifle and service pistol team and individual competitions. The Infantry Trophy Team Match became a National Trophy Match in 1936; the President’s Rifle and Pistol Matches, were released by the NRA to be National Trophy events after WWII. The “*National Trophy Matches Table*” (on right) chronicles the development of those matches prior to 1996.

The NRA Matches also evolved. The President’s Rifle Match gained prestige in 1904 when the match winner received a letter of congratulations from President Roosevelt. For many decades thereafter, the prize for the President’s Match winner was a letter of congratulations from the U. S. President. NRA highpower rifle events had a “Grand Aggregate” by 1928, an “All-Around Championship” by 1935 and National Service Rifle and Match Rifle Championships by 1952. The NRA added pistol events in 1918. By 1940, they became an NRA National Pistol Championship with an 1800-point two-gun aggregate. After WWII, the 2700 three-gun format was adopted. A smallbore rifle prone competition was added in 1919, but NRA Smallbore Rifle Championships were prone only until a four-position championship was introduced in 1957.

National Trophy Matches, 2003-1996

Year	Event	Trophy	
1903	NT Rifle Team Match	National Trophy	
1904	NT Individual Rifle Match	Daniel Boone Trophy	
1904	NT Individual Pistol Match	Custer Trophy	
1920	NT Pistol Team Match	Gold Cup	
1936	Infantry Trophy Team Match	Infantry Trophy	
1877	President's Rifle Match	President's Rifle Trophy	
1981	President's Pistol Match	President's Pistol Trophy	

Camp Perry's Special Appeal

So many competitors don't talk about going to the National Matches, they talk about “going to Camp Perry.” The words “Camp Perry” are synonymous with the National Matches in the same way that “Augusta,” “Indianapolis,” and “Wimbledon” are synonymous with famous sports

events that those locations host. After the National Matches came to Camp Perry in 1907, there have been only a few occasions linked to wars, lack of Congressional funding or a pandemic (2020), when they were not held at Camp Perry. In 2022, the CMP will conduct the National Matches at Camp Perry for the 93rd time. Camp Perry, which is an Ohio National Guard training site when it is not

NATIONAL MATCHES HISTORY AND APPEAL

CAMP PERRY RANGES ARE UNSURPASSED FOR SIZE AND GRANDEUR

HIGHPOWER RIFLE
250 firing points



PISTOL
Three or four 100-firing point ranges



SMALLBORE RIFLE
150 or more firing points



RIMFIRE SPORTER
150 or more firing points



10m AIR RIFLE & PISTOL
80 firing points with
electronic targets



hosting the Matches, also had the distinction of being the site of the 1913 and 1923 ISSF World Shooting Championships, eight Palma Trophy International Long-Range Team Championships, and the 1992 World Muzzle Loading Championship.

The reasons Camp Perry is beloved by competitors start with its awesome complex of ranges. From the 1000-yard range on the west to the world class 10-meter air gun range in the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center on the east, Camp Perry has nearly one continuous mile of shooting ranges. Every year, this range area is reconfigured to set up different ranges according to the competition phase. The Matches begin with a Pistol Phase. After that, new targets and temporary covered firing points are installed for the Smallbore Rifle Phase. Finally, the ranges are reconfigured for the Highpower Rifle Phase, which features, in succession, Service Rifle, Vintage Military Rifle and Long-Range Rifle Matches. Since 1903, Camp Perry Highpower Rifle ranges have used pit-operated targets, but the CMP is now acquiring electronic targets for both highpower and smallbore rifle championships.

Camp Perry's airgun range is open throughout the 35-day National Matches schedule for competitors to shoot National Matches Air Gun Events. In addition, Petrarca Range's permanent firing line cover makes it a multipurpose range that hosts the National Junior Rifle Camp as well as several other special events.

Something that makes Camp Perry appealing is its availability of low-cost housing. In its early decades, Camp Perry had hundreds of tents that housed competitors and military support personnel. Competitors have come to regard living in Camp Perry huts, which were constructed to house POWs during WWII, as an authentic Camp Perry experience. In recent years, the OHNG has upgraded the fabled huts and other housing units. Many competitors stay in Camp Perry's enlisted barracks and take their meals in a military-style mess hall. Many teams rent smaller on-base housing units that allow their team members to live and share meals together.

CAMP PERRY HUTS



Living in Camp Perry huts has become part of Camp Perry lore for many competitors. The huts are shown in their original condition (above) and refurbished condition (below).

Many competitors also stay in motels or bed and breakfast units in the Port Clinton area. During the Matches, food concessions on base provide lunches. In the evenings, local restaurants are crowded with competitors. The Port Clinton-Catawba Island area is a popular resort area. Port Clinton calls itself the “*Walleye Capital of the World*.” Many competitors’ plans include fishing excursions, outings to the nearby Lake Erie Islands, or to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky.

Camp Perry has had a fascinating history. During WWI, it was a concentration camp. During WWII, it was a prisoner of war camp. 32 men from an Ohio National Guard unit based at Camp Perry, Company C, 192nd Tank Battalion, were involved in WWII’s Bataan Death March, and only 10 of them survived. During WWII, stars like Bing Crosby, Loretta Young and Bob Hope entertained military personnel in Camp Perry’s historic Hough Theater. Today many National Matches award ceremonies take place there.

National Match Governance

Responsibilities for governing and conducting the National Matches has belonged, at different times, to the Department of War, the NBPRP, the U. S. Army, the NRA, and now the CMP. The 1903 legislation made the Department of War responsible for conducting the Matches and established the NBPRP as their governing body. From 1903 through 1940, the Department of War assigned military officers to manage the Matches and placed large



A 1920 National Matches 600-yard firing line. When the U. S. Government conducted the Matches from 1903 through 1967, hundreds of military personnel were detailed to Camp Perry to act as scorers, like those shown here, or target pullers, who scored and marked targets in the pits.

NATIONAL MATCHES HISTORY AND APPEAL

CMP National Matches Events, 1997-2022

Year	Vintage Military Rifle Events
1998 2002 2003 2006 2011 2016 2017	John C. Garand Match Springfield Rifle Match Vintage Military Rifle Match M1 Carbine Match Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Match Modern Military Rifle Match Springfield M1A Match
Year	Highpower Rifle Events
2004 2006 2007 2009 2018 2018	M16 EIC Match (Small Arms Firing Schools) Hearst Doubles Team Match President's Rifle Match Final Freedom's Fire Junior Team Match CMP Cup Highpower Rifle Championship Long-Range Rifle Matches
Year	Pistol Events
2006 2007 2009 2015 2017 2021 2021 2021	M9 EIC Match (Small Arms Firing School) Junior National Trophy Pistol Matches Service Pistol Warm-Up Match .22 Rimfire Pistol EIC Match Glock Pistol Match Service Revolver Match Match Pistol 3-Gun Aggregate M1911/M&P As-Issued Pistol Matches
Year	Smallbore Rifle and Air Gun Events
2002 2008 2018 2018 2022 2022	National Rimfire Sporter Championship National Matches Air Gun Events Smallbore Rifle 3-Position Championship Smallbore Rifle Prone Championship National Matches Air Rifle Championship National Matches Air Pistol Championship

numbers of military personnel on temporary duty to act as Range Officers or serve as scorers and target pullers for competitors. After WWII, National Matches responsibilities shifted to the Department of the Army. The Army provided Soldiers to operate the Matches, but the Army cancelled

its support after the 1967 Matches because of financial constraints related to the war in Viet Nam and gun control politics.

Many feared that the cancellation of Army support would be the end of the National Matches, but the NRA saved them. The NRA recruited a cadre of volunteers, and with USAR and OHNG assistance, successfully conducted a significantly reduced 1968 National Matches. Without government travel funding, most military competitors no longer participated, but the NRA managed to keep the Matches alive and a new system of conducting them with volunteers was instituted. From 1968 through 1996, the NRA conducted the Matches, with USAR and OHNG support.

The National Trophy Team and Individual Matches continued to be part of the Matches even after Army support was withdrawn. In fact, they were the Matches' most popular events. The NBPRP remained active in governing those Matches and obtained much needed, but substantially reduced, Congressional appropriations. The national gun control debate that began in the late 1960s was linked to annual attempts in Congress to eliminate government funding for the National Matches and NBPRP programs. Congressmen and Senators who supported marksmanship managed to prevail in these battles but after more than two decades of these fights, they decided the best way to preserve the National Matches and NBPRP programs was to privatize them. In 1996, Congress and President Bill Clinton

approved legislation that established the **Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearm Safety** as a federally chartered, non-profit corporation. The corporation quickly became known as the **CMP**. This far-sighted legislation mandated that the National Matches

must continue to be conducted and it gave the new CMP a secure source of funding by authorizing it to sell surplus military rifles and ammunition to U. S. citizens and use the proceeds to fund marksmanship and firearm safety programs such as the National Matches.

The CMP became active in the post-1968 National Matches partnership where the NRA continued to handle match operations, while the OHNG, USAR and CMP fulfilled support functions. With new leadership and funding, the CMP gradually assumed organizational responsibility for CMP National Matches events. In 2003, the CMP implemented a new Competitor Tracker computer software system that enabled it to take over statistical operations for these Matches. By 2017, the CMP implemented a Range Officer Training Course that allowed it to take over all range operations for CMP events.

At the same time, the NRA was inexplicably withdrawing its national championships from Camp Perry and the National Matches. In 2014, the NRA Smallbore Rifle Championships were moved to a new location in Indiana. In 2017, the NRA Highpower Rifle Championships were moved. The last NRA championship was withdrawn in 2021 when the NRA National Pistol Championship was moved out of Camp Perry. By 2022, the two remaining National Matches partners at Camp Perry are the CMP and the OHNG.

A dramatic expansion of National Matches participation opportunities began with the CMP's introduction of the John C. Garand Match in 1998. This match launched Vintage Military Rifle shooting as a separate shooting discipline. From 1998 through 2022, the CMP created more than two dozen new events or championships (see "New CMP National Matches Events" chart). The opening of the Air Gun Competition Center in 2008 facilitated the addition of National Matches Air Gun Events. To fill voids left by NRA departures, the CMP introduced its own Smallbore Rifle and Long-Range Rifle Championships in 2018, and new Match Pistol (3-gun pistol) and Service Revolver competitions in 2021. Now, competitors in those disciplines who cherish Camp Perry experiences will continue to have those same participation opportunities in the National Matches at Camp Perry.

Unforgettable National Matches Experiences

The main reason competitors go to the National Matches is to compete, but there are many other aspects of the National Matches that give competitors added value and make their experiences unique and memorable.



The President's Rifle Match Final gives the winner an opportunity to claim victory in front of hundreds of spectators. Here, 2007 winner SGT Kristopher Friend, USAR, receives a water cooler tribute from his teammates.



The USA flag that flew over the 2019 National Matches at Camp Perry was brought to the First Shot Ceremony by a wounded warrior parachute jumper.

NATIONAL MATCHES HISTORY AND APPEAL



Each of these Camp Perry Commercial Row buildings houses display and retail sales operations set up by shooting equipment manufacturers and suppliers.



One of five National Matches paintings by Jerry Antolik on display in CMP Headquarters.

MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING. The National Matches are one of the best places to learn new and better marksmanship skills. One great way to do this is to take advantage of the many opportunities Matches' competitors have to observe and speak with the best shooters. In addition to these informal opportunities, the National Matches offer formal training programs to meet virtually every need. In Pistol, Smallbore Rifle and Service Rifle Small Arms Firing Schools, U. S. Army Marksmanship Unit instructors teach basic marksmanship skills to hundreds of new shooters. Range Officer Training Courses prepare volunteers to serve as match officials. New shooter clinics precede Rimfire Sporter and Vintage Military Rifle events. Junior instructional programs include a week-long National Matches Junior Rifle Camp and a three-day CMP-USMC Junior Highpower Clinic. There is also a three-day Advanced Highpower Rifle Clinic for experienced competitors.

NATIONAL MATCHES PAGENTRY. A colorful First Shot Ceremony opens each year's Matches. Past ceremonies included flyovers, parachute jumps, historic military reenactments, and guest speakers who have the honor of firing the Matches' ceremonial "first shots." One of the most meaningful National Matches experiences occurs every morning before firing starts when a canon is fired, and the national anthem is played. The President's Rifle Match Final may be the Matches' best spectator event. National Matches Award Ceremonies are celebratory events, especially for those who receive their awards in front of hundreds of their peers. Highlights for many are formal presentations of Distinguished Badges to competitors who earned these prestigious badges during the previous year.

EVERYONE IS A PLAYER. The National Matches are unique among sports championships because they are open to all levels of competitors. Some competitors will already be acclaimed champions; some will be shooting their first competitions. Everyone goes home with participation recognition awards (T-shirts, etc.). Most competition events offer age group (Junior, Senior, Grand Senior, etc.) awards. CMP Games events award Achievement Medals with neck ribbons to hundreds of competitors. National Matches trophies that date as far back as 1875, are presented during Award Ceremonies that honor the competitors and teams that won these trophies.

GUNSMITHING SERVICES AND COMMERCIAL ROW. The National Matches are one of the best places to learn about new equipment or to upgrade existing equipment. CMP and military armorers perform many no-cost repairs as services for competitors. Experienced competitors are eager to share information about their equipment choices with new shooters. Shooting equipment dealers and manufacturers have display and retail sales operations in Camp Perry's Commercial Row. It is a great place to see and purchase new equipment for next year's trip to Camp Perry.

IMAGES AND ICONS. Camp Perry's unforgettable visual impressions start when one first arrives at its entrance marked by twin lighthouses. The Camp Perry water tower standing off in the distance is a National Matches icon. State flags line the entrance road to let everyone know something important is taking place there. Walking on Camp Perry firing lines is humbling when one thinks about the heroic sacrifices made by Soldiers who were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor and whose names are on those ranges. A 90 feet long mural by acclaimed Wyoming artist Jerry Antolik adorns the south wall of the indoor competition center; five of his paintings venerating National Matches images hang in CMP Headquarters and his "M1 Man" sculpture stands guard outside CMP Headquarters. The National Trophy collection has several important works of art including Remington bronzes and 19th century Tiffany creations. The trophies are on display at CMP Headquarters, and during award ceremonies. Seeing those elegant trophies and reading the names of some of the greatest heroes in American marksmanship that are engraved on them is another awe-inspiring experience.

The National Matches are a National Rifle and Pistol Championship, but they really are so much more than that. The National Matches are a **National Festival of Marksmanship** that offers Junior and Senior competitors great competition opportunities, training by outstanding instructors, memorable experiences, and camaraderie. If you have not been to Camp Perry and the Matches before, start your planning now!

NATIONAL MATCHES RESOURCES

Junior shooters and their coaches who have not yet been to the National Matches should consider making a trip to Camp Perry part of their marksmanship plans. Here are some essential resources to use in planning a National Matches adventure:

CMP National Matches Website. <https://thecmp.org/competitions/matches/cmp-national-matches/>. This is the starting point for obtaining information about the Matches and their current programs.

National Matches Calendar. The "Calendar" identifies the events that take place on each day of the Matches. This is a basic resource to use in planning a National Matches trip. Download the Calendar at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uCgLkHYEv4XWO1GXwGy3aoQfICXkFh1dms9-NqWNB6U/edit?usp=sharing>.

The CMP National Matches Program. Each year, the CMP publishes an "Official Program" with details about all aspects of the Matches including how to enter, the schedule, competition events and event regulations, and training courses. The National Matches Program is normally available by February or March of each year.

CMP Competition Rulebooks. Every competitor should have a copy of the rulebook that governs the events in which they are competing. The CMP publishes rulebooks for Highpower Rifle, Pistol, CMP Games (Vintage Military Rifle, As-Issued Pistol and Rimfire Sporter), Smallbore Rifle, and Air Rifle/Air Pistol. Download current versions of these rulebooks at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-competitions-rulebooks/>.

About the Author

Gary Anderson is the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Emeritus, and is the holder of two Olympic gold medals, seven World Championships and 16 National Championships. Mr. Anderson 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."



CMP Releases 2022 Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship 101 Schedule

The Civilian Marksmanship Program has released its annual lineup of hands-on rifle and pistol learning opportunities offered around the country throughout the calendar year!

The CMP's Marksmanship 101 Courses are designed to train individuals on rifle or pistol essentials and competition basics in a closely monitored setting. Utilizing the talents of qualified CMP staff and world-class instructors, participants learn through classroom discussion and active training on the range. Near the conclusion of course, students apply all they have learned in a true M16 rifle or M9 pistol match, fired under close supervision of the mentors on the line.

The courses are designed to accommodate those familiar with marksmanship as well as those completely new to the sport, so previous knowledge and experience is not required. Firearms and ammo will be provided by the CMP. Personal shooting jackets and gloves are permitted on the range, while hearing and eye protection are required during live firing.

Current Marksmanship 101 Rifle and Pistol Courses set for 2022 include:

- May 14-15** – Douglas Rifle Club, Eagle Creek, Oregon
- June 18-19** – Fairfax Rod and Gun Club, Manassas, Virginia
- Oct. 1-2** – Illinois State Rifle Association, Bonfield, Illinois

A Range Officer Class for both rifle and pistol will also be offered at the events, held a day prior to the start of the courses. Those who take the class will be educated on all of the details needed to become a representative of safety on the range during CMP sponsored and sanctioned competitions.

Registration for the Marksmanship 101 Courses will open Jan. 15, 2022. Classes are limited, so please sign up in advance! Walk-ins will be permitted, so long as the maximum number of participants does not exceed 90.

Outside of its own schedule, Marksmanship 101 Courses are also offered throughout the year at various CMP events.

For more information, visit the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/marksmanship-101/>. Questions on Marksmanship 101 may be directed to Amy Cantu at 419-635-2141, ext. 602, or acantu@thecmp.org.



RIFLE:

March 12, 2022 – Western CMP Games & CMP HP Rifle Matches, Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Phoenix, Arizona

April 23, 2022 – Eastern CMP Games & CMP HP Rifle Matches, Camp Butner, North Carolina

July 30-31, 2022 – National Matches, RIFLE SAFS, Camp Perry, Ohio

Sept. 18, 2022 – New England CMP HP Rifle & CMP Games Matches, Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont

Oct. 16, 2022 – Oklahoma CMP HP Rifle & CMP Games Matches, Oklahoma City Gun Club, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Nov. 14, 2022 – Talladega 600, CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park, Talladega, Alabama

PISTOL:

March 11, 2022 – Western CMP Games & CMP HP Rifle Matches, Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Phoenix, Arizona

April 22, 2022 – Eastern CMP Games & CMP HP Rifle Matches, Camp Butner, North Carolina

July 12, 2022 – National Matches, PISTOL SAFS, Camp Perry, Ohio

Sept. 18, 2022 – New England CMP HP Rifle & CMP Games Matches, Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vermont

Oct. 16, 2022 – Oklahoma CMP HP Rifle & CMP Games Matches, Oklahoma City Gun Club, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Nov. 15, 2022 – Talladega 600, CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park, Talladega, Alabama

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 <https://thecmp.org/youth/junior-distinguished-badge/> or email CMP Competitions at 3PAR@TheCMP.org.



Badge #	Name	Hometown	Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1566	Sunnee Schumann	Granbury, TX	#1575	Cody Moore	Prince Frederick, MD
#1567	Arturo Buenahora	Nashville, TN	#1576	Phoebe Chandler	Tacoma, WA
#1568	Bethany Butler	Austin, TX	#1578	Christopher Mardones	Lusby, MD
#1569	Maria Tortorelli	Apo, AE	#1579	Karley McCall	Ozark, MO
#1570	Kendall Goebel	Sarasota, FL	#1580	Alison Sutherlin	Belgrade, MT
#1571	Briley Sralla	Round Mountain, TX	#1581	Carmella Martinez	Lebanon, OR
#1572	Caroline Audette	Fort Mill, SC	#1582	Samantha Zermeno	Fort Mill, SC
#1573	Matthew Stout	Poquoson, VA	#1583	Martina Gratz	Sigel, IL
#1574	Alyssa Ward	Conroe, TX	#1584	Rylie Passmore	McLean, IL



Going Distinguished: Experiences of a Rifleman

By Adam S. Jones, Distinguished Rifleman #2548

Make no mistake, there is much improvement I am excited to pursue, so what follows is not advice from a record setter or one of the Zen Masters. I simply wish to contribute to this culture as others have done before me and pass along some things that benefited me. Also, what follows will be a blend of what was shared with me, thoughts from Raymond Prior who authored *Bullseye Mind* (if you haven't already, read and savor this book!), sessions with an excellent cognitive therapist, good reading and what seems to add up and follow from experience.

I went Distinguished this past September – a journey that was seven years in the making. The fact that it occurred is a testament to the generous and encouraging culture of the highpower rifle community. Is there another sport where one's competitors go out of their way to encourage and instruct you in hopes you improve?

I could not begin to calculate, let alone properly express gratitude for, the time and effort others have provided. Strangers on Viale at Camp Perry offering observations on the line fresh after a string of fire; experiential knowledge shared through casual conversation in the pits, the parking lot or online; phone conversations with friends; mental management suggestions; equipment corrections; reloading improvements and on and on. A local friend and excellent rifleman even commuted an hour to coach me during live fire in 35-degree weather, not having trigger time for himself. And, of course, there was the loving support of my wonderful wife and daughter who could see the benefits competitive rifle was providing for me.

And let's remember the timely encouragement to persevere and press on!

I am delighted to say that the long trek blessed me with life-enriching friendships that would not have occurred if I would have been golfing all those years. The cast of characters at these matches are largely an intellectually curious, gracious and fun bunch, and my close associations with some of them have broadened my horizons far beyond rifle marksmanship.

Related, the daily life benefits from what I've learned through highpower rifle competition have proved invaluable (Hold hard and favor center!). The effort to manage match nerves dovetailed with a real-life effort to manage anxiety, cognitive training and mental health – and the benefits have been beautiful. My relationships with our young daughter, my wife, family and friends have deepened, and I say with unflinching certainty that I am a happier, more centered person because of this weird desire to travel long distances at considerable expense to more efficiently punch the middle of paper targets from 200, 300 and 600 yards.

So, I am delighted to say I went Distinguished as the effort to do so brought upon so many unforeseen blessings and benefits



Adam Jones

while meeting a challenging goal. Looking at the badge (and the tattoo on my forearm) reminds me of all those benefits and all those faces, challenges and good times.

I am at the same time humbled, as there were many face plants during that journey, specifically two times over seven years when I was oh-so-close to tucking my tail and quitting. (I clearly recall sitting on the porch of an isolated cabin somewhere near Malvern, Ohio, on the Friday night after the 500 aggregate at the Buckeye Blossom in 2020, before the double EIC weekend, watching the squirrels and pondering how much money I could rake back if I sold all my stuff online.) Also, it is humbling because I see how much more growth and improvement there is ahead of me, that the Distinguished Rifleman Badge is really a starting point, not an ending. And that is a good thing.

In consequence of being the beneficiary of this uniquely gracious community, I feel happily obliged to pass along what others have shared with me in hopes it assists at least one fellow competitor and, in turn, gets passed along by them to others. Everyone is different with their own challenges and solutions – my biggest challenge was (is!) match stress, nerves, Match Monkey, knee-high-wind, whatever we label it. So, most of what benefitted me is listed below.

Neuroplasticity: the wonderful neurological news that no matter our age or life circumstances, our brains have the ability to construct new neurological pathways. That is, we can create new habits and automated responses with time and cognitive training. We can train our brains.

Perception is vital. View a match or any part thereof negatively or as a threat of any kind, the primordial part of your

brain lights up and guess what it feeds your body? Adrenaline. View a match as a competitive challenge and opportunity to improve marksmanship and the problem-solving and creative portion of your brain lights up and increases the probability of managing match stress constructively – guiding that energy towards good ends through focus and execution.

Set your expectations in reality and history, not your hopes and dreams of having no match stress. If we do the former, the good brain processes engage. If we do the latter, the fight or flight instinct lights up if the stars don't align and Match Monkey returns.

Focus on the Do's, do not focus on the Do Not's. That is, as a young Marine shared with me between the 200- and 300-yard lines at Butner, "Focus on the solution, not the problem."

Related, if someone told you to not think of a pink elephant, what image would be in your mind? A big pink elephant. Similarly, if we think of not crossfiring, not shooting a miss, not repeating a 7, etc., where are our minds focused? And what precedes actions? Thoughts. When thinking of shooting, only think about breaking clean center shots. If your mind regresses to thinking of bad shots, think of shoelaces, maple syrup, song lyrics, the color blue – anything else. (This is obviously important on the range but is equally important off the range, anytime and anywhere. I often think of shooting while driving and, of late, I think of two particular X's I called in offhand and everything came together.)

When match nerves or distractions occur, stop, focus solely on your breathing (deep belly breath in through the nose, out through the mouth). Think about how it feels, sounds, thinking only of your breath. Refocus on your shot routine and re-engage the target, thinking of the sight picture just before shouldering your rifle. Someone called this, «Break the Loop.» My therapist calls it, "Thought stoppage." Match stress comes from thinking of being in a match. Thinking of something else (breath is good because it oxygenates your blood) momentarily rests the mind from the immediate stressor. Or, zone out staring at a tree or the patch on the back of the competitor next to you – it's contour, color, how you would shade it in if sketching it, whatever.

Be optimistic. Optimism is not some delusion that everything will be peachy and there will be no challenges. Optimism is expecting challenges to arise and then actively engaging them as opportunities, not problems to avoid. (Another book recommendation: *Learned Optimism* by Martin Seligman)

Related, think of a thermometer and a thermostat. A thermometer passively takes in the prevailing atmospheric conditions and reflects them. That is, a thermometer is controlled by prevailing circumstances. A thermostat, by contrast, actively sets the temperature and humidity, and the room's conditions are changed. That is, the thermostat actively controls the prevailing conditions. Be the thermostat and take control of your thoughts.

Thoughts are mental events. The events we create in our minds affect our bodies. We also have control of our thoughts (not the other way around, à la thermostats). And we have the

choice to control our thoughts or allow circumstances to control our thoughts. So, we can choose to control our thoughts that control our actions.

Work with it, not against it. Or, the act of trying negates itself. Fighting against negative thoughts compounds their negative effect. Expect negative thoughts to crop up from time to time. It is natural. Then, let them go like unwanted guests at a dinner party letting themselves out, then re-engage good thoughts and processes. Good thoughts = Good shots.

Related, when a bad shot occurs or old negative thoughts appear, view their occurrence with non-judgement. «Okay. That happened. I've been here before. Time to move forward.» Practically speaking, if we beat ourselves up, we decrease the likelihood we will move forward constructively and return to a mindset conducive to good shot routines and breaking clean shots. Want to shoot better after a bad shot or a negative thought crops up? Be kind to yourself.

Be mindful of setting up a healthy, constructive "If, then" mindset. What to do: «If I perform below expectations, then I will continue to have a positive relationship with this sport I voluntarily signed up for because it is fun.» What to avoid: «If I shoot well, get leg points, meet my goals, etc., then I will be happy.» This mindset will likely put you on the fast track to disliking a sport we got into because it is fun. (And you'll miss a lot of good times and good people along the way.) Of course, we want to excel and improve our scores. To do so, it is more practical to not get wrapped around the axel when that does not occur.

Every match is an opportunity to improve marksmanship and practice for the next match. Each match is a means to performing well in the next match. To build a wall of bricks, you install one brick at a time – going up each time, building upon the prior bricks.

Winning matches, peer approval, earning a shiny little badge, etc., should be secondary things. Improving your craft, enjoying the sport and maximizing your time around good people should be primary things. Of course, we desire the secondary things as they are important, but placing priority on primary things, counterintuitively, makes the secondary things more attainable and more enjoyable once attained. Look up the post-Olympic blues: there is a reason those who place attaining the gold medal as the end-all, be-all fall into a sadness after it is placed around their neck.

Problem to Challenge to Opportunity. How we perceive events, words, matters in the near future dictates how our brains react to those things. Problems are negative, to be avoided or addressed grudgingly. They therefore elicit stress and anxiety, so adrenaline will likely get involved. The same thing viewed as a challenge elicits better motives and entices problem-solving and creative thought processes. The same things viewed as opportunities lights up the part of the brain that formulates reasoning and cognitive processes furthest removed from the fight or flight part of our brains that we need least in a match or in life situations.

Choose one thing to focus on at a time, in practice and in matches. Overburdening oneself with the list of challenges and improve-upons can be overwhelming and lead to discouragement. “Today I will execute good trigger discipline, one shot at a time.”

Natural Point of Aim, trigger discipline and follow through are vital. «Hold hard and favor center» brings these fundamentals home for me.

Practice makes permanent, not perfect. Place yourself under the tutelage of shooters better than you, in all aspects of shooting.

If offhand is your challenge, try building up your confidence in the rapids and 600 so much that you will go from saying, «Oh no, I shot an 88. Now I *have* to clean rapids and nail 600,” with a sense of exasperation to, “Okay, I shot an 88. Now I *get* to clean rapids and hammer 600!» with a touch of moxie in your step. A friend called this, “Backfilling offhand,” wherein you’ll lighten the focus and pressure to perform better on your feet and, counterintuitively, probably perform better on your feet.

Be teachable! On the range, sitting around the huts and online, there are people ready and willing to assist in myriad ways. Most competitors are approachable, good people eager to share knowledge and encouragement. Ask. Listen. Take notes. Process. Glean and internalize what works for you.

Have a growth mindset, not a fixed mindset (Read Carol Dweck’s *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*). You’ll go from having a negative, judgmental reaction to bad shots to being intellectually curious why they happened, then go about constructively addressing the issue.

If you’re in this sport as a hobby and over concerned about what your pals will think of you if you underperform and it adds to your match stress, here is some delightful news: most everyone doesn’t care if you underperform. How you perform has no correlation to your worth as a human being. None. Zero. Zip. Read that again. Most of us acknowledge this. Your friends wish the best for you, of course. They are rooting for you and happy for you when you shoot well, of course. If they respond otherwise when you shoot poorly that is a strong indication that they are not your friends, so it makes no sense to care what they think anyway.

Be a good presence, on and off the range. What goes around comes around, so put good juju out there.

Lastly, be open to encouragement! It is natural to shut ourselves off from being encouraged because we tend to focus on the yet-to-achieve things and not on progress made. You’re not alone in feeling discouragement, and you will not be alone savoring the rewarding feeling of success through perseverance. I went five long years between my first leg and my second leg, then in the span of 14 months earned 30 points and three hard legs. (By the way, in only one of my five legs I shot in the 90’s in offhand.)

Two days after talking to the squirrels at that cabin about selling all my equipment, I earned my second leg, which was also



Jones attends the Camp Perry National Matches each year.

my first hard leg at the Buckeye Blossom – breaking a five-year drought. The day before, that same friend who commuted an hour to mentor me in cold weather texted this: “I see the future in ways you cannot.” We need people in our lives that point out what we are veiled from seeing ourselves, good and bad. Those people are your tribe.

And when I handed in my scorecard to national-champion highpower competitor Kim Rowe (a person I barely knew at the time) on that pivotal day in a pivotal weekend, she unwittingly brought it all together when she glanced at the score, smiled and said, “And that’s why you never give up.”

On the range, as in life, hold hard and favor center.

About the Distinguished Badge:

Distinguished Badges are the highest individual awards authorized by the U. S. Government for excellence in marksmanship competition. Badges are awarded by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) after an individual receives enough Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) points at qualifying matches (also referred to as leg point).

The Distinguished Rifleman Badge and the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge were created by the War Department in 1884 and 1891, respectively, to recognize and reward members of the U.S. Army for Excellence-In-Competition with the service rifle and service pistol. Other Services of the Armed Forces adopted a similar program about the same time, and in 1926, civilians were authorized to participate in the program.

The CMP administers Distinguished Badges for:

- Service Rifle • Service Pistol • .22 Rimfire Pistol
- Junior Air Rifle • International Shooter • Smallbore
- Distinguished Marksman Badge
(for those with permanent disabilities)
- Distinguished Air Rifle and Air Pistol
- Distinguished Service Revolver Badge

Learn more about the Distinguished Badge program by visiting the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/distinguishedbadges/>. Read other Distinguished Stories at <https://thecmp.org/news-media/the-first-shot/>.

Daniel Boone High School Marksmanship Team Competes With Success

Submitted by Andrey Cox, Daniel Boone High School Athlete



The Daniel Boone High School Competitive Marksmanship Team from Tennessee is composed of cadets who have demonstrated maturity, a thorough understanding of weapons safety and a high degree of marksmanship skills. Team members are selected after an extensive marksmanship training program in which all cadets participate. Competitive marksmanship offers team members the opportunity to develop coordination, discipline, applied knowledge and sportsmanship skills.

The Avanti 886 and Crosman Challenger .177 caliber pellet rifles used by the team exhibit similar ballistic characteristics as a smallbore .22 caliber rifle but are easier to handle and are much safer to use in training or competitive environments. The team has competed in many state, regional and national levels, earning several titles, including first in the East Tennessee Junior Olympics, overall in the Tennessee State Air Rifle Championship and eight in the nation at the Civilian Marksmanship Program National Service Championship. Team member Nanchaya Bailey also earned 10th at the Marine Corps JROTC Service Championship in Arizona.

Additional events the Daniel Boone High School team has participated in are the Appalachian Air Rifle Match, Science Hill Gun & Run Competition, Montgomery Bell Academy Air Rifle Classic, Foothills

Hilltopper Air Rifle Match, RC Central Classic Air Rifle Match, Reindeer Games Air Rifle Match, Trailblazer Shoulder to Shoulder Rifle Match, Musket & Ball Postal Match, McDowell Titan Air Rifle Match, Gary Anderson Rifle Match, Volunteer Season Opener Rifle Team Match and the Marine Corps JROTC Postal Match.

Current Daniel Boone Marksmanship Team Members include: Jaylee Kirkpatrick-Hamilton (Captain), Jozzlyn Stewart, Teri Gunter, Dulce Lopez, Nanchaya Bailey, Connor Rowan, Xavier Bray, Tristan Rowe, Andrey Cox, Cavin Osborne, Brooklyn Ziegler, Mackenzie Cole, Macy Dakin, Logan Brumfeild, Luke Higgins, Aiden Monette, and Jake Moody.



USAMU's Spc. Ivan Roe Continues to Excel Through Flourishing Rifle Career

Spc. Ivan Roe, current member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU), is a fierce athlete to watch out for on the range.

In 2021, Spc. Roe, 26, was the leading scorer of the CMP's Three-Position Aggregate Smallbore competition held during the annual National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. It was his first trip to the event, where he also earned third overall in the Prone 6400 Aggregate Championship, fourth in the Prone Iron Sight and Any Sight competitions and led the Smallbore Prone Elimination event.

"I really had no expectations," he said, at the time, of his first trip to Camp Perry. "Every day I got down, it was, 'What's going to happen today?' It's been a learning experience the entire time."

The same can be said, up to this point, about his career in marksmanship.

Roe became involved in the sport when his dad signed him up for local BB gun courses at Jaycees Club, around his hometown of Manhattan, Montana, when he was 7 years old. There, he learned about gun safety and proper shooting techniques. After his first year, he decided to keep on shooting and hasn't stopped since.

"I found out I was pretty good at it, and that's really it," he said, simply, of his start. "I just kept signing on year after year until it was 19 years – down the road and I'm in the Army."

As a junior, Roe was a member of the Gallatin Valley Sharpshooters. He placed 15th at the 2014 Junior Olympics, firing a score of 610.4 both days of competition. Showing talent, he contemplated the prospect of taking his abilities to the next level.

"Originally, I wasn't sure if I wanted to play soccer or shoot rifle in college, but I knew I wanted to do one of them," he explained. "It wasn't until USA Shooting's Winter Airgun my senior year, talking to college coaches, that I really realized that not only did I want to compete in college, but I could be really good at it too."

Soon after, in 2015, he joined the Murray State Racers collegiate rifle team where he spent four years as a NCAA



Spc. Roe looks forward to his experiences at the USAMU and hopes to one day make the Olympic Games. Photo courtesy of the USAMU

athlete. He started out strong – earning first-team All-Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) honors, named to the OVC All-Newcomer smallbore and air rifle teams and was honored with the title of OVC Freshman of the Year.

"To me, Murray State felt like home," Roe said. "It was a small college town in a rural part of the country, just like where I grew up."

It was also during his freshman year that a profound teaching moment occurred during one of his matches.

"It was a match that I was incredibly nervous about beforehand because I had been shooting really well that season and didn't want to let my team down – I knew they were relying on my score," he said. "Our senior at the time, Kelsey Emme, came over to talk to me and try to calm me down. She told me to remember why I was doing this, why I was shooting. She told me it wasn't to win or to shoot scores for the team – it wasn't even about the team. I was shooting because I loved the sport, and that was it."

It's a narrative that he often thinks back upon, even today, when he needs to ease the pressure of competition on the firing line.

"What she said has really stuck with me throughout the years," he continued. "And I still tell it to myself when I'm feeling extremely nervous before matches."

In the years that followed, he went on to be first-team All-American for both smallbore and air rifle and earned several academic honors, among which were the prestigious Elite 90 award and CoSIDA Academic All-American. He was also named the OVC Smallbore Athlete of the Year during his sophomore and junior years as well as Co-Air Rifle Athlete of the Year his sophomore year. His proudest moment came during his junior year, when he consistently set and broke his own school records – ranking as one of the best college shooters in the country.

But, according to Roe, his memories of his time at Murray State are marked by more than just his own accomplishments. It was the athletes around him that made his college experience even more enjoyable.

“The team was more teammate-oriented than individual goal-oriented, which I liked,” he said. “We were more concerned with helping each other get better than we were focusing on ourselves getting better.”

“We didn’t just want to win as an individual. If we won, we did it because we were trying to do it as a team.”

While in college, Roe dedicated time to being a CMP Junior Camp Counselor for two years as well as a range technician for the camps for an additional two years. Participating in the camps not only allowed him to lead others in their own marksmanship skill development but also opened a new perspective into his own positioning techniques – helping to better understand himself.

“It was crazy,” he said. “I had never worked an actual coaching/mentoring job before, so it was a steep learning curve for me. But, I found it to be really rewarding. Being able to listen to other counselors talk about their shooting allowed me to take parts of what each of them did and build it into something that really worked for me.”

“It showed me how much I love this sport and how much I really enjoy learning new things about it,” he admitted. “And passing that on to others.”

Near the middle of his senior year, he thought to his future. He knew that his time at Murray State was ending, but he also knew he wasn’t anywhere near ready to quit shooting. Hoping to find an outlet that would guarantee range access, funding and coaching for his career, he turned to the USAMU – a group known for its exceptional soldiers and athletes.



During his first trip to the National Matches in 2021, Roe earned several overall honors in three-position and prone smallbore.

“It seemed like the obvious choice for me,” Roe said.

He enlisted on Army active duty in July 2019 and was assigned to the USAMU International Team as a shooter/instructor. With the team, he plans on working toward his ultimate goal of reaching the Olympic Games in 2028 and possibly even through 2032. He has also considered becoming a college coach to stay involved in and give back to the sport that has given him so much in return.

“I have learned that I am so very far away from being done with this sport,” he said. “There is still so much out there that I want to master and accomplish, and I plan on being here until I do.”

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



Roe helped lead the USAMU’s inaugural Smallbore Small Arms Firing School at the 2021 National Matches.

Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Deal Reflects on His Time at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Having now been in the U.S. Army for over a decade, Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Deal, 33, has gathered an abundance of profound experiences. Through initiative and discipline, his involvements have granted him the motivation to reach the highest levels of precision – forever aspiring to enhance his surroundings, including for those close to him.

“Understanding that every decision you make, even on a personal level, can have effects on the Soldiers around you – wanting to do better for yourself and wanting to do better for them,” he expressed about being in the military. “It seemed like a lifestyle I could get behind. I just really felt compelled to do it.”

After a trial run with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) Service Rifle Team at the Civilian Marksmanship Program’s 2021 National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, he officially joined the unique unit in November – ready to represent the United States through competition and educating others. He arrived at the USAMU from yet another elite unit that tested the strength of his spirit and was an honor very few will ever experience.

For five years, Deal served at The Old Guard, 4th Battalion, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment – two of those years spent at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. For six months, he was a Squad Leader/Relief Commander for one of the three reliefs that guard The Tomb. The following year and a half, he was the attending Assistant Sergeant of The Guard/Operations Non-Commissioned officer. His duties at the Tomb included administrative responsibilities within the organization such as training, logistics and supply.

“All of us Tomb Guards go down to the Tomb for different reasons,” Deal explained. “For me, the initial draw was I genuinely wanted to serve with the best Soldiers that my current unit had, and from what I had been told and what I had seen, that was the Tomb Guards down there at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.”

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a 24-hour, 365-days-a-year guard post dedicated to memorializing the sacrifices of United States servicemen and women.



Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Deal was a Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army Old Guard

Located at Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington D.C., the Tomb was established in 1921 when an unidentified servicemember from World War I was interned on Nov. 11 of that year. Marking its centennial in 2021, the Tomb is also the final resting place of two other American service Unknowns from later wars who were added in 1958 and 1984.

The Guards didn’t start serving at the Tomb until 1925, assuming the role recognized today in 1948. Guards can move on to become Sentinels after intense, rigorous training to earn the honor.

Training to become a Sentinel is so difficult that since the Tomb’s creation, there have only been just under 700 fully qualified individuals. The Tomb Guard Identification Badge, which displays the words “Honor Guard,” is so highly regarded that it’s the only military award that can be revoked (even after military service) if an individual discredits or brings dishonor to the organization.

Deal earned his Tomb Guard Identification Badge #678 in just five months – a feat not accomplished by many. His duties as a Tomb Guard included conducting wreath ceremonies to honor the Unknowns and interacting with the crowds when he was able. Those moments brought some of the most memorable encounters during his time as a Guard.

One memory he holds close is a particular family wreath ceremony where a young girl in the group happened to be wearing a unit crest from Deal's exact parachute infantry regiment he had previously served with, the 508th. He asked her where she had gotten the crest, and she explained that they had just finished their grandfather's funeral service in Arlington.

"That was definitely, for me, a very, very profound moment because I was very fond of my experiences in the 82nd – a lot of really good friends there, especially in the 508th. And then to meet somebody like that who had the kind of day that she had had, and to understand what it meant for them to not just be at Arlington but to be at the Tomb," he said. "It's the primary reason the Tomb was established, was to be a focal point for people to come and grieve."

He also says he had the same pride any time they were able to host an Honor Flight, where a state organization allows veterans of all wars the chance to take a tour of D.C.

"Sometimes you'll see hundreds of these veterans from as far back as World War II coming and showing their respects. And without fail, you get to a point where taps is played . . . and you see all these veterans, oftentimes in wheelchairs and oftentimes some of them audibly fighting off their caretakers so they can stand to their feet, render a hand salute or place their hand over their heart – oftentimes tears in their eyes," Deal recalled. "It shows you that the Tomb is not just a place. It's not just an object. It still has a lot of significance for people today."

About Sgt. 1st Class Deal:

Sgt. 1st Class Deal was born and raised in Columbus, Georgia, just outside of Fort Benning – the same spot where he now serves as a member of the USAMU. He was adopted and raised by his great-grandparents. His great-grandfather was a Korean War veteran, which helped lead Deal toward a military path.

"I was kind of always around it," he said. "Obviously being just outside of Fort Benning, there's a big military presence, so it was something I was exposed to from a very young age and something I was always interested in."

His involvement in marksmanship began when he shot three-position air rifle in high school in the Muscogee County School District in Georgia for four years. When he was 18, he received a nomination and acceptance to West Point where he completed three years before enlisting into the Army in 2011.

He spent the next five years at Fort Bragg in North Carolina where he was deployed with

the 82nd Airborne in 2013 and 2014. In 2016, he arrived on orders to Fort Myer where he was with the Old Guard 3d Infantry Regiment.

"It takes a lot of discipline and mental toughness to guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for a 26-hour period," he added. "It also takes a lot of mental toughness to take a 20-shot string at 600 yards with the wind blowing 20 miles an hour."

Sgt. 1st Class Deal learned about the famous Camp Perry ranges, Distinguished Badges and other marksmanship honors after being involved with the All Army 82nd Airborne Post team. A few years later, he became interested in the USAMU and finally got the opportunity to experience the unit at the National Matches in the summer of 2021. There, he was an instructor in the Small Arms Firing School, as well as a competitor in the prestigious matches that can only be found at the annual event.

During the coveted National Matches President's Rifle Match, Deal earned his President's Hundred tab (a sought-after achievement for many marksmen) by placing 23rd out of nearly 840 competitors. He was also the first Tomb Guard in history to do so.

He's constantly improving, moving from Staff Sgt. to Sgt. 1st Class in December 2021. Within his new role at the AMU, Deal admits the responsibility he enjoys most is training and coaching others on and off the range.

"You get out there and you get to talking. If nothing else, you share shooting in common, and we'll talk about that – whether it be what the wind's doing that day or different equipment setup, things like that, and just sharing experiences" Deal said. "I think that's a very profound piece of the USAMU that I've really enjoyed, especially the Small Arms Firing School."



Deal performed his final Tomb of the Unknown Soldier walk near the end of the summer in 2021. Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army Old Guard

More About the Tomb Guard:

The Tomb has been guarded every minute of every day since 1937. The first Sentinel badge was awarded in 1958 to Sgt. William Daniel. Since then, the Guard has retained five female Sentinels over its history – the first, Sgt. Heather Johnson, earned her Identification Badge in 1996, and the most recent, Sgt. 1st Class Chelsea Porterfield, earned hers in 2021.

A Tomb Guard (all collectively) or a Sentinel (those who have earned their badge) on average will spend about 107 hours a week on the job and preparing to do the job.

“To put it in perspective, if you understand how smart phones work these days, a lot of us have had our Google or Siri try to change our home location to the Tomb – that’s how much time is put into mission readiness there,” Deal joked.

Guards report earlier than the majority of the United States military and enter a 26-hour shift. The Tomb Guard Quarters includes a kitchen, bathroom, bunk areas and other resources, including the “Ready Room” where they prepare their uniforms (which can take an average of eight hours to complete).

Day and night, the Tomb Guards “walk the mat,” which is a literal mat the Guards pace at the Tomb plaza. They mark 21 steps to signify the 21-gun salute honor given to military and foreign dignitaries. The Guard is changed every 30 minutes during the summer (April to September) and every hour during the winter (October to March), as well as every two hours during the night hours when the cemetery is closed. Fifteen minutes prior to a change, the entire relief is notified and all other work stops.

While on the plaza, Guards aren’t permitted to acknowledge the spectators in attendance, but, while not walking the mat, they provide history briefs and tours where they’re able to interact with the public.

Once the job is done for the day, they immediately work on getting their uniform back to its level of expectation for the next workday, which follows a recovery day in between. During the night, they eat, shower, practice physical fitness and get sleep as they’re able.

Instead of being hidden away during training, the Guards are out in view of the public completing Guard changes and defending the Unknowns. Training to become qualified to be a Sentinel is a triple-volunteer process – for the Army, service at the 3d Infantry Regiment and for the Tomb. A three-week evaluation then begins to determine whether an individual is capable of being trained to the standard of the Guard.

Once accepted, training can take eight to nine months



Sgt. 1st Class Deal (center, sitting) joined the Army Marksmanship Unit in November 2021. Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit

on average. Individuals go through a series of four tests – each harder than the last, including a 17-page education test that must be memorized, verbatim. The concluding badge test includes an evaluation on conducting a Guard change. Their uniforms must be pristine, with only two deficiencies allowed, which can be something as simple as a visible piece of lint.

“Obviously you can get to two deficiencies very easily,” Deal said.

The final step is a history brief on everything they’ve learned during their training.

“It’s a go, no-go event,” Deal said. “If they put out any incorrect information, it’s an automatic event failure.”

After the completion of training, they’ll continue to serve at the Tomb for at least a year.

Every item that the Tomb Guard is wearing, down to the rifle they carry, has been heavily modified or built from scratch for that individual. The stocks of the rifles are hand-sanded and stained by the Guard. The belts they wear are cut from a roll of belt material. The blouses are pressed and sewn. They’re also issued an American flag, identical to the flags used at Arlington. Some put significant dates or milestones on their flags as reminders of their experiences and the magnitude of the position.

“For me, personally, it’s always kind of in the back of the mind,” Deal said of the significance of being a Guard. “That’s all you’re really focused on, is making sure the mission’s done, the Soldiers are at their high state of readiness, they’re going out there at the highest level of proficiency possible every single Guard change.”

“The impact of what they’re doing and why they’re doing it is always there if you talk to any one of them,” he added of the Tomb Guards. “It’s never something that goes away.”

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

New CMP Air Rifle, Air Pistol Competition Program

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus

The CMP's selection of 2022 competition rulebooks, which it is beginning to release now, includes one new rulebook, the **1st Edition CMP Air Rifle and Air Pistol Competition Rules**.

The CMP has noteworthy credentials for being an organization that sanctions and conducts air rifle and air pistol matches. The CMP established the two finest 10m air gun facilities in the USA, the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Ohio and the CMP Competition Center at Anniston, Alabama. Both centers regularly host major airgun championships that attract competitors from all over the country. The CMP has a mobile 10-meter electronic target range that supports major air gun matches for organizations like USA Shooting and the NCAA in other locations around the country. The CMP is a national leader in the Junior Three-Position Air Rifle program that has become the most popular junior rifle competition activity in the USA. The CMP conducts monthly matches with 60-shot Air Rifle standing and Air Pistol events on its Camp Perry and Anniston ranges. The CMP organizes annual National Matches Air Gun Events that attract up to 2,500 entries in ten different Air Rifle and Air Pistol events. The CMP Competitions Department currently receives regular requests from shooting clubs that want the CMP to sanction their air gun matches. The CMP is already a leader in promoting Air Rifle and Air Pistol competitions for juniors and seniors and is introducing this new rulebook as part of a planned expansion of its airgun competition program.

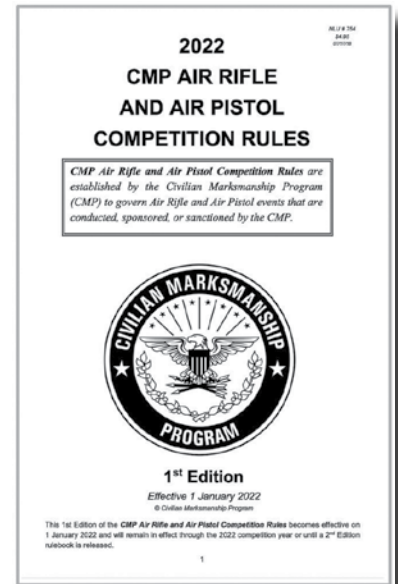
The new CMP Air Rifle and Air Pistol Competition Rules

will govern the conduct of matches at the CMP Competition Centers and new Distinguished Badge Programs for Air Rifle and Air Pistol.

The new rulebook will govern National Matches Air Gun Championships and a full schedule of matches on CMP 10m ranges as well as any airgun matches that CMP-affiliated clubs sanction with the CMP. The rules follow ISSF Rules as closely as possible. Competitors in CMP airgun matches should not expect any substantial differences between ISSF, USA Shooting and the new CMP Rules. Air Rifles, Air Pistols and other equipment that are legal under ISSF or USA Shooting Rules will be legal in CMP sanctioned airgun competitions.

A summary of the airgun program features that are defined in the new rulebook can be found through the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/new-cmp-air-rifle-and-air-pistol-competition-program/>.

A copy of this new rulebook is also posted on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2022CMPAirGunRulebook.pdf>.



CMP 2022 Smallbore Rifle Postal Event Now Open

After the enormous success of last year's inaugural event, the CMP has created a second round of Smallbore Rifle Postal Competition, running from February to May 2022. The event features 3-Position and Prone matches, fired from a distance of 50 feet – open to Adult and Junior athletes.

Both individuals and clubs are welcome to register. Official customized targets will be mailed to participants to be fired upon, then mailed back to the CMP to be verified. Targets may also be scored electronically using the Orion Scoring System.

Online registration is already open and ends April 4. To register and learn more, visit the CMP's website at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-smallbore-program/cmp-smallbore-postal-program/>.



How To Shoot a Bullseye Pistol Match

By Jim Henderson, CMP Pistol Coordinator



Jim Henderson (at target) not only coordinates CMP's pistol program but also leads the CMP's Pistol Marksmanship 101 courses offered throughout the year.

As the title implies, this is going to be a short overview of how to shoot, or the ins and outs, of a bullseye match – things you should and shouldn't do before, during and after a match.

So, let's just jump right in, from the beginning...

Before the Match:

Practice and preparation are key to having fun and enjoying a match you paid your hard-earned money to shoot. I believe in practicing the things you may not be as good at more often than what you do well. Having awesome slow fire is great, but two-thirds of your match is sustained fire. If you aren't where you think you should be in, say, rapid fire – it's in your best interest to get better at it! In my opinion, if I had limited resources and time, I would train nothing but rapid fire.

Here's a list of things I like to check the night before I'm heading to a match.

1. Are my guns and magazines clean and lubed up?

2. Do I have enough ammo loaded or set aside? (Always bring more than you need in case there are re-fires.)

3. Do I have enough staples and a working staple gun?

4. Do I have all the environmental things I need? (Sunblock, hand warmers, gloves for when I go down range, a hat if I wear them...you get the point.)

5. Am I drinking water?

6. Do I have a way to pay my entry fees? (If you need to hit the ATM, do it the day before.)

7. Did I pack all of my miscellaneous items? (Overlays, writing utensil, clipboard, screwdriver, ECI)

This isn't an all-inclusive list – just suggestions.

Go to bed at your normal time. This is pretty important to help promote that stress-free enjoyment of your match the next day.

The Day of the Match:

Leaving the house with ample time to get to the range is also very important. Don't be that person that shows up

to the firing line with 20 seconds left in the prep period. Not only are you detrimental to yourself, but you're a distraction to the other shooters that spent their hard-earned money to be there as well. Treat your fellow competitors as you wish to be treated.

Now that you've arrived to the range with plenty of time to spare, getting checked in and picking up your score cards is a good idea. When you arrive early, there's a great chance that you'll miss a line at check in.

If the range allows, get your box set on your point. If you brought a chair, get it set up. Make yourself at home!

Preparing to Shoot:

About 20 to 30 minutes from your prep time, start warming up. You can do good things by warming up just prior to leaving the house as well. The only warm up I believe necessary is a few minutes of line drill. By that, I mean find a straight, vertical line somewhere you can move your arm up and down. Corners of a room, a piece of tape on an overhead cover post, whatever – as long as you can stand in your shooting stance and move your firing arm up and down along that line.

In the drill, you trace the line with your empty hand, superimposing your thumb nail on the line. Then, you're going to trace that line as best you can from 45 degrees down, to 45 degrees up, and back down again. Go for a minute of motion and then 30 seconds of complete rest. Let your arm go to your side and let it hang. It's not about quantity, but quality. At the range, I wouldn't do more than a couple minutes of this. All we're looking to do is warm the muscles up.

Once you're allowed to approach the line and open your boxes, get everything set up the way you want it. I put everything in the exact same place every single time I shoot. I could put my hand on my screwdriver with my eyes closed if I had to. Then, make sure your magazines are loaded. In bullseye, it's always five rounds per magazine, no matter what.

Once you've got that done, check to make sure you have the correct scorecard ready to go with whatever you're going to take down range to score. The great thing about the CMP scorecards is if you aren't familiar with the course of fire, the explanation of what to do is right above the shot value boxes. Plus, the Chief Range Officer (CRO, the person giving the commands) will tell you exactly what's coming next. Also, make sure you put your competitor label in the appropriate place on the card you're scoring.

Normally there's a few minutes between being called to the line and starting your three-minute preparation period. If not, the things I just mentioned are more important than anything else. If you still have time left in your three-minute prep, use it to dry fire a couple of times. In reality, your arm

and body are ready to go – now we just want to connect the brain to the finger.

Firing the Match:

So now we come to the actual shooting portion. The specifics of what I think needs to happen to deliver your shot process to the best of your ability at any given moment is a story for another day. What I will say is that it's important to keep the same positive mindset throughout the match. Yes, be competitive, but have fun at the same time.

Alibis and Malfunctions:

If during your time shooting you should happen to have an alibi/malfunction, there are a few things to consider. First and foremost, if you do have a malfunction and wish to take a re-fire, DON'T TOUCH THE PISTOL! If you do touch the pistol, this would be deemed "an attempt to clear the malfunction." Once you do that, there is no re-fire allowed. So, simply continue to hold the gun pointed down range and raise your non-firing hand. A Range Officer (RO) will come by and initiate the process with you from there.

Typically, competitors don't seek a re-fire for a malfunction during slow fire as there is plenty of time to fix a malfunction in the time allowed. With that, if you can't get your pistol up and running in a reasonable time during your string of fire, raise your hand for an RO. At this point, you will need to declare that particular pistol disabled.

If you have a backup pistol to shoot, inform the RO and follow their instructions for clearing and casing the broken pistol. That pistol may not be reintroduced to the same match without being repaired. You also have the option to swap out a gun as above should you have a malfunction during timed and rapid-fire portions. The definition for a malfunction is in the **CMP Pistol Competition Rules**, Rule 5.1.5 on page 47. Competitors may view the Competition Rules at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-pistol-program/>.

When Firing is Complete:

Once you're done with your shooting, quietly insert your ECI (empty chamber indicator) and reload your magazines. Be courteous to your fellow competitors around you. If you need to discuss things with yourself or a friend, step back and do it as far away from the line as practical.

Once the line is clear, make sure you take the scorecard, stapler (I always check how many staples I have left prior to the first time I go down range during a match), repair center (pasters or tape if you need it) and something to write with.

Then, go to the target you're scoring first – not your own. I know this is hard for some people as they want to see what their score is. I get it, but I suggest doing it after you have scored the target you're supposed to be scoring so that competitor isn't waiting on you. Once you've scored

the target, write the score on the target away from any shot holes. I like to write mine in the upper right-hand corner of the repair center area.

Scoring:

When scoring a target, call it as you see it. If you think the shot is a certain value, write that value down. If you're unsure and think it's close, you, as a competitor, can use an overlay or scoring template. You may not touch the target in such a way as to disturb the shot holes – so, no plugs, pens, pencils or fingers stuck in the shot holes.

Once that target is scored, it is up to the competitor to agree or disagree with your scoring. Don't waste time asking him/her what this shot or that shot should be. Once the competitor has had a chance to look, he or she very well may disagree with a shot or two. That's fine – that's where to RO comes in. At this point, the person being scored calls for a "plug." The RO will come over, and the first question they should ask is "Do agree on the number of hits?" Both you, as the scorer, and the competitor you're scoring need to agree on the number of hits. This is simply because if there is a shot that can't be found, the target cannot be plugged. Plugging a double shot hole is not allowed, and the missing shot could be a double.

Scoring Challenge:

Once both of you agree on number of hits, the RO can plug the shot in question. Once the RO inserts the plug, it must stay until you and the competitor agree. It is not up to the RO to score the target. If after looking at the plugged shot, you two still don't agree, then the target can be challenged. The competitor pays a \$3 challenge fee and the RO removes the target (with plug still in the target) and replaces it with a clean one. You repair your target, assuming you agree with your score, and continue back up range to your firing point. The challenged target will come back after it has been looked at by the Jury for determination.

Once back, annotate the scorecard with the results of the challenge. If you need to change a score in one of the boxes, simply run a single line across the original score. Then, write the correct score in where you can, as neatly as you can, and initial it. If the competitor won the challenge, he or she gets the \$3 back.



Knowing how to score and what to do during a scoring challenge is an essential part of understanding competitive shooting.

Now you're ready for the range.

I hope this short overview has given you an idea of the do's and don'ts of shooting a Pistol match. Stay safe and have fun! I look forward to seeing you on the range!

About Jim Henderson:

Jim Henderson is a retired member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) where he served for over 30 years. He earned his Distinguished Pistol Badge in 1989 and went on to earn several honors, including recognition as a nine-time winner of the President's Pistol Match (one of the most prestigious events held at the annual Camp Perry National Matches) and is the National Record holder of the event.

Henderson is also the National Record holder and a four-time winner of the National Trophy Individual Match, a two-time National Rifle Association National Outdoor and Indoor Pistol Champion and a nine-time Pistol Inter-Service Champion and record holder. He has held positions as a member of the USA Shooting Board of Directors, Pistol Athlete Representative and has successfully realized a number of training programs within the Army over the course of his tenure. Currently, Henderson serves as the director of pistol and rifle ranges at Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo, Ohio, and is also CMP's pistol program coordinator.

Learn more about CMP's Pistol Program by visiting <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-pistol-program/>.



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.

Alabama's GunPort Academy Hosts Boy Scouts

Submitted by Wm. Gary Mozingo, U.S. Army Lt. Col. (Retired)

GunPort Academy and Range, a CMP Affiliated Club, celebrated a much-anticipated day on Jan. 8, 2022, when it hosted a fine group of Boy Scouts, Troop 292, out of Mobile, Alabama.

The visit started with a brief history of the evolution of law and a review of The War for Independence – beginning at George Washington's Valley Forge all the way through to the first permanent settlement in North America, Jamestown. The group also learned about the writing of the U.S. Constitution, the need for a Bill of Rights and reviewed the first 10 Amendments.

Just prior to leaving for the range, the Boy Scouts were instructed on safety, marksmanship and range etiquette. Once on the range, each participant shot four action types: bolt, lever, pump and semi-automatic rifles chambered in .22 caliber. The scouts were consistently ringing steel at 100 and 200 yards. No safety violations were witnessed, and the parents were well behaved.

Working with youth is always enjoyable for us. We are looking forward to doing this again at GunPort. Also, if you ever find yourself on the Gulf Coast, be sure to stop by.

About GunPort Academy:

GunPort Academy, a tactical firearms training school, is proud to be a CMP Affiliated Club. The Academy is located directly on the Gulf of Mexico – just 15 minutes from Dauphin Island in Mobile County, Alabama. Learn more about GunPort Academy at <https://www.firstclassarmstraining.org/>.

If you'd like to **find your local club**, visit the CMP Competition Tracker Page at <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=clubSearch> to become involved. To become a CMP Affiliated Club, visit <https://thecmp.org/clubs/affiliate/>.

Have an article to share or want to highlight your CMP Affiliated Club? Send us your photos, reports and

articles to highlight in The First Shot – email abrugnone@thecmp.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

A Note from the CMP: *At the CMP, we are not only dedicated to an increasing number of those involved in marksmanship within our own programs but are also devoted to supporting the efforts of those who are creating their own legacies in their own ways. Our **Club News** articles are our way of displaying the successes of our clubs, in the hopes of encouraging others to take the same respectable paths – both in marksmanship and in life. We are proud of our clubs for all of their endeavors and are honored to show them off within our news feed.*



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