Chichkov Wins **GOLD** at World Shooting Championship

Also see!
Gary Anderson's Article: Junior Gold Medal Victories

Plus!
CMP Postal Competition Info

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- CMP Scholarship Information
- Dixie Double Results
- Summer Camp Wrap-up
The 2014 CMP Annual Report is posted on the CMP web site at http://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/AnnualReport14.pdf. During the past fiscal year, the CMP not only provided an expanding array of firearm safety and marksmanship programs for U.S. citizens, but continued to support marksmanship training and competition activities for Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force JROTC units through funding, awards, and staff and volunteer expertise. The National Matches provide the setting for the rifle and pistol Small Arms Firing Schools where civilians are taught by the military’s finest marksmen. Additionally, the CMP takes pride in participating with the Army and veterans’ organizations by fully supporting the Ceremonial Rifle Program.

Camp Perry Open. The Civilian Marksmanship Program’s (CMP) ninth annual Camp Perry Open will be held Jan. 16-18, 2015. This year’s match will include a three-position air rifle competition, an international air rifle (all standing) event, a pistol course of fire, and an optional clinic held at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Oh. For more information, visit http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/camp-perry-open/.

Canadian Airgun Grand Prix, February 6, 7 and 8, 2015, Toronto
Mark your calendars for the 33rd Annual Canadian Airgun Grand Prix, the largest international airgun competition in North America. Shooting range features 70 positions, FINALS on SUIS electronic targets. All shooting events and clinics will take place in the International Plaza Hotel, only 5 kms from the Toronto Pearson airport. The number of competitors for this event is limited, join in on the excitement of participating at one of the greatest airgun competitions anywhere and Register TODAY!

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Sighting Shots

On the Cover: Alex Chichkov, 20, received the gold medal in both Men’s Standard Pistol and Men’s Sport Pistol at the ISSF World Championship in Granada, Spain. Photo courtesy of Gary Anderson

ON THE MARK

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

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

Editorial Submissions: To submit articles, editorial material or photographs for possible inclusion in ON THE MARK, contact: Ashley Brugnone, ON THE MARK Editor, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452; fax 419-635-2573 or email abrugnone@TheCMP.org.

Junior Program Resources: To request information about CMP junior shooting programs, contact: CMP Programs, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452; 419-635-2141 ext. 1101 or email programs@TheCMP.org.

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.

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 online newsletter, The First Shot, at http://thecmp.org/communications/the-first-shot/.
All Students Encouraged to Apply for 2015-2016 $1,000 CMP Scholarships

CAMP PERRY, OH – The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) will once again award exemplary student-athletes in their future endeavors through its annual scholarship program for the 2015-2016 school year. The CMP offers $1,000 one-year scholarships based on merit and rifle or pistol marksmanship affiliation to current high school seniors.

CMP received 233 scholarship applications last year for the 2014-2015 term – the most ever in the scholarship’s history. After careful consideration, 194 were accepted and 160 awarded for a total of $160,000 from the CMP Scholarship fund. Recipients hailed from JROTC schools, 4-H groups and other shooting clubs. Since 2005, CMP has awarded over $1 million in scholarship prizes.

Applicants must provide past and present rifle or pistol competition history, list of awards and involvements and future expectations for the sport. Those interested must also provide academic information such as GPA, test scores and a list of activities. An official transcript must also be provided, as well as documentation of shooting participation – including match bulletins or other proof.

All applications, including forms and other necessary materials, must be sent to the CMP in their entirety. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The deadline for application submission is March 20, 2015. Scholarships may be used to pursue post-secondary education or vocational programs for the upcoming school year.

Application forms and other scholarship information can be found by visiting http://thecmp.org/communications/cmp-scholarship-program/. For specific questions, please contact Kathy Williams at 419-635-2141, ext. 1109 or email kwilliams@thecmp.org.
Chichkov, CMP Camp Counselors Represent USA at International Competitions

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

In Spain, the USA Shooting Team collected 17 medals, two Olympic quotas, four World Champions and one Team Champion title in Granada, Spain, September 6-20 at the 51st International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Championship. Over 2,000 athletes from 92 countries competed at the championship, which is held every four years. Special congratulations to Alex Chichkov, who received the gold medal in both Men’s Standard Pistol and Men’s Sport Pistol!

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) is proud to announce that five of its Summer Camp counselors earned slots on World Team in Spain. Sonya May, Dacotah Faught, Lorelie Stanfield, Tim Sherry and Lauren Phillips all demonstrated exceptional marksmanship to receive their places on the firing lines amongst some of the most elite marksmen in the world.

Back in June, counselors Lauren Phillips and Tim Sherry described their first taste of international shooting they experienced during their trip to the inaugural ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, May 26-June 1.

The competition assembled the most consistent performers from around the world, vying for a spot on their own respective World Championship teams. Members of the USA Shooting Junior air rifle, pistol, smallbore and shotgun teams all traveled to Europe to represent the United States during the match.

“My family was wigging out. Totally stoked!” Lauren said. “They were just happy that I was doing something Top Level. They were excited for me, definitely.”

“My family was the same way. My sister got mad though because she’s not the world traveler and I am now.” Tim said with a smile. “But they were super stoked to see me go there.”

Lauren, a sophomore at the University of Nebraska, and Tim, a junior at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, had seen each other at competitions before but had never officially met until at the airport for the flight to Germany.

“I knew ABOUT her, I’d seen her shoot, but we hadn’t really talked at all,” said Tim.

“I saw him in the airport and I was like, ‘That kid, yep, the one with the earrings and the hair,’” said Lauren with a laugh. “It was our bonding experience.”

Once into Germany, the two noticed the differences in the culture right away. From the small, compact layout of the towns to simple tasks like ordering a meal, Lauren and Tim soon realized they weren’t in the U.S. anymore.

Luckily for them and their stomachs, fellow teammate Elizabeth Gratz had been to Germany a handful of times in the past and was elected team translator by default during the trip.

“She knew how to order food, and we were all kind of like, thank goodness!” Lauren said jokingly.

Once they arrived at the competition, more changes brought further challenges to the surface.

“There was a lot of pressure there. I kind of wasn’t expecting that,” said Tim. “With championships we’ve done back in the U.S., there is pressure, but you knew everyone there and it was still kind of a comfortable environment. In Germany, everything was out of your element.”

Inside the range, the shooting organization itself forced the team to make some adjustments. Since the range officers didn’t speak English, Tim, Lauren and their teammates had to pay close attention in order to understand what was being said. Hand signals were useful a lot of the time, especially during equipment check and during competition.
“On the range it seemed a lot more competitive as well. I mean, obviously it was a Junior World Cup, but there were huge scores being put up. I didn’t expect scores to be that big for a junior competition,” said Tim.

His busy schedule the few weeks before the match resulted in a rocky start for Tim at the World Cup. Having had his wisdom teeth removed and little time for practice, the only event he felt prepared enough for was the three-position competition.

“In prone I struggled through the mindset of shooting decimal. I think it kind of got to me, and a little bit of the wind. Air rifle, I hadn’t trained enough, and it showed,” he said. “But I came back strong with 3P, which was the only thing I really felt confident in going into that match. I shot really well in the qualification with the exception of one or two shots, and in the final I did pretty well too.”

Lauren had a similar experience. After traveling to Fort Benning for training after she finished her year at college and a short stint at home for a few days before heading overseas, she started to feel as if she was living out of a suitcase, which she feels affected her performance.

“I think it caught up to me a little bit. I was kind of like, alright, just keep consistent here. Air gun, I feel I was pretty consistent. Not that I’m happy with that, but I wasn’t that terribly upset with it,” she said.

In smallbore she felt she struggled as well – down about 10 points from where she usually averages. With a little self-talk and a newfound confidence, she remembered the importance of making the best out of every situation.

“I was kind of like okay, take it in stride, it’s your first international match. It’s your first one, get this one out, and move onto the next one,” she added. “Overall, I wouldn’t say it was a failure at all. It was definitely a learning experience.”

The Junior World Cup combined teams from around the world, including young marksmen from Europe, Asia, South Africa, Australia and South America. Despite obvious language barriers, Tim and Lauren still did their best to interact with other competitors.

“It was cool. It was small talk for sure, just because there was such a gap between understanding them,” said Lauren.

“We talked a little bit to the Italians and some Serbians, but we talked a lot to the Australians and the British because we knew they spoke English,” Tim added.

With their first trip behind them, Tim and Lauren now have a better understanding of the cultural and competitive obstacles that can come along with international shooting. Now veterans, they offer wise words of advice to those who may share the experience in the future.

“Enjoy it. It was a huge learning experience. I don’t think anyone on that team shot the way they wanted to, at least not for rifle, but you’ve got to learn from certain things,” said Tim.

“Be sure to live the life overseas. Live in the culture,” Lauren suggested.

“Every time we were questioning whether or not we should buy something, we convinced ourselves to do it because we might never be there again,” said Tim.

“I got a really expensive stein because of that. And lots of chocolate and caramel waffles,” he added, with a laugh.

“You just kind of have to assimilate and enjoy it because the ones that tend to stay in, you’re just not getting the full experience and you’ll regret it,” Lauren said. “I think we had a really good time.”

Over 2,000 athletes from 92 countries competed at the ISSF World Championships in Granada, Spain.
World Junior Championship

Star-Spangled Banner Played Four Times in Granada to Honor USA Junior Athlete Gold Medal Victories

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus

The world’s best junior athletes in the Olympic sport of shooting enjoyed unprecedented opportunities to compete in international championships in 2014. The 51st World Shooting Championship in Granada, Spain featured 24 Junior individual events and 20 Junior team events. For the first time since World Championship Junior events were introduced in 1994, the Junior competitions in all 15 Olympic events were concluded with Finals. The ISSF launched its Junior Cup program, a World Cup level competition for Juniors, in 2014. The year 2014 was also the 2nd Youth Summer Olympic Games that took place in Nanjing, China in August.

The 37 young athletes, 20 men and 17 women, on the USA Junior World Championship Team returned...
from Granada with two newly crowned World Junior Champions. Twenty-year-old Alex Chichkov, a pistol shooter from Temple Terrace, Florida, actually won two World Junior Champion titles when he triumphed in the 25m Standard Pistol Men Junior and 25m Sport Pistol Men Junior events. Dania Jo Vizzi, a 19-year-old Skeet shooter from Odessa, Florida, returned home as the Junior World Champion in the Skeet Women event.

There are several world championship pretenders, but the ISSF World Championship is the only one that can truly claim to be a real world shooting championship. When the numbers of nations, athletes, diversity of events, gender equity and athlete performance levels are considered, there is no comparison. The ISSF World Championship draws participants from 100 or more nations to compete in rifle, pistol and shotgun events that are widely practiced all over the world. In Granada, there were competitions for men and women in the 15 Olympic Shooting events plus 14 traditional, Non-Olympic 300-meter rifle, 25-meter pistol and running target events. Individual and team gold medals are awarded in each. Thirty-eight percent of all participants were women. Since 1994, the World Shooting Championship has also included 25 Junior events for 20 and under male and female athletes.

The first World Shooting Championship was held in Lyon, France in 1897. Today, World Championships are held every four years. In the hierarchy of international shooting championships they rank second only to the Olympic Games in prestige and importance. The 50th World Championship took place in 2010 in Munich, Germany. The ISSF awarded the southern Spanish City of Granada the honor of hosting the 51st Championship in 2014. Ninety-two nations participated in Granada with a total of 2,003 athletes who made 3,143 starts (many competed in more than one event). The 2,003 athletes included 854 senior men, 497 senior women, 383 junior men and 271 junior women.

The Alhambra is world-renowned, iconic structure that overlooks the City of Granada. The Alhambra, shown here at night, is an 11th century Moorish fortress that was a center of Islamic culture and rule in Spain until Catholic rulers reconquered Granada in 1492. Today, the Alhambra is one of the great tourist attractions of Europe.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Complete detailed results for all World Championship events, Senior and Junior, can be found in the 51st World Championship Official Results Book that can be downloaded from the ISSF website at http://www.issf-sports.org/media/calendar/2014/930/completeresult/WCH%20All%20ESP%202014%20Results%20Book%20-%20Revised%2020140928.pdf.
The 29 Senior World Champions who were crowned in Granada included two USA shotgun athletes, Josh Richmond, who won the Double Trap Men gold medal, and Brandy Drozd, who won the Skeet Women World Championship. Both of these victories came in Olympic events where Richmond and Drozd also earned 2016 Olympic Games quota places for the USA. Drozd, who was born in 1994, was technically still a Junior, but she chose to compete for the open title.

With so many events in three different shooting disciplines it is difficult to decide who was the greatest World Champion this year, but Jin Jongoh, a 35-year-old pistol shooter from Korea, arguably was the best of all. Jin made history in the 2012 London Olympics by becoming the first shooter in 100 years to win two Olympic gold medals in one Olympic Games when he won the 10m Air Pistol and 50m Pistol events. Jin repeated this extremely difficult double in Granada, with a special exclamation point. In the 50m Pistol qualification, Jin shot a 583 to break the oldest World Record on the books, the 581 free pistol score fired by the USSR’s Alexander Melentiev in the 1980 Olympics. Jin’s double gold in Granada is also remarkable because he won his gold medals under the old finals rules where qualification scores carry forward, while he won his gold medals in Granada under the new finals rules where finalists must start over at zero.

A 2014 World Champion who should be a special inspiration to USA Junior rifle shooters is 18-year-old Yang Haoran from China. Even though Yang is still a Junior, he has dominated men’s world air rifle shooting for two years. In 2014, he won the Air Rifle Men event in the Munich World Cup, the Youth Olympic Games, the Granada World Championship and the Asian Games. This young Chinese shooter has clearly demonstrated how Juniors can shoot scores high enough to win world-level competitions.

ISSF rules define a Junior as anyone who was born in 1994 or later. The 24 Junior events on the World Championship program included six rifle events at 10 and 50 meters, seven pistol events at 10, 25 and 50 meters and five shotgun events for skeet, trap and double trap. There were also six 10m and 50m running target events, but the USA did not enter these events because they are Non-Olympic events that are not widely practiced in the USA. Nine of the 24 Junior events were for women.
Junior Gold Medal Victories

USA Shooting, the National Governing Body for Olympic Shooting in the USA, conducted tryouts to select the young athletes that represented the USA in Granada. USA Shooting provided funding for the USA Junior National Team from donations it receives from individual contributors and sponsors.

The headline performances by U.S. Juniors were the gold medal victories by Chichkov and Vizzi. Chichkov competed in all five Junior pistol events. His eighth place qualification finish in 25m Rapid Fire missed making that final by two points. In the Standard Pistol event he finished the 150-second stage in third and he held onto that position through the 20-second stage and the first ten shots of the 10-second stage. He won his gold medal by closing with a 97 rapid-fire series that vaulted him into first with a 563 total, two points ahead of second.

USA pistol shooter Alex Chichkov won two World Junior Championship gold medals in the 25m Standard Pistol and 25m Sport Pistol events.

Double World Champion Jin Jongoh, Korea, also won two Olympic gold medals in 2012. He is probably the best precision pistol shooter in the world today.

USA Shooting, the National Governing Body for Olympic Shooting in the USA, conducted tryouts to select the young athletes that represented the USA in Granada. USA Shooting provided funding for the USA Junior National Team from donations it receives from individual contributors and sponsors.

Chichkov went on to dominate the last Junior pistol event, 25m Sport Pistol. In the precision stage, his 293 gave him a three-point lead over second. When he returned the next day for the rapid-fire stage, his 294 produced an outstanding 587 total and an unprecedented eight-point lead over second.
Chichkov was born in Bulgaria where his father Vladimir Chichkov was trained as a pistol coach before the family emigrated to the USA. Like so many top 25m pistol shooters in the world, he shoots a Pardini semi-automatic pistol. In addition to regular participation in USA Shooting competitions, Chichkov has been a successful participant in the CMP Junior pistol events during the National Matches at Camp Perry. He fired a 268 x 300 to win the Junior National Trophy Individual Pistol Match in 2014. One year earlier in 2013, his 369 won the Junior President’s Pistol Match.

The best USA Junior team effort was in the Skeet Women event where World Junior Champion Dania Vizzi teamed with 4th place Sydney Carson and 8th place Hannah Houston to win the gold team medal. Their 204 team total was nine targets ahead of the second place Czech Republic.

USA Juniors won three other individual medals in Granada. Ian Rupert, a 20-year-old Double Trap shooter from Muncy, Pennsylvania, shot the second best qualification with a 137 x 150 and followed that with a 28 x 30 in the semifinal to advance to the gold medal match. He shot another 28 in the gold medal match, but that was one target less than the gold medal score fired by Andrea Vescovi of Italy. Rupert won this event in the 2013 World Shotgun Championship and finished with a silver medal this year. His 137 qualification score also led the USA Juniors to a bronze medal Double Trap team finish.
Junior Gold Medal Victories

Nineteen-year-old Philip Jungman from Bryan, Texas, shot a 121 qualification score to advance to the semifinal. His 13 x 16 semifinal score advanced him to the bronze medal match. In the contest for third with Felix Haase of Germany, Haase was perfect until his last target. That miss left Haase and Jungman in a 15 x 16 tie. Jungman then won a dramatic shoot-off, 7 to 6, to take the bronze medal. Jungman’s 121 qualification score also led the USA Juniors to a silver team medal.

The other USA Junior World Championship medal came in the 50m Rifle Prone Women event where Katherine Bridges, 20, Kingsland, Texas, won a bronze medal. Bridges had a 622.3 total (103.7 average). Her teammate Lorelie Stanfield, who was only 0.9 points behind in fourth place, narrowly missed making the podium. Unfortunately, a low ranking third team score kept the USA team off of the podium in fourth place.

An especially important measure of the USA Junior team performance is the number of athletes who qualify for finals in the 15 Olympic events. USA shotgun Juniors did well in this regard with four athletes making finals in five events and three of them winning medals. USA Junior rifle-shooters, however, were nearly shut out. In ten Olympic rifle and pistol events, only one athlete qualified for a final. Minden Miles, an 18-year-old freshman at TCU, qualified for the Air Rifle Women final with the third best qualification score, but a 28.9 and 30.0 on her first two final round series destined her to an eighth place finish.

USA Junior placings in the Olympic rifle and pistol events raise some concerns about whether USA Juniors in these disciplines are falling behind their counterparts in Europe and Asia. Garret Spurgeon’s 11th place 3-position rifle score of 1161 was three points shy of a finals berth. Tim Sherry’s 617.0 was one point away from making the final in the 50m Rifle Prone event. The average USA placing in those events, however, was 26th. In the 10m Air Rifle Men event, the best USA Junior finished 37th. The average placing in the Air Rifle Women event was 49th. Clearly there is room for improvement.

Katherine Bridges (on right) won a bronze medal in the 50m Rifle Prone Junior Women event. The gold medal winner was Ines Niewada from France. Pei Ruijiao from China won the silver medal. Pei also won a gold medal in the 50m 3-Position Junior event.

World Junior 3-Position Rifle Champion Andre Link of Germany is shown firing the first finals position, kneeling, where he gained a lead that he never relinquished on his way to a Finals Junior World Record.
USA Junior pistol performances were even lower. Except for Chichkov’s two golds and narrow finals miss in rapid-fire, 16 out of the 18 individual USA place finishes and every team placing were in the bottom half of the results list. Junior pistol and rifle shooters from the USA are not competitive with juniors from the top nations in Europe and Asia like China, Russia, Korea, Germany and Italy.

There were many noteworthy Junior performances by Juniors from other countries. Germany’s Andre Link fired an 1171 qualification score and a Junior World Record 456.1 in the final to win the 50m 3-Position Rifle gold medal. Only 2.3 points separated all eight qualifiers in the 10m Air Rifle Men event that was won by the seventh place qualifier, Vladimir Maslennikov of Russia, who fired a 622.8 qualifier and a 206.8 final. Maslennikov won both the Air Rifle and 3-Position Rifle events in the ISSF Junior Cup in Suhl, Germany in May.

In the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event Jean Quixquampoix of France combined a 5th place 570 qualification score with 28 hits in the final to win the gold medal. Germany’s Alexander Kindig led Air Pistol qualifiers with a 580 and topped the final with a 199.1. The small Baltic nation of Latvia placed two athletes in the final and won the Air Pistol team gold medal. In 50m Pistol, Italy’s Dario Di Martino fired a 560 to lead the eight qualifiers, but finished second to the eighth place qualifier Andrey Popchenko of Russia who won the final.

Top performances among the Women Juniors included 18-year-old Sarah Hornung from Switzerland who edged out Martina Ziviani of Italy 207.2 to 207.1 to win the Air Rifle gold medal. Hornung also won the Air Rifle Women Youth event in the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games. Eighteen-year-old Pei Ruijiao of China combined a second place 582 qualification with a 455.8 final to win the 50m Rifle 3-Position Junior gold medal. She shot eights on her last two shots and still won by two points while setting a new Junior World Record.

In the Women’s 25m Pistol event France’s Mathilde Lamolle defeated China’s Lin Yuemei 7 to 1 to take the gold medal. Lin Yuemei qualified eighth in the Air Pistol event, but followed that with an excellent 199.8 in the final to win that gold medal.

In the World Junior Championship medal count for rifle, pistol and shotgun events, China was the leading nation, with eight gold medals and 15 total medals. Italy came next with six gold medals and 11 total medals, mostly from shotgun successes. France, Russia and Germany followed. The USA, with four gold medals and nine total medals, finished in sixth place in the Junior medal count.

China’s Yang Haoran (middle) won the Air Rifle Men event in Granada. Yang is only 18-years-old and is still a Junior, but he has dominated senior air rifle competitions at the world level for the last two years.
The 51st World Shooting Championship Junior events offered top USA Junior athletes a great opportunity to measure their skill and performance levels against the best Juniors from other countries. There were some bright spots with the gold medals won by Alex Chichkov, Dania Vizzi and the Skeet Women Juniors, but except for the shotgun events, getting only one USA Junior athlete in an Olympic event final was a cause for concern as was the high number of USA juniors who finished in the lower half of their event results bulletins.

USA Shooting and the entire USA Junior shooting community must intensify our efforts to raise the level of junior shooting in the USA. For young athletes, this will likely mean increasing the amount and intensity of training. Junior coaches must increase their knowledge base and advance their coaching skills to an even higher level. Athletes, coaches and program leaders must raise our national standards and expectations regarding the top scores that our Juniors must shoot to compete successfully in world level competition.

Some winning athletes in the 2014 World Championship Junior events will compete for medals in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Many more of the leading Juniors in Granada will compete for medals in the 2018 52nd World Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea and the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. With increased efforts on the part of USA Junior athletes, coaches and program leaders, the best of the current USA Juniors and other young athletes who are coming along behind them will be able to compete successfully for medals in Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

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

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

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

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

CAMP PERRY, OH – On September 27, a crowd of more than 400 paraded the grounds of Camp Perry for a day of recreational and personal discoveries. The inaugural Ohio Day at the Range and Outdoor Adventure Fair welcomed people with disabilities and their families to participate in educational, hands-on opportunities that opened the doors of possibilities and awareness for all.

The stories of inspiration were prevalent throughout the day around Camp Perry, as those with mental and physical disabilities walked, wheeled and smiled beside one another through a variety of outdoor activities. But the event wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of Tory Thompson and her committee members.

Tory, who works for The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, discovered the event after attending a national conference in Missouri, where she was introduced to an event the state has been conducting for the past decade called Missouri Day at the Range. After brainstorming, she brought the idea back to her colleagues in Ohio.

“I thought it would be the perfect thing for our area, given our natural resources and the shooting range that we have here at the CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program),” she said.

With a direction and resources, she quickly pulled together a committee of more-than-willing volunteers to bring the event to life.

“Our committee was fabulous,” she said. “We all had a vision, but they all put it together and made it happen.”

Attendees were able to participate in a variety of outdoor activities, such as fishing, birding, rowing, archery and cycling. The CMP also took part in the event by lending its state-of-the-art Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center air gun range for target shooting.

Stephanie Hall of Seville, OH, brought her sons Quinten (9) and Conner (16), along with their cousin Scott (20) to take a shot at air rifle.

Conner was involved in an accident when he was 4 years old that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Despite his injury, Stephanie said being in a wheelchair hasn’t slowed him down.

“He gets out and participates in about everything,” she said. “These kind of events just prove to him that he’s just as normal as everybody else, just finding different ways of doing it.

“It’s inspiring, coming here and seeing all of the people participating in everything,” she added.

His first time to the air range, Conner is already hooked – even talking about training for the Olympics in the event. Gold medal dreams aside, Conner still managed to have fun on that September day.

“He was excited about it. He’s shot regular firearms, but this is a very mellow, easy-going environment,” said Stephanie. “It’s great. Everyone is very nice and helpful as well.”

Another mom who brought her son to shoot was Tiffany McCord of Sandusky, OH.

Her son, Riley, 18, was born 17 weeks early and weighed only 1 pound. The early birth left him with dystonia, cerebral palsy, as well as heart, lung and other physical interferences that cause him to only be mobile through a motorized wheelchair.
“Now look at him,” joked Tiffany, as she smiled at the grown young man in front of her.

After talking for years about wanting to shoot a gun, but never having the opportunity, Riley finally got his chance in the air rifle range. His dad, Brian, stood by his side and steadied the rifle for Riley as he pulled the trigger.

On one of his shots, the electronic monitor at Riley’s firing point registered a 10.2 – one of the highest shots possible. Tiffany and Brian beamed a glowing smile as Riley yelled out a “Yahoo!” on that first of many 10-point shots.

“This is the whole thing he’s been wanting to come here to do,” said Tiffany. “I never thought I’d see this day. And now, to open this range up, I was so excited when I heard about this event. It’s amazing.”

Tory Thompson, the woman who helped bring the idea to Northwest Ohio, even had a personal story of her own that made the event even more special.

She spoke of a disabled 55-year-old man she closely works with through The Ability Center, who always wanted to hunt with his brother. After hearing his wish, her goal became to get a gun in his hand. And with the Ohio Day at the Range and the help of the CMP, she was able to do just that.

Riley, 18, waited all day to fire in the CMP air rifle range. With his dad Brian beside him to steady the air rifle, Riley was able to pull the trigger to fire the shots.
“It was really his dream come true. He and his brother were able to connect on that level,” she said. “A lot of the time, people with disabilities don’t have that because they don’t think they can. And I’ve seen it through this event.”

“I think it’s important to allow people to see past the stereotypes and see that they can do things in society, in nature, with family and friends,” she added. “That’s the goal: to get people out and active. Instead of the family going out and ‘Joe’ sitting in the corner, ‘Joe’ is now playing,” she added.

With the encouragement of over 100 volunteers and countless donations from area businesses and organizations, the inaugural Ohio Day at the Range was an overwhelming success. The tireless efforts of Tory and her committee not only brought an awareness of the sorts of activities Northwest Ohio can offer to the disabled and their relatives, but also the realization of all of the things they can do together as a family.

“I think it’ll be even bigger and better next year,” Tory said, with a smile.

For more information about Ohio Day at the Range, visit http://www.abilitycenter.org/oh-day-range and/or https://www.facebook.com/OHdayattherange.

**For more information on marksmanship opportunities with the CMP for those with disabilities, visit our Open Public Shooting page at http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-marksmanship-centers/open-public-shooting/. Our range is equipped with the proper apparatuses and helpful personnel for those wanting to experience the fun of air rifle shooting.**

One of the many activities during the Ohio Day at the Range included target shooting within the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center. The facility houses 80 electronic, state-of-the-art targets that allow instant feedback of shot scores – making it fun for both shooters and spectators. The range is open to the public every Tuesday and Thursday evening.
Registration for the CMP National Postal Championship opened on Nov. 1, 2014 for any junior shooter involved in 4-H, Scouts, American Legion, club or JROTC air rifle programs. The competition is designed for those juniors interested in testing their three-position skills against some of the top shooters in the country, from the convenience of their home ranges. Last year, 2,227 juniors participated in the CMP Postals.

“This postal match provides a unique opportunity for all junior shooters to compete together in a national competition. For our third year of these matches, we are anticipating even greater numbers,” said Katie Harrington, CMP program coordinator. “Last year, we had a very successful year with these matches and hope to continue that trend into 2014.”

Registered shooters will receive official CMP targets by mail to fire record shots upon at each of the three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. Targets will then be mailed back to CMP for scoring. The top shooters of the Postal competition will qualify for the CMP Regional Championships, to be held in Camp Perry, OH, Anniston, AL, and a Western location, Sandy, UT. Postal scores will be available for viewing through CMP’s Competition Tracker system.

To reward the hard work of dedicated junior athletes and coaches, the CMP administers $21,000 towards teams who qualify for the Regional events, with an additional $21,300 for teams and individuals reaching the National level. A scholarship check for $1,000 is also available for the Top 3 highest-scoring senior athletes in both the sporter and precision classes at the National competition.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Potterfield have again agreed to sponsor the CMP Three-Position Air Rifle Championships. Last year, the Potterfields provided incredible donations, over $460,000, through generous endowments offered through the MidwayUSA Foundation to winning teams and individuals that qualified for the Regional and National Championships. The MidwayUSA Foundation is a public charity that helps communities and organizations raise funds to support their youth shooting teams and activities.

For registration and more information on the CMP Postal Competition, visit http://thecmp.org/air/three-position-national-postal-competition/.
Summer Air Rifle Camps Host Record Number of Athletes in 2014

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

For over a decade, the CMP Junior Air Rifle Camps have been a popular destination for junior marksmen during the summer. High-school age (9-12 grade) athletes learn intermediate and advanced air rifle marksmanship skills through various exercises and demonstrations. Throughout the course of the camp, juniors learn tips for both the physical and mental aspects of competition shooting, including positioning, goal setting and proper use of equipment.

This year, a record number of juniors participated in the camps – nearly 1,075, compared to last year’s record-attendance of 700 athletes. The 3P Camps were held in Anniston, AL; Camp Perry, OH; Phoenix, AZ; Kerrville, TX; and Fountain, CO.

Christopher Hines, 17, of Leland, NC, fired an aggregate score of 644.9-23x to become the overall sporter winner, while Kimberly Butkiewicz, 17, of Crosby, TX, was the overall precision winner throughout the 11 summer camps conducted over the summer. Butkiewicz fired a combined score of 695.3-45x to also set a new Army JROTC National Record.

Also during the summer months, 285 juniors earned their final Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) points at various events to receive their Distinguished Badges. Among those, 51 athletes produced their remaining EIC points at camp and were given special recognition by the Distinguished counselors present at the venues.

Twenty-six student athletes from the top NCAA rifle teams in the country, many of whom participated in the camps themselves as juniors, led the camp goers in discussions and drills. The 26 counselors compiled the highest number of student staff members ever for the camps. CMP staff members also assisted.

“I am pleased with the effort by our outstanding staff this summer,” said Sommer Wood, CMP Junior Rifle Camp director. “I think it was evident to the participants that each member of our team took great pride in coaching and providing the high quality experience that people expect when attending a CMP event.”

She went on to say, “Watching our counselors develop their coaching skills is as exciting for me as seeing our high school athletes improve their shooting skills. This is part of the beauty of the CMP Junior Rifle Camp program: We are pushing the bar higher at every level of our sport – from our coaches, both our staff and the adult leaders who attend with their teams, to our athletes.”

“I can’t wait to get started on the 2015 program, and I hope to have even larger participation numbers next year,” she said.

For more information on the Junior Air Rifle Camps, visit http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/junior-air-rifle-camps-and-clinics/.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2015

January

16-18 Jan
Camp Perry Open
Camp Perry, OH

February

13-15 Feb
JROTC Service Championships
Anniston, AL

19-21 Feb
JROTC Service Championships
Camp Perry, OH

March

14 Mar
CMP Monthly Match
Camp Perry, OH Anniston, AL

April

9-11 Apr
CMP Regional Championships
Sandy, UT
Anniston, AL

8-12 Apr
Oklahoma CMP Games
Oklahoma City, OK

18 Apr
CMP Monthly Match
Camp Perry, OH
Anniston, AL

May

6-10 May
Creedmoor Cup
Camp Butner, NC

June

21-23 June
National 3PAR Championships
Precision
3PAR Junior Olympic Match
CMP National
Anniston, AL

24-26 June
National 3PAR Championships
Sporter
3PAR Junior Olympic Match
CMP National
Anniston, AL

OTM ADDRESS/SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES

If you have subscription or address changes for On The Mark, please contact Melissa Hille at mhille@thecmp.org.
Former Rifle Athlete Takes Talents to China After College

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

Through each choice she has made in her lifetime, Marisca Mozeleski, 22, has carried herself on an incredible journey.

Growing up in Vashon, Washington, Marisca gained a passion for marksmanship that would eventually open remarkable doors to the world. As a high school student, she knew she wanted to fire collegiately but, of course, had no idea where. Though it was inevitable whichever path she chose guaranteed a variety of experiences, she couldn't have predicted just how far her college decision would take her.

Having first received a scholarship offer from the University of Tennessee (UT) Martin to become a member of the rifle team, she instead chose to attend neighboring Murray State University (MSU) in Kentucky, after finding it to be an academically and all-around better fit for her.

Despite choosing the university without a scholarship to use, a “running start” program in high school allowed her to finish two years of college early – essentially putting her ahead in her academic career.

As an athlete on the Murray State rifle team, she fired a career-high 579 in air rifle her sophomore year during a bout with Alaska Fairbanks, as well as a personal-best score of 575, out of a possible 600, in smallbore at the NCAA qualifier her final season.

Marisca spent three years at the university, recently graduating in May 2014 with a degree in Liberal Arts. Though now released into the world, she has already seen some of its many offerings through opportunities linked to her college involvements.

From her native state of Washington, she traveled nearly 2,300 miles to join the rifle team at Murray State back in 2011. To satisfy her love of exploration, she followed up with a semester studying abroad in Munich, Germany in 2013, as well as traveling to South America and other parts of Europe during her college years.

Now, with the help of one of her professors and an MSU roommate, Marisca has become involved with her biggest journey yet – a year in China.

Since August 2014, Marisca has been teaching English to young adults and adults at the Qingdao Agricultural University in Yantai, a city in the northeastern Shandong province. Though she has no background in teaching, the acquaintances she made in school led her to helping many international students learn English through conversation and games, which prepared her for her teaching debut.
As an added benefit to fulfilling China’s need for educators, Marisca will also have the opportunity to learn the Chinese language and culture for free.

Though naturally talented and driven, Marisca has been fortunate to have endless encouragement from friends and family throughout her lifetime, such as her uncle, Joe Matter, who recently became the CMP State Director for the state of Washington.

Joe and his wife Caroline stood by their niece as she followed all of her dreams, even escorting her to the National Matches at Camp Perry. It was there that Marisca met a mentor who helped cultivate her rifling skills, which led her to her college career and wonderful experiences.

Marisca attended the NRA’s National Matches Junior Camp in 2010 with Russell and Vickie Evans – CMP’s Ohio State Directors. Russell and Vickie have been heading the camp for over 25 years and fondly recall instructing Marisca.

“I remember Marisca very well . . .” said Russell in an email to Marisca’s Aunt Caroline. “She impressed me enough to earn her own page in the camp book.”

“Marisca will do well at anything she attempts,” he went on to say. “Her attitude, ability and willingness to work/excel will carry her a long way in life.”

Four years after attending the camp, Marisca still has a photo of her and Russell hanging on her wall. And just as Russell predicted, her talent and determination has taken her to amazing places – including halfway around the world.
New CMP “Aces” Postal Match to Open for Registration in January

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

The CMP “Aces” Postal satellite match offers all junior and adult air rifle and air pistol shooters a program designed to encourage participation in the sport and test marksmanship skills nationally with their peers. The program consists of Air Rifle, Air Pistol, and Para-Air Rifle/Air Pistol events.

TARGETS
Quarterly matches can be shot on Orion paper targets or electronic targets. Orion targets must be requested from the CMP and will be mailed to participants. All Orion targets must be returned for scoring at CMP. Scorecard files/graphic scorecards from electronic targets may be faxed or emailed to CMP. Electronic scorecards must show individual shots in decimal and centers, even for pistol. A graphic scorecard will do this.

CATEGORIES
Individual matches:
[Rifle] 3x20 Sporter Junior (17-18), 3x20 Sporter Intermediate Junior (15-16), 3x20 Sporter Sub-Junior (14&under); 3x20 Precision Junior (17-18), 3x20 Precision Intermediate Junior (15-16), 3x20 Precision Sub-Junior (14&under); 3x20 Precision Open (19&older); 60 Standing Open; 60 Standing Ex-Collegiate (NCAA or club); 60 SH1 Prone; 60 SH1 Standing; 60 SH2 Prone; 60 SH2 Standing
[Air Pistol] 60 Open; 60 Ex-Collegiate; 60 SH1 Standing; PPP 40 Basic Supported (max age 13); PPP 40 Standing Supported (max age 15); PPP 40 International Standing (age 15-20)

FEES
• $5 per competitor if using electronic targets
• $8 per competitor if using Orion (We will mail a set of Orion targets)
• Note: You cannot use your own Orion targets. We will supply the targets with competitor names and numbers.

RULES
The current National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules and USA Shooting Air Rifle and Pistol rules apply.

AWARDS
Every competitor who competes in the CMP “Aces” Postal will receive a specially designed participation poker chip. There will be a different color each quarter, so collect all four! Category awards will be a specially designed wood plaque mailed to winners based on the number of participants in each category. Each category must have at least 10 competitors to receive an award for 2nd place, and 20 for 3rd place.

COURSE OF FIRE
All 3x20 courses of fire are 20 shots prone, 20 shots standing, and 20 shots kneeling in integer format while all other rifle courses of fire are 60 shots in decimal format.
All PPP courses of fire are 40 shots with the rest of the pistol events in 60 shots, both in integer format.
For more information and an entry form, please visit http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-aces-postal/.

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<td>January 4, 2016</td>
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CMP Announces Launch of New Website
By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

After months of preparation and diligent work, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) proudly announces the unveiling of its newly enhanced website. The new site includes 300-plus pages, covering more than 40-plus CMP programs, to serve as a guide into the current offerings, commitments and future endeavors of the CMP.

With a more clean, organized appearance, the website is now just as pleasant to look at as it is to use. The site is divided into main categories, such as Sales & Services, Competitions, Air Rifle, Clubs, Training & Tech and Communications. By clicking on any of these categories, additional content under those sections will become visible, as well as suggested content.

Along with a fresh facelift, the new design has transformed www.THECMP.org into a user-friendly site, with easy-to-navigate functionality. Breadcrumbs at the top of each page allow users to easily route back and forth through each page of content, if needed.

Both customer and competitor needs were carefully considered as each page was developed. New features permit quick access to frequently used site services.

For customers, the Sales page now links items to the CMP E-Store, making online ordering just a click away.

For competitors, information from Competition and Club Tracker is integrated into the CMP website. With this feature, users may now view a list of upcoming matches or a list of clubs, right on the site for their convenience.

A helpful Search feature also lets users find specific information fast and easily. The CMP’s online magazine, The First Shot, is now embedded into the website, allowing articles to be located through keywords in the Search feature.

The site was designed and programmed by Wyoming, Inc., which also redesigned the CMP’s Competition and Club Tracker software. The CMP and those within Wyoming, Inc. have been dedicated to spending countless hours making all of the site elements as accessible as possible to devoted customers and competitors.

If you have any suggestions for the new website on how to even better improve usability, please contact the CMP Communications Department at webmaster@thecmp.org.
ANNISTON, AL – On the weekend of November 21-23, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) hosted the sixth annual Dixie Double at the CMP South Competition Center. There, a group of over 100 juniors, civilians and Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) competitors met on the line to fire in the two-day, 60-shot event.

On Day 1 of competition, Mike Dickinson, 27, of Anniston, AL, and the CMP Athlete program, presented an impressive display of athleticism and poise as he fought his way from third place in the final towards the gold medal, beating Hank Gray, 35, of Ft. Benning, GA, and the AMU, by only one-tenth of a point in an exciting matchup.

“It was pretty intense. My heart was in my throat,” said Dickinson. “But I managed to only focus on the front sight and come down and take the first one I saw – and not snatch the trigger too hard.”

Rounding out the Top 3 was Rhiann Travis, 16, of Springtown, TX, who was also the high junior of the day.

In the pistol competition, SFC James Henderson, 47, of Midland, GA, and the AMU, claimed the gold, followed by James Hall, 31, of Anniston, AL, and the CMP. Hall impressed with his calm demeanor during the final, firing his way from fourth place to second to receive the silver. SGT Greg Markowski, 41, of Columbus, GA, and the AMU, stayed close to Hall, earning a third-place finish.

Zachary Miller, 14, of Sylacauga, AL, was the high junior of the day.

At the conclusion of the Day 1, 60-shot match, competitors and spectators met in the common area for lunch and an opportunity to receive a prize from a table covered with $1,000 worth of marksmanship merchandise.

New this year to the Dixie Double, a Target Sprint was also held throughout the day for competitors and non-competitors alike, where participants ran 400 meters before firing upon collapsible targets. The fun match in the warm Alabama sun brought a fresh dose of laughs and enthusiasm to the weekend.

Day 2 of the 60-shot competition showed more talent from junior Rhiann Travis in the rifle category, as she beat out experienced AMU member George Norton, 30, of Phenix City, AL, and Day 1 final winner Mike Dickinson to earn the gold. Travis was also the high junior of the day.

“It was really cool. This is my first time to really shoot against this level,” said Travis, with a smile. “It was a really cool experience.”

SFC James Henderson again claimed the gold in the pistol competition – this time, above Richard Gray, 43, of Fredericksburg, VA, who earned the silver. SGT James Markowski received the bronze.

Zachary Miller gave another notable performance to become the high junior on Day 2.

Winning the overall two-day rifle aggregate was Daniel Lowe, 22, of Olympia, WA, with an aggregate score of 1253.7. Lowe earned a check for $200 from the CMP.

Rhiann Travis finished strong, with a combined score of 1249.5, followed...
Zachary Miller was the overall junior in the pistol competition with his score of 1066-16x.

by Mike Dickinson, with a score of 1243.8. Travis and Dickinson earned checks of $150 and $100, respectively, from the CMP.

Travis was also the overall junior of the weekend, followed by Elizabeth Marsh, 16, of Searcy, AR, who posted a score of 1239.4. Sarah Osborn, 15, of Hampton, VA, was the third place finisher for the juniors, with a score of 1235.8.

Travis received 5,000 Merlin Match Pellets for her win, while Marsh received a CMP soft rifle case and Osborn earned a CMP Shirt.

In the pistol competition, SGT Greg Markowski was the overall winner, with an aggregate score of 1160-35x. He also received $200 from the CMP. SFC James Henderson earned a check for $150 and second place with his score of 1159-33x, followed by Richard Gray, who earned third place and $100 with a score of 1156-30x.

Zachary Miller was the overall junior in the pistol competition, with an aggregate score of 1066-16x. Katelyn Abeln, 13, of Douglasville, GA, finished in second place, with her score of 1046-6x, as Eric-Steve Hanson, 19, of Spring, TX, earned third, with his score of 1028-7x.

Miller, Abeln and Hanson also received 5,000 Merlin Match Pellets, a CMP soft case and a CMP Shirt, respectively.

In the rifle team competition, Paper Puncher Extraordinaires, consisting of SSG Hank Gray and Sarah Osborn, claimed the top spot, with an aggregate score of 2465.7. Grip It and Rip It was the overall pistol team, as members James Hall and Zachary Miller fired a combined score of 2179-34x. Winning teams earned Dixie Double plaques from the CMP.


Photos of the event can be viewed at http://cmp1.zenfolio.com/.

New to the Dixie Double this year was the Target Sprint, where participants fire upon collapsible targets after running 400 meters.
Elizabeth Bark Excels for Maryland Junior Marksmen
Submitted by Andrea Miller, Maryland CMP State Director

Elizabeth Bark started shooting in September of 2010, starting with smallbore. When she started with air rifle in October 2010, she was hooked on competitive shooting. Once she became involved in competitive shooting, she made her first goals: 1) To make the Maryland State Sporter Team for CMP, JO and NRA National Championships for 2012 before she turned 14, and 2) To earn her NRA and CMP Distinguished Expert Award/Medals before she turned 15 in 2013.

Elizabeth earned a position on the Maryland State Sporter Team in 2012 before her 14th birthday. She was the youngest member of the team and finished second on the team after the tournaments. The following year, she earned NRA and CMP Distinguished Expert Award/Medals before her 15th birthday. She did this by increasing her practices up to four times a week and entering every tournament that her coaches could find. Elizabeth also received the Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association Top Gun award for sporter class in 2013.

For the 2013-2014 season, Elizabeth moved to precision class with the same determination that she had in sporter class. She has exceeded what would be expected from any junior shooter. She has learned how to evaluate what she is doing and how to make refinements to her shooting skills. In 2014, Elizabeth made the Maryland State Team for NRA Nationals and also qualified for the CMP and JO Nationals that were held at Camp Perry. She shot in all three national championships.

Now, in the beginning of the 2014-2015 season, Liz has offered to help get a teammate started in precision class. Liz is also helping a new coach understand the commitment it takes at every practice to be a winner.

Elizabeth practices between 3-4 times a week and has also been helping to teach other team members. She recently attended the West Virginia University Rifle camp to further enhance her skills. Elizabeth balances her schoolwork with her shooting schedule. She is working to earn both academic and athletic shooting scholarships at the college level. Her ultimate goal is to be a member of and win at the Olympics.

If you’d like your exceptional junior shooter highlighted in On The Mark, submit your story for consideration to Ashley at abrugnone@thecmp.org.
The National Three-Position Air Rifle Council established the Junior Excellence-In-Competition Award Program to provide incentives for junior three-position air rifle competitors to improve and excel.

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

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

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

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

### Badge Program

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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.

Minnesota Fires 2014 Prone Smallbore State Championship

Submitted by James Evenson, Minneapolis Rifle Club

The 2014 Prone Smallbore State Championship results are in the books. The last smallbore prone match of the year on the Minneapolis Rifle Club’s (MRC) schedule was held August 23 and 24 at the Bob VanJean Small Bore facility at MRC. It turned out to be a great event with a full line on Saturday for the Iron Sight matches. The range was in great shape as usual thanks to the hard work of George Minerich and others.

The weather was threatening and the sky turned overcast, but the wind was light and fairly steady. This made for good shooting conditions. Shooters of all ages were on hand to contest the outcome and vie for championship awards. There were Sub-Juniors, Intermediate Juniors, Juniors, Adults, Seniors and Grand Seniors. It would be a day when the juniors would give the adults a run for the money on every target in every match.

First up, two targets at 50 yards. The wind flags were swaying just a little, right to left. It was not good visibility on this foggy, misty morning. Kurt Kisch, juniors, Abby West, Erik Hazelton and Grand Senior Elmer Miller from South Dakota all shot scores of 400 with higher X counts.

The Dewar match with one 50-yard target and one 100-yard target were next. I kept the streak going and cleaned the first target but dropped two (only two?) on the 100-yard target for a 398, while Abby West showed us all the high level of Minnesota Junior shooting by posting the top score of 400-20x. Emily Quinar followed just behind at 399-29x. Juniors Carmen Fry and Norman Lilyerd also fired scores of 398 in this tough match. The 100-yard match went to Kurt Kisch with a solid 400-24x.

At one point, Kisch and Abby West were tied for the lead, both down three points for the day. Abby lost four points, falling behind the leaders, but Kurt posted a 399-26x to hold the top score and the Iron Sight prone championship.

Erik Hazleton was the High Scoring Junior, with 1593-108x, and Abby West was High Intermediate Junior, just one point and a few X’s back of Erik. Young Ryan Hudson was Top Sub-Junior Champion.

Saturday’s Iron Sight Scores:
The day dawned bright and clear for the “any” sight matches. The wind forecast was to be about 14mph from the NE – meaning swirling gusts to contend with at the MRC range, where it is believed that only two 1600 scores have ever been shot. It would be a wind reader’s match. Patience would be the key to winning scores. The two top wind readers for the day were Emily Quinar and Stacey Tamulinas. Stacy won the match, posting an incredible 1595-102x to Emily’s 1590-105x. It’s important to remember that Emily shoots iron sights only. The rest of the shooters were about two wind shifts behind all day, and my match was over after stitching the 9-ring full of holes on the 100-yard targets.

The overall high shooter for the weekend was Texas resident Stacey Tamulinas (3189-208x). The top Minnesota shooter and State Champion for 2014 was Kurt Kisch (3180-199x). High Junior went to champion Erik Hazleton, and the High Sub-Junior Champion was Ryan Hudson. Another up-and-coming junior shooter is Kurt Kisch’s daughter, Kamilla Kisch, who posted competitive scores all weekend.

It was fun shooting with all the juniors. Watch out shooting world – Minnesota has some great junior rifle shooters who are already shooting good scores!
The CMP welcomes clubs and associations to affiliate with us to help develop firearm safety and marksmanship skills. See our clubs page on the Web for more information about the benefits of club affiliation at http://www.thecmp.org/Clubs.htm.

IWLA Harpford Co Raptors, Abingdon, MD
BSA Troop 3 Gulf Coast Council, Alpharetta, GA
Royal Rangers Outpost 308, Blairs, VA
Watervliet Rod and Gun Club, Watervliet, MI
Pueblo Municipal Shooters, Pueblo, CO
Calhoun - Cleburne County 4H Hawkeyes, Anniston, AL
Bad Breed 4H Shooting Sports Club, Laredo, TX
BSA Troop 383, Whigham, GA
Decatur High AJROTC, Decator, AL
Boy Scout Troop 1987, Lindenhurst, IL
Sacramento Young Marines, Sacramento, CA
Bridgeton Township Sportsman Association, Upper Black Eddy, PA
Sacramento Young Marines, Sacramento, CA
Dubuque Chapter of Izaak Walton League of America, Inc., Dubuque, IA
8th Brigade ROTC USACC, JB Lewis McChord, WA
Laurel Highlands Council BSA, Jefferson Hills, PA
4-H Lyon County Sharpshooters, Marshall, MN
Roaring Brook Camp for Boys, Rutland, VT
Cheshire YMCA / YMCA Camp Takodah, Richmond, NH
Bulls Eye 205, Saegertown, PA
NJROTC/Chambersburg Area HS, Chambersburg, PA
Clover HS AFJROTC, Clover, SC
Walton Raider Air-Rifle Team, Marietta, GA
Fin Fur and Feather Club, Millis, MA
Lenoir County 4-H Shooting Sports, Kinston, NC
Athens County Sharp Shooters 4-H Club, Logan, OH
Safe Shooter Ed. Fndn of EC WI, Ripon, WI
Camp Greengrier for Boys, Alderson, WV

SOUTH LOUISIANA HIGH POWER CLUB: The juniors shot in a reduced course (200) on 24 Aug 2014 at the Ascension Sheriff’s range. The South Louisiana High Power Club holds a monthly match there.
The CMP Forum is an online resource through the CMP website for users to ask questions and exchange thoughts on gun handling, equipment, CMP events or sales and to even share personal experiences. Whether into pistol shooting, highpower or air rifle, the Forum is open to enthusiasts of all ages to discuss virtually any topic imaginable. The post below from CMP athlete program member in Anniston, Mike Dickinson, has been edited for print.

This is the start of my first local school year since getting out of the Army and starting my job with the CMP. It can definitely seem chaotic from the outside, but Sarah Hall and I just started working with The Donoho School Rifle Team, and it has reminded me of my high school days and some of the people in my life, then and now. Jacqueline Gaines, a parent and administrator at The Donoho School here in Calhoun County, has taken every extra step possible to ensure the successful start of their school’s first ever rifle program. A few of her students could possibly one day earn college rifle scholarships if they decided to pursue shooting even further, and maybe one of them is a future Olympian, but not without Mrs. Gaines’s help in taking the first step. So, I decided to write a quick blog on that, and it will end with a similar question to all of you. I’ll share my story of the very first time I ever fired a gun on a future post. This is really about getting started in competitive shooting.

I got started in Junior ROTC at Carroll High School in Ozark, AL, in 2001. I remember filling out my schedule in 8th grade and seeing “rifle” on the schedule. When I asked if that was the “sport where you twirl the gun,” I was told it was an air rifle team that physically shot the gun instead. So, I filled it out and didn’t think much of it. At the time, I had only hunted once thanks to Ron Goree, a then Ozark Police Officer, so guns and shooting was fairly new to me. After showing up for my first practice, I was told I could not be on the rifle team because it conflicted with band. If you knew me, my entire family had passed through that band hall and had all received scholarships, so my future was band and band only. U.S. Army First Sergeant (Retired) Jack Kehler decided to take a chance on me and allow me to continue shooting only on the days I was not practicing with the band. From there, he supported my future travels and shooting endeavors and worked tirelessly to fundraise for me to afford flights and entry fees into JROTC Nationals and Junior Olympics while I was in high school. Secondly, my mother saw the passion and discipline both JROTC but especially the rifle team instilled in me and fully allowed me to make my own decision and leave band completely. She purchased my first shooting suit and even purchased my air rifle in college, which I still use today. There are a number of other people I am thankful and grateful for, but Jack Kehler and my mother are responsible for getting me into the sport. To them, I cannot thank them enough.

To the parents and coaches out there, stick with your child in their endeavors, but don’t force it. Allow them to make their own decisions even if it isn’t what you wanted for them. If you feel unappreciated, just wait. We shooters know who is really behind us after every BORING shot that is fired out of our rifle. (Thank goodness for electronic targets!)

So, to kick off the start of another fantastic school year and shooting season, answer this question: Who is responsible for getting you started in this great sport of shooting? If you have a cool story, share it with us!

- CMP Mike D
Parting Shots: Photos from Recent CMP Events & Competitions

Junior shooters left their mark on several recent CMP events including the Western CMP Games, Monthly Matches and other Air Range events.

Juniors attended the Small Arms Firing School at the Western CMP Games in Phoenix, AZ, in October.

The Western CMP Games were held October 10-14 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

A record number of competitors fired in the events at the Western CMP Games, including talented junior marksmen.

Caleb Moxley of Dallastown, PA, was the winner of the sporter 3x20 competition at the November Monthly Match in Ohio.

Samuel Payne, 15, of Kingston, GA, was the High Junior and Match Winner in the Telescopic portion of the Rimfire Match.

Michael Steinel of Lowell, OH, topped the precision class in the 3x20 competition at the November Monthly Match in Ohio.

CMP was host to the Ottawa County Career Showcase in October. There, local freshman in Ohio fired CMP's air rifles.

Though some had never seen an air rifle or fired one before, many smiles were seen throughout the Showcase.

CMP staff was on hand to ensure the new marksmen properly and safely handled the air rifles during the day.
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