

# ON THE MARK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR SHOOTERS © FALL 2017



## Combining Talents

Juniors and Adults Match Up at Annual Dixie Double Air Gun Event in Anniston



**Also Inside**  
Info on the  
Camp Perry Open  
Air Gun Match

### Results On

- Gary Anderson Invitational
- Western CMP Games
- Talladega 600

**From Gary Anderson**  
Great  
Competitive  
Shooting

### Learn More

- Through the Eyes of a Father and Son Feature
- New Classification & Matches in 2018
- Advanced Maintenance Clinic Dates

## ON THE MARK

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

### ON THE MARK Staff:

Gary Anderson DCM Emeritus  
Steve Cooper North General Manager & Marketing Manager  
Christine Elder Communications Manager  
Ashley Brugnone CMP Writer/Editor

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

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

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

**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](mailto: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. 724 or email [programs@TheCMP.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.thecmp.org) or on the CMP online newsletter, **The First Shot**, at <http://thecmp.org/communications/the-first-shot/>.

## © Sighting Shots ©

© **2017-2018 CMP NATIONAL POSTAL, STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.** All junior three-position air rifle clubs, including American Legion, 4-H and junior rifle clubs and JROTC units are invited to participate in this national postal sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program – **Deadline is January 20.** The results of this postal will be posted online and will give teams a national ranking. The top competitors in this postal competition, along with the top qualifiers from the State Championships, will qualify to attend the Regional Championships to be held in Anniston, Alabama; Camp Perry, Ohio; and Sandy, Utah. The top teams and individuals from the regional will also qualify to attend the National Three Position Air Rifle Championship. For more information or to register, please visit the CMP website at [www.THECMP.org](http://www.THECMP.org).

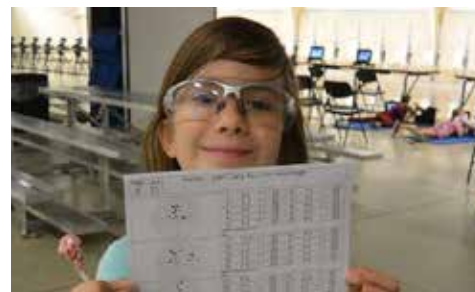


© The **28th Annual American Legion 3-Position Junior Air Rifle National Championship** series is open for registrations. During the Postal Match, athletes will fire on official targets at their home ranges, then return them to the CMP for scoring. Through the Postals, participants will have their scores compared to other competitors from around the country. The National Championship series features a three-phase Individual Tournament (two Postal rounds and a shoulder-to-shoulder Championship) and a Team Tournament (two Postal rounds). For more information on the match, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/american-legion/>.

© **Monthly Bench Leagues Designed For All Ages** - CAMP PERRY, OH - If you've ever thought about trying out marksmanship but were unsure of where to begin, there's a few new matches tailored especially for you. The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), an organization dedicated to encouraging and

practicing marksmanship safety and competition, has prepared a Monthly Airgun Bench League, to be fired only within the indoor airgun range at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Ohio. In addition to the airgun league, a .22 Rifle Bench League will be held at Camp Perry's Petrarca Range, an outdoor covered 100-yard range that also houses CMP Targets. For more information, visit <http://thecmp.org/cmp-establishes-monthly-bench-leagues-designed-ages/>.

© **Marksmanship Nights at CMP Competition Centers.** Shooters, including aspiring new shooters, who visit or live in the Camp Perry, Port Clinton, Ohio area or Anniston, Alabama area are invited to take advantage of the opportunity to do practice shooting at the Competition Center air gun ranges. Both 80-point, 10-meter air gun range are fully equipped with optical target scoring systems that accommodate air rifle, air pistol or National Match Air Rifle shooting. For more information, please visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-centers/open-public-shooting/>.



© **GOWIRELESS! Wi-Fi CMP Targets** now available on your home range or on your land. We've taken the work out of long range target shooting while increasing safety. Spend your time focusing on the target instead of walking to the target! Receive effortless feedback as shots appear in real time at your firing point on your Microsoft Windows™-based PC or laptop. For more information visit the CMP Website or contact Bryan Parris at 256-835-8455, Ext. 421 or email [bparris@TheCMP.org](mailto:bparris@TheCMP.org).

**On the Cover: CPL Matt Rawlings (right) and Matt Sanchez (left) partnered up at the Dixie Double air gun event in Anniston, Ala., for the rifle team event. The pair, "Matt Squared," finished fourth overall.**



# Air Gun Athletes and Spectators: Gear Up Now for the 2018 Camp Perry Open

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*

CAMP PERRY, Ohio – If it's almost January, then it's time again for the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) annual Camp Perry Open – a staple air rifle and air pistol event held in Northwest Ohio for over a decade. Adult and junior athletes of all experience levels are welcome to come participate and experience one of the most anticipated air gun events of the year.

Featuring a variety of matches, the Camp Perry Open is set to fire Jan. 12-14, 2018. Those participating will be given the rare opportunity to compete alongside some of the most talented marksmen in the country, including members of the Army Marksmanship Unit and the USA Shooting team, along with talented upcoming junior competitors who are leading the next generation of excellence.

The Camp Perry Open is held within the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center, which houses an 80-point indoor air gun range equipped with CMP's own electronic targets, powered by Kongsberg Target Systems. The targets, installed in November 2016, instantly return shot scores on an LED display monitor located next to each competitor. Monitors overhead also reveal scores to spectators in the crowd as they happen, keeping guests connected to the action on the firing line.

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

The Super Finals, which is undoubtedly the highlight of the Camp Perry Open, breaks from the quiet finals traditionally seen during marksmanship events by not only allowing, but encouraging loud music and crowd participation at an attempt to distract competitors from behind the firing line. Crowd members and competitors alike often dress in masks, costumes and other standout attire to add an extra element of fun.

Guests who have never seen the Super Finals are welcome to watch the spectacle unfold on Saturday, Jan. 13, when the match will be held. Come and enjoy the scenery or join in on the excitement!

With free admission and ample parking, the Camp Perry Open is open to the public any time during the event. Whether just curious about air gun or interested in stepping onto the firing line, all are welcome at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center. We hope to see you there!



*The Camp Perry Open combines rifle and pistol competition for competitors of all ages.*

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

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



*A staple at the event, the energetic Super Final allows competitors and guests to dress up, cheer and have some fun!*

**To register and for more info on the Camp Perry Open, visit**  
<http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/camp-perry-open/>.

# Thompson Returns to Reclaim Title at 2017 Gary Anderson Invitational Air Rifle Event

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*

CAMP PERRY, Ohio; ANNISTON, Ala. – On the opening weekend of December, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) hosted its last air rifle event of 2017. A total of 407 junior athletes from around the country made the decision to either travel north to the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Ohio or the CMP South Competition Center in Anniston, Ala., to fire in the annual Gary Anderson Invitational (GAI). The 3x20 aggregate event allows competitors from both locations to go “shoulder-to-shoulder,” even while miles apart.

Last year’s sporter champion, Emma Thompson, 17, of Freeport High School in Illinois, came out to reclaim her title by a six-point margin, with an overall score of 645.3. During her 2016 performance, Thompson fired a 20 Shots Standing Navy JROTC record, 20 Shot Kneeling Navy JROTC and Age Group II records, along with 3x20 Navy JROTC, Age Group II and Overall records and a 3x20 plus Finals record score – still holding nearly all of those records

today. Possessing an undeniable talent, Thompson has been a Distinguished Junior competitor since 2015.

Winning the precision event by one point over the second place competitor was Antonio Gross, 18, of Webster Junior Marksmen, with an aggregate score of 691. Gross began 2017 by coming out on top during the Camp Perry Open 3x20 precision event in January, previously having earned his USA Shooting jacket in June 2016 as the high male competitor of the National Junior Olympic/CMP Three-Position air rifle aggregate. Gross also received his Distinguished Junior Badge in 2015.





Earning second in the precision match was Abigail Zeitler, 18, of the DuBois Jr Rifle (Thunder) from Pennsylvania, as the 2014 and 2015 GAI competitor, Justin Kleinhans, 18, of Port Clinton, Ohio, secured third.

In sporter, Max Martinez, 16, of Pickaway Diabolos from Ohio, claimed the second place spot – slipping past third place finisher Megan Painter, 17, of Volunteer High School in Tennessee, by only one point.

A team competition was also held during the event, combining the individual scores of a four-person team. Teams were also ranked as either Scholastic or Club.

Winning the overall sporter team event was Freeport High School from Illinois. Members were champ Emma Thompson, Linsey Kleckner, Makiah Stacy and Austin Martinez. The team is coached by SgtMaj Michael Dechy. Freeport also picked up the Scholastic Team title.

Second place in the sporter competition when to Volunteer High School from Tennessee, followed by Zion Benton NJROTC from Illinois in third. High Club team was Clover High School AFJROTC from South Carolina.

Allatoona Gun Club from Georgia earned the precision title and was also the High Club team of the event. Team members were Savanna Stalnaker, Maddie Dong, Ashley Judson and Alex Thackery.

Scssa 1 from Alabama landed in second, as DuBois Jr. Rifle (Thunder) from Pennsylvania took the third place position. Earning the Scholastic Team win was Carrolton High School from Georgia.

### About the Gary Anderson Invitational:

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



*Scores from the CMP air ranges in Ohio and Alabama are combined, with winners comprising of the highest scoring competitors of both locations.*

### About Gary Anderson:

Mr. Anderson is a two-time Olympic gold medalist and also holds seven world championships, six world records and 16 national championships. He has won more Olympic and world championship three-position titles than any other American in history. In 1999, Anderson began a 10-year reign as Director of Civilian Marksmanship and retired in December 2009.

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



## Great Competition Shooting

# Great Competition Shooting

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus



*Most junior shooters learn rifle or pistol marksmanship skills so they can test those skills in competitions. The young shooting athletes in this photo are competing in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior event during the 2017 Junior World Championship in Suhl, Germany.*

One of the main reasons youth learn rifle or pistol marksmanship skills is because they want to compete; they want to see how well they can do in organized contests where scores are kept and ranked and awards are at stake. This ***On the Mark*** article discusses why competition shooting is important, how to prepare for competitions, how to perform well in them and how to keep competition experiences positive and beneficial.

### Why Go To Competitions

Youth shooting sports leaders and parents need to understand and explain why young shooting athletes should be introduced to competitions. Here are some fundamental reasons for participating in competitions.

1. **Competition is Part of Life.** It is virtually impossible to go through life without experiencing competition in some form, whether in school, business or a professional

career. The International Olympic Committee calls sports competitions a “school for life” where young athletes “experience life values such as excellence, respect and friendship.” Sports offer youth a healthy way to learn how to compete and strive for excellence while following the rules.

2. **Competition is Part of Sports.** The reason most people learn sports skills is to use them in competitions. Competitions offer the ultimate test of sports skills.

3. **Competitions are Fun and Provide Memorable Experiences.** People who participate in shooting competitions enjoy those experiences. They meet new friends and travel to interesting places. Trying to do well in competitions is fulfilling, meaningful and memorable.

4. **Competitions Teach Personal Achievement.** Modern Olympic Games founder Pierre de Coubertin explained the true value of sports competition when he



continued...

**COMPETITIONS  
ARE PART OF  
LIFE**

**COMPETITIONS  
ARE PART OF  
SPORTS**

## **WHY SHOOT IN COMPETITIONS**

**COMPETITIONS  
ARE FUN AND  
MEMORABLE**

**COMPETITIONS  
TEACH  
PERSONAL  
ACHIEVEMENT**

said, *"The most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well."* The "struggle," to fight well, means trying to do the best we can do with the possibilities available to us. In shooting competitions, possible goals for this struggle include completing a course of fire, beating one's score in the last match, earning an Achievement Medal, working to win a Distinguished Badge or winning an important championship. Every competition shooter has the possibility to strive to win personal victories and to apply those lessons in their lives.

### **Definitions**

A few special terms used in this article need to be defined so readers will have a common understanding when they appear.

**Hold.** When shooting athletes talk about their "hold," they are describing how stable their sight picture movements (rifle) or sight alignment and sight picture movements (pistol) were.

**Shot Technique.** To fire a shot, a shooting athlete follows a specific "shot technique" sequence that starts with shouldering or lifting the gun and includes preparing the position, aligning the sights, bringing the gun onto the aiming point, breath control timing, trigger control, hold control and follow through. This sequence may be both conscious and sub-conscious. Competition shooters are concerned with how well they "perform" this sequence.

**Performance.** The components of marksmanship "performance" are hold stability (how good or bad an

athlete's "hold" was) and shot technique (how precisely he/she executed their shot technique). An athlete who performs well in a competition must have a good hold and execute shot technique correctly.

**Match Pressure.** Sometimes called pre-match anxiety or "start fever," this is the heightened sense of nervousness that occurs when an athlete is in a competition where scores are kept and rankings and prizes are at stake. Match pressure is both a physiological and psychological phenomenon.

### **When Should Competitions Start?**

Youth shooting teams should structure their training and practice programs so all new shooters have a definitive opportunity to decide if they want to shoot in competitions. New shooter instruction must provide information about competition opportunities available to team members. Teams that travel extensively should make sure new participants and their parents understand the requirements for being on "the team." This is essential because rifle or pistol team participation usually involves purchasing personal equipment and attending regular practice sessions.

### **When Is A New Shooter Ready for Competition?**

Competition shooting should not start until after the athlete has learned good shooting positions, developed the ability to properly execute basic shot technique and can comfortably complete an established course of fire. Athletes should be able to keep all shots within the scoring rings on the competition target before they go to their first competitions.

**What Are The Best First Competitions?** The best advice is to start small and local. Club record matches are a great place to introduce new participants to competitions if they use rulebook time limits and Range Officer commands.

**Youth marksmanship  
participants should not  
be required to compete,  
but every youth-shooting  
participant should have  
an OPPORTUNITY  
to compete.**

## Great Competition Shooting



*Every year, CMP National Ranges at Camp Perry, Ohio, and Anniston, Alabama, host large monthly air rifle and air pistol matches as well as numerous championship competitions (<http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-centers/>).*

A step up from there are virtual matches like the Orion National Air Rifle League (<http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/orion/AirRifleLeague.aspx>) where teams compete with each other in their home ranges using electronic scoring and Internet communications to compare results. After new shooters can comfortably handle these tests, they will be ready for shoulder-to-shoulder matches at other ranges.

**Who Should Go To Competitions?** There may come a time during the competition year when it is necessary to limit the number of athletes who travel with the team, but it is a mistake to limit competition opportunities too early. One of the great lessons in shooting athlete development is that early practice and competition scores bear little or no relation to how good someone ultimately becomes. Teams should establish conditions for going to competitions like regular practice attendance, but a team policy should be to give all team members who want to compete an opportunity to compete.

**How Many Competitions Should Youth Shoot?** The short answer is this depends upon team and athlete goals. A serious competition shooter should shoot at least one shoulder-to-shoulder match per month with one or two major championships at the end of each competition year. Shooting more than two matches a month that involve travel away from home is usually too many.

### Preparing for Competitions

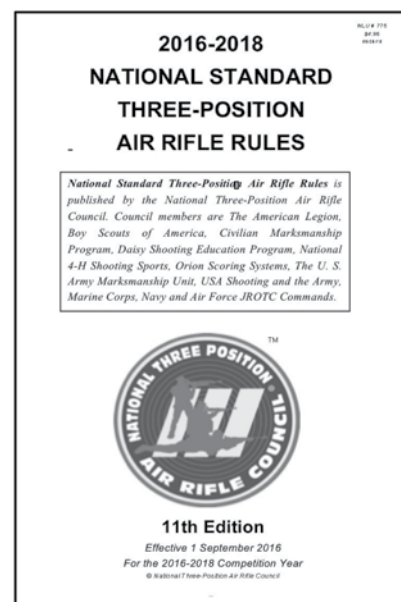
One of the keys to successful competitions is preparation. Surprises magnify anxiety and distract from good performances. A team that arrives well prepared and knowing what to expect will have taken an important step to reduce anxiety and increase their chances for good match performances.

**Basic Match Information.** A first preparation step is to obtain the match program that describes the competition course of fire, dates and times of firing. It is also useful to obtain information about the range where the match will take place. Team members should know what to expect regarding the staging area, target placement, target lighting, firing line lighting and any out-of-the-ordinary range features.

**Pre-Match Administration.** A second step is to enter the athletes who will compete in the match. Advanced entries are necessary to ensure a place on the line in many junior matches. If the match is in another city, travel arrangements are required. If an overnight stay is involved, hotel reservations may be necessary. Most travel teams today have both girls and boys and will need both male and female adult supervisors.

### Knowledge of the Rules.

Every athlete who goes to a match is expected to know and follow applicable competition rules. Rules for gun handling, equipment, firing positions and match procedures need to be explained and understood in advance. Coaches should give new shooters who are



*The National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules now govern a majority of the junior rifle competitions in the USA.*



continued...

getting ready to attend their first match instruction covering the competition rules.

### **Pre-Match Rehearsal.**

Athletes should rehearse the competition course of fire under simulated competition conditions during one or two practice sessions before an upcoming match. Pre-match rehearsals need to include the warm-up and preparation steps that will be followed during the match.

### **Equipment Checklists.**

Some matches are lost because a team member forgot to bring an essential piece of equipment. This problem is easily prevented if each team member dedicates a page in his/her Shooter's

Journal to an equipment checklist. Packing for team travel should always be done with each athlete's equipment list in front of them.

**Team Uniforms.** More and more junior shooting teams are discovering that having a team uniform to wear when arriving at or shooting in a match is a source of pride for the team members and a way to demonstrate the team's professionalism. Athletes who earn the right to wear the team's colors as a competition team member will feel an added sense of responsibility to focus on good performance at competitions.

## **Managing Match Pressure**

Match pressure is real, but manageable. To understand what is possible, imagine being in Ginny Thrasher's shooting boots when she fired the last shot in the 10m Air Rifle Women Final during the 2016 Olympics. She had a meager 0.7 point lead. Her last remaining rival was a vastly more experienced two-time Olympic gold medalist. A worldwide live TV audience of 119 million people was watching. Spectators at the range included United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, Chinese Vice Minister Liu Yandong and IOC President Thomas Bach. \$75,000 in prize money was at stake plus the potential prestige of being known for the rest of her life as an "Olympic gold medal winner." In the face of



*Many air rifle sporter class teams now wear team uniforms while they shoot. The different colors identify different teams.*

such immense pressure, Thrasher found the inner strength to shoot a 10.4 on her last shot and win the 2016 Games very first gold medal. Well-trained athletes can manage match pressure.



*The split screen television image that enabled 119 million worldwide, live TV viewers to see the last shots of America's Ginny Thrasher and China's DU Li in the duel for the 2016 Olympic Games first gold medal. It was a fantastic demonstration of managing match pressure.*

## Great Competition Shooting

One of the keys to great competition shooting is developing performance techniques that facilitate match pressure management. Nervousness and anxiety can cause an athlete's hold and shot technique performance to deteriorate, but with proper techniques, these effects can be mitigated and managed. These techniques, however, cannot just be applied at matches; they must be learned and perfected in practice. And at the competition, the athlete must muster the self-discipline to apply these techniques for every shot. Here are some strategies and techniques to manage match pressure:

**Pre-Match Warm-Up.** A pre-match warm-up can reduce or slow body tremors and produce steadier holds during the competition. A brief stretching routine helps to relax muscles and prepare them for their static work in holding the rifle or pistol steadier. Back, leg and arm massages contribute to improved holds. A mandatory warm-up exercise for pistol athletes, and many rifle athletes, is doing aiming exercises or dry firing on a blank wall.

**Establish Score Goals.** With modern electronic scoring and results display systems, it is becoming almost impossible for athletes not to know what their scores are and even how they rank in the competition. To deal with this new reality, athletes should go to matches with specific score expectations, but score goals must be backed up by practice scores. Score goals can be used both as a means of evaluation and an incentive. A pistol athlete, for example, might have a score goal of shooting 90 or better on each series. A rifle athlete might have score goals of 98 prone, 90 standing and 94 kneeling.



*Doing aiming exercises or dry firing at a blank wall is now a standard warm-up for pistol athletes and even many rifle athletes.*



*Many elite rifle athletes begin each shot by visually checking butt-plate location in the shoulder to ensure that it is in exactly the right spot. The athlete is Olympic gold medalist Virginia Thrasher, USA.*

**Emphasize Correct Shot Technique.** One of the best ways to control match pressure is to have a consistent, well-practiced shot technique that follows a carefully developed shot plan. Good shot technique uses specific conscious actions on which to concentrate while firing the shot. Elite rifle athletes start by checking butt-plate and elbow locations when they shoulder their rifles. They have fixed ways to breathe, approach their aiming points, apply initial pressure on the trigger and achieve hold or sight picture control. Paying attention to these steps keeps their minds focused on positive actions that ensure good performance while preventing them from being distracted by negative or extraneous thoughts.

**Breathing.** Breath control is part of the shot plan, but it is also an effective means of achieving targeted relaxation. When breathing before starting to aim, the athlete can learn to link conscious exhaling with a cue phrase like "let go." For rifle athletes, a totally relaxed support arm is a key to hold stability. Conscious breathing also gives the mind a positive focus in the seconds leading up to the decisive time



continued...

of aiming and pressing the trigger. An athlete who is under intense pressure may also use conscious inhaling and exhaling with a relaxation message to mitigate anxiety reactions.

**Pre-Shot Checks.** The shot plan can also combine the conscious inhaling, exhaling and relaxation done before starting to aim with a pre-shot routine. During successive exhalations, the athlete may 1) mentally check body or support arm relaxation, 2) position balance and 3) mental readiness to switch attention to hold control or sight picture.

### Arrival At the Match

**When to Arrive.** As a general rule, teams should plan to arrive at least an hour before they are scheduled to start shooting. Late arrivals and trying to rush preparations increase anxiety. As soon as the team arrives a team leader needs to check in at the Statistical Office, pay entry fees and obtain squadding information (start list). A key to good team performances is for the coach or an adult leader to take care of all of these logistical details so team members can focus on preparation and performance. Team members should find a place in the staging area to begin their preparations, relax and chill out before the competition starts. Athletes should complete pre-match warm-ups well before they are called to the line.

**Equipment Set-Up and Call to Line.** Athletes should have fixed routines for dressing and organizing their equipment before being called to the line. When the Range Officer calls them to the line they should have fixed equipment layout schemes for setting up their firing points. Focusing attention on the steps necessary to set up equipment can help to avoid distracting or negative thoughts. After organizing the firing point, athletes must pay careful attention to building their firing positions while emphasizing body relaxation and stabilizing the inner position to ensure good holds when firing starts.

### During the Match

**Sighting Shots.** Well-prepared athletes arrive at matches with their rifles or pistols zeroed. The primary purpose of sighting shots is not to zero guns, but to establish performance routines where shot technique is being done correctly. The recommended progression is to 1) build the position, 2) do a few aiming exercise repetitions to be sure the hold is stable, 3) dry fire a few repetitions to establish shot technique and then 4) fire sighting shots. Sight adjustments must be made if shots are not going



*When competition shooting is not going well, taking a break and stepping back to talk to the coach may help to correct a performance fault.*

on call, but the emphasis during sighters should be on performing shot technique correctly.

**Performance Routine and Rhythm.** Several years ago, elite shooters and coaches emphasized working on getting good shots by aborting shot attempts when the hold or shot technique was not right. Today, with the best athletes destined to shoot in finals where single shots are fired with short time limits, the emphasis is on preparing to fire the shot in advance by using breathing and pre-shot routines so shots can consistently be fired on the first hold. Today's young shooting athletes should learn to do detailed pre-shot preparations that allow them to fire almost all of their shots on first attempts.

**Sight Adjustments.** Keeping rifles and pistols precisely zeroed is fundamental to obtaining the highest possible scores. Confirming that the sights are zeroed during sighting shots is not sufficient. The athlete must continue to track shot locations in relation to shot calls and may need to make small sight adjustments during a record firing stage.

**Stay in the Now.** A simple admonition for new competition athletes is to approach a competition by trying to shoot a series of one-shot matches. This means thinking only about firing the present shot, now. The idea is to avoid thinking about past shots, good or bad, and certainly not to see oneself on the victory podium before the match is over.

## Great Competition Shooting

**Correcting Performance Faults.** Great competition shooters develop the ability to analyze each shot to recognize and correct performance faults. When shooting is not going well, it is not a good strategy to just keep on shooting. It's OK to lay the gun down and take a break. Stepping back to talk to the coach often helps. There are many things that can cause performance faults. Correction strategy should involve a mental review of the shot plan to decide if any steps are not being performed correctly. Return to shooting with a renewed will to follow the shot plan.

**Shooting in Finals.** Not all competitions have finals, but when they do, athletes who make the finals must have a plan for shooting in it. The plan should start with expecting to enjoy the experience. Finals usually have spectators and cheering so be prepared for this. The steps taken during the regular match to 1) build the firing position, 2) use the sighting time to do aiming exercises, dry fire and fire practice shots and 3) to follow an established performance routine must continue. If the athlete uses breathing and pre-shot checks to prepare for firing each shot, it is absolutely essential that these same techniques be used during the final. The bottom line--don't change anything. The techniques and strategies used to manage match pressure apply even more so in finals. Also, even if a team or its members do not make the final, all athletes should attend the final to support the athletes who are there.

### After the Match

**Journal Entries.** After finishing the competition, team members should sit down and complete their Shooter's Journal entries for that day. It's important to record match experiences while they are still fresh in mind. Journal entries should include evaluations of hold stability during the match and how well shot technique was performed. Comments should note whether the athlete reached his/her personal target scores for the match. If yes, note what was done right to make that possible. If not, comment on what needs more work before the next match.

**Checking Scores.** As soon as targets are scored, each athlete should check the preliminary results list to be sure their scores are posted correctly. Most match sponsors will gladly correct clerical errors. If there has been an obvious



*The best time to make Shooter's Journal entries for a match is right after finishing firing. The athlete here is Sarah Sherer, 2016 USA Olympian.*

error in scoring, a challenge to get a shot or score rechecked is proper, but attempting to challenge every close shot is unsportsmanlike and should be discouraged.

**Award Ceremonies.** Many match sponsors conclude competitions with award ceremonies. If the match has an award ceremony, it is important for all teams to attend even if they are not expecting to receive awards. This shows respect for the winning teams as well as for the match sponsor and their efforts to organize a great competition. Athletes should wear their team uniforms when receiving awards. Hopping up on the award podium in ragged jeans and a nondescript T-shirt does not exemplify the sport we all want shooting to be.

**Congratulations and Thank-You.** A last step in post-match activities should be to graciously accept congratulations from others for great match results or to offer congratulations to other teams and athletes who fired great scores. No team should depart without also saying thank-you to the officials who conducted the match.

### Growing a Positive Team Culture

Competition experiences can be good or bad, exhilarating or disappointing. To keep competition experiences positive, coaches and parents must create an organizational culture that emphasizes athlete-centered



continued...

values and prevents negative outcomes. Youth shooting coaches and parents must do all they can to keep their athletes' competitions positive and enjoyable. A positive organizational culture will project values like these:

1. **We respect competition rules and practice fair play.** We believe every training and competition result must be achieved while following the rules, practicing fair play and respecting other competitors and competition officials. There are no acceptable short cuts to good scores.

2. **We evaluate competition performances, not winning or losing.** Every team member's competition is evaluated according to how well they performed the skills they learned in training. Team members expect to produce competition scores that are within the range of scores they shoot in practice.

3. **We accept all team members as persons of worth regardless of their competition results.** We do not believe any team member deliberately shoots bad match scores. No team member should fear rejection because of a bad match. If a team member has a bad match, we will work with them to identify and correct performance shortcomings.

4. **We see nervousness, anxiety and match pressure as normal, positive feelings.** It is normal to feel nervous and anxious before and during competitions, but we will learn to manage and enjoy those feelings. Our team members will learn strategies and techniques to help us manage match pressure effectively.

5. **We enjoy trying to do the best we can in competitions.** When we go to matches, we expect to have fun and enjoy the experience, but we also expect to work hard during the competition to perform the skills we learned in practice as well as we possibly can. When we finish a competition knowing we had a good performance and met our score expectations, we will have had a great competition.



*These Junior athletes are reporting to their firing points for the start of a final. Athletes who qualify for finals should expect to enjoy the experience and shoot finals shots the same way they fired shots in the qualification competition.*

### 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.



# USA Shooting Athletes Dominate the Board at 2017 Dixie Double Air Gun Event

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*



*Angeline Henry overtook the Junior Rifle event, finishing seventh overall.*

*Katelyn Abeln was the overall winner of the Junior Pistol event. She also finished fifth in the Open event.*

ANNISTON, Ala. – Over a beautiful Southern opening weekend of November, Anniston’s Annual Dixie Double air gun competition welcomed a gathering of air rifle and air pistol competitors to the Civilian Marksmanship Program’s (CMP) South Competition Center. While the sun blanketed warmth on the colorful foliage of the Alabama mountains, competition heated up inside the 80-point electronic range as the talents of decorated marksmen and newcomers from around the country were displayed during the two-day aggregate event.

Attending her first match at the South Competition Center was Alexis Lagan, 24, of Colorado Springs, CO. Currently a member of the USA Shooting pistol team, Lagan not only got to know the CMP facility but also made her name known around the building as she earned the overall win in the Open Air Pistol competition, with a score of 1166-39x.

“This match for me was really about coming and seeing this range. Everyone always talks about it, so this was a good opportunity for me to come see it before any selection

matches or anything are held here,” she said. “It’s great. I love the lighting, and it’s a fun place – and I got to see all of my friends. It’s a fun place to be.”

Lagan traveled to the event after hearing the regretful news of USA Shooting’s loss of funding for its pistol initiatives in 2018. Uncertain of her future as an athlete at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, she has decided to keep on traveling and competing as much as she can to stay involved as long as possible in the sport she loves.

“I wanted to kind of prove to myself that I could still shoot even with bad news happening. It really kind of puts a damper on my life plans right now,” she said. “I’m currently living at the Olympic Training Center, so it’s a risk that I might not be a resident any longer. Even with that happening, I shot a couple of personal bests and even came close to the National Record, so I can’t really complain.”

The Dixie Double features Open and Junior air rifle and air pistol matches, held simultaneously, where athletes



fire 60 shots standing, international style, on each day of competition. The aggregate individual scores of the two days of 60-shot matches are calculated to determine overall winners of each matchup.

During the weekend, up-and-coming junior athletes are given the opportunity to meet and fire beside some of the most notorious names in the shooting world, including former and current NCAA athletes and coaches, members of the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), distinguished members of the USA Shooting team and Olympians.

Winning the Open Rifle competition was Olympian Lucas Kozeniesky, 22, of Fairfax, VA, with a two-day aggregate score of 1264. Kozeniesky has previously won the USA Shooting National Championship and competed last summer at the Rio Olympics in the Men's 10m Air event as the first North Carolina State University rifle team athlete to earn a place on the U.S. Olympic Team.

A positive role model for upcoming marksmen, Kozeniesky has embraced his role as an impressionable figure in the competitive shooting community by being a present mentor whenever possible.

"Coming here, I get to do two things," he said. "The first thing is to go out and perform well – make sure the stuff I'm working on in practice applies to a match. The second thing is I get to connect with kids."

Kozeniesky said he talked to nearly 30 kids while at the Dixie Double event, answering questions and giving them tips along the way.

"That's what I really like doing – talking with them, making sure they're on the right track for whatever they're doing, give them a role model since I didn't really have one growing up," he said. "I'm just trying to be the shooter that they need to look up to and then hopefully guide them on their path."

Along with coming out on top of the overall rifle matchup, Kozeniesky was also the champion rifle competitor in the exciting Super Final, fired for the first time this year at the Dixie Double. He not only garnered everyone's attention with his scores, but also with the fashionable black and orange witch's hat he donned during the entertaining match.

"That was really cool," he said with a smile. "The witch's hat, honestly, didn't bug me. I was just having fun with it."



*The pistol competitors embraced the spirit of the Super Final by showing off their best fun looks.*



*Katelyn Abeln and James Hall dressed to impress and earned second and first, respectively, in the pistol Super Final event.*

In the pistol Super Final match, CMP's James Hall, 33, of Anniston, outshot the other competitors, conquering the firing line in his Viking helmet and black tutu.

The Super Final match was added to the 2017 Dixie Double schedule as a way of giving competitors the chance for additional practice in a finals setting and to provide an easing break to the tense competition atmosphere. Emulating the Super Final event fired each year during the Camp Perry Open air gun competition, athletes on the line wore unorthodox headgear such as horns, a fluffy pink angel halo and even a far out hippie ensemble, while crowd members hooted and hollered and even joined the dress-up game by molding tin-foil hats in the stands.

"The Super Final is crazy," said rifle champ Alexis Lagan, who wore a sparkly headpiece during the match. "My dad texted me immediately after and was like, 'What just happened?' and I texted him back, 'I don't really know!' But it was a lot of fun, and I hope I can participate in something like that again."

The Top 36 competitors from each discipline were chosen to compete in the Super Final match, with an unknown random Course of Fire chosen before competition began.



*Angeline Henry and SPL Patrick Sunderman, "e-Lemon-ators," earned the Rifle Team win.*

In the Junior aggregate competition, Angeline Henry, 17, of Fort Worth, TX, fired a combined score of 1238.9 to earn the top spot in the air rifle match, as Katelyn Abeln, 16, of Douglasville, GA, accrued an overall score of 1112-19x to win the air pistol event by a one-point margin.

A team match was also held concurrently with regular competition over the weekend, combining the skills of one Junior and one Open competitor. Winning the rifle team matchup was e-LEMON-ators, junior Angeline Henry and the AMU's SPL Patrick Sunderman, who accrued a combined score of 2470.9 – three points over the second place finishers. Team Money Pit, junior Charles Platt and Alexis Lagan, stole the pistol competition with an excellent aggregate score of 2262-64x.

Thank you to everyone who came to the CMP South Competition Center to compete in the annual Dixie Double event. The CMP would also like to give a sincere "thank you" to the AMU for hosting a fun and informative question-and-answer session with athletes after practice day of the event. We hope to see everyone, and more, next year!

A complete list of results for the 2017 Dixie Double can be found by visiting <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&match=16160&tab=results>. Photos of the event can be found on the CMP Zenfolio at <http://cmp1.zenfolio.com/f1038923931>.



*Team "Money Pit," Charles Platt and Alexis Lagan, claimed the Pistol Team prize with their combined score.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### January 2018

12-14 Jan  
**Camp Perry Open**  
Camp Perry, OH

### February

1-3 Feb  
**U.S. Army Jr. Air Rifle Championship**  
Fort Benning, GA

8-10 Feb  
**JROTC Service Championships**  
Phoenix, AZ  
Anniston, AL

16-18 Feb  
**JROTC Service Championships**  
Camp Perry, OH  
Anniston, AL

### March

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

11-18 Mar  
**US Army Small Arms Championship**  
Fort Benning, GA

22-24 Mar  
**JROTC National Championship**  
Camp Perry, OH

### April

5-7 Apr  
**CMP Regional Championships**  
Sandy, UT

10-16 Apr  
**Oklahoma CMP Cup & Games**  
Oklahoma City, OK

12-14 Apr  
**CMP Regional Championships**  
Camp Perry, OH  
Anniston, AL



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

### May

26 Apr- 5 May  
**Eastern CMP Cup & Games**  
**RO Level II Seated Course**  
**(HP & Pistol) 26 Apr**  
Camp Butner, NC

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

### June

8-10 Jun  
**D-Day Match**  
**RO Level II Seated Course**  
**(HP & Pistol) 7 Jun**  
Talladega, AL

17-22 Jun  
**DoD Interservice Pistol Championship**  
Fort Benning, GA



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

# New Classification System and Matches Added to 2018 CMP Travel Games

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*



*The new Travel Games matches will be fired exclusively on CMP's electronic target system.*

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has revamped its 2018 Travel Games schedule, adding even more elite competitive shooting opportunities for participants and establishing its own Classification System.

In 2018, the CMP will take over the Creedmoor Cup Matches, traditionally fired at the conclusion of the CMP Travel Matches, along with introducing new events to the CMP Oklahoma and New England Games. All additional matches will be fired on CMP Targets, a user-friendly electronic target system that instantaneously produces shot placement and eliminates the need for pit duty – allowing quicker matches and less physical strain, absolutely suited for new or experienced competitors of virtually all ages and sizes.

## **The New Matches:**

Additional matches at the Travel Games include Excellence In Competition (EIC) events for those aiming to receive the 30 points needed to earn a Distinguished Rifleman Badge. All regular CMP events, such as the Small Arms Firing School, various vintage rifle competitions and

pistol matches, will still be included on the Travel Games schedule.

Matches added to the 2018 Travel Games include:

- Oklahoma CMP Cup & CMP Games Matches – two 80 Shot (800 Aggregate) Matches and a 4-Man Team Match
- Eastern CMP Cup & CMP Games Matches – The three Creedmoor 80 Shot Matches will now be changed to three 80 Shot CMP Cup Matches (800 Aggregate). A 4-Man Team Match and EIC Rifle Match will still be fired.
- New England CMP Cup & CMP Games Matches – two 80 Shot (800 Aggregate) Matches and a 4-Man Team Match
- Western CMP Cup & CMP Games Matches – The three Creedmoor 80 Shot Matches will now be changed to two 100 Shot (1000 Aggregate) Matches. A 4-Man Team Match and EIC Rifle Match will still be fired.



All matches will now follow CMP Highpower Rifle Competition Rules, and all the Individual Service Rifle Matches will count towards the new CMP Classification System.

### **The CMP Classification System:**

The CMP will recognize and sanction matches for two different types of highpower rifle shooting. Match sponsors will be able to use either National Trophy Event Rules (that will continue to be no-sighter matches with competitors starting rapid-fire in standing) or new CMP Cup Match Rules (that will allow sighters and let competitors start rapid-fire series in position).

The National Trophy Event Rules will continue to be used for National Trophy Matches, EIC matches and matches where match sponsors choose to use them. CMP Cup Match Rules will be available for match sponsors that want to conduct 800- and 1000-point events like the Creedmoor Cup Matches.

Here are some of the significant changes that will be allowed by the new CMP Cup Match rules:

- The use of sighters is authorized for all team and individual matches, except for the EIC match.
- Competitors will remain in position for rapid-fire stages for both team and individual matches, except for the EIC matches or the National Trophy Rifle Matches.
- Match Rifles are allowed and will have their own category for awards, and results will count towards classification.
- CMP rules and NRA rules governing alibis differ greatly. We recommend you familiarize yourself with the new 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition (current draft) of the CMP Highpower Competition Rules: <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-competitions-rulebooks/>.

All Travel Games schedules have been rearranged to accommodate the latest additions. More information and new schedules are posted online: <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-travel-games/>.



*Matches added to the Travel Games include 800 Aggregates and 4-Man Team rifle competitions.*

### **About the CMP Travel Games:**

The Travel Games are regional competitions held throughout the year, featuring exclusive CMP rifle and pistol outdoor events. A common part of the CMP schedule for the last decade, the Games are centered around recreation-oriented competition and educational activities that are designed to accommodate experienced marksmen as well as those hoping to learn more.

Participants at the Travel Games events also get a first-hand look at CMP Targets – an electronic target system, powered by Kongsberg Technology Systems, that displays immediate shot scores on a monitor beside each competitor. The use of the targets eliminates the need for pit duty, creating faster match completions and easing the physical wear for competitors.



# Junior Jared Wilkins Wins Overall During 2017 Western Games M16 Match

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Junior competitor Jared Wilkins, 16, of Mesa, AZ, won the Small Arms Firing School M16 Match fired during the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Western Games, held Oct. 13-17 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. Besting a field of over 40 competitors, Wilkins overtook the match with a score of 388-15x to earn his first EIC points towards becoming Distinguished. Second place went to Christopher Hook, who fired three out of four clean 100-point stages (prone slow, prone rapid, sitting rapid), finishing with 384-13x.

William Ellis, 52, of Langley, England, continued an incredible year of marksmanship showings by claiming both the Three-Gun and Four-Gun Aggregate rifle competitions. Earning the second Distinguished Rifleman Badge by a non-U.S. citizen this past year, the Western Games aggregate wins were a first for Ellis, who has been traveling to the event since 2009.

Back in 2014, Ellis had fallen just short of the aggregate match titles, landing in second in both, followed by a fourth overall finish in the matches in 2016. But this year, he gave a number of consistent and noteworthy performances in the Arizona desert to guide him to success, including the top spot in the Springfield Rifle Match and earning second in the Vintage Military Match.

Additionally, as a talented competitor undoubtedly traveling the farthest to compete, Ellis will be featured in a Carbine Match TV video segment by Shooting USA ([www.shootingusa.com](http://www.shootingusa.com)), whose crew filmed portions of the CMP Western Games for an upcoming episode. The crew also shot footage of the GSMM matches, electronic targets and the Rimfire Sporter event.

Along with impressive scores in the vintage rifle matches, Ellis took his skills to the Rimfire Match to be named the overall winner of the Tactical Class. Last year's Three- and Four-Gun winner and the second place finisher of both events this year, David Geyer, 42, of Phoenix, topped the T-Class. Lyle Drenth, 64, of Cedar City, UT, outscored the field by 10 points to earn the O-Class competition win and also carried the Carbine Match.

Along with competitive events, Western Games also featured a highpower rifle Level II Range Officer class and a Garand-Springfield-Military new competitor clinic at the



*Junior Jared Wilkins was the overall winner of the SAFS M16 EIC Match.*

activity center over three days.

Competitors and guests of the 2017 Western Games experienced some incredibly hot weather in Phoenix, despite the event being held a week later than previous years. Warmer periods saw temperatures reach about eight to 10 degrees warmer than usual, dipping into the 90s each day. The afternoon of the Sniper team match day saw temps topped out at 102 as CMP staff disassembled the electronic targets.

CMP's electronic targets, 30 in total, were set up on the berm in front of the highpower rifle range pits wall. The Small Arms Firing School was successfully fired on the targets before overnight wind gusts exceeding 40 mph toppled the entire line. The winds were so strong, they even blew over the port-a-johns on the highpower range – thankfully, with no one inside.

Thanks to the CMP staff and several competitors, the majority of the targets were reset, and all matches were fired upon them for the scheduled day and the remainder of the matches.

"It put us behind about two hours, necessitating additional, smaller relays but firing was still completed earlier than if we had run the matches on pit-operated targets," said Steve Cooper, CMP North general manager.



"It is customary to have one or two achievement awards ceremonies at sundown during the matches, but all of the awards ceremonies concluded well before dark. The lack of pit changes and efficiencies in squadding definitely picks up the pace of the matches and helped get folks off the firing line and out of the desert sun sooner," he added. Randall Dwornik, 287-3x

#### About Western CMP Games:

The Western Games event, held each year in October, is the last of a series of Travel Games events put on by the CMP around the country. Also held in Oklahoma, North Carolina and New England, the Games events feature both vintage and modern rifle and pistol events – designed as a recreational competition for both adults and juniors and all experience levels. The Western Games is the only Travel event that is exclusively set to rifle matches only.

#### CMP Electronic Targets:

Programmed with software that has proven precision by Kongsberg Target Systems, CMP Targets feature LED monitors beside each competitor on the firing line that provide accurate shot accounts, with no need to change paper. The well-lit screens have been tested by an assortment of competitors for over two years for readability as well as ease of use and have been met with



*Guests were greeted by 90-degree weather each day, but still managed to keep smiles on their faces.*

overwhelming positive feedback.

With the elimination of pit duty allowed by the target system, matches are completed in a shorter amount of time to give more opportunities to fire additional relays for those who want to prolong the fun. Shorter matches also alleviate the physical daily wear on competitors, making them ideal for both older and younger participants. For more information on CMP Targets, visit <http://thecmp.org/competitions/talladega-marksmanship-park/cmp-target-systems/>.



*Participants fired on CMP electronic targets throughout the duration of the Western Games.*

# Winners Named in 2017 Western Airgun Championships in Oregon

*Submitted by Barbara Shew, Oregon CMP State Director*

The 2017 Western Airgun Championships were held Oct. 21 and 22 in Oregon City at the Clackamas Academy of Industrial Science Building. Training on Saturday was led by Olympic shooter and U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit member Sgt. First Class Jason Parker. Sunday was a 3x20 Sporter rifle and 60 shot Precision rifle match. Events were open to any school-aged junior athlete.

## **Firing the winning shots in Precision:**

Lauren Hurley, 577-31  
Kaci McCrary, 576-34  
Stephanie Gray, 569-20

## **Firing the winning shots in Sporter:**

Helen Taylor, 488-5  
Nora Bennett, 474-6  
Brenden Christian, 466-7

If you would like more information about the event, contact Larry Roland at [Lroland33@hotmail.com](mailto:Lroland33@hotmail.com) or 503-789-9109, or contact Doug Thomas at [douglas.thomas@orecity.k12.or.us](mailto:douglas.thomas@orecity.k12.or.us) or 503-785-8995.



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

**Learn more about rifle training through our Instruction Guide. Available at: <http://estore.thecmp.org/Catalog/Item/740>**



## Junior Distinguished Badge Program

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

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

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

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

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



Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1184	Howie Edison	Superior, MT
#1185	Sarah Leininger	Fort Mill, SC
#1186	Taylor Saulters	Gulfport, MS
#1187	Nikki Still	Batesville, MS
#1188	Cole Rice	Zion, IL
#1189	Michael Grove	Clinton, UT
#1190	Gabriela Sanchez-Rios	Selma, CA
#1191	Adrianna Campos	Des Moines, IA
#1192	Anthony Duran Phoumphaka	Tucson, AZ
#1193	Kyle Chandler	Albuquerque, NM
#1194	Emme Nelson	Tacoma, WA
#1195	Jaden-Ann Fraser	Church Hill, TN

Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1196	Jacob Tolbert	Jonesbough, TN
#1197	Samantha Louie	Selma, CA
#1198	Michael Yazzie	Graniteville, SC
#1199	Makenzie Sheffield	Weatherford, TX
#1200	Bailey Hoenig	Zion, IL
#1201	Katrina Demerle	Cincinnati, OH
#1202	Savanna Stalnaker	Acworth, GA
#1203	Philip Becker	Conroe, TX
#1204	Makala Williams	Mayodan, NC
#1205	Kayla Mihelich	Pueblo, CO
#1206	Mary Tucker	Sarasota, FL
#1207	Nicole Lewis	Ramona, CA



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

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

# Through the Eyes of a Father and Son: The Affinity of Marksmanship

*By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer*



*Terry Mathy (right) watched as his dad Dusty (left) fired on electronic targets for the first time at Talladega Marksmanship Park.*

TALLADEGA, Ala. – The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), an organization passionately dedicated to marksmanship safety and competition, has delivered several events all year long to both teach and provide exciting outlets for friends and families to come together and enjoy.

The CMP's last outdoor marksmanship event of the year, Talladega 600, fired Dec. 5-10 at the organization's own Talladega Marksmanship Park. Talladega is a 500-acre facility that houses rifle, pistol and shotgun opportunities, along with CMP's special electronic targets – designed specifically for the organization. The park is a place suited even for those who prefer to stay off of the firing line, with the 13,000 square feet of the CMP Club House holding a retail store, lounge chairs and large television monitors

that keep guests entertained through cable channels or with a live view of current scores on the 600-yard range below.

A mecca for firearm enthusiasts, the Talladega Marksmanship Park is an ideal setting for enhancing abilities, reiterating safety practices and creating unforgettable memories. Just ask father/son duo Dusty and Terry Mathy who used the facility both as a small getaway and as yet another way to participate in one of their favorite pastimes – shooting.

Back in June, SSG Dusty Mathy, 44, of the U.S. Army, set his eyes on Talladega's grounds for the first time. Along with an eagerness to get onto the range, Dusty also brought along all four members of his family: his wife, Rachel, son Terry (9) and daughter Olivia (8). The



Mathy family traveled all the way from their home in Kansas to the Alabama facility to attend the Talladega D-Day matches – a multi-day marksmanship event that commemorates World War II through competitive matches, with some individuals even garbed in period costume.

Since it was such a long journey and the family's first to the CMP facility, they treated the excursion like a summer vacation, staying in nearby Lincoln and even making a run to the South CMP Store in Anniston to purchase a few rifles. They also took a tour of the CMP's armory, where the company stocks all of the vintage rifles, M1 Garands, and equipment the company is famous for selling. The family even attended the large barbeque the CMP hosts as a "thank you" to its competitors and guests.

"It was outstanding," said Dusty of his family's experience. "We met some really great people at the matches. The staff there was really great, very friendly and helpful."

Dusty expressed how the group looks forward to spending time together as a family, and how the Talladega Marksmanship Park's accommodations made it all the more enjoyable for everyone, particularly the ladies in the family.

"We've spent enough extended time apart to understand how important it is to take full advantage of every opportunity to spend time together," he said. "Rachel and Olivia really appreciated the relaxing environment in the Club House and also being able to sit at the little covered bleachers during the matches."

Besides being his first trip to Talladega, Dusty also took his first shots on outdoor electronic highpower targets, which are exclusive to CMP's facility – and it's an experience he won't soon forget.

"That alone was worth the trip, for me anyway," he said. "Shooting an entire EIC match, start to finish in about 90 minutes, with no pit duty – priceless."

Mathy is a seasoned marksman who has enjoyed shooting most of his life, beginning as a young hunter at 7 years old with a classic BB gun. Over the years, he has belonged to the Hawkeye Rifle and Pistol Club near Sioux City, Iowa, and the Mill Creek Rifle Club near De Soto, Kansas.



*During the D-Day event, Dusty Mathy earned a medal for his Carbine Match performance and posed with his son, Terry (left).*

"I've enjoyed participating in various matches and leagues at both clubs to include both rifle and pistol shooting," he said. "I particularly enjoy shooting and collecting vintage military firearms."

"It seems my son has caught this bug as well," he added.

His son, Terry, helped his dad at Talladega by recording his scores – carefully keeping a watchful eye on every shot his dad sent downrange. Though thrilled to be spending time with his dad on the firing line, Terry also took the time to admire the aspects of the CMP range.

"I thought it was very fun. I marked my Dad's shots in the data book, and looking at the electronic targets saved time from looking through the spotting scope," Terry said. "It was very nice, the match was much faster, and it was easy to see how my dad was doing. And easy to mark his shots."

He went on to say, "The lobby (of the Club House) was very nice. The shop and South Store were very fun to look through. I loved the BBQ, the M1 Garands were cool, and the best thing was hanging out with my dad – watching him shoot and seeing all the cool costumes and rifles."

For Dusty and Terry, marksmanship is more than putting shots through a target – it's a way of building character and reflecting on the liberties that make life so meaningful. And, it's a way of, simply, enjoying life together.

"We enjoy spending time at the range as often as we're able. We also enjoy hunting," Dusty said as he described Terry's habit of cutting pictures of elk, deer and other animals out of magazines and gluing them to cardboard.

"He put several squirrels on the table this year with his little 410 Mossberg Bantam, and he has shown an interest in clay targets shooting."

Terry also likes to compete at a variety of matches at Mill Creek. He caught the marksmanship bug at a young age, starting, like his dad, with a BB gun at age 5, as Dusty supervised. That same year, Terry got his first bow for Christmas.

At age 6, he moved up to a .22 rifle, with Dusty holding each round for young Terry until he was ready with his gun secured in a shooting sled on the bench, repeating the phrase his dad taught him – "Bolt to the rear, safety to the rear."

"There, he learned to always put the safety back on after a shot, and also to keep his finger off the trigger until he had a proper sight picture. Both are habits he maintains to this day," Dusty said.

When Terry was 7, the two shot at their first Project Appleseed event, where they learned about American history as well as marksmanship. Now the father and son pair regularly shoots at their local 300-yard Vintage Sniper Match using Terry's .223 Savage Axis in the Open class.

Terry's skills continue to improve each time he fires, scoring his personal best in a Vintage Sniper match with 97-3x.

"In my opinion, there is no better way to teach responsibility, self-discipline, integrity and to build trust," Dusty said. "There are so many lessons in shooting sports, and in hunting, which apply to other areas of life. It's also an opportunity to build an understanding of the freedoms we enjoy, why we have those freedoms and why we must act responsibly to preserve them."

He added, "It makes me proud when others approach us at the range and compliment Terry on his safety and etiquette. There



*LTC Jerry Lewis, 48, and his son, Josh Lewis, 16, of Fayetteville, GA, both attended and competed in the Talladega D-Day event together.*

are no stronger bonds between father and son than those formed in the woods, on the water and at the range."

To view upcoming events at the CMP Talladega Marksmanship, visit <http://thecmp.org/talladega/> and click on "Calendar of Events".



*LTC Jerry Lewis, 48, and his son, Josh Lewis, 16, of Fayetteville, GA, both attended and competed in the Talladega D-Day event together.*



# Keeven Earns High Honors During Talladega 600

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

Abigail Keeven, 20, of New Haven, MO, was the High Junior and High Woman of the Modern Military Match held during the 2017 Talladega 600 Match at CMP's Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama, firing an impressive score of 287-7x and finishing second overall. The CMP Games events began on Saturday, Dec. 9, following an unexpected winter storm the night before that brought high winds and snow accumulations that haven't been seen in the area for almost 25 years.

Keeven made her second appearance at the Talladega 600 this year after debuting in 2016 with a fourth-place finish and earning the High Junior title in the Garand Match. Though she's used to sometimes firing in colder weather in Missouri, she really wasn't expecting to come to Alabama to shoot with snow on the ground.

"It's actually warmer back home than it is right now!" she said with a laugh.

Keeven, who also accumulated an aggregate score of 279-4x in this year's Garand Match and landed in eighth place overall, has been shooting the Garand for the past three years. She's been involved in marksmanship since she was 8 years old and on the National BB Gun team, eventually moving on to .22s and eventually highpower.

Though being one of the only juniors and females on the line may be intimidating to some, for Keeven, she uses each match as a learning opportunity – looking beyond who's firing beside her and focusing on her own game.

"It's definitely different, but I really enjoy it," she said. "All of the guys I shoot with, they're great, and they help me out whenever they can, and they push me to be the best that I can be."

Also returning to the Talladega 600 in 2017 was Sam Payne, 18, of Kingston, GA, who again overtook the Rimfire Sporter T-Class with a score of 587-24x. So far, no one has been able to take the title from Payne, who has now been champion of the T-Class since the existence of the Talladega 600 event.

Douglas McWhorter, 14, of Springville, AL, also fired in the T-Class and earned silver with his score of 579-19x. McWhorter claimed the fifth place spot overall in the match.



Abigail Keeven shakes hands with CMP Chairman Judy Legerski.



Sam Payne overtook the T-Class for the third year.



Right: Douglas McWhorter earned silver in the Rimfire Sporter Match.



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

## A 'Thank You' to Nebraska CMP State Directors Mike and Nancy Jochum

Dear Jochums,

We here at Garden County S.H.A.R.P.S 4-H club want to extend our appreciation to you and the CMP for the four refurbished Avanti 853's to our brand new club! We have instructors certified in shotgun, archery, rifle and soon to be pistol and hunting skills! We currently have approximately 13 to 16 kids actively involved in our program. We are striving to teach safety above all else and provide an extensive knowledge of the different aspects we offer to the kids. We are also striving to use the STEM program to further these kids' knowledge in leadership, cooperation and overall team building. Thank you so much for your time with us here.

Sincerely,

Allan Beberniss and the rest of the  
Garden County S.H.A.R.P.S club





## CMP Welcomes Our Newly-Affiliated Clubs

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

Vancouver Rifle & Pistol Club,  
Vancouver, WA

Monumental Rifle & Pistol Club,  
Boring, MD

Millvale Sportsman Club & Jr. Div.,  
Wexford, PA

Juneau CMP Rifle Club & Jr. Div.,  
Juneau, AK

Taylorville Rifle & Pistol Club & Jr. Div.,  
Pana, IL

Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club, Inc.,  
New Tripoli, PA

Polk County Gun Club, Columbus, NC

Central Jersey Rifle & Pistol Club,  
Jackson, NJ

Coeur D'Alene Rifle & Pistol Club & Jr.  
Div., Coeur d'Alene, ID

Arnold Rifle & Pistol Club, Barnhart, MO

Tulpehocken Rifle & Pistol Club, Pine Grove, PA

Osage Orange Sharpshooters, Springfield, MO

Twin Lake Gun Club, Twin Lake, MI

Emerald Empire Gun Club & Jr.  
Div., Springfield, OR

Yellowstone Rifle Club,  
Billings, MT

River Valley Sharpshooters,  
Kankakee, IL

West End Gun Club, Upland, CA

Wood County Rifle & Pistol Club  
& Jr. Div., Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Cogswell Gun Club/Rifle Assoc.  
Jr. Div., Gwinner, ND

Monroe Rifle & Pistol Club,  
Dundee, MI

Effingham County Sportsman's  
Club, Altamont, IL

North Olmsted Sportsmen's Club  
North Olmsted, OH



Winnsboro Gun Club & Jr. Div, Winnsboro, LA

Buena Vista Rifle & Pistol, Storm Lake, IA

Northland Sportsmans Club & Jr. Div., Gaylord, MI

Holmesburg Fish & Game Protection Association,  
Philadelphia, PA

Peconic River Sportsman's Club, Hauppauge, NY

Zanesville Rifle Club, Delaware, OH





# CMP NOW OFFERS LIVE TARGET VIEWING!

Stay close to the action going on at the CMP marksmanship ranges, even while you're away.

Live Target images allow a personal, real-time view of an individual's target screen as he/she competes. Now, even if you can't travel to the event to watch in person, you can keep an eye on your son's, daughter's, friend's – anyone's score!

Just visit our Live Target page at <http://thecmp.org/competitions/live-targets/> and click on a range to view its firing points. Watch one target shot-by-shot or tune in to view the excellent marksmanship skills shown across the board.



## Now Available: Electronically Scored Single Targets

### On your home range or on your turf...

We've taken the work out of long range target shooting while increasing safety. Spend your time focusing on the target instead of walking to the target! Indoor airgun target systems to!

Receive effortless feedback as shots appear in real time at your firing point on your Microsoft Windows™-based PC or laptop.

CMP Targets™ is the exclusive North American distributor of KTS targets, the same system being used on well over 250 outdoor rifle and pistol targets at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's 500 acre Talladega Marksmanship Park. We have 160 airgun targets located at our Anniston, Alabama & Camp Perry Ohio's competitions centers and 100 traveling targets.

For sales and technical information, contact:  
Bryan Parris at [bparris@TheCMP.org](mailto:bparris@TheCMP.org)  
or call 256-835-8455, Ext. 421.



Technology driven by KTS



## Parting Shots: Photos from Recent CMP Events & Competitions

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



*Dixie Double Super Final*



*Talladega 600*



*Gary Anderson Invitational*

# ON THE MARK

Corporation for the Promotion of  
Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety  
PO Box 576  
Port Clinton, OH 43452



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 43  
BERNE, IN 46711



Camp Perry Open Registration ..... 3



Gary Anderson Invitational... ..... 4

## IN THIS ISSUE

Sighting Shots .....	2
Camp Perry Open Returns in January .....	3
Gary Anderson Invitational Results .....	4
Great Competition Shooting .....	6
Dixie Double Results .....	14
Calendar of Events .....	17
New Classification System & Matches .....	18
Western CMP Games Results .....	20
Western Airgun Championship Results ....	22
Junior Distinguished Badges .....	23
Through the Eyes of a Father and Son ....	24
Talladega 600 Results .....	27
Clubs Corner .....	28
Newly Affiliated Clubs .....	29
CMP Live Target Images .....	30
Parting Shots .....	31



Dixie Double Results .....



Western CMP Games Results..... 20