

ON THE MARK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR SHOOTERS © WINTER 2018



Heading West

CMP's Mobile Air Gun Range Sets Up at JROTC Service Championship in Arizona



Featuring:

- 'Team Mom' Connie Taylor
- Texas Junior Air Rifle: Anne White
- Meet the Junior with a Prosthetic Leg

Also Inside:

- New Smallbore/Air Rifle Camp Info
- Monthly Air Gun Match Schedule
- Summer 3P Air Rifle Camps

Results On:

- JROTC Service Championships
- Camp Perry Open

ON THE MARK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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© **CMP REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.** The Civilian Marksmanship Program invites bystanders and curious guests to explore the remarkable world of air rifle competition April 5-7 in Sandy, Utah, and April 12-14, in Anniston, Ala., and Camp Perry, Ohio, as hundreds come together for the 2018 CMP 3P Regional Air Rifle Championships. The event is designed for school-aged junior athletes from 4-H, Scouts, American Legion, club or JROTC programs who use precision and sporter air rifles to fire upon state-of-the-art electronic targets at three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. Athletes firing in the Regional Championships are composed of the top scoring teams and individuals who first competed in the CMP Air Rifle Postal Championships. For more information on the competition series, please visit the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/air/national-three-position-air-rifle-championships/>.

© **Registration for Enhanced 2018 CMP National Matches Now Open.** Registration for the Civilian Marksmanship Program's 2018 National Trophy Pistol and Rifle Matches began March 1, 2018. The annual event, held at the Camp Perry National Guard Training Base since 1907, has undergone significant changes for the July 2018 season - presenting new matches never before offered by the CMP and reclaiming traditional matches missing from the Camp Perry soil in recent years. Learn more here: <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-national-matches/>.



© **CMP Adds Rifle Aggregate Events to Talladega Marksmanship Park Schedule in June.** The CMP will be hosting a Talladega High Power CMP Cup Match on Thursday, June 21, 2018, at the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama. The event will conclude Sunday, June 24, and will offer three 1,000-Point Aggregate matches, a 2-Person Team match and an

EIC Rifle event. To register, visit the CMP Competition Tracker page at <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=matchRegistrationListUpcoming> or contact the Talladega Marksmanship Park at 256-474-4408 ext. 460 or 461 or cmptalladega@thecmp.org.

© **Read about Cowboy Action Pistol on The First Shot.** The Wartrace Regulators hosted the 2017 Tennessee State Championship, the Regulators Reckoning, at their range outside Wartrace, Tenn., Oct. 12-14. Learn more about the event and see the fascinating Cowboy and Cowgirl photos on the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/2017-tennessee-state-cowboy-action-shooting-match/>.



© **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.



On the Cover: Competitors fired upon CMP's Mobile Air Gun Range while competing at the JROTC Regional event in Chandler, AZ. The portable air range can expand the CMP's outreach to shooters around the country, showcasing 80 electronic target firing points, similar to what is in place at the Camp Perry and Anniston locations. For more information on the CMP Mobile Range, contact Chance Cover at ccover@thecmp.org.

CMP Unveils New National Matches Junior Smallbore/Air Rifle Camp for July

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

CAMP PERRY, Ohio – The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has revamped the Junior Smallbore and Air Rifle Camp traditionally held during the National Matches at Camp Perry, offering an evolved set of intermediate and advanced skills training to junior marksmanship athletes.

Now overseen entirely by the CMP, the six-day CMP National Matches Junior Camp, Smallbore & Air Rifle, is open to three-position smallbore and standing/international precision air rifle juniors between the ages of 12 and 20. Athletes must be currently involved in competitive smallbore and air rifle settings in order to participate.

A trained staff of 17 certified coaches, eight safety officers and four support staff will be on hand during the camp to ensure safety and provide guidance to junior competitors as they are reinforced with the fundamentals and positioning standards of each discipline. A 50- and 100-yard prone “Dewar Match” will be held on the electronic targets of Petrarca Range, along with a 60 Shot International Air Rifle match in the electronic air range found within the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center, located next to Petrarca on Camp Perry’s grounds.

Campers will need to provide his or her own three-position smallbore target rifle, equipment and ammunition. Sporter air rifles are available for use during the air range portion of the camp.

Early registration will be available through the CMP website (<http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-national-matches/cmpnmjrcamp/>) the first week of March 2018, with a total cost of \$250. Registrations made after May 1, 2018, will be \$275.

For questions, contact head coach Russ Evans by phone at 330-534-5344 or by email at nmcampheadcoach@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

About the Gary Anderson Competition Center:

The Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center is a marksmanship sporting facility that includes an open reception and common area, fully equipped classrooms, cylinder filling room and CMP retail store. Large projection screens and flat-screen television sets throughout the building, as well as authentic Olympic memorabilia and other remarkable items from the career of decorated American marksman, Gary Anderson, can also be found within the building. An 80-point airgun range is attached to the main area and includes KTS electronic targets, available for purchase from the CMP.



About CMP Targets at Petrarca Range:

Petrarca Range is located at Camp Perry, next to the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center. The range contains CMP Targets, powered by KTS, which work through the power of acoustics – “hearing” the shot and accurately determining its location. The CMP is proud to share these targets that are certain to be known as the way of the future.

Ploechinger Sets New Standing Record at JROTC Air Rifle Regionals

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

Isabelle Ploechinger, 15, fired a new precision Army JROTC 20 Shots Standing National Record score of 198-14x while competing at Camp Perry for the JROTC Air Rifle Service Championships – a regional event.

Ploechinger is a student at Stuttgart High School, located on an Army base in Germany. The Camp Perry event was her first trip to JROTC Regionals, after having only competed in CMP postal competitions in 2016 and 2017. Her outstanding performance there placed her within the Top 20 overall precision competitors, securing her a place at the National event in March. Ploechinger also earned her first eight points towards the 30 needed to receive a Junior Distinguished badge.

The JROTC Air Rifle Service Championships were held in three locations: Phoenix, AZ; Anniston, AL; and Camp Perry, Ohio, over the weekends of Feb. 8-10 and Feb. 16-18. Rifle athletes in JROTC programs reached the Regional events after competing in the Postal match in the fall.

The final step in the JROTC Championship competition series is the National Championship, scheduled to be held at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Ohio, March 22-24.

Like the Postal and Regional events, the National match is a 3x20 air rifle competition, where competitors fire 20 record shots from three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. A total of 28 teams and 32 individuals qualified for the National sporter competition, while 17 teams and 17 individuals qualified for the precision event.



Isabelle Ploechinger set a new precision Army JROTC 20 Shots Standing National Record while firing in the JROTC Regional event.

Visitors are welcome into the range to observe the National Championships at any time during the match, with free admission. For more information on the JROTC Championships, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/jrotc-air-rifle-national-championship/>.

The following is a list of the overall Top 3 Individual and Team competitors of the JROTC Regional Championships. For a complete list of results, visit <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&match=16229&tab=results>.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

Navy JROTC:

Sporter:

Emma Thompson, Freeport High School, IL – 1214.2
Jesseca Montcrieff, Oviedo High School, FL – 1192.9
Dominick Cordova, Santa Fe High School, NM – 1191.9

Precision:

Athena Baty, Robert Service High School, AK – 1263.7
Holly Day, New Albany High School, IN – 1260
Mark Cooper, New Albany High School, IN – 1254.5



Ploechinger gave her record-setting performance while at Camp Perry in Ohio – one of three competition locations.



In addition to Camp Perry, the JROTC Service Championships were also held in Arizona (left) and Alabama (right).

Air Force JROTC:

Sporter:

Nicholas Rudd, South Panola High School, MS – 1177.2
Jaxon Cavallier, Cheyenne East High School, WY – 1163.4
Carolyn Bienvenue, The Woodlands High School, TX – 1161

Precision:

Ashley Stacy, Monroe Area High School, GA – 1266.2
Rayven Fincher, Monroe Area High School, GA – 1261.6
Michael Stoddard, South Anchorage High School, AK – 1249.8

Army JROTC:

Sporter:

Robert Knick, Chatham High School, VA – 1200.4
Kylie Henninger, Canon City High School, CO – 1189.8
Jenna Maglaughlin, West Creek High School, TN – 1189.7

Precision:

Taylor Gibson, North Salem High School, OR – 1287
Kaila Jones, Fountain Fort Carson High School, CO – 1278.8
Kinga Aletto, Sarasota Military Academy, FL – 1274

Marine Corps JROTC:

Sporter:

Simon Krauthamer, Adrey Kell High School, NC – 1199.3
Elijah Kalinski, Cibola High School, NM – 1188.9

Joseph La Vigne, Eldorado High School, NM – 1188.8

Precision:

Kaylene Castillo, Eldorado High School, NM – 1283
Kelcy McGrath, Granbury High School, TX – 1277
Brielle Smith, Eldorado High School, NM – 1276.7

TEAM RESULTS:

Navy JROTC:

Sporter:

Santa Fe High School, NM B – 4356-152x
Freeport High School, IL – 4340-121x
Santa Fe High School, NM A – 4333-137x

Precision:

New Albany High School, IN – 771-47x
John Marshall High School, TX – 769-38x
Joshua High School, TX – 763-31x

Air Force JROTC:

Sporter:

South Panola High School, MS – 4246-113x
Clover High School, SC – 4177-105x
McMichael High School, NC – 4135-90x

Precision:

Monroe Area High School, GA – 4545-234x

South Anchorage High School, AK – 4540-211x
Cherokee High School, GA – 4464-178x

Army JROTC:

Sporter:

Pueblo County High School, CO – 4285-121x
Lebanon High School, OR – 4259-102x
Boca Ciega High School, FL – 4255-102x

Precision:

Stuttgart High School, AE – 4626-259x
Fountain Fort Carson High School, CO – 4608-256x
Sarasota Military Academy, FL – 4592-226x

Marine Corps JROTC:

Sporter:

Nation Ford High School, SC – 4339-137x
Des Moines North High School, IA – 4314-118x
Cibola High School, NM – 4302-121x

Precision:

Granbury High School, TX – 4673-286x
Eldorado High School, NM – 4672-300x
Rio Rancho High School, NM – 4640-256x

Developing Great Shot Technique

Developing Great Shot Technique, Part I

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus



Athletes in a Junior World Cup Air Rifle Final. Rifle finals today have short time limits that make it necessary for athletes to use shot techniques that emphasize position stabilization before the shot so consistent good shots can be fired on first holds.

One of the biggest challenges in rifle marksmanship is mastering the complex, dynamic combination of functions involved in firing accurate shots. They include stabilizing the firing position, accurate aiming, breath control, trigger control, calling the shot and follow-through. A short name for all of this is “shot technique.”

This two-part **OTM** article examines the five phases of shot technique. Part I of this article analyses the first two phases, **Position Preparation** and **Position Alignment**. Part II, which will appear in the Spring 2018 **OTM**, considers the **Shot Start**, **Shot Execution** and **Shot Follow-Up** phases.

The first step in examining shot technique is to understand how the functions and phases of shot technique fit together. The chart, “Five Phases of Rifle Shot Technique,” shows how shot technique functions flow in a sequence of five performance phases.

I - POSITION PREPARATION

The first phase of shot technique, **Position Preparation**, is a lot more than just holding the rifle still in a firing position. Position Preparation is performing techniques that improve hold stability.

Hold. When an athlete shoulders the rifle to fire a shot, he/she is beginning a process where the accuracy of the shot is primarily determined by how stable the firing position is, whether it be kneeling, prone or standing. “Hold” is a term that describes how stable a firing position is. An athlete’s hold is the magnitude of his/her front sight movements in relation to the aiming bull. One way to understand hold is to visualize a laser beam representing the rifle’s point of impact and how that laser beam oscillates through an area of movement while the athlete is aiming at the target. A new athlete shooting standing on the BMC target will have relatively large hold that covers most of the scoring rings

continued...

even on that larger target. After one or two years of training, that same athlete can have a standing hold that is within the eight or nine rings on the much smaller competition target. An athlete's hold in any position is primarily reduced by training, but also by using techniques that aid in stabilizing the hold.

Aiming Eye. The first step for beginners in learning how to shoot is to determine whether to shoot right or left-handed. This decision is not as simple as saying "I'm right-handed so I will shoot right-handed." The critical factor is whether a person is right-eye or left-eye dominant. New shooters should do a dominant eye check to find out which eye is their master eye.

After identifying the dominant eye, there is a decision sequence to go through to decide which eye should be the "aiming eye" and whether to shoot right or left handed:

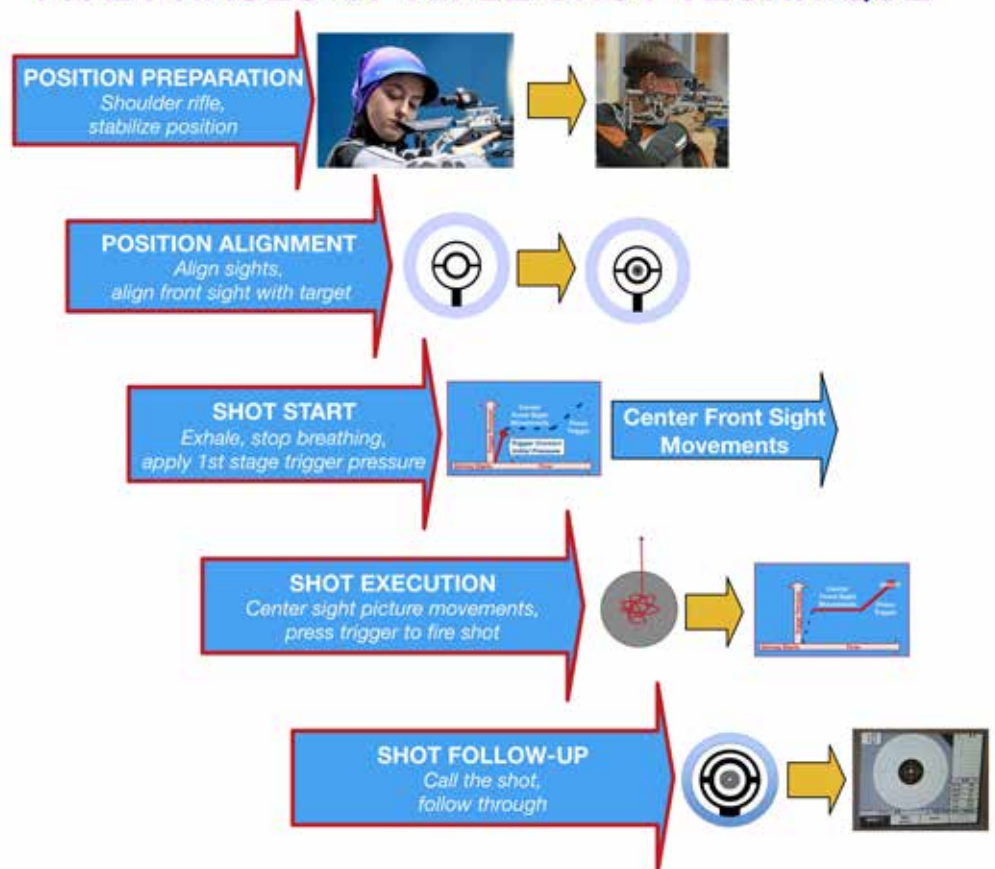
a) If the athlete is right-eye dominant and is normally right-handed, he/she should shoot right-handed with a right aiming eye.

b) If the athlete is left-eye dominant and is comfortable shooting left-handed, he/she should shoot left-handed with a left aiming eye.

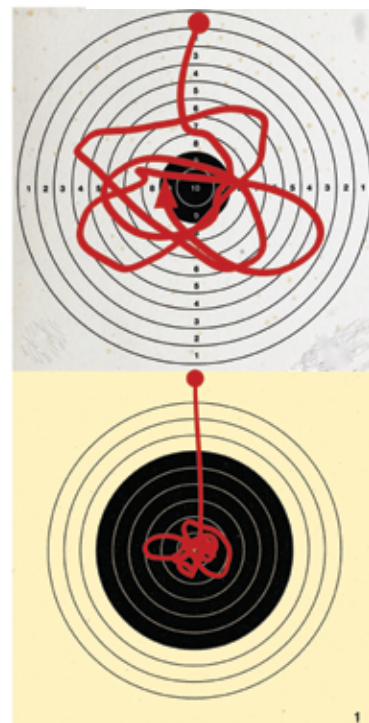
c) If the athlete is left-eye dominant, but wants to shoot right-handed with a right aiming eye (or vice versa), he/she is cross-dominant and must find some way to block the vision of the dominant eye (non-aiming eye) while aiming. Aiming must be done with both eyes open so closing or squinting the non-aiming eye is not an acceptable solution. Placing a blinder on the rear sight is the best solution. Sticking an inch-wide strip of cardboard in the hat band to serve as a "blinder" for the non-aiming eye is also an acceptable solution.

Head Position and Aiming. Every good firing position must have a good head position. To achieve this, athletes must place butt-plates high enough in the shoulder to keep the head "reasonably erect." The head may be tipped slightly forward, but not to the side and never so far forward that the shooter's aiming eye must strain to see the sights. In prone and kneeling, locating the butt-plate close to the neck helps to avoid tipping the head to the side to see

FIVE PHASES OF RIFLE SHOT TECHNIQUE



Athletes' Hold Examples



A new athlete's standing position hold on the BMC target will have a large arc of movement.

After one or two years of training that same athlete will have a standing hold like this on the competition target.

Developing Great Shot Technique



To do a dominant eye check, use something with a hole in it or form a circle with the thumb and index finger. Hold this opening over a distant object and bring it back to the eyes. It will come back to the dominant eye.

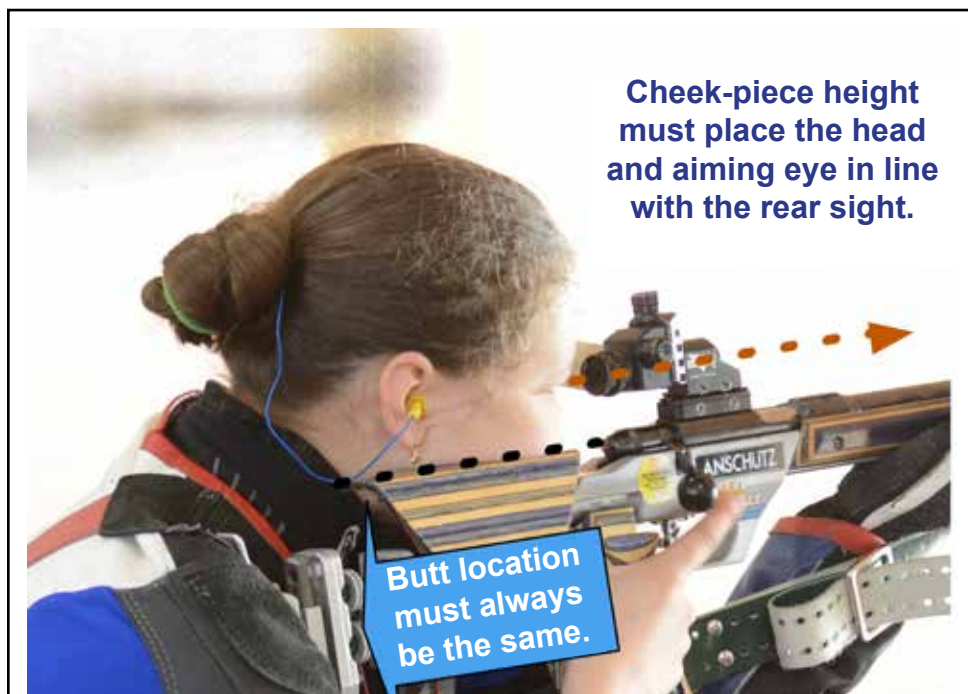
the sights. In standing, the butt-plate is located out on the shoulder joint, but the rifle is held across the body so the head remains erect as the aiming eye looks through

must work out ideal head positions and rifle locations (rifle height in relation to the body). Then they must adjust butt-plates and cheek-pieces to fit their rifles to their positions.

Canting the Rifle. Canting is turning the rifle to the side, away from vertical. Athletes should start by trying to keep the rifle vertical in each position, but some athletes will find that they can get a better head position and balance and more stable holds if they cant the rifle. There is nothing wrong with canting the rifle if this produces a better position and if the cant is the same for every shot.

Why Position Preparation Is So Important.

One of the most significant shooting technique changes in recent decades has been the shift from making multiple attempts to get good shots to preparing the firing position so meticulously for each shot that almost all shots are fired on the first hold. Previously, shooters shouldered their rifles and began aiming after taking only a few seconds to settle their positions. If the hold was not satisfactory, they stopped that attempt, took a couple of breaths and tried again. Many competitors averaged more than two



The location of the butt-plate in the shooter's shoulder and cheek-piece height determine head position. A good head position aligns the aiming eye with the rear sight aperture so aiming is comfortable and unstrained.

continued...

The most important functions that contribute to position stability are:

- CONSISTENCY
- RELAXATION
- BALANCE

attempts per shot, especially in standing. In today's new technique, athletes use 10 to 25 seconds to carefully prepare their firing positions and ensure that their first holds are consistently excellent. This new emphasis on position stabilization not only produces higher scores, but it is necessary because today's finals rules have shorter time limits that do not allow enough time to make repeated attempts to fire good shots.

External Positions. Most firing position instruction focuses on external positions and how to configure the body and rifle in those positions. Good firing positions contribute to rifle stability, but that is a separate topic of instruction. There is, however, one aspect of external positions, consistency, that is part of **Position Preparation**. Two critical keys to position consistency are precise **butt-plate location** in the shoulder and exact **support elbow location**.

In standing, athletes should visually check the precise location of the butt-plate when shouldering the rifle before each shot. They should also pay special attention to placing the support elbow in the same location under the rifle before each shot. Athletes are often unaware of how much these locations change during a series of shots if they are not controlled. Position consistency will improve position stability, but pre-shot checking is necessary.

Inner Positions. The athlete's inner position considers bone and sling support, muscles and balance. All three impact position stability and the athlete's preparation for each shot must pay attention to them. Today's most successful athletes have pre-shot routines in which they make conscious steps to check inner position feeling, relax selected muscles and precisely balance the position.



With sporter class rifles, it is especially important to locate the butt-plate high enough in the shoulder to keep the head reasonably erect and facilitate comfortable aiming.



Many of the world's best rifle shooters visually check precise butt-plate location while shouldering the rifle before each shot. The athlete is 16 year-old Sadeghian Armina, Iran, who set an air rifle Junior World Record in a 2017 World Cup.

Developing Great Shot Technique



This athlete is completing a pre-shot check before starting to aim. These checks control preparation of the inner position, muscle relaxation and balance. The athlete is USA National Team member Sarah Beard.

a) Bone and Sling Support. Good rifle positions are built on a structure of bone and sling support. Athletes must develop an inner feeling for their positions that senses

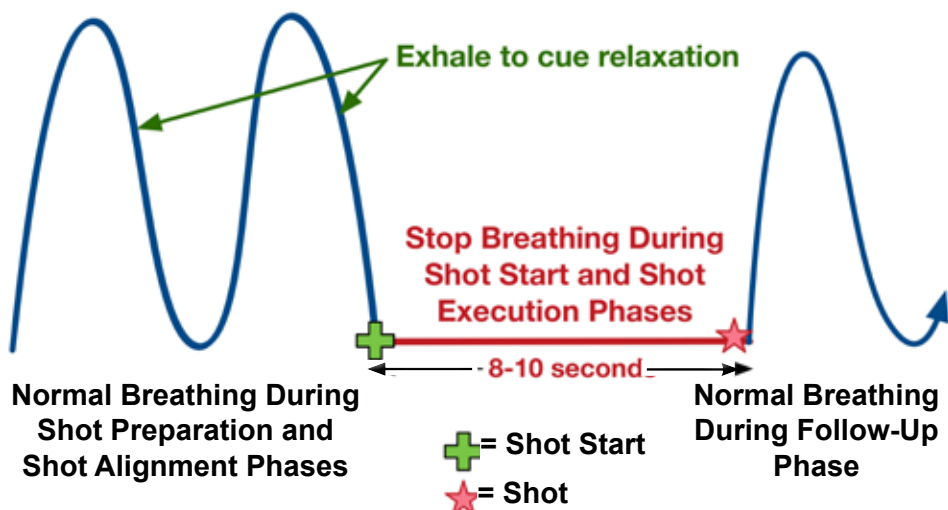
whether this support structure is working. A key aspect of controlling the inner position is making sure the pressures on the rifle are the same for every shot. The position must apply uniform pressures on the butt-plate and cheek-piece and constant tension on the sling so that the rifle recoils and reacts the same after every shot.

b) Breath Control. The Breath Control Diagram shows how the athlete must breathe normally during the **Position Preparation** and **Alignment** phases of shot technique, stop breathing for the **Shot Start** and **Shot Execution** phases and then breath normally again during the **Follow-Up** phase. The breath control cycle not only provides oxygen to support body functions, but it is a means of stimulating relaxation during position preparation.

c) Muscle Relaxation. In order for bone and sling support to work effectively, most muscles must be relaxed as much as possible. Muscles in the support arm and shoulder, in particular, must be completely relaxed in every position. There are some muscles like the leg muscles in standing that need to use light to moderate tension to maintain body balance and reduce body movements. Advanced shooters make their positions more stable during **Position Preparation** by using exhaling as a cue to relax selected parts of the body. Each time they exhale in prone and kneeling, they tell the muscles in the sling arm to "let go" and relax into the sling. In standing, they tell the muscles in the support arm and shoulder to "let go" and relax down so that the rifle rests on bone support and is not held up by muscle support.

d) Balance Checks. The precise balance of the body-rifle system over its support points in standing and kneeling also contributes to position stability. Top rifle athletes take three or four seconds before starting to aim to check their balance. The athlete consciously tries to sense whether the body-rifle system is balanced over the centers of the feet and whether the weight distribution between the two feet is correct. Balance checks in standing must control both forward-rearward and left-right balance. Balance checks in kneeling must control the balance of the body-rifle system over the left and right heels as well as the weight distribution between the right foot on the kneeling roll and left foot. Athletes must work out ideal balance distributions for the kneeling and standing positions.

BREATH CONTROL DIAGRAM



II - POSITION ALIGNMENT

The second phase of shot technique, **Position Alignment**, involves using the shooter's vision, the rifle's sights and aiming functions to precisely align the position and rifle with the target.

Vision and Visual Correction. During aiming, the aiming eye sees sight picture images that the brain interprets to send nerve impulses to the muscles so they can align the rifle with the target. Rifle athletes' eyewear must fulfill one primary function, that is to ensure that the sight picture images the eye sees are as clear as possible. Every athlete who needs to wear prescription eyeglasses or contacts should definitely use them while shooting.

The rules require sporter air rifle athletes to wear regular eyeglasses or contacts if they need visual correction; special shooting glasses are not permitted for them. Athletes in precision air and smallbore rifle events may use special shooting glasses designed to place the aiming eye lens directly in front of and perpendicular to the line of sight or they can attach a corrective lens to the rear sight.

Rear Sight Aperture. Rear sight apertures used in air and smallbore rifle shooting, as well as the fixed rear sight apertures on sporter class air rifles, are generally small enough to provide sufficient depth of focus to see both the front sight aperture and the bulls-eye in sharp focus. Ideal rear aperture diameters to achieve sharpest focus are 1.1 mm to 1.4 mm. Adjustable apertures that can be used with precision air and smallbore rifle rear sights allow fine tuning to achieve the clearest sight picture. Adjustable rear apertures also allow athletes to change aperture sizes when firing on ranges with exceptionally bright or dark lighting. Some athletes also use colored filters in their rear sights; a bright color like yellow may enhance sight picture contrast on dark days.

Blinders. A side blinder (max. 30 mm x 100 mm) may be attached to the rear sight or a front blinder (max. 30 mm wide) may be placed in a head band, cap or visor. While blinders are usually a necessity for cross-dominant athletes, many athletes feel that partially blocking the vision of the non-aiming eye facilitates better concentration by the aiming eye. A key is to use a blinder that is no wider than necessary (1-2 cm width is recommended). This allows the non-aiming eye to be more aware of the position's periphery to aid in maintaining balance. A cap or visor is a type of blinder that many athletes find useful, especially to block bright overhead lighting that is now required to illuminate firing lines. The rules do not permit side blinders in rifle shooting so a visor or cap cannot be pulled down to the side to serve as a side blinder. Also, a visor or cap may not touch the rear sight.

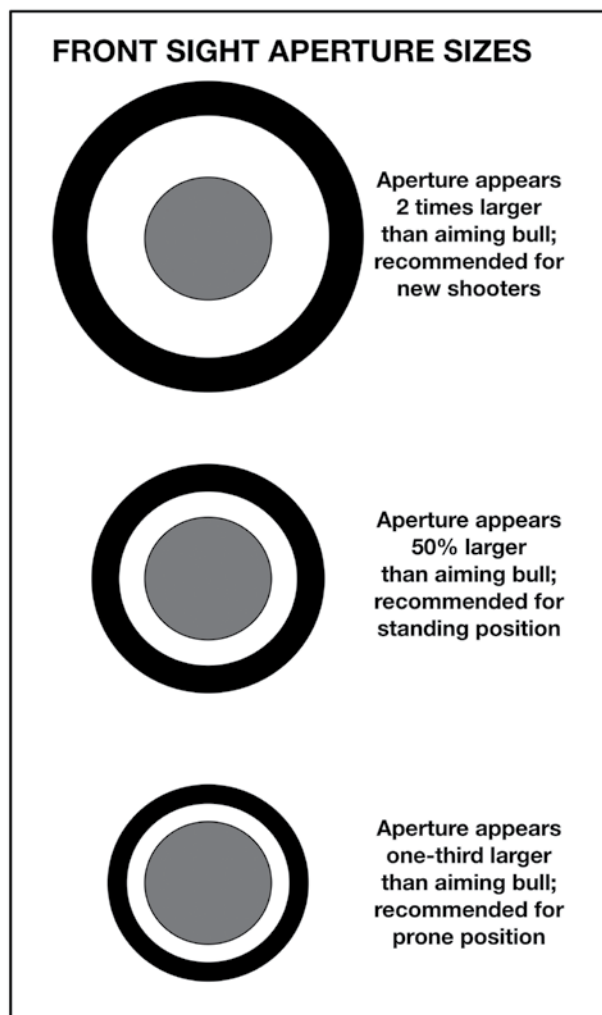


Athletes who compete with precision air or smallbore rifles can use special shooting glasses that place the prescription lens squarely in front of the aiming eye.



Note the blinders on these two rifles that were used by the air rifle mixed team that won the gold medal in the 2017 Junior World Championship.

Developing Great Shot Technique



Eye Relief. This is the distance from the aiming eye to the rear sight aperture. When determining head position for any firing position, it is correct to place the head down onto the cheek-piece and avoid extending the head forward to get the eye closer to the rear sight. Rear sights used on all target rifles can be moved forward or rearward to adjust eye relief to the correct distance. The eye should be 4 to 7 cm away from the rear aperture. The rear sight may need to be moved during position changes to maintain correct eye relief.

RULES FOR SELECTING FRONT SIGHT RING SIZES:

- The bigger the hold, the bigger the ring.
 - Beginners need bigger rings than advanced athletes.
- Standing requires a bigger ring than kneeling or prone.
- Brighter light requires smaller rings; dark lighting requires larger rings.

Front Sight. Front sights on air and smallbore rifles have a protective tube and a means of changing front apertures. Key questions to be decided in selecting front sights are the size of the front aperture and the type of aperture to be used.

a) Front aperture size. The best aperture or ring size depends upon the firing position and how experienced the athlete is (see the illustration for guidelines). As a general rule, when looking through the sights, the white area between the aiming bull and inside of the front aperture should, for experienced athletes, appear to be about one-third to 50 percent larger than the size of the aiming bull. New athletes, however, should start with a much larger front sight aperture. For them the front sight ring should appear to be twice the size of the aiming bull (see diagram).

b) Front aperture type. The most common front sight apertures are plain black rings of varying thicknesses. Many rings have crossbars that can be used to control cant. Some athletes use colored glass inserts that they feel help them concentrate on precise alignment.

Sight Alignment. Sight alignment is not the most important aspect of aiming for rifle shooters, sight picture is. Nevertheless, it is still important. Sight alignment is simply seeing the front sight in the center of the rear aperture. If the athlete has a good head position that aligns the aiming eye with the rear aperture, the relatively small apertures used in air and smallbore rifle shooting ensure that the eye will automatically center the front sight in the rear aperture without further conscious effort. Conversely, when the athlete must struggle to maintain sight alignment, this is a sign that the head position is strained. If this is happening, it may be necessary to adjust the cheek-piece or butt-plate or even modify a position to correct this.

Sight Picture. The most important aspect of aiming for rifle athletes is sight picture, what the athlete sees after bringing the aligned sights onto the aiming bull. Concentration and visual focus must be on seeing the aiming bull precisely centered in the front sight ring. For new shooters, this means centering the front sight movements over the aiming bull. For advanced athletes, this means precisely centering the aiming bull in the ring. Visual focus means not only seeing the sight picture clearly and with intensity, but striving to make the centered front sight movements smaller and slower.

Natural Point of Aim Alignment (NPA). NPA alignment is a critical performance factor in prone and kneeling that must be checked and when necessary adjusted before every shot. NPA alignment is even more critical in indoor shooting where 10-bull targets are used and it is necessary to slightly shift the body before every

continued...



Basic Sight Alignment. The first step in aiming is to align the rear and front sights. If eye relief is correct, aligned sights will look like this.



Basic Sight Picture. The most important step in aiming is to precisely center the aiming bull in the front aperture. The sight picture is a series of concentric circles, but the most intense concentration must be on the center of the sight picture.



Off-Center NPA. When, after exhaling, relaxing and letting the front sight rest on the position's NPA, the front sight wants to settle in an off-centered location like this, this position would have to be nudged toward 8 o'clock so the front sight will rest centered on the aiming bull.

shot to move from one bull to the next. In theory, every firing position has an alignment point where the position points most naturally when it is relaxed, unstrained and balanced. New shooters' positions will not have NPAs until they have done enough firing in the new positions to feel comfortable in them. After a few hundred repetitions when their bodies learn to relax and utilize bone and sling support, those new positions will develop NPAs.

Athletes should learn to check NPAs with their eyes open. With practice, they will develop a 'feel' for where the front sight wants to settle when they exhale and relax. When the front sight wants to settle off of the aiming bull, big NPA adjustments must be made by shifting the whole body over a pivot point (support elbow in prone, kneeling roll in kneeling) to shift left or right. Up-down adjustments can be made in prone by pushing the body forward (down) or back (up). Up-down adjustments in kneeling and standing require small support hand shifts forward or to the rear. When the front sight wants to settle slightly off-center (see illustration), the position can be nudged to make the subtle shifts necessary to precisely center the NPA. NPA adjustments for the standing position are usually not warranted except when firing on 10-bull targets where the feet must be shifted to make left-right changes and the support hand must be shifted forward-rearward to make up-down shifts.

"Developing Great Shot Technique, Part II" will go on to cover the **Shot Start**, **Shot Execution** and **Shot Follow-Up** phases of shot technique.

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.



Largest Crowd to Date Braves Stormy Weather at 2018 Camp Perry Open

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer



Left: Max Martinez was the overall winner in the sporter 3x20 event. Right: Antonio Gross overtook both the precision 3x20 and Junior 60 Shot events throughout the weekend.

CAMP PERRY, Ohio – On the weekend of January 11, Northwest Ohio was battered by a strong winter storm that brought with it slick ice, drifting snow and wind gusts up near 30 mph. It was the perfect weekend for a little marksmanship competition – that is, for the airgun athletes who traveled to Port Clinton, Ohio, for the 2018 Camp Perry Open. The participants fired in the 80-point electronic indoor air range located within the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center.

The Camp Perry Open is an air gun competition that combines both junior and adult competitors in shoulder-to-shoulder competition. A 3x20 junior match, featuring a qualification round and an elimination final, as well as an open 60 Shot air rifle and air pistol event for both adults and juniors make up the weekend schedule, along with the Open's famous Super Final.

This year, the event saw more participants than ever, requiring the addition of a fourth relay for the first time in the match's history.

While the wind howled, the snow swirled and the ice shelves from nearby Lake Erie brushed up over the

shoreline outside of the facility, the one-day 3x20 junior competition kicked off the Camp Perry Open festivities. Due to the bad weather that persisted outdoors, making the roadways increasingly hazardous for travelers in the area, the 3x20 Finals matches were cancelled. The Top 3 precision and sporter competitors and teams were chosen from qualifying entries from the day's scores.

Antonio Gross, 18, of Webster from New York, fired a score of 591-44x to overtake the precision match. Last year, Gross finished the junior event in third place, managing this year to squeak by Amelia Dell, 17, of Riverside Shooting Club

from Michigan, by only x-count to earn his win. Dell finished with an overall score of 591-38x. Annabelle Stanec, 17, of Ashland Eagles in Ohio, landed in third with 589-33x.

In sporter, Max Martinez, 16, of Pickaway Diabolos from Ohio, bested the field with a score of 555-21x to beat out Freeport NJROTC teammates from Illinois, Linsey Kleckner, 16, and Makiah Stacy, 18. Kleckner fired an aggregate score of 551-18x, while Stacy stayed close with a score of 544-15x.

The Top 3 teams in each discipline were also awarded. This year's winning teams were:

Precision:

Ashland Eagles, Ohio

Riverside Shooting Club, Michigan

Taunton Marksmanship Unit Gold, Massachusetts

Sporter:

Freeport NJROTC 1, Illinois

Zion Benton NJROTC 1, Illinois

Zion Benton NJROTC 2, Illinois

The Super Finals, which has made the Camp Perry Open unlike any other air event throughout the year and arguably the most widely attended by fans, features costumes, music, cheering fans and other distractions – all echoing simultaneously throughout the range as the competitors fire their shots. This year, the Top 40 air rifle and pistol overall competitors, respectively, took the firing line in the event, with the winners walking away with a custom Camp Perry Open cowbell to keep as a memento.

Winning this year's Super Final was CPT Matt Rawlings, 33, of Fairbanks, AK, in rifle and Kathryn Roberston, 24, of Lynden, ON, in pistol. Roberston sported a large, red maple leaf hat during the match to throw homage to her home country of Canada as she battled for the win.

Overtaking the Super Final was a personal victory for CPT Rawlings, who took a break from the sport but was recently given the option to return to competing. He jumped at the opportunity and has been shooting in events as often as possible since August 2017 – even purchasing a new rifle and giving up on one he had been using since 1998.

"I didn't know I was going to be able to do it (compete) again, quite honestly, but it's been going alright," he said, with a smile. "I'm glad I was given the opportunity to get back into it – you don't see that very often."

"Just have to see where the road takes me," he added.

Sarah Beard, 26, of the U.S. National Shooting team, landed in second in the rifle Super Final match, while Manny Snyderman, 56, of Milford, MA, was the runner-up in the pistol competition.

Topped with a Canadian crown, Kathryn Roberston gained the title of pistol Super Final champion.



Left: The Ohio State University pistol athlete Anthony McCollum topped the 60 Shot pistol open event. Right: Stuart Burns was the king of the podium during the Junior 60 Shot pistol event – earning first overall.

"The Super Final is fun," said Beard. "I go into it thinking I'm going to try out something – like this one I worked on aggressive trigger control. And I made it every round, which was pretty cool."

On the opening day of the 60 Shot event, Beard fired a new range record score of 627.3. She went on to earn second place overall in the 60 Shot event.





CPT Matt Rawlings earned his cowbell as the winner of the rifle Super Final.

Though she's accustomed to firing in 40 Shot matches, Beard admitted this was her first time competing in a 60 Shot event, and, with her busy schedule, she was happy she had the time to come to Camp Perry to try it out.

"The timing of this event seems to work – being in January, there isn't too much else going on," she said. "And it's a great range to shoot at. A lot of people don't get to shoot on electronic targets that much."

Leading up to the Camp Perry Open event, while she was home visiting family for the holidays, she only dry-fired for practice, which she believes helped sustain her trigger control. She also took a week to practice in Colorado Springs at the Olympic Training Center, where she served as a resident athlete for years.

In the coming months, Beard said she'll be taking a break from shooting as she begins to pursue a career in the Army, going in as an officer in the World Class Athlete Program (WCAP). Though she may have to set the rifle down for a bit, with her performance at Camp Perry, she's looking forward to what's to come in 2018.

"This was a good way to kick off the year," she said.

Overtaking the 60 Shot rifle competition over Beard after the last shot in an exciting final was Dempster Christenson, 27, of the USA Shooting team. Junior Karly Potts, 19, of the Morehead State rifle team, earned the third place spot in the event.

Anthony McCollum, 20, of The Ohio State University pistol team, earned the first place spot in the pistol competition after narrowly beating out SFC James Henderson, 50, of Columbus, OH.

Henderson is an alumnus of the U.S. Army

Marksmanship Unit team, having won the President's Pistol Match at this year's National Matches with the team and currently holding multiple National Records. After retiring in 2017, the Camp Perry Open served as his first CMP match as a civilian.

Landing in third in the pistol 60 Shot Match was Brett Tucker, 21, of Akron University.

A junior 60 Shot event and team events were also held concurrently with the Open event. Top winners of the junior competition and the team matchup included:

Pistol Individual Juniors:

Stuart Burns, 18, of Kilbride, ON

Samuel Gens, 18, of The Ohio State University pistol team

John Marrinan, 18, of The Ohio State University pistol team

Pistol Overall Team Rankings:

THE Ohio State – Anthony McCollum, Michael Soklaski, Zachary Dahmen

Scarlet & Gray, The Ohio State University
female members – Irina Andrianova, Kara Moody, Emily Rust

2 Feds 1 Canuck – Samuel Gens, Stuart Burns, John Marrinan

Rifle Individual Juniors:

Antonio Gross, 18, of Ontario, NY

Kyle Kutz, 16, of Darien, CT

Marcus Mojica, 18, of Woonsocket, RI

Rifle Junior Team Rankings:

DuBois Jr Rifle Team – Abigail Zeitler, Rachel Sprague, Keith Fatula

Chicks of CIPS – Martina Gratz, Jaden Thompson, Josette Peters

MDJRC – Sarah Lough, Aaron Flowers, Lauren Cox

Rifle Overall Team Rankings:

Loyalty – Dempster Christenson, Sarah Beard, Savannah Demetrius

Three Shades of Gray – CPT Matthew Rawlings, SPL Patrick Sunderman, Brandon Muske

Blue Ladies – Sonya May, Ruby Gomes, Elizabeth Harty

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 website (if available). The CMP will do its best to accommodate each request to be included in the Calendar of Events.

April 2018

21 April
Monthly Air Gun Matches
Camp Perry, OH
Anniston, AL

May 2018

19 May
Monthly Air Gun Matches
Camp Perry, OH
Anniston, AL

June 2018

21-23 Jun
CMP Nationals Sporter
Camp Perry, OH

24-26 Jun
CMP Nationals Precision
Camp Perry, OH

July 2018

7 Jul
CMP Volunteers Arrive
Camp Perry, OH

9 Jul
1st Shot Ceremony
Camp Perry, OH

13 Jul
CMP-USAMU SAFS
Registration
Camp Perry, OH

14 Jul
CMP-USAMU SAFS
CMP M9/EIC Match
CMP EIC Pistol Match
CMP .22 Rimfire Pistol EIC
Glock (GSSL) Match
Camp Perry, OH

15 Jul
CMP President's 100
CMP NTI
CMP NTT
CMP Shooter Reception
CMP National Pistol Award
Ceremony
Camp Perry, OH



17 Jul
Smallbore SAFS Registration
Smallbore SAFS Classroom
CMP Jr. Rifle Camp
CMP Range Officer Course
Camp Perry, OH

18 Jul
Smallbore SAFS
CMP Smallbore PM
CMP Jr. Rifle Camp
Camp Perry, OH

19 Jul
CMP Smallbore
CMP Jr. Rifle Camp
Camp Perry, OH

20 Jul
CMP Smallbore
CMP Jr. Rifle Camp
Camp Perry, OH

21 Jul
CMP Smallbore
CMP Rimfire Clinic
CMP Jr. Rifle Camp
Camp Perry, OH

22 Jul
CMP Smallbore
CMP Smallbore Awards
CMP Rimfire Sporter Match
CMP Rimfire Sporter Awards
CMP Jr. Rifle Camp
CMP Volunteers Arrive
Camp Perry, OH

23 Jul
CMP 4-Man Team Match
CMP Range Officer Course
Camp Perry, OH

24 Jul
CMP Cup Match 1000 Aggregate
Camp Perry, OH

25 Jul
CMP Cup Match 1000 Aggregate
CMP Cup Awards & Closing
Ceremony
Camp Perry, OH

26 Jul
CMP-USAMU SAFS Rifle
Registration
CMP/USMC Jr. HP Registration
and Clinic
CMP Adv. HP Registration and
Clinic
Camp Perry, OH

**Visit our Competition
Tracker
- ct.thecmp.org -
for ALL
upcoming clinics
and competitions!**

Mama Bear: A Tribute to 'Team Mom' Connie Taylor

Written by Miles Grove, team captain of the California Grizzlies

It's 6:30 a.m., and as usual, the Camp Perry Ohio National Guard base is humming with activity. Military jeeps cruise the roads, the last soldier leaves his barrack and a dozen men crowd the flagpole, ready to raise the flag at 7:00 am. However, this morning is a little different than usual.

The base's two massive firing ranges, each a 600-yard-long field ending in a row of 100 targets, are full of people. Military personnel and civilians alike roam the grass, all carrying rifles and searching for their designated firing point. This is the first day of the National Trophy Rifle Matches – the annual competition between the nation's best rifle marksmen.

On the other side of the base, there is a long "L"-shaped building bordering a small grassy park. The building is a sort of motel, serving the elderly civilians who come to compete in the National Matches. In room 113, a light bulb springs to life, illuminating the king-sized bed, couch, table and small kitchen. This room is Connie's home for the next two weeks while she attends the National Matches.

Connie is from Jamestown, California – home of the California Grizzlies youth rifle team. Although not a competitor, Connie flies to Ohio every year for the National Matches to help the Grizzlies. She's worked with the team for 22 years, ever since her son Robert joined the team and attended the matches.

Her efforts have molded the Grizzly program from a ragtag assortment of young shooters into a strong curriculum of marksmanship, integrity and responsibility. Although 17 years have passed since her son was on the team, Connie remains a major part of the Grizzlies.

The California Grizzlies began as a local youth club in Jamestown, California to teach kids firearm safety. The group, aged 12-20, had only a handful of members who were taught safety and marksmanship by a lone coach. The few members were local kids with an interest in shooting. The club had hardly enough members for a full team in the National Matches, and although the group attended every year, they were usually at rock bottom.

Connie first got involved in the club when her sons, Robert and Ed, joined the Grizzlies. The two boys regularly attended the program and eventually started teaching the



Connie Taylor (right) has been a helpful hand to the Grizzlies for years. She stays modest, quick to note the generosity of the many others who have also guided the Grizzlies along the way.

younger club members. Connie helped as a mom, driving Robert and Ed to the gun range and making hotdogs for the weekly practice sessions. Three years after Robert joined the group, the head coach asked him to fly to Ohio with the Grizzlies.

When he came back, Robert impressed Connie with a newfound level of maturity. She says, "He was a totally changed kid. He had goals and different things in mind he wanted to accomplish. That was my convincing that I wanted to be more a part of the junior team."

Robert's first trip to Camp Perry and his new maturity spurred Connie into action.

"I was just so impressed with the kids and the people involved that it was important for me to be more involved," she said.

From talking to the coach of the Grizzlies, Wayne, Connie knew that none of the kids' parents helped the team. Wayne felt exhausted and ready to retire. He'd been managing the shooters, their transportation, housing and match registration all by himself for years. From him, Connie grabbed the reigns, taking over the team's paperwork and leaving Wayne free to focus on coaching.

In her first year assisting, Connie filled out medical safety forms and registered the team for competitions. Wayne was free to forget about the clerical side of the team – so free that he forgot all the important documents in California!

"Luckily," Connie says, "I made copies and faxed them to him. Since I started doing paperwork and started going back to (Camp) Perry, Wayne never talked about retiring again."

Connie's love for all the kids grew as she spent more summers with them. At first, the juniors had to entirely manage themselves at Camp Perry. However, the long, hot days on the range completely exhaust shooters. The kids barely had enough energy to find dinner, let alone concentrate on performance.

Connie used her skills as a mom to take stress off the juniors. She took on many jobs, improving and lending a hand wherever she could. She cooked dinner, found better on-base housing (the kids finally moved out of the 50-year-old POW huts), found cheaper plane tickets and even piloted a contract by which the team still acts. Everything she does frees the shooters and coach to focus entirely on the competition, instead of the multitude of logistical tasks.

Without needing to worry nearly so much about these tasks, the team has flourished in both size and ability. According to Connie, "Their talent has really increased over the years. It's because we were doing enough stuff right that's helping the kids concentrate on their shooting."

In the last 22 years, the California Grizzlies grew from eight to 18 members and is now one of the most successful junior teams in the history of the National Trophy Rifle Matches. In Connie's time as team mom, the Grizzlies have won dozens of national titles and continue to be the nation's most competitive junior team.

The support network that she started has expanded



Team captain, Miles Grove (right), received his Distinguished Badge in 2017 at the CMP's National Trophy Rifle Matches

greatly. Many parents of past and current Grizzlies do the logistical work that Connie first took on years ago. Connie still works as a mom, taking care of her team.

To Connie, the juniors are extended family. From shooting awards and personal maturity to college graduations and job applications, Connie takes motherly



The California Grizzlies junior highpower team at Camp Perry in Ohio



Grizzlies spending time together on the range.

pride in the team's accomplishments. Her Facebook posts are always on your front page, showcasing Hunter's personal record and Anthony's new biochemistry degree.

She regularly contacts both current and former

Grizzlies. She loves to chat about their lives and goals. Phone calls with her usually last an hour, which is just enough time to catch up. Connie may spend hours going through her formidable contact list, but she always gets to the entire family.

The Grizzly family includes juniors from all over California, but Connie still wants the community to expand. She encourages the team to reach out to their local communities and give good representations of safe firearm use.

In the modern political climate, especially in California, there is a lot of negative stigma about firearms. Media often portrays guns solely as weapons of mass-murder, but when people see a group of young people being responsible

and successful with firearms, some of that stigma melts away. The more people are educated on how firearms work and on their safety, the less gun violence and accidents occur. Maintaining a positive public outlook on guns is the key to ensuring that Connie's hard work survives for future juniors.

The Grizzly team continues to mold kids into mature and driven people, just as they molded Robert 22 years ago. Connie's decades of hard work only streamlined and improved the program, producing many respectful, mature and skilled marksmen.

Connie's enthusiasm and dedication to the Grizzlies also continue unabated.

"I've never been prouder than when coming home from Ohio this year," she said. "I was so proud of the whole team, in how they acted and responded. We had some more problems with the parents than we did with the kids! I already have our tickets for next year!"



A few Grizzlies chatting with another supportive parent behind the firing line.

Texas Junior Air Rifle Competitor Excels at First National Level Event

Submitted by CW4 (Retired) Richard L. "Monty" Gonzales, SAI, Winston Churchill High School

High school freshman Anne White, from Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio, Texas, has established herself as one of the strongest junior marksmen in the state and a rising star in both three-position air rifle (3 PAR) and smallbore competitive arenas. Although Anne has only been shooting for a few years, she has proven that she possesses the right mix of talent and dedication to excel.

In her first year competing at the high school level, she has racked up an impressive list of accomplishments, including leading her team to Anniston, Alabama, to compete in the United States Army JROTC 3 PAR Regional Service Championships in early February.

Her JROTC team, the Essex Precision Rifle team, has not been represented at the JROTC Championships since 2012.

According to the team's commander, Cadet Jonathon Aguinaga, "We have a strong team this year, but Anne made the difference. As a freshman and the most junior shooter on our team, she reminded us that teamwork, not individual accomplishment, was the most important component of our success."

This year, the team finished first in the district and first in Bexar County prior to earning the opportunity to compete at the JROTC competition in Alabama. Anne, as an individual, earned seven of the 30 points needed towards earning her Junior Distinguished Badge during the JROTC event.

Anne does not come from a long line of competitive shooters, but it seems to be in her DNA, according to her father, who said of Anne, "Her competitive shooting journey started at the ripe old age of eight years old, through Lacoste 4-H. Every spring, she would look forward to practice and competing with her friends in smallbore."

He added, "Anne's interest and discipline grew significantly after attending the 2016 NRA National Smallbore and Air Rifle Camp at Camp Perry, Ohio."

Inspired by her experience at Camp Perry and her first national-level competition in Anniston, she now has focused her attention towards the Junior Olympics. To continue honing her skills, Anne has maintained a rigorous shooting schedule, including



local and regional matches in both air rifle and smallbore.

The hours spent on the range have allowed her to earn the top air rifle score for her age class in the state of Texas TSRA and the opportunity to compete at the USAS Junior Olympic State Championship, which earned her an invitation to the 2017 Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs.

Anne continues to demonstrate a dedication and work ethic that will take her far in a sport she loves dearly. It is going to be exciting to see what the future holds for this talented young athlete.



Sign Up Now for the CMP's Monthly Air Rifle and Air Pistol Matches

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

CAMP PERRY, Ohio; ANNISTON, Ala. – The Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Monthly Matches, featuring a series of air rifle and air pistol events for all ages and experience levels, are set to return in March for another season of safe, fun and thrilling competition. Each match will be held at the South CMP Competition Center in Anniston, Ala., and up north at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Ohio, which both feature 80-point ranges filled with CMP's own electronic targets.

Monthly Matches for 2018 are scheduled for the following dates:

- April 21, 2018
- May 19, 2018
- Sept. 15, 2018
- Oct. 13, 2018
- Nov. 17, 2018

During the Monthly Matches, competitors have the opportunity to be ranked amongst other match participants from across the country as competitions are held simultaneously at our ranges in Alabama and Ohio. Staple events fired include a Junior 3x20, Junior 3x10, 60 Shot Air Rifle Standing and 60 Shot Air Pistol. The Novice Prone event, fired in past years, has been removed from the 2018 schedule.

A Monthly Match League that combines the scores of frequent competitors for an overall aggregate competition adds even more fun to the mix. Prizes are awarded to the overall winners from both North and South during the 2018 season. Eligible events for the Monthly Match League include: Pistol 60 Shots (No PPP), Rifle 60 Shots, Sporter 3x20 and Precision 3x20.

Along with cash prizes based on League participation, the first three places in each category will receive a CMP plaque. Additional prizes will be given to fourth and fifth place overall winners. Awards will also be presented to the High Junior in Pistol and Rifle and the Most Improved competitor.

For more on the Monthly Matches and registration info, visit <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/monthly-air-rifle-and-air-pistol-matches/>.



About CMP's Electronic Targets:

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

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

About CMP Competition Centers:

The CMP Competition Centers are equipped with 80 electronic targets.

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

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

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.



Badge #	Name	Hometown	Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1208	Joseph Schultz	Ramona, CA	#1221	Abigail Zeitler	Falls Creek, PA
#1209	Dawn McIlwain	Meridian, CA	#1222	Susan Walker	McDonough, GA
#1210	Josephine John	Farmington, NM	#1223	Michaela Langlitz	Aztec, NM
#1211	Toni Ludwig	King George, VA	#1224	Lakyn Tippet	Walhalla, SC
#1212	Preston Jaeger	Fort Mill, SC	#1225	Colin Clark	San Antonio, TX
#1213	Brianna Fish	Clover, SC	#1226	Xristina Quiroz Hernandez	Lemoore, CA
#1214	Ashley Fried	Albuquerque, NM	#1227	Ramandeep Singh	Turlock, CA
#1215	Maddie Dong	Acworth, GA	#1228	Destiny Silva	San Antonio, TX
#1216	Nicholas Rudd	Batesville, MS	#1229	Ashley Clegg	Monroe, GA
#1217	Marisa Houry	Ramona, CA	#1230	Trinity Gomez	Odessa, FL
#1218	Hailey Henshaw	Ramona, CA	#1231	Kylie Henninger	Canon City, CO
#1219	Ian Brennan	Cedar Crest, NM	#1232	Robert Knick	Chatham, VA
#1220	Bailey Collins	Sault Ste Marie, MI			



**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.

Junior Jadelynn Kendall Finds New Confidence Through Air Rifle Team

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

At first glance, Jadelynn Kendall looks like any other air rifle competitor. She carries her equipment into the range, sets up her gear and takes the firing line, just like all of the other members of her Marion High School Army JROTC sporter rifle team. Only her second year in the sport, she's still learning the ropes.

"I've always been nervous to try new things," she said.

Despite her fears, the 15-year-old from Indiana has come a long way. Her high school years were preceded by days of hardships and growth, but her teammates and those around her have helped to give her the confidence to stand strong – both on the leg she was born with and on the prosthetic she conceals beneath her clothing.

Because though appearing the same on the outside, Jadelynn is actually unlike anyone else. She is equipped with a powerful character that, despite being constantly given extra challenges through her disability, allows her to take on the world one step at a time.

When she was only five years old, Jadelynn's leg was damaged in a horrific accident. Doctors and nurses worked hard to save it, but they were unsuccessful. They had to amputate.

The loss of part of her body and the addition of a new prosthetic leg to fill the void left young Jadelynn in a new world of both physical and emotional struggles.

"There's been a lot," she said. "Most of it was relearning everything that I had already learned to do. That was hard. But once I got the hang of it, it was okay."

"Accepting the fact that it's not going to come back was hard too," she admitted. "But once I accepted it, I felt a lot better."

The acknowledgement within her mind allowed the rest of her body to move forward as well. She discovered activities she enjoyed and clung to them – refusing to let a small physical difference set her back.

She grew to love swimming and became a member of a team for a few years, where she would swim without her prosthetic. The experience taught her balance as she stood on the starting block, with only one leg, to begin a race.



Jadelynn Kendall is a JROTC athlete with a prosthetic leg, but she doesn't let it slow her down.

Jadelynn has also tried volleyball to test her athleticism.

While she worked to understand her new life, others around her had to do the same – and some cowardly refused to. Jadelynn admitted that she was bullied in school because of her prosthetic and had to move around before she discovered a school where she could be accepted. That's when she found Marion High School.

She found encouragement there through friends and adult leaders. She is currently a member of her school choir, and she takes a Chinese class that's led by an instructor who, according to Jadelynn, makes learning fun.

And, of course, she joined her JROTC air rifle team through a bit of happenstance and the compassion of a leader within the school who is driven to reveal the true potential of all of his students.

While out playing for Cadet Challenge, a physical fitness test for students in the program, an instructor pulled her to the side and asked her about her leg. According to Jadelynn, he said to her, "Well, why aren't you on my marksmanship team?" She found that she didn't really have an answer, so she listened to what he had to say.

The man was Lt. Col. David Farlow – coach of the JROTC rifle team. He recognized Jadelynn's strong disposition, and, without hesitation, knew that he wanted her courage to be a fixture on his team.

He explained their first meeting, saying, "When I mentioned it to her, she said, 'I have a prosthetic leg,' and I said, 'So? Don't let it be an excuse.' And she took the challenge."

He went on, "I don't believe in limitations. Shooting is a sport that she can shoot in and do well. She can overcome the adversity that she has."

Since then, Jadelynn has flourished as a member of the air rifle team. She has made new friends and loves traveling to different areas of the country from match to match. Now in her second year as a sporter shooter, she recently had the chance to go to Georgia for the first time and take a tour of the south – also trekking through Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky.

On top of getting to see more of the world, she has also now seen more of the good in people of the world as a member of a group of peers that has been supportive of her from the start.

"They're really comfortable with me being around, which makes me feel more a part of the team," she said.

Jadelynn's newfound confidence has even made her more open to talking about her amputated leg, cracking jokes about it with her teammates. She makes everyone laugh, trying her best to bring smiles to those around her with her humor.

"We like to think that JROTC at our school, it's a family. And, family doesn't necessarily always get along, but family sticks together," said Lt. Col. Farlow. "And so, we stick together. She has a leavening affect on our team. She's just a gentle spirit."

Her will has allowed her to learn quickly in the three-position air rifle sport. She admits that the standing position has been difficult for her, especially with a recent knee surgery on her good leg that left her unable to perform the kneeling position during JROTC Regionals at Camp Perry



Jadelynn joined the team after being approached by coach Lt. Col. David Farlow (left).

in February. But, with fortitude, she still competed – firing in the standing position twice instead.

Coach Farlow explained how he stayed optimistic with Jadelynn during the match, saying, "She was really disappointed that she wasn't going to be able to shoot in a kneeling position [at Regionals]. So I said, 'Just beat them in the standing.' She's a young shooter, still developing. But, she's a great kid."



During the JROTC Service Championships at Camp Perry, Jadelynn had to shoot the standing position twice because of a recent surgery unrelated to her prosthetic.



A current sporter athlete, she has interest to move onto precision and possibly even the Paralympics.

"It takes a lot of practice to shoot," Jadelynn said. "It's something you really have to work at to be able to do."

Along with intense effort and practice, Jadelynn knows a reliable coach is essential for success. With his down-to-earth rapport with his athletes and his ability to really listen to them, Jadelynn confessed that her coach is an impressive figure in her life who has helped her to reach where she is today.

"He's so funny, and he cares about his cadets. He treats you well," she said. "He does funny things, and it makes us laugh. He'll always make you feel better when you're in a bad mood."

Farlow said he's going to try to move her into precision next year, when she's a junior. If she likes it, she can keep moving up in her abilities and maybe even one day join the Paralympics.

"There are opportunities for her," he said.

"I'm thinking about it," Jadelynn said as she laughed.

Though she has struggled in her life from an early age, Jadelynn has found the strength to stand and to not let unfortunate circumstances keep her down. She has set an example for others who may also have an ailment by showing them

that with a little bravery and the determination to get the most out of life, anything is possible. And, along with perseverance, having a strong community around you is just as important.

"My friends and family – they're amazing, and they help me," she said. "You don't know what you can do until you try it, and just because you have a disability, you shouldn't just not try it. You should try it and see if you like it."

Farlow said of his remarkable athlete, "She has the spirit of a champion. She doesn't let anything bother her. She's very hard working, and she's the most pleasant young lady. She's just a joy to have on the team."

As for her future, Jadelynn will try to keep up with her shooting career, but what she's really passionate about is going to college to learn more about prosthetics. With her personal experiences and resilience, she wants to be able to provide others in her situation with everything her prosthetic has given her since she was five years old – support.

"That's the plan," she said, with a smile.



In the future, Jadelynn would like to keep shooting, but is also interested in pursuing a career in prosthetics to help others like her.

Sign Ups Now Available for the 2018 Summer Junior Air Rifle Camps

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

Registration for the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) 2018 Air Rifle Summer Camps is now officially open. Running from May to August, the vigorous 10-week schedule includes a mix of camps and clinics formatted to train high-school age (9-12 grade) junior shooters on intermediate and advanced air rifle marksmanship skills through various exercises and demonstrations.

The fundamentals of the camp curriculum were originally designed by DCM Emeritus, Gary Anderson – a two-time Olympic gold medalist who is still active in developing the skills and knowledge of others in the world of marksmanship. Throughout the evolution of the camps over the last decade, Mr. Anderson's teachings have been modified by past Camp Directors Dan Durben and Sommer Wood to provide an adaptive course for the varying generations.

During the week-long sessions, juniors will learn tips for both the physical and mental aspects of competition shooting. Topics to be discussed include proper positioning, goal setting, anxiety control and how to optimize equipment performance. Campers will also take a look into competition and finals performance, learn leadership roles and building self-confidence on the firing line, along with an assortment of skills that can be carried from the range into every day life.

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

Other options outside of the week-long curriculum include the Advanced Standing Camps, designed to be a follow-up program for those who have attended one or more of the three-position camps or clinics. These camps elaborate in even more detail each individual's strengths and weaknesses to better the athletes for future competition.

Outreach Clinics are also on the schedule, using paper targets instead of the electronic targets used for the



camps. The instruction is almost identical, with the majority of the week-long curriculum worked into the three-day clinic format.

Each participating group or athlete must be accompanied by an adult leader (coach, club leader, parent, etc.) for the duration of the camp. Recent high school graduates are not eligible to partake in the air rifle activities, but may attend as an adult leader. Chaperones are to provide transportation for the campers each day and are encouraged to attend the coaching sessions in order to gain a sense of the outstanding education their athletes are receiving.

For a list of dates and more detailed camp information, visit the Junior Air Rifle Camps and Clinics page on the CMP website at <http://thecmp.org/air/cmp-competition-center-event-matches/junior-air-rifle-camps-and-clinics/>.





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.

Winners Named in the New Major Bill Barker All Service JROTC Air Rifle Championship

Submitted by Wayne Harkley, MSgt, USMC (ret.)

Fontana High School recently renamed their annual Southern California All Service Championship event to the "Major Bill Barker All Service JROTC Championship." This change was made to pay tribute to an awesome mentor, teacher and Marine, Major Bill Barker.

Every year, during the Martin Luther King Jr. birthday weekend, we host this event. Major Barker's presence always brought a sense of enjoyment, enthusiasm and all-around excitement when he greeted you. Major Barker welcomed everyone with a smile, and he was quick to offer advice on marksmanship and coaching. He was also a great jokester and was quick to tell some funny stories, not to mention talking about how it was when he was in the Marine Corps.

There were 21 teams, and two of them were from the island of Guam (Simon Sanchez and Southern). One team was from Las Vegas (Basic Academy), and the rest were from Central and Southern California.

This year's first place team was from Selma High School in Central California, coached by First Sergeant Michael Romero. Team members are Samantha Louie, Gabriela Rios, Mia Castro and Estefanie Lopez. Second place team was Turlock High School (Navy JROTC),

followed by third place team Parlier High School (Navy JROTC). Both schools are from Central California. Fourth and fifth place was Fontana High School from Southern California.

The trophies, plaques and participation medals were graciously donated by Team AMVETS Department of California. A special thank you to John Byrum, First Sergeant, U.S. Army (ret.) for his continued outstanding support to the cadets and the JROTC community. The presenters were from the local Friends of the NRA (Earl Devires) and former cadet and Marine and acting range safety officer, Corporal Andrew Sida.

The match is a sporter only match and open to all JROTC units far and near. We start taking names in late November. Due to the popularity of our event and distance traveled by many of the teams, we have been forced to limit the participants to a first-come, first-served basis. Our limit is 3 relays, with 28 firing points per relay. By doing this, it allows teams a better opportunity to remain for the awards presentation.

For more information, please contact Master Sergeant Wayne Harkley at harkwk@fusd.net or 909-357-5500, ext. 11348.



The presenters were from the local Friends of the NRA (Earl Devires, far left) and former cadet and Marine and acting range safety officer, Corporal Andrew Sida (far right).

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/>.

Massena Rifle & Pistol Club,
Brasher Fall, NY
Newport Rifle Club, Middletown, RI
Sawgrass Rifle Club,
Pembroke Pines, FL
Bull Shooters of Delaware, Lewes, DE
Fish and Game Club of Vienna Inc.,
Hubbard, OH
Virginia Shooting Sports Association,
Orange, VA
Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Assoc,
Catonsville, MD
Vermont State Rifle & Pistol Association,
Northfield, VT
Wyoming State Shooting
Association Inc, Worland, WY
Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Association,
New River, AZ
Forbes Rifle and Pistol Club, Elizaville, NY
Citizen's Rifle and Revolver Club of NJ,
Princeton Jct, NJ
Lima Sabres Shooting Association & Jr. Division,
Lima, OH
Palmerton Rifle & Pistol Club Jr. Division,
Palmerton, PA
Camp Shooters, Inc., Dalton, GA
Sir Walter Gun Club & Jr. Division,
Creedmoor, NC
Bend of the River Rifle Club & Jr.
Division, Cookeville, TN
American Legion Post #2
Young Guns, Pueblo, CO
Abilene Gun Club, Abilene, TX
Angelina Rifle & Pistol, Lufkin, TX
Northwest Texas Field & Stream
Association, Wichita Falls, TX



Chief City Shooters Club,
Pontiac, IL
Arlington International Airgun Club & Jr. Division,
Arlington Heights, IL
Bend of the River Conservation Club, Niles, MI
Alpena Sportsmen's Club, Alpena, MI
Delaware State Pistol Club Inc, Newark, DE



CMP Rolls Out New Pay Back Program for Clubs at 2018 Travel Games

By Ashley Brugnone, CMP Writer

If you plan on attending any of the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) 2018 Travel Games and are a member of an Affiliated Club, you may have a chance to earn money for your club just by showing up.

This year, the CMP is introducing its Club Pay Back Program, where \$5.00 per competitor will be awarded to any CMP Affiliated Club that has 5 or more of their members attending and participating in the marksmanship competition matches held at the event. The club members will need to present his or her club ID card at any of our Travel Games.

Create a fundraiser or organize a group and encourage other club members to come shoot at any of our Travel Games locations held throughout the year:

- **Oklahoma Games:** Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
– 10-16 April
- **Eastern Games:** Camp Butner, North Carolina
– 26 April-5 May
- **New England Games:** Jericho, Vermont
– 18-24 September
- **Western Games:** Phoenix, Arizona
– 16-22 October



Each Travel Games offers a variety of matches for competitors of all ages, along with delivering valuable learning opportunities for new and experienced marksmen. Bring a friend along to hone rifling skills during our Small Arms Firing School, conducted by certified instructors, or simply gain a little company on the firing line during any of our individual and team rifle and pistol matches.

Participants at the 2018 Travel Games events will also have the chance to compete in the former Creedmoor Cup Matches, which will now be administered by the CMP. The CMP Cup Matches include a 4-Man Team match designed perfectly for group competition.

To add pride to the Games, those attending are welcome to show off their colors by bringing club flags to fly on the range throughout the event.

If you'd like to take advantage of this new program, please include the name of your CMP Club when registering online. Reminder, each club member must show a club ID card at the event, with a 5 club members/\$25 minimum award from the same club for the club.

For more information on the CMP Travel Games, including how to register, visit <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-travel-games/>. Please contact Christina Roguski with any questions regarding the Club Pay Back Program at croguski@thecmp.org or by calling 419-635-2141 ext. 714.

We look forward to seeing you and your club in 2018!

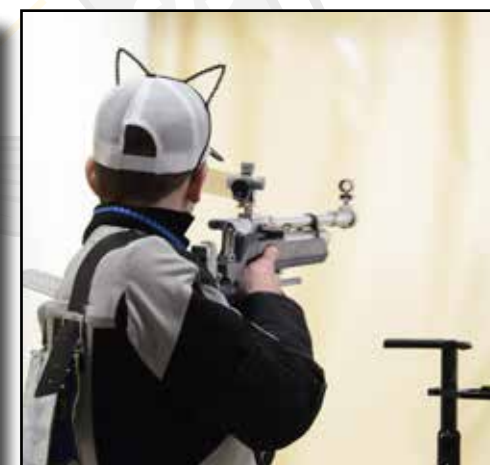


Parting Shots: Photos from Recent CMP Events & Competitions

Junior shooters left their mark on several recent CMP events including the Camp Perry Open and the JROTC Air Rifle Service Championships.



JROTC Regionals



Camp Perry Open



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Corporation for the Promotion of
Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety
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