

Montana Rifle & Pistol Association

April 2014

Message from the President By Jamey Williams

Membership of the MRPA is going to see some gradual changes over next year, and some are already seeing improvements. We have been fortunate to see some proactive individuals seated on the board of directors and they are working hard, especially the executive committee, at improving the capability of the MRPA in fulfilling its mission. (I encourage you to see our organization objectives, at the MTRPA.org home page or under "join us".) You will see positive changes in the near future that will enable us to better do our mission. One is outlined elsewhere in the newsletter as we have established guidelines for our M1 Garand Fund raising raffle. This program is going to be promoted to the juniors and junior clubs in our state, and will be a real benefit for junior marksmanship.

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I, as the MRPA president, have found it is crucial to get good, helpful people on board in the various positions in the organization. This is certainly not a one person job - if we wish to see the MRPA flourish. We will continue to need some people to step forward and fill some roles. Tom Everett is stepping down after 10 years of being the primary fundraising person for the juniors in the state. Those that know Tom realize the effort and work he has put forth with junior marksmanship. We now are finding ourselves in need of a supervisor for the M1 Garand Junior Fundraising Program. We are also going to be reaching out to some around us searching for committee chairpersons, to fill some vacancies. The big chairperson vacancy I want to see filled soon is the Junior Marksmanship chairperson. We will be looking for volunteers to step forward and assist in these roles. If you are interested contact us at our new email: mtrpa.info@gmail.com or call the MRPA at 406-646-6890.

I encourage you to take some time to volunteer this year, either at your local club, with mentoring juniors or within the MRPA. We all revolve around volunteers and mentoring.

M1 Garand Junior Fundraising Program By Jamey Williams

The executive committee of the MRPA has recently revamped the M1 Garand Fundraising Program in an effort to assist and promote junior marksmanship. This program can provide significant financial assistance to juniors competing in marksmanship events. This program is dependent upon several concerns. There is a mutual relationship between juniors, junior clubs and the MRPA. This program is also dependent upon raffle ticket sales by juniors and junior clubs. The more money raised, the more the individual junior receives and the more money available to junior marksmanship in the state. Listed below are some of the details of the program. For further information contact the MRPA president.

To be eligible to participate the Junior must:

- Be a junior member of the MRPA (\$5 year).
- If the junior is shooting as part of a club team and seeking team match fee reimbursement, their club must be a member of the MRPA (\$15 year).
- 60% of the raffle ticket sales will be returned to the individual junior selling the tickets.
- Raffle tickets and return of junior's 60% of sales will be handled by the M1 Garand Fundraising Program Supervisor (was Tom Everett for the last 10 years, but we need to now find a replacement - be on the lookout).
- A team will be reimbursed for match fees, unless already reimbursed by another entity. The team must be approved prior to competition by their discipline chair or MRPA President/Vice President. The team match must be a regional/sectional or national competition with no restriction on location.
- Adult(s) transporting team to a match greater than 500 miles from said adult's home (or average distance of the two primary adults' homes) will receive \$100 stipend – total.
- An exceptional junior shooting athlete invited to either National or International level competition will receive match fee reimbursement up to \$100.
- Junior team leader or junior marksmanship chairman may submit the reimbursement requests to the Treasurer.
- This program is subject to available funds in the M1 Garand fund raising program.

Questions or concerns about the program may be addressed to either the junior chairman or any MRPA President/Vice President or the Junior Marksmanship Chairman.

Friends of NRA Banquets By Jamey Williams and Joe Crismore

The NRA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (tax deductible) that functions to provide grants to shooting sports programs on the local, state and national level. The NRA Foundation receives its money from local committees hosting "Friends of NRA" banquets. In the state of Montana there are 23-25 banquets a year from Scobey to Missoula and small towns and big cities in between. Fifty percent of the money raised at the banquets stays in the state and is used to fund grants for shooting sports. Grants include promoting youth programs, training and education, range development and other aspects of shooting and hunting sports. This past year, 78% of the grants focused on youth shooting programs.

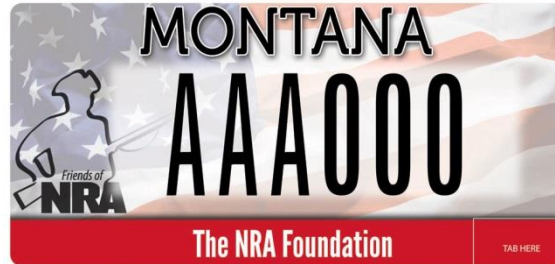
Last year in Montana, over \$800,000 was raised at the various banquets and over \$410,000 was used to fund 30 different Montana wide programs, including 4H shooting programs, "Eddie the Eagle," "Women on Target" and various range improvement projects. The other half of the money goes to the national level of the NRA Foundation where it is used to fund similar projects, but at the national level.

The banquets consist of dinners and often include games tables, auctions and other entertainment including guest speakers. How do you find out where local Friends of NRA banquets are held? You can go to the <http://www.friendsofnra.org/> website and click on "select a state" and "Montana" to see where local banquets are held.

The list of events is update through the year as more banquets are added. You can also contact the NRA field representative, Joe Crismore at jcrismore@nrahq.org.

For more information you can go to the Friends of NRA website or Facebook.com/thepatriotnation. I encourage you to get out to a banquet this year. This Foundation is the grass roots effort that we all benefit from. Support our Second Amendment rights at the local level!

Editor's note: The Montana Motor Vehicle Division is now offering a Friends of the NRA specialty license plate. Check it out at: <https://doj.mt.gov/driving/license-plates/>. Another cool way we can help to support the NRA!



The Club Corner By Jamey Williams

The Club Corner is a new addition to our newsletter and will highlight member clubs outlining their location, purpose and facilities. We will accept articles from Clubs that are members of the MRPA. We feel it is important that the MRPA give clubs this opportunity to show what they are about in order to help promote them and their mission. Please feel free to submit an article to us for publication – we can even help with editing it as needed. Our first in this series is being kicked off by Pat McCoy of White Sulfur Springs.

All about the Meagher County Sportsmen Association By Pat McCoy

The Meagher County Sportsmen Association was formed in the fall of 1993. There were four original members who organized the Association. They wrote the Constitution which has had small changes since, including the addition of important items that have evolved in the growth of any fledgling/growing organization.

These are but a bit of our original purpose statements and still remain today.

1. Is to promote shooting sports, especially hunting and fishing both in Meagher County and within the state.
2. We support the landowner's right to allow who, and when, someone would be allowed access to their property for this sport.
3. We encourage discussion to reach common goals for the good of the sports we support.
4. We believe the animals that are under the control of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks are public domain and should be available to all who enjoy the sport of hunting and fishing.
5. We believe that anyone who intentionally tries to circumvent regulation or laws governing these sports should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
6. To develop programs dedicated to the conservation and preservation of animals and their natural habitat, and to cooperate with all agencies and other organizations that have the same goals.
7. To inform all members of as many of these issues that affect our goals and make efforts to support those views.

About 5 years after we started we developed the additional purpose statements:

1. To locate land and to design and construct a shooting range designated as the Meagher County Rifle & Pistol Club.
2. Encourage the public use of said facility and provide free use of it for any and all youth programs promoting similar goals as ours; for example: hunters safety, 4H shooting sports, and bow hunting safety.

Over the next 14 years, our growth was stagnant for the first 9 to 10 years and we had maybe 10-14 members. We now have over 120 members. Some from as far away as Virginia, Washington state, Townsend, and other areas of Montana. That's over 10 percent of the town's population.



So what has happened to make all of this happen? We built the range after Ron and Scott Jackson generously leased us 66 acres of their land. We have Arnold Blair to thank for his efforts in getting the lease for us. Then four of our member contributed enough money to pay for the

1st year's lease and we were on our way. We got two grants, one from MT FW&P and another from Montana Friends of NRA. The county built us a road to the range area which gave us seed money to start the project.

And we finished in time to let the 4H shooters use it the same year we started. This was in record time thanks to all the volunteer workers and the contractors with in the county that did such a good job for us. The final cost was \$108,000, which includes "in kind" money such as volunteer workers. We hope to expand and build our outside pistol competition range and even a shotgun range if our funds hold out. We have a competition silhouette range and are presently working on a bowling pin range. In the future we are headed for a high power range out to 1000 yards that could bring as many as 30 competitors to the facility on a given week end.

We're talking about a cowboy action shooting range and many more things that will draw interest to our fair community. We do have a rifle and pistol range. The Club supports the youth programs in the county and we have since 2003. We don't charge youth programs for the use of the facility and we don't ever anticipate doing so.

We held three indoor pistol matches sanctioned by the NRA. Some of the shooters drove 200 miles to shoot at our range, one of them was a national champion. We have our own Web site superbly done by one of our members.

Since 2007 we have completed installation of better lighting, and crank-type target carriers for the indoor six point smallbore and airgun range. We instituted an annual NRA Personal Protection in the home class, installed a set of high power metallic silhouette swingers, installed steel gongs at 400, 600, 800, and 900 yards; constructed a new secure storage addition to the range house, and are in process of building a 25 and 50 yard outdoor pistol range with turning targets. We have conducted smallbore rifle benchrest matches the past two summers, and plan to have additional matches at both 50 yards and 100 yards this year. We currently have five members competing in the winter smallbore Schuetzen postal out of Davenport, Iowa (this was the old Wyoming Schutzen postal), and hope to grow that number in the future. We also hope to get back to sponsoring pistol competition after the new outdoor range is completed.

For more information see www.meaghercosportsmen.com.

Berger Long Range Southwest Nationals By Steffen Bunde

The first thing you notice at the Berger matches is the number of people. This year's Berger LR match attracted 250 people. Things take a little more time with this large amount of people. Squadding starts early at 07:30 and there were two lines: F class and everyone else. With this amount of people, they used people movers between the firing line and the pits: no personal vehicles in the pits. 3rd relay takes a little time to get the target setup for preparation to fire.

Ben Avery range is a 100 point firing range made of coarse sand. There are elevated berms that are about 20 feet wide. They have numerous wind flags as Phoenix always has some wind. Generally the mirage is very defined and is a good indicator of windage calls. This year, they installed a hard wired PA system between the pits and the firing lines which solved some of the problems with radios. The target carriers are metal and move fairly easily.

The Berger match permits shooters to drive between the firing lines. So, with pit changes and line changes with 200 vehicles moving around, shooting continues into the early afternoon.

The weather for the 2014 LR match was very cool some mornings with warm afternoons. The 2013 LR match was quite cold by Arizona standards: 35 degrees and some rain.

The first day consists of a training day with top shooters presenting classes, then coached dry fire, followed by coached live fire. Bryan Litz, Nancy and Mid Tompkins were some of the coaches. The Berger match has many door prizes during the day and the big prize night on Saturday. Over \$50,000 worth of prizes were given out this year.



After training day is the team match and concurrent squadded practice. This is a good time to confirm your zeros. Ben Avery is at approximately 1500 ft. I find that I need to add at least one minute to my zeros to be on target.

The next day consists of a Palma match, followed by two days of 2 x 20 round 1000 yard matches. The aggregate match then consists of 1250 points.

All in all, this is a great match to attend.

McGivern Club Update By Stu Smith

Just wanted to share this info with the shooting community.

Many THANKS to the 20+ members who attended the Airport Authority's meeting on September 24, 2013 in support of the Ed McGivern Pistol club's lease termination, and to those who spoke up on the McGivern club's behalf.

We were able to get the lease termination date of December 20, 2013, changed to March 20, 2014. This will allow us to complete all but one of our scheduled indoor matches for 2013 and 2014, and to remove all of our items from the building.

I can tell you that the range is now closed, and we have removed everything except the bullet stop from the range.

We are currently in the design process of a new indoor range, to be located on the Great Falls Shooting Sports Complex (gfssc.net). It will be a while before we get financing, and start building.

Results of Shooting Events – State and National Levels

Mid-Winter Classic		January 25th, 2014		Missoula, MT	
Match Winner:	Jason Herndon	1130	1st Master:	Trace Weisenburger	1124
1st Sharpshooter:	Roger Hinthier	1064	1st Marksman:	Patrick Collins	1000
1st Junior:	Mark Reiber	976			
Air Rifle: 1st	Paul Thurmond	176	1st Junior:	Tarl Briggs	158

Hellgate Civilian Shooters 100 shot offhand "Schutzenfest" Match				Feb. 15, 2013		Missoula, MT	
Match Winner:	Robert Scott	988	1st Master:	Jason Herndon	979		
1st Expert:	Watson	896	1st Sharpshooter:	Roger Hinthier	904		
1st Marksman:	Patrick Collins	845					
1st Junior:	Sarah Donald	905	2nd Junior:	Donald	904	3rd Junior:	Reiber 896

Collegiate Nationals are in progress for Rifle and Pistol. Those results will be in the next newsletter. I'm hearing Montana was again well represented. Good job!

Secretary's Notes By Zona Mowrer

Memberships: You need to renew your memberships. I sent out notices in January. We are down from last year by 50 members or so. Talk to friends and business assoc. about joining the State Organization. We will no longer be sending out a newsletter to our members unless you have already contacted me about a hard copy. I have a hard copy list and an email list. The rest of you will access your newsletter online at www.mtrpa.org. If you desire a mailed copy, please contact me at silverbow3@gmail.com.

Addresses: Please get your address changes to me. We can't keep your information current if you move and don't tell us.

Classifieds

This listing is provided as a courtesy to MRPA members; MRPA assumes no responsibility for the listed items or your satisfaction with them

Wanted: A prone stock for a short Model 70. Contact via email will work. Jim Panagopolous, jandl@in-tch.com

For Sale: Creedmore Hardback Leather Shooting Coat for Right Hand Shooter. Size 42, Grey/Charcoal w/ white back. Coat is in excellent condition, w/ absolutely no observable wear on any portion. The mat is a canvas Champions Choice. Could use a garden hosing. Both items for \$375. Selling these for a friend. For additional information, contact Jim Panagopolous, 406-452-7202

Montana Rifle and Pistol Association 2014

President: Jamey Williams

Vice President: Scott Wehrmann

Treasurer: Don Strom

Secretary: Zona Mowrer

Board Members:

Jamey Williams (2014)

Dan Doles* (2014)

Stu Smith* (2014)

Matt Egloff (2015)

Mark Griffis* (2015)

Paul Thurmond (2015)

Scott Wehrmann (2016)

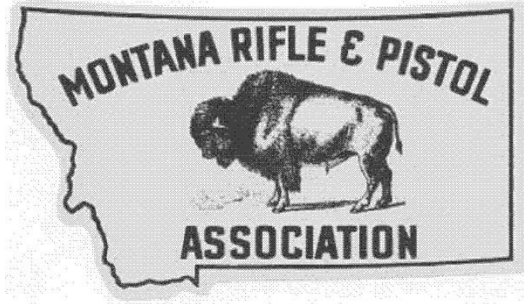
Dick Miller (2016)

Matt Waite (2016)

*Member, Executive Committee

The MTRPA Newsletter is published four times per year (January, April, July, and October) and is available on the MTRPA.org website or by US mail (by request).

News submissions may be made prior to the last day of the month prior to publication.



Membership Application New Renewal
 NRA Member Number _____ Send NRA application
 Receive MRPA Newsletter by: email or US Mail

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email Address _____ Phone _____

Individual: Annual \$15 Five-Year \$60 Junior \$5 (birth date _____)
 Associate \$3 (spouse) Need card ASAP Life Member \$150
 Clubs \$15 Annual Senior Junior

The quarterly newsletter will be posted on the MTRPA.org website in January, April, July, and October. A notice will be emailed to you to notify you that it is available. If you do not have internet access and want a newsletter mailed to you check the box above.

Make checks payable to: Montana Rifle and Pistol Association

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