

Montana Rifle & Pistol Association

May 2016

Message from the President By Jamey Williams

With the upcoming elections, I encourage everyone to utilize a couple candidate rating tools that are out there. The NRA posts their candidate ratings at: <https://www.nrapvf.org/grades/> and recall that their ratings are based on past performances and answering questionnaires, no bias is given to political party. Be sure to go to the above website or look for candidate ratings in your recent NRA magazine.

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The Montana Shooting Sports Association also has a candidate rating system and their ratings are posted at: <http://progunleaders.org/MSSA2016Grades/>

Be sure to share this information with those around you, encourage them to vote and let's stem this tide of lunacy that is coming from many of our political leaders!

Lastly, there are a number of non-members that receive this newsletter and I hope you consider joining the MRPA, but more importantly get involved with shooting sports and the organization – we can always use help with small projects to large tasks.

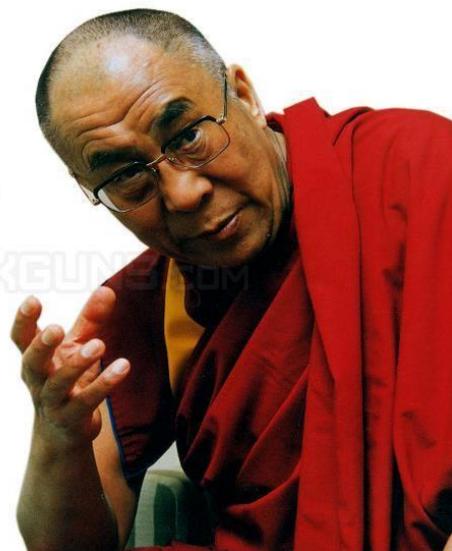
Discipline

Chairmen

Get a list of your state champions for 2016 into the newsletter editor, Chas, at: chasbales@rocketmail.com so he can compile a list for the Winter newsletter. Also, I encourage you to write an article for the newsletter.

**If someone has a gun
and is trying to kill you,
it would be reasonable
to shoot back with your
own gun.**

Dalai Lama, Seattle Times, May 15, 2001



Secretary's Notes



By Zona Mowrer

Memberships: My email address is silverbow3@gmail.com for anyone needing to change an address or contact me for any reason or renew your membership. There is a renewal form on the last page of the newsletter or on the www.mtrpa.org website. At our annual meeting, we changed the membership fees effective **Oct. 1, 2016**. Annual \$20.00 per year, 5 year \$80, Associate \$5., Associate Life \$50., Senior Life \$175., Life \$375., Junior Annual stays at \$5.00 and a new category for Juniors from

0-20 years old can pay a \$30.00 one time fee and they will be good through the year they turn 20.

Match fees for Juniors: MRPA will pay national match fees for any junior member of MRPA going to a National Championship Match. You will need prior approval from the Executive Committee before attending any match that you want reimbursement of entry fees. Matches included are any National Matches in Air Rifle, 3 Position Smallbore Rifle, Pistol Matches, High Power, Black Powder, NRA National Matches and CMP National Matches, USA Shooting Junior Olympics, etc. Get your information to Jamey Williams to get approval.

Match Results: As a reminder, State results for Hellgate matches will be found on www.orionresults.com and you will search Hellgate for their results and you will find each match listed there.

If you have any match results you want shared, please get them to me at silverbow3@gmail.com. You may do this through email or snail mail. I can't put the results of your matches in the Newsletter if I do not have the results from your matches. There have been many junior members attending matches. If you don't see your results in the newsletter, please let me know where you went and how you did. I don't know about all the matches that members attend. Thank you.

Rifleman's Creed

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. Without me my rifle is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than the enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will. My rifle and I know that what counts in war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, or the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit.

My rifle is human, even as I am human, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strengths, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other.

Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and I are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life.

So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy.

Junior Shooters' Corner

Shooting has been my sport since I was eight years old. But all of the hard work and dedication that my team and I have put into each and every practice has been paying off as we have traveled to Colorado Springs to compete in the Winter Airgun Championships at the Olympic Training Center. The time we spent at the center we had shot in three different matches in a period of three days. The first day we shot was just a practice day where the shooters were able to get comfortable in the ranges and sight in. During the practice time I had felt comfortable and shot a normal score that I would shoot at any other practice. As the time ended I felt confident going into the first out of the three forty shot matches.

It seems to me that every match I compete in something goes wrong. During the first match on my twenty-eighth shot I had accidentally expelled air which cost me ten points. When I had expelled air I thought I put a pellet into the rifle. After that I had let the range officer know what had happened and stepped off the line to talk to my coaches. I ended the last eleven shots great. But that was only the first thing to go wrong. The second day I woke up feeling very sick with a pounding migraine and nausea. To say I was upset would be an understatement. I came down to the center with the thought of shooting to have fun and to get a great experience but being sick, I didn't think I was going to be able to shoot the second match. Still wanting to shoot I walked up to the line and got into position. One of my coaches was standing behind me silently cheering me on. After every ten shots I took a seat and drank some water feeling dizzy. I had a tough time standing for the whole fifty minutes of shooting and didn't think I was going to be able to finish the match. But I took the fortieth shot and came off the line smiling. I didn't mind that my scores were low or that I shot too many eights to count because I made it through the match despite being sick. The last and final day was the day where nothing went wrong. I shot my best score all week and left Colorado Springs knowing that despite the challenges I still had fun, and made it through all the matches.

From this experience I learned that I'm strong enough to face the difficulties thrown my way. Shooting is my sport, and loving the sport is what drives me to succeed in it. My goal is to shoot at a college level and hopefully one day compete in the Olympics making shooting my Olympic sport.

-A. Donald

Upcoming Field Practical Rifle Match

The LRC Montana Finale is coming up December 3-4 in Three Forks, MT. The round count will be 145 Long Rifle and 75 Carbine. The caliber restrictions are 300 WM and smaller slower than 3150 fps and the carbine is restricted to 5.56/ 223.

The targets will be reactive steel at known distances between 100 – 1075 yds.

Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place as well as a trophy for the series champion. There are also cash and sponsored prizes!

Register online at www.lrcmontana.com

A first year retrospective on Service Rifle with Optics (part one?)

Well, the first full season is now in the books with regard to using 4.5 power optics on the AR15. Prior to this season, the CMP redefined what the Service Rifle constitutes in terms of accessories and the use of optics. A number of shooters dove into the optics sighting system and a lot has been learned in the past year. There has been a number of varying optics on the line this past year, everything from cheap \$150 scopes all the way up to Nightforce scopes. Some scopes have better reticles for this application, while others had better glass or repeatability. It has been somewhat tough to find the "right" or "ideal" scope for competition that still met the 4.5 power or less limitation. This limitation on magnification really has narrowed the amount of scopes that are viable. It has been discussed that often the low power or low power variable scopes are priced lower and often do not have the repeatability that XTC (across the course) rifle competitions demand. Some of the inexpensive scopes have been a home run while others with the same model reported problems with tracking. It appears

that the most important feature for an XTC scope is the turret clicks are repeatable and accurate. After the season progressed, I noted a number of scopes ended up being potentially more viable than others. The lower cost, best alternative (in my opinion) at this point is the 1-4 power Vortex PST, at about \$450. Many are in use thru out the country now and many have noted their positive performance. Going up from there, there are some Trijicon 1-4 scopes, with .25 MOA clicks and some Nightforce 1-4 scopes and both of these brands have models that fall into the \$1000 range. Just a slight bit more costly is a discontinued vortex Razor 1-4X, which I have been using all season and with which I have had very positive results. These 1-4 razors are out in the market still in new condition, you just need to search for them. They have decent enough glass and mine has spot on tracking and repeatability over a full seasons of matches. The reticle is completely usable with the listed .77 MOA width crosshair. I find the width of the crosshairs to be a little closer to .5 MOA, but this can be my model, with the magnification and set up I use. I was pleasantly surprised I can see the scoring rings at 600yds - most of the time. In response to the rule change, two high end optic manufacturers came out with dedicated Service Rifle optics – March Scopes and Nightforce optics. Both of them are pricey but are reportedly doing very well.

While I have listed scopes from \$450 to \$2k, there have been others locally with success with less expensive optics, but your success may vary from theirs.

I began experimenting with a 4 power optic on the Service Rifle in the Summer of 2016. I borrowed a friend's Trijicon ACOG (M150 RCO), and while it is not ideal for XTC, it too ended up working well. At first, I was excited that I could see the target so well, but I struggled with it at 600yds, initially. I was quite disappointed until I learned a few things. First, I had to have my prescription glasses on to see the reticle *perfectly*. That helped. I was into a string of fire at 600yds with it and was struggling. Then I noticed the front sight tower was barely noticeable in the field of view; it was faint thru the optic, but I could see it. Then I noticed it was in a slightly different location compared to the reticle from shot to shot. My first several shots were all over the paper at 600yds. Once I started lining up the faint front sight tower image in the same place each shot, then all of a sudden it was a different experience. I recall the last 15 shots I fired were 10's and X's at 600yds.

Initially, I assumed using the front sight tower as a reference somehow allowed me to overcome the fixed 100yd parallax on the ACOG. Now, some would argue, and I mostly agree, that I was not controlling parallax, but rather head position in the "eye box" of the scope. Perhaps they are right, but I am suspicious that there are multiple factors at play, including the management of parallax on these non-parallax adjustable scopes. (The March Service Rifle scope does have parallax adjustment.) As the season progressed I continued to utilize the front sight tower as a reference point and if I had an off call shot, it was nearly always due to me not including the front sight tower in my shot process. This would notably happen in offhand where movement was more fluid, and to a lesser extent, during sitting rapid fire due to the pressure from the perceived time constraints.

During a practice session, I forgot my prescription shooting glasses. While I could see the reticle and target fairly well, I was off call again, and what I considered significant. So, my experience points me to continue using a front sight tower on the Service Rifle, make sure I have my prescription glasses and get that quick check of the front sight tower engrained into my wrote shot process. Although my non-corrected eye sight is decent, it really seems to matter to get the most accuracy I expect.

I would encourage those that are contemplating diving into the optic on the Service Rifle to ask others about scopes, their quality (tracking and repeatability) and their reticles. I would also recommend getting an eye exam

and get prescription glasses if needed. Keeping the front sight tower on is a key point too, for me. **Now at last the Service Rifle is nearly on par with match rifles!**

Notes From the Editor

Discipline directors, please, get the articles you wish to have in the newsletter to myself or Jamey Williams as soon as you can. You can email them to me: chasbales@rocketmail.com

Good night, Chesty. Wherever you are.

Results of Shooting Events

Yellowstone Rifle Cross Course Match

Match Winner—Dennis Carroll 780-24x
 1st Master -- Randy Geiger 766-23x
 1st Sharpshooter – Tom Headrick 724-13x

Billings ,MT

June 5, 2016

1st High Master—Matt Waite 777-23x
 1st Expert – Dan Phariss 759-20x

Montana State Conventional 2700 Pistol Match

Match Winner --Gary Van Haele 2531-71x
 1st Expert -- Don Strom 2521-64x
 1st Sharpshooter -- Eric Gillitzer 2382-37x

Billings, MT

July 30, 2016

1st Master -- Lew Muller 2459-54x
 2nd Expert -- Jim Sutton 2488-59x
 1st Marksman -- Ken Gates 2226-25x

EIC CMP Competition Service Pistol Winner - Eric Gillitzer 260-2x

EIC CMP Competition .22 Rimfire Pistol Winner - Jim Sutton 279-7x

Montana International Pistol Match

Free Pistol

Match Winner—Gary Van Haele 462-3c
 1st Sharpshooter - Jim Sutton 457-0c
 1st Marksman - Matt Egloff 371-1c
 2nd Marksman - David Jessen 367-0c

Billings, MT

August 13, 2016

Standard Pistol

Match Winner - Roman Gillitzer 533-10c
 1st Master - Gary Van Haele 532-10c
 1st Expert - Lew Muller 523-7c
 2nd Expert - Wes Muller 505-3c
 1st Sharpshooter - Jim Sutton 530-5c
 1st Marksman - Fred Love 475-0c

Rapid Fire Pistol Match

Match Winner—Gary Van Haele 482-0c
 1st Sharpshooter - Lew Muller 461-3c
 1st Marksman - Matt Egloff 450-0c
 2nd Marksman - Eric Gillitzer 432-3c

Center Fire Pistol

Match Winner – Jim Sutton 535-5c
 1st Sharpshooter - Gary Van Haele 522-13c
 1st Marksman - Roman Gillitzer 532-11c
 2nd Marksman - Lew Muller 529-8c

Yellowstone Regional NRA 800 agg Rifle Match

Match Winner - Kenny Lankford 984-43x Gold

Billings, Montana

August 27, 2016

2nd - Jamey Williams 976-24x

Silver

| | | | |
|---|----------------|--|---------|
| 3 rd Matt Waite | 972-35x Bronze | 1 st High Master - Tom Thompson | 966-35x |
| 1 st Master - Scott Wehrmann | 964-25x | 2 nd Master - Aaron Guliuzza | 958-17x |
| 3 rd Master - Rick Torbert | 947-29x | 1 st EX/MK/SS - David Jessen | 926-12x |
| 2 nd EX/MK/SS - Zach Walker | 925-19 | | |

Montana State Outdoor Prone Championship**Missoula, MT****Aug. 13 & 14, 2016**

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|
| Match Winner - Roger McRoberts | 1599-126x | 1 st Master - Gary Swartz | 1595-107x |
| 1 st Expert - Mark Riedl | 1595-110x | 1 st Sharpshooter - Bob Scott | 1589-87x |
| 1 st Junior - Daniel Enger | 1590-106x | | |

Prone Champions are Mark Riedl, Champion; Gary Swartz, Senior Champion; Chase Breitbach, Junior Champion; and Alex Weisenburger, Woman Champion.

Montana State Outdoor 3 Position Championships**Missoula, MT****Aug. 13-14, 2016**

| | | | |
|--|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Match Winner - Daniel Enger | 1113-25c | 1 st Master - Robert Scott | 1096-20c |
| 1 st Expert - Gary Swartz | 1063-14c | 1 st Marksman - Bob Scott | |
| 1 st Junior - Ibbey Lorentz | 1080-14c | | |

3-P Champions are Robert Scott, Champion; Gary Swartz, Senior Champ; Ibbey Lorentz, Junior and Woman Champ.

This listing is provided as a courtesy to MRPA members; MRPA assumes no responsibility for the listed items or your satisfaction with them. Items for sale can be submitted to the newsletter editor for possible submission in the next newsletter.

Montana Rifle and Pistol Association 2015-2016

President: Jamey Williams

Vice President: Scott Wehrmann

Treasurer: Martin Bourque

Secretary: Zona Mowrer

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Scott Wehrmann (2016)

Dick Miller (2016)

Matt Waite* (2016)

Jake Taverna* (2017)

Bob Scott

Steffen Bunde (2017)

Matt Egloff (2018)

Mark Griffis* (2018)

Paul Thurmond (2018)

*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.

