

# The National SCTP Championship

By: Bill Dunn



# Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays



The country's biggest youth shotgun competition is about to get bigger! To kick off the 2008 Grand American in Sparta, Illinois., the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) will hold a mega-competition that will combine trapshooting, skeet, and sporting clays.

This year's super-sized SCTP competition will be held July 31 through Aug. 5 at Illinois' World Shooting and Recreational Complex. The competition will feature SCTP teams from across the country.

For those new to the clay target sports world, SCTP is a fast-growing national program that gives young shotgunners in elementary school through high school the chance to compete as a team for state and national championships in the clay target sports. The program has skyrocketed in popularity over the past few years, and nearly 24,000 young people have participated since its first year in 2000.

## More Sports, More Fun

"This is the first time that trap, skeet, and sporting clays national titles will be decided at a single SCTP event," said Zach Snow, NSSF's senior shooting promotions coordinator.

In past years, trapshooting nationals have been held at the Grand, but skeet and sporting clays nationals have been held at various other locations.

Snow said that combining the three championships will allow more young competitors to shoot any or all three sports in one location. It also encourages more participation throughout the year in all the shooting disciplines.

"This format will not only benefit multi-discipline shooters, but it will also provide those who haven't had the opportunity to try the other sports to give them a shot," Snow said. "After all, the best way to become a great all-round shooter is by learning all the other sports."

The three-sport format will also bring new faces to Sparta, which is an ideal location for a competition of this magnitude, Snow said.

"Sparta is a first-class facility," Snow said. "It has hosted not only the largest shoot in the world – the Grand American – but also a number of other top-level national and state sporting clays and skeet events."

## Shoot 'Til You Shop

In addition to getting to shoot three sports at one of the world's premier shooting facilities, SCTP shooters and their families will have plenty of shopping opportunities at the SCTP championships.

Companies throughout the shooting world will set up shop on the complex's Vendor Row, and tent vendors selling everything from food and cold drinks to shooting supplies and clothing will line the fields.

"This event will give many new SCTP families a chance to walk up and down Vendor Row and see the tremendous support this industry has for them," said Snow.

## The Lowdown on Competition and Practice

The 2008 SCTP National Championships will begin on July 31 with registration and practice for skeet and sporting clays. Skeet and sporting clays competition will be held August 1 and 2. Registration and practice for the trap nationals will be August 3, with the event being shot August 4 and 5.

There will be two sporting clays courses – one solely for practice and one for competition. Skeet and trap shooters will also be given plenty of practice opportunities throughout their events.

Last year, more than 1,600 young trap shooters traveled with their families to Sparta to compete in the 2007 SCTP Trap Nationals, so a similar-sized crowd is expected.

"This really is the Super Bowl of youth shooting sports," said Snow. "If you haven't already signed up an SCTP team for the 2008 season, there's no time to present to get in on the fun."

## Learn More About SCTP

Now active in 44 states, SCTP has been called "the Little League of shooting sports." The program is designed to instill in participants safe firearms handling, commitment, responsibility, leadership, and teamwork.

To learn more about forming a new team or joining an existing SCTP team, contact Dianne Vrablic, NSSF's promotions and special events coordinator, at (203)426-1320, or email [dvrablic@nssf.org](mailto:dvrablic@nssf.org).

To learn more about SCTP online, visit [www.nssf.org/sctp](http://www.nssf.org/sctp).





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# Step Up

## to an Air Rifle - part 1

By: Chip Lohman



What sport offers scholarships from nearly 100 colleges to high school students who can't dunk a basketball, run a six-second 100-yard dash, or play hockey? What sport also offers the chance for an all-expense paid trip to the Olympics? And what sport can you join for less than \$50? The answer to all of these questions is - the sport of air rifle.

*This is the first of a two-part series to introduce the sport of air rifle, explain how to get started and list where to go for information. In Part II we'll cover some air rifle equipment, examples, and air safety tips. While this article focuses on air rifles, air pistols, are also available for pleasure and competition.*

### History

Air rifles date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century (actually much earlier if you include blow guns). Captain Meriwether Lewis carried an American air rifle on the famous Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803 to 1806 (which is on display in the NRA's National Firearm Museum). Air rifle popularity grew in Europe after the armistice agreements following WWII. When the war ended, several European countries were restricted from the manufacturer of firearms. So, German engineers focused their skills and love of shooting sports on manufacturing "non-firearms" or air guns. In 1984, air rifle shooting became an Olympic program with

separate events for women and men. Using extremely accurate air guns, competitors stand and shoot .177 caliber lead pellets over 500 feet per second at targets that are 10 meters (33 feet) away. Other air rifle competitions include 3-position and 4-position shooting events that add prone, sitting, and kneeling positions.

### The Guns:

We're talking seriously accurate guns for the sport of air rifle (technically these are not classified as firearms by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives because they do not use an explosive powder charge). Some competition air rifle targets use a bull's eye or "10 ring" that is only 1/4 millimeter in diameter - the size of a pinhead. Other events use targets as large as a nine-inch paper plate. (See Figure 1.) Industry reports over 3,000,000 air guns sold annually in the United States. Competition air rifles weigh up to 12.12 pounds by international regulation, or 7.5 pounds for NRA "Sporter" rules. (More on this in Part II).

### Course of Fire

Some matches require the men to fire 60 shots in one hour and 45 minutes, while women have one hour and 15 minutes for 40 shots.



Figure 1 - Levels of Participation

Level (air rifle)	Rifle (.177 Caliber)	Clothing	Positions	Courses of Fire
Marksmanship Qualification Program	\$45 - \$150 BB gun, but also allows Sporter & Precision rifles. Any sights.	Unregulated	Benchrest, Prone, Sitting, Kneeling, or Standing.	Beginning backyard events, using simple targets and 9" paper plates.
Sporter Class (Costs are only estimates)	Sporter \$70 - \$450, no more than 7.5 lbs. Metallic sights.	Shooting jackets or trousers are not permitted, gloves are permitted. Normal street shoes.	Prone, Sitting, Kneeling, & Standing.	Most of the country is shooting 3-position, eliminating the sitting position. NRA AR-5 target with "pin-head" ten ring.
Precision Class (Costs are only estimates)	\$800 - \$3400. No more than 12.12 lbs. Any sight, but no lenses or scopes. Can use the same rifles as used in the Olympics.	Shooting jackets, trousers, & shoes are permitted. Check with your coach before purchasing since there are rules for fit, fasteners, etc.	Prone, Kneeling, & Standing.	The tournament program determines the course fire as 10, 20, or 40 shots in each position. NRA AR-5 target.

**Perfect Match Score:**

For international matches, 600 is a perfect score for men and a score of 590 is world-class. For women, 400 is perfect and 390 is world-class.

**What events are available?**

As shown in Figure 2, youth and adult sports competitions include 3-position (3-POS) and 4-POS events, while international rules are typically for standing only. Some local club matches are less restrictive to allow more people to participate. If it's a registered match, however, the rules are the same everywhere, helping to create a level playing field. Your "classification" or handicap allows shooting next to someone close to your own experience level in order make it more fun for everyone.

**Where can I meet a local team?**

Boy Scouts, Venturers, Law Enforcement Explorers, 4-H, Royal Rangers, DeMolay, FFA, Veterans of Foreign Wars, JROTC, National High School Rodeo, and private shooting clubs often have a shooting sports program that you can join. What makes the sport of air rifle so easy to participate in is that you can shoot in your basement or backyard. High School teams often convert their school's cafeteria into a safe air range for after school practice. And for a \$5 tin of 500 pellets and a \$45 air gun, you can practice shooting at a paper-filled box with target taped to the front for the same marksmanship challenge as a high-power rifle shooter at the Camp Perry Nationals. (See the resource area at the end of this article.)

**What equipment will I need?**

You can start with a \$45 BB gun in your backyard and follow the rules in the Winchester-NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program. This is a good way to learn if you really enjoy the shooting sports, before spending a lot of money on more high-tech equipment. Keep in mind that if you locate a local club, they will probably have team guns and equipment for your use. We'll cover some of the different types of rifles and equipment in Part II of this series.

**Helpful Resources:**

Find a club - <http://www.nrahq.org/clubs/index.asp>

Getting started in Airguns - <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/airgun.asp>

Marksmanship Qualification Program - <http://www.nrahq.org/education/training/marksmanship/index.asp>

Online Rule Books - <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/nra-rule-books.asp>

Match Schedules - <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/calendar.asp>



To give you a feel for the background of an Olympic Champion, I've included testimonial of Matt Emmons: Born 4/5/1981. Height: 5'7". From: New Jersey. Matt is now a resident athlete at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. Event: Air Rifle (3-POS and prone) and .22 cal Rifle. The current world champion, Matt first won two gold medals at the 2001 Junior Olympics and again won gold medals in the 2004 Olympics. He began shooting when he was 14 years old. Matt was first taught how to shoot by an FBI firearms instructor who told him that college scholarships were available for top competitors in the sport. Matt is preparing for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

"Other than school, shooting is my job. It's a job that I love, but I am continuously building toward the future. During school, I'm going almost non-stop from the time I wake up until I go to bed. Depending on my class schedule, I go to class for two to four hours a day, do homework, shoot for two to four hours, then usually spend one to two hours physically training. This really doesn't leave a whole lot of time for socializing or doing things that normal college students do. Because of shooting, I have had to make many sacrifices. I played baseball for seven years and I had to give it up to concentrate on shooting. I don't get to see my family very often because I'm at school, on a shooting trip or at my summer training venue. This is not to say that shooting is some sort of leech for me - I really love what I do. It's Every Day."

**Figure 2 - Types of Matches (See Rule Books for details.)**

Marksmanship Qualification Program	Honor system. Courses of fire can be fired in your backyard or at a local range. no team affiliation required.
Postal Matches	Organized by the NRA through local clubs. Honor system course of fire, results submitted through the mail, national scores published each year.
Sanctioned League	NRA sanctioned local "intramurals."
"Approved" Tournaments	Various Club-level competitions for fun and state team selection.
"Registered Tournaments	More regulated than "Approved" tournaments since record scores can be recorded.
State Championship	Annual tournaments authorized and/or conducted by state associations affiliated with the NRA
National	Organized by the NRA and associated partners.
International	Organized by USA Shooting with the recognized national skeet shooting organizations of the countries concerned.

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BY: RAY WALTERS

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### Catalog #60

Brownells, one of the biggest supporters of youngsters in the shooting sports, has released their #60 Catalog, and once again it is the ultimate source for all your shooting, gunsmithing, and equipment needs. Two hundred twenty pages of anything and everything that you may need or want from gunsmithing tools, to cleaning equipment, to parts and accessories, Brownell's latest catalog has it all. With a customer satisfaction record that is second to none and a huge selection of in stock items, the #60 Catalog from Brownells is a must for every serious gunsmith,



competitor, or recreational shooter. You can get this catalog by calling Brownells at (800)741-0015 or go online to [www.brownells.com](http://www.brownells.com).

## Brownells Ultimate Screwdriver Set



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## Brownells OKO Red Dot Scope

If you are looking for a reasonably priced, quality red dot type target scope, Brownells OKO Target Scope may be just what you are wanting. The shock-proof, water-resistant polymer body makes for a light, fast, responsive sighting system that is very user friendly. Large diameter, 26 mm multi coated lenses offer an unrestricted view of the target. The low-profile, rotary switch has 11 intensity positions plus off to give you complete control of dot brightness. Adjustable for windage and elevation. With four or eight MOA dot size, the OKO is very versatile for a broad variety of shooting applications. You can get the details about the OKO Target Scope by visiting Brownells website at [brownells.com](http://brownells.com).



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Mayville Engineering Company, better known to thousands of shooting enthusiasts as MEC, has been making reloading equipment since 1956, having manufactured more than two million reloaders, as well as other related equipment for the shooter. From their simplest single-stage machines to their fully progressive units, the MEC name and their equipment stood the test of time. I have been using two MEC Jr. loaders for more than 20 years and they are still going strong, with only the replacement of a few plastic parts required. Ask anyone who has been reloading shotshells for very long and they will tell you about the quality and durability of MEC reloading equipment. For more information about MEC reloading equipment see your local sporting goods outlet or go online to [www.mecreloaders.com](http://www.mecreloaders.com).

## Ted Blocker WB1911 Wild Bunch Holster



Don Brown, owner of Ted Blocker Holsters, has come out with his own version of the Wild Bunch 1911 holster.

The sample he sent us is a beautifully stamped, slightly canted, single-loop style holster in a soft natural brown. The belt loop is slightly offset and held to the holster body by three Chicago screws that work to keep the holster exactly where you want it on your belt. Also available is a very functional double-magazine pouch that makes for a perfect combination for those wishing to participate in a Wild Bunch match or just want to look very good while out on the range. For more information you can contact Ted Blocker Holsters at (800) 850-9742 or go online to [www.tedblockerholsters.com](http://www.tedblockerholsters.com).

## Wheeler Engineering Scope Mounting Kit by Battenfeld Technologies

Wheeler Engineering gun care products who brought us the F.A.T. torque wrench has now introduced the complete scope mounting kit for anyone who wants to mount their rifle or pistol scope correctly. The kit includes a F.A.T torque wrench, a pair of levels to keep the scope nice and level, a 1" ring lapping bar and handle, two pointed ring alignment bars, lapping compound, bottle of thread lock, a variety of screw tightening heads for the wrench, instructions on the package back, and a DVD explaining exactly how to use all the items in the kit. This is something that has been needed for a long time and now you can get everything in one kit. You can learn more about this and other Wheeler and Battenfeld products by going online to [www.wheelerengineering.com](http://www.wheelerengineering.com). Or [www.battenfeldtechnologies.com](http://www.battenfeldtechnologies.com).



## Otis Technology Brass Scraper Tool

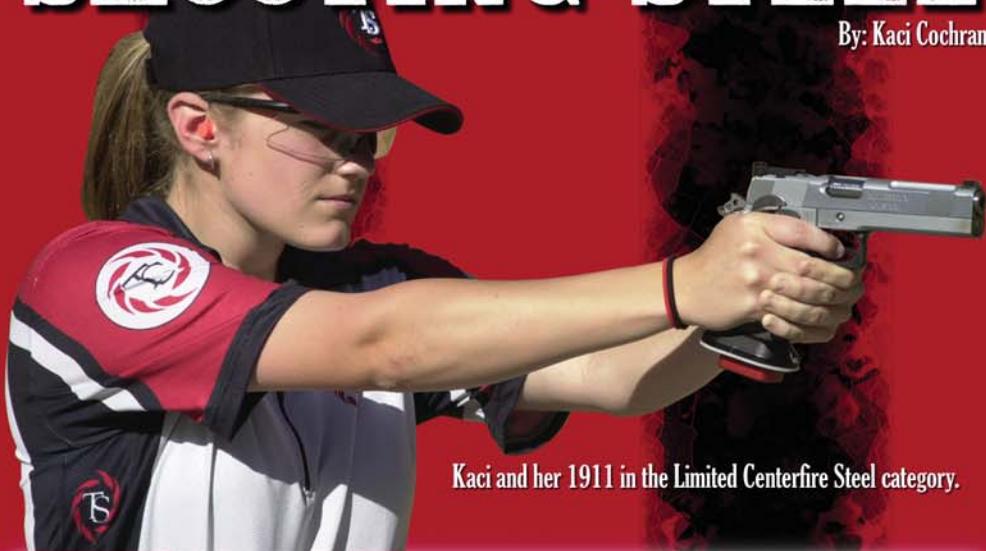
Finally, someone has come out with a set of precision gunsmith tools that allow cleaning of some of the most critical parts of the firearm that are nearly impossible to clean without specialized tools. This set includes two rod handle extensions and an end brush for lubricating and cleaning out carbon and loose material. Also included are two picks, made of music wire that will not damage your firearm. One of the picks is made specifically for the locking lugs of your AR-15/M-16 rifle which has a 90 degree bend to allow cleaning the back side of the locking lugs. Included is a brass scraper for cleaning any flat surface, bolt face, or rail, a pin punch and a compact receiver brush made with nylon bristles. If you are shooting any type of semi-auto rifle or pistol this set is a must. For more information see your local sporting goods professional or visit [www.otisgun.com](http://www.otisgun.com).



For Kids  
By Kids

# Bangin' & Clangin' SHOOTING STEEL

By: Kaci Cochran



Kaci and her 1911 in the Limited Centerfire Steel category.

I am 17 years old and love shooting steel! I got started shooting steel a little over a year ago when my dad took me to the range to shoot a monthly steel match. It was a lot of fun and I loved it immediately. The bang and clang of the bullet hitting the steel target gave me immediate feedback and got my heart pumping. Needless to say, I've been hooked ever since!

I guess you could say that shooting is in my blood. My dad, Pat Cochran, has been shooting for at least 20 years. I got my love and ability to shoot from him. Without him, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Shooting steel is a big part of my life. My family and I go to every steel match possible. Plus, shooting keeps me busy and out of trouble. This is a very good thing.

I also like shooting steel because it's something that I can do and enjoy with my mom and dad. That aspect alone makes it all worth while. Another positive thing that has come from the

action shooting sports is all the new friends that I have made. It is so much fun to see your friends on the weekends, and to get and give a little friendly ribbing. There's nothing better than going to the range and spending time with your family and friends.

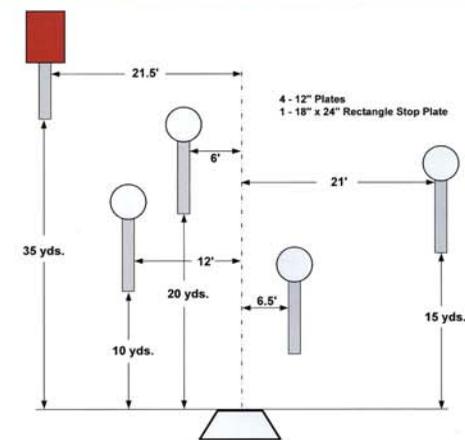
I like shooting steel because of the challenge that it presents. You really have to focus on what you're doing. Steel shooting is easier to learn for your first action shooting discipline.

It teaches all the basic aspects of good shooting, like trigger control, sight alignment, accuracy, and last but certainly not least, gun safety. I believe that these basics are essential for all shooters but especially junior shooters that are just getting started in the shooting sports. This is why I think that shooting steel is the best action shooting sport for a junior to start with. It helps build the basic shooting skills and it builds confidence in

that shooter's ability. When young shooters are confident and having fun they will tell their friends. This will help to continue to bring new junior shooters to the action shooting sports for years to come.

One of the questions that I get asked a lot is, "Doesn't it make you nervous to get up and shoot in front of all those people?" It did in the beginning, but the more you shoot the more you get used to it. Now shooting in front of people doesn't even phase me, no matter what sport I'm competing in. It actually helps me because I get a lot of support and encouragement from the people that I shoot with (and a little friendly ribbing). The best advice that I could give you if you are sitting on the fence is, just do it! Get out there and give steel shooting a try.

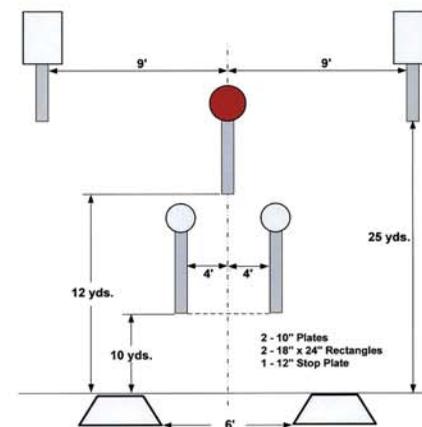
The best way to get started is in one of the .22 caliber categories. You can choose to shoot in the iron sight or optic division. A .22 caliber pistol, such as a Smith & Wesson, Browning Buckmark, Ruger, or one of the 1911 conversion kits from Tactical Solutions, is the easiest for a first time shooter to manage. It doesn't require that you draw from a holster. The .22 caliber divisions are the only divisions at this time that do not require you to draw the gun from the holster. You start with the pistol, finger off the trigger, pointing at an aiming point on the ground approximately 12 to 15 feet in front of the shooter



SPEED OPTION

Above and below: Stage diagrams. For more, please visit our website at [www.junior-shooters.net](http://www.junior-shooters.net).

Left: Kaci holding her limited custom 1911.



SHOWDOWN

box. Not having to draw the gun from the holster makes it less intimidating for first time shooters. Our local steel club has had good success in getting not only new junior shooters but whole family's involved in shooting steel through the use of the .22 caliber divisions. Ammo is a lot cheaper for the .22 rimfires, often less than half the cost of centerfire .9 mm ammunition. Our club also lets juniors shoot for free for their first gun. (At our local matches you can shoot in two divisions at our Saturday match so the first one is free.) Mom and Dad also get a family rate for their entry fees. It makes for an affordable fun-filled day at the range for the whole family.

Steel shooting is pretty straight forward; there are eight stages in the match: Accelerator, Five To Go, Showdown, Outer Limits, Speed Option, Roundabout, Pendulum, and Smoke & Hope. All of the stages consist of five targets which includes a stop plate set at distances from seven to 35 yards. The targets consist of 10 and 12 inch circles and 18 x 24 rectangles. All of the stages except Outer Limits are shot five times. The best four runs are kept for score on each of those stages. Outer Limits is shot four times and the best three runs are kept for score. This type of scoring is very easy to keep up with, you just add up your scores for the stages and that is your score for the match. I think that the simplicity of shooting steel is the main thing that makes it so much fun. There are no complicated stages to figure out and there is very little movement required to complete the match. The only movement under time in the match is on Outer Limits. You must engage two targets from the start box then move to the center box and engage the remaining two targets and the stop plate. You can start in either the right or left box then move to the center box to complete the stage, it is up to you to decide which. Showdown also has two shooting boxes but there is no movement under time. You make two runs from each of the start boxes then you can choose which box you would like to make your final run from. All of the other stages are fired from one location.

My favorite stages are Smoke & Hope and Five To Go. I like Smoke & Hope because the targets are big and close, it goes very fast. Fast is cool! Five To Go is more of a precision type stage. It stresses all the aspects of good shooting basics, and it really tests your nerves.

The funny thing about steel is that it never gets boring. You would think at first glance that it would. The stages are always the same. The targets do not move, although sometimes you would swear that they do. At least that would be a good excuse for missing them. But the truth is that the only limits for improvement in this sport are the ones that you develop in your own mind. My dad told me this when I first started shooting, but it took a little while for me to truly understand what he meant. If you believe you can achieve!

Junior shooters are the future of all the shooting sports. If we, as a group, do not get up off that couch and turn that video game off, our generation will lose the God given rights guaranteed to us by our Constitution. The right to keep and bear arms is under constant attack by the antigun groups. The only way in the future that we will be able to enjoy the shooting sports, like shooting steel is to stand up as young adults. Our voice will not go unnoticed!

*Kaci currently shoots .22 steel with a Tactical Solutions Browning Buckmark conversion and a Tactical Solutions 1911 Springfield Armory frame conversion. For IPSC and USPSA, she shoots an ST1 frame in .9mm major for open competition with a C-more red dot sight. She shoots the same gun in the centerfire division for steel. Barrels are from Shchuemann Barrels and then Millenium Custom.*

*Information on match rules, a description of the different categories and diagrams of the stages are available from the U.S. Steel Nationals, at [www.ussteelshoot.com](http://www.ussteelshoot.com)*



Left - Kaci on the Move.  
Right - Kaci with her USPSA Open 1911, holster, and magazines.

## Rugged Gear Supports Junior Shooters Because We All Need Them!

America's young shooters are important to us all. These young athletes will be tomorrow's adult shooters, preserving our shooting and hunting heritage. These same young athletes are also good examples for others, both on and off the shooting range, portraying the positive face of young people and firearms.

Please join Rugged Gear as we support these young athletes and their shooting competitions.

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The sweet smell of a crisp spring sunrise. Hearing your first gobble while tucked against a giant oak tree beside your hunting mentor. Gazing in wide-eyed wonder at a wild turkey gobbler in full strut. For many people, these scenes remind them of past outdoor adventures and generate excitement for adventures yet to come. But not everyone is fortunate enough to have been introduced to such sights and sounds of the Great Outdoors at an early age.

Have you ever wondered if there is a group of friends your age that love the outdoors as much as you do? Wouldn't it be cool to team up with this group to do all the fun outdoor-related activities you like to do, and discover new ones? You can!

#### All About JAKES

In 1981, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) created the JAKES program. JAKES stands for Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship, but any one of its 217,000 members will tell you that what JAKES really stands for is "fun." In wild turkey terms, a jake is a young gobbler, and it's active youth like you whom the NWTf want on their team.

First and foremost, the JAKES program is all about learning about the outdoors while having a good time. The program's main goals are teaching North America's youth about wildlife management, appreciating and enjoying the wonders of nature, and passing along the traditions of safe, ethical, and responsible hunting. The JAKES program is designed for kids up to age 12, and Xtreme JAKES is aimed at teens ages 13 to 17.

Activities at JAKES/Xtreme JAKES events include shooting, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, canoeing...you name it. If it's outside and it's fun, it's probably happening at a JAKES event near you!

All JAKES members receive *JAKES Magazine*, a full-color magazine that is published four times a year and is filled with amazing wildlife facts, photos, Critter Cards, answers to your wildlife questions as well as stories and pictures from people just like you! Have you ever wanted to see yourself in the pages of a magazine? Well, *JAKES* is always looking for cool pictures and drawings from its members!

#### Outdoors To The Extreme With Xtreme Jakes

Some people would say that today's teens are all about text messaging, MySpace, and video games. Well, thousands of Xtreme JAKES members across North America would disagree with that. Founded in 2002, Xtreme JAKES is custom-tailored for teens ages 13 to 17 and provides outdoor opportunities and challenges more in line with older JAKES abilities and experiences.

"Xtreme JAKES members know how to have fun," said Matt Linder, *JAKES Magazine* editor. "One of the best things about working with Xtreme JAKES is the positive attitude I hear from its members. Sometimes the mainstream media likes to portray teenagers as lazy and inactive, but there are lots of talented young people with bright futures who are very active in Xtreme JAKES," Linder said. "So many of the lessons that we learn from outdoor activities, such as

practicing good sportsmanship, respect for others, and never giving up carry over into other aspects of life," he said.

The "Xtreme JAKES" section of *JAKES Magazine* is geared specifically for members 13 to 17 years old, and focuses on advanced hunting and fishing strategies, snowboarding, rock climbing, and other exciting sports. *Xtreme JAKES* also includes gear reviews, do-it-yourself projects, and more. The entire magazine is filled with profiles of young people just like you, as well as news and stories that you want to read about.

#### Jake and Snoodly

The official JAKES mascots are Jake the wild turkey (of course), and his trusty sidekick, Snoodly the grasshopper. Jake loves to fish, hike, mountain bike, kayak, hunt, and hang out with his number one pal, Snoodly. Jake's favorite outdoor activities are strutting and gobbling, since his mom won't let him gobble in the house. He's also a regular at the NWTf's National Convention and Sports Show. Jake's favorite television show is *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turkeys*, his favorite music group is The Toms, and his favorite book is *101 Ways to Prepare Chufa*. Chufa is a type of plant that is one of the wild turkey's favorite foods.

Snoodly is Jake's best friend. Being a grasshopper, which is also one of a turkey's favorite foods, Snoodly spends a lot of his time convincing Jake that eating him would mean the end of their friendship. Snoodly loves to hike and ski, but hates fishing. He's been mistaken for bait one too many times, he says. Snoodly's favorite outdoor activity is camping. He's always prepared with a knapsack stuffed with camping and survival gear over his shoulder. Snoodly's favorite television series is *The Swarm*, his favorite music group is The Crickets, and his favorite book is *101 Ways to Avoid Being Eaten*.

#### JAKES Team Members

The NWTf has an entire team at the Wild Turkey Center and volunteers all over North America who want to see you get outside, be active and have fun in the Great Outdoors. These volunteers are your neighbors who come from all over your community and beyond to help you discover a

new outdoor hobby that you'll enjoy for years to come. In 2007, local NWTf chapters conducted more than 1,000 JAKES/Xtreme JAKES events featuring hands-on activities all across the continent, so odds are there is an event coming soon to a location near you!

Mandy Harling, JAKES program manager, said she likes seeing JAKES members having a good time at the events. "I enjoy working with kids and introducing them to the outdoors. I love to see the expression on a child's face the first time they shoot a bow or play hide-and-seek in their camo," Harling said. "It's also great to see our Xtreme JAKES meet new friends that have the same interests," she added. "Young people are the future of our sport, so we have to do everything

# take it outside!! discovering nature with...



by: brian purtymun and the nwtf

we can pass the tradition on." That tradition is alive and well; JAKES membership has exploded from 833 members in 1988 to more than 217,000 in 2006!

**What's In It For You?**

In addition to a whole new world of outdoor opportunities and friends, for just \$5, you'll also receive four issues of *JAKES Magazine*, an NWTF membership card, and a decal. If that isn't reason enough, you also will have the chance to win a hunt of a lifetime. Each JAKES/Xtreme JAKES member is eligible for a drawing to win a hunt on the legendary King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas!

**Scholarship Programs and Assistance**

Everyone at the NWTF believes your education is important. That's why each year, the NWTF presents a \$10,000 national scholarship as well as many \$1,000 state/provincial academic scholarships and hundreds of \$250 local scholarships. The scholarships are awarded to young people who have demonstrated a commitment to conservation, academic excellence, and building leadership skills. Applicants must be licensed hunters to be eligible.

Each year, over \$500,000 is available in scholarships to JAKES/Xtreme JAKES members. To date, the NWTF has awarded more than \$2.3 million through the scholarship program! The program is just one way the NWTF is helping to



ensure we have the dedicated conservationists needed for the future.

The NWTF also partners with Future Farmers of America (FFA) to provide scholarships to its members. The NWTF provides a \$5,000 scholarship to a student pursuing a wildlife management or agricultural degree. The scholarship fund is administered through the National Future Farmers of America Foundation.

Often, scholarship and college applications ask for your involvement in community service projects. The Xtreme JAKES Xtra Credit department will help you or your class find projects and, at the same time, help the conservation effort. Xtra Credit helps Xtreme JAKES members become more involved in their communities and get hands-on experience with wildlife and natural resource conservation.

**The Good Times Keep Rolling**

Thousands of young people have gotten to experience fun things at JAKES and Xtreme JAKES events that they might have otherwise never had the chance to do. Most importantly, they're learning how to help conserve North America's wildlife for generations to come. After all, the future of hunting and fishing depends on the next generation of hunter conservationists.

For more information about the JAKES/Xtreme JAKES program or to find an event near you, visit [www.nwtf.org/jakes](http://www.nwtf.org/jakes).



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For Kids  
By Kids



Abel with his team shooting sporting clays.

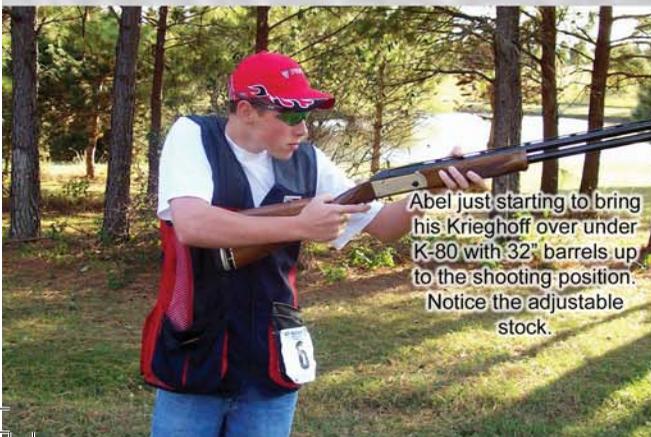
# SHOOTING

## *A LifeLong Dream*

By: Abel Spires

Shooting is and always will be my lifelong dream! Some of my fondest memories are deer hunting with my father and duck hunting with my grandfather. I have been shooting sporting clays competitively for nearly four years now and have been on the Sub-Junior All-American Team with the National Sporting Clay Association for three years. As a 15-year-old, I have made many friends along the way, the greatest of these is Kathlee Puls. She has been my coach, my mentor, my family, but most of all, she has been my friend. She teaches me something in every conversation. Whether it is about attitude, what style of jeans to wear, or the Packers being the best football team, she has always been there for me. I never have understood what she receives from her commitment, because she certainly hasn't been paid. I hope to repay her through my successes! I have had other influences along the way.

Being from Oklahoma, Gene Sears always has encouragement to offer. Jim Thomas has given me lessons. He helped me to remember to keep it simple and to stay focused. Doug Fuller taught me to be ready to win when I step into the station because he will be! I shoot a Krieghoff over under K-80 with 32" barrels. I am on "Team Fiocchi" and I shoot the one-ounce target load, it is a great little shell! I am also very blessed to be sponsored by Ford Motor Company. They gave my parents a great deal on a Harley Davidson pickup, which takes us all over the U.S. to weekly events. I am the only Sub-Junior competitor in Oklahoma so we travel five to twelve hours every weekend. Shooting has taught me many things. My greatest challenge has been overcoming a bad attitude! I realize now I don't have to be perfect. I will never win every competition. No matter how hard I work. Being 15 years old and growing from five feet six inches in 2006, to six feet two inches in 2007, has made fitting my shotgun a constant obstacle all year. A custom gunstock from Wenig, and numerous emergency changes by Mark Gadbaw, has really helped me adjust to my growth this year. My most memorable accomplishment so far was making a come back on the last day of the U.S. Open in 2006, I was in thirty-second place and came back to second place. That was better than any first I've ever had! My long term goal is to represent the U.S. in the 2012 Olympics! I hope to win a few Nationals in between. Shooting has opened the door to many opportunities in my life. I hope to give back what it has given to me. I am grateful to my savior Jesus Christ, for giving me my talents! To my Dad and Mom for all they do, and for all the many positive acquaintances along the way!



Abel just starting to bring his Krieghoff over under K-80 with 32" barrels up to the shooting position. Notice the adjustable stock.



Checking his scores after the match.



Abel posing in front of the sponsors sign for the Quail Unlimited sporting clays competition.



For Kids  
By Kids

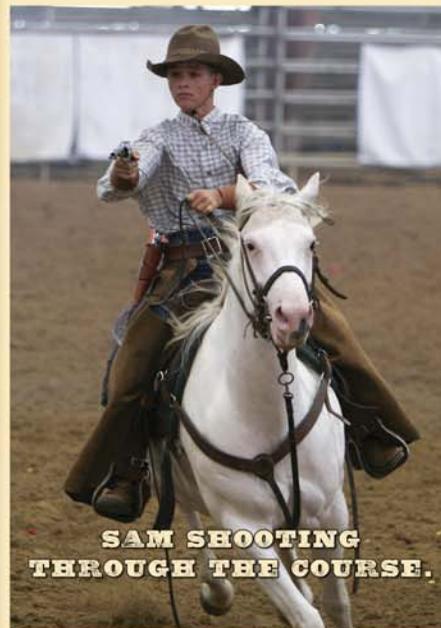
# PLAYING COWBOY



BY: SAM MORELAND



JUNIOR SHOOTERS



SAM SHOOTING THROUGH THE COURSE.

SAM TURNING THE BARREL GETTING READY FOR THE FIVE TARGETS IN THE RUNDOWN.



My name is Sam Moreland. I am 12 years old, and in the seventh grade in Brenham, Texas. I like to play baseball and football, but one of my favorite things to do is to compete in cowboy mounted shooting.

Cowboy mounted shooting combines riding horses and shooting balloons. You ride your horse through a pattern where ten balloons are set up. You carry two single-action .45 caliber revolvers loaded with five rounds each. We shoot blanks loaded with enough black powder to break a balloon at about 20 feet. You race through the pattern as fast as you can, and get five seconds added to your time if you miss a balloon or knock down a barrel.

My Dad started in Cowboy mounted shooting six years ago. I was just six years old, but it wasn't too long before I wanted to participate also. When you're under 12 years-old and competing in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA), you're placed in the Wrangler Division. That's where you run the pattern just like the adults, but don't shoot from your horse. You shoot your balloons from the ground at the end of the stage. In the beginning, my dad and I shared a horse, Rowdy. My Dad began training our other horses to become shooting horses. He first started working on our three-year-old mare, Sassy, that my sister rode. Shooting horses have to get used to the sound of gunfire, the smell of black powder smoke, and bursting balloons. As he worked with our horses, Dad discovered they would accept the shooting easier if they were around other horses that were used to it.

My sister Darcy and I began sharing Sassy. She's a small, quick little bay horse that has some cutting horse blood in her. Sassy liked the shooting, and the earplugs we put in her ears protected her hearing. I liked riding Sassy. She is really fast and she and I made a good team. When I was nine years-old, I competed on Sassy at the CMSA National Championship in Tunica, Mississippi. We won the Wrangler Limited Division National Championship. The next year, my Dad and I worked to train Sassy's half sister Boom-Boom to become a shooting horse. That year, Boom-Boom and I went to the Nationals, and we won the Wrangler Open Division Championship. When you're ten years-old in the CMSA, you're required to carry cap guns, point at your targets, and change pistols, just like you'll have to do when you move into the Junior Division.

This year, Boom-Boom and I advanced to the Junior Division. That's for shooters 12-15 years old. Now we shoot from our horses just like the adults. Boom-Boom has taken to the shooting, and we are working on getting faster. I'm working on my gun handling and gun changes, so they are as quick as possible. So far this year, we've won the Regional championship in the Junior division, and I am the Junior Texas State Champion.

Cowboy mounted shooting is a fun, family sport. My dad is a level five shooter. Shooters are ranked according to their number of wins. The top class is level six. My 15-year-old sister, Darcy, is a level three shooter, and my ten-year-old little sister, Olivia, is in the Wrangler division. My Mom announces at all of our matches. We've had lots of fun, traveling across the country competing in mounted shooting. We've made lots of friends, whom we look forward to seeing at the matches. Come join us!

**Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA)**  
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# The Ruger Mark III

By: Ray  
Walters

# Still

# #1



The Ruger Mark IIIs –  
Stainless and blue.  
Beautiful by any standard.

The history of one of the greatest success stories in the firearms industry or any other business for that matter, is that of Sturm, Ruger and Company. In 1949, a young William Ruger and his friend and investment partner Alexander Sturm, founded the Sturm, Ruger Company in Southport, Connecticut. The next year saw the arrival of their first firearm offering, the .22 caliber Ruger Standard semi-auto pistol. At \$39.50 retail the Standard was more than \$11.00 less than the chief competition, the Colt Woodsman. As a result of an ad and an enthusiastic review in the *American Rifleman* the orders started coming in and within a year the operating loan provided by the Sturm family had been repaid and the future looked bright.

This pistol became one of the most popular firearms ever produced by the Ruger company and would remain a mainstay for more than 50 years.

The next several years saw the introduction of a number of changes and modifications to the Ruger Standard designated as the Mark I, Mark II, and the current production model Mark III. Available in several barrel lengths, contours, and sight arrangements as well as a choice of either stainless steel or blue steel construction, the Ruger Mark III, semi-automatic .22 rimfire continues to hold its place as the top selling firearm of its type. Recently, *Junior Shooters* magazine obtained a pair of Mark IIIs, one in stainless and one finished in standard blue.

Both have 5-1/2" heavy barrels and micro-adjustable rear sights. The blue gun has Ruger's standard blue steel finish and the stainless gun comes with a very pleasing satin finish which hides small scratches and wear marks very well.

The best way to evaluate a firearm for *Junior Shooters* magazine is to have a young shooter try it out. That task fell to my 10-year-old grandson Cody, who is my resident junior firearms tester and a great shot in his own right. With the two Mark IIIs and a supply of rimfire ammo in hand it was off to the range for a little shooting time.

From my perspective the two most endearing qualities of the Ruger MK III are first, the shootability, due in no small part to

a very user friendly trigger pull right out of the box and such was the case with both of these guns. The second quality is that every one of the Ruger Mark guns that I have owned or tested, be it a MK I, II, or III has been very accurate and these two pistols were no exception. Although a little heavy for Cody to shoot offhand, from a sand bag rest his performance with the Rugers was very commendable.

Armed with a variety of .22 Long Rifle ammunition from American Eagle, Winchester Super-X, Winchester Target, CCI Mini Mag, Remington High Velocity, and RWS Pistol Target, we set out for Black's Creek Range on a sunny autumn afternoon. All groups were shot at 15 yards over sandbags with velocity



figures taken with a Pro-Chrono chronograph 10 feet from the muzzle.

Initially I set the targets at the 15-yard line with Cody shooting from sandbags on a stationary bench-rest. Due to the guns being a little heavy and his inexperience shooting a semi-automatic pistol, it took a while to bring the groups down to where I thought they should be. Final results were groups in the two to two-and-a-half inch range with both pistols shooting about the same for him. The size and weight of the Mark IIIs tired Cody out rather quickly so I took over the shooting responsibilities compiling group data from the same 15-yard distance. From the same sandbag rest and open sights both pistols showed themselves to be more than adequate for most target and small game hunting situations. The triggers of both guns were quite smooth and crisp with the stainless gun coming in at 3.5 pounds and the blue gun having a 3.25 pound trigger; very serviceable. After firing about 150 rounds we experienced zero feeding or ejecting problems and the magazine disconnect is a great safety feature preventing the gun from being fired without the magazine in place. Another relatively new feature on the Mark III is the addition of a push-button magazine release as well as a separate safety button. All-in-all the Ruger Mark III is an extremely safe and fun firearm that is capable of very serious competitive performance at a very reasonable price.



The business end showing muzzle crown and bevel as well as the target front sight.

Both Ruger Mark IIIs being tested by the author's grandson, along with various types of ammo that was used.



### Test Results

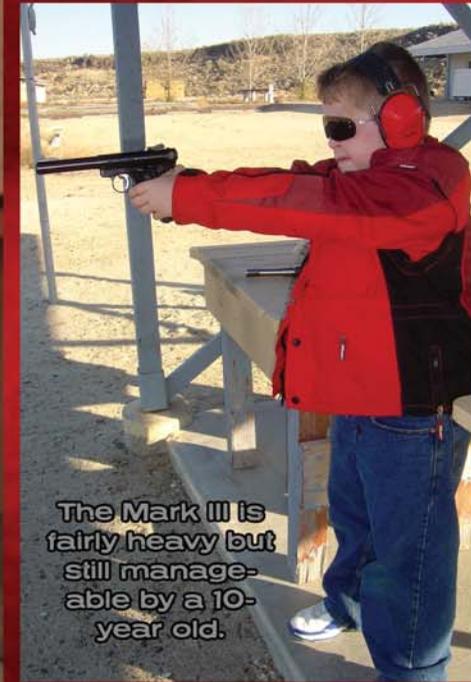
#### External Ballistic Data Compiled at 15 Yards:

Ammunition	MK-III S/S Velocity/Accuracy	MK-III Blue Velocity/Accuracy
American Eagle	1020 fps/1.4"	1029 fps/1.1"
CCI Mini-Mag	1077 fps/1.1"	1082 fps/1.1"
Remington Hi-Vel	844 fps/1.1"	854 fps/1.25"
RWS Pistol Target	934 fps/1.1"	927 fps/1.25"
Winchester Super-X	943 fps/1.25"	985 fps/1.0"
Winchester T-22	980 fps/1.25"	985 fps/1.1"

One of Junior Shooters' gun testers, Hannah Bowers with the Stainless Ruger Mark III.



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The Mark III is fairly heavy but still manageable by a 10-year old.



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Savage Arms, Inc.	<a href="http://www.savagearms.com">www.savagearms.com</a>
SKB Shotguns	<a href="http://www.skbshotguns.com">www.skbshotguns.com</a>
Smith & Wesson	<a href="http://www.smith-wesson.com">www.smith-wesson.com</a>
Starline	<a href="http://www.starlinebrass.com">www.starlinebrass.com</a>
Tactical Solutions	<a href="http://www.tacticalsol.com">www.tacticalsol.com</a>
Ted Blocker Holsters	<a href="http://www.tedblockerholsters.com">www.tedblockerholsters.com</a>
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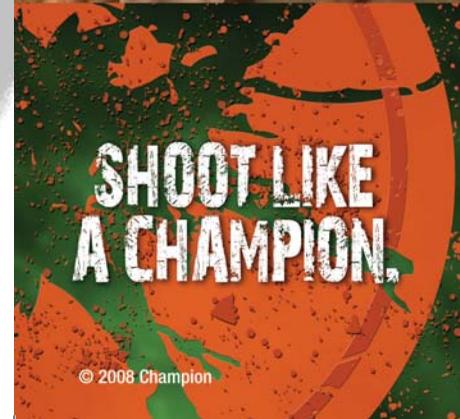
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