

JUNIOR SHOOTERS



Making A Mark

Volume 30
Spring 2018

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tells All:
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On The Hunt
Again!**



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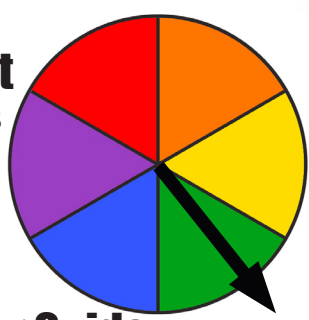
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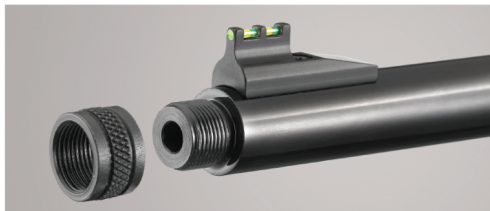
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A Message From your Editor

Adults – What is your story?

I am always trying to get juniors to write about their shooting experiences. What about the adults? Yes, this magazine is dedicated to juniors and their families, and more than 60% of the articles are written by juniors, which is an objective I will always strive to maintain. However, most adults have some amazing stories of the shooting and hunting experiences that they had as a junior growing up. ***These great stories should be shared!***

So, I am challenging you, parents and grandparents, coaches and instructors, tell us your story. How did hunting and shooting ***affect you as a junior?*** Did you ***learn something significant?*** Did these experiences help frame you as a better person and the type of person other juniors should become? Did you hunt with a family member or compete on a team? What types of ***impacts did it make on your life?*** Was it fun? Why?

I am hoping to feature one adult story per issue about their experiences hunting or shooting and what it meant to them. Here is your chance! Pass on the joy you felt pulling that trigger for the first time. Was your ***heart beating faster*** when you went out into the wilderness with your mom or dad and got your first turkey or deer? Did you ever have any humorous happenings? Juniors always like a little humor.

Here is your opportunity to pass the fun you had on to others. Please email your articles to me at publisher@juniorshooters.net. Hopefully, you might have some old photos of you hanging around you might be able to pull out.

Get on it! ***Pass the message on!*** The shooting sports is about family and fun!



Andy Fink, Editor - In - Chief

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Publisher Junior Sports Magazines, Inc.

Tel: 208-629-8967, publisher@juniorshooters.net
7154 W. State St. # 377, Boise, ID 83714

www.juniorshooters.net

Editor-In-Chief Andy Fink

Associate Editor Kenny Durham

Art Director Dawn Fink

Established Contributing Authors

Serena Juchnowski (Jr.), Tanner Hardy (Jr.), Joseph Murray (Jr.), Jenna Fees, Ashley Rumble (Jr.), James de Lambert (Jr.), Ricky Marston (Jr.), Ben Moody (Jr.), Bryson Smith (Jr.), Steven Shults (Jr.), Tyler Savell (Jr.), Brody Loftin (Jr.), Tristan Woodbury (Jr.), Cameron Burke (Jr.), Brock Lueddke (Jr.), Jessica Weekly (Jr.), Macey Tadlock (Jr.), Hunter Horvath (Jr.), Bryson Smith (Jr.), Joe Murray (Jr.), Jack Moody, Kim Moody, Randy Irish, Scott Dye, Dave Furney, Larry Haley, Mike Sacks, Jennifer L.S. Pearsall (NSSF), Bill Dunn (NSSF), (SCTP) Tom Wondrash, Brian Lueddke

Marketing & Sales Andy Fink

General E-mail: Info@juniorshooters.net

Advertising Information: Advertising@juniorshooters.net

Letters to Editor: articles@juniorshooters.net

Article Submission: articles@juniorshooters.net

Editor-In-Chief: publisher@juniorshooters.net

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ON THE HUNT

By ASHLEY RUMBLE (16)



AGAIN



Savage .243 Youth!

Getting into hunting is a lot of fun. You get to see some great places, get out of the city, and maybe see some animals to harvest. But, if you think you'll be going up there to get "free" meat, think again!

Don't get me wrong, I have a lot of fun with the whole process with hunting, but, let's break it down. First, you must have something to hunt with. It could be a bow or a rifle, but you must come up with something.

I'm not at a point to GO archery hunt yet. It takes another class beyond Hunters Ed and I haven't taken it yet. But, I am looking forward to trying it next year for sure. If archery isn't your thing, there's a few other options and specialized hunts for all those options. I use a Savage .243 with AccuTrigger. It is a very nice rifle with a lightweight stainless barrel and action, and a composite stock that's very nice to shoot, and very important, easy to carry

a lot and saw some places that were beyond description, and walked up on a bear that was thankfully, in a good mood. Chuffing isn't a good sound to hear when you're wandering around in the snow.

So, with the first weekend out of the way and a few lessons learned, we next went to McCall. Another Central Idaho mountain area known for Payette Lake, water skiing, condos, and snow skiing. We found what we thought was a good spot, hunkered down and hid while

Carry the right equipment!

around. My dad uses an old (like him) Model 700 .270 that weighs at least twice what my Savage does. It was given to him by a good friend, so it's important to him that he uses it. It's a great rifle and has a very smooth action.

Now that's settled, where to go? In Idaho, we are blessed that we don't have much of a shortage of places to go. At first, we looked at an area around the town of Riggins. It's a small town along the Salmon River, known for fish and rafting. The location was thought of in the spring because we wanted to scout out the area first. It's always good to do so beforehand. Last year, we didn't have the opportunity and we were in way over our heads because of it. But this year, we went around the area and even got to talk to a very friendly Sheriff's deputy. After receiving a copy of Junior



Have fun no matter what!

Shooters magazine, he gave us the low down on the area.

As the date of opening day approached, we decided we wanted to go to Elk City first. An earlier opening date made it a tempting trip. Elk City is a small town buried deep in the mountains of North Central Idaho, and as the name says, it's part of the Selway Elk Zone, but our six-hour drive had us there for deer. We thought that almost hitting one with the pickup on the way there was a good sign, but it wasn't to be. After a lot of walking in every kind of weather, we saw a few, but they were really too small to consider this year. However, all was not lost. We learned

waiting for that prized yet elusive buck to show up. No such luck. Most likely they saw us coming and were on the next ridge over laughing at us. We tried a few more tricks in a few more places, but in the end, we went back to McCall and ordered pizza.

After that weekend, the weather turned bad and it delayed our next outing. But, on the last weekend of the season, we decided to finally make it to Riggins. Plans were made, tire chains were bought, but it was not to be. One of those "unavoidables" came up and we didn't make it.

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(You can't catch 'em all!)

So, when you hear someone say, "all you got to do is" when talking about hunting, don't believe them. It's a lot of work. Don't let that discourage you though. In the times we came home empty-handed deer-wise, my dad and I spent a great time together, we saw so much great scenery that my mind's eye was on overload, we met some nice people, and we learned more for next year. We can't wait for next year either. We have places to go back to with a little more insight. We have draws to put in for that give us special units and dates, and we will have an optimistic attitude that all hunters should have. So, until next year! Now, it's time to ski. ©

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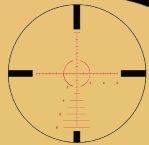
Bushnell's Elite



ELITE

HUNTER SCOPE (LRHS) 4.5-18X

By Andy Fink and Jayse Cathcart (13)



INTRO:

Today, rifle scopes are a huge part of both hunting, and rifle competitions. A good scope can make the difference between having a good day or a bad day. It is also important to know the adjustments on your scope, your reticle, the difference between second focal plane and first focal plane (not a short subject so will be discussed again in a later article) as well as the difference between MOA and MILs (again, not a short subject). Knowing all of this, along with how to read the wind and the distance, and the ballistics of your cartridge will mean you should be able to make your first shot time and time again.

Bushnell's line of optics is outstanding, and their Elite Long-Range Hunter Scope (LRHS) is awesome. We had the chance to review it and here is how one of our juniors tested it and what he thought.

FEATURES:

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THE HEART OF THE LRHS SCOPE IS THE PURPOSE-BUILT FIRST FOCAL PLANE G2 RETICLE



RANGE

JAYSE:

The scope I used was a first focal plane that had a G2H reticle. This allows for ranging at any magnification. The turrets adjusted in milliradians. Each click of the turret is adjusted to .1 mils or .36" at 100 yards. The elevation turret has a RevLimiter zero-stop turret.

I aimed at a certain box then shot. Then I used my reticle as a ruler and measured how far I was from the target. I then made my adjustment shot again to test my adjustment. Once the rifle was zeroed, I conducted two tests. One was called the tall target test, and the other was called the box adjustment drill.

I first did the box adjustment test. I aimed at a box, and I shot twice at that box. Then I aimed at the same box but went 2.5 mils right. I then fired two shots after every adjustment and went 2.5 mils up. Then you go 2.5 mils left then back down 2.5 mils. Each adjustment should have moved 9". Each adjustment did move between 8-3/4" and 9-1/4".

The 2nd test I performed was the tall target test. I had to aim at a little gray diamond. I had to shoot at one point of the diamond then I dialed 9 mils upwards. I fired two shots at the same diamond. This should have moved my impacts 32.4" but impact adjusted 33.75".

In conclusion, the scope is a good hunting scope, and I really liked the first focal plane. The reticle was clear and easy to see, and it was accurate. The weight of the scope was good, and it didn't feel like it was weighing the gun down. I certainly recommend this scope for the long-range hunter."

The heart of the LRHS scope is the purpose-built first focal plane G2 reticle that allows hunters to range targets at any magnification and make critical hold adjustments. Hunters can now choose the original, milliradian-based G2H reticle with .1 mil clicks and 10 mils per revolution of adjustment. Or, they can select the new G2M MOA-based version with .25 MOA clicks and 24 MOA of travel per revolution. The low-profile elevation turrets with RevLimiter™ zero stop allow shooters to quickly return to zero without dialing past. The scopes feature fast-focus eyepieces and side parallax adjustment to retain a crisp, clear sight picture at any range. The



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SR 6.5 CM (SRP)	458 SOCOM
260 REMINGTON	458 HAM'R
277 WOLVERINE	40-65
6.8 SPC	45-70
7MM-08 REM	45-90 (2.4)
30 CARBINE	45-100 (2.6)
300 BLACKOUT	5 IN 1 BLANK
308 WIN	50 BEOWULF
7.62x39	500 AUTO MAX
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9MM WIN MAG

9MM MAKAROV

38 SUPER

38 SUPER + P

38 SUPER COMP

38 TJ

357 MAG

357 MAXIMUM

357 SIG

360 DW

38 LONG COLT

38 S&W

38 SHORT COLT

38 SPECIAL

38 SPECIAL + P

380 AUTO

38-40

40 S&W

40 SUPER

10MM

10MM MAG

400 COR-BON

41 COLT

41 SPECIAL

41 MAG

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44 AUTO MAG

44 COLT

44 MAG

44 RUSSIAN

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Erin Callahan

is the founder of the Merry Miracles Sporting Clay Shoot and Toy Drive Benefitting Children's Hospital. The Third Annual Shoot was held on December 2, 2017 at Colorado Clays, the full-service shooting facility owned by Cory and Doug Kraft a few miles east of Denver. For several years Erin has been a member of the Rocky Mountain Clay Busters, a Colorado shooting team under the auspices of the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). The SCTP was implemented by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, the largest

Today's Children

The Third Annual Merry Miracles Sporting Clay Shoot and Toy Drive Benefitting Children's Hospital.

By Michael G. Sabbeth



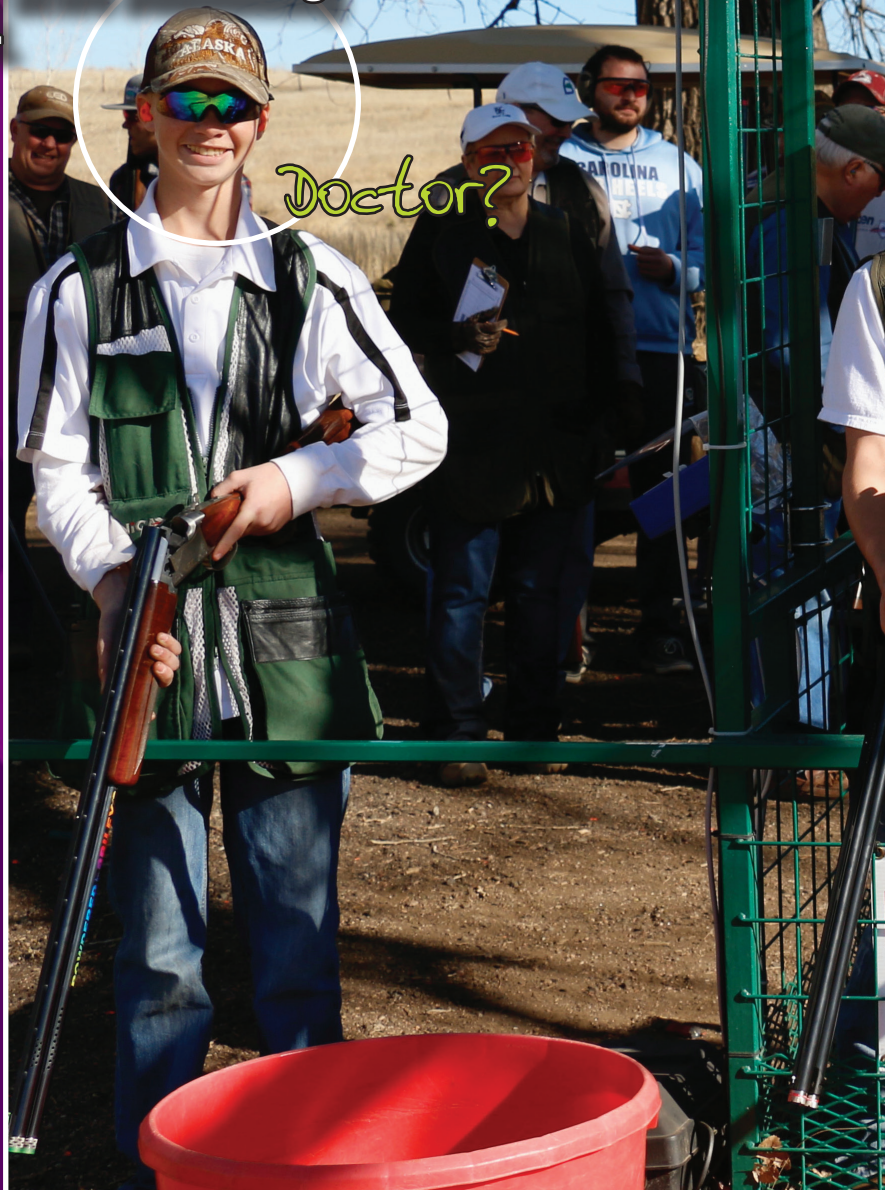
youth shooting program in the world.

Erin is a shooter of singular achievement. When a high school senior, she was awarded a \$1,000 SCTP scholarship. She is the 2017 Colorado State Overall Ladies Sporting Clays Champion. Given her shooting bloodline, as it were, her success has family precedent. Her father, Dan, is the current Colorado State Sporting Clays Champion. He and I have been friends for years.

The motto of the Scholastic Clay Target Program is "Preparing today's youth to become the leaders of tomorrow." The motto perplexed me initially because a program that sought to create leaders by smashing clay discs with shotgun blasts impressed me as illogical. However, I found the motto sufficiently intriguing to ponder if a relationship existed between Erin Callahan's charitable project and leadership. I concluded that Erin's hard work and tenacious commitment to helping others, children, particularly, was the quintessential manifestation of virtuous leadership: the personal effort to do good for others.

Many of us, perhaps most, have seen people suffering and in need of medical treatment and sometimes needing little more than a reason to smile. Most of us have empathy for those suffering; fewer are those that act to reduce suffering and provide help. Erin is one of the few inhabiting that rarified atmosphere where empathy is transformed into action. The 2017 shoot raised over \$13,000 for Children's Hospital and received hundreds of toys for children.

Erin's inspiration for the Merry Miracles shoot



was seeing her cousin, Lucy, battle illness from birth and then the diagnosis of thyroid cancer of her best friend, Megan. With unreflecting modesty, Erin told me: "I wanted to help as much as I could." This is leadership – immersing oneself in the fire center of virtuous action. She organized the first Merry Miracles Shoot at the young age of 15! In addition to grit and dedication, Erin manifested maturity and grace. "I saw how putting a smile on a child's face can make a positive impact."

I'd been shooting at Colorado Clays for about two decades and I've never

seen the parking lot as packed as on the day of the shoot. Of the approximately 220 shooters that pre-registered, 207 attended. Shooter Dave Sullivan commented, "This event was the most successful fundraiser in Colorado, and it was started by a teenager! There were more registered shooters than at the state championship." I have often commented that clay target shooters are among the most supportive and generous folks I've met.

The morning was perfect for breaking clays – or, in my case, trying to: atypically warm, no wind, the pale

blue sky dotted with tissue-paper-like clouds, and the sun piercing the sky like a flaming arrow. Station 12 offered a gorgeous panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains. Shooting carts darted about like water bugs on a pond. People were upbeat and effervescent. Throughout the shoot, Erin scurried from shooting station to station monitoring that the event was going smoothly or she was typing on her laptop with the precision and focus of a concert pianist.

J. R. Pierce set the targets, which were appropriately challenging but fair. One rabbit target scurried onto a trampoline

Tomorrow's Leaders



"Preparing today's youth to become the leaders of tomorrow."



The 2017 shoot raised over \$13,000 for Children's Hospital and received hundreds of toys for children!

Erin Callahan with youth winner Michael Hitchcock-Kuhn

and bounded straight up, causing consternation among some shooters. Dan Callahan commented, "It's a fun target but easy!" Well, if you say so, but, lest we forget, Dan is the state champion! Each station hosted three shooters, an unusual sporting clays format, but justified by the high number of shooters.

The winning youth shooter was Michael Hitchcock-Kuhn of the SCTP team Grateful Guns of Glenwood Springs, achieving the enviable score of 89/100. Grateful Guns is one of 12 SCTP teams in Colorado.

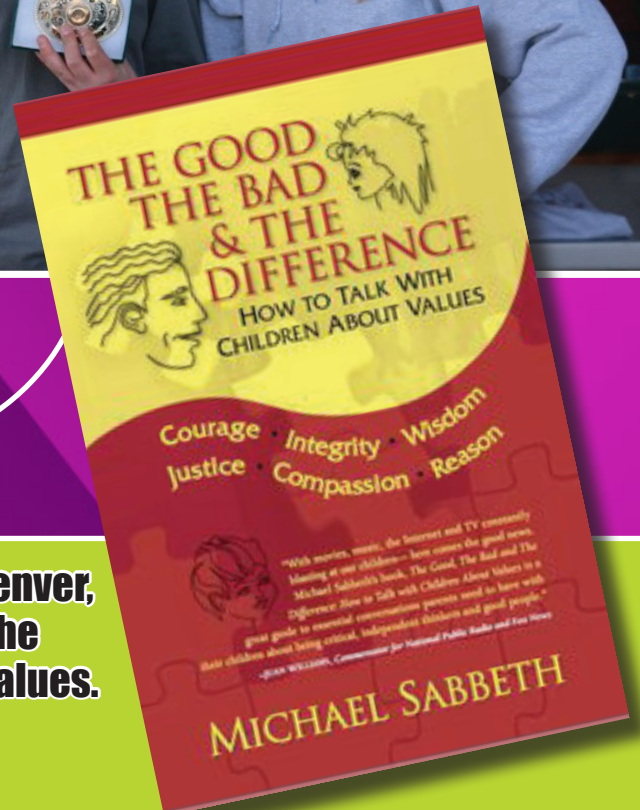
I asked Erin's dad, "How proud are you of your daughter?" Dan replied, "Words can't describe it. She's a special girl." Ya think?

The great leader does more than lead. The great leader inspires and gives back to those he or she leads and to others that can benefit from that leadership. By deed and spirit, Erin Callahan is a great leader. She created a structure that accomplishes something extraordinary – enabling shooters to help little children become healthier and happier.

The mission of the SCTP is "to help young athletes reach their potential of becoming the best athletes and young adults that they can be." Erin Callahan, I expect, is nowhere near reaching her potential. She's just beginning. But as of this moment, certainly, we can say with pride, "Mission accomplished!" In the words of Ira Gershwin in I've Got Rhythm, "Who could ask for anything more?" ©



Michael Sabbeth is a lawyer and writer in Denver, Colorado. See his book *The Good, The Bad & The Difference: How to Talk with Children About Values*. Available at Amazon.com <http://tinyurl.com/c5flmmu> and available as a Kindle EBook.





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□ **SCTP “All State Team” recognition and competition at our National Championships! New in 2017**



WHY JOIN?

Currently, the SCTP has over 18,500 athletes/coaches across the country participating in our program encompassing 45 states. Our teams are led by certified coaches and we carry a 5-million-dollar Liability policy on ALL of our members!

- \$5,000,000 Liability Policy that can include the school as an “also insured”.
- COMPLETE Background checks! The SCTP does a comprehensive background check on every coach!
- Coach Training.... most of the SCTP coaches are certified Level I NRA/USAS/ CMP Shotgun Coaches
- Shooting year that runs from September 1st through August 31st.
- Athletes from 4th & 5th grade through college can participate in our program.
- State, Regional and National Championships in both American and International disciplines.
- Competitions in Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, International Skeet, Bunker Trap and Olympic Doubles.
- The SCTP is the “official” youth shooting program to Team USA and USA Shooting.

. And much, much more.....

- Junior Olympic Development Camps (JODC's).... Athletes stay right at the Olympic Training Center!
- Team savings accounts through the Midway USA Foundation....and Endowment funds that we deposit.
- Raffle, new team start-up packages, Banquet packages available through us helping teams raise funds!
- Industry sponsored “special” gun prices for SCTP teams and athletes.
- Industry sponsored “special” ammo prices for SCTP teams and athletes.
- A registration and scoring system for all of our teams and coaches to use and track athletes.
- The SCTP gives out over \$89,000 a year in college scholarships to SCTP athletes graduating from high school. Since 2013, the SCTP has given out over \$350,000
- Prizes! Last year alone the SCTP gave out over 30 guns at our national championships!
- 2 year college division for college programs along with virtual shooting opportunities! New in 2017

The SCTP is a National Youth Clay Target Shooting Program focused on “Team”! There is no room for the win at all cost attitude. Much like football, baseball, basketball and track, we help build school/ club teams and conferences across the country and have been doing this since 2001 when it started under the National Shooting Sports Foundation! The SSSF or Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation now implements this program.

Scholastic Clay Target Program

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*Recoil reduction claim based on recoil force comparison of GMT178 7.5 and leading trap loads.

OHIO 2017 Regional

By Rick Leach



Get SOME!



Although it was cold and the rain changed to snow for the 2017 Ohio Halloween Regional, it was a huge success. 94 athletes battled the elements and competed with almost a third being young ladies. With 94 athletes, participation was a 370% increase from the 2016 match. This year also saw 5 colleges teams come to compete including brand new teams from Concordia University Wisconsin and Hillsdale College, and both new teams went home with medals. Concordia with 3 second place finishes and Hillsdale with 1 second place finish. University of Wisconsin, Platteville took the college division winning 4 first place medals, with Michigan State University close behind with 3 first place medals. In the high school divisions past National Champions Lake Country Action Shooters and Ozaukee Scholastic Shooting Sports both of Wisconsin each also took home 4 first place medals. But you couldn't count out the local Ohio teams. Ohio Steel Stingers brought 19 athletes and left with the most medals of any team accumulating 6 first and 2 second place finishes, and the Buckeye Bullet Busters left with a first, 2 seconds and a thirds place finish. The match was attended by 17 teams representing 6 states Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin. Total number of entries went up 473%, making the Ohio Halloween Regional the largest regional of the year.

**370% increase
from the 2016
match.**



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It was a snowy & cold weekend

NOTE: Qualified instructor has full control of firearm at all times.

at the end of October in Marengo, Ohio, but 94 athletes from 17 teams, representing six states came ready to compete in the 2017 Ohio Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) Regional Championship. The participants were grade school, middle school, high school, and college athletes, and 32% of those participants were females, all competing for regional championships. The athletes competed in rimfire pistol, centerfire pistol, rimfire iron rifle, rimfire optic rifle, and 1911 pistol disciplines.

The Cardinal Center is becoming one of the elite shooting facilities in the nation. They have 52 trap fields, 14 skeet fields, two full sporting clay courses, one international bunker trap, as well as 14 pistol bays. Additionally, they are building more action shooting bays and a large rifle facility, opening the Summer of 2018. This shooting facility also has a great campground with hook-ups for RV's and trailers, showers, a pool, and a stocked fishing pond.

That weekend the Cardinal Center was not only hosting the SASP regional event, it was also hosting the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) College National Championship. As teams were completing their second day of competition, seven-



SASP - Starting

By Rick Leach



Editor's Note: Safety is always the most important item when participating in any shooting discipline. This is especially true with beginners and youngsters. Youngsters require physical hands on safety to make sure that the firearm is always pointed down-range. That is what these two had from SASP. You should NOT attempt this on your own without proper training.

year-old Ian Sutton, four-year-old Zachary Sutton, and their dad, Josh Sutton, came to see what all the excitement was at the Cardinal Center.

Zachary and Ian, who live near the Cardinal Center, heard all the gunfire and were excited to investigate it further. They first were impressed with the number of clay birds the athletes were breaking on the trap and skeet fields. They then decided to check out the flurry of activity on the action shooting bays.

They were speaking with Tom Twigg, the new manager of the Cardinal pistol and rifle ranges. Tom walked them over to where Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) was finishing up the second day of their first ever SASP shooting competition. CUW had joined SASP just a month prior to this event. As they were completing their last stage of a successful first competition, placing second in pistol, and both iron and optic rifle, the CUW athletes saw the two young men staring wide-eyed at them. One of the Concordia athletes asked the boys if they wanted to try shooting the rifle. The boys asked their dad, who said he was okay with them trying the sport. Concordia athletes loaned Zachary and Ian their competition Ruger 10-22 rifle with a Volquartsen trigger group added. Ian and Zachary each tried their hand at shooting an 18"x24" Action Target with the assistance of the SASP National Director. The boys were so excited with their handiwork that after the range was safe, they wanted to go downrange and look at their targets. They were so thrilled that they posed for pictures and then asked if they could get a picture taken with their new favorite collegiate team. Zachary and Ian shot so well, I'm pretty sure CUW head coach, John Leach, took their names as future recruits. A future with the CUW team wouldn't be bad for the boys since Concordia University treats both SASP and SCTP shooting as a varsity sport. This means the university covers the athletes' shooting, entry, and traveling expenses. The CUW head coach will need to keep an eye on the two young men though since there are many college teams recruiting athletes for the shooting sports.



ing Out Young

Keep an eye out!

“..many college teams recruiting athletes for the shooting sports.”

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SCHOLASTIC ACTION SHOOTING PROGRAM



SASP teams can compete in both pistol (centerfire and rimfire) and rimfire rifle matches.

SASP uses the discipline of speed shooting on steel targets, which is unique to our program, combining the best features of other disciplines to allow athletes to practice and participate in exciting matches with less specialized equipment.

We hope you, your school or your shooting club will consider becoming part of SASP.



SASP teams can compete in matches that are held locally, state, regionally, and nationally, plus we have a virtual match series that runs year-round.

Questions?

Rick Leach
National Director, SASP
N65W7335 Cleveland St
Cedarburg, WI 53012-1856
262.894.4284
rleach@sssfonline.com
<http://sssfonline.org>

Bill Perkins

Regional Field Representative,
Southwest Region
(520) 975-5170
bperkins@sssfonline.com

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FAST FACTS



JOIN SASP

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Teach the safe and responsible handling and use of firearms
- Provide a supportive team-based environment using the shooting sports as the catalyst for teaching life lessons and skills that emphasize positive character traits and citizenship values
- Introduce young shooters to a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime, one that offers a level playing field, and one that all family members can enjoy together

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation is an educational-athletic organization that exists to introduce school-age youths to the shooting sports and to facilitate their continued involvement by providing, promoting, and perpetuating opportunities to safely and enjoyably participate and compete in a high-quality, team-based sport led by trained adult coaches focused on enhancing the personal growth and development of their athletes.

VISION STATEMENT:

To continue to be recognized and respected as the leader in the youth development shooting sports programs.

PROGRAM SPONSOR:

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for youth speed shooting and the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP). SASP was started by SSSF in 2012.

PROGRAM SCOPE:

The SASP offers participation in speed shooting using pistols and .22 rifles.

PROGRAM FOCUS:

TEAMS! The SASP is a **TEAM-BASED** program, focusing on youth development. Participation in SASP should be fun, and there is no place for a win-at-all-costs attitude.

TEAM SUPERVISION:

An adult Volunteer Head Coach leads each team. Volunteer State Advisors provide support for in-state activities and support to their Volunteer Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Full-time Directors of Development coordinate the program, and they are assisted by National Coach Trainers and the National Training Team. National Coach Trainers are responsible for coach development and training.

REGISTRATION FEES:

The registration fee for State Advisors, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Adult Volunteers is \$30.00. This fee covers the cost of liability insurance and a portion of the cost of a background check. All adults working directly with SASP athletes must be registered with the SSSF. To be covered by SSSF liability insurance, a volunteer must be registered with the National Program.

The membership for each registered athlete, including Collegiate, is \$20.00. The fee covers the cost of insurance and awards. All athletes must be registered by their Head Coach.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY:

Students in grades 6-12 are eligible for the Intermediate and Senior Divisions in the pistol and rifle disciplines. Students in grades 5 and below are eligible for the Rookie Division in the rifle discipline. There is no age limit for those enrolled as full-time students in the Collegiate Division. College athletes must be enrolled and attending an accredited college or university. All athletes must be academically eligible to participate in their school's extracurricular sports program.

Scholastic Action Shooting Program

www.sssfonline.org
N65W7335 Cleveland St
Cedarburg, WI 53012-1856
262.894.4284
rleach@sssfonline.com



NSSF Grant Helped Shooting Teams Thrive

The Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP), headquartered in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, works to **introduce young shooters to team-based action shooting sports.**

SASP is relatively new, having been introduced in 2012 as a partnering program to the well-known Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). Both are governed by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation.

SCTP, as its name implies, focuses on participation in the clay games, including trap, skeet, sporting clays, bunker trap and international skeet, and supports participation through the university level. This support provides a dedicated, official path to USA Shooting and the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team for those who make the cut.

The SSSF saw an opportunity for additional youth participation in the shooting sports due to the growing participation in action shooting sports, especially the Rimfire Challenge, which was run by the National Shooting Sports Foundation for several years before being turned over to Sturm, Ruger & Co in late 2017. Thus, SASP was created. SASP participants use .22 rifles and handguns, as well as centerfire handguns in timed, speed-shooting, steel plate matches.

We talked with Bill Perkins, SASP's Western Region Field Representative and head coach of the University of Arizona WildGats (yes, that's WildGats, not Wild Cats) action shooting team.

HERE'S WHAT BILL HAD TO SAY:

By Jennifer L.S. Pearsall, NSSF Director, Public Relations

Q

NSSF: Tell me a little bit about how you connected with NSSF and our grant program for Scholastic Action Shooting.

A

Bill Perkins (BP): I was aware that NSSF had awarded dozens of grants to help colleges around the country form competitive shooting teams through its program Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative (CSSI) program. I applied for a grant as the head coach of our newly formed team at the University of Arizona. Being awarded the grant in 2016 was what really launched the WildGats. That grant paid for 90 percent of the equipment we needed to get a quality program started. Without CSSI funding, the team fees for the athletes would have been prohibitive, limited participation, growth and the diversity of the team. Thanks to the grant, our team dues are affordable for most of the university's students. Those dues cover the costs of consumables like spray paint and paper targets. The athletes do pay for their own ammunition. Any extra funds at the end of the year either go to pay for match fees at our national competition in Alabama or are deposited into our team endowment account at the Midway Foundation. Thanks to our fundraising efforts and a few team donors, in three years we have a nice endowment started. That money will give us more opportunity to further develop our team.

Q

NSSF: Did you have a specific need or plan for which you were seeking grant funds?

A

BP: Absolutely. Without this seed money, our team would never have left the starting blocks. We did not have an "angel" benefactor to donate money for equipment purchases, and we had no way to take out a loan. It is hard to be competitive or deliver quality training when you don't have the tools. We purchased a full set of AR500 targets, shot timers, equipment tables, equipment wagons, storage shelves, the storage unit for our equipment and a good first-aid kit. We can run seven shooting stations simultaneously for the athletes on the team to keep a lot of variety in our practices and still keep them productive. When you factor in the range time we get thanks to support from our county range, and the value of the coaching, we think that the team fees provide the best bargain out there for learning how to be safe with a firearm and developing good shooting skills.



Q

NSSF: When did you receive the funding and how much did you receive?

A

BP: I got notification from NSSF in 2016 while the SSSF was having its annual State Advisors meeting in Missouri. We were awarded \$10,000. It was great timing to be able to share with the coaches and reps from other states that Arizona would be joining the collegiate level competitions.



\$\$ Team Grant \$\$

Practice at our home range.

Q

NSSF: Tell us how you're using these funds today.

A

BP: We spent most of the grant money on equipment. It was all budgeted in the grant proposal, so there was not a lot of decision making to do. The grant also included funding to pay for the certifications for two adults and two student athletes to get the NRA pistol coach training they needed.



Recruiting for the WildGats shooting team on the UofA mall in front of 'Old Main' last week.



Bullet in flight at practice. Shooting is Kyle Patterson (treasurer).