



# JUNIORS ENCOURAGED TO PA

By Serena Juchnowski, CMP Feature Writer

Just the title of the “National Matches” can scare even the most seasoned shooters. For juniors (those younger than and through his/her 20th birthday), or those starting off in the shooting sports, attending the National Matches is something that some put off until they feel “ready” enough. In reality, the National Matches is a fantastic place to get started shooting with the Civilian Marksmanship Program’s many clinics, not to mention an enthusiastic and helpful crowd of shooters from across the country.

## PISTOL SMALL ARMS FIRING SCHOOL (SAFS)

Participants must be at least 12 years of age and firing a .22 rimfire pistol to attend the Pistol SAFS. (If the applicant is qualified and can safely handle a pistol and is under 12 years of age, the parent may submit an age restriction waiver for review.) The Pistol SAFS is a great event for new shooters to learn from qualified instructors and shoot with family and friends. Safety training, position work, one-on-one training, ammunition and a gun are provided for use. There is also a match at the completion of the course.

## NATIONAL TROPHY PRESIDENT'S PISTOL MATCH

Though this prestigious match is fired with Service Pistols, juniors can compete with .22 rimfire pistols. In fact, there is a special award for the highest scoring Junior firing a rimfire .22 pistol

The course of fire includes 40 standing shots: two series of 10 shots each (10 minutes per series) from 50 yards, timed fire from 25 yards (two series of five shots, 20 seconds per series) and 10 rapid-fire shots from 25 yards (two series of five shots, 10 second per series).

## NATIONAL TROPHY INDIVIDUAL PISTOL MATCH

Like the National Trophy President's Pistol Match, juniors are eligible for junior-specific awards if competing with a .22 rimfire pistol. Most shoot this match hoping to earn Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) points towards the Distinguished Pistol Badge. The course of fire starts with a 10 minute slow-fire stage of 10 shots from 50 yards. The second and third stages are the same as the National Trophy President's Pistol Match: timed fire from 25 yards (two series of five shots, 20 seconds per series) and 10 rapid-fire shots from 25 yards (two series of five shots, 10 second per series).

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This match traditionally consists of four firing members, but juniors compete for the Junior Pistol Team Trophy in teams of two. The 30-shot Pistol National Match course is fired.

# PARTICIPATE IN CMP'S NATIONAL MATCHES



*Two juniors learn the fundamentals of competitive shooting from Marine Corps instructors.*

## **SMALLBORE**

After a successful premier in 2018, the CMP will again be bringing Smallbore back to Camp Perry in 2019. To enhance the schedule, changes have been made to this year's Prone Championship, and the CMP has purchased new smallbore rifles for a newly developed Smallbore Small Arms Firing School (SAFS). The goal of the SAFS class is to provide new opportunities to junior shooters in an effort to grow the smallbore shooting community. The SAFS class will be instructed by the renowned U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. The Smallbore lineup will also feature three-position individual and team events. Just the title of the "National Matches" can scare even the most seasoned shooters. For juniors (those younger than and through his/her 20th birthday), or those starting off in the shooting sports, attending the National Matches is something that some put off until they feel "ready" enough. In reality, the National Matches is a fantastic place to get started shooting with the Civilian Marksmanship Program's many clinics, not to mention an enthusiastic and helpful crowd of shooters from across the country.



*Mariah Flint of West Virginia works on her sitting position during the 2018 Rifle Small Arms Firing School.*



*Juniors dry-fire from the standing position during the 2018 USMC Junior Clinic. During the clinic, juniors work on dry-firing from each position before live-firing on the second and third days of the class.*

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## **RIMFIRE SPORTER CLINIC AND MATCH**

The Rimfire Sporter clinic presents an opportunity for individuals who do not have access to equipment for air rifle, smallbore or highpower service rifle to compete and enjoy the National Matches. This is a great way for juniors to get started as it requires minimal equipment and expense. The CMP offers a training clinic as well as a match for rimfire sporter. It is designed as a recreation-oriented competition limited to .22 caliber sporter rifles. There are three classes: the "O class" for open-sighted rifles, the "T-Class" for rifles with telescopic sights or rear aperture sighted rifles and a "Tactical Rimfire" class for a .22 caliber A4 or AR15 style rifle. Firing is conducted from 25 yards and from 50 yards. The current National Record, a perfect score of 600x600, was fired in 2015 by a junior, Samuel Payne.

*MSgt Garey Diefenderfer and his son Grant shoot the National Trophy Individual Rifle Match. The National Matches allow many opportunities for families to learn and compete together.*

*The NTT provides a unique opportunity for juniors and adults to shoot side by side with their teammates and spend time off the firing line together. Many lasting friendships are formed and strengthened here. Shannon Heist (left) and Brianna Haynes (right) of Zanesville Rifle Club wait for their turn to pair fire from the standing position at the 200-yard line.*



***CMP long range events are once again being held at Camp Perry in 2019. Juniors are encouraged to participate!***



### **RIFLE CMP CUP SERIES**

This series, fired before the traditional National Matches, offers competitors a chance to shoot on CMP's electronic targets, powered by Kongsberg Target System technology. The first day includes a four-person team match. The rest of the Cup Matches are two days of 1,000-aggregate matches. Rapid-fire stages begin from position. Each 1,000-point match has four stages with two sighters per stage: 20 shots standing at 200 yards, two series of 10 shots rapid-fire sitting or kneeling from 200 yards, two series of 10 shots rapid-fire prone from 300 yards and two series of 20 shots slow-fire prone from 600 yards.

### **RIFLE SMALL ARMS FIRING SCHOOL (SAFS)**

The rifle Small Arms Firing School is a wonderful way to introduce juniors and adults to highpower service rifle. Even if people do not pursue competitive service rifle, SAFS teaches them firearm safety, handling practices, shooting fundamentals and how to properly use an AR-15. The Army Marksmanship Unit takes a starring role in largely coaching individual competitors, though trained CMP instructors and other military marksmen also help lead the class. Ammunition and a rifle for use during SAFS is provided. Participants receive training and can participate in a match the next day. The top 10 percent of non-distinguished competitors in the match earn four Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) points towards the Distinguished Rifleman's Badge. An advanced SAFS is available for returning students and/or more accomplished shooters.

### **CMP/USMC JUNIOR HIGH POWER CLINIC**

The CMP/USMC Junior High Power Clinic is an annual favorite of many juniors. This class, taught by the United States Marine Corps, offers an in-depth look into position work and also includes a live fire portion at 200, 300 and 600 yards. This clinic gives juniors a chance to interact and receive individualized training as well as to confirm zeroes prior to the rest of the National Matches. This course is for juniors who have completed SAFS or have prior marksmanship experience.

### **CMP ADVANCED HIGH POWER CLINIC**

The CMP Advanced High Power Clinic is designed for seasoned shooters, juniors and adults who are looking for position-training and looking to remedy specific issues they face in improving their high power service rifle competition scores. The clinic includes a classroom portion and a dry-fire portion and is taught by members of Team CMP.



*Members of the junior Gem City X-Men team take advantage of the air conditioned Gary Anderson Competition Center, shooting air rifles during the National Matches.*

### **PRESIDENT'S 100 (P100) RIFLE MATCH**

The President's 100 Rifle Match is incredibly prestigious. The 30-shot course of shots includes 10 shots standing in a time period of 10 minutes from 200 yards, 10 rapid-fire prone shots in a time period of 70 seconds from 300 yards and 10 slow-fire prone shots in a time period of 10 minutes from 600 yards. The top 20 competitors in the match engage in a 10-shot slow-fire prone shoot-off from 600 yards.

### **NATIONAL TROPHY RIFLE INDIVIDUAL (NTI) RIFLE MATCH**

The NTI follows the National Match course of fire. Competitors must start from the standing position for rapid-fire stages. The 50-shot course of fire includes 10 shots slow fire standing from 200 yards (10 minutes), 10 shots rapid-fire sitting or kneeling from 200 yards (60 seconds), 10 shots rapid-fire prone from 300 yards (70 seconds) and 20 shots slow-fire prone from 600 yards (20 minutes). The top 10 percent of non-distinguished competitors earn 10 Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) points.

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM MATCH**

The National Junior Team Match is a two-person match only for juniors. Juniors pair-fire the National Match course of fire and have a coach. There is a P100/NTI/National Junior Team Match aggregate award.

### **HEARST DOUBLES MATCH**

The Hearst Doubles Match is another alternative for juniors without a coach or pit-puller. Two competitors pair-fire and pull targets together. It is a great match for parents and children to shoot together.

### **NATIONAL TROPHY TEAM MATCH**

The NTT match is a coached match with six firing members on a team. There are both junior and adult teams. Each competitor fires the National Match course of fire. The team score is the aggregate of all six members' scores.

## **NATIONAL TROPHY INFANTRY TEAM MATCH (NTIT/RATTLE BATTLE)**

The NTIT is a fun match where teams strategically fire 384 rounds in total, all rapid-fire for varying amounts of points which vary by the yard line. Hits on a silhouette target earn different points, most from the furthest distance. Teams advance together in a line with other teams. There are four 50 second stages: prone from 600 yards, prone, sitting or kneeling from 500 yards, sitting or kneeling from 300 yards and standing from 200 yards. There are both junior and adult teams for this match, fondly called the Rattle Battle.

## **GAMES MATCHES**

The CMP Games Matches are a variety of vintage-rifle specific competitions that attract both high power service rifle competitors as well as military enthusiasts or those looking to shoot vintage military rifles. There are medal awards for scores as well as junior and adult awards. Matches include the M1 Carbine Match, Roosevelt Commemorative Match, Modern Military Match, John C. Garand Match, Springfield Rifle Match, Vintage Bolt Rifle Match, Springfield M1A Match and CMP Vintage Sniper Match.

## **AS-ISSUED MILITARY RIFLE CLINICS**

These one-hour long clinics are free of charge and review the rules and courses of fire for the Garand-Springfield-Vintage Matches. Scoring techniques, target pulling rules and shooting positions are discussed. These are great introductions and required for new CMP Games competitors, but they are open to all.

## **LONG RANGE MATCHES**

For those who compete in long range matches, the CMP offers matches for competitors looking to shoot Match Rifle/Any Sights, Service Rifle or Palma Rifle. Individual matches for all three of these classes include the Viale Memorial Match, Critchfield Memorial Match, Kerr Memorial Match, Henry Memorial Match, McMaken & Speaks Memorial Match and Baesel Memorial Match. Team matches include the Bataan Memorial Team Match and the Winder Memorial Iron Team Match. Pair-firing is not required for these team matches. The Long Range Matches conclude with a Palma Match.

## **NATIONAL MATCH AIR GUN EVENTS**

National Match Air Gun events are matches that take place over the course of the National Matches – competitors can come in during the different phases of the matches to compete in air pistol and air-rifle matches. The pistol phase features the 30-Shot Air Pistol Re-Entry Match and the 60-Shot Air Pistol Championship. The highpower phase includes the AiR-15 Challenge Re-Entry Match. Three events, the 30-Shot Air Rifle Re-Entry Standing Match, the 60-Shot Air Rifle Championship, and the 30-Shot Air Rifle Re-Entry Bench Match are open during all phases. Entries are accepted any time the range is open at the Gary Anderson Competition Center. Equipment is available for rent and pellets are available for purchase.

## **COMMERCIAL ROW**

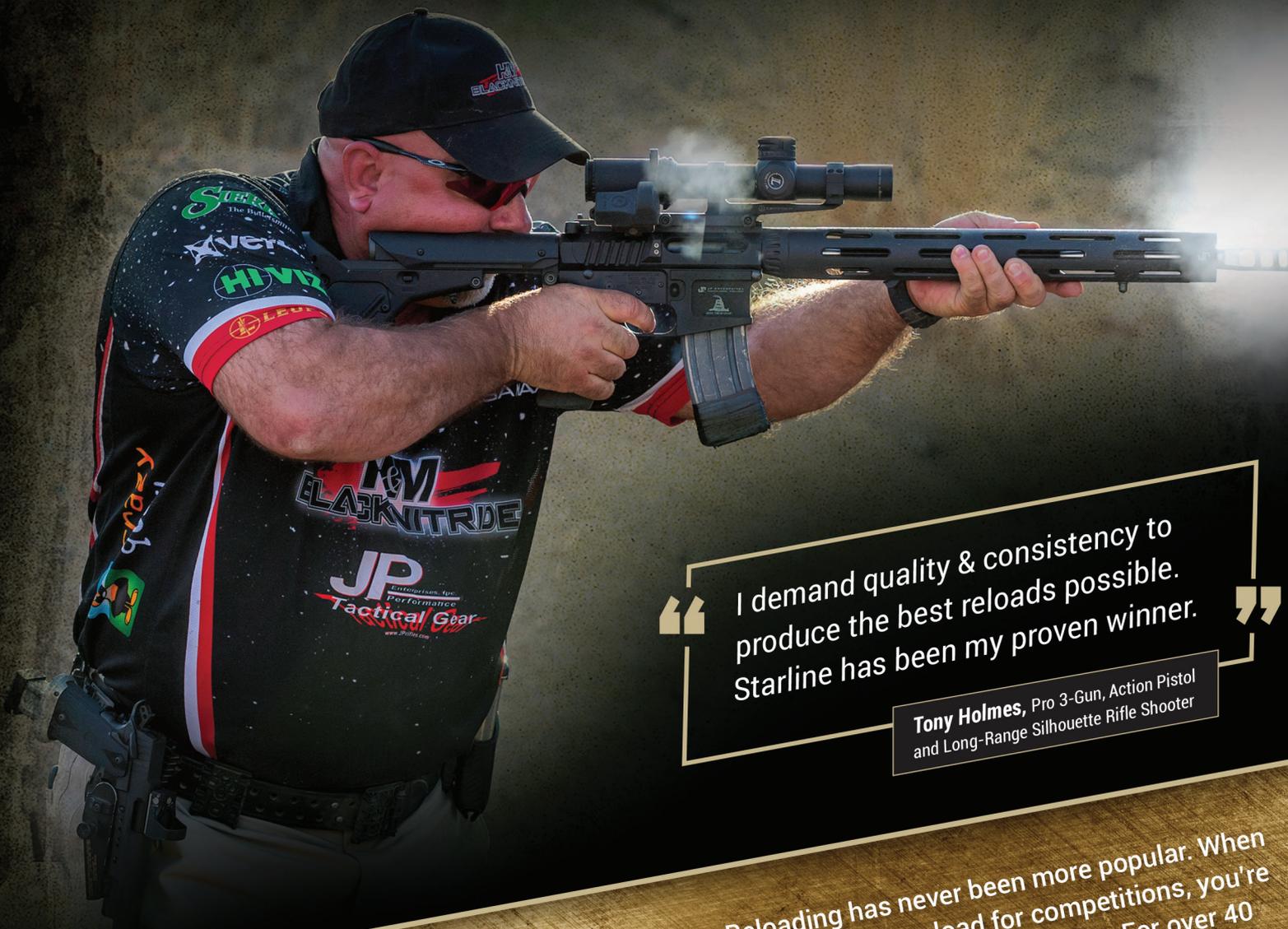
Commercial Row is a staple at the Camp Perry National Matches. Competitors can leisurely stroll down the row of shops vendors set up for each stage of the National Matches. These shops contain nearly anything you may find yourself needing at the matches, along with Creedmoor's store inside the CMP headquarters. Powder, bullets, gloves, coats, ear and eye protection and, of course, rifles – it is easy for shooters to find everything they need to get started. The wonderful thing about Commercial Row is that some vendors offer Camp Perry only discounts, particularly to junior shooters to help them get started with their own equipment at a more affordable cost.

There are many opportunities available for juniors as well as families at the CMP National Matches. There are also CMP Travel Games held across the country and support available for juniors attending the National Matches. Many competitors will do anything to help a junior and many will lend equipment to those who need it. At the heart of the matches is a love of the Second Amendment and a passion for marksmanship – it is an experience like no other that brings people together from around the world.

View the 2019 National Match program, schedule of events and registration information at <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-national-matches/>. We hope to see you on the firing line at Camp Perry!

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a federally chartered 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.

It is dedicated to firearm safety and marksmanship training and to the promotion of marksmanship competition for citizens of the United States. For more information about the CMP and its programs, log onto [www.TheCMP.org](http://www.TheCMP.org). ©



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**Tony Holmes**, Pro 3-Gun, Action Pistol and Long-Range Silhouette Rifle Shooter

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# Viva Las SHOT Show!



Dad (Dave)

Mom (Tina)

Time changes can be brutal. Adjusting to a three-hour time difference late at night after a five-hour plane ride leaves one ready for bed, not adventure.

This past January I had the opportunity to attend the 2019 Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show (SHOT Show) in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was my first time to Vegas, as well as my mom's. My parents attended as well: my dad as the competition equipment specialist for Olmsted Armory and my mom as his spouse. My parents and I had a lot of fun guessing what show the people on our flight were heading to: the SHOT Show or World of Concrete, both of which were taking place at the same time. It turned out that our next door neighbor was attending the World of Concrete show and staying in the same hotel as us! Upon disembarking the plane, I immediately heard slot machines –

flashing bright lights greeted us and it took me a minute to adjust to the new environment.

Less than an hour later we had picked up our SHOT Show badges for the next day and survived our first Uber ride. I was thrilled to find that our room was on the 14th floor, the hotel lacking a 13th floor due to popular suspicion. Essentially, because the elevator buttons simply jumped from 12 to 13, we were really staying on the superstition-laden 13th floor.

The next morning, we got up early and walked to the Sands Expo Center, walking through the Venetian to reach it. Later that first day, my parents exposed me to the Grand Canal Shoppes, also in the Venetian. They were beautiful – I felt as if I was in Italy – storefronts looked like apartments and a water-

filled canal sprinkled with gondolas and gondoliers wove throughout the area.

I met my mentor, John Phillips in the press room on my first morning of SHOT Show, Tuesday, January 22. This was the highlight of the trip as without his advice and support I would not be where I am today. I had been corresponding with him since April of 2017, but had never met him in person. It was incredibly special.

He introduced me to many people in the outdoor industry, some of whom I had been corresponding with digitally. That was perhaps the greatest thing about the SHOT Show – meeting people I had corresponded with or heard about but had never met before. This does not mean that keeping track of faces and names was easy. The first



*I felt right at home meeting representatives from Berger Bullets, Lapua, SK Ammunition, and Vihtavuori. Here I stand with Morgan Joy-Twenter, digital media, communications and sponsorship manager.*

thing one should do upon arriving at SHOT Show is to get a badge holder and store business cards in the back of it. Write notes about the person you met, when, where, and who they are on each card as you get them. Attending SHOT Show also gave me the opportunity to meet Andy Fink of *Junior Shooters* magazine. I have been writing for *Junior Shooters* since 2016 but had never met anyone involved with the magazine besides a fellow writer, Ben Moody, on the 2016 NRA Y.E.S. trip.

The SHOT Show itself is incredible. Many told me about the sheer size of the show but I did not expect the elaborateness of some of the booths as well as the amount of money that goes into putting on the show. I walked the floor of the show for three days without hardly

sitting down. I went from meeting to meeting with companies and people I had set up meetings far before the show with. It was surreal to be a media member attending SHOT Show. I had the opportunity to go to different luncheons and events as well as had access to the press room for breakfast.

Somehow, five members of Sycamore Hill Rifle Club (SHRC), a small high power service rifle competition club in Northeast, Ohio were in attendance at the 2019 SHOT Show, including two officers of the approximately 60-person club (Ray Kling, president of Sycamore Hill Rifle Club, and myself, Secretary of SHRC). I found this incredible and it meant a lot to all of us who were there. It was a great comfort to see so many people I knew at the show. It was an incredible contrast, blue-collar rifle club, often mud-covered, compared to the splendor of Las Vegas.



*John "Bubba" Phillips has been an enormous help to me and has always been there for me to answer all kinds of questions and offer advice. I would not be where I am today if it were not for his deciding to mentor me long distance: from his home in Alabama to my home in Ohio.*



*The size of the show could be overwhelming and it was easy to lose one's sense of direction. The variety of offerings was unbelievable.*

On another day, overwhelmed after a long day on the floor, I stepped outside the Women of the Gun event for some fresh air, only to meet Kristy Titus. She is an influential big-game hunter, competitive shooter, and has many instructor certifications. Kristy has accomplished so much more; this is just a short list. Jokingly, on the plane ride from Ohio to Las Vegas, I had mentioned to my mom that I might meet the woman who designed my necklace at the show. "My necklace" being a part of the Montana Silversmith's Kristy Titus collection. I do not have a lot of jewelry, but my parents bought the necklace for me for my eighteenth birthday. I had just shot my first deer, a nice buck, a season or two earlier and wanted to try to make a necklace commemorating it. I had not figured out how to make something that looked nice, that I could wear to important events. The necklace my parents chose had a silver deer antler with turquoise, my birthstone, embedded in it.

Little did I have any idea that while sitting outside the event, Kristy would come up and introduce herself, wearing a necklace identical to the one I had brought with me and had worn the day before! I asked her



**WELCOME to the SHOT SHOW**

about it and told her the story behind mine – she was beyond excited. It was so nice to see the passion she exudes for what she created. It is an indescribable feeling when I learn of how my writing or photography impacts people. It was wonderful to be on the opposite end of that, serving as an example of what Kristy designed her line for: to empower young women in the outdoors.

Most people talk about SHOT Show and the new products. While there were many neat things released at the show, it was of much more value to me to meet new people and interact with different companies to learn more about the workings of the outdoor industry. It was also incredibly important to me that my parents saw the show. I want to work in the outdoor industry and they now have a better idea of what I am working towards. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have attended and for the relationships I formed at my first SHOT Show. ©



*Many of the booths were elaborately constructed. The Realtree booth was my favorite, designed as a log cabin with various rooms and a chandelier.*



*Kristy took the time to talk to me about her career as well as took an interest in my goals. It was so special to have a photograph to remind me of our chance meeting, both of us wearing the necklace she designed this time.*



*Five members of Sycamore Hill Rifle Club were in attendance at the 2019 SHOT Show. It was great to reunite with some of my range family so far away from home. (Back Row – Left to Right) Ray Kling, Dave Juchnowski; (Front Row – Left to Right) Josh Ferrara, Serena Juchnowski, Matt Schwab*



*Walking through the Grand Canal Shoppes was absolutely breathtaking – I could hardly believe that I was inside a building when I first saw the ceiling.*

# ARIZONA CMP JUNIOR

By Serena Juchnowski,  
CMP Feature Writer



*Learning the basics, 9 years old, November 2012. Mohave County Desert, Arizona. Also pictured Blue Beckham.*



*CMP/USMC Junior Rifle Clinic 600 yards Slow Fire Prone. July 28, 2018 - 2018 Camp Perry National Matches, Camp Perry, OH. Credit Quang Nguyen.*

*Background: Slow Fire Standing 200 yards - President's 100 Rifle Match July 29, 2018 - 2018 Camp Perry National Matches, Camp Perry, OH. Credit Quang Nguyen.*



*CMP/USMC Junior Rifle Clinic July 27, 2018 Preparing for 200 yard rapid fire sitting - 2018 Camp Perry National Matches, Camp Perry, OH. Also Pictured, Coach Randy Jackovich. Credit Quang Nguyen.*

# MCKENNA BECKHAM

McKenna Beckham started out shooting from an early age with her father. She fondly recalls trips to the range and shooting in the desert with family. Currently 16 years old, she has been shooting competitively for nearly three years, having started in early 2016.

Beckham was introduced to smallbore rifle through the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association (ASRPA), shooting the Western Wildcat match three short months after starting smallbore. Participating in the NRA Winchester Marksmanship Qualification Program, McKenna gained a good basis for high power positions, shooting four-position smallbore rifle.

For McKenna, each shooting experience builds on the previous.

“Marksmanship has taught me discipline and maturity,” McKenna says. “It has also taught me [that] goals that seem nearly impossible can be achieved through hard work and dedication.”

Over the past two years, McKenna has not only been continuing to improve as a shooter but has been helping others improve while coaching the Naval Sea Cadets in three-position smallbore.

One unique aspect of the shooting sports is that they allow one to be independent, yet provide the opportunity for one to grow alongside and learn from others. McKenna likes that shooting allows her to depend on herself, but that there exist teams and team matches.

Describing her shooting experience, she says, “I...love the shooting community and how my relationships with others have grown from shooting. I have met some of my best friends through shooting high power.”

She adds, “The shooting community is unlike any other group I’ve been a part of. The members of this community are incredibly gracious and willing to help others. I’ve been lent just about every piece of gear out there (including rifles).”

It is this support that has helped McKenna to get to where she is now. Her greatest accomplishments include placing High Woman at the 127th Washington’s Birthday Match and High Junior at the Arizona State Smallbore Prone Championships.

## ***Preparing for President’s 100 Rifle Match July 29, 2018 - 2018 Camp Perry National Matches, Camp Perry, OH.***



McKenna offers the following to new shooters, saying, “If I had to give one piece of advice it would be...don’t get discouraged. It is a very difficult sport in the beginning, but once you start to improve it becomes incredibly rewarding.”

She also stresses the importance of comfort. If one does not find a comfortable position, or is uncomfortable on the range in general, it will be harder to shoot, focus and perform well. This is another reason having such an inclusive shooting community is so crucial to the future of the sports.

Outside of shooting, McKenna runs cross country, plays flute in concert band and enjoys hiking and playing with her dogs. She also spends a good bit of time cooking and baking.

McKenna recalls that when she was a toddler she had plans to become a baker. Nowadays, she says “my plans have definitely changed. I would like to attend a service academy and eventually serve in the U.S. Secret Service. It has always been my dream to serve my country in the military and law enforcement.”

Shooting high power introduces one to a significant number of service men and women as well as teaches leadership skills and develops character. McKenna Beckham continues to use her experiences to encourage others and her plans shall undoubtedly inspire younger shooters as others have inspired her.

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 **MAGPUL**

Recently, I've found myself moving away from competitive shooting a little and into hunting. Though competitive shooting is something I still hold very dear and will never be able to thank the community enough for what they've given me, I wanted to try something new, and that would be hunting.

I had tried my hand at deer hunting, but after a few years with no luck at this new game, I kind of fell into a wonderful organization called the First Hunt Foundation through a friend of my dad's named Russ Meyer at Outdoors International. First Hunt's goal is to help preserve hunting in helping the next generation of hunters by mentoring those who have no one to take them hunting. This includes adults, but mostly children. They have a pool

of mentors to draw from and match the new hunter with a mentor to show them the ropes. After going to a few of the meetings to see what was what, the founder, Rick Brazell, offered to take me turkey hunting. This is something that I had wanted to do for a while.

So, one weekend we travelled up to Kamiah, Idaho, a little town on the Nez Perce Reservation. We met Rick on his property and the next morning at 5:30 he took us to a blind he had set up on someone else's property. A nice perk for hunting of any kind is to know people who will let a hunter on their property. Rick got us set up and then started to use calls to see if he could get any birds to come in. After about a half hour of calling without much success, we saw a tom making its way toward us

from the hill to our right. He slowly came ever closer, but about 70 yards from us, he decided he would go no further and sat there for a long time while putting on a show for our decoys.

Eventually he became uninterested in them and walked off like he didn't have a care in the world. So close, but yet, so far. Disappointed, we left the blind and went back to Rick's property, where we took a break. Rick said there were a bunch of turkeys there the day before, but he later found out the owners had worked in the field and drove them off.

Rick suggested that we go to the blind just off his property even though it was an odd time of day for turkeys because they are out normally at daybreak or dusk. When

# My First Turkey

By Ashley Rumble (17)



**You must have a hunting license. Conservation supports wildlife and our future.**

we got there, Rick tried again to call in some birds. We began to hear some gobbling a ways off, but still close enough. We got excited again, but needed to stay very still and quiet. After about 15 minutes more of calling, we were able to get a hen over to the decoys. She passed no more than 10 feet in front of the blind. Rick was very happy about this, "live decoy" he said.

Fifteen minutes more of calling with the gobbling of the toms getting louder and closer every time, we finally saw them. Two toms were going to pass right in front of the blind. So, we got ready and the toms walked right out in front of us. I aimed and shot with the over/under at one of the toms, but when I looked up I panicked. I had missed. So, I took aim and shot at the tom

which is very good. But when we went to clean my dad's bird, we saw something strange. This bird, although similar in size to mine, had no beard at all. Highly unusual. At the time we just shrugged it off and thought it was something genetic. After lunch, we thanked Rick and said our goodbyes.

About three days later, we got a text from Rick. He had filmed the hunt and while looking at the footage noticed that both turkeys had long beards. So, he went looking. He went back and assumed he'd find the beard in bits and pieces where we'd shot the birds, but no, he found it; I had shot it clean off when I had missed. When he told me, I was shocked and a little annoyed that I had missed that close to the bird. But, it didn't matter because he

brought me the beard on his latest trip to Boise and it will be hanging with my mount when it cures.

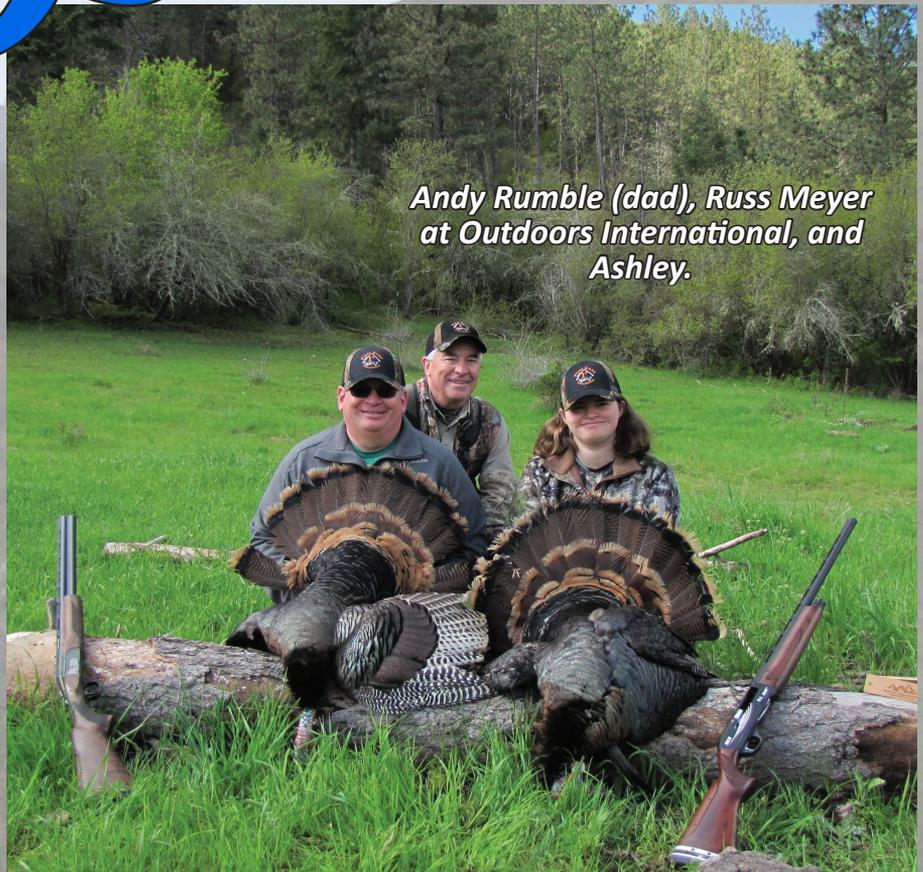
As someone who comes from a family with little-to-no-hunting experience, the First Hunt Foundation was a huge help to me. Rick was very kind in letting us onto his property and taking the time to guide us through the process. The SKB RS400 semi-auto shotgun I killed the bird with worked fantastically; it was very smooth and did the job with ease with the bigger turkey loads needed. It was a great experience and something I would love to do again. A big thank you to everyone who made it happen for me. Thank you for making a dream come true. ©

# Turkey Hunt

again. I missed yet another time. By then my over/under was empty, so I took the SKB semi-auto from my dad and stood up, and this time I hit it right on.

I quickly passed the gun to my dad and he shot the other tom as it ran from us. Lucky he did because our two shotguns were empty after that. I had chosen the over/under because I had not had a chance to shoot the SKB yet and I wasn't sure how it would operate. As it turned out, the SKB was right on. We then went out to look at the birds and they were two big toms. I was super excited. After years of struggling to even find anything I could shoot at, I had finally gotten something.

We took pictures and the whole nine yards, then took them back to Rick's house to clean them. He showed me how to clean the bird and preserve the tail feathers for mounting. The bird that we thought was mine had a 10-inch beard



*Andy Rumble (dad), Russ Meyer at Outdoors International, and Ashley.*

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# CZ-USA's Dan Wesson 1



By Dave Furney and Kaden Barney (16)

The Dan Wesson Vigil is a full-size, 1911, .45 ACP with an aluminum frame. It has a very nice matte black finish and the laser-engraved wood grips add a nice touch. It has a skeletonized aluminum trigger. The main spring housing is slightly rounded at the bottom of the back of the grip frame. It comes with a nice set of tactical night sights.

The trigger pull on the gun we tested was very crisp, smooth, and came in at 4.3 lbs.

I liked this gun so much I decided to purchase it. I also have an ECO in .45 ACP and a Razor Back in 10mm. They are all excellent shooting guns right out of the box. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one that struck my fancy. I was very impressed with the Vigil.

Kaden: At one of our Junior Shooters practices, I had the opportunity to shoot the Vigil Dan Wesson .45 ACP. The ammo I shot was the Black Hills .45 ACP 230 Gr. JHP+P. The grip felt good and I could handle the recoil without any problem. The .45 ACP shot well at 25 yards and the sights are excellent, providing a clear sight-picture. It was fun because it was a new experience shooting that .45 ACP. ©

## Specifications SKU 1832

- **Model Vigil**
- **Caliber .45 ACP**
- **Magazine Capacity 8**
- **Frame Material Forged Aluminum**
- **Slide Finish Duty Finish**
- **Grips Wood**
- **Overall Length 8.6 in**
- **Barrel Length 5**
- **Width 1.45 in**
- **Weight 32.8 oz**
- **Trigger Mech Single Action**
- **Front Sight Fixed Night Sight**
- **Rear Sight Tactical Night Sight**
- **Safety Manual thumb safety, grip safety**
- **MSRP \$1,298**

# 1911 Vigil in .45 ACP



*Riley, shooting the Dan Wesson Vigil.*



*Riley, holding the Dan Wesson Vigil. Notice the finger along the trigger guard and NOT inside it. as well as the barrel still pointing down range. Safety first.*



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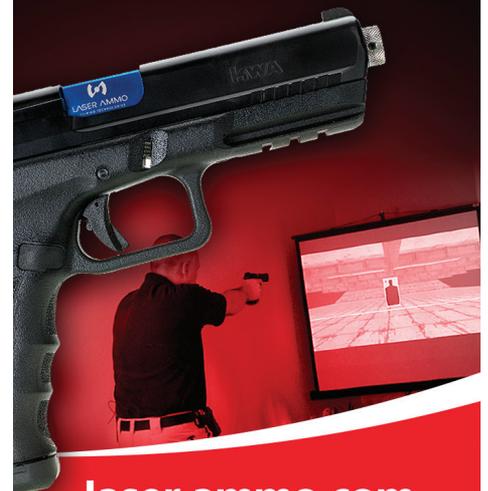
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# SAFETY FIRST

## ALWAYS EACH AND EVERY TIME



By Andy Fink

Safety, Safety, Safety always should be the primary focus before having shooting fun. Sometimes this is hard to do, especially if you are out at an informal range with a couple of friends, a coach, or maybe strangers are shooting on the same bay that you are.

Formal ranges usually have a Range Officer (RO) and an safety line about four feet back from the shooting bench. When the RO says, "Cease Fire," you are required to make your gun safe (on safe and bolt open with a safety flag placed in the chamber if you have one (you always should use one)) and then step back beyond the safety line. Once all of the shooters are behind the yellow line, the RO will then say, "The range is safe. You may go downrange and fix targets." After fixing targets, you can come back and stand behind the yellow line. You may NOT move forward to your bench UNTIL the RO says, "The range is hot. You may commence firing."

Informal ranges and going out somewhere to go plinking are a different story. Safety is totally up to you and is what you make it. Incidents (an accident that could have been prevented if you followed proper safety procedures) are more likely to occur in this case. So, let's make sure they don't!

**At Home:** Safety should begin at home before you ever leave for the range. What do you mean you ask? When you take your firearm out of the safe it should be cleared, magazine out and chamber checked to make sure it is empty. NOW, put your safety flag in! Yes, before you ever put the gun in the case or bag, there should be a safety flag in the chamber and it should be bagged like that.

**At the Range:** Before you even start unpacking your firearms, you need to designate a safety table or a shooting bench where you can place your bag on the table, and with the barrel pointing downrange, take the firearm out of the case. Either place it on the table with the barrel pointing downrange, or with the barrel up, go place it in the rack. STOP! Did you check to make sure the safety flag was installed in the chamber?

Now, though you all should be aware of safety issues and may yell, "CEASE FIRE" at any time if there is a safety issue, there should be someone who is the primary RO and even an assistant RO. The RO can now say, "Hands off guns, check your safety flags and step away from your bench and gun." Once that is done, he may tell you the range is safe and you can go downrange to adjust or set up targets. You may NOT touch your gun for ANY reason! The RO will tell you when you can.

Once finished, you just pack up and go home. Right? WRONG! Now you go to the safety table or bench, and with the muzzle pointed downrange, remove the magazine, clear the chamber and **INSTALL YOUR SAFETY FLAG**. You can then bag your gun and place it in your car.©



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# Rock Island Armory .22 TCM Rifle



**Awesome!**

*By Andy Fink and Kaden Barney (16)*

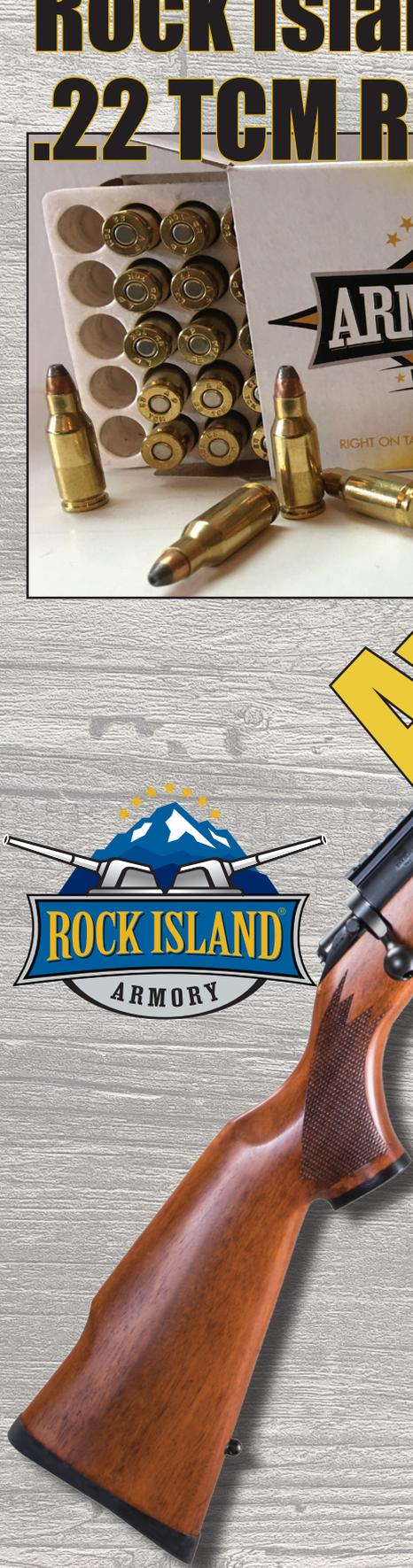
The M22 TCM BA rifle from Rock Island Armory (RIA) / ARMSCOR is just plain awesome.

We got one to augment the variety of .22 TCM pistols we got from RIA. This is a light rifle and is well balanced.

We put a Burris .22LR 2-7X rifle scope on it and off to the range we went. What a combination of velocity, accuracy, and power! We were hitting small rifle poppers at 100 yards within minutes. I am very impressed with this rifle and if you already own a TCM pistol, you will want to get one of these.

RIA took the success and popularity of the .22 TCM cartridge and combined it with the M22 TCM bolt action rifle. This rifle is a small game hunter's dream, capable of delivering a 40-grain projectile over 2,800 feet per second out of a 22.75" barrel. It has an MSRP of \$454 which makes it an outstanding buy for what you receive. Features like a solid wood stock with classic checkering make it aesthetically pleasing. A receiver rail mount for quick scope attachment and an easy to reach safety with a 5-round magazine are included. You can interchange the Rock Island 22 TCM 1911 17-round magazine and you have a high capacity rifle that makes a great companion to any TCM series pistol.

Kaden: The .22 TCM was fun to shoot. The gun is super light and easy to handle and control. There is not any recoil at all. The grip for the gun was comfortable and I was able to hit the rifle popper. ☺



*Kaden shooting the M22 .22 TCM rifle.*



# Your Summertime Gear Guide

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*Left, pistol ammo checker. Right, reloading press stand with single stage press.*

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# Your Summertime Gear Guide

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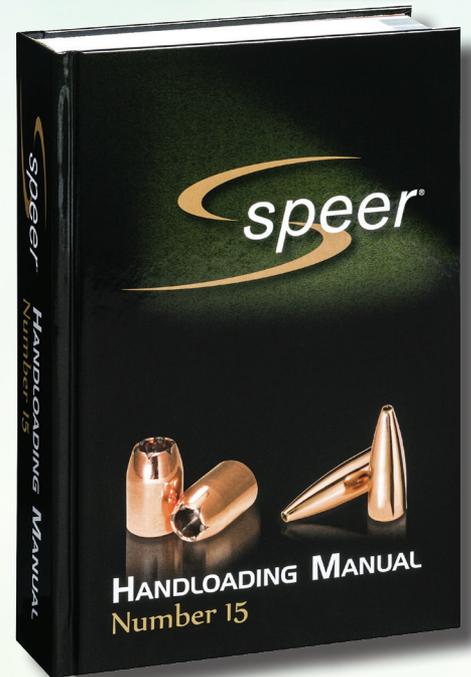
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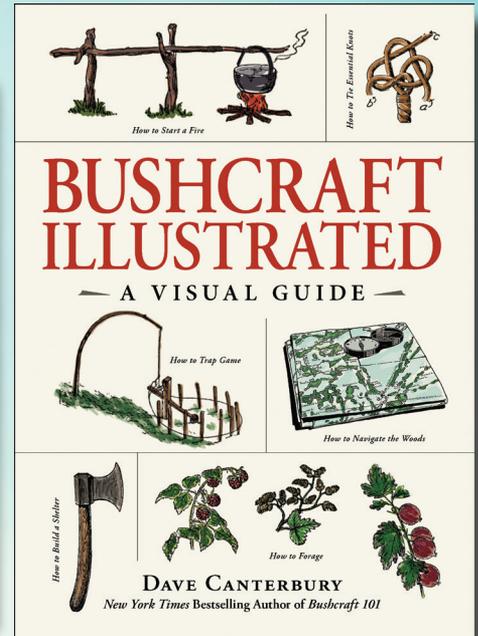


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Survivalist expert Dave Canterbury is the co-owner and supervising instructor at the Pathfinder School, which USA Today named one of the Top 12 Survival Schools in the United States. He is the New York Times bestselling author of Bushcraft 101, Advanced Bushcraft, and The Bushcraft Guide to Trapping, Gathering, and Cooking in the Wild, and he runs a Bushcraft YouTube account with nearly 550 thousand subscribers.

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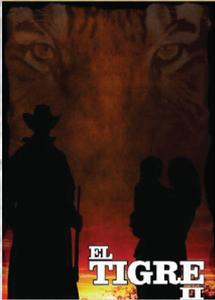
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