



Editor's Letter:

Welcome shooters to Issue 6 of the Junior Shooter Newsletter. Camp Perry is right around the corner now and I hope everyone is getting as excited about it as I am! This weeks issue has a message to Junior Shooters by **John Gemmill** in regards to preparing for Perry, an article by Junior shooter **Eric Verhasselt**, and an update on upcoming matches and Junior progress by Mary Badiak.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter!



John Gunn III – 100-7X in final .45 cal Rapid Fire at CJ 2700 on May 28!

For any Juniors intending to go to Camp Perry this summer, and for those who are interested in more information about it, there will be several information sessions and training days between now and July. Feel free to contact me for more information (john.gunn.3@gmail.com).

Also, Gayle Smart has informed me that the Loyola University Marksmanship Team is selling t-shirts with their logos on it (see photo below!). Anyone interested in purchasing one of these shirts please contact Gayle Smart (gesmart@loyola.edu).

Enjoy!

By: John F. Gunn III



What is Camp Perry?

By John Gemmill

Every July, some 800 conventional pistol shooters convene at Camp Perry, just outside of Port Clinton, Ohio, to participate in the National Pistol Championship. Everyone is invited and there are no qualifying scores in order to participate.

Pistol shooters are not the only people in the area; Port Clinton is on the shore of Lake Erie and the town is the “Walleye Capital of the World,” and many fishermen will also be in town.

So, what is it like to attend the National Championships? Camp Perry is not like other pistol matches. The ranges are wide open and fully exposed to whatever wind is blowing at that time of the day, which might be quite different from the way it was a few hours ago. You may not be able to park near your firing point, so leave plenty of time to get to your point. There is no protective cover and if it rains, so be it. Some red dot scopes are nowhere near waterproof; using your scope adjustment knob caps might keep the water out of your Ultra Dot. In the midst of your shooting, if it starts to rain, it will be too late to run to a store to buy rain gear and no umbrellas are allowed on the firing line; so, if rain is in the forecast, or even if it isn't, it's best to have your rain gear nearby/with you. The matches will be conducted unless it is so windy the targets are blowing out of the frames, or there's lightning, or a tornado. Under those circumstances, there may be a temporary interruption but you should “stay in touch” to find out when shooting will resume. The ranges face north. In the morning, the sun rises off to your right, then travels overhead behind you, towards the west, getting strongest in the afternoon. You might want to wear sun protection to avoid sunburn.

You will be given instructions, over a PA system, as to when you can put your gear on the shooting benches. Gun boxes must remain closed until the start of the three minute preparation period and you will have only that amount of time to get your equipment set up. Consequently, you may want to do some things before you even get to the firing line, such as putting on your shooting glasses, inserting ear protection, loading magazines, etc. You will need to pick up your targets, from the target van, before you go to the firing line. You will be shooting on different firing points at different times, so it is always best, each time you pick up the gun, to check to make sure you are aiming at your own target. There is one set of turning targets for both slow fire and timed and rapid fire. Shooters move between the 50-yard line and the 25-yard line, taking all of their shooting equipment with them, so you might want to take “extra” stuff out of your shooting box to lighten your load. Every ten shot string is fired on a “brand new” target, after removing the old one from the target frames, so you will not need a staple gun to post a new repair center. Also, you may want to leave any guns you will not be using during this match out of your gun box. Most shooters use some kind of a “geezer cart” to move their equipment to and from the line and some use one to move between the 50 yard benches and the 25 yard line. The most popular carts are the collapsible ones used by boaters, called “dock carts,” available from boating supply merchants. The ones with the largest wheels, about 10 inches in diameter, are more stable. Regular luggage carts are not very stable over the ground at Camp Perry and can lead to spilling your gear on the ground.

You should make sure your score cards are in your gun box before you go to the line; if you forget them and have to buy them from a referee, they will cost five dollars per card. There are four ranges, with room for 100 shooters each, in use at any one time. It can be unsettling, while you are shooting at 25 yards, to have shooters on an adjacent range, firing at 50 yards, behind you! You will soon get used to this. There may be a "cease fire" called in the middle of firing because of boats that wander into the impact zone, or because an eagle has landed down range. As soon as the reason for the cease fire has been cleared, firing will resume.

Each day has something different going on. Shooters generally arrive on Sunday and have to check in before 9 p.m. to register and pick up their score cards for Small Arms Firing School, which will be conducted on Monday. You might want to arrive earlier than 9 p.m. to allow time to get settled in where you'll stay and to do shopping for food or anything else. On Monday, shooters attend Small Arms Firing School, run by the Civilian Marksmanship Program, with both classroom and range events. You will be shooting a service pistol, the M9, equivalent to a Beretta 92FS, shooting supplied 9 mm ammo. If you have no EIC points, you may win 4 points if you shoot well (top ten percent) in the EIC match. You will be able to pick up your NRA packet that day, containing labels with your name on them to be stuck on the score cards. In that packet, you will also receive a small piece of paper assigning you a relay and a firing point for the revolver matches as well as your relay and point for the other guns (.22, CF, and .45). The match director's bulletin will give times for the various relays.

Later on Monday is the First Shot Ceremony and a Shooters Reception at the Camp Perry Clubhouse, where you can meet and greet local merchants. Sometime during the week, you'll have to register with the CMP for their matches, to be conducted on Sunday. You'll also have to get your service pistols inspected; the best place to do that is at one of the Armorer's vans, on the road behind the ranges.

On Tuesday, the CMP warmup match is held, consisting of the President's Match course of fire, 20 shots slow fire, 10 timed and 10 rapid. Participants receive a very nice medallion. That same day, you can "practice," shooting one or more National Match Course. If you care and are lucky, you can even shoot on the same firing point you will be using for the rest of the matches. If someone comes along behind you while you are shooting, you will have to pick another point for the next relay. That same day, the revolver matches (Harry Reeves Match and Distinguished Revolver) are held. For those shooting on a State Team, the Team Meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on the Petrarca, or "covered" range. At the meeting, you will meet your team captain, find out who else is on your team, and what firing points the team will use. Team matches are conducted at about 3 p.m. on .22, CF, and .45 days. Make sure to bring a strip of your competitor labels with you to give to your team captain.



Wednesday is Preliminary Day and you will shoot a NMC with each gun. Check your squadding ticket to find out which relay and firing point you are on. This is the lightest shooting day because there are no team matches that afternoon. It is also the most hectic “moving day” because you will be moving your equipment back and forth between the 50 and 25 yard lines several times! Because there are no team matches, this might be a good day to use the rest of the day to go to Cedar Point amusement park in nearby Sandusky or go to the outer islands by ferry. Wednesday evening is usually the day for the Ultra Dot picnic, with lots of goodies given away.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday are firing days for the National Conventional Pistol Championship. Thursday is .22 Day, Friday for CF, and Saturday is for .45. Team matches will be conducted after the individual matches are completed. On Friday evening, the Team Dinner will be held. That is also the day for the NRA Competitors Meeting, where shooters get to address issues with the NRA Competitive Shooting Division personnel.



On Saturday evening, after the completion of the NRA individual matches earlier in the day, the NRA Awards Ceremony will be conducted in the auditorium, crowning the National Champion, Women’s Champion, Collegiate and Junior Champions, as well as the Team Champions.



Sunday is “Service Pistol” day, using iron sights only. Adults shoot the service pistol (1911A1 or Beretta 92FS, while junior shoot .22s. The President’s Match (20 slow fire, 10 timed fire and 10 rapid fire) is fired first, followed by the National Trophy Individual (NTI, or “Leg”) Match, firing a National Match Course. Following the NTI, team matches are fired, again using the National Match Course. Sunday evening is the CMP Awards Ceremony, again in the auditorium. You’ve made it - - completed Camp Perry! It’s not too soon to be thinking about next year and what changes to make.

NATIONAL PISTOL MATCHES at CAMP PERRY – NEW JERSEY JUNIOR TEAMS



2003



2004



2005



2006



2007



2008



2009



2010

- Logan Ball – 2003, 2005
- Heather Dempsey - 2003
- Kenny Lund – 2003, 2004
- John Gunn III – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 (Captain 2008 – present)
- Dave Souders - 2004, 2005 (Captain 2006, 2007)
- Sue Westock – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- Ashley Bohm - 2006
- Joseph Storch – 2008, 2010
- Kim Hullings – 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- Gayle Smart – 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Kent Sullivan – 2009
- Luke Ungar – 2009
- James Kiefer – 2009, 2010
- Eric Verhasselt – 2009, 2010

Time to Listen

By: Eric Verhasselt

I like to believe that I have the best coaches in the world. This is not because I am actually paying people who title themselves as “the best,” but because I listen to those who are shooting around me. I have been shooting for close to 10 years now. For those 10 years I have been observant and attentive to the advice and knowledge that fellow shooters have passed along to me. Over time, I have collected wisdom from all types of shooters; Olympians, High Masters, Top Civilian Trap, Rifle and Pistol shooters and men and women who just come out to have fun. Through all of this guidance, I would like to discuss the importance of three of them.

The first one would be the importance of relaxing your body when shooting. This is one tip that I still find myself having trouble with. When I started shooting pistols, I was lead on the normal progression, starting with the 22 cal. My next advancement was to the .38 revolver and that was where I stayed for a while. Thus when someone put a 45 pistol in my hand, I wasn't really sure what to do with it, because it was a whole new experience. Due to its increase in kick- back, weight and required skill to shoot, I actually noticed that I became scared of the 45. Due to this new fright, I gripped my 45 with unnecessary force, thus the red dot would shake around erratically. I then became frustrated with shooting my 45 because I could never get my scores to be equivalent to my others strings of fire. However, once I realized what my problem was, I listened to those around me and I relaxed my firm grip of my 45. After such alterations, my 45 score went up over a hundred points overall in the 45 portion of a 2700.

The second item to discuss is the importance of watching the front sight. This notion is raised all the time because of its significance but ironically through its repetition, it is actually ignored. I was taught shooting through the use of iron sights, thus the importance of the front sight was embedded into me. However, when people learn how to shoot through a red dot or use a red dot too much, the importance of the front sight is lost, then especially when they might not even know what a front sight is. What I want to discuss is watching the front sight is not something that is designated to firearms with just iron sights. The mentality of watching the front sight can be transferred towards using a red dot as well. One main objective of watching the front sight is the goal to maintain the correct point of focus. The human eye cannot focus on two objects that are at different distances, meaning it is impossible for the human eye to focus both on the red dot and the target at the same time. Therefore, the solution is focusing on the front sight, or red dot, during the delivery of the shot.



Eric shooting great .45 at CJ May 2700

The last topic I want to discuss is the idea to always have fun. As competitors we compete. We compete against others but mostly ourselves. But that does not mean we must loose focus on also having fun in the process of shooting. Maybe it is having tacos for lunch, telling jokes or simply enjoying the company while shooting, fun must be had, in a safe matter of course. All in all I hope to continue shooting for many years, getting better each over time. Some of my improvement would be due to improved skill, but some, I hope, would be due to continuing to listening to and the implementation of future well- meant advice given by fellow shooters.



Eric was 2010 NJ Outdoor Junior Champion



Upcoming Matches:

JUNE 2011

Conventional Pistol (Bullseye):

CJRPC in Jackson, NJ – OUTDOOR 2700 – June 11-12, 2011 – relays each day at 9 AM – <mailto:noalibis@njpistol.com> or phone **908-788-5503** or at <http://www.NJPistol.com>

Tri-State Regional - Gibbsboro, NJ – OUTDOOR 2700 w/ “Leg” + DR – June 18-19, 2011 – relays each day at 9 AM - Paul Adamowski at **609-390-3941** or pauladamowski@comcast.net

CRRC in Princeton Junction, NJ – OUTDOOR 2700 – June 25, 2011 – 9 AM – <mailto:keith.stern1@verizon.net> or phone **609-462-9428** or at <http://www.NJPistol.com>

CJRPC in Jackson, NJ – NJ State Service Pistol and Distinguished Revolver Championships w/“Leg” + DR – June 26, 2011 – 9 AM – <mailto:noalibis@njpistol.com> or phone **908-788-5503** or SECOND LOCATION – **Cherry Ridge – Highland Lakes, NJ** - DL2700@aol.com or **201-251-0933** at <http://www.NJPistol.com>

Junior Competitors Report:

May 28-29 – CJRPC in Jackson, NJ – OUTDOOR 2700 – **Michael B. Soklaski** was High Junior and top Marksman! Six junior competitors also included **Eric Verhasselt** (yes, we had tacos!), **Trevor Houlis**, **Tyler Potter** and **Josh Rotondo**, with **Collin Cubberley** firing his first outdoor match!





Junior Leagues Report:

Old Bridge (2nd and 3rd Sundays at 5 PM):

Chairman: Ed Glidden at <mailto:eglidden@yahoo.com>

CJRPC in Jackson, NJ (Thursdays AFTER OUTDOOR 900 ~ 7 PM):

Note: Experienced juniors may join in the 900 league which starts at 5:30 PM!

Chairman: Mike Westock at <mailto:topgun22x45@aol.com>