

# New Jersey Junior Bullseye Newsletter

November 2012

Dear Juniors,

I am SO PROUD of all of you who have started shooting AND COMPETING this year!



We've had two incredibly successful JUNIOR-ONLY matches – more are being planned, including a NJ State Junior Pistol Championship in 2013!

In this latest version of YOUR NEWSLETTER, we hope to include monthly congratulations for junior match and league successes, news on upcoming match opportunities, words of advice for improving your competitive experience, and some “Question of the Month” to entertain and/or inspire you!

This month I “surveyed” Bullseye shooters to tell us WHY they shoot matches – I got responses from Marksmen through High Masters from NJ and beyond! Thanks to all who replied with thoughtfulness and humor!

Your input and feedback is needed!

Best wishes,  
Mary [noalibis.mary@gmail.com](mailto:noalibis.mary@gmail.com)

**“The difference between a jogger and a runner is an entry blank.” ~ George Sheehan**

## **WHY DO YOU SHOOT MATCHES?**

### **18 replies:**

**fun - 5**  
**relaxation - 2**  
**good company - 9**  
**competing with others - 7**  
**competing “with yourself” - 9**  
**improving skills - 3**  
**valuable input from others - 1**

### **number of matches each has fired in 2012:**

**< 10 - 6**  
**10 to 20 - 5**  
**20 to 30 - 4**  
**> 30 - 3**

“For the spirit of competition and because Bulls Eye shooters are the greatest Americans there are besides are men and women in uniform.” ~ HM – shooting for 22 years – 6 matches in 2012.

“The friendships and camaraderie developed over many years also are a big part of why I go, especially now. At first, my reason for going was to improve my skills and as I got better I enjoyed it more. I guess I got hooked on the idea of competing against myself and then others and getting some sense of satisfaction from my accomplishments.” ~ HM – shooting for 23 years – approx. 30 in 2012.

“I guess I shoot matches because I like to shoot and I like to compete.” ~ HM – shooting for 15 years – 40 matches in 2012.

“I get to see my friends, the ones who are also in pursuit of excellence. I get a chance to pursue excellence, evaluate any changes I've recently made, and respond, with corrections, to how I'm shooting that day. This is a constant process of evaluating grip strength, trigger control, and follow through. Even when I am initially not shooting well, there is always the chance to perform well and shoot excellent scores, provided I properly execute the fundamentals. There's nothing better than shooting a ten, except to shoot lots of them!” ~ HM – shooting for 23 years – one or two matches virtually every weekend [...that could be over 50 in 2012?!]

“a. Best way to practice, b. Best way to meet lots of BE buddies.” ~ MA – shooting for 10 years – only 2 matches so far in 2012 [...his buddies miss him!]

“I shoot matches to spend time with my son. I enjoy watching his improvements and accomplishments. I also enjoy attempting to ‘single handedly’ beat my last score by using what I learned and practiced between the matches. “~ MA – shooting for 3 years – 15 matches YTD.

“It is wholesome fun.” ~ MA – shooting for 35 years – 28 matches in 2012.

“I shoot matches because shooting randomly in the street is frowned upon where I live. Add in the fact that you don't get good by playing video games...” ~ MA – shooting for 16 years – around 25 matches per year.

“It's fun. The challenge, trying to reach perfection.” ~ MA – shooting since 1981 [with a 7 year break] – 10 matches in 2012.

“I shoot matches because I enjoy pitting myself against myself. When you shoot you can compete against who you were last week or the week before and can use them to track your progress over time. I also enjoy shooting because it allows me to compete alongside people who share a common interest of mine. Additionally, I enjoy shooting because it is inherently a mental game (just like golf, my other hobby). Finally, I compete because I am competitive! While my performance is the main focus at every match, I enjoy shooting against other Experts and take great pride in winning (on the rare occasions I do!). “~ EX – shooting for 10 years – 12 matches in 2012 [...he's a newly-wed!]

“I shoot matches simply because it's fun. There's no real need to make things complicated. Where else can you safely shoot pistols, get reacquainted with old friends and make new ones, be competitive in a casual non-work environment, and be a part of genuine camaraderie (If I dwell on this too long I might start planning my retirement.)” ~ EX – shooting for 7.5 years – 22 matches in 2012.

“I shoot to relax.” ~ EX – shooting 7 years – 14 matches in 2012.

“I guess the friendships and adventures traveling to the actual matches may be part of it but the primary reason is the satisfaction that comes from competing with myself. Don't get me wrong, getting a reward for a good competitive result is a great thing but the best thing is looking back at your personal shooter's log book and seeing the steady improvement you make competing against your previous performances!” ~ SS – shooting BE for 8 years – 6 matches YTD in 2012.

“In a difficult challenge like shooting, it is the best way to measure yourself.” ~ MK – shooting 8 years (competing for 4) – 12 matches in 2012

"It's fun, demanding, intense. It's competitive and I like to win." ~ MK [...going on EX] shooting for 5 months – 8 matches so far in 2012.

"The Match is like a final examination to evaluate your progress to see if you regress or improve." ~ MK shooting for 1.5 years – 6 matches in 2012.

"I guess each person to some degree would have different reasons. For me, due to my family, work and school demands, I use the time for mental relaxation from them. Basically to get my mind off of work and school and focus on something else outside of the house where I spend a great number of hours, when I'm not traveling. The other reasons include 1) measurement of my progress under match conditions versus practice conditions (whereby the degree of match intensity goes up from practice to league to matches) 2) measure my level of proficiency against others in the same class and very importantly 3) socialize with those of the same hobby interest." ~ SS shooting for 4 years – 24 matches in 2012

"The wise old saying that 'Practice makes perfect' is mostly true. What is not being said is '*Perfect* practice makes perfect'.

I've gotten a lot from my two years of shooting competitively. Help advice, wisdom, and constructive criticism. These things help me to *practice* better, thereby making me a better shooter. This makes me more successful in competition. Unless you are able to hire a professional tutor, this is the best way to learn. These people have been *exactly* where you are now.

In those two years of competitive shooting I have learned how to practice correctly. However, even that is not the most important thing I learned. I have learned patience, how to deal with pressure, how to deal with failure and how to deal with success. I have learned how to be a good competitor.

I have also met some of the nicest people. They have helped me far beyond 'just being nice'. I have seen people take a collection of ammo in a match for someone who forgot theirs. I have seen people take apart their own pistols to see what may be wrong with someone else's. Then cheer when they were outshot by them. This year I have shot 4 matches so far, and learned something in each one. I can't wait till my next match.

These are things that cannot be learned in practice. I have also brushed up on my math skills. Seriously, there is an outrageous amount of math. Learn it now, or bring a calculator. "~ MK – shooting for 2 years – 4 matches in 2012 ["But the year isn't done yet!"]

*Do you have a suggestion for a "Question of the Month" ...???*

*Email Mary at [noalibis.mary@gmail.com](mailto:noalibis.mary@gmail.com)*

## Junior Competitors Report

**Sept. 15-29 –Highland Lakes and Jackson, NJ – 2012 New Jersey Outdoor State Pistol Championship:** We had a record THIRTEEN juniors this year – 12 from NJ, with SEVEN NJ Juniors firing the full 3-gun match – that’s also a record!!



**Michael B. Soklaski** was High Junior and 8<sup>th</sup> SS with 2389-31X, firing a “personal best” 795-6X in .45 Aggregate! **Trevor Houlis**, who earned his OD SS card just before Camp Perry, fired 2281-42X, including the top junior .22 aggregate score 824-15X! **Joseph Storch** was 5<sup>th</sup> of 37 MK with 2314-30X, his best outdoor aggregate this year! **Juan Pena-Velasquez** finished with 2236-22X (and it was only his 2<sup>nd</sup> outdoor match!) **Nicolai Greco** fired 2174-24X, including .45 “PR” 735-7X (I think it was his 3<sup>rd</sup> outdoor match, counting the Nationals!) **Christian Woo** fired a “PR” 1998-15X, including a .22 “PR” 752-6X (using his new Hammerli Xesse with iron sights!) **Morgan Mateus** fired his first FULL 2700, including a .22 “PR” 771-8X using his “new” Pardini!

**Suchisman Gangopadhyay** shot revolvers for both .22 and CF! One-gun juniors included **Tyler Potter** and **Josh Rotondo**, who fired a huge “PR” 760-12X, (despite having to change guns during slow fire!) **Gabrielle Petruso** and **Nicholas Bova** fired their first-ever Outdoor match!!



**Oct. 14 – Jackson, NJ – New Jersey’s FIRST JUNIOR-ONLY Outdoor 1800:** We had EIGHTEEN juniors, ages 12 to 18, on the firing line, with two (**Dominic Ross** and **George Cooper**) firing their first official NRA match, and four (**Scott Wardenski**, **Lisa Heredia**, **Dan Rosar** and **Aman Minhas**) firing their first outdoor match (it was their first time shooting slow fire at 50 yards!)



**Nicolai Greco** was the overall winner, with “personal bests” in both .22 and CF! It was his first time breaking 800 with .22, and his 2-gun aggregate was a SS score (1561-18X!) **Juan Pena-Velasquez** also fired a SS aggregate with 1540-17X, including a “PR” CF 745-5X! **Josh Rotondo** and **Tyler Potter** fired their first CF matches, as did **Scott** and **George**!




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### Upcoming NJ Matches:

**Nov. 9-10** – Riverdale – **Indoor 2700** – relays Friday at 6 PM and Saturday at 8 AM and 1 PM – Juniors pay regular match fees - contact Dave Lange – 201-251-0933 or [DL2700@aol.com](mailto:DL2700@aol.com) or sign up at [www.NJPistol.com](http://www.NJPistol.com)

**Nov. 24-25** – OBRPC – **Indoor 2700** – relays both Saturday and Sunday at 8 AM and 1 PM – JUNIORS SHOOT FOR FREE - contact Mary Badiak – 908-788-5503 or [noalibis.mary@gmail.com](mailto:noalibis.mary@gmail.com) or sign up at [www.NJPistol.com](http://www.NJPistol.com)

**Dec. 2** – SCFGPA – **Indoor 900 + Team Match for JUNIORS AND PARENTS ONLY** – .22 caliber only – relays at 11 AM and 1:30 PM – JUNIORS SHOOT FOR FREE - contact Mary Badiak – 908-788-5503 or [noalibis.mary@gmail.com](mailto:noalibis.mary@gmail.com) or sign up at [www.NJPistol.com](http://www.NJPistol.com)

## Junior Leagues Report

**Oct. 7 – SCFGPA – Juan Pena-Velasquez** fired his FIRST 100! Using Ray's Trailside (which he doesn't usually use) he had 100-7X in Rapid Fire!

**Old Bridge (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5 PM):**

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

**CJRPC in Jackson, NJ (Thursdays 6 PM):**

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

**SCFGPA in Bridgewater, NJ – (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 5 PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7 PM):**

**Chairman:** Ray Badiak at <mailto:raybadiak@embarqmail.com>

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### TIP OF THE MONTH

One of the techniques your coaches have probably suggested to help you shoot good scores in Timed or Rapid Fire is to make a "shot plan" that takes advantage of the cadence of range commands. For example, when you hear, "Ready on the right" you may be "locking" your arm, and you may take the cue to raise your arm to start settling on the edge of the target frame when you hear, "Ready on the left." These commands are all separated by approximately 3 seconds, and after you hear, "Ready on the firing line" you should EXPECT that the target will turn to face you 3 seconds later – some shooters will be taking up "slack" and/or the first stage on their triggers so as to break their first shot just as the targets face them (giving them the comfort of having only 4 more shots to get off in the remaining time!)

The "warning" is...sometimes things don't work the way we expect!! Target mechanisms may fail, or target operators may fail! To avoid having an "early" shot, WHICH WILL COST YOU 10 POINTS, **wait to detect that the targets are ACTUALLY TURNING BEFORE YOU SQUEEZE OFF THAT FIRST SHOT** – you'll still have plenty of time!! If you fire before the targets have turned, it will be counted as a MISS!

ANOTHER NOTE: If the targets don't turn after 3 seconds, 4,5,6 seconds...and you are starting to wonder if something has broken down and maybe start lowering your gun...and then the targets suddenly turn, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FIRE! If you "elect" to hurry and try to fire anyway when something like this happens, you have "accepted the conditions" and will have to live with whatever results. But if you do NOT fire, and alert the line or range personnel that you believed there to have been a timing problem which caused you to become "not ready," you should be given a chance to re-fire the string!

**PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER ISSUES CAN BE FOUND AT:**

[http://www.njpistol.com/Junior\\_Newsletter.htm](http://www.njpistol.com/Junior_Newsletter.htm)