



Editor's Letter:

Dear Junior Shooters,

When I first started shooting as a junior in 2003, I was struck by how helpful the adult shooters were in preparing me for the ups and downs of competitive bullseye shooting. Wishing to give back in some small part, I am establishing this newsletter as a means of communicating to junior shooters advice in several aspects of shooting. This will be the first of many newsletters, issued on the first of every month.

The two main feature articles will be the *Shooters Corner* which will be about an adult shooter's experiences and basically whatever else they would like to impart on you and the *Profile of the Month* which will outline the achievement, goals and experiences of past and present junior shooters. The other article will not be as concrete throughout each issue of the newsletter. For Issue 1 there is an article on etiquette/safety, whereas other issues may have articles on training techniques and other aspects of shooting.

I would like to thank all those that have contributed to this pilot issue of the Junior Shooter Newsletter. I hope you find their advice and experiences useful, as I have over the years!

Finally, any junior who has any feedback please feel free to email me (john.gunn.3@gmail.com) with any comments. I'm very thick skinned and take criticism very well!!

Enjoy.



By: John F. Gunn III

Shooting Safety/Etiquette:

Most bullseye shooters are adults and, until fairly recently, it was extremely unusual to see a teenager at a bullseye match. Most adults are suspicious about a teenager's ability to shoot well and safely, so you can expect some extra scrutiny from some people. Don't let that bother you; just do what you have learned to do and you will earn everyone's respect.

I encourage you to introduce yourself to others, at least the people on either side of you. They might be surprised to learn that you have been shooting bullseye for three years and have shot at Camp Perry twice!

During the match, you should not be talking when shooting is going on. There is plenty of time to talk after a "cease fire" has been called.

It's important to shoot only on your own target. Some ranges, especially Camp Perry, make it easier to shoot on someone else's target, particularly where you shoot team matches on different points than individual matches. To ensure that your shots land on your target, every time you pick up the gun to shoot, check to make sure that you are aiming at your assigned target.

When you go downrange to score, you should first go to the target you are assigned to score and score it, writing the score on the target in a place that will be covered when the target is repaired. Then go to your own target, check to make sure that it has been scored correctly, then repair it. Once you have repaired your target, proceed back to the firing line so you do not hold up the match. Be aware that, if the shooter you scored disagrees with you, he or she may be calling out to get you to explain your scoring.

If you disagree with the score you have been given on a particular target, first check to make sure that your calculations are correct. Then ask to see the score sheet to check the shot values you have been assigned. If they are all correct, check to see if the addition or subtraction has been done correctly. At all times, remain polite and courteous.

Ranges you go to may have unique safety rules, such as that no one may open their gun box until permission has been given. If you are not familiar with that range's rules, ask about them.

I wish you every success in your shooting career! Regards, John Gemmill.



By: John Gemmill

The Shooter's Corner:

Welcome to the first issue of this newsletter for Juniors!

If you have ever shot a bullseye match in NJ, then most of you reading this have met me at one of them. For those who have not, let me just say that I have been around for a while and have managed to achieve some success in shooting Bullseye competition.

I imagine that most of you have read the series of articles I wrote on Bullseye fundamentals because you were told to by your coach. If not, there is a link to them under my name at: www.bullseyepistol.com. They are a great starting point for anyone wishing to learn the sport. They are called fundamentals because they are the basis on which you build your proficiency in our sport. You cannot gloss over them; they take time to learn and master...you must "pay your dues" if you want to improve.

Success in this sport usually does not come easy. It takes a bit of dedication, perseverance, skill and a fair amount of dollars (to purchase quality equipment and supplies). If you have started down the path to Bullseye mastery, you will find that along the way you will encounter some frustration (no one ever said Bullseye shooting was easy to do) but eventually you will find out that it is very rewarding to watch yourself improve with each match and to move up the classifications until you reach your best skill level. It is a game that can be very competitive against others while at the same time your only competitor can be just yourself! Some are very introspective about their shooting and scores; they are competing with themselves only to improve over previous scores or accomplishments.

While some shooters find that besting others in their classification is what it is all about and it drives them to perform well. Whatever motivates you, Bullseye can provide you with a lifelong hobby that is challenging, enjoyable and fun. Don't forget the fun part. It is a hobby, a game, a contest...but it should always be fun for you to do.

Now some advice.

Anything you do in life that leads you to a desired goal must start with an action plan to achieve that goal. Stating a goal, such as a certain score or classification or accomplishment, demands that you have a plan to achieve it (sorry to sound tautogistic, but this is an important point). Your goal must be realistic. You must believe firmly that you can attain it and the action plan is written out in a systematic manner to achieve that goal. Part of this action plan is to have mini-plans called "shot plans" which guide your actions through the shot processes of slow fire and sustained fire.

You must "train" the fundamentals by going to training sessions, working and experimenting with each of them. Once you have "figured it out", then you must practice the technique until it becomes ingrained in your subconscious (which actually does all the shooting for you) and becomes an automatic response that can be called upon to perform on command.

Of all the fundamentals, the most important one to master so it becomes automatic is trigger control. All of the other fundamentals are subservient to this one. Spend most of your time working on it by dry firing.

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The Shooter's Corner continued:

My last bit of advice is for those of you who are very competitive. Firmly believe in yourself and your abilities. Without self-confidence, you do not stand a chance of winning. Training, practice, skill sets, good gun and ammo will only take you so far. Your "I can win" attitude is what carries you to success and reward and drives you to practice more than the next person. Just remember to have fun while you are at it!

When you see me at a match, please feel free to ask me shooting questions you may have. I will be glad to try to help you. Just do not ask me while I am shooting my slow fire 😊

Best to you, see you on the line,



By: Ron Steinbrecher

Junior Shooter Profile:

As I stood in complete silence, I grasped the unfamiliar object firmly in my right hand. I took a slow breath in. As I exhaled I brought the gun up to eye level. As my arm shook from the weight, I lined the sights up with the black target down range. I slowly began to squeeze the trigger. The gun fired, forcing my arm slightly upwards. As I brought the gun back down to the table I realized that I had a new appreciation for guns. Guns were no longer an object I was taught to fear, but a tool to use in sport.

I joined the New Jersey State Junior Pistol Team when I was 15 years old. I was taught gun safety as well as many other tricks to help keep the gun steady. While on the NJ state junior team we, as a team, set 5 national records. It was a very exciting experience to receive a national honor.



From the age of 16 until I turned 21, I traveled with the NJ State Junior Pistol Team to Ohio to participate in the Camp Perry National Matches.

Camp Perry is a match that due to outside circumstances, you typically shoot your best or your worst scores. In Ohio we met and befriended many of the other state junior teams. We tried to have an annual “junior only” dinner so that the juniors could get to know each other better.

Camp Perry itself is a very unique experience. Instead of having a regular match in a semi-sheltered area, you are standing in the middle of an open field, surrounded by hundreds of other shooters. Due to these unique circumstances the weather has a huge impact on your shooting. My most unique weather experiences at Camp Perry included strong winds and heavy rain.

My first year at Camp Perry was extremely windy. During a match we were waiting for the following commands, “ready on the left, Ready on the right,” the targets turned, a couple shots went off, and half of the targets flew straight out of their holders into the field.

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Junior Shooter Profile
Continued:

Once it was safe to go down range I wandered out into the field beyond the target holders to retrieve my run away target. While I was replacing my target into its holder a line officer offered me a large red rubber band to help keep the target in place. After this experience I learned to always keep a couple large rubber bands in my gun box.

Another year at Camp Perry we experienced a massive amount of rain. Although this may sound like a dismal situation, it came with at least one perk. The mud, though it was above ankle deep in some areas, helped keep my feet in place while I shot. The best advice I have for a rainy trip is to purchase a pair of rain boots, extra socks, and always pack extra clothes.

Once I aged out of the junior bracket, life caught up with me. I graduated college magna cum laude with a Bachelors of Science in Athletic Training. I am currently working in Pennsylvania as a head Athletic Trainer. Though my life's path has directed me away from competitive shooting, it has helped mold me into the person that I am today, and the person I will be in the future.

Though I'm no longer active in the competitive pistol world, I am still my Dad's cheerleader. He is still very active in the sport: winning state championships, coaching the junior league, and helping with club maintenance. He is the reason I got into shooting, and I plan to keep shooting as a part of my life.



By: Sue Westock

Junior Competitors Report:

Oct. 16 – Gibbsboro, NJ - “Halloween Extravaganza” - Indoor – **Joseph Storch** set a new “personal best” grand Aggregate 2343-34X!

Oct. 31 – DSPC (New Castle, DE) - Indoor - **Michael B. Soklaski** broke 800 with .22 caliber for the first time, firing 802-15X! He also broke 700 with .45 caliber for the first time at the same match, firing 704-15X in Centerfire!

Nov. 6 – Wappingers Falls, NY - Outdoor - **Michael B. Soklaski** fired 802-13X in .22 caliber Aggregate, and also scored a “Personal Best” Outdoor Grand Aggregate 2111-22X!

Nov. 27-28 – Old Bridge, NJ – “Turkey Match” Indoor – **Tyler Potter** set a new “personal best” .22 Aggregate 749-6X, including 96-3X and a 1st place award among MK in .22 Rapid Fire! **Nicolai Greco** fired his first NRA match (and it was actually his first “900” with pistol, one handed!)

By: Mary Badiak

Upcoming Matches:

January 2010

Conventional Pistol (Bullseye):

Riverdale, NJ – 2700 – Jan. 7-8, 2011 – relays at 6 PM (Friday), 8 AM and 1 PM (Saturday) – <mailto:DL2700@aol.com> or phone **201-251-0933**

Old Bridge, NJ – 2700 – Jan. 22-23, 2011 – relays each day at 8 AM and 1 PM – <mailto:noalibis@njpistol.com> or phone **908-788-5503**

Gibbsboro, NJ – 2700 – Jan. 29, 2011 – 9 AM – <mailto:jgunn001@comcast.net> or phone **609-288-0778**

Air Pistol:

Gibbsboro, NJ – NRA Air Pistol – Jan. 2, 2011 – relays start at 10 AM – <mailto:jgunn001@comcast.net> or phone **609-288-0778**

Princeton Junction, NJ – NRA Air Pistol – Jan. 16, 2011 – relays start at 10 AM – <mailto:wgregory0887320@msn.com> or phone **732-887-0881**

International:

Riverdale, NJ – Free Pistol, Air Pistol, Standard Pistol, Centerfire Pistol – Jan. 15, 2011 - relays start at 9 AM - <mailto:DL2700@aol.com> or phone **201-251-0933**