



Editor's Letter:

Welcome shooters to Issue 5 of the Junior Shooter Newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the last few weeks of school and looking forward to a great summer. This weeks issue has a message to Junior Shooters by **Kevin Ball**, an article by former Junior shooter and collegiate rifle shooter **Gayle Smart**, and an update on upcoming matches and Junior progress by Mary Badiak.

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

Random thoughts for Junior Shooters: By Kevin Ball

It was not until after I agreed to write an article for "Junior Shooters" in John Gunn III's column did I find out that all the "good stuff" had already been covered by very qualified and established shooters. (Thanks John III. Remember that revenge is a dish best served cold. For this, you will carry my gun box at Perry for one day.) So now it fall's on me to be "creative". Not talking about trigger control, dry firing, shot plans, safety, rules, alibi's, etc. etc. sure leaves me with a lack of material to write about. Or does it? There is one other very important factor that needs to be addressed. YOU! Yes you. Don't look around. I am talking to you.

What are you thinking about?

So here you are, school is out for the day, homework is done (VERY important), no shooting match, no bullseye league, can't dry fire because you are home alone and the guns are locked up (as they should be). How often do you think about shooting? Do you imagine moving the trigger straight to the rear during slow fire, timed and rapid fire. Do you go over, in your mind, your shot plan? Have you ever shot a "virtual" match in your mind? Wait, I have got to tell you this anecdote told by a very successful bullseye shooter. This shooter would often shoot a virtual match once he retired to bed, waiting to fall asleep. He would lay there on his back, reach out with his shooting arm, go thru his shot plan, pretend he was moving the trigger, break the shot and shoot an X. One time though, he bumped his wife with his arm, waking her. "What the heck are you doing?" she demanded. "What the heck are you doing down range?" he asked. Cute story, but an example of what degree some will go to for success. It will

not happen by itself. Desire is the prime motivator to success in anything you attempt. Once you realize you have the desire to be successful, you will apply the training and practice that is needed to reach the goals that you set for yourself. When you are thinking about the correct method to break the shot, you are entering it into your minds "data base". Once you begin a dry fire session, live fire practice or a match, you will recall that data and apply it at that time. Many shooters are thinking about the next match while driving home from a match. If they felt they did not shoot well, they would be thinking about how they would plan to improve. If they were pleased with the results, they would plan on how to get even better. Never be satisfied. Always try to get better. Not just in shooting, but in everything you do. It all begins in the mind, and what you think! I am not telling you that shooting is all you should be thinking of. But try to set some time aside to think about it. It is really no sweat.

How do you act?

Compared to the rest of the general population, we, participants in the shooting sports, are a minority. We are outnumbered greatly by people who know nothing about the sport, or firearm ownership. Many have adopted convictions about guns based on wrong information, no information, or anti-gun propaganda. And that is when they are thinking about adults. How about kids with guns? They get real weird at that thought. We need to talk about that. But first, let's be honest. You are kids! Which is a good thing. Stay a kid as long as you can. I have, and still am. Which annoys my wife, Sue, to no end. But that's a story for another day. You are considered a kid by all. Until you lift that gunbox onto the bench and begin your 3 minute prep period.

You are no longer just "a kid". You are a shooter in the shooting sports. Look down the firing line. Other shooters. Adults who have been shooting for a long time. Are they looking at you in fear for their lives? No. Because they already know that you have been trained, coached and instructed to safely participate in a sport that some believe may be the third most difficult to perform consistently well. Only hitting a Major League pitch or playing golf at the pro level is considered harder than shooting a handgun one handed, and unsupported. Did any of you stand just a little taller after reading that? You should, because this sport is special. You are a "Junior" only because of your age. You are a shooter with all the responsibilities as every other shooter on the firing line. Regardless of your classification or category you are shooting at the same targets, same distance, same timing of the targets. In other sports the equipment is "sized" for young players. Soccer balls are #3, #4 & #5. Little League has smaller gloves and bats and fences that are closer. Playing time is reduced, fields are smaller. But in our sport, you are up on the porch with the big dogs. As competitors we are all equal.

Now a word about how you act when you are not training or participating in a match. No one likes to be judged. But judged we are. By our leaders, teachers, bosses, friends, family. Eventually someone you are talking to becomes aware that you handle and shoot firearms. Handguns no less. If they are open minded and are aware of the junior programs the conversation will most likely be about how you enjoy it, the safety procedures that are strictly followed, the great people you have met, Camp Perry if you go, or plan to, and how you have progressed in the sport. If you are asked about

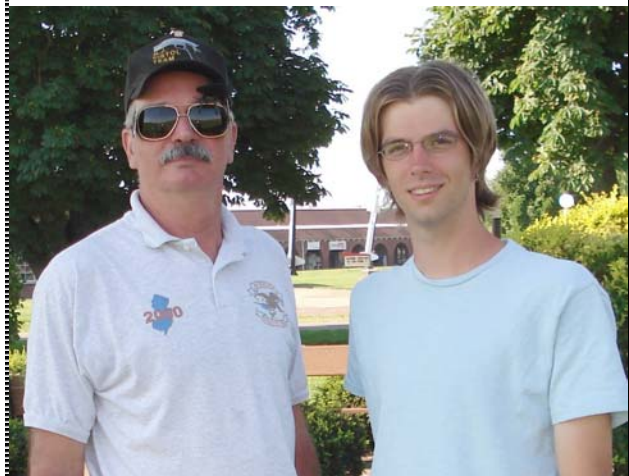
this sport by someone who is not so open minded about shooting, be sure to tell them the same thing. Remain reasonable in your explanations. You might even invite them to observe a shooting function. It is really all up to you. I told myself not to tell you that you are "Ambassadors" to the sport. Then I remembered that all of us are, or should be. It lies with you, me, and all the other shooters to represent the sport and it's participants in the best possible light.

That is all the rambling you will get from me. This time. See you on the firing line.

By: Kevin Ball (KBall)



Kevin Ball is a "2650 Club" shooter, HM indoors, Distinguished Pistol Shot (#1262) in 2002, President's 100, Team Ultradot



Junior Pistol Profile: by Gayle Smart

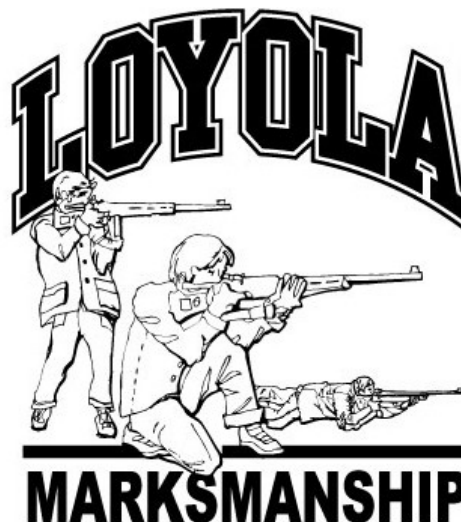
Back in 2005, my dad and I were driving home when I saw a sign advertising that a women's day was going on at Citizens Rifle & Revolver Club. My dad asked if I wanted to see it was like, and I was excited to say yes. We drove towards the outdoor range, noting that only a few cars were there and a few women were shooting alongside coaches. Watching from the parking lot, we noticed a coach with a girl about my age. We got out of the car and the coach introduced himself as the coach of the "All Girl Junior Pistol Team". He asked if I wanted to try shooting, and I jumped at the chance.

The coach asked if I wanted to try something either with a little kick or with a lot of kick first. Of course, I chose the higher caliber. I put on the eye and ear protection and approached the bench. The coach loaded the pistol, told me how to grip the gun and instructed me to always keep it pointed down range. Then he added, "Don't freak out when it goes off". My dad and I laughed at that, but it also made me even more intrigued. The coach took a step back and I picked up the gun. I held my arm straight out and seeing that I hadn't experienced this before, I let the sights line up to what I thought would be a good placement. Then I pulled the trigger. The recoil was definitely shocking, but I held on to the gun. I put the gun down, but didn't let go, hoping I'd get to shoot more. My dad and the coach were watching me and said that I had a huge grin once the shot was fired and at that point I still did. Then the coach looked through his scope, and saw that I hit the bullseye. The round I just shot was a .44 magnum. From that point on, everything else seemed easy!

I shot at Citizen's with the junior coach and a few other juniors for about a year. My dad actually became an honorary instructor for the NJ All Girl Pistol Team. Then, I started shooting in Old Bridge. Almost immediately after starting to shoot at Old Bridge, the topic of Camp Perry came about. Everyone seemed so excited about Camp Perry, and my dad and I were extremely interested in going.

I thought it would be a week of shooting matches like the ones in Jackson, but it was entirely different. There's something about Camp Perry that I absolutely love. For four years in a row, I counted down the days until we got to go to Perry, and never wanted to leave at the end of the week. The people are amazing and the shooting experiences are unparalleled.

In the fall of 2008, I began attending Loyola University Maryland. Subsequently, the ability to shoot pistol in New Jersey came to be a challenge. I would still go to the range with my dad whenever I came home for breaks and for a few random weekends, but it wasn't nearly enough to progress competitively. Unfortunately, that summer was the last summer I went to Camp Perry. It was also my last year shooting as a junior. While I do sometimes find the time for pistol, I miss it greatly. In the fall of 2009, I found a new shooting sport – Smallbore Rifle.

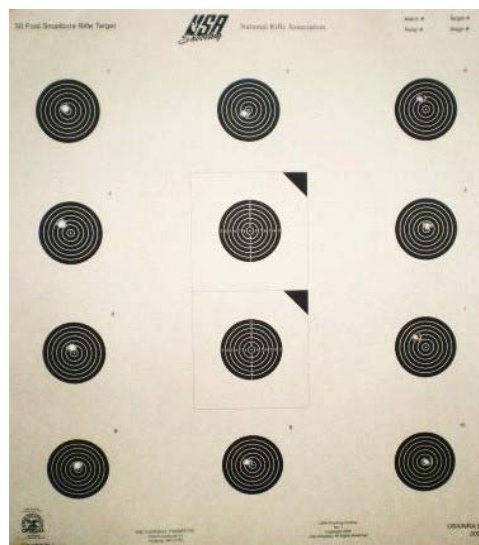


I joined the Marksmanship Club Team here at Loyola, and have loved it ever since. One of the requirements for joining was that the shooter had to have prior experience. While I had never shot a rifle before, the extensive pistol background and training was something that the coaches and captain were intrigued by. The team had a total of eight shooters when I joined, including myself. That does not seem like a lot, but in actuality, only the scores of four shooters per team count at a match.

Typically, we take six of our shooters to a match, but we have to predetermine who will be contributing to the team score. My first match was against the Princeton Rifle Team, and coincidentally, the match was hosted at Citizens Rifle & Revolver club. It was ironic that my first match with a rifle was at the same place I spent my first year shooting pistols. Other schools we compete against include University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Penn State, and the Naval Academy. During sectionals, our scores are matched against other schools as well including University of Akron, MIT, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, VMI, Hofstra University, and others. Since the matches are affiliated with the NRA, our individual as well as team scores are published in the collegiate score book at the end of every academic year.



During a collegiate rifle match, there are six targets total. First, two targets are shot from prone. Second, two while standing, and finally two while kneeling. Each target holds a possible 100 points, similar to pistol, but they are only 50 feet away. Therefore, the total scores are out of 600. Also, the entire match is shot with just one gun, the Anschutz.22 caliber rifle. During my first year, I received the award of “Most Improved First Year Shooter”, and this year I received “Highest Cumulative Score” for the year in matches.



Rifle shooting looks like it is very different from pistol shooting. While the obvious aspects are different, such as the positions taken and the guns used, the mentality and basics are exactly the same. My foundation in pistol is what allowed me to pick up rifle shooting so quickly as successfully. Just as in pistol, what makes a great shot is the trigger control. I have a journal of notes regarding where to line up my feet for standing, how to angle my knee for kneeling, where to put my elbow for prone, the sling adjustments, and much more, but what ultimately runs through my mind just before I shoot is the phrase, “Trust the trigger”. Before every shot, while my eyes are still closed and I am starting to let out the air from my preparatory breath, I think “Trust the trigger”.

This same phrase can be applied to pistol shooting as well. At that point in time, I don't think about my position, about the last shot, or about how many more targets I have until I finish that sheet; just the trigger squeeze. (Note that these are exactly the same ideals as for pistol shooting!) Since I've started this process, my total score has increased every single time I have completed a 600, including practice totals.

I am currently the Vice President of the Marksmanship Club Team here at Loyola, and I have been for the past year. New shooters look to me for advice on set up, their positions, general or specific shooting tips, and more. I feel as though I can accredit my successes and confidence on this rifle team to the experiences and lessons learned during my junior pistol shooting years. Also, my parents have attended every single match that I have competed in, and their support is incredible. I am looking forward to when I'll have the time at home to go shoot pistol with my dad, but until then, I'll continue contributing to the Loyola Marksmanship Club Team.

By: Gayle Smart



Jersey Girls set a National Women's Record



NJ Junior Team 2009

Upcoming Matches:

May 2011

Conventional Pistol (Bullseye):

CRRC in Princeton Junction, NJ – OUTDOOR 2700 – May 14, 2011 – 9 AM –
<mailto:keith.stern1@verizon.net> or phone **609-462-9428** or at <http://www.NJPistol.com>

Boyertown (PA) – REGIONAL 2700 w/Leg + DR – May 21-22, 2011 – relays each day at 8:30 AM – Keith Davis: <mailto:howardkeithdavis@comcast.net> or phone **610-369-0608** or at <http://www.NJPistol.com> or <http://www.llpcinc.com>

CJRPC in Jackson, NJ – OUTDOOR 2700 – May 28-29, 2011 – relays each day at 9 AM –
<mailto:noalibis@njpistol.com> or phone **908-788-5503** or at <http://www.NJPistol.com>

Junior Competitors Report:

April 2-3 – Guthsville (PA) – PA State Indoor Championship 2700 – **Michael B. Soklaski** took 2nd MK in .22 aggregate with 801-21X and finished as 2nd MK overall with 2257-39X! His other place awards included 1st MK in .45 gallery with 264-6X!

April 9-10 – Lake Island Pistol Club in Carteret, NJ – Indoor 2700 – **Michael B. Soklaski** was 2nd MK in .22 aggregate with 802-7X!

April 16-17 – CJRPC in Jackson, NJ – OUTDOOR 2700 – **Michael B. Soklaski** was High Junior, and one of only about half the field of competitors to make it through a full 2700 in the COLD, WINDY and sometimes WET first outdoor 2700 of the season!



He earned 1st MK overall with 2226-26X, including a 1st place in .22 aggregate with 781-14X! **Steve Voros** fired his first-ever outdoor match, taking 2nd MK in .22 aggregate with 756-10X! **Trevor Houlis** fired his best ever Centerfire “900” breaking 700 for the first time! He took

1st MK in CF aggregate with 707-10X (which included a very pretty 94 Timed Fire target that he didn't even take home!) **Tyler Potter** topped his Grandfather, Carl, (by one point) firing 702-8X and **Josh Rotondo** topped his outdoor scores from last year!



Kim Hullings excelled at the Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs (April 13-16)! She was 6th in Women's Air Pistol and won a SILVER MEDAL in Women's Sport Pistol!





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>



Michael B. Soklaski had a 99-6 with .22 RF in the “900” league on 4/28!! Steve Voros, practicing .45 2-shot drills, had two skidders to the 10-ring!