

# New Jersey Junior Bullseye Newsletter

April 2013

Dear Juniors,

STARTING THIS MONTH, WE GET TO SHOOT OUTDOORS!

For many of you who have been shivering at SCFGPA (and running in to huddle by the stove between strings!) or taking shifts on the very limited number of ports at Indoor matches at Old Bridge or at CJRPC's indoor range on Thursdays, warmer weather and outdoor shooting options are more than welcome!

OUTDOOR shooting presents a new set of challenges! Last week the new CJ Juniors got a first taste of the real 25 yard line and targets that actually turn (...and they also found out about outdoor lighting and BUGS, which was probably not Emily's favorite part!)

This month 15 of our local competitors share thoughts on dealing with some of the challenges, as we all look forward to a great season ahead!



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

## HOW DO YOU SHOOT OUTDOORS?

One of our High Masters summed this topic up perfectly as follows:

1. You're outside in "fresh air" and there's no more need for a respirator and you don't have to wear so much hearing protection!
2. The targets at 50 yards are "so big!"
3. You get to see new places and shoot at ranges that only have outdoor ranges (like Wappingers Falls, DCFS, Citizens, Central Jersey, etc).
4. The weather is warmer!
5. Life is good!

We'll use his outline to organize some great tips and reminders from many who offered input!

### 1-Fresh Air [...which may be moving at 25 mph!]

HM - It was a little breezy the first time I shot at Camp Perry, nothing terrible, just enough to give the average shooter "chicken finger" [*\*see note at end of article*] and keep the scores down. Some of the Service shooters did very well and seemed to be unaffected by the wind. Being a new shooter, I believed the people who told me that service shooters do well in the wind because they practice in the wind. It took me a few years to figure out who those shooters were and that the real reason they were able to shoot well in the wind was because they DRY FIRE. They pull the trigger the same way every time. Whether it is windy, raining, sunny or cold, they pull the trigger the same way every time because they DRY FIRE.

SS - Ballistic programs can give a shooter both measurements in drop and drift at various distances and wind conditions. ...a 185 gr 45 ACP at 900fps will drift approximate 3/4" at 50yds in a 10mph wind. Now for the shooters themselves getting knocked around ... [*That's actually the main issue – gusty winds are especially challenging!*]

EX - Windy days can affect your shooting, especially if you are shooting with a scope (as it can often feel like a sail!). You have to remember that you can not control whether or not the wind will be strong or weak, and try to not allow it to unnerve you.

HM - For shooting in windy conditions - In slow fire, if the wind increases after you pick up the gun, put the gun down. With varying wind, take advantage of a "lull" and get off two or three shots before putting the gun down. In sustained fire, you don't have the option of putting the gun down; instead, keep the trigger moving (keeping the gun on your own target)!

HM - You also have to select a stance that is a bit more aggressive to keep your body from moving as much in the wind. ... you need to accept a much bigger wobble area and continue your trigger pull even when it seems as though the dot never stops moving.

SS – [What about] shooting along side your shooting box as a wind break [?]



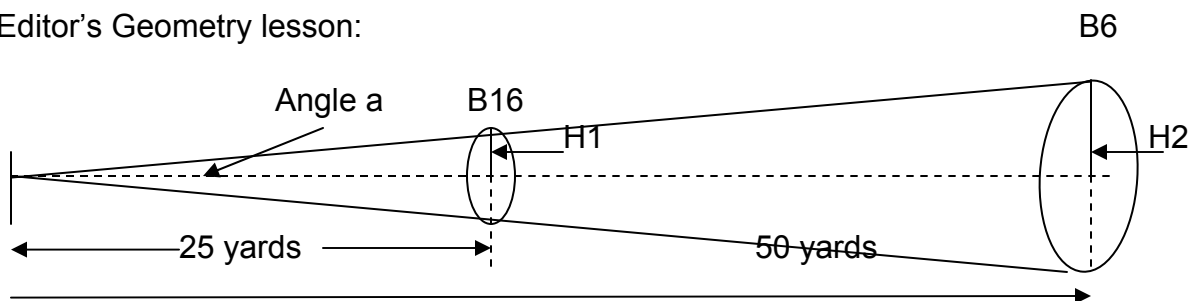
[NRA rule 3.9 – shooting kits – “The shooting kit may be taken to the firing point when it is of such a size and construction as to not interfere with shooters on adjacent firing points.” *Aside from that, there is no restriction!*]

## 2 - 50 Yard Targets

SS - Shooting outside requires just a bit more preparation and concentration in order to overcome any apprehension of the "long line".

HM - The most important thing is to believe that the 50yd. line is no more difficult than any other distance, because it really is not. You do need a gun that will shoot at least inside the 9 ring so you can believe your equipment is up to the task.

[Editor's Geometry lesson:



$$\tan (a) = H1/25\text{yds} = H2/50 \text{ yds} \quad \dots\text{so } H2=2 \times H1$$

Diameter of black on B16 (Indoor 25 yd. slow fire target) = 5.32"

If you are holding black on Indoor SF target, your wobble area will be 10.64" at 50 yards.

The black on B6 (50 yd. SF) is only 8" but remember black on B16 includes the 7-ring, and B6 7 ring has diameter 11" ...so your hold may "LOOK" worse, but scores should be better!]

HM - Believe it or not, the 50 yd target is easier than the 25 yd. When the 25 yd slow fire target scoring rings were reduced in 1995, they were no longer proportional with the 50 yd target. A compromise was made and the scoring rings were modified to average the same with a 38 caliber bullet. Thus, with the 25 yd target, shooting a rimfire bullet is more difficult to score well and with a 45 caliber it is easier. This is not the case with the 50 yd target. Trust your hold and keep squeezing!

EX - I'm somewhat taken back, even by experienced shooters, when they mention just how far away 50 yards is. The truth of the matter is they are the most forgiving and easiest targets to score on. A practical example would be to setup a 50 yard target and a traditional sustained fire target at 25 yards in adjacent shooting lanes. Then let the shooter look at both simultaneously. The first thing they'll notice is how much bigger the 50 yard target looks. It's about 20% larger, thus proving the point. It shouldn't be all that scary anymore.

SS – *[who won his class in his first outdoor match!]* If I can shoot a 1.5 inch group slow fire at 25yds I know that with the effects of wind removed that same group in theory should be no more than 3" at 50yds. With this in mind I don't let the distance intimidate me as the larger target ratio now comes into place with the more generous scoring rings.

MA – Remember to either use different loads [for .45 caliber] or adjust your sights between the 50 and 25 yd lines. I leave my dot adjustment cap on when I'm adjusted for the 50 yd line and off for the 25yd line.

### 3 - Different Places

HM – As soon as I start shooting outdoors, I ALWAYS check my target number. It is in my mental program. I look at my target number before every shot or string of shots, through my scope or aim my iron sights at the target number before settling in on the target.



[NOTE: Especially at Perry (see above) you're not always "in front of" the target you expect!]

EX - Visualization during dry firing and practice can make a unique situation or unusual range seem common place even though you may see it only once a year. Shooting outdoors aids my visualization process because I visualize the range at Camp Perry. It is unique when compared to all other ranges and the National Matches are the most important annual matches to me. In my visualization I see targets in holders attached to a white fence with alternating black on white and white on black target numbers, there is a large field behind the targets that extends for several hundred yards.

#### 4 – Weather

HM - Outdoor shooting requires a whole new level of preparation, layered clothing, rain gear, umbrella, sunscreen, plenty of water, bug spray, hat, sunglasses/shooting glasses that protects your eyes from target glare, a way to protect your firearms, and pistol box, etc. ... Also when IR is hot have a towel handy to wipe sweat from your hands and face to keep your eyes clear or sweat burning them...

*Other items mentioned by other contributors included:*

Supportive shoes, filters/polarizing lenses, sight black, blinders, clamps to hold things still in the wind [*did you notice the brass catcher clamp in photo in section 3?!], stool for sitting when there are not seats, maybe a small screen and clamp for face protection [from your neighbor's brass!]*



*[There is NO covered firing line at Camp Perry! If it rains, everything you bring gets wet! (below) The right size umbrella will help you score at CJRPC! Try a Fisher Space pen – they really do write on wet paper! .....what are those plastic bags for?!]*



HM - Don't rely on filters attached to optical sights. Use shaded glasses instead. One more thing that won't fall off your gun and you'll have equal light on both eyes.

HM - Ensure your targets are stapled on with enough staples and in the correct manner to eliminate them coming loose while you're shooting.

HM - I re-sight my guns ... as conditions vary regarding temperature, wind, lighting, etc., it is important to be more flexible in adapting to them with regard to making sight settings...

EX - Light changes occur throughout the match. This is especially important to note if you are shooting with iron sights. I have found that as a match progresses I may have to adjust my sights with the changing light (especially at Perry where there is no cover.)

## 5 - Life IS Good!

HM - Because of my age, I've found outdoor shooting to be a bit easier because the lighting is much better and the warmer temperature in the summer is more conducive to good scores (body, gun and ammo all appreciate it).

MA - Don't really do anything different, just a longer match. Need to stay relaxed and try not to get tired.

EX - I often found shooting outdoors to be very relaxing while shooting slow fire. Slow fire goes best when you are calm and relaxed. Watching the wind blow the trees or watching the clouds go by are very good ways of relaxing yourself while shooting.

SS - What I DO LIKE about outdoor matches is the fact you have to walk almost a mile throughout the course of scoring. Lots of time to relax between strings. It is not as rushed as indoor matches can be. More down time, more chatting, more fun.

HM - Last, at least that I can think of, but not least is the willingness to accept that if things are not pleasant, everyone is shooting in the same conditions, be it wind or rain or what ever. Outdoors and the wind are something that any shooter will have to practice at to get past the intimidation. If you let these kinds of problems take you away from the focus of perfect fundamentals you will have a score that is much worse that you may normally shoot. When the other shooters do about the same as they always do you can get discouraged.

It's important to know that only your mind set is the primary reason for the change. The weather and 50yds. will only have small impacts on your shooting. Those changes happen for everybody the same.

You must stay focused and remember that every shot is practice for the next shot. Train for improving your focus on the fundamentals, have a shot plan and follow it, and have fun.

[\* so what is “chicken finger” ...? - see <http://www.pilkguns.com/c5.shtml> ]



...and please keep your chicken finger pointed in a safe direction! – see <http://thefiringline.com/forums/archive/index.php?t-55758.html>

**[Editor’s Challenge** – Before Camp Perry, where were the National Pistol Matches held??? - first JUNIOR to reply to me with a **correct** answer will get a “prize of the month”!...second reply (by any reader) gets a prize, too...!]

---

### Junior Competitors Report:

**March 9 – Riverdale International** – Michael B Soklaski won a Bronze medal for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Centerfire Pistol with 532!

**March 15-17 – NJ Indoor State Pistol Championship** – Joseph Storch (photo below) was Junior Champion and High Marksman with a huge “personal best” 2399-48X! His .22 aggregate “PR” of 847-21X (yes, he IS going to Camp Perry!) was followed by CF and .45 aggregates both in SS territory, topping his previous best indoor aggregate by almost 200 points (...and he hasn’t shot a match since last August?!)

Second place MK was former junior Eric Verhasselt, who fired “PRs” across the board, finishing with 2389-40X, almost 100 points better than his previous best!

Trevor Houlis fired a “personal best” .45 aggregate 761-8X, finishing as 3<sup>rd</sup> MK overall with a very respectable 2272-38X!



Among 80 competitors, we had 7 junior .22-only participants! RJ Kopec (photo at left, with his 97-2X TF target) fired his first official match, scoring 777-10X!

Dan Rosar and Morgan Mateus from SCFGPA (center, below) got up early to fire in their first Indoor Championship! It was also the first Indoor Championship for OBRPC juniors (left below) Lisa Heredia and Nicholas Bova, who fired his “PR” 682-7X!

It was the 4<sup>th</sup> Indoor Championship for Tyler Potter (right below) who was happy to have a working .22 for a change – his 733-8X puts him back on track for more progress this year!

It was the first 25 yard match for Lily Graham (photo at right) who made her debut in last month's Sectional!



### Upcoming NJ Matches:

**Apr. 13 and May 11** – Princeton Junction, NJ – **OUTDOOR 2700** – 9 AM – Juniors pay regular match fees – contact Keith Stern - 609-462-9428 or 732-821-2653 or [keithstern@gmail.com](mailto:keithstern@gmail.com) or [Keith.Stern1@verizon.net](mailto:Keith.Stern1@verizon.net) or sign up at [www.NJPistol.com](http://www.NJPistol.com)

**Apr. 27-28 and May 25-26** – Jackson, NJ – **OUTDOOR 2700** – 9 AM – JUNIORS SHOOT FOR FREE! – contact Mary 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:

**Old Bridge (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5 PM – unless we have matches then!):**

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

*OBRPC will offer NRA Basic Pistol to Juniors with one parent – 2 day class – April 27-28, 2013 – cost \$35 per person – contact Ed to sign up!*

**CJRPC in Jackson, NJ (Thursdays **AFTER 900 League** - around 7 PM):**

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

**NOTE: Starting APRIL 4, CJRPC Outdoor 900 League** (Juniors shooting one-handed and parents are welcome!) starts at **5:30 PM EVERY THURSDAY!**

**SCFGPA in Bridgewater, NJ – (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 5 PM, last 2 Wednesdays of the month at 7 PM):**

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



---

## TIP OF THE MONTH:

### **When does the dot STOP MOVING?? - by John Gemmill**

The first time I shot at Camp Perry, the dot was bouncing, as if I had jitters or a vibrator attached to my arm. I asked someone about it, ...and he told me that it would go away. It was simply nerves and, during a 900, it was pretty much gone by the end of the second string. The solution is to take your mind off of it by thinking about something else and not the vibrating/bouncing dot. Concentrating on moving the trigger smoothly works.

Then there's dot "movement," or "unsteadiness." The really top shooters seem to have no movement and tell us "I can hold the x-ring." Us mere mortals do have movement and it can be paralyzing - - who wants to pull the trigger when you don't know where the dot will be? The solution here is to move the trigger smoothly. You can still get excellent shots, even x's, although the dot seems to be moving a lot. Some people, like Steve Reiter, says he keeps the trigger moving as long as the dot is moving towards the center of the target. Others, with less perfect trigger control, may not be able to duplicate that and have to settle for, keep the trigger moving smoothly. If you are shooting slow fire and you realize that the trigger is not moving, that's an "indicator" that the shot will probably not be good, and it's time to put the gun down.

[An OBRPC shooter] asked me when does the dot stop moving and I told him, "when you're dead." I also told him that the dot would move less if he stopped smoking. Later, he told me I was right about that.

[Editor's note: At one of my very first outdoor matches, it was COLD and windy, and I was literally shivering! John told me to think about only those things I had control over, which clearly did not include the weather on that occasion – forget the score, and just take the opportunity to practice moving the trigger smooooothly – I did that as best I could, and fired a "personal best!" (...and now I always keep "emergency" extra layers of clothing in my car!)

Hopefully none of our Juniors will ever even start smoking, but there are other things that might affect your steadiness:

- Gripping the gun too tightly;
- Trying to hold the gun up too long;
- Be aware of how your diet, exercise, sleep (or lack thereof) affects you! Some Juniors can eat multiple doughnuts and bananas during a 900 (some Juniors can wear shorts in January) - everyone is different...KEEP TRACK IN YOUR SHOOTING LOG and develop your own winning "recipe" for success!

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

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