

# Canadian Marksman

Volume 9 Number 1  
Spring/Summer 2018

Journal of the  
Dominion of Canada Rifle Association



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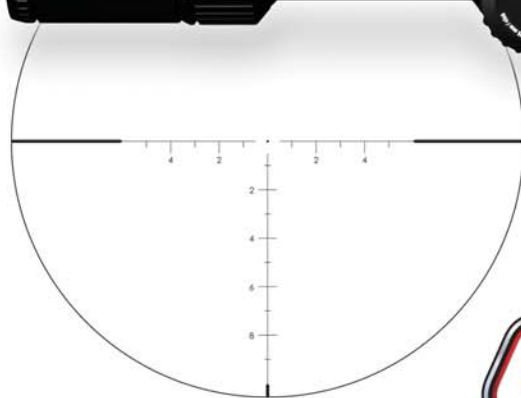


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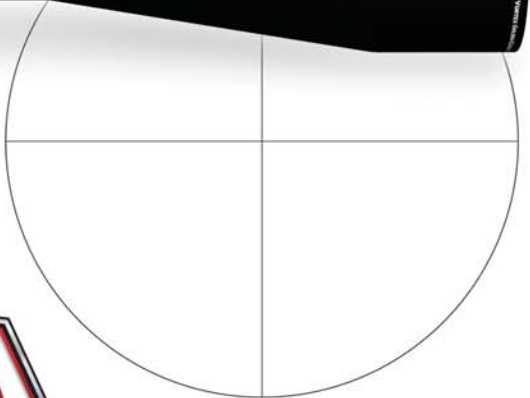


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**2018**

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- Canadian F-Class National Championships — August 14-16
- F-Class America Match — August 17
- 150th Anniversary Meet & Greet — August 17
- Canadian Fullbore National Championships — August 18-25
- Target Rifle America Match — August 26
- Canadian Black Powder National Championships — August 24-26
- National Service Conditions Championships — August 31-September 7

## **DCRA MEMBERSHIP FEES - 2018**

**Membership year 1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019**

<b>Life</b>	<b>Sliding scale</b>	<b>Non-Canadian</b>	<b>\$55*</b>
Under 25 Term	\$265	Postal	\$20
Annual	\$135*	Pavilion Club	(GBP) £15
Under 25 Annual	\$75*	Liability insurance (for active life mem-	
Associate ( <i>Note 1</i> )	\$55*	bers)	\$20
Associate Under 25	\$35*		

*\*Includes liability insurance*

**Note 1**—This rate is for members competing in BP or FCNC matches only (not full entry in the Canadian Championships) OR for members who do not compete but wish to support the DCRA. Both will receive the Canadian Marksman.

### **DCRA LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES (SENIOR)**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Rate</b>
25-30	x30 annual rate	53-54	x18 annual rate
31-32	x29 annual rate	55-56	x17 annual rate
33-34	x28 annual rate	57	x16 annual rate
35-36	x27 annual rate	58	x15 annual rate
37-38	x26 annual rate	59	x14 annual rate
39-40	x25 annual rate	60	x13 annual rate
41-42	x24 annual rate	61	x12 annual rate
43-44	x23 annual rate	62	x11 annual rate
45-46	x22 annual rate	63	x10 annual rate
47-48	x21 annual rate	64	x 9 annual rate
49-50	x20 annual rate	65 and over	x 8 annual rate
51-52	x19 annual rate		

### **DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION UNDER 25 BURSARY APPLICATION**

(available at [www.dkra.ca](http://www.dkra.ca))

OR contact

**DCRA  
45 SHIRLEY BLVD, OTTAWA, ON  
K2K 2W6**

PHONE: (613) 829-8281

EMAIL: [office@dkra.ca](mailto:office@dkra.ca)

**Deadline is 1 July 2018**

## **The Canadian Marksman**

Volume 9

Number 1

Summer 2018

DCRA, 45 Shirley Blvd  
Ottawa, ON K2K 2W6

Material for publication, preferably via email, is welcomed and should be sent to:

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association  
45 Shirley Blvd  
Ottawa, ON K2K 2W6

Tel: (613)829-8281  
Email: [office@dkra.ca](mailto:office@dkra.ca)  
<http://www.dkra.ca>

Only articles appearing by authority of the DCRA shall be regarded as official; all other articles, views, and comments are solely those of the authors, and the DCRA accepts no responsibility for the validity of anything that may be expressed in them.

For advertising rates, please contact DCRA.

### **Editing and Production**

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### **Publication Mailing Agreement #40009311**

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Circulation Dept  
45 Shirley Blvd  
Ottawa, ON K2K 2W6

### **On the Cover:**

Brian Sztym of the Canadian F-Class Rifle Team during the 2017 FCWC,

Photo: Wayne Dayberry

**TO: ALL VOTING MEMBERS OF THE DCRA**

**NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 COUNCIL**

This official notice solicits your nominations for 10 new members to replace those elected in March 2017. The list of names in bold font indicates the members of Council who were elected in 2017 for a two-year term until 2019 and who require replacement. These individuals may be nominated for re-election if available and willing to stand. The list also contains the names of those who were elected in 2018 for service until March 2020.

All PRAs are asked to also submit the names of their Designated Council Members for 2019 so that we can avoid nomination conflicts with the elected list.

Don Haisell  
Executive Director

**COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE**

**ELECTED BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

Elected by acclamation in 2018, term of office expires April 2020

Mr. Gary Bowman	Ontario
Mr. Don Pitcairn	British Columbia
Dr. Adrian Robertson	Manitoba
Ms. Emma McGinnis	Ontario
Mr. Matt Wolf	New Brunswick
Mr. Alain Marion	Quebec
Mr. Marcel Kolb	Nova Scotia
Mr. Pat Vamplew	Ontario
Mr. Patrick Champagne	Ontario
Mr. Peter Westlake	Ontario

Elected by acclamation in 2017, term of office expires April 2019

<b>Mr. Scott Bissett</b>	<b>Ontario</b>
<b>Mr. Jason Higgins</b>	<b>Ontario</b>
<b>Mr. Scott McGinnis</b>	<b>Ontario</b>
<b>Mr. Barry Price</b>	<b>Ontario</b>
<b>Mr. Dan Lindsay</b>	<b>Manitoba</b>
<b>Mr. Gerald Bergeron</b>	<b>Quebec</b>
<b>Mr. Steven Spinney</b>	<b>Ontario</b>
<b>Mr. Martin Cashin</b>	<b>Nova Scotia</b>
<b>Mr. Dave Adams</b>	<b>British Columbia</b>

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**NOMINATIONS FOR DCRA COUNCIL 2019 (Form may be copied or facsimile submitted)**

The undersigned members of the DCRA hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for election to the DCRA Council at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 30th of March, 2019.

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

I accept this nomination to serve on the DCRA Council if elected: Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

To serve on the DCRA Council, if elected, the individual's membership must be renewed and in good standing. Biographical information is to be supplied by the **nominee** in the space below. This and only this information provided will be included in the ballot for the vote.

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**Life, Full and Under 25 members only are eligible to nominate and vote.**

All eligibility will be checked by the DCRA office.

Please return this form to the DCRA, 45 Shirley Blvd, Ottawa, ON K2K 2W6 or office@dcra.ca  
Attention: Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Deadline for receipt of nominations: Apr 30, 2019



# THE DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION L'ASSOCIATION DE TIR DOMINION DU CANADA

## PATRONS, LIFE GOVERNORS, COUNCIL, and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018/2019

The following individuals serve for the duration of their tenure in office, when an honorary appointment is accepted by the incumbent:

### PATRON

Her Excellency, The Governor General of Canada Julie Payette

### VICE PATRONS

The Prime Minister of Canada  
Lieutenants Governor of each Province of Canada  
Premiers of each Province of Canada

### HONOURARY PRESIDENT

The Minister of National Defence

### HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

Chief of Defence Staff	Gen J Vance CMM, MSC, CD
Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy	VAdml MFR Lloyd CMM, CD
Commander of the Canadian Army	LGen J-M Lanthier CMM, MSC, MSM, CD
Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force	LGen MJ Hood CMM, CD
Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police	Commissioner D Dubeau
Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police	Commissioner V Hawkes
Directeur de Sûreté de Québec	Director M Prud'homme
City of Ottawa Chief of Police	Chief Charles Bordeleau
President, Army Cadet League of Canada	Mr W Fletcher

### LIFE GOVERNORS

(in order of seniority)

Major (Ret'd) C. M. Brown, CD	Mr. S.J. Bissonnette
Major General (Ret'd) H.C. Pitts, MC, CD	Mr. S.E. Frost
Major (Ret'd) D.W. Rumbold, CD	Major General (Ret'd) E.S. Fitch, OMM, MSM, CD
Mr. R. A. Pitcairn	Dr. J. Tetlow
General (Ret'd) A.J. G.D. de Chastelain, CH, CMM, OC, CD	Mr. K. Westling
Mr. A.G. Peden	Mr. P. Reibin
Mr. L. D'Amour	Major General (Ret'd) T.F. de Faye, C.M.M., C.D., SBStJ
General (Ret'd) J. M. G. Baril, CMM, MSM, CD	Dr. R. Mullin
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) T. J. Kaulbach, OMM, CD	Mr. J. Dugas
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) W.J. Molnar, CD	Major (Ret'd) D.M. Letson, CD

## DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION

President/Chairman of Council	BGen Matthew Overton	Chair of Shooting Committee	Serge Bissonnette
Executive Vice-President	Des Vamplew	Chair of Administrative Committee	Bill Molnar
Deputy Chairman of Council	Scott Bissett	Chair of Shooting Support Committee	Peter Westlake
Comptroller (Interim)	Gary Bowman	Past Executive V.P.	Stan Frost
Executive Director	Don Haisell	Past Secretary-Treasurer	Keith Bornn

## PROVINCIALY APPOINTED VICE-PRESIDENTS

British Columbia	P. Dobell	Quebec	G. Stewart
Alberta	F. Lalear	Nova Scotia	A. Webber
Saskatchewan	B. Worsley	New Brunswick	A. MacDonald
Manitoba	M. Sloane	PEI	D. Hanson
Ontario	A. Praysner	Newfoundland and Labrador	G. Woodman

## PRA DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

British Columbia	B. Mylleville	Quebec	N. Rossignol
Alberta	A. Tikkanen	New Brunswick	D. Chisholm
Saskatchewan	S. Frost	PEI	B. Anderson
Manitoba	L. Poulin	Nova Scotia	J. Marshall
Ontario	F. Mohideen	Newfoundland and Labrador	J. Hearn

## COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE - ELECTED IN 2018 WITH TERM EXPIRING IN 2020

Gary Bowman	Don Pitcairn	Adrian Robertson	Emma McGinnis
Patrick Champagne	Matt Wolf	Pat Vamplew	Peter Westlake
Alain Marion	Marcel Kolb		

## ELECTED IN 2017 WITH TERM EXPIRING IN 2019

Dave Adams	Dan Lindsay	Barry Price	Gerald Bergeron
Martin Cashin	Steven Spinney	Jason Higgins	Scott Bissett
Scott McGinnis	Jim Paton		

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Peter Westlake	<b>PLUS 2 ADDITIONAL:</b>
Steven Spinney	Daniel Chisholm
Pat Vamplew	Dave Adams

## ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gale Stewart	Steven Spinney	<b>PLUS 3 ADDITIONAL:</b>
Scott McGinnis	Gary Bowman	Murray Sloane
Pat Vamplew	Peter Westlake	Martin Cashin
Nicole Rossignol	Scott Bissett	Emma McGinnis
Barry Price	Alain Marion	
Daniel Chisholm		



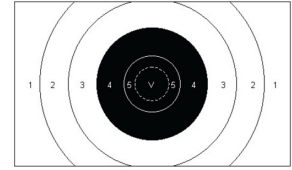
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- A modern smooth shape in a satin black finish that only weighs 2.26lbs (1.03kg)
- A one-piece bolt made from solid alloy steel incorporating a "cocked" tell tail
- Actions drilled to accept a weaver/scope rail or the RPA Trakker rearsight
- A received body barrel thread screw cut to 1.0625" x 16 UNS
- A short firing pin made from high tensile steel that uses a coil spring
- Recoil plate has a location lug to allow barrel removal and attachment without disturbing the recoil plate position in the bedding
- Quadlite will fit your existing Remington stock with minor modifications and use many of the same accessories
- Readily accepts most major US triggers
- Available in .308 and .223

## RPA Quadlite Repeater Action



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## RPA Quadlock



The RPA Quadlock is the definitive single shot bolt action receiver designed specifically for Palma (long range target) shooting. It is available in .308 caliber and should be used where extreme accuracy is required. The RPA 4-lug action produced in Tonbridge, has been the choice of champions around the world for over 30 years.

- Redesigned round blued action
- Two large recoil lugs machined in the solid receiver body
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- Will accept scope rail
- A large side loading port that enables fumble free loading and keeps out of the weather
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- A firing pin made from a single piece of heat-treated high high tensile steel
- Available in magnum caliber actions

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## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It was with a real sense of pleasure and honour that I received the news from my predecessor, Brigadier General Ray Romses, that I had been elected as his successor in the position of President of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association. General Ray has done tremendous service as President to represent the DCRA across our country and internationally; I know that all of you join me in thanking him for his service on our behalf.

As an infantryman, rifle marksmanship, or 'musketry' as it was often called when I was junior officer, was a core skill and competency for every member of battalion. Throughout my career, days spent on the rifle range to maintain and hone our shooting skills were eagerly anticipated and the shooting competitions within and between battalions always hotly contested. While proud of my prowess with the service rifle, first with the stalwart FN C1 and then the C7, which has become as well-trusted as its predecessor, I was never sufficiently skilled to participate in the annual CF and then CAF Small Arms Concentrations. It was only as a senior officer that I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to experience that level of competition – as a spectator to be sure – when as a member of the defence liaison staff in London England we made our annual visit to the shooting at Bisley. It was a tremendous experience to meet Canadians as well as men and women from around the world, who share a passion for long distance marksmanship for both the art and craft that it is, as well as the competition and camaraderie that comes with the community that supports it.

The DCRA along with the Provincial Rifle Associations have played important roles for 150 years in promoting and supporting rifle marksmanship in Canada. As we celebrate our 150th anniversary year, I look forward to being part of our look to into the future, to ensure that for the next 150 years and more we continue to adapt to modern realities in meeting our mission 'to promote and support the pursuit of excellence in military and civilian marksmanship as a positive and significant contribution to Canada, to the sport of shooting and to the safe handling of firearms'.

To all the members of the DCRA, I wish you 'good shooting' and continuing success in promoting our sport for Canadians across our nation. The Nationals are but just over the horizon and I look forward to meeting our competitors and provincial representatives there – both to cheer on our teams as well as contribute to ensuring we host our international competitors in fine fashion!

*Matthew Overton  
President*



### FUNDRAISER FOR CANADIAN U25 RIFLE TEAM TO THE LRWC

The U25 Team have ordered T-shirts to raise funds for our team to the 2019 Long Range World Championships in New Zealand.

The shirts are \$25 CAD, and are very comfortable. We have them available in Women's S-XL and Men's S to XL. All funds will go back into our team account which is held with the DCRA.

If you are interested in purchasing a shirt to support our team, please contact Emma McGinnis at to order yours.

Thank you in advance for supporting our U25 Team!

*emma.mcginis@hotmail.com*

**[www.canadau25.ca](http://www.canadau25.ca)**



## POINT OF AIM

When I reflect on the year 2017 and anticipate 2018, it occurs to me how much I have become embedded in the DCRA... part of something significant. As Executive Director I have been given responsibilities which involve everything we do and care about. I am not a competitive shooter; however, I know shooting, having learned the skill through my former profession. I understand the attraction; the excitement of a perfect shot; the comradery among those in a community of like minded people. And it is a lifelong love. When John Chapman died, I was very sad. We had connected through our common military background but also through his love of shooting. And Jim Thompson was involved in the shooting community right up to the moment of his death. He had an unparalleled work ethic and drive to support all things DCRA. Again, I was very sad to hear that he had gone. It did not surprise me at all that he had left instructions in his will that some of his estate be used to support young shooters and the MacDonald Stewart Pavilion at Bisley, two of his greatest passions. In a quiet moment, I raised a glass of rum for John and a glass of scotch (single malt of course) for Jim.



This year's Marksman is about a two unique years. In 2017, we hosted the world at Connaught with our national championships in all disciplines and the F-Class World Championships. In 2018 we mark one hundred and fifty years of shooting, a significant milestone in our history. These two years alone demonstrate the essence of the DCRA. We must now, as we begin our next one hundred and fifty years, evolve as the world evolves. We must remain relevant, responsive to change and welcoming to new members. We must strengthen our relationship with the Canadian Armed Forces and be value added to the military. It is vital that we remain focused on these things or we will wither and fade away as other organizations take the lead. I know we can meet this challenge and I am excited to be involved.

After our Annual General Meeting, Brigadier-General (Retired) Ray Romses handed the responsibilities of President to Brigadier-General (Retired) Matthew Overton. Ray spent countless hours over the past ten years supporting the DCRA, keeping us moving in the right direction. He mentored everyone and was always there when needed. I thank him for his dedication. Matthew comes to us with a wealth of experience in the military and as the Executive Director of the Conference of Defence Associations. He is well connected and keen to be involved. I welcome him to the team.

The team in the office continue to do an outstanding job keeping things on track. This is not just a job to Kathy and Pierre, it is a passion. Kathy is known within the shooting community world wide as the face and voice of the DCRA and we are so fortunate to have her. Pierre's work with the winter postal program has made him well known in the cadet world. To both: I salute you!

Our relationship with the Canadian Armed Forces continues to grow stronger. The DCRA is now better known within military shooting circles and recognised for its contribution to their marksmanship program. The development of service conditions matches by several of the Provincial Rifle Associations is starting to see support and will no doubt attract military members to the DCRA. In a related issue, the National Service Conditions Championships (NSCC) and the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration (CAFSAC) now support each other as they should. This support can be traced back to our beginnings when military and civilian shooters trained together in the defence of our country.

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

Anniversaries are celebrated to recognise past events and provide a platform to look ahead. To celebrate ours, we plan the following:

- An enhanced Meet and Greet on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>
- Special guests to present prizes at all prizegiving events
- A reception at the War Museum to recognise the relationship between the DCRA and the Canadian Armed Forces
- A reception at the Aviation Museum to highlight the fact that Rockcliffe was once a DCRA range
- The installation of a plaque in front of the DCRA Thompson Building
- The installation of a plaque in Strathcona Park in Ottawa to mark the location of a former DCRA range
- The installation of a plaque in the Royal Montreal Regiment Armouries marking the proximity to our first range
- A presentation to the Connaught Ranges and Primary Training Centre All Ranks Mess
- A special commemorative coin
- Special participation badges

*Don Haisell  
Executive Director*

## EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT

So much has happened in the year since the last Marksman was published that it's hard to keep up. I must start by acknowledging the three legends we lost in the new year including Manitoba's John Chapman, Alberta's Arne Sorenson and Ontario's Dr. Jim Thompson.

John was one of the leaders of the MPRA who also contributed greatly to the DCRA over the years, who was always willing to travel and attend Executive meetings. John was never shy and would be the first to put a hand forward to make new friends in his travels each summer to Bisley, and to the West Indies to attend the WI Championships. He was a wonderful ambassador for the Association. Those who knew him will be raising a glass both at Bisley and within the Caribbean Associations to say goodbye to a good friend.

Many members probably didn't know Arne Sorenson, as he cut back on his fullbore shooting in the 90's, but during the 60's and 70's there were few competitors who dominated at the Nationals like Arne. Amongst his many achievements he won the Macdonald Stewart Grand Aggregate three times against very strong competition. He also concentrated on smallbore shooting; representing Canada in both the '72 and '76 Olympics and medaling in many other international events during a long career. Something I observed about Arne was throughout his shooting career he had a very laid-back personality, always taking the pressure in stride.

There's no doubt the loss of Jim Thompson leaves a large void in the Association. It was an honour to work with him at both the Ontario and DCRA committee level for over 40 years. He was not one to shy away from a challenge, he approached the largest and most complicated of tasks with zeal, and his dedication to the Association was unparalleled. To recognize his contribution to the Association, the DCRA building is being renamed the Dr. James C (Jim) Thompson Memorial Building. His family, facilitated by the NRA(UK), have also recognized his contribution to the sport with a memorial service and a plaque to be mounted in the Garden of Remembrance close to the Clock Tower on Stickledown Range.

Upon his retirement at the spring AGM, the DCRA would like to acknowledge the leadership BGen Ray Romses has provided to the Association across his ten years of service as President. During that time BGen Romses took an active roll in supporting the Association's activities wherever and whenever asked. He attended and chaired many meetings, where his insight and guidance was appreciated. He and Carol made a point of getting to know many of the members personally and traveled on a number of occasions, including as Commandant of the 2014 Canadian Bisley Team and visiting our Palma team during the 2011 Australian Palma. BGen Romses kept a busy schedule as he also held the position of Colonel Commandant for the Royal Canadian Army Cadets. He may be stepping back but he will remain a member of the DCRA family forever.

We are very pleased to welcome BGen Matthew Overton who joined the DCRA as the new President when he was voted in at the spring AGM. BGen Overton is no stranger to the DCRA, having visited the Canadian Team at the Macdonald Stewart Canadian Pavilion in Bisley and again while attending last year's CFRC prize presentations. He brings immeasurable experience to the position, having retired from the Canadian Armed Forces last year after 39 years in leadership positions. During his military career he commanded the Second Battalion PPCLI and the CF Recruiting Group and had operational deployments in Cyprus and the Balkans. He also served as the military advisor at the Canadian High Commission in London, Defence Attaché in Kabul and then Defence Advisor at the London High Commission during his final posting. BGen Overton has also taken on the position as Executive Director of the Conference of Defence Associations and the CDA Institute which has him reaching out to over 35 military organizations and Associations across the country.

On the competition front, 2017 saw the DCRA host the F-Class World Championships which, from first-hand observation, was a complete success. Three years of planning by Match Director Scott Bissett and Canada's ICFRA Chairman Kenny Proulx went into arranging the competition. We cannot say enough about the work they and their organizing team put into mounting a world class event. The next large ICFRA event will be hosted by New Zealand in February at the 2019 Palma TR Championships. Team Captain Fazal Mohideen, Veterans Captain Serge Bissonnette and U25 Captain Emma McGinnis are very busy ramping up for the competition and we wish them all the best competing on a range that will provide challenging conditions and good memories for all. Congratulations also go out to Nicole Rossignol and Bob Pitcairn who represented Canada at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

## EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT

held in Australia this past spring. They held their own against exceptional competition and it should be noted that Bob was recognized in the press as the oldest competitor to compete at the Games.

This year we are celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and organizing committee chairman Scott McGinnis has been working with Executive Director Don Haisell to arrange numerous special events throughout the coming year including during the National Championships. We welcome the visiting international teams who will join us to celebrate our sesquicentennial by participating in the National matches and both the F-Class and target rifle America Matches.

All these events are not possible without the planning, dedication and leadership provided by Don Haisell and his staff. Besides dealing with the everyday responsibilities required by the office Kathy Corcoran continues to make sure all our National Championships run smoothly. She also supports the military by providing stats for the fall CAFSAC matches. It makes for a long and successful season. Our office manager, Pierre Lafontaine handles many of the daily office requirements and has done a great job of building the winter indoor program.

Over the last six months the make-up of both the Finance and International Teams Committees have been re-structured with Gary Bowman now taking on the position of Comptroller with strong support from Geoff Woodman and Heather Lloyd. The International Teams Committee is now comprised of Dave Adams, Peter Westlake, Scott Bissett, Gale Stewart and Emma McGinnis. Both committees and their sub-committees are reviewing and updating their policies for future approval at the Executive level. Congratulations are extended to Scott Bissett after being elected Chairman of Council at the spring AGM meetings. Additional Committee work on the horizon includes a review of our 5-year plan, growth opportunities, added benefits and simplification of our membership structure. There's always more to be done.

I wish everyone a successful shooting season and look forward to seeing you on the range.

*Des Vamplew  
Executive VP*

## WINTER PROGRAM

The DCRA's Winter Postal Program had a successful year, drawing in almost 400 competitors nationally. The matches are a mixture of .177 air rifle and .22 smallbore fired at 10m from both standing and prone and can be entered individually as well as in teams. Cadet corps make up the bulk of the entries and some corps chose to enter Match 1.8, known as the "Youth of the Commonwealth" which is fired in two stages. The first stage is the national competition and I'm proud to announce that the 907 Black Knights from White Rock, BC, 2408 Borden RCACC from Borden, ON and 51 Canada Aviation Museum Air Cadet Squadron from Ottawa, ON are the winners in 2017 placing Gold, Silver and Bronze for Stage One of the Youth of the Commonwealth Air Rifle Prone Team Match. They will move on to Stage 2, representing Canada as they compete against cadet corps from other Commonwealth nations. We wish you all the best of luck and good shooting! The winner of the first Match 1.7 Cadet Staff Team Match is 2408 Borden RCACC! Congratulations to you all.

It has been my privilege to administer the Winter Program again in 2018. I look forward to working with everyone again in 2018/19 and wish you all the best for the year ahead.

*Pierre Lafontaine  
Office Manager*

## IN MEMORIAM



### **Dr. James C. Thompson**

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of DCRA Life Governor Dr. Jim Thompson at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2018. Jim left peacefully surrounded by daughters Claire, Eva and former wife Marion, who all made his final days very comfortable. Jim is survived by grandchildren Peter and Stephanie, sister Sue, stepmother Liz and brother Peter, who is a regular competitor at Bisley.

Jim came from an Army family, spending his early years in varied and exotic places including India, Denmark and Cyprus. His love for shooting began while shooting smallbore and then progressing to .303 while receiving his early education at St. Lawrence College where in his senior year made the School Eight winning the Ashburton Shield at Bisley. He later studied at Cambridge University where he graduated with his Ph.D in 1965 and during that time continued to be involved in shooting representing his Yorkshire county team and Cambridge in numerous National competitions.

He spent the first two years of his teaching career at Rice University in Houston, Texas before being offered a position at the University of Toronto in 1967 where he became Professor of Chemistry, eventually heading the department until retiring in 2003.

With a young family and a new job Jim waited until 1970 before continuing his shooting and coaching career when he entered both the ORA Provincials and DCRA Nationals for the first time. He got on track early placing second behind winner Don Hall in the 1971 Lt Gov General's final, which he eventually won in 1976. Once Jim became a Canadian citizen in 1972 he was able to qualify for Bisley teams, which he did four years in a row making the trip in 1972 and again in 1975 before an increasing administrative load started to take its toll. That however didn't stop him from shooting on the 1972, 1973 & 1979 Palma Teams and then Captaining and coaching the winning 1982 Team. He also coached on the 1985 Palma team and again Captained the 1988 Team. Jim also went to Bisley as coach on the 1982, 1986 and 1999 teams and served as Bisley Team Adjutant and Commandant on two occasions each. Marion and Jim loved visiting Bisley to renew friendships as often as possible, eventually purchasing a caravan and renting a site from the NRA to enjoy the competitions each summer when he wasn't involved in an official capacity with the Canadian Team.

Jim eventually moved to the F Class discipline in later years enjoying vigorous and relentless competition with friends including Colin Brown, Paul Reibin and Bill Wylde for honours, bottle caps, vintage wines and aged single malts, while usually being served gourmet meals prepared by Stan Frost with fresh linen at a park bench.

But as much as his shooting and coaching skills have helped Canadian teams, it is in the organizing of the DCRA and ORA that his greatest contribution has been made to the sport. At the Provincial level Jim was a huge contributor to the day to day activities of the ORA holding the position of Secretary early on, and then Membership Secretary which he was responsible for up until only ten-years ago. He also supported many discipline activities with Marion volunteering to do the statistics for large competitions including the annual cadet indoor Smallbore and outdoor Fullbore Championships and the ORA Central Militia Area Service Conditions competitions that included up to 350 competitors and 150 support staff. He became ORA Chairman of Council in 1976 until 1983 and during that time he, Marion and Edith Vamplew organized a large ORA Team that went to Bisley in 1977. In 1981 Jim organized the ORA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Provincial Championships and captained the winning CP International Team Match that included teams from Great Britain and the West Indies. Jim was recognized for his provincial support in 1986 receiving an Ontario Special Achievement Award for volunteer contributions and was made a Life Member and Life Governor of the Association the same year.

Jim joined the DCRA Council and Executive in 1973 and throughout the years supported almost every Committee including co-editing the Canadian Marksman with Marion starting in 1977 until 1999, producing up to three editions a year, as well as classifications, rules, and so on. He joined the MacDonald Stewart Pavilion Committee in 1984 which he was very active in supporting up until his passing. He chaired the Program Committee for close to fifteen years and during that time helped organize very successful National Championships, and served as Match Director for the DCRA's hosting of the Palma World Championships in 2007. At a senior level Jim supported the DCRA as Executive Vice President for twelve years, retiring in 1995 when Stan Frost took over the reigns of leadership. He also pitched in and took on the position as interim Executive Director on two occasions when the Association was between full time Directors. Jim also took over the position of Vice-Chairman of Council from Colin Brown, which he held until his passing. His most recent responsibilities included being the Comptroller, and Chairman of the International Teams Committee. Jim also enjoyed assisting the International community wherever possible supporting both ICFRA and Commonwealth Shooting Federation. He was very pleased when asked to be a jury member at the Commonwealth Games in 2006 (Melbourne), 2010 (India) and 2014 (Glasgow).

## IN MEMORIAM

As mentioned, one of Jim's passions was supporting the MacDonald Stewart Pavilion in Bisley, but it became more of a family responsibility for Jim as he enjoyed a strong relationship with Mrs. Liliane Stewart while she was a Life Governor and Honorary Commandant of the Bisley Team. Jim was incredibly honoured to be asked to serve as one of her pallbearers in 2014, along with Colin Brown and Des Vamplew

Jim has received numerous acknowledgements for his many years of service to the DCRA including being made a Life Member and Life Governor in 1990 and being inducted into the DCRA Hall of Fame Builders Category in 2005. The NRA(UK) also recognized his many years of promoting relations between the NRA and DCRA by making him a NRA Vice President a few years ago. NRA Chairman John Webster honoured this appointment by inviting Jim to be the presenter at the 2016 awards ceremony.

To sum up, from this point of view Jim Charlton (JC) Thompson was a driven man who was blessed with three loves.....his family, education, and the Fullbore community. Through it all Jim supported the Association with wisdom, fairness and good humour. He made many friends during his travels and when communicating online was always thinking outside the box, and looking forward to the next event. Jim was a true friend to the DCRA, who felt any situation could be resolved through intelligent conversation and a social beverage. His leadership will be missed.

*Des Vamplew  
Executive VP*



### **Arne Sorensen**

It is with deep sadness that we mark the passing of Arne Sorensen, one of Canada's shooting legends on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He leaves behind Rosemary, wife of 59 years, sons Wayne, Steven and predeceased daughter Marie and their families. Arne moved to Canada from Denmark in his early twenties settling in Calgary where he enjoyed a long career in the construction business as a drywaller and taper.

His grandfather introduced him to competitive shooting while growing up in Denmark where his calmness, persistence and incredibly good eye sight helped him take to the sport instantly winning Jutland junior championships in 1950 and 1952. A close friend talked Arne into taking up the sport again in his 30's and went on to become one of Canada's most decorated smallbore and fullbore shooters.

Arne initially concentrated on Fullbore shooting winning the MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate in 1968, 1969 and 1973 against a very strong field of competition that included other Canadian legends like Gil Boa, Dick Hampton, Bill Strachan, Norm Beckett, Gerry Ouellette, Bob Pitcairn, Arnold Parks, Jim Hennok and a young Alain Marion. He eventually placed in the top 18 of the Canadian Championship (Bisley Agg) 9 times winning it twice, received 10 Grand Aggregate Crosses and 9 Governor Generals Final badges. Arne also represented Canada on numerous International teams including the 1967, 1968 and 1988 Palma Teams and went to Bisley on the Canadian team 3 times making the Queen's final twice and placed in the top 50 of the Grand Aggregate once. Arne was inducted into the DCRA Hall of Fame in 2000.

In the early 1970's Arne's focus shifted to smallbore prone representing Canada at the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games. He also medaled at numerous PanAm Games, Commonwealth Games and other top level events. His 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 1976 Montreal Olympics and 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at the 1978 World Championships put him among the world's elite, many whom were professional shooters in their country's military. He had great success with his teammates Hans Adloch, Alf Mayer, Guy Lorion Jr, Pat Vamplew, Kurt Mitchell and many others.

When Arne retired he enjoyed traveling to other Midwest competitions and took up other disciplines including Benchrest which he became very adept at. Arne was always driven to improve, always thinking about new ways to improve his performance whether it be through bedding experimentation or ammunition testing. He was also a machinist who had the talent to make special parts including butt hooks and palm rests. To Arne shooting was a lifetime sport that he enjoyed up until he suffered a brain aneurysm a few years ago. Like many good shooters, he was happiest when he was at a shooting range practicing his craft.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Wendell Horton

The true love of Wendell's varied sports interests was that of target shooting, and he enjoyed much success at both indoor and outdoor ranges over many decades. He competed annually in the Inter-Maritime Match, the oldest rifle match in North America which is competed alternately in each of the Maritime provinces, (the match originated in 1874). Over the course of his involvement he won many awards and numerous Governor General medals. He travelled to competitions in Ottawa and the US many times and the culmination of his shooting career occurred in 1979 when he earned a spot on the Canadian team competing in the UK National Rifle Association match held annually at Bisley, England.

During his association with competitive shooting, he nurtured interest and offered support to aspiring shooters and played a huge role in ensuring the continued success of the sport. Wendell's success in the realm of rifle shooting was not solely in the role of competitor as, during most of the time he was competing, he was also playing the vital role of administrator to the PEI Rifle Association – he was Secretary-Treasurer for an unprecedented 37 years. In this position he was responsible for liaising with the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, arranging and collecting membership dues, and arranging for annual invitational shoots at the local range in Alexandra often involving up to 50 shooters. In 1982 and 1984 he was responsible for welcoming large teams from the UK and presented their officers to a host of dignitaries in PEI.



Vaughn Horton (left), son of the late Canadian Target Rifle shooter Wendell Horton, donating his late fathers' two Target Rifles to the PEI Provincial Rifle Association President Dave Hanson. The rifles will be used by the club to further the sport of target rifle shooting in the Province.



### John Chapman

John Chapman died peacefully on March 11, 2018 in Winnipeg at the age of 72. John was born in Bristol, England and served for 22 years in the Royal Marines, where his love of shooting began.

John attended 32 Bisley Meetings where he had the distinction of winning the Royal Marine/Royal Navy Queens Medal for Champion Shot in 1982, and also won two NRA National Service Rifle competitions, The Stephens and The Standing. Nine of those Bisley trips were made as a member of the Canadian Rifle Team to Bisley. He was a member of four Prairie Province teams to Bisley and Captain of three of them.

After his retirement from the Royal Marines John moved to Winnipeg in 1989 with his wife and two children, where he began a second career as a civil servant, working in the School Immunization Program.

John retired in 2005, but kept busy as ever. He was Past President and a Life Governor of the Manitoba Rifle Association and a valued member of the DCRA's Council and Executive. We are diminished.



## IN MEMORIAM



### **Paul Bawden**

Paul Bawden was many things; a husband, father, businessman, rancher, craftsman, leader, coach and a kind soul. Paul grew up in Toronto, was educated at Upper Canada College, and later Western University. He preferred to make his own way in life.

Paul had a strong entrepreneurial spirit that guided his choices. He was equally at home in a Savile suit, or a Highland Kilt, as he was in farm attire like rubber boots and a toque perched on his head. Paul Bawden had style and a presence of class that defied money. Through his work with cadets, Paul positively influenced the lives of many young people. He held a Queen's Commission and the rank of Major. His particular forte was coaching marksmanship. He was internationally known among long range shooters and a regular at the world's most prestigious shooting venue in Bisley, England.

Paul's love of life shone brightly to the end, cherishing his family and the beauty in the simplest things. With the support of his wife Lynda, they showed how spirit and optimism can carry the day, time and time again.



The flags at Bisley flew at half-mast in honour of Paul Bawden



## IN MEMORIAM



### **Francis W. Jermey**

Frank represented Canada and Ontario for over 50 years in National and International competition including Bisley, for years the epitome of fullbore rifle shooting.

All TR shooters benefitted from knowing Frank Jermey. He was “always there” to help new and young shooters succeed in their favorite sport. His dedication to the sport was evidenced by his legacy gift to the DCRA to promote the sport to young shooters, a gift for which DCRA appointed him an Honorary Life Member. Frank’s final farewell to DCRA was at a DCRA AGM in which he wished the Association well for the future.

Frank’s family, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have fond memories to share particularly of his passion for fishing and hunting together. Part of his life with them included his farm where growing strawberries, making maple syrup, or chasing racoons out of the corn field were experiences to savour.

Frank was a 30-year proud member of the Canadian Armed Forces, serving in the Korean War, in United Nations peacekeeping, and the Yom Kippur War. His community life included serving as a volunteer fire fighter as well as mentoring young rifle shooters at the local Rod and Gun Club.

We share the loss of a great friend with Gale Hickey, Gary Jermey, and their families. Together with them our memories last forever.

*Don Hall*

### **Cliff James**

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Cliff James, who passed away peacefully on December 9th, 2017 at age 87. He was considered one of the most successful shooters of the .303 era. Cliff is survived by wife Janet and sons Darryl and Colin.

Cliff began his shooting career with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Regiment (RHLI), long considered a marksmanship factory, alongside many shooting legends including Norm Beckett and Russ Potter. Cliff grew up competing locally in the 1950s against some of the other young guns in the Toronto.

During his shooting career Cliff represented Canada many times, traveling to Bisley on the Canadian Team in 1951, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66 & 69. He also represented the Ontario Rifle Association (ORA) at the Provincial level and RHLI at the unit/club level too many times to mention. It should also be noted that Cliff performed extremely well during a very competitive period within the history of the DCRA when attendance at competitions was at an all time high.

After Cliff's education in the 1950s he became an educator who taught at Oakville Trafalgar High School where he supported the school cadet shooting program of the Lorne Scots Cadet Corps. For a number of years he also worked for the Cadet Summer Training School (CSTS), training cadets attending the Ontario Rifle Coach Course program. He was considered an inspirational coach and throughout his life he tried to pass on what he had learned.

*Des Vamplew*

### **Other Notable Passings**

**Ron Dawson**

MPRA

**George McCarthy**

MPRA

**Reg Rowlands**

**Van Varve**

NDHQRA/NCRRA



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## JEUX DU COMMONWEALTH EN AUSTRALIE

Même s'il y a maintenant 2 semaines écoulées depuis mon retour au Canada, l'expérience des Jeux du Commonwealth est encore très fraîche à ma mémoire. Cet événement fut plutôt exceptionnel pour nous. J'ai eu l'honneur d'être la première femme à représenter le Canada dans l'épreuve de tir au gros calibre, je partageais aussi l'expérience avec un tireur très expérimenté en Robert (Bob) Pitcairn qui était aussi le tireur le plus âgé de l'histoire des Jeux, tous sports confondus. Toute une aventure se présentait devant nous.

Près de 7000 athlètes provenant de 71 nationalités du Commonwealth ont participé. Le Canada était représenté par 282 athlètes, dont quatre pour le tir (Bob et moi pour le gros calibre, Greg Sych pour le petit calibre et Curtis Wennberg pour la fosse olympique). La délégation se complétait avec Mirko Teglassi en tant que gérant et Susan Verdier de la Fédération Canadienne de Tir en tant que coordinatrice et organisatrice pour notre équipe de tir (voir photo).

À mon arrivée à l'aéroport de Brisbane, j'ai été accueillie par quelques-uns des 15,000 bénévoles qui ont facilité le déroulement de ces Jeux. Le comité organisateur Gold Coast 2018 a déployé tous les efforts pour rendre notre séjour le plus agréable et sans stress possible. Bob et moi avons séjourné dans le village des athlètes situé très près de Gold Coast et Surfer's Paradise sur la côte est de l'Australie. Celui-ci était constitué de nouveaux appartements et condos qui seront utilisés dans un futur hébergement pour étudiants après les Jeux. Au centre de ce nouveau village il y avait un parc, une grande fontaine et la mascotte officielle, Borobi le Koala. Son nom provient de la langue aborigène Yugambah pour désigner le mot Koala (voir photo).

Étant arrivés tôt, nous pouvions participer à la cérémonie d'ouverture. Quelle soirée spectaculaire! Elle fut remplie de feux d'artifices, danseuses du ventre, une énorme baleine à bosse (un animal se trouvant au large des côtes) flottant au-dessus de nous. Le bâton de la Reine ayant traversé toutes les nations du Commonwealth en compétition fit son entrée pour compléter son périple. Les vingt et unièmes Jeux du Commonwealth furent inaugurés par le Prince Charles. La cérémonie d'ouverture présentait un bon aperçu de la culture Australienne. Les athlètes étaient au centre de cette cérémonie. Je me souviens de mon entrée au stade avec mes coéquipiers de l'excitation et de la fierté d'en faire partie. Quel sentiment extraordinaire!



Gauche à droite (Right to Left) : Nicole, Robert, Curtis, Mirko & Susan Verdier (SFC/FTC)

Nous avons eu 6 jours d'entraînement au Belmont Range Complex avant la compétition. Le champ de tir Duncan de 1000 verges est situé au Belmont Shooting Center à environ une heure à l'ouest du village des athlètes. Des améliorations continues durant les dix dernières années ont été apportées aux installations et ont produit des installations parfaites pour les Jeux. Le champ de tir Duncan de Belmont est très beau, avec 48 positions de tir avec des monticules gazonnés juste assez fermes (sans les excréments de bernaches qu'on retrouve à Connaught). Les nombreux bénévoles ont assuré que les entraînements et compétitions se déroulent bien. Même si le champ de tir était à une heure du village, nous avions un transport en autobus confortable dans les 2 directions. Nous avons alors amplement de temps de discuter de notre journée au champ de tir ou bien de faire une sieste, selon le cas.

Durant la compétition officielle, il y avait un bénévole derrière chaque tireur pour reproduire le diagramme des coups afin de permettre aux spectateurs de suivre le déroulement des compétitions coup par coup. Les épreuves officielles ont débuté avec les équipes en paires, 2 et 10 coups à 300, 500 et 600 verges la première journée et 2 et 15 coups à 900 et 1000 verges le lendemain. Les vents prédominants venaient de la gauche, changeant en angle et en force. Bob et moi avons eu un départ difficile mais avons fini avec force aux longues distances, avec un meilleur pointage de Bob à 1000 verges grâce à ses talents de tireur et aux miens de coach. Nous avons fini 8ièmes sur 16 équipes.

L'épreuve individuelle s'est déroulée sur 3 jours. Le stage 1 du prix de la Reine était 2 et 7 coups à 300, 500 et 600 verges, le stage 2 était 2 et 10 coups à 300, 500 et 600 verges alors que le 3<sup>ième</sup> stage (finale) était 2 et 15 coups à 900 et 1000 verges. Ce fut une compétition serrée avec une fin âprement disputée pour de nombreux compétiteurs. Les 5 premiers ont excédé le pointage record

## JEUX DU COMMONWEALTH EN AUSTRALIE

antérieur, l'éventuel vainqueur David Luckman n'ayant perdu qu'un seul point sur une possibilité de 405 points. Fait intéressant, celui-ci fut son dernier coup à 1000 verges. Une performance exceptionnelle!

Nous avons terminé aux 7<sup>ième</sup> (moi) et 21<sup>ième</sup> (Bob) rangs sur un total de 33 compétiteurs. Bob a éprouvé des problèmes techniques avec sa bretelle et sa veste sur des monticules avec une inclinaison et son résultat fut décevant.

Ces 2 semaines se sont écoulées plus vite que je ne l'aurais imaginé. Cet agréable voyage s'est terminé par une soirée de divertissements et d'au revoir de mes collègues. Nous avons des souvenirs impérissables.

Merci Bob Pitcairn pour ton partage de connaissances et d'expérience. Ce fut un plaisir de tirer avec toi.

Remerciements aussi à Mirko Teglassi pour avoir géré la logistique du champ de tir afin que Bob et moi puissions nous concentrer sur notre tir ainsi qu'à Susan Verdier de la Fédération canadienne de Tir pour s'être occupée des tâches administratives reliées aux Jeux.

J'aimerais aussi remercier l'ATDC, l'ATPQ et Alain Marion pour leur support.

Le dernier remerciement revient à mon partenaire de tir et de vie, Gale Stewart. Avec son encadrement, encouragement et plein soutien, il a rendu mon objectif de participation aux Jeux possible.

*Nicole Rossignol*

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN AUSTRALIA

Although it's been 2 days since my return to Canada from Australia, the experience of the Commonwealth Games is still fresh in my mind. This event was rather exceptional. I had the honor of being the first woman to represent Canada in the Fullbore (FB) event. I was attending the games with a very experienced shooter, Robert (Bob) Pitcairn who also happened to be the oldest athlete to compete in the history of the Games ever. We were in for a good ride.



Close to 7000 athletes attended the games from 71 Commonwealth countries. Canada had 282 athletes at the Games, four of which were shooters (Bob and I for Fullbore, Gregory Sych for Smallbore three position and Curtis Wennberg for Trap Shooting). Mirko Teglassi agreed to be our manager while Susan Verdier from the Shooting Federation of Canada was our team coordinator/organiser (see picture on pg 14).

Upon arrival at the Brisbane airport I was greeted by a few of the 15,000 volunteers that made this CWG run exceptionally well. The Gold Coast 2018 organizing committee made every effort to ensure that our arrival, stay and departure was well organised and stress free. Bob and I stayed at the Athlete Village which was close to the Gold Coast and Surfer's Paradise on the east coast of Australia). The Village consisted of newly built apartments and condos that will be used for future student housing after the Games. In the center of the village was a newly built park, a large fountain and the official mascot, Borobi the Koala. His name comes from the local Indigenous Yugambeh word for koala. See picture to left.

Arriving early meant that we could take part in the opening ceremonies. What a spectacular evening! It was filled with lots of fireworks, beach dancers, a huge floating Humpback whale (an animal that is found off the coast of Australia. The Queen's baton was in every Commonwealth Country competing in the CWG and made entry to the Ceremony to complete its long journey. The Ceremony show presented a good glimpse of Australian culture. The athletes were center stage of it all. I remember as I walked in the stadium with my fellow Canadian athletes how I felt, the excitement and pride of being apart of it all. What an amazing feeling!

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN AUSTRALIA



Before the main competitions started, we had 6 days of practice at the Belmont Range complex. The Duncan 1000 yard range is located within the Belmont Shooting Complex, 1 hour to the west of Gold Coast. The facilities had continuous improvements done to it during the past ten years resulting in perfect range facilities for the Games. The Belmont Full-bore (Duncan) range is a beautiful 48 target range with soft, grassy mounds (no Canadian Goose poopoo like Connaught). There were many volunteers out to help make sure the competitions and practices went well. Even though the range was 1 hour from the village, we had a comfortable bus ride each way. It gave us lots of time to chat about our day at the range or snooze, whatever the desire.

During the medal matches there was a volunteer scoring each shooter on small score board, which allowed the spectators to follow the shooting results, shot by shot. The CWG Fullbore Medal competition started with the Pairs event. 2/10 shots at 300, 500 and 600 yards on the first day then 2/15 shots at 900 and 1000 yards the next day. Winds were predominately from the left, changing angles and strength. Bob and I had a rough

start but finished strong at the long ranges with the highest score at 1000, thanks to Bob's excellent shooting skill and my coaching. Out of 16 teams we placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

The individual matches were completed over 3 days. Queen's stage 1 was 2/7 shots at 300, 500 and 600 yards, Queen's stage 2 was 2/10 shots at 300, 500, 600 yards, and the Queen's final was 2/15 shots at 900 and 1000 yards. This match was a close competition with an impressive finish for many competitors. 5 match records were broken with the most notable being the winner, David Luckman from England, who only lost 1 point out of 405 possible points. Interesting, it was his last shot at the 1000 yards. An exceptional shoot!

Canada's finish was 7<sup>th</sup> (Nicole Rossignol) and 21<sup>st</sup> (Robert Pitcairn) out of 33 competitors. Bob ran into technical problems with his sling and shooting jacket at two ranges with sloping mounds so his result is somewhat disappointing.

Our 2 week stay passed by faster than we could imagine. Our enjoyable trip came to an end with an evening of entertainment and goodbyes from fellow athletes. We will have memories that will last forever.

Thank you Bob Pitcairn for sharing your knowledge and experience. It was a pleasure shooting with you.

Many thanks to Mirko Teglas, who dealt with the range administration so Bob and I could concentrate on our shooting, and to Susan Verdier of the SFC who helped Bob and I tremendously with all the other Games administration.

I would also like to thank the DCRA, the PQRA and Alain Marion for their support.

My last big thank you is to my partner in shooting and in life, Gale Stewart. With his coaching, guidance and full support, my goal of making it to the Games was achievable.

*Nicole Rossignol*



## GAIN TWIST BARRELS FOR PALMA

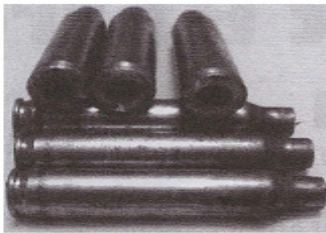
*Reprinted With Permission From Dec. 2016 "American Gunsmith"*

*The Next Logical Evolution In The Sport Of Palma*

*By MSG Joe Carlos, Army Reserve Shooting Team*

90 gr. bullets in the .223 Rem. have been gaining in popularity for Palma shooting both in the States and in Canada. Hopefully this article will give you some ideas how to get more velocity and greater accuracy from your 90's regardless if you choose boat tails or VLD's. Gain Twist barrels will work equally well when mounted on bolt guns or gas guns. I suggest that you also refer to a previous article that appeared in the Summer/Autumn 2012 "Canadian Marksman" titled, "A Mouse On Steroids", by Robert Pitcairn. Mr. Pitcairn's article approaches the use of 90's in bolt guns with uniform 1 – 6.5" twists and contains valuable information on loads that I don't have space to repeat here. I also wrote an earlier 2 part article published in, "The American Gunsmith", in Nov. and Dec. of 2013 titled, "Revisiting Gain Twist". My earlier article gets more into the history of gain twist, its use in rifles, pistols, blackpowder, as well as military applications. Decreased barrel heating, throat erosion, bore fouling, and other advantages are also covered in a greater depth than I have room for in this article. The American Gunsmith articles also go into some of the theories of why gain twist barrels seem to shoot so well. I did not cover gain twist for Palma in the earlier article. Paper format back issues of, "The American Gunsmith", are available for purchase on their web site.

Gain twist is not new. It has been around for a century and a quarter that I am aware of and perhaps even longer than that. I've been using gain twist barrels since the mid to late 1980's. So I have about a quarter of a century of experience with them. It was an incident that happened in Australia one time that prompted my first interest in gain twist. I was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve Shooting Team at the time. We were in Australia competing with other military shooting teams. U.S. teams were using issue M-16's. You would be surprised at how many small foreign militaries in that region of the globe also use the M-16. The host team (Australia) furnished their 62 gr. 5.56 mm ammo which was the rough equivalent of our M855 Green Tip. It was a rather warm day and the Aussies just brought out a pallet of ammo and plopped it down on the range and drove off. They didn't so much as throw a tarp over it to shade it from the sun.



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*5.56mm ammo blew primers on hot days.  
Gain twist helps lower chamber pressures*

When it warmed up more in the afternoon almost everybody, except the Aussies, started blowing primers. Contrary to intuition, however, our M-16's were operating very sluggishly. I remember the U.S. National Guard had an extractor blow and one of the South Africans actually blew up a rifle. (Their own design, not an M-16). The Australians seemed to be about the only ones that were immune. They just laughed at all us foreigners and told us our chambers were too tight. Huh? We all had Mil. Spec. NATO chambers which are anything but "tight" in any dimension. The Aussies were using their issue rifle which, at the time, was a Steyr AUG, a bull-pup that operates with a piston, and had 1 – 9" twist barrels as opposed to the 1 - 7" twist barrels that foreign teams were experiencing pressure issues with.

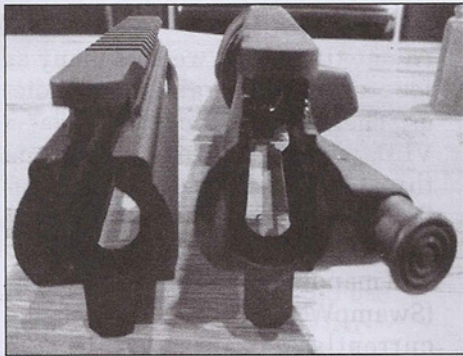
As this was a good decade and a half before 9/11 I was able to boot leg a small quantity of their ammo home with me on the plane. I made contact with Lake City Army Ammunition Plant and they were actually anxious to analyze it. I shipped it to them and before long I had a report that said that the Australian ammo exceeded the chamber pressure recommended for the M-16. The burn characteristics of whatever powder they used, however, caused the gas port pressures in our M-16's to operate below spec. accounting for the sluggish operation of our rifles.

Not wishing to experience the frustrations and safety dangers of the year in question I analyzed my firearms options for future years. I felt certain that the faster 1 – 7" twist of our M-16's had to be one of the major contributors to our pressure issues. Remember, the Aussies used a slower 1 – 9" twist. I considered just going with a 1 – 9" twist barrel. Instead I opted for two gain twist barrels. One went from a 1 – 11" twist right in front of the NATO chamber to 1 – 9" at the muzzle. The other was a bit more

## GAIN TWIST BARRELS FOR PALMA

aggressive and went from 1 – 20" in front of the chamber to 1 – 10" at the muzzle. In other words, it effectively doubled in the span of a 14 ½" M-4 carbine barrel.

When the barrels were installed and I was ready to get zeroes I had a team member help me down in the pits pulling targets. I was shooting at 600 yards using 62 gr. military Green Tip ammo which was the closest to the Australian stuff that I had. U.S. Green Tip ammo had rightfully earned a reputation for being very inaccurate. After a few rounds down range he called back on the radio and asked if I had substituted a match rifle with match ammo. The groups were that tight! Obviously the improved accuracy of the



**Above left:** Heavy wall DPMS (left) receiver helps support heavy Palma barrels. **Above right:** Quality match sights and adjustable stocks will help AR-15 Match Rifles and Palma Rifles to compete with expensive bolt guns

gain twist was a very unexpected but pleasant bonus. But how did the gain twist deal with the pressure of the Australian ammo? I never got to find out. Right after that the Army Reserve Shooting Team fell on hard financial times and we never went back to Australia.

Now that we are between stories is probably a good time to say what gain twist is. It is also frequently called, "Progressive Rifling", which sort of hints at how

it works. We choose rifling twist rates based on what bullets we intend to shoot. Long bullets have to be spun faster to stabilize than shorter bullets. For example, when Stoner first designed the AR-15 he used a very practical twist rate of one bullet revolution in every 14 inches of barrel to stabilize the short 55 gr. bullets of the Viet Nam era. This is written either 1 – 14", 1/14, or 1:14" and results in roughly about 160,000 RPM's. Now, about a half century later, we are shooting very long 90 gr. bullets that require a much faster 1 – 6.5" twist with RPM's exceeding 300,000! As far as the bullet is concerned the only twist rate that it "cares about" is the twist rate right at the muzzle. There is no need for us to try to start rotating a heavy 90 gr. bullet at 300,000 RPM's way back near the chamber. In fact, there are very good reasons for us NOT to try to rotate bullets very fast at the back of the barrel. So gain twist barrels simply start rotating the bullet initially slow back at the chamber and pick up the twist rate uniformly as the bullet approaches the critical twist rate at the muzzle. I have already given you examples of a couple of gain twist rates that I used in M-4 barrels. In 20" Service Rifle barrels I am going from 1 – 13" right at the front of my Wylde chambers and terminating at 1 – 6.5" at the muzzle. In 26" Match Rifle barrels I go from 1 – 14" to 1 – 6.8". This allows me to reach about 2,600 fps. Of muzzle velocity with the 20" barrels and about 2,700 fps. with the 26" barrels using Berger 90 gr. Boat Tail Match bullets. These kinds of muzzle velocities keep 90 gr. Berger B.T. bullets easily supersonic thru the 1,000 yard line. Both gain twist barrels shoot magazine length 77 gr. bullets just fine also. Continuing the barrel discussion, I start my 32" Palma barrels at 1 – 23" just in front of a dedicated Palma chamber which is about 1/10" longer than a standard Wylde dimension. For 30" barrels my beginning twist rate is 1 – 21". Both barrels have a final twist of 1 – 6.8" at the muzzle. There are two good sources of gain twist barrel blanks for Palma.

Bartlein Barrels in the States (262/649-1574) offers single point cut rifling in both 5R and 4 groove. I prefer the 5R but it is a little more susceptible to cleaning rod damage and for those of us shooting gas guns a land will always be cut or severed when the gas port is drilled. I don't know that cutting a land with the port necessarily causes any permanent accuracy harm to the barrel. Cutting a land does make the break in process very difficult, however. Usually you will see a heavy streak of copper fouling just forward of the port and about the same width as the port. That streak of copper will go from the port forward about a good 2" on the top of the barrel. It is very difficult to get all that copper out between break in shots. It is absolutely critical that every bit of it be removed between shots in order to get a good break in. If you fail to do it right the barrel may copper there for the rest of its life and that can contribute to poor accuracy. I don't have the space in this article to cover the proper techniques to break in AR barrels. I did cover the topic in detail in "The American Gunsmith" in October of 2014. The title of the article was, "Gas Gun Barrel Break In". The groove width of the 4 groove Bartlein gain twist is wide enough to contain a gas port without cutting a land.

## GAIN TWIST BARRELS FOR PALMA

However, you need to find a gunsmith who knows how to locate the port to center it in a groove. If you use a gunsmith that just hap-hazardly drills the port anywhere it is very likely that a land will be hit. Compass Lake Engineering (850/579-1208) down in Alford, FL turns and chambers all my blanks for me. They built a fixture to locate the groove and they are pretty good at centering gas ports in a groove. Bartlein barrels are available in both chrome-moly and stainless. I recommend the C.M.

The second source of rifle gain twist blanks is located in Canada. The contact information is: RKS Ent., Box 635, Wimborne, AB TOM2GO (403/631-2405). I don't think they have a web site. Like Bartlein, they use a single point cut rifling process and their barrels shoot every bit as accurately as the Bartleins. The RKS barrels are all 6 groove which means that if you are building a gas gun the port will cut a land. Ron Smith, the owner, says that a finished length of 30" is as long as he can go. Both steel types are available but their stainless seems to shoot better. The price difference between the two companies is nearly break even. RKS can give you the same twist rate gains that I have recommended previously.

When you purchase a blank from either company you need to specify what twist you want right in front of the chamber and the final twist at the muzzle. Bartlein normally makes their blanks about 1" over the desired finished length. If I want a 20" finished Service Rifle barrel I get a 21" blank. 1/2" is taken off either end during machining. Most .223 Rem. match chambers occupy about 2" before the rifling begins. So you can see how important it is to actually call the manufacturer and discuss your project with a technical representative so you end up getting the twists you want WHERE you need them! You also need to have a conversation with the machinist that will be turning and chambering your blank. Most will want to make a final shallow lathe cut to true the outside dimension of the blank. So the blank must be slightly fatter than the target final diameter and you need to convey that to the barrel maker. Regardless of which source you choose to purchase your blank from there are two internal dimensions you need to specify. The first has to do with the land height. The standard .22 center fire land is .219". A "taller" optional .218" land height is available from both barrel makers.

EVERY bullet that I have ever shot out of an AR-15 performed better with the tall .218" land and the 90 gr. is no exception. The tall .218" land will cause some additional constriction resulting in increased pressure but the slow gain twist at the front of the chamber will more than take care of that. The accuracy improvement of the tall land is key to getting the tightest groups possible. The groove depth is the other critical dimension to specify. The standard groove depth for a .22 center fire is .2240". Thru years of extensive research I have found that a slightly deeper groove depth of .2245" really improves accuracy and helps cut the incidence of fliers when using 90 gr. bullets. Cutting the groove that 1/2 thousandth of an inch deeper has the added benefit of lowering pressures. So a barrel with tall .218" lands and slightly deeper .2245" grooves will pressure almost identically to one with .219" X .2240" internal dimensions but there is no comparison with regard to accuracy between the two!

I've mentioned several times so far that in addition to improved accuracy with less fliers you can expect to reduce pressure by using a gain twist barrel. How does that work? When the powder begins to burn and build up gas pressure that eventually forces the bullet forward. We also have to overcome the inertia of the resting bullet and get it rotating at somewhere around 300,000 RPM's.

But we don't have to do that immediately. So by starting with a slow twist just in front of the chamber we can get that bullet to begin its rotation easier and with much less pressure. I am able to load about .3 to 1/2 grain of additional powder in my gain twist cartridges which harvests about 30 – 50 fps. more muzzle velocity. Casings with more powder capacity than the wimpy .223 Rem. can benefit even more.

I have been told that the .338 Lapua can get up to 3 grains more powder with gain twist. As with any load recommendations that you see in magazines, or even loading manuals, you need to work up gradually while watching for signs of pressure.

### RECEIVER CHOICES FOR THE PALMA AR-15

Most Palma shooters use barrel lengths around 30". AR match barrels of that length normally have diameters of 1" for the majority of their length. The AR-15 of the original 1960's had a 20" barrel (1/3 less than a Palma tube). And the 1960's barrels were really skinny. So a Palma gun today has to support a far greater weight than the skinny receiver was designed to accommodate a 1/2 century ago. A2 barrels weigh about 2 1/2 lb. whereas a 30" Palma AR barrel will tip the scales at nearly 5 3/4 lb.,



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more than double the weight of the A2.

What can be done? The threaded portion of the front of the receiver has to remain as Stoner designed it. Otherwise, the barrel nut would never fit. Fortunately, nearly 2/3 of the barrel extension lives aft of the threaded section. It is possible to thicken that area. Two companies make thick walled flat tops. DPMS makes the Lo-Pro. It lacks both the forward assist and the dust cover. Sun Devil Mfg. (663 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite 16, Mesa, AZ 85210 480/833-9876) offers heavy wall lowers and uppers (with either or both the forward assist and dust cover). Either offering should provide additional barrel support for Match Rifles or Palma guns. The difference in wall thickness between the two is roughly double in favor of the Lo-Pro.

In order to harvest the potential accuracy of any AR barrel/receiver combo the gunsmith needs to properly stabilize the barrel extension fit to the receiver. Oversize BAT Machine match barrel extensions will help. To learn how to do this right I suggest reading my two part article in the March and April 2013 issues of, "The American Gunsmith", titled, "The Relationship Between Barrel Extension Diameter And Accuracy In The AR-15".

An AR-15 Palma rifle can be built with all the expensive match sights, adjustable stocks, etc. as a bolt rifle. Modern AR's can rival the accuracy of bolt guns.

### 90 gr. BULLETS

At one time there were as many as 4 different 90 gr. bullet choices. I'll take them as they evolved in history from oldest to newest. The JLK was the first. It was a VLD which required chasing the throat. The JLK seemed to like the 5R rifling pattern. It also liked barrels with the slightly deeper .2245" groove. While the JLK line is still manufactured (by Swampworks) their web site currently lists the 90 gr. .224 bullet as out of production due to problems getting the jackets. If you are addicted to this bullet send me an e-mail to [NCC1701@penn.com](mailto:NCC1701@penn.com) and I'll supply contact information for a stocking dealer where you can still purchase them.

Next came the Berger VLD which is still available. It has a very attractive high ballistic coefficient (.551). Like all VLD's, it requires chasing the throat. I could get a wider variety of 1 – 6.5" twist barrels to shoot accurately with the Berger VLD as compared to the JLK.



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## GAIN TWIST BARRELS FOR PALMA

Not all shooters want to go to the extra work of chasing the throat and constantly lengthening their ammo to keep up with throat erosion. A great many shooters wanted a maintenance free boat tail 90 gr. bullet and when Sierra came out with one in 2005 we all thought we had it made. I was the Armorer for the Army Reserve Service Rifle Team at the time and started doing load work ups in early 2006 when I was finally able to obtain a supply of them. Sierra recommended a muzzle velocity of 2,650 fps. for 1,000 yard shooting. The second day on the range I started experiencing mid air bullet blow ups. I called Sierra and they still cite me as being the first creditable source of the problem. As more shooters tried the bullet word soon got around. It appears that the jacket is just too thin. Sierra always felt that rough obturation to the back of the bullet was a contributing factor. I immediately thought of gain twist as a potential solution. I checked first with the two companies I had purchased gain twist blanks from back in the mid to late 1980's. One had gone out of business and the other had dropped the gain twist option. I checked all over the U.S. and overseas and couldn't locate a single source of gain twist barrels. This was before Bartlein was offering them. I continued to work with Sierra and their 90 for about 2 more years trying every barrel option I could think of: 5R, polygonal rifling, even numbers of lands and grooves, odd numbers of lands, different heights of lands and depths of grooves. Different land to groove ratios. Cut rifling and button rifling. I never was able to come up with any configuration that was "Sierra proof". I have used other Sierra bullets with great success. The 90 SMK's were accurate. Shooters just couldn't rely on all of them holding together to make it thru the target in one piece.

Finally I threw in the towel and approached Berger. Obviously, like most everybody by then, they had heard the talk in the pits about the jacket failures of the Sierra bullets. I believe they could see a potential demand for a reliable and accurate .224" 90 gr. boat tail. I also suspect that knowing that a major military shooting team, like the Army Reserve, would be trying the bullet may have also encouraged them. When I was talking to Berger initially one thing we easily agreed upon was the need for a thick jacket to prevent the problems everybody had with the Sierras. It wasn't long till I had my first pallet of Berger 90's. The bullet boxes even had the word, "THICK", boldly printed on them. The first thing I did was torture test them. I couldn't get those bullets to blow up no matter what I did to them and they were very accurate, exactly as one would expect from a Berger product. Just as Mr. Pitcairn mentioned in his article, I found the Berger B.T. to pressure more. I expected it to pressure more than the VLD's. I believe the B.T. has a bit more bearing surface than a VLD which probably accounts for some of this pressure. The Berger bullet had a slightly higher B.C. (.512) than the Sierra and Berger recommended a muzzle velocity of only 2,600 fps. for reliable 1,000-yard shooting. Remember, Sierra had recommended 2,650. Oddly, I had more pressure issues trying to get the thick jacketed Berger 90 gr. B.T.'s to reach 2,600 fps. out of 20" AR-15 Service Rifle barrels than I had getting Sierra bullets to shoot 50 fps. faster. As Mr. Pitcairn alluded in his article I believe the thicker jacket of the Berger may have accounted for some of this. By that time, however, Bartlein was in the gain twist barrel business. I worked with them on rates of gain and the various internal dimensions and after some trial and error I arrived at the specs. mentioned earlier in this article. Not only did the gain twist barrels solve my pressure problems with the 90 gr. Berger B.T. but the accuracy was stellar! Comparing the performance of hundreds of barrels, the new combination of the Berger 90 gr. B.T. fired from gain twist barrels to the old AR-15 long range "standard" 80 gr. loads in a cross section of major premium barrels the 90's tightened groups by 7.7% while shooting about half as many fliers as the old 80's. If a flier was shot its severity was about ½ that of an 80 gr. match bullet. And the 90 gr. bullet fought wind drift about 17% more efficiently than the 80. What's not to like about that?



*Early runs of Berger 90 grain bullets had the word "THICK" (referring to the jacket) boldly printed on the individual boxes to differentiate them from thin jacket 90 grain boat tails made by other manufacturers*

So life with the Berger boat tail 90 was good. The new Berger offering had its work cut out for it image wise, however. There was a lot of confusion among shooters regarding 90 gr. bullet blow ups. In the tens of thousands of rounds fired with them I have never blown up any 90 gr. bullet other than Sierras. Unfortunately, not all shooters got the word and some thought that all 90's were prone to blow up. To counter the bad reputation of 90 gr. bullets the first boxes of Berger boat tails even had the word "THICK"

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boldly printed right on the boxes. As word of the heavy jacket and stellar accuracy of the new Berger 90 gr. boat tail got around more and more shooters began to make the transition. Most of them that I have talked to were very happy. I believe that had the bullet just have been given a couple more years to prove itself the face of High Power and Service Rifle competition here in the States might be very different today. It wasn't long, however, until events and politics here in the U.S. took a turn causing demand for guns, ammo, and components to skyrocket. In talking with folks at the Berger factory it sounded like they were running about a full year behind in production. Something had to give. Berger made the bold decision to "furlough" production of a fair proportion of their bullets so they could use their limited tooling to produce more of the bullets that were left in production. Sadly, the 90 gr. boat tail was among those furloughed. As with other furloughed bullets, Berger still has all the dies and production equipment to resume the boat tail. If you are a fan of the bullet I suggest you make your wants known to the factory. In the meantime, if you are having difficulty finding a source for it simply e-mail me and I'll provide contact information for where to obtain them. They are also listed on Gun Broker.

### POINTING

I would discourage you with regard to "pointing" Berger thick jacketed 90 gr. boat tail bullets. The practice of pointing bullets was one of those "flavors of the week" about the time that the 90 gr. Boat tails were coming out. One of the members of the All Army Reserve Service Rifle Team got one of the pointing kits and used it on the new 90's. They looked fine and I understand the lure of the improved B.C. that the manufacturer of the pointer claims. We loaded some of the pointed bullets and sent them out for field testing. Reports were not good. A number of folks noticed decreased accuracy and there were reports of pressure issues on hot days when regular non-pointed bullets were doing fine. I saw the same two problems on my machine rest tests. I asked one of the shooters whose gun was blowing primers with the pointed bullets to measure the diameters of 10 of them and average the readings and then to repeat with non-pointed bullets. Although I had already performed this same test I didn't hint to him what my findings were. Working independently, we both arrived at an increase in bullet diameter of .0003" for the pointed bullets. My theory was that because the pointing is basically a swaging operation perhaps the thick jacket is resisting the process and resulting in bullets bulging ever so slightly in the bearing surface. I also admit that perhaps our swaging tool operator just wasn't sufficiently polished in its operation at that early stage. Whatever the cause of the problem, nobody ever asked for any more pointed 90 gr. Berger boat tails.

Which 90 gr. bullet is best for you? Service Rifle shooters who only shoot out to 600 yards mostly choose the Berger boat tail because it is so easy to get shooting accurately and equally easy to keep shooting well. Folks whose interest in Palma shooting is on the casual side might also want to try the boat tail. Palma shooters who have the skills to chase the throat should at least try the Berger VLD because of its superior B.C. I would also do a load work up for the boat tail and pick the one that shoots the tighter groups. In a 2 mph full value wind pick up at 600 yds. the VLD will drift about ½" less than the boat tail. At 1,000 yards that difference in wind drift will be about 1 ½". As a shooter you will have to evaluate for yourself how important that ½" (or 1 ½") is to you. If you recall I mentioned earlier that my first idea for fixing the Sierra 90 gr. blow ups was to go with a gain twist barrel. I couldn't find a source of gain twist barrels at the time. By the time the Berger B.T. came out gain twist barrels were available from Bartlein. Just out of curiosity, I have been torture testing one or two Sierra 90's in each gain twist barrel I test fire. So far I have not been able to blow one up! It may be that the more gentle obturation caused by slower burning powders used in 30 and 32" Palma barrels coupled with gain twist and seating the bullet out further in the neck of the casing will conspire to keep 90 gr. SMK jackets in place. If you choose to try the Sierras remember the old saying, "Let the buyer beware!"

### PALMA CHAMBERS

I use Wylde chambers in all my Service Rifle and Match Rifle guns. Both of those disciplines use magazine length 77 gr. bullets at the 200 and 300 yard lines and then 90's at the 600 yd. line and for occasional 1000 yd. events for shooters that are interested. There are things that I like a lot about the Wylde chamber, especially the gradual 1 degree 15 minute leade angle. For sure, if you are even remotely considering ever trying the 90 gr. SMK bullet that gradual leade angle is going to be a must! Although I am using the Palma reamer for what are technically semi auto gas operated AR-15's since they are never fed from a magazine they are essentially single shot rifles so I was able to tighten certain dimensions to a similar degree as you would see in a bolt gun. The neck dimensions in gas guns are typically quite fat for reliability of feeding. I was able to tighten that up considerably. That in itself

## GAIN TWIST BARRELS FOR PALMA

helps to better align the bullet to the center axis of the bore. I recommend a neck of .2526" for heavy wall casings like Lapua and .251" for thinner walled casings like L.C. If you outside neck turn your brass those recommended dimensions can be tightened up. Consult your reamer maker. The free bore was the next consideration. I had tried VV N150 powder before in my match rifles. Accuracy was stellar and velocities were very consistent. With my Wylde chambers, however, I just couldn't pack enough of the very coarse powder into the casing to get the kinds of velocities I wanted for 1,000 yard shooting. I wanted to be able to get 25 grains in my Palma loads. I also wanted the full case neck to have contact with the bearing surface of the bullet (the area above the junction with the top of the boat tail). I simply loaded up some dummy rounds until I was able to get 25 grains (with the VLD bullet and 24.5 gr. with the boat tail) of N150 to fit. A 90 gr. Berger boat tail loaded in a conventional Wylde chamber will give an overall cartridge length of about 2.50". My Palma chamber increases that length to about 2.60" (with the Berger Boat Tail) or about 1/10" longer than the Wylde.

To get that specify a free bore of about .1640". That places the top shoulder of the boat tail just slightly below the casing neck/shoulder junction. This provides good support for the bullet and allows the shooter to straighten any rounds that are not seated concentric with the casing without loosening the grip of the neck on the bullet. This chamber also has enough room to lengthen the bullet seating length to compensate for erosion for those shooting VLD bullets.

### BULLET SEATING DEPTH

Equally important as the actual chamber dimensions is tailoring the bullet seating depth to that chamber to arrive at the gun's accuracy sweet spot. With boat tails I start with the bullet seated about .004" deeper than where it would contact the throat. So I am jumping the boat tails. With VLD's I start with the cartridge loaded length about .006" longer than contacting the throat so I am jamming the bullet into the throat. I fire a 10 shot machine rest group at these initial settings. Then I lengthen my seating depth by about .002" by coming up two tick marks on the micrometer dial on quality competition seating dies like those from Redding or Bonanza shown in Picture #6. If my second groups get better than the initial ones I know I am going in the right direction and I continue to lengthen my cartridge overall lengths until my groups start getting fatter indicating that I have gone too far. If my second groups with the longer seating depths shoot worse than the initial groups I simply begin going in the opposite direction by seating bullets deeper. Normally my boat tails end up with between .000" and .010" of initial jump. My VLD's usually end up jamming between .000 and .010". Each gun will demand its own individual jump or jam and nobody can tell you in advance what that specific amount will be. With boat tails once you have established the right amount of initial jump you can go ahead and load up a full case of them and shoot at that setting for the entire season.



To help promote concentricity, use quality match bullet seating dies, such as the Redding (rear) and Bonanza (front) dies shown.

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## GAIN TWIST BARRELS FOR PALMA

With VLD bullets, however, you have to take nightly chamber readings and constantly increase the seating length to compensate for throat erosion. In other words, whatever amount of jam your initial test results arrive at must be maintained thru the entire shooting season. This process is called, "Chasing The Throat". It is not all that difficult but does require attention to detail and it takes a little bit of time on the seating step. On a state of the art rifle machine rest it takes me about ½ of a day to accomplish what I have described in an admittedly abbreviated version above. You could do it on a bench rest with sand bag support but I would suspect it would take considerably longer. No matter how long it ends up taking it is time well spent performance wise. Like our next topic of concentricity, no barrel maker or gunsmith can create a rifle that will perform to its optimum if the shooter takes shortcuts. For more information on this topic see my article, "Bullet Seating Sweet Spot", in the June 2016 issue of, "The American Gunsmith".

### CONCENTRICITY

Bullet Run-out: "The measurement (usually in thousandths of an inch) that a bullet and/or case are misaligned in relation to the centerline or axis of the entire case." From the GunTec Dictionary.

Cartridge concentricity is a matter of protracted discussion that we don't have time to cover in this article. What we can say is that no barrel, whether of conventional uniform rifling or Gain Twist, will accurately shoot "crooked" ammo. I strongly recommend using a cartridge straightening tool like the very fine Hornady product shown on the right of Picture #7. For more information on concentricity see my article, "Better Ammunition," in the April 2016 issue of, "The American Gunsmith".

### GAIN TWIST FOR .30 CAL

Ballistically, a 90 gr. Berger B.T. bullet fired out of a .223 Rem. firearm at 2,800 fps. will equal any boat tail bullet fired in a .308 Win. rifle. (See Picture #8). Likewise, a 90 gr. VLD from a .223 Rem. at 2,850 fps. will equal any VLD fired in a .308. And the .223 Rem. will do so at a fraction of the cost and punishing recoil.

Gain Twist works in pistols, muzzle loaders, and modern rifles. If you choose to shoot Palma in the traditional .308 a Gain Twist should certainly work just fine for either bolt gun applications or gas guns. Everybody worries about how much gain to use. From what I have seen there is no magic formula. Smith & Wesson uses a gain twist barrel in one of their heavy hunting revolvers. Their rate of twist doubles from 1/20" at the back of the barrel to 1/10" at the muzzle. Colerain Barrels specializes in Gain Twist for muzzle loaders. Their 42" barrels begin at a twist rate of 1 - 96 and speed up to a final twist of 1 - 48". Doubling the twist rate has worked very well for me in 20" Service Rifle and 26" Match Rifle lengths but doubling is not cast in stone. However, doubling may be a good start.

For example, if the shooter determines that he needs a final twist rate of 1:12" to stabilize his .30 cal. bullet then a good start twist right in front of his chamber might be 1:24". Would a start twist of 1:23" or 1:25" shoot as accurately? Probably. A few years ago when gain twist started to become popular again some bench rest and long range shooters tried using very modest gains. An example would be to start the twist at 1:12 ¼" and finish at 1:12" at the muzzle. Only a ¼" gain in barrels as long as 26 or 30". While such barrels shot as well as conventional uniform twist barrels I don't think the accuracy improvements and reduced pressures of the more aggressive gain twists were ever realized and I don't hear much about anyone using these modest gain twists these days. Readers with experience using very modest gain twists are encouraged to write to me at [NCC1701@penn.com](mailto:NCC1701@penn.com) and share their experiences.



## 2017 BCRA 300m Sierra ISSF Championship

The Mission Rod & Gun Club hosted the 2017 BCRA Provincial ISSF Championship. This year we followed our past practice of 75 shots for record over two days utilizing the ICFRA target. The Mission club range does not have strong winds but what there is can be fickle. Located in mountainous forested terrain means quick changes and multiple directions are the norm.

We had a good entry of 34 shooters with all classifications being represented. This is our premier short-range event. We were very pleased to have many cadets and Under 25 class competitors participate this year. They have since gone on to place well at Connaught and earn a place on the Cadet Bisley Team with some now qualifying for Bisley and Palma Senior teams. Congratulations are in order and we look forward to having them shoot with us as they prepare for their 2018 experience in the UK and 2019 at the World Championships in New Zealand.

Our ISSF Champion this year is Jim Paton (372-47v), The F-Open winner is Brad Traynor (373- 51v), and the F-TR winner is Dennis Lapierre (373-49v). The High U25 was Catherine Park (367- 35v) and the High Junior was Thomas Jones (355-19v) We would like to thank Sierra Bullets for their generous donation of bullets. Many of the participants donate their complimentary bullets to the U25 program to support our young shooters. The bullet award and the Sierra banner add to the atmosphere of this event. Our banner picture has become part of the tradition of 300 meter shooting here in BC. Everyone wants to be a part of it.

Dave Adams – Sierra ISSF Match Director 2017



**THE DOMINION OF CANADA RIFLE ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK SIERRA BULLETS FOR THEIR ONGOING PARTNERSHIP, AND THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CANADIAN SHOOTING SPORTS AT THE PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.**



# BLACK POWDER 2017

Having taken over the program from the past director, Chris Jones, I was happy to see the near complete group of black powder shooters return once again. There had been rumours of some not returning after learning of the resignation of Chris. Simply put, Chris was the backbone of our match for 14 years. His absence was thought to become the demise of the program, and nearly was. Chris remained in the picture promising to be my guidance and run interference when needed. I want to thank him and the gang for their support. I also would be remiss in not remembering our sponsors. Dave Gullo of Buffalo Arms for his continued help with a



Ray Hopkins, overall Grand Aggregate Muzzleloader Class Winner receiving his award from DCRA Executive Director Don Haisell.

bullet mould, Leo Bumphrey of Boomer's Moulds likewise for his bullet mould, Larry Baker Jr. of SPG Sales, Jim Kelley for his beautiful sight, and our newest sponsor, Chris Hodgdon of Hodgdon Powders for his donation of a case of the newest Goex powder "Olde Eynsford" through Hummason Manufacturing Ltd. in Ancaster Ontario. These folks have been a blessing for our continuation.

The Annual 1000 yard Black Powder Program Competition began on August 18<sup>th</sup> with an overcast sky. We are beginning to think the weather forecasters are training to become politicians. No two of them can tell the same story. However, the competition began regardless. There were some new faces registered this year including three new muzzle loading shooters and one new cartridge shooter, although a few of the old hands were competing elsewhere at a muzzle loading competition at Raton New Mexico. Frank Monikowski

switched classes from Cartridge to Muzzle Loader in order to bring the required number of competitors to that required for individual awards to be given to winners. Thanks for that gesture Frank. Our match opened on "D" range at 200 meters due to the huge crowds of F-Class competitors from around the world who occupied the "C" range, shooting for the world title. We continued on that range shooting at 300m then at 500 yards and 600 yards for the rest of the day on "A" range only to see a pending deluge approach which caused a few the lesser tough to run for cover. I shouldn't say less tough but rather just mere mortals who decided before hand to not drown again after the epic down pour experienced last year. One stock split from swelling last year. Since these rifles sport some exquisite wood and sights, the risk was deemed not worth repeating.

Back in 1967 there was a small core group of men that reintroduced the black powder program to the DCRA to celebrate Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Those dedicated souls did not have the resources currently available to us today, and from conversations with a couple of the remaining men, I learned they had to start from scratch to relearn the secrets lost after smokeless powder became the rage. Components were nearly impossible to obtain. About the only things available were 45-70 cases, primers, bullet moulds, and black powder. They even had to bring a gunner's quadrant to the range to figure trajectories. I have no idea what trials and tribulations they underwent to control fouling, load the cases, etc. but they did arrive at one conclusion, the 45-70 needed more horse power to be effective at 1000 yards. They settled on mixing smokeless powder with black powder to boost velocities. As I understand it,



Cody Hicks, overall Grand Aggregate Cartridge Class Winner receiving his award from past Black Powder Match Director Chris Jones.

# BLACK POWDER 2017

they used very strong rifles built by Ruger. Today with gong shoots all over the United States, manufacturers became attuned to the requirements which virtually eliminated the need for duplex loads. Offshore firearms became available in numbers unimaginable. Component manufacturers likewise did in the U.S. as Silhouette competitions sprang up drawing hundreds of new BP shooters into the game. The Shiloh Rifle Company currently in Big Timber Montana could not keep up with demands. Probably two of the early characters involved in the sport did more than most to get this newest craze roaring, namely Mike Venturino and Steve Garbe, there were others of course, but these two come to my mind. One wrote volumes, the other invented a lubricant to keep the rifles shooting. The rest is history.

Fifty years after the reintroduction of the black powder program at the DCRA, I learned that one gentleman of the original group lived close to the Connaught Range. I speak of Major Donald Holmes, Ret'd. This 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Canada was the reason for our hosting the world F-class event, but our black powder gang saw a welcome addition to benefit our little group as well. We introduced a special prize for the Canadians in the form of an all-Canadian trophy for the Canadian Black Powder Target Rifle Champion. Last winter some trophies came up for a sale at the PQRA, one of which was purchased for this new prize. I speak of the Royal Rifles of Canada Challenge Cup. It seemed auspicious for the 150<sup>th</sup> year since Confederation. Many shooting ranges across the North American continent require residence in those regions for the winners to be eligible for awards, but no such prize existed for the high scoring Canadian, thus the new trophy. I had Don invited to present this award 50 years after he helped start the program.

Our muzzle loaders made some very respectable scores this year, equal to cartridge rifles in fact. We had three of them shooting original rifles, albeit not totally equipped with original sighting equipment, but still reminiscent of the era. To me, the most fascinating part was seeing these shooters score as high as cartridge shooters, and more importantly, as fast. They did not hold up the show.



The Royal Rifles of Canada Cup

There were no scoped rifles present, although a special class exists for such.

The long range events took place next day. Winds were, well, typical of Connaught, meaning real tricky. We saw subtle changes that resulted in some genuine guess work on the part of the shooters. Slight changes in head, cross and tail winds made it a challenge to stay on paper let alone manage the high scores the stronger competitors shot. But that in itself is the key to winning.



## BLACK POWDER 2017

Reading the wind and either making fast corrections, or waiting in hope of duplicating conditions became the norm without delaying the event.

On Sunday we mixed up the crowd based on scores, keeping the three teams as equal as possible for our "International Team Match". Years ago the teams consisted of "us un's 'n' them un's" meaning Canadians and Americans. We got tired of being thrashed soundly so mixed up everyone to make the teams truly international. "Old age and treachery will overcome youth and skill". Works every time. This made it more fun for everyone, the stronger shooters thus spread around to assist the weaker ones. We had three teams of seven each and enjoyed the close comradery of fellow shooters. I cannot state strongly enough just how close we all are regardless of which side of the border we hail from. BP is in our blood and enjoyed equally.



Black Powder Match Director Sandy Post receiving a medal from DCRA Executive Director Don Haisell at the Black Powder Awards Ceremony.

I would like to offer my congratulations to three special winners this year. The overall Grand Aggregate Cartridge Class winner was Cody Hicks. This represents two years in a row for Cody. The Grand Aggregate Muzzle loading Class was Ray Hopkins, new to Connaught. The winner of the Canadian BP Target Rifle Championship Prize was Ken Pearcey. Great shooters, best to you all.



The Motley Crew

**CANADIAN BLACK POWDER CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017**

	<b>CARTRIDGE</b>	<b>MUZZLE LOADERS</b>
WILF BLACK 200 M	Cody Hicks 47-2v	Frank Monikowski, 32-1v, Honours only
VICTORIAN 300 M	Cody Hicks 45-3v	Ray Hopkins 37-0v
CREEDMOOR 500 Yards	Cody Hicks 49-1v	Ray Hopkins 41-1v
WIMBLEDON 600 Yards	Cody Hicks 43-2v	Frank Monikowski 44-2v
BP-700 M	Clayton Grove 44-2v	Ray Hopkins 45-2v
LONG RANGE 800 M	Ken Pearcey 46-2v	Frank Monikowski 45-2v
BP-1000 (900M)	Cody Hicks 43-0v	Ray Hopkins 38-0v

Short Range Aggregate (300m 500y 600y)

Cody Hicks 137-6v	Ray Hopkins 119-1v
-------------------	--------------------

Long Range Aggregate (700m 800m 900m)

Ken Pearcey 127 3-v	Ray Hopkins 127-4v
---------------------	--------------------

LOYALIST CUP (TEAM 300m 500y 600y)

**Directors Cut 369-13v** Chris Jones 117-3v, Frank Monikowski 115-4v, Cody Hicks 137-6v

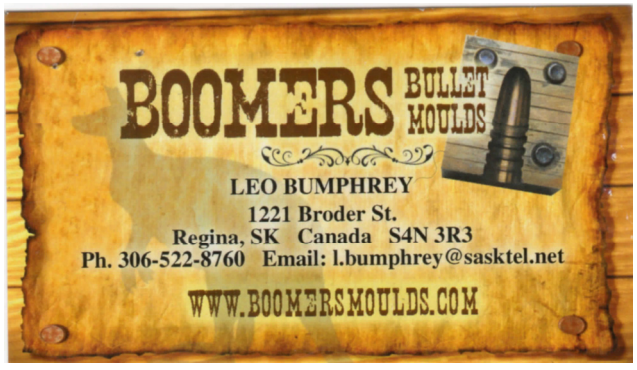
RANGER CUP (TEAM 700M 800M 900M)

**Directors Cut 365 9-v** Chris Jones 115-2v, Frank Monikowski 123-6v, Cody Hicks 127 -1v

**Cartridge Rifles Grand Champion**, Cody Hicks, 264-7v, Gold Plaque & the North American Trophy  
 Ken Pearcey, 247-6v Silver Plaque  
 John Stamp, 234-5v Bronze Plaque

**Muzzle Loading Rifles Grand Champion**, Ray Hopkins, 246-5v, Gold Plaque & the Quaiche Cup  
 David Munch, 240-3v Silver Plaque  
 Frank Monikowski, 238-10v Bronze Plaque

**Black Powder Target Rifle Canadian Champion** Ken Pearcey, 247-6v The Royal Rifles of Canada  
 Trophy & Gold Badge  
 John Stamp 234-5v Silver Badge  
 Gerald Bergeron, M.D. 234-1v Bronze Badge



## 6th ANNUAL F-CLASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

With competitors from around the globe arriving at Connaught for the 2017 F-Class World Championships the 2017 F-Class Nationals were understandably our largest yet, with 350 competitors registered.

We offered a squadded practice on the day ahead of the match, which was quite well attended, and provided an excellent training opportunity for some of our new markers. Shooting began in earnest on Aug 8, with 2 days of individual competition, followed by a day of team competitions.

In the individual events Kevin Chou of Aurora, ON won his 2<sup>nd</sup> straight National Championship in F-TR. Rhys Ireland of Etobicoke, ON won the F-Open National Championship, becoming our youngest ever National Champion at 17. In the team events Australia took the win in our 8 man International Team Match, which boasted teams from 7 countries. In the Lum Team matches the US teams coached by Nancy Tompkins (F-Open) and Bryan Litz (F-TR) took the wins. We were very honoured to be joined at the FCNC prize giving by George Farquharson's sons Colin & Brian for George's official induction into the DCRA Builder Hall of Fame.

*Scott Bissett  
Match Director, FCNC*

### CANADIAN F-CLASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND AGGREGATE

Kevin Chou	F/TR	426 30v	Rhys Ireland	F/O	434 30v
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### CANADIAN BISLEY AGGREGATE

Kevin Chou	F/TR	426 30v	Rhys Ireland	F/O	434 30v
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### SIERRA LONG RANGE CHALLENGE AGGREGATE

Jeff Rorer	F/TR	215 15v	Rod Davies	F/O	222 25v
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	<u>F/TR</u>		<u>F/O</u>	
<b>SIERRA LONG RANGE CHALLENGE I</b>	Simon Gambling	75V11	Emil Kovan	75V12
<b>SIERRA LONG RANGE CHALLENGE II</b>	Mark Fletcher	71V3	Jaco Von Tonder	73V6
<b>SIERRA LONG RANGE CHALLENGE III</b>	Jeff Rorer	73V4	Rod Davies	75V10
<b>ARMY &amp; NAVY VETERANS</b>	Kevin Chou	73V5	Tim Nugent	75V9
<b>OTTAWA REGIMENT</b>	Robby Burton	73V5	Vasyl Ivanchenko	75V6
<b>WEDNESDAY 700</b>	Nate Guernsey	75V12	Rhys Ireland	75V7



National Champions Kevin Chou (L) and Rhys Ireland (R) - Photo: Rick Jensen



F-TR Champion Kevin Chou with Colin & Brian Farquharson - Photo: Jenni Hausler

**6th ANNUAL F-CLASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**INTERNATIONAL TEAM MATCH**

- 1. AUSTRALIA 1756 - 137v
- 2. GREAT BRITAIN 1751 - 167v
- 3. SOUTH AFRICA 1749 - 163v
- 4. CANADA 1747 - 151v
- 5. UKRAINE 1699 - 160v
- 6. USA U25 1693 - 123v
- 7. ITALY 1680 - 111v



Team Australia

**LUM TEAM MATCH**

**F-OPEN**  
**USA NANCY**  
**888 - 98v**

Nancy Tompkins  
Shiraz Balolia  
Ken Dickerman  
James Laney  
Pat Scully

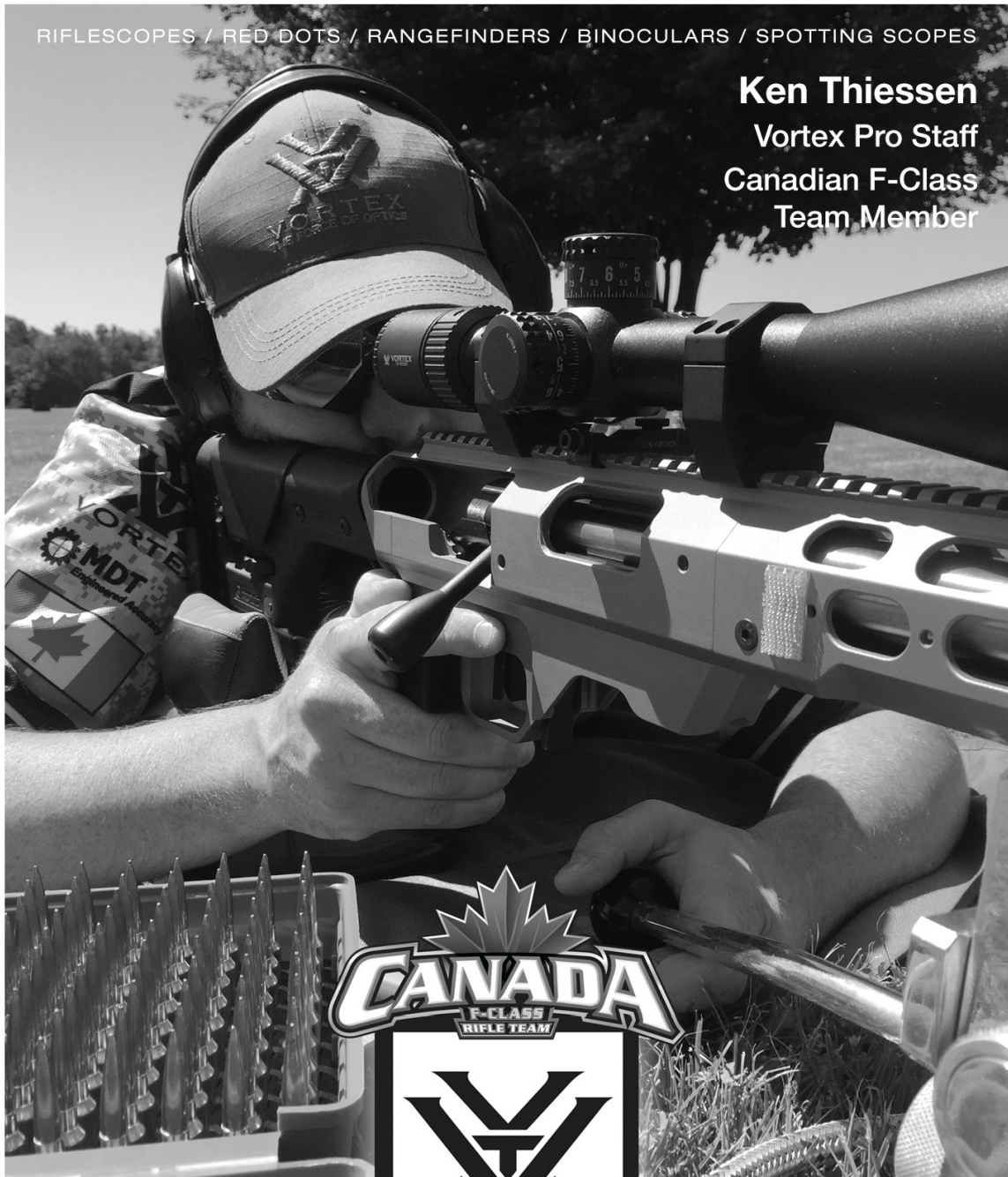
**F-TR**  
**USA LITZ**  
**875 - 71v**

Bryan Litz  
Stan Pate  
Dan Lentz  
Doug Boyer  
Robby Burton  
Monte Milanuk



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Vortex Pro Staff  
Canadian F-Class  
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# 2017 ICFRA F-CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2017 F-Class World Championships boasted a field of 388 competitors from 14 different countries, and were shot over 3 days. Prior the start of shooting the DCRA hosted the International Team Reception at the Brookstreet Hotel ahead of the ICFRA F-Class World Championships kicking off on Aug 12. The reception was well attended and exceptionally well received, with cold beverages provided by Big Rig Brewery and a diverse menu that represented every Canadian province. Our sincere thanks are due to Emil Praslick and Adam Braverman of The Capstone Group (Berger Bullets, Lapua, Vihtavuori Powders) for their generous financial support of this event as the presenting sponsor.

Rod Davies of Australia was crowned World Champion in F-Open, with notable performances by Marc Thibault of Kamloops, BC (6<sup>th</sup>), and Barry Price of Munster, ON (9<sup>th</sup>). In F-TR Derek Rodgers of the USA was victorious, but Canadians performed quite well with Kevin Chou (ON) 2<sup>nd</sup>, Will Chou (ON) 4<sup>th</sup>, Dave Harry (AB) 6<sup>th</sup>, Adam MacDonald (NB) 9<sup>th</sup>, Gerry Wiens (MB) 12<sup>th</sup> and Kenny Proulx (QC) 13<sup>th</sup>. This was by far the strongest performance yet by Canadian shooters at the F-Class World Championships, and we are looking forward to building on that success! Thanks in large part to the lobbying by our organizing committee we were given the honour of declaring the first ever U25 F-Class World Champions, with F-TR being won by Mitchell Fitzpatrick (USA), and Rhys Ireland winning in F-Open.

In the team matches there were 13 National (8 man) teams entered, with 6 in F-Open and 7 in F-TR. In F-Open the Australian team retained their World Championship, with the Canadian team 2<sup>nd</sup>, and USA 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to all the members of our F-Open team! In F-TR the US team continued their dominance with a 3<sup>rd</sup> straight win; Australia came 2<sup>nd</sup> and South Africa 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Canadian team finished just outside the medals, in 4<sup>th</sup>.

In the Rutland Matches (4 man) US teams were again dominant in F-Open with USA Blue winning, defending champions Spindle Shooters in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and USA Red in 3<sup>rd</sup>. In F-TR private teams had much more success with Da Bulls (including Stephen Ireland of ON) winning gold, the mostly Canadian KP Ballistics team (Kenny Proulx, Adam MacDonald, Mark Fletcher, Wade Fillingame, and Scott Bissett) taking silver, and the Bayou Rifles team from Houston, TX in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sincere thanks are due to the DCRA team who worked tirelessly to ensure the event went off without a hitch (mostly).

The end of the ICFRA F-Class World Championships also brought to end the tenure of Kenny Proulx as Chairman of the ICFRA F-Class Committee. I would like to commend Kenny on the passion that he brought to this role and for his leadership in helping to get rules clarified, changed, or added as needed, and for bringing the interests of all countries forward to be heard and discussed. Our sport is in a far better position today than we were four years ago, and that is a testament to Kenny's hard work.

*Scott Bissett  
Match Director, 2017 FCWC*



Rod Davies (AUS), 2017 F-Open World Champion, being presented the MilCun Shield



Photo: Kevin McSparron



Derek Rodgers (USA), 2017 F-TR World Champion

Photo: Kevin McSparron

**2017 ICFRA F-CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**



U25 F-Open World Champion Rhys Ireland (R)

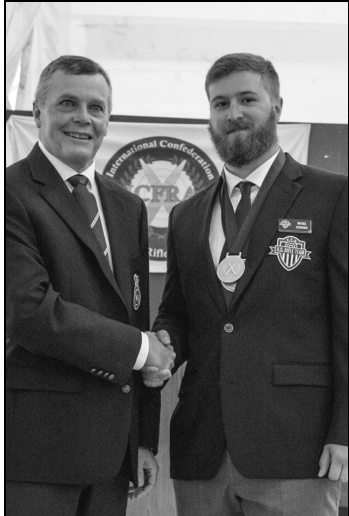


3 Time F-TR World Champions, Team USA

Photo: K. McSparron



2 Time F-Open World Champions , Team Australia



U25 F-TR World Champion, Mitch Fitzpatrick (R)



2017 Rutland Cup (F-Open) Winners, USA Blue

Photo: K. McSparron



2017 Rutland Cup (F-TR) Winners, Da Bulls

Photo: K. McSparron

Thank you to all of our competitors for making this such a great event!

We look forward to seeing everyone in Bloemfontein in 2021!



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**134th DCRA CANADIAN FULLBORE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**H.E. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PRIZE**

Ian Shaw

**THE MACDONALD STEWART GRAND AGGREGATE—CDN OPEN TR CHAMPION**

Ian Shaw

**THE MACDONALD STEWART GRAND AGGREGATE—TOP UNDER 25 CANADIAN WINNER**

Tristan Dalin

**THE CANADIAN TARGET RIFLE CHAMPION**

Fazal Mohideen

**THE CANADIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Fazal Mohideen

**THE DES BURKE TARGET RIFLE AWARD**

Peter Westlake

**THE JOHN C. STACENKO AWARD**

Vincent Tremblay

**THE PATRON'S**

Lindsay Peden

**THE GERRY OUELLETTE AWARD**

George Wright

**THE MAJOR COLIN M. BROWN AWARD**

Jalen Czuba

# 135th DCRA CANADIAN FULLBORE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## OTTAWA REGIMENT

Ian Shaw 75V12

## GOODERHAM

Benjamin Craig 100v17

## ARMY & NAVY VETERANS

Robert Pitcairn 75v8

## TILTON

Sandy Walker 100v18

## CHAMPLAIN AGGREGATE

Chris Weeden 348v47

## SIERRA LONG RANGE I

Jacques Dugas 75v11

## SIERRA LONG RANGE II

Ian Hogg 75v11

## SIERRA LONG RANGE III

Sandy Walker 75v11

## SIERRA LONG RANGE AGG

Ian Hogg 298v35

## MACDOUGALL

Rick Shouler 100v17

## NORMAN BECKETT

Alwyn McLean 100v17

## JOHN C. BRICK

Jon Underwood 100v15

## DICK HAMPTON AGG

Jon Underwood 200V32

## LETSON

*No Results*

## ALEXANDER OF TUNIS

*Rained Out*

## MAJOR COLIN BROWN AGG

Jalen Czuba 148v15

## KLONDIKE AGG

Jon Underwood 300v48

## PRESIDENT'S

John Deane 150v24

## GIL BOA AGG

Ian Shaw 200v26

## GIBSON

Jon Underwood 149v17

## SHORT RANGE AGG

Chloe Evans 200v31

## MAPLE LEAF AGG

Nigel Ball 300v40

## MCCULLOCH

John Deane 498v64

## STREET

Mark Trew 216v16

## GATINEAU

Marcel Kolb 75v10

## GZOWSKI AGGREGATE

Jon Underwood 174v24

## CDN ARMED FORCES TR CHAMP

Peter Westlake 657v59

## POLAR BEAR AGG

Ian Shaw 473v54

## S.J. PERRY

Mark Trew 148v15

## CONNAUGHT AGG

Ron Sekellick 428v34

## MFC WALKER AGG

Jon Underwood 124v15

## JOHN STACENKO AWARD

Vincent Tremblay 783v59

## MILROY AGGREGATE

Jon Underwood 200v32

## CANADIAN LADIES CHAMPION

Nicole Rossignol 823V108

## AGGREGATE OF 21ST CENTURY

Nigel Ball TOP TR 1166v139

Steven Howard TOP EX 998v88

Tristan Dalin TOP SS 1011v90

Matthew Le Vasseur TOP GS 970v67

## ALL COMERS AGG

Nigel Ball 500v71

## TEAMS

### FAMILIES

Les Tremblay 292v22

### SENIOR/UNDER 25 PAIRS

Luke Malcic

Chris Weeden 984v100

### PROVINCIAL

ORA Blue 296v34

### IMPERIAL TOBACCO

Winona Gold 2644v272

### CHAMPION PAIRS

Chloe Evans &

Nigel Ball 1341v173

# 135th DCRA CANADIAN FULLBORE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## CADETS, JUNIORS & UNDER 25

### CDN CADET TR CHAMP

Remi Rousseau 643v58

### CADET BISLEY AGG

Alexandre Fournier 626v51

### BREWERS ASSOCIATE

Maria Gomez 481v32

### CDT/JR OPEN SHORT RANGE

Luke Malcic 486v40

### CDT/JR OPEN TR CHAMPION

William Ross 649v48

### COULTER

Chloe Evans 497v72

### HARRISON

Chloe Evans 172v15

### OTTER

Chloe Evans 669v87

### MICHAEL FARADAY

BCRT 1202v75

### CADET BISLEY AGGREGATE

Alexandre Fournier 626v51

Maria Gomez 625v42

Conrad Nielsen 621v63

Vincent Tremblay 620v51

Florent Carrier 618v45

Kyle Morrison 617v52

Ashlee Tucker 617v43

Joonsik Kim 617v41

Jean-Christophe Voyer 617v41

Jacob Mills 615v38

Jordan Walton 613v45

Lachlan McPherson 611v28

Jonathan Powers 610v46

Darcy Hayden 609v43

Kyla Macdonald 609v36

Jacob Tarnowski 608v38

## INTERNATIONAL TEAM MATCHES

### INT'L UNDER 25 LONG RANGE

GB U-25 773v61

### INT'L UNDER 25 SHORT RANGE

Canada U-25 1167v112

### COMMONWEALTH

GB 1190V125

### LANSDOWNE

British Army 595v67

### OUTLANDER

GBRT 1154v116

### CANADA MATCH

GBRT 1198V158

## INTERPROVINCIAL TEAM MATCHES

### COATES

ATPQ / PQRA 1004v70

### LONDON MERCHANTS

ORA Blue 282v21

## MACDONALD STEWART GRAND AGGREGATE

### MACDONALD STEWART GRAND AGG

Ian Shaw 673v83

### TOP GS - WESTHEAD TROPHY

Michael Larcombe 644v57

### TOP SS - STRACHAN TROPHY

Tristan Dalin 659v59

### TOP EX - ROYAL RIFLES TROPHY

Barry Langille 657v53

### HIGH U25 CDN - W.M. STEWART AWARD

Tristan Dalin 659v59

### MS GRAND AGG-FF

Paul Reibin 593v69

### TOP LADY-TESS SPENCER AWARD

Chloe Evans 669v87

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FINAL - 2017

1. Ian Shaw	300v36	26. Robert Pitcairn	295v27
2. Kent Reeve	300v33	27. Mike Barlow	295v25
3. Des Vamplew	300v33	28. Paul Dudzinski	294v29
4. Chloe Evans	299v41	29. Stephen Hunt	294v24
5. Fazal Mohideen	299v40	30. Jon Underwood	293v38
6. Sandy Walker	299v39	31. Reg Roberts	293v35
7. Edward Dickson	299v36	32. Ken Nelson	293v29
8. Nigel Ball	299v35	33. Jalen Czuba	293v28
9. Lindsay Peden	299v31	34. Terry Glenn	293v25
10. Chris Weeden	299v26	35. Alwyn Mclean	292v28
11. Dave Rose	298v37	36. Bruce Bullock	292v28
12. Angus McLeod	298v34	37. Peter Westlake	292v27
13. Geoff Woodman	298v34	38. Steve Hardin	292v23
14. Richard Birtwhistle	297v33	39. Tristan Dalin	292v22
15. Paul Wheeler	297v32	40. James Paton	291v27
16. Don Pitcairn	297v30	41. Nick Healy	291v26
17. Marcel Kolb	297v29	42. Bianca Fung	291v25
18. Rob Kitson	297v29	43. Michael Wong Shui	291v24
19. Mark Trew	297v28	44. Ian Hogg	290v24
20. Barry Langille	297v26	45. J.J. Jackson	290v24
21. John Deane	296v42	46. James Cook	289v18
22. Rick Shouler	296v35	47. Nicole Rossignol	287v22
23. George Wright	296v28	48. Jeffrey Jenkins	285v22
24. Tom Rylands	295v32	49. John Marshall	284v24
25. Chris Mitchell	295v28		



2017 Governor General's Final qualifiers

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FINAL - 2017



2017 Gov's winner Ian Shaw being chaired off the range



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**MATCH BULLETS IN STOCK**



## 2017 CANADIAN TARGET RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP

1 Fazal Mohideen	ON	818v102	26 Johan Sauer	BC	793v62
2 Desmond Vamplew	ON	818v91	27 Steven Spinney	ON	793v60
3 Geoff Woodman	NL	818v88	28 Scott Murray	ON	793v58
4 Don Pitcairn	BC	814v85	29 Patrick Champagne	ON	793v49
5 Ken Nelson	AB	811v81	30 Gary Bowman	ON	792v46
6 Robert Pitcairn	BC	810v80	31 Jalen Czuba	ON	791v67
7 George Wright	ON	807v77	32 Kyle Dauncey	ON	790v55
8 Michael Wong Shui	ON	805v75	33 John Marshall	NS	788v59
9 Marcel Kolb	NS	804v89	34 Jeffrey Jenkins	NS	787v72
10 Barry Langille	NS	804v69	35 Scott McGinnis	ON	785v47
11 Nicole Rossignol	QC	803v76	36 Serge Bissonnette	ON	784v58
12 Paul Dudzinski	BC	803v68	37 Stan Frost	SK	782v69
13 Ian Hogg	PE	802v88	38 Gian Garro	ON	782v45
14 Gary Cassidy	ON	802v65	39 Amy Peters	ON	782v43
15 Stepen Hunt	ON	801v71	40 Ric Melling	HK	781v56
16 Bruce Bullock	ON	801v70	41 Thomas Maynard	ON	777v58
17 Peter Westlake	ON	801v68	42 Emma McGinnis	ON	775v42
18 Pierre Tremblay	QC	801v65	43 Thomas Jones	BC	773v45
19 Tristan Dalin	BC	800v70	44 Marc Landreville	ON	770v39
20 Paul Tremblay	QC	798v66	45 Stephen Lyman	ON	763v47
21 Bernard Pepin	ON	798v61	46 Karyline Wathier	ON	751v40
22 James Paton	BC	797v78	47 John Chapman	MB	745v39
23 Bianca Fung	ON	795v75	48 Peter Redstone	AB	739v36
24 Mathew Makin	ON	794v67	49 Peter Papasideris	AB	732v35
25 Gale Stewart	QC	793v62	50 Roger Mullin	ON	714v39

## DCRA STATS SHACK

Results from NSCC, the Winter Postal Program,  
Eastern F-Class Regionals, CAFSAC, and NCRRA matches  
will be posted as available on the new website.



[www.dcrastatsshack.ca](http://www.dcrastatsshack.ca)

## NATIONAL SERVICE CONDITIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

The connection between the DCRA and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) reaches back to our beginning in 1868. We were established then to encourage and support rifle shooting while Canada stood up her armed forces. At that time, members of the DCRA whether military or civilian were expected to step up and defend our nation if called upon. Once our military was effectively established, the DCRA continued and continues today to support the marksmanship program of the CAF. PRAs run service conditions matches which allow military members to practice their shooting skills while being coached by some of the best shooters in the country.

The National Service Conditions Championships (NSCC) held at Connaught each year is another great example of the DCRA working with the CAF in a spirit of support and cooperation. The matches are designed to represent the type of shooting required by the military. Many army teams participate as a practice for the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration (CAFSAC). The Range Safety Officer and Butts Officer have traditionally been retired military folks. In the past couple of years, CAFSAC staff have supported NSCC with Assistant Range Officers and Butts NCOs, using the opportunity to learn from the DCRA as they prepare for CAFSAC.

The Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration (CAFSAC) takes place during the first two weeks of September and is planned to end the day before the Army Run. The Army Commander and senior members of the CAF attend the final day which includes the Main Awards Ceremony. Again, the link between the CAF and the DCRA can be seen when the Queen's Medals are awarded. The Regular Force Medal is presented by the Queen's representative in Canada or the senior military officer present. And by royal decree, the Reserve Medal is presented by the President of the DCRA....side by side.

In 2017, the winner of the Reserve Queen's Medal was Corporal David Ferguson of the Nova Scotia Highlanders. The Regular Force Queen's Medalist was Private Johnathan Sobczak, 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, a first-time participant. And the best Ranger in the country was Master Corporal Samuel Coquyt, 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group.

*Don Haisell  
Executive Director*

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# NSCC SERVICE/TACTICAL PISTOL MATCHES

<u>CAF/TYRO</u>		<u>SERIES A</u>		<u>OPEN</u>
		<u>CAF/RCMP</u>		
			<b>MATCH 20</b>	
Cpl J Blackburn	97.004	WO L Foster	100.007	MSG L Espinosa 100.014
			<b>MATCH 21</b>	
Cpl B Hunko	39.000	Cpl D Ferguson	60.011	Rick Katigbak 60.012
			<b>MATCH 22</b>	
Sgt M-E Petitpas	60.009	Bdr J-F Doucet	100.016	M Valcour 100.018
			<b>MATCH 23</b>	
Cpl M Lemoyne	74.008	Bdr J-F Doucet	100.011	Rick Katigbak 100.019
			<b>MATCH 24</b>	
Cpl S Kummer	82.000	Bdr J-F Doucet	100.010	Rick Katigbak 100.014
			<b>MATCH 25</b>	
Cpl J Johnson	46.000	Bdr M Aube	49.001	Richard Poaps 49.003
			<b>MATCH 26</b>	
Cpl G Depenning	94.006	WO L Foster	75.013	J Mabon 76.008
			<b>MATCH 27</b>	
Cpl M Lemoyne	83.004	Bdr J-F Doucet	92.007	MSG L Espinosa 100.011
			<b>MATCH 28</b>	
Cpl S Kummer	141.016	Cpl D Ferguson	150.025	MSG L Espinosa 150.028

		<u>SERIES B</u>		
		<u>CAF/RCMP</u>		
			<b>MATCH 30</b>	
MCpl B Morton	95.007	Sgt D Butts	100.013	MSG L Espinosa 100.015
			<b>MATCH 31</b>	
Sdt M Desbiens	59.003	Cpl J Herriot	60.010	MSG L Espinosa 60.012
			<b>MATCH 32</b>	
Cpl S Kummer	99.010			A Dallaire 100.014
			<b>MATCH 33</b>	
Cpl J Blackburn	98.007	Bdr J-F Doucet	100.011	MSG L Espinosa 100.018
			<b>MATCH 34</b>	
Cpl M Lemoyne	95.006	WO L Foster	100.009	MSG L Espinosa 100.0016
			<b>MATCH 35</b>	
Cpl J Blackburn	43.000	Cpl D Ferguson	50.002	S Caron 50.005
			<b>MATCH 36</b>	
Cpl S Kummer	75.011			MSG L Espinosa 75.015
			<b>MATCH 37</b>	
Cpl B Hunko	69.004	Bdr M Aube	95.011	MSG L Espinosa 99.013
			<b>MATCH 38</b>	
Cpl S Kummer	141.008	Bdr J-F Doucet	149.016	MSG L Espinosa 150.026

		<u>SERIES A AGG MATCHES 20-28</u>		
		<u>CAF/RCMP</u>		
Cpl M Lemoyne	745.056	Bdr J-F Doucet	814.099	A Dallaire 827.114

		<u>SERIES B AGG MATCHES 30-38</u>		
		<u>CAF/RCMP</u>		
Cpl S Kummer	740.061	Bdr J-F Doucet	804.075	MSG L Espinosa 831.128

**MATCH 40 LAST ONE STANDING**  
Alexis Dallaire

<u>CAF/RCMP</u>	<u>SERVICE PISTOL TEAM</u>	<u>OPEN</u>
2 CDN DIV BLUE Cpl Blackburn, Bdr Doucet Cpl Roy, Bdr Aube		LTT Tactical MSG Espinosa, A Dallaire Cpl Flanagan, M Valcour

<u>CAF/RCMP</u>	<u>TYRO CHAMPION</u>	<u>OPEN</u>
Cpl S Kummer		W Gilbey

<u>CAF/RCMP</u>	<u>SERVICE/TACTICAL PISTOL CHAMPION</u>	<u>OPEN</u>
Bdr J-F Doucet		MSG L Espinosa



<b>NSCC PRECISION RIFLE/DESIGNATED MARKSMAN MATCHES</b>
---

**OPEN**

			<b><u>CAF DM</u></b>	
<b>MATCH 60</b>	Perkins, T		Cpl Ferguson, D	
	Bledowski, T	100.013	Cpl Ferguson, E	78.000
<b>MATCH 61</b>	Mike Bird		Pte Esposito, N	
	Dan Pedulla	99.016	Cpl Younger, D	56.001
<b>MATCH 62</b>	Capt Grubin, A		Cpl Ferguson, D	
	Ross, J	93.006	Cpl Ferguson, E	83.006
<b>MATCH 63</b>	Perkins, T		Cpl Ferguson, D	
	Bledowski, T	100.016	Cpl Ferguson, E	84.005
<b>MATCH 64</b>	Foote, G		Sgt Petitpas, M-E	
	Steady, R	97.011	Cpl Buchanon D	70.001
<b>MATCH 65</b>	Otte, X			
	Poaps, R	95.007		
<b>MATCH 66</b>	Foote, G			
	Steady, R	92.007		
<b>MATCH 68</b>	Bissett, S		Cpl D. Ferguson	
	Price, B	95.07	Cpl E. Ferguson	47.003

**TYRO CHAMPION**

Turi, R - Open  
Cpl Johansen - CAF/DM

**INDIVIDUAL PRECISION/SNIPER RIFLE CHAMPION**

Bird, M - Open

**INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED MARKSMAN CHAMPION**

Cpl Ferguson, E - CAF/DM

**PRECISION/SNIPER RIFLE TEAM OF FOUR**

Dominators (Ryan Steady, Graeme Foote, Terry Perkins & Tomasz Bledowski) - Open

**DESIGNATED MARKSMAN TEAM OF FOUR**

5 CAD Div Team A (Cpl D Ferguson, Cpl E Ferguson, Cpl J Cameron, MCpl JH Steele) - CAF/DM

**CANADIAN NATIONAL PRECISION/SNIPER RIFLE PAIRS CHAMPIONS**

Bird, M & Pedulla D - Open

**CANADIAN NATIONAL DESIGNATED MARKSMAN RIFLE PAIRS CHAMPIONS**

Cpl D Ferguson & Cpl E Ferguson - CAF/DM

## NSCC SERVICE RIFLE MATCHES

<u>CAF/TYRO</u>		<u>CAF/RCMP</u>		<u>OPEN</u>	
<b>MATCH 1</b>					
Sgt W Macphee	50.002	Cpl M Garvie	50.005	Capt A Grubin	50.006
<b>MATCH 2</b>					
Sdt M Desbiens	49.006	Cpl D Ferguson	50.004	Cpl E Ferguson	50.006
<b>MATCH 3</b>					
Cpl B Hunko	47.004	Bdr J-F Doucet	49.005	Cpl P Marcoux	49.006
<b>MATCH 4</b>					
Cpl S Kummer	50.002	Cpl E Ferguson	50.006	Cpl J Cameron	50.007
<b>MATCH 5</b>					
Tpr DS Lees	48.003	Mcpl A Afonso	50.005	B Bolivar	50.006
<b>MATCH 6</b>					
Sdt M Desbiens	50.005	CplC D Plourde	50.006	R Steacy	50.009
<b>MATCH 7</b>					
Cpl M Lemoyne	50.003	Cpl J Cameron	50.003	Cpl BJAH Gancz	50.006
<b>MATCH 8</b>					
Cpl B Hunko	49.002	Cpl JF Tornini	50.003	Cpl P Marcoux	50.006
<b>MATCH 9</b>					
Sgt M-E Petitpas	49.006	Cpl C Chevrier	49.006	Ryan Steacy	50.007
<b>MATCH 10</b>					
Cpl M Lemoyne	48.002	Bdr M Aube	48.004	Ryan Steacy	50.007
<b>MATCH 11</b>					
CplC J-B Fortin	48.003	Sgt T Nault	49.004	Ryan Steacy	50.006
<b>MATCH 12</b>					
Sdt N Soucy	49.003			Cpl C Chevrier	50.003
<b>MATCH 13</b>					
MCpl R Kennedy	49.006			S Caron	50.006
<b>MATCH 14</b>					
Cpl JM Robillard	46.001	Cpl G Roy	47.001	S Caron	50.004
<b>MATCH 15</b>					
Spr B D'Souza	48.001			Ryan Steacy	50.005
<b>MATCH 16</b>					
Capt RA Brown	47.005			Cpl JF Tornin	50.004
<b>MATCH 17</b>					
Pte DAB Munroe	226.011			Cpl E Ferguson	240.020

## NSCC SERVICE RIFLE MATCHES

<u>CAF/TYRO</u>		<u>CAF/RCMP</u>		<u>OPEN</u>	
		<b>DELIBERATE</b>			
Sgt W Macphee	188.007	Cpl M Garvie	197.016	B Bolivar	198.021
		<b>SNAP AGG</b>			
Cpl Y Melancon	184.009	Cpl G Roy	185.013	S Caron	196.015
		<b>RAPID AGG</b>			
Cpl M Lemoyne	178.011	Cpl T Nault	186.012	R Steacy	195.018
		<b>FIRE &amp; MOVE</b>			
Cpl KH Hanak	187.008	Cpl JF Tornini	196.015	A Grubin	186.014
		<b>200 PHASE AGG</b>			
Cpl JM Robillard	182.006	Cpl P Marcoux	196.017	S Caron	192.019
		<b>300 PHASE AGG</b>			
Sdt N Soucy	186.008	Cpl JF Tornini	195.016	R Steacy	196.020
		<b>400 PHASE AGG</b>			
Sdt N Soucy	182.007	Cpl P Marcoux	187.010	R Steacy	198.024
		<b>500 PHASE AGG</b>			
Cpl M Lemoyne	172.007	WO L Foster	180.009	S Caron	193.013
		<b>STAGE 1 AGG</b>			
Sdt Soucy	706.028	Cpl Tornini	740.045	R Steacy	763.070
		<b>STAGE 2 AGG</b>			
Capt RA Brown	182.007	CplC S Masse	189.010	Capt A Grubin	189.016

### CANADIAN NATIONAL SERVICE CONDITIONS RIFLE CHAMPION

**CAF/RCMP**  
Cpl E Ferguson

**OPEN**  
Ryan Steacy

### CANADIAN NATIONAL THREE GUN CHAMPION

Richard Poaps

### SERVICE RIFLE 4 MAN TEAM

#### 2 CAN DIV GREEN

Bdr Doucet  
Sdt Soucy  
Cpl Chevrier  
CplC Masse

#### Rocky Mountain Oysters

Bryan Bolivar  
Sylvain Caron  
Rick Katigbak  
Ryan Steacy

### DES BURKE AWARD

Cpl P Marcoux

### FALLING PLATES

#### 2 CAN DIV RES TEAM 1

S-Lt Bouffard-Pepin  
Cpl Roux

Cpl Tornini  
Cpl Marcoux

**NSCC 2017**



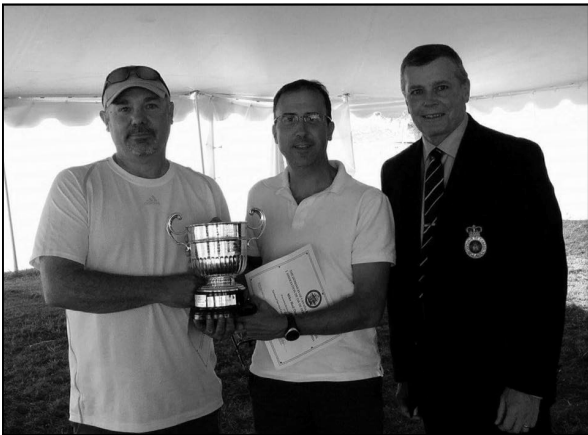
Bryan Bolivar during the Service Pistol events



Sgt. Jay Lajoie shooting "Strong Hand Only"



Rick Katigbak counting up the score



Precision Rifle Champions Mike Bird and Dan Padulla



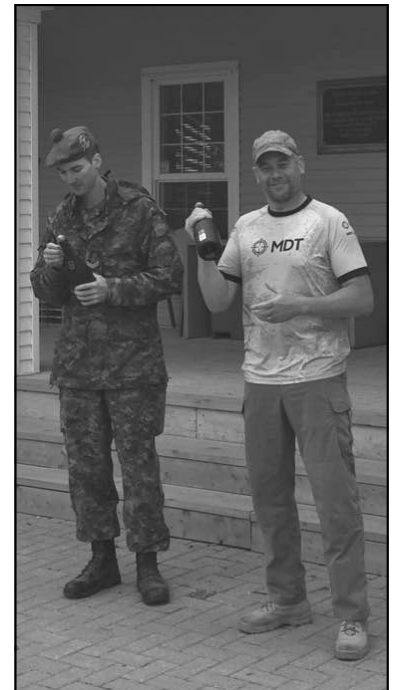
Graeme Foote during Precision Rifle



CAF members shooting alongside civilians



Four of the Top 5 in Service Rifle - Open



CAF SR Champion Cpl E. Ferguson with 4-Time National Champion Ryan Steacy

CAFSAC 2017



Photos courtesy of the Department of National Defence

# CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

## Announcements

**Commonwealth Games, Birmingham, UK, 2022.** At this time, it is still not known whether there will any shooting events at all, or, if there are, whether Fullbore shooting will be included.

### **Elections for and appointments of Team Officers:**

#### **DCRA Canadian Bisley Team 2019**

Commandant: Mr. Paul Reibin

Adjutant: MGen (Ret'd) Ed Fitch

#### **DCRA Canadian Bisley Team 2020**

Nominations have been requested for the positions of Commandant and Adjutant of the 2020 Bisley Team. Please note that, while the Nominators and Seconders must be members of DCRA Council, any full Canadian member of the DCRA is eligible for nomination and election. Nomination forms may be obtained from the DCRA Office or downloaded from the DCRA web site.

#### **ICFRA World Long Range Championships, New Zealand, January 2019.**

Palma Team, Captain: Mr. Fazal Mohideen

Adjutant: Mr. Peter Dobell

Veterans Team Captain: Mr. Serge Bissonnette

Under 25 Team Captain: Miss Emma McGinnis

#### **F-Class World Championships, South Africa, 2021**

Captain: Mr. Scott Bissett

Adjutant: Dr. Adrian Robertson

**At the DCRA Council Meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018, nominations were requested and appointments made for the following positions of Team Captain at the 2018 Canadian National Championships:**

Canada Match:

Commonwealth Match:

America Match (TR): Mr. Fazal Mohideen

Veterans Matches: Mr. Serge Bissonnette

Under 25 Matches: Ms Emma McGinnis

America Match (F Class): Mr. Scott Bissett

Other F-Class International Matches: Mr. Scott Bissett

#### **Review of International Teams Priorities**

The passing of Jim Thompson has created the need for a review and update of the DCRA's policies and procedures for International Teams.

The Executive Committee has mandated that the revamped Committee review the DCRA's priorities for International Teams – with regards to types of events, performance and funding. There will be reports on this in the future.

## CANADIAN U25 TEAM TO 2019 LRWC UPDATE

The Canadian U-25 Rifle Team to the 2019 World Championships was finalized in February 2018. As the team Captain, I am very pleased to announce the following team members: Daphnée Brais (QC), Elijah Clarke (BC), Jalen Czuba (ON), Tristan Dalin (BC), Kyle Dauncey (ON), Rachel Dunn (BC), Thomas Jones (BC), Amber King (NL) and Rémi Rousseau (QC). The team will be travelling to New Zealand in January/February of 2019 and will compete in the WRA, Masfield/Belt Series, the Individual U25 Long Range World Championships (LRWC) and the U25 LRWC Team Match. Given the geographic restraints with team members spread across the country, our opportunities to train together are limited, but an in-depth training plan has been developed for team members to follow. Fortunately, most of the team will be attending the 2018 CFRC where we will be competing in the International Short and Long Range Matches as well as the U25 America Match.

I would like thank very much those TR and F-Class shooters from across Canada who continue to make themselves available to provide advice and guidance, and assist with training team members – your efforts are very much appreciated! I also want to extend our sincere gratitude to the individual TR and F-Class shooters as well as the PRAs who have provided sponsorship or donations to-date. Finally, a big shout out to Scott Bissett, Captain of the 2021 F-Class World Championship Team, for designing the team logo that provides a foundation for our team and supporters to rally around – it really means a lot to us and puts us on par with other international U-25 teams.

Given the high costs associated with travelling to New Zealand, significant efforts are being made to raise funds for the team. If you are interested in supporting the Canadian U-25 Rifle Team through corporate sponsorship or personal donations, please don't hesitate to contact me at [emma.mcginnis@hotmail.com](mailto:emma.mcginnis@hotmail.com) or the DCRA office. Your support would not only ease the financial burden of travelling to New Zealand, but it would assist us in promoting U-25 shooters across Canada for years to come. I also encourage everyone to follow our journey on Facebook (@CanadianU25RifleTeam), Instagram (canadianu25rifleteam) or our website [www.canadau25.ca](http://www.canadau25.ca).

We look forward to sharing our shooting experiences with you over the next year!

*Emma McGinnis  
U-25 Team Captain, 2019 LRWC*

## CANADIAN F-CLASS RIFLE TEAM UPDATE

As we begin the transition into the next cycle of our national team program we wanted to make sure to send out some well deserved thank you messages.

To our sponsors: Sierra Bullets, Vortex Optics, Bartlein Barrels, SEB Rests, Fierce Firearms, TargetVision, and Berger Bullets, thank you for your tremendous support over the last several years.

To our team leadership; Eric Bisson, Dr. Adrian Robertson, Brian Mylleville, Kevin & Will Chou, Jonathan Laître, Richard Dreger and senior advisors Don Hall and Gorg Ogg thank you for the incredible amount of work you put into getting the team prepared to compete with the very best in the world. Our national team program is stronger than ever, and this is a direct result of your efforts. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to Adrian for agreeing to stay on in his role as Adjutant for this next cycle; it's great to have some continuity as the leadership changes over and I know Adrian's knowledge and people skills will be a tremendous asset to our team.

For anyone looking to find out more about the F-Class National Team please contact me at [2021fcteam@dcra.ca](mailto:2021fcteam@dcra.ca), or you can follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cdnfclass](http://www.facebook.com/cdnfclass)) or Instagram ([/cdnfclassteam](https://www.instagram.com/cdnfclassteam)).

*Scott Bissett  
2021 Canadian F-Class Rifle Team*

## 2017 BISLEY TEAM

Serving as commandant of a Bisley rifle team is always a mixed blessing, always an honour but not always a pleasure all the time.. Having said that, this year's team was a genuine pleasure to lead and had remarkable cohesiveness when compared to many teams of which I have been a member. Upon reflection in the aircraft as I flew home the positive points far overshadowed the negative.

The first exercise a commandant goes through is building the team in the first place. Given the shallow base of TR shooters presently in Canada that means almost every known elite shooter will be approached as recruitment does tend to go well off the traditional aggregates in the CFRC and this was no less the case this year. Bisley teams compete for the same core group as all our other teams meaning shooters have to prioritize their team preferences. The team did not completely flesh out until January with many, many hours spent on the phone and email cajoling people to sign on and even then the usual pre trip attrition due to business, personal and health matters took place removing three people at that time. In the end the team consisted of a total of twenty-five including a non-shooting adjutant and head coach. Five team members this year were women, which definitely set some kind of DCRA record.

Dave Adams of BC agreed to take on the role of Adjutant and Alain Marion of Quebec took on head coaching duties without hesitation. No other specific coaching or team shooting roles were assigned before we arrived in the UK. A committee of experienced (and, I might add, opinionated) shooters assigned all roles in team matches. This committee met nightly in the commandant's quarters before each team match. With the numbers of team members that we had everyone was involved in every team match. I was very pleased to find that everyone undertook their duties, regardless of the glamour or lack thereof, with enthusiasm and proficiency. Being a register keeper for another team is certainly not a glamorous position but even this and the roles of sight checker, mound manager and so on were carried out without hesitation or complaint. I am very proud of my team. The adage that there is no "I" in team certainly applied to this group.

An initiative of assigning each shooter to a mentor (four each), who also served on the selection committee, was undertaken this year. The thought being that the mentor could not only help shooters with their technical issues (and there were some, mostly related to triggers and Rule 150 nonsense), advise on shooting related questions but also, by reviewing each shooter's plots or digital photos of plotomatic records of individual matches, an informed opinion of each shooter's potential in a team shoot could be formed with more accuracy than simply reviewing scores on the main scorecard. I would strongly recommend this initiative be continued in future years and that a spreadsheet be designed to gather data even more thoroughly. The privacy of the commandant's quarters affords a good venue for such meetings. As commandant I chaired this meeting and only voted once to break a very difficult tie. I believe more benefit can be obtained from this process once it catches on and becomes a routine.

I made reference above to five women on the team as being notable – a larger number than ever before. Four of these women had never served on a senior Bisley team but brought their experiences as cadet shooting instructors and former Cadet NRT members with them. I can say without hesitation that in individual shooting they acquitted themselves extraordinarily well despite their relative lack of experience and pushed the rest of us to up our game. Nicole Rossignol had had experience on the team some two decades ago and performed exactly as we had come to expect from her shooting over the past few years, making the Queens Final to boot. All of these women served on one or more of the major team match teams. Catherine Choquette, an Ottawa based university student, won the Duke of Cambridge match at 900 yards with a perfect score of 50.10, the only one on the entire range that day. This proved to be the only individual match win for the team and we are very proud of her. It can be said that the presence of these women on the team had a very positive influence and I hope that on teams to come significant female and U25 components become the norm. They raised the mood of all, brought incredible positive mindset and nonstop action to the team. Personally I was exhausted just watching the energy. Once a team shoot was under way they proved to be perfect team shooters with focus that was a marvel to behold. I certainly hope that in future years they and other women will join the team in groups like this, as it certainly was an unexpected surprise. All were unknown quantities to the team officials and proved to be the subject of many a discussion over team selection meetings. In the end for most team shoots it came down to, "Who are we going to add to our core of lady shooters to make a full team?"

The usual team to the North was sent this year under Scott Murray's leadership and while we did not win this match the team acquitted themselves well both on the range and socially. Due to range availability issues the Wales tour did not take place, a great loss to those shooters who year after year have enjoyed Welsh hospitality and competition.. We shot vs the Welsh concurrently with our shoot against the Barbarians, both matches being victories. It serves no purpose to dwell on team matches that did not go as well (North London and BCRC) but the Overseas match did indeed go well with a win. It had been some time since the Bisley



team had won a major international event at Bisley and this was the year to return to the feeling that we own the Overseas match (there's the challenge for 2018). The win showed our coaching staff at their best – Alain was pleased. As it turns out things are changing in the UK and availability of reasonably priced range time is becoming problematic as the military raise their prices. The RAF match very nearly did not take place at all this year and was in the end contested on Century range late in the day, again another win. Negotiations to make this match a reality took many months and for some time did not look promising. We are grateful that the match did finally come off and cope that it will in future years.

Once again we found the Pavilion in the best of shape on arrival, thanks to Theresa and her crew, and had the advantage this year of not having to compete for room availability with the Canadian Forces rifle team. A less stressful time was had by all. A report was prepared by Peter Dobell reviewing the fire safety issues that are unique to our pavilion and this has been submitted to the Pavilion Board for consideration. Certain social affairs have been conducted as routine, such as our annual Reception on the first weekend, and were again this year. Attendance this year seemed a little bit down from recent years, perhaps reflecting the tendency for shooters to abstain from enthusiastic alcohol (ab)use during serious competitions. It may be that it is time to review how this reception is managed in the years to come.

When all the dust settled and the books were done the team members received comfortable rebates from their assessments in time for Christmas shopping. Certain decisions made by the team officers ensured that the finances were wrapped up in a more timely manner than of late. We recommend that these procedures be followed in the future.

A special thanks is owed to our adjutant, Dave Adams, who managed all the financial and administrative affairs of the team, giving up his opportunity to shoot in order to do so. Dave and I observe that there is a great advantage in having the adjutant of one year's team go on to serve as the commandant of the next. While it would be unreasonable to insist that this be the case it certainly could be set as a goal.

Duty done.

*Roger Mullin  
2017 Bisley Team Commandant*



*REAR ROW* John Chapman   Bernie Pepin   Gary Bendik   Gale Stewart   Steven Spinney   Stefan Fielding-Isaacs   Jeff Jenkins   Peter Dobell   Leo Poulin  
*CENTRE ROW* Serge Bissonnette   Stan Frost   Bianca Fung   Mary Patrick   Nicole Rossignol   Amy Peters   Catherine Choquette   Anthony Betts   Fazal Mohideen  
*FRONT ROW* Scott Murray   Jim Paton   Paul Dudzinski   Dave Adams   Roger Mullin   Alain Marion   Peter Westlake   Mike Wong Shui  
Coach   Adjutant   Commandant   Head Coach   Coach   Coach

## HORNADY MATCH AMMO - AN EVALUATION

At the last CFRC some competitors reported having issues with the Hornady 155 A-Max Match ammunition purchased from the DCRA. As I have been a competitive shooter since 1987, reloading since 1988 and have loaded over 100,000 rounds of match grade ammunition, I was asked to evaluate it. I purchased a box of the DCRA's Lot #31500018 for my evaluation.

Before shooting the ammo, I disassembled all 20 rounds, without removing primers from cases, and made the following determinations:

- It was loaded to a length below SAAMI/CIP specs (magazine length) and was all less than 2.8 inches or 71 millimeters.
- The average weight of the loaded rounds was 369 grains.
- The average weight of the bullet was 154.9 grains.
- The powder was a medium-size extruded stick powder similar in appearance to IMR 4895 and the average powder charge was 45.22 grains with an extreme spread of .2 grains for thrown charges.
- The unprimed cases, after firing, averaged 164 grains and it was noted that the primers were crimped-in with a circular, military-style crimp. A crimped-in primer renders the brass not reloadable until de-crimped.
- The ogive placement of the 155 A-MAX was such that it jumped 0.095-inch in a standard .308 Winchester chamber, 0.065-inch in a Bisley 150 chamber, or 0.035-inch in a USA Palma chamber.

Once the ammo was reassembled 10 rounds were fired from a bench in a scoped FN-SPR (.300/.308) barrel at 100 yards for a group size and function. It shot less than a ½-inch group for the 10 shots. The remaining 10 rounds were shot from a bench in a Kreiger tight-bore (.298/.3065) barrel fullbore rifle for function only. There was no sign of high pressure (easy bolt-lift, rounded primer edges, primers still intact, no cratering) in either rifle.

My testing indicated that there is nothing wrong with the Hornady 155 A-MAX Match ammo being sold by the DCRA. If there are people having trouble with it, it could possibly be related to rifle chamber dimensions and/or incompatibility caused by mixing powders which could cause a carbon ring. The Hornady ammunition that I shot was fired behind a well-fouled barrel using Varget. For any who might be interested, I will have the fired casings with me at the 2018 CFRC for your own observation and discussion.

*Steve Hardin  
Coach, US National Team*

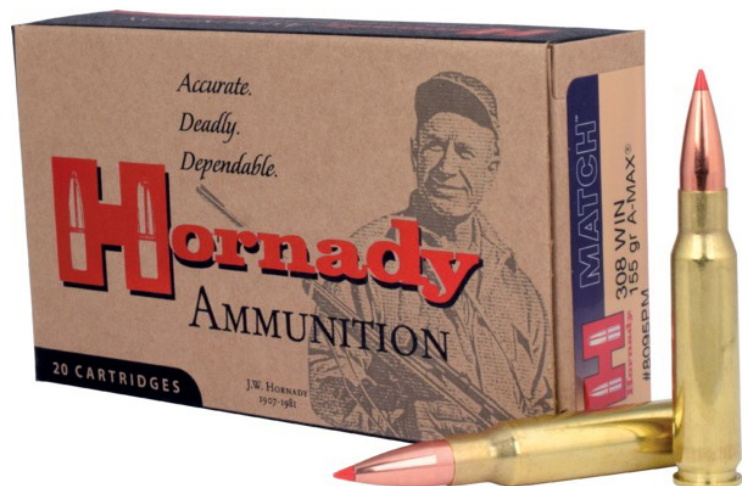
## HORNADY MATCH AMMUNITION

155gr A-Max

~~\$2 /rnd~~

**\$1.75 /rnd**

Please contact DCRA office for details

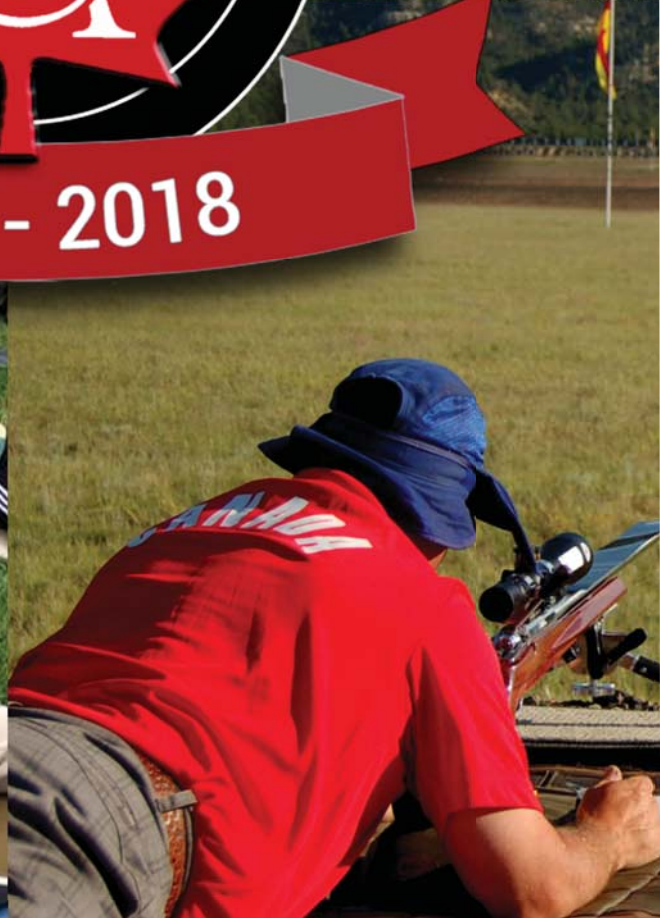




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