

The Connecticut Marksman January 2021



The Official Journal
of the
Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association
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A Message From the President

Welcome to the reintroduction January 2021 edition of the Quarterly CSRRA Newsletter. Oh, what a 2020 it has been! From quarantines to lockdowns to social distancing, we have come to realize how important our family, friends and acquaintances are to our well-being.

I look forward to my first year as President. I give you my commitment to make sure we focus on creating an association which will bring the fun and enjoyment of the shooting sports to everyone.

The goals of the association in 2021 will be to grow Membership, outreach to CT Clubs and Associations, create Association Driven Benefits such as discounts at Sporting Stores i.e. BassPro, Cabela's etc., create Incentives to join CSRRA, and survey membership to address needs and growth areas.

CSRRA is moving to an online community and the need to gather all members' emails and additional contact info for renewal, announcements, and important updates.

I feel with increasing our membership we can grow the shooting sports community with education, promoting a positive image and sharing the excitement of being a "responsible firearms owner".

If you have questions/concerns/issues, please feel free to contact me at president@thecsrra.org

Of course, feel free to forward this newsletter. To our past members will look forward to you re-joining and being part of the CSRRA.

Anthony G Cicchetti, President

About the Connecticut Rifle and Revolver Association

The Connecticut Rifle and Revolver Association (CSRRA) was formed in 1927 with the objectives of promoting education and training for citizens of good repute in the safe handling of firearms and to encourage the lawful ownership of firearms for sport and recreation.

The CSRRA is Connecticut's National Rifle Association affiliate, charged with the critical role of delivering NRA programs and legislative information to the Nutmeg State. The NRA depends on the CSRRA to promote firearms and the Second Amendment and motivate NRA-affiliated clubs and grassroots volunteers.

Among its many responsibilities the CSRRA holds a vital seat on the Connecticut Board of Firearm Permit Examiners providing a means of appeal for citizens whose pistol permit has been denied or revoked. It also approves state championships in the various rifle and pistol disciplines, oversees the Connecticut Shooters' Hall of Fame, administers the junior All State program, manages the Junior Shooter Scholarship Fund, authorizes and sponsors junior and senior teams at the NRA National Championships, conducts the annual Connecticut Gallery Match, and provides resources for both clubs and individuals.

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About the Connecticut Rifle and Revolver Association

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Many volunteers that are dedicated to the sport of shooting have been assembled to run the CSRRA. These volunteers develop and run the programs you enjoy. They also manage the affairs of the association on a daily basis.

The annual meeting, which is for all members, is always a joyous occasion to get together. The annual meeting also provides an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of those who have performed in an outstanding manner by inducting them into the Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Association's Hall of Fame.

The CSRRA's Leadership Team is headed by President Anthony Cicchetti, Vice President David Hyatt, Recording Secretary Debbie Lyman, and Treasurer Jude Collins. Activity Directors include Brad Palmer, high power rifle, Shawn McDonnell, junior activities, Fran Lerz, pistol, Paul Gallo, smallbore rifle, and Gene Alvarez, membership. At Large Directors, who have a deep and broad knowledge of the shooting sports, act as advisors and include Michael Duben, Joseph Taraya, Austin Lavoie, Steve Rocketto, and Roger Sperry

Newest Double Distinguished



Double Distinguished D'Aleo

Musician First Class Joe D'Aleo, of the United States Coast Guard Band, has earned his Distinguished Marksman Badge, demonstrating a "a preeminent degree of achievement in target practice with the service rifle."

D'Aleo, who has already earned the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge, becomes the 28th Coast Guard shooter to be designated Double Distinguished since the Coast Guard competitive shooting program began in 1931.

He also has been awarded the Civilian Marksmanship Program's 22 caliber Pistol Distinguished Badge as well as earning Presidents Hundred honors with the service pistol.

D'Aleo has also been notified that he will be advanced to Chief Petty Officer (MUC) soon after the first of the year. If his shooting had anything to do with this we do not know, but it couldn't have hurt.

Association Members Earn New NRA Distinguished Rifle Award

The National Rifle Association Board of Directors has approved establishment of the National Rifle Association International Smallbore Rifle Distinguished Rifleman Award to presented to shooters and team coaches who compete in the two major international smallbore prone matches of the Pershing/Roberts series.



Three CSRRA members have earned the necessary 30 points for the award.

The late John J. Crowley, the 1953 National Prone Champion and one third of the team that produced the legendary bespoke 22 caliber Morgan target rifle, earned his points during the 1953 Pershing Match.

The 1998 National Prone Champion and All-American, Cory Brunetti, accumulated his points over three matches, the 1993 Roberts, 1997 Pershing, and 2001 Roberts.

Hap Rocketto's points came twice at the Roberts in 2009 and 2017 and at the 2013 Pershing in which he served as the teams' Adjutant.

S&W M&P Recall Notice



Smith and Wesson asks that you stop using your M&P Shield EZ pistol until you determine whether it is included in this safety recall, and if so until it has been inspected and repaired at the factory by Smith & Wesson.

We are asking consumers of all M&P 9 Shield EZ, and M&P380 Shield EZ, including Performance Center models, to go to MPShieldEZrecall.com and input their serial number, or call 888-871-7114, to determine whether the hammer of their M&P Shield EZ Pistol was from a manufacturing lot that was potentially affected. This notice applies ONLY to certain M&P Shield EZ model pistols, and not all M&P Shield pistols.

If your M&P Shield EZ Pistol is included in this recall, as determined by the website link or telephone number above, please follow the instructions on the website link, or call 888-871-7114 and we will arrange for the return of your firearm to Smith & Wesson for inspection.

After inspection, if the hammer from your firearm is affected, it will be replaced at no cost to you. We expect that this entire process will take no longer than 10 business days, and your pistol will be returned as quickly and efficiently as possible. All shipping and replacement costs will be covered by Smith & Wesson

CSRRA Hall Of Fame

The CSRRA Shooter Hall of Fame was established in 1983 to recognize those closely associated with Connecticut in the various shooting disciplines, volunteer activity, and firearm innovation.

Potential honorees are nominated by the membership at large and then vetted by a committee of Hall of Fame members who judge the nominee on a body of work, not just a single accomplishment.

The HOF Committee selected a group of historically prominent shooters and innovators as its first class in 1983 which included Eli Whitney, Samuel Colt, Oliver Winchester, William B. Ruger, John M. Marlin, William Lyman, Charles Elihu Lyman II, James Ripley, Benjamin Hotchkiss, John C. Garand, and Christopher Spencer.

Riflemen were Colonel Robert Gadd, Sr. CTNG, Connecticut's first Distinguished Rifleman Private E.C. Simpson, CTNG-Winner 1906 Presidents Match Dave Carlson, John Crowley, and Eric Johnson National Smallbore Prone Champions.

Since then the ranks of HOF members have included Olympic medalists, All Americans, National Champions, and those who gave freely of their time to improve the shooting sports in the state.

Special Recognition, Volunteers, Pistol, High Power Rifle, Smallbore Rifle, Air Gun, Black Powder, Bench Rest, Silhouette, and Hunters are the award categories.

Mark Twain on Fishing

Long time Connecticut resident Mark Twain did more than write his most important works while in residing in Hartford. Twain loved to brag about his hunting and fishing exploits. He once spent three weeks fishing in the Maine woods, regardless of the fact that it was the state's closed season for fishing. Relaxing in the lounge car of the train on his return journey to Hartford, his catch iced down in the baggage car, he looked for someone to whom he could relate the story of his successful holiday.

The stranger to whom he began to boast of his sizable catch appeared at first unresponsive, then positively grim. "By the way, who are you, sir?" inquired Twain airily. "I'm the state game warden," was the unwelcome response.

"Who are you?" Twain nearly swallowed his cigar. "Well, to be perfectly truthful, warden," he said hastily, "I'm the biggest damn liar in the whole United States."



90th Anniversary Connecticut Gallery Match Program

Sponsored by the Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Association

March 12-13-14, 2021

(Prep Schools: February 17th -Tech Schools: TBD)

Welcome! This year we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of this prestigious match which proves that the shooting sports are for all ages as the participant's ages will range from 9 to 90. Let's ring in the 90th Anniversary of this Match with "Gallery Match Fever" --send your entry in today, bring a friend—this match is open to everyone (from "first-time" shooters to "over-the-hill" shooters), and be a participant in the 90th Gallery Match. Without your attendance, the match will not be a success.

The Gallery Match will again use the Orion scoring system which provides online results at <http://www.orionresults.com/csrra> News releases, match program, relay information, and final results will be found at <http://thecsrta.com> and <http://bluetrailrange.com>

CSRRA Match Director: Debbie Lyman at Deb@BlueTrailRange.com

Entries: Email Deb@BlueTrailRange.com with date, preferred time, and number of competitors. If entries warrant additional dates and/or relays will be added at the discretion of the match director. To avoid confusion team coaches must register each team member for a date and relay

Location: Blue Trail Range, 316 North Branford Rd, Wallingford, CT, 06492, 203-269-3280

Rules: NRA Smallbore Rifle Rules will govern. No pick-up teams allowed.

Course of Fire:

Sub-Junior: 20 Shots Prone, Iron Sights, with coaching allowed, in 33 Minutes. Each competitor will fire only 10 record shots on each target. Competitors may hang one or two targets at a time.

Junior: Five shots in Prone, Sitting, Kneeling & Standing, with iron, with coaching allowed, in 33 Minutes. Each competitor will fire five record shots in each position on each target. Competitors may hang one or two targets at a time.

Seniors: Five shots each Prone, Sitting, Kneeling & Standing Any Sights, with no coaching allowed, in 33 Minutes. Each competitor will fire five record shots in each position on each target. Competitors may hang one or two targets at a time.

Backers: Backers are required.



Reminder : Sub-Juniors may fire in the Junior and Senior Matches, and Juniors may fire in the Senior Match this allows additional chances for individual and team awards.

Relay Time: Relays start every 45 minutes on dates posted on 1st page of program.

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per match. Make checks payable to CSRRA. A \$5 fee per point will be charged for a “no show” if you don’t e-mail or call. Please be courteous, someone may need your point.

Arrival Time: Please arrive no later than one hour before your relay in order to give yourself plenty of time to register and set-up! If late, you may be asked to fire on the next relay.

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per match. Make checks payable to CSRRA. A \$5 fee per point fee will be charged for a “no show” if you don’t e-mail or call in advance. Please be courteous, someone may need your point.

Awards: Lewis Class System: An award for every fifth place in all individual and team matches, including 90th Place. An individual or team may only win one special award in each match.

Senior Individuals and Teams: Match Winner and High Out-of-State or High Connecticut Resident, High Woman, High Connecticut Senior (55+).

Junior Individuals and Teams: Match Winner and High Out-of-State or High Connecticut Resident, High High School, High Preparatory School, and High Girl.

Sub Junior Individuals and Teams: Match Winner and High Out-of-State or High Connecticut Resident, and High Girl.

Donations: The CSRRA seeks donations from individuals, businesses, etc., for special awards, Merit Medals, and/or relay prizes. If you would like to donate, or know of someone who might like to donate, please give them our contact information. All donations to the CSRRA are tax deductible.

Directions: **From I-91 North**, take Exit 15. At top of ramp, take a Right onto Route 68. Follow Route 68 to first Stop Sign. Take a Left at the Light continuing on Route 68. Take first right onto North Branford Rd. Range is approximately 1 Mile on the Left.
From I-91 South, Take Exit 15. At top of ramp, take a left onto Route 68. Follow Route 68 (see above).

Lost? Call Blue Trail Range at 203-269-3280.

Snack Bar and Gun Store: These amenities will be open for all relays for refreshment and shootings supplies.

Questions?: Contact Deb@BlueTrailRange.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**The Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association
a 501c3 Charitable Organization**

Join us in our mission of promoting firearms education and the training of citizens as a member of the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association, Inc. by simply clicking on the link below to reach the "Join Us" membership sign up page.

<http://thecsrra.org/>

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

Lifetime Membership \$500

Annual \$40-

Junior(20 years and under) \$5

Club \$20

CSRRA Scholarship Fund

In 1994, the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association established a Scholarship fund. The Association uses the interest from this fund to provide our Junior Members assistance with college tuition. At this time the scholarship is awarding money toward college expenses.

The generosity of our members has made this scholarship possible for the Juniors.

Donations are what make the fund grow and enables the CSRRA to increase the financial aid available to the junior shooters of our state. You can help now by adding a donation to your membership or renewal application.

To date nearly three dozen college bound junior member of the CSRRA have benefited from this program.

For more information about applying for the scholarship, click on the scholarship page and download an application or our website of contact: VP@csrra.org.

ADVERTISE IN THE MARKSMAN

Advertise directly to those who need your products and services and help support Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver's goals and objectives. Your ad reaches 800 members It is also distributed at sanctioned matches, Friends of the NRA dinners and left at local gun clubs and rifle ranges and gun stores.

In addition, all paid advertisers who prepay twelve months of advertising (four issues) will also receive a banner on the CSRRA website with a link to your website.

RATES

From your useable electronic file:

Business Card (3-1/2"w x 2"h) \$40.00/issue

1/4 page (3-1/2"w x 4-1/4"h) \$75.00/issue

1/2 page (4"w x 10"h or 8"w x 5"h)\$125.00/issue

Full page (image 8"w x 10"h) \$200.00/issue

All advertising must be prepaid. To place an ad or for further information contact the editor.



Connecticut's Collegiate All American Rifle Shooters

To be named an All American is the pinnacle of athletic collegiate achievement. Consistent and exemplary performance is a hallmark, perhaps the most evident characteristic, of the honor.

All Americans also embody intangible attributes such as integrity, respect, and responsibility. Therefore, these highly motivated men and women distinguish themselves on another level.

Whether NRA All-Americans continue outstanding marksman careers or pursue other fields such as medicine, architecture, education, law, the military, and even space exploration, they accomplish notable successes in their careers.

Edgar H. Ebdon Jr.	Rutgers	SBR 1948
Wallace Lyman	Norwich University	SBR 1965-66
Richard Taber	Tennessee Tech	SBR 1974-75
Robert Broughton	West Virginia University	SBR and AR 1981-84
Jessie Johnston	Tennessee Tech	SBR 1983 and 1986 AR 1983 and 1985
Alan Wilcoxson	Saint John's University	AR 1986
Nicole Panko	Saint John's University	AR 1991
Beth Herzman	Murray State	SBR 1991-93 and AR 1994
Tanya Brown	Tennessee Tech	SBR 1992
Cory Brunetti	U of Alaska-Fairbanks and Jacksonville State	SBR 1992-94 and AR 1992-3
Lisette Grunwell	Saint John's University	AR 1994 and 1996
Emily Caruso	Norwich University	SBR and AR 1997-2000
Kevin Simon	Jacksonville State	SBR 2001
Sarah Paoletta	U of Texas-EI Paso	AR 2002
Matthew Albright	US Naval Academy	SBR 2004-05 and AR 2004-05
Joshua Albright	US Naval Academy	SBR 2006-08 and AR 2006
Alex Karacsonyi	US Naval Academy	AR 2009
Remington Lyman	The Ohio State University	SBR 2014 and 2016 and AR 2014 and 2016

SBR=Smallbore Rifle AR=Air Rifle

Rifle and Pistol League News

Through December 31, 2020

In this section we report upon the activities and standings of the Nite Owl and Midnight Moonlight (summer only), Charter Oak, Nutmeg, and Mohegan Rifle leagues and the New London County Pistol and Metropolitan Revolver League of Hartford.

The New London County Pistol League

At Thanksgiving, eleven weeks into its season the NLCPL standings are:

1. Pachaug Outdoor Club 12-1
2. Quaker Hill R&G Club 10-2
3. Niantic Sportsmen #1 6-6
4. Quaker Hill Nutmegs 6-6
5. Niantic Sportsmen #2 6-6
6. Groton/Electric Boat 5-7
7. Mystic Rod and Gun 8-5
8. Eagles 2-11
9. Sprague Rod and Gun 1-12

The Mohegan Rifle League

The Mohegan Rifle League shoots 30 shots, ten shots in prone, kneeling, and standing on the A-17 target. It has completed a third of its season and two teams are in a real dog fight as the Quaker Hill Magnums try to wrest the league championship back from Quaker Hill.

Tyler Glynn is the top gun on the Quaker Hill team, as well as in the league with his 292 average. Shawn Carpenter, Quaker Hill Magnums, is second overall with a 290 average while Phil Kohanski, one of the top hand gunners in the New London County Pistol League, is shooting a 288 average rounding out the top three.

League Standings

1. Quaker Hill R&G Club 29-3
2. Quaker Hill magnums 27-5
3. Pachaug Outdoor Club 10-23
4. Killingly Rifle Club 9-23
5. Mystic R&G Club 5-27

Metropolitan Revolver League

League Standings

1	Metacon	10	1
2	Manchester	9	1
3	Capitol City	8	2
4	Torrington	8	2
5	Windsor	7	3
6	Tolland County	6	5
7	Colts	4	6
8	Middletown	3	8
9	Telephone	3	8
10	Silver City	2	9
11	Bell City	2	9
12	Charter Oak	1	9

Nutmeg and Charter Oak Rifle Leagues

The Nutmeg Rifle League shoots a 30 shot course of fire, 10 shots prone, kneeling, and standing on the USA/NRA 50 target.

Middlefield	2-0
Middletown	1-1
Bell City	0-2

Middlefield' Scott Condo has posted the league's high score, a 287, with team mate junior Harrison Callahan right behind with a 281. Middletown's Gail Barry is the top shooter in both senior and women's categories. Steve Lonzak has the top iron sights score of 278.

The Charter Oak League's course of fire is the traditional Gallery Course, five shots each in prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing. On the A-17 target.

League Standings

1. Middlefield 7-1
2. Middletown 3-5
3. Bell City 2-6

Scott Condo, Middlefield, and teammate Zachery Osvald both shot the year's high score of 199 and also notched rare perfect 50X50 standing. Close on his tail are Middlefield's Harrison Callahan and Bell City's Jeff Doerschler, both with 198s.

The Connecticut Marksman

Hap's Corner

Presented for your amusement and edification, are Hap Rocketto's memories, of how he turned good money and time into noise, brass, and smoke.

THE MARINES HAVE LANDED AND THE SITUATION IS WELL IN HAND...

As I sat at my desk the usual New London High School cafeteria midday feed, a hearty 25¢ grinder, a couple of 3¢ half pint cartons of milk, a bag of State Line potato chips, and a banana, consorted with the warm late spring sunshine streaming through the tall classroom window to lull me into a post lunch torpor. Being less than 100% attentive in Miss Sullivan's History of the Americas class, or any of her classes for that matter, was not a wise idea. The demanding teacher was quick to pounce on anyone she perceived as not laser focused on the educational business at hand and my often wandering mind seemed to make me a preferred target.

Miss Sullivan was my favorite teacher of my favorite subject. She knew her stuff, was no nonsense, I could not charm her, and so she was able to bring out the best in me. None the less I lived in absolute fear of her and masochistically took every class she taught

Her voice cleaved my lethargy like a diamond cutter's blade slicing off a facet. Nothing before, or since, has been able to focus me like her penetrating ringing tone. It brought me instantly to attention. "Mr. Rocketto, please give us a précis of the Banana Wars," she commanded.

For a millisecond I thought she was talking about my crony Gordon Bryson and I sophomorphically slapping each other with the peel from my dessert during lunch earlier that day, but quickly gathered my senses.

I reeled off that the Banana Wars was a series of US interventions in the Caribbean and Central America during the first three decades of the 20th century. While the Monroe Doctrine gave valid reasons for landing Marines, the major justification was the "protection of American property and citizens", namely United Fruit and Standard Fruit and so the informal name. Having had my moment in the sun, in more ways than one, Miss Sullivan moved onto another classmate.

Temporarily out of danger my mind wandered off, as is its wont, to recall a little known footnote in my favorite sport, rifle shooting. It connected the Banana Wars and the little nation that sits on the western end of the island of Hispaniola, Haiti.

The United States Marines are known for their prowess with the rifle and many of the Corps great rifleman were engaged in military operations during the Banana Wars. In Haiti they served in the *Gendarmerie d'Haiti* as advisors. Distinguished Marksman Lieutenant Colonel Douglas C. McDougal was assigned as Major General Chief of the *Gendarmerie* in 1921 and found the force to be well organized by his predecessor, Brigadier General Smedley Darlington Butler. McDougal noted that the well trained *gendarmes* had spare time and thought that rifle practice might be a constructive way to use that time to increase their military efficiency.

McDougal called upon Major Harry Smith, another Distinguished Marksman, and the *Gendarmerie* soon had a robust rifle program. It was not without its rough spots as the Haitian's Creole vocabulary did not encompass much technical jargon, but the Marines persevered, and the men began to shoot very well.

They shot so well that in 1923 members of the *Gendarmerie* requested permission to send a team to the 1924 Paris Olympics. Even though the Olympics would be shot at 400, 600, and, 800 meters, and no Haitian had fired at a distance longer than 200 yards, they managed to convince McDougal to allow them to compete.

Money being short, McDougal's agreement was predicated on the requirement that they could fund the trip. Within a week they returned to tell him that every officer and enlisted man in the *Gendarmerie* had agreed to contribute five percent of his pay for five months to raise the \$5,000 needed to cover the expense. With that McDougal acquired enough Springfield 30 caliber Model 1922 Match Rifles, with Lyman 48 sights, and Remington Palma ammunition, loaded with HiVel powder, to outfit the team.

Arriving in Paris McDougal found the US Rifle team was headed by a fellow Marine. Distinguished Marksman, Major Littleton W.T. Waller, Jr. who had shooting thoroughbreds Marines Morris "Bud" Fisher and Raymond Coulter, Naval Academy graduate Walter Stokes, Joseph Crockett, and Lieutenant Sidney Hinds, USA in his stable.

In the 600 meter individual prone competition, the Haitians showed their potential. Ludovic Augustin placed fifth with Ludovic Valborge tied for sixth. Destin Destine tied for tenth and Astrell Rolland wound up thirteenth out of a field of 69.

On match day the Haitians added Eloi Metullus to round out the five man team. They came on strong, tying for third at 400 meters and moved into second place after 600 meters. The Haitian's strong showing had the US worried and Waller was sourly looking over his shoulder at fellow Marine McDougal with a censorious eye.

At 800 meters the US took a commanding lead and won by 30 points, certainly fending off a heated discussion between Waller and McDougal had events taken a different turn. The Haitians had tied with their former colonial masters, France, for second. The French, by virtue of a two point higher score at 800 meters, took second on the tie breaker, but Haiti had earned its first Olympic medal.

The bell rang, ending my reverie and the school day. I gathered up my books and scurried out into the bustling hallway. It being Wednesday I headed down to the pipe tunnel where rifle coach George Gregory had built an eight point range for practice.

It wasn't Haiti, but it was just as successful a proving ground for me as the *Gendarmerie* ranges were for the 1924 Haitian Olympic Rifle Team.