

KINETIC ENERGY



Lincoln Rifle Club & Junior Division

March/April 2023 Edition

Welcome Spring!

Annual Potluck Dinner Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our January 28th Annual Awards Potluck Dinner! This was our first Awards Dinner since 2020 when Covid shook the world, and we couldn't have been happier to see our members again. Our Awards Potluck Dinner has been a long-standing tradition in the Lincoln Rifle Club as a way for us to recognize and appreciate our club members who have put the most effort into improving their shooting skills by participating in our club matches. Not to mention it's the perfect chance to try out home cooked meals from all our club members!

This year was quite different not only because it was our first event in several years, but also because this was the first Awards Dinner with our new office staff running the event. We would like to send a huge **"Thank You!"** to everyone who volunteered to help, and an extra special thank you to our Junior's Program kids who helped us set-up and clean-up.



This year we handed out a total of **37 awards** between our 13 club matches, as well as certificates for our Match Directors and all of our LRC Trap shooters. Along with our match awards we also handed out this year's **Leonard Zick Award to Scott Seaton**, our newest RSO who has volunteered countless hours to range improvement since joining us. Thank you and congratulations Scott!

This year's **Ammo Can drawing** for a 10/22 Rifle went to **Terry Wildman** from our LRC Trap group and the **participation firearm**, which was a 12-gauge Mossberg, was won by our Junior's Program head coach **Ryan Watts**.

Overall, we had a great night filled with food, fun, and the company of some of the greatest people ever. Thank you once again to everyone who was able to make it and we hope to see even more of you next year!

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Important Notes:

- If you are interested in submitting an article to be featured in the Kinetic Energy, please reach out to the office at admin@lincolnrifleclub.com
- Office hours are **Monday-Friday 9am-3pm** unless otherwise noted on the website



President's Message

I would like to announce that **Margaret Moore** is officially stepping down as the editor of the Kinetic Energy Newsletter. Margaret has served as Lincoln Rifle Club's Editor and Outreach Coordinator for over 13 years. She has worked very diligently to create a newsletter that is well known throughout the club and has helped to provide our members with information on current activities and upcoming events.

Margaret has also been closely involved in almost all Club events such as our Awards Potluck Dinners and SOS Dinners; she is truly one of the founding members of LRC and LSSF. Currently, Margaret is Match Director for our Trap Matches that meet on select Saturdays, Sundays, and Thursdays, and now Margaret's love for trap has led her to volunteer her time and energy to helping revamp and operate Coon Creek.



Margaret, thank you for what you have done for the club and will hopefully continue to do. We greatly appreciate you!

—Submitted by LRC President Leonard Zick

Upcoming Announcements:

Sunday March 12th, Daylight Savings time starts. The Dillman Range will then close at 5pm instead of 4pm on the days other than Monday & Wednesdays, or days with matches. You can check the calendar on the website or call our recorded line (916) 543-2874 for up to date Dillman Range hours.

Tuesday March 14th and **Thursday March 16th**, the Lincoln PD will be coming out to use the Dillman Range to do qualifications. In exchange for no rental fees on the Pavilion for our monthly meetings, the Lincoln PD is allowed to use our range. This means the hours for March 14th and March 16th will be **11am-5pm**.

The general business meeting this year will be **Thursday April 6th**. We will need no less than 30 members of the club to establish a quorum and vote on the Board of Directors and the Range Committee.

This year, Easter is on **Sunday April 9th**. In honor of Easter, the **Dillman Range will be closed** this day.

Annual Business Meeting & Elections

Club Members, do you want to have a voice when it comes to helping the Lincoln Rifle Club meet its mission and serve its members? If so, consider running for the Board of Directors or the Range Committee.

This would be a great way to get involved and make a difference in the club. Voting will take place at the **April 6th Member Meeting**.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the office. **(916) 434-0308**

Do you want to have a voice in the Lincoln Rifle Club?



This year we will be holding elections for our Board of Directors and Range Committee at our Annual Business Meeting scheduled for **Thursday April 6th at Mcbean Park Pavilion at 7:30pm**. At this meeting, the voting for the elections will take place. In order to vote in this year's election, you must attend the member meeting.

Keep in mind, only full members are allowed to vote in elections. If you are provisional, you're not allowed to vote but can still attend the meeting.



How to get involved:

- We currently have 3 members up for re-elect and 1 open spot for the Board of Directors ; and 2 members up for re-elect and 2 open spots for the Range Committee.
- The time commitment is 1 evening meeting (Mondays for the Board and Tuesdays for the Range Committee) a month and active participation in other club related activities.
- If interested, please send us a paragraph about yourself no later than **Friday March 17th, 2023** to the office at our email **admin@lincolnrifleclub.com**.

2022 LRC Club Match Awards

Thank you to all of our Match Directors and the participants of their matches. We had a great year!

*Special shoutout to **Scott Seaton** for winning the Leonard Zick Award.
Thank you for all you've done for the club!*

Conventional Pistol

Standard Class:

- ◆ Master: Jason Nasjleti
- ◆ First Expert: Scott Olin
- ◆ First Sharpshooter: Mike Coad
- ◆ Second Sharpshooter: Chuck Riglick
- ◆ First Marksman: Chuck Barsdale
- ◆ Second Marksman: Frank Romano
- ◆ Third Marksman: Jim Louch



"F" Class:

- ◆ First Expert: Anita Marquez
- ◆ First Sharpshooter: Jim Sagray
- ◆ Second Sharpshooter: Margaret Moore
- ◆ Third Sharpshooter: Bill Walter
- ◆ First Marksman: Milton Brown

Sporting Rifle

- ⇒ First Master: Daniel Campbell
- ⇒ Second Master: Cary Triplet
- ⇒ First Expert: George Jacobs
- ⇒ Second expert: Scott Olin
- ⇒ First Sharpshooter: Bob Radtke
- ⇒ First Marksman: Jim Louch



Varmint Match

Centerfire Class:

- ◆ First Place: Dennis Bizeau
- ◆ Second place: Jim Burton
- ◆ Third Place: Krishna Permaul
- ◆ High Single Match Score: Dennis Wyatt (156)

.22LR Class:

- ◆ First Place: Dennis Bizeau
- ◆ High Single Match Score: Dennis Bizeau (177)

.17HMR Class:

- ◆ First Place: Jim Burton
- ◆ High Single Match Score: Jim Burton (128)



LRC Trap

12 Gauge Competition:

- ◆ First Place: Terry Wildman (22.23)
- ◆ Second Place: Mike Davis (22.15)
- ◆ Third Place: Dana Covert (21.97)



Perfect "25" Scores

- ◆ Terry Wildman: 8 Rounds
- ◆ Ray Ramsey: 8 Rounds
- ◆ Mike Davis: 4 Rounds
- ◆ Wayne Crum: 2 Rounds
- ◆ Bob Adams: 1 Round
- ◆ Mark Jimenez: 1 Round
- ◆ Margaret Moore: 1 round

Competed in 30 Relays

- ◆ Ray Ramsey (21.86)
- ◆ Ken Harvey (21.62)
- ◆ Margaret Moore (21.59)
- ◆ Anita Marquez (21.03)
- ◆ Mark Jimenez (20.74)
- ◆ Wayne Crum (20.73)
- ◆ George Rodriguez (19.91)
- ◆ Bob Adams (19.88)
- ◆ Chuck Riglick (18.54)
- ◆ Bill Harvey (18.29)



Sub-Gauge Competition:

- ◆ First Place: Ken Harvey (19.43)
- ◆ Second Place: Ray Ramsey (18.90)
- ◆ Third Place: Bill Harvey (16.28)

Competed in 20 Relays

- ◆ George Rodriguez (16.09)

USPSA

- ◆ LRC 2022 PCC Champion: Mike Hall (94)
- ◆ LRC 2022 Limited Champion: Kendrick Mariano (194)
- ◆ LRC 2022 Carry Optics Champion: Christopher Buendia (87)
- ◆ LRC 2022 Open Champion: Ran Del Mar (110)



Club High Power

High Master:

- ⇒ First: Scott Bonivert
- ⇒ Second: Daniel Campbell
- ⇒ Third: Cary Triplet

Expert:

- ⇒ First: Bill Diamond

Combat Action Pistol

- ⇒ Top Gun: Jason Turner
- ⇒ First Gunslinger: Darrold Darling
- ⇒ Second Gunslinger: Mark Porco
- ⇒ Third Gunslinger: Kendall Porco

Smallbore League

- ⇒ Match Winner: Logan Michael
- ⇒ First Sharpshooter: Alexandria Watts
- ⇒ First marksman: Rachel Brandt
- ⇒ Second Marksman: Logan Bonivert
- ⇒ Third Marksman: Dylan Tonel
- ⇒ Fourth Marksman: Will Brandt



RANGE MAINTENANCE DAYS

The **first Saturday** of every month, the Dillman Range is closed for a Range Maintenance Day. This is an excellent opportunity to earn hours towards your work credit requirement. The Range Maintenance Day will begin at **8:00am on the Dillman Range**. We are always looking for volunteers to come out and complete some projects out at the range. Different months might have different projects or tools needed, so keep an eye out for special announcements.

In lieu of attending our workdays, there are other opportunities to earn some work credit towards your membership. If you find yourself with some large cardboard lying around your house, you can donate some to the Lincoln Rifle Club. Make sure the cardboard pieces are **at least 16x40"** and you can bring it by our Dillman Range. Submit a picture of your cardboard to the office (**admin@lincolnrifleclub**), and we will add some work credit to your account.

There are other ways to get some hours towards your work credit requirement, such as sending articles into the Kinetic Energy Newsletter. Keep an eye on club updates for other work credit opportunities.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Do you want to stroll around town or show up to the range decked out in Lincoln Rifle Club gear? Well now you can! We have some merchandise available for sale at our office headquarters located at **620 3rd Street, Suite 200 located in Lincoln**. Check out our **black LRC T-shirt** on sale for \$25.00 (certain sizes available). We also have a **blue Lincoln Rifle Club hat** on sale for only \$10.00! Interested in both? Well, we have a great combo deal of \$30.00 for both. Looking for an **LRC patch** to iron on one of your jackets? You're in luck! We are also selling Lincoln Rifle Club patches for \$5.00 each. Come get your merchandise and help support the club!



CAST BULLET SILHOUETTE MATCH



Coming soon!

Cast bullet match is returning **March 27th**, and will be held on the last Monday of the month, through November. (With a couple of exceptions, watch the calendar)

The March match will be a .22 LR only match, all you will need is a 22 rifle and pistol. Targets will be from 25 to 100+ yds. **Everyone has these guns, come join us!!**

Beginning in April, the standard matches will begin.

Competitors will *need*:

Centerfire Rifle

22 LR rifle

Centerfire Handgun

Targets are steel silhouettes and are placed as follows:

50yd-22 rifle small pigs and turkeys

50yd handgun chickens

50yd rifle plates

200 meter rifle rams

100yd rifle pigs

150yd rifle turkeys

All firearms must use a **cast lead bullet** (gas check is ok, pistol can use a "plated" bullet".) No copper jackets or high velocity, over 1800 fps, are allowed. Shooting can be done offhand, or utilizing shooting sticks, or the support post for the range structure.

Scoring is simple if you hit the target and it falls down, it's a hit. Everything else is considered a miss.

Match starts promptly at 8:00am, and involves a lot of target set up, come out and join the fun!

—*Submitted by Match Director, Mike Davis*



SPORTING RIFLE

Questions regarding this match can be sent to:

Match Director
Dan Campbell
rosevilleglass@surewest.net.



Sporting Rifle matches start back up on **Tuesday April 4th**, and continue every Tuesday through the end of June. Sporting Rifle matches are open to club members only, so if you think this could be a match for you, come on out and watch a match to familiarize yourself.

Sporting Rifle is a 3-position timed event requiring the shooter to shoot from the off-hand, seated and prone positions. If you have a 9.5 lbs. or lighter rifle with iron sights or a scope, then this is the match for you. This is a fun and challenging match that consists of 32 rounds at 100 yards. If you're interested in this match, head on out to the Dillman Range on **Tuesday evenings at 5pm.**

VARMINT MATCH

Questions regarding this match can be sent to:

Match Director
Mark Porco
mark95648@gmail.com



Attention all varmint shooters! Our 2023 shooting season starts **Friday, April 28th**. There is still time to perfect those custom loads, or to find the perfect rimfire ammo. (Or both!) This is not a shoot that is sanctioned by any governing body, just a fun shoot for bragging rights and good-natured boasting. This match includes center-fire calibers as well as rim-fire.

There are multiple shooting classes, giving an opportunity for everyone to join in the fun. The shooting distances are from 100 yds out to 220 yds for the **center-fire**. The **rim-fire** class shoots at 50 yds and 100 yds with multiple targets. With only 20 shots for record, this will not break your ammunition budget, either!

Plan to join us this year. The matches are held the **last Friday of the month, April through October, starting at 5pm**. If you can't decide which class to shoot then shoot multiple classes, as there are multiple relays per event. As in the past years: Any scope. Any front rest. Rear rest is your shoulder. Prone position, or off the bench. Any caliber for centerfire, with .22 or .17 for rimfire.

There are awards given for the top 3 shooters in each category, as well as single top scores for the year. You must shoot **at least 4 matches** to be entered for the awards consideration.

All this for a mere **\$5 per relay entry fee**. This match is open to the public, as well as members.

—Submitted by Match Director Mark Porco

CLUB HIGH POWER

Get Ready for Club High Power!

Club High Power will be at the Dillman Range, on the **2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month**, beginning in **April through September**, (October is the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays). Range closes at 4:30pm on these days, with the match starting around **5:00pm**.

The Club High Power match is one of the longest, if not the longest running match sponsored by the LRC. It is conducted like a practice or clinic for shooters wishing to learn how to shoot high power competitively or just want to improve on their marksmanship skills.

The **1st match** of each month has shooters firing in the standing slow fire & rapid prone shooting positions. The **2nd match** of the month has shooters fire from the slow prone & rapid sitting positions. All courses of fire are fired on standard NRA 200 yd. targets. CMP & NRA high power rules allow for the use of scopes. While NRA specifies specific rules for the type of rifle used in the Service Rifle or Match Rifle categories, we are very lax on these rules for the club event since the scores are not sent into the NRA.



Please come with a rifle that can easily be reloaded with a magazine or stripper clip that holds at least 5 rounds of ammunition and can easily fire 10 rounds in 60 seconds. You will need 25 rounds of ammunition for this match. **Match fee for this match is \$5.00.**

This match is a great way to improve your marksmanship skills with your rifle and have fun in the process. Most shooters are shooting some type of **AR-15 chambered in .223**. While this is not a requirement for this match, it is the easiest rifle type to use for these matches. We do have a limited number of Club Rifles that can be used for this match, but these will need to be requested in advance of the matches to be made available. Club ammo is also available for a fee. Please let me know in advance to make sure we have ammo available.

—Submitted by Match Director Scott Bonivert

Please contact me if you would like more information about the Thursday Night Club High Power matches and I hope to see you on the range.

**Match Director
Scott Bonivert
bonivertm@gmail.com**



LINCOLN RIFLE CLUB JUNIOR DIVISION

Over the years the Junior program has struggled with cracked/crumbling floors, old storage equipment and dark dreary walls at our Indoor Range. Well, this past summer we changed ALL of that. **Coach Steve Katsuyama** was able to secure a grant for us from the NRA and we immediately went to work.

First, we were able to line up a flooring contractor to grind, seal and paint the floors. But, in order to do this we needed to clear the floors, so with the help of about 20 parents/kids, we emptied the lobby and put everything in the range. Once the lobby was finished, we cleaned the concrete dust off EVERYTHING, then moved it all back into the lobby. When the range floor was completed, we then took on the task of the remodel. New couch, new storage lockers and tool boxes, but most of all **NEW PAINT!**

BEFORE



AFTER



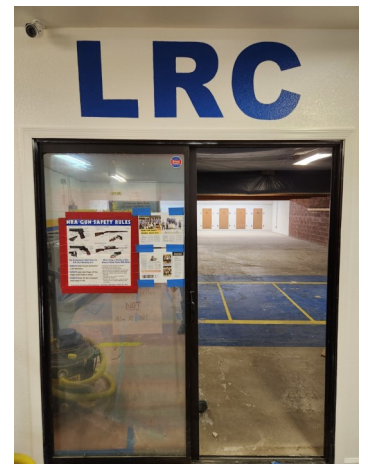


Coach Michael Diaz, a professional painter, put his skills to work and completely changed how we view our indoor range. He painted the lobby all white, then spruced it up with the team colors (Yellow and Blue), and topped it off with a big “LRC” over the sliding door. Then on his own and without help, painted the **ENTIRE** shooting range with the same white and striping, but this time brought in a huge American flag and hung it for all to see. With the help of the team moms in organizing and tossing old junk, we now have a clean, bright, and very new Indoor Range.

All this work did take time, so unfortunately our season started a bit late (like 2mo), but we are up and running at full speed. We have about **60 kids** in our Monday night program. The precision team is also doing well as we were able to continue training at the Michael’s house when the range was closed. The team kids all got new gear this year and have been working hard to qualify for the **Junior Olympics**.

All in all, our Junior Program is doing very well and with continued support from our amazing team parents and coaches, I am hopeful that we’ll see great things in the seasons to come.

—Submitted by Ryan Watts Jr. Program Head Coach



LADIES NIGHT

If you have any questions regarding Ladies Night, please feel free to contact either the Lincoln Rifle Club Office or email **Scott Olin** at **scottyolin@msn.com**. We hope to see you out there!

Ladies Night

For questions regarding Conventional Pistol please feel free to contact our **Match Director Scott Olin** at **scottyolin@msn.com**. We hope to see you out there!

Something special for the ladies! This is a relaxed non-competitive shooting environment, held at our **Indoor Range, located at 65 McBean Park Drive**. This event takes place every **1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month** all the way through May. Doors open at **5:00 pm** and it is open to both members and the public, over 18 years of age. **The cost is \$1 for non-members and free for LRC members**. Ladies Night is open to both men and women but the ladies will have priority when space is full. Coaches are also available to help teach new shooters the basics.

Our Indoor Range is designed for **.22 caliber firearms** only and we have two handguns available to loan if needed. **Ammo can be purchased for \$5.00 per 50 rounds** at Ladies Night and must be used up at the match. If you know someone who is thinking of taking up shooting and would like to experience the sport in a friendly environment, please bring them along and we will get them started.

—Submitted by *Christina Mays*

CONVENTIONAL PISTOL

Conventional Pistol runs every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** at our indoor range located at 65 McBean Park Drive. Doors open at 2:30pm and the **first relay begins at 3:00pm**. Our Conventional Pistol Match is an amazing opportunity to shoot competitively for both new and experienced marksmen. This is a **.22 caliber**, sixty round, handgun match consisting of six courses of fire including slow, rapid, and timed fire. All matches are observed by qualified Directors who are available to help inexperienced shooters get started.

There is a **\$10 registration fee** with a **\$5 per match participation fee** and ammo can be purchased at the match for **\$5.00 a box**.

There's still plenty of time to start getting your scores in, so we hope to see some new shooters. Conventional Pistol is one of Lincoln Rifle Club's scored matches and awards for top shooters will be handed out at our Annual Awards Dinner. Like the Ladies Night event, this is a rare opportunity for Club members to visit our indoor range!

—Submitted by *Christina Mays*



MULTI-GUN DIVISION

Lincoln Rifle Club has had 3 Gun matches for almost 20 years now. The earliest matches were held offsite and didn't move to the Dillman Range till about 2005. We used to set up 2 stages at the front of the Dillman Range, ran those, tore down, and set up 2 more stages. Later, the Ormsby Range was created at the back of the existing range and we have used the 5 shooting bays there for the past 10 years or so.

Past match directors have included **Don Bradway, Jay Luca, Dan Robinson, and Arnold Chin**. Each added their own particular spin to the matches. At different times our match has been affiliated with USPSA, 3 Gun Nation & the United Multi-Gun League. Currently our matches are run under our own in-house set of rules which are posted on the Lincoln Rifle Club website.

Requirements are pretty simple in the interest of making the match accessible to as many people as possible. There are only two divisions and there are relatively few restrictions for either. The **Open Division** uses the traditional trio of rifle, pistol, and shotgun. **Pistols must be 9mm or larger** (.38 for the occasional revolver shooter). Any capacity magazine, optics are allowed. **Rifle minimum caliber is 5.56/.223** though the competitor may elect to use a pistol caliber carbine that is 9mm or larger. Red dot sights or magnifying optics up to 4X may be used. You can even have one of each mounted. **Shotguns** are only limited in that they must be **20 gauge or larger**, typically semiauto but some of us run pump guns. **Last year's Open Division winner, Alex Lee**, ran a Mossberg 590M pump gun with 20 round magazines. **Note:** With California's ever-changing litany of firearms regulations it is the individual competitor's responsibility to ensure that their gear is legal.

Our second division is PCC which stands for pistol caliber carbine. The rules are the same, but the PCC is substituted for the pistol.

If you are not familiar with this type of competition, it differs from most traditional firearms events in that **your score is your TIME**. Faster equals better unless your penalties for inaccuracy outweigh your speed. For this reason, it is very much a thinking person's game. We tell the shooter what the problem is, and they figure out the fastest way to solve it.

For this reason, it tends to be a much more entertaining shooting sport for spectators than a pure accuracy match. Spectators are welcome at our matches; just bring eye and ear protection. Most of our competitors come to a match as a spectator first.

Shooters with prior 3 Gun competition experience are welcome to join us. **You do not have to be a club member to compete although your entry fee is discounted if you are.** If you are experienced shooting all three weapon platforms but lack the competition experience, we offer an introductory course the Wednesday prior to the match, the MGD Q-Course.



If you have any questions, please reach out to Jeff Boyes at jeffboyes1051@gmail.com.

—Submitted by Match Director Jeff Boyes

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

CMP Report from the 02/11/2023 Match

Finally, we had a second Saturday of the month that wasn't pouring rain accompanied by 40 plus mph winds! The December 10th 2022 date and the January 14th 2023 dates were "stormed" out. Now in February we were presented with a chilly, but clear, sunny morning. There was a good turnout with **ten competitors** including one who has never shot at our range before. This competitor drove in from Orland and was very prepared for our match. He had done all of the research on the CMP website, watched You Tube videos on The John C. Garand Course "A" match and other videos on high power rifle match shooting.

Mike looked like a "regular" but this was his first time doing a CMP sanctioned match. He shot very respectable scores in the prone stages using an **issued M-1**. The only thing preventing him from earning a pin was his offhand score. This position requires a lot of practice, dry firing and concentration using the old service rifle.

Our highest score for this match was fired by **Jaime Bagtas** using a scoped AR-15 in the Unlimited Modern Military category. His score of 287-12X earned Jaime a silver award pin in that difficult category. If a shooter earns a Gold Pin they must drop only 6 points out of 300.

Then we had "a real vintage rifle" winner: **Cary Triplet** using a **Springfield 1903A3**, shooting a score of 270-2X out of 300 points. Very good shooting for an eight decade old platform that required a lot of bolt operating skill in the rapid fire stage.

Our next match is scheduled for **Saturday 11th March 2023**. In March, there is also the **CMP Western Games held in Phoenix, Arizona**. Some of our competitors will be going to the Ben Avery Shooting Park in Phoenix to shoot in that event. I have a family obligation (helping my son move, and a Grandson birthday) so a club RSO along with one of the regular competitors will be running this match. Entries for the match will be taken at 7:30AM and **the match will begin at 8:00AM** Please check the CMP website or the Dillman Range bulletin board for the course of fire in this 35 shot match.

—Submitted by Match Director **Chuck Riglick**



CMP

Civilian Marksmanship Program

ACQUIRING AN M-1

Chris Moore from our Multi-gun Division came out and shot his newly rebuilt M-1 at the last CMP match.

Chris Moore shot his “new” **CMP expert graded Springfield Armory M-1 Garand SA4371938** (Apr’38). Chris used Garands for drill and field training at the Air Force Academy from 1967-1971 and loved them, probably because this was his first gun having been raised in a “militia only” Air Force family (before there were “anti-gunners”).

Nearing retirement in the late 90s, he bought **SA3823842** (Sep’38, so his “old” one was actually five months newer than his “new” gun) from his first-ever gun show at Cal Expo. That rifle had “Blue Sky” engraved on the barrel indicating use by the South Korean army then reimported probably in the ‘60s.

The old gun stopped working at Front Sight last fall and the estimate to repair & rebuild the **\$500 gun was \$1250!** Since he was in Alabama in January, he visited the CMP Talladega range and store and purchased the new gun for \$1150, paid CA transfer fees of about \$75, and saved a whole \$25 to get a genuine CMP rebuild in the deal!

—Submitted by Chris Moore



Here is a photo of the newly rebuilt M-1 gun!

TRAPSHOOTING LEGENDS

This article is a summary of what appeared in Trap and Field Magazine January 2022 called **"The Secret": Past Legends: Merla Stockdale** by Phil Kiner

Merle Stockdale was a master researcher (but his real profession was a farmer) and applied this study of how to smash a clay target to the fullest. He was the [first shooter in the game of trap to make it to the 27 yard](#) line when that threshold was established in 1955. Merle broke 96 clays at the old 26 yard line and then was "punched" up to the new 27 yard line. A guy that Merle regarded as a mentor, **Arnold Riegger**, was the top shooter when the 25 yard line was the maximum. Riegger was the [first shooter to use an "adjustable comb"](#) which in those days consisted of a laced on leather check piece in which he shoved cardboard box tops in to raise and lower the comb of the stock.



Merle's idea was to use a **"Texas Ranger" shotgun**, a single barrel, break open, exposed hammer firearm which was ordered from a Montgomery Ward Catalog. The price at that time was around \$25. The other high tech item he used was a draw bar hole on his John Deere Model G tractor. Merle reasoned that he needed to raise his point of impact a little higher to break more clays. So, he stuck the barrel of the Texas Ranger into the draw bar hole and bent the barrel upwards. He then tied the shotgun onto his trusty rusty old oil drum (also used as a patterning board), attached a string on the trigger, then hid behind his chicken coop. Merle fired the shotgun, and when it didn't blow up--all was good. Then he started breaking a lot more clays at the trap field. Competitors called this **Merle's "Tractor Gun."**

HALL
OF
FAME

When other shooters started making fun of the Tractor Gun, Merle decided to "adjust" his Model 12 Winchester (my favorite) to the same point of impact as the Tractor Gun. Merle used his [trusty old oil drum as a patterning board](#). He would step back about 16 yards, fire at a section of the drum, check the pattern, make adjustments to the barrel in the draw bar hole, rotate the drum to a rusty spot then fire another shot. After all parts of the drum were marked with shot. The drum was allowed to "rust over" for about a week. Thus creating a new patterning board.

Merle also invented a jig to make sure that his Model 12 barrel was bent the correct amount. He carried this tool to all of his trap meets. [With this shotgun, he was able to earn enough money to completely pay off his farm.](#) The shotgun was a tool to Merle. He cut on it, filed it, and tweaked it to make it shoot where he was looking. His adjustments showed much forward thinking to modernize the game of trapshooting.

Merle Stockdale was admitted to [The Trapshooting Hall of Fame in 1982](#). He was an **11 time All- American.**

—Submitted by Chuck Riglick

CCW HOLSTER PRACTICE

CCW HOLSTER PRACTICE

Come on out!

Shooters, Members, Friends... In our time of unrest and upheaval, some folks are getting out and practicing, as they should be. But frankly, the 5ish shooters we get each month are **NOWHERE** close to where the number needs to be. Are you ready? Do you practice? Or are you that CCW holder that shoots once every 2 years when you go to John Taylor to re-qualify? Especially now, especially in the climate we live in, you need to be at your best. IF you carry, then you need to be able to, competently and confidently, protect your family, friends and yourself.

Each month on the **2nd Wednesday, Dennis Wyatt** and I are at the range helping members hone their skills and work through bad or inappropriate gear. We'll run you through Dot Torture Drills, 5x5 drills and cadence drills, all in a effort to help you improve, both your skills and your confidence.

The next Defensive Holster Practice will be held on **Wednesday March 8th at 3:30pm**. We shoot in Bay 6 (just past the concrete shooting line). If you are interested in practicing and actually getting better, please give me a call and reserve your spot.

—Submitted by Match Director Ryan Watts

Questions regarding this practice can be sent to:

**Match Director
Ryan Watts
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CCW PERMITS

MATCH DIRECTORS

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