

The Firing Line

Quarterly Newsletter of the La Crosse Rifle Club

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Introduction

After much discussion and a few stops and starts, we at last will have a quarterly newsletter for the membership of the La Crosse Rifle Club. The driving force in beginning this ongoing project is to get all members involved in their club and maintain communication with all members. This newsletter is designed to serve the membership so if you see something you like, don't like, or if there are items you would like to see included in the newsletter, contact the editor.

New Firing Line Building Project by Dennis Fater

During the past 4 to 5 years the membership and the Board have been discussing various options for improving the firing line of our benchrest rifle range and the east handgun range with ideas including placing a roof over the area we already had in place to expanding the lines for both ranges to enclosing a part of the area to make it more comfortable to shoot during inclement weather. During 2015 the club committed to beginning the project with the initial work expanding the concrete pad for the benchrest rifle range and the east handgun range with a roof over the entire concrete pad. Jay Johnson volunteered to be the project manager and Dave Doe took on assisting with much of the design and supervision of the project. A committee was formed to plan and supervise the project. Those serving on the committee include Jay Johnson (Chair), Dave Doe, Mike Roach, Rollie Roskos, Bill Quadzinski, and Dennis Fater. From July through September several work days were scheduled to get the first phase of the project completed with strong turnout by members to assist in everything from tearing down old structures (the old shack housed the Mother of all yellow jacket nests which was discovered when it was pushed over by a Bobcat), preparing the site for the concrete, putting in framing for the roof to putting on the roof. This stage of the project was finished when we hired some Amish folks to put on a steel roof (and replace the roof of the shooting tower). Our friends, the Manske family, were also instrumental in excavating and earth moving to prepare the site for the concrete and structure. During 2016 the membership and the Board will plan the next phase(s) of this project. The first item to be done in 2016 is replacing the shooting benches either with the old tops or with new benches. We will also be planning the enclosure of a part of the

structure and placement of doors or windows to allow shooting from the building at targets down range. Some of the building committee will travel to Anoka, MN on January 16 to look at an enclosed shooting building and come up with ideas for our ongoing project. Despite rumors to the contrary, nothing has been finalized in terms of the next phase or phases of this project and the Board as well as the building committee would like to hear from members regarding how they would like this project completed. Feel free to contact Jay Johnson or any of the current Board members to share your ideas of how this project should be completed.

High Power Rifle – 2015 Year in Review by Sandra Page!

It was another good year for the High Power Rifle Program which included affiliation with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) an additional weekend of matches added as well as running the Wisconsin State Championship at our facility. We also welcomed competitive shooters who had never shot at La Crosse until this year and who competed in the new National Match Course at 200/300/600 yards. Our Father’s Day Match is known nationally and draws competitive shooters from as far east as Vermont, as far south as Texas, and as far west as Utah. We also had new club members participating in the program. As always, our goal is to encourage new shooters to get involved in high power rifle competition.

In 2015 La Crosse Rifle Club had 125 different people participate in our matches conducted. Residency break down for participants is: 74 from WI, 14 from MN and the remaining 37 from the following states: 1-AR, 1-CO, 1-CT, 13-IA, 1-ID, 8-IL, 2-KS, 1-LA, 1-MA, 1-MO, 2-NH, 1-NV, 1-OK, 2-TX & 1-UT. The rifle range has only a 15 targets capacity with a max capacity of 4 Relays or 60 Shooters each day. Below are some numbers to ponder:

Match	Shooter Sat/Sun	Club Member Cmptng	Volunteers LRC Club Members	Volunteers Non-Club Members	Bolt Action Rifle	Service Rifle	F-Class	Juniors	Seniors + GR Sen	Women	WI Res
Mother’s Day 600 MRP	38/34	10	2	2	22	7	9	4	12	1	23
NMC Weekend 80rd/50rd	35/24	9	4	2	6	30	0	8	1	1	31
Father’s Day 600 MRP	60/60	10	3	2	42	9	9	5	24	2	27
August B&C WI State 600 MRP	58/57	11	3	2	30	7	21	6	21	2	40

Our new National Match Course weekend brought in competitors who hadn't been to our range for some time if at all. We dusted off our 200/300 Yard targets and chalk boards and re-educated ourselves on how to run rapid fire strings and alibi's. Our competitors helped us out and were very enthusiastic about the weekend's matches. For the club, the highlight was Junior Riley Stewart. His score of 469-8x earned him "First Leather" on Sunday, just missing out on Leg Points towards his Distinguished Rifleman's Badge. Dale Anhalt was close behind him with a 466-4x.

Our Father's Day Match was full both days with very tough competition from all over the country. Club member Jay Johnson came in second for the weekend with a score of 1594-97x, Jay only dropped 6 points for the weekend and of the 160 shots down range, 97 of them were in a 6" X-Ring circle. Steve Clark also showed well with a score of 1588-84x. Winner of the match was Eric Rhode from MN with a score of 1595-96x. Eric was a member of the 2015 US Palma Team.

Our August Brat & Corn Match was also the Wisconsin State Mid-Range Prone Championships. We could have filled two more targets with competitors if we had more target space, but as participants found out we were full we had some cancelations and then some on the waiting list canceled as well. This is somewhat disconcerting as we were just shy of being full both days and some potential competitors missed out in participating. Jay Johnson was once again the club's finest shooter with a score of 1587-75x followed by Bill Lair with a score of 1584-84x.

The club runs on volunteers and we like to recognize the Volunteers who helped make these matches possible this past year: Bill Quadzinski (line/trgts), John Welda (line/trgts) Brian & Carmen Smith (pits), John McCann (pits/picnic), Sandra Pagel (enteries/stats/line), Kris Clough (stats), Sharon Sekelik (stats), Bill Lair (trgts), Don Stanke (trgts), Richard Guitweiler (trgts), Darrel Tennent (trgts), Dale Anhalt (trimming), Mike Stewart, Riley Stewart, Sam Cvikota, Colton Petersen, Collin Proksch, Gary Bender (mowing), and Glen Jensen (mowing). If I missed anyone, my sincerest apologies!

Finally, the club is saddened and excited for Brian and Carmen Smith; sad because they will move to South Dakota this year but happy for them as they will pursue new opportunities. Brian and Carmen have been central to running the target pits efficiently during matches and worked thru all weather conditions without complaint making sure that all targets were running smoothly and together. Both will be greatly missed by the club and the High Power Rifle Shooters. Best of luck to Brian and Carmen as they open a new chapter of their life.

See everyone in the spring. Our practices on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays will start as soon as the light and weather conditions permit. Specific times will be posted on the La Crosse Rifle Club calendar posted on our website.

About High Power Rifle Competition at La Crosse Rifle Club:

We have three types of shooting disciplines that encompass our program: 1. High Power Rifle Mid-Range Prone (MRP) 600 yards, 2. F-Class Rifle Mid-Range Prone (MRP) 600 yards. 3. Service/Bolt Rifle National Match Course (NMC) 200/300/600 yards. Our program presently consists of three MRP-600 yard matches, a 50rd NMC Leg Match and an 80rd NMC Match. On Tuesday late afternoon is an informal practice session for 600 Yard Prone. On Thursday starting late afternoon is an informal practice for MRP or NMC. Saturdays starting at 8:00 a.m. is our NMC 200/300/600 yard practice which is held every Saturday morning from about mid-April through September unless we have a High Power Rifle Match. You do not need to be a club member to participate in these shooting events. If you are interested in the High Power Rifle Shooting Sports, please contact me, Sandra Pagel, at deadeyepagel@yahoo.com or Mike Stewart at navybluejacket@yahoo.com.

LRC Mother's Day 600 Yard MRP is a two day event, 80rds at 600 Yards both days. Categories/Rifle types are Bolt Action/Service and F-Class Rifle. This match is NOT NRA Approved, meaning we can use this match for training and education. IF you are a beginner, this is the 600 Yard Match for you.

LRC June National Match Course Weekend brings us a Saturday NRA Approved NMC 80rd Match and a CMP Sanctioned 50rd Leg Match. These matches are shot at 200/300 & 600 Yard and include Standing/Sitting and Prone Stages. Bolt action rifles holding 5 rounds and Service Rifles are used with iron sights used on both types of rifles. Competitors on Sunday compete for the coveted Leg Points to earn the Distinguished Rifleman's Badge with a Service Rifle.

LRC Father's Day 600 Yard MRP is another two day Mid-Range Prone 600 Yard Match. This match is NRA Registered which means 600 Yard MRP national records can be set. This match also draws in competitors from all over the U.S. and competition is tough. The winner will likely drop less than 10 points over the two days of shooting. This match is usually full, pre-registration is highly recommended and preference is given to participants shooting both days.

LRC August Brat & Corn Match / Wisconsin State 600 Yard MRP Championships. This is our final two day 600 Yard MRP match for the year and is generally the State Championship but not always. Again, this match is usually full. Preference is given to participants shooting both days and advanced registration is highly recommended. Not only do we get to finish off the year shooting 600 yards, we also have the McCann Brat and Corn Picnic. John McCann works Friday afternoon cooking up the Brats so they can marinate in his special sauce overnight and cook the next day. We also have corn on the cob and carrot cake. After competitors are fed, some of the participants bring out some novelty items for enjoyment on the range. On Sunday, it's back to business and match winners are chosen.

Junior Rifle Team 2015 Year in Review by Mike Stewart

The La Crosse Rifle Club's Junior Rifle Team has completed its second season of high-power shooting. Our team practices on Saturday mornings at the La Crosse Rifle Club and we typically shoot the entire National Match Course during these practice times. Our Juniors began shooting in mid-April and shot all the way through the end of September. When we're not practicing we're typically at rifle matches. Our Juniors have competed at several rifle matches in Wisconsin including La Crosse, Eau Claire, Wood County, Winnequah and Racine. Some of these matches were state and regional championships where our Juniors were well represented by their sportsmanlike conduct and much improved scores. Probably the highlight of the season was our trip to the 2015 National Matches at Camp Perry, OH. Three of our junior shooters represented the La Crosse Rifle Club. Our juniors attended either the USMC Junior High Power Clinic or the US Army Marksmanship Unit's Small Arms Firing School. After the shooting classes and live fire drills, our juniors shot right alongside the top civilian and military shooters in the world for a full week of rigorous competitions. It's amazing to watch exhausted kids come off the firing line at Camp Perry after 10 hours in the hot July sun with huge smiles on their faces because they're excited about their shooting performance.

Our junior team has been very successful, however it is not without a lot of support from outside groups. We received another grant from the NRA Foundation for over \$5,000, which provided two more National Match rifles, spotting scope stands, slings and ammunition. We received a generous gift of spotting scopes from Vortex Optics and Smith Guns. Support also came from many more individuals that gifted shooting jackets and shooting equipment to our team. All of this is much appreciated.

Another sponsor that has been instrumental in our success is the Wisconsin FORCE CMP Juniors. As our state association, they provide ammunition for rifle matches and they organize the housing and match entries at Camp Perry. Dave and Sara Holub have done a great job of providing leadership and mentorship to the Wisconsin Juniors. There were a total of 11 juniors from the state of Wisconsin at the 2015 National Matches.

It should be noted that we have some really great kids and parents that support them. The Juniors and their families have been helpful with grounds keeping, maintenance and supporting club work days. They are also very appreciative of the support of the La Crosse Rifle Club and its members.

2015 has been a rewarding year for the Juniors and hopefully in 2016 our program will continue to grow in numbers. Please go to the Junior Tab at the LRC website for contact information if you know anyone that might be interested in joining.

Sporting Clays 2015 Year in Review by Gary Bender and Rollie Roskos

The La Crosse Rifle Club Sporting Clays program completed the 18th consecutive season at the range. Twice in 2015 the range record was broken; early in the season, Joe Dobsen set a new record by shooting a 96 out of 100 clay targets to beat the 95 that was shot by our local A. J. Schulze about 4 years ago. Joe's record held only a month before Robert Nimitz, a master class shooter from Warrens, shot a 97 to set the new range record. Congratulations Robert!

Each summer, our sporting clays program runs a sporting clays league where each participant shoots a total of 800 targets for score. At the end of the summer, individual league-shooters are randomly paired into two-person teams. There were 16 shooters that finished the 800-bird course-of-fire. The Jensen-Schulze team won the league with a team score of 1351 out of 1600; the second-place Lemke-Bender team scored a 1316, and third place was a tie between the Leske-Roskos team and the Jirazek-Briggs team; both teams scored 1229.

The annual La Crosse Rifle Club Sporting Clays Championship was held on the Sunday after Labor Day. The first squad of shooters started at 9:00 a.m.; lunch was served at noon; and the second squad began their round of shooting at 1:00 p.m. The club champion for the 2015 season was Glen Jensen with 92 out of 100 clays, first runner-up was Gary Bender with a score of 85, and second runner-up was Phil Doescher with a score of 84. The pot-luck lunch was excellent. Jerry Rausch was our man on "charcoaled turkey" while Glen Jensen prepared a fine ham. About 25 shooters and friends were in attendance.

Maintenance of the sporting clays equipment and trails as well as running the shoots require a lot of hours of put in by volunteers. Those who put in more than 100 hours volunteer time in 2015 were: Tim Betlach, Glen Jensen, Rollie Roskos, Ron Krogman, Phil Doescher, and Gary Bender. Many other members and participants also contributed significantly. These members/participants contributed a great deal of skill, time, energy and effort to maintain the sporting clays course of the La Crosse Rifle Club.

We would invite anyone interested in learning to shoot sporting clays to contact Gary or Glen. Fellow sporting clay shooters are always willing to assist new participants with their shooting and their selection of equipment. New shooters are always placed in squads with "learning-targets" and with capable coaches. We are always very diligent in providing a rewarding shooting experience for the young shooters, beginners in the shooting sports. We will be happy to help anyone who is new to the sport, particularly junior shooters, learn to be successful on the sporting clays range. We always have room for new shooters and welcome both members and non-members to the range in 2016.

Educational Activities at La Crosse Rifle Club in 2015

During 2015 there were two WI/MN concealed carry classes held at the La Crosse Rifle Club conducted by NRA Instructors Dennis Fater, Nathan Fater, and Neng Xiong.

In May and in July NRA Basic Pistol classes for women were held at the club organized by Dennis Fater. These classes are non-profit classes; participants pay a fee that goes toward the expense of the NRA book and ammunition that is used during the live fire range segment of the class. Assisting with the women's pistol classes were members Neng Xiong, Larry Clark, Brian Larson, and Nathan Fater. Prospective member John Clark also assisted as did non-member Vonnie Fater. Participants shoot a variety of handguns that are personal firearms of those teaching the class. Many women take this class for the purpose of deciding which handgun to purchase for self-defense or for concealed carry.

In late August through early September the club sponsored a Wisconsin DNR registered hunter safety education class for 27 students organized by Dennis Fater. Assisting with the class were members Nathan Fater, Neng Xiong, and Larry Clark. Also assisting was prospective member John Clark and non-members Jeff Komay, Steve Johnson, Tami Gloede, and Vonnie Fater.

Wisconsin Force

Military Personnel can apply for Concealed Carry Permit

November 12, 2015

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, and Educators Inc. (Wisconsin FORCE) supported Assembly Bill 75, was signed into law yesterday. This will allow qualified military personnel stationed in Wisconsin for at least one year to apply for a Concealed Carry Permit. Wisconsin FORCE thanks Governor Walker, the authors of the bill, Representative Joel Kleefisch (R – Oconomowoc) and Senator Van Wanggaard (R – Racine), and all who voted for the bill.

Wisconsin FORCE works to remove burdens and unnecessary barriers.

December 10, 2015

Wisconsin FORCE testified in favor of two bills in front of the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry in Antigo, Wisconsin today.

Removal of back tag requirements. Senate Bill 289

It is time to update current law by removing the unnecessary, burdensome requirement of issuing and displaying a back tag. Wisconsin is one of just a few states that uses this antiquated requirement.

It is our responsibility to work to ensure that unneeded regulation does not serve as an obstacle when experiencing our rich sporting heritage.

Improvements to Mentored hunting. Senate Bill 301

Hunting is a very safe activity and mentored hunting even more so. Mentored hunting is a great way for new and old hunters to exercise Wisconsin's rich sporting heritage. Children develop the maturity to start this wonderful tradition at different ages. The age of the child being mentored should be left to the person(s) that knows them best -- their parents.

The parents and mentors of the new hunter are also better equipped to decide if the mentor and new hunter should hunt with one or two hunting implements. Restricting mentoring to one implement can greatly diminish opportunities because of the limited days available in the field.

Future generations greatly benefit from mentored hunting. It is our responsibility to remove unnecessary burdens, keeping our rich sporting heritage accessible for all.

National Rifle Association

I know it sometimes seems like we get a lot of solicitations from the NRA for donations, however, keep in mind that the NRA continues to lobby for our gun rights and provides numerous training services for civilian shooters as well as law enforcement. Consider upgrading your membership; annual to life, or life to endowment life, etc. NRA usually has very easy payment plans for any membership upgrade that will fit into most budgets.

Still Thinking About Getting That M1 Garand?

The M1 Garand rifle has always been a desirable addition to anyone's firearms collection. The La Crosse Rifle Club is a CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) affiliated club so by being a member of the La Crosse Rifle Club you meet the requirement of membership in an affiliated club. You can order M1 Garands by going online (www.thecmp.org) or calling them at (256)835-8455. You can also order CMP ammunition as well. The field grade M1 Garands cost \$630 and service grade rifles are \$730. I have seen some of the field grade Garands from CMP recently that are nice rifles. At some point the CMP will run out of these rifles.

Dates to Remember

January 21-Absolute deadline to pay your 2016 club dues.

January 30-La Crosse Rifle Club Winter Social, 6 p.m., Schmidty's in La Crosse

February 5 and 6-Wisconsin Force State Meeting

February 7-Polar Bear Match, 11 a.m., La Crosse Rifle Club

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