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New Mexico Shooting Sports Association

New Mexico Shooting News

President's Musings - May 2015

Dear NMSSA Members,

After several false starts, the 2015 Annual Meeting was held in Albuquerque on May 2. We received many comments on the value of the meeting – and the fact that the members enjoyed the presentation. We had 61 people signed up and we had 55 who actually attended at various times during the day.

The focus of the meeting was growing youth and women's participation in the shooting sports. To provide meaningful information about youth opportunities, Major Bill Barker, the Albuquerque Public Schools shooting coordinator, brought six students along who talked about their competition in high school air gun competitions. They brought along their air rifles and talked about why they shoot and what their future in competitive shooting will be. Many of these youngsters are national champions! Hooray for them. Also in attendance was Ryan Boyle, a politically active student at the University of New Mexico. He spoke about his attempts to ensure individual rights on campus including gun rights.

Lia Moldovan gave an outstanding and entertaining presentation on international shooting and her competition at Fort Benning and in Korea for the ISSF World Cup in Changwon. She will go to Munich at the end of May to shoot competitively in the air pistol discipline. Go Lia!

Women instructors and shooters talked during dinner about how to bring women, youth, and families into the shooting sports. Jodi Newton, the NMSSA Women's Program Manager hosted a panel discussion among local female shooting instructors and students as well as club officers including Diania DeCant (President – Women's Shooting Connection of New Mexico), Liza Orick-Martinez (instructor), Betty Vetch (student/instructor), and New Mexico Game & Fish representative Jessica Fisher. The questions from the audience were pertinent, thought provoking and very helpful.

Bernalillo County Sherriff's Deputy Robin Hopkins also told the audience about her year-and-a-half road to recovery from the serious injury she sustained in October 2013 while apprehending a shooter who wounded other law enforcement officers before having his rampage ended thanks to Robin's quick thinking.

Ron Peterson Guns donated a Ruger 10-22 as a raffle item. It was sold and we raised money for our treasury! Thank you Ron Peterson!

Another NMSSA supporter, Calibers, donated a year's membership, a tech flashlight, and numerous door prizes. Deliberate Defense (Rick Davis) donated a seat in

an upcoming concealed carry class, and Jodi Newton donated a seat in her Ladies Introduction to Shooting class. Albuquerque Shooting Range Park donated a year's pass to the park. We thank all our supporters over and over again!

It was a very successful annual meeting and the committee's thank go out to everyone who participated and contributed time and effort.

A draft of the minutes will be published to those members who have registered their email addresses with us. If you know of anyone who has not sent us a valid email, please ask those folks to do so. Although we want everyone involved in our association, we cannot afford to continue to mail hardcopy to some 500 members who have not shared their email addresses.

We look forward to the 2016 meeting!

Gayle Dye

Editors Note

As Editor of the NMSSA Newsletter, I welcome all articles, comments and suggestions. Please send them to: editor1@nmssa.org

Thanks to the folks who submitted articles for this newsletter.

Henry Newton



New Mexico Shooting News

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Editor: *Henry Newton, editor1@nmssa.org*

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Women shooting instructors and students as well as club officers talked during dinner about how to bring women, youth, and families into the shooting sports.

They were (left to right) Diania DeCant, Jodi Newton, Lis Orick-Martinez, Betty Veitch and Jessica Fisher (pictured at the lower right in a separate photo).



Point Blank Range
Scott W. Teare, Professor of Electrical Engineering
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Many popular expressions can often be linked to real concepts and the idea of point blank range is one of them. In common use, point blank range is often used to indicate a target so close that it can't be missed! But the reality is something else entirely. In fact depending on the firearm and caliber you are using, point blank range can be more than a football field away!

The range of a firearm is controlled by the angle of the bore to the ground. If the bore is angled upward with respect to the ground, we will ignore the earth's curvature in our discussion, the bullet travels up to a maximum height limited by the effect of gravity and then begins to descend toward the ground, pushing out the range of the bullet. The resulting trajectory is a roughly parabolic path being traveled by the bullet, the effects of the air's drag on the bullet changing the shape of the curve somewhat from the ideal parabola.

The point blank range is really the distance where by aiming at a target the rise of the bullet from a straight path to the target and its fall below this path will still result in the bullet hitting in the target area. If we consider a common target, a 9-inch paper plate, we want to be able to sight in on the center of the target and know that when we pull the trigger the plate will be hit over a wide range of distances. This means the bullet can rise no more than 4.5 inches and fall no more than 4.5 inches below the line of sight. But how do we know how high the bullet will go? This is a great task for a ballistics calculator! Today such calculators are available for your smart phone or computer so there is no problem getting access to one!

The key information in finding the point blank range is knowing the muzzle velocity of your bullet and the zero sight distance you are using. There are some other refinements that can be made by knowing the shape of the bullet and some environmental information, but to get started these are not as important. Most often the calculator will have a set of default values available so just choose the defaults and input your bullet velocity and the zero sight distance you use. The results will show the bullet speed, time of flight and the height relative to the line of sight. The height the bullet reaches sets the outside radius of the target for point blank range. If it rises higher than the target you are shooting just increase the zero distance to flatten out the trajectory. Now the maximum point blank range is found by looking out past the point where the bullet crosses the line of sight a second time and falls to the opposite edge of the target. Once you know the size of the target you want to shoot, and have adjusted the zero distance correctly, your rifle will hit the target out to the point blank distance. You can now be confident in hitting in the target area over the whole range from just in front of the muzzle out to the point blank range. Should you find you need to shoot further, or into a smaller target area you may need to select a higher velocity cartridge. Of course, all of this depends on you being able to shoot well and external factors like the weather cooperate.

Next time you hear someone talking about point blank range you can ask politely how many football field lengths they are really talking about!

Spring 2015 New Mexico Legislative Report **Nancy T. Bennet**

Another session of the New Mexico Legislature has ended. As you've probably heard, there was lots of smoke, but very little fire. When it all cleared, gun owners had not gained any ground – but we hadn't lost any either.

The schedule of the New Mexico Legislature alternates annually between a 30-day session and a 60-day session. The shorter sessions must focus almost solely on finance and budget, plus a few issues for which the governor has issued a "special call" or which are deemed worthy of immediate action.

In the 60-day session just ended, a variety of gun-related bills were introduced. Rep. Miguel Garcia (D-Bernalillo) made a third attempt to extend background checks, this time focusing only on "the gun show loophole." Although he had removed some controversial provisions that appeared in earlier versions, the bill was rejected in a House committee.

Another bill would have charged a gun owner with a crime if an underage person got possession of that owner's gun. Its language was considered too broad by many gun rights supporters, and since there are already serious legal consequences for endangerment of a child, that bill failed too.

The concealed carry law was the subject of one bill in the House and another in the Senate that closely resembled each other. They proposed to extend the duration of a license from 4 to 5 years, discontinue fingerprinting again upon each renewal, and abolish the two-year "refresher" requirement. The House bill was approved by the requisite committees there, but the Senate bill ran into problems, mostly centering on the refresher. Though the sponsor amended it to delete that portion, thus letting the refresher stand, the entire bill was ultimately killed in a Senate committee anyway.

The public is invited to speak to committee members at each hearing. Although it can be very time-consuming as agendas are revised and hearings get rescheduled, I can assure you the gun-control supporters are always well represented! Gun owners, not so much. Of course, not everyone can take time off and travel to Santa Fe to attend these hearings, but it does indeed have an impact. At the least, I suggest you look into pending legislation and let your senator and representative know whether you support or oppose a particular gun-related bill. You can do that in person before the session, or by phone or email.

If you'd like to learn more and perhaps consider joining us for a day or two at the state capitol next year, I invite you to contact me at ntbennett@msn.com.

Nancy T. Bennett, co-owner
Shooting Star Firearms Training LLC
NRA and DPS pistol instructor

**Major Bill Barker Named 2015 Champion
of Youth Marksmanship Recipient by Crosman Corporation
by Lue Sherman, CMP Program Coordinator via NRA blog**

Major Bill Barker of Albuquerque, New Mexico was raised by a Marine and served in the Marines until 1990. The steadfast determination developed during those years served him for the next twenty as he led teams of young men and women to over 30 state and regional championships while becoming a leader in JROTC airgun competitions. In recognition of Major Barker's contributions to youth marksmanship, Crosman Corporation is proud to name him our 2015 Champion of Youth Marksmanship. Phil Dolci, CEO of Crosman, presented Major Barker with a bronzed Pumpmaster 760, a favorite among young shooters since its introduction 50 years ago, during an event in Las Vegas on January 21.

"Major Barker's leadership in youth marksmanship goes far beyond coaching kids the skills and discipline necessary to win championships," said Dolci. "He grew the program at La Cueva High School into a national title contender by teaching the value of perseverance and what it means to truly focus on a goal. And because Major Barker relies on the precept that 'you don't get better until someone else does', he shared his knowledge with other programs and provided more young people an opportunity to excel."

During Major Barker's thirteen years of coaching his teams recorded 13 consecutive New Mexico State Sporter Class Championships, 12 of 13 state Precision Champions and 15 Western Region Cup Champions. Nationally, he has two American Legion national championships, two JROTC National Championships and 12 Marine Corps championships. "More importantly, Major Barker has over 60 cadets attending service academies, with none having quit or failed to move on. That is the truest testament to his impact," added Dolci.

Many of Major Barker's students return each year to conduct camps and clinics for New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Today, Major Barker operates clinics across the country and is a member of the NRA's National Coach Development Staff, serves on two National Airgun Councils, is the New Mexico State Director for the Civilian Marksmanship Program, and is the New Mexico Junior Shooting Sports Chairman for the American Legion, as well as the Match Director for major competitions within the state.

Says Dolci, "Major Barker has been a tremendous force for the shooting sports not only in the state of New Mexico but throughout the country by way of his clinics and his own cadets, who have championed his teachings in their personal endeavors."

For additional information on the Benjamin Armada, visit crosman.com or write to Chip Hunnicutt, Marketing Manager, Crosman Corporation, 7629 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield, NY 14469, email him at chip@crosman.com, follow him on Twitter ([@chiphunnicutt](https://twitter.com/chiphunnicutt)) or call him at (800) 7-AIRGUN (724-7486).

For up-to-the-minute news from Crosman Corporation, follow us on Twitter ([@crosmancorp](https://twitter.com/crosmancorp)).

For over 90 years Crosman has led the world in the design and manufacture of airguns and airgun ammunition, along with airsoft, optics and shooting sports accessories. Headquartered in Bloomfield, N.Y., the company sells its products worldwide under the Crosman®, Benjamin®, CenterPoint®, Game Face® and Undead Apocalypse® brands. For more information about any of these brands or products, please contact Crosman Public Relations at (800) 7-AIRGUN or visit crosman.com.



Phil Dolci, CEO of Crosman presenting award to Major Barker

NRA Ladies Day at the Range

The NMSSA will host several events this year including the Ladies Day at the Range on May 30 in Albuquerque. We will also hold a rimfire challenge at Los Lunas Gun Club and another one at the Shooting Range Park in Albuquerque.

If you would like to host an NRA Day at your range, please contact:

president@nmssa.org or
MHoranburg@nrahq.org

We are interested in holding events around the state - we just need you to step up and help us!

Please email:
mhoranburg@nrahq.org

NRA Day

on
May 30
and
Ladies Day at the Range

at the City of Albuquerque Shooting Range Park

\$25 Ladies' First Shots Classes
\$100 off !

Ladies: Register to take First Shots Training for Beginners for **only \$25** (includes ammo, firearm use, and hands on training from professional NRA Instructors) at:

<http://www.nmssa.org>

First Class: 9AM - 1PM
Second Class: 1PM - 5PM
Open Range: 12PM-5PM



Location: City of Albuquerque Shooting Range Park
16001 Shooting Range Access NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
(By Double Eagle Airport)

NEW MEXICO SHOOTING SCHEDULE 2015
by Virginia T. McLemore March 10, 2015

<i>February 7, 2015</i>	<i>Sandia .22 prone rifle league, Albuquerque shooting park (1200)</i>
<i>February 8, 2015</i>	<i>NRA Collegiate Club Sectional Match, Albuquerque NM</i>
<i>Feb 21-22, 2015</i>	<i>Bobcat 2400 (South Mountain, Phoenix, Az)</i>
<i>Feb 28-March 1</i>	<i>Black Widow 3200 Metric Regional (South Mountain, Phoenix, Az)</i>
<i>March 7, 2015</i>	<i>Sandia .22 prone rifle league, Albuquerque shooting park (1200)</i>
<i>March 7-8, 2015</i>	<i>Road Runner 3200 Cov. Prone (South Mountain, Phoenix, Az)</i>
<i>March 14-15, 2015</i>	<i>Diamond Back 3200 (Ben Avery, Phoenix, Az)</i>
<i>March 18-22, 2015</i>	<i>Western Wildcats 6400 prone championship, (Ben Avery, Phoenix, Az)</i>
<i>March 28-29, 2015</i>	<i>ASRPA Arizona State Prone Championship (South Mountain, Phoenix, Az)</i>
<i>April 4, 2015</i>	<i>Sandia .22 prone rifle league, Albuquerque shooting park (1200)</i>
<i>April 12, 2015</i>	<i>Capitan smallbore league</i>
<i>May 2, 2015</i>	<i>Sandia .22 prone rifle league, Albuquerque shooting park (1200)</i>
<i>May 10, 2015</i>	<i>Capitan smallbore league</i>
<i>May 30-31, 2015</i>	<i>New Mexico State Conv. Prone Championship, Capitan, NM (3200)</i>
<i>June 14, 2015</i>	<i>Capitan smallbore league</i>
<i>July 4-7, 2015</i>	<i>Firecracker 4800 Whittington, Raton, NM (4800)</i>
<i>July 9-22, 2015</i>	<i>National Metric and Conventional Rifle Championships, Indiana</i>
<i>July 26, 2015</i>	<i>Capitan smallbore league</i>
<i>August 9, 2015</i>	<i>Capitan smallbore prone league (Capitan, NM)</i>
<i>August 29-30, 2015</i>	<i>Smokey Bear Prone Regional Championship (3200) Capitan, NM</i>
<i>Sept 12-13, 2015</i>	<i>Smallbore Clinic (Capitan, NM)</i>
<i>October 10-11, 2015</i>	<i>New Mexico State Metric Prone Championship (2400) (Capitan)</i>

This schedule is subject to change. More information: contact Virginia McLemore, 1219 Hilton PI, Socorro, NM 87801, 575-835-3823, 575-835-5521, ginger@nmbq.nmt.edu. Past events are shown for historical purposes and are presented in *italics*.

Web sites

<http://www.capitanhipower.com/>

<http://desertsharpshooters.com/content/webpage/id/13>

<http://www.socorrogunclub.com/>

**New Mexico Tech Shooters Begin March Madness
Phoenix Style With Medals (.22 Rifle Competitions)
by Virginia T. McLemore 5 March 2015**

Smallbore rifle competitors from throughout the U.S. gather in Phoenix for their own version of March Madness—6 regional or state championships in 6 weeks and the New Mexico Tech Rifle Team was no exception. Smallbore rifles are .22 caliber and competitors shoot in the prone position at distances of 50 ft, 50 m, and 100 yds; iron sights one day and scope the second day. Some competitions last for four days. More information can be found at <http://arizonarifleshooting.com/smallbore.htm>. The course of fire is the Dewar (20 shots at 50 yds, 20 shots at 100 yds), 100 yds (40 shots), 50 meters (40 shots), and 50 yds (40 shots) in the prone position, for a total of 1600 points and repeated for a 2nd day for a total of 3200 or over four days for a total of 6400 points. The 2400 metric course of fire is using the metric targets with a course of fire of Dewar (20 shots at 50 yds, 20 shots at 100 yds), 100 yds (40 shots), and 50 meters (40 shots), for a total of 1200 per day or 2400 over 2 days.

The first championship was the Bobcat 2400 Prone Championship, held at the Phoenix Rod and Gun Club range at South Mountain, February 21-22, 2015; 25 shooters competed. The Bobcat is the first of the 6 championships and fewer shots are fired to get everyone ready for the rest of the season. NM Tech shooter Andrew Krause won first Expert (or 9th place overall). Troy Vigil won 2nd Marksman. Coach McLemore placed 2nd overall.

The following weekend was the Road Runner 3200 Prone Regional Championship (February 28-March 1, 2015, also at South Mountain). NM Tech shooter Andrew Krause won 2nd overall, edging out many of the country's top prone shooters, including Coach McLemore who placed 4th. NMT shooters Patrick Ward earned 1st Sharpshooter medal and Troy Vigil earned 1st Marksman medal.

NM Tech Shooter Troy Vigil will be traveling to Fort Benning, Georgia March 19-22, 2015 for the NRA National Intercollegiate Club Championships, and will miss some of the Phoenix championships! Ten teams and more than 30 of the top collegiate club rifle shooters will be competing at that event.

It is unusual to have so many high caliber championships in 6 weeks, but the weather in Phoenix is generally excellent during February-March, with only a couple of windy or rainy days, such as this past weekend during the Roadrunner Championship. These championships provide the New Mexico Tech Rifle Team with more than a month of shooting.

The team is currently preparing for the remaining March Madness Championships in Phoenix (Black Widow 3200 Metric, March 7-8; Diamondback 3200, March 13-15, Western Wildcats, March 17-22, and ASRPA 3200 Grand Finale, March 28-29) and additional championships throughout the rest of the year. McLemore and Krause will be competing in the NRA National Smallbore Rifle Championships in Bristol, Indiana in July.

New members of the New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club are welcome. The club has regular practice at the New Mexico Tech Gym Classroom every Monday at 5-7 PM during the fall and spring semesters. And we can still accommodate shooters for the remaining March Madness events! *See pictures on following page.*



Drew Krause receiving his award from match director Mick Walker



NM Tech Rifle Team in the prone position at the New Mexico Colligate Club Sectional

**A Review of the Hornady Powder Measure
By Henry Newton, NMSSA Newsletter Editor**

This is just a short review of the Hornady Lock-N-Load Model 050069 powder measure with the pistol rotor Model 050129. I have an RCBS power throw but was looking for something a bit more repeatable for pistols load. I ordered both the measure and pistol rotor over online for \$108 delivered. The measure comes equipped with a rifle rotor rated for 0.5 to 256 grains. The pistol rotor that I bought as an extra is rated for 0.5 grains to 17 grains. Rotor swapping is easy.



Upon receipt I degreased the measure as per the instructions, reassembled after degreasing, installed the baffle in the powder hopper, and placed some Bullseye into the hopper. With a little fiddling and multiple throws, I set the amount to approximately 3.00 grains. I proceeded with 10 throws and the lowest throw was 2.96 grains and the highest was 3.00 grains with a standard deviation of 0.01333 and average of 2.98. The measurements were taken with a Gem-Pro 250 digital scale with a 0.02 grain resolution.

Standard deviation is a measure used to quantify the amount of dispersion and a value close to zero indicates all the data points tend to be very close to the average. I could have fiddled with the adjustment a bit more but for this initial out-of-the-box test I was satisfied that the maximum excursion was only 0.04 grains.

Included with the measure is a bench bracket, a 3/32 inch allen wrench for the set screw in the 7/8-14 nut, a 1/8 inch allen for the handle to rotor bolts, a hopper baffle, two powder drop tubes, and manual. The measure and all components were well packaged.

So I am pleased with the repeatability of the powder measure. This particular measure has the added benefit of being compatible with the Hornady Lock-N-Load progressive Press. The Hornady LNL press set comes with one powder measure and with an additional measurer, you could have each one set for different powders.

While I have not tried this measure on rifle powder, I know a friend who operates this measure in the Hornady LNL Progressive Press using H4895 powder and it works fine using the rifle rotor.

I do not have any relationship with Hornady and it is hoped that the short review may be of some value to those interested in pistol reloading.

Nebraska's Rachel Martin wins the 2015 NCAA Smallbore Rifle Championship
By Lars Dalseide, 14 March 2015, NRABlog.com

Fairbanks, Alaska - Rachel Martin never wanted to learn how to shoot. But thanks to a little prodding from dad, she eventually found a passion for the sport. A passion that brought her the 2015 NCAA National Smallbore Rifle Championship.

"It's a little overwhelming right now," she exhaled after winning the title.

Emerging from a crop of 48 shooters selected specifically for the tournament, this Nebraska sophomore blazed through the opening rounds to earn a spot in the coveted final round. It was there that she held steady until making her move for the win.

"I was so nervous going in. Luckily I talked to my teammates and they told me I was here because Go let me be here so have fun with it. That's all I needed to hear."

For those unfamiliar with the procedures of NCAA Rifle finals, here's the Reader's Digest version.

The top eight shooters from the day's early relays take the line. Shooting quick five shot matches, competitors fire volleys of five shots from the kneeling, prone, and standing position. After the first round of five shots are fired from the standing position, the 7th and 8th placed shooters are removed from the competition. Then the 6th place shooter is removed; then the 5th, then it got interesting.

First one out of the final four was West Virginia's Garrett Spurgeon. Leading throughout most of the finals match, Spurgeon saw his hopes at title fall short.

Next to fall was Connor Davis from the University of Kentucky. Keeping pace with the leaders throughout, it appeared as if Davis had a clear path to the 2015 title. Unfortunately, his final pull of the trigger landed three rungs outside the ten ring. That's when Martin remembered the words of her father; the man who pushed her to become a shooter.

"I've been working on my mental game this year," Martin recalled. "Last year I got the positions down and this year it was more about what's going on upstairs.

Once I got a grip on that I've been going up and it's been a lot more fun."

Finding a spot on the University of Nebraska roster was essential to this New Mexico native's success. Not because of the equipment or facilities or secret shooting practices known only to those residing in America's heartland. No, her success was due to her teammates. Or, as she calls them, the girls.

"I mean the academics are great, the Athletic Department is amazing but when you get right down to it was the girls - the team. When I met them I just knew I was supposed to be here. I



Rachel Martin poses with Nanook, the University of Alaska's mascot, after winning the NCAA Smallbore Rifle title

Nebraska's Rachel Martin wins continued

couldn't ask for a better team so that was definitely the deciding factor.”

With her upstairs operating in top conditions, her scores continued to rise and she was primed for stellar showing in the tournament. A solid plan and a little faith of course.

“There were a couple of times in the final I was a little doubtful because I was behind, but remembering why I was here and how faithful God is really helped me push through, do what I could do, and shoot a good shot.”

Up by .5 points, all she needed was a 10. A perfect shot would all but guarantee her the title. That's when she remembered what her father told her. Remembered and took it to heart.

“My dad said that everybody takes shortcuts in the finals. There's not a lot of time and there is a lot of pressure. The one thing I have to do is not take shortcuts. That's why I'm usually the last to shoot because I'm remembering what my dad said.”

Taking her time, Martin waited, and waited, and waited. The final obstacle to her crown was Ryan Anderson from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. A hometown favorite with plenty of fans in the stands. But Martin waited him out. Waited for him to fire. Fire a 9.1. All she needed was a 8.7. She shot a 9.3.

“I can't tell you how proud I am of her right now,” said fellow Cornhusker Lauren Phillips. “She's been shooting amazing scores over the last couple of months and this just goes to show you that a little hard work and concentration can really pay off.”

As friends new and old descended to offer congratulations, Martin held a stoic look on her face. Barely a hint of a smile. Hugs, high fives, handshakes and more were offered and accepted as everyone (including me) waited for their turn with the new champ. It wasn't until Nanook, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks' mascot, appeared that she let a smile break through.

“It's been a long and great season. I kept positive, stayed strong, and just believed.”
Good thing dad was there to push.

Editors note: Rachel Martin is a native of Peralta, New Mexico

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Are you renewing your membership (yes/no) _____ FAX _____

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Do you belong to your local shooting club? (yes/no) _____

Club name _____

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