



A PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SPRING 2022

CLUB CONNECTION



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Editor:
Elizabeth Bush, Managing Director
Community Engagement Division
ebush@nrahq.org

(800) NRA-Club
(672-2582)
clubs@nrahq.org

Published quarterly by the
National Rifle Association of America
Community Engagement Division

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Cover Photo:
NRA Club Spotlight - Granburg MCJROTC
Caroline Martin, Most Valuable Player

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Charles L. Cotton
President

The Life-Saver: Vigilance

Last month here, I wrote about the dangers of complacency facing gun owners. This month, I want to look at the other side of the coin: vigilance.

There are many reasons to own a firearm, from target shooting and competition, to gun collecting, hunting and more. But the highest and most vital use of a firearm is in preserving innocent life. This is our first, most fundamental freedom. But it's only as strong as our vigilance to defend it and deploy it effectively.

I was a police officer for 10 years and I've been an attorney for almost 35 years. I've also been a firearms instructor and a legislative activist, and over the years, in all these roles, I've seen far too many lives and families torn apart by violent criminals. What's so troubling to me, as a Second Amendment advocate, is that so many of those tragedies could have been prevented if the victims had been able and prepared to defend themselves. That requires vigilance.

Being vigilant means maintaining a state of readiness. If you own a firearm for self-defense, it needs to be readily available to you. Everyone's situation is different, of course, so everyone has to strike their own balance between quick access and secure storage. But for many of us, vigilance means keeping a self-defense firearm at our side in a holster. Because, in many cases, this offers the best balance of both keeping the firearm secure and keeping it available.

If a home invader bursts through your front door while you and your family are gathered in your family room, that attacker can be upon you in seconds. And if the quick-access strongbox in which you store your self-defense firearm is on the top shelf of your bedroom closet and must be unlocked before you can retrieve your firearm and return to the family room—that's not likely to save you when split-seconds count. Far too often, just a few seconds can make a life-or-death difference. This is one of the topics I talk about in my firearms-training courses.

In 1983, a sergeant with the Salt Lake City Police Department named Dennis Tueller wanted to know how long it would take an attacker to cover seven yards, so he timed volunteers and found that they could cover that distance in less than two seconds. Today, Tueller's findings are incorporated into so-called "Tueller Drills" used to train police and the public in effective self-defense firearm deployment.

These principles are just as important on the street as in the home. Many of the women I train in my courses choose to carry a firearm in their purse, but their purse is often the first thing an attacker will snatch. What's more, even if an attacker doesn't grab their purse, they'll find—as the Tueller Drill demonstrates—that drawing and deploying a firearm effectively from a purse can take longer than they thought, far longer than the 1.5 seconds it takes for an attacker to cover seven yards.

**ARMED, TRAINED, DILIGENT,
PEACEABLE PEOPLE KEEP
VIOLENT, DANGEROUS
PEOPLE DETERRED.**

Again, so much of this revolves around time. Hardening your home against intruders—whether it's with an alarm system or with something as simple as extra-long screws through your door's strike plate—buys you time. A dog that barks at strangers buys you time. If you're out in public, avoiding dangerous places or situations, and paying attention to your surroundings, instead of burying your nose in your cell phone, buys you time. These are all forms of vigilance—or what we in the legal profession refer to as due diligence—and they can all make all the difference.

You can learn these principles and more by taking one of the NRA's Basic Personal Protection in the Home or Basics of Personal Protection Outside the Home courses, or attending one of our Refuse To Be Victim® seminars. Every year, NRA-certified firearms instructors teach more than a million Americans these kinds of life-saving techniques and more.

In fact, no public or private group in the world does more to ensure Americans have the right, the ability and the skills they need to defend life and limb, than your NRA. That's vigilance. And whether or not they choose to own a firearm for self-defense, Americans everywhere benefit from it—because armed, trained, diligent, peaceable people keep violent, dangerous people deterred. Your NRA membership is what makes it all possible. And for that you deserve to be proud.

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Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



GUN SHOWS

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Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter contact NRA Recruiting Programs at recruiter@nrahq.org.



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The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

INSIDE NRA | PROGRAMS & SERVICES



By Joseph P. DeBergalis, Jr.
 Executive Director,
 General Operations



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stateassociations.nra.org

Winners at the 2021 NRA Rifle Silhouette Nationals with some of their awards.



2022 NRA National Silhouette Championships

This month I want to highlight a few more major NRA National Championships occurring around the country in 2022, including one of my favorites, the National Silhouette Championships.

Silhouette is one of the most popular NRA competitive shooting disciplines. At the 2021 NRA National Silhouette Rifle Championships, conducted last summer at the Ridgway Rifle Club in Ridgway, Pennsylvania, shooters traveled from 23 states (along with a few from Mexico) to compete in both smallbore and high power rifle events. And with good reason—there's nothing quite as satisfying as hearing that steel ding after successfully knocking down one of the four silhouette game animal targets—chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams.

In silhouette high power and smallbore rifle competition, shooting is at distances of 200, 300, 385 and 500 meters. The silhouettes are grouped by animal type in banks of five, with chickens up front, followed by rows of pigs, turkeys and rams. All targets are shot standing, without support in the offhand position—a true test of marksmanship skills.

Some silhouette championship aggregates will span multiple sub-aggregates, such as at last year's Silhouette Lever-Action and Blackpowder Rifle Championships, also held at Ridgway Rifle Club. John Mullins, the winner of the Lever-Action Rifle 3-Gun Championship, had an aggregate score of 222 out of 240, drawn from eight different matches including pistol cartridge, smallbore and standard lever-action rifle events.

The NRA is thankful for its partnership with the Ridgway Rifle Club in administering the nationals. Last year's High Power Rifle 2-Gun aggregate champ, Erich Mietenkorte, said about the venue: "The Ridgway Rifle Club is a great place to shoot silhouette. The passion that personnel have for the

silhouette discipline is amazing and can be seen in the way they run a championship match. And the support they have for juniors is beyond reproach."

For 2022, the Silhouette Lever-Action and Blackpowder Cartridge Rifle Championships will be held at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. Below is the schedule and locations for the 2022 NRA National Silhouette Championships.

NATIONAL SILHOUETTE LEVER-ACTION RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP
July 21-24, 2022: Raton, New Mexico

NATIONAL SILHOUETTE BLACKPOWDER CARTRIDGE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP
July 26-30, 2022: Raton, New Mexico

NATIONAL SILHOUETTE SMALLBORE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP
August 7-9, 2022: Ridgway, Pennsylvania

NATIONAL SILHOUETTE HIGH POWER RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP
August 11-13, 2022: Ridgway, Pennsylvania

While dates aren't available as of yet, this year NRA is conducting two more rifle championships that you won't want to miss. The 2022 Fullbore Prone National Championship will be held at the NRA Whittington Center, while the National F-Class Rifle Championship will be at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, Arizona. We'll have more details available soon on the website.

For more information about the 2022 NRA National Championships and volunteer opportunities at the matches, visit competitions.nra.org.



2022 NRA GOLD MEDAL CLUBS

The NRA offers special recognition by awarding Gold Medal status to NRA affiliated organizations that promote and support the purposes, objectives, policies, and programs of the NRA. Members of these clubs have united to reach a common goal. Reaching this elite level sets your club apart from others in the area. Each year numerous organizations apply to achieve the Gold Medal status; an honor presented to clubs that meet the five specific criteria.

- Be a 100% NRA Club - Becoming a 100% NRA club helps make the NRA stronger by increasing its membership numbers and providing a larger representation of the shooting public.
- Have a club newsletter – A newsletter helps the club communicate to its members. Club members are kept in the loop of club activities and community issues.
- Belong to the NRA State Association of your state – Joining an NRA State Association shows support on the state level. Their mission is to promote and support the purpose and objectives of the NRA while providing programs and support to clubs on the local level.
- Have administered or currently incorporate an NRA Youth Program within the club's agenda. Incorporating a youth program helps introduce firearms safety to younger shooters. Encouraging them to shoot at an early age will help keep the shooting sports going for future generations.
- Actively participate in NRA's Membership Recruiting Program - participating in the NRA recruiting program helps bring new members in at a reduced price, helps generate income for your club, and helps to grow NRA numbers.

Clubs that meet the criteria above will be awarded a plaque along with an inscribed bar listing the year. Current Gold Medal clubs are encouraged to renew their status every year and will be given an inscribed bar with the renewal year. Clubs that are applying for a NRA Range Grant will be given preference if they achieve and maintain Gold Medal status.

The annual deadline for the NRA Gold Medal Awards is February 15.

2022 NRA Gold Medal Club Award Winners

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Airfield Shooting Club | Ridgway Rifle Club |
| Apple Valley Gun Club | Rivercreek Gun Club |
| Arlington Rifle & Pistol Club | Rochester Rod and Gun |
| Arnold Rifle & Pistol Club | Sandusky County Sportsmens' Club II |
| Asheville Rifle & Pistol Club | Silver State Shooting Sport Association |
| Castleton Fish & Game Protective Association | Stone Bank Sportsmen's Club |
| Cumberland Riflemen | Streetsboro Sportsman Association |
| Delaware State Pistol Club | Suburban Sportsman's Club |
| Downers Grove Sportsmens Club | Tri-State Gun Club |
| East End Rod and Gun Club | Upper Savannah Shooters Association |
| East Hook Sportsmen Association, Inc. | Van Wert County Outdoorsmen Assoc. |
| East Monongahela Sportsmen's Club | White Oak Rod and Gun Club |
| Eastern Nebraska Gun Club, Inc. | |
| Emerald Empire Gun Club | |
| Escondido Fish & Game Association | |
| Estacada Rod & Gun Club | |
| Factoryville Sportsman Club | |
| Foosland Sportsman's Club | |
| Fort Hill Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc. | |
| Franklin Revolver & Rifle Association, Inc. | |
| Gopher Rifle and Revolver Club | |
| Great Lot Sportsman's Club Corp. | |
| Hollywood Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc. | |
| Jamestown Rifle Club, Inc. | |
| Kiski Township Sportsmen Association | |
| Lima Sabres Shooting Assn. Inc. | |
| Martin County Sportsmen's Association | |
| Monumental Rifle and Pistol Club | |
| Nescopeck Hunting & Rifle Club | |
| New Milford Rifle and Pistol Club | |
| Norfolk County Rifle Range | |
| Northwestern Gun Club | |
| Old Post Rifle and Pistol Club | |
| Old Trails Rifle and Pistol Club | |
| Rappahanock Pistol & Rifle Club | |
| Richwood Gun and Game Club | |
| Ridge Rifle Association | |

THANK YOU!



2022 ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

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- NRA's Grand Ole Night of Freedom Celebration
- 151st NRA Annual Meeting of Members
- Houston Metro Friends of NRA Fundraising Event
- Women's Leadership Forum
- Women's New Energy Breakfast
- 14th Annual NRA-ILA Dinner and Auction
- And much, much more!

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NRA

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Granbury MCJROTC wins the Orion Precision Champions Division League Championship for the 3rd Time

Granbury MCJROTC defeated Lafayette Gun Club 2449.3 to 2422.2 in the 2021 National Air Rifle – Precision Orion Championship Tournament. This championship marks not only Granbury MCJROTC’s third league championship, but also their 3rd perfect season. Granbury MCJROTC finishes the season in first place overall and first place within their 'JROTC' conference. They finished the season with a perfect 10 - 0 record. Granbury MCJROTC was led by Parker Haydin who shot a 618.2. The remaining contributing members were Sunnee Schumann, Tye Foster, Ashton Arlington, Sarah Folsom, Julia Czernik, Caroline Martin, Cadince McGrath, Kaylynn Slaughter, Kameron Wells, Kennedy Wells. LtCol Casey, Senior Marine Instructor and coach, said “this was a good warm up for our Service National Championships next month in Arizona - the team is hitting on all cylinders – shooting some of the best scores in the past ten years”

Also, during the tournament Martin earned the Most Valuable Player award for having the highest average on the winning team during the postseason, averaging 614.7. Casey went on to say, “I’m very impressed with how Martin has shot – she has been working hard in the range on her time off and it is showing – she is an anchor for the team as we get ready for Service and All Service Nationals.”

Pictured Above L-R – Sunnee Schumann, Parker Haydin, Tye Foster, Ashton Arlington, Sarah Folsom, Julia Czernik, Caroline Martin, Cadince McGrath (not pictured – Kaylynn Slaughter, Kameron Wells, Kennedy Wells)

Pictured Below – Caroline Martin, Most Valuable Player



Huh! What? - Hearing Loss and Shooting

Reprinted with Permission from Forks Rifle Club - January 2022 Newsletter

One of the safety rules that we see at many shooting locations is a requirement that we wear eye and ear protection. The requirement for eye protection may seem self-explanatory, but why is it important we protect our ears as well? The reason is that, unlike a traumatic eye injury, which is typically sudden and dramatic, a loss of the function of our ears due to exposure to hazardous levels of noise is often slow, cumulative, and progressive. An important thing to remember is that most commonly noise damage to the ears leads to damage to nerve tissue, and this damage is irreversible.

When we are born, we typically have approximately 16,000 nerve endings in each of our ears. These nerve endings are called “hair cells” due to their resemblance to hair follicles when viewed under a microscope. These sensory cells are bathed in fluid and sit upon a membrane. When sound energy enters the ear, causing the eardrum and the small bones in your middle ear to move, this sets up waves in the fluid and along the membrane in the inner ear upon which these sensory cells sit. This leads to a bending of the hair cells, and they then discharge neural energy. This neural energy is transmitted along the auditory nerve to the brain, where it is perceived as sound.

These cells are very finely tuned and can respond to a vibration of the eardrum that is measured in angstroms (darn small units) and are sensitive to vibrations between 20 and 20,000 vibrations per second. For sound intensities up to about 85 decibels (about the loudness of a vacuum cleaner) the hair cells can handle the sound and be undamaged. But, like cells in the retina of the eye that can be damaged by light that is too bright (like looking at the sun or welding without goggles) a sound that is too intense can damage the hair cells. This damage starts when the sound exceeds 85 decibels.

An interesting thing about the decibel scale is that it is not a linear scale, it is a logarithmic scale. Thus, as we increase the intensity of sound, the effects are much greater than one would predict by the simple linear increase of the number. Every five decibel increase in intensity doubles the amount of potential damage to the ear. If we believe that hearing damage starts at 85 dB (the abbreviation for decibel), twice as much damage occurs at 90 dB, four times as much damage at 95

dB, eight times the damage at 100 dB, and so on. When we consider that firearms can emit sound energy on the order of 170 dB or greater (do the doubling calculation for every 5 dB increase above 85 dB if you wish) you can easily see why using hearing protection when shooting is critical.

Hearing protection is rated by what is termed the NRR, or the noise reduction rating. Earplugs, if fitting correctly, can reduce the noise by about 35-38 dB. Earmuffs can reduce noise by about 24-28 dB. Cotton does virtually nothing (about 2 dB). Neither do cigarette butts or .38 Special cases, or the various and sundry other things people put in their ears, thinking it is helping protect them.

Best hearing protection comes from double hearing protection, both earplugs and muffs. But, a simple addition of the NRR does not occur, due to the log nature of the scale and the fact that people hear through their skull as well as their ears. So, 35 dB NRR plugs plus 25 dB muffs does not equal 60 dB of noise reduction, but more like 42-43 dB NRR.

When one is shooting handguns, short barrel rifles, or firearms with a muzzle brake, the high muzzle pressure, the high gas velocity of the propellant, and the close proximity of the muzzle to your ears makes the sound significantly louder. You can easily demonstrate this by firing a .22 long rifle in a handgun and a rifle and taking note of the difference in sound levels.

Also, when shooting indoors or from a covered firing point the sound levels will be increased significantly. In those locations (which we have at the Forks Rifle Club) hearing protection, and preferably double hearing protection, is essential. Hearing loss, and very likely tinnitus, is a certain outcome if you expose your ears to the loud sounds of firearms. And, once hearing is lost, it is lost forever.

Dr. Kevin Fire is the owner of Fire Audiology and Hearing Center in Grand Forks. He has a PhD in Audiology from the Ohio State University. He has been a Professor of Audiology at UND for 21 years. He is a life member and executive officer of The Forks Rifle Club.



Forks Rifle Club
Grand Forks, ND



APPALACHIAN SHOWDOWN XXX

By Nightingale (SASS# 55528)

The hills came alive with the sound of lead on steel during the 30th Annual West Virginia State Cowboy Action Championships, Appalachian Showdown XXX, held September 24, 25 and 26, 2021. Singing Hills Ranch, Largent, WV, welcomed a total of 77 shooters from 13 states for the 3-Day event

Shenandoah (El Patron, SASS# 749) came all the way from California to shoot. He, along with his brother-in-law, the late Dennis Hielt (Three Barb Benson), originally brought the sport East from California some 32 years ago, to the Singing Hills Ranch, where Janet Hielt Young (Lady Benson) still welcomes shooters to the range.

Singing Hills Ranch, the actual home of Lady Benson and Texas Tommy, is the shooting home of CASS, Inc., (Cowboy Action Shooting Sports, Inc.), who sponsored the match. Cass is the first and the oldest SASS (Single Action Shooting Society) affiliated club east of the Mississippi, with Appalachian Showdown being the longest running multiple-day cowboy action-shooting event.

Main Match Sponsor, Taylor's and Company, Winchester, VA, contributed a Gunfighter Defender in 45 LC, for which all registered shooters received a ticket for the drawing. The drawing also included a custom rig from Mernickle Custom Holsters, and a Rugged Gear gun cart. The Cowboy Shop (Cody Conagher SASS# 6986) provided a 30th Anniversary 1873 commemorative rifle tuned with a Cody-matic

action job and with custom engraving done by Chuckaroo. Each registered shooter received a gift bag with a variety of items donated by the other generous sponsors, businesses and suppliers.

For the 30th anniversary, Rawhide Ron (SASS# 70866), the Match Director, went back in time to bring shooters some Retro fun with stages based on shoots from the beginning years of CASS. The stages were tweaked and brought up to current safety standards and SASS rules, but relied on smaller targets at slightly greater distances, with a few fun surprises thrown in. Long gone are the days when you were handed a set of keys to try and open the jailhouse door, kept shooting a bow and arrow until you hit the target or started your stage lying down in a pine box.

Friday was warm-up day with shooters able to try their hand at one or two of the upcoming stage scenarios, speed challenge events and the Wild Bunch mini match. One side match event began with shooters loading their pistol from ammo in a tin cup and "on-the-clock". Speed events included pistol, rifle, shotgun, derringer and pocket pistol, along with long-range rifle. Everyone found a little something at the Cowboy Resale shop with proceeds going to the Scholarship fund.

Saturday and Sunday were the Main Match days with 5 stages each day. Saturday evening included a barbecue, with live music, Corn Hole and Side Match and Wild Bunch awards. Cody Maverick (SASS# 93440) was the Wild Bunch winner. The

prize giveaways, and raffle for the Commemorative rifle, followed by a night shoot, where the Tiki torches really illuminated the black powder from some shooters, wrapped up the evening.

Sunday concluded the Main Match's last five stages and Main Match awards were given out. There were 11 "clean" shooters. The top overall winners were Walker Colt (SASS# 3035) and Sunshine Marcy (SASS#64900). The West Virginia State Champions were Cody Conagher (SASS# 6986) and Sunshine Marcie. Final scores can be found on the CASS website at www.wvcass.org.

Groups of shooters from North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia, who attended Appalachian Showdown for the first time, let everyone know, "We'll be back next year". The Appalachian Showdown XXXI will be held the fourth weekend in September, September 23, 24, and 25, 2022. Hope to see y'all there!



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OPEN *for Business*

A Somewhat Overlooked Freedom

A lot of people don't know that the NRA is about much more than your right to possess firearms. It is about civil liberties in general and the God-given freedoms all humans inherently possess. One of the great things about living in America is that our country was built by men who understood how important real freedom is. They made sure we'd have the freedom to speak, worship, live, protect ourselves, and to be treated fairly by government.

An additional freedom that doesn't get talked about as much, but one which is actually integral to living a quality life, is the freedom to own your own business. A LOT of baby boomers over the years have had the courage, taken the risk, and started businesses, investing both time, money and heart to provide valuable products and services to their communities.

There's a problem they're running into that's only been compounded by Covid and recent political events. Now that Boomers are coming of age to retire, many are looking to sell their business and have it fund their retirement. It's a common practice for them to contact a business broker to help them sell the business.

Even without the extraordinary recent events, many estimate that as many as 80% of businesses that get listed for sale, don't sell. The owners wind up simply closing the doors and walking away empty-handed. On top of that, good businesses that provide good things cease to exist when this happens.

By utilizing help and creative strategies, business owners can realize their plans and benefit from all their years of hard work, plus keep good businesses open for the benefit of the communities. For those owners thinking of retiring in the near future, know that you have options beyond a broker and your business can continue.

By Brian McAboy
Boomer M&A, LLC
brian@boomerma.com
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Due to the continuing restrictions in several areas, that prohibits law enforcement officers from obtaining the training needed for the renewal of their NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Certification, the NRA Law Enforcement Division is extending the waiving of the requirement for the 24 hours of Continuing Education Units (training) to renew until December 31st, 2022. We anticipate that this will be the last extension for the waiving of the Continuing Education Units.

You must still apply for instructor recertification, by downloading the Recertification Application here: https://le.nra.org/media/7746/recert-renewal_application.pdf completing and returning, with the renewal fee.

Additionally, the NRA Membership staff is internally limited so the processing of the required NRA Memberships, by paper form, is proceeding slowly. We urge all instructors renewing their certification(s), who also need to renew their NRA Membership, to do so online at <https://le.nra.org/> as the automated membership system will be faster.

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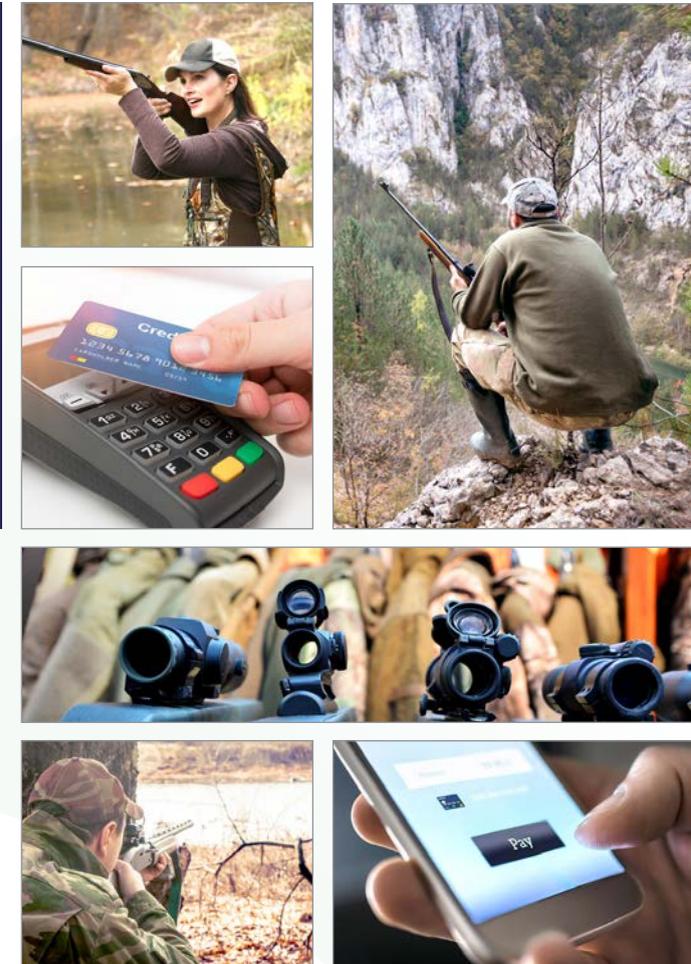
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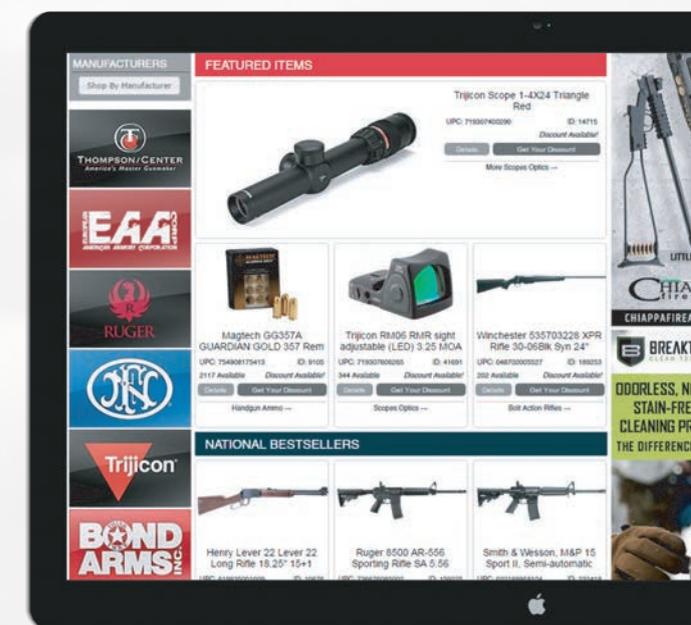
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Hunters Helping to Feed America's Hungry

By Brian McCombie - Reprinted with Permission from Hunters Leadership Forum

Founded by Mr. Rick Wilson in 1997, Maryland's Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) began as a ministry of a local church in Hagerstown, Md. Wilson patterned the program after the Virginia Hunters for the Hungry program with the goal of distributing donated game meat to various food banks across the state. Maryland's deer hunters responded enthusiastically.

"That first hunting season, hunters in our one county donated as many deer to our new program as hunters across the rest of Maryland donated to an existing program being run by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR)," said Josh Wilson, Rick's son, who now oversees the larger, nationwide FHFH program. "Dad was invited to Annapolis [by the DNR] after the season and ultimately asked to spread his new program across the rest of Maryland."

Since its 1997 launch in Maryland, FHFH has grown into a multi-state organization that today includes approximately 90 volunteer coordinators and more than 125 participating butcher shops in nearly 20 states across America. Hunter-donated deer and elk remain the primary sources of meat provided by FHFH to the needy of local communities, though in some places the donations also include livestock from farmers.

"Since 1997, FHFH has paid for the processing of enough deer, elk and livestock donations to provide nearly 22 million servings of nutritious protein-rich meat to help feed needy children, families and individuals," Wilson noted.

To assist programs like the FHFH, the NRA Hunters' Leadership Forum (HLF) made \$50,000 in grants available in July 2021, in amounts up to \$1,500 each to any Hunters for the Hungry groups around the United States.

"We received an overwhelming great response to the press release and within a month we had fulfilled the \$50,000 to 41 different groups, including the Maryland FHFH," said HLF Director Peter Churchbourne. "I want to thank the generous donors who made it possible for HLF to support this incredibly worthy cause. America and American hunters have a long tradition of embracing the vast resources hunting provides as a means for feeding family and friends. We are honored to play a role in that noble process."

According to Wilson, the FHFH relies upon donations from individuals, churches, businesses, other organizations and foundations to provide the funds needed to pay local participating butchers to process donated deer and elk into meat for distribution to food banks and feeding ministries. The subsidy funding received by FHFH from the NRA Hunters for the Hungry fund will be used to help increase the number of meat servings processed for the food banks and ministries in various local communities across the nation.

The need is real. As Wilson explained, nearly 13 million children in the United States face hunger regularly and getting the energy and nutrition they need to learn and grow can be a day-in, day-out challenge. Approximately 25 percent of children in households are at risk of hunger, he added, and may be forced to rely exclusively on hunger relief organizations to make ends meet.

And it's not only children who suffer from a potential lack of food. According to the non-profit group Feeding America, one in eight 8 Americans—approximately 38 million people—face hunger on a regular basis. In 2019, that included some 5.2 million senior citizens.

"That's one in 14 seniors or 7.1 percent of all seniors. 63 percent of seniors visiting food banks say they have to choose between food and medical care," Wilson explained. "Hunger takes a severe toll on seniors' health and nutrition, putting them at risk for chronic health conditions like depression, asthma and diabetes."

As far as the future for FHFH and the FHFH chapters around the nation, Wilson said the plan is to continue to support existing volunteer coordinators by developing new resources and opportunities for networking and, of course, to continue to raise the funds needed to pay for the processing of donated deer and other game. This will include a growing emphasis on digital outreach.

"We are also revising the process for new volunteers to apply and become part of the team with us," Wilson said. "This will also include a more streamlined online application process to replace the need for paperwork that is printed and scanned or mailed back to us for review."

He added, "Finally we recognize the need for a greater degree of communication and even collaboration between the various Hunters for the Hungry programs and organizations across the country. FHFH would like to play a role in facilitating this and, to a degree, representing the movement nationally for the benefit of the various independent organizations."

Would you like to donate game meat to help the hungry in your community? Visit the FHFH website to find a chapter near you.



NRA-ILA UPDATE

Your NRA-ILA has been hard at work this year, fighting on behalf of our members to stop efforts to enact gun control at the federal level, and to advance gun rights at the state level. Much to the dismay of the Biden Administration and gun control advocates, there hasn't been any new anti-gun legislation passed at the federal level.

One of the top priorities for your NRA-ILA federal team has been to ensure that gun control advocates cannot "sneak" bad provisions into seemingly unrelated legislation. The anti-gunners in Congress have been trying to do this with the Violence Against Women Act for several years. The Violence Against Women Act was signed into law in 1994 and for the first 25 years, it received broad bi-partisan support. In 2019, however, anti-gun activists in Congress attempted to sneak gun control provisions into this legislation, prompting your NRA-ILA to get involved in opposition to the gun control measures. This fight has held up the reauthorization of this legislation for 3 years, and your NRA-ILA federal team worked extensively with our friends in the U.S. Senate to remove these provisions – which they did before passing their own version earlier this year.

While we have had a number of battles on the state level, one of the fights to advance gun rights that has gotten a lot of attention recently is the fight to expand permitless carry. Last year, your NRA-ILA state team worked to pass permitless carry in five (5) states, which brought the total number of states with permitless carry laws to 21. This year, your NRA-ILA is working on permitless carry in a number of states, and, at the time of this writing, Alabama has become state number 22 to sign permitless carry into law, with bills awaiting signatures from the Governor in both Indiana and Ohio.

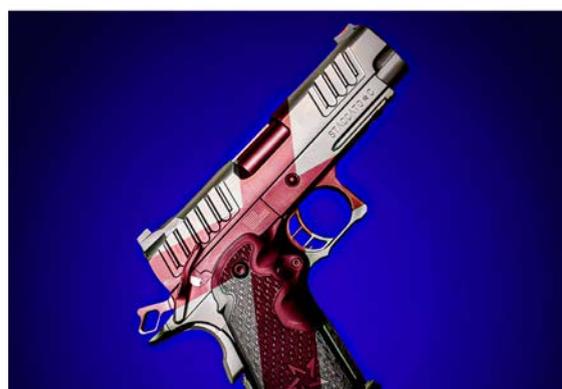
In addition to the legislative battles your NRA-ILA team has been fighting, we have also been fighting to defend gun rights in the courts. Recently, your NRA-ILA team partnered with Safari Club International, Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and filed motions to intervene in and dismiss a lawsuit challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on more than 2.3 million acres of land, at 106 National Wildlife Refuges. The purpose of this lawsuit is to keep public lands open for hunting.

While your NRA-ILA has been engaging in these fights at the state and federal level, we have also been gearing up for the important 2022 midterm elections, which are just around the corner. Your NRA-ILA Grassroots team is always looking to find members willing to help us educate their communities on the dangers of anti-gun laws and how they would impact law-abiding citizens. If you want to get involved in the fight for our rights, please reach out to the Grassroots Division by emailing us at: ILA-Contact@nrahq.org.



Alabama Becomes 22nd State to PASS NRA-Backed Constitutional Carry

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Meeting Demand by Building Shooting Ranges with Excise Tax Funds

Reprinted with Permission from Jim Curcuruto, Executive Director for Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation Inc. - NRA Hunters Leadership Forum

The current surge in firearm sales has been unprecedented with more than 35 million firearms sold since March 2020. It has been well reported that 10 million-plus Americans have become first-time gun owners during this timeframe as well, which is welcomed news for many in the firearms industry. Coinciding with strong sales, participation in target shooting also has shown recent growth. According to research conducted by insights firm Responsive Management, which specializes in survey research on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, target shooting participation in the United States has increased 65 percent from 34 million participants in 2009 to 56 million participants in 2020, which is also welcomed news for many in the firearms industry.

The increases in sales and participation are certainly good news, however the immense growth presents challenges as well. A key goal of any industry faced with fast-paced growth is retaining as many of the new participants as possible to realize sustained growth.

The firearms industry experienced several sales surges in the past decade, and we have learned a great deal during those surges. Key among the lessons learned is that, when recruiting and retaining new participants, it is crucial to make sure local opportunities exist for new participants to go target shooting. Research has shown that having a range within 30 minutes is necessary to keep people active in target shooting and that not having local access to ranges is a key factor in lapsed participation.

Research is one thing but experiencing this firsthand is another. As John Nelson, President of USA Clay Target League, notes, "Youth shooting sports has exploded over the past few years. Even during the pandemic, we are seeing record numbers of kids coming into the shooting sports."

While the growth is exciting, Nelson also noted, "Unfortunately hundreds, if not thousands, of potential shooting sports student athletes are being turned away from teams as there are not enough local ranges and/or range time available to accommodate all the interest. We are concerned that being turned away will negatively impact these kids and they will find something else to do with their time and be lost to the shooting sports forever."

As bad as turning people away sounds, a solution is available. Manufacturers are required to pay an excise tax on the firearms and ammunition they produce through the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of

1937. Over the past five years, an average of \$705 million has been collected annually from these manufacturers. The funds are then distributed to state wildlife agencies who must follow strict guidelines on how they may use such funds. Primary uses of excise tax funds include acquiring and improving habitat, wildlife restoration and research, hunter education, and shooting range enhancement and development. Some good news is that state agencies have already used excise tax funds to support development of nearly 800 shooting ranges across the nation.

"Having state agencies use these funds to increase capacity is key to the future success of the shooting sports," notes Ben Berka, who serves as the executive director of the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation. "Many state agencies have done tremendous work expanding capacity but more needs to be done to keep up with the substantial interest and growth in shooting sports."

Several factors make utilizing excise taxes to build or expand ranges a reality. Legislation supported by the National Rifle Association and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2019—the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act—has made it easier for state agencies to use excise tax funds for such purposes and agencies are starting to take advantage of the new incentives.

Bill Cline, who oversees the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's public shooting range program, has put these dollars to work in his state to meet the growing demand for safe target shooting experiences for new and avid shooting sports participants. "In Florida, we manage 11 shooting ranges throughout the state that were built in part using excise tax funding through the Wildlife Restoration program. Our newest range, the Palm Beach County Shooting Sports Complex, was built using federal grant funds from the Wildlife Restoration Program as well as through support and funding from the NRA and other partners. This state-of-the-art facility, one of the largest in Florida, is safely supporting the needs of hunters, hunter safety students, and target shooters in south Florida."

Along with new legislation that makes it easier to utilize funds, the surge in firearm and ammunition sales will provide a record amount of excise tax funds that will be allocated to state agencies in 2022. It is estimated that, for the first time ever, more than \$1 billion in excise taxes will be collected on firearms and ammunition this year. The record collections will provide an additional \$300 million to state agencies in 2022 that could be put toward range enhancement and development projects. (Watch for a story on this website once the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the allocations to state agencies later this month.)

Although manufacturers write the actual excise tax checks, it is the consumer who truly pays the tax. At the retail level, approximately 75 percent of firearm and ammunition sales are coming from non-hunting purchases. In other words, the vast majority of the billion dollars going to state agencies is coming from target shooters and those interested in self-defense. Armed with that knowledge, it is easier for state agencies to justify allocating more resources to future range enhancement and development projects.

Manufacturers who pay excise taxes are interested in seeing more ranges built with these funds. Pete Brownell, Chairman of Brownells, notes, "It is great to see such growth and interest in the shooting sports. However, we must ensure local facilities are available to accommodate the millions of new gun owners ready to have fun at the range and learn proper firearm safety. Utilizing these industry-provided funds makes perfect sense to expand range capacity to meet this demand."

As a large payer of excise taxes, SIG Sauer understands the importance of putting the funds to good use. "Here at SIG, we enjoy supporting conservation efforts and thank state wildlife agencies for all they do to maintain healthy habitats and wildlife populations," said Tom Taylor, CMD and Executive VP Commercial Sales at SIG Sauer, who continued; "As the majority of excise taxes are coming from target shooters, there is a real need to give back to these primary payers by expanding range capacity and providing clean, safe, local places for target shooters to enjoy."

With sales and participation still going strong, and many people buying their first gun, it is important for current target shooters to help teach the next generation about firearm safety, the importance of practice, and the joys of recreational target shooting. Check with the NRA Range Services Department to find a local place to go target shooting by clicking here, and ask someone new to come with you to the range in 2022.

Be sure to check your state wildlife agencies' website for their list of available shooting ranges as well. If there is not a convenient option for you, contact your state agency and let them know of your interest to have more local opportunities to target shoot.

Editor's Note

The NRA has good news for those seeking assistance in building shooting ranges in their communities through its Public Range Fund for qualifying range projects. Established in 2009, the NRA fund is a grant-matching program that encourages city and county governments as well as state and federal agencies to work with the NRA to build and improve public ranges across America. While NRA PRF funds are frequently tapped for physical improvements, the fund also permits qualifying agencies and local governments to improve community relations and address any range-related environmental issues. With grants awarded on a 50/50 matching basis, 50 percent of project costs is provided by the applicant with the remainder provided by the fund. In-kind services, such as labor and equipment, may count toward an applicant's 50 percent contribution. Projects including Pittman-Robertson Funds cover 90 percent of the applicant's share with the remaining 10 percent coming from the NRA Public Range Fund. For more information on this NRA program, visit the NRA Range Services website.—Karen Mehall Phillips

About the Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation Inc.

Launched in 2021 and headed by the author, Jim Curcuruto, the Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to use research-based communication and engagement programs to recruit the next generation of Hunters, Anglers and Target Shooters (HATS) and promote the fact that HATS are the primary funders and stewards of land, fish and wildlife conservation in America. Contact Curcuruto at jim@stewardsofconservation.org; 203-450-7202.



Retailer Insights From Top Selling Guns of 2021

2021 GunBroker.com Report



Reprinted with permission from Orchid Advisors - <https://orchidadvisors.com/retailer-insights-from-top-selling-guns-of-2021/>

Throughout the year, Gun Genius provides monthly reports of the top-selling new and used guns from the world's largest firearms auction site, GunBroker.com. Responsible for 7.2% of an estimated 18.5 million firearm sales in 2021, GunBroker.com holds one of the largest shares of firearm sales in the nation, making its data a great indicator of the firearms retail market.

Now a week into the New Year, Gun Genius has provided lists of the top-selling handguns, rifles and shotguns of 2021, as well as the Top 21 Selling Guns of 2021 – a first-time list compiling firearms of all types.

In our effort to provide FFLs with the latest insight into buyer behavior and firearms industry trends, here's what we learned from the Gun Genius 2021 year-end reports.

2021 Report Trends - Popularity Reigns

Despite firearm options growing each year and gun owners craving the latest and greatest, the list of top 21 selling guns of 2021 featured 12 firearms which finished in the top 10 of their respective categories in 2020. At the end of the day – or year, in this case – gun owners simply like what they like, and popular guns tend to remain popular.

Among the 12 repeat firearms were the GLOCK 19, SIG SAUER P365, Colt Python, Ruger 10/22 and Mossberg Shockwave.

Handguns Dominate

Of the top 21 guns of 2021, more than 75% (16) were handguns, including the top 5 firearms and eight of the top 10. Making up the 16 handguns were two revolvers – the Heritage Rough Rider and Colt Python – and 14 semi-autos, including popular models such as the GLOCK 19, 43X, 17 and 45, the SIG SAUER P365 and P320, and the Springfield Armory Hellcat and 1911 family.

Of course, this isn't all that surprising when you consider the

versatility of handguns for concealed carry, home defense, target shooting, competition and hunting, as well as the explosive growth of new shooters in the last two years.

Diving deeper into the top 10 handguns of the year, the semi-auto pistol list was again topped by the GLOCK 19 for the second consecutive year, while the Heritage Rough Rider jumped from third to first in revolvers, ahead of its category competitor in the Ruger Wrangler. While all handgun frame sizes are represented on the list, the models are notably skewed towards the compact-subcompact size – ideal for concealed carry.

Shotgun Decline

Throughout 2020, home defense shotguns of the new and used variety were seemingly nowhere to be found on gun store walls. However, just one year later, only three shotguns made the top list of 2021: the Remington 870 and Mossberg Maverick 88 and Shockwave – the latter of which is not officially classified as such by the ATF. Though shotgun sales could certainly be down, a more reasonable explanation may be simply a lack of available inventory or willingness by others to sell their personal defense or hunting long guns.

Interestingly, despite being the number 18 ranked firearm on the top 2021 list, the Remington 870 was ranked sixth on the list of the year's top-selling pump-action shotguns. That list was led by three Mossberg offerings, including the first overall Shockwave, the Winchester SXP and bullpup KelTec KSG.

Rimfires Represented

Perfect for teaching new shooters, range training, competition shooting and small game hunting, .22 LR is as versatile a round as they get. As such, the list of top 21 selling guns of 2021 featured three rimfire firearm models: the Ruger 10/22, Heritage Rough Rider and Ruger LCP II. (It's worth noting that while the LCP II, and other models on the list, are available in multiple calibers, the Gun Genius report groups sales by model regardless of caliber.)

With over 1.2 million handguns alone manufactured to .22

caliber in 2020, the rimfire market has exploded in recent years and the 2021 list proves the small but mighty cartridge remains popular among gun owners.

AR Absence

For all their popularity, the most glaring absence from the top 2021 list was the AR-15 – or any AR-style rifle or pistol for that matter. Chambered in more than two dozen calibers for everything from target shooting to hunting, not one AR made the top 21 despite six of the top 10 selling semi-auto rifles being some form of AR-15.

Perhaps stricter local-level gun laws against such firearms are to blame for their absence, or it could be the list doesn't account for gun owners purchasing lower receivers to build out their own rifles. Whatever the reason, we know for sure that the AR isn't absent from millions of gun safes across the country.

Retail Takeaways

So, what can you as a brick-and-mortar retail FFL take away from such a list? First, if you're not already stocking all or most of the top firearms, consider adding them to your regular inventory. Odds are you sell tons of GLOCK 19s and Ruger 10/22s, but it's always good practice to diversify your product mix for your customers and your bottom line.

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Top 21 Selling Guns of 2021
Below are the top 21 selling guns of 2021 sold on GunBroker.com.

RANKING	FIREARM MODEL
1	GLOCK 19
2	SIG SAUER P365
3	GLOCK 43X
4	SPRINGFIELD HELLCAT
5	SIG SAUER P320
6	RUGER 10/22
7	GLOCK 17
8	MOSSBERG SHOCKWAVE
9	COLT PYTHON
10	TAURUS G2C
11	HERITAGE ROUGH RIDER
12	RUGER LCP II
13	REMINGTON 700
14	MOSSBERG MAVERICK 88
15	SPRINGFIELD 1911
16	GLOCK 45
17	RUGER 57
18	REMINGTON 870
19	SMITH & WESSON M&P380 SHIELD EZ
20	COLT 1911
21	RUGER AMERICAN RIFLE

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Catonsville, MD 21228
410-838-1734
www.msarpa.org

(MA) GUN OWNERS' ACTION LEAGUE

PO Box 567, 361 W Main St
Northborough, MA 01606
508-393-5333
www.goal.org

MI RIFLE & PISTOL ASS'N

P.O. Box 71
Marshall, MI 49068-0071
586-727-1977
www.michrpa.com

MN RIFLE & REVOLVER ASS'N, INC.

P.O. Box 143
Farmington, MN 55024
320-968-6898
www.mrra.org

MO SPORT SHOOTING ASS'N

6140 N. Wagon Trail Rd.
Columbia, MO 65202-9658
573-449-2849
www.missourisportshooting.org

MT RIFLE & PISTOL ASS'N

P.O. Box 48
Ramsay, MT 59748
406-579-8694 (weekends only)
www.mtrpa.org

NE MARKSMANSHIP ASS'N

PO Box 390311
Omaha, NE 68139
402-880-4868
www.nemarksmanship.com

NV FIREARMS COALITION

5575 Simmons St, Ste I-176
North Las Vegas, NV 89031
702-353-5935
www.nvfac.org

GUN OWNERS OF NH, INC.

P.O. Box 847
Concord, NH 03302-0487
603-225-4664
www.gonh.org

ASS'N OF NJ R&P CLUBS, INC.

5 Sicomac Rd Ste 292
North Haledon, NJ 07508
973-764-4100
www.anjrpc.org

NM SHOOTING SPORTS ASS'N, INC.

P.O. Box 93433
Albuquerque, NM 87199
505-990-1802
www.nmssa.org

NY STATE R&P ASS'N, INC.

713 Columbia Pike
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-272-2654
www.nysarpa.org

NC RIFLE & PISTOL ASS'N

P.O. Box 4116
Pinehurst, NC 28374
910-639-4742
www.ncrpa.org

ND SHOOTING SPORTS ASS'N

P.O. Box 228
Bismarck, ND 58502
701-255-4601
www.ndssa.org

NRA Affiliated State Associations

OH RIFLE & PISTOL ASS'N

PO Box 1201
Morehead, KY 40351-5201
330-714-3597
www.orpa.net

OK RIFLE ASS'N

www.oklarifle.org

OR STATE SHOOTING ASS'N

P.O. Box 231191
Portland, OR 97281-1161
503-635-5874
www.ossa.org

PA RIFLE & PISTOL ASS'N

www.pennarifleandpistol.org

GUN RIGHTS & SAFETY ASS'N OF PR

PO Box 191919
San Juan, PR 00919-1919
787-691-1919
www.grsapr.org

RI 2nd AMENDMENT COALITION

928 Atwood Ave
Johnston, RI 02919
401-944-1600
www.ri2nd.org

GUN OWNERS OF SC

P.O. Box 211
Little Mountain, SC 29075
803-345-5761
www.gosc.org

SD SHOOTING SPORTS ASS'N

PO Box 956
Pierre, SD 570501
605-254-2486
www.sdsportshooting.org

TN SHOOTING SPORTS ASS'N, INC.

4442 Gray's Point Rd
Joelton, TN 37080
615-491-2633
www.tennesseeshootingssportsassociation.org

TX STATE RIFLE ASS'N

P.O. Box 2140
Bastrop, TX 78640
512-615-4200
www.tsra.com

UT STATE RIFLE & PISTOL ASS'N

2718 E. 9725 South
Sandy, UT 84092-3405
801-942-6529
usrpa.org

VT FED'N OF SPRTMN'S CLUBS, INC.

PO Box 225
Lyndonville, VT 05851
802-535-7111
www.vtfsc.com

VA SHOOTING SPORTS ASS'N

P.O. Box 1258
Orange, VA 22960
540-672-5848
www.myvssa.org

WA STATE R&P ASS'N, INC.

P.O. Box 64971
University Place, WA 98464
253-439-8622
www.wsrpa.net

WV STATE RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOC.

PO Box 553
Charles Town, WV 25414
304-539-2944
www.wvasrpa.org

WISCONSIN FORCE

PO Box 130
Seymour, WI 54165
607-799-3539
www.wisconsinfirearmowners.org

WY STATE SHOOTING ASS'N, INC.

Box 942
Worland, WY 82401
307-335-9323
www.wyossa.com

NRA Field Representative Directory

Director of Field Staff Bryan Hoover bhoover@nrahq.org

EASTERN REGION

Eastern Regional Director David Wells dwells@nrahq.org
Area 2 (NY, CT, MA, ME, NH, VT, RI) Bruce McGowan bmcgowan@nrahq.org
Area 3 (NYL, MA, RI, CT) Bruce McGowan bmcgowan@nrahq.org
Area 4 (DE, NJ, Eastern PA) Greg Nyce gnyce@nrahq.org
Area 5 (Western PA) Bob Tekavec rtekavec@nrahq.org
Area 7 (WV, Western VA, Western MD, KY) Michael Swackhamer mswackhamer@nrahq.org
Area 14 (IN) Josh Toennessen jtoennessen@nrahq.org
Area 45 (DC, Eastern MD, Eastern VA) Tom Eshelman teshelman@nrahq.org
Area 49 (OH) Marc Peugeot mpeugeot@nrahq.org
Area 51 (MI) Allan Herman aherman@nrahq.org

CENTRAL REGION

Central Regional Director Donald Higgs dhiggs@nrahq.org
Area 17 (WI) Tylor Flynn tflynn@nrahq.org
Area 18 (IL) Jason Wolfe jwolfe@nrahq.org
Area 19 (MO) Tim Besancenez tbesancenez@nrahq.org
Area 20 (OK, KS) Tyler Kirby tkirby@nrahq.org
Area 21 (MN, ND) Eric Linder elinder@nrahq.org
Area 23 (IA, NE) Dennis Conger dconger@nrahq.org
Area 29 (WY, SD) Logan Duff lduff@nrahq.org
Area 30 (CO, UT) Brad Dreier bdrier@nrahq.org

SOUTHERN REGION

Southern Regional Director Mike Webb mwebb@nrahq.org
Area 9 (SC, Eastern NC) Nathan Cantrell ncantrell@nrahq.org
Area 10 (GA, AL, MS) Greg Brown gbrown@nrahq.org
Area 16 (LA) Chad Bowen cbowen@nrahq.org
Area 26 (Southern & Western TX) Tyler Ward tward@nrahq.org
Area 39 (AR, LA) Alex Campbell acampbell@nrahq.org
Area 42 (NCW) Phil Martin pmartin@nrahq.org
Area 43 (TN) Tom Knight tknight@nrahq.org
Area 44 (Eastern & Northern TX) Liz Foley efoley@nrahq.org
Area 48 (FL) Bret Eldridge beldridge@nrahq.org

NRA Field Representative Directory

WESTERN REGION

Western Regional Director Brad Kruger bkruger@nrahq.org
Area 27 (NM) Michael Gulliams mguilliams@nrahq.org
Area 28 (MT) Joseph Crismore jcrismore@nrahq.org
Area 31 (AZ, NM) Ron Capalongan rcapalongan@nrahq.org
Area 33 (ID) Steve Vreeland svreeland@nrahq.org
Area 34 (OR, HI, WA) Ian Quimby iquimby@nrahq.org
Area 35 (Northern CA, Central CA) Daniel Wilhelm dwilhelm@nrahq.org
Area 38 (Southern AK) Greg Stephens gstephens@nrahq.org
Area 46 (Eastern CA, NV) Steve Wilson swilson@nrahq.org
Area 50 (CAM and CAS) Jason Russo jrusso@nrahq.org



CLUB CONNECTION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

11250 Waples Mill Road

Fairfax, VA 22030



Like us on Facebook
NRA Community Engagement

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHAT TO DO IF HE OR SHE FINDS A GUN?

The **Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program** was developed in 1988 as a firearm accident prevention program seeking to help parents, law enforcement, community groups, and educators navigate a topic paramount to our children's safety.

For over 30 years, the program has taught children what to do if they find a gun:

STOP! Don't Touch. Run Away. Tell A Grown Up.

In fact, over **31 million children** have received Eddie's important message since the program began.

In 2015, the program evolved with a fresh new look and some new friends for Eddie—his Wing Team. Together they remind children of Eddie's important message. The program is designed for Pre-K through 4th graders and provides the tools to help parents and educators bring up an important safety issue with children in a fun and interactive way. Through a special kid-friendly web page, the **Eddie Eagle Tree House**, children are able to explore lessons, read storybooks, print coloring pages, watch Eddie's video, and more!



For the full Eddie Eagle
experience visit
EDDIEEAGLE.COM
and watch Eddie's video and
take his challenge!