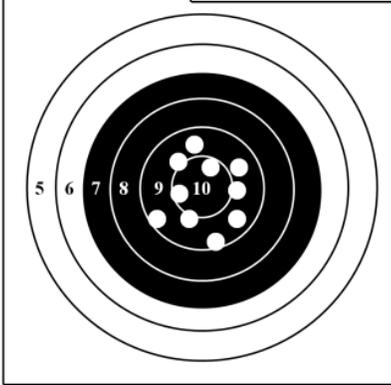


UTAH

PRECISION
MARKSMANSHIP
SOCIETY



April 2011

Bullseye!

Newsletter of the Utah Precision Marksmanship Society

Published as often as we can!

The U of U Pistol team will be on Channel 9 at 10:00 PM next Thursday, 5 May.

See an article about a "local shooter" and UPMS member at <http://www.gazette.com/sports/-116249--.html>

UTAH JUNIOR TAKES GOLD AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Braeden Staheli

Braeden Staheli, age 13, of Spanish Fork, Utah, was able to attend the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Braeden was invited to the NJOSC after shooting automatic qualifying scores of 555 points in Smallbore Rifle and 553 points in International Air Rifle. These matches were hosted by the Utah Precision Marksmanship Society on January 7-8, 2011. Braeden competed the week of April 5-11, 2011 in Colorado Springs. One of just a handful of J3 athletes invited to compete, Braeden was a bit overwhelmed in his first match which was

the Men's 10 m Air Rifle competition. It was his first time surrounded by the nation's best shooters. He struggled a little, but was able to finish 7th (J3) with a score of 1077. In the following days he was able to calm down and competed very well in the Smallbore Prone and 3-Position Rifle Championships, earning the gold medal (J3) in the Men's 50 m Prone Match with a winning score of 1157 points. He won the silver medal (J3) in the Men's 50 m Rifle 3-Position Match with a second place score of 2155 points. The experience was a very valuable one for Braeden as he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our nation's best junior rifle shooters and attended clinics taught by Olympic level coaches. Braeden Staheli started shooting three years ago and regularly competes with the Springville Junior Rifle Club. Braeden was partially supported by UPMS.

UPMS NEEDS HELP

We are applying for a grant for funds to construct a dedicated air gun range at the U and to publicize and promote bullseye shooting. A large fraction of the grant must be spent for marketing; only a small fraction can be used for construction of facilities. To do this we need two things: (1) Have any of you experience with a marketing company who can help us market our sport? (2) Who would like to get involved with a marketing campaign to promote our activities? If so, please contact Rich Sheya at 801-971-0956 or rsheya@earthlink.net.

As you can judge from the lateness of this newsletter, we could also use help with compiling and organizing information for the newsletter. Any volunteers? Takes a few hours every few months. "Many hands make light work." (Ancient Indian proverb.)

Next help needed. We need someone to track down the operations of our telephone answering machine, take charge of it and return calls. This job requires the skills of an experienced talker. Have we anyone who likes to talk?

NRA CHANGES RULES ON MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Starting in 2011 the NRA has instituted requirements for a minimum number of participants in order to sanction competitions. Specifically, there must be a minimum of eight participants for each event to host a Sectional and 16 participants to host a Regional. This will not seriously impact our ability to host Sectionals, except for the fact that we will have to beat the bushes to assure that we have enough competitors, especially in Conventional Pistol. However for quite a few years there have not been 16 participants in either the Utah Conventional Pistol or High Power Rifle Regional. Hence, these events will no longer be held in the state.

.22 AMMO PURCHASE

Aguila .22 ammunition is again available from the CMP, still \$250 per case. We will be making a group purchase. If anyone would like to get in on this purchase, please contact Matt DeLong, 801-580-7246 or delong@physics.utah.edu. Also the collegiate team's supply of ammo is getting perilously low. If anyone is willing to donate to the cause, now is the time.

RESULTS FROM COLLEGIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



2011 Utah Pistol Team

To repeat an oft-used expression, “this was a rebuilding year”. Our most experienced shooter lost his eligibility to compete in late January. Then, the coach made a huge error in overlooking details of eligibility and nearly cost the team all chances of getting invited. The team ended up with only a tenth place invitation in Free Pistol. The good news is that they did reasonably well at Nationals with several team members firing personal best scores, ending up in seventh place, ahead of perennial rival MIT. The team consisted of Charles Sperry and Paul Merten, both members of the Utah Army ROTC unit, Amanda Orfanos and McCall Stephens. Charles and McCall both fired personal best scores at Nationals. The best news is that three of the

team members will be returning next year, so it won't be a total rebuild again. We also have several new recruits from the current marksmanship classes who have started training for next year's team.

We have a first this year. UPMS has always supported the University of Utah Collegiate Pistol Team. This year we expanded our scope of operations to include a shooter from Westminster College. Doug Vogel is a full time student at Westminster, but a member of the U NROTC unit, since Westminster does not have its own ROTC program. Doug won individual invitations to Nationals in the Free and Air Pistol events. At Nationals he shot the same score in Air as he did in the qualifying match to get him there while shooting a personal best score in Free by a mere 18 points! This was good enough to qualify him for eighth place and admission to the Finals competition where he gained 1.1 points on the next place. Note that the top two places at Nationals went to collegiates who are also resident athletes at the Olympic Training Center.

Also grabbing two individual invitations to Collegiate Nationals was Amanda Orfanos, who only started shooting with the team in September and who finished third in the nation in the Collegiate Sectional, the qualifying match for Nationals.

A few years ago UPMS started directly supporting the University of Utah Naval ROTC team with equipment and some coaching. This year that investment again paid off: the locals again won the National ROTC championship (and not by default). In the words of their team captain Joseph Masini: *“The NROTC Pistol Team is provided with*

Ruger MKII and ancient High-Standards for all of our small-bore competition. In 2009, UPMS Pistol Coach Matt DeLong offered his services as a coach and use of some of UPMS's more sophisticated weaponry. 2009 was the first year that the University of Utah NROTC has ever won a national championship. Since then, support from UPMS has continued and so has the success of the NROTC. The NROTC team has won every team event in its category since 2009. Several of the shooters significantly increased their averages and personal best's. The Wathers, Pardini's and even the Smith 41 made all the difference. Combining this new equipment with Matt DeLong's coaching has brought the NROTC some long overdue success." This is all UPMS equipment that he is talking about. Also, there is a rumor that at the Northwest Navy competition in Seattle a few weeks ago the local teams finished last in every category except pistol, where they won both individual and team titles despite some very creative range commands and rules.

Obviously, all collegiate team members are students, so what they learn from their participation is important to their education. Some of their observations follow so that the general membership can also learn from their experience.

"Competing at Nationals was a great experience! I was able to shoot with so many great shooters and the facilities at Benning were awesome. I felt like the competition was a great learning experience and my enthusiasm for Precision Marksmanship has greatly increased." *Charles Sperry*

For me the trip to Georgia was a singular opportunity which simply would not have been available without the generous support of the Utah Precision Marksmanship Society. As we disembarked from the plane we were greeted by temperatures in the 70's. Of course it was humid, but because it was relatively early in the year it wasn't oppressive, and felt more like a comfortable return to what I consider "normal," having grown up in western Oregon. The weather remained beautiful throughout our stay and made the experience that much more enjoyable.

The evening of our arrival we drove to downtown Atlanta, ate, and spent some time walking around the Olympic Park. And at some point the conversation turned toward future Olympics, other competitions and aspirations. Tuesday was spent registering, getting our weapons approved and becoming familiar with Ft. Benning. This was especially neat for me; I went through basic training, infantry, and airborne schools at Ft. Benning at the beginning of 2008. At the time I was severely restricted in where I could go and loved being able to return and really get a feel for the post.

The next few days of competition passed extremely quickly for me. Sighting in, familiarization with the ranges and equipment, interaction with competitors from other schools and the volunteers was all encompassing. Throughout the entire competition everyone was extremely helpful and there was a great feeling of camaraderie. At some point one of our team members had a malfunction with his gun and a friend from another team was able to help him replace a damaged spring. In the evenings, we went out to eat with other teams and even spent time with a member of the Army Marksmanship Unit (the hosting entity for the competition).

As a future officer in the United States Army this was a wonderful experience that has had numerous benefits. Since I started training my basic marksmanship has improved across the board. I recently qualified as an expert marksman in my National Guard unit hitting 39 of 40 targets ranging from 25 to 300 meters. The pressure of competition at the national level has made me more able to remain calm and composed in other situations and given me perspective that will undoubtedly help me throughout my career.

Thank you for your continued support. *Paul Merten*

Mental toughness, mentally strong, maintain focus; I have heard all of these phrases before and I am sure I will hear them again. I understood the words but I have never had something to compare these words to until I went to the NRA Intercollegiate National Championships. I started shooting approximately a year ago and it was a skill I seemed to naturally take to. Spending countless hours on sight alignment and trigger

pull, I received two invitations to compete at Nationals. Traveling to Fort Benning was exhilarating. I had a lot of excitement with a lot of work to get done as well. There were pressures all around me between the navy, school and family. When I sat down on the airplane it seemed surreal: traveling across the country to compete with the top 30 shooters in the collegiate world.

The whole experience was new, starting from check-in. Getting my competitor number and gun inspection, the work I had done for months at seven in the morning seemed to be paying off. My fundamentals were sound so the only thing to focus on was my “mental game.” Little did I know that my mental toughness and maintaining focus would be the key to success.

As I stepped up to the line during the practice session, I couldn’t think of anything but shooting. It was a struggle to get my mind focused and only worry about what was happening at that moment with my grip, my trigger finger, and sights. Knowing what needs to be done and being able to execute what needs to be done are very different. Emotions can be a huge barrier to the execution process. If traveling across country and worrying about all the responsibilities I had in Salt Lake City wasn’t enough, my firing pin was not working. The pin would strike the round but wouldn’t set it off, a big problem after traveling over 2000 miles to compete. Fortunately, some friends were able to help me take apart the gun and change a spring. We put it back together and the gun worked beautifully again.

After all the adversity it came down to finals. I had qualified in the top 8 shooters at the competition and would be competing shot for shot against seven others. The pressure I felt was indescribable. The rest of the 22 other shooters were behind me watching every move, every shot, and it seemed like they could see every thought that went through my brain. I survived the finals round finishing 8th place. I was upset then but looking back I am very pleased. My shooting career started just over a year ago and I had just finished 8th in the nation of the collegiate shooters.

This experience was priceless. As a naval officer, I will be expected to perform under pressure and have the ability to make tough decisions in times of great hardship. A shooting competition does not have lives at stake, but learning how to deal with pressure and focusing my attention towards one goal was a skill I could not learn anywhere else. I needed to forget about all the other factors happening in my life and focus only on the next shot that I was going to send down range. The benefits I have gained from shooting are incredible; teaching me discipline, mental toughness, and focus.

I could not have learned these valuable skills and would not have matured as much as I have if it were not for those who supported me. I am thankful towards UPMS for supporting some of the financial costs that were required in order for me to have an opportunity to be on the firing line at finals. I would not have made it without Matt DeLong as well. He is an invaluable coach who was very dedicated and willing to do whatever was needed to support my growth as a shooter.

Douglas Vogel, Westminster College student and University of Utah NROTC cadet

When I signed up for the Pistol Marksmanship class last August, I had no idea what I was I essentially getting myself into. I signed up for an “easy” 1.5 credits to fill my credit requirements in my senior year. Who knew I would fall in love with the sport? And on top of that, who knew I’d be good at it? I’ve been training at the range essentially 5 days a week since I was asked to be on the team back in August. In those months, I have competed in Salt Lake, Phoenix, Colorado Springs and most recently, Fort Benning. At the Collegiate Nationals in March, I competed in Women’s Air Pistol and Women’s Sport Pistol, as well as on the team in Free Pistol. After only 8 months in the sport and at my first big competition, I was able to finish 12th in WAP and 10th in WSP. I was able to experience big match pressure and put to use all of the training that I’ve been receiving at UPMS matches. I’ve learned mental control, how to follow my process despite distractions, and how to shoot tens. The only thing left to learn is how to do all three. Every time. Even though I’m graduating this semester and will no longer be a part of the U’s team, I plan on continuing to shoot competitively both locally and out of state. I’m currently training to compete at Open Nationals in July in both WAP and WSP. After that, my goals include getting invited to train at the Olympic Training Center and eventually competing in the 2016 Olympics. I have a long road ahead of me, full of countless hours of training. But as long as I love shooting, I’ll be competing and working towards a spot in Rio de Janeiro. *Amanda Orfanos*

KAITLIN EATON, 2011 UPMS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Kaitlin Eaton

In February of 2010, I decided to take a leave of absence from my duties as a member of the Student force of the Amherst Fire Department. I had decided to go forward with the opportunity of a domestic exchange from the University of Massachusetts to the University of Utah. Upon acceptance to the University of Utah, I almost immediately discovered in the course catalog a course entitled “Pistol Marksmanship”. Wanting to take full advantage of my exchange and everything The U had to offer me, I enrolled in the course.

On the first day of class I learned of the Utah Pistol Marksmanship team. I found the concept of a collegiate Pistol Marksmanship team interesting and thought what a great experience it must be for its members. Those are the only thoughts that crossed my mind; I was more concerned with meeting the goals I set for myself at the beginning of the course. October 8, 2010 rolled around (the last day of class) when Elwood suggested to me I join the marksmanship team. I thought about how much I enjoyed shooting on Tuesday evenings and thought why not. I went to speak with Matt after class and I started the next morning.

About a month after joining the team I learned UPMS was kind enough to award me one of their scholarships. Their financial support allowed me to enjoy my exchange a little bit more, because I didn’t have to worry where the money for class fees and text books, was going to come from. The support of UPMS gave me the opportunity to enjoy my experience here in Utah angst-free and for that and all the other lessons I learned in my time shooting, I thank them. When I return to Massachusetts I hope to continue shooting.

JANUARY UTAH RIFLE AND PISTOL PTO RESULTS

7-9 January 2011

U of U Ranges

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|-----|
| Open Air Pistol | Gold | Don McGraw | 563 |
| | Silver | Brad Collins | 552 |
| | Bronze | Douglas Vogel | 544 |
| Women’s Air Pistol | Gold | Susan Brown | 349 |
| | Silver | Amanda Orfanos | 331 |
| | Bronze | Robyn Wagner | 315 |
| Standard Pistol | Gold | Eugene Mishchenko | 523 |
| | Silver | Brad Collins | 517 |
| | Bronze | Arnie Vitarbo | 513 |
| Free Pistol | Gold | Don McGraw | 526 |
| | Silver | Brad Collins | 503 |
| | Bronze | Eugene Mishchenko | 458 |
| Rapid Fire | Gold | Eugene Mishchenko | 521 |
| | Silver | Arnie Vitarbo | 515 |
| | Bronze | Tony Thompson | 446 |
| Women’s Sport | Gold | Amanda Orfanos | 524 |
| Centerfire | Gold | Eugene Mishchenko | 505 |
| | Silver | Tony Thompson | 486 |
| Men’s Air rifle | Gold | Braeden Staheli | 556 |
| | Silver | Robert Estrada | 480 |
| | Bronze | Dan Wrobel | 477 |
| Women’s Air Rifle | Gold | Cyndee Touhuni | 220 |

January 2011 Utah Conventional 2700

15 January 2011

U of U Ranges

| TOTAL | X | NAME, LAST | FIRST | CLASS |
|-------------|----|------------|--------|-------|
| 2533 | 66 | McNee | Brent | MU |
| 2328 | 37 | Parrish | Kay | M |
| 951 | 1 | Powell | Elwood | MU |
| 2475 | 62 | Mishchenko | Eugene | EX |
| 1576 | 24 | DeLong | Matt | EX |
| 2289 | 33 | Parrish | Jake | SS |
| 812 | 7 | McGraw | Don | MK |
| 773 | 11 | Thompson | Tony | MK |
| 717 | 8 | Wieben | Ralph | MK |

2011 UTAH PISTOL OPEN SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS

4 – 6 February 2011

U of U Ranges

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|
| Open Air Pistol | Gold | Will Brown | 574 |
| | Silver | Anthony Lutz | 572 |
| | Bronze | Donald McGraw | 570 |
| Women's Air Pistol | Gold | Susan Brown | 361 |
| | Silver | Amanda Orfanos | 354 |
| | Bronze | Ashley Davis | 352 |
| Standard Pistol | Gold | Nick Mowrer | 545 |
| | Silver | Brent McNee | 530 |
| | Bronze | Eugene Mishchenko | 525 |
| Free Pistol | Gold | Will Brown | 540 |
| | Silver | Don McGraw | 534 |
| | Bronze | Nick Mowrer | 530 |
| Conventional Pistol | Gold | Nick Mowrer | 844-17X |
| | Silver | Eugene Mishchenko | 835-19X |
| | Bronze | Brent McNee | 830-21X |



Will Brown

2011 Utah State Conventional Indoor Pistol

12 March 2011

U of U Ranges

| TOTAL | X | NAME, LAST | FIRST | CLASS |
|-------|----|------------|--------|-------|
| 2500 | 60 | Mishchenko | Eugene | SS |
| 2171 | 18 | Thompson | Tony | MK |
| 996 | 3 | Leasure | Chad | MK |
| 800 | 11 | McGraw | Don | SS |
| 786 | 13 | Vitarbo | Arnie | EX |
| 747 | 6 | Oberg | Brian | MK |
| 738 | 6 | Wieben | Ralph | MK |

2011 Indoor State Champions Crowned



Don McGraw



Brad Collins



Eugene Mishchenko



Ashley Davis



Amanda Orfanos

2011 State International

March 3-4, 2011

U of U Ranges

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|-----|
| Open Air Pistol | Gold | Don McGraw | 564 |
| | Silver | Brad Collins | 557 |
| | Bronze | Wyatt Brown | 550 |
| Standard Pistol | Gold | Brad Collins | 525 |
| | Silver | Arnie Vitarbo | 522 |
| | Bronze | Matt DeLong | 521 |
| Free Pistol | Gold | Don McGraw | 532 |
| | Silver | Brad Collins | 506 |
| | Bronze | Paul Merten | 486 |
| Rapid Fire | Gold | Eugene Mishchenko | 521 |
| | Silver | Arnie Vitarbo | 519 |
| | Bronze | Matt DeLong | 488 |
| Women's Sport | Gold | Ashley Davis | 556 |
| | Silver | Amanda Orfanos | 536 |
| Centerfire | Gold | Matt DeLong | 523 |
| | Silver | Tony Thompson | 520 |
| | Bronze | Mark Morris | 495 |
| 60-shot Air Rifle | Gold | Rich Sheya | 535 |
| | Silver | Dan Wrobel | 479 |
| Women's Air Pistol | Gold | Amanda Orfanos | 366 |
| | Silver | Ashley Davis | 358 |
| | Bronze | Susan Brown | 357 |

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Bullseye Staff

Editor: Regina DeLong

Publisher: Matt DeLong

Phone: (801) 581-7462

Email : delong@physics.utah.edu

Web: <http://www.upms.org>

Mailing Address:

**2736 Commonwealth Ave
Salt Lake City, UT 84109**

The Utah Precision Marksmanship Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, founded for the purpose of supporting education, training of amateur athletes, and competition in the shooting sports.

| <u>Date(s)</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 6-8 May | May International Rifle and Pistol PTO | UPMS/UU |
| 14 May | Conventional Pistol 2700 | UPMS/UU |
| 21 May | International Pistol PTO | Phoenix Don Plante (480) 855-0002 |
| 27-29 May | Blackfoot ID International Rifle and Pistol PTO | Randy Shikashio 208-785-4860 |
| 3-5 June | Southwest Regional International Rifle and Pistol | UPMS/UU |
| 11 June | Conventional Pistol 2700 | UPMS/UU |
| 17-19 June | Air Rifle and Pistol PTO | Boise Silvino Lyra 719-440-6159 |
| 25-26 June | Conventional Pistol Regional | Gunnison CO Don Simillion 970-641-0618 |
| 9 July | Conventional Pistol 2700 | UPMS/UU |
| 15-17 July | International Pistol PTO | UPMS/UU |

Contact for Brian Oberg
PTOs and NRA matches: upms.brian@gmail.com