



**MRRRA.org**

Minnesota Rifle and Revolver Association - Since 1932

## Spring and Summer 2024 Newsletter

**We are on Facebook - search for mrra.org**

**Remember to renew your MRRRA Membership!**

**A membership application can be found at <https://www.mrra.org>**

**click the “Membership” radio button on the left side of the Home Page.**

### **NEXT MRRRA MEETING:**

**June 1, 2024 - Membership Meeting, 1:45 PM -**  
Gopher Rifle and Revolver Club, Harris, MN  
See [mrra.org](http://mrra.org) for agenda and map.

### **Presidents Message**

Greetings all MRRRA Members. The year has zoomed by and I can hardly believe it's time for the Summer Membership Meeting. Gopher Rifle and Revolver Club has graciously invited us to use the “Red Shed” at the Harris, MN range for the meeting this Saturday. The meeting will start about 1:45 PM. I hope to see many of you at the meeting!

*So, for those of you that have forgotten, this is not a last-minute notice. The schedule was mailed to you in last winters printed newsletter and has been on the home page of MRRRA.org since December 2023.*

Shooting season is going full-bore and match attendance is pretty good. We have a full season of High Power, Smallbore and F-Class events scheduled. I hope to see you at some of the matches.

Competition has been excellent this season. We had a wonderful MN State Air Gun Championship this spring. 40 Air Rifle and Air Pistol shooters tested their skills at the competition. The Gallery (Indoor) Smallbore MN Championship was well attended. We have also have a number of new range and National records that have been set by Minnesota shooters.

It has been pointed out to me that MRRRA had a very small presence on social media and we are not providing this service to our younger members. Well, it turned out that our Web Master, Mark Havlik, has a Facebook page up and running. We are now trying to post frequently. So far, we are putting up match reminders, featuring shooter success, competitions and some Legislative information. Though, I am somewhat apprehensive about social media, it is turning out to be a very good way to share time sensitive information and highlight our shooters and clubs. I encourage all MRRRA members to “Follow”: [mrra.org](https://www.mrra.org) on Facebook. By following our page, you will get email notifications and you can keep up with the latest news. If you do not like Facebook, we will be keeping the website up to date for our members as well.

If you would like to add content to the Facebook page, please send me a paragraph of what you want to share and a photo if you have one.

Please email it to: [mrrapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mrrapresident@gmail.com)

We did not do to well at the Minnesota Legislature this year. Several anti 2<sup>nd</sup>. Amendment Bills were offered up this Legislative Secession. Most of the bills were defeated at the Committee or Floor debate level. At the last minutes of the Legislative Secession, the Anti 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Legislators attached an Amendment to an Omnibus Bill without allowing debate from those opposed to the Amendment.

To be specific on May 19, 2024, the MN Legislature incorporated language from House File 2609, a bill that banned certain firearm triggers, into House File 5247, a large omnibus bill that addressed a variety of issues unrelated to Shooting Sports. This all occurred within the span of 20 minutes with no debate allowed by legislators opposed to this action. Article 36 (about page 581) of HF 5247 includes vague and ambiguous language that bans certain firearm triggers. This provision of the bill could potentially implicate many common factory installed triggers.

Once the MN Governor signs this bill into law, anyone with such a trigger still in their possession will be a criminal. You can see the Bill here: (should be a useable link).

[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF5247&version=latest&session=93&session\\_number=0&session\\_year=2023](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF5247&version=latest&session=93&session_number=0&session_year=2023)

Well, that's about all for now. I wish you good health and good shooting!!  
George Minerich, MRRA President  
mrrapresident@gmail.com

## **Going with the Grain at Camp Perry**

**By: Mark Schoess**

For those who have been to Camp Perry and those who have only dreamt about it, the National Rifle Matches hold a special allure. These special matches have been drawing shooters from across the country and internationally for more than 100 years. This year will be an extra special one for some fortunate Minnesota participants. We will be "going with the grain" in 2024. Wood grain that is! More on this later...

The National Rifle Matches occur annually on the south shore of Lake Erie at the Camp Perry National Guard Base near the town of Port Clinton, Ohio. The matches are administered by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (AKA the CMP). This year, the CMP Rifle Matches will take place from July 29<sup>th</sup> to the August 4<sup>th</sup>. Some competitors come in a day early for a practice match and stay a few days while others stay the entire week. What makes the National Matches especially interesting and memorable are the large number of participants and the fact that civilian adult and junior competitors shoot side-by-side with the military's best rifle men and women.

Getting to Port Clinton from the Twin Cities requires about 12 hours of driving; carpooling with one or two others makes the trip seem much faster. Most trips to the National Matches and back are planned to avoid driving through Chicago at peak traffic times. Want to save time and money along the way? Sign up for an Illinois Tollway I-Pass transponder. It will be mailed to you directly and can be used in any vehicle you choose as long as you add that vehicle's description and license plate to your account in advance. This I-Pass transponder will quickly pay for itself because "e-tolls" are cheaper than cash tolls. The transponder is good for 10 years and works for tolls in Indiana and Ohio too. You can pick up and register an I-Pass transponder along the way at certain Illinois Travel Oases; however, it makes the most sense to sign up well in advance and have an I-Pass mailed directly to you. For more information, go to: <https://www.illinoistollway.com/tolling-information/about-ipass>

Port Clinton is located in Ohio between Toledo and Cleveland on the south shore of Lake Erie. This is a tourist town with many parks and family friendly attractions. Competitors coming to the National Matches have a host of options regarding accommodations. On the Camp Perry base itself, there are barracks, small cabin-like enclosures called "huts" and camping available. In the surrounding area there are numerous motels, hotels and condos available. Words to the wise however, make reservations well in advance to ensure a place to stay without having to drive long distances to and from the base.

One of the most important and enjoyable parts of the National Matches is the camaraderie. The CMP staff, volunteers and competitors are always friendly and helpful. Traveling, dining and lodging with fellow Minnesota competitors and people you meet on the range can result in lifetime friendships that get renewed annually at the National Matches.

The CMP rifle week is a blend of individual and team matches. Some matches are shot with modern service rifles and others with vintage rifles used by the military during WW1, WW2 and Korea. The team matches are fun and exciting with many teams flying their state flags behind their respective

firing points. With team shooting comes another enjoyable aspect of the rifle sports: coaching. Good coaches are invaluable to guide their teams through the tricky and switching winds coming off Lake Erie.

Here's a fairly complete list of matches to be held at Camp Perry during CMP Rifle Week with actual dates for 2024:

- Squadded Practice (July 28): check zeros and test the winds that are often a much bigger factor than at most of our Midwest ranges.
- President's 100 (July 29): a prestigious 30 round match with honors going to the top 100 competitors, followed by a shoot-off between the top 20 finishers to determine an overall national champion.
- National Trophy Individual Rifle Match (July 30): an "EIC Leg Match" with as many as 800-900 entrants!
- Hearst Doubles Match (July 31): a fun and challenging two person team match.
- National Trophy Team Match (Aug 1): same format as a "Leg Match" except it's shot with six person teams not including coaches, scorers and pit pullers. Pair firing is utilized on the slow fire stages. A fun M1 Carbine Match is available on this day too.
- National Trophy Infantry Team Match, AKA the "Rattle Battle" (Aug 2): a historic team match that includes six person teams firing at eight targets rapid fire from 600, then 500 and finally 300 yards moving down the range in a skirmish line. A good overview of this match can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvMh0>
- M1 Garand, Springfield and Vintage Bolt Rifle Matches (Aug 1-4): shot at 200 yards, these 30 round (not including five sighters) matches are challenging and fun.
- Springfield M1A Match (Aug 3).
- More Information about Camp Perry and all these matches can be found at: <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-national-matches/>

So how will we be "going for the grain" in 2024? By shooting the ultimate wood-stocked battle

weapon of all time, the M1 Garand! An M1 Garand team is being assembled that will participate in the National Trophy Team Match and the Rattle Battle using M1 Garand rifles for the third year in a row. We are calling for all M1 Garand enthusiasts who are proficient in CMP Service Rifle or NRA Over the Course (OTC) competitions to join us on a quest to have some fun and help us bring home a national championship! The plan includes having two or three practice weekends (or days) which will also serve as tryouts to see who the hardest holders are, the best at reloading under pressure, the best coaches, etc.

Sounds like a blast, right? If you agree, email our fearless leader Kurt Borlaug at: [kubeborlaug@msn.com](mailto:kubeborlaug@msn.com) with your name, email address and phone number to receive updates and information regarding team planning and practices.

### **The Rattle Battle at Camp Perry** **By: Jay Salinas**

The sun breaks the horizon. The wind is blowing. The waves from Lake Erie are crashing against the shore. The loudspeaker comes to life, "Prepare for Colors. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1." BOOM! The cannon fire echoes over the range and everyone stands at attention for the National Anthem. Welcome to Camp Perry. It's a good day for the Rattle Battle.

The National Trophy Infantry Team Match is an exciting rapid-fire event. An eight person team—captain, coach, and six shooters—fires in various positions from 600 yards to 200 yards. 600 and 500 yards are fired in the Prone position. 300 yards is fired in the Sitting position. 200 yards is fired in the Offhand Position—hasty sling is allowed and encouraged.

At each firing line targets are exposed for 50 seconds. You try to get as many shots on target in that time. Only hits count. The Army "E" silhouette target—block torso with a head—is used at 600 and 500 yards. The Army "F" silhouette target—shoulders with a head—is used at 300 and 200 yards. Your team starts the match with 384 rounds. Typically each member starts with 64 rounds but rounds can be distributed amongst your team with discretion.

"Captains, bring your shooters to the line." Commands the loudspeaker. There is a 3 minute preparation time at 600 yards. Check your zero, sling tension, position, and wait for the wind call for your team. "Load and be

Ready.” Commands the loudspeaker. Targets will appear in 10-40 seconds. Load your rifle, chamber a round, relax, focus, and breathe.

“Targets!” shouts the captain and the excitement begins. The team has 6 shooters and 8 targets. The captain and the coach are spotting the traces of your rounds and giving you feedback. “Right there.” “Hold right.” The two outer shooters swing to the farthest left and right targets to ensure hits and then the targets fall into the pits.

You prepare for the next firing line while you wait for scoring. Change your sights, adjust your sling and coat, prepare your ammunition. The team receives the scores and stands up, ready for the next firing line. You “Dress the Flag” as the Color Guard marches all the teams to the next firing line. 10 yards before the firing line the loudspeaker commands, “Captains, bring your shooters to the line.” You run up to the line and get into position. “Load and be Ready.” You load, relax, and wait for the targets.

This repeats until the final 200 yard firing line. Firing is complete. You are hot, sweaty, and extremely happy that you have shot the Rattle Battle. However the work is not done. You march to the pits to run the targets for the next relay. You emerge from the pits after your duty with a proud feeling. You have shot the National Trophy Infantry Team Match with an M1 Garand. You know why it is called The Rattle Battle.

The 2023 Minnesota State Service Rifle M1 Garand Team  
Mark Havlik  
Jon Possehl  
Kurt Borlaug  
Larry Weidell  
Barry Olson  
Mark Schoess  
Tom Torborg  
Jay Salinas

## **2024 Summer Olympics at Paris France** **By: George Minerich**

It is hard to believe the Summer Olympics are just a few weeks away (July 24 - August 11, 2024). The United States has a very strong rifle, pistol and shotgun team. Olympic shooting is one of the strongest arguments that keep our sport positive at Congress and MN Legislature. It is very important that all of us support our Olympic Sport by watching it on

television during the Summer Olympics. NBC has taken note of the number of persons watching Olympic Shooting and it helps keep comprehensive Olympic TV coverage of the shooting sports going. The shooting “final matches” are fun to watch and move at a good pace.

US Olympic Athletes are fund by private contributions. They must pay for most of their training and competitions out of pocket. They do not receive any support from our government. Once shooters make the US Team, the athletes do receive travel, ammo and entry fee assistance at the World Cup overseas matches and at the Olympics. There are some big sponsors, but a lot of cash donations are needed to win Gold at the Olympics. I am asking you to support our Team winning Olympic Gold, by contributing to USA Shooting Team. Even a \$10.00 contribution helps!

You can donate at: <https://usashooting.org>

**Remember after Paris, our next chance to win Gold is to win at Los Angeles in 2028!!**



*That's about it for now! Remember to check the webpage at: [mrra.org](http://mrra.org) for news and schedules. We are also on Facebook. Search for: [mrra.org](http://mrra.org)  
Good Shooting!*