

BALD EAGLES NEWSLETTER
October 7, 2006

SPIRIT OF AMERICA 2006

If you were not at the Spirit of America this year, you missed a good one! The match was attended by 105 shooters of which 10 were F Class shooters. We had 4 shooters from Australia, 3 from Canada, and Mitchell Maxberry from New Zealand. The range was in good shape thanks to Lonnie Kuhns, Jerry Pullens, and Jim O'Connell. They came a little early and worked on targets. Darrell DePuy was on the "walking wounded" list thanks to some recent surgery, so he worked in the pits too, as a general helper.

The weather was very nice overall. They have had lots of rain recently in northern New Mexico so the grass was lush and green, and there were carpets of sunflowers to add some gold to the vistas. Every day we had very calm or mild breezes throughout the mornings and very (mostly?) manageable winds by afternoon.

All of the scores can be found at the Club Website, but the top shooters in the grand aggregate were:

Norm Anderson	1781-103X	Match Winner
Gerald Tierney	1780-90X	Second Place
Michael Maurer	1779-108X	Third Place
Robert Stekette	1779-104X	First HM
Nancy Tompkins	1778-100X	High Woman
Robert Gustin	1778-85X	Second HM
Sandra Pagel	1778-79X	Third HM
Eddie Newman	1777-88X	High Senior
Lane Buxton	1777-84X	Fourth HM
Gary Henry	1776-95X	Fifth HM
John Gaines	1765-77X	High Grand Senior
Blair Clowdis	1738-64X	First MA
Mike StClair	1736-66X	Second MA
Lige Harris	1736-59X	Third MA
Gordon Hulbert	1730-66X	First EX
Earl Brown	1725-47X	Second EX
F Class:		
Larry Bartholome	1776-85X	First F Class
Ted Conway	1744-51X	Second F Class

U.S.A. PALMA TEAM SELECTION

The U.S. Palma team had the range before the matches began for practice and team selection. Many Bald Eagles were volunteer target pullers. The Palma hopefuls shot for several different coaches and the pit crew plotted their shots on special plot sheets. In the end, the shooters were evaluated by the

vertical dispersion of their groups and the coaches were evaluated by the horizontal dispersion.

U.S.A. VETERANS TEAM SELECTION

Lonnie Kuhns, the Captain of the U.S.A. Veterans Rifle Team used a little different technique for selection of the Vet's team. He went by the shooter's scores in the individual matches as well as plots made during the team matches. The plots were made on the firing line by team members and again it was verticals for the shooters, horizontal for the coaches. The final selection for the team follows:

Team Captain: Lonnie Kuhns

Adjutant: Al Coots

Vice Captain: Jerry Pullens

Central Coach: Earl Liebetrau

Line Coaches: Jim O'Connell and Bob Gudge

Primary Shooters: Jerry Tierney, Peter Church, Mike Dunia, Eddie Newman, John Gaines, Bill Lair, Boyd Goldsby, Bud Solis, Bob Horn and Johnie Franklin.

Alternate Shooters: Heigo Orav, Danny Biggs, Scott Riles, Mike StClair, Bruce O'Brien, Marty Mayo, Blair Clowdis, and Dave Driscoll.

Team Chaplin: Noel Sugden

AIR TRAVEL WITH FIREARMS

If you are planning on flying to any of the coming matches you might want to read an article entitled "Travel Smart With Firearms" in the October '06 issue of *The American Rifleman*. It doesn't give detailed answers to all questions, but points out that some regulations are made by the Transportation Security Agency and some are made by the air lines themselves. So it would pay to shop airlines before you buy your ticket.

Along that same line, when I flew to California to shoot at Sloughouse last March, I tried to ship my ammo from the local UPS store and they would not take it. However, when I checked more closely, I found that I could take the ammo to a "hub" (in my case San Antonio) and they would take it if it was packaged in a box and labeled a certain way. I did that and "BINGO", problem solved. (What do you know, it wasn't impossible after all!)

NEW BALD EAGLES OFFICERS

The membership of the Club elects the board of directors. The board of directors elects officers for the club. There are a couple of changes in the leadership of the Club. Scott Riles resigned from the board and Lonnie Kuhns was appointed by the board to fill his vacancy. The new president of the club is Lonnie Kuhns. The Secretary is John Gaines, the treasurer is Bill Lair, and Steve Cunico is the Executive Officer - Raton.

MATCH DATES SET

The dates for the 2007 Rocky Mountain Palma Matches are set for July 11-14. The course of fire will be roughly the same as last year. The change was made because the Bald Eagles who live in Raton say the July weather will be less windy than June.

For those who just love the wind in June at Raton, Steve Cunico will conduct a long-range regional on June 14-17. We will publish dates and details later.

The dates for the 2007 Spirit of America were tentatively set for September 9-15 and the course of fire will be a little different. We will have four days of individual matches and perhaps one team match. The next three days will be given to the F Class folks for their Nationals, however, the NRA has not yet responded to that request.

Because '07 is a unique year with the Palma and Veterans matches in Canada, this change is for one year only. The reason for the change is that many of our target rifle shooters would have been in Canada for three weeks prior to the SOA'07, and would not want to drive to New Mexico and shoot some more. Look for the normal format to return in '08.

Speaking of '08, we are probably going to host The Americas Match. In so doing we will invite the British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and South African teams to participate. Make plans to attend now.

NEW RIFLE RAFFLE

As a fund raising project we have a new rifle raffle in the works. The action, a Stolle-Panda, was donated by Scott Riles and the Palma barrel was donated by PacNor. Steve and Shirley McGee donated one of their Competition Stocks. Rear sight will be a Centra donated by Sinclair International and the front sight was donated by Scott Riles. McLane Tilton donated the trigger and all of the work will be done by Doan Trevor. It should be a beautiful and functional rifle and tickets will sell like hot cakes. The tickets are already printed and Al Coots has plenty. Each member of the Club is encouraged to take a bundle of tickets and sell, sell, sell!

PATIENCE PLEASE, I'M JUST LEARNING

Your new secretary is just learning his job. I've been only mildly interested in computers for many years, and believe me I really mean "mildly". When my computer (which I call "The Cyclops") works I love it, but when it demonstrates that it is smarter than I am, I hate it. If it did not cost so much I'd put a Sierra 155gr. Match King right in its little electronic, mother board brain.

Right at this moment The Cyclops and I are at "arms length". I have the electronic files which Scott Riles dutifully kept and I am trying to learn how to send this newsletter out to all you good folks, even the old fashioned folks who only have snail mail. So, if you get this message you will know that Scott was successful in talking me through the process.

If you expect to continue getting these newsletters then you have the responsibility to give me your new email address **before** you have it activated. If you don't, your newsletter will blast out into cyberspace never to return, and I'll never know what happened to you.

If you are one of the "old fashioned" snail mail members and move to a new home, you have an advantage of sorts. The U.S. Mail might return your newsletter to me with your forwarding address in which case I can track you down, but don't count on our crack postal system to do what they are supposed to do. Better to send me your new address before the movers come.

The main reason I am writing these paragraphs is that it will soon be time to pay your dues. That is something that is easy to overlook and if you forget, you may not hear from us again. Of course, it is entirely possible that I will screw up the mailing and then nobody will get the word and nobody will pay. In that case I may be up against a wall at the next match and the board of directors will form a firing squad and put six Sierra 155's into my little grand senior brain.