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2015 U.S. Armed Forces Camp – The “Poolee Program”

This year's U.S. Armed Forces Camps were held June 22-27 at six locations across the state of Wisconsin. The program is offered by the NRA's chartered state association, Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, and Educators, Inc. (Wisconsin FORCE) to Marine Corps Recruiting Station Milwaukee (9th Marine Corps District), which covers Wisconsin and parts of Illinois, Minnesota, and Upper Michigan



More on page 12

Pictured: 28 of 366 2015 attendees

2016 CMP Rifle and Pistol Rule Changes – CMP Gary Anderson, DCME

Editor: If different, CMP Service Rifle requirements will meet NRA requirements.

The 2015 CMP competition rules featured a bold new plan to modernize CMP pistol rules. Service Pistol rules were dramatically broadened to permit the use of a wide variety of pistols in CMP EIC and National Trophy Matches. The number of EIC matches a competitor could fire in a year was increased and EIC Minimum Credit Scores were established to ensure that all EIC legs were won with Distinguished-level scores. Perhaps the most popular 2015 change was the creation of a new 22 Rimfire Pistol Distinguished Badge and EIC Match program. *continued on page 14*



2016 National Trophy Pistol and Rifle Match Calendar is out! *continued on page 11.....*

2016 Wisconsin FORCE Annual CMP Grand Raffle includes GI ammo can with 280 rounds of surplus ammo on 35 USGI clips

All proceeds go to Wisconsin FORCE Junior Service Rifle Team!

\$20 per ticket LIMITED TO 300 TICKETS! Garand raffle is sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP).

The winner will comply with CMP M1 rifle procedures.



Ammo only raffle!
12-20 Round Boxes Lake City
30-06 M2 Ball Ammo
in GI can!
\$5 per ticket 5/\$20
LIMITED TO 200 TICKETS!

Both raffles will be drawn February 6, 2016 at the NRA/WF State Convention.
You need not be present to win.
ALL FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS APPLY!
Must be 18 years of age to win.
Contact Dave 920-851-8625 holubdave@yahoo.com

2015 Wisconsin FORCE Junior Raffle -- Stevens Mod. 520 Tactical 12 ga. Shotgun was won by Mr. Lutze / Milwaukee, WI

From the Executive Director

Our membership mailing funded by an NRA grant has been a success and has kept membership very busy. Please do your part and promote your association. If you need information, please see the "why join booklet" on the website. We are working hard on membership management. Individual membership is working well and we are working on the clubs portion. Please check that your club is at least an annual member. Feel free to contact me on your club's status.



We are already working on next year's critical elections. Look for upcoming events and information in the Trigger. Plans are in the works for special NRA/ILA promotions at both the May 14 and September 17 gun shows.

Our work in Madison continues to go well, although I was frustrated that our knife bill was pushed to January in the Senate. Hopefully, the clean-up of our knife laws will be signed before the annual meeting.

Work continues on the State Convention scheduled for February 5-7, 2016. Please register on the website calendar for the Wisconsin FORCE annual meeting and the Junior meetings. A registration form and flier is included in this issue for attendance in the other events.

We are still looking for candidates for the Wisconsin FORCE Board of Directors. If you would like to run for a three year term, please email contact@wisconsinforce.org, and it will be forwarded to the nominating committee.

Wisconsin FORCE and your club run on support of its members, most of which is supplied by volunteers. Make sure you appreciate them and do your part.

One of my shooting buddies, Gerry Graf and I have done some experimenting with different optics and configurations to comply with the new service rifle rules. So far Gerry and I have settled on the Leupold Mark AR. Gerry likes the duplex reticle where I like the illuminated reticle. So far tracking seems to be working well. Both of us are excited about the changes in service rifle for 2016. An overview of the new rifle and pistol rules is included in this issue.

Have a safe and successful deer hunt this year and a great Thanksgiving.

Teach Freedom – Jeff

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920-687-0505

ILA Midwest Field Rep Suzanne Anglewicz

Suzanne@nraiafrontlines.com

703-346-7124



Have a great time while supporting our shooting heritage!

Special items available ONLY at your local Friends event!

Dates, locations and information, [CLICK HERE!](#)

Make sure to check the event flier for special deals!



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To join or for more information go to: <http://www.nraiafrontlines.com>

Please feel free to reach out directly with any questions or suggestions along the way at

Suzanne@nraiafrontlines.com

In freedom,

Suzanne Anglewicz, NRA-ILA Midwest Field Rep/Staff Attorney



Wisconsin FORCE has a constant eye on Madison. Under the previous administration we worked and stopped bills that would have infringed on your rights. Under the current administration we have had great success passing bills that restore some of your rights and supporting those that support you. Some of the good things that have happened recently:

Military personnel can apply for Concealed Carry Permit -- Wisconsin FORCE supported Assembly Bill 75 was signed into law November 11, 2015. This will allow qualified military personnel stationed in Wisconsin, for at least one year, to apply for a Concealed Carry Permit. Wisconsin FORCE thanks Governor Walker, the authors of the bill, Representative Joel Kleefisch (R – Oconomowoc) and Senator Van Wanggaard (R – Racine), and all who voted for the bill.

Common Sense Knife Law Clean-Up – October 17, 2015 the Assembly voted and passed Assembly Bill 142. The bill eliminates unnecessary burdens on the use of humankind's first tool -- one carried by Wisconsinites across the state on a daily basis. The fact that opening any knife will never be as fast as the more common fixed blade knife needs no explanation. Carrying a knife that needs to be opened in many cases is necessary or desirable to allow the efficient, practical use of this indispensable tool. Use, not irrational fear, should determine law. When the intent is to harm or defend, the list of everyday, commonly used items is limitless. *continued on page 24.....*

The Sound of Freedom is heard here!

Education, Training, Safety, & Marksmanship

On the Range - Jeff Nass

Wisconsin FORCE has added a range department tab on its website. It includes a link to Wisconsin statutes pertaining to Wisconsin range protection. The NRA passed the first protection, and additional protection was passed in 2010 and 2014 by Wisconsin FORCE. We are currently working on additional protection. Our advice is used by the DNR, clubs, law enforcement, and businesses. We are the top resource in the state for range upgrades, improvements, and expansions. Start early on your plans for next year and include Wisconsin FORCE from the start of that process. Your time is valuable; we can help you from wasting time and resources. We can guide you on state laws and connect you directly with the great minds at NRA legal when needed.

For Range and Club issues contact Jeff at jeff@wisconsinforce.org / 920-687-0505 **Not for Profit, doesn't mean, Not Prepared!**

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
4. Always treat a firearm as if it were loaded.

8 Gun Safety Rules You May Not Have Heard Of - NRA Staff - 10-6-15

ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. You'll find these "Big Three" rules on the wall of every gun store and shooting range you visit (and if you don't, you should). You know why: Knowing these rules, following them at all times—and insisting that others do the same—will help keep you and your family safe. But gun safety goes well beyond the "Big Three." Here are eight other tips that you should know...and pass on to everyone in your family.

1. Know your target and what is beyond it. Whether you're at the range or in the woods, if you're going to shoot, you must know what lies beyond your target. In almost all cases, you must be sure that there is something that will serve as a backstop to capture bullets that miss or go through the target. Some bullets can travel a mile or more once they leave the muzzle.

Another factor to keep in mind is whether what lies beyond your target could potentially cause a ricochet. For example, the surface of a river or lake can act almost like a sheet of solid steel when it's struck by a bullet, and cause the bullet to deflect in ways you wouldn't expect. (If you think that water is too soft to cause this to happen, think of the last time you did a cannonball off the high diving board—water can act awfully solid if you hit it fast enough!) Always remember: Think first before you shoot!

2. Know how to use the gun safely. Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Read the owner's manual. If you don't have a manual, contact the gun's manufacturer and ask them to send you one; they'll be happy to do so. Know your gun's basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and how to remove ammunition from the gun. No matter how much you know about guns, always take the time to learn the proper way to operate any new or unfamiliar firearm. Never assume that because one gun resembles another, they operate in exactly the same way. Also, remember that a gun's safety device is a mechanical device that can fail. The best safety device in the world is the one between your ears.

3. Be sure your gun is safe to operate. Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to work. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question regarding a gun's ability to function, have it examined by a knowledgeable gunsmith. Some items that should raise a "red flag" about whether a gun is safe to use include age (some guns made before the 20th century are unsafe to use with modern ammunition), visible damage or rust, or if nobody you know has fired the gun in the last few years.

4. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. Each gun is intended for use with a specific caliber or cartridge. Only cartridges designed for that particular gun can be fired safely. Most guns have the ammunition caliber stamped on the barrel or the slide. The owner's manual will also list the cartridge or cartridges appropriate for your gun. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the cartridge box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge head. Using the wrong ammunition in your gun can cause severe damage to the gun...or to the person holding it. Do not shoot the gun unless you know you have the proper ammunition.

5. Wear eye and ear protection. The sound of a gunshot can damage unprotected ears. Worse still, the damage is usually not obvious until much, much later, when you get older. (Have you ever noticed that some older shooters talk really loudly? That may be due to hearing loss from not wearing ear protection.) Also, gun discharges can emit debris and hot gas that can cause injury to your eyes. Take care of yourself: Wear safety glasses and earplugs whenever you shoot.

6. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting. "Why are you even mentioning this to me?" you may be asking. "I don't drink or do drugs!" Well, even some legal drugs, like prescription medicine or over-the-counter remedies, can impair your ability to shoot safely. Read the label of any medication you take—and ask your doctor or pharmacist about possible side effects.

7. Store guns so they are inaccessible to unauthorized persons. What does this really mean? It means you need to take all possible steps to make sure that only you and trusted family members are able to get to your firearm. There are a variety of storage options available to you and your family.

8. Be aware that certain types of guns and shooting activities require additional safety precautions. There are many different types of firearms, some of which require additional safety rules or procedures for proper operation. These should be in your owner's manual. Also, most sport-shooting activities have developed a set of rules to ensure safety during competition. The rules may be different from sport to sport, so always listen carefully to your instructor or range safety officer.

Gun safety is everyone's responsibility, no matter your age or ability level. If you see someone else violating the rules of safety—no matter who it is—you should speak up and get out of the situation immediately.



Join DNR staff for a deer chat Monday Nov. 16 at noon and make sure you are ready for another nine day gun deer season

Deer hunters are encouraged to join DNR staff Nov. 16 at noon for a chat that will cover questions regarding this year's deer hunting season. Whether you are looking for more information regarding [electronic registration](#) or want to brush up on regulations, staff will be on hand to help you prepare for the nine day gun deer hunt. To participate in this chat and view answers from past chats, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "[chat](#)." For more information regarding deer hunting in Wisconsin, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "[deer](#)."



New deer registration rules in effect for the 2015 season -- Contacts: Matt O'Brien, DNR administrative warden, 608-264-9230; Kevin Wallenfang, DNR deer and elk ecologist, 608-261-7589

Join DNR staff Nov. 16 for a rules and regulations live chat

MADISON--With the launch of the GameReg system and electronic registration, hunters now have until 5 p.m. the day after harvest to register a deer. This rule applies for all deer hunting seasons. "Previously, hunters could register their deer by 5 p.m. the day after the close of the nine-day season, regardless of the date of harvest," said Matt O'Brien, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administrative warden. "The new registration deadline is a bit of a change for 2015, so hunters should make sure they are up to speed before the nine-day gun deer hunt."

continued on page 23.....



Early Teal Season in Wisconsin Year 2 summary of 3 year experimental season – Wisconsin FORCE as part of the Hunters Rights Coalition sits on the Migratory Bird Committee

Preface: This report was prepared as a general summary of early teal season operations, staff observations and public feedback for the second year of a 3-year experimental hunting season. It is intended to be used as a basis for internal and external communications as well as refining future operations. More formal analyses are required by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in another document to be prepared in cooperation with Iowa and Michigan where experimental early teal seasons are being conducted concurrently. **Background:** Blue-winged teal are one of the most abundant and widely distributed ducks in North

America. Blue-winged teal migrate early in the fall, thus avoiding much of the shooting pressure exerted during the "regular" duck season. In the 1960's the US Fish and Wildlife Service allowed states in the Mississippi and Central flyways to experiment with an early teal season that offered additional duck hunting days outside of the regular duck season framework. Hunters were restricted to shooting only teal; blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal; but the focus in the Mississippi Flyway was primarily the early migrating blue-winged teal. The Mississippi Flyway receives significant numbers of teal that migrate southward in fall from prairie nesting areas as well as northern Mississippi Flyway states.

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SMALLBORE COMPETITIVE SHOOTING

Competitors,

On Saturday, October 23, 2015, I met privately with Mr. Tom King, Chairman of the Smallbore Committee. Together, we unsealed the box that contained the survey forms submitted by competitors regarding their preference to keep the Smallbore National Championships in Bristol, Indiana or return to Camp Perry. The vote count was 133 to return to Camp Perry and 51 to remain in Bristol. Most of the cards were reviewed for comments to determine the reasons for the competitor's selection. Oddly, the comments by some mirrored reports that we had received during the championships in 2015. Staff at the championships had overheard coaches telling their competitors to put down Camp Perry on the survey form. On the forms, in the comment area asking why competitors made the choice that they did, competitors wrote that their coach told them to select Camp Perry. The survey results became suspect.

On October 24, 2015, the meeting of the Smallbore Committee was held. Obviously, the decision to stay in Bristol or return to Camp Perry needed to be discussed. The discussion was lengthy, with the committee meeting lasting two to 2.5 hours longer than scheduled. Survey cards were made available to the committee for their review. There was a discussion about the survey and results, as well as the many other factors that go into the conduct of a National Championship.

The discussion involved many items, such as the size of the venue, weather, housing, vendor's row, parking, tent setup, awards ceremony, outside activities, course of fire, community support, finances and changes to Camp Perry. Although we had received comments, in letters and email, that the NRA should fund the National Championship regardless of cost, this simply cannot happen. Anyone who funds their household in that manner soon finds themselves bankrupt. Good fiscal management in any endeavor is mandatory. As a result, the NRA provides the Rifle (Smallbore) Department with a budget, which must be managed properly.

Competitive shooting is not a money making operation. It is a loss leader for the NRA, so we try to keep those losses to a minimum.

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Change in Wisconsin Gaming Laws – Wisconsin FORCE at work!

Working with the NRA, Wisconsin FORCE was the lead organization cleaning up Wisconsin gaming. These laws not only affect our members directly during club fundraising, but also indirectly by affecting groups state-wide such as volunteer fire departments and religious groups that use gaming to raise funds to support their organizations.

The following is an overview of the changes in the law.

| Provision | Old Law | New law |
|---|---|---|
| Dept. of Administration ability to approve alternate Raffles | DOA had power to approve | DOA no power to approve. Authorizes raffles that involve either: (1) a drawing and (2) by a duck race. |
| Limits on prices of raffle tickets | Class A \$500 Class B \$10 | New law removes all limits on prices of raffle |
| Maximum days organization may conduct raffles | 200 | 365 |
| Class B raffle tickets | Licensee may sell tickets only on day of drawing | Licensee may sell tickets before day of drawing if tickets are not delivered to purchasers until day of drawing |
| How long Class A raffle can remain open | 270 days | One (1) year |
| Ability of Class A licensee to sell equal shares of single ticket to one or more purchasers | Current law allows | Allows this only if not more than four shares of single ticket sold and that no discount be offered to purchaser of more than one share of ticket |
| Rule Making Authority of Department of Gaming | Current law requires DOA to promulgate rules | Removes that authority |
| Geographical Limitation | State of Wisconsin | Local organizations may conduct raffles which include area that is partly within this state and partly within another state |
| Maximum amount able to charge for ticket | Class A \$600 Class B \$10 | There is no longer any maximum for either A or B |
| Organization placing restriction on who may win any prize awarded | Not allowed | Allowed if notice prominently displayed describing restriction at each place where tickets may be purchased |
| Class A Tickets | Must include all prizes, retail value \$500 or more | Must include all prizes, fair market value \$1,000 or more |

Highlights

Class B Raffles:

1. May now be sold prior to event so long as actual tickets are ONLY distributed at event. This positively impacts “reserved” bucket raffles and now allows the ability to promote and pre-sell chances on specific Night-of games/raffles.
2. Ticket purchaser does NOT need to be present to win. Licensed organization may again determine this. (*Though this is confusing in the new bill)

Other notes:

- Only winners of prizes of a fair market value of \$600.00 or more must be recorded.
- A notice describing any state or federal law that imposes an age restriction on who may possess a prize that will be awarded must be prominently displayed at each place where tickets may be purchased. * Must be printed on Class A tickets but will also have to be posted the night-of for all appropriate raffles.
- When a winner of a firearm cannot legally acquire firearm, the licensee now retains item for a future raffle.
- Requires department to make a “completion determination” within 15 days and to issue or deny a license within 30 days after that. If not denied in 30 days, license is considered approved.
- Eliminates the burden of proof on the organization at a license denial hearing.
- Eliminates sending to the department a report every year, instead just requires it to be available for inspection. Eliminates “other expenses” category from report. Department can only request a copy of the report upon receipt of a complaint.

All questions should be referred to a legal authority. NRA and Wisconsin FORCE Club Members email contact@wisconsinforce.org for more information, clarification or referral.

NRA/WISCONSIN FORCE STATE CONVENTION

2016

NOW MORE THAN EVER!

“The time is near at hand which must determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves” ... General Washington, Aug 26, 1776

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10th Annual Wisconsin**

NRA STATE CONVENTION **February 5, 6, & 7, 2016**

**Mountain Bay Banquet & Conference Center
(Dale's Weston Lanes)**

5902 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476

**For discount on lodging, use Group Code: NRA
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**Space is limited, registration REQUIRED
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WISCONSIN FORCE

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, & Educators, Inc.

NRA-ILA

INSTITUTE for LEGISLATIVE ACTION

NRA VOLUNTEER FIELD SUPPORT TEAM

FRIENDS OF NRA

Questions/Comments:

- NRA Senior Field Representative Scott Taetsch
E-mail: staetsch@nrahq.org
- Wisconsin FORCE Executive Director Jeff Nass
Ph. 920-687-0505
E-mail: jeff@wisconsinforce.org

Invited Guests Include:

Scott Walker

Governor State of Wisconsin

Kayne Robinson

Past President NRA

Chad Franklin

NRA Central Region Director

Buster Bachhuber

NRA Board of Director

Suzanne Anglewicz

NRA-ILA Midwest Field Rep/Staff Attorney

...and many more

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Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Association

Due to overwhelming interest and limited space, register today!

NRA/Wisconsin FORCE STATE CONVENTION

Registration is required for all events! **DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, FEB 3**

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED **NRA** and **Wisconsin FORCE** memberships will be available!

No video or audio recording allowed without expressed written permission.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name (if using creditcard, name on card) _____

Email Address _____

Address, City, State, Zip Code (if using credit card, address on card.) _____

Phone Number **REQUIRED** if using credit card _____

Registration is **REQUIRED** in order to have enough packets for all attendees.

Qty YES! I/we will be attending the following events:

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|------------|--|-------|
| | Friday | Feb. 5 | 4 pm | Meet and Greet! | FREE |
| | | | 7 pm | State Fund Committee Meeting, RESTRICTED voting and team representatives ONLY | N/A |
| | Saturday | Feb. 6 | 8 am | Preserving Our RIGHTS – NRA Field Support Team and Friends of NRA workshop. | FREE |
| | | | 10 am | Wisconsin FORCE Junior Board of Directors Mtg – Register www.wisconsinforce.org | FREE |
| | | | 10:30 am | Wisconsin FORCE Junior Team Meeting – Register www.wisconsinforce.org | FREE |
| | | | 1 pm | Wisconsin FORCE Annual Meeting: OPEN to ALL: Register www.wisconsinforce.org Members must register on-line or have their membership card to VOTE | FREE |
| ↓ | Registration Below | | 5-10 pm | Annual State Appreciation/Awards Banquet | BELOW |
| | Sunday | Feb. 7 | 9-10:30 am | Continental breakfast, NRA/ILA Grassroots Workshop: WINNING in 2016 | FREE |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------|--------|---------|---|-------------------------|
| | Saturday | Feb. 6 | 5-10 pm | Annual State Appreciation/Awards Banquet; *\$50.00 each, OPEN to all! LIMITED SEATING! You must pre-register, including payment, to reserve. | \$ -00 |
| | | | | Raffle Packets: \$200 worth for \$100 or \$700 worth for \$300 (Deadline Feb. 3, 2016) | \$ -00 |
| | | | | *NRA Field Support Team/Friends of NRA Team Members ONLY! | Total Due \$ -00 |

*Refund will be issued at the door or receive \$60 worth of Friends Raffle Tickets.

* I am a Team Member. Committee Name & Number _____ Yes I want the raffle tickets.

*Each Team Member MUST have their own registration form. Only one Team Member refund or raffle ticket pack per registration form.

___ Table of 8 in the name of: _____ **ALL 8 forms MUST be mailed in together!**

___ Enclosed is my check, payable to: Annual Awards Banquet for the Total Due.

___ Charge my Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Charge Card Number _____

Exp. Date Month / Year _____

Security Code _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Event and raffle tickets ordered on this form will be available at the door the night of the event

Mail to:

NRA State Convention
PO Box 157
Gleason, WI 54435

or Fax: 715-873-3361 (Most secure for charge card purchases)

Questions/Comments:

NRA Senior Field Representative
Scott Taetsch email: staetsch@nrahq.org

Wisconsin FORCE Executive Director
Jeff Nass Ph. 920-687-0505
email: jeff@wisconsinforce.org

Dem Gun Ban Would Require Confiscation, Ban Most Pistols - Mediatrackers.com - Brian Sikma 11-6-15,

A [Democratic-proposed gun ban](#) would prohibit some of the most highly-rated hunting rifles and shotguns, ban most pistols, and require Wisconsin residents who owned so-called “semiautomatic assault weapons” to turn their guns in to the government. State Rep. Lisa Subeck and three other Democratic state lawmakers are proposing a sweeping ban on rifles, shotguns and pistols they deem dangerous because they are “designed to kill large numbers of people quickly.”



Legislative attorneys – known as Legislative Counsel – confirmed to state Rep. Dave Craig (R) that the loosely written ban does not contain a grandfather clause, meaning owners of prohibited weapons would need to turn them in or face felony charges for possessing an illegal weapon. “Continued possession of a firearm defined as an assault weapon would generally be illegal under the bill draft beginning the day after the date of publication of the enacted bill,” legislative attorney Larry A. Konopacki explained.

But Konopacki wasn't the first to spot the troublesome lack of a grandfather clause. State Rep. Adam Jarchow (R), an attorney, also noticed that there was no exception for those who currently own a weapon that the legislation seeks to ban. Jarchow told Media Trackers on Thursday morning that, “on first reading there appears to be no grandfather clause.”

That's a big problem for gun owners in Wisconsin because the way the draft legislation defines “semiautomatic assault rifle” (a term that's somewhat redundant), dozens of different gun types would be banned. State Rep. Cody Horlacher (R), also an attorney, reviewed the proposal and told Media Trackers the definition of a banned rifle “is so broad, anything could fall into” it.

Research by state Rep. Dave Craig (R) found that the proposal would outlaw three of the [top five rifles](#) recommended by the hunting resource website *Realtree.com* for shooting hogs. That matters because the Wisconsin DNR has declared feral hogs to be “exotic, non-native wild animals that pose significant threats to both the environment and to agricultural operations.” The [DNR has asked](#) hunters to aggressively hunt the hogs to protect the environment. “It is unfortunate that my Democratic colleagues, in their haste to trample Wisconsin's 2nd Amendment rights by making law abiding Wisconsinites felons simply for keeping their current firearms, also failed to realize the negative environmental and agricultural consequences of their dangerous proposal,” Craig [said](#) of the legislation.

When it comes to shotguns, the proposed ban would make it illegal for a Wisconsin hunter to own some of the most highly rated Turkey hunting shotguns. In fact, four of *Game & Fish Magazine's* [top ten shotguns](#) for Turkey hunting would be specifically banned.

Most semiautomatic pistols also appear to be off-limits if the proposal ever becomes law – a nearly impossible prospect at this point with the legislature controlled by Republicans. A loosely worded prohibition on pistols with, “a shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel, and that permits the user to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned” would make iconic handguns like the 1911, or popular pistols like the entire Glock product line, illegal. Perhaps the only semiautomatic pistol that would be legal would be the Luger, a German World War II relic. “Even though a semiautomatic pistol slide is not designed for the purpose of being held by the nontrigger hand, particularly while the firearm is being fired, it could be argued that a slide still meets the criteria for inclusion under this provision,” Konopacki wrote in his letter to Rep. Craig. “Arguments could be made both ways here, and it is impossible to predict with certainty how a court construing this phrase would do so.” Rep. Horlacher shared that assessment.

Because a majority of the semiautomatic pistols sold today could fall under the ban, Wisconsin pistol owners would likely be required to turn over tens of thousands of handguns to the state under this provision.

While the proposal is dead on arrival in this Republican legislature, it does reveal what some of the leading lawmakers in the Democratic caucus would do if their party had a legislative majority.

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FORCE**

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Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Demographic Death' Of NRA Just Another Big Media Myth - Investors.com - JOHN R. LOTT JR. - 10/22/2015

Gun ownership is greatest among rural whites, a group whose voting power is diminishing. The conclusion, according to Adam Winkler in the Washington Post, is that the NRA will inevitably decline in power. The theory isn't new. Tom Smith, director of the General Social Survey, told me in 1997 that the large drop in gun ownership shown by his poll would "make it easier for politicians to do the right thing on guns." According to Smith's survey, the percentage of homes with a gun has fallen fairly continuously since the 1970s — from approximately 50% to 32% earlier this year. On the other hand, surveys by Gallup and ABC News/Washington Post show that gun ownership rates have been flat since the 1970s. The number is uncertain for a number of reasons, including people's willingness to tell the truth to pollsters about whether they own guns. The "hard" data that we do know is that concealed handgun permits and gun sales have soared. Concealed handgun permits tripled from 2007 to 2015. The National Instant Criminal Background Check System shows that the number of gun purchases doubled from 2006 to 2014. But while significant demographic changes have been occurring for decades, there hasn't been any steady increase in support for gun control. Indeed, the opposite is actually true.

According to Gallup, 78% of voters supported stricter gun control in 1990. By last fall, that number had fallen to 47%. Look at PEW polls and you'll see that support for stricter gun control has fallen dramatically since the late 1990s. CNN's polls show a similar pattern since 1993. Most people now believe the "More Guns, Less Crime" hypothesis. Gallup recently asked Americans if they thought that residents are safer with a gun in the home. People answered yes by a margin of 63%-to-30%. In 2000, Americans answered no by a margin of 51%-to-35%. People are more frequently buying guns for personal protection, especially in urban areas. Last December, the Pew Research Center survey found that 57% of Americans believe gun ownership "protects people from becoming victims of crime." That was up from 48% two years earlier. Support for gun ownership grew especially among blacks, rising by 25 percentage points in just two years.

It's not just the polls. Between 2007 and 2014, the percentage of concealed handgun permits held by blacks and other minorities increased more than twice as fast as it did for whites. The growth rate was almost twice as fast for women as for men. My research shows that blacks benefit most from concealed carry because they are relatively more likely to be victims of violent crime. The elderly benefit because they will have trouble resisting an assailant without the aid of a firearm. The same often applies to women.

Gun control groups have spent hundreds of millions of dollars trying to convince Americans that gun control is the answer. In 2013, gun owners' groups — including the NRA — spent less than one seventh as much on television advertisements. In 2014, almost as much was spent pushing one gun control initiative in Washington state as the NRA spent on all elections in the country. All that spending didn't work. Those "inevitable" demographic changes didn't result in a collapse in support for gun rights.

• Lott is the president of the Crime Prevention Research Center and the author of "More Guns, Less Crime"

Johnson, Barrasso Introduce Gray Wolf Delisting Bill <http://1.usa.gov/1RRSmb1>

Editor: Wisconsin FORCE, working with its partners in the State, has worked hard to allow the proper management of the wolves in Wisconsin.

WASHINGTON — Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) introduced legislation this week that directs the secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules related to the listing of the gray wolf in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The bill serves as the Senate companion to the bipartisan House bill introduced by Reps. Reid Ribble (R-Wis.) and Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) earlier this year. "After over 30 years of needed protection and professional pack population management, the wolf has made its comeback," **Johnson said**. "In 2011, the administration's Department of the Interior determined the number of wolves in the western Great Lakes states to be sufficient and growing and made the correct decision to delist them as an endangered species. President Obama's own Interior secretary applauded the decision, saying, 'Thanks to the work of our scientists, wildlife managers, and our state, tribal, and stakeholder partners, gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region are now fully recovered and healthy.'

"Unfortunately, in late 2014, a liberal judge in Washington, D.C. overruled the administration's wildlife experts in the field and returned the gray wolves to the Endangered Species List. It's obvious the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service judges its past delisting decision to have been correct, and the ongoing efforts in Wisconsin and elsewhere to properly manage the wolf levels are working well. Simply put, wolves in these four states are no longer endangered and do not need the protections the ESA afforded them in the past.

"Our bill's language does not modify the Endangered Species Act, nor does it prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from ever returning the wolf to the endangered list if it determines the population is again threatened and in need of federal protection. I strongly agree with Wisconsin's farmers, ranchers, loggers and sportsmen that future gray wolf listing decisions should come from the experts, and not from judges. "Several important strides have been taken this year to once and for all give the final say on the gray wolf's status to our expert researchers inside the state Department of Natural Resources and the Department of the Interior. I'm glad to be a part of this important effort, and it is my hope that all senators from these four affected states will join Sen. Barrasso and me in this effort. "

Wyoming has honored its commitment and put together a solid and working plan to protect the state's wolf population. Even the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agrees that wolves should be delisted in Wyoming," **said Barrasso**. "This is just one of many legislative opportunities we'll continue to pursue until Wyoming's wolf management plan is protected and fully implemented."

A full text of the bill can be found [here](#).



NRA-ILA announced its support today for the Hearing Protection Act (H.R. 3799). 11-22-15

Sponsored by Congressman Matt Salmon (AZ-05), the legislation removes suppressors from regulations established under the National Firearms Act of 1934. "Suppressors significantly reduce the chance of hearing loss for anyone who enjoys the shooting sports," said Chris Cox, executive director of NRA's Institute for Legislative Action. "On behalf of the NRA and our 5 million members, I want to thank Rep. Salmon for his leadership on this important bill."

Prevailing regulations requires buyers to send an application to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), pay a \$200 tax, and pass an arduously time consuming ATF background check. Under Salmon's bill there will be no application, no tax, and buyers would be required to pass the same National Criminal Instant Background Check (NICS) as law-abiding guns owners.

As a leading voice in the industry, the American Suppressor Association has provided valuable insight to the creation of the Hearing Protection Act. "Suppressors benefit all involved in hunting and the shooting sports. It's time to bring the law in line with modern technology," said Cox. It is currently legal to hunt with a suppressor in 37 states. 41 states allow private ownership of suppressors.

'Hearing Protection Act' would remove tax on gun silencers – Jeremy Gray - Ammoland.com - 11-22-15

A bill entitled the Hearing Protection Act would remove a \$200 tax stamp requirement for gun suppressors, more commonly known as silencers. Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Arizona, the bill has been endorsed by the American Suppressor Association and National Rifle Association. "Suppressors significantly reduce the chance of hearing loss for anyone who enjoys the shooting sports," Chris Cox, executive director of NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, told Ammoland.com.

"Despite common Hollywood-based misconceptions, the laws of physics dictate that no suppressor will ever be able to render gunfire silent. Suppressors are simply mufflers for firearms," [the ASA wrote](http://theASA.wrote). "In addition to hearing protection, suppressors also mitigate noise complaints from those who live near shooting ranges and hunting lands." "Since 1934, the federal government has treated devices designed to muffle or suppress the report of firearms as Title II devices that required registration under the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record and mandated transfers that included a \$200 tax stamp," according to Guns.com.

"Instead, (if the bill passes) federal law would treat them as firearms which would allow suppressors to transfer through any regular federal firearms license holders to anyone not prohibited from possessing them after the buyer passes an FBI instant background check."

Also, taxes paid after Oct. 22 will be refunded if the bill becomes law.



Senator Chuck Schumer demands that U.S. Army's handgun supplier doesn't sell arms to dealers doing business with criminals - Jennifer Fermino – New York Daily News – 11-23-15

Schumer spoke alongside a coalition of religious leaders, the Metro-IAF, a network of citizens that has launched an anti-gun violence campaign called "Do Not Stand Idly By," at the Town and Village Synagogue in the East Village. He's hoping the bottom line will be mightier than the bullet. Sen. Chuck Schumer said Friday he wants the federal government to use its "massive purchasing power" to put the financial screws to gun manufacturers who deal with shady weapon sellers.

The Army is seeking bidders for a \$580 million contract to replace its aging handgun arsenal, and Schumer said he wants that contract to include two safety provisions — the winning bidder must develop "smart gun" technology, and must cut off business ties with the "1 percent" of gun dealers that sell guns to criminals.

NYPD CRIME TEAM CRACKING DOWN ON STREET GUNS - Anthony DelMundo New Your Daily News

Schumer said those dealers account for "60 percent" of guns used in crimes. "These 1 percent are merchants of death," Schumer added. "If the manufacturers wouldn't sell to these 1 percent you could choke off supply."

He also wants the Justice Department and cities like New York to take a similar approach to buying guns.

"These 1 percent are merchants of death," Schumer added. "If the manufacturers wouldn't sell to these 1 percent you could choke off supply."

In July, the Daily News reported that the same Georgia store — Arrowhead Pawn in Jonesboro — sold the guns used in the December murder of NYPD officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and the killing of Omaha Officer Kerrie Orozco in May.

EDITORIAL: DROP THE HAMMER ON GUNS Schumer spoke alongside a coalition of religious leaders, the Metro-IAF, a network of citizens that has launched an anti-gun violence campaign called "Do Not Stand Idly By," at the Town and Village Synagogue in the East Village.

The group responded with loud applause when Schumer described the plan as a way for President Obama to sidestep the House of Representatives' efforts to shut down gun control bills. "The President knows the intransigence of the hard right. He is looking for ways ... on issue after issue to get things down without having to go through Congress because the House will block all these laws. These are things he can do on his own and I'm going to be asking him to do that," Schumer said.





Understanding Red-Dot Optics

Richard Mann – NRASI – 11-28-15

All red-dot sights are not created equal. In fact, many supposed red-dot sights are not really red-dot sights at all. Well, they kinda are, but... The term "red-dot sight" has been around for a long time and is used, generically, to describe nonmagnifying sights that use an illuminated red dot as an aiming point. It's kind of like ordering a soda in the South: you ask for a Coke, no matter what's on the menu. Of course, the other reason is, regardless of the way the sight works, you will be using a red dot to aim. Where it gets confusing is in the way that red (now sometimes green or another color) dot is generated. *continued on page 17*

The [National Trophy Pistol and Rifle Match Calendar for the 2016 season](#) has officially been released. Event dates have again been changed from the previous 2014 and 2015 calendars in an attempt to return to a more permanent schedule at Camp Perry. The matches are conducted jointly by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), National Rifle Association (NRA) and the Ohio National Guard. Through the years, the event has become an acclaimed national shooting sports festival - attracting well over 6,000 participants annually. Course students and match competitors range from beginners to some of the world's best marksmen.

The National Matches were first held in 1903 and moved to Camp Perry, Ohio, in 1907, where they continue to take place every summer.

The National Matches include the CMP National Trophy Rifle and Pistol Matches, the Pistol and Rifle Small Arms Firing Schools, CMP Games rifle events and the NRA National Pistol, Smallbore Rifle and Highpower Rifle Championships.

Noteworthy items in the 2016 schedule include the **CMP Rimfire Sporter Match**, which will be fired **July 8-9**. Also, after consideration, the NRA has decided to keep the **smallbore** competitions in **Bristol, Ind.** - meaning clinics and matches will begin after the ranges are changed over to rifle, following the pistol events.

Though smallbore will not be returning, the CMP has decided to bring even more competition and fun by adding bonus events Aug. 10-14. Those events have yet to be determined, and the CMP is looking for ideas from competitors, friends and family on how best to fill that time period.

Whether a clinic, course or match, the CMP is open to any and all suggestions on what events to schedule that will help to make our competitors' National Match opportunities even greater. Send suggestions to competitions@thecmp.org by the end of December 2015.

For more information on the National Matches, visit <http://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-national-matches/>.



Small-Bore *continued from page 2*

During the meeting, approximate costs of conducting the event at Camp Perry were calculated and determined to be over twice what the costs were to conduct the events in Bristol.

The approximate daily costs of Camp Perry for Smallbore were in excess of \$16,000, and at Bristol in excess of \$7,000. Total daily costs were averaged based on 13 days (10 days for competition and 3 days setup/teardown). It was also noted that the costs of staying in Camp Perry were increasing due to the Ohio National Guard now charging for things that were free in the past, like the use of buildings, which are now charged for by the day, theater use for awards ceremonies, and so on, and entry fees would likely have to be increased.

During the last two years at Bristol, the NRA came as close as it ever had to breaking even at any National Championship. This had to be a factor in the discussion, especially since changes could allow the NRA to break even and, if a profit were made, to lower entry fees.

One of the changes at Camp Perry that was of concern is the loss of a cover over the firing line. This cover was purchased years ago through a one-time fee to competitors. The NRA assumed the costs of all repairs after that. The last repair was \$12,000 and the cover has an equal or larger bill pending (if repaired) due to the last storm damage in 2013. As a result, this cover will not be replaced and no cover will be on the firing line.

Further, the CMP is considering the installation of electronic targets at Camp Perry that could become operational in 2017. If this occurs, the firing lines will be moved downrange approximately 400 yards if they are installed on the Rodriguez Range and perhaps 800 yards downrange if installed on the Viale Range. You will not be able to drive downrange, which means you are left to walk or take a provided trolley. There will not be a covered firing point on the electronic target range.

It is difficult to review every item discussed in an explanation that should be convenient to read. I did not wish to create something that took an enormous amount of time to digest. However, you need to understand that this was discussed at length with committee members on both sides of the issue.

In the end, NRA staff recommended that the matches remain in Bristol, with the understanding that they could return to Camp Perry after all changes have been implemented and evaluated. After full consideration of the factors involved, the Smallbore Committee agreed that the Championships should remain in Bristol until pending changes at Camp Perry can be fully evaluated.

Dennis L. Willing – Director -- NRA Competitive Shooting Division / NRA Smallbore Competitive Shooting

Poolee continued from page 1.....

Since 2004, all signed Marine recruits (Poolees) from the 9th Marine Corps District have had the option of attending the Armed Forces Camp prior to leaving for "boot" camp. 366 recruits attended this year's camps, bringing the total to 5004 recruits that have attended since inception. In 2011, the Marines reported that only one recruit of the first 2800 attendees failed to qualify - an unheard accomplishment.

A Poolee is a young man or woman who has made the decision to serve our country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps and is waiting in a "Pool" of like-minded individuals, training and preparing to take on the challenge of Marine Corps Recruit Training at one of two Recruit Training Depots - San Diego, CA (males) or Parris Island, SC (females and some males). One is not considered a Marine until after they have successfully completed the 13 weeks of Recruit Training, qualified in several skills (rifle range, swimming, first-aid, martial arts, etc.), and passed the 54 hour "Crucible" (simulated combat environments over a 50+ mile course in full combat gear with a total of four to six hours of sleep across the event). It is the most difficult Recruit Training in the world. An estimated one in five Recruits will NOT finish Recruit Training successfully. Those recruits that DO finish Recruit Training successfully earn the title of United States Marine. It is truly "The Few, The Proud."



The recruits that attend a U.S. Armed Forces Camp are introduced to the M16/AR15 type rifle. The course simply gives them a quick overview of the rifle and allows the Poolee to safely handle and fire 25 rounds of live ammo through the rifle. Originally created by Scott Taetsch, with the assistance of USMC Master Gunnery Sergeant Mike Krueger, concerned fathers of young Marines, this program is designed to introduce young Poolees to the M16. Although there are opportunities for education and training with firearms before

Pictured: Scott Taetsch (l.)

USMC Master Gunnery Sergeant Mike Krueger (r.)

enlistment, many of the recruits have not had any type of proper training, have not handled an AR, or even had the opportunity to fire a gun. The goal is to help build confidence and help prepare young men and women who have committed themselves to defending our great nation and cherished freedoms.

A recruit that arrives at basic training in good physical condition has an advantage over one that doesn't. Those that arrive out of shape still have a good chance of becoming a Marine with the help of the Marine staff, but that road is longer and harder. The Armed Forces Camp is not



designed to make them Expert Marksmen, but prepares them for the finest instruction in the world. The program has been constantly updated to improve the opportunity offered to the Poolees. The goal is to make the program available for as many recruits as possible. This is accomplished by keeping it a single day event and restricting the instruction to just introduce the recruit to the rifle and the Marine Corps safety and training procedures. With this advantage the recruits that attend have an edge as the Marines make riflemen out of all of them with their state of the art training.

Pictured: Recruit on the firing line at Heritage Shooting Inc

The first camp, known as "The Poolee Program," was held at Heritage Shooting Inc. located at Stone Bank Sportsmen's Club, Ashippun, Wisconsin. Heritage was formed in 1995 to foster and promote the shooting sports by educating the public, especially youth, promoting hunter safety and ethics, and foster and encouraging the rights of

American citizens to own and bear arms as provided by the Constitution. Heritage has developed several training/introductory programs, including the Armed Forces Camp, that are now offered nationally by the National Rifle Association (NRA).

At the inaugural camp in 2004, only local Wisconsin recruiting stations, Milwaukee and Racine, were invited with 165 recruits attending. In 2005, volunteer and Marine father, John Nielson, created the PowerPoint Briefing for the recruits, and the Sheboygan recruiting station was added. In 2006, Marine Chief Warrant Officer "5" Scott Reinhardt came on board as the one Marine constant contact for the program. Reinhardt called the range commands up until he retired in 2014. *Pictured: Wisconsin FORCE Camp Coordinator Jeff Nass and Chief Warrant Officer "5" Scott Reinhardt*



continued from page 13.....12

The first three years the camp was held at the Heritage facility in Ashippun, Wisconsin with attendees being bussed in to attend. Beloit Rifle Club, Beloit Wisconsin, and the LaCrosse Rifle Club, LaCrosse Wisconsin, were added in 2007, opening up additional opportunities for the recruits.



Pictured: Recruit on the firing line with Major Edward J. (Jim) Land (Ret)

Jeff Laughland took over from founder Scott Taetsch as Camp Coordinator in 2008, and working with NRA Board of Director Buster Bachhuber, expanded the program to Wausau, Wisconsin, held at the Duane L. Corbin County Shooting Range, utilizing local volunteers. In 2009, Stone Bank Sportsmen's Club, Ashippun, Wisconsin, home of Heritage Shooting Inc., underwent a range upgrade and Sheboygan Rifle and Pistol Club, Sheboygan Wisconsin, came on board as a host club to offer another location and fill in for Heritage until the range work was completed in 2010 when Heritage again hosted a camp along with the Nicolet Rifle Club, Suamico, Wisconsin.

The attendees of the Wausau Camp in 2008 had the privilege to meet now retired NRA Secretary and Marine Corps legend, Major Edward J. (Jim) Land (Ret.). Mr. Land's 24-year Marine Corps career included training the Corps most famous sniper, Carlos Hathcock. Land was also Officer in Charge of the First Marine Division of Scout-Sniper program and USMC Marksmanship Coordinator, just to name a few of his many contributions. At the Wausau camp, Mr. Land coached several recruits on the firing line. His knowledge is widely known, but his ability to immediately connect with the recruits one-on-one was truly impressive.

After volunteering as a coach starting in 2005, in 2009 Jeff Nass took the helm and continues to operate as Camp Coordinator. He works with the Marines, Scott Taetsch, and all the volunteers, continuing to offer the program for our future soldiers. Participants begin by receiving classroom briefing by Nass on firearms safety, sight alignment, trigger control, nomenclature, Marine line commands, and basic operation of the AR15/M16 rifle.

Pictured left: Jeff Nass giving pre-range briefing.



Due to ammunition costs, this program would not be possible without funding through the NRA Foundation and specifically the Wisconsin Friends of NRA which to date has funded over \$22,000.00 towards the program.



Additional donors for camp supplies include DPMS (12-AR15A2 rifles), Colt (6-AR15A2 rifles), an anonymous donor that has donated 31,000 rounds of ammunition used the last three years, R&R Reloading, American Target, ValleyLaser, and D&H Manufacturing, to name a few. The NRA's Chartered State Association, Wisconsin FORCE, has been the driving force with

Executive Director Jeff Nass handling the coordination, upgrades, and logistics since 2009. In October of 2014, Nass was honored to visit the Edson Range and Training facilities at Camp Pendleton, California. The Marines have updated training and have an extremely modern facility adapting their training methods to continue the time held tradition of the making of a "Marine." Once home, the program was updated including the Marine Corps firing line commands and range operational procedures. A post range briefing was suggested by Battalion Gunner V.H. Kyzer, who was in charge of overseeing the Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton. The Wisconsin Armed Forces Camp utilizes AR15-A2 rifles with conventional iron sights. The post briefing introduces the recruits to the Rifle Combat Optic (RCO) currently used in the recruits' basic training. All the changes made this year were made with assistance of the staff at Camp Pendleton.



Pictured Above: Gunner Viggiani & Battalion V.H. Kyzer, on the Edson Range

With all the changes in 2015, Armed Forces Camp Director Nass traveled the state prior to the camps, briefing 75 volunteer coaches that support the program. "We were excited prior to the camps about the changes. In the past we have had great response from Camp Pendleton and the recruits that attended in the past. This year's changes will greatly enhance the preparedness of these great young men and women." To quote one of our female coaches, coaching for the first time, "I have to share that, for me, it was a bit emotional and inspiring to see these young people freely offering themselves to defend our country. A few times I felt myself 'choking' up a bit. We are so blessed to live in the country we do. And I felt honored to be a small part of it." "I would say that sums it up. Coaches, staff, Friends of NRA committee members, supporters and banquet attendees that support the camps know that great feeling of doing a small part in protecting this great Nation." Nass said.

This article also ran in the December issue of Soldier of Fortune Magazine and several NRA publications. We are looking for a sponsor(s) (advertise your company) for coach's vests to Gunner be used for the camps. If you or someone you know is interested, contact jeff@wisconsinforce.org. You can also make a donation at www.wisconsinforce.org under the donations tab and noting "Armed Forces Camp" in the comments box.

Photographs provided by Tomba-Images.com, photographer for the 9th Marine Corps District, and numerous volunteers.

The 2015 Pistol rule changes were controversial for some, but by the end of the year they were generally well-accepted, successfully increased participation in CMP pistol programs and more than doubled the number of Pistol EIC Matches. The number of CMP sanctioned Service Pistol EIC Matches increased from 124 in 2014 to 141 in 2015. The new 22 Rimfire Pistol program sanctioned an additional 113 EIC Matches and the first 22 Rimfire Pistol EIC Match at Camp Perry drew 359 competitors. The CMP has already awarded seven 22 Rimfire Pistol Distinguished Badges.



The 2015 CMP pistol rules changes created a new 22 Rimfire Pistol EIC Match. The first ever EIC Match fired under these new rules took place during the CMP Oklahoma Travel Games on 11 April 2015. Now, after three months of meetings, conference calls and email exchanges, the CMP Rules Committee has tentatively adopted rule changes to go into effect in 2016. These rules provide for equally bold changes that are intended to modernize CMP Service Rifle rules. The purpose of this **Shooters' News** article is to inform shooters and match sponsors about proposed 2016 rule changes and invite them to offer comments or ask questions.

When considering the Pistol rules changes the CMP adopted in 2015 as well as the proposed 2016 Service Rifle rule changes, it is important to understand the CMP's objectives. The big picture CMP mission derives from a federal law that says the primary CMP functions are to "instruct citizens in marksmanship," "promote practice" and "conduct competitions." This mission is defined by three key priorities, 1) **participation**, 2) **marksmanship** and 3) **competition**. The 2015 CMP rule changes that expanded the number of Service Pistols that could be used in CMP matches and that introduced the new 22 Rimfire Pistol EIC Match were made to increase participation and get more people practicing pistol marksmanship. The CMP's marksmanship priority sees shooting as a real test of skills. CMP rules strive to preserve those tests of skills and not to water them down just to make scores higher or shooting easier.

The CMP produces two rulebooks. One rulebook, **CMP COMPETITION RULES FOR SERVICE RIFLE AND PISTOL**, governs Service Rifle and Pistol shooting and must be used for EIC Matches and National Trophy Matches. The second rulebook, **COMPETITION RULES FOR CMP GAMES RIFLE AND PISTOL MATCHES**, governs recreation-oriented CMP Games Matches for as-issued military rifles and pistols as well as for Rimfire Sporter rifle shooting.

SERVICE RIFLE AND PISTOL RULE CHANGES

Here are summaries of the most important 2016 rule changes in the **CMP COMPETITION RULES FOR SERVICE RIFLE AND PISTOL**:

Optical Sights For Service Rifles. For several years, the CMP has recognized that optical sights are the wave of the future for Service Rifle shooting. Military recruits today do all of their training with optical sighted rifles. Service Rifle rules have traditionally tried to keep abreast of military rifle and training developments so opening Service Rifle shooting to optical sights became an inevitable change. The 2016 rules will, for the first time, permit M16/AR15-type rifles to have optical sights with a maximum magnification of 4.5X. Legal scopes can be fixed power or variable, but the maximum power of variable scopes may not exceed 4.5X. Scopes will have to be manufactured with a maximum 4.5X magnification and have an objective lens no larger than 34 mm. There will not be a separate class for scope-sighted rifles. Instead, competitors will have a choice of using either a scope-sighted rifle that weighs no more than 11.5 pounds or a metallic sighted rifle that will continue to have no weight limit.

More Options For M16/AR15-Type Rifles. Since accurized Service Rifles first came into popular use in the 1950s and 1960s, those rifles, whether M1s, M14s or M16s and their commercial equivalents, have been rigidly defined. Legal M16-type service rifles had to retain the external profile of an M16A2 or M16A4 rifle and could only have modifications that were explicitly permitted in the rules. All this will change in 2016. The 2016 service rifle rules will state that M16/AR15-type Rifles must be "an M16 U. S. Service Rifle or a similar AR15 type commercial rifle that is derived from the M16 service rifle design" and there will be far fewer specific restrictions. 2016 restrictions will simply require M16/AR15-type rifles that:

- Are chambered for the 5.56 x 45 mm (.223) NATO cartridge.
- Are designed or modified for semi-automatic fire only.
- Have either a gas-impingement system or a piston-operated gas system.
- Have a barrel that is no longer than 20 inches, with or without a flash suppressor (16" barrels are permitted).
- Use one upper receiver and barrel for the entire match.
- Have a trigger pull of at least 4.5 pounds.
- Use standard service magazines or commercial equivalents that do not contain added weights.
- Have a fixed or collapsible butt-stock that may vary in length and even be adjusted between firing stages. Butt-plates or cheek-pieces may not, however, be adjustable.
- Have a standard A1 or A2 pistol grip.

This will open the way for competitors to use a wider variety of M16/AR-16-type rifles. The imposition of a weight limit for scope-sighted rifles reflects a long-simmering concern over how heavy Service Rifles became when there was no weight limit. 15, 18 or even 20-pound rifles are far removed from the original service rifle weights.

Opening Service Rifle shooting to optical-sighted rifles offered an opportunity to at least establish a reasonable weight limit for these rifles before they come into widespread use in Service Rifle competitions.

M14 Service Rifle Rules. For competitors who prefer to use M14 or M1A rifles, those rules are somewhat simplified, but remain essentially the same. The optical sight option is not available for these rifles.

No Extra Time Or Refires For Service Rifle Malfunctions. In a move intended to speed up competitions and encourage competitors to take full responsibility for having rifles and ammunition that function flawlessly, extra time in slow-fire series or refires in rapid-fire series will no longer be permitted when malfunctions occur. A primary objective of this change is to eliminate most of the “alibi relays” that add so much time to matches.

Rules for Scoring Irregular Rifle Shots. New rules for how to score early, late and missing shots as well as excessive or insufficient hits were added to the CMP Rules. These rules, however, are generally in synch with NRA highpower rifle rules. The one variation is that in the case of insufficient hits where there is credible evidence that all ten rounds were fired at the correct target and “*the Pit Officer can confirm that there were ten impacts in the berm (pit puller testimony), “the target puller and Pit Officer must find a double among the visible shots...”* In the case of excessive hits, the high ten will be scored if there are 11 hits. If there are 12 or more hits, the competitor must be scored the low ten or be given the option of refiring the series.

Pistol Rules Are Unchanged. Except for permitting service pistols to have a Picatinny rail below the barrel, the Service Pistol and 22 Rimfire Pistol rules adopted in 2015 are unchanged. Competitor and match sponsor responses to those rule changes were overwhelmingly positive so further changes have not been necessary.

Pistol Range Officer Script. A new script, **Pistol Firing Procedures and Commands**, has been added for Range Officer use in conducting EIC and National Match Course pistol events. The Annexes in the Service Rifle and Pistol rulebook now include Range Officer scripts for Pistol, Highpower Rifle and Highpower Rifle pit procedures.

Service Rifle and Pistol Achievement Award Scores. CMP Achievement Pins are provided as incentive awards in EIC Matches for a larger base of competitors who are striving to lift their scores up to the top ten percent level. CMP Achievement Awards typically go to the top 40 percent. These awards were initiated in 2015 and award scores have been updated with significant increases in pistol EIC award scores. The CMP has reinstated its traditional medallion awards for the first three place winners in EIC matches.

CMP GAMES AND RIMFIRE SPORTER RULE CHANGES

Here are summaries of the most important rule changes in the **COMPETITION RULES FOR CMP GAMES RIFLE AND PISTOL MATCHES:**

Optical Sights for Modern Military Rifles. One of the fastest growing rifle competition categories is for Modern Military Rifles. There are two classes, one for M16/AR15 platform rifles and one for a broad range of other military rifles. Competitors who compete in Modern Military Rifle Matches will now have the option of using optical sights with a maximum magnification of 4.5X. To make allowance for the increased weight of telescopes, the weight limit for AR-type rifles was increased to 8.5 pounds and for M-14/M1A rifles to 10.0 pounds. Stricter weight limits are placed on these rifles as a means of keeping heavy barrel or so-called match rifles out of this competition category.

Stocks for Modern Military Rifles. Butt-stocks on these rifles can now vary in length and collapsible or adjustable-length stocks may now be used. Butt-stocks, however, may not have butt-plates or cheek-pieces that adjust up or down.

Standing before Rifle Rapid-Fire Series. The CMP retains the requirement for rifle shooters to start rifle rapid-fire series from standing both to preserve the “rifleman skill” of being able to quickly assume a stable position and get its natural point of aim centered on the correct target and to provide the safest conditions for inexperienced competitors to load military rifles and especially M1 Garands. While keeping this rule, CMP Games rules do allow the option of starting in position for competitors who are older or who have difficulty getting up and down. This is essentially an honor-system option, but the rule expects all competitors who are able to start rapid-fire series from standing. Previous rules allowed all competitors who are 60 years of age or older to load and start in position, but with so many able-bodied competitors in their 60s, the 2016 rules will raise this age threshold to 70. Since starting in position with an established natural point of aim can be a big advantage, the new rules will specify that match winner awards can only go to competitors who start rapid-fire from standing. This restriction will not apply to high senior awards.

Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Match Rules. This relatively new match commemorates the marksmanship skills military sniper rifle teams had to master while using original or replica 1953 and earlier military sniper rifles and optics. This nostalgic match has grown impressively; 251 teams with 502 competitors shot in this event at the 2015 National Matches. These rules have stabilized nicely in the last two years and there will be no 2016 rule changes in this event.

Rimfire Sporter Rifle Rules. The most popular rimfire rifle match in the country continues to attract impressive numbers to its matches. The 2015 National Rimfire Match, for example, attracted 390 entries. Like the Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Match, these rules have now stabilized so that there are also no 2016 rule changes in Rimfire Sporter.

2016 CMP Achievement Award Scores. The 2016 cut scores for winning CMP Achievement Medals and Pins in CMP Games Matches were updated based on scores in the 2015 National Matches and 2015 CMP Travel Matches. There are now cut scores for 17 different CMP Games events. 33 of the 68 cut scores for gold, silver and bronze awards in these events were changed, most with modest one or two point increases.

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CMP *continued from page 15*

The **electronic scoring targets** at the CMP's Talladega Marksmanship Park allow highpower rifle competitors to complete an entire Service Rifle EIC match while firing at 200, 300 and 600 yards while not changing firing points or pulling targets in the pits.

ELECTRONIC TARGET RULES

The CMP has taken the lead in introducing electronic scoring targets for highpower rifle shooting at 200, 300 and 600 yards as well as for pistol shooting at 25 and 50 yards. ranges that are fully equipped with electronic targets.

Today's electronic targets use acoustical sensing or laser technology to precisely locate and score shots that are displayed on competitor monitors and recorded in a central ranking computer. Scoring is instant and accurate and for highpower rifle shooters, spending half a day in the pits pulling and marking targets is no longer necessary.

Most current rules also apply to shooting on electronic targets, but these targets also require some special rules. Both 2016 CMP rulebooks will include new rules governing electronic target operations and Annexes with detailed



Electronic Target Scoring Rules. These rules will be "provisional" until the CMP gains further experience with the target systems at Talladega. Highlights from these rules include:

Match Officials. When a match is conducted on electronic targets the appointed match officials must include a specially qualified electronic target "Technical Officer" (TO). The TO must be trained and experienced in operating electronic targets and their match management system (computer and software). The TO must also have a detailed knowledge of electronic target rules and know how to apply them in making decisions regarding electronic target scoring and complaints.

Scoring Rule. To maintain consistency with NRA paper target scoring rules, the CMP will score shots using shot hole diameters that correspond to the bullet diameters of the cartridges used by each competitor. This rule gives a slight scoring advantage to competitors using large caliber rifles or pistols. This also means individual electronic targets must be programmed to score according to the bullet diameter being used by the competitor. This scoring rule adds an element of complexity because electronic targets do not calculate scores according to whether the edge of a shot hole touches the edge of a scoring ring, but rather according to the distance the center of the shot hole is from the center of the target. The application of this scoring rule means that on electronic targets, each bullet caliber has slightly different scoring ring radii.

Verifiers. Electronic targets offer the huge advantage of no longer requiring competitors to pull targets and act as official scores, but it is still necessary to have one relay of competitors act as verifiers for the relay of competitors that is firing. The verifier's responsibility is to confirm that shots are fired and that they are indicated (displayed) as scores on the competitor's monitor. Verifiers also must count shots fired during rapid-fire as well as record early and late shots. When a shot is fired but not scored, most often because of a crossfire, or when extra shots are displayed, it is the verifier's duty to call a Range Officer so these irregular shots can be scored correctly.

Special Scoring Rules. A fundamental rule in electronic target scoring is that the scores displayed on a competitor's monitor on his/her firing point and in the main computer are final unless a complaint regarding those scores is made immediately and resolved in the competitor's favor. If a shot is not scored and displayed, it cannot be counted. Crossfire detection with electronic targets is usually easy because exact shot timings for every shot that hit the target can be used to find out-of-sequence shots that are usually crossfires.

Questioned Shot Values. Electronic targets score with a precision that exceeds the scoring accuracy that can be attained with paper targets and scoring aids and they are also rigorously tested to confirm that they are continuing to perform correctly. A key to maintaining this high level of scoring accuracy is proper target maintenance. Nevertheless, a competitor may occasionally question a scored shot value (i. e. "I didn't shoot that seven...or five...or miss"), but unless there is credible evidence that the target is malfunctioning, the scored value must stand.

POSTED – Let them politely know:

I noticed your "No Weapons Allowed" policy and will respect your wishes. I will be taking my business elsewhere until your policy is changed. As a holder of a Concealed Carry Permit, I have never been convicted of a felony, a violent crime, or domestic violence. I do not use nor am I addicted to illegal drugs. I am not under indictment or a fugitive from justice. I have passed thorough State and Federal background investigations. How many of these things do you know about your other customers? - Thank you.

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continued from page 11Mounting a magnifier (pictured left) aft of a holographic sight is a popular choice for shooters seeking superior close- and medium-range performance. For our purposes, let's erase the term "red dot" from our vocabulary as a means of describing sights and use it only to describe the aiming point. In order to simplify the subject, let's split the sights that utilize a nonmagnifying, illuminated dot into three categories: prismatic, reflex and holographic. We can further simplify the topic by understanding a variety of companies make prismatic and reflex sights, but only one company manufactures holographic sights.

A prismatic sight is similar to a riflescope, but has fewer lenses. What it does have is a prism to flip the image, so it doesn't appear upside down. In a prismatic sight, the reticle is etched on glass, so it can be in any shape or configuration and can also be illuminated. Unlike reflex and holographic sights, which have no eye-relief constraints, a prismatic sight will have a set eye relief.

With a reflex sight, the aiming point (or dot) is an LED (light-emitting diode) projected forward onto a lens (some Trijicon and Meprolight reflex sights use tritium instead of electronics to achieve illumination). The lens is kind of like a mirror, and because of that, when looking through the sight, the image is slightly darker. Basically, there are two types of reflex sights: One is very compact and the beam is exposed. The other type is tube shaped, looks like an abbreviated riflescope and its beam is contained.

As for the holographic sight, [EOTech](#) is the only company manufacturing them: it controls the patent (Bushnell's HoloSights were made by EOTech). A holographic sight has a photograph of a reticle sandwiched between layers of glass. The reticle is illuminated by a laser and can take any shape. Further, it can also contain additional aiming points.

The differences between these sights are not just cosmetic or mechanical. Each type of sight brings something different to the table, and you should choose your sight based on the way you will use the firearm on which it is to be installed. There are simply too many sights like these to compare them all, but let's examine examples of each style and compare them head-to-head to establish the pros and cons of each option.

I selected a high-end example of each of the four sight systems and alternately mounted them on a [Daniel Defense M4V7 carbine](#). The prismatic sight was represented by Leupold's aptly named Prismatic Sight. An [Aimpoint Patrol Rifle Optic \(PRO\)](#) was used as the tubular, reflex-style sight and a [Trijicon](#) fiber-optic and tritium-illuminated RMR as the open type of reflex sight. The .300 AAC Blackout version of EOTech's model XPS2 represented the holographic sights. Running the carbine through my Scout Rifle Workout drill, where the shooter is required to hit a 5-inch circle at 50 yards from the standing, kneeling, sitting and prone positions in less than 30 seconds, I could really see no difference between the sights. My times and hits were nearly identical, regardless of the sight used. However, the height of the sight above the rail was noticeable. I was able to obtain a better stock-to-cheek weld to the exposed reflex sight—the [Trijicon RMR](#)—due to its compactness. This sight and others like it can be mounted very low.

Of course, this brings up co-witnessing the backup iron sights. Such was possible with the [Leupold Prismatic](#), Aimpoint PRO and EOTech holographic, but the Trijicon RMR was mounted so low, co-witnessing the iron sights was not possible.

To obtain the optical co-witnessing alignment, it's best if the center of the optical sight is at the same height above the receiver as the open sights. This height is typically about 1.5 inches above the rail.

Along the same lines, size and weight are important considerations. RMR-type sights are very light, tipping the scales at about 2 ounces or less, and measure only about 2 inches long and an inch high. RMR-style reflex sights are, on average, about a quarter the weight and a third the size of prismatic, tubular reflex and holographic sights. For this reason, some shooters, like *Shooting Illustrated* Field Editor Bryce M. Towsley, use a sight like this as a backup to a traditional rifle scope by mounting them coaxially, but at a 45-degree angle to the scope.

The use of a separate magnifier is also common with the application of nonmagnifying sights. A unit like the EOTech G33 provides 3X magnification, which can be handy when trying to make a precision shot at extended range. A prismatic-style sight will not work with a magnifier, but any reflex or holographic sight should. However, there's more to the story.

Due to the mechanics of a reflex sight, a 3-MOA red dot is about as small of an aiming point that can be achieved. With the holographic sight, aiming points can be as small as 1 MOA. While the two may appear the same size when viewed at the same intensity level without the magnifier, through the magnifier the 1-MOA holographic sight aiming point will appear just about 1 MOA in size. Amazingly, the magnifier does not magnify the dot. This could be important if longer-range precision shots are in order.

continued on page 18



continued from page 17..... It's worth noting since the tritium/fiber-optic powered Trijicon RMR can have a triangular aiming

point, the tip of the triangle can provide a precision aiming point with or without a magnifier.

It's also important to note both the holographic sight and the prismatic sight utilize a reticle as opposed to the simple reflection of light source.

This means for these sights, reticles with multi-aiming points and various shapes can be created. For example, the EOTech 300 Blackout holographic sight has a two-aiming-point reticle designed for supersonic and subsonic .300 AAC Blackout cartridges. And, just as importantly, when this sight is combined with a magnifier, the subtension between these points does not change.

The holographic sight has another distinct advantage, and that's field-of-view. All of these nonmagnifying sights are intended to be used with both eyes open—after all, part of the concept and benefit of using a nonmagnifying sight is the ability to keep your eyes open. EOTech's holographic sights have a huge viewing window and are also parallax free, no matter what area of the window you're aiming through. Other nonmagnifying sights are very near parallax free when the eye is perfectly centered behind them, but not to the extent of the holographic sight during off-axis viewing.

All of these sights operate on battery power, apart from the tritium/fiber-optic powered RMR. Battery life is a very important consideration. Run times vary between 25 days and four years of continuous use. The holographic sight, which uses a laser as opposed to an LED, has the shortest run time, while the tritium/fiber-optic RMR will become half as bright after a decade or so as the tritium in the reticle decays. Aimpoint's battery-powered PRO has a run time of 30,000 hours, so you need only change the batteries about once every three years, even if you leave the sight on 24/7. Some of the company's other sights have a battery life in excess of 50,000 hours.

As for durability, I didn't try to break any of these sights, but I did not treat them like tender flowers, either. I experienced no failures of any kind, but it is worth noting, with every sight apart from the RMR, I had to make occasional illumination-intensity adjustments depending on the ambient light and the target.

Water resistance and performance in rugged/dirty conditions also play a role in your decision. Anytime you're dealing with glass lenses, you'll experience problems with dust, debris and moisture. For optimal performance, keep your lenses clean.

(Interestingly, you can cover the front of the lens of a holographic sight—and most reflex sights—and place the aiming point on target if you keep both eyes open. This is a benefit of our binocular vision.) However, with the exposed reflex sight, like the RMR, if dirt or water gets on top of the housing from where the illumination projection is transmitted, which is exposed to the elements, your aiming point will disappear—a critical point to consider if backup sights are not going to be available.

And finally, one element of any gear acquisition is always price. The sights discussed here are high-end examples, and their prices reflect that. This brings us to less-expensive options. Various companies like Weaver and even Cabela's offer prismatic sights that retail for half or less than the Leupold. Tubular enclosed reflex sights are available for as little as \$25 from BSA, \$70 from Barska, \$130 from TruGlo, \$170 from Vortex and the list goes on. As for exposed compact reflex sights, you can pick up one from Sightmark for less than \$100, while [Bushnell](#) and Cabela's have them for around \$125. As you might expect, this variation in pricing also reflects quality and the sourcing of offshore parts and labor. The sights used for comparison in this article were all built to Mil-Spec standards; be aware, others might not be.

You won't find this price variation with holographic sights. EOTech is the only holographic sight manufacturer and holographic technology is very involved and expensive. You might see offshore companies claiming their sights to be holographic sights, and they might even look like EOTech sights, but in truth, they are just more reflex-type sights.

Which sight is right? As with most anything it depends, and there is a lot to consider. There's no single answer because your needs and credit-card limit should dictate the decision more than the opinion of the sales guy at the gun shop. Just remember, there is no such thing as "just a red-dot sight." Understand the differences and equip yourself accordingly.



◀ **Trijicon RMR**
Reflex Exposed
MSRP: \$577
trijicon.com



▶ **Vortex Razor**
Reflex Exposed
MSRP: \$599
vortexoptics.com



◀ **Aimpoint PRO**
Reflex Enclosed
MSRP: \$462
aimpoint.com



▶ **Redfield Counterstrike**
Reflex Enclosed
MSRP: \$224.99
redfield.com



◀ **EOTech 300 Blackout**
Holographic
MSRP: \$549
eotechinc.com

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Chuck Stellmacher -- Ph. 920-833-6668 chuck@wisconsinforce.org or
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Teal.

continued from page 4

This “experimental season” was intended to measure impacts to teal and non-target waterfowl species. Results were mixed across states that did participate and after debate among state and federal agencies involved, the decision was made that the “production” states (WI, MN, MI and IA) within the Mississippi Flyway would not be allowed an early teal season. However, when blue-winged teal populations were high, “nonproduction” states (the other 10 states in the Mississippi Flyway) would be offered an operational early teal season. “Production” refers primarily to whether a state is a major breeding area for mallards and other ducks. September teal seasons have been conducted in non-production states of the Central and Mississippi Flyways beginning in the mid-1960s, and have provided substantial opportunities for hunters. While Wisconsin did not participate in the 1960’s experimental season, each year special seasons were allowed, some Wisconsin waterfowl hunters would complain that states to our south had more duck hunting opportunity and asked the Wisconsin DNR to pursue an early teal season. The continental population of blue-winged teal has grown in recent years and a harvest assessment completed by state and federal biologists in 2012 concluded that teal could sustain higher harvest beyond that incurred during the regular duck season and the existing early teal seasons. In addition, most continental duck populations are high to very high compared to the last 50+ years. Following a series of meetings and recommendations among states and the USFWS, it was decided that the four production states would be offered a 3-year experimental teal season beginning in 2014. It is important to understand that this is an experimental season, and the result of this experiment will help decide whether a state is granted an operational early teal season. The USFWS requires states to observe hunter behavior in the field to observe whether they shoot at non-teal ducks during the teal only season. If the number of attempts to shoot non-teal ducks is too high then Wisconsin would not meet the USFWS criteria for an operational early teal season.

Public input and concerns: During 2013 and early 2014, department staff were aware there was a possibility that Wisconsin would be offered an early teal season but specific guidance from USFWS was not available due to federal regulatory processes. Staff presented information in public meetings, advisory committee meetings, special breakout sessions at the waterfowl hunter’s conference and asked questions using the department’s mail waterfowl hunter survey. We received a mixed reaction to the idea of an early September teal season. Those who were in favor of the season mentioned the additional hunting opportunity and a chance to harvest blue-winged teal before they migrate south which is often before the regular duck season opens. Those who did not favor an early teal season were concerned that hunters would not be able to correctly identify the ducks, resulting in the harvest of non-teal species. There were also concerns that an early season would disrupt the fall staging behavior of ducks and detract from the regular duck season opener and negatively impact the youth waterfowl hunt which is held in mid-September. In public meetings and advisory committees, a variety of early teal season structure suggestions were made to mitigate concerns over poor identification and negative impacts on the regular duck season such as a season no more than several days and restricted shooting hours that limit low light conditions. By late March 2014, department staff had received additional details from USFWS, and were certain that an early teal season would be offered to Wisconsin in 2014. The outside limits of a teal season offered by the USFWS were a maximum of 16 days, 6 bird daily bag limit and shooting hours that do not start before sunrise. A state could select season parameters less than these maximums as appropriate to specific migration patterns and relationship to other duck seasons.

Based on the public input received through early May 2014, the department proposed the following for an early teal season in Wisconsin for a 3 year period, 2014-16:

- Sept. 1-7 Experimental Early Teal Season;
- Only blue-winged and green-winged teal can be harvested;
- Daily bag limit of 6 teal;
- Shooting hours on opening day begin at 9 am and close at 7 p.m.
- Shooting hours from Sept. 2-7 begin at sunrise and close at 7 p.m.

This proposal considered new opportunities that excited some hunters, concerns related to this new season brought forth by other hunters, and a wide range of suggestions offered by the public over the last year.

Following development of the department’s teal season proposal, it was posted on the department’s website May 16, 2014 along with information regarding four public hearings to be held. Public input and participation was strongly encouraged. Information related to the teal season proposals, methods to provide comments, and the public hearing information was distributed to over 20,000 individuals on our waterfowl GovDelivery email lists, to the department’s partner organizations such as Wisconsin Waterfowl Association who in turn shared it with their members and distributed a statewide press release. Public input regarding the early season following the release of a specific proposal continued to receive similar mixed reactions. Individual comments received via the public hearings and through mail, email and phone contact were received, with 119 in support of an early teal season, 88 opposed and three still undecided. A majority of comments supported the other season parameters related to opening day, season length and shooting hours.

Based on a majority of individual and group comments supporting an experimental early teal season proposal, the department recommended adoption of the original proposal outlined above to the Natural Resources Board at their June 25, 2014 meeting. The proposal was a compromise among differing opinions, was responsive to expressed duck identification concerns through a reduction in low-light hunting hours and allowed the department to evaluate this new experimental season for the next three years as offered by the USFWS.

Following approval, department staff began an information and education process to prepare hunters for this new season and have continued to provide information over the last year including; a web based duck identification tool, press releases, online chats in 2014 and 2015, public meetings, Gov-Delivery messages to 20,000 subscribers and a magazine article. *continued on page 21* 20

Teal *continued from page 20* From the initiation of the quiz and slideshow to the last date of the early teal season, the webpage that hosted the slideshow was viewed 37,800 times in 2014 and over the same time period in 2015 it was viewed 27,100 times. In 2014, 4,303 people accessed and completed the duck identification quiz while 1070 completed the quiz in 2015.

Teal and teal hunter activity: With 2 years of experience holding an early teal season the first week of September, it is clear that geographic, year to year and daily variation in teal numbers and hunter activity is to be expected. In both 2014 and 2015, feedback from staff and participants was that the presence of teal and teal hunter effort varied across the state. There were local areas with 100's of blue-winged teal while in other areas of apparently good habitat had few to no teal. Areas that had good or poor teal numbers in 2014 might have had the opposite experience in 2015. In both years, certain locations and habitats had good duck numbers but they consisted mostly of mallards and wood ducks. In 2014, hunters commented that teal were migrating throughout the 7 day season with "new" birds arriving regularly in local areas. Similarly, hunter effort was variable across the state in both years with some popular public hunting grounds with full parking lots while other areas normally busy in the regular duck season had not one person hunting the early teal season. As expected, weather is a primary factor in impacting both waterfowl and waterfowl hunter behavior. In 2014, the early teal season began with temperatures near 80 but during the season a front arrived bringing rain and cooler temperatures. In contrast, 2015 was hot and humid all week with temperatures consistently above 80 degrees and often near 90. This resulted in a decrease in waterfowl movement and hunter activity for both the early teal and early goose seasons. As part of the federal Harvest Information Program, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) mailed hunter logs to a random selection of waterfowl hunters that hunted in the early teal season in Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan. These data are based on a relatively small sample size of hunters that hunted during the teal season so year to year variation in the results is anticipated. For 2014, the USFWS preliminary estimate indicate that 13,780 blue-winged teal and 1,837 green-winged teal were harvested in Wisconsin's 7 day early teal season. It is typical that green-winged teal harvest is relatively low in early teal seasons. At the flyway level (14 states) green-winged teal make up less than 5% of the early teal season harvest. For Wisconsin in 2014, hunters harvested 36,954 blue-winged teal during the regular duck season in addition to the 13,780 harvested in the early teal season. Based on studies of blue-winged teal harvest and migration, most of the blue-winged teal harvested in early September are likely locally raised birds while about 2/3 of the blue-winged teal harvest in Wisconsin's regular duck season are from birds hatched elsewhere. During the first year of the early teal season experimental season, Michigan harvested 4,275 blue-winged teal (7 day season) and Iowa harvested 45,871 (16 day season).

Hunter observations by the teal observation team: USFWS offered a new experimental teal season to northern states in the Mississippi Flyway in 2014 for a 3 year trial. Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan accepted this season, but with different season structures. The USFWS developed agreements with the three participating states, which approved the experimental seasons and required state agencies to conduct hunter observations. Observers recorded hunter behavior in relation to flights of different duck species as they participated in the early teal season to measure the potential impact of target and non-target harvest on various duck species. The USFWS established criteria that this group of 3 states must meet after collecting these data for 3 years in order to be approved for an operational early teal season.

Requirements for hunter observations for the three new Mississippi Flyway states for 2014-16 were the same standards and observation protocols used for all other states that were granted teal seasons over the last 40+ years. The data collected by this team are the most objective source of hunter behavior since the hunting parties were selected from representative areas around the state but without bias toward whether the party would behave well or poorly. Based on prior studies, the USFWS predicted that the three states would need to collectively observe 180 hunting parties over the 3 year experimental season in order to gather sufficient data and meet the statistical confidence required for the observations. This breaks down to about 20 hunting parties observed per year in Wisconsin. However, the Department set a goal to collect twice that many per year in Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin, a team of 24 wildlife biologists and wardens was recruited and trained to conduct hunter observations at representative locations around the state. The team used staff knowledge of teal habitat and past hunter behavior to select sites representative of opportunities throughout Wisconsin. Prior to the 2014 teal season, all observers attended a training workshop and learned the protocol established by USFWS. In 2015, a refresher course for observers was held prior to the teal season. Observers were located in areas hunters were likely to frequent while maintaining coverage throughout the state. Parties were observed by DNR staff at hunting location by posing as another hunting party or gaining an undetected vantage point. Ducks that flew within range of the party were identified, counted, and recorded in addition to the number of shots fired and birds that were hit.

Table 1. Results from hunting group observations conducted by WIDNR staff during the 2014 and 2015 early teal seasons held September 1-7. The observation team completed a similar number of successful observations in 2015 but with improved hunter behavior results (Table 1). In addition to Wisconsin's 2015 observations of 40

| Early Teal Season Hunting Parties | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| # of Observations | 44 | 40 |
| # of Parties in Complete Compliance | 38 | 40 |
| # of Parties in Partial Compliance | 3 | 0 |
| # of Parties in Total Violation | 3 | 0 |

hunting parties, Michigan completed 44 observed hunts in their 7 day season and Iowa observed 64 hunts observed during their 16 day season. Wisconsin observers recorded 132 flocks within shooting range of hunting parties, of which 41% were teal. Other species observed within range consisted of wood ducks (29%) and mallards (25%). While more flocks (267) were observed within range in 2015, the percent of the 3 major duck species were similar (37% teal, 32% wood ducks, 25% mallards). The critical measure collected from these surveys is the number of non-teal ducks that fly within range of a hunting party and whether hunters attempt to harvest them. *continued page 22.....* 21

Teal *continued from page 21*..... In 2014, 86% of the non-teal duck flocks that flew past observed hunting parties were not shot at and during 2015, 100% of the non-teal duck flocks that flew past hunting parties were not shot at. This result is very impressive and shows a combination of restraint and proper duck identification by the observed hunting parties. The improved behavior between the 2 years could be a result of improved duck identification and/or restraint or that only the more skilled duck hunters participated.

Public reaction/input: There was no official department solicitation of input from the public during or following the early teal season, however in 2014 we received 39 communications but by 2015 we only received 4. In 2014, 29 of the 39 contacts were positive in relation to the new early teal season. By 2015, it appears that hunters may have accepted this new season as part of their experience and did not feel a need to comment. However, the department plans to conduct a scientifically designed hunter survey this winter to gather hunter feedback on the early teal season. In 2015, a number of hunters offered input via phone calls, email and letters. The department welcomes these contacts and appreciates information that can lead to a good understanding of hunter experiences, addressing any observed problems and building on successes.

Additional staff input: Information from wildlife managers and wardens from around the state was received regarding activity and observations during the 2014-15 teal seasons. From a hunting and public property management perspective the season was implemented smoothly. Considerable statewide communication efforts seemed successful in minimizing calls to local wildlife staff with questions related to the season. The high density use issues that occur on some properties during the regular duck season were not evident in the early teal season. In addition to the wardens who were a part of the teal season observation team, DNR staff around the state worked the early teal season and responded to concerns and violations. Statewide, citizens made a total of 39 law enforcement hotline calls reporting observations of violations during the early teal season with most reports relating to shooting early or late and shooting at non-teal ducks. Wardens received additional in-field complaints. The majority of non-target species that were shot at were mallards and wood ducks, which corresponds to their relative abundance in early September since they are local breeders in Wisconsin. Wardens responded to calls and issued warnings or citations as appropriate, a preliminary citation summary is provided in the table below. The take/“attempt to take” game birds out of season may represent situations where a hunter shot or shot at a non-teal duck but it could also be related to hunters attempting to harvest other migratory birds not in season, snipe or woodcock for example. The “hunt before or after hours” relates to the confusion regarding restricted shooting hours for the teal season. In several cases, 2-3 citations were issued to one individual or one hunting party/event. Types of citations listed below are the same types of violations seen during the regular duck season. Overall there was a reduction in the number of citations between the 2014 and 2015 early teal seasons.

| Preliminary Violations Summary (early teal season citations only): | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| VIOLATION | # of Citations | # of Citations |
| Take/ attempt to take migratory game birds during the closed season or take protected birds | 29 | 22 |
| Hunt before or after hours | 13 | 12 |
| Unplugged firearm | 4 | 4 |
| Lead Shot | 6 | 2 |
| Hunt w/o license or stamp | 5 | 5 |
| Open Water Hunting | 2 | 2 |
| Fail to retrieve game | 1 | 0 |
| Hunt from a motorboat/ rallying | 1 | 0 |
| Possess or transport loaded gun in a motorboat | 3 | 0 |
| Other misc. | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 66 | 51 |

Conclusions and adjustments after year 2: Various sources of information on the early teal season indicate that the second year of this experimental season was successful in providing additional hunting opportunity for Wisconsin’s waterfowl hunters. The hot weather in 2015, however, did decrease hunter activity. The availability of teal and hunter activity were quite variable across the state. Overall, duck hunting parties observed during the early season were successful in not harvesting ducks other than teal and it appears that hunters may be learning and adjusting to this new opportunity. In 2014, we noted confusion over the difference in shooting hours between the early teal and early goose seasons likely generated some violations. In response we created a special brochure containing all 3 seasons (dove, early goose and early teal) that begin on September 1. We will continue to take additional steps to improve these types of communications to reduce confusion over shooting hours.

The monitoring and analysis of observations of early teal season hunters is being coordinated with the states of Michigan and Iowa. These will be reported to the Mississippi Flyway Council and the USFWS at the conclusion of the 3 year experimental period for final conclusions.

Deer *continued from page 4*

After tagging a harvested deer, hunters can visit gamereg.wi.gov or call 1-844-426-3734 to access the game registration system. Hunters may also register their deer electronically at a participating registration station. Upon completion, hunters will receive a 10-character confirmation number to write on the carcass tag as proof of registration. This tag should remain with the deer until the meat is consumed. To help make sure hunters are ready for another nine-day deer hunt, the department will host a chat Nov. 16 at noon. Questions related to harvest registration, safety, regulations or any other deer season topic are welcome. To participate or view the transcripts for previous chats, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "[chat](#)." Hunters may also find a variety of deer season materials, including season structure maps, frequently asked questions and helpful links at dnr.wi.gov, keyword "[deer](#)." To learn more about GameReg and electronic registration, search keywords "[electronic registration](#)."

Warden Wire FAQs: Special Edition: 2015 Gun-Deer Season (#1) Warden Wire Section – 11-5-15 - DNR LE

2015 Gun-Deer Season. These special edition FAQs were taken by the [DNR Call Center](#), the Department of Natural Resources' conservation wardens and the Bureau of Wildlife Management. Today's topic in this first edition is e-registration. The Call Center is staffed daily, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., and offers bilingual service in Spanish and Hmong. The DNR Call Center staff is happy to help you with any and all of your questions. The number is 1-888-936-7463.

Question 1: What's going on with electronic registration this year? I remember it was limited last year.

Answer: Good question and thanks. Mandatory deer registration has been a requirement in Wisconsin since 1953. But this year -- 2015 -- marks the first full year of mandatory electronic registration for white-tailed deer and black bear. Last year, the Department of Natural Resources ran an e-registration pilot involving about 200 hunters in each county, and there were more than 10,000 deer registered electronically throughout all deer seasons. Wisconsin is using GameReg for this -- a paperless method of registering wildlife harvests by phone or online. Wisconsin already has had success using GameReg for turkey and geese. We now are adding deer and bear to that list.

Question 2: When and how do I e-register my deer? **Answer:** You have until 5 p.m. the day after the deer (or bear) was harvested to register it during all seasons -- and that includes the 9-day gun-deer season. And, you have options to do the e-registration. You can do it using your phone, online or visit a business that has listed itself as a registration station. That means the business has phone and Internet access for hunters to perform their e-registrations.

Question 3: How would I register by phone? **Answer:** Call this toll-free number (**1-844-GAME-REG**). You will be asked a short list of questions which takes a few minutes. The information the hunter provides will then be loaded to the system and available for department use.

Question 4: How about registering online -- on the Internet? **Answer:** Easy! Go to gamereg.wi.gov and answer the few questions. It takes less than 2 minutes to do this.

Question 5: Will there be a smartphone app or link in the Pocket Ranger app that can take hunters to the e-registration site, and show where the registration stations are? **Answer:** Yes. The Pocket Ranger app will have a link to the e-registration system. You'll also find a searchable list of walk-in registration stations on the app link. The list of registration stations also is on the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov and search the keyword 'deer.'

Question 6: What kinds of questions will I be asked when I call or go online to register my deer? **Answer:** Questions such as what is your customer ID number, the deer's sex, county/deer management unit, date of harvest.

Question 7: Do I have to have the deer with me if I use one of those registration stations? **Answer:** No, you can leave the deer hanging at camp and drive to the station without it. But you will need your hunting license. Once you return to your deer, you'll need to write the registration confirmation number on the carcass tag to show proof of registration. Try to use a ball-point pen or a permanent marker. A gel-type pen tends to smear. And pencils don't work well on this surface.

Question 8: What happens if I get back to the deer and I don't have a pen or a good marker to write the number, is there a way to get the number again when I do have the right marker? **Answer:** Sure! Just call the DNR call center at 1-888-936-7463 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. A customer service rep can get that number for you. You just have to remember the registration is not complete until the number is written on the tag. **Question 9:** What happens if a warden checks my registered deer? How will the warden know it is a real confirmation number?

Answer: The wardens can verify your confirmation number through their phones or laptops.

For more on e-registration, go to dnr.wi.gov and search "deer."

If you have information regarding natural resource violations, please call or text: **VIOLATION HOTLINE: 1-800-TIP-WDNR or 1-800-847-9367.** The hotline is in operation **24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** Trained staff relay report information to conservation wardens. Anyone who calls the Violation Hotline or provides information **can remain anonymous.**

Knives *continued from page 2.....*

Use, not design, makes almost anything a weapon. The activity that causes harm is what should be punished. Wisconsin FORCE thanks Representative Bernier, Representative Kleefisch, Senator Moulton, Senator Wanggaard, and many others for their work to ensure that Wisconsinites are not burdened by irrational state or local knife use restrictions. We look to passage in the Senate and the signing by the Governor after the first of the year.

Irrational Fear makes for very bad public policy. Without Wisconsin FORCE or a change of political leadership and majority, we could be looking at bills like the ones below that restrict your rights.

An example of what could happen are the following notices. **At the end of October**, Senator Tim Carpenter sent out the following: I am looking for Co-Sponsorship of LRB-3212/1 relating to: possessing a weapon on a motor bus used for public transit and providing a criminal penalty. At the request of a constituent, I will be introducing a bill to outlaw, with certain exemptions, the carrying of a weapon on a motor bus that is used for public transit. Under this bill, a person who does so is subject to a fine up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to three years and six months, or both. Exempted under this bill are current or former law enforcement officers or game wardens.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau -- This bill makes it a Class I felony to possess, with certain exceptions, a weapon on a motor bus that is used for public transit. Under current law, a person may generally carry a weapon that is not concealed. A person who has a license to carry a concealed weapon may generally possess the concealed weapon into any area, but may not possess a concealed weapon in certain excluded areas, including in law enforcement or court buildings, in correctional facilities, in certain mental health institutions, beyond security checkpoints in airports, on school grounds and premises, in taverns if the person is consuming alcohol, at special events where organizers don't allow it, or in businesses or on private property where the owner prohibits or limits concealed weapons. Under this bill, only a person who is a current or former law enforcement officer or a game warden may possess a weapon on a bus that is used for public transit, regardless of whether the person has a license to carry a concealed weapon. A person who does so is subject to a fine up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to three years and six months, or both.

November 4, 2015 Rep. Subeck, Rep. Berceau, Rep. Sargent and Rep. Taylor sent out the following: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-3635, relating to: ban on semiautomatic weapons and providing a criminal penalty.

Please consider co-sponsoring LRB-3635 that will reduce gun violence in Wisconsin by banning the transportation, purchase, possession, or transfer semiautomatic assault weapons. Our nation has watched as community after community has to confront the tragedies that occur when weapons designed to kill large numbers of people quickly get into the hands of a dangerous person. It is imperative that the Wisconsin Legislature take action to ensure similar tragedies never occur again by banning these dangerous weapons. Semiautomatic assault weapons are a class of firearms that are designed to kill large numbers of people quickly. They have been used in many high-profile shooting incidents, including the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut; the 2012 Aurora, Colorado movie theater shooting; the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in that state; and the 1993 office shooting at the 101 California Street building in San Francisco. A review of mass shootings between January 2009 and January 2013 by Mayors Against Illegal Guns found that incidents where assault weapons were used resulted in 135% more people shot and 57% more killed, compared to other mass shootings. A ban on these weapons will help protect our communities from the real threat of unbelievably tragic attacks like those in Newtown and Aurora by keeping weapons designed to kill large number of people quickly out of our neighborhoods. If you would like to co-sponsor LRB-3635, please respond to this email or call Rep. Subeck's office at 266-7521 by 5pm on Friday, November 13.

Legislative Analysis for LRB-3635 -- This bill bans the transportation, purchase, possession, or transfer of a semiautomatic assault weapon and specifically defines "assault weapon" for the purpose of the ban. Under the bill, whoever transports, purchases, possesses, or transfers a semiautomatic assault weapon is guilty of a felony and may be fined up to \$10,000, sentenced to a term of imprisonment of up to six years, or both. If the crime is committed in a school zone, the maximum term of imprisonment is increased by five years. This ban does not apply to the transportation, purchase, possession, or transfer of a semiautomatic assault weapon that is rendered permanently inoperative, to any law enforcement officer or armed forces or military personnel while on official duty, to a licensed importer or manufacturer of semiautomatic assault weapons, or to a firearms dealer who is authorized to sell semiautomatic assault weapons.

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