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Official Monthly Newsletter of the NRS

By the NRS

for the NRS

From the Section Coordinator

Hello from the SC. Our clubs are all very busy as we hit the midpoint in our shooting season.

Four months into our season and we have seen much activity with steel matches, club matches, 3-gun matches and even some of our slot matches. USPSA shooting is going strong in Montana.

Practical Shooting can be a great experience to share with a friend or family member. Invite them out for a course or two.

Also help out wherever you can with your local club. We are an all volunteer sport and without your help we do not exist.

Please note that we have a member feedback section where we will publish articles from you, the local shooters, about your shooting experiences and your ideas. You can Email me at gene@computerbrothersinc.com with any of your stories or ideas pertinent to our clubs and the section.

Welcome to your NRS newsletter
 Gene R. Pipinich NRS/SC 06

Calendar

Bozeman

- June 3, 2006 - Club Match
- July 1, 2006 - NRS Slot Match
- August 5, 2006 Northern Rockies Section Championship

Billings

- June 17th - 3 Gun
- July 15th - Big Sky State Games
- Aug. 19th - plus long gun side stage

Bigfork

Matches are always scheduled on the 4th Saturday of each month
 March thru October

Jun 24	Jul 22	Aug 26	Sep 23	Oct 28
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Present format for all matches is 5 stages, 100 to 120 rounds total, with one stage being a classifier submitted to USPSA

Missoula

- June 11 - Club match w/ 1 classifier and 4 club stages
- June 24/25- GSSF match (Glock only)
- July 9 - 5th Annual MT Single Stack Classic w/ 6 club stages

Club

Rep

Advisory

GAS - Bozeman

Our next match is June 3, that is this coming Saturday. We will again be setting up on Friday, for those who would like to come out and give us a hand. In July it will be our SLOT match the first Saturday of the month, we are just finishing up the stages and will be getting them posted as soon as possible. Our 3-gun was very well attended and the shoot went well. I would like to thank everyone who came out and shot and for those of you that helped setup and tear down, I don't think we could have a better and smoothly ran match. We look forward to seeing everyone out to the matches.

Nick D. Pipinich

BFGC- Bigfork

The May match was advertised as the slots series match, but we had a very small turnout, and nobody from the Northern Rockies Section shot.

I have a bad cold and my eyes were weeping so badly Saturday that I didn't shoot. Even though it forecast to be rainy, it held off until the match was over.

This year USPSA is recognizing single stack 1911s as a provisional division. Call Bill Zerwekh at 257- 0652 if you are interested.

Join us up in Big Fork if you can.

Bill

MCAS - Billings

Our shooting season continues to go well here in Billings, we just finished our Slot Match, and are looking forward to our annual 3-Gun match on June 17th. **REMINDER:** our July 15th match will again be part of the Big Sky State Games this year! You need to register with the BSSG (\$15) in addition to the regular registration at the match. If you register prior to July 1st, you receive a souvenir t-shirt. Go to www.bigskygames.org for more information, or to register. All participants are also invited to the big opening ceremonies on Friday night. We will award State Games medals, in addition to our regular trophies. This has always been our best-attended match, we hope you'll join us!

Scott

BSPSC - Missoula

June 11th- 5 stage match (warm up for Area 1 with us)

June 24/25- GSSF match (glock only)

July 9th-5th annual Single Stack Classic- 6 stages
(you are welcome to shoot other firearms but only SS arms will be eligible for match awards)

Paul

Tech Notes

Many of you are receiving and updating your RO exams and preparing them for return to the USPSA. This is a great opportunity to review your rulebook and brush up on things again.

Talk to your shooting buddies. This makes us all better, safer and more competitive shooters. Have fun and get some range time with a friend.

Our new DSC (Deputy Section Coordinator) Nate Marten has the next article which you will find as the last page of our newsletter.

Take time to check this out and let Nate and I know your thoughts. We are working hard together to help represent you and provide usable information to all section members.

Please let us know your thoughts?

Member Feedback

With all the new people joining our clubs, remember to stop and take time to introduce yourself and make these new folks feel welcome. They are the future members of your clubs and your crews at your matches. Listen to what they have to say about our sport.

Share the sport with them and then submit an article on how it went. We need to hear what they have to say.

Practical Shooting can be a great experience to share with a friend or family member. Tell us how it went and what the experience was like. Tell us your story and share the experience!

We all got started in this game somehow—tell us your story!

Nate Marten DSC

I am trying to make a visit to the State Championship matches in the region and recently went to the Idaho State Championship, aka the "The Spud Gun". Each state has its official or unofficial championships: Idaho and Colorado in May and Wyoming and Montana in July. Montana has the Stockgun Championship in Libby and Missoula has the Single Stack Championship, but there is currently no multidivisional championship. Is this something that could be built into a section championship? I hope to make all these matches with the exception of Colorado as I just can't swing the cost and time with Area 1 coming up.

If you have not made the drive to Boise you should. May rain and warmer temperatures have provided a green mountain paradise with rivers roaring full to the bank. It is about 7 or 8 hours, depending on how you drive the continuously winding roads. I awakened on match day about 5:00 am and looked out the window to find Midwestern like rain pouring straight down at about ½ inch per hour. I thought, wow the pool will be great today, and went back to bed until my wake up call about 6:00 am. The rain had stopped and I decided to drive to the match and see how it looked. Things were not too bad and Bud Larson, who traveled from Big Fork, and I helped put a few stages back together and then looked over the courses of fire.

Gene Pipinich, wearing his Section Coordinator hat, has ask me to research wall and stage building techniques as I go from match to match, and this club uses snow fence barriers to set up their stages. They are built out of 2x2 with lath on the edges to secure the snow fence. They were very light during tear down but I have some doubts as to how long they will hold up as designed. They used various methods to set them up including fence post, ground supports and pole supports. It appeared uniform and I did not hear any instances of people shooting through snow fence at targets. For me, snow fence has several attractive qualities. First, the RO can see through the walls to verify the range is clear, this is time saving and safe. It is also light weight, wind friendly and is spectator friendly.

This match was hard. It had a few things I had not seen in my 10 years shooting matches:

- Swingers, fast swingers with two targets on one swinger with hard cover.....and no shoots.....ouch.
- A turning target, a fast turning target, with three targets.....with hard cover.....including an A zone only target that you had about a second to find the shoot area and then fire six aimed shots.
- International targets, or as they are sometimes called: amoeba targets. These will be at the upcoming Area 1 match and that is why they were used. You need to look them over as the shape of the scoring zones is different. Also they are small!
- 50 yard (63 long paces) timed fire.
- A door that was supposed to automatically open by dropping two pepper poppers (the rain swelled the wood and it did not work).

The eight stages were an excellent mix of field courses, standard exercises and speed shoots. The standards course was called 666 (well named). The stage was three strings, the first from 50 yards with two shots on each of the three targets in six seconds. Next you moved over and shot at three targets at 25 yards with two on each , reload, two on each in six seconds. Last you had to shoot on upper A/B zone only targets at 15 yards that required one on each, reload and repeat in six seconds. No limited shooter got more than half their points and even dot guns did not break 70 of the available 120 points. I would not be surprised to see this stage again at both big and local matches.

Another course required the carrying of a bucket full of potatoes, depositing the bucket in a blue barrel before firing the last shot. The bucket was metal and developed quite a bulge in the bottom and rounded edges from being dumped into the 50 gallon blue barrel so several shooters dumped their spuds incurring the accompanying three procedural. On "Start Cookin" you had to retrieve a potato and engage four ground level partials at the back of a large box covered with black plastic. There were a few potatoes that made a break for it but were eventually tracked down by the shooter.

The Organizers of the match: Match Director-Mike Brown, Associate Match Director-Jim Jatkevicius, Range Master-Kevin Imel, Quartermaster-George Elliott, did a great job. They dealt diplomatically with some fairly intense questioning and lobbying by some upper level shooters. I took my turns with the timer and had forgotten how intense and "thorough" top competitive shooters could be. I say no for a living and at times felt pretty uncomfortable giving the proper answers on scoring and rule interpretation. As we work as RO's we should remember to take the time to think through a situation and then call for backup if there is a strong disagreement. The scores were posted within an hour of the completion of the match (about 70 shooters) and the top three in each division received a nice medal engraved on the back with division and place. Scores are available on the USPSA members web site under Major Match Scores. I want to shoot this match again and hope many of you will give it a try. Thanks! Nate