



CMP State Directors

Matt Egloff

Hometown: Butte, MT

Life Member of the NRA. Life Member and Past President of the Montana Rifle & Pistol Association, Montana's NRA & CMP State Association. Life Member of USPSA. Veteran of the US Army. Gunsite Pistol 250 Graduate. NRA Certified Coach in Rifle, High Power Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun. NRA Certified Instructor in Rifle and Pistol. 4H Certified in Rifle and Pistol. Classified by NRA in 3 high power, 5 smallbore, and 6 pistol categories. Classified by USPSA in the Limited category. Unclassified and mediocre at breaking clay birds and feathering things with arrows. Distinguished Rifleman. German Das Abzeichen für Leistungen im Truppendienst in Bronze. I also have several NRA sectional and state games medals in various shooting events.

Licensed Professional Engineer and a co-Inventor on four U.S. Patents related to automation controls. I also serve on several codes and standards boards.

I helped Organize and Contributed to the State Associations Amicus Briefs in District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), and McDonald v. Chicago, 561 US 3025 (2010), in which the US Supreme Court upheld the 2nd Amendment as an Individual Right to Bear Arms.

I have been a Match Director and Official for numerous Rifle and Pistol Tournaments over the past decade, including several high power and pistol State Championships and Sectionals, and for Rifle and Pistol EIC (Leg) matches. I have competed at Camp Perry three times, and I have competed in tournaments in several states. I've also helped build, maintain, and repair range facilities.

I have been an active competitor in the shooting sports for 25 years. I may have the record for the most "first leathers" in rifle leg matches. I was not involved in any junior shooting programs as a child. I learned gun safety from my father at a very young age, as well as golf, otherwise known as a walk, ruined. I learned shooting techniques by reading books on shooting, and practicing what I read as a teenager.

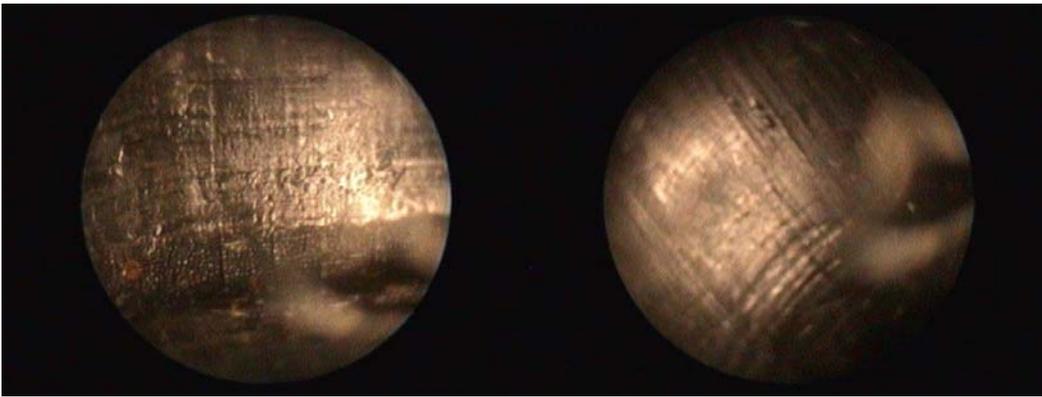
In the Army I qualified as an Expert rifleman but mostly shot bigger guns and missiles. I had never heard of competitive shooting sports until a chance meeting with a former AMU pistol team member at the NCO club in Korea. My only shooting award in the Army besides qualification badges was the West German Army's Leistungen or Soldier's Proficiency badge. This involved bullseye shooting with a 1200rpm, MG3, 7.62x51 machinegun, and with the H&K G3 rifle. It also involved some athletic events and a 20km road march. Trying to get three 5-shot bursts at 1200rpm all into different small circles was a challenge. After hammering 6 for 6 prone at 400yds with the awful trigger, I botched the kneeling stage with the rifle, rolling the ball of my elbow on my kneecap. The Army never taught me how to shoot kneeling, nor did we use the position in training or qualification, and I didn't recall the technique. I also remember being pulled from the pool after the 200m swim, and having more blisters than I could count after one of my boots came apart

on the road march. I got through the march because the Bundeswehr troops vying for the same award kept their canteens filled with good German beer.

After the Army and while in college I resumed "plinking." Since all of the old places we used to shoot in my youth had been developed, I joined a gun club and was finally introduced to competition shooting. I tried trap, skeet, and IPSC, but didn't have any national champions looking over their shoulders at my scores.

One of the IPSC shooters talked me in to going to a high power clinic & match to qualify to buy a DCM M1 Garand for \$165. This proved to be the most expensive gun I ever bought... I enjoyed it so much I talked my Father and several of my friends into going the next year. I still recall my Father pleading age & surgeries to use a lighter recoiling M1 Carbine to shoot the 100yd reduced match. Then he noted his heart surgery to avoid the "walk and paste." After scoring his targets we returned to him enjoying a cigarette back on the line. The first thing he had done after getting out of the intensive care ward after his quadruple bypass was to fire up a smoke in his hospital room.

I shot that DCM Garand through college and graduate school until it wouldn't hold the 7-ring beyond 300yds. After five years use, getting a 168gr Matchking to touch the lands had the base of the bullet a good 1/10th of an inch *beyond* the case neck. I later re-barreled that old Garand in the machine shop in the wee hours with Ted Nugent's "Double Live Gonzo" on the stereo. Now my students look at the original barrel with the borescope in NDE lab. See images below.



I finally got to borrow a state association M14 and despite it being well used, I managed a near master score at the regional and made NRA Expert in three matches. Of course during the leg match, the op-rod guide pin broke, ending my good scoring run.

In my last year of graduate school I was introduced to NRA bullseye pistol. I recall that in my first 2700agg match, former National Champion Darius Young "edged me out" by about 1240 points for the win. I bought a High Standard Citation at that match and eventually had ball & wadcutter guns built.

Work, injury, and surgeries effectively interrupted my participation in the shooting sports over the years since. I eventually accumulated enough leg points in rifle after switching to shooting left handed to stay ahead of middle aged eyesight. I also managed to compete at Camp Perry and in several other states.

During my hunt for leg points I found good coaching from Mark Riedl and Erich Buljong. This as opposed to typical early "help" from other competitors, such as advice on offhand, "...you have to take a good hard look at yourself and say, "You & *!%#\$* little worm, stand up there and shoot like a man." I also attended Gunsite and learned more about defensive pistol shooting technique than I had in over 20 years of sporadic IPSC experiences previously.

Benefitting from sound coaching led me to learn to coach others. I had technical difficulties switching from right to left-handed shooting, and from managing my aging eyes vs. a post front sight. This is before Dave Crandall's Microsight. I also had confidence & frustration issues from just missing the cut so many times, expecting to lose points at 600 and even 300 from Presbyopia, etc. Having someone to help me work through these things made the difference. In my last match I had three competitors within 2 points of me. In numerous previous matches I was the guy 2-3 points below the

cut. Having seen one fellow shooter succumb to cancer at 24 points, another pass away after finally legging out and making high master, and listening to the embittered stories of several older shooters who stalled out one leg shy, I was glad to have made it. Had I legged out when I was younger, I never would have learned a thing about shooting.

I began taking Nick Mowrer to matches and leagues in 2003. He rose quickly to the level of adult competition, which was a bunch of master & high master past state champions. He was reloading his own ammo and even trying his hand at gunsmithing while in high school. He also welded and repaired target turners. He soon surpassed us in scores, and could no longer be affected by our attempts to fluster him. He went on to become national junior champion in rifle, pistol, and long range, a national collegiate champion in pistol, and eventually competed in the 2012 Olympics in Free Pistol.

Nick might not have ever heard of Free Pistol, nor developed into a top Free Pistol shooter if we (the adult competitors around Montana) hadn't decided that we were all somewhat bored with only shooting NRA conventional pistol indoors in winter. I began running a statewide NRA sanctioned postal league for Free, Rapid, Air, Standard, and Centerfire pistol in 2005. We opened up another night for shooting International pistol league at the nearest indoor range in the next county. It caught on across Montana and Nick and many others got classified. We decided to add more International pistol to our state and sectional matches. Montana has had a number of young competitors with great promise in a variety of shooting sports, but many never went beyond local matches. Many more never got a chance to compete in events they may have excelled in for want of opportunity.

The Olympic people and some of the other coaches around the region still roll their eyes over our training methods. Nick shot mostly with adults, with all of our bad habits. Col. Charles Askins had his "careful scientific study" of how much whiskey should be consumed before a match to optimize performance. We had our own study of how much coffee & donuts, and which McDonalds breakfast items made the best pre match meal, and how many cigars should be smoked during and after the match.

I would say that what distinguishes the competitors that go on and succeed at a national or international level is that they WANT it and they make it happen. There is a big difference between wanting it and WANTING it. For most of us, competitive shooting is a hobby that we enjoy, can afford, and want to do in our middle class lives. We have WANTED and achieved occasional goals, but for the most part our enjoyment of the weekend includes the food and other social activities, and not just our aggregate score. We often lose competitors because the pressure of WANTING it results in burn out, or they just lose interest. Others who just want it can be put off by the demands of those who WANT it as well.

Our low retention rate, especially of junior shooters, is a cause of concern and addressing it is one of my pet causes. Do we burn them out, did we fail to provide opportunity, did we make it "no longer enjoyable," or were they really not that interested all along? Another concern is recruiting new competitors. Adult shooters who never learned need coaching too. Looking back I wonder why I didn't quit after stalling at sharpshooter with a shot-out rack grade Garand for several seasons in my 20's. While the CMP's current mission is centered on junior shooting, most of our new "adult" shooters, especially in high power and pistol, are adults over 30 who never participated in a junior program. How can we help them stay in and enjoy our sport?

Some of our politicians think that if you got help along the way, "you didn't build that;" that you can't take credit for the hard work you did to accomplish your goals. Whether it's a junior wanting to break 1000/1200 in 3P smallbore or an adult wanting to become a national or international champion, *they did build that*. Those of us who worked with them just handed them the tools.

I currently coach both college students and the local 4H shooters. Whether they want it or WANT it, I hope I can help them reach their goals, and hopefully they will continue in the shooting sports for life.

I also enjoy contributing the barrel wear of Class III firearms and artillery pieces whenever the opportunity arises. One should never go to the range without 30-06 or 45 ammo in case someone shows up with a "real" BAR or Tommy Gun.

Photographs by Russ Evans (big Garand), the caretaker at the John Browning Museum (big BAR), and Mark Riedl (Thompson Submachinegun – which sadly isn't mine).