



# DOWN RANGE



[www.msarpa.org](http://www.msarpa.org)  
SUMMER 2004

The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association  
Maryland's State NRA Association

STATE  
ASSOCIATION

## President's Column

Well, spring has sprung and summer is coming on fast, and all the fun and games in Annapolis have ended for now. Read more on this by Ray Albaugh and Roy Tarbuton in the "On the Legislative Scene" article (Pg.3). Stay in touch with what's happening on the national scene by reading the NRA magazines and checking out the web sites listed elsewhere.

The year 2004 started off with a lot of activity with coaching and instructor clinics and with a High Power Rifle clinic at the AGC ranges in Marriottsville, MD. The High Power Rifle Clinic was put on by Monumental R&P and had a big turn out. Right now we are looking for a club and interested shooters to help us put on a Bulls Eye Pistol Clinic as we see this discipline declining. We need more new shooters in this part of the shooting sports. If you are interested, please contact us.

If your club is going to sponsor or hold an event sometime this summer or fall, contact us and we can help you advertise your event in this newsletter and on our web site. The more we can promote and support each other, the more effective we will be (as well as having some really good shooting).

And, lastly, all of the outdoor shooting has cranked up for the good weather season. Do your sport a big favor and bring a new shooter with you and get them started. If you don't know where to go or how to get started, contact one of us on the Board of Directors and we will point you in the right direction.

See you on the Range!

*Larry Moreland*

## A Spring Bear Hunting Adventure



### THE TRIP:

I drove to northern N.J. on a Friday evening and spent the night at my daughter's house. My son-in-law, Vince, and I left at 6:00 A.M. Saturday and drove North on I-95 to the Canadian border. A word to the wise: if you travel on a week day, do not take the George Washington Bridge and the Cross Bronx Expressway. There is a way to go West at the end of the New Jersey Turnpike, then North, then East to I-95 at the Conn. border. It is more mileage and some additional tolls, but you avoid New York City. Stay on I-95 through Conn., just before New London take I-395 North to the Mass. Turnpike I-90, East to Boston's outer beltway I-495, North and East to I-95 just south of the New Hampshire border. Stay on I-95 the rest of the way. We then drove 75 miles into New Brunswick to Fredericton, where we were met by the outfitter's wife, Susan, and escorted to Spring Hill Lodge. That was an additional 60 miles. After 50 miles the electric lines ceased and we were in true back country. The route described has more mileage and tolls than "Map Quest", but you avoid Hartford, Providence, and Boston and is definitely the fastest. With hard driving you can go from Annapolis to Fredericton, N.B. in 14 hours including stops for gas, customs, etc.

### CUSTOMS:

Regardless of what you may have heard, customs in both directions was courteous, polite and quick. You may bring as many long guns into Canada as you wish. Absolutely NO hand guns. A simple form must be filed, it requires serial numbers, and one \$38.00 U.S. fee covers all of your guns.

Upon returning to the U.S.A., Customs was even easier. Present your copy of the Canadian gun form, bear permit, bear registration form, etc. The agent will check your capes and you are on your way.

### THE SPRING HILL LODGE:

The Lodge sits 200 yards off a country road. By our residential standards it is very rustic, by New Brunswick hunting camp standards it is considered luxurious. Parts of the exterior had been painted, but all the additions built this year, the interior walls, and ceilings are raw chipboard. The floors are painted chip board. Running water comes from a spring; propane runs the lighting, stove, hot water heater, and refrigerator. An interior bathroom has a sink, commode, and shower. Cell phone service requires a several mile drive. Food is strictly meat and potatoes; however, almost anything would be provided with a days notice. Dale, and his helper, were extremely accommodating and solicitous. I couldn't even pour my own coffee.

The outfitter is Dale Egars. He has been hunting the area for 21 years and has worked as a guide for other outfitters. This year is his first year as a licensed outfitter. In addition to building stands, setting bait cans, guiding hunters, etc., he is making improvements to the camp. Dale's hunters hunt

*Bear Hunting*, continued on Pg. 6.

**Official By-Laws  
of the Maryland  
State Rifle & Pistol Association  
Revised July 8, 1989**

**PREAMBLE**

In accordance with the purposes and objectives of the National Rifle Association, the objectives of this association shall be to create a public sentiment for the encouragement of training in the use of firearms as a sport, as an essential contribution to National Security, and as maintenance of individual liberty and for personal defense.

The purpose of this organization will be to encourage proper organization, operation and administration of member clubs; to promote and coordinate statewide activities related to the ownership and use of firearms and to cooperate with other organizations in the conservation of natural resources within the State of Maryland and throughout the United States.



*DownRange* is published quarterly by the Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc., for the benefit of its members. The views expressed in the *DownRange* are not necessarily the views of the association, its officers, or directors unless otherwise specified by the term, "The Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association..."

**Editor, Pro-Tem  
Meg Clarke**

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## Chairman's Minute



Recently I've had the pleasure of working with several juniors in the State's Highpower Rifle Program. When they first come to the firing line, the level of shooting experience is quite varied. Some have shot competitive small bore or air rifle, others have shot hunting rifles or shotguns, and some have never fired a gun before.

As they learn the fundamentals of shooting, you can see them struggling, and perhaps being a bit baffled by the myriad of functions they must consider to make the shot go in the 10-ring. But, they persevere. They keep trying. And, they get better.

Each time they shoot it is clear that some new insight into the process of firing a good shot has been revealed. I can't describe to you the satisfaction that I get from watching these young people as they learn. Their dedication is inspiring and their amazement at the progress they make is breathtaking.

Each of you should experience this phenomenon. These young folks are our future. Talk to the young boy or girl next door. Invite them to go to the range with you. Get one of their parents to go with you also. Show them how to have an enjoyable time, safely firing rifles or shotguns. Make it interesting by shooting some balloons. Spark that interest. Not only will you add a new, young shooter to our fraternity, but you may well also gain another adult – the parent.

I challenge each of you to introduce at least one young person to the joys of shooting and take them to the range with you. You will be amazed at the fulfillment you'll experience.

See you on the Range!

*Rich Kussman*

**TAKE NOTE!**

**PRODUCT PERFORMANCE ADVISORY BULLETIN  
DO NOT USE PMC AMMUNITION IN NAA REVOLVERS**

[www.naaminis.com/sandy050104.html](http://www.naaminis.com/sandy050104.html)

This Product Performance Advisory Bulletin is issued for the benefit of NAA's customers, owners and users of its .22 caliber revolvers. NAA has recently learned that the use of PMC .22 caliber ammunition (Magnum and LR) may affect the performance of its revolvers. Specifically, NAA has become aware of a phenomenon where an inadvertent, double-discharge (two rounds simultaneously discharging, one aligned with the barrel and the other out of battery) may occur when PMC Brand ammunition is used in NAA .22 caliber revolvers. These double discharge occurrences have been investigated by NAA and, based on the results of our investigation to date, it appears that the inadvertent, double-discharge has only occurred with PMC Brand .22 caliber ammunition, both in magnum and long rifle. However, NAA has not learned of any confirmed double-discharge occurrences involving any other brand of manufacturer's ammunition.

At this time, NAA recommends that its customers, owners and users of NAA .22 revolvers DO NOT USE ANY PMC .22 CALIBER ammunition (Magnum and/or LR) in any model of NAA revolvers. As with all of its firearms, NAA encourages its customers to exercise the utmost caution and care when using its products, including always wearing appropriate eye and ear protection and following all of the Basic Rules of Firearms Safety.

NAA takes tremendous pride in its finely crafted products. Its products have been certified by independent testing laboratories to meet or exceed every published firearms standard for safety, performance and reliability. All of NAA's products are warranted for a lifetime and its customer service and technical teams are ranked among the best in the industry, serving its more than 500,000 customers over the past thirty years.

NAA appreciates that, among other things, its products are purchased and used as back-up weapons for law enforcement and for personal protection. As such, NAA recognizes that its customers should be supplied with any information that may affect the safety, performance and reliability of its products.

If you have any questions concerning this Product Performance Advisory Bulletin, please contact us at (800) 821-5783 or write us at North American Arms, 2150 South 950 East, Provo, Utah 84606-6285, Attention: General Manager.

## On The Legislative Scene

# Session Wrap Up



After much wrangling and a huge push by the anti gunners to push through a new Maryland "Assault Weapon" Ban, every single gun issue died in Committee. Senator Gianetti was the swing vote on the Senate side who finally tipped the scale in our favor to kill the AWB bill. Don't forget the other five Senators who voted against the bill when they come looking for campaign contributions; to wit: Senators Alex Mooney, Nancy Jacobs, Phil Jimeno, James Brochin & Larry Haines.

The "Right to Carry" bills, introduced into the Senate by Senator Alex Mooney and into the House by Delegate Don Dwyer led to some very interesting testimony this year. Although both bills were killed in Committee, we had a lot more interest shown by Committee members who in years past would not have even attended the hearings. The dialog is getting better and the fact that under Governor Bob Ehrlich, the State Police are testifying on our side doesn't hurt. The State Police FOP even sided with us against the AWB this year.

Although we didn't really gain or lose anything via the dead bills in the Maryland Legislature this year, it appears that we actually will gain. The Federal "Assault Weapon" Ban is scheduled to expire in September and there appears to be very little interest in renewing it. With no new Maryland Ban now assured, we will be able to buy some firearms which had been unavailable. Don't forget though, that the AR-15 and all of its clones except the HBAR are considered regulated firearms in Maryland and you will still have the paperwork and wait.

The bill to eliminate the State Police Requirement for a shell casing to be sold with all new handguns for ballistic fingerprinting was withdrawn this year at the request of the State Police. Their own internal investigation is showing that the system is not performing any useful function at this time, while it is costing several million dollars a year to maintain. They have requested a chance for the new Secretary of State Police, Col. Tim Hutchins, to review the data for another year. Rumor has it that they will request legislation to kill the program next year.

Lastly, Governor Ehrlich has appointed William Kunkel to the Handgun Permit Review Board. Some investigation has revealed that Mr. Kunkel is a retired Harford County Sheriff and a good friend of Senator Nancy Jacobs (a very pro-gun Senator who took her handgun training at Stoney Creek). Senator Jacob's Office confirmed to me on Friday that they pushed for Kunkel to get the slot, that's good enough for me. He will replace the outgoing Chairman who I understand is a former President of MAHA, an improvement? You bet! The Governor will not have a majority on that board until next March 27, when he will be able to appoint replacements for the remaining three Glendening appointees. I'm being led to believe that we will see some subtle but positive changes in the Handgun Permit system after that.

*Roy Tarbutton*

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## The Sportsmen's Voice In Annapolis

### The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

**Senator John C. Astle**

*Senate Co-Chair*

Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

The sportsmen of Maryland have no better friends in Annapolis than the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus and the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation. And it's about time.

All laws and regulations in Maryland emanate from Annapolis. Elected lawmakers meet annually for 90 days each year to enact laws that impact the daily lives of everyone in our great State. State officials work 12 months out of the year developing, among other things, regulations to implement the enacted laws. Influencing such decisions is a full-time responsibility.

**Delegate Charles R. Boutin**

*House Co-Chair*

Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

And it is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. As the saying goes, "The rules are made by those who show up."

For eons in Annapolis, the interests of Maryland sportsmen have been represented by various groups and organizations. A fragmented voice at best. Conversely, those groups and organizations which do not support the traditional rights of sportsmen have been well-organized and well-financed. And they are present in Annapolis every day during the 90-day Session. Clearly, the policy-

*Sportsmen's Caucus*, continued on Pg. 8.



# Anne Arundel County Friends of NRA

## 2004 Annual Dinner & Auction

**4:00 PM, Saturday • August 28, 2004**

**Annapolis Elks Club • 2517 Solomons Island Road • Annapolis, MD**



### Benefactor Ticket Includes:

One Banquet Dinner Ticket  
\$100 worth of Drawing Tickets  
Name Listed in Event Program

### NRA Sponsor Ticket Includes:

Two Banquet Dinner Tickets  
3<sup>rd</sup> NRA Series, U.S. Marshall Statue  
Special Sponsor Hat  
Sponsor Lapel Pin and Decal  
\$160 Worth of Drawing Tickets  
**PLUS** one Super Blue Bonus Ticket  
Name Listed in Event Program

### Corporate Sponsor Table of 10:

\$450 (Tax Deduction \$160)

Call 410-551-3078 for information/reservations.

- **Live & Silent Auctions, Drawings, Door Prizes**
- **Firearms, Wildlife Art, Men's & Women's Jewelry, Shooting Accessories, NRA Specialty Items**
- **Open Cash Bar all evening**

- **50% of Proceeds Benefit Maryland's Women & Youth Shooting Safety and Education Programs**
- **Featuring the 2004 Gun of the Year:**  
Remington 572 BDL Deluxe Fieldmaster .22 CAL  
Numbered 001-1000

### ✂ To Order Tickets, Follow These Three Easy Steps:

#### 1) Decide # of Tickets:

Single Banquet Ticket(s): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Benefactor Ticket(s): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRA Sponsor Ticket(s): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$250.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Corporate Table \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$450.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2) Complete Order Info:

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 Checks pay to: AA County FNRA  
 CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3) Place Your Order:

Anne Arundel County FNRA  
 c/o Debbie Gay  
 7924 Telegraph Road  
 Severn, MD 21144



Call 410-551-3078 for information/reservations.

I can't attend but please list me as a Supporter. Here is my tax deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

## Chat Room Chatter

### **Bob Inness' original e-mail to a Junior shooter:**

Bryant:

At your last week's practice, Norris Diefenderfer advised me that Dave Johnson has invited you to a session at Colorado Springs for training. That is a very significant accomplishment and honor; and I congratulate you!

I would very much like to include mention of your trip in the upcoming issue of the MSRPA newspaper, as part of a Junior shooting report. May I ask you to provide me with your age, hometown, the number of years you have been shooting, details concerning the trip to the OTC, and your long term shooting goals, please?

Thank you for considering my request.

Regards,

**Bob Inness**



### **Responding e-mail from Bryant Walizer:**

Hello Mr. Inness,

I would have replied to you earlier, but I left on Sunday, June 20 for the USA Shooting National Matches at Fort Benning, Georgia and I just got back the first of July. My name is Bryant Wallizer. I am 17 years old. I am from Little Orleans, Maryland and I have been shooting competitive olympic-style smallbore and air rifle since the fall of 2000. The camp at Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center is from August 3 to the 11. It is a camp jointly sponsored by USA Shooting and the National Rifle Association and only 12 of the top juniors in the country are invited. We will stay in the dorms at the OTC and eat there, and they are paying for transportation to and from Colorado for us. I would like to earn a college scholarship from shooting and I would like to get a spot on the 2008 olympic team in at least air rifle. The shooter I most admire is Matt Emmons and he is going to Athens in air, 3p and prone. In the 2004 USA Shooting national championships held last week I competed in air, prone, and 3p. I got the gold medals for top J2 in air and 3p. I have loved shooting ever since I started hunting with my Dad when I was 5 years old. Norris is a great coach and has taught me alot. Thank you for your interest in the shooting sports.

### **Second e-mail from Bob Inness to Bryant Walizer:**

Bryant:

Thank you for your very fine response. I happened to be at the OTC last year with a CMP group and a similar group of outstanding prospects had been invited and was working with Dave Johnson at the time. I remember clearly that Kristina Fehlings and Emily Houston both talked about how intensive the training was!

I am confident you will enjoy your visit to the OTC and profit from the instruction you receive. I again congratulate you on your selection to this elite group. It is a high honor.

With regard to college, do you now have either a school, or a major field of study in mind?

Coach Johnson brought both Matt and Jaymie Beyerlie to our coaches group to speak to us and to answer our questions for about an hour. Both are outstanding competitors and I echo and applaud your respect for Matt's history.

*Chat Room Chatter*, continued on Pg. 7.



## *Coming Friends of NRA Banquets*

August 28<sup>th</sup>  
Anne Arundel County  
Annapolis  
Elks Lodge

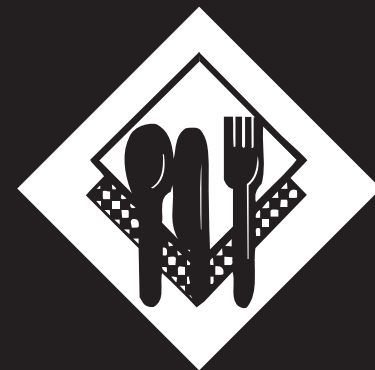
October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mason-Dixon  
Hagerstown  
Four Points Sheraton

November 12<sup>th</sup>  
Mid Maryland  
Gaithersburg  
Holiday Inn

November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Talbot County  
Easton  
Fire Hall

November 18<sup>th</sup>  
10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry  
Baltimore  
Overlea Hall

Support these fund raising, as well as fun raising, events. Half of the proceeds from these events is returned to the state in the form of grants to further the cause, especially in the areas of young shooters and novice shooters.



*Bear Hunting*, continued from Pg. 1.

two "zones" which are leased from the Government. One zone is total wilderness and largely inaccessible. The other zone is commercial timberland with many miles of logging roads, clear cut areas, new growth, bog land, etc. I scaled both zones on a map and they cover a combined area of approximately 40 miles by 70 miles.

There is an outfitter 30 miles northeast and another about 20 miles west.

#### THE HUNTING:

We were hunting Spring Black Bear. In New Brunswick nearly all game is baited. Dale likes to hunt up close and the farthest stand from bait was 50 yards. A large caliber rifle with open sights is probably best, at 20 yards a scope seemed to get in my way. Morning hunting started at first light and lasted 5 hours, then back to the camp for 5 hours. Afternoon hunts went from mid afternoon until dark. Black bears are as vicious and dangerous as a grizzly or Alaskan Brown. We were there for six days. During that time a local (50 miles) woman was attacked and mauled; in addition to many wounds she lost an eye. Two days later a man clearing brush in timber lands was chased up a tree and held there by a female bear for EIGHT HOURS as her claws came within inches of his feet. They often play possum when wounded. **Caution:** let the guide approach any "dead" bear. It is also very, very difficult to judge the size of these bears.

We started hunting Monday afternoon. My son-in-law saw no bears; one came to my bait but it appeared to be too small and I didn't shoot. Tuesday A.M. neither of us saw game. That evening a small bear came to Vince's bait then wandered over to his stand and sat underneath it. This is an open grate metal deer stand set at seven feet off the ground. After several very intense minutes it left and a large bear came out of the brush; Vince took it. That evening a yearling cub came to my bait and entertained me for over forty minutes. He ran away, but was not replaced by a fully grown animal. On Wednesday I saw no game; same for Thursday A.M. Dale, the outfitter/guide, sensed my frustration and spent several hours re-baiting my stand, including his ultimate weapon, vanilla extract. I took a male about 7 P.M. I used a .308 Cal with 165 grain mushrooming bullet. I took out both lungs and its heart and he still went 30 yards into the brush. I waited for Dale to show up; we both followed the blood and I stood guard with a chambered round while Dale poked it with a long pole. We caped and washed it that evening. I can't wait for the taxidermist to finish his work.

Both Vince and I agree that Dale gets 4 stars and is highly recommended. The accommodations are a little rough, but we didn't want a resort. We wanted to hunt bear!

AUTHOR: John B. Posoli, [thekitchenman@JUNO.COM](mailto:thekitchenman@JUNO.COM)\par

OUTFITTER: Dale Egers

Hardwood Ridge, N.B., Canada, E4A1A7 • 506-327-3887

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A few good hands to man (or woman, as the case may be) the MSRPA table at gun shows around the state. This is where we showcase the organization, sign up some new members, push a raffle or two to help fund the MSRPA, share a little camaraderie and check out everything else at the show.

If you can help out, even if only for half a day, please contact Erich Grove at [mdrifclubhipower@comcast.net](mailto:mdrifclubhipower@comcast.net) or at 410-489-5905 so he can add you to his list of workers.

Did I remember to tell you that if you work you get in free that day?

Support the organization, support gun shows – all of it helps sustain our rights and firearms heritage.

### WEB SITES WORTH CHECKING

[www.msrpa.org](http://www.msrpa.org)

[www.usashooting.com/usaShooting.cfm](http://www.usashooting.com/usaShooting.cfm)

[www.nraila.org](http://www.nraila.org)

[www.outdoorchannel.com](http://www.outdoorchannel.com)

[www.nmlra.org](http://www.nmlra.org)

[www.americanrevolution.org/home.html](http://www.americanrevolution.org/home.html)

[www.mynra.org](http://www.mynra.org)

[www.idpa.com](http://www.idpa.com)

[www.nrahq.org/women/wot.asp](http://www.nrahq.org/women/wot.asp)

[www.nssf.org/srp/](http://www.nssf.org/srp/)



With your permission and blessing I would like to have your response included in an upcoming edition of the MSRPA newsletter. Just as your efforts have been encouraged by your respect for Matt, I believe your statement and history may encourage other Maryland juniors to set high goals and dream big dreams, also.

At a recent meeting with Cecil County 4H, Conrad Arnold mentioned that he thought that another Maryland grown competitor had also been invited to the session you are attending. I am hopeful that I can identify that person also.

Thank you again for taking time to respond to my inquiry.

Regards,

*Bob Inness*

### **Bryant Walizer's Second Response:**

Dear Mr. Inness,

I have no problem with you printing my response in your newsletter. The shooting sports do not receive as much recognition as they deserve. There was a program on the Outdoor Channel last night at 11:30 p.m. about the US Olympic rifle team which was great. However it would have been better if the show would have been on at 8 p.m. It had a very good explanation of what rifle shooting is all about, and that is what the public needs to see. As far as my college choice, I am undecided. I am interested in all NCAA Division 1 schools that have varsity shooting teams with scholarships. I am interested in studying some sort of science, like biology, chemistry, or something that will be good for a veterinary school. I am interested in going to veterinary school at Virginia Tech someday. The coming year is my senior year and I will be starting an internship with a veterinary clinic a few afternoons a week. I also plan to practice more this year. I would like to shoot at least a 590 in air at a record match by December.

Again thank you for your support.

*Bryant Walizer*

## **NRA's National Firearm Museum**

Here is a chance to see firearms history at its finest - a gathering of specimens of the American instrument that made the 20's roar, the 30's rock and the 40's roll - the **Thompson Submachine Guns**.

This \$2 million exhibit showcases the best and rarest Thompsons in private ownership as organized by the Thompson Collectors Association. The exhibit is in the museum's William B. Ruger Gallery, under the formal name "Thompson: On the Side of Law and Order".

The National Firearms Museum is open seven days a week from 10 am to 4 pm. It is located at the NRA's Headquarters at 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA. Waples Mill Road crosses US 50 East near Exit 57 off Interstate 66.

The museum is located in the south tower (that's the building on the right as you turn into the entrance to headquarters). There's even an NRA store available. The museum is **FREE OF CHARGE**.

What a great day trip a visit to the museum would make, especially with the wife and kids. Go see the greatest collection of firearms in the world.



# **MSRPA**

## **Raffles Resume**

The popular MSRPA Gun/Cash Raffles have begun again with 3 (count them!) chances to win a prize with every ticket. Prizes are better than ever (if slightly different) with the costs being adjusted to accommodate the new prizes and leave a little more for the MSRPA kitty.

A set of tickets (6 for \$10) is included with this issue of *DownRange* as well as a return envelope. All you need to do is write a check for \$10, fill out your stubs, seal, stamp and mail.

If you want to do more for the MSRPA and sell (or buy) more chances, please call Meg Clarke at 410-267-7233 and leave a message on the machine. She'll be happy to send you as many sets of tickets as you'd like.

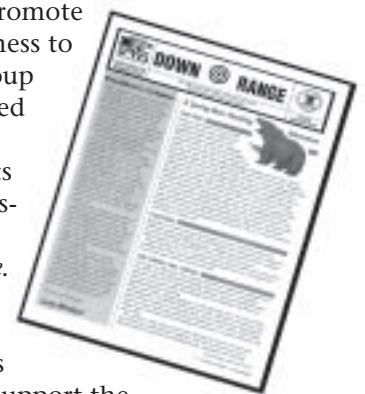
Watch the *DownRange* for the Summer into Fall 2004 and the Fall into Winter 2004 Raffles and the different Guns being offered.

## **Advertise in the DownRange**

You can promote your business to a large group of dedicated shooting enthusiasts by advertising in the *DownRange*.

Your advertising dollars will help support the MSRPA's goals and objectives.

Rates and copy requirements are available by contacting Larry Moreland at 301-249-4586 or [lcm1385@aol.com](mailto:lcm1385@aol.com).



making edge has not favored the sportsmen.

But, this all changed 3 years ago thanks to the leadership of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and the conviction of Maryland's sportsmen's community to unite.

Today, the sportsmen of Maryland can rely upon the support of the bipartisan Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus to protect, uphold and advance their interests. Consisting of 70 plus lawmakers, the Caucus is one of the largest Caucuses in the Maryland General Assembly. We currently serve as the Co-Chairs of this bi-partisan Caucus. And are most proud to do so. *Senator Astle is the Senate Co-Chair and Delegate Boutin is the House Co-Chair. Senator Astle is a Democrat and Delegate Boutin is a Republican.*

The Caucus is supported by its private sector affiliate, the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit organization that serves as a research arm of the Caucus on policy-related issues. The Foundation has no formal support staff from the General Assembly's staff agency, the Department of Legislative Services. Outside of its relationship with the Caucus, the Foundation helps underwrite educational outdoor opportunities for the youth of Maryland.

The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus and the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation are modeled after the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), respectively. A national effort is currently underway to create similar caucuses and foundations in all fifty states – last count, we were at 19 states. CSF can be reached at 202/543-6850.

It is important to note the Foundation – like CSF – does not financially support any particular political party in Maryland nor does it support any particular candidate for public office at the federal, State and local government level. And this is important for obvious reasons.

As sportsmen, we know our value to wildlife conservation. We are re-

mindful of the words spoken by one of our country's greatest conservationists, President Theodore Roosevelt who said:

"In a civilized and cultured country wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen. The excellent people who protest against all hunting, and consider sportsmen as enemies of wildlife, are ignorant of the fact that in reality the genuine sportsman is by all odds the most important factor in keeping the larger and more valuable wild creatures from total extinction."

Licensing fees and excise taxes imposed upon the sportsmen of Maryland contribute to the environmental well-being of Maryland's natural resources and the economic well-being of our society. Consider the following facts derived from the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation [U.S. Department of the Interior]:

- In Maryland, an estimated 701,000 anglers and 145,000 hunters spend over \$881 million each year.
- This spending supports 14,000 jobs resulting in \$340 million in salaries and wages, \$51 million in State tax revenue and a \$1.36 billion "ripple effect" on the Maryland's economy.
- Maryland sportsmen could fill Ravens Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens, more than ten times (752,000 vs. 69,708).
- Annual spending by Maryland sportsmen is 16 times the value of the State's commercial seafood landings (\$881 million vs. \$1.5 billion).
- Maryland sportsmen annually spend an amount equal to 59% of the Gross State Product from agriculture (\$881 million vs. \$1.5 billion).
- Sportsmen annually spend \$51.4 million in State sales, fuel and income taxes – this could pay 1,207 teachers' salaries or fund the annual education expenses for 6,585 students.

Clearly, the sportsmen's community of Maryland shoulders more than its fair share of the responsibility in underwriting public programs and projects necessary to promote wildlife habitat and wildlife-related scientific

management.

Time and space prevents us from providing a comprehensive analysis of our collective achievements to date. But, here is a sampling:

- For the first time since 1723, sportsmen in Maryland can hunt deer on private lands only during the first Sunday of archery season in November and the first Sunday during the regular deer firearms season.
- Maryland's ***Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry Program*** – a non-profit group which processes donated deer and distributes to the needy via food banks and church groups – receives \$1 from each hunting license sold [a "first" in the Nation].
- the General Assembly enacted legislation outlining specific statutory criteria the State must follow before it closes any waterways to recreational and commercial fishing.
- efforts to impede the State's ability to authorize a limited black bear hunt in Western Maryland failed.
- efforts to prohibit the use of leghold traps have repeatedly failed.
- monies have been secured to enhance the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP) in order to help promote wildlife habitat on private lands in Maryland.
- the Caucus was at the forefront of helping to secure enactment of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Fund for a healthier Bay – a move to allocate millions of dollars to upgrade wastewater treatment plants and failing septic tanks.

In closing, we must pay a special tribute to the Ehrlich Administration. The incumbent Administration has been extremely supportive of safeguarding the traditional rights of sportsmen to hunt, fish and trap. In November, for example, the Governor proclaimed that month as *the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry Month*. As sportsmen, we are all grateful for such Gubernatorial

## COMING GUN SHOWS

**July 31 – August 1**

Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA  
C&E Gun Shows & Showmasters

**September 10, 11 & 12**

Westminster Agriculture Center (NEW BUILDING)  
Westminster, MD; Preston Jones

**September 18 & 19**

Howard County Fairgrounds  
West Friendship, MD; Silverado Promotions

**September 25 & 26**

Allegheny County Fairgrounds  
Cumberland, MD  
Western Maryland Gun Show and Flea Market

**October 2 & 3**

MD State Fair Grounds  
Timonium, MD; Preston Jones

**October 9 & 10**

Sailwinds Park  
Cambridge, MD (NEW LOCATION)  
Silverado Promotions

**November 6 & 7**

Pikesville Armory  
Baltimore, MD; Preston Jones

**November 13 & 14**

Fairgrounds  
Frederick, MD; Silverado Promotions

**November 20 & 21**

Showplace Arena  
Upper Marlboro, MD; Silverado Promotions

**December 11 & 12**

Balto. 45 Ass'n Bldg.  
Baltimore (Parkville), MD; Preston Jones

**January 8 & 9**

Sailwinds Park  
Cambridge, MD; Silverado Promotions

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Always double check the show before you set out on a road trip, especially as the weather changes.

Preston Jones: 410-391-8883 or 410-632-4663  
or [www.camrodhuntingclub.com](http://www.camrodhuntingclub.com)

Silverado Promotions: Frank Krasner –  
301-874-5012 or [www.silveradogunshow.com](http://www.silveradogunshow.com)

## Firearms Instructor Classes a S-U-C-C-E-S-S!

NRA Training Counselor Meg Clarke tells us that the **NRA Instructor Classes** are going well so far. The MSRPA made a commitment to bring more educational opportunities to the membership and this is one of those opportunities.



- The **Rifle Instructor Class** in February saw 9 new NRA Instructors created while the **March Range Safety Officer Class** created 13 new NRA Range Safety Officers.
- The above classes are currently offered at Anne Arundel Fish & Game, a shooting sports club just outside Annapolis, but Meg is willing to travel to your area if there are enough prospective students. The costs of the classes are discounted for MSRPA members so there's more value for your MSRPA membership. We signed up 10 new members from those 2 classes.
- The next NRA Instructor Class will be for **Pistol** and will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25 followed by **Home Firearm Safety** and **Personal Protection** on Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23. An instructor teaching the NRA basic classes for these courses is now eligible to certify his/her students for the safety requirement component for purchasing a regulated firearm (read handgun) in Maryland.
- If you're interested in any of these NRA Instructor courses, please contact Meg Clarke at [legalad@capitalgazette.com](mailto:legalad@capitalgazette.com) or at 410-268-5000, ext. 3223 during the work day or at 410-267-7233 and leave a detailed message.

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*Sportsmen's Caucus*, continued from Pg. 8.

support. And together we stand united to uphold our traditional rights as American sportsmen.

For more information about the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus and the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation, please visit the Foundation's website: [www.mdsportsmen.com](http://www.mdsportsmen.com) or call us at our offices (Senator Astle @ 410-841-3578 and Delegate Boutin @ 410-841-3289. William R. Miles is the Vice-Chairman of the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation. He can be reached at 410.414-2515.

# Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc.

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## Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association

Affiliated with the National Rifle Association

### Membership Dues Schedule

1-year Junior Membership \$10.00  
(not 21 in the current year)

1-year Senior Membership \$20.00

5-year Senior Membership \$80.00

Life Membership \$300.00

**If 60 or older:** \$150.00

(To be paid 1, 2, 4, or 8 equal payments to be made over a period of not more than 2 years.)

Club Affiliation (clubs only) \$25.00

Enclosed is my remittance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to join the Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.

New Member or  Renewal

[www.msarpa.org](http://www.msarpa.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

NRA Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ State Legis Dist.: \_\_\_\_\_

My Congressman's Name is: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.

c/o Jim Bryant

341 Whitfield Road

Catonsville, MD 21228-1808

(Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)