

2024 CMP National Match Recap

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The CMP held the annual National Rifle Matches from July 21st through Aug 4th in Port Clinton, OH at Camp Perry. These matches have been held there annually since 1907.

The matches can be broken into three groups. Cup Week is a 2400-point aggregate. It consists of three days shooting an eighty-shot match each day. This is followed by a four-man team match on Thursday. The weekend after is filled with various clinics and practices.

The next week is "Board Week." It is made up of the President's 100, National Trophy Individual Match (NTI), Hearst Doubles, National Trophy Team Match (NTT) and National Trophy Infantry Team (NTIT or Rattle Battle, as it is commonly known).

The last weekend is filled with Garand, Springfield, and Military (GSM) matches. Competitors use a variety of old rifles to compete in "games" matches.



Justin Utley (firing) and Gary Troxell plotting his shots

TSRA was represented in 2024 by over 40 members of all ages from all parts of the state.

The weekend before Board Week began with the Small Arms Firing School (SAFS). Competitors get instruction on marksmanship from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU). They also get the opportunity to earn Distinguished Rifleman points using an AR15-A2. Josh Brown (junior) placed 4th overall and earned 4 points. Other learning opportunities were available with the Junior and Advanced Highpower Clinics. This is where competitors get a chance to learn from some of the best shooters in the nation, both military and civilian. Many from TSRA took part and a few even taught some classes.

Monday started Board Week with the President's 100 Rifle Match. This is a thirty-shot match with no sighters. The top twenty competitors get an additional 10 shots at 600 in what is called the P100 shoot-off. This year's shoot-off was especially memorable. The winds were gusting and about half way through heavy rain started. This year Justin Utley made the shoot-off and finished 7th place overall. Five other TSRA members Kyle Hoelscher, Justin Burns, Conrad Young, Danny Arnold, and Greg Troxell all made the cut. This year there was 819 competitors which is down from previous years.

Tuesday was the National Trophy Individual Match (NTI). This is a 50-shot match with no sighters. It is considered the most important individual match of the week. It allows for earning points for the Distinguished Rifleman Badge. There are also numerous trophies and awards associated with it. Inclement weather continued with bouts of rain and wind all day. This made for one of the tougher days in recent memory for the competitors. This year Justin Utley placed 4th overall and was 2nd highest civilian. Loni Barry (junior) placed 3rd junior overall. There were 757 competitors, including the military teams. CMP awards gold, silver and bronze medals based on score. This year TSRA members were awarded six gold medals, three silver medals and five bronze Daniel Boone medals.



TSRA Gold and Silver Teams

This year the following TSRA members made the cut-off and earned points to their Distinguished Rifleman Badge.

Daryl Melkert
Joshua Brown (junior)
Blackston Fisk
Robert Brown (junior)

On Wednesday morning the Hearst Doubles Match was held, which is a two-person team thirty-shot match. This kicks off the team events. **This year three TSRA teams placed high enough to earn a Hearst Doubles Medallion.**

8th - Justin Utley / Gary Troxell
11th - Conrad Young / Greg Troxell
14th - Danny Arnold / Kyle Hoelscher

Wednesday afternoon is the Freedom fire two-man junior team match. There were seven junior teams representing Texas, which is the most of any state in attendance.

Thursday was the National Trophy Team Match (NTT), which many consider to be the highlight of the week. This is a 50 shot, six-man team match, with coach, captain, scorekeeper and pit pullers. This year TSRA field two adult teams (Gold and Silver), while the Texas Juniors fielded two junior teams (TSRA

Junior Frio and Brazos). There were at least two more teams with TSRA members shooting on them as well, in the Out of Competition category. TSRA Junior Frio placed 3rd in the Junior category. Justin Utley had the highest individual score for the day.

The National Trophy Infantry Team (NTIT) match was held Friday morning. This is a completely different style of match. Six team members fire a combined 384 rounds at silhouette targets at 600, 500, and 300 yards. The targets have a 50-second exposure time for shooters to fire at the targets. This year TSRA Gold placed 2nd Overall and 2nd Civilian. There were two junior TSRA teams, as well as at least two other teams with TSRA members participating in the Out of Competition category.

Friday started the Games Matches, where Mike Larkin won the Commercial Carbine match. This makes the third year in a row Mike was high senior, however this year he was high shooter overall. The M1 Carbine match is held at 100 yards and is a fun match to shoot. It is the only "vintage" match that allows modern commercial rifles to be used.

CMP Games matches include Garand, Springfield, Vintage, and Modern Military. They are all shot at 200 yards, using as-issued rifles. It's a much more

relaxed competition compared to the previous days shooting and a load of fun.

On Friday evening the awards ceremony was held following the competitor reception. While many people don't attend, it's a great place to meet your fellow competitors and congratulate them on their accomplishments. Also, all the actual trophies are out on display in the historic Hough Auditorium built in 1936. Winners of the trophies get a plaque with a picture of it and the year. They get to "walk the stage" and be recognized for their accomplishments. The awards ceremony starts off with recognizing the newest Distinguished Rifleman.

Six TSRA Members earned their Distinguished Rifleman's Badge over the past year:

William Dooley
Daryl Melkert

Conrad Young
Loni Barry

Wyatt Dunbar
Blackston Fisk

Following the Distinguished Rifleman portion of the program, the individual and team awards were handed out. This year Loni Barry made the National Junior High-power Rifle Team which consists of the Top Six Juniors in an Aggregate of the Presidents 100, National Trophy Individual and National Trophy Junior Team Match plus the Coach and Captain of the winning National Trophy Junior Team Match.

With another successful nationals in the books, many competitors are already making preparations for next year. The nationals are open for anyone to enter. The best way to prepare is to get out to your local club and state championships.

Justin Utley

There was one Texan who was recognized multiple times this year, including the elusive Mountain Man Trophy.

The National Trophy Individual (NTI) Match held on Tuesday, awards several trophies for various categories. This year **Justin Utley** finished 4th overall which won him the High Police Trophy. A trophy which he has won the last four years and holds currently holds the national record.

The winner of the aggregate of the P100 (Monday) and the NTI (Tuesday) match wins the Alice Bull Trophy, which Justin won this year as a result of his performance Monday and Tuesday. This marks his fourth time to win this trophy.

Thursday, Justin shot the highest overall individual score during the National Trophy Team (NTT) match. This earned him the Pershing Trophy and he was also awarded an Elihu Root Gold Medal, which is awarded to the top six competitors.

Justin also won the Pietroforte Trophy which is an aggregate of the NTI (Tuesday) and NTT - Individual (Thursday) scores. This is the fifth time he has won this trophy and he currently holds the national record.

Last, but not least, **Justin became the second civilian ever to win the Mountain Man Trophy.** This consists of the aggregate of the P100 (Monday), NTI (Tuesday), and NTT-Individual (Thursday). It represents not only the ability to shoot well, but to shoot well consistently, against the best in a week of challenging conditions.



Justin Utley's 2024 Awards