

WYOMING STATE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER Jan—Mar 2014



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

It is only through a study of the past that one is able to view the present in the proper perspective. I would like therefore to share a little known nineteenth-century episode: The Coal Creek War.

East Tennessee had an active coal mining industry in 1891 and in that year the miners made bold enough to demand that the coal companies follow state laws which prohibited the use of scrip payment for wages and the use of company checkweightmen. The scrip could only be used at expensive company stores or redeemed for cash at a steep discount. Company checkweightmen determined how much coal each miner produced (the miners being paid by how much coal they produced and they wanted their own checkweightmen).

Most mine owners gave in, but several of the largest companies refused to do so. They contracted with the state to hire convict labor and the miners were evicted from the company owned housing. The houses were torn down and the lumber used to build a stockade to house and confine the convicts. Tennessee was essentially bankrupt after the Civil War and had found it cheaper to lease out convicts than to build a penitentiary.

In July of 1891 hundreds of striking miners overwhelmed the guards, forced open a stockade, and then marched the convicts to the nearest railroad station where they were put on a trail to the state capitol. The governor, not amused, returned the convicts, along with three companies of the state militia. Things went quickly downhill from there.

This being a column and not a treatise, I will leave it to you the reader to look up all the details of this interesting aspect of our nation's history. I will say that the Coal Creek War lasted, by fits and starts, well into 1893. Stockades and company property were burned, convicts released, and many dozens of miners and militiamen were killed and wounded.

While technically, the miners lost, in reality the Coal Creek War brought about some needed changes. The cost of keeping the militia in the field greatly exceeded the return from the leasing of convicted labor, so Tennessee ended the practice and built a state prison.

As for repercussions, the governor was voted out of office and most all of the miner's leaders fled the state to avoid prosecution. Those miners brought to court were mostly acquitted or fined. Only one of the leaders went to prison for two years.

How does this obscure story of 120 years ago concern us, the twenty-first century Wyoming gun owner? Plenty, I would think.

Americans of the past showed plenty of gumption, a quality sorely lacking today but not completely extinct. Hopefully, in Wyoming some of that boldness of spirit still exists in the hearts of enough of us who grow increasingly tired of an increasingly lawless, unconstitutional, intrusive, corrupt and oppressive government.

Something else I would hope for. That enough Wyoming sheriffs would do the right thing such as their 1890s Tennessee counterparts did when they either refused to assist the militia or did so very half-heartedly.

The most important lesson, of course, is that without firearms the miners would have had to accept whatever abuses were delivered upon them.

Mark Spungin, President WSSA

Try to fathom the hypocrisy of a Government that requires every citizen prove they are insured...BUT not everyone must prove they are a citizen.



"... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President Mark Spungin, POBox 94 Guernsey WY 82214 836-2188 mspungin@ymail.com
Vice President Beverly Spungin POBox 94 Guernsey WY 82214 836-2188 bspungin@ymail.com
Sec/treasurer Roger Sebesta 625 Sweetwater St., Lander WY 82520 335-9323 wssa@wyoming.com
Competitions Roy Bane 4232 Kerry Lynne Ln, Laramie WY 82070 755-5766 roy@vcn.com
Hunting/Conservation Dennis French POBox 1485 Evansville WY 82636 266-6078 ddfrench@bresnan.net
Junior programs Dudley Irvine 1070 McDougal, Lander WY 82520 332-2811w dirvine@bresnan.net
Legislative Richard Bohling 1802 Sheridan St., Laramie WY 82070 745-6419 rbohling@bresnan.net

Our web site wyossa.com web master Ed Cassidy cassidy1@bresnan.net

HUNTING AND CONSERVATION



Greetings and best wishes for the new year.

January, 2014 reminds us it's time to get our new fishing licenses and conservation stamps. Also day and overnight permits for our State parks.. You can also get an early bird discount on State park day use permits until February 15th.

There are some new regulations this year for those of you who fish and they can be checked out in the new regulation booklet. There are also some new bison hunting regulations that when sent out were technically correct but have been changed for some wording clarification.

As one method to address recent budget cuts is by increasing license revenue, on January 2, 2014 the Wyoming Game & Fish Department will begin selling tickets for 2 raffles. The Super Tag and the Super Tag Trifecta. This will provide a chance for hunters to win 1 of 10 tags for our most popular big game and trophy game species as well as bison. The super tag trifecta ramps it up a notch by providing 1 winner the opportunity to select tags for 3 of the 10 species. There are many questions about this so the Game & Fish has posted Question & Answer section on it's website.

One subject that is raising an increased wave of concern in Wyoming and surrounding states is wildlife diseases. The diseases seem to be affecting more and more wildlife. There are studies and sample collections going on in multiple states. Hopefully, the samples and information we as hunters & fishermen provide will help lead to some solutions on reversing this trend. The Game & Fish on their website has made it possible for your input into planning meetings around the state. So get your ideas and input into these meetings online without being there.

With all the negative pressures coming against us as hunters, shooters, reloaders, fishermen and just regular citizens who want to protect our families, it's easy to feel helpless in our battle to preserve our constitution and our liberties.

My wife and I try to stay informed and converse with our senators and congressmen both state and federal but we have found the most rewarding and encouraging is by working to change the minds and hearts of our fellow citizens and family.

Looking back on 2013 some pretty neat things have happened for us. A nephew who had not been involved in much hunting and shooting called for advice on equipment to start his kids shooting. A niece on the east coast is now shooting a bow and various fire arms and her husband harvested a deer with a resurrected 7x57 from South Dakota. She also sent a picture of their new reloading center and their new baby boy.

Di and I also had the opportunity to present a 257 Roberts we inherited to a great family with a couple of great young men. The youngest wanted to show us a rifle they had acquired and is learning to reload from his grandfather.

Thanks to all of you who work everyday to further hunting and shooting sports and welcome and work with our youth and newcomers. Let's make 2014 a great year!
ALWAYS BE SAFE!!!! Dennis French



NRA MEMBERSHIPS

When you renew your NRA membership via the internet you will be also supporting WSSA. By using <http://membership.nrahq.org/default.asp?CampaignID=XPO17730> , a portion of your dues will return to WSSA.

PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR YOU RENEWAL DATE. THANK YOU

FOR SALE

The Game & Fish EXPO has been cancelled. It is doubtful that it will return. The WSSA board has voted to sell the equipment. Included are : 10 DAISY 853, some 853C and some have the butt stocks modified to allow shortening easily or returned to full length., all aperture rear sights, post or aperture fronts; 3 DAISY 717 single pump pistols; 6 CROSMAN CH2000 CO2, adjustable synthetic stocks, aperture front and rear sights; 4 Speth electronic target carrier systems for 33 foot air gun targets; 4 DAISY electronic target carrier systems; Pace trailer 7x12, single axel, with spare, hitch 'stinger' & ball; plywood enclosure for a 28X32/36 foot deep range; 3 ea 8 foot long table shooting benches. Targets, CO2, pellets, flood lights, extension cords, etc. Insured value \$12,700. Prefer to sell as package but will entertain all offers. Please contact the Sec/Trea.

WYOMING STATE JUNIOR OLYMPIC RIFLE COMPETITION

The new range at Cheyenne hosted the event Jan 12th under the direction of Dick Smith. Twenty three shooters did their best to shoot out the tiny '10 dot' on the tough air rifle target.

Mens division with a 600 being the possible score.

Austen Williamson, Cheyenne earned the Champion trophy and gold medal for his 541 Kyle Fox, Carpenter, took the 2nd overall and silver with a 501. Lander J3 shooter, Flint Pokorny, needed a tie breaker to take 3rd overall and the bronze.

The J2 age bracket had Ian Sanford, Casper on top with 448 for the gold. Coulter Anderson, Midwest, took the silver with 408. Bronze went to Jeffery Pike, Casper, with 386.

Anthony Baca, Cheyenne, won the gold in J3 by posting a 366

Womens division with a 400 point possible.

Marin Dey, Cheyenne, topped the field with a 359 to win the Champion trophy and gold medal. Ashley Swearington, Cheyenne, posted a 345 to take the silver and 2nd overall. Third overall went to Tana Eberhardt, Cheyenne, at 322. These winners are all J2 bracket shooters.

The J2 gold went to Sarah Dey, Cheyenne, with 316. Rachel Dey, Cheyenne, being lone J3 shooter was moved up and stepped up to the competition with a silver win at 302. April Ewing, Casper, won the bronze with 292.

The Junior NRA Sectionals will be in Lander March 22-23 for small-bore and air rifle.

Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy the day while it lasts.



Rest in His Peace
Long time member and supporter **Billy Townsend**, Douglas passed away at age 88. He was interred Aug 29th with military honors.

NSSF REPORT Target Shooting in America: Millions of Shooters, Billions of Dollars From the report—' In Wyoming, target shooting related spending contributed \$71,029,520 to the state's economy and supported 840 jobs.' The report says ' Retail sales related to target shooting accounted for nearly \$10 billion, with rifle and handgun shooting being the leading contributors, followed by shotgun and muzzleloader shooting.' You can read the complete report on NSSF.org. Note—I understand the above numbers are from 2011.

3 Position results Lander Valley Sportsmen

Nov 16, 2013 As winds howled outside, 4 shooters fired the 1st gallery match of the season in the warm, dry, and calm indoor facility. Three adults and a junior high power shooter trying smallbore against the USA/NRA 50' target for her 1st time. The match was 20 shots in each position for a possible 600 score.

Kenneth Lankford, Laramie posted a 555 to earn the match win. Roger Sebesta, Lander was top sharpshooter @517. Dan Thomas, Lander put 429 on the score sheet to take the marksman class award. Junior shooter Makayla Douthit, Walden, CO got her smallbore shooting started with a 423.

Dec 14, 2013 The final 3P event of 2013 was poorly attended. The travel weather was fine but maybe the Christmas shopping took its toll. The 2 Lander shooters showed they have lots of room for improvement. Sebesta 's 504 was match winner over Thomas' 442, which earned him the marksman award.

Jan 11, 2014 Lights were on, the fire and furnace cranked up, but only the match director turned out and the event cancelled. Instead it was turned into gun repair 101 to work on a CZ452 that needed sear adjustment.

The Feb 8th 3P will be the last 'open' of the season. Then on the 9th the Racy Clark 100 shot off-hand match will give shooters a chance to shoot the A-17 targets again. All safe shooters welcome. Programs on lvsa.info

LANKFORD ADDS TO HIS NATIONAL RECORDS

The NRA has confirmed that the 794-28X score fired by Laramie shooter **Kenny Lankford**, is the new High Power Rifle National Senior Record for 200 yard 80 shot regional course-metallic sights. He fired the score at the Colorado State 200 yard reduced course championship held on April 20, 2013 at the Boulder Rifle Club, Boulder, CO.

The 80 shot regional course consisted of 4 20 shot stages including slow fire standing [197-3], rapid fire sitting [199-7], rapid fire prone [199-5] and slow fire prone [199-13]. Lankford shoots a Remington 700 in .223. The old record was by Oregon shooter, Nelson Shew sat at 766-15X since 2002. Lankford bested 14 other high power shooters to win the championship as well as setting the record.

This is the third National Record that Lankford has held. He formally held the National Open Record for 20 shots rapid fire sitting of 200-18, set in 1992 which still stands as a civilian National Record. He also won the High Tactical Rifle— Any Sight category at the 2011 National Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio. In 2012, he held Wyoming State Champion title in 4 Position indoor smallbore, 3 position indoor smallbore, Air rifle, Mid-range 600 yards and Wyoming State High Power Rifle. He repeated as WY State High Power Rifle Champion in 2013 at Cheyenne.

Lankford is a life member of the National Rifle Association, a life member and former board member of the WSSA, a life member and one of the founding members of the Laramie Rifle Range while still holding several board positions. He began his shooting competitively in 1966.

EVENTS all phone numbers are 307 prefix

Dubois Gun Club contact regs.phillips@dteworld.com

Lander Valley Sportsmen Cowboy action on 2nd Sat— John 332-9203; 3 Position gallery—, Feb 8. Racy Clark 100 shot offhand Feb 9. HP & SB rifle silhouette Apr 19. contact Roger 335-9323. All club programs on lvs.info.

Thermopolis Gun Club, monthly meetings 7PM @ Armory 1st Thurs; n7zrx@yahoo.com,

Platte River Rod & Gun Club contact John 265-1210 or Larry pvkid4@msn.com

2014 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

NRA JR Sectional-3 & 4P SB; International air rifle Mar 22-23, @Lander, contact Dudley 332-2811w

3 Position air rifle Apr 12 @ Lander, Contact Dudley 332-2811w

3 Position air rifle JR sectional @ Cheyenne, Feb??, Contact Dick 630-6338

SB & HP rifle silhouette @ Lander Aug 23-24, Contact Roger 335-9323 NEW DATE

AFFILIATED WSSA CLUBS

Bessemer Vigilance Com'te, POBox 1132, Casper 82602

Bridger Trail Lt. Inf. Rangers, POBox 932, Worland 82401

Cheyenne Public Shooting Park, POBox 2833, Cheyenne, 82003

Cheyenne Rifle & Pistol Club, POBox 571, Cheyenne 82003

Cody Shooters Complex, POBox 1504, Cody 82414

Dubois Gun Club, POBox 91, Dubois, 82513

Fort Fetterman Sportsmen, POBox 843, Douglas 82633

Future Stars 4-H Club, 133 W. Center St., Douglas 82633

Lander Jr Rifle & Pistol Club, 943 Amoretti, Lander 82520

Lander Rifle Club, 943 Amoretti., Lander 82520

Lander Valley Sportsmen's Assoc., POBox 1113, Lander 82520

Laramie CO Shooting Complx, 13802 Bullseye Blvd, Cheyenne 82009

Laramie Rifle Range, Inc., 73 Rifle Range Rd, Laramie 82072

Lovell Rod & Gun Club, POBox 221, Lovell 82431

Platte CO Shooting Assoc, POBox 1324, Wheatland 82201

Platte River Rod & Gun Club, POBox 1587, Mills 82644

Rawlins Rec Services, 1616 Harshman St, Rawlins 82301

Sheridan CO. Sportsmen, POBox 155, Sheridan 82801

Thermopolis Gun Club, POBox 731, Thermopolis 82443

Upton Gun Club, POBox 291, Upton 82730

Weston CO Sportsman's Club, POB 861, Newcastle 82701

Western Wyoming Rifleman Assoc., POBox 605, Afton 83110

Worland Shooters Complex, POBox 713, Worland 82401

CLUB WISHING TO
HAVE THEIR WEB
SITES OR AD-
DRESSES ADDED
PLEASE NOTIFY
SEC/TREA

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Apr 15 2014

“Limit all politicians to 2
terms.....

1 in office

1 in prison

Chicago and Detroit already
do this. “

Bubba & Leroy

Our WSSA has a registered political action committee. Donations are welcome. Please consider adding a few dollars to fund. They can be sent to the secretary/treasure at 625 Sweetwater St, Lander, WY 82520





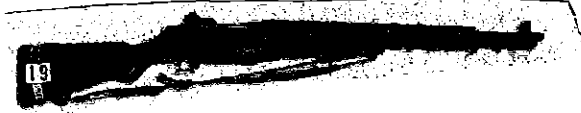
1/14

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit # 52
LANDER WY

625 Sweetwater St., Lander WY 82520

M1 tickets enclosed
Support junior shoot by purchasing/selling them
Drawing at the annual meeting

Mark you calendar for May 10, 2014
For the annual meeting
Parkway Plaza, Casper 9AM
Additional information in Apr newsletter



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WYOMING STATE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION, INC.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY-STATE-ZIP _____
E-MAIL _____

**"THE RIGHT OF THE CITIZENS TO BEAR
ARMS IN THE DEFENSE OF THEMSELVES
AND OF THE STATE SHALL NOT BE DENIED."
WYOMING CONSTITUTION, ART. 1, SEC. 24**

MY INTERESTS INCLUDE: High power Smallbore Benchrest Black powder Pistol Shotgun
 Air rifle-pistol Gallery Hunting Collecting Silhouette Cowboy Action Police Combat
 Do not actively shoot, but support "The Right to Keep and Bear Arms"
 New member Renewal NRA member yes no NRA# _____

WSSA MEMBERSHIP CLASSES & DUES applied for:

\$15 annual \$40 individual 3 year \$50 individual 5 year \$100 life \$300 Patron
 \$5 junior annual -under 19 yrs \$20 Club annual \$50 Club 3 year \$80 Club 5 year

Please send completed application with dues to WSSA 625 Sweetwater St., Lander, WY 82520