

2018 MATCHES

Plans are currently under way for an interesting series of matches for the 2018 calendar. Be sure to check the match dates as well as obtain match programs at the WSSA website. The dates are almost all set; programs should be following as the matches are finalized and approved at the NRA and CMP. Back again will be the Wyoming Champion hats for each of the following matches, resident or not. At least two of them ended up in Montana in 2017.

As in past years, the Silhouette program will be held in Lander. The Black Powder Cartridge Rifle match will again be held in Worland and the NRA Action Pistol is scheduled for Cheyenne at the Otto Range. The Long Range Championship will also return to Rawlins as will (tentatively) the across the course matches.

At the request of the folks in Rawlins, the Mid-Range Championship is being shifted there for the upcoming year and is being expanded into a two day 1000 aggregate match. We are in the process of obtaining and mounting the new Mid-Range Trophy as this is written. The new trophy will be in line with several of the other trophies in the form of a bronze. However, this one is going to be just a little more special to my thinking since it is modeled after the famous Wyoming Bucking Horse. For those who are interested, the design has its roots all the way back in 1917 when First Sergeant George Ostrom won the Wyoming Division contest with his design for what eventually became the iconic symbol that is seen everywhere around the great state of Wyoming including the shoulder patch worn by our troops. By rights, the Mid-Range trophy and match ought to become known as the Ostrom match but I will leave that up to you. If you want to know more about this iconic figure the Nicolaysen Art Museum has some of Ostrom's work on display in Casper through January 14th. More info at the following addresses:

<https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/george-ostroms-war-wyoming-soldier-artist-serves-france>

<http://thenic.org/portfolio-archive/cannons-and-cowboys-wwi-drawings-from-george-ostrom/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bucking_Horse_and_Rider

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/drawings-depict-world-war-i-through-eyes-of-wyoming-soldier/article_86d21767-8680-5339-ba10-8c6edadffccf.html

And finally, the GRAND SLAM...

Now I do want to say a few things about the across the course program(s). We have been in discussion with Governor Mead with the concept of introducing a Governor's Match as part of the program. The intent is to model the match after the President's One Hundred match which has been held at Camp Perry since 1903. Our intention is to run a CMP Excellence in Competition "leg" match as the Governor's Match. While somewhat different than the President's match we feel there is also a need for the leg match for those chasing points. The alternative was the 30 shot Governor's match and a leg as well and

there is just not enough time for a two event to get all this tucked in there. In the spirit of the President's One Hundred match our E.I.C Governor's Match will be the opening competition for the weekend. This means that, just as at Camp Perry, there will be no sighters in the first match. I can hear the teeth gnashing over this but the intent is to cause this match to be just exactly what the shooting sports are all about, Excellence in Competition and should make the inaugural Governor's Match a very memorable one! There will be some form of a patch or rocker awarded to the top shooters, we're still working on those details. Additionally, Governor Mead has been invited to fire the open shot to begin the weekend's events.

Also in the spirit of making this weekend a highly competitive program for both the high power rifle folks as well as the service rifle shooters our intention is use the NRA National Long Range Course of fire as Match Two on Saturday. This 60 shot match allows two sighters at all 4 distances. Just as in the National Course of fire you will shoot across the course but only 10 record shots at 2, 3 & 600 before moving back to 1000 for a final 20 shots for record. It will, theoretically give a slight edge to the bolt gunners if any show up. We ran this course of fire at the High Power Rifle Match in 2017 and those that fired in the event (including the service rifle types) all seemed to think it was a quick and enjoyable program, therefore we'll give it another run this year.

That sums up day one of the across the course weekend. Day two will be limited to an 80 shot National Match Course with the usual 2 sighters per stage. Now, we also have worked diligently to do one more item for what should be one of the premier shooting events in the state of Wyoming. We are bringing the Remington Trophy out of retirement. We are in the process of having a new base added to the bottom of the "Iron Mike" so that its original construction is not disturbed. The newly constructed base will have room for match winner's names to be enshrined. (As a side note, there are no match winners on the existing Iron Mike.) The high Wyoming competitor for the combined aggregate of the three matches gets this honor. As the title of this match section states I would point out that it would also be possible for a competitor to hit the **GRAND SLAM** winning it all but you are going to have to shoot a service rifle in at least part of the weekend to achieve that. In summary, the major awards in the across the course weekend will be the Governor's Match, High Power Rifle Championship, Service Rifle Championship and the Grand Aggregate "Iron Mike" Remington Trophy.

As a last side note, we are also in discussion with Governor Mead on the concept of having the major Wyoming Trophies on display in the Governor's office throughout the year.

If nothing else, I think we can all safely say that when the dust and burned power clears at the end of the shooting on day two there is going to be one person at the top of the competitor lists that will have definitely earned their Wyoming Championship Hat as well as the vaunted title of "RIFLEMAN" as there name is engraved on the "Iron Mike". I wish you all the greatest of good luck and good shooting throughout the season. Dave Babits