

# **Cheyenne Junior Action Pistol competitor at the 2025 CMP Bianchi Cup**

Submitted by Andy Rayland, WSSA Competitions Director

The 2025 CMP Bianchi Cup recently concluded, and Cheyenne Junior shooter Bridger Steege finished second place in the Junior competition.

The two-day, annual action pistol match dates to 1979 and is the second-longest-running pistol championship in the world. This year, the historic competition drew in 104 competitors from 25 U.S. states and five other countries. Each competitor vied for titles by completing the varied course of fire that consisted of four stages: the practical event, the barricade event, the moving target, and the falling plate event. The stages required marksmen to shoot from both the standing and prone positions from different distances, as well as firing with both their strong and weak hands at different times. The challenging course of fire, which has not changed since the competition's inception, included 48 rounds per stage, making the total possible stage score 480, and the overall competition score 1920.

With the top pistol marksmen coming to the Cup each year, the competition is known to come down to mere points, and whoever is the closest to the X-ring the most.

18-year-old Bridger Steege of Cheyenne was the 2024 CMP Bianchi Cup Junior Champion, and he returned to the historic Green Valley rifle and Pistol Club in Hallsville, MO to defend his title.

Bridger has been shooting CMP and NRA Action Pistol since age 9. He competes in the annual "Steamboat Challenge" CMP and NRA Action Pistol Regional and Wyoming State Championship conducted in August at the Otto Road Shooting Range in Cheyenne. He started out with a basic 22 Pistol and each year his skills progressed to the point where he now competes in the elite "Open" Division with a specialized 1911 pistol in caliber .38 Super which is set up specifically for the very demanding aspects of the CMP Bianchi Cup.

The Bianchi Cup, which is probably the hardest 192 shots in shooting sports, and are "technically" the easiest "individual" shots to shoot clean in the shooting competition world. I think that is why it is so hard, it is because technically from an equipment and skill set requirement, it should not be so difficult. Shooting a single "ten" from any distance in any of the events with an open gun is not difficult. Doing it 191 more times, in Columbia, Missouri at The Bianchi Cup, knowing that all but of few of those tens must also be X's are what makes it so humbling hard.



*Bridger Steege at Bianchi Cup receiving junior runner up trophy from Fred Stallings of Zero Bullets and Ammunition*

The Bianchi Cup is a two-day competition with each competitor shooting two events per day. Bridger's first event was the Practical event which requires shooting at two AP-1 "Tombstone" targets under variable time limits at 10, 15, 25 and 50 yards. Some shooting is done with the weak hand only and use of the prone position is optional on some stages. 48 shots - maximum possible score 480-48X. Bridger only dropped four points on this event finished with a 476-28X.

The second event on day one was the Falling Plates. This event is a spectator favorite and is pressure packed because unlike shooting on the AP-1 "Tombstone" target used for the other events which offer scores of 10, 8 and 5 points, the plates are 10 points or nothing. One shot per plate (no make-up shots) the plate must fall to score. The plates are arranged in a bank of six, one-foot apart edge to edge and are 8 inches in diameter. The competitor shoots at the plates at 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards under variable time limits. 48 shots maximum possible score 480-48X – Bridger "cleaned" the plates and fired a perfect 480-48X.



*Bridger's 1911 pistol. Optical sight by Aimpoint, built for maximum accuracy and reliability - caliber .38 Super. Compensator controls recoil, barricade wings provide stability on the barricade, and 'prone pad' on the butt provides stability for the prone position*

Day 2 for Bridger consisted of two events – the Moving Target and the Barricade. The very demanding Moving Target event requires the competitor to draw and engage an AP-1 target which travels at 10 feet per second for 60 feet between two barricades. All shooting is from the standing freestyle position at distances of 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards. The competitor is required to engage the target from both directions – right to left and left to right. Total of 48 shots maximum possible score of 480-48X. Bridger did well but threw out a few 8's at 20 and 25 yards finishing with a 474-30X.

He finished with the Barricade Event which requires shooting at two targets one on the left side and one on the right side of the barricade. The competitor stands behind the barricade draw and fires six shots on each side under variable time limits at 10, 15, 25 and 35 yards. 48 shots maximum possible score of 480-48X. Bridger dropped a few 8's at the 35-yard line and scored a 476-42X.

So, for the aggregate Bridger finished the match with a 1906-141X. That was a 10-point improvement over his 2024 score, but he fell short of the junior championship by only 6 points.



*Bridger shooting the Barricade Event at Bianchi Cup. 48 shots from strong and weak side barricade under variable time limits at 10, 15, 25 and 35 yards. 480-48 X possible- he scored 476-42X*



*Falling Plates at 10 yards - Draw and one shot on each plate in 6 sec, 15 yds-7 sec, 20 yds 8 sec, 25 yds 9 sec. Plate must fall to score. Bridger 'cleaned' the event with perfect 480-48X*



*Practical Event 50 yd stage. Two targets, 1 shot on each in 7 sec, then 2 shots on each in 10 sec, then 3 shots on each in 15 sec. Starting position is standing and holstered.*

CMP and NRA Action Pistol matches are conducted the third Saturday of each month at the Otto Road Shooting Range in Cheyenne. The 2025 “Steamboat Challenge” CMP and NRA Action Pistol Championship will be held the weekend of August 16 & 17. It's a great shooting sport for an aspiring junior shooter. Specialized equipment is not required to enjoy the sport – just a .22 Rimfire pistol or revolver and a holster is all that's needed to get started. Point of contact is Andy Rayland, 307-640-0396 e-mail: [arayland@charter.net](mailto:arayland@charter.net)