



# The Royal New Brunswick Rifle Association

*Promoting marksmanship through competition since 1866*

RNBRA Newsletter  
Volume 3, Issue 1

RNBRA Members and RNBRA Shooting Clubs,

At the RNBRA AGM in Sussex on October 27, I was granted the privilege of continuing to serve on the Executive Committee; this time as President, with Gordon Holloway, Steven Stewart, and Lorraine Chapman. Conrad Leroux retired from the Executive after four years of providing wise counsel and guidance but will continue to represent Shotgun and Smallbore and be the Trophy Trustee. Laura Kaderly has been reappointed to the position of Secretary and Administrative Manager, a position in which she has provided efficient day-to-day operation of the Association, implementing innovative and effective measures. Also, the Association is fortunate to have Jeff Young join the Executive as Treasurer, replacing Shelley Gregan who met every challenge; aligning the financial records with the Government of New Brunswick guidelines and incorporating the use of electronic accounting.

New to the Executive Committee, as Directors-at-Large, are Adam MacDonald, Dick Platt and Larry Schriver all of whom are well-known within the shooting community but who have now stepped forward to assume a role in the Association's administration. There are also a number of Committee Chairs who will advise and report on RNBRA activities; these include representation from two of the Association's largest Sections: Richard Telesnicki, of the Pistol Section and Mark McMullin, of the Fullbore Section.

I would also like to acknowledge the Association's partnership with the Province of New Brunswick, which has provided significant financial sponsorship to the RNBRA. This sponsorship facilitates continued growth within the organization, training and youth development. We are fortunate to have Jamie Shanks as our Consultant with the Sport and Recreation Branch of Tourism, Heritage and Culture; his guidance and expert knowledge is invaluable in completing the documentation to acquire financial sponsorship and has provided us with exposure to other Government support agencies that complement the programs and goals of the RNBRA.

A notable event at the AGM was the awarding of an RNBRA life membership to Steven Stewart, a Past President, acknowledging the countless hours he has volunteered visiting Clubs and ranges all over the Province providing Range Safety Officer courses, pre-Range Inspection assistance, facilitating shooting competitions and innovative shooting practices. His contribution has been invaluable and his award is well-deserved.

It has been a privilege to serve with the above-mentioned individuals and the other Directors, Trustees and Committee members, whose only goal is to serve the over 3,200 RNBRA members in the Province of New Brunswick; promoting good sportsmanship, competition, safe and efficient practical handling of firearms and good marksmanship. I look forward to continue working with this strong, dedicated team.

In closing, I would like to thank Gordon Holloway, for his quiet, efficient guidance and leadership for the Association these past four years. A real gentleman; an unassuming World Class Champion who exemplifies the membership of the RNBRA.

Wishing you and your families "good shooting in 2020".

Debbie Craig  
RNBRA President



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Please direct all questions, comments, submissions, ideas, and suggestions to Laura at  
**[info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca)**.

Don't forget to check us out on  
**[Facebook!](#)**

## RNBRA Membership and Club Affiliation

New and renewing Members and Clubs can complete their 2020 membership online by going to **[rnbra.ca/membership-form](http://rnbra.ca/membership-form)**. You can submit the form online or print off a copy and mail it in. The individual membership covers the cost of NFA insurance anywhere in the world.

Membership fees can be paid by Email Money Transfer (preferred method) or by mailing a cheque or money order. Once payment is received you will receive a card in the mail.

## Scout Appreciation Day – Fundy Shooting Sports

On September 8th/9, Fundy Shooting Sports Inc. put on its 13<sup>th</sup> annual "Scout Appreciation Day" at our range facility at Mispec, NB. We had the pleasure of hosting over 25 Scouts, 12 Scout Leaders and 20 or so parents. The Scouts were given an hour of firearm safety on the firearms that they would be using. They were then divided into two groups: one went to the Rimfire Range to shoot .22LR bolt action rifles and the other half went to shoot aerial targets with 20GA shotguns.



Each Scout had the opportunity to shoot at five (5) thrown clay targets. Those Scouts that went to the Rimfire Range had an opportunity to shoot 10 rounds at paper targets at 25 yards and then shoot 10 rounds at balloon and BBQ briquette targets at 50 yards. We provided a BBQ lunch to all who were present and also presented each Scout with a participation medal, club hat, Fox 40 whistle, ball compass, light stick, carabiner, assorted candy and decals, pens and newsletter from NBWTF who provided some funding for the event.



Submitted by David Greene, Treasurer

Check out Fundy Shooting Sports at their website: [www.fundyshootingsports.org](http://www.fundyshootingsports.org)

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## Member Activities – Quigley & Connaught

Submitted by RNBRA Member John Stamp

The Quigley is the premier gong shoot for buffalo rifles in the USA, attracting close to 600 participants. This year John Griffin and I were privileged to attend this shoot mid-June near Forsyth, Montana. These types of shoots are not sanctioned matches and one can focus on the enjoyment of shooting and socializing with a great bunch of people. But make no mistake, the challenge is there and you are up against some of the finest shots who ever lived.

There are 6 targets at ranges from 805 yds down to 350 yds, the largest a 5x7 ft buffalo, the smallest a "bucket" 32 in. high and that's the only one shot offhand, the remainder off cross sticks, giving 48 shots for score with no sighters. Bullets must be cast or swaged lead and smokeless powder is allowed. No sighters or down range wind flags permitted, so a good spotter is essential. When shooting 500+ grain bullets in the 1320+ fps range, wind reading is a critical skill, and the gulches, draws and ridges play havoc with anyone's best estimate. John Griffin and I both shot our best scores ever, ranking in the top 15%.



After sightseeing and gopher hunting immediately after the Quigley, we spent the next weekend at the Big Hill gong shoot in Baker, Montana. Situated on a half-moon plateau overlooking the badlands, where the targets are spread out, this range is very user friendly. Typically, they have a crowd of around 50 shooters, many of whom would rank as the best from the Quigley. The terrain contortions at Big Hill make the Quigley seem like an indoor range and the wind can blow straight up or be coming from opposing directions at the site of a particular target. In 2 days, it's 100

rounds from 500 yds out to 1023 yds, all off cross sticks. Wind shaking the stationary SUVs made for very sporting conditions on the first day. The next day was easier, with winds around 18 mpg. The awards ceremony is a potluck supper held at a local ranch. The top shooter scored 60 out of a possible 100. No giveaways here.

Heading home to Canada meant getting ready for the big one, the Canadian Black Powder Competition, Aug. 23-25 at Connaught Ranges in Ottawa. This shoot is run by the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association. As a consequence of help and sacrifices made, in 1920 the DCRA was granted use of the Connaught Ranges, a military base, in perpetuity.

All shots are prone off cross sticks and black powder or black powder substitutes must be used. About the only style single shot rifle not allowed is the bolt action. Most use Sharps and HiWalls.



Matches go from 200m, 300m, 500 yds, 600 yds (twice), 700m, 800m (twice) ending at 900m (twice). Where ranges are shot twice, the better of the two scores is counted. Prizes are awarded the evening of the second day and there are team matches at 900m the morning of the 3rd day, followed by a final get-together in the awards tent.



Besides the usual medals, plaques and certificates traditionally awarded at today's matches, DCRA has acquired, thanks to the generosity of Match Director Sandy Post, the Royal Rifles of Canada Cup, which is a trophy dedicated to the highest scoring Canadians. Sandy also commissioned special elaborately-made shoulder patches as take away awards for the top 3 Canadians.

Most competitors were shooters who consistently attend from year to year. They are a fine bunch to shoot with and it puzzles me that we can't get more Canadians to attend.

RNBRA provides well run black powder cartridge shooting events at Batouche range, which is excellent practice for Connaught. It's easy to load down a smokeless load to match the black powder speed out of your BPCR rig, so why not give it a try?

For more information on Black Powder events in NB, contact John at [stamp@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:stamp@nbnet.nb.ca).

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## Shooting Schedules

Check out the new [RNBRA Calendar](#). The plan is to include as many shooting related events in NB as possible, but we need your help! Fill out [this form](#) or send your shooting schedule to [Laura](#) to include it in the official RNBRA Calendar. Remember to send updates or cancellations as needed.

Looking to expand your shooting schedule? The RNBRA is often able to help fund inter-maritime, national, and international competitions held in New Brunswick.

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## Shooting Club Range Inspections

The RNBRA can provide range pre-inspections and advice for affiliated clubs looking to meet the NB Government shooting range construction requirements. We can also provide, upon request, a copy of the *Standards for Design and Construction of Shooting Ranges in New Brunswick* issued by the Chief Provincial Firearms Office. For more information, email [info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca).

Federal: [Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations](#)

Provincial: [Shooting Range Leasing Policy](#)

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## FAQ of the Month – How do you measure the accuracy of a rifle?

Although rifles are often referred to as being accurate or inaccurate the proper term for a rifle is precision. Accuracy is a measure of how close the shots are to the intended target and that is really the shooters' responsibility. So how do you measure the precision of a rifle and what are reasonable expectations?

Rifle precision is properly measured by group size at a given distance with shots fired from a steady rest. Best to use an optical sight with the highest magnification available. For example, you can shoot 10 shots at a target 100 yds downrange and have a group size of 4 inches. If you fire more shots the group tends to grow in size up to 20 shots or so. If you shoot less than 10 shots then you might get considerably smaller groups but they are not meaningful. For example, 3 shots in 1 hole doesn't tell you much about the precision of a rifle because the next shot could be 3 inches away.

Continuing with the example above where we have a 4-inch group at 100 yds for 10 shots. What size group can we expect at 200 or 300 yds from this rifle? To answer this question, you have to measure rifle precision in angles not inches. You calculate the size of the group in minutes of angle (moa) where 1-inch at 100 yds is approximately 1 moa. For reference there are 60 minutes in a degree of angle. So, the 4-inch group at 100 yds is 4 moa. We generally assume that the precision of the rifle measured in moa is independent of range, at least out to 400yds. For example, at 200 yds the 4 moa would give an 8-inch group and at 400 yds 4 moa would give a 16-inch group. Beyond 400 yds the consistency of the muzzle velocity has a significant impact on the group size. Shots with muzzle velocity below the average strike lower than those with higher muzzle velocity and the group tends to get taller. At these distances, wind also tends to spread the group out horizontally. Neither of these effects should be blamed on the rifle, however, so it is best to measure rifle precision at short ranges.

What is a reasonable expectation for rifle accuracy? A mass-produced hunting rifle that can shoot a 3 moa group with factory ammunition should be considered good enough for its purpose. Carefully tuning hand loads for that hunting rifle could improve the precision to 1.5 moa. For a competitive target rifle (shot with iron sights and a sling) the precision should be 0.75 moa. For an F-Class target rifle with optical sights, the precision needs to be 0.5 moa. For competitive benchrest shooters the rifle precision needs to be 0.15 moa, most of the time. Remember I am talking about 10 shot groups.

The cost and care required to improve precision increases rapidly as the group sizes get smaller. The hunting rifle could be \$1,000, the target rifle \$3,000, the F-Class rifle \$6,000, and the bench rest rifle could be more. The barrel alone for a competitive F-Class rifle is \$1,000 and you may need to try a few barrels before finding a good one. Precision has its price.

So next time you hear someone talking about a low-cost hunting rifle shooting 100 yds ½ inch groups ask how many shots in the group and how many groups they fired before they got a good one.

~ Gord Holloway

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## E-2341 Petition to the Government of Canada

An online petition, sponsored by Glen Motz, Member of Parliament for Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner, has been launched related to a ban on "military-style assault rifles" and calls "upon the Government of Canada to put any new firearms laws, bans, buyback programs or changes to licencing before the House of Commons to be debated." More information is available [here](#).

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## Courses

The RNBRA offers a course for training and certification of Range Safety Officers (RSO). An RSO is required every time two people or more people are using a range. For information on this course, please contact us at [info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca).

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## Youth Program Funding Opportunity

The RNBRA strives to support youth interested in the shooting sports and has established a Youth Program Fund. Any affiliated club with a youth program or trying to start one may make a request for funding support.

Youth programs may include: specific competitions for under 19, supporting youths who travel to competitions, courses or workshops for youth shooting, holding a Youth Day at your club, etc.

Send requests to Laura at [info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca) and include a description of the youth program and the date (if applicable). If you are unsure if your program/event will qualify, just send Laura a quick email and she'll let you know the next steps.

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## Workshops

There are several workshops offered by the RNBRA that are available to shooting clubs upon request. Currently there is one on load development and one on fullbore shooting. For more information on these courses or to arrange one at your club, contact Laura at [info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca).

Are you interested in developing your own workshop? The RNBRA may be able to help with funding, organizing and development. Send ideas to Laura at [info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca).

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## Quick Contacts & Links

Air Gun: Don Brown at [d.brown4@bellaliant.net](mailto:d.brown4@bellaliant.net)

Benchrest: <http://newbrunswick-benchrest.blogspot.com/>

Fullbore & PRS: <http://rnbrafullbore.blogspot.com/>

Practical Pistol: [ipscnewbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:ipscnewbrunswick@gmail.com)

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## Shooting Club News

Don't forget to renew your club affiliation for 2020. Affiliated clubs receive a number of benefits including:

- Funding for programs, special events and matches
- Free paper targets for rifle, pistol, rimfire and centrefire shooting
- Free advice and pre-inspections of ranges
- Discounts on bulk purchases of .22 RF ammunition through Ross Faulkner at the Gun Dealer

What's happening at your club? Send club news submissions to Laura at: [info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca).

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## Newsletter Submissions

The RNBRA newsletter is open to submissions from members, shooting clubs, and non-members for any interesting information, events, questions, ideas, or anything else related to the RNBRA's mission: promoting marksmanship through competitive shooting.

Please send all newsletter submissions to Laura at [info@rnbra.ca](mailto:info@rnbra.ca).

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