

SHOT OUT
The Newsletter of the South Texas Marksmanship Training Center
October 2020

www.southtexasshooting.org

Officers for 2020:

Officers for 2020 are: President Vacant; Chris Rabago, Vice President;
Rene Gonzalez, Secretary; Bill Huddleston, Treasurer.

2021 Membership dues are due now!

Please note that Individual Member Dues for 2021 are \$50 and Family Member Dues are \$70. Dues need to be paid to get a 2021 STMTC membership card.

Secretary's Note: Important and Urgent Notice: Call for nominations for officers for 2021

I hope everyone is well and staying safe. While the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented the STMTC Board from meeting monthly, our training matches have resumed. You can read about those activities below. As important as those activities are we are at a critical juncture in STMTC operations. For years we have had the same core group of members sustaining the activities and operation of STMTC. Age, work and family priorities, and weariness of being part of the same small group carrying the organization have taken a toll on that core group. It is time for others to step up. Otherwise, the only path for STMTC, a 501(c)(3) organization is likely dissolution, that is, the end of STMTC and exclusive access to the range at Blackhawk and the monthly access to the CTSA range.

STMTC can only function well if it has a full complement of officers willing to guide and lead the organization. We need nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer for 2021 and 2022. The new President and Treasurer will serve the remaining one-year term of each for 2021. The Vice President and Secretary will serve two-year terms (2021-2022). We must have nominations and new officers if STMTC is to continue to exist past December—No new officers, No STMTC. You may nominate yourself or you may nominate another member but only if you have confirmed that that member is willing to serve. Office holders must have been a member for two years, be a minimum of 21 years of age, and be in good standing.

The STMTC Annual General Meeting is likely to be postponed past the usual month of November due to COVID 19 and the lack of a suitable meeting

space but we still need those nominations to be forwarded to the Secretary at lodagener@gmail.com by November 15, 2020.

YOUTH DIVISION

The Youth Division is currently assessing the impact of COVID 19 to determine what activities, if any, may be held this Fall and Winter.

HIGH POWER

We had ten shooters at our February high power training match. We had a new junior shooter come out for the first time, Bennett, from Fredericksburg. His first time shooting further than 200 yards. He was shooting a big old super match M1A. A big thanks to KellyJeanne and Jon Ditchman for their assistance in coaching. Jon spent most of his free time helping Bennett across the different stages. Bennett even shot an X at the 600.

We had six shooters at our July High Power Training Match. Due to the weather, we skipped the 300 yard rapid fire stage, so we could get the 500 yard slow prone in. It was a windy, overcast day, with rain bands approaching. We beat the rain. It started after closing up the target shed. High shooter was John Cholak, with a 570-15x. John had just returned from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

The August High Power Training Match was cancelled due to weather.

We had 11 shooters at our September CMP Training Match. Top score was 456-8, fired by HarveyDickens. We had a couple new shooters out at the match, Lorrie Tetlow and her son John, who were being coached by her husband Chuck. Chuck was a regular out at Camp Bullis. After the match, we had several shooters get good zeros with their M-1 Carbines at 200, 150, and 100 yards. Eric is going to face a lot of competition this year. The next scheduled High Power training match is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th, at the CTSA Range, New Braunfels. Match fee is \$20 for adults, \$10 for Military, and \$10 for juniors. Gate should be open by 0730, followed by sign-up. Fun begins at 0820 for set up and squadding. First rounds go down range at 0900. This will be the 80 shot NRA across the course training match, with sighters. This "will not" be an NRA 'APPROVED' training match. Shooters will score and pull targets. Shooters choosing not to pull targets must provide a substitute puller. First stage will be slow fire standing, 20 shots in 20 minutes, at 200 yards. Second stage will be sitting rapid fire, with two strings of 10 shots in 60 seconds, at 200 yards. Third stage will be prone rapid fire, with two strings of 10 shots in 70 seconds, at 300 yards. Fourth stage will be prone slow fire, 20 shots in 20 minutes, at 500 yards. Fifth stage will be prone slow fire, 20 shots in 20 minutes. There will be two sighting shots at each stage.

The next scheduled CMP G/S/M training match will be the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance J.C. Garand Match on Sunday, December 6th. We'll be shooting the 55 round course of fire from the 200 yard line. First stage will be slow fire prone, with 5 sighter shots and 20 record shots in 25 minutes. Second stage will be rapid fire, prone from standing, 10 shots in 80 seconds. Third stage will be rapid fire, sitting from standing, 10 shots in 70 seconds. Fourth stage will be slow fire, standing, 10 shots in 10 minutes.

Match fee is \$20 for adults, \$10 for Military, and \$10 for juniors. Gate should be open by 0730, followed by sign-up. Fun begins at 0820 for squadding and set up. First rounds go down range at 0900. The fun will continue with our M-1 Carbine Rattle-Battle. The course of fire will be 50 total rounds of carbine ammo starting at 200 yards prone, 150 yards sitting, and 100 yards standing, with 50 seconds at each distance. Most hits in the black (regular 200 yard target) wins. The fee will be \$5.00 if you didn't shoot the earlier CMP Match. You have two options to shoot the match, bring-your-own-bullets (BYOB) or purchase organization carbine ammo (50 rounds) for sale at \$15.00 per box. The lovely and rare Ken Slade M-1 Carbine Rattle-Battle trophy will be awarded to the winner. Eric Johnson is the current holder of the trophy.

In case the match is cancelled, I will update the Organization's calendar the night before, and send out an email.

The schedule for 2020 is posted on the STMTC calendar. We may change up the training matches to focus on particular stages or distance, as several shooters compete in Regional or National matches and would like to get some extra practice in. This will be noted ahead of time. The dates are set, just the discipline may change.

Saturday October 24th – High Power XTC

Saturday November 21st – High Power XTC

Sunday, December 6th - 55 shot CMP G/S/M Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Please check the STMTC's [calendar](#) for updates.

PISTOL

The Pistol Division held two Bowling Pin Training Matches in September and October. The September 05 match had 10 intrepid competitors who braved the muddy road and range conditions. In the .22RF match a tie between Ron Seabolt (in from North Carolina visiting his son Steven), Harvey Dickens, and Dave Braun competed in a shoot off for first place after each had two runs of 24 points each. Ron won the shoot off to take first and Dave second. In the center fire match, Dave took first and Steven Seabolt took second, with Harvey only one point behind Steven for third.

The October 03 match was much cooler and drier with eight competitors showing up. Harvey Dickens took first outright in the 22RF stage with Steven Seabolt coming in second. In the center fire match, Steven Seabolt took first place in a shoot off with Harvey Dickens.

The November match will be a Precision Pistol 1800 Training Match. I'm hoping we can replace some of the wood planks on the firing line before then.

November 07 Precision Pistol 1800 Training Match

December 05 Bowling Pin Training Match

All dates/matches are subject to change. Always check STMTC Calendar on the Friday before the match.

SMALLBORE RIFLE

NRA Approved Small Bore Rifle F Class Match -- STMTC Range San Antonio TX -- Sept. 12 2020

Competitor Name	Cls	50y	100y	Dewar	100y	100y	100 Yard	50y	50y	50 Ya
Pyne, Kelly	4	195 - 8x	195 - 7x	390 - 15x	193 - 8x	191 - 7x	384 - 15x	198 - 15x	195 - 10x	393 -
Jeane		Winner	Winner	Winner	1MA-Civ	1MA-Civ	1MA-Civ	Winner	Winner	Winn
Evans,	1	193 - 5x	191 - 6x	384 - 11x	188 - 2x	198 - 10x	386 - 12x	196 - 7x	193 - 4x	389 -

14	Wayne Nunn Pr	200.13	196.03	195.09	198.11	789.36
15	Javier Garcia Pr	197.07	181.01	192.04	190.07	760.19

Nov. 14 NRA Approved 1200 Prone, F Class and 1000 3P
 Dec. 12 800 Prone, F Class and 3P

All dates include F Class

IN MEMORIAM: LEFT THE RANGE

Over the past 6 months several well known members have passed away including Bob Tapia, Chuck Hathaway, Chris Taranta and J.J. Conway. We extend our condolences to their families and friends. Our lives will be the poorer in their absence. Below I share a summary about J.J. Conway written by former STMTC President John Gaines in response to a request for information by a fellow competitor.

Thanks for your inquiry about my friend J.J. Conway. About all I know of his early years is that he was born in Pennsylvania from rather modest circumstances. He was raised in a small town and loved the outdoors. He was a gun enthusiast from an early age and shot a lot at the town dump blasting tin cans and bottles with rats as targets of opportunity.

He volunteered for the Army at age 18, I think, hoping to see some “action” before the war (WWII) was over. One day the first Sergeant asked if anyone in the company knew how to type. J.J. held up his hand. From that day forward he was the Company Clerk. He always regretted doing that as he didn’t get to see any combat. I told him that it probably saved his life!

I believe he was in an Ordnance Company but I’m not sure. He was overseas in Italy and stationed on an air base. One day two ME109s came in low and strafed the base. That is as close to “action” that he ever got. At some point he spent a lot of time, possibly late or after the war, upgrading M1 Carbines, i.e. changing the rear sights, safeties, and installing bayonet lugs.

After the war he was a civilian for a time, but realized that the service was not a bad career, so he re-enlisted in the USAF and completed at least 20 years. I’m not sure of his rank, but it must have been at least E-7.

J.J. took an interest in “fast draw” and got to be very good. He put on demonstrations for entertainment of the troops...and a few Generals. When Gen. Curtis LeMay was head of the USAF he wanted to have a rifle team that would rival

the U.S.Army or USMC. J.J. volunteered and made the team. They practiced and trained at Camp Bullis here in San Antonio.

At some point the USAF became interested in adapting the AR15 (probably LeMay's idea.). They were testing them at Bullis and wanted to see how effective they were against a steel helmet. A helmet was put up on a stake at 600 yards and the whole team shot at it. Only one hit was scored, and it didn't penetrate the steel. The USAF adapted the AR15 anyway, and that led to the rest of the services eventually adapting it too.

J.J. loved shooting at long range. In the USAF he was on their long range team using a Model 70 in .30-06, sometimes equipped with a 'scope. He shot with Chuck Hathaway (formerly a STMTC member) who was also previously on the USAF team. Chuck lived in San Antonio. We shot some long range matches at Camp Bullis for some years in the '70s, '80s, and '90s. That's where I met J.J. on the firing line at Camp Bullis.

We used to travel to Mineral Wells, TX to shoot long range at Fort Wolters. They had regular Palma matches there on a range that the TSRA built on the old KD range. I tried out for the USA Palma Team at Camp Perry in '96, but didn't make the team. I was pretty disappointed and was lamenting my poor performance with J.J. one day, and he suggested that I try shooting in Canada. He and I traveled there the next summer. That's when I became an international competitor and a member of the USA Veterans Rifle Team.

J.J. had taken up F Class shooting by that time due to his age, and I was shooting Palma (or Fullbore as it's known in the Commonwealth). The matches up there are very well organized and run. The scores are posted every afternoon on big portable bulletin boards arranged on the porch of the dining facility. Lots of shooters were perusing the lists waiting for the chow hall to open. I was standing next to J.J. when some Canadians on the other side of the board were talking. "Look at that!" one of them exclaimed, "That's a hell of a score. Who the heck is J.J. Conway?" His friend answered, "Oh he's some old geezer from Texas!" That's how he got his nickname, "The Old Geezer from Texas".

Members are reminded to observe COVID 19 and range safety procedures on the STMTC range at all times. Use only target frames and paper targets. Placing "clay pigeons" or any other objects to be used as targets, on the ground anywhere between the firing line and the 100-yard berm is prohibited. Any violation of safety procedures and/or regulations could result in loss of membership and loss of access to STMTC and Blackhawk ranges.

