



From The Office of the President

From the Prez - Don Lassell

This will be my last “From the Prez” report. I was elected as President of RNSA in 2002 and am stepping down. You members will soon elect a new president. I have attended the East Coast Matches every year since 1987 except for 1 or 2 years. I have always been proud of the support that you members freely give to the USN Marksmanship Team and to those who attend the matches, expecting nothing in return but that someone else’s score improves or that they have a good experience.

If you would like to serve as RNSA President, step up, talk to me or any Executive Committee member about serving ... we’ll put you on the ballot. We will also have openings for RNSA Treasurer and for Gazette Editor. If you can volunteer for either of those positions contact any Excom member, our current Treasurer, Mark Lindsley, or our Editor, “Walt” Walter to find out what those positions entail. The positions of President and Treasurer will be filled by a vote of members in good standing, the Editor will be chosen by vote of the Excom members. **See the separate article “Election of RNSA Officers” in this Gazette.**

I know that only a portion of RNSA members still attend the annual matches, but the reputation of RNSA benefits greatly from the presence of those who are still able to support the matches. Some of

those members are prominent, serving as match staff, some conduct new shooter training and some blend in on the line helping all shooters within reach. This sharing of decades of experience is one factor that makes the annual matches so successful. Our West Coast and East Coast Vice-Presidents are very prominent in their support of the annual matches. We and the USNMT are most fortunate to have their years of experience in running/supporting the matches. They continue to serve above and beyond the call of duty and are to be congratulated and thanked for their dedication.

I first arrived at Dam Neck on team match day in 1987, parked at the BOQ, and began the walk with my gear to the ranges to “Find Capt. Busch”. [Ken Busch passed away in 2018.] The first car coming my way happened to be Ken ...they needed one more Reservist to make a rifle team ... everyone welcomed me and helped me to succeed. I’ll bet your first day was also characterized by folks helping you out ... that’s the pattern at our matches because of each of you.

We retired competitors have always had a goal to give back the support that we received since our first matches. Giving back is one reason that we still attend the matches. I encourage every one of you to attend the matches when you can. **See the separate article “Giving Back” in this Gazette.**

I often think of the untapped wealth of shooting knowledge that could be shared in every Gazette. In particular are the encouraging phrases that all shooters have in their pockets ready to share with the right person at the right time ... my favorite being Walt’s guidance, “When you go to a match, shoot your average”. That thought is an excellent way to set aside the negative aspects of match pressure. “If you want your average to be higher, Practice”. The year I got a leg at the Interservice (1989), my

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phrase was. "I'm just going to have a careful day" chosen because I didn't think that I had what it takes to finish in the top 10% at the Interservice Leg Match. My personal best on that day put me 7th, a Bronze Leg. See the separate article "Phrases" in this Gazette.

I invite you to renew your connection to RNSA by updating your membership with your dues. Payment of dues is our way of knowing that you are a member. Contact Pat Greaney, our Secretary, to check on your status. Whether or not you update your membership dues, please update your contact information with us in a simple email. RNSA receives inquiries from old friends and relatives of members and past members. We want to help with connections and perhaps share some member accomplishments or photos with families. Rest assured that we will use good judgment and be respectful of your contact information. See the separate articles "RNSA Historian" and the "Secretary's Report" in this Gazette.

I hope that each of you is doing well and that you are able to remain active in shooting sports and are encouraging all shooters. I look forward to your continuing membership. I thank you all for supporting the Navy Marksmanship Program and the RNSA with your presence at the matches, with your dues, and for supporting me over the years as President. You have provided me with sea stories of your unselfish support to the Navy shooting program. Your camaraderie continues to be one of the highlights of my life.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,
Don



1989 LantFlt USN Retired Team LtoR: Walt, Frenchie, Ken, Ray

Secretary Report

Pat Greaney

Hello, I am Pat Greaney LS1 USNR RET, current Secretary of the Retired Navy Shooter's Association (RNSA). As such I have access to the Alpha roster of members. I have noted numerous memberships have lapsed. Perhaps your active interest in competitive shooting has waned somewhat since you were an active dues paying member of the RNSA.

Perhaps you are still active in competitive shooting and aren't aware that your membership in the RNSA has expired. Whatever the reason for your membership having lapsed, is it possible you would like to renew? As I am sure you are aware the RNSA not only fields teams at the Fleet and All Navy matches and Nationals (both CMP at Camp Perry and NRA at Camp Atterbury) we also strive to provide berthing for the active and reserve personnel that attend and compete at events at those aforementioned venues.

In the past the RNSA has provided some rather amazing prizes awarded at the Fleet and All Navy matches and provided we can maintain sufficient funding from our rather modest membership dues we, the RNSA membership will continue to provide those services.

So, active membership in the RNSA not only entitles you to compete on an RNSA team at competitions but allows you to help and support the U. S. Navy Marksmanship Team directly with your RNSA dues. After all, the major focus of the organization is to support the Navy's team. So, may I ask that you consider "Re-upping" in the RNSA by resuming your dues paying membership? Dues are \$10 per year, please send to:

*Retired Navy Shooter's Association,
c/o Pat Greaney, Secretary
6310 Little Schaefer Rd
Evansville, IN 47720
Email: pgreaney@juno.com*

Treasurer Report: Mark Lindsley

The current bank account balance is \$8,571.10

East Coast Fleet Forces Command

Fleet and All Navy Matches

Quantico, Virginia May 12 thru 21, 2023

Ted Janacek

The LANT matches were well run thanks to Match Director CDR Chris Hinson, Asst Match Director LCDR Kevin Darmody and many other Active/Reserve/Retired folks. Of the 23 staff positions, 10 were filled by retirees. Dave Vinkler was Asst Pistol Director and Jim Orille was Asst Rifle Director. Stat Shack and Awards were Boggs Ryan, Ruth Bates, Kathi Cline, Kaarlo Elonen, Keith Bowen, and Dave DeMille.

The Retired folks provide critical assistance at many levels in these matches. Other areas of contribution include weapon LTI's (Isaac "Chicken Mac" McCaskill, Jon Marvell), team gear issue and sales (Rob Drennan), plus others supporting training, preparation, and match operations.

Other Navy retired shooters included: : Phil Geiger, Dave (Vink) Vinkler, Jon Marvell, Lonnie Bowden, Karl Von Buren (Chief "Von"), James De-Shields, Issac "Chicken Mac" McCaskill, Marco Chavez, Kathi Cline, Dan "Diver" Kordich, Chris Hamlin, Kaarlo Elonen, Illa Ermoshkin, Keith Bowen, Boggs Ryan, Don Sandrock, Don Lassell, Jim "Jimbo" Orille, Rob Drennan, Mark Sylvain, John Murphy, Ruth Bates, John Edgerly, Sam Damiano, Gary, and Larry Strayhorn.

The overall East Coast Match participation has gone down over the years, perhaps due to busy deployment schedules and the Quantico Base not being in a Fleet Concentration Area. The USMC ranges are top notch though! This year's Fleet Rifle Match participants consisted of 109 persons: 31 USN/USNR,

18 USN(ret), 6 USCG, 27 USMC, 8 other services, and 19 civilians while the combined Fleet Rifle and Pistol Agg consisted of 142 competitors. This year there were only 6 USCG personnel but the East Coast has for many years benefited from the presence and contributions of USCG personnel who bring special pistol expertise/training as well as supporting match operations with block officials and line callers. As one would expect, the participation of USMC personnel has increased since the matches were moved to Quantico from Dam Neck in 2012. We appreciate their support on their ranges and the support of their armorers.

The matches began with Pistol SAFS and .22 rimfire 900 Agg including .22 rimfire EIC on May 13th. On May 14th were the Fleet Pistol 900 Agg, EIC, and Team matches. On the 15th were the All Navy Pistol 900 Agg, EIC, and a Long Range match. The All Navy Team match was a paper match consisting of scores from the NMC/EIC portion of the Agg. The Fleet Pistol matches went smoothly except for LCDR Janacek who got confused on which side his 50 yd target was on and shot his first 10 slow fire shots into several targets that were not his own!

Thanks to the Retirees that helped with the Pistol and Rifle Training sessions, we could not have done it without the senior experience and patience to train the next group of



Competitors! Match Staff worked hard to fit in a good training program and a full match course for both pis-

tol and rifle. This year was the first year in memory that the PAC Fleet had more Navy Active /Reserve participation than LANT!!! But, there were many



great things on the LANT side. Boggs and Keith Bowen set up Silver Mountain Targets for 14 firing points and we were able to get new shooter training and an All Hands Rifle Team match on electronic targets! That was a really special day since often I remember

as a new shooter having to “hang around” for my first few years before being able to participate in a Team Match! (FYI the Match Director allowed official teams fielded etc., but if you were not on a legitimate team that ‘burned’ a shooter, then you were put on a ‘scratch’ team for practice!)

Pacific Fleet Report: 2023 PACFLT

James “Huey” Huetteman

The PACFLT Matches were held at Camp Pendleton, CA from April 28 to May 7, 2023, Fleet May 2, 3 and All Navy (West) May 4-6. An Advance Team prepared the ranges and conducted small arms training culminating in a pistol P-100 match. The competition officially got underway on Sunday the 30th with Pistol NMC, EIC, and Team Match. There were 73 competitors in the Fleet individual pistol match

This year, the Pacific Fleet matches moved back to Wilcox Range, behind Camp Margarita, back to 600 yards! Thankfully, a lot of locals and retirees showed up early to help move equipment and supplies from Horno Range over to Wilcox (30 min drive). This gave us a chance to get a head start building and refacing targets, organizing 10x cans, and setting up firing positions on a range that had not been shot at since 2018. Drainage on the range was non-existent, but it did make for a beautiful scene when you fired over the lake that was between the 600 and 500 yard lines, haha. The backdrop of the mountains behind the berm was something that could have been a Windows screensaver, with flowing long grass and wildflowers. Check in and LTIs went well while a SAFS class was instructed by Jon Byerly and myself.

Many excellent questions were addressed, and many curious minds raced. This year we saw an increase in the percentage of new rifle shooters, which is excellent for our sport and our coast.

On Monday May 1st, the live fire SAFS at 200 yards went well, with many of our pit and comm issues getting worked out. Contrary to years past, it



DID NOT RAIN during SAFS live fire! On Tues the 2nd and Wed the 3rd we shot the Fleet Rifle NMC, EIC, and team matches. In the Fleet matches there were 92 total competitors: 45 USN/USNR, 9

USN(ret), 21 civilian, and 17 other services.

Our first days went very well, except for some pit issues due to the target shed blocking the berm, forcing new shooters to read targets like they are at Perry. Thankfully, I didn't have this issue because I chose to shoot .30 for the week, as wood guns are more fun! In reality, if pit service is the biggest issue that comes out of the matches with 60% new shooters? Then I think it was a good week...

Wednesday, the wind started picking up in anticipation of rain on Thursday. I had like 5.5 MOA on my Garand at 600. Thursday morning for the beginning of the All Navy Matches the rain came, and we were on delay until about 10. This forced us to have to scratch the Long Range Match in the afternoon, but we still got through an XTC match. The weather was amazing, cool temps, beautiful scenery, and Marine Cobras overhead... As God intended, BUT the receding storm created a curving wind. Imagine a string, curved from firing point 1 at 600, and ending all the way right at 200. That beautiful mountain backdrop created a curved wind that beat up all the new shooters, and tested the patience of the experienced ones. I can't remember my wind call (I think it was "just send it") but I heard experienced shooters saying they had up to 8 minutes on the gun and were still

having issues.

Out of everyone at the matches, somehow GM2 Tyler Fontenot was immune to the elements, the hunger and the heat, and he ended up winning...everything...on both ranges... Must be nice to be a good shot!

In the All Navy West matches there were 69 total competitors: 40 USN/USNR, 5 USN(ret), 12 civilian, and 12 other services.

I welcome everyone from the East to enjoy our wonderful beach weather on beautiful Camp Pendleton, California!

New England Games-Rifle

Ted Janacek

This was my first match at Camp Ethan Allen! Beautiful scenery exceptionally well run and participation was good! Attendees included: Jim Orille, Steve Triano, Jim Farnsworth, Ted Janacek, John Murphy, Tom Lowry, Dan Kordich, Thomas Gaskill CG PO1, JB Stern and Chris Moriority!

Attendees at the Nationals

Ted Janacek

We are looking for anecdotes from the attendees ...

National Pistol Matches: the RNSA attendees were: Dave Vinkler, Brad Wise USCG, Craig Griswold, John Hughes, Paul Angelichio.

National Rifle Matches: attendees were: Tom Lowry, Jon Marvell, David Fugate, Ted Janacek, Brad Wise, Dave Vinkler, Huetteman

Huey!, Ruth Bates, John Edgerly, Jim Orille, David Poyer, Bill Hinson (Chris's Dad).

Send us your Shooting Phrases

Don Lassell

A simple way to encourage another shooter is to draw from your experience, share a helpful encouraging phrase to apply in the circumstances of the moment. Walt's phrase, "Shoot your average" is appropriately shared with someone on a match day before the match begins. Put that phrase in your pocket. One day I asked the high school senior who won the match what her phrase-of-the-day was. She said, "Promise you won't laugh?" "Of course not." "My phrase was, 'I am [Jane Doe] and I shoot tens for a living' ". Put that one in your pocket. "I'm just going to have a careful day." "This will be a center shot." "I pretend I'm pulling the front sight straight back to the rear sight". "Shoot one well-executed shot at a time".

Frenchie (Arsene Le Blanc, RNSA member #8) would say (referring to Pistol), "When in doubt, look at the sights". We all know that, but imagine Frenchie saying that and how it sticks with you ... put that in your pocket also and share it at the right moment.

Every RNSA member has a phrase or a pocket of phrases that supported success at one time or another. One day at work I received a phone call from a fellow employee, an American biathlete who was looking for a place to practice. At one point I said to her, "After all, it is 80% mental" to which she replied, "90%" so I learned and reset my mindset. RNSA wants to know what those phrases are/were so that we can draw one from our pocket to help another shooter at an appropriate time. **Become part of a future Gazette and become part of a shooter's success by sending us your phrases.**

What phrase is in Your Pocket?

Giving Back

I arrived at Dam Neck on team match day in 1987, parked at the BOQ, and began the walk with my gear to the ranges to "Find Capt. Busch". The first car coming my way was Ken Busch. They needed one more Reservist to make a team ... I told Ken I thought I could shoot a 460, he said, "We'll take that". I shot well (I have a plaque for the high score on Team Day) ... everyone welcomed me and helped me fit in ... That was the Pattern.

I recall a day in 2002 at Dam Neck, "Vote for Don" signs here and there as I was about to be roped into serving as the RNSA President. It was my 14th year coming to the matches. Times such as that were typical of the camaraderie that has been present at the Fleet Rifle & Pistol competition for decades for Active, Reserve, and Retired alike, for new shooters and experienced alike, young and old. Any and every shooter could find assistance from anyone he/she asked. That's the Pattern.

What a wonderful sport in which the best shooters will tell you their marksmanship secrets (most of which turn out to be consistent adherence to fundamentals). They will take time to work with you on your shooting positions and will suggest a position that suits your body shape and fits the rules. They will talk to you about mental discipline and will share their positive phrases. They will encourage you. They will help you even while knowing that you could someday outshoot them if you apply their training. That's the Pattern.

Consider UT1(SCW) Mark P. (Mac) McAndrew for whom the East Coast New Shooters Award is named. Mac stood out as a person who helped everyone within reach at the matches. I'll bet that not one of the recipients of that award had in mind to try out for it, they just gave of themselves to others at the matches so that those people would have a better day, a better score, a deeper appreciation of marksmanship and how its principles can form the foundation of a productive and successful lifestyle.



That's the Pattern

We retired competitors have always had a goal to give back the support that we received since our first matches. Giving back is one reason that we still attend the matches. I encourage every one of you to attend the Navy matches when you can. I encourage you to give back to your local shooting programs and all shooters within reach.

“Walt” Honored

We are very proud of LCDR Howard “Walt” Walter USN(ret) for serving on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association for 25 years. Yes, the same Walt who has competed at these Navy matches. The same Walt, who you have seen walking the firing line sharing marksmanship suggestions, acting as our chief referee, a mentor to many of us, etc. The same Walt who was OIC of the US Navy Marksmanship Team in the early 1960's ... Distinguished Marksman, President's Hundred. Head of the Navy Marksmanship Program.



Walt received a special NRA Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2022 National Matches at Camp Atterbury, presented by the NRA Second Vice President. At one time or another he has held more than 15 National Shooting Records.

Historian Report - Mike Markovcy

email: USNMT.Markovcy@att.net

How The US Navy Team began:

President Theodore Roosevelt was, in his own words, a “respectable shot.” He Knew good marksmanship when he saw it and having seen precious little of it displayed by

American forces during the Spanish-American War he moved Congress to do something about the sorry

state of preparedness. “An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904” was incorporated into the 1904 Army Appropriations Act (32 Stat. 941), of March 2, 1903 which authorized the creation of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice(NBPRP).

Secretary of War



Elihu Root, himself a strong advocate of civilian marksmanship training, wasted no time and by April 27, 1903, War Department General Order 61 had been written. This document laid down the framework of the new body's structure, 2 1 members of which eight would represent the National Rifle Association, nine members selected at large, and five remaining from the War Department, The US Army, the US Navy, and The US Marine Corps.

The Board got right down to business to establish conditions for National Trophy competition, the importance of the National Trophy Team Match (NTT) course of fire cannot be overstated for it is the fountainhead from which springs the course of fire for the National Trophy Individual Match and from there all Excellence In Competition Matches.

They also considered trophies and awards, other annual marksmanship awards, and the promotion of civilian marksmanship. Congress appropriated \$2,500 for the National Trophy, quite a sum in a nation where the median family income was \$703, as well as medals and \$500 dollars for the winning team.

The National Trophy was, and is, an imposing



bronze bas-relief plaque about 4 feet by two feet. In the upper right hand corner is raised upper case letters proclaiming, "National Trophy Presented by the Congress of the United States for Excellence in Team Marksmanship." Along the left hand side is the Great Seal of the United States with four bars suspended below carrying the words, "Army", "Navy," "Marine Corps", and "National Guard." The center is filled with the image of an ancient warrior, naked save for his helmet. In his hands he clutches the leashes of four dogs. The presence of the dogs; perhaps reinforced by Marcus Antonius words in Act 3, Scene 1, of Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, "Cry 'Havoc!', and let slip the dogs of war," gives the National Trophy its sobriquet.

The bronze medals presented to members of the winning team and the top 15% of teams were a duplicate of the shield suspended from a metal bar, and later a red white, and blue ribbon, with "The National Trophy Match Team" in raised uppercase letters.⁵

In order to increase the prestige of the newly established NTT the NRA donated a pair of its most prestigious trophies for award. The Hilton Trophy was presented to the NRA by the Honorable Henry Hilton of New York in 1878. The silver-plated bronze plaque depicts an Indian buffalo hunt. The plaque is further decorated with figures of eagles, oak boughs, and war trophies. It was presented to the Second Place National Trophy Team.

As a result of this whirlwind of activity just six months and six days after the enabling legislation had been set in place the first rounds were being chambered in US M1898 Krag-Jørgensen rifles for the first NTT at Sea Girt. The first NTT began under a cloud, literally, not figuratively, as "The first day's contest began at 9:30AM, September 8, under very unfavorable conditions, very cloudy with a slight drizzle of rain." Fifteen teams, of 12 men each, lined up in front of fifteen targets to shoot ten shots standing, and the ten shot strings prone at 500, 600, 800, 900, and 1,000 yards.

Even without a lunch break, the poor weather and paucity of targets conspired to make it a long first day with firing completed at 6:15PM. It eventually took

three days to complete the entire match. When the scores had been tallied the first five places were taken by National Guard teams, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, The District of Columbia, and Ohio, a rather embarrassing situation for the regulars. The Marines finished sixth, the regulars' best finish. The Infantry was seventh followed by the Connecticut Guard, the Cavalry and the National Guard teams from Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Georgia. Unlucky 13 was the Navy with Vermont and Michigan National Guards closing out the field.

The Army hosted the 1904 National Trophy Matches without the concurrent NRA matches at Fort Riley, Kansas in the third week of August. It was hoped that a geographically central location and a more plentiful number of firing points would attract more teams. Unfortunately that advantage was offset by the otherwise poor range facilities-the 1,000 yard firing line, for example, was atop a 30 foot high mound, as well as high winds and horrifying mirage.

The National Matches were just two years old and there were already major changes. The National Individual Rifle and the National Individual Pistol Matches were introduced and the winner of the President's Match, which had been fired since 1884, would now receive a personal note from the President of the United States.

To honor the NBPRP's mission of marksmanship training it was decided that seven of the 12 shooters on a team must be replaced each year. The "new shooter" rule insures a flow of fresh shooters, keeps team officials always searching for new talent, and prevents teams from becoming "Old Boy" clubs. The rule has continued in effect, with some modifications, to this day.

Most importantly was the introduction of a new course of fire for the team match: ten shot strings slow fire at 200, 600, 800, and 1,000 with additional rapid fire strings at 200 and 500 yards. The Skirmish Run, a precursor to the National Trophy Infantry Team Match, was also added. The changes didn't seem to bother the New York Guard who held on to the title

and the Dogs of War Trophy that they had won the previous year.

The Navy made a great improvement, jumping from 13th to 2nd Place to win the Hilton Trophy in 1904. Later the Navy Team Won the NTT Dogs of War trophy in 1907 and 1909.

The Navy also placed 2nd again in 1908 and 1910 to win the Hilton Trophy. Navy Team only won the NTT Dogs of War one more time in 1968.

Hilton Trophy

NATIONAL TROPHY RIFLE TEAM MATCH

The Hilton Trophy was presented to the NRA by the Honorable Henry Hilton of New York in 1878, and the NRA presented the trophy to the NBPRP in 1903. The silver-plated bronze plaque depicts an Indian buffalo hunt. The plaque is further decorated with figures of eagles, oak boughs, and war trophies.



Election of RNSA Officers

By Don Lassell

I was elected to be President of RNSA in 2002 after having participated in competition in the Navy shooting program for 14 years. I am now stepping down to make room for new leadership of the RNSA.

There will be a vote of the general RNSA membership to elect two volunteers to fulfil the duties of RNSA President and RNSA Treasurer. Mark Lindsley has voluntarily served as Treasurer for many years and is ready to hand over that position to a successor. I am asking that anyone who wishes to volunteer to serve in either of these offices to submit their name and a statement of intent to Pat Greaney, the RNSA Secretary, so that their name can be placed on the ballot for voting by members in good standing.

The Executive Committee of the RNSA consists of President, East Coast Vice-President, West Coast Vice-President, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer. The RNSA organization also has two additional positions, Historian and Gazette Editor. We are all volunteers, dedicated to maintaining and representing the RNSA in our defined capacities.

The duties of the offices of President and Treasurer are described in the RNSA By Laws as follows:

President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee. He shall be a member ex-officio of all regular and special committees, and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to his office.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Association and place the same in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check signed by the Treasurer and for the payment of such bills as shall have been approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all his transactions and render a detailed report with vouchers at any meeting of the Executive Committee when requested and an annual report to the Association.

I suggest that you be particularly thoughtful in regards to selecting a new Treasurer. It is a position requiring the utmost integrity and presence of mind in the care and disbursement of RNSA funds. The Secretary forwards dues payments to the Treasurer who deposits them into our account. While the Executive Committee controls, by vote, the spending of funds from the treasury, the Treasurer maintains the account, reports on the balance of funds, and carefully writes checks to the appropriate entities.

The person who you elect to be President should be on top of shooting sports, be a current participant in Navy matches, and should be well versed in the history and direction of the association as we strive to provide continuing support to Navy shooting program activities. The person should be ready to step

in to interact with leaders of the Navy program, offer relevant suggestions, and be familiar with the RNSA membership capabilities that can be brought to bear.

There is also a pending opening for Editor of the Gazette, a position that Walt Walter has held for decades and is well deserving of a capable replacement. The duties of Gazette Editor are demonstrated by this current and past issues of the RNSA newsletter. We are asking for a volunteer with appropriate skills and software to express his or her interest in serving to any member of the Executive Committee. That committee will choose from among volunteers to fill the Editor position.

Editor's Note:

"As I see It"

Walt

This will be my last newsletter for the RNSA. I am now 92 years old, going on 93 and with each passing day I lose a little bit more of my mobility. My aircraft accident while on active duty is catching up to me and between arthritis and stenosis in my back it effects my walking, more and more.

I began my shooting career in 1958, at NAS Corpus Christi as a Company Commander in the Naval Emergency Ground Defense Force. My mission was to take my company to ground zero after a nuclear bomb attack and rescue anyone still alive. That's how my orders read. As it turned out every element of the force was required to be qualified with the rifle and in my company that was as an expert rifleman.

I shot a high score and soon the small arms marksmanship instructor was knocking at my door and recruiting me for the rifle team. I shot my first fleet match in 1960 at Dam Neck, Virginia. The first week was training and the second week was for record. The EIC match day was your typical Dam Neck. Overcast

at about 400' with wind out of the North at 25 with gusts to 35mph. The wobble on offhand was two targets either way. I learned a lot that day. Let the rifle drift downwind and slowly fight to bring it back to center. as the wind gusted. Anyway I fired a 35/50. Lowest offhand score I had ever fired. I came off the line shaking my head and moaning to my coach that my day was over. My coach spoke softly but firmly and said. "Forget that score, just go forward and shoot to you capability." I cleaned 2 rapid, 3 rapid and 500yard slowfire for a 235. I figured that was worth about 50th at least with the top East Coast shooters in the mix. I won the match an got my gold leg match.

I tell this story so you can pass the lessons I learned that day on to future navy shooters.

I won't bore you with rest of my shooting career but tell y'all I earned my Distinguished Marksman Badge in 1967.

I was O-in-C of the pistol team one year at Perry but never earned a pistol leg. My last year I fired a 279 at the Fleet-no leg, a 284 at the All-Navy-no leg and a 274-15x at Perry-no leg.

You guys have been great in giving back to the program and I hope we helped a few of you in earning your Navy badge after retirement. Giving back to the program was always rewarding to me. That I could help active duty sailors shoot better hopefully contribute to readiness was a great feeling.

In closing I wish you all the best. Bravo Zulu RNSA.

