

TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOOR SHOW PREVIEW

Get ready for The NRA Foundation Sportsmen's Banquet at NRA's fourth annual Great American Outdoor Show

2017 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Industry support helps Friends of NRA prepare for another record-breaking year and 25th Anniversary celebration

SHOOTING HISTORY

A Youth Education Summit alumna wheels, aims and fires her way to history in Rio

AND MORE!

Including new Shooting Straight, Snapshot, and Rep Wrap features!



Photo by Peter Fountain



Special Anniversary Edition

2017 Standard Merchandise Package

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COVER STORY

Friends of NRA Celebrates 25 Years

We take a look back at how the program started, see how it has grown over the years, and introduce the special 2017 Standard Package!

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The Latest Stories from Friends of NRA and NRA Foundation Grant Recipients

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MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1990, The NRA Foundation, Inc. ("NRA Foundation") is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that raises tax-deductible contributions in support of a wide range of firearms-related public interest activities of the National Rifle Association of America and other organizations that defend and foster the Second Amendment rights of all law-abiding Americans. These activities are designed to promote firearms and hunting safety, to enhance marksmanship skills of those participating in the shooting sports, and to educate the general public about firearms in their historic, technological, and artistic context. Funds granted by The NRA Foundation benefit a variety of constituencies throughout the United States, including children, youth, women, individuals with physical disabilities, gun collectors, law enforcement officers, hunters, and competitive shooters.

nearly One Billion Dollars

One Volunteer, One Community at a Time

John Smithbaker

*Friends of NRA Program Creator,
Fathers in the Field Founder/CEO*



Building something of national impact and from the ground up takes time. But wow...those years have flown by!

Looking back over 25 years of the *Friends of NRA* grassroots fundraising events, I stand with all of the dedicated volunteers and staff to give hearty congratulations for all the great work and critical funds that have been raised. I am so humbled to have had a part in this terrific accomplishment.

I remember like it was yesterday. I was newly hired and fired up to get busy helping this important cause of freedom, and Wayne LaPierre called me into a meeting. In clear but solemn words he said, "John, in order to successfully fight the many battles coming our way, we need to figure out how we can engage our members along with raising money beyond just sending out mail." Thus, the birth of this wildly successful, volunteer and community-led national movement.

At the end of 2016, with the help of supporters, neighbors, families, communities, businesses, gun clubs, civic organizations, firearm dealers and industry manufacturers, the *Friends* program will have grossed more than \$740 million dollars for The NRA Foundation and the battle for our collective freedoms. This is truly amazing. Well done friends and neighbors!

The shooting sports have been advanced and our freedoms have weathered many challenges because of the resources and community engagement that the *Friends* program has harnessed. *Friends of NRA* has helped raise money to provided gear, funding and firearms grants to many deserving groups—the list is long, including law enforcement, shooting ranges, mentoring programs, hunter education, and many more. The success of the *Friends* movement has meant a great deal to so many across our country.

This success emphasizes a couple of key points that we put into the founding documents. First, the power and dedication of our supporters along with their families and friends is the difference maker. It is so important to understand that this movement is successful because it is led by the local volunteers and supported by the national organization, not the other way around. Volunteers humbly go about doing the hard work in raising the funds but they also get a say in where these critical dollars get to be spent locally in their own states.

Second, we developed a strong set of policies and procedures that ensured balance and a program-first approach to raising and spending money. The *Friends of NRA* program has always been, first and foremost, focused on decisions that help the communities maximize the support and donations from their localized efforts. This includes all aspects of the event process, from merchandise purchased to authority over State Funds. For the entire 25 years, *Friends* has purchased product and worked with vendors that best benefited the program's fundraising efforts. That has always been the priority and it has been key in keeping the process and program streamlined for the community and state priorities.

I am so thankful for the thousands of volunteers who have stood up in their hometowns and organized more than 20,300 events during these 25 years. What an accomplishment in protecting our freedoms—a win-win partnership for the ages.

I remember one powerful quote from a volunteer: "With *Friends*, I feel that I am now part of the NRA."

Keep up the good work *Friends!*

SHOOTING STRAIGHT

Q. How did you go from being a rock star LA lawyer to becoming the second female president of the NRA?

A. I came very close to being the victim of a home invasion and I was determined that I would never again be defenseless. I bought a gun very soon after that and started training. I became an NRA member, and, years later when I moved to Arizona, I was asked to give a speech in Phoenix at a pro-gun rally. One gentleman in the crowd came to me afterwards and asked if I had ever thought about running for the NRA board of directors. I said, “No.” He said, “Well, I think you should, and I’ll sponsor you.” That gentleman was Bob Corbin who was about to become NRA president. I ran in 1992 and had the highest number of votes in the country. I think it was because I was a woman from a western state who liked guns. I was asked if I was willing to serve as second vice president in 1998 and I said yes. I moved up to first vice president two years later and became president in 2005.

Q. Women are the fastest growing segment in the shooting sports. To what do you attribute this growth?

A. Today, women have more responsibility for their day to day lives and the lives of their children than ever before. There are more women who work outside the home. There are more single women and many are single by choice. Women today have a heightened awareness of ordinary crime, of potential violence, of possi-

ble terrorism. Women are becoming more and more concerned about understanding their choices for personal safety and for defense of their families. This is why more women are buying guns, taking training and getting their concealed carry permits. It’s a change in the culture that is reflected in women’s attitudes and choices about firearms.

Q. When did you become a huntress?

A. I went shoe shopping with Brenda Potterfield. [Laughs] We were hunting for shoes! And this ties in with the Potterfields since they hosted the first *Friends of NRA* event in Columbia, Missouri, in 1992. Brenda and I got to know each other and she showed me photos of her family trips to Africa and the animals they hunted. I was intrigued by these pictures of this beautiful, intelligent, well-dressed woman in her hunting clothes with the exotic wild animals she had hunted. I was fascinated by this contrast—this was a sophisticated woman who loved hunting! Brenda invited me to her farm to go pheasant hunting, and I was hooked. There’s the excitement of being able to hunt things and eat what you’ve harvested—and I’ve eaten everything I’ve hunted except for this one very nasty old European mouflon sheep. When I asked my guide where I should take the meat for processing, he said, “Lady, you don’t want to eat this.” So hunting my own food has been an educational experience.

Q. The NRA Foundation and its blockbuster fundraising program, *Friends of NRA* celebrates 25 years in 2017. How would you describe its impact on the NRA?

A. As a board member and past president, I went to hundreds of *Friends of NRA* events across the country. What I realized immediately was that this was a way for Second Amendment and NRA supporters to connect with other Second Amendment and NRA supporters in their community. This created an opportunity for networking among like-minded people for all other firearms-related activities. I have my favorite *Friends* events that I attend every year because I love the field reps and I love the committees—the volunteers who put on these banquets. This is where you find the heart and soul of the NRA. They put on these events year after year for the love of the Second Amendment and the NRA and I hope this article is dedicated to them.

Q. You’ve lived a full and accomplished life with some very strong highs and some lows. Do you have a life motto?

A. I find as I get older that I have more in common with my late father and his life philosophy. He was a scientist—a physicist—and loved learning. When I asked him that same question, he said he wakes up every morning wondering what interesting people he’s going to meet that day and what fascinating new things he’s going to learn that day. And that’s what I think every day.

Q&A with author, attorney and NRA Past President **Sandy Froman**

Q. What words of advice do you have for the future generation of shooters?

A. Exercise your Second Amendment rights. Rights not exercised cease to exist. If you don't go to the range and shoot, pretty soon there won't be shooting ranges. There won't be places to shoot. If there aren't places to shoot, there won't be guns. Guns will be collectibles—things under glass that future historians will talk about. Support ranges. Support The NRA Foundation. You have to go out and do something if you want to be part of the solution.

Q. What's your favorite quote?

A. I love the quote by Theodore Roosevelt called "The Man in the Arena." I'm a "doer," and that quote is all about doing something—having courage, not being afraid of failing, not being afraid of being criticized. Doing what you believe is right, knowing that even if you fail, you did more than those who never tried. I'm just like the rest of our NRA supporters out there who do what they can to help the Second Amendment.

“

What I realized right away was that *Friends of NRA* was a way for Second Amendment and NRA supporters to **connect** with other Second Amendment and NRA supporters in their community.

”



1992 Years 2017

FRIENDS OF
NRA

By Al Hammond*Southern Region Director, National Rifle Association*

In 2017 *Friends of NRA* celebrates its Silver Anniversary, marking 25 years that The NRA Foundation fundraising program has been in existence. It all started in October of 1992 with Larry and Brenda Potterfield of Midway USA hosting the pilot *Friends of NRA* event in Columbia, Mo. It began as an exploratory idea to help build and promote the newly established NRA Foundation and to empower the grassroots base of NRA supporters looking for other ways to become involved while helping to promote the education and training programs upon which the NRA was originally founded. It has grown into a multi-million-dollar, nationwide program that impacts thousands of volunteers, attendees and grant recipients each year.

Based on the highly successful Columbia event in 1992, the program was kicked into high gear the following year. In 1993, 21 NRA Field Representatives held 189 events and grossed \$2.7 million. Fast forward to last year and the numbers illustrate the dramatic development of the program. In 2016, 52 Field Representatives organized 1,132 events and grossed more than \$66 million with the help of thousands of volunteers in the local communities that host *Friends of NRA* events.

Since inception, 20,300 events have been held with more than 3.7 million attendees raising more than \$740 million. All the net dollars raised support—through the NRA Foundation grant program—qualified not-for-profit groups carrying out a wide range of firearm-related public interest activities that defend and foster the Second Amendment rights of all law-abiding Americans. NRA Foundation grants fund firearms, ammunition, archery supplies, law enforcement protective gear, range enhancement projects, training and many other needs to help build and maintain critical youth, community, civic and shooting club activities. Organizations must apply for grants with a request that supports the mission of The NRA Foundation in order to qualify for consideration. Fifty percent of the net dollars raised by *Friends of NRA* are used to fund grants at the national level and the other half is used to fund grants in the respective states in which the money was raised.

Our volunteers and millions of event

attendees in their local communities have been the unfailing strength of *Friends of NRA*. And not only do volunteers help raise the money, but they are also involved in the grant funding recommendation process for the fifty percent of the net dollars raised which stays in their state. Each committee that hosts a successful event selects one delegate to represent it at their annual State Fund Committee meeting to review and make recommendations on grant requests.

After 25 years we have volunteers who benefited from the program and NRA Foundation grants as they grew up, and now they want to give back. It is rewarding to know that we have helped the next generation and that they will in turn help the ones after them. We have created a legacy that can withstand the test of time and preserve the American traditions we all hold dear.

Twenty-five years ago we could not have envisioned where we are today. The attendees, volunteers and the millions of NRA supporters who have generously contributed their time, talents and money to *Friends of NRA* know that every dollar they spend

will help perpetuate the shooting sports for the next generations to enjoy and help defend the freedom to exercise our Second Amendment rights while teaching firearms responsibility and safety.

While we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved thus far, we now look forward to the next 25 years with excitement and determination, knowing we must continue to fight in support of those who will follow in the future. Many groups who have received NRA Foundation grants over the years would have suffered or ceased to exist if not for the funding provided, and continuing to help groups like those flourish is vital. Youth programs in particular, including Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, Junior ROTC and many others, have benefited, and the emphasis on funding them truly illustrates the *Friends of NRA* belief in teaching our children and grandchildren—the next generations on the front line of freedom.

As gun owners, sportsmen, hunters and supporters of our Second Amendment rights, we must continue to be vigilant. We must continue to teach others of the freedoms that we have had the opportunity to enjoy and support like-minded champions who work to instill those values in others. Freedom is not free. We must protect it and honor those who protected it before us by making sure we continue to Teach Freedom to those who follow in our footsteps. I hope to see you at a *Friends of NRA* fundraising event soon. Let's make the second 25 years of Friends even more extraordinary than the first! ■

“*Friends of NRA is a family-oriented, grassroots fundraising program that brings like-minded people from all walks of life together to support The NRA Foundation and our mission to teach freedom through education, safety and training.*”

If you have never before attended a Friends of NRA event, 2017 is the year to start! Go to www.friendsofnra.org/Events to find one near you. If you have contributed to your local event in the past, we sincerely thank you for your support and hope that you will continue to give generously. If you would like to join the invaluable ranks of Friends of NRA volunteers, contact your NRA Field Representative or your local committee chairperson to find out ways you can help. Go to www.fieldreps.nra.org to find your Field Rep or email friends@nrahq.org for more information. For more information on The NRA Foundation and the grant program, visit www.nrafoundation.org.

2017

FRIENDS OF NRA

Standard Merchandise

By Christina Paladeau
Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association

With the major milestone of its 25th Anniversary occurring in 2017, *Friends of NRA* was determined to put together a Standard Merchandise Package to commemorate this exciting year, to celebrate the program's growth and impact, and to continue fueling its ever-expanding fundraising efforts. The 37 items composing this year's collection make up one of the largest packages ever. They include a variety of exclusive and custom pieces as well as pieces that meet popular demand and honor icons, values and traditions in American and shooting sports history.

Each year the selection committee, which includes the six Regional Directors of Field Staff, carefully considers numerous ideas submitted by both vendors and NRA staff. It works to create a merchandise package geared towards the live auctions that are the highlight of *Friends of NRA* events, and pieces are chosen based on quality, uniqueness, fundraising potential and compatibility with The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA's* ideals. For the 25th Anniversary, the selection team was committed to making it a truly special package by incorporating versions of the top merchandise items from the past 25 years and featuring vendors with whom the program has worked throughout that time. The desire to honor American craftsmanship also played a major part in the selection process, and two-thirds of the items in this year's collection—including all seven firearms—are made in the USA.

The firearms selection highlights vendors that have been great supporters of *Friends of NRA's* fundraising efforts over the past 25 years, and all feature custom embellishment or serialization that make these pistols, rifles and revolvers special limited edition guns available exclusively through *Friends of NRA*. However, the 2017 Gun of the Year stands out from that group as the focal piece of the entire package and as a landmark in *Friends of NRA* history.

For the first time ever, an AR-15-style rifle has earned the Gun of the Year title.



2017
GUN OF THE YEAR

Daniel Defense M4 Carbine V7® 5.56 NATO rifle in RATTLECAN™ with custom *Friends of NRA* logo, "2017 Gun of the Year" text and NRA serialization*



**Nearly two-thirds of this year's items are made in the USA. Look for the asterisk next to the item name that denotes American-made products!*

The selection of the Daniel Defense V7 not only embodies the months and sometimes years of behind-the-scenes planning, preparation and production reflected by all the chosen firearms, merchandise, gear and framed décor, but it also illustrates the popularity of “America’s Rifle” with shooting sports enthusiasts and everyday Americans. Marty Daniel, Founder and CEO of Daniel Defense, proudly states that this is a benchmark selection citing the AR-15 as a mainstream gun, one of a few visions he had for this firearm.

“Daniel Defense has been part of our Vendor Direct program for the past few years and always wanted that top spot of Gun of the Year,” explains Merchandise Manager Kathy Purtell. “When they presented us with the M4 Carbine V7 with a special Rattlecan™ Cerakote, the team knew that 2017 was the right time to award it that honor.” The Daniel Defense Custom DDM4 V7 offers an unprecedented combination of performance and sleek aesthetic appeal in the unique Rattlecan™ pattern which blends Daniel Defense’s Tornado and Mil-Spec Plus finishes for a look exclusive to this Gun of the Year model. Laser engraving of the *Friends of NRA* logo and “2017 Gun of the Year” text along with custom NRA serialization make this rifle even more unique.

“The DDM4 V7 is a high quality AR rifle produced entirely in the USA by a family-owned company that supports our very core values of patriotism and freedom and has supported the mission of The NRA

Foundation to teach education and safety training,” says Southern Region Director Al Hammond. “With AR rifles today being a part of many firearms enthusiast collections, along with the popularity to hunters, target shooters and home owners, this limited edition firearm will be one that attendees will certainly want to see and have an opportunity to own.”

There is also another firearms “first” featured in the 2017 package. A first for the manufacturer known for 1911-style semi-auto handguns, the Kimber K6s™ .357 Mag. evolves the revolver platform. The K6s provides the power needed for concealed carry, home protection or a day at the range in a compact package with mild recoil, and this exclusive edition features special NRA serialization.

“The new Kimber has all the best elements packed into the world’s lightest production 6-shot .357 Magnum revolver,” emphasizes Central Region Director Chad Franklin. “If you’re in the market for a smooth, compact, concealed carry revolver, then be sure to check this out at your local event!”

Along with these items that recognize new availability and demand in the program’s 25th year, this year’s collection also captures the history of *Friends of NRA* and America. “Combining nostalgic knives, merchandise and firearms from the past and adding new unique 25th anniversary collectable items completed the 2017 Standard Package,” says Eastern Region Director Bryan Hoover. “It was a fantastic adventure looking back

through those 25 years, seeing and reminiscing about those collectable *Friends of NRA* items. This is one of the best standard packages the selection team has put together and sets the stage for the next 25 years.”

The set of two hand-made crocks made in the USA by a nearly century-old artisan contributes to that history. Burley

Clay of Roseville, Ohio, has been making stoneware crocks and jugs for home use since 1923. The area is world famous for its stoneware clay and was once the home to several premiere pottery factories. These two hand-made crocks feature a custom design of crossed rifles and 1871 stamped in blue, infusing the pieces with NRA spirit.

The Patriot Tribute Sculpture and Freedom Knife both expand on the theme of historic items and attest to The NRA Foundation’s commitment to freedom by commemorating the greatest heroes and defining moments in America’s memory. Saluting all of those who have served throughout our nation’s history, the Patriot sculpture is an exceptional tribute created by artist Rick Terry and Big Sky Carvers exclusively for *Friends of NRA*.

“Truly, America owes it rights and freedoms to those who have served in our Armed Forces,” says Western Region Director Brad Kruger. “We can never repay them fully for all of their sacrifices, but we can do more to honor them. This custom sculpture does just that. It was the American Military that first secured our freedom in the late 1700’s, and it is the American Military that preserves and protects our freedom today.”

Like the sacrifices of the American military, the individual and collective acts of colossal heroism displayed by American men and women during the hours and days following the attacks on September 11, 2001, are impossible to quantify. Featuring a piece of steel from the World Trade Center, the Freedom Knife made by Silver Stag commemorates the indescribable acts and sacrifices witnessed on that fateful day and features a laser engraving of the Twin Towers and “Never Forget, In Memory of 9-11” text in the polished antler handle.

“This knife brings back all the emotions of 9-11,” shares Southwest Region Director Jason Quick. “It reminds us how valuable life is and how Americans can pull together to create a stronger, more united country. A piece of American history such as this knife will be an honor for its owner to cherish.”

Friends of NRA is proud to share the 2017 Standard Merchandise Package. Attend a *Friends of NRA* event to help celebrate 25 years of supporting the shooting sports and fight for the future of American freedoms by bidding on these exclusive items!





Friends of NRA 2017



Pledge of Allegiance Wooden Sign*



Gun Rack Display*



Anniversary Fixed Blade Knife*



Table Lamp with Concealed Compartment*



Colt Competition Pistol™ Polished Finish 1911 .45 ACP with NRA Serialization**



Charlie Daniels Flag Fiddle



Standing Guard Anniversary Edition Print*



Clock with Anniversary Logo*



Security Yard Sign*



Limited Edition Wood BB Gun with Anniversary Coin*

Merchandise Package



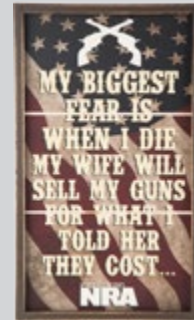
•Not approved in all 50 states



Roy Rogers
Commemorative Set*



Sig Sauer P320 Compact
9mm with NRA Logo**



Decorative Signs



Henry Big Boy Silver Lever Action Rifle .44 Mag
with Anniversary Logo*



Folding Buck Knife
with Sheath*



Wooden Mallard
Decoy



Belt Buckle with Silver
Anniversary Logo*



Artillery Sword
with NRA Logo



Dinner
Bell



Backpack
with Hydration
and Logo

Kimber K6s™ .357
Mag Revolver with
NRA Serialization**



ZEISS Terra ED
10x42 Binoculars
with NRA Logo



H15 Compact Double Handgun
Case with Anniversary Logo*



Merchandise 2017

• Not approved in all 50 states



Crickett .22LR Rifle with Silver Anniversary Coin*



Whiskey Barrel with Anniversary Logo*



Concealed Carry Handbag



Freedom Knife*



Copper Barn Star*



Range Bag with Log



Stoneware Crocks - Set of 2*



Patriot Tribute Sculpture



Glass Art



Anniversary Blanket*

Rifleman's Prayer Framed Art*



Kel-Tec PMR-30 .22 Mag Pistol with NRA Serialization*



Pocket Watch with Silver Anniversary Logo*

THE NRA FOUNDATION SPORTSMEN'S BANQUET

TEACH FREEDOM

at the Great American Outdoor Show

PREMIER SPONSOR:



HENRY

Made in America. Or Not. Made At All.

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**CENTURY
ARMS**

THE **NRA** FOUNDATION
TEACH FREEDOM

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW!
Get ready for the action on **Saturday, February 4**, with this exciting look at event highlights, raffles, games and more!

By Megan McConnell
Special Projects Manager, National Rifle Association

The NRA Foundation Sportsmen's Banquet sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms will be kicking off the 2017 Great American Outdoor Show on Saturday, February 4, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pa. Join us at 6:30 p.m. in the PA Preferred Ballroom to celebrate the shooting sports while raising money for future generations. In the same tradition as *Friends of NRA* events held throughout the country, the NRA Foundation Sportsmen's Banquet will feature an impressive live auction with hunts, firearms and exclusive gear. The silent auction, games and raffles will provide hundreds more opportunities for attendees to win quality merchandise. To top it all off, attendees will feast on a home-style barbecue dinner.

The NRA Foundation excitement does not end there. The Wall of Guns will be back in the spine of the Complex with chances to win firearms, bows, and cash. Starting on Saturday, February 4, and running through Sunday, February 12, participants will have the chance to win their choice of more than 40 firearms of different makes and models, or winners can select the \$400 cash prize. Wall of Guns tickets are \$10 each, and only 100 tickets are sold each round. Once 100 tickets are sold a winner is drawn and a new round begins immediately after. Special ticket package options will also be available, so make sure you stop by the Wall of Guns for your chance to win. (Dauphin County, Pa. raffle number 539).

The Great American Outdoor Show is a nine-day event packed with anything and everything an outdoorsman could want. With more than 1,100 exhibitors showcasing their hunts, adventures, boating and fishing products, recreational vehicles, and shooting sports gear, there is something for everyone. An estimated 200,000 outdoors enthusiasts will

be attending the show from February 4-12, filling the halls with contagious excitement. Each day will include numerous seminars and demonstrations on topics from fishing and venison processing to dog training, big game hunting, and much more. Be sure to plan on coming multiple days to experience everything the show has to offer.

The Great American Outdoor Show will also offer family-friendly activities like the Eddie Eagle Fun Zone, 3D Bow Hunter Experience and the 3 Gun Experience. But whether folks attend the show for the exhibitors, entertainment or a day out with friends and family, all attendees will be supporting America's shooting sports traditions and outdoor heritage. For those who can't attend but still want to join in on the experience, NRA will be showcasing the week's activities on social media with #GAOS2017.

Check out the next three pages for some of the hunts, merchandise, firearms and games that will be featured at The NRA Foundation Sportsmen's Banquet, and stay tuned for more information on the *Friends of NRA* Volunteer seminar happening at the Great American Outdoor Show!

The Great American Outdoor Show runs February 4–12 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pa. Join The NRA Foundation at the show! Buy your tickets for the NRA Foundation Banquet at www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org. All banquet net proceeds benefit The NRA Foundation, the country's leading charitable organization in support of the shooting sports. Learn more at www.nrafoundation.org.

For more information about the event or to learn about donation and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.friendsofnra.org or email fnraevents@nrahq.org.

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Hunting Trip for 2 in South Africa

Donated by Dubula Hunting Safaris

With its 100% success rate and team of experienced hunters and trackers with in-depth knowledge of the area, Dubula Hunting Safaris guarantees an unforgettable safari experience as you hunt among abounding wildlife and picturesque surroundings on the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Seven-day trip includes accommodations, 1 impala, 1 warthog, field preparations and a licensed professional guide. Airfare not included. 2017-2018.



Hunting Trip for 1 in Montana

Donated by Trophies Plus Outfitters

Enjoy the trip of a lifetime hunting whitetail or mule deer in the big sky country of Montana. You will receive some of the best guides in the business who will do everything possible to accommodate your needs. Three-day trip includes accommodations, 1 White Tail or Mule Deer, field preparations and a licensed professional hunter. Airfare not included. 2017-2018

Bedside Table with Secret Compartment

Donated by Secret Compartment Furniture

Show your NRA pride with this beautiful and functional bedside table that also serves as a convenient and inconspicuous storage place for a handgun. Hand-crafted from solid brown maple wood, this table will make a great addition to your bedside and will complement any décor with its simple and elegant design. Customized for the NRA and made by Amish craftsmen in Homes County, Ohio.



Century Arms C39V2 with MOE Magpul Furniture

Donated by Century Arms

This 100% American-made firearm is the first AK with a side scope rail mount to offer a return-to-zero capability, four times clamping improvement over traditional side scope rail mounts, and improves sight acquisition for follow-up shots. It has an RAK-1 enhanced trigger group, a larger T-shaped magazine catch and is compatible with AKM furniture and accepts all standard AK mags. The C39V2 comes with one 30-round Magpul magazine.

All items, games and raffle packs are subject to change

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Shooting HISTORY

By Kristina Krawchuk
Event Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association



McKenna Dahl is a 20-year-old student-athlete from Arlington, Wash., with big dreams and a plan to make them reality. She may get things done a little differently than most, but don't underestimate her—she'll probably surprise you.

“Ernie Butler gave me my start,” recalls McKenna Dahl. “He pushed me to explore areas of life that I never knew were available. As a six year old, you are really just starting to learn more about the world and maybe realize that you are a little different than everyone else. Ernie taught me from a young age that being different is extraordinary and will take you far. Following his advice has changed my life, and I've never looked back.”

At age six, McKenna started attending Camp Access, a three-day camp focusing on the outdoors for kids with disabilities. Born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC) in her left hand and both feet, McKenna underwent surgeries on her feet to correct a clubbed foot that often accompanies the disease which causes muscles to form improperly and results in joint contractures. It altered how she played sports, but it did not slow her down. McKenna's parents saw to that—giving up was not an option, no matter how difficult the task. Days at Camp Access consisted of inner tubing, fishing, sailing, kayaking, handcycling, etc., until she turned 12. Then it's time to play with the big kids. For McKenna, this was a game-changer.

“When you turned 12, instead of going bowling, you got to go shooting. My best friend and I turned 12 the same year and turned the morning of shooting into a little competition. I fell in love, and Ernie Butler, the camp director, invited me to shoot at an NRA Sectional he was hosting,” beams McKenna. “I absolutely loved it, and six months later, I was shooting at the NRA Junior Nationals in New Mexico. I thought it was so much fun, and it was even better to shoot against, and beat, the guys. I was invited to a Paralympic Training Camp that National Paralympic Coach Bob Foth was hosting at the end of that first year. He told

me I had great potential if I stuck with it, and I was hooked.”

While McKenna was actively competing, she was also volunteering at her local *Friends of NRA* event. This opened the door to learning more about the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.). She applied and was accepted in 2013 as a rising high school senior.

“The Y.E.S. program allowed me to reach out and connect with other teenagers my age who all had similar interests: mainly working to protect the Second Amendment and learn as much about our government as we could,” says McKenna. “As part of the next generation, I felt like it was extremely important to start working toward understanding how the system works and what we can do to impact it and protect our freedoms. It was also quite amazing to actually find more like-minded individuals. I also loved shooting the AR-15 at the NRA Range. It was the first time that I had the chance to shoot one, and it was great that it was easy to use and easy for me to shoot on my own. I can't wait to get my own.”

Back to rifle, McKenna started shooting competitively in January 2010. By December, she was at a shooting camp at the Olympic Training Center, and she never stopped. She competed in her first international competition in January 2013, and by June she was named to the National Development Team. Her skills at the IPC Shooting World Championships in Suhl, Germany, in 2014 earned McKenna a quota slot for the United States Paralympic Team. She was the first athlete to do so, and this meant that the U.S. officially could send an athlete to the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio. For McKenna, there was still more work ahead to capture that coveted slot. Just a few weeks after graduating high school, she moved to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., and continued to compete.

“In 2015 I battled through some equipment issues, but started pulling everything together at the beginning of 2016,” says McKenna. “I made my first R5 Prone final at the UAE World Cup in Jan 2016, finishing in fifth place. In March 2016 we traveled to Thailand, and I finished fifth in the R4 Standing final. In April, I finished fifth again in the R5 Prone final at the Poland World Cup. Later, while at the ISCH [International Shooting Competition of Ha-

nover] in May, I was officially named to the United States Paralympic Shooting Team, bound for Rio in just four short months. My biggest focus before Rio was finding breathing techniques that focused all of my mind just on the breaths. This allowed me to pull all of my thoughts together, calm my heart rate and find internal peace.”

Internal peace no doubt helped McKenna capture her bronze medal and make history with a 10.3 in the R5 (mixed 10m Air Rifle Prone SH2) event. Not only was she the first woman to win a Paralympic medal in shooting for the United States, she was the first American to win a medal in Paralympic shooting in 12 years.

“I think that it really hit me the first time I entered the Athlete Village in Rio. It was then that I realized my dream was becoming a reality, and I was ready to do what I had trained for,” exclaims McKenna. “My time in Rio was one of the best times of my life. I was there for three weeks, and everything was just beautiful. We had great weather and a fantastic range. Brazil did a great job building all the venues and putting on a Games that I will always remember. I think my favorite part, besides winning bronze, was just meeting all the people there and connecting with them. Normal shooting competitions max out around 300 athletes, and there were over 4000 athletes in the Village. It was amazing to walk around and make connections with so many people from different cultures.”

“It's such an honor to represent the Unit-

ed States so well on the world's stage,” she continues. “More than anything, I'm proud of myself and the dreams I have achieved this year. It also means that I can start paving the road for those coming up behind me. I want to make a difference, and I believe that being an example for others can help me do that. Life has definitely been a lot busier! I never seem to slow down much. I've had the honor of meeting the President, being the Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade at my alma mater, and being named the Paralympic Athlete of the Year by USA Shooting! I feel blessed to have received so much positive feedback from across the nation and to have the opportunity to go home and share my accomplishment with those who got me started. My disability has opened so many opportunities for me. Without it, I would not be where I am today. It has shaped my entire life, and while it may be difficult at times, I'm honestly thankful for it.”

So what's next for McKenna Dahl? She is currently working on her Bachelor's in Business and Technical Management with specialization in Criminal Justice at DeVry University. She graduates in May, and then her sight turns to law school with her finger on the trigger for Tokyo 2020. Surprised? You shouldn't be ... ■

Pass along the word about Y.E.S. to high school students in your area and learn more about it at www.friendsofnra.org/YES. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org.

Photos courtesy McKenna Dahl



SNAP



Members of the Southern California committee are recognized for their dedication in 2006.



A young attendee of the 2010 Baytown Area event in South Texas got to take home a new BB gun.



Miss Arkansas joins in the patriotic fun and fundraising at an event in her home state.



The 1997 NRA Youth Brownell's NRA I Scott Taetsch,



Budding sportsman Ryder Bowman says "Thank you, Mr. Imperato!" for his 2016 Henry Frontier Model



Attendees at the 2002 Orange County Friends of NRA banquet in New York.



The Mid-Nebraska Friends of NRA committee



The Youth Education Summit class of 2004 poses with Eddie Eagle after learning about NRA programs during their visit to headquarters.



The Madison Friends of NRA committee is the only 25 year "Founding Committee" in Wisconsin. Here they gather at their inaugural event in 1993.



South Sportfest was a precursor to Day started by Wisconsin Field Rep his wife and two others in 1994.



3 generations of volunteers mark the 20th Anniversary of Friends of NRA in 2012 with the Brazos Valley committee in South Texas



An introduction to shooting made possible by grant support.



PA's 1st accepts the Committee of the Year award at the 2004 NRA Fall Board Meeting with NRA EVP Wayne LaPierre and Past President Sandy Froman



Phil Robertson joined Oklahoma Field Rep Darren DeLong at the Northwest Oklahoma event in 2013.



Western Pennsylvania Field Rep Tom Baldrige and Gateway committee Chair Dave Sevin at the 2001 event.



Boyscouts show their appreciation for grant funding by volunteering at the 2008 Fairfax Friends of NRA event in Virginia, the NRA Headquarters local event.



A LOOK BACK AT 25 YEARS OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDRAISING WITH FRIENDS OF NRA.

Submit your Friends of NRA and NRA Foundation photos to friends@nrahq.org! Help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary with more memories and milestones.

SHOT

TOTAL

RANSFORM IN TRAP

By Clayton Carlson
University of Delaware Trap & Skeet Club President

The University of Delaware Trap and Skeet team was founded in 2008 by a dedicated group of friends and shooters who convinced the University against all odds to sponsor a collegiate clay target program. The team had success early on, taking first place in American Trap and International Trap at the ACUI Collegiate National Championships in 2011. However, over the last eight years as the founding group of members graduated and moved on, the team has grown in number but slid somewhat in competitive ability, primarily due to lack of funding.

The University of Delaware (UD) does not support the team financially, so members are responsible for paying all costs of this expensive sport out-of-pocket. When I joined the team in 2014, it had morphed into a sizeable group of about 20 shooters. Most had joined largely for the recreational aspects, but all wished they could have the funding to compete with the top schools in the sport.

Having been involved with *Friends of NRA* since a young age, I knew how to help. Throughout middle and high school I volunteered at events put on by the Chesapeake *Friends of NRA* committee chaired by my father, and I had become familiar with the NRA Foundation grant program. I approached the board of the UD Trap and Skeet Team and told them about the opportunity to apply for funding to purchase shells and cover the cost of attending competitions.

While the team's founders had received NRA Foundation grants in the early years of the UD Trap and Skeet program, no applications for funding had been made recently. With the reminder of



ATION



Photo courtesy UD Trap and Skeet Team



Photo credit Tisa Della Volpe

the grant program, the board quickly decided to apply once again. And that renewed awareness paid off. In 2015 the team received a grant of \$12,000, which included 150 cases of shells and \$3,000 to cover practice expenses. That money allowed about 10 of our most serious shooters to literally double, or even triple, the amount of practice they shot.

"The ammo has given us the opportunity to shoot a case a week at much reduced cost," says sophomore team member and Treasurer Andrew Biddle, "Which helps us practice like the top schools in the nation."

The grant funding also reduced the cost of attending competitions, since the ammunition needed was now on hand. Additionally, it has allowed the team to introduce many new shooters to the shotgun sports with a "try it for free" policy for new members who attend the first practice of the season—nearly 30 people came the first year and were able to shoot for free.

"I have the unique perspective of someone who was part of the team both before and after the NRA Foundation grant funding, and I have seen all the help it has provided us," emphasizes class of 2016 team member and former Vice President Ryan Baughman. "Not only has the grant made being a collegiate shooter easier, but it has also drastically widened the door to welcome in new shooters to the sport."

That first year of renewed availability of grant funding was a year of building for our team. We went from shooting solely for fun to competing on a level with the top schools in the sport. A second grant of nearly \$8,900 in 2016—for 135 cases of ammunition—will allow us to continue this progress moving forward into nationals. We have already achieved a number of wins in the 2016-2017 season, including third place team in sporting clays in

the George Mason University Eastern Regional this fall, and third place overall team at the Virginia Tech Hokie Invitational.

"Receiving support from *Friends of NRA* was a pivotal moment in our team's history," a recent graduate remarks. "Since our founding, we have struggled to make the shooting sports accessible and affordable for our members, which challenged our growth due to the cost barrier. However, with The NRA Foundation's generous support we have been able to significantly reduce the cost passed down to shooters which has led to unprecedented growth in the team as well as improved performance at competitions. It has been our mission to promote the shooting sports in a positive manner and introduce the sport to the next generation of shooters, and *Friends of NRA* has been tremendously helpful in accomplishing that mission."

We look forward to carrying the momentum we have built with the help of *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation into the future. The team continually gains more recognition and generates more awareness as we are shooting more and maintaining a constant presence at clubs and shoots up and down the east coast. The growth is creating tremendous enthusiasm on the part of our advisors and members as we transition into a team to be reckoned with on the national level.

That journey will not be without some more growing pains, but looking at the before and after of the grant impact makes it clear to anyone that there has already been a total transformation. ■

Support educational shooting programs in your area by fundraising with Friends of NRA and applying for an NRA Foundation grant! Apply at www.nrafoundation.org. Learn more about Friends of NRA in Delaware at www.friendsofnra.org/DE.

SOUTHERN STYLE *family* FUNDRAISING

By Kristina Krawchuk
Event Marketing & Communications Manager
National Rifle Association



Supporting area youth shooting sports programs and making sure these future leaders earn a higher level of education is not only a goal for the Union County/Monroe *Friends of NRA* committee in North Carolina, it is a commitment they emphatically stand behind. To back it up, the committee launched the Union County NC Second Amendment Scholarship Fund and has been awarding high school seniors merit-based scholarships for the past six years.

"The youth of today has been so indoctrinated by TV, schools and other media sources on anti-gun propaganda sometimes they never learn the truth about firearms," says Committee Chairman Vann Haigler. "These young people who are exposed to how to safely use firearms are also less likely to have accidents with firearms. The youth of today are also the leaders of our nation tomorrow, and they should learn that firearms are not bad, it is the people behind the crimes who are the cause of so many problems."

To earn this scholarship each senior had to have at least a 2.5 GPA, complete a North Carolina Hunter Safety Course and write an essay on the topic "The Second Amendment, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and Its Relevance Today." This past year, six Union County high school seniors were awarded \$1,000 each to continue their education in college. The idea for the scholarship was a unanimous one from a long standing committee that operates like one big, happy, southern family.

"I really doubt that anyone ever realized how big our Union County [*Friends of NRA*] event would get when we started it," notes committee member John Hinson. "We were a half dozen 'good ol' boys' that enjoyed hunting, shooting, and good guns. Most of us had dads who passed that down to us, but we had some concern about the many young people in this community and country who didn't. Our community has really gotten behind us on this event, and I think the only thing holding us back at this point is the lack of a larger venue."

"We have a great committee," states Committee member Mike McSwain. "I think this is the secret to our success. Everyone gets along and all seem to be dedicated to make the future of the NRA a top priority. Raising money for the youth programs in our communities is one of the best ways we have of preserving the future of the sport we all love and our right to continue to enjoy it."

The Union County/Monroe *Friends of NRA* committee started back in 1999. They hosted their 17th annual banquet in August and all 30 committee members are proud to say it was the best one yet. 800 guests and 94 event sponsors raised \$110,000, making it the top-attended and top-earning event in the state and

earning the committee Defender Club level distinction among all the *Friends of NRA* events across the country.

"The banquet was so successful due to the hard work of the committee selling pre-event raffle tickets and banquet tickets," says Haigler. They start selling tickets for the popular "Winner Take All Gun Safe Raffle" early in the year. At the event, games are an important part of the fun and fundraising along with the live auction, which this year featured special firearms like the custom-built rifle by Montgomery Community College's Gunsmith Class (an NRA Foundation grant funded program), a hand-sewn quilt from Kolleen Dickinson, and a "Sweet Tater Pie" made by the chairman using his late grandmother's secret recipe and selling for \$800.

Alongside feats like the \$800 Sweet Tater Pie and the accolades, this year was also a time for the Union County/Monroe family to band together to support one of their own. Sara Holmes is a loyal, devoted committee member and the wife of Co-Chairman Jimmy Holmes. In 2011 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and ultimately underwent a double mastectomy, but the cancer returned shortly after and recently spread to her brain. But don't think for a minute any of that slowed down this money making warrior.

"Sara has been a mainstay of the committee by helping sell tickets and sponsorships and keeping things in order at the door during the banquet," says Haigler. "With as many attendees as we have it can be a headache! People start lining up to get in 30-45 minutes early, just to get a jump on seating and to see what kind of firearms we have to give away that night. Despite her cancer, she has been an asset to our banquet, always wanting to keep active even when she was not feeling well. At this year's Sponsor Dinner, she would not let up, always wanting to help set up and clean up."

"She's been my right hand ever since we started as committee members 17 years ago," says Sara's husband and committee Co-Chair Jimmy Holmes. "She works the door and loves seeing everyone year after year. This is family to her and she is committed to raising money for the kids and protecting the right to bear arms. It really means a lot to her."

Sara's dedication to fighting for the cause and supporting her *Friends of NRA* family even as she fights her own serious battle is a true testament to the spirit of love, giving and perseverance that drives the Union County/Monroe committee and the thousands of *Friends of NRA* volunteers throughout the country. ■

Apply for a grant to fund your local shooting sports programs and projects at www.nrafoundation.org! To learn more about Friends of NRA in North Carolina, go to www.friendsofnra.org/NC.



fundraising warrior targets rural Kentucky



By Kristina Krawchuk

Event Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association

It takes more than 15,000 volunteers across the country to effectively run 1,100 *Friends of NRA* events annually. They are the backbone of this grassroots effort and the reason this program is celebrating 25 years in 2017. *Friends of NRA* volunteers are fundraising champions fueled by the passion to raise money for the future of the shooting sports on local, state and national levels. They are armed with dedication, drive and determination to protect the Second Amendment.

You can now add Eric Landrum to that list of champions. While shopping at a local gun shop in rural Kentucky, a *Friends of NRA* event flyer caught his eye, and he thought it looked like a good time.

"I went with the shop owner to my very first banquet seven years ago, and I've been going ever since," recalls Eric Landrum. "Growing up in a rural county with a strong hunting and gun enthusiast presence where everybody knows everybody, I was shocked at the lack of people from my hometown at this event and started thinking about how I could get more of them involved."

Williamstown is the sleepy county seat

of Grant County, Ky. Not much happened here until "Answers with Genesis" popped up with a life size replica of Noah's Ark and put Grant County on the map. With that same thought of bringing water to the horses, Eric went to work. When he encountered Kentucky NRA Field Representative John LaRowe at a local gun shop, Eric told him he would like to launch and chair a *Friends of NRA* committee in his hometown.

"Eric has been a long-time supporter of the Northern Kentucky banquet and was at the NRA Foundation events at the NRA Annual Meeting in Louisville, so when I saw him at Shooter's Supply in Independence one day I went to thank him," says LaRowe. "Little did I know that he was ready to step up and bring *Friends of NRA* to his community. We met a couple of weeks later for lunch, and I've been amazed ever since about his dedication and passion for sharing shooting sports and outdoor traditions with others, particularly youngsters who might not otherwise have opportunities to learn and practice safely."

"After we got the official green light and signed our charter papers, we immediately

started looking for a venue, which was harder than I thought," describes Landrum. "Being in a small community our options were limited and being on a budget made it even harder, so we reached out to the local high school who helped work out a time to use their gym. Within 24 hours of signing our charter, we had the venue, FFL and caterer."

Then came the difficult task of rounding up those horses.

"Time was definitely the biggest challenge because I was trying to promote the event for two days without flyers and 14 days with no tickets to sell because our local printer was backed up," says Landrum. "We found out real quick that if you don't have something immediately to put in a potential guest's hand, they forget about you."

Now for the monkey wrench – Senator Rand Paul was holding a rally 15 miles away on the same night as the event with an expected crowd of several hundred people. Time was quickly ticking away and tickets sales were slow, so Eric teamed up with his best friend and now committee treasurer, Jarrod. They rolled up their sleeves and moved into a strategic position.



“Our typical day went from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. going to businesses in seven surrounding counties. A lot of the time Jarrod would walk into the business without me in order to save time,” explains Landrum. “I would stay in the vehicle and make calls or return calls. This allowed us to double the face to face contact as well as double the amount of flyers to hang up. This was our schedule seven days a week for six weeks.”

That sweat equity paid off. The Williamstown *Friends of NRA* event was a huge success with 150 guests raising more than \$25,000—earning it the High Caliber Club Level distinction among committees across the country. And 2017 is already in motion with a date, venue and caterer. All this in less than six weeks and from a life-supporting wheelchair.

In 1994, on the daily drive to work and their daycare, Eric, his mother and his brother were involved in a tragic car accident. The accident left five-year-old Eric paralyzed from the neck down from a spinal cord injury. He was ventilator dependent. Doctors told his mother he was not expected to live, and if he did, he would be a “vegetable”—unable to speak

or communicate.

“I always considered my situation and myself normal because that is all I knew. I went to a regular school with regular kids. My brother and I still fought like brothers do, and I still got in trouble and punished like any other kid would,” says Landrum. “I always participated in extracurricular activities. My disability did not mean I had an excuse not to participate, just that my participation was modified.”

And so was his shooting. After a few internet searches, he found a piece of adaptive equipment for his rifle. A personal invitation from Ted Nugent for a pig hunt on his farm resulted in Eric’s first wild pig harvest and an exhilarating time with fellow hunters.

“I will be turning 28 in 2017 so I pre-date the organization by only three years, which means my generation was one of the first to benefit from this program,” says Landrum. “I wonder if the shooting sports would be what it is today without *Friends of NRA*.”

“It is truly amazing how much his community supports him and his cause,” LaRowe proudly remarks. “Through his

contacts, we are working on grants for a number of organizations: 4-H, JROTC, a new Scholastic Trap club, a new Scholastic Rifle club and their ever-growing Scholastic Archery club. I’ve yet to find anything he isn’t willing to try. He simply refuses to include ‘can’t’ in his vocabulary. He’s amazed me almost every day with his accomplishments.”

“None of this could ever have been accomplished without my strong will to never quit combined with a very strong support structure consisting of family, friends, nurses, and the list goes on,” says Landrum. “But most importantly the daily miracles that are too many to count. All I can say is God must want me here for a reason, because without Him, I would be nowhere near where I am today. Who knows? Maybe I would be that ‘vegetable’ like the doctors said. As long as I am here, I hope to live every moment to the fullest.”

A true champion from the inside out. ■

Join the Friends of NRA fundraising effort! Go to friendsofnra.org/Events to find an event near you. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at www.nrafoundation.org.

Keep Your Head on the Stoc

By Jeff Gage

Cedar Vale High School Shooting Club Secretary

Safety, fun and marksmanship. These are, in that order, the main goals of the Kansas State High School Clay Target League, which promotes trapshooting as an equal opportunity adaptive coed sport. The League began in 2016 with 18 teams across Kansas and more than 300 students in grades 6-12. Cedar Vale High School (CVHS) was one of the first schools to join the League after unanimous approval from its Board of Education in October 2015.

The responsibility of making the team a reality fell to a group of dedicated parents and other members of the Cedar Vale community. Chancey Bliss accepted the call to coach the team with Michael Young, Pat Kelley, Tom Sweaney, Joyce Littrell and myself volunteering to assist. Verne and Juanell Sweaney offered their trap built to ATA specifications as a place for students to learn the sport and hone their shotgun skills. The Sweaney Farms trap is familiar to Coach Bliss, since he learned the sport there under the mentoring of Verne and Juanell's son Craig 20 years ago.

CVHS Shooting Club was incorporated as a non-profit in November 2015 to educate junior high and high school students about safe firearms handling and encourage participation in the shooting sports. The self-funded club turned to The NRA Foundation for support at the suggestion of Cowley County *Friends of NRA* committee member Chris Jarvis. The Cowley County *Friends of NRA* event has held the record for highest attendance in the state for many years and has worked diligently to raise funds to support youth, women and other shooting programs. When the Foundation awarded the Club a 2016 grant for \$6,600 towards equipment, shotgun shells and clay targets, the committee presented the ceremonial grant check to the Club at its annual banquet in April, demonstrating how the motivation for and impact of its fundraising comes full-circle.

CVHS team members vary in experience with firearms. Some were already

avid hunters and shooters, while others had little or no experience with shotguns or firearms prior to joining the team. The eight-week-long spring season began the 2016 year with 12 team members primarily working on trap and some opportunities for skeet and sporting clays. The Club kept the momentum alive in the offseason by offering Friday night shoots during the summer, including games of "knockout" at the 21 and 27 yard lines.

In the midst of that recreational time on the range, the inaugural Kansas State High School Clay Target League State Tournament was held June 4, 2016, at Ark Valley Gun Club in Valley Center, Kan. Nearly 200 students from 16 teams in attendance shot close to 20,000 rounds of ammunition. Cedar Vale fielded two squads and placed eighth overall as a team and had several shooters place in the top ten in their categories of Varsity, Junior Varsity and Novice. The students represented their community and their school well, not only in their placing at the event but more importantly in how they handled their firearms.

With early success under its belt, the CVHS Shooting Club Board sought to expand the team. Cedar Vale and the nearby Dexter school combined all sports in 2009, and it was only fitting to give Dexter students an opportunity to participate in the new Shooting Club. Those efforts paid off, with the Dexter Board of Education unanimously approving a motion to allow Dexter students to join the team in August.

The optional fall season was a great time to add new shooters and improve shooting skills as more emphasis was placed with working on posture, form, breathing and shooting strategies. The team grew to 17 shooters, and despite the shorter timeline this season yielded some impressive results; several individuals shot a straight 25 in a round and seven shooters attained season average scores that placed them in the overall top 50 for Kansas.

Establishing a new team and developing training and competition capabilities is no simple task. But with the support of the community, interest of its students, and support from *Friends of NRA*, the CVHS Shooting Club had a very successful first year and met its goals of promoting safe gun handling, introducing students to trapshooting and other clay target sports, and having fun. The NRA Foundation grant helped the Club reduce costs and kept kids shooting, honing their skills and firearms safety understanding. With coaches encouraged by the improvements shown in each shooter throughout the first year and students excited by the results they have seen in themselves as sportsmen, the team is primed to enter its spring season with the enthusiasm and the ability to reach even greater heights. ■

Do you know of an organization that could benefit from an NRA Foundation grant? Apply at www.nrafoundation.org. To learn more about Friends of NRA in Kansas go to www.friendsofnra.org/KS.

k and Your Eye on the Rock



PHOTOS Courtesy CVHS Shooting Club, clockwise from top. Cedar Vale trap team at the Kansas state tournament. Back row: Assistant Coach Michael Young, Jacinda Call, Ben Call, Jasper Young, Tracy Sweaney and Assistant Coach Jeff Gage. Front row: Head Coach Chancey Bliss, Wade Hand, Parker Rock, Braden Snyder, Brogan Myers, Cody Bliss and Wyatt Kelley; Josie Gage (left) and Emma Speer (right) loading the thrower. In addition to learning safe firearms handling, shooters are required to learn trap house safety, operation and loading; Squad 2 at the state tournament. Braden Snyder, Parker Rock, Ben Call and Wade Hand; Logan Wallace at the pattern board at the Sweaney Farms trap. Using a pattern board gives shooters and the coach a visual of how effective their chokes are and if the gun is shooting left, right, high or low; Wade Hand taking a break at the state tournament and shooting a round of skeet.



FUNDRAISING ON THE LAST FRONTIER

By Megan McConnell
Special Projects Manager, National Rifle Association

After a 20-hour travel day filled with planes, boats, and automobiles, I finally made it to the town of Cordova, Alaska. The 2,000-person town accessible only by plane or boat was dramatically different from the population 6 million Washington D.C. metropolitan area accessible by multiple major highways and international airports.

However, the Cordova *Friends of NRA* committee packs a big punch, and I quickly learned that it is known all around Alaska for the fantastic work it does for our grassroots fundraising program. I had heard from our NRA Field Staff about the amazing events this small town puts on, but I didn't know how widespread the knowledge of Cordova events was until my flight from Anchorage to Homer.

The flight attendant asked why I was traveling to Alaska, and I told her I was traveling for work for the NRA. Before she even knew where my final destination was she eagerly told me: "In Cordova they have a banquet for the NRA and it is an absolutely blast! You have to go,



they give away firearms and everything!” If flight attendants based out of a city 200 miles away knew how great Cordova *Friends of NRA* events were, I knew I was in for a treat!

Garry and Libby Graham are the heart of the committee and have been serving as chair and co-chair for more than nine years. Treasurer Vikki Simpson originally started with the Homer *Friends of NRA* Committee, and the knowledge of her flawlessly run Treasurer's table spread fast when she moved to Cordova and she was asked to join the committee. During my time in Alaska I got to see the incredible passion that Greg, Libby, and Vikki have for *Friends of NRA* and the Second Amendment.

Beyond the committee, the entire Cordova community exudes that same passion and comes together with amazing power and potential in support of the shooting sports. The committee held not just the usual single annual event, but organized two complete events that took place in one weekend. Both were held at The Powder House, a local restaurant specializing in good food, great beer and grand company. If you have been to Cordova and have not been to The Powder House, you have not been to Cordova.

The first event was the Spit ‘N Guns raffle on Thursday. With 19 firearms and a safe raffled off through the Wall of Guns and the Spit ‘N Guns raffle, the event raised \$21,000. It was my first taste of what an Alaska *Friends of NRA* event is like and it was impressive to say the least. The excitement and enthusiasm in the room was indescribable, and I couldn't wait to see what Saturday had in store.

The main event that took place on Saturday is the pinnacle of the Cordova year. On the day before the event, one attendee exclaimed to me: “I'm so excited for tomorrow, it's like prom!”

Promptly at 5:00pm the crowd came in ready to fight for freedom, family and the future by fundraising through games, raffles, and auctions. It was impressive to see a room filled to max capacity with Second Amendment supporters joined in fellowship over their love for freedom.

The highlight of the evening was the final auction item—a framed art piece displaying the text of the Second Amendment auctioned off for the oldest veteran in the room. It went for more than \$2,000, but it was the respect, honor and dedication captured by this closing moment that stood out the most.

Events like this are the perfect reminder of the people who truly make this program and this country great. ■

*Bring the fun and fundraising to your town! Visit friendsofnra.org/Volunteer for more info or go to nrafoundation.org to apply for a grant. Learn more about Alaska *Friends of NRA* at friendsofnra.org/AK.*



A RANGE OF NEW RELATIONSHIPS

By Jim Reardon

Utah Field Representative, National Rifle Association

As an NRA Field Representative, I get to see the best of what Second Amendment supporters and shooting sports programs do for preserving our American traditions and freedoms. When I relocated to Utah in July after serving as Field Representative to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and lower New York for 2 ½ years, I was extremely excited to experience that in a new and very different part of the country. Since then, I have been traveling throughout the state and meeting with the *Friends of NRA* committees here to get to know the volunteers who drive them.

In September the Ogden *Friends of NRA* committee invited me to meet with them at a place deeply embedded in their shooting sports community. Not only do the Ogden committee members spend many hours volunteering with *Friends of NRA*, they also volunteer many hours as Range Safety Officers at the Weber County Sport Shooting Complex (WCSSC), and this was the location for our meeting.

Upon arriving I was warmly greeted by members of the committee Dr. Monte Smith, Denise Knight, Sue Smith, Richard Ward, Don Spring, and Dick Valdez, as well as Weber County Sheriff Terry L. Thompson, Weber County Range Master, Armorer, and S.W.A.T Sgt. Eric Jones, and WCSSC maintenance engineer Glen Valdez. In speaking with all these individuals, I immediately sensed a very professional approach to what they are doing, yet it was tempered with a refreshing sense of humor that lightened the atmosphere as they took me on a tour of the incredible facility. Having come to Utah from New York—a state where there are no municipally owned shooting ranges open to the public—I was totally blown away by what I saw.

The Weber County Sport Shooting Complex is a \$21 million facility with an interesting history. It was originally built in 2006 by the Dr. W. C. Swanson Family Foundation, Inc., whose stated mission is benefitting education, law enforcement, social ser-

vices and the arts. In keeping with that mission, the complex was originally constructed for law enforcement training purposes.

In 2014 the Swanson Foundation facilitated the transfer of ownership of the complex to Weber County, motivated by its commitment to Law Enforcement and the community as a whole. Now the facility not only continues to serve as a world class resource and training ground for law enforcement, but it also is open to the public. It comprises a newly refurbished 50 yd. pistol and rifle range, a 300 yd. rifle range presently being refurbished and S.W.A.T. & Tactical Training Center.

Since taking ownership the county has made many enhancements, including doubling of the number of safety baffles and adding an automated target retrieval system and ventilation. More than \$12,600 in grant funding from The NRA Foundation in the past two years has provided for significant improvements to sound dampening, firing line shooting benches and a heating system. Both Sheriff Thompson and Sgt. Jones acknowledge the tremendous contribution that The NRA Foundation and Ogden *Friends of NRA* have made both monetarily and through volunteer time that has led to the improvement and success of the facility.

That success benefits the many groups that use the WCSSC. Local Boy Scout troops do their merit badge training and qualifications here. State of Utah certified Hunter Safety instructors are able to use the facility for classes, free of charge. The Utah Rifle and Pistol Association uses the facility for their matches.

One of the programs that Sheriff Thompson is most proud of is the Student Safety Protection Training Program. The program began in 2013 and offers a 28-hour course of instruction specifically designed for teachers and school administrators within the Weber County School District. “As law enforcement professionals, we understand the critical importance of an armed response on site as the most effective means of preserving our children’s lives in the initial





few moments of an active shooter situation,” he says. “With a desire to protect on the part of our school officials, and the love and compassion that we have as Weber County law enforcement for the most innocent among us—our children—we have committed ourselves to provide the training necessary for our teachers to be prepared to protect our kids.”

Sheriff Thompson strongly believes in the need to be proactive. Participants are trained in firearms safety and familiarization, marksmanship, force on force training using simunitions, case studies on active incidents that have occurred in the United States, laws governing use of force, first aid, and law enforcement expectations as to what to and what not to do in active shooter situations. Sheriff Thompson adds “All of the feedback to me has been positive from all segments of the population,” adds Sheriff Thompson. “I have had representatives from several other Sheriffs Offices in Utah come sit and observe our training to potentially start their own. I regularly hear participants saying what a tremendous deal [it is] and how the training is far more valuable than the minimal cost. We have put about 100 school officials through the training now”.

The S.W.A.T. and Tactical Training Center is the training ground. This part of the WCSSC is set up with a variety of different training scenarios—school classrooms, residences, a bank, a convenience store, and more—and is used for public instruction in self-defense situations as well.

It goes without saying that it takes manpower to operate a facility this large and this complex. There are two full-time employees and one part-time employee. Sgt. Jones gave credit and thanks to the 160 volunteers that support the two full-time employees and one part-time employee, stressing their tremendous amount of passion, dedication and commit-

ment to ensure that all who come to Weber County Sport Shooting Complex will have a great experience in a safe, clean and fun environment. “We cannot do it without them,” he stated without hesitation.

When I asked him what the future holds, Sgt. Joes was ready with an answer. “We would like to see a .22-only range developed for youth and new shooters,” he said. “Our goal would be to develop a range and a program for youth that is interactive and fun. We also want to create a more conducive learning environment for young people and people new to the shooting sports. A .22 caliber-only range will remove the issue of noise and blast that occurs from large caliber firearms. This in turn will lead to a more user friendly environment for those just starting out.”

I asked Ogden *Friends of NRA* Chairman Monte Smith what he is most proud of, and his reply also came without hesitation. “The relationships formed when the Ogden *Friends of NRA* Committee interacts with those seeking grants in support of shooting sports benefit the community in many ways,” he explains. “These relationship increase opportunities for everyone to shoot, for the education and training of a new generation of shooters, and increased awareness of NRA programs and the resources they can provide. For committee members, seeing up close and in person the great work being done by so many people and organizations, making the most of what is often very few resources, provides an incentive to raise even more money and keeps our commitment level high.” ■

Learn more about Friends of NRA in Utah at www.friendsofnra.org/UT. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund educational shooting sports programs and ranges like this one in your area! Go to www.nrafoundation.org.



2017

NATIONAL CORPORATE SPONSOR PROGRAM

EXCLUSIVE GUARDIAN SPONSOR

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PROTECTOR LEVEL SPONSORS



Friends of NRA's countrywide network dedicated to fundraising for the shooting sports relies on the support of not only the Field Representatives, volunteers, attendees and donors who contribute to the local events, but also on a group of generous and enthusiastic corporate sponsors. In 2017 that group includes both new and continuing industry sponsors who will help *Friends of NRA* make its 25th Anniversary year the best one yet.

DANIEL DEFENSE has been a program sponsor since 2014 and now enters its fourth year at the highest level of industry support for *Friends of NRA*—the National Corporate Sponsor Program's exclusive Guardian level. After becoming involved with *Friends of NRA* by supplying rifles through the Vendor Direct program, the relationship between the program and the firearm and accessory manufacturer has grown stronger each year.

"As a successful company, it's my responsibility to help *Friends of NRA* in any way I can because the money it raises helps young shooters, helps competitions and promotes gun safety," says Marty Daniel, Founder and CEO of Daniel Defense. "All of these things are for the future of gun ownership which is in turn for the future of the Second Amendment."

Daniel and his wife are passionate about supporting shooting programs focused on education and training for youth and women in particular, an interest that perfectly connects with The NRA Foundation's goals to support educational programs that ensure the continuation of America's proud shooting and hunting heritage for generations to come. Daniel Defense will make an even greater impact in that mission in 2017 as the *Friends of NRA* Gun of the Year manufacturer. The Daniel Defense V7[®] is the first AR ever chosen for the honor, and Daniel proudly states that this is a benchmark selection citing the AR-15 as a mainstream gun—one of a few visions he had for this firearm.

But his commitment to Second Amendment freedoms extends beyond the *Friends of NRA* program as well. Among other sponsorships and NRA support, Daniel Defense signed on for a two-year agreement as the presenting sponsor of the new NRA America's Rifle Challenge (ARC) program in 2016 and 2017, along with supplying rifles

for the World Championship ARC Match rounds in 2015 and 2016.

GASTON J. GLOCK STYLE LP, an international manufacturer of traditional hunting and shooting apparel and accessories, has been involved with *Friends of NRA* since 2012 and a Defender level National Corporate Sponsor since 2014. The relationship began with \$60,000 in 2012 and 2013 statewide underwriting in Georgia, home of GASTON's U.S. headquarters in Smyrna, and in 2014 GASTON took its support to a national scale.

"We are always looking to expand the reach of our shooting and hunting products while supporting NRA and NRA Foundation efforts to provide opportunities for all kinds of firearms training," says CEO of GASTON USA Beate Arnold. She emphasizes the GASTON™ brand and *Friends of NRA's* shared interest in preserving the shooting sports lifestyle, a goal which focuses on preserving quality of life and traditions. In the last three years, GASTON has invested over \$200,000 in sponsorship support of *Friends of NRA*, including continued involvement with the Georgia program and its focus on youth participation in the shooting sports in that state.

In addition to its 2017 sponsorship, for the third year GASTON will make and donate Coolmax[®] shooting shirts with the NRA Logo and 'Wall of Guns' text to the NRA Foundation events at the Great American Outdoor Show and NRA Annual Meeting. GASTON has also reached out to sponsor and support a number of other NRA programs and activities.

HENRY REPEATING ARMS' involvement with The NRA Foundation began about two decades ago with their participation as a reliable vendor for the *Friends of NRA* program. In 2015 the manufacturer of classic rifles "Made in America, or not made at all" expanded on that commitment as a National Corporate Sponsor and sponsor of the Wall of Guns and NRA Foundation Banquets at both the 2015 Great American Outdoor Show (GAOS) and NRA Annual Meetings. As a 2016 sponsor of *Friends of NRA* Henry donated tens of thousands more dollars in monetary support and firearms to the program, including 1,100 Frontier Model lever action rifles with soft cases to be used at *Friends of NRA*

events across the country.

“My family has been in the gun business since 1911 with the NRA by our side the whole time—defending our Second Amendment rights, upholding our traditions of hunting and the shooting sports, and tirelessly promoting firearms safety,” says Anthony Imperato, president of Henry Repeating Arms. “It is an honor and privilege to work with the NRA and *Friends of NRA*.” In 2017, the Protector level sponsor will sponsor the Wall of Guns and NRA Foundation Banquets at both GAOS and NRA Annual Meeting for the third year and recognize Americans with inspiring stories of bravery by presenting them with special Henry Tribute Rifles at those banquets. Henry has also contributed a great deal to other NRA programs through roles including organizer of the Henry 1,000 Man Shoot, from which the unsold rifles will be donated to be auctioned at local *Friends of NRA* events.

O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC., has long supported the NRA with donations to national events, sponsorship of the National NRA Foundation Banquet and television shows, and more. In 2015 it became a National Corporate Sponsor of *Friends of NRA* and sponsored games at the NRA Foundation Banquets at GAOS and NRA Annual Meetings. It continued that dedication as a 2016 Defender level sponsor of the program and game sponsor at the 2016 National NRA Foundation Banquet in Louisville, and will carry that support into 2017 with its third year as a Defender level corporate sponsor.

“For nearly 100 years, our family has worked to build a successful business in the firearms industry,” stated Iver Mossberg, CEO, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. “For Mossberg, it is a simple choice. Supporting *Friends of NRA* is an investment with a return that can be easily measured. We measure it by the number of places our customers have to shoot and compete, the quality of firearm safety and educational materials available to them, the number of hunters in the field and the number of Americans that not only understand what it means to be a gun owner, but also share a deep respect for the rights endowed by the Second Amendment.”

NUMZAAN SAFARIS also became a National Corporate Sponsor in 2015 by donating 50 hunts to be used over two years at local events across the country as well as at the National NRA Foundation Banquet at NRA Annual Meeting. They are now making the same commitment and continuing to supply 25 hunts per year as a Protector level sponsor in 2017 and 2018. Previously, the South African outfitter and Booking Agents Ed and Linda Stevens had already supported *Friends of NRA* fundraising on the local level for several years, and that established relationship has helped to make their national sponsorship a fulfilling experience for all involved. As of mid-December, Numzaan hunts had raised hundreds of thousands of dollars at local *Friends of NRA* events since the beginning of 2015.

“All of us here at Numzaan Safaris are extremely proud to continue with our corporate sponsorship of *Friends of NRA*,” says Ed Stevens. “Due to this corporate sponsor relationship we have been able to raise significant funds for *Friends of NRA* beyond even our highest expectations of two years ago. As we all know, not just our Second Amendment rights, but all of our basic freedoms are at stake now like never before. The money raised at these *Friends of NRA* events all across America—when transferred back to the local areas and used nationally to support the future of the shooting sports through the grant programs—will be one of the best avenues to ensure our freedom for generations to come.”

SECUREIT TACTICAL, INC., also continues its sponsorship of *Friends of NRA* for the third year in 2017. In 2015 the company donated 300 Falcon FAST Box gun safes to The NRA Foundation and NRA’s Law Enforcement Division competitions, and in 2016 it donated RAPID 6 retrofit modular gun safe conversion kits. Those items were available at select *Friends of NRA* banquets, generating funds to support local and national shooting sports programs and bringing the SecureIt weapons storage platform to event attendees throughout the U.S. Now the Protector level sponsor has donated RAPID 2 kits to *Friends of NRA* and NRA Law Enforcement for 2017.

“The work that The NRA [Foundation] does for this country and the support that

they provide us at SecureIt is significantly appreciated,” Owner and President Tom Kubiniec says. “We will continuously support them as a corporate sponsor, as well as provide donations of the latest SecureIt products. Because The NRA Foundation regularly funds NRA programs that train and educate the growing population of firearm owners and shooting sports enthusiasts, it spreads the pertinent knowledge of firearm safety and responsibility that everyone should know.”

SMITH & WESSON, a leading name in the firearms industry, has also become a brand closely associated with the NRA after decades of involvement and support for all aspects of the organization and its mission. It has made a profound impact in support of the Second Amendment. “They have filled just about every sponsorship or industry support role at some point,” notes NRA Direct of Industry Partnerships John da Silva.

Although new to the National Corporate Sponsor Program as a 2017 Defender level sponsor, Smith & Wesson has been involved with the *Friends of NRA* program from early on. It has provided product for local *Friends of NRA* events since the 1990s, continually provided firearms for The NRA Foundation’s national events, and in 2014 through 2016 it also sponsored games at The NRA Foundation national banquets at both the Great American Outdoor Show and NRA Annual Meetings.

Corporate Sponsors directly impact millions of firearm and outdoor enthusiasts through their relationships with *Friends of NRA* and their contributions of money, services and auction items to the program.

“Our sponsors’ continued support of the *Friends of NRA* program and The NRA Foundation is a testament to their dedicated advocacy for the future of shooting sports in this country,” says Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. “They are helping fund firearms education and training opportunities to Second Amendment and shooting sports enthusiasts around the nation.” ■

Visit friendsofnra.org/corporate-sponsors.aspx or contact Director of Industry Partnerships John da Silva at jdasilva@nrahq.org or 703-267-1356 to learn about becoming a National Corporate Sponsor.

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2017

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Contact: Megan McConnell | Special Projects Manager | NRAEvents@nrahq.org



REP WRAP

Erica Dunn

ARKANSAS FRIENDS OF NRA

Field Rep since Oct. 2013

What did you do in your previous life?

I was a college Biology instructor at Arkansas Northeastern College and worked for National Wild Turkey Federation before coming to the NRA.

How did you get involved with *Friends of NRA*?

With my background of conservation, hunting and a love for the outdoors, I wanted to step up my service to protect our hunting heritage and Second Amendment rights. I heard about the opening in Arkansas... and the rest is history.

Name 5 things you can't live without...

God, family, laughter, time in the woods and great cheese.

Favorite Firearm and why...

All the ones with the memories attached to them: my Remington 1100 G3 12 ga., because of all the firsts it holds—the first turkey I sealed the deal with (along with my first miss!) and the first duck I sent my dog Jag to retrieve; and my TC Icon 30 cal.—first buck! Nothing beats life's "firsts."

Tell us something unique about you...

I am one of only three women in the field with the NRA!

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Custom Specs:

- Custom Seadek on bow, foot stands and walk arounds
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