

Kutz Captures Two Gold Medals in 2016 JORC

By Debbie Lyman, CSRRA Junior Director – Updated 2016.01.20



Kaitlyn Kutz, from the Cos Cob Rifle & Revolver Club, captured the Gold Medal in both of the Women’s events in the Connecticut State Junior Olympic Rifle Championships (JORC). For the 16-year old Darien resident, the win was especially fitting since she has her “sights” set on a collegiate cadet life at the US Coast Guard Academy (USCGA), one of the venues for the match. Not wanting to risk having a possible “less than stellar” performance on any given day, she selected Saturday to fire her air gun match and make the three-hour round trip back to the range on Sunday for smallbore rifle. Exercising caution was not required, though, as she posted gold medal scores for both matches. For air rifle, her first 10-shot string was a 97, followed by three consecutive 95’s to finish the women’s 40-shot match. The real bonus for her, though, was her personal best (PB) score of 569 in the smallbore rifle event, 34 points higher than she fired in the same match in 2015. These two scores also qualify her as the Women’s Connecticut State Resident Champion Qualifier in both events for an invitation to the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships (NJOSC), at the USA Shooting Olympic facility, Colorado Springs, April, 2016.

Also firing PBs (us older shooters have to keep up w/the younger generations acronyms for our sport) in the smallbore match were teammate Gillian Riordan, landing a 548 (a 126-point improvement from her 422 in 2015) for High J2; and firing a 552 (489 in 2015) was Silver medalist Megan Wilcoxson, Stratford PAL. Megan’s teammate, Lauren Chechoski was named the Bronze medalist with her score of 548. The Bronze & Silver medals in the women’s air event was decided by a single point spread with Bridgeport’s Katherine Gorlo receiving the Silver and Laura Milukas receiving her first JORC bronze medal. US Coast Guard Cadet Alexandria Harrington was the top air gun women scorer with a fine 384. As a non-resident, however, she was shooting for an “at large” invitation and was ineligible for resident medals. Other places in the women’s events were:

SMALLBORE RIFLE - WOMEN				
Harrington	Alexandria	J1	536	1st J1
Milukas	Laura	J2	525	5th J2
Acampora	Emma	J3	516	1st J3
Allan	Amy	J3	384	5th J3

AIR RIFLE - WOMEN				
Cuzzo	Sophia	J2	365	1st J2/J3
Wilcoxson	Megan	J2	353	5th J2/J3
Allen	Jessamyn	J2	262	10th J2/J3

The men's smallbore event had 35 shooters; the largest group Connecticut has ever seen in a JOSC. J2 shooter Scott "Goofy" Condo from Vinal Tech posted a PB of 557 for the Gold (photo on right). Although a "goof ball comedian" at heart, Scott has a serious side and has given up a lot of Saturday and Sunday afternoons for a "pre-JORC" practice regime headed by Coach David Lyman at Blue Trail to train for this event, and his diligence paid off. His score qualifies him for the Men's Connecticut State Resident Champion Qualifier. Xavier High School Varsity Rifle Team Captain Dylan Lorence (also joining Scott in the additional practice schedule and a prospective USCGA cadet) and Old Saybrook competitor James Henderson—both J1's--fired 548's for the Silver and Bronze, respectively. Dylan's 2016 score was 107 points higher than his 441 in 2015 at this match.



Turning to the air gun event for the males, James Henderson fired a 560 for the Gold and state qualifier. Silver went to Tyler Glynn, Montville High School Team Captain and senior, Oakdale, Connecticut, with a 558. Tyler received an invite to the Nationals last year and is hoping that his score will gain him an "at large" invitation. One point behind was Scott Condo for the Bronze. USCGA Cadet and Tennessee resident Randall Ford III Harrison, firing as a non-resident for an "at large" JOSC invite, posted a score of 558 for 1st J1. Other places in the men's events are as follows:

SMALLBORE RIFLE - MEN				
Acampora	Michael	J2	547	1st J2/J3
Glynn	Tyler	J1	547	1st J1
Kim	Donghee	J1	523	5th J1
Lombard	Joseph	J2	519	5th J2/J3
Song	Young Jun	J1	477	10th J1
Collins	Kevin	J2	470	10th J2/J3
Weisz	Zackary	J2	351	15th J2/J3
Ducharme	Benjamin	J1	321	15th J1

AIR RIFLE - MEN				
Acampora	Michael	J2	554	1st J2/J3
Callahan	Harrison	J2	527	5th J2/J3

Finally, the Men's Air Pistol event had one competitor. John Marrinan, Oakdale, CT, posted a 525 this year compared to a 507 in 2015.

Rhode Island also fired their JORC at the USCGA; a very cordial group to have around and kept the Match Director in Dunkin Donuts coffee (I thank you for that, and Mr. Lorence too!) Ruby Gomes was the top gun for her state. Her blistering 392 in air rifle was the top score in the event, garnering her the Gold & RI State Champ Invite. She duplicated her titles in smallbore with another fine score of 562. Rebecca Green was awarded the Silver medals in both events with scores of smallbore 533 and air 381. Gold & State Champ invites in the Men's events were

awarded to Marcus Mojica in smallbore (555) and Alex Muzzioli in air (581). Alex' air score was 21 points higher than his closest competitor. Alex Muzzioli received the silver in smallbore (554) and Nathan Cai the bronze medal (520). Nathan picked up the Silver in air rifle (566) and Marcus settled for the bronze (555). Connecticut was happy to host both events so that Rhode Island could have a place to shoot and compete for RI state medals in invites. We thank Mr. Muzzioli and Mr. Snyderman for their coordination and support.

As a reminder, this match is fired under USA Shooting rules, which states that residents (*which is defined as to where the competitor holds a current and valid driver's license or where the competitor's parents / guardians reside*) only are eligible for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place USA Shooting State Champion medallions but may compete for invitations to the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships (NJOSC) in the "at large" category. This year's state event was sponsored by both the CSRRA and Bridgeport Rifle Club (BRC), and fired on two ranges (USCGA & BRC). Scores from both venues have been combined and are attached. Consolidate results from all states will count for national invitations to the JNOSC in Colorado Springs held in April; selected attendees will be announced by USA Shooting at a time to be determined by the Competitions Division. CT and RI have separate medals which will be mailed shortly by the CSRRA.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the CSRRA was extremely pleased that the USCGA was able to offer their range as one of the host sites for Connecticut, due to the efforts of Head Shooting Sports Coach Richard Hawkins and Assistant Rifle Coach Hap Rocketto. 67 shooters out of the 88 (up 16 competitors from 2015) competed at the USCGA. Electronic targets make competitions more efficient, spectator friendly, and allows for precise scoring without the human element involved of plugging a shot, making judgment calls, and eliminating mathematical errors. Most importantly, it provides these shooters the best of conditions for an ultimate performance. The CSRRA is happy that we were finally able to play a small part in showcasing this facility to Connecticut's best athletes and presenting it is an option for furthering their education and shooting at the collegiate level. Any interested shooters can contact Head Shooting Sports Coach Richard Hawkins at Richard.N.Hawkins@uscg.mil.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the CSRRA, we would like to express our gratitude to the USCGA staff for putting in the long weekend hours required for this match to run: Assistant Pistol Coach Will Hart & Assistant Pistol Coach Wayne Gronlund; Cadets Rifle Team Captain C/2 Nick Paisker & C/3 Lindsey Critser; and, CGA WEPS Staff GM1 Charlie Petrotto, GM2 Chris Delahoussaye, and Gunner Paul Lahah. All of these gentlemen made the coaches, parents, and athletes feel welcome. Special thanks to the coaches that gave up their time to bring the athletes to the match; and everyone for your cooperation throughout the registration, firing, and posting of results. Remember, patience is a virtue; and, you are dealing with volunteers. Although it is an electronic scoring range, results and paperwork remain a manual chore. Finally, congratulations in advance to our Connecticut athletes that secure an invite to the nationals. For those that are able to accept the invitation, we wish you the best of luck! Any questions, contact me (Deborah Lyman) at nra.cmp@gmail.com.

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Prepared by: Deb Lyman