

## New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club, Socorro Gun Club, and Capitan Highpower Rifle Club Hosts Smallbore Rifle Clinic

Thirteen shooters from throughout New Mexico and Texas, ranging in age from 9 to over 50, attended a smallbore rifle clinic hosted by the New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club, Socorro Gun Club and Capitan Highpower Rifle Club on September 16-17, 2017 at the Capitan Smallbore Rifle Range. The Capitan gun range, owned by the Capitan Highpower Rifle Club, is 3 miles east of Capitan, New Mexico north of US Highway 380 and is known for highpower rifle competitions. Attendees received expert instruction and coaching in safe firearms handling and the fundamental principles and techniques of prone and 3-position .22 rifle shooting (i.e., prone, standing, kneeling), which will carry over to air rifle and highpower rifle shooting. The clinic provided instruction that enhanced competitors' shooting skills and prepared them for competition. James and Virginia McLemore and Sha Lene Rodolph were the clinic instructors. Virginia is a certified coach, training counselor, national champion, and holds national records in highpower and smallbore rifle. James is a certified rifle and small arms reloading instructor. Sha is a new instructor. The clinic also included a 3-position and prone smallbore rifle competition on Sunday. The course of fire for the 3-position shooters was 20 shots in each position (prone, standing, kneeling) followed by the Dewar course (20 shots at 50 yds, 20 shots at 100 yds) in the prone position, for a total of 1000 points.

Four members of the New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club attended the clinic. Troy Vigil, Macs Brown and Vincent Herrera were members of the 2016-2017 New Mexico Tech Rifle Team and a new shooter who attended was Roy Geiger. The New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports club has provided experience in air rifle and pistol, smallbore rifle, and highpower rifle for more than 25 years. But this is the eighth year the students were interested in competition beyond the club level. Not too many colleges are as supportive of the shooting sports as New Mexico Tech, who provided some of the travel funds and training materials.

We also had 2 subjunior (age 9-10) that participated in the clinic as well as several adults. Two advanced junior shooters from Los Lunas area and another junior shooter from the Farmington area also attended. These three juniors have competed before at the national level and were interested in learning advance competitive techniques.

In Sunday's competition, the wind died down and the competitors could concentrate on the fundamentals without being blown around as on Saturday.

A special thanks to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) who also provided funds through special grants to support this event. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a national program that supports training and

hunting programs (<http://www.rmef.org/> ). The CMP is a national program that promotes firearm safety and marksmanship training with emphasis on youth participation (web site is <http://www.odcmp.com/>).

The New Mexico Tech Rifle Team is currently preparing for a regional competition in Albuquerque in October (Oct. 14-15) and for the NRA Intercollegiate Club Sectional Championships to be held at in Albuquerque in January 2018. The NRA National Intercollegiate Club Championships will be held at Fort Benning, Georgia in March 2018 for the top ten teams that qualify at the sectional championships. New members of the New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club are welcome. The club has regular practice at the New Mexico Tech Gym Classroom every Monday at 5-7 PM during the fall and spring semesters.

Virginia T. McLemore  
Coach New Mexico Tech Rifle Team  
Faculty Sponsor New Mexico Shooting Sports Club



Staff and participants of the New Mexico Basics of .22 rifle shooting clinic, Capitan, September 16-17 , 2017

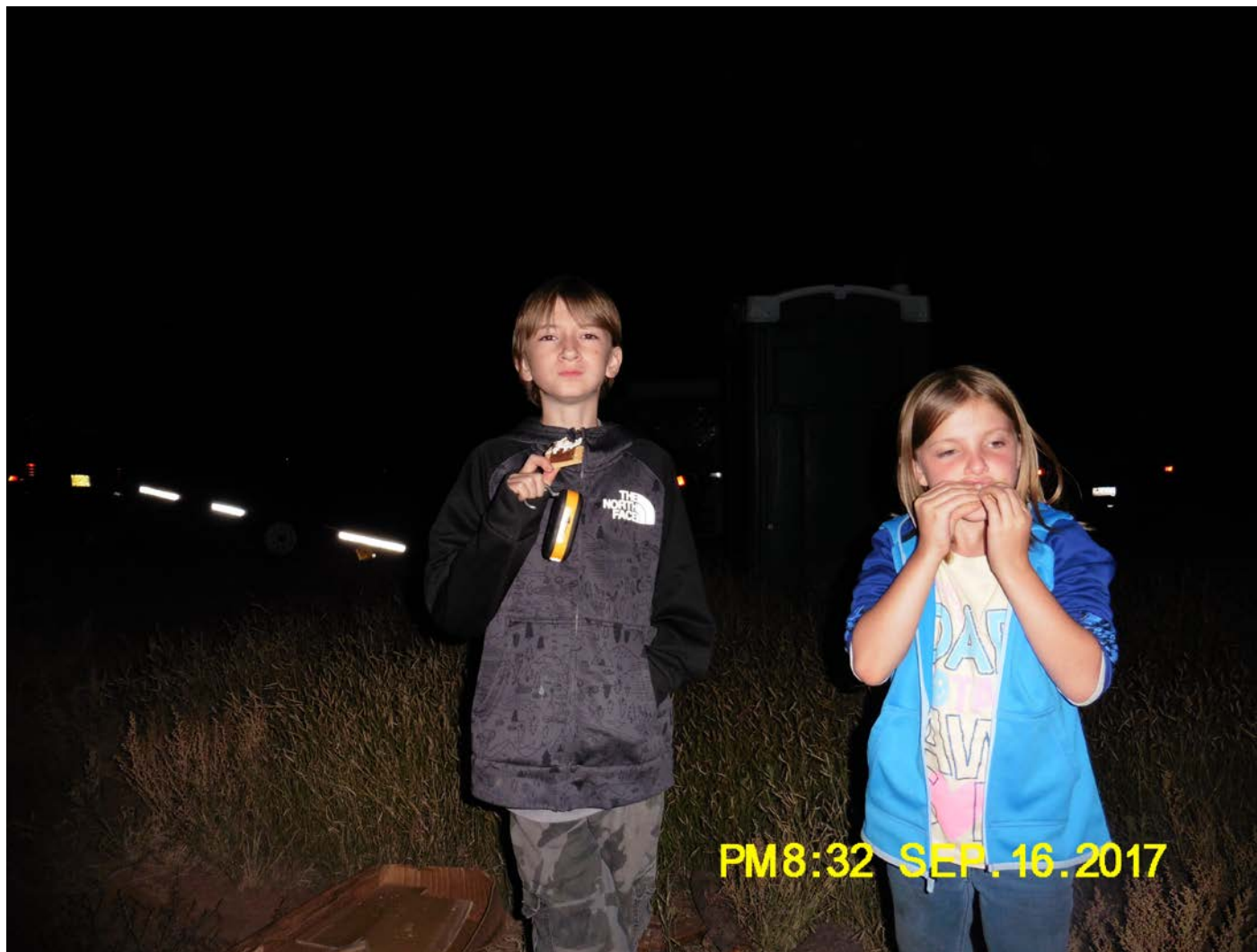


Standing position.





Kneeling.



Eating s'mores around the campfire at night.