

New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club and Socorro Gun Club Hosts Smallbore Rifle Clinic—September 8-9, 2018

Nine 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 8-9, 2018 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 were the clinic instructors. Virginia is a certified coach, training counselor, national champion, and holds national records in highpower and smallbore rifle. (Virginia placed 13th in the NRA National Prone Rifle Championships this summer in Bristol, Indiana!) James is a certified rifle and small arms reloading instructor. Both instructors taught at the NRA Junior National Smallbore Rifle Camp this past July in Bristol, Indiana. The New Mexico clinic included a 3-position and prone smallbore rifle competition on Sunday.

Five members of the New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club attended the clinic. Troy Vigil and Vincent Herrera were members of the 2017-2018 New Mexico Tech Rifle Team and new shooters who attended were Raymond Sandoval, Xavier Chavez, and Eli Jackson. 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 tenth year the students were interested in competition beyond the club level and the ninth year of this clinic. 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 1 subjunior (age 9-13) from Texas and a junior from Los Lunas that participated in the clinic as well as one adult and a collegiate shooter from University of New Mexico—Valencia Campus. This collegiate shooter has competed before at the national level and was interested in learning advance competitive techniques.

In Sunday's competition, 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. Troy Vigil placed 1st. Other competitors shot prone at the same distances, for a total of 1000 points; Vincent Herrera placed 1st in that event. The individual competition was followed by a team competition, consisting of 2-man teams firing one 100-yd target, where the shooters practiced coaching each other.

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 Capitan in October (Oct. 13-14) and for the NRA Intercollegiate Club Sectional Championships to be held at in Albuquerque in January 2019. The NRA National Intercollegiate Club Championships will be held at Fort Benning, Georgia in March 2019 for the top 12 teams that qualify at the sectional championships. Last year the NM Tech team placed ninth at the NRA National Air Rifle Collegiate Club Championships and team captain, Troy Vigil, placed 8th overall in the combined air rifle and 3-position .22 rifle championships (out of 90-some collegiate competitors from throughout the US)!

New members of the New Mexico Tech Shooting Sports Club are welcome. The club has regular air rifle practice at the New Mexico Tech Gym Classroom every Monday at 5-7 PM during the fall and spring semesters. The first session begins Monday Sept 10.

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 8-9, 2018



Coaching during the team match (Eli Jackson and Vincent Herrera).



Prone position.



Kneeling position.