

Junior Rifle Program Ends Another Year

By Ron Benge

The Junior Rifle Program celebrated the end of the 2008-2009 season Monday night March 23, 2009, and many years of teaching firearm safety and rifle marksmanship to juniors. I do not have the number of juniors Scotty Ballinger, Jay Foust and Chuck Oder taught in the Junior Rifle Program, but in the 24 years I have been involved in the Junior Rifle Program we have taught over 402 juniors rifle safety and marksmanship. Some of the juniors only came a few nights, others came several years, and a few have earned the Distinguished Expert Rifle award.

After having pizza from LaRosa's, pop, ice cream with the good toppings, chocolate brownies and cupcakes for dessert, awards were presented to the outstanding shooters. The season awards were based on the number of targets shot, average target scores and test score. Yes, they do take a test at the end of the year that covers firearm safety, firearms and marksmanship.

SEASON RESULTS

High-Over-All	Ben Mack
1st Standing	Nate Mack
1st Kneeling	Nathan Conley
1st Sitting	Sarah Haverkos
1st Prone	Ben Wissel
2nd Kneeling	Jessica Ramsey
2nd Prone	Jimmy Taphorn
3rd Prone	Jacob Moore

Scotty Ballinger Award Jessica Ramsey

The Scotty Ballinger Award is in honor of Scotty Ballinger who ran the Junior Program for many years. Attitude, scores, demonstration of firearm safety and helping of fellow shooters determines which junior, if any, receives the award.

Ben Mack earned the Distinguished Rifle Marksmanship Award and was presented the NRA Distinguished Rifle Marksmanship medal and rifle bar. Congratulations to Ben for his achievement and excellent shooting.

In the individual shooting Sarah Haverkos shot a 50 prone two times and a 50 sitting, Nathan Conley shot a 50 sitting, and Ben Mack shot a 50 prone in the Junior vs. Instructor match, putting their names on the 50 Club list for the year. Sarah, Nathan and Ben each received a LaRosa's gift certificate for shooting the perfect scores. Many of the junior shooters shot scores in the mid to high 40's most of the year including several 48's and 49's.

Abigail Campbell, Malachi's sister, won the door prize, a gift certificate for a large two item pizza donated by LaRosa's Main St. Hamilton location.

42 individual juniors shot during the year, there were a total of 465 weekly shooters over the 20 weeks, and they shot approximately 1,422 targets and 7,870 rounds of ammunition.

Thanks to the BCSC for supporting the junior rifle program, the instructors that gave their time, the parents that let their children shoot and brought them to the club every Monday night, to those that brought desserts to the award banquet, to LaRosa's Main St. Hamilton location for the door prize, and to all those that served in the military and fought for the freedom that let us have a rifle shooting program.

NRA Certified Instructors: Ron Benge, Lew Lucas, Gary Schweinfest, Curtis Collins, Jay Needleman, Art Balph and Nick Herrin.

Assistants and Helpers: Cody Schindler and Bob Mack.

Ron Benge
3/23/09