



MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Get a friend to join MMA today!
Membership applications are
available on our website.

www.militarymarksmanship.org

Reunion, Membership, and Annual meeting

MMA President's Report

Bruce Meredith

I am happy to see that more biographies are arriving for the 50th Anniversary Book. If you have not submitted your picture and biography, get yours in immediately. There are still many more people out there who have not submitted. Any shooter ever assigned to an AMU was a champion - a cut above the average. If you are holding back, don't be so modest. Send in a short, or a long, bio and a photo. You are part of history, be in the book. Some years from now, your children will be proud. So will your friends, as they read and remember the times spent together. Again, a purchase of a book is not a requirement to submit a bio. Go to our web site - shown on the header of this publication for specifics.

Membership is surprisingly not increasing as anticipated. New members are coming in, but renewals are falling off. This is not the time to bailout, folks. The reunion is 314 days away as I write this column! Don't miss coming to the reunion of the 50th anniversary of the AMU.

I want to welcome the new MMA Life Members. I thank them for the support of their professional organization. I invite others of you to give consideration to this commitment. Shooting has been good to you, give something back.

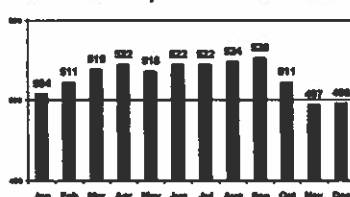
A new membership directory is being mailed. You should always get your changes in address, telephone or e-mail contact to us at our P. O. box, if not by telephone or e-mail.

Our annual meeting, and announcement of the AMU Soldier of the Year, will be held at the indoor range of the Pool Shooting Complex, Fort Benning, Friday, 27 January 2006, at 1500 hours. Come join us.

★
★ **New MMA Life Members** ★
★
★ **Carter Berry** **Gerald J. Boutin** ★
★ **Christopher Donohue** **W. Michael Griggs** ★
★ **David W. Kimes** **Naomi S. Sharpe** ★
★ **Thomas R. Sharpe** **John S. Watkins** ★
★
★ *Life Membership is only \$300* ★
★

.....
★ **USAMU 50th** ★
★ **Anniversary Reunion** ★
★
★ **October 18-21, 2006** ★
★
.....

MMA Membership as of 31 December 2005



Welcome New Members !

Richard L. Curry
Clarence Fedrick, Jr.
John B. Fowler
Bruce E. O'Brien
Greg A. Strom
Steven C. Williams

Fort Worth, TX
Midland, GA
Oak Harbor, OH
McAlester, OK
Crofton, MD
Brentwood, TN

That's Incredible!

Samuel W. Hunter

Matthew Dryke is an outstanding shotgun competitor -- at least he was when assigned to the USAMU in the '80s. He was an Olympian in 1980 and won the Olympic Gold Medal in Skeet in 1984. Winning individually and helping his team win a host of other national and international championships; he was inducted into USA Shooting's Hall of Fame several years ago. Matt had another rather unique talent -- riding a unicycle. In the early '80s, the combination of this and his shotgun expertise landed him on the TV show, "That's Incredible", hosted by John Davidson. On the show, he broke all of the twelve clay pigeons thrown alternately from the "high house" and the "low house" while pedaling around the middle station on the range. That WAS incredible!

On the same program that night, a runner was featured. This man had a pet turkey that accompanied him on his exercise runs. Whatever distance the man would run, the turkey was right behind him all the way -- also incredible.

The next day, pursuant to some of my Operation Sergeant's duties, I went up to the shotgun range. As I was approaching the "shotgun shack," Matt came out of the door. I said "Hey Matt, congratulations! I saw you on TV last night. That was indeed incredible." LTC "Jack" Horner, Shotgun Division OIC, boomed from his office inside "Oh, you saw Matt and that other turkey, did you?" Poor Sergeant Dryke had to live with "Matt and that other turkey" for weeks.

Coats Brown Character

LTC (Ret) Weldon "Mike" Griggs recalls a meeting with Coats Brown and provides insight to this soldier's character make up. In 1962, Warrant Officer Coats Brown was in charge of training aids at USAMU. I had been assigned the extra duty of teaching a block of mandatory instruction on map reading. Somewhere in the process of developing the class, I decided that I needed some colored pencils to complete some example. Someone told me that Mr. Brown also had all the drafting supplies. I went to Headquarters and found Mr. Brown in his office and explained what I wanted to borrow along with an explanation of what I wanted to do with them. He got into his desk and came up with an old cigar box. He opened the box and showed me the contents. In the box were colored pencils in all the colors imaginable. The pencils were not thrown into the box just any old way. The sharpened ends were all against one end of the box and the non-eraser ends were on the other end of the box. The implied message was that all pencils would be returned, and they would all be "dress right dress" in the box just like I was looking at them.

The pencils were not signed out as I recall, but rather it was a personal loan of a special collection of tools for a short period of time. I thanked him for the loan and later returned them just as they were initially shown to me.

Editor's Note: Coats Brown, our senior member at 94 years, recently fractured his wrist. He can't handle a phone yet but a note or card sent to his address listed in the Membership Directory would help to cheer him up.

Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

Back about 1955 our marksmanship unit shop at Fort Benning was right next to two GI Barracks that held a Counter Intelligence Unit. One day one of their agents came to the shop and asked if I could look at his gun as the cylinder was locked up, would not turn and he could not get it open. It was an issue Colt Detective Special with square butt! Even at that time a lovely collectors item. I looked in the front and a couple of chambers had live rounds, and the barrel, which is only two inches long, was plugged up to about a half inch in from the muzzle! He said he had bought some reloads in downtown Columbus. I took out my thickness gauges and the barrel/cylinder gap was 0.006". I had a jewelry saw and some blades that were only 0.005". So I eased in the blade and cut the bullet in two. Then it was easy to open. I used a brass rod of the proper diameter and gently drove out the bullets to the rear. There was the half bullet in the cylinder and three and a half in the barrel. I pulled the bullets on the two remaining live rounds and they contained no powder whatsoever! The bullets had been driven by the primer only. I have always liked to load my ammo one stage at a time and always look for trouble. On these semi-automatic presses you really don't know what each stage is doing and powder measures do run out. So be careful. Oh! the gun was not hurt.

Service Rifle Team Hall of Fame Panel Update

The Service Rifle Team Hall of Fame Panel was formed and announced in September 2004. It consists of Service Rifle Hall of Fame members: Tom Atwood, Loyd Crow, Charles Davis, David Erickson, Joe Gapol, Boyd Goldsby, Vince Greiner, William Lee, James McQuien, Joann Stawski, Greg Strom and Earl Waterman. The panel is working to nominate teams for induction into the Hall of Fame.

Local Hall of Fame members Charles Davis and Loyd Crow have researched the files in the USAMU Library and will continue that effort. The most prestigious National or Interservice Team Championships ever fired and won by the Army should be recommended. So far 15 winning teams have been recommended to the panel by membership at large. Several great winning teams have not yet been recommended.

Anyone wanting to recommend a team for the Service Rifle Hall of Fame may do so. Please include all the information about the team you have. List the event, date, location, scores, and names - and don't forget coaches and team captains. A photo would help. Send recommendations to: Loyd Crow, 6123 Huntington Trail, Columbus, GA 31909.

Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

This series is about the life sad times of a shooting legend who became the first Service Rifle Head Coach of USAMU in 1956. If you shot or worked with Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive those memories.

Fort McClellan, Alabama. Soldiering in the 1930's was a demanding lifestyle. Reveille at 0600 and retreat at 1700 meant over 11 hours each duty day. Guard duty, kitchen police and other details sometimes made very long days. It was possible for a soldier to buy his way out of the Army those days. For approximately \$300.00, a legal and binding discharge could be acquired. Some men who bought their way out of the Army in the 1930's were later drafted during WWII. Some of these veterans stayed in service until retirement. Time spent in the Army prior to buy out could not count toward retirement. The Army demanded military courtesy and discipline. The soldiers came from pioneer stock. Some men were brought up rough, where social grace did not have a high priority. Men were men, which meant sexually transmitted diseases were common, then as now. Inspections were conducted to keep the soldiers healthy. This procedure was called "short arm inspection". Every month, usually just before payday, the battalion Doctor examined each mans genitals to determine if he had a venereal disease. To expedite the examination process, formation uniform was boots and raincoat. The raincoat provided some degree of privacy. A soldier found to have a venereal disease would lose all pay and allowances until the Doctor declared him healthy. In the latrine, one commode would be clearly marked - VD use only. Army regulations pertaining to STD at the time caused soldiers to prefer treatment by a town doctor. Attempts to hide STD afflictions were common.

Wearing the uniform was different in the 1930's. The uniform was worn for reveille and retreat and all duty day. Civilian clothes had a designated space in a soldier's wall locker and could be worn while on pass or leave. Civvies were rarely seen on post. Complete uniforms were worn to the dayroom after duty hours. Soldiers playing pool, writing a letter or reading were in uniform. Soldiers did not slouch around on the first floor of the barracks in skivvies and shower shoes then. Matter of fact, shower shoes or wooden shower clogs were not yet available. Soldiers showered in their bare feet. Coats would make the final rinse of his feet with water as hot as he could stand to prevent getting athletes foot. He also dried his feet very carefully and completely. Soldiers could lounge out of uniform on the second floor back porch where they could not be seen. Soldiers on the back

porch usually wore the sleeveless undershirt on top, the old blue fatigue trousers and a pair of socks to lounge in. T-shirts became a uniform item after World War II. Saturday morning inspection and guard mount required the wearing of only issued items of clothing. Some clothing items purchased from the Post Exchange could be worn for normal duty. Coats bought some Fox brand leggings when he made PFC. They cost \$1.00 and were much neater. They were woven in a manner that eliminated loose threads. Quartermaster issue leggings had a tendency to become easily frayed. Officer's duty uniforms at the time were pinks and greens. They wore either riding breeches or trousers with the green blouse. Officers were immediately recognized because of their dress. The Sam Brown belt was always worn with the officer's uniform. It was a rich brown leather waist-belt with a diagonal piece that ran over the right shoulder and was attached front and rear.

On Post activities for soldiers were limited. There was no service club or enlisted club. The company day room, with its library and pool tables could be used. The pool tables were very popular and stayed busy. The post library was available for more serious study. Coats frequently used the library to study military and general educational subjects, maps and history. A civilian librarian kept the place open until 2100 during the week. It was also open on weekends. Soldiers, officers, dependent wives and children used the library. The gym held a small basketball court, some weightlifting gear and contained a two-lane bowling alley. Soldiers would set pins for tips or take turns bowling and setting pins with other soldiers. Coats remembers hearing about unit basketball competition. He spent most of his spare time shooting or coaching rifle and missed seeing the intramural sports. He does remember issuing athletic equipment like gloves, bats and balls when working in K Company supply. There was an outdoor theater on Post. In fair weather movies were shown nearly every night. A book of 12 tickets could be purchased through the First Sergeant for \$3.00. The First Sergeant had a collection sheet, which the soldier signed when he received theater tickets, laundry services or PX coupons that enabled men to get a haircut. All money owed would be repaid on the following payday.

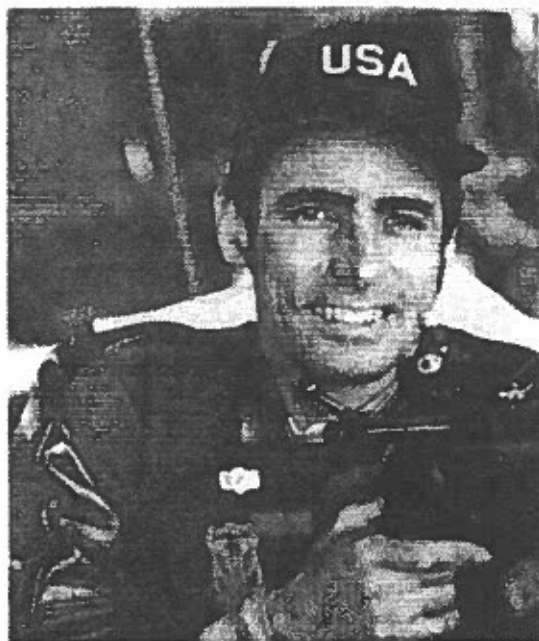
MMA Annual Meeting

27 January 2006, 3 PM

Pool Shooting Complex
Fort Benning, Georgia



COL E. R. Mason, USAMU Commander, awards MSG Richard Stineman a pistol for his outstanding performance at the National Matches.



David Kimes-Twice World Champion 300 Meter Standard Rifle with World Record scores. Member of 6 straight World Shooting Championship teams from 1966-1980. Member 1980 Olympic Team (Boycotted by USA). Life Member of MMA.



USAMU shooter CPT Richard H. Conley at the 1957 Texas State High Power Rifle Championships, Camp Bowie, Texas.

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"Jack" Foster-1961 World Champion Running Deer Doubles. Also 11 medals in rifle shooting at the World Championships 1966, 1970, 1974. Five World Records. Two tours in Vietnam. USAMU Hall of Fame.



MSG Ralph O. Thompson-Distinguished Pistol and member of the 2650 Club (2669 high score), after winning the Walker Trophy at the Nationals for the third time ('61, '66, '67). Still holds the .22 cal. Slow Fire National Match record of 200-8x set in 1966.



Jack Teague-Distinguished Rifleman, President's 100, Coach of 1963 National Record winning National Trophy Team. Awarded Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts, 5 Air Medals. Still winning at tennis and a commercial pilot.



Bobby Ellis-1977-1980 USAMU Shotgun Team NCOIC. Still shooting skeet and sporting clays at Callaway Gardens, GA.



Matt Dryke-Gold Medal, Skeet, 1984 Olympics at Los Angeles. Twice World Skeet Champion. USAMU Shotgun Hall of Fame

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC David J. Liwanig

2006 marks the Golden Anniversary of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit -- 50 years of marksmanship excellence! Although the Unit's complement of Soldiers and staff is smaller than in the hey-day of many of our distinguished alumni, rest assured that senior Army leadership recognizes the contributions we make for the Warfighter, the Recruiter, and for the image of military service -- an impressive bang for the buck considering the unit's size and mission scope! Summer 2006 marks the mid-point of the Olympic Quadrennial -- the halfway point between the 2004 Athens Games and the 2008 Beijing Games. I am proud to be a part of our nation's efforts to put America's best shooters on the world awards stand -- our International Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun shooters are showing champion potential well above glide slope, and getting better every day.

Our Designated Marksman's Course is the official Army yardstick for musketry past the 300-Meter line with the Service Rifle, and the All-Army Rifle and Pistol Championships grow every year. The training our Soldiers and NCOs have exported, with the very generous and gracious assistance of the Civilian Marksmanship Program, will pay dividends to our force for years to come. We can measure success by the number of external requests we receive for training and support. We have a new Action/Combat Range with truly unlimited capability, and for the first time the team is manned to full capacity. Our NCOs and Soldiers are reigning national and international champions, and their expertise is sought by top-tier competitors and by the US Army's premier Special Operations Forces. The Close Combat Marksmanship Courses we export have no equal in the Conventional Army. The annual 3-Gun (Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun) Tactical Match the AMU has inaugurated is already ranked in the "Top 3" "Must attend" matches in the nation!

You may have read more and more articles mentioning the AMU as THE premier place to consult for state-of-the-art in firearms and ammunition technology and shooting techniques -- Ms. Pagan, our Public Affairs Officer, has helped to ensure we tell our "Army Story" throughout the media. Our challenge to produce the best weapons and

ammo in the world to "Take away the technical excuse from the shooter" has been met by our Soldiers setting unprecedented national and world records.

Fort Benning will be growing with the combining of the Infantry School and Armor School forming the Maneuver Center. We should be moving from our current location to a new facility within the next few years (God willing).

For 2006 we've promoted six highly-qualified Staff Sergeants to Sergeant First Class -- SSG Joetta Dement (Shotgun); SSG Tom Rose (International Pistol); SSG Jason Saint John (Service Rifle); SSG Rick Merrill (NCOIC, International Pistol); SSG Shawn Waller (Machinist); and SSG Doug Mitten (Ammo, and now Arms Room).

Finally, we've moved coaches to help set the conditions for our Soldiers to be victorious in the 2008, 2012, and 2016 Olympic Games. Mr. Frank Briggs will coach International Rifle shooters through Beijing, when he will retire from Civil Service. Mr. Jack Writer, 1968 Olympic Silver Medalist and 1972 Olympic Gold Medalist will assume International Rifle Coaching responsibilities for the London Games and 2016. Mr. Ray Arredondo, a former USAMU Olympic Pistol shooter will coach International Pistol thru Beijing and London. Mr. Rick Hawkins will coach our Service Pistol shooters. Service Pistol continues to improve every year, producing impressive wins and serving as the IP farm team.

Our 50th Anniversary is a yardstick that shows how much we've provided to the Army and for the country, and our prospects for the future are the best they have been in years. Over the past five decades we have proved our worth, and strengthen the saying on the poster downstairs in the Custom Firearms Shop:

There has never been an enemy soldier killed with a tennis racket,
a football,
a golf club,
a basketball,
or a boxing glove --

It has always been, and always will be, the job of a well-trained marksman.

Please stay in touch with the MMA and the AMU as we prepare for our 50th Anniversary Celebration this Fall. We hope to see you then.



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