



# MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 52025, Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2025  
[www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org)

June 2015

Issue Number LXXXII

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## USAMU Soldier wins Gold at World Cup



SFC Michael McPhail holds his gold medal high at the ISSF World Cup for Rifle and Pistol 2015. McPhail won the men's 50 meter prone rifle event and a U.S. Olympic quota for the upcoming 2016 Olympic Games. (USAMU photo)

### USAMU PAO

FORT BENNING, Ga.—SFC Michael McPhail, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, won a gold medal in the men's 50 meter prone rifle event May 15, during the 2015 International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup for Rifle and Pistol at Fort Benning.

Just 0.4 points shy of breaking the world record, McPhail, who has been assigned to USAMU for almost 10 years, also secured a U.S. Olympic quota, one of two for the USAMU shooters.

McPhail fought hard during the finals, remaining in second place behind Norway's Ole Kristian Bryhn for most of the first half.

"The hardest part is not letting your emotions beat you," McPhail said.

He did remain in control, and in his last six shots, captured the gold.

McPhail and Bryhn competed in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England. Bryhn placed seventh in the men's 50 meter three-position rifle event while McPhail placed ninth in the men's 50 meter prone rifle.

Another Soldier, USAMU's Sgt. 1st Class James Henderson, who finished fourth in men's free pistol, also won a U.S. Olympic quota May 14.

Henderson has been a full-time member of the International Pistol Team for about a year, having shot with both the IP Team and the Service Pistol Team for about three years. Before that, he shot exclusively with the SP Team.

Since becoming an IP Team member, he has participated in four world cups, but this was his first world cup finals. He said he was very excited about the finals but was feeling a touch of anxiety.

## MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings fellow MMA Members!

This has been a busy quarter for the executive board. If you have not already noticed, our website has got a new look because we are using a new website host. The web address of our website has not changed, and much of the information from the old website has been carried over to the

new one. You can still review the meeting minutes and treasurer's report and see pictures from the recent reunion. The reason for the change in web hosting services has mostly to do with the transition of our website managers. Red Mosely provided that service for us for years, but has recently handed over the reins to Sandra Uptagrafft. The software that Red used to build the website material is no longer available, so we have retained the services of a website host that also offers online website building software. The new service is also slightly cheaper, which is always a plus. Sandra has done an outstanding job with the transition.

The website host change is one of several changes that the executive board has made using the tools available to us via the internet. Another is that we now offer online membership renewal as well as new member applications. When it is time to renew your membership, you can save the cost of a stamp and simply go to our website to renew with a credit card through a secure payment mechanism. Of course we still accept hard copy renewals and new member applications to our P.O. box. The online renewal service is available by clicking the "Membership" tab from our website. Remember that your membership expiration date is on the mailing label of the MMA Times.

As you've read in these pages and heard me say at our gatherings, the Executive Board continually seeks to do due diligence in the stewardship of the finances of the MMA. We are constantly looking at ways to keep the organization solvent, honor the commitment made to our life members when they took that step, and also to be able to conduct the services that you have come to expect. Services like this mailing, our annual meeting and Soldier of the

## USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Bret A. Tecklenburg



Soon, I will have completed my first year at the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. As those who are assigned here and as our alumni can attest to USAMU is a phenomenal place to work, with exceptional people and an incredible mission. I have another amazing year ahead of me to continue to enjoy my time as a member of USAMU and

humbly lead our incredible folks.

For competitions we saw continued success this quarter. Thanks to a lot of sweat equity, our new final's hall was ready for the Rifle and Pistol World Cup we hosted in May. It is a great venue for these international events. Our international team continues to meet key benchmarks for the 2016 Olympics. At this World Cup we earned both a rifle and pistol quota. We had more folks earn their minimum qualifying score (MQS) and SFC Mike McPhail won the Men's 50-meter prone at back to back World Cups. Our Shotgun Team did a great job hosting the April USA Shooting Spring National Selection Match while our double trap team continues to dominate and the rest of our Shotgun Team earned more MQSs and are positioning themselves for the next Olympics. Our Action Shooting Team continues to impress and align themselves and their new hires to compete across the spectrum of their sports. The Service Rifle Team is laser focused on preparing for and succeeding this summer as is our Service Pistol Team. The later, performed phenomenally at this year's Bianchi Cup where SFC Patrick Franks won the National Title for the Metallic Division in his first attempt. The Custom Firearms Shop (CFS) always ensures that our competitors have the very best to compete with while CFS concurrently makes a difference for the Army.

We have also seen great results from the Instructor Training Group, CFS, and staff involved in improving marksmanship for the Army. The Army's first ever marksmanship trainer course that we built for the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE), the Marksmanship Master Trainer Course, is in its fifth class and becomes an official Army course in

**GOLD** / From Page 1

"There's always a little bit of nerves," Henderson said. "It's more like excitement though, instead of 'this is going to be a train wreck' type of nerves—it's the good kind."

McPhail and Henderson, along with other USAMU teammates, now head to the ISSF World Cup for Rifle and Pistol in Munich, Germany, from May 26 to June 2.

The ISSF World Cup at Fort Benning, the largest world cup event hosted in the United States, wrapped up May 18 after a week of world-class shooting beginning May 13.

More than 600 competitors, from more than 75 countries converged on Fort Benning during the weeklong event.

The Benning-hosted world cup was one of 10 qualifiers from February to October 2015 leading to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Fort Benning is the only place in the United States equipped to host a competition of this magnitude, according to USA Shooting, the organization that prepares American athletes to win Olympic and Paralympic medals, promotes the shooting sports throughout the U.S. and governs the conduct of international shooting in the United States.

In addition to demonstrating the Army's world-class shooters and facilities to both national and international audiences, the event also benefited the city of Columbus, Ga., and surrounding communities.

**PRESIDENT** / From Page 2

Year recognition, and the biennial reunions. To that end, at the March 2015 executive board meeting, we decided to raise the cost of a life membership. This was done to further identify a life membership as a gift to the organization more so than a discount on dues. As more and more members are committing to life membership at an earlier age, our assessment was that at the current rate, a MMA life membership was a net liability rather than a gesture to support the organization's goals for the future. To that end, the Executive Board raised life membership dues to \$500, effective on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Great things are happening and there is more to come. I am excited by the excellence in competition already exhibited this season by the Soldiers of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit. With pistol and rifle inter-service and national championships around the corner, more victory is surely in store this summer.

All ready on the firing line.

**COMMANDER** / From Page 2

October. These great folks are substantively improving marksmanship training and doctrine across the Army.

We are looking forward to an exciting and successful summer competition season. Next summer one of our former battalion S3s, LTC Jim Barrows, and his CSM Joseph Tinker will arrive at USAMU as the new battalion command team. They are going to visit us a few times this summer, including a trip to Camp Perry, Ohio.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS****NEW MEMBERS**

SHELDON JONES  
LEN VANCURLER  
MARK LINDSLEY  
BRENDA ROLIN

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

ISAAC RAGUSA III  
GARY HATLEY  
CHARLES COFFEY

**THANKS for the DONATION!**

The MMA Executive Board expresses sincere gratitude to LTC (Ret) Harry Lucker for his \$500 contribution in honor of, respect, and appreciation for the founders and first generation members of the Army Marksmanship Unit.

## TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

**Master Sergeant (Ret) Gerald "Ol' Hook" Joseph Boutin**, age 89, of Buchanan was called to join our heavenly Father. Ol' Hook passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family Sunday, 24 May, 2015.

Hook retired from the United States Army in 1974 after thirty years of honorable service. He served in combat in World War II, seeing combat action in the Battle of the Bulge, Belgium, France and Germany, the Korean War and two tours of duty in Viet Nam.

After his Army retirement he continued his work as a civilian with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit shops continually seeking better improvements on service weapons for competition and sniper weapons platforms. He was instrumental in developing the accurizing techniques for the M1 Garand and the M14 rifle systems for those purposes. He is a double inductee into the United States Army Marksmanship Unit Hall of Fame both for his work as an exceptional armorer and for his accomplishments in long range shooting to include international skeet shooting.

Hook was awarded the President's Hundred Tab for his skill in High Power Rifle and the Distinguished Riflemen's' Badge which he earned with a borrowed weapon! Hook established a national long range record at Oak Ridge, TN., which stood for sixteen years not to mention countless other shooting accomplishments.

