

Highpower Report

Last February, Phil Kladerud & Matt Griffin contracted a severe case of cabin fever. Rather than wait for another highpower season to start, they packed their gear and headed to Phoenix, to shoot the Southwest Berger Long-Range nationals. Arizona is a hotbed of top flight shooting and a match sponsored by Berger bullets was sure to attract some of the nation's best.

The 2011 Southwest Berger Long-Range nationals was a great time. I enjoyed meeting and shooting with Palma team members, and was able to pick up a lot of good shooting tips, such as the importance of how to watch for and identify significant mirage changes. To mingle with and learn from top-ranked Palma shooters makes this national match well worth attending. - Phil Kladerud

For the rest of us, the season started on a clear March day at the Northwestern Gun Club. Kevin Bangen continued his winning streak, collecting the Offhand State Trophy. A few days later, Matt Griffin turned in the top performance at the 300 meter International Prone match. This was Matt's last hurrah before his deployment to Iraq. (He returned in late Oct, safe and sound.)

Steve Erickson bested the field at the OTC Championship. He also won 3 of the four individual matches. This is Steve's 6th time at the top of the list, tying Robert "Sandy" Sandager for 2nd highest number of wins. Dr. Ken Erickson (*notice the last name!*) stands alone with 8 titles.

Junior Eric Hazelton had a breakout season. He won the 300M Prone, 300m 3-P, Long-Range & Mid-Range Jr titles. His father Chris did such a fine job coaching that Dad's now the 2nd best shooter in the family. Well done Eric!

The MN Service Rifle team took a full crew to the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. The team of Kurt Borlaug (Captain), Larry Weidel (Coach), Tom Torborg, Terry McDonnell, Kurt Moline, Tim Boyle, Mark Schoess & Dean Gillette placed 30th in the team match and 18th in the "rattle battle".

A week later, Kevin Bangen, Eric Rhode & Mark Rohmann teamed with a friend from MI to win the Match Rifle - Master Class of the Rumboldt Match.

Congratulations to James Pennington, who earned his Distinguished Rifleman Badge at Camp Perry.

Other notable events included Minnesota's first Fullbore match (timed pair firing @ 300, 600, 800 & 1000 yards) and Minneapolis Rifle Club hosting its first OTC match in 10 years.

2011 MN State Champions are:

Offhand	Kevin Bangen & Dale Wickstrom (Sr)
300M	Matt Griffin & Eric Hazelton (Jr)
300M 3-Position	Erhardt Bruderer & Eric Hazelton (Jr)
OTC	Steve Erickson, Jim Biles (Sr) & Omer Hamer (Gr Sr)
OTC Team	Northstar Rifle Club (Peasley, Bangen, Rhode & Erickson)
Mid-Range	Steve Knutson, Elliott Zurich (Sr), Omer Hamer (Gr Sr) & Eric Hazelton (Jr)
Service Rifle	Phil Kladeruud
Service Rifle Team	MRRA Blue (Weidel & Pennington)
Palma	Jay Johnson
Long Range	Jay Johnson & Eric Hazelton (Jr)

Congratulations to all Champions. Thank You to everyone who ran a match, called a firing line, kept statistics, filled in a scoring position, pulled pit duty, squeezed a trigger or coached a new shooter. I look forward to shooting with all of you in '12.

Mark Rohmann – Highpower Rifle Chairman