



**AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We knew it was coming, but it still is disheartening. Senate Bill 2, known as "Permit to Purchase" was introduced on April 19th and assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee. The hearing was held on Wednesday, April 26th in the Senate Chamber, which was filled, as well as the gallery. It was great to have a great number of supporters both in the building and online.

The "Moms" brought out their tried and tired arguments about how the "kids" were being put in danger by other teenagers unlawfully using firearms. The amazing thing is that none of them seemed to realize teenagers are not allowed to lawfully possess a handgun, unless there is adult supervision. They decried the violence that is happening in our schools and in the community in general. Well, one fact they don't understand is that firearms are used in less than 2% of all crimes of violence here in Delaware. The other thing is that 80% of all violent crime occurs in urban areas and is directly associated with drugs and gangs.

The sponsor, Sen. Lockman, tried to entice more support by making the permit good for 6 months and paying for the training if your income was 200% or less of the federal poverty limit.

What she couldn't hide was the cost of the program, \$28 million over 3 years. The Chair of the Judiciary Committee did allow the hearing to run about 45 minutes over the allotted time, which allowed those who wished to speak an opportunity. Each person got 2 minutes.

One highlight was Dr. John Lott was able to testify virtually and did a fantastic job of debunking the research of Daniel Webster, the so called expert that is always paraded out at these hearings.

However, despite our opposition being 2 to 1, the committee walked the bill around and it came out of committee. That was not expected. Nor was it unexpected that the bill would soon be on the Senate agenda. What wasn't expected was a substitute bill being introduced on the morning of May 2nd, with the bill being on the agenda that afternoon. Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 2 was a bit different. In order to try an appease some, Sen. Lockman extended the

permit to one year and pushed the effective date out to 18 months. The primary reason was to reduce the fiscal impact from \$28 to \$20 million. Another reason, in my opinion, was to push it past the elections in 2024.

The substitute bill was reported out of the Finance Committee that same morning, without any notice or hearing. What would you expect with the Senate being controlled by Democratic liberals.

During the floor debate the sponsor again tried to explain how the bill would reduce murders, straw purchases and suicides, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. When confronted with the constitutional issue they chose to ignore the argument.

One highlight during closing comments was Sen. Buckson's comments about where do we go next. He mentioned that a registry, limiting the number of firearms that we could purchase and perhaps even confiscation may be on the horizon. He was extremely dismayed that Delaware may be heading down that road. What was more appalling was the reaction of Sen. Laura Sturgeon when Sen. Buckson make those remarks. **SHE SHOOK HER HEAD IN AGREEMENT.** She telegraphed that she wants to take our guns away. The truth came out.

Sen. Lockman was also heard stating even criminals will obey this law. REALLY!!!

The bill was passed on a party line vote and now heads to the House, where it will be assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. I ask that you not give up the fight. Contact your Representative and tell them, politely, not to vote for the bill. Stay tuned to you email and our website for updates.

On a better note, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that attended the dinner on April 21st at the Modern Maturity Center. I believe all had a good time. I want to especially thank the Board members of DSSA that contributed their time and efforts in helping to put on a good time. Our guest speaker, Phil Schreier, Curator of the NRA Firearms Museum was fantastic. He taught us things about Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders that we never knew.

Jeff Hague, President.

“Out of Africa”

The 2023 F-Class World Championships

By: John C. Sigler
NRA Past President
DSSA Past President



This is a story of a long and arduous six-year journey that began in Phoenix, Arizona in late 2017 and ultimately culminated in the United States F-Class Rifle Team making America proud in South Africa in 2023. It is also a story with a strong connection to both the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association and the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club.

Six years ago, shooters from all over the United States gathered at the Ben Avery Range in Phoenix Arizona in the hopes of eventually being offered the opportunity to represent the United States on the world stage at the 2021 F-Class World Championships as members of the United States F-Class Rifle Team. As many of our readers may remember, F-Class rifles (and therefore the rifle teams) come in two "flavors," i.e., F-Open rifles and F-T/R rifles. In the past they were considered separate teams but with the selection of Dan Bramley to lead the F-Open Team and Phil Kelley to lead the F-T/R shooters, a new era dawned with the concept of a single, fully integrated United States F-Class Rifle Team with two parts, each led by its own captain, working together in support of each other with the unified goal of bringing "Gold" back to the United States from the next World Championships initially scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2021.

Initial tryouts were held, and initial team membership was determined in early 2018. At this early juncture there was one member of the DSSA/Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club family selected for the F-Open Team with two more selected as alternates – and we can thank our lucky stars those two alternates were chosen because both of those alternates eventually became part of the team that eventually traveled to South Africa, and both became "stars" in their own rights – but I am getting ahead of myself.

Both Phil Kelly and Dan Bramley had adopted a philosophy of creating a "championship team" versus a "team of champions," with an emphasis on "T.E.A.M" – "Together Each Accomplishes the Mission" – there is no "I" in Team." The challenges ahead for which Bramley and Kelley had to prepare were not insignificant.

Historically, the South African teams have always been competitive and formidable, and they had never been

defeated on their home range. The U.S. F-Open shooters won the very first World Championships in Canada in 2002 but had fallen short of winning Gold ever since, falling victim to both the South Africans and the Australians who had previously beaten the Americans here in the United States in 2017. For Captain Phil Kelly, because the F-T/R Team had won Gold in Canada in 2017 and here at home at the World Championships held at the Whittington Center in 2013 – the pressure was on to defend their championship on a foreign range – a range as difficult and challenging as any in the world.

As a member of the F-Open Team in both 2017 and now in 2023, I must confess that as I write, my focus will primarily be on F-Open and I offer my apologies to the F-T/R folks for not having the knowledge of their processes as much as of the F-Open team processes.

Once the initial team was selected, internal competition commenced to determine which team members would become a part of the actual world championship 16-man team (8 shooters and 8 others performing such duties as wind coaches and other important ancillary duties), and which shooters would ultimately become part of the 8-man Rutland Cup Team (4 shooters and four ancillary members). As practices and preparations continued, the team became more cohesive and more confident of ultimate success, with each member making plans within their own lives to travel to South Africa in 2021.

And then along came COVID – and the 2021 World Championships were postponed until 2022, and then postponed again until 2023. Those postponements and the threat of COVID, both in South Africa and elsewhere in the world – plus the passage of time and inevitably changing personal circumstances - ultimately led to a smaller team traveling to South Africa and the addition of our two soon-to-be-star alternates to the team, George Van Why and Dave "Koko" Kokoszka.

Finally, on March 17, 2023, the combined United States F-Class Rifle Team met at the airport in Atlanta, Georgia and boarded a Delta Airlines flight to Johannesburg, South Africa, arriving seventeen long hours later. We spent the night in the City Hotel attached to the airport. The next morning, we all loaded on a bus, with all our rifles, while our other baggage and extraneous gear followed in a van and trailers, for the 5.5-hour ride south to Bloemfontein and a very nice hotel, called the Southern Sun.

After a day of rest and another day of practice, the South African National Championships which serve as a prelude to the World Championships began. Our own Dave Kokoszka claimed a Silver Medal in one of the individual matches while the United States F-Open 16-man team took a Bronze Medal in the Team Match and the 8-man F-Open Team claimed the Gold – both Dave Kokoszka and George VanWhy were firing members of this successful Gold Medal team. The American 8-man F-T/R Team took a Silver Medal as well.

American F-Open shooters Kaycie Blankenship and Walter Lange led the way in the special categories with Kaycie winning

Gold in the Under 25 category and Walter winning Gold in the Super Veteran category.

American Eric Cortina won the overall South African National Championship. The photo below shows Eric being “Chaired” from the range, carried victoriously by a cadre of his American teammates, as is the custom in international competition. Bridgeville Rifle Team and DSSA member George Van Why lead the way – in front with the blue team shirt, sunglasses, and an impressive beard.



With the South African National Championships now behind us, everyone’s attention now focused on the real reason we had all traveled so far and for which each of us individually and as a team had prepared over the preceding six long years – the 2023 F-Class World Championships.

The photograph below shows the F-Open Team in formal attire the evening before the Championships began.



DSSA/Bridgeville members – George Van Why is shown fourth from the right in the second row; David “Koko” Kokoszka is fifth from the left in the second row; and I am standing in the center of the back row, fourth from the left.

With the formalities and preparations finally out of the way, the individual World Championship competition finally began. Although shooters from fourteen countries had participated in the South African Nationals, we found that the

World Championship field had narrowed to only nine countries. I had the pleasure of shooting with competitors from Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada, Germany, and of course South Africa.

World Championship firing is conducted at 700 meters, 800 meters and 900 meters, usually firing “three-to-a-mound”, meaning three competitors per target alternating, and scoring for each other. The International target has a “V” instead of an “X” for a “Bull,” and is scored 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, as opposed to the standard American target, which is scored 10, 9, 8, 7, etc.

The standard course of fire is two convertible sighters and fifteen rounds for record, meaning that a possible score is 75 with 15 V’s. (a convertible sighter is one which may be “converted” to a record round for score). As one might expect, with 126 F-Open shooters representing nine countries competing on the World Stage, the scores were quite high despite an incredibly challenging range with winds as difficult and unpredictable as any anywhere in the world. As one American shooter observed at dinner one night, “Well, _____(expletive deleted), I just shot a score that would win almost any match at home, and all I got was a ranking at #56.”

Despite the elevated level of competition and the very tricky winds on this incredibly challenging range, the Americans did very well in individual competition. The American F-Open shooters claimed a total of seven Silver Medals and eight Bronze Medals in individual competition while the America F-T/R shooters won two Gold, One Silver, and One Bronze medal in individual competition. As one might expect, the South Africans dominated the individual competition.

Our own George VanWhy claimed a Silver Medal at 900 meters on the last day of individual competition after placing a very impressive fifth out of 126 shooters at 700 meters on the first day of individual competition.

As important as the individual competition might be, our American teams viewed the individual matches as practice for the all-important team matches – because, in the final analysis, it is the team competition that serves as the overall reason why we were there. And the American teams did what they came for – win medals.



The World Championship Team competition took place over two days. After the end of the first day the US F-TR 16-man World Team stood in Second Place behind the South Africans while the American F-Open stood eight points back in Third Place behind the South Africans and the Australians. But Day #2 showed a much different result.

On Day #2, the American F-T/R World Team held its own finishing in Second Place, claiming a Silver Medal. But the excitement came from the US F-Open Team which came from behind with a very impressive performance to win Gold for the USA, defeating the South Africans for the first time on their home range and showing the Australians that there was no “quit” in the American team.



United States F-Open Team poses with the flag and the scoreboard after winning Gold at the 2023 F-Class World Championships in South Africa.

The American Rutland (8-man) team also showed its grit and determination by winning a Silver Medal to go with the Gold Medal they had won during the South African National Championships. The Team Captain for the Rutland Team later observed that if it had not been for “The Bridgeville Rifles” of Dave “Koko Kokoszka and George VanWhy, the results would have been much different. Unfortunately, a clerical error in posting those scores for the final report shows scores for both Dave and George that were not fired by them but were fired by other members of the same team – we are hoping that George and Dave will ultimately see those scores corrected – we all know that George and Dave carried that team.



The rifles and riflemen of the United States F-Open Rifle Team – Gold Medal Winners and the 2023 World Champions.

In closing, I think I speak for the entire United States F-Class Rifle Team when I say “Thank You” to the South African Bisley Union for hosting a truly world class event, and to “General Mac” for the excellent job he did running the range. “General Mac” is a retired South African Army general. He began each day with a solemn thought about who we are as friends and competitors, a reading from the scriptures and a truly inspiring opening prayer. Thank you, “General Mac,” for helping us to more fully understand our duty to each other and to our sport.

Finally, on April 3rd, we began our long-awaited trip home. I wish I could say that the trip home was a smooth and enjoyable as the trip to South Africa. The trip home was a veritable nightmare, beginning with a flight that was at first cancelled and then reinstated, followed by missed connections and a Delta check-in process that was a nightmare in and of itself.

Then there was the Customs nightmare in Atlanta where American Customs agents gave a whole new meaning to the concepts of arrogance and incompetence. And then there was the American TSA which proved beyond any reasonable doubt that they have absolutely no idea what is actually lawful and unlawful, and whose workers are in dire need of training and a major attitude adjustment. One of our team members lost hundreds of dollars of personal property because TSA had no idea what some of his equipment really was.

Kudos to the South African Police Service whose courtesy and professionalism came as a surprise as they checked our rifles into South Africa and again when they checked us out. Believe it or not, American TSA and Customs agents could learn much from the South Africans. Especially TSA.

But, all-in-all, the trip to South Africa was a huge success. Next stop for Team USA will be Bisley, England in 2026 for the next F-Class World Championship, to be followed by a trip to Australia in 2030.

USA! USA! USA!!!!

High Power Update

By: Frank Nedza

There is absolutely NO-WAY that I can top the story of the adventures of our F-Class folks and their odyssey to South Africa. What an adventure! But I will get you up to date on what is happening a little closer to home ☺.

The Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club High Power 'season opener' was a mid-range match fired at 300, 500, and 600 yards. We had great weather, readable winds, and many of our friends on the firing line. For this match, we utilized convertible sighting shots as described by John Sigler in the article above. This minor change in match format puts a premium on having a good zero in your data book for each yard

line you will be shooting from. You DO have a data book, right? You get (minor) bragging rights if you 'convert' all of your sighting shots for the day (I did), AND you get to save six precious rounds for another match or practice.

At the end of the day we had 27 shooters on the line, with a pretty even split of F-Class and Sling shooters.

In F-Open, Dave Kokoszka took the win with a nice 599-26X, followed closely by Master-class shooter Herb Egberts at 596-33X. Nice shooting guys!

In F-T/R, Todd Norfleet took the win, firing a 588-24X with his trusty .308. Chris Fairbanks wasn't far behind at 586-21X. New to us shooter John Sturgill did well in his first match, firing a pretty respectable 556-14X, including a 190-8X at 300 Yards. Nice shooting, and welcome to our community John!

Over on the sling side of things, Walt Schmidlin fired a very nice 598-33X with his Any Sight rifle for the Conventional win. Well done Walt! Jeff Browning wasn't too far behind, firing a 595-35X.

In Palma class, your editor fired a 597-26X with his .223, with Joe Fogg right on my heels at 596-31X.

April 22nd Palma Plus Match

At first glance, you could say we 'beat' the weather, as the early forecast was for rain the entire weekend. Well, it didn't rain, but I think we got 'beat' by the weather conditions. It was windy, with fast switches in direction and magnitude. It was fun, in a beat your head against the wall kinda way... This match attracted 25 shooters, again with a fairly even split of F-Class and Conventional Prone shooters. The format was 15 record shots at each yard line (800, 900, and 1000 yards) followed by an additional 20 shots at 1000 yards.

On the sling side, Joe Fogg took the win, with a very nice 639-24X with his .308, followed closely by Jon 'wait till my eyes heal' Howell at 634-22X (firing a .223). Nice shooting guys!

On the F-Class side, F-Open shooter George VanWhy fired a nice 638-18X for the win, followed by Henry Ferris at 636-28X. Good shooting Gents!

In F-T/R, Brian Glanden took the win, with a 620-20X, followed by Master Class shooter Josh Driessen at 616-14X.

Things were a little tough out there, especially from the 1000 yard line, but I think most of us had fun (I hope so anyway).

April 23rd 3 x 1000 Match

Sunday's weather was a continuation of Saturday's, with windy conditions, unpredictable direction and magnitude changes, and... **DUST DEVILS!** At one point we had three independent dust devils on the range, all at about the same distance downrange, and all three moving in different independent directions! You just don't see that every day on the range...

This match attracted 31 shooters, with 19 F-Class competitors and 12 Sling shooters. One of those shooters, Rich Kussman, clearly was able to 'dope' the wind, and turned in a pretty nice 591-24X with his sling supported rifle. Nice

shooting Rich! He was closely followed by Tom Guercio who fired a 589-22X. Well done, gentlemen.

In F-T/R, Brian Glanden turned in a nice 570-13X for the category win, with Master Class shooter Todd Norfleet firing a 563-8X right behind him.

In F-Open, Master Class shooter Jack Neith made it a clean sweep, taking each match and the overall in the category with 197-8X, 197-8X, and 195-9X, for an aggregate score of 589-25X. Nice shooting Jack! Henry Ferris wasn't far behind with a 585-21X.

I think we have had a very successful start to this year's High Power shooting season with regard to weather, scores, and renewing friendships, and I hope to see more of our friends on the range for our next match, a single day 3 x 600 yard midrange on Saturday, May 13. Don't forget that Sunday, May 14th is Mother's Day, or your next range trip will be to the doghouse...

You can always find Bridgeville Match Results here:

<https://brpc-de.com/2023-highpower-rifle-match-results/>

You can see our schedule here:

<https://brpc-de.com/high-power-rifle/>

In Case You Missed It

By: Vickie Prickett and John Sigler

Play Stupid Games, Win Stupid Prizes...

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/elderly-philadelphia-man-running-errands-turns-tables-would-be-robbers-emptying-his-gun>

<https://taphaps.com/philadelphia-fedex-driver-shot/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/armed-georgia-homeowner-catches-intruder-shoots-him-dead-neighbors-cook-breakfast>

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/florida-woman-turns-tables-armed-ex-showed-apartment-kills-one-shot>

<https://americanmilitarynews.com/2023/03/wheelchair-bound-veteran-shoots-would-be-robber-in-houston>

Say it ain't so...

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2023/03/23/congression-al-witness-admits-bloomberg-gun-control-group-asked-atf-pistol-brace-rule/>

<https://thegunwriter.substack.com/p/indianapolis-police-have-secretly>

<https://thegunwriter.substack.com/p/feds-arrest-110-people-on-gun-and>

I knew that!

<https://fee.org/articles/firearms-technology-and-the-original-meaning-of-the-second-amendment/>

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