



Members of the 2016 California Grizzlies junior team along with some of the parents and seniors from the Coalinga Rifle Club.

# CAMP PERRY 2016:

## CALIFORNIA GRIZZLIES JUNIORS BREAK MORE NATIONAL RECORDS

By Connie Taylor & Mike Barranco

Fifty Californians, including 21 juniors from the California Grizzlies team, ventured to the 2016 National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, for two weeks this summer. They competed in a number of individual and team events, firing the AR-15 service rifle. In the first junior team match, the Freedom's Fire, Forrest Greenwood of Ceres and Morgan Owen of Sonora shot a combined score of 979-39X to break the national record of 974-32X which had been set by a Grizzly team in 2013. In the eight years that the Freedom's Fire match has been running, Grizzly teams have won five times.

The following day, the Grizzlies set a new junior record in the six-person National Trophy Team Match with a 2891-82X, surpassing the national record they set in 2012 by eleven points. The team of Greenwood, Justin George, Miles Grove, Andrew Miller, Owen, and

Loet Van Hoven were coached by the Army Marksmanship Unit's PFC Lane Ichord, a former member of the Grizzlies. 2016 was the seventh year that a Grizzly team has won this match in the last nine years and the third time they've set a new record score.

In the National Trophy Infantry Team Match, the California junior teams took both first and second place among

19 junior teams competing. Jim O'Connell and junior Levi Ichord coached Team Greenwood to their win with a score of 1245, which also put them second among all 58 junior and senior civilian teams. The firing members were Greenwood, Grove, Miller, Owen, Van Hoven, and Peter Tidball.



LEFT: One of the Grizzlies receives advice on the sitting position during the Marine Corps Junior Clinic at Camp Perry. RIGHT: Forrest Greenwood, high junior competitor in the President's Rifle match, alongside the President's Rifle Trophy.



Andrew Miller ready to fire the Rattle Battle match.

During the CMP awards ceremony, Forrest Greenwood was recognized as a member of the 2016 National Junior Service Rifle Team. This was the fourth time in five years that Greenwood earned this honor. As coach of the winning junior team, Robert Taylor of Sonora becomes the coach of the National Junior Team. He was joined by Helen Grove of Davis as team captain. Greenwood was also recognized as the high scoring junior in the President's Rifle Match. His score of 289-9X beat over 200 other juniors and was 41st among all 1,140 competitors in the President's Match.

After a couple days off, the NRA matches began and Grizzly teams added to their successes. Greenwood, George, Miller, and Owen, firing as California Grizzlies Berger, scored a 1899-46X to place first among junior teams in the



The Grizzlies Team that won the junior trophy in the six-man National Trophy Team match.

RIGHT: State Senator Tom Berryhill, an advocate in Sacramento for gun owners, sent the Grizzly Team a letter recognizing their accomplishments at the 2016 National Rifle Matches. BELOW: Morgan Owen and Forrest Greenwood, winners of the Freedom's Fire two-person junior team match.

four-person Rumbold match. Third place junior honors went to California Grizzlies White Oak with Joe Blacksmith, Nathaniel Nye, Tidball and Van Hoven. In the two-person Whistler Boy match, George and Grove as Grizzlies Hodgdon, finished in second place, coached by O'Connell. Rachel Babcock and Tidball, Grizzlies Gunzilla, won bronze medals.

After three days of individual matches, Morgan Owen won NRA's High Collegiate Award. Andrew Miller won the High Intermediate Junior Award (ages 15-

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August 12, 2016

TO: THE CALIFORNIA GRIZZLIES RIFLE TEAM

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to congratulate the California Grizzlies Rifle Team on your impressive run at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's National Match. Your record breaking scores are a testament to your hard work and dedication. I am certain that I am joined by your family and friends in celebrating this great achievement.

Congratulations again and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Tom Berryhill  
Senator, 8<sup>th</sup> District

LA, MARIPOSA, MONO, SACRAMENTO, STANISLAUS, TULARE, AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES



17) and Hunter Blacksmith won the High Sub-Junior Award for competitors aged fourteen and younger. Besides taking three of the four junior category awards, many of the Grizzlies won individual match awards during NRA week.

The 2016 matches were the last for Owen and Greenwood as juniors. Owen, who has been on the Grizzly Team for seven years, is in his junior year in college. Greenwood, a member of the team for the past six years, has been recruited by the prestigious Army Marksmanship Unit and is now attending Army basic training. He will be the latest of a number of outstanding California junior rifle competitors who have been on the AMU service rifle team.