

2nd Annual Eastern U.S. Junior High-Power Clinic and Championship
Camp Butner, North Carolina

Kevin Trickett (MA) takes top Junior in the Eastern US Championship



(Kevin Trickett – MA)

The sky's were clear, and the temperatures ranging between 94 and 104 and humid, perfect weather for the 2nd annual Eastern US Junior HP Clinic and Championship. Juniors from Boston to New Orleans arrived for a week of competitive shooting and clinics from the Marine Service Rifle Team.

A total of 33 juniors participated in this years events with 10 juniors returning from last year and 23 new juniors. The week opened on Sunday with a lite day of shooting to gain zeros for the week long competitions to begin on Monday. After the range was turned over to the Marines on Monday from the Commander of Camp Butner the juniors were split into two groups. The beginners and Intermediate shooters learned about position, equipment and techniques from one group of the marines while the advanced group was brought out to the 600 yard line to see a demonstration on how to read the wind. Smoke contained in barrels was used to demonstrate direction and speed of the wind. They also discussed other topics such as mirage and lighting that would have an effect on their shots. After a short break for lunch all the juniors were brought out to the 600 yard line for a 20 shot match with coaching from the marines. Daniel Atkins (GA) was the high shooter with a 195-9, followed by Amanda Elsenboss (CON) 193-10 and Robin Frazier 192-5.



Brad Palmer (CON HP) presents 1st place to Kevin Trickett Woburn MA, and 2nd place to Jim Clark Woburn MA

Day two was the Bushmaster 800 aggregate. Up bright and early and on the range by 7am it was a beautiful day. A slight breeze, clear sky's and only about 85 the day was off to a great start. It was amazing to see juniors who had never met each other team up on the lines to shoot, score and work the pits together. Outgoing to shy, male or female it did not matter they all had a common interest, improving their skills. I saw experienced shooters share their own equipment with no so experienced shooters to try and help them with their positions on the line. Yes they were concerned about their own performances, but at the same time they want to see others improve just like they did with the help of others before them. By the end of the day, 100% humidity and temperatures hovering at about 104 in the sun the match was completed. Kevin Trickett (MA) placed first with a 783-24, second Jim Clark (MA) 781-19 and third Mark Nations 778-14.



Day three was the Whistler Boy "Billy C. Atkins" Match. The match was put together as a clinic format. The teams were put together not by top shooters together, but by one top shooter and one beginner shooter. Teams were formed like this to teach the beginner who may have never shot in this type of match how it is run, also to see how both would work together to win. The match went very well seeing both cheering each other on thru-out the day. Because there were an odd number of juniors to make teams the winner of last years whistler boy team Kevin Trickett and team him with a volunteer adult Michelle Belleville to make the final pair. The juniors shared their knowledge with each other, mixed in the tips they received from their Marine Coaches and topped it with alot of laughs creating a great match and day. The winning team "Team America World Police" (Mark Nations, George Planeta) followed by "TNT" (Matt Wooten, Randi Hilt) and "Pink Tanks of DEATH" (Chris Hudock, Lyndsey Nash).

That night all were treated to Pizza and soda complements of the "Bushmaster Corporation". Bushmaster has been a big supporter of this match and our junior shooters. Unfortunately they were not able to join the events this year, but received a strong round of applause before the pizza boxes were opened.

Day 4, still hot and sunny the juniors, parents, coaches and the Marines are still gong strong. Today is the "Junior E.I.C match. This is a short day in comparison to the other days. There will only be 50 shots and no sighters. The top non-distinguished shooters will earn EIC award points toward their distinguished badge. The top 3 shooters will receive CMP EIC Medals (distinguished or not). The day was exciting; no sighters, so having your zeros play a big part in today's match. Realy to realy, yard line to yard line we were all on our scopes watching the targets. Scores went up and some went down, cross-fires, saved round, alibis, personal bests and a few spiders we had it all in this match. After it was all done top places went to Daniel Atkins 490-19, Amanda Elsenboss 482-16, Kevin Trickett 481-13. Amanda and Kevin are already distinguished so they received 2nd and 3rd place medals. Award points went to Daniel Atkins 8 points, and 6 points each to Chris Hudock 478-11 and Michael Richardson 474-9. First leather by one point went to Jim Clark 473-9.



Top Three Juniors (Brad Palmer, Daniel Atkins, Kevin Trickett, Amanda Elsemboss, Base Commander

The EIC Match was also the last match for the individual match aggregate for the week. The matches included the EIC, Whistler boy, 800 yard match, 600 yard match. The winner and top junior shooter for the Week went to Kevin Trickett of Woburn MA. with a total score for the week of 1944-63. Kevin will be leaving us in September to go to Fort Benning GA to do his basic training. Upon completion he will join the Army Marksmanship Team as one of their newest members, congratulations Kevin.

Second place went to Daniel Atkins (GA) with a score of 1938-57. Third place and top female went to Amanda Elsemboss of (CON). Both Daniel and Amanda will be attending local colleges in September. Amanda in the field of Science and Daniel a future in Medicine.

The afternoon was finished with a demonstration from the Marines on how to shoot the Infantry Team Match. The juniors with 3 teams shot the match with coaches from the Marine Team competing against each other for fun. The top team was Team 352 with Team Captain: SSgt Sandoval, Guillermo USMC, Team Coach: SSgt Benedict, Jason USMC, and team members Daniel Atkins, Daniel Elliott, Steven Head, Michael Richardson, Jessi Trelegan, and Matt Wooden with a team score of 834. The evening was topped off with a pig roast and some of the famous "Atkins" Lemonade. Donated prizes were handed out to all of our competitors, thanks to the generous donations of our supporters.



The week concluded with the handing out of plaques and certificates. Thanks to Bob Hughes and Brad Palmer for another great year and of course the National Guard and the Marines, without them this would not have happened. The main point of the week as pointed out in the closing comments of the week was not how the top juniors shot, but how they interacted with the other shooters during the week helping coach and the emotional support given to the new shooters on the line.

The clinic hopes to double in size next year, information will be available thru the CMP and handouts at the National Matches.