



June 2025

The Cumberland Magazine



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www.cumberlandriflemen.com

Club Rules

Member ID badges must be worn and visible. Guests must be signed in and out. Guest badges must be worn visible and returned when leaving.

Editor...Rob McKenzie

The Cumberland Magazine is published by Cumberland Riflemen, Inc. of Millville, NJ with the consent of the club's executive committee.

The Cumberland Riflemen is a member of National Rifle Association; CMP; ANJRPC

Advertising Rates

Business Card — \$ 45.00	2x— \$ 50.00
1/4 Page — \$ 60.00	2x— \$ 70.00
1/2 Page — \$110.00	2x— \$125.00
Full Page — \$250.00	2x— \$275.00

Greetings from The President's Corner

The busy shooting season has begun at the range. The matches have started to include high power, small bore and pistol matches. These matches are open to all members and none members. You can view our website calendar for dates of matches and times throughout the rest of the year. The high



A controlled burn test on our property was performed this past February. Ground conditions prevented any further burning.

power, small bore, and pistol leagues have also started, and both members and non-members are welcome to attend.

During the upcoming months there are increased NRA certified classes being offered at the range. See dates and contact info on our website.

There are work details set for both weekdays and weekends. Please try and attend these work details. Any member attending will receive a discount in your dues. We have over one thousand members and we only get about 3 members attend the work details, and this is not acceptable. We need member participation at these work details. Our board members put many hours a week to keep this range open but cannot do it alone. We need member participation.

Repairs and additions to the to the 600 yard range are in the works, as well as repairs to the sheds on the ranges. In the past our work details assisted in these repairs, but now we have to pay contractors to do this work due to the lack of participation at our work details.

We are currently monitoring new state legislation regard outdoor range operations. Our members will be advised of the potential changes as they are reviewed.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable shooting season at the range. Please think safety first when at the range.

Jim McGarry
President, CRI

Continued on page 2

Some History and a Tribute

As you enter the range, just beyond the gate, you will see a sign announcing that this is the "Paul Adamowski Range Complex at Cumberland Riflemen". I hope this will explain why.

In the 1980's, the Cumberland Rifleman president was a crusty old, hard not to like, fellow named Fred Brown. Fred was a wonderful steward of the club's resources, but would not spend any money on infrastructure improvements because we didn't own the land. The club had access to the property through a hand shake agreement with the land owner, and this had been the status quo for years. The condition of the ranges had become frightful. Fred finally retired (he was getting old) and Paul Adamowski became our new president. I had known Paul causally due to our shared interest in firearms training. We had often met at a small Salem County shooting club for NRA police combat matches. Upon assuming office, one of the first things Paul did was to institute the new member intake

(that still goes on today) that included an NRA firearm safety class. He also reached out to our local NRA training coordinator (also a club member) and had several of us receive the basic NRA trainer classes. We then moved on to our particular areas of interest (Rifle, shotgun, pistol, reloading) and subsequently offered classes at little or no cost to club members.

Shortly thereafter we heard that the Salem County club had suddenly closed. No one quite knew why. It wasn't long before that facility reopened as a commercial range offering fee-based shooting times for individuals and police departments. Some company had come in and made a sweetheart deal with the club directors and the land was sold out from under the membership.

This set off alarm bells with Paul, as Cumberland was the only 600-yard range in the state (and still is). If there were companies out there ready and willing to turn ranges into commercial operations, our club could easily come into their sights. They wouldn't even have to go through the board, just buy the ground right from the land-owner.

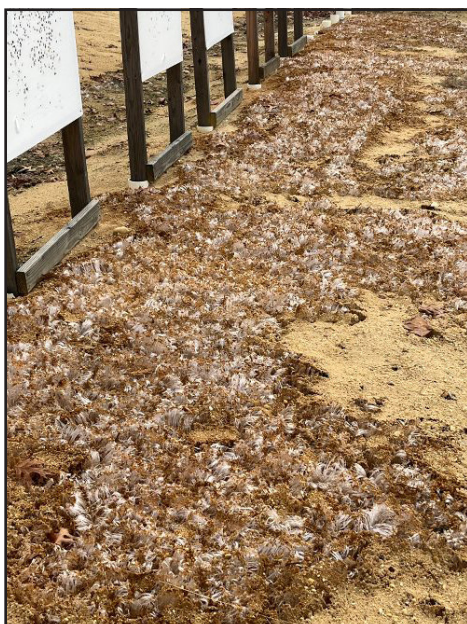
Paul met with the board and, with his urging, it was decided

that the club would seek to buy the property. Negotiations were started and a price was decided on. The owner even agreed to hold the mortgage. The range complex was now ours but the real work had just begun.

All of the ranges needed serious work, most especially the 600-yard line. The pits were a disgrace. The impact hill had eroded, the retaining wall was near collapse, and the base of the impact hill was being held in place with cabled old car tires. Even a little bit of rain would flood the pits, and you had to walk around down there moving from one shipping pallet to another that been placed to keep you out of the muddy water.

Paul, with the approval of the board, contracted for engineering

Continued on page 3



Ice crystals, early in the morning on the 100 yard line.

Pat Gallelli

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Some History and a Tribute

Continued from page 2



studies to rebuild the hill, reestablish concrete retaining walls and, most importantly of all, water control of the pits through permanent pumps and drain tiles. It took a couple of years but the 600-yard range was redone to be one of the best facilities in the northeast. Concrete shooting pads for the 600, 100 and pistol ranges soon followed.

Covers at some shooting points were installed. He was not only was a manager but a hard worker as well. I helped him run the wires for the pits, I watched as he and Bob, our former steward, personally built the shooting benches at 200, 300 and 600. If the electric company had to do some work behind the berm, Paul was there. When club property started getting damaged by nitwits, Paul had security cameras installed. The Tuesday night high power league was started by Paul and the other disciplines soon started leagues of their own.

When we presented that sign to Paul you could see the embarrassment he felt. He never sought the limelight; he just did what he thought needing doing. I am so

very thankful that we were able to show him our affection and respect before that terrible disease took him.

Paul was a dedicated law enforcement officer, a passionate advocate for the shooting sports, a man eager and prepared to help any and all and, I am proud to say, he was my friend!

Rest easy partner, your watch is over.

Art Snellbaker



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The Editor's Pen

Is it time for you to consider reloading your own ammo?

Obviously, many of you already "roll your own" custom ammunition, so I'll carry on with the rest of the choir, but, of course, those who already do can stay with me here.

Basically the reason to load your own boils down to cost savings,

the first place.

We all watched with horror, dismay, and concern as ammunition and component prices surged dramatically during the pandemic, along with the real and perceived threats from our elected officials:



Many a lost cause can even be rehabilitated, in an emergency



...and there's the proof: usable 7.62x39 brass!

getting the best out of that favorite firearm, or simply the interest, knowledge, and enjoyment that comes from the whole process. I guess I reload ammo for those 3 reasons. Cost savings may be most important, but I find the whole process fascinating and rewarding, and that was the reason I started in

local, nationally, and internationally. Panic, hoarding, and allocation to governmental and international buyers caused the stocks to vanish.

Currently, we are seeing a time when shelves are filling up and prices have begun to come down, as manufacturers are pouring out supplies in retail abundance again.

The prices still aren't all that attractive, and I doubt we'll see any substantial decline down the road. So why not start gathering the necessary equipment and components now, and hedge your bets for the future? Sadly, three years from now could be a whole 'nother story. If you have prudently been picking up and saving your own factory brass, you are one step ahead of the rest. Setting yourself up with a good starter kit from any of the major brands is an easy first step, along with a good reference guide from the likes of Hornady or Sierra Bul-

Continued on page 5

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The Editor's Pen

Continued from page 4

lets. **A thorough reading of their reloading process is a MUST.** With that in hand, you can pick out several powders that work well with a

"Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save."

JOHANN GEORG VON ZIMMERMANN

So...why not learn to reload?

variety of recommended bullets for rifle or pistol "recipes", and you're basically ready to go. Many shoot-

ers at the range will surely be happy to give some advice. Of course there's always YouTube and the instructional videos at sites like Brownells. As you progress, you will add numerous tools which will make the reloading process quicker, easier, and more consistent, round to round. Reloading is a safe and enjoyable hobby. Just stay within the manufacturer's guidelines and you will be off into a very rewarding world. You can travel to the range, confident that you have the best, most consistent ammo in your range bag.

I still have the very first round I ever reloaded, tucked away in a small plastic bag fifty years ago on

December 16, 1976: a Sierra 150 gr. Spitzer, in .308 Win. brass, over IMR4895 powder. I reloaded five of them, and the other 4 rounds fell into a 7/8" group at 100 yards, through a Remington 700 BDL, and I was a happy guy!

I hope this might get some of you moving in the reloading direction. **Don't let the next crisis leave you empty handed**, or you may need to scrounge brass that has tire marks on it, while reclaiming bullets from old corrosive WWII ammo !! Although it does work, don't let your situation get to that.

Rob McKenzie
Editor

CMP Rifle Matches

The weather is finally getting better, and our season has begun. Our first across the course match was on April 5th. It was cloudy and a little chilly, but the rain held off so we could get the match finished without getting wet. We had 15 shooters, 6 of which were juniors from Central Jersey Rifle & Pistol Club and two of their coaches.

Our Tuesday night rifle league has also begun, and we have had a few new guys come by to check it out, and hopefully will be joining us every Tuesday! Everyone is welcome to swing by and check it out, who knows, you might catch the bug and become a regular. It's a very good opportunity to learn how to shoot from position and receive training from some of the best

service rifle shooters in the New Jersey.

Our GSV (Garand, Springfield, Vintage) matches began on April 13th. For those of you that do not know, GSV matches are fired using the 3 rifles mentioned, or even AR-15. It's a 35-shot match, including 5 sighters, that is fired from 200 yards on the SR military target. You begin from the prone position and fire your 5 sighters then 10 shots for record in a 15-minute period. Next you shoot a 10 shot rapid prone with a magazine change in an 80 second period. Finally, you shoot 10 shots from the standing position in a 10-minute period. The match is over so quickly that we offer to shoot a second match! It is great fun!


Our across the course matches are typically fired with an AR-15 service rifle or a match rifle. This match is fired at 200, 300, and 600 yards. The match starts at 200 yards with the standing position, you get 2 minutes

for two sighters and 20 minutes for 20 shots for record. Next comes sitting rapid, also at 200 yards. Again, you get 2 minutes for two sighters then you fire 10 shots with a magazine change in a 60 second period. You will do it twice for 20 shots total for record. Next is prone rapid at 300 yards, same as sitting, 2 sighters and 10 shots in 70 seconds, doing it twice. The last is slow prone at 600 yards, 2 minutes for 2 sighters and 20 minutes for 20 shots for record. When you experience this, and begin to improve, you will really know how to shoot!

We also run EIC (Excellence in Competition) matches. While these are similar to the across the course matches, there are no sighter shots, you only shoot 10 shots standing, sitting, and prone rapid, you shoot 20 shots slow prone at 600 yards. Here's where you begin your quest for the coveted Distinguished Rifleman Badge.

We would love you to come out and give some of this a try. It is not as hard as some may think, and it is a blast to do with some of the best people you can meet. Contact me anytime with questions.


Joe Burkel
Rifle Chair
j.burkel@comcast.net



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Pistol Report

The Bullseye League has a strange start this year. I received an interesting phone call from a fellow Cumberland range officer, and he told me he had someone who was looking to get some help with Precision Pistol because she wanted to shoot in "some match" in a couple of months and she had never shot one handed or at 50 yards before. "Some match?" I asked. He couldn't offer any other information and had no idea what match she was actually talking about. And now I'm in my head thinking "Some match" ...Nah, can't be! So, I told him to give her my number so she could call me. "Some match?"

Not long after that, Katie called and informed me that she wanted to shoot the President's 100 this year at Camp Perry. "Yeah, just 'some match.'"" I'm pretty sure my exact words were "Do you start at the top and work your way down with everything you do?" She re-



A view of the hundreds of competitors on the pistol line at Camp Perry, the World Series of shooting.

plied it's just how she does things. She had zero experience standing on a Bullseye line and in 10 weeks she wanted to compete in the world series of pistol shooting standing

shoulder to shoulder with the best shots on the planet. Guess we better get busy!

A few of us have been lucky enough to shoot at Perry over the years and we told her we'd help her in any way we could. Compared to most of us she has only been shooting for a very short time, but she's young and has plenty of time to catch up. We can teach her about scoring, etiquette and equipment. We can tell her about all the little things that only people that have been there would know. But the fact that she has something none of us could teach her is going to go a long way. She has natural ability. Tons of it. She comes across as fearless with an unshakeable drive to be, at the very minimum, the best she can be, if not the best on the line. We're all very excited and we're going to tell her everything we know and send her off to Camp Perry as a well-oiled machine. She comes from two hours north of our range, but we have claimed her. So, when she is on that stage accepting her awards,

Continued on page 8

Pistol Report

Continued from page 7

we'll all know she's one of ours!

So, as this season's Bullseye league begins, we find we have more than one person making early plans for Camp Perry. This puts our expectations at an all-time high and we are looking forward to some intense training. It should prove to be an exciting year.

I'm happy to say that our shooters were not sitting around all year waiting for our league to start. Quite the opposite. We were able to field a team for the NRA National Indoor Sectionals that were held at various locations early this year. I'm happy to report that Ed R, Tim F, Gabe D & Kathy L took home a First place Marksmen team win in the State Association – Civilian Division. Our home run hitter Tim F took home a Silver in the individual Sharp Shooter class. Great job folks!

You made an excellent showing for Cumberland Riflemen. We'd expect nothing less.

As mentioned in many previous articles, this sport requires dedication and a never give up attitude. You can't nonchalantly put a piece of lead into a three inch circle, 50 yards away ... with one hand. Every single squeeze of the trigger requires laser sharp concentration. And, if you can get past the nerves, you must dig deep enough to pull that off 270 times in every kind of weather imaginable. New shooters, no matter how inexperienced, are always welcome and will be coached along at their own pace. Our Bullseye line consists of all skill levels, and we all started somewhere. The league starts at 6:00 PM sharp every Wednesday evening. Bring a friend. We shoot

in a relaxed, no pressure atmosphere, however ... **SAFE FIREARM HANDLING WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AT ALL TIMES.** Here you will learn how to safely handle your pistols at our range even when you are by yourself. We have zero tolerance for the mishandling of firearms.

Remember: IT ISN'T RIGHT IF SOMEONE CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU.

Bob Baker
Range Steward

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Cumberland Riflemen Junior Program 2025 Season

Good day, all, I just wanted to send a reminder for the **Cumberland Riflemen Junior Program** for the 2025 Season.

This is the 13th Season for our Cumberland Riflemen Junior Program and we are up and running at this time. Every year is a little different as far as numbers of kids, as well as whether we have young boys or young girls attending. This season is weighted heavily to young girls.

The only requirement to participate in our Junior Program is that the kids must be 10 years of age or turning 10 soon. The kids do not have to have parents or relatives that are members of the Cumberland Riflemen. Therefore, if you have any kids, grandkids, friends, or neighbors, please see if they might be interested in joining our

little group. We meet just about every other Saturday from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon, at the Cumberland Riflemen Range Complex on Route 49, in Millville, New Jersey. Calendar available on request!

We shoot Savage Mark I's and Mark II's in .22 LR. They are equipped with Bull Barrels and Peep Sights. Cumberland Riflemen supplies the firearm, targets, instruction, and eye and ear protection (if they don't have their own). The course of fire we shoot is the NRA/Winchester Shooting Program. The only competition they have is themselves, to better their scores. Our Juniors will be qualifying for NRA Pins and Certificates as they improve their scores. This is a great learning experience for the kids and a program loved by all parents.

The cost of the program is usually \$25.00 for the season, however because of a benefactor, their cost is covered for 2025.

If you have any questions or would like to join us to actually see what we do, please contact me at:

John Patten
CRI Executive Officer and
Junior Program Administrator
114 Cedar Ave.
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Phone: 609-970-1546
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2025/2026 Annual Membership Fee and Capital Improvement Fund Submission

The last page of this newsletter is a rendering of the Membership Fee and Capital Improvement Fund Submission which you can print, or can also be found on our website (cumberlandriflemen.org). To pay this membership fee please print out a copy, fill it out completely, and mail it to me (John Patten - Address at bottom of invoice) with a check for \$200.00, minus any "work coupons" included.

This fee is due by September 30, 2025 or sooner, and will cover you until September 30, 2026. The new sticker is orange in color and dated 9/30/26. In addition we ask that you send a copy of your NRA Maga-

zine Address to insure your NRA Membership. Please make sure you include your "Gate Swipe Number" for our records. Also, if you are not receiving our CRI E-Mail Blasts, please note that on the invoice and make sure you include your proper E-Mail Address.

Our Membership Fee was increased to \$200.00 over the winter of 2024. The reason for the increase was due to substantial increases in our three Liability Insurance Policies, significant increases to our Real Estate Taxes paid to the three different municipalities that we're located in, and Range Improvements including new concrete

firing lines complete with roofing structures on the Plinking Range, on the new Handgun Range, and a new Pole Barn to store our maintenance equipment in.

Late fees will be assessed for payments after September 30, 2025. If not paid by November 30, 2025, your membership could be voided.

Thanking you,

John Patten
CRI Executive Officer and
Junior Program Administrator
114 Cedar Ave.
Clayton, NJ 08312
Phone: 609-970-1546
Email: songmangler52@gmail.com



Front of Shirt

Short Sleeve Shirt - S / M / L / XL / XXL / XXXL / XXXXL - \$20

Long Sleeve T-Shirt - S / M / L / XL / XXL / XXXL / XXXXL - \$25

Hooded Sweatshirt - S / M / L / XL / XXL / XXXL / XXXXL - \$30

Fitted Hat - S/M or L/XL - \$15

Coffee Mug 15oz. - \$10

Window Decal - \$7

Contact:

Chris Belles 609-741-9523 or belles189@yahoo.com



Back of Shirt





**Annual Membership Fee &
Capital Improvement Fund Submission**

2025/2026 Membership Fee = \$200.00

(includes \$70 per membership fee for capital improvements)

Deadline = September 30, 2025

Deadline = October 31, 2025 = \$210.00

Deadline = November 30, 2025 = \$250.00

Dropped from membership if not paid by 11/30/2025

Please complete the form below and include with your payment.

Make check or money order payable to:

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Include a copy of your current NRA membership card.

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and must complete the intake process again to rejoin, no exceptions.

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