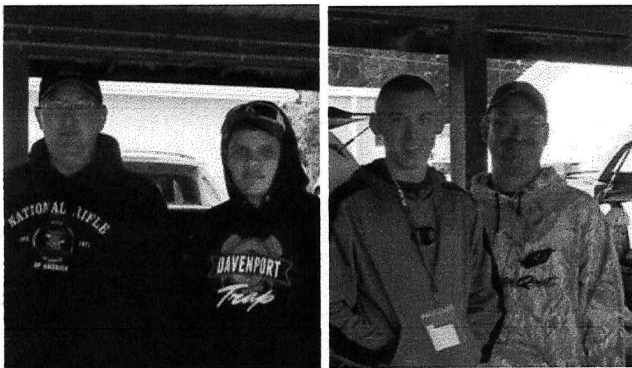
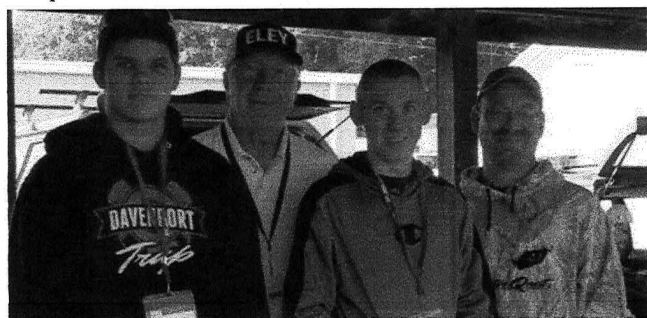


Mentoring Youth in the Sport of Rimfire



Logan Deters with his uncle and mentor Kevin Coss (left), and Dustin Godman with his father and mentor Mike Godman (right), compete in the 2016 ARA nationals.



Ron Elbe assisted in helping get Logan and Dustin ready for the competition.

When Doc Peterson and Ron Elbe started ARA matches at Oak Hills Gun Club in 2010, they knew that they wanted to attract new shooters to ARA, not just hold matches for veteran shooters. So they offered “informal” rimfire benchrest matches simultaneously with ARA matches. They have continued the informal matches and have been very successful in attracting new shooters into ARA. More than fifty new shooters have been exposed to rimfire benchrest through the informal matches, and a dozen of them have become ARA members.

Four of the shooters who began by shooting Oak Hills informal matches are juniors Dustin Godman and Logan Deters, with Dustin’s dad, Mike, and Logan’s uncle, Kevin Coss. Via Oak Hills informal matches, with mentoring by several ARA competitors, they all progressed rapidly and soon transitioned to formal ARA matches. They all shoot ARA at Oak Hills in Blue Grass, Iowa as well as at North Linn Fish & Game in Central City, Iowa.

Logan is a seventeen year old senior at West High School in Davenport, Iowa. Dustin is a sixteen year old junior at North High School in Davenport, Iowa. Both of them love to shoot competitively. Logan has shot on the West High School trap team for three years, where he is a standout. He started shooting Oak Hills informal rimfire benchrest matches with Kevin in 2015. They became ARA members in 2016. This was Logan’s first year at the ARA Nationals. Dustin began shooting Oak Hills informal matches with his dad in 2014. They became ARA members in 2015. Dustin shot at the ARA Nationals in 2015 and 2016. Dustin also enjoys high power rifle and pistol shooting. He shot at Camp Perry in 2014 and 2015. And he has begun to shoot NBRSA centerfire benchrest competitions at Oak Hills. Dustin is a 1st Sergeant in JROTC and plans to make the military his career.

(Article courtesy of Ron Elbe)



Left photo - Gabe Carper from Indiana with his dad John. Gabe has shot ARA for three seasons. He’s shot 229 total targets over that time period in 51 events that included 11 tournaments. He has competed in 4 PSL matches along with 2 national tournaments. He began ARA when he was 8 years old and shot in his first PSL at age 9. He has shot several different rifles in competition including an Old Turbo, a Remington 40X and a Hall. His second love is NERF guns. If Dan and Dawn ever have an event for NERF rifles, he will be the first to sign up. Payton tied for high target 5 with Dustin and Logan.

Second photo from left - Payton Holland from Indiana with her dad Jason. Payton shot her very first ARA match at the 2016 ARA nationals. She had been working on her shooting with her father, Jason Holland, at their local range for a short period of time.

Second photo from right - Malachi McFarland. Mentored by his father Heath Townley, and grandpa Glen Townley, Malachi is from Missouri, and has been shooting rimfire for several years and has competed in many events showing the “old timers” how it’s done! In 2015, he shot a total of 112 targets in Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas and Louisiana.

Far right photo - Maddisyn Reed from Missouri with her dad Jeff. Maddisyn began by shooting .22 rimfire peep site matches a couple years ago because she wanted to spend more time with her dad. Her cousin, Bobby Love, is gunsmith for her dad and Joe Besche. Joe has been teaching her to read wind flags, be patient and not pull the trigger too fast. She is learning from the best and seems to be catching on quickly!

Joe built Maddisyn her very own set of windicators, which he painted pink especially for her!

