

# Attention Dads and Moms

by Fred Lipp

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## Give Your Children an Opportunity

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There is plenty for your children to do at a national shoot in Friendship. In fact, there are so many different shooting events for your youngster that you might not have time for yourself. A lot of the different ranges offer an opportunity for younger shooters.

The age of your child determines his or her age group or status. Any boy or girl who has not reached their 12th birthday may compete as a sub-junior. A sub-junior, in most cases, uses a stationary support for the rifle to rest on. A junior shooter is a person who is between the ages 12 to 15; 16 until their 21st birthday is considered an intermediate.

When I was a young boy and my father would take me shooting, I was thrilled beyond measure. I was so happy, the joy of pulling the trigger and seeing where I hit on the paper target was beyond words. I also felt like I was growing up. The guns that I shot then were modern cartridge guns but, nonetheless, the thrill and excitement was still there.

The matches that I am going to discuss pertain to the regular NMLRA national matches held at Friendship, Indiana. These matches are held every June and September. In July, the NMLRA sponsors a Youth Shoot that is also held at the Walter Cline Range in Friendship.



*Primitive Range shooters proudly show their targets*

The Youth Range and the other ranges offer sub-junior and junior matches that are integrated into their different areas. The areas where rifle matches are held include the Silhouette Range, the Primitive Range, the Off-hand Line, and the Bench Rest Range.

The Quail Walk, Trap Range, and the Skeet Range are all shotgun matches that have junior events. The Quail Walk is the only shotgun range to give a sub-junior an opportunity to participate. Each of these ranges has their own different shooting methods, so check with the range officer to find out what you need to do.

### **The Youth Range**

The Youth Range is a dedicated range just for the younger shooter. This range is located at the far west end of the shooting line. It is surrounded by concrete walls. This is a place where a younger shooter can go and shoot in a non-match environment. The young shooter can shoot at different targets supervised by a certified range officer. The shooter shoots at different metal shapes and distances from a bench sitting on a chair. These young shooters are shooting muzzleloaders and .22 rifles, which are provided by the Association. The Youth Range runs independently from all the other ranges. It is generally open daily from Saturday to Saturday during the June event and during Sep-



*Boy Scouts working hard on another merit badge*



*A Boy Scout takes aim at his target*

tember it is open the first weekend and the second Saturday only.

### **The Silhouette Range**

The silhouette range provides a set of different steel animals for the sub-junior and junior to shoot at. Their special range is located just next to the regular silhouette range on the left side. This special range is dedicated for only smoothbore guns and the youth. The distances are shorter than for the regular matches. These animals are the same size as the regular silhouettes, just the distances are shorter. The crow is at 40 yds., the ground hog is at 60 yds., the buffalo is at 80 yds.,

the turkey is at 100 yds., and the bear is at 120 yds. There are also swinging animal targets of the same size and distances that can be shot at.

The difference between the sub-junior and the junior is the sub-junior shoots off of a cross stick (which the Association provides) while the junior shooter shoots offhand. The relay runs simultaneous with the regular silhouette matches but, with one difference. After the relay begins, the younger shooter has the entire 45 minutes to shoot all 20 targets, the shooter is not in a timed interval.

A sub-junior has to have an adult coach who can help the young



*Silhouette Range shooter*

shooter do everything except hold and fire the gun. A junior shooter must also have an adult coach but, he or she generally does everything by themselves. At this age the junior shooter can do everything and does not generally need any help. Match #314 is for the sub-junior and Match #313 is for the junior shooter.

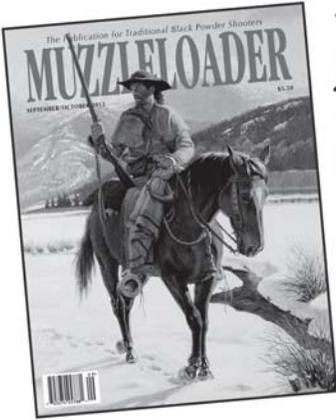
### **The Primitive Range**

The Primitive Range also offers the opportunity for the youngster to shoot their own muzzleloader. Some of these young shooters have their own small junior sized gun, but others use their parent's full sized gun.

There are three events on the Primitive side that cater to the sub-junior shooter; they are the Jeff Lipp Memorial, a re-entry Sub-junior match, and the Sub-junior Mountain Match. It does not matter whether the shooter

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*Junior shooter*



*Youngster shooting on a block*

has a flintlock or a percussion ignition gun.

The Jeff Lipp Memorial, Match #617, is shot the first Saturday of the shoot at 4:00 p.m.. The shooting takes place behind the block house and an adult coach can help the shooter load the gun off of the loading benches that are provided. The target is a 100 yd. paper target shot at about 20 yds. The youngster shoots from a standing block of wood that is used to support the forearm of the gun. A block is also available if the young shooter is a little "short in the pants." This match is open to everyone, not just primitive folks. Period clothing is not needed for this sub-junior match.

The Sub-Junior Match, #656, is held all week long behind the block house. It is similar to the Jeff Lipp Memorial as far as the procedure goes. The young boy or girl gets to shoot an elk target. The sub-junior still needs a coach and the young shooter shoots during the regular relay.

The Sub-Junior Mountain Man or Squaw does require period clothing. It is shot only during the first weekend. This match differs from all the others. The youngster not only shoots at targets but, the competitor has to also build a fire and throw a tomahawk. This is Match #656.

There are more events for the junior shooter on the Primitive Range. They include the Junior Valley Aggregate, the Junior Rifle Match, and



*Young shooter on the primitive range*

the Junior Rifle Silhouette. The junior shooter needs to be in period clothes and it does not matter what ignition type they have.

The Junior Valley Aggregate is a combination of the three matches; the Junior Mountain Man, #620, the Junior Open Seneca, #621, and the Junior Ferdu-Lac, #628.

The Junior Rifle Match, #639 and #640, are reentry matches. They shoot at a buffalo target at 40 yds. on the Free Trappers Range.

The last match that is offered on the Primitive Range is Junior Rifle Silhouette Match #659. The contestant shoots at five animal targets going up a hill.

There is a five minute time limit and, the time it takes to shoot the match is the tie breaker.

#### **The Offhand Line**

I am sure everyone is familiar with the Offhand Line and the Bench Rest Matches. There are events for both the sub-junior and the junior to participate in. There is the Sub-Junior Aggregate NN, which consists of three different non-reentry matches. There are two 25 yd. targets, Matches #76 and #77, and a bench rest target at 50 yds.

The Junior Rifle Aggregate G has only two matches in the aggregate,

# NMLRA Inline Hunter Muzzleloading Match

*Walter Cline Range, Friendship, Indiana*

## May 3, 2014

*Range opens for practice at 7am*

*Shooter meeting 9:30am • Match starts at 10 am*

Registration Fee: \$25

**Contact: Bob Wetzler 1-812-689-6629, rbtrwtzlr@aol.com  
or Dan Thomas 1-812-212-0954, jdth1000@yahoo.com**



The smile on the face of this youngster face – priceless

Matches #82 and #211. Other Bench Rest matches include #210 and #212.

### The Quail Walk

For the young shotgun shooter, the Quail Walk is the only place a sub-junior can shoot, Match #22. The juniors can also break clay pigeons at the Quail Walk. The boys match is #12 and the girls is Match #21. The Trap and Skeet Ranges only offer matches for the junior shooter. At the Trap Range, Match #210 and at the Skeet Range Match #9 are available to participate in.

I hope that you will take the time to give your youngster an opportunity to participate in one or more of the above listed events. You will make your youngster real happy and you will be happy that you did. So, “go ahead and make their day.” **MB**

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