



Custer Sportsmen's Club

3000 Birch Bay- Lynden Rd

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www.custersportsmensclub.com

Dec 17th, 2016

Merry Christmas to all:

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's that time of the year where we give thanks and share the holiday season with family and friends. It's also time to remind everyone to renew your membership, again this year you can renew your membership on line, I think you'll find it easy and a time saver, you should be able to just click on the link below and it will take you to our secure web site, if that doesn't work you can copy and paste to your web browser.

<https://www.custersportsmensclub.com/about-us/membership-renewals/>

This year we held the first annual USPSA Washington State Championship in Sept, and it goes without saying that the 164 competitors made this a huge success, some coming as far away as Paraguay. This could not have happened without the leadership of Chris Nevins and Chaun Westrich, their hard work and dedication with the support from many club members, we generated \$13,000.00 in revenue plus \$10,000.00 in donated prizes.

Another great year for our Toys for Tots program, thanks to Matt Pridachuk and the gang at Custer our Toys for Tots program raised \$17,000.00. Matt started this annual 3-gun match and fund raiser in 2011, and since then Matt and the membership at Custer have donated \$58,800.00, thanks Matt.

76 shooters from around the state arrived at Custer this past August to take part in the second annual Pacific Northwest Speed Steel championship thanks to Ron Elliot and 17 volunteers for doing such a great job.

In closing I'd like to remind everyone of our annual Board meeting Jan 12th, 2017 at 7pm, the meeting will be held at the club's facilities located at 3000 Birch Bay-Lynden Rd. Remember you must have your 2017 membership paid up prior to Jan 10th, to be able to attend and vote at the annual meeting, all members are welcome.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Rick Naslund
President Custer Sportsmen's Club

Robin Taylor
Taylor Freelance, LLC

Team Gotta victorious in 2016!

Custer's own youth pistol team -- Team Gotta -- shot its way to victory in 2016. Where last year all eyes were on Team Gotta's high school team, this year the Middle School team held the spotlight, shooting a "perfect season" in the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP).

A brace of 8th graders -- N. McKay, Z. Coffey, T. Dunn, J. Lundy, and M. McGary -- won gold at their State, Regional, and National championships in Rimfire division -- with N. McKay emerging as High Lady in her age group at all three matches.

Meanwhile, Team Gotta's high school team rebuilt itself. Losing three of its top marksmen to graduation left the team without enough shooters, so the High School group had to sit out the Regional championship. However, once Windward High's P. Greguski came on the scene, the team rapidly re-asserted itself. J. Overstreet (captain), B. Byrd, P. Greguski, and Z. Swartwood shot their way onto the medal platform at Washington state, and secured the bronze medal at the SASP National Championships in Morengo, Ohio. Although he'd only shot for a matter of months, Greguski posted scores high enough to qualify for "All Scholastic" honors -- SASP's equivalent to "All-American."

SURPRISE VICTORY: While at the nationals, the Middle and High School teams cobbled together enough volunteers to field an ad-hoc rifle team. The group had never practiced with rifle, so their expectations were low. The plan was to gain experience shooting the dull-sounding steel used at the nationals before shooting "for real" with their pistols. Under the direction of their basic skills coach Gerald Rutgers, Custer's volunteer shooters shocked the division, defeating many other teams to win the "Open Optic Rifle" gold!

"We started the first stage with three rifles for four shooters," says an amazed Head Coach Robin Taylor. "By the end of the first stage we were down to one working rifle -- Gerald Rutgers' personal 10/22."

The team came home with two National Golds and a Bronze, having re-established itself as one of the top youth teams in the country.

The team is off to a great start for 2016/2017, with roughly a dozen shooters competing actively -- including two from WWU.

Coaches Robin Taylor and Jim Coffey have a Level One pistol coach school planned for December, training up coaches from Spokane, Vancouver, B.C., and the local area -- including many team parents who have thrown their hats in the ring to support the future of the team.

Thanks to a very successful fundraising banquet led by Jessica Overstreet, Ron Dunn, and various super-parents (more than \$16,000 raised!) the team will send two teams plus a back-up shooter, two coaches, and a female chaperone all to the Western Regional in Texas in February.

If your family wants to see what the team is about, drop by the indoor range from 5:30 to 7:00 on a Tuesday (they shoot indoors in Winter), or visit with them during the monthly Speed Steel match on the third weekend on the month. For details, contact Robin Taylor (360-391-1551) or Jim Coffey (425-308-9355).