



FEBRUARY 2016

The MAC Smallbore Shooter of the Month



The MAC Smallbore Shooter of the Month is Gary Pepper of Penn State University.

Gary Pepper, a graduate of Penridge High School and currently a freshman on the Penn State University Rifle team, is majoring in mechanical engineering and holds a 3.54 cumulative GPA.

This academic year has been Gary's first ever experience with competitive rifle shooting. However, he diligently attended as many practices as his schedule would permit during the fall and early spring semesters learning from his veteran teammates and honing his skills. Gary's first record match was a respectable 410 at Penn State on December 5th against Yale, Canisius and Penn State ROTC. Gary proved it was no fluke when he posted another 410 at the Palmyra Invitational on January 24th. Then, after only two weeks of disciplined practice, Gary shattered his previous 410's with a score of 480 at the 2016 MIT Beanpot on February 6th. This score at the Beanpot exceeded the NRA qualifier score of 450. As a result Gary will be traveling with the Penn State team to Fort Benning, Georgia to compete in the NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championships.

Gary is a resident of Perkasio, PA and enjoys other pursuits such as being an amateur radio operator, archery, computers and video game design.



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The MAC Air Rifle Shooter of the Month



The MAC Air Rifle Shooter of the Month is Sarah Wright of MIT.

Sarah Wright, from Christchurch New Zealand, is a graduating senior and four-year member of the MIT Varsity Rifle Team. She was valedictorian of her high school, St Andrews College. During high school she was a member and student head of her high school rifle team which competed exclusively in prone. Her high school shooting career ended abruptly following a 6.2 magnitude earthquake in 2011 that destroyed most of the local rifle ranges.

Sarah returned to the shooting when she arrived at MIT in the fall of 2012. She made a strong first impression and immediately bonded with her fellow teammates. Having never shot standing or kneeling, she worked with the more veteran shooters and quickly made the transition into a 3-position and air rifle shooter. Sarah finished her first season by making the MAC All-Rookie team and finishing 10th at the MAC Championships. During her remaining three years of NCAA eligibility she won three consecutive MAC Championship titles in the individual 3-position event from 2013-2016. She also added a MAC individual air rifle championship title to her list of MAC accolades this past season. Sarah currently holds both the school small-bore and air rifle record. She also has led the team to numerous school records over the last 3 years. One of her greatest accomplishments this past season was establishing herself as an air rifle shooter when she shot a 590 at the NCAA Qualifier in air rifle and was named second alternate for the 2016 NCAA Championships. Sarah has been voted Team MVP and captain for the last three years by her peers. Sarah Wright leaves her NCAA shooting career as MIT's most decorated shooter!

Off the range Sarah keeps a very busy schedule. She is a candidate for a Bachelor of Science degree and will graduate this spring. Last fall she started working on her masters in biological engineering and will graduate with her masters next spring. Sarah

worked in both the Admissions Office and the Rotch Library during her 4 years at MIT. She is also a member of Alpha Chi Omega, where she serves on several committees working on everything from organizing the semiformal to philanthropic events that have raised thousands of dollars. Sarah became a founding member and treasurer of MIT ANZUK (Aus, NZ and UK Student's Association). This past summer she worked in Singapore as an undergraduate research fellow with the infectious diseases group designing and constructing plasmids for novel anti-influenza antibodies with increased cross protection and spent time troubleshooting recurring issues with bacterial transformation. If that weren't enough, in her spare time Sarah enjoys trying new things such as hiking, traveling, bicycling, reading and baking.