



Advanced Junior Rifle Report - February 2026

First we have to thank all the club members and beyond who purchased raffle tickets from us. We were fortunate this year to be able to raffle off two M1's. The first back at Christmas time went to Mr. John Whittaker, whose son was a former MA junior shooter. The second M1 in .308 that we raffled off on Valentine's day went to Reading's own Scotty McCarthy.



The team was able to purchase ammo, upgrade our software, paint our targets, upgrade our air rifle and purchase much needed supplies and pay for team and postal matches. We could not do all of this without the support of the members of Reading Rifle and Revolver Club.

I know it is hard to believe that the team has been doing more than just selling raffle tickets. I promise to hold off for a while, maybe 😊.

The team hit the season with a bang. We have grown from a team of 6 to a team of 14. This is really exciting and we hope it keeps on growing.

We started back to practice at the end of September with a few weeks off after getting back from Nationals in Ohio. Our competition season started by hosting The Ohio State University vs Norwich University vs Our local



Juniors. The match was both air rifle and small-bore, so we had both ranges running at the same time. The club house was crazy all day with 4 full relays of both Collegiate and junior shooters. We had juniors participate from MA, NH, VT, RI, ME and CT. Although the juniors did not win over Ohio State as a team one of our juniors from NY Princy Solis was the top shooter in the air rifle event with a score of 594 with 42 x's. Overall it was a great experience to shoot side by side with the collegiate teams at our home range. One of our former juniors Andrew Duross who shoots for Ohio State was finally able to shoot in the new air range. When he was a junior it was still in the planning stages. He shot one of his highest air scores while at this match, must have been the old home range good vibes.



We did not waste much time and went back to back with matches hosting the Baystate Games Air rifle Match. This year we combined the standing air match with a 3p air match that was well received and were able to hand out lots and lots of medals. We had fun with team names this year. In the 3p team matches, gold went to Readings Team George, Silver to Readings Team Tom Brady and the Bronze to Readings Team Drake May. Teams for the 60 shot standing, Gold went to Readings Team Drake Maye, Silver to Readings Tom Brady and Bronze to Taunton's Team Topgun. We hope to hand out more medals in the summer when we will host the Baystate summer games outdoors in small-bore.



What do you do when you have a free Saturday? Why of course you run a level 1 coaches class in the air range. 12 new coaches graduated after two long days of instruction and hands-on demonstrations. To enhance what the coaches had been taught we had some of the older scouts come in and take a quick beginner course in rifle safety and how to shoot air rifle. The coaches worked in groups teaching the basic instructions of using and shooting an air rifle while benching and shooting at a target 10 meters away. The scouts were thrilled and left excited about what they had just learned, or it may have been the reading hat they all received when they finished. The coaches felt they had learned so much and could not wait to go back to their clubs and start. Great way to spend the weekend opening the eyes in marksmanship to both the young and adults.

Jumping straight into December Reading Rifle was selected to be one of the remote sites to host the Gary Anderson Invitational 3p air match. We were one of

7 selected to host this prestigious match in honor of the Olympic Gold Medalist. The match is usually just held in Ohio at the CMP Air range. Allowing host sites



participation greatly increased the number of juniors who were able to participate in this event. We had close to 40 shooters participate in this event. The event also included for each relay a shootoff of the top 8 shooters. The shootoff was a new experience for many of the junior shooters. Reading's Junior Julia Wang came out on top for the gold with the top score of 588 and proceeded to take it all in the final.



Ending the year on the road several of the juniors traveled out to the sunny and freezing shores of Camp Perry in Ohio for the USA Shooting Winter Air Event that consisted of three days of shooting and a final. The juniors held their own against Olympians, Collegiate shooters and Marksmen from the AMU. Several personal bests were achieved.

A very short break over Christmas and New Years we were back to it again. Traveling back out to Camp Perry for the 3p junior match and

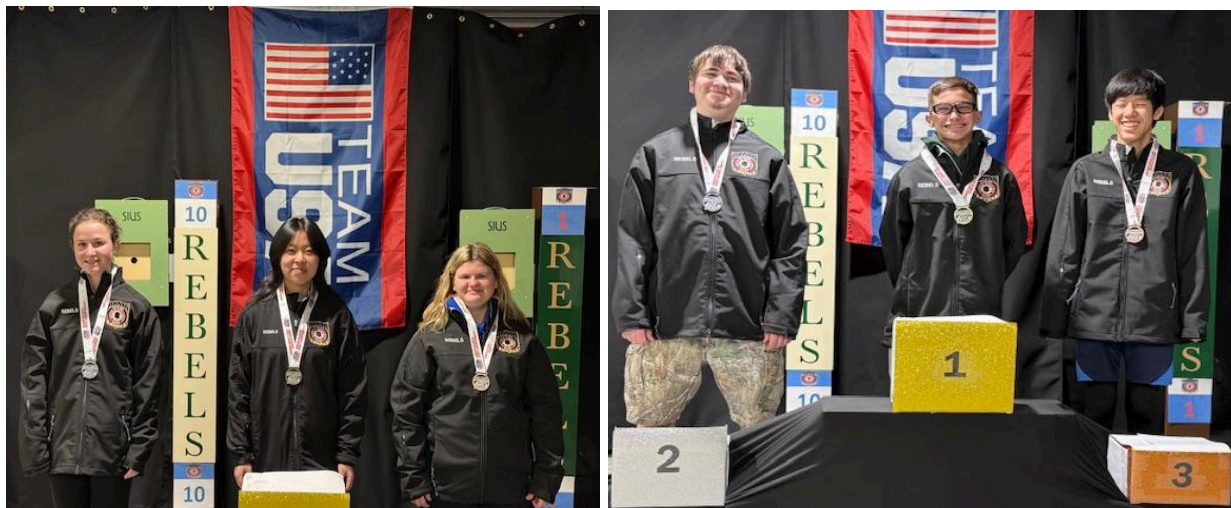
60 shot standing competition. The team brought out 9 shooters one was our new Para (disabled) shooter Dorian, this would be her first travel competition. Both 4 person teams placed just out of medal reach in the 3p event. But all excelled in the 60 shot 2 day event and shootoff. All 9 had personal bests and Julia Wang missed the shoot off by one slot.



Next time they are determined to take the top three places on the podium and make the shootoff. We were very proud of all the shooters and how they worked as a team.

Back home due to the snow storm that took over the area, we had to cancel our trip down to Palmyra PA and participate in their air rifle and small-bore events. But safety is more important.

We started February with a bang, hosting the Air Rifle Junior Olympics on Saturday the 7th and Hosting Akron University and M.I.T vs juniors on Sunday the 8th. Talk about two crazy days and then throw the Superbowl on top of it all.



We had 4 full relays for the JORC Air rifle qualifier. Reading's Julia Wang was the State winner with a score of 589 and not only received the gold medal but will receive an automatic invite to the final selection match of the Junior Olympics in April at the CMP Air range in Alabama. Team mates for the women's medals: Silver went to Phoebe Fergie (577) and Bronze to Amelia Daniels (574). In the Men's medal category Gold went to Reading's Neico Marino (569) and to team mates Jack Daniels (565) Silver and Bronze to LIngyun Xu-Sun (563). A nice clean sweep for Reading.

Sunday was a madhouse with both ranges running and a foot of snow outside. A big Thank you out to Scotty who came that night and cleared most of the snow away allowing the big coach bus and van access so the Collegiate teams and juniors could park.

We were on our way right at 8am with the first shot down range and continued with 4 relays of air rifle and small-bore until 4pm. Akron University was very impressed by our facilities and hopes to return again next year. Akron won over MIT but it was a good fight. The juniors held their own falling in between the cores put up by Akron and MIT. Such a great experience for them and also a great chance for coaches to see them. Overall it was a long cold, snowy, exhausting



competitive two days for everyone. But the junior showed how tough and strong they really are and are always up to a challenge.

Next was the Superbowl - OK we won't talk about that.....on to the next event.



The following weekend we could not just take off or sit around, so what do we do..Host the Junior Olympic Smallbore Qualifier. 4 full relays of juniors hoping to qualify and get an invite to the final event in April that will be held at the CMP facilities in Talladega. The finals will be held outdoors. The qualifier event was at 50' with the top score of 581 by Jack Daniels who was the state winner and shot an automatic qualifying score and will receive an automatic invite to the finals. Other medals for the Men's went to Readings Lingyun Xu-Sun (Silver) and team mate Neico Marino (Bronze). In the Women's Medals Phoebe Forgue of Reading took the gold with a 572, team mate Julia Wang took the Silver by an x from Ella Lee.

Now with the qualifiers over and the scores submitted we wait to see who will be invited to the finals. Invites should be coming out next week.



The team also qualified for Regionals in Ohio in April. We submitted 3 teams and all three teams made it to the final rounds. So we are far from over yet.

We have a short break before our next competitions and travel, but we will keep everyone posted.



Thank you again for all your support and encouragement of the junior programs at Reading Rifle.

Just a reminder if anyone wants to make a donation to our team a great way is to make a donation to our team account with The Midway Foundation. Our account number is R4242



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Fundraising:

Midway Foundation is another way for club members to donate to the team. Our Advanced Rifle team has a MidwayUSA Foundation Team Endowment, and every donation we receive for that endowment is matched!

You can donate right to our team through their website, and 100% of your donation benefits our team and will be matched 1 to 1 from Midway. Spread the word that the MidwayUSA Foundation will match donations! Donations are tax deductible. Link directly to our endowment page:

<https://www.midwayusafoundation.org/team-profile/?id=R4243>