

Joe Graf Enters the 1600/3200 Clubs
by
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The National Rifle Association 1600 and 3200 Clubs are open to anyone who has fired a score of 1600X1600 or 3200X3200 with either metallic, any, or a combination of sights in a Registered NRA outdoor Smallbore Rifle Tournament in which the course of fire is 40 record shots at 50 yards, 50 meters, 100 yards and a Dewar Course.

Dave Carlson, the 1940 national champion, was the first to go clean for 160 shots in 1941. World War II put a stop to most recreational rifle shooting and it would not be until 1945 that competition resumed. In the ensuing two years 28 others joined him and, to this date, some 547 have been admitted to membership.

Bill Krilling notched the first 3200, using both metallic and any sights, at the 1965 Silver Dollar Round Up in Winter Haven, Florida with a 3200-257X. Krilling's fellow shooters celebrated his hot shooting by tossing him into the waters of a local lake to cool him off.

It takes skill, an accurate rifle, good ammunition, and just a touch of luck to shoot a perfect score. That was the trifecta that Joe Graf, President of the Rhode Island Revolver and Rifle Association, put together on the third day the Mid Atlantic 6400 Prone Rifle Championship. He shot a 1600-137X with telescopic sights at the Palmyra Pennsylvania Sportsman's Club and gained membership in the 1600 Club. Joe came back the following day to post a near identical 1600-130X giving him a 3200-267X aggregate and membership in 3200 Club.

Joe becomes the third Ocean State rifleman to register a 1600 and the first to post a 3200. He is the 90th person to do so since the honorary club began in 1965. George 'Spike' Hadley cleaned the 160 shots course of fire in 1967 while a member of the US Air Force Rifle Team. More than four decades, 41 years to be exact, would pass until another Rhode Island Rifleman, Hap Rocketto, posted a 1600 at the 2008 Fall Foliage Match at Hopkinton, Massachusetts.