

# The CMP Western Games – October 2013

Ben Avery Shooting Range, Phoenix, Arizona

The CMP Western Games were held at Ben Avery Range from October 11 to October 15, 2013. The program started with a Small Arms Firing School with issued AR 15 rifles and ammunition. Other events included an M1 Garand Match, a Springfield Match, a Vintage Rifle Match, a Modern Service Rifle Match, an M1 Carbine Match, a .22 rimfire Sporter Match, and a Vintage Sniper Rifle Match.

The Gopher Flats Sportsmen's Club "big bore" range was utilized to provide CMP format matches in preparation for the Games. With six matches this year, our event prep was enhanced by other Southern California Ranges that run a full program. In September, four CMP rules matches were held to hone each competitor's edge.

A total of 28 competitors from Southern California made the trip to Ben Avery. Several were new to High Power but took the step to compete at a major regional event. As a volunteer pit officer, I was unable to observe the firing line, but I did observe the results as over 20,000 rounds of ammunition went downrange. Each day ended with an awards ceremony with medal presentations by Gary Anderson and Dick Whiting.

The California contingent earned 18 Gold Medals, 13 Silver, and 26 Bronze. Total count, 57. We also had the top shooter in the Small Arms Firing School (no medals awarded). In addition, two competitors completed the CMP Master Instructor Course and are now certified. Congratulations to George Gaskill and Nelson Green for adding another card to their stacks. I would venture to say that the effort was worthwhile. Several of the first time participants medalled and will be back for more next year.

This event is a great way to learn more about High Power Rifle Competition. The CMP hosts a number of clinics throughout the event, and new shooters are encouraged and coached through the rough spots. I am looking forward to next year's event and an even larger turnout. Till then, hold center and squeeze...

– Tom Temple