



Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association, Inc.  
320 CR6350, P.O. Box 2715, St. Johns, Arizona 85936

Issue 2014021

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## Letter from the VP:

Hello shooters!

We're still working on getting the fence issues ironed out. We made some progress, but just a little.

The gun show is coming up soon. I'm trying to get everything put together for it. It's April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars!

I'm also looking for volunteers to help with security for the gun show. I'll be calling some of the 'regulars', but I'll need a few new people to help.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, or would like to provide content, please e-mail me at [bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com](mailto:bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com).

Sincerely,

Bowen Udall  
Vice President  
Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association, Inc.

## Upcoming Shoots and Events:

- The **April Gun Show** will be held **April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>** at the Apache County Fairgrounds in St. Johns. Vendor registration will be opening the first part of next month. If you want a registration packet, you can e-mail me at [bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com](mailto:bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com) with your mailing address, or I'll provide a link to a PDF version of the registration form in next month's NASA News. There is a discount for early registration.

## Continuous Shoots and Events:

- The **NASA Members meeting** is held on the fourth Friday of every month, 6:30pm at the St. Johns public library. The next one will be **February 28<sup>th</sup>**. This meeting is primarily for the members to have their voices heard by the board. Members are strongly encouraged to come participate in the Members meeting.
- The **Scholastic Clays Target Program** is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month at 10:00am on the Shotgun Range. The next one will be **March 1<sup>st</sup>** at 10:00am. This program is funded by the Arizona Game and Fish, and is free for the youth. [Sign-up forms can be found here](#). General information about the SCTP can be found on [the Game and Fish SCTP page](#). Contact Bowen Udall at [bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com](mailto:bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com) for more information. Our Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/leadingedgeshooters](http://www.facebook.com/leadingedgeshooters)
- The **Board of Directors meeting** is held on the second Friday of every month, 6:30pm at the St. Johns public library. The next one will be **March 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- The **Scholastic Clays Target Program** is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month at 10:00am on the Shotgun Range. The next one will be **March 15<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00am. This program is funded by the Arizona Game and Fish, and is free for the youth. [Sign-up forms can be found here](#). General information about the SCTP can be found on [the Game and Fish SCTP page](#). Contact Bowen Udall at [bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com](mailto:bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com) for more information. Our Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/leadingedgeshooters](http://www.facebook.com/leadingedgeshooters)
- ARCHERY AND OPEN - THIRD WEEKEND 9AM THIRD WEEK END ARCHERY AND OPEN DON BORG 928-337-4387--928-245-0222 PLEASE RSVP

## Range News:

We had a meeting with Barry Weller (District III Supervisor), Delwin Wengert (County Manager), and Ferrin Crosby (County Engineer). The meeting went very well. Mr. Weller wanted to make sure the County fulfilled promises made back when the land

swap was made. Even though it had been omitted from the contract, Mr. Weller felt the County should build the fence. Mr. Wengert is going to get a cost estimation together, and wanted to take it to the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The County Attorney was unable to review the information in time, so it won't be on the 4<sup>th</sup>'s agenda. We're hoping it will make it on the 18<sup>th</sup>'s agenda. Since it wasn't in the contract, the Board is required to approve the time they will spend on the fence. When I get a confirmation of the date, I'll e-mail everyone.

We aren't in the clear yet, but it is looking up. If you see Mr. Weller or Mr. Wengert, be sure to tell them you're glad they are working towards getting the fence done.

## **Bowen's Stupid Tips:**

Since nobody offered to help with content in the NASA News, you're going to have to listen to some of the 'duh' moments I've encountered. I'll try to keep them 'sportsman' related, but there are times that I might slip in a computer reference, car reference, or even a plumbing reference depending on how poorly my week has been going. I'm really hoping some of you will decide to jump on the band-wagon and start helping me out with content...

So I've been having some issues with my AR-15. Factory rounds ran fine, but reloads would stick about 30% of the time. They either wouldn't feed far enough to get the bolt closed, or they wouldn't eject. In either case, it was generally tough to get the round/case back out of the chamber. Not something you would like from an AR...

It was driving me batty! I own not only a caliper, but I own some micrometers as well. I measured hundreds of cases, comparing factory rounds vs. ones that worked fine vs. ones that stuck before firing vs. ones that stuck after firing vs. SAAMI specs. Every single one of them were well within SAAMI specs. To further my confusion, I would try the ones that wouldn't chamber in the AR in both of my .223 bolt rifles. In both bolt guns, they chambered without problem, fired and ejected without problem. I even went as far as buying a second sizing die from a different manufacturer because I thought the one I had must not be sizing them down small enough. That didn't work either.

Finally, I took my AR upper and bolt carrier group to my reloading bench. I was going to try to chamber the brass after every step. I started with an un-sized, clean piece of brass... it chambered fine. Second, I sized and cleaned the piece of brass, it chambered fine. I put the primer, powder and seated a bullet, it chambered fine. I put a crimp on, it chambered fine. Now only about 30% were failing, so it didn't surprise me that I got a 'good' one. In fact, I did about five of them before I got one that didn't chamber fine. It all went smoothly until I crimped the bullet and tried to chamber it. The bolt would not close completely, and the round became stuck. I had finally narrowed it down to something wrong with the crimp process, but what? Why would the crimp suddenly make a round that was well within SAAMI specs no longer chamber in my AR, but function fine in both bolt guns? THAT is the \$64,000 question...

I had to analyze exactly what happens during the crimp process. How does the crimp die function? What are the forces applied to it in relation to the case? What could it change so much that it suddenly was too large for my AR's chamber? Did it have something to do with the way the AR functions? As I was pondering the possibilities, I remembered why I set the normal seating/crimping die to only seat, and then use a separate crimping die in the first place.

It all goes back to the very first gun I ever reloaded for, and still reload for... a Savage 23D 22 Hornet made in the late 30's. I had a heck of a time when I would crimp the bullet in place on that thing. The case walls were so thin, that you almost had to adjust the seater/crimper for each and every round. If you didn't, the super-thin neck would buckle... like this:



So, I came to the conclusion that the crimping process was slightly bulging the necks on some of the .223 rounds. What I didn't know was why it was doing it to some, and not others, and why it was ok in the bolt guns.

So the first problem, why some and not others? It came down to my case prep procedures. When determining case length, I would set my micrometer to the maximum case length according to SAAMI, take each sized case and see if it would fit. If it didn't, it went in the 'trim' pile. If it did, it went in the 'reload' pile. This meant that I was loading cases that had up to a .010" difference in length. Not a lot when you think about it, but when the crimp is set up to crimp a case measuring 1.750", and it's fed a case measuring 1.760" (still within SAAMI specs), it's going to bulge the case neck a touch. After all, it's cramming a 1.760" case in the space of a 1.750" case.

So I had figured out the reason that some worked and some didn't. Yes, they were within SAAMI specs, but they were not all identical. The tolerances I was accepting were acceptable for the bolt guns, but not acceptable for the AR. Why? My first thought was that the AR must have a tighter chamber. It didn't make much sense to me, because bolt guns are built for accuracy, and ARs are supposed to be for speed and reliability. Logic would follow that bolt guns would lean towards the 'tight' end of the specs, and the AR would lean towards the 'sloppy' end of the specs, right? Not so. I measured a sampling of spent brass from my bolt guns and from my AR. It turns out that the chamber in my AR is tighter than the bolt guns! If the neck bulged slightly, it was still within SAAMI specs, but NOT within the size of my AR chamber.

So on to the tip... **SAAMI and reloading manuals don't know your gun's specifics...** Even though there is an acceptable range, it does not mean it should be your acceptable

range. All the reloading books I have set the .223 length between 1.750" and 1.760", a .010" variance. My AR does not like the range. I have lowered my range to have a .005" variance, and my AR has been happier. If I run into the problem again, I'll lower it more.

## NASA Politics:

- **Board of Directors meeting** – The Board of Directors meets twice a month. First at the Board of Directors meeting on the second Friday of the month at 6:30pm at the St. Johns Library, second at the Members Meeting. The Board of Directors is responsible for making decisions for the club and take into consideration suggestions and opinions from members. Come to the meetings and participate.
- **Members meeting** – On the fourth Friday of the Month, the Board of Directors meets to hear from the members. The directors use members suggestions to help guide the club in the direction it needs to go.
- **Bylaws** – [NASA's bylaws can be found here.](#)
- **Your Board of Directors:**
  - **President:** Don Borg
    - - Home: 928-337-4387
    - - Cell: 928-245-0222 (no texts)
    - - eMail: [donborg@frontiernet.net](mailto:donborg@frontiernet.net)
  - **Vice President:** Bowen Udall
    - – 928-245-3666
    - – email at [bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com](mailto:bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com)
  - **Treasurer:** Ben File
  - **Secretary:** Pat Hall
  - **Board members:**
    - Wiley Barnes
    - Katrina Watkins
    - René Greene.

## NASA Website/Facebook/Twitter:

- We have been striving to keep our website up to date with current information. The main page has a listing of shoots and events coming up. There is also a "contact us" page, a Google calendar of events, documents to download, and information about NASA. The address is <http://www.nasashootingsports.com>.
- If you are on Facebook, liking our Facebook page will give you updates right on your wall feed. Our Face book page is the one that gets updated most often, so it's a good one to follow. The page is at <http://www.facebook.com/NASASports>.
- Our Twitter feed is occasionally updated, but will be the way we disseminate information during shoots, events, and the gun show. We'll tweet who wins in categories, tweet when categories are about to start, and tweet other various information. The Twitter page is <http://www.twitter.com/NASASports>.

## About NASA:

Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association, Inc. was created in 1998 and incorporated in 2006. NASA's goal is to promote safe firearm usage for children and adults alike. NASA is a non-profit corporation that is run by an elected board of directors. Everyone who works for NASA does so on a volunteer basis.

## About NASA News:

NASA News is an experiment created by Bowen Udall, the NASA Vice President, in hopes of raising the communication level in the club. He wanted to make sure that all members of NASA knew about what was happening with the club, and know about all the events planned. If you have ideas for the newsletter, or complaints, or want to add or remove your name from the NASA News mailing list, or especially if you want to help, e-mail him at [bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com](mailto:bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com). Forward this e-mail to a friend that might be interested. You can get back issues of NASA News, as well as a PDF version of the current issue from our webpage: <http://nasashootingsports.com/about-us--files.html>

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