Saturday 14th was the Colorado Friends of NRA dinner. We had eight club members attend. I would like to thank Chuck Wingfield, Bob Covington, Ron Ragazzi, Shannon Richter, Christina Shearer, Bill Johnson, and Stan Marguerites for supporting our club and being there. Our club won a 30 06 rifle with a scope. Anyone who has never attended one should go the next time the Friends of NRA comes to town.

I am deeply sorry to say we lost a couple of very valuable club members. Patrick Watts and Robert Bosley have passed away. They both will be missed by everyone who knew them. Patrick was very helpful in upgrading our facility and enhanced our educational program. Robert volunteered as an RSO, membership night and free gun safety classes. We send our sincere condolences to Georgeann Watts and Donna Bosley and their families.

We will be asking for volunteers for spring cleanup on the outside our club house. The leaves will need to be picked up and our new shed will need to be painted. Any volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

There will be an RSO class on April 11th. Anyone interested in becoming a Range Safety Officer call Les Keator at 719-240-5624.

Winter league will be over March 20th and we will be starting our spring league April 10th. It is a good way to meet new club members practice your skills and have fun.

- Rick Taullie

### NRA Safety Rules

1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
teaching Americans about our heritage and history, as well as traditional rifle marksmanship skills. On the heels of completing this, my mom read in the Pueblo West View about the Jr. Marksman Program at Pueblo Municipal Shooters, Inc. (PMS) range. It seemed like the perfect way to continue to develop my shooting skills and my ability to safely handle firearms. My family joined PMS.
My sister and I joined Jr. Marksman. I never knew shooting could be so much fun. I have greatly improved in my knowledge of firearms and marksmanship. Much of this I attribute to the wonderful Jr. Marksman leaders who are so generous with their time and knowledge. Mr. Leonard Jimenez, Mr. Rick Taullie, Mr. Richard Roberts, Mr. Alvin Buffalo, Mr. Charles Fogg, and Mr. Dennis Briggs are those responsible for instructing me and others, encouraging us to improve in accuracy.

Seeing such improvement in my shooting skills and earning some medals motivated me to participate in the .22 rifle shooting sports project. Jr. Marksman was a wonderful learning opportunity which played a part in my decision to apply for the $1,500 Whittington Adventure Camp scholarship. There you have the history of my shooting experience. Now let’s continue on with my adventure at Whittington.

The instructors at Whittington Adventure Camp were very experienced and knowledgeable. They taught in ways that were easy to understand and enjoyable to learn. The instruction was amazing. Some instructors were retired military, some were involved in ROTC, and others were gun enthusiasts. Safety was their number one priority, but everything we did challenged me to do my best while learning new skills.

We spent about two days at each shooting discipline. The first day was spent familiarizing...
with the firearm and becoming comfortable with it. The second day, competitions were held for the top shooters in our group. I was awarded the Annie Oakley for my shotgun shooting and a flashlight for being the “brightest” shooter in pistol. We not only learned about firearm safety and received instruction on how to shoot; we also learned survival and outdoor skills, outdoor cooking, hunter safety, and orienteering. Every camper left with a better knowledge of guns, outdoor safety, and received their hunter safety certification. It was also a wonderful time to meet people from over the United States and make new friends. The locale was gorgeous and the food was pretty good too!

The camp concluded with an awards ceremony. Top shooters were awarded rifles, knives, hats, posters, etc. I was chosen as one of the top four female shooters at camp and am honored to be among those who shot the white buffalo from 1,123 yards!

My experience at the Whittington Adventure Camp further developed my interest and skill level in shooting firearms. When asked to share about my camp experience, I am happy to write or speak about what I learned. I was able to draw from my camp experience when writing an argument essay in my English class at Pueblo Community College on the topic of why women should have the right to defend themselves using firearms. At the beginning of March, I competed in a 4-H speech contest and received Reserve Grand Champion for my speech about how shooting sports has been such an enrichment experience in my life and why I believe that all American citizens, especially women, should have the right to defend themselves using a firearm. I participate in the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO) Explorer program. Getting involved in mounted shooting is an interest of mine and I plan to serve on the mounted patrol with PCSO this year. In my last year of 4-H, I am in the shooting sports outdoor skills project and look forward to camping, hunting, tracking, learning more about survival skills, and participating in a NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC).

Now that I have aged out of Jr. Marksman, I am blessed to be a teen leader. I get to pass on the knowledge that I have gained and assist children, ages 10 to 18 in learning how to safely and accurately shoot .22 rifles. As of this year, I have my own membership at PMS and am enjoying shooting with the Pistoleras under the wonderful instruction of Mr. Leonard Jimenez, Mr. Ron Ragazzi, Mr. Bob Covington, and Ms. Shannon Richter. Additionally, Mr. Les Keator has been very generous with his time and instructed me through the necessary courses so that I am now an NRA pistol and rifle certified apprentice instructor. I am so thankful for my time in the Jr. Marksman program and for PMS that sponsors this program. The support and encouragement from the instructors has helped shaped much of my involvement today and has opened the door for so many other opportunities for me.