

What is the Walt Wise Match?

Introduction

Every year, on the 3rd weekend in September, Precision Pistol (aka Bullseye) shooters from far and wide make their pilgrimage to Harrisburg Hunters & Anglers (HH&A), Harrisburg, PA to shoot the annual Walter Wise Memorial Police Pistol Match. It's not uncommon to have competitors show up from as far away as Arizona or Florida to reunite with old friends and fellow shooters for a weekend of pistol competition and great fun. It is a social event as much as it is a pistol match!

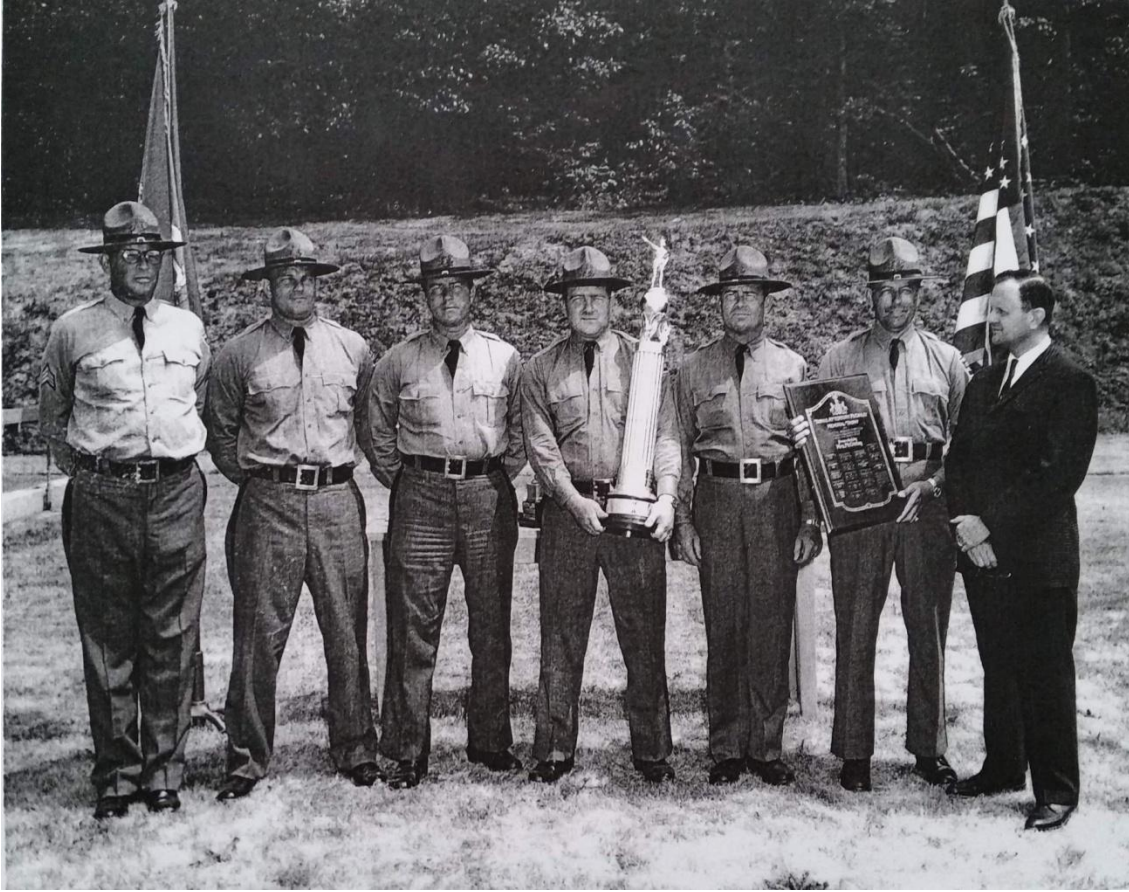
This year (2022) will be the 63rd anniversary of the Walt Wise match. In its heyday, we had up to 280 shooters registered and ran 4 full relays on Saturday and Sunday to accommodate everyone. Although Bullseye shooting has been in decline in recent years, the Walt Wise match remains one of the largest Bullseye pistol matches on the East Coast. At our last match, we had 110 shooters compete.



Walter Wise Memorial Police Pistol Match

Brief History

The match originated back in 1959. Walter A. Wise, a Sergeant with the Pennsylvania State Police, was instrumental in organizing and getting the match started. The matches were held at the 60-position covered, outdoor Bullseye pistol range at HH&A where Walt was a member.



PA State Police Pistol Team (date unknown)
L to R - Walt Wise, Joe Vrabel, Richard Courson, Gene Szanca, Bill Eiker, Carlo Lonardi, and
PSP Commissioner E. Wilson Purdue

Walt served as the Match Director from 1959 through 1984. He was a great promoter, and the match was regarded as one not to miss. During these early years, the shooting sports were very popular, and the match was widely attended by some of the best Police Pistol Teams of those times. Needless to say, the competition was fierce. Some of the shooting records set back then still stand today.

Over the years, the match has gone through numerous name changes:

- West Hanover Lions Club Pistol Match (1959 – 1969)
- Harrisburg Hunters & Anglers Police Pistol Match (1970 – 1981)
- Walter A. Wise Police Pistol Match (1982 – 1983)
- Harrisburg Hunters & Anglers Police Pistol Match (1984 – 1985)
- Walter Wise Memorial Police Pistol Match (1986 – Present)

In addition to running the matches for many years, Walt was also very active in the leadership at HH&A, serving as its President for four years, on the Board of Directors for five years, and as the Newsletter Editor for one year. He was also the Team Captain for HH&A's State Pistol Team for six years.

Sadly, Walt passed away in January of 1985. In 1986, the match was renamed as the Walter Wise Memorial Police Pistol Match to honor Walt for his many years of service and leadership.

Our current Match Director is Kay Bischof. Kay took the helm in 1998, and thanks to her excellent leadership and direction over the past 24 years, we are proud to say that Walt's matches are still going strong!



Kay Bischof, Walt Wise Match Director

Match Information

The Walt Wise Match is a Bullseye Pistol match which is shot, standing without support using a one hand grip, at Police-L turning targets set at 25 yards.

The course of fire includes slow fire, timed fire, and rapid fire, and both rimfire and centerfire handguns (semi-autos and revolvers, with iron-sights or red dots) may be used.

Due to the number of shooters participating, two relays of rimfire matches are held in the morning and two relays of centerfire matches are held in the afternoon both days. Also thrown into the mix is a Commemorative Revolver Match, and 2-Person and 4-Person (new for 2022) Team Matches.



Shooter Collage

Not only is the match a lot of fun, but we give out trophies to the 4-Person Team winners and cash awards to Individual, 2-Person Team, Commemorative Revolver Match, High Woman, High Junior, High Senior, High Grand Senior and High Super Senior winners! A modified Lewis Classification System is used to determine the awards, so that all shooters have a fair chance to win something. To the delight of the winners, all cash awards are paid out in “gold” coins (U.S. Presidential Dollars).

This year’s match will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 17-18, 2022, with Relay 1 starting at 9:00 am each day. Advanced registration is required to reserve a spot on the line. The match is open to the public. Please join us if you can. Bring some shooting friends with you.

Please visit our web site for details on registration, cost, course of fire, standing records, etc. at <https://www.harrisburghunters.org/waltwise>.

Breakfast and lunch are served both days at the clubhouse, and a Sportsman’s Yard Sale is held on Saturday morning concurrent with the match.

Hotels are located close by, and camping (without hookups) is available on the club grounds.

Point of Contact: Kay Bischof, Match Director, 717-764-7033, kay007@comcast.net.

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