

Our very own Rich Kussman, President of the Association, distinguished himself at Camp Perry in 2010 by winning the Wimbledon Cup. The Wimbledon Cup is a silver tankard wrought by British silversmiths of the Victorian period. The trophy was presented in 1875 to the American rifle team attending the British matches at Wimbledon by Princess Louise, on behalf of the riflemen of Great Britain. Members of the American team competed among themselves for the trophy at Wimbledon; this match was won by Major Henry Fulton. The Wimbledon Cup was returned to the United States and placed in annual competition at Creedmoor and later at Camp Perry as the trophy for a long range match open to any rifle.

The Wimbledon, considered by many to be the most prestigious trophy presented for long range competition, is awarded to the winner of the 1000 yard match. This is an "any sight" match meaning that telescopic sights are allowed. Kussman used a Winchester Model 70 custom built by Goodling Rifles and chambered in .280 Ackley Improved. The rifle had a Weaver T24 scope, Kreiger barrel, and Jewel trigger, all mated in a Baker-style McMillan stock.

The Wimbledon Cup is shot in two stages. The first stage is 20 record shots at 1000 yards with unlimited sighters prior to the first record shot. In 2010 there were four relays firing for the Cup. Rich was the high shooter on his relay with a 199-6X. The high shooter in each relay competes in a shoot-off to determine the winner of the Wimbledon Cup. This format is used so that every relay has an equal chance to win the Cup as wind and light conditions often vary significantly over the time it takes to fire the match.

In the shoot off, each competitor gets 3 sighters and then fires 10 shots for record. Kussman won the shoot off and therefore the Wimbledon Cup with a 99-3X.

This win is the culmination of a lifetime of shooting. Among his many accomplishments are Maryland State High Power Rifle Champion, 4 times Maryland State Service Rifle Champion, Distinguished Rifleman Award, Distinguished Pistol Shot Award, President's Hundred Award, winner of the New Jersey State Championships, and High Master classification in High Power Rifle, Mid-Range Rifle, and Long Range Rifle.





