

Making a Difference

Girls Just Wanna Have Guns: Jacqueline Scott of Massachusetts

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The most significant changes can come to our lives through the smallest of chances. One day, Jackie Scott and her life partner went out for lunch. When Patrick reached into his pocket for some change, he pulled out a rimfire cartridge along with the coins. “I had never seen ammo before and was fascinated by how ‘pretty’ it was. When he saw the look on my face, he asked whether I wanted to go shooting with him some time.”

The answer of course was, “Yes!” Within a very few days, the couple went to the range. “I shot his Marlin .22 mag bolt-action rifle and was hooked. There has been no looking back.

After that initial trip, Jackie “... started reading his back issues of *The Outdoor Message* where she learned of an upcoming Women On Target event at a nearby range. She immediately registered. There she met Lynne Roberts. (A Grandmother’s Gift, March/April 2009.)

Lynne is an NRA Pistol Instructor as well as the Massachusetts State Coordinator and Member of the Board of Directors of Second Amendment Sisters. She offered Jackie the space that had opened in her Basic Pistol Class due to a last-minute cancellation. Following



Jacqueline Scott took up firearms for fun, but has become serious about training.

that class, Jackie began attending Lynne’s monthly practice sessions.

The next step was teaching others. She became an NRA Pistol Instructor and a certified rifle coach. One of her biggest surprises has been “How much I get out of teaching.” The benefits of teaching, regardless of the subject, are two-fold. There is the extreme pleasure of helping someone learn and there is a very different level of understanding that comes from entering your subject to the degree necessary to teach it to someone else.

Jackie is one of the four phenomenal women who volunteered to drive more than two hours each way to teach the first Introducing Women to the Shooting Sports class at my gun

club in Maine, so I have been able to see her in action. Like all good coaches, she is enthusiastic about both her students and her milieu. It is impossible to be around her for any length of time without being infected with her love of the guns she uses. To see her in the gunroom of Kittery Trading Post, one of the largest displays of firearms on the seacoast, is like watching a kid at FAO Schwarz.

However, if she was drawn to guns in a whimsical fashion, there is nothing capricious about her involvement. Jackie is a dedicated student. She is exceptional in not only the quantity of her training, but also in the difficulty. She is pleasantly surprised “That I am a fairly decent shot.” Fairly decent,

indeed!

She received a “Distinguished Graduate” rating with a Smith & Wesson (Model 66) .38 spl in a American Small Arms Academy Basic Defensive Handgun Course. There were only three women “... in a class of much younger guys. I was the only revolver shooter and I’m pretty sure I was the oldest person there.” Only two of the “much younger guys” also achieved the “distinguished” rating. One of them was a West Point instructor.

The ASAA (www.chucktaylorasaa.com) 3-Day course “...provides the student with a complete overview of the subject of combat handgunning and an introduction to the ASAA integrated approach to small arms usage. The class ... employs techniques and tactics that were developed to be the most effective way to fight, not to excel in competition...” There were approximately 6 hours of classroom instruction followed by 18 hours of range training. This was expensive and intensive. Jackie excelled.

She earned a Rifleman Patch at a Project Appleseed (appleseedinfo.org) event shooting a marksman’s score on an AQT (Army Qualification Test) target. According to their website “Project Appleseed is an activity of The Revolutionary War Veterans Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to teaching every American our shared heritage and history as well as traditional rifle marksmanship skills.” Events are held throughout the country.

Using a snubby, Jackie won First Place in a US Revolver

Association postal match. (The term has nothing to do with our connotations for “postal” but rather signifies mail. Soon after its founding in 1900, the USRA began to hold matches with contestants from all over the country. Their targets would be sent by post to be judged.) Currently, competitive teams at



Scott’s interest in firearms has grown to include winning matches, receiving honors and teaching others. Here she visits the Kittery Trading Post in Maine—and finds something new has caught her eye.

local clubs participate in weekly meets and disseminate their results.

In 2009 she got the award for Ladysmith High Overall Revolver Division. Jackie is a USPSA range officer. The United States Practical Shooters Association (uspsa.org) is the American affiliate of the International Practical Shooting Conference. Practical Shooting is a sport that evolved from methods used in self-defense, although the self-defense aspect is rarely considered

by the majority of people who engage in the matches that are conducted today.

Looking at even a partial list of her accomplishments, it seems astounding that one of Jackie’s goals is “...to master the revolver.” That tells us a lot about who Jackie Scott is. She is a great model to hold in front of us. Someone who works really hard for what she wants, and is not content to do well. She wants to be perfect. And, she works to get that perfection.

Another goal that keeps her busy is “...to become a ‘Red Hat’ in the Appleseed program. I’m an IIT-4 now (Orange Hat—highest level instructor-in-training) and just need to pass my next progress check to become a full fledged Instructor.”

For fun, she would like “... to shoot a match of some sort eventually in all fifty states.” What a road trip that will be!

I had spoken with Jackie a couple years ago, when she was planning to take a Hunter’s Safety Course, and considering going on a turkey hunt. Things had not turned out as expected. “The weekend after I finished my Hunter’s Ed course, I attended the Mass Wildlife BOW (Becoming and Outdoor Woman) program turkey hunting seminar and was thoroughly intrigued...” Unfortunately, she would not have been able to get her license in time for the spring turkey season. Also “...the hunt was by lottery and limited to ten women...” Although I saw my first wild turkey ever that day after we had patterned our shotguns, I’ve never been on a hunt.” Yet.