

# Give us your thoughts

By Macky Locklin

Over the past eleven years, the ARA Nationals have been held at the Bench Rest Rifle Club of St. Louis. The overall experience has varied considerably from year to year, depending a lot on the Match Director who was in charge.

This questionnaire is not meant to reflect either negatively or positively on anyone, rather it is an attempt to reach out to those attendees who have experienced the ARA Nationals and can provide valuable input to us so we at ARA can better understand how we can improve the event. And, from the information we gather, we at ARA hope to provide detailed input to the Directors in charge at the BRRC of St. Louis to make the ARA Nationals experience a memory-maker for all who attend, to so enthuse each attendee that on the way home from each event, they're already making mental plans to attend the next one the following year and make everyone want to tell their friends what they're missing.

Keep in mind, economic conditions have changed drastically over the years since the event reached peak attendance with 174 competitors in 2004. Ammo costs, gasoline prices, and a general downturn in the economy have contributed to gradually reduce numbers since that year.

For your own sake and all ARA competitors, please take a few minutes to answer these questions to the best of your ability and recollection, and send them to the ARA Business

Office. You can send them by either regular mail or email to the address listed below. If you care to expand your answers beyond the "yes" or "no" answers most questions will require, please do so on another sheet of paper or at the bottom of your email, citing the question you're expanding upon. All your suggestions will be given serious review and consideration. Thanks for your cooperation, and remember, the whole purpose is to continually improve ARA and the ARA Nationals.

Thanks for your help, and I hope to see you at the 2010 ARA Nationals. Bring a friend.

*Macky*

Year	Match Dir	Attendance	Year	Match Dir	Attendance
1999	Norm Diedrich	79	2005	Jerry Luck	151
2000	Norm Diedrich	93	2006	Jerry Luck	141
2001	Norm Diedrich	106	2007	David Kingston	131
2002	Norm Diedrich	121	2008	John Parker	112
2003	Glenn Hachey	146	2009	John Parker	110
2004	Jerry Luck	174			

**Mail your responses to:**

ARA Business Office, PO Box 2026, Boerne, TX 78006

**Email your responses to:**

MLocklin@aol.com      polly60@gvvc.com

<b>1</b>	How many ARA National Championships have you attended?
<b>2</b>	How many miles do you travel, one way, from your home to the BRRC of St. Louis?
<b>3</b>	Are the match entry fees reasonable, given the magnitude of the event and the services provided?
<b>4</b>	Are you satisfied with the facilities at the BRRC of St. Louis?
<b>5</b>	Would you prefer to see the ARA Nationals held at another range?
<b>6</b>	If the answer to #5 is yes, where would you like them held?
<b>7</b>	What is the single most important reason that you attend?
<b>8</b>	Is the ARA Project Rifle a factor in your attendance?
<b>9</b>	What is the single most important factor in your decision not to attend?
<b>10</b>	Is the food that is served at the Nationals adequate?
<b>11</b>	Is the price of the food reasonable?
<b>12</b>	Would you like a Saturday Night all-you-can-eat catered dinner at the club for an extra \$15-20?
<b>13</b>	Were the arrangements for parking, tent locations and walkways behind the firing line better in 2009 than in the past?
<b>14</b>	Would you like a Saturday Night all-you-can-eat catered dinner at the club for an extra \$20?
<b>15</b>	Are the trophies of a quality that reflect a National event?
<b>16</b>	Would you prefer Top 20 recognition awards to be: pins   patches   plaques   other
<b>17</b>	What types of giveaways would you like to receive from ARA? (In the past these have included: towels, decals, hats, pins, lanyards)
<b>18</b>	Would you like to see more door prizes awarded at the Nationals?
<b>19</b>	Are you satisfied with the scoring of the targets at the Nationals?
<b>20</b>	Is your overall impression of the ARA Nationals favorable?
<b>21</b>	If no, what improvements would you suggest?
<b>22</b>	Do you plan to attend the 2010 ARA Nationals? If not, why?