



Kirkville resident Emanuel Bragg maneuvers through a stage during the 2005 Area 3 Championship competition near Kansas City, Kan., in early July.

# Handgun shooter hits target in world match

Meg Joyce  
Staff Reporter

Kirkville resident Emanuel Bragg doesn't hunt, but he maintains that competitive shooting is different.

"There's something about when the buzzer goes off, there's an adrenaline rush, and you want to go as fast as you can and still hit what you're supposed to hit," he said.

Bragg said he got started in competitive handgun shooting nine years ago when a friend of his took him to a shooting range "to plink some cans." Before that, he owned guns but did not compete in any type of shooting competitions. In the last nine years, Bragg has risen through the levels of competition to become one of the best in the sport.

Last week, he returned from an 11-day trip to Guayquil, Ecuador, where he competed with the four-member U.S. team in the world match. This year's match had 916 competitors who participated in team and individual competitions. This event was Emanuel's debut at the world competition at 41 years old.

"The U.S. has the best shooters in the world," Bragg said.

He's not exaggerating: The men's, women's and junior teams from the U.S. won gold medals at the world competition in Ecuador. Bragg also said eight of the top 10 shooters in the world are from the U.S. Besides assisting his team in a first place finish, Bragg also placed 10th individually in the world.

The competition took place during six days, with one-sixth of the total match occurring each day. Because the match takes place outdoors, this setup ensures the weather conditions will have the same effect on all the competitors, he said.

Bragg was intrigued by the diversity found at the competition.

"It was interesting to hear other languages and see the other flags in the arena from all the competing countries," he said.

To end up at this year's world competition, Bragg said he had to go through a three-year tryout process by attending qualifying matches around the country every year. About a month ago, Bragg said he attended the weeklong national competition in Barry, Ill. He finished in second place, only two points behind first place out of a possible 2,000 points.

The competition Bragg has just returned from is akin to the Olympics for many other sports, yet his story doesn't seem to be nearly as recognized, he said. Bragg explained that although rifle shooting is an Olympic sport, handgun shooting is not. He said he thinks this is because the general public is divided on the issue of guns. He said gun education, however, is very important. Bragg said he doesn't worry about having guns in a house with children if they are taught what to do if they see a gun and know how to unload it to avoid any accidents.

Bragg is a member of the United States Practical Shooting Association, or the USPSA, and has had positions such as junior coordinator in the 15,000 member organization. Additionally, his interest in shooting is not limited to competing: He said his business makes a majority of the awards for shooting competitions in the U.S.

The competitions consist of cardboard targets with steel, round plates that range from 1 to 50 yards. The contestants are scored on time as well as on accuracy, he said. Each contestant loads his or her gun, a beeper starts the time

and then the shot registers to the timer.

"To give you an idea of the time frame of the competitions, a shooter will shoot six rounds, reload, and shoot six more rounds in about 3.5 seconds," Bragg said.

Both Emanuel Bragg's wife, Lorie Bragg, and his shooting friend Steve Tharp said one of the reasons Emanuel Bragg is good at competitive shooting is his natural ability. Tharp also mentioned Bragg's quickness and agility as important factors in his success.

Bragg said safety at the competitions is very important to the organizers. In fact, there is a safety officer on hand at the competitions to make sure the rules are enforced. For example, the competitors may only shoot forward, he said. If for some reason they do not, they would be disqualified. So far there have been no major accidents, however, Bragg said.

Now that he has accomplished one of his main goals, Bragg said he is nearer to retiring from competitive shooting.

"Eventually [I will give up shooting], but as long as you're still competitive, you want to do it," he said. Emanuel Bragg said he would like to try and win nationals and possibly even the world competition. The next world match will be in three years in Indonesia, he said.

Lorie Bragg said that although it is difficult for her to be apart from him, she understands the enjoyment he finds in shooting.

"He's gone an awful lot," she said. Tharp said Emanuel Bragg's talent provides good reason for competing.

"His record speaks for itself," Tharp said.

"The U.S. has the best shooters in the world."

Emanuel Bragg  
Kirkville Resident and World Handgun Shooting Competitor

# Limo owner hornswoggled

Kirkville resident takes the bull by the horns and offers reward for missing heirloom

Maggie Wolcott  
Staff Reporter

Robert Long's 1990 Cadillac limousine has been turning heads around Kirkville, even with one horn.

Long had a set of bullhorns bolted to the front of his limo until Aug. 26, when one was stolen. He is advertising for the return of the horn because the pair has sentimental value, Long said.

"I am from an agriculture background, just like the Boss Hog [on 'The Dukes of Hazzard']," Long said. "Also, those horns belonged to my grandfather. That was his herd bull."

Long said the herd bull's name was Big Mac, and the horns are about 30 years old. The horns had been in storage before he purchased the limo six months ago. He said he bolted the horns to the car right away.

Long said the horn was stolen when the car was sitting in the parking lot of The Mattress Store at Patterson and Baltimore streets.

"We had bolts on them to where I could take them off, say if I was going to sit overnight in Kansas City or St. Louis, but I never thought I would have trouble in Kirkville, so I didn't take them off," Long said.

Long said he thinks the pair of horns is valued around \$500, but having one horn is of little value.

"They are worthless," Long said. "That is why I couldn't understand why they took one. One by itself is worthless. You need them both."

Long's car has been hard to miss around Kirkville.

Sophomore Mary Niehaus said she was outside talking on her cell phone the first time she saw the limo with the horns and started laughing.

"I didn't even see the car at first, I just saw the head," Niehaus said. "I just thought it was funny. A little strange, but funny."

Long said the limo usually receives mixed comments.

"The kids really love it," Long said. "But some people give you a look of disgust too, but more people give you a look like, 'Oh yeah, look at that.'"

Even within his own family, Long

"The kids really love it. But some people give you a look of disgust, too."

Robert Long  
Kirkville Resident



Kirkville resident Robert Long stands next to his 1990 Cadillac limousine outside of his home Monday afternoon. One of the bullhorns that adorned the front of the vehicle has been missing since Aug. 26.

has faced criticism for his horned limo. "My wife thinks it is disgusting," Long said.

Others seem to find it interesting. He said people take pictures with the car, even now with its one horn. Long said he always drives it around.

"We go to ballgames in it, golf tournaments and beer drinking," Long said.

Long occasionally lends the limo to his friend, Kirkville resident Tyler Kent. Kent said the limo with the horns is humorous.

"To have a limo and to put bullhorns

on it, it is amusing," Kent said.

Long has put up fliers for the return of his horn around Truman and Kirkville.

Long said he expects the horn will be returned.

"I have confidence that I will get [it] back because I used to run the college bar downtown called Tap Room ... and someone stole one of my big speakers, and about a week later I got it back," Long said.

There is a reward for the horn, Long said.

"I would assume they just walk for-

ward, and no questions would be asked if they just bring it to me," Long said.

Long said he does not have any current plans to purchase a new set of horns and will see how one horn goes over.

"We will be in the Homecoming parade, one horn or two horns," Long said.

If the one horn is not well received, Big Mac's horn might have to return to storage.

"We'll have to get a whole new set of horns simply because it would be hard to match that horn up," Long said.

Nicole Meltabarger/Index

**Hot**  
**Ice House Coffee**  
**For Chilly Mornings!**

<b>Bud</b> ..... 12 pack <b>8<sup>49</sup></b>	Marlboro ctns. <b>\$24.49 +tax</b>	Salem ctns. <b>\$24.49 +tax</b>	Basic ctns. <b>\$21.89 +tax</b>
<b>Lite</b> ..... 12 pack <b>8<sup>09</sup></b>	Kool ctns. <b>\$21.99 +tax</b>	Doral ctns. <b>\$19.89 +tax</b>	Viceroy ctns. <b>\$20.89 +tax</b>
<b>Coors</b> ..... 12 pack <b>8<sup>49</sup></b>	Camel ctns. <b>\$22.49 +tax</b>	Monarch ctns. <b>\$18.09 +tax</b>	<b>ICE HOUSE</b> now hiring sales associates  • Full- and part-time • Flexible hours • All shifts available • One year bonuses • 401K retirement plan • Paid vacation • Personal days Apply at any Ice House
<b>Busch</b> ..... 12 pack <b>7<sup>09</sup></b>	Winston ctns. <b>\$21.19 +tax</b>	GPC ctns. <b>\$20.89 +tax</b>	
<p><b>\$3<sup>89</sup></b> <b>\$3<sup>89</sup></b> Pepsi Coke 12 pk 12 pk</p>	Virginia Slims ctns. <b>\$25.49 +tax</b>	Pall Mall ctns. <b>\$18.39 +tax</b>	
<p><b>Cappuccino</b></p> <p><i>"America's fastest growing hot beverage"</i></p> <p>Enjoy these great flavors: French vanilla, Cinnamon vanilla nut and Pumpkin spice.</p>	Parliament ctns. <b>\$25.49 +tax</b>	Misty ctns. <b>\$18.39 +tax</b>	

# PONDEROSA STEAKHOUSE

**Sunday Night College Buffet**  
\$6.99 includes beverage  
4 p.m. to close

**Monday Night Wing Night**  
50 chicken wings to go.  
Choice of hot, original or BBQ. **\$9.99**

**"Where the extras don't cost extra!"**

Open

Sunday to Thursday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday  
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Checks, Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express accepted.