



Newsletter

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<http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com>

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Our Mission: To foster national and international amateur shotgun sports competitions and to develop amateur athletes for national or international sports competitions. **Our Goals:** (1) To conduct amateur shotgun sports competitions in affiliation with national and international shotgun sports organizations. (2) To support and develop amateur athletes for national and international shotgun sports competitions. (3) To promote safe and proper gun handling. (4) To provide facilities and equipment to further the Association's goals and mission.

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President's

Message

by

Neil Vann



We are experiencing a time of excitement in our Association. Your Board of Directors meet once-a-month (the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 if you would like to attend) and are creating an atmosphere of positive thinking to make the Association a better place to shoot. I am pleased with their decisions and forward looking attitude.

We have created a Chairman for Short/Long Term Planning (**Chris Coughlan**) and a Chairman for Fund Raising (**Steve Hubbard**). Should you have any suggestions for these gentlemen, there is a suggestion box located close to the eyeglass cleaning device on the range office wall. Or contact them on our web sit.

We are in the process of fulfilling a goal of replacing the Wobble Trap with a 15-machine Bunker on Field #12

thanks to **Ricardo Alcantara** and his leadership.

Building & Grounds Chairman, **Malcum Campbell** has taken off like the mighty roadrunner and is repairing and replacing things faster than we can identify them.

Under the direction of Board member, **Don Wilkie**, our Youth Program (BSA Merit Badge, **Robb Frank**; Intro to Shotgun Sports, **Jim Englund** and Scholastic Clay Target, **Don Wilkie**) is a resounding success.

Hunter Safety under the guidance of **Dan Fox** meets once a month giving instruction classes to those who wish to obtain a California Hunting License. These classes are informative and interesting and stress SAFETY first and foremost.

We have just finished with two large registered skeet shoots, which were very successful. On the first weekend in June we hosted the ATA Zone Trap Championships with an abundance of shooters and motor homes.

Our Skeet (just completed under **Vern Gideon**) and Trap (starts July 9 under **Gary Krueger**) Leagues are putting the fun into shooting non-registered shotgun sports.

And finally, I see some spirit in the membership. We/I don't always make the right decision in trying to promote our shotgun sports so consequently one or more of the shotgun sports get slighted. This is not done intentionally but as an oversight and certainly ups the slope of the learning curve.

The recent survey gave us sufficient insight to instigate a committee to investigate all the avenues of concern

with an eventual solutions to those concerns. I commend those of you who took the time to answer the survey. Your comments will be addressed. The Board of Directors and I are here to serve you, the member. Sometimes the squeaky wheel gets the grease but our intent is to do what is best for the 620 plus membership so some wheels will have to do with a little less grease.

All in all I am delighted with the way the Association is progressing and with your continued help, we will succeed in improving the quality of shotgun shooting in Southern California.

OLYMPIC TRAP

by

Ricardo Alcantara



Local Activity:

We held a B-100 shoot on May 31st with a total of 16 shooters. Local shooter **Mike Howell** was HOA. Good shooting Mike!

Construction of the new Bunker:

Our conversion of field #12 from a wobble trap to a full bunker is on schedule. Drop by and take a look at it when you get a chance. Better yet, contact me and find out how you can help in the construction. The Bunker itself is almost complete. We still have to install the machines, and do the wiring and some grading in front of the bunker. What we really need are donations to help finish out the Bunker. Remember, your donation is tax deductible, so please give it some consideration. We are going to have one of the finest Olympic Shooting

Facilities in the United States once we finish this construction.

Next Match:

We plan to “cut the ribbon” and start shooting over the new Bunker on June 27, 28 & 29. We are going to hold a three day match entitled “2nd Amendment Championships”. We are expecting a number of shooters from throughout the state to participate in that shoot. Complete information on the shoot is on our web site. Sign up now and reserve your place for this landmark shoot.

“THE SURVEY”

In June a survey was put in the newsletter requesting a response to 14 questions and soliciting comments. Approximately 700 newsletter containing the survey were mailed out or given out at the range. 49 survey forms were completed and returned to the range office. The results of the survey have been tabulated and was reviewed by the Board of Directors. A committee has been formed, headed by director **Steve Hubbard**, to review the results of the survey and the written comments. The committee will report back to the Board of Directors with a report that will recommend how we can improve our Association and Range.

Watch future newsletters for and developments out of this study. If you have specific recommendations that were not addressed in the survey, get those ideas to **Steve Hubbard** or any member of the Board of Directors, so that they can be considered in the committee recommendations.

In the meantime the results of the survey were: (VS = very satisfied S = satisfied NS = not satisfied)

1. How do you rate your overall experience at SDSSA?

VS-26 S-21 NS-2

2. How do you rate the assistance received from the office?

VS-32 S-15 NS-2

3. How do you rate the assistance received from the skeet starter?

VS-16 S-14 NS-8 (no answer-11)

4. How do you rate the assistance received from the 5-stand personnel?

VS-10 S-13 NS-0 (no answer-26)

5. How satisfied are you with obtaining Association information by phone?

VS-11 S-20 NS-17 (no answer-1)

6. Would you or do you recommend this shooting facility to others?

VS-36 S-10 NS-1 (no answer-2)

7. How often do you visit the range for practice shooting?

1/W-19 2/W-21 often-6 (no answer-3)

8. How often do you shoot registered shoots?

1/M-19 Seldom-4 Never-22 (no answer-4)

9. How often do you shoot organized non-registered shoots at the range?

1/M-14 Seldom-13 Never-20 (N/A-2)

10. How do you rate the ammunition prices?

VS-9 S-26 NS-2 (N/A-12)

11. How satisfied are you with the Range Office merchandise & cost?

VS-10 S-25 NS-4 (N/A-10)

12. How satisfied are you with the attention given to the Association/ range by its Officers and Directors?

VS-23 S-23 NS-1 (N/A-2)

13. Overall, how satisfied are you with your Association/Range?

VS-25 S-22 NS-2

14. How satisfied are you with the current hours of operation?

VS-12 S-20 NS-13 (N/A-4)

In addition to the above answers there were many written comments. The answers and comments will be reviewed and hopefully you will see some constructive changes as a result of this survey.

If you took time to participate in the survey – we thank you. If you did not consider doing it the next time we have a survey, so your opinion can be considered.

**Youth
Activities
by
Don Wilkie**



I am really excited about all of the youth and training activities that are taking place at our range. I will cover some of the highlights of our expanded young and training programs.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program

Robb Frank is running a very successful program to conduct the training and testing for the Boy Scout Shotgun Merit Badge. On May 10 Troop 4 from La Jolla participated in the program. There were 9 participants and 6 successfully completed the requirements. **Steve Hubbard & Don Wilkie** assisted in this training exercise.

Scholastic Clay Target Program

May was a landmark month for the program. The weekly practices were a prelude and rehearsal to the team's first monthly ATA shoot. One full squad and four individuals signed up. However one shooter had to drop out because of a family loss.

All who watched the youngsters perform were impressed, not only with their shooting skills, but their exemplary conduct on the fields. Their performance went off without a hitch. Although the scheduled event for SCTP called for a hundred targets five ambitious shooters went on to shoot the full 200 singles targets; not an easy task for 6, 7 and 8th graders! High score SCTP trophy winner was **De Savage**, second was **Nick Meyer** and third **Breanna Heckenkamp**. One of the outstanding performances of the day was Nick's 25 straight in a shoot-off for second place with **Judy Sledge** and Breanna. The ladies were not happy to lose but were gracious in defeat.

Students, parents, board members and fellow shooters at the range have enthusiastically welcomed the Scholastic Program. The response has, in fact, been amazing.



De Savage, Breanna Heckenkamp and Nick Meyer were trophy winners

Because of range-time and space we can only accommodate 20 in the program and have a full complement turning out each week. We already

have people on the waiting list. Thursday evening is our primary practice time with a make-up held on Saturday afternoons. (It is required that team members attend an official practice each week unless excused cause.) Each practice includes two rounds of practice as a team plus individual instruction as time permits. During May we have been fortunate to have sufficient uninterrupted time each week to achieve these goals. The progress of the shooters has been impressive with scores of 24 and 25 per round becoming increasingly common. Some shooters with no previous experience are already shooting in the mid and high "teens."



De Savage, Judy Sledge, Breanna Heckenkamp, Kalen Foster, Nick Meyer & Dean Anderson in picture. Also shooting in the ATA, but not in the picture were Bryant Czech and Dustin Stewart.

Current squad coaches are **Gary Krueger, Verne Gideon, John Lumn and Tweed Ross**. Assisting them are **John McLure, Jerry Dillard, Duke Wilbur, JC Craft, Neil Vann and Fred Hoyle**. **John McLure** has been specializing in individual instruction.

Carla Sledge is team manager and handles much of the logistics involved. She arranged for trophies and shirts for the ATA/SCTP event. Chris Coughlan is working to obtain financial support for the program.

The Scholastic Program is a successful team effort not just for the shooters but also for the coaches, parents, range personnel and board members.

Introduction to Shotgun Sports

Jim Englund is in charge of this program. He is finding that some youngsters, small in stature, are finding the 12 gauge range guns too heavy to handle, but did well when provided

borrowed, smaller, lighter shotguns. The Association is in the process of acquiring two Remington 870 shotguns in 28 gauge. Once we have these smaller shotgun, this should facilitate the smaller students being able to handle the shotguns.



Jim Englund & a couple of his students, Peter and Samuel.

Originally this program was set up for education of youth, but we are seeing some need to expand it to include adults. Watch the newsletter or our web site for the announcement when we are ready to include adults in this popular program.

Trap League

Report

by

Gary Krueger



Attention all Trap League Shooters!

Sign up now! The finest Trap League in San Diego is starting the week of July 9th.

There are currently 8 teams signed up. All members and non-members are invited and encouraged to form a team or sign on with a team.

We encourage 5 to 6 members on a team. Remember, only the top 4 scores from each team are used each week – so if you aren't shooting well that week you won't hurt the team.

If you don't have a team, just turn your name in to the Range Office with the information of when you prefer to shoot – i.e.- Wednesday morning, or Thursday evening, or a day on the weekend – you get the idea. That way

you can be put on a team that shoots at your desired time.

This promises to be the best league yet, in addition to the prize money, a very special favor is being developed for all who participate. Don't delay! Come on out and make some new friends, July 9th is almost here!

The Suggestion Box

by

Vern Gideon



There is a Suggestion Box located on the west corner of the Range Office. Each month I collect any suggestions that have been placed in the box and these suggestions are reviewed by the Board of Directors at the regular Board meeting. The Board is very interested in ideas that come in from the membership. Unfortunately, this suggestion box has not been actively used.

This past month there were two suggestions in the box. One suggestion requested that the skeet starters shed be painted. By the time the Board reviewed the suggestion, the shed had in fact been painted – so that worked out well! The second suggestion was that the stall partitions in the men's restroom be replaced. The board reviewed this suggestion. It was reported to the board that this restroom is under consideration to be converted to a handicap accessible restroom. When this is done, the partitions will be removed and a locking door will be installed at the entrance to the restroom. This will make the restroom ADA compliant and will also resolve the problem of the old partitions, since they will be removed in the process.

If you have suggestions – use the suggestion box – your suggestion will be reviewed by the Board.

THINK SAFETY – ACT SAFELY

[Editors note – The following article was written by a member of your Board of Directors. Safety is so important to our operations that each month there will be an article concerning safety. Each month a different member of your Board of Directors will write about safety. Over

a period of time this will give us various views about how we can continue to be a very safe range]

SAFETY – SAFETY- SAFETY

Whose responsibility is it? Yours? Mine? The Management? **ALL OF THE ABOVE!** Any person who enters our facility is responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of others. No arguments. No excuses. Hunter Safety teaches that the only place to point the muzzle of a gun is, “in a safe direction”.

On each Field where there is a Field Safety Officer assigned to assist the shooters, their instructions regarding safety are final. However, after following those instructions the matter may be discussed with the Ranger Manager. San Diego Shotgun Sports Association states in the blue handout brochure that, **“SAN DIEGO Shotgun sports is proud of its exemplary safety record. In that regard, the Range Manager’s instruction to any individual present at the range is final. Any individual who disagrees with those instructions must first obey them and second may refer the matter to the President of SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports for review and response.”**

I am sure you have had the opportunity to suggest to another shooter the proper and safe way to correct an unsafe condition. The person that is rebuked is first of all embarrassed by the situation and may take a negative approach to the recommendation but in the long run it pays to be our brothers keeper.

Last year, 2002, SDSSA shot over 2 ½ million targets without an incident! Each of those shots were a possible accident!! You are to be commended for that record of achievement. But, one cannot let their guard down and must be aware of the safety aspect in shooting at all times. Be safe. Think safety.

OUR “WISH LIST”

Everyone has a “wish list” of what they need or would like to have. Well, your Association is no different.

We wish we had more shotguns for our Junior Program. We would love to get some shotguns donated to the

program and you would get a tax deduction!

We wish we had more volunteers to help improve our range and assist in our “work parties”. You make our wish come true by contacting **Malcum Campbell** (malcumdc@earthlink.net or by phone 619-470-6030) and getting on his “work party” list. Get involved – it will make you feel good and you will have fun doing it!

We wish we had more members willing to get involved in helping to organize and run Association functions such as registered shoots (ATA, NSSA, NSCA, & International Trap & Skeet), Trap Leagues, Skeet Leagues, Dodge City Shootout, Fun Shoots, Boy Scout Training, Hunter Safety Training, Beginning Shooter Training, & Scholastic Clays Program. To offer your help just contact one of the chairpersons for the program you are interested –or– just contact the president, **Neil Vann**, in person, by a message left at the Range Office, by telephone at 619-286-3439, or by email at cnvann@cox.net. I guarantee he will give you a warm welcome and get you involved to whatever extent you want to be involved!

We wish we had donors who would like to help with some of our projects such as the bunker on field # 12, building a tower for 5 stand, assisting in the clubhouse replacement, helping provide more tables & benches for the fields, assisting in providing a temporary practice field for field #13, refurbishing on of our current fields, or ?. Again, if you are willing to help, can use a tax deduction, all you need to do is contact president **Neil Vann** and he will be delighted to discuss this with you.

Our Web Site

Happenings

by

Augie Daddi



At the request of several Board members, I undertook the task of getting the Association Newsletter published by **Dan Fox** on our Web site. Thanks to the continuing work of **Dan Fox**, this publication has become the most important form of communications to the Association’s membership. The

April/May 2003 issue was posted on our web site on 1 May. As you read this copy of the Newsletter, it was available on our website several days ago.

Thanks to the electronic wonders of today, we can all help reduce consumables and thereby conserve resources (trees/paper) by electing to view the Newsletter on the Internet rather than receiving a paper copy.

There are other advantages. You can save each month’s Newsletter to your computer for future viewing in your own personal archive. You can enlarge or reduce the copy viewed by using the Zoom feature in the Reader and we added color without additional cost. I’m sure readers will find other advantages as they use the Reader. I plan to have several months’ back issues available on our web site, however you’ll be able to save them all on your computer.

Just send me an email providing your Association with name and member number requesting that we stop mailing the Newsletter to you. We’ll stop mailing to those requesting starting with the September 2003 issue. You can restart the mailing at any time after that date by again emailing me asking that we place you back on the mailing list. My email address is:

augie@sandiegoshotgunsports.com

The Newsletter on the Internet is viewed with Adobe Acrobat Reader. In the unlikely event you don’t have the Reader, Adobe makes the Reader available free via download to your computer. If you’ve ever viewed a manual on the Internet, 9 chances out of 10 it was an Adobe Acrobat document. I’ve placed a link on our Home page to the Adobe download page for the Reader.

Our Home page will have a link to the latest issue available and a link to archived copies. While we mail out over 600 copies of the Newsletter, the Newsletter on the Internet can be viewed by anyone in the world. How’s that for circulation. The current cost of publishing and mailing the Newsletter can be as high as 75 cents including postage for a 5-page issue. That means that the Newsletter expense can be reduced by \$75 each month for each 100 members that elect to read it on the Internet versus having a copy mailed to them.

I'll let you know the progress of this project by posting statistics for the next few months on the number mailed versus number electing to view the Newsletter on the Internet. Until then, I trust you'll take advantage of this new feature

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



The 75th Annual **SoCal Skeet Championships** were held at SDSSA on May 23-25, 2003, Friday through Sunday. We had 98 shooters shooting 44,374 targets on the seven fields. Field #5 was used for practice throughout the weekend.

All the fields were in pristine condition thanks to the dedication of our Association Manager, **Layne Kuhlman**, Assistant Manager, **James Reisig** and their staff. Four of the field referees had received their certification as an Associate Referee (**Ryan Abejar**, **Joe Carlin**, **Mark Gobaleza** and **Tommy Jimenez**) prior to the shooting event, thanks to the attention and coaching of **Dewey "Duke" Wilber**. At the conclusion of the 3-day shoot, an invite, by the California State Skeet Association, was made to the Associate Referees to referee at the State Skeet Championships over the 4th of July in Stockton, California. Truly a fine compliment to our young referees and to their mentor.



Duke Wilber – our skeet referee instructor and coach.

In the Doubles event, of the 18 Class winners and 69 entrants, 4 from SDSSA were in the top 9 with **Steve Claunch** (99) and **Brian Holt** (97) in the top four. The 12ga. had 93 entries, 21 Class winners and 5 from SDSSA in the top eight with **Brian Holt** (100) Champion, **Steve Claunch** (100) Runner Up, **James Dewey** (100) Class AA2, **Dave Broccoli** (99) Class AA3 and **Steve Wade** (99) Class A2. The 20ga. had two winners in the top four. **Brian Holt** (100) Champion and **Dave Broccoli** (99) Class AA1. The 28ga. had 3 winners in the top six from SDSSA. **Dave Broccoli** (100) Runner Up Third, **Brian Holt** (99) Class AA2 and **James Dewey** (99) Class AA3. **Brian Holt** excelled in the .410 bore with a 99 and captured the Gun Runner Up trophy. In the High Over All category, again SDSSA excelled. Out of the top five, **Brian Holt** (398) was HOA Runner Up, **Dave Broccoli** (395) was HOA Runner Up Third and **James Dewey** (393) was HOA Class AA2 winner. Great shooting by our Association members.

Three fine lunches were served. The Friday lunch was donated by the Skeet Committee with **Mary Gideon**, her sister and sister's husband handling the serving of the hamburgers, beans and ice cream. Saturday and Sunday, **Mimmo Femino**, served one lunch of corned beef sandwiches and one of sausage and vegetables. All excellent meal administered by excellent people. It was advertised that we were to have a dinner on Saturday night but that was overruled in favor of lunches.

We added 6 additional RV spots making the total available 27. Twenty-four of the RV spots were filled with grateful shooters. We learned some valuable lessons that will be implemented into next years program making this once a year shoot better with time.



Brian Holt



Steve Claunch



James Dewey



Dave Broccoli



Steve Wade

TARGETS??

Ever wonder how many targets we throw? Through the end of May we threw 49,000 rounds (1,225,000 targets) During that time 7 truckloads of targets were delivered to our range and we paid out \$73,000.00 for those targets!! A lot of work goes into making sure our shooters have good targets to shoot.