



Newsletter

Volume 2

Issue 8

<http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com>

AUGUST 2003

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



Our July 4th National Holiday is but another reminder of the freedoms that we continue to enjoy in this great land of ours. Hopefully all of you had a safe and sane holiday with many more to witness in the future. Another holiday of sort will be coming up for those of us who celebrate the opening of Dove season on the first of September. I mention this to alert all of those who don't participate in this festive venture that in the month of August, our fields will be overloaded with those wearing cameo gear and toting shotguns that Dad passed down with the intent of "getting ready". We should be on our toes and observe those who may not be quite as safe in gun handling as we wish. Do not be bashful in reminding someone about being safe!! It is our duty as watchful guardians of our sport.

One can't but help notice some of the changes that are taking place on our Association grounds. The International Bunker, which replaced the Wobble Trap on field #12, is in full operation. Trap field #1 is being widened at the 16yd. walkway. Field #5 is being revised to add a concrete runway from station #7 to station #8, from station #8 to the 16yd. walkway and the walkway is being widened. The ramp leading from the lower level (field #5) to the upper patio level is well under construction and a handicap ramp is being built adjacent to the Skeet Starters Shed. Also in progress are cement landings at the base of the newly installed cement steps on the Trap side of the grounds. We continue to work the issues involving a new "building" to be named the Grey Silva Center. And, our membership continues to increase. We are nearly at the 630 mark, which includes 134 Life Members.

Congratulations to the youth who are participating in the Scholastic Clay Target Program. We are proud of your accomplishments and the willingness of your sponsors, parents and grandparents to see that your enjoyment of shotgunning is fulfilled.

Encourage each of you to consider making it a goal and then follow-through on attending at least one Board of Directors meeting during the next 12 months. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5:00pm. The meeting usually lasts about 1-1/2 hours. Should you wish to speak concerning an issue that you may have, time is allotted for that purpose. As I have stated before, the Board of Directors represent you, the Association member. Your voice will be heard and acted upon. I can promise you that!

You might just be amazed at the amount of activity that is in progress on your behalf. We have an enthusiastic Board that is just itching to make your Association a better place to shoot.

Youth Programs

by

Don Wilkie



A champion is born at San Diego Shotgun Sports Association

Our Scholastic Program junior team won the novice division championship at the CA State Trapshooting Championship in Kingsburg, CA on June 28th. at Kingsburg. **They now qualify to go to the Grand American to compete in the national SCTP CHAMPIONSHIPS.** This was an incredible feat when you consider that the program only began on April 26 and had only 8 complete practices and competed in one registered ATA shoot.

Twenty-three Scholastic teams including over 115 members competed at Kingsburg. The junior novice division included 6 teams composed of competitors in grades 6, 7, and 8 with no more than one shooter having shot more than 300 registered targets in the previous year.

SCTP Junior Novice Team Scores

- 1st - Squad #97 San Diego 885**
- 2nd - Squad #106 Santa Ynez 867
- 3rd - Squad #84 Sacramento 861
- 4th - Squad #87 Stockton 846
- 4th - Squad #93 True Sportsman 846
- 5th - Squad #92 Newman 801

The state competition was conducted by the California Scholastic Clay Target Program in conjunction with the California Golden State Trapshooting Association with the Amateur Trapshooting Association and sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Our team shot a combined 885 out of 1000. Individual scores were: **Breanna Heckenkamp**, 7th grade-186, **Brian Burrows**, 8th grade-184, **Nick Meyer**, 8th grade-179, **Judith Sledge** 8th grade-178, **De Savage** 6th grade 158. Our team fought through injuries - **Brian Burrows** with a painfully bruised cheek; illness- **Nick Meyer** and **De Savage** suffered from heat exhaustion. They experienced a level of competition they had never encountered before, along with unpredictable voice pulls. They fought to the very end and shot like champions-thus they became champions.



Our Champs – Burrows, Sledge, Heckenkamp, Meyer, & Savage.

Much credit for progress of the team goes to team manager **Carla Sledge** who organizes our weekly practices and made the arrangements for competing in the state championship. Credit is also due to our volunteer coaches-**JC Craft, Chip Enniss, Verne Gideon, Fred Hoyle, Gary Krueger, John McClure, Tweed Ross and Duke Wilbur**. The cooperation and assistance of the SDSSA range staff led by **Layne Kuhlman and Nickolle Wertel** paved the way for successful practices and competitions. We also thank the parents and grandparents for their support of their sons and daughters and cooperation with the coaching staff. In addition we thank **Harvey Isom** for his generosity and moral support as well as other friends who cheered the team on. All around it has been a great team effort.



**Harvey Isom – A dedicated supporter
But there's more-----**

In the July ATA shoot at the range **Brian Burrows** shot a 95 to win class C, **Breanna Heckenkamp** won ATA junior honors while younger sister **Emily** won the sub-junior class.

We do have needs.

The obvious one is funds to participate in the SCTP national championship at the Grand American but also for ammo and equipment for practices and ATA shoots at SDSSA. Unlike adult shooters the juniors must have family to act as companions for trips away thus increasing the costs to families. Since our entry into the state championships was unplanned and unexpected we have not had time to plan and conduct a fund-raising effort. Some funds will come from the state organization and some from various donors but help from the board would be most welcome and I think well deserved. **Chris Coughlan** is vigorously pursuing support from Turner Outdoorsman to support all aspects of our youth program. Kudos Chris!

More Coaches are needed.

Since weekly team practices are required from at least January until August we need a head coach and assistant coach for each team to be sure that each squad has consistent instruction and leadership with one of the squad coaches there for each practice. At the moment we are restricted to four 5-person squads requiring 10 coaches, and a manager.

Our 2003 schedule calls for weekly practice through August 3; then vacation for the remainder of August with bimonthly practices commencing Sept 10 and monthly participation in the

range ATA shoots. The official 2004 SCTP year begins in January and ends with the Grand American in August. We hope to start of the year with a friendly competition in Las Vegas.

**ATA June
Trap News**

by

Joe Matkovich



SDSSA hosted the CGSTA southern zone competition June 6th, 7th & 8th. The "TRAP GOD" decided to throw in his two bits worth by providing cloudy, misty conditions for all three days of the competition. However, several shooters shot some pretty good stores despite "HIS" influence.

Friday, June 6th, the fun began and 31 shooters showed up for a handicap event. Lew Rosen and Sean Hawley tied at 94 and Hawley won the shoot off for champion honors and Rosen took the long yardage prize. Jerry Dillard took mid-yardage with a 92 and Joe Roby was the short yardage winner with a 93. The old master, Jim Snow was hi-vet with an 86.

The next event of the day was doubles and 18 people stepped up and went at it. Dave Van Elgort was champ with a 98 and Chip Enniss was the AA champ with a 96. Joe Roby shot a 97 to take class A and Roman Warren had a 93 for class B.

Saturday, the day started with doubles and 51 shooters showed up for the fun. Sean Hawley and Jimmy Heller each shot a 100 straight. Hawley won the shoot off for the champion prize and Heller was the AA winner. Rich Davis shot a 97 for class A and Roman Warren had a 96 for class B honors. Auggie Daddi took class C with an 88 and Paul Purdum shot an 87 to win class D. Lou Imbimbo, took vet class with an 87.

The next event was handicap and 80 competitors grabbed their shootin' irons and went out to shoot. Steve Smith came out on top with a 98 from the back fence for the champs prize and Sean Hawley shot a 95 for long yardage honors. Paul Purdum took mid-yardage with 93 and Ray Torres shot a 94 to win short yardage. Jan Slough was hi-lady with a 90 and Jerry Dillard took vet honors with a 91.

Sunday was the 200 singles event and 91 showed up for the fun. When the smoke cleared Sean Hawley and Steve Smith were tied with perfect scores of 200 X 200. Hawley won the shoot off for the champs prize and Smith took home the AA trophy. Class A was won by Bill Ruhlman and class B was a tie with Ken Datz and Ron McMahan. McMahan won the shoot off for the trophy. Class C was won by Shad Dixon and Ray Torres won the class D trophy. Roman Warren was hi-vet and Vickie Larkin was the hi-lady winner. Last but not least, Aaron Thompson shot a 193X200 for the jr. award.

This shoot had a good turn out and although the weather conditions could have been better there were some very good scores. Club personnel and the trap chairman should be acknowledged for a well run shoot with a minimum of interruptions. It was very well done.

Safety

by

Augie Daddi



[The President of SDSSA, Neil Vann, has asked each Board Director to write a Safety article for publication in our Monthly Newsletter. This is the first in that series.]

I can't think of a better way to start this series than with the most basic safety issue: How to safely carry a shotgun around the range.

The absolute first rule of shotgun safety at a range is **NEVER HAVE A SHELL IN THE CHAMBER UNLESS YOU ARE ON THE FIRING LINE AND READY TO SHOOT.** A number of accidental shotgun firings have occurred as a result of a shooter accidentally falling and discharging his/her shotgun with a round in the chamber. Various Shotgun Sports Associations specifically spell out the rule in their Official Rules during competition. **However, we specifically require the same rule at all times at our range.** A common practice was to put an empty shell in the chamber when closing the action, but even that was deemed a safety hazard as other shooters couldn't readily discern between a live and spent shell.

Naturally a chambered shell cannot be seen if the action is closed so the second rule of walking with a

shotgun is to **ALWAYS HAVE THE SHOTGUN ACTION OPEN WHEN WALKING WITH A SHOTGUN.** This ensures that accidental discharge cannot occur and your fellow shooters can observe that fact.

There are three types of shotguns; a break action, pump and auto loader. Generally speaking, hunters because of their multiple shell capacity use the auto loader types. You will, however, see all three types in clay target sports. Regardless of which type you use, **the breach must be open whenever you are walking with your shotgun.** In the case of pump and auto loaders, the breach must remain open when you place your shotgun in a rack at the range. Break open shotguns are normally closed when placing them in a gun rack.

Now that you know the two most important rules for shotgun safety at the range, it becomes your job to follow the rules and help others follow the rules. Be prepared to hear it from other shooters if you're not following the rules. Remember, they're not telling you to irritate you; they're doing it to ensure your safety and the safety of others. Some folks may do it nicely while others may be abrupt about it. Whatever the approach, accept the safety concern for your benefit and the benefit of others.

If you see an infraction, take the time to point it out to your fellow shooter. Be tactful and your help will be appreciated. Consistent safety practices allow us to continue to enjoy our sport. In shotgun sports, safety is everyone's responsibility

Want to write an article on Safety for the monthly Newsletter? Send your suggested Safety article to the Editor, Dan Fox.

OLYMPIC TRAP

by

Ricardo Alcantara



The new bunker is open!

It seemed like a field of dreams, and now after a short construction period, field 12 is open. Come enjoy the best International Trap facility in the U.S.!

The 2nd Amendment B-300 shoot that opened the new bunker was a big success with 36 shooters participating.

We are still in need of donations to complete the funding for the new bunker. Remember, this is a tax deductible donation. If you made a pledge, we need you to complete it. If you have not yet pledged to help, please do so. We still have a little work to do to finish off the project, so your help will be greatly appreciated!

[The following information was taken from an article written by: Derek Partridge, Chairman British International Clay Target Shooting Federation. Life VP English Clay Pigeon Shooting Association. GB Teams: International Trap, Universal Trench, Automatic Ball Trap.]

Bunker and American Trap, the basic differences: Bunker - known internationally as International Trap or Olympic Trench - is the trap shooting discipline shot around the world and one of two shotgun disciplines in the Olympic Games. American Trap is only shot in America, England (called Down the Line), former British colonies and countries influenced by American military presence.

American trap targets travel 48-52 yards, 22½° either side of the center and, all at the same height. Bunker targets are slightly smaller, harder and have a lower profile. They once legally went between 76 and 87 yards and were often thrown further - but that's when we shot 1¼ oz loads. However, a recent ruling - linked to the use of 7/8oz loads - reduced the distance to 83 - 84 yards. Bunker target angles are twice as wide at 45° left or right. Heights are set between 1.5m (5ft) - 3.5m (12ft) above ground level, 10m from the exit.

For international and national competition only 7/8oz (24 gram) shells are allowed, but we can now use 1oz (28gm) or 1 1/8oz (32gm) for club shoots. The 1oz #7½ is a good choice. First shot is fired at 33-35 yds, second at 40+ yds, so Modified and Full are good O/U chokes.

American Trap targets emerge from an above-ground trap house; most shooters hold a high gun, due to the same-height targets. In International Trap, 15 bunker traps are set in an underground trench, with 5 groups of 3 traps in front of each shooting station; targets emerge at ground level. Because of the height and angle variations, most bunker shooters hold

below the exit point, as a high hold would obscure vision on low or extreme angle targets. In every 25, each shooter will get 10 left, 10 right and 5 'straight' targets, but in random order. If a target is broken, the repeat will be the same. So, every shooter gets exactly the same 200 targets – making it entirely fair to all competitors and - it's not possible to read the 9 different computerized programs.

All International Trap shooting is from 15 meters (16½ yards) behind the trap. There is no equivalent of handicap shooting, as "bunker" is already quite hard enough – even with the 2 shots we're allowed! The average, experienced bunker shooter fires both shots in under one second, while his American Trap counterpart fires his single shot in just over one second.

In the last 100 years of Olympic, World, European, National, Regional and club bunker shooting around the world, 200/200 has been achieved just 6 times. And, as for shoot-offs (which are single barrel), they're usually over within a few shots. Probably the longest on record was when our Josh Lakatos beat Lance Bade for the Olympic Silver Medal in Atlanta – the shoot-off ran 28 to 27 targets.

So, come try the world's ultimate trap shooting challenge – for 'real' men, ladies and juniors!!

Fun Shoot

by

Taylor Craft



Twenty-two (22) serious fun shoot participants showed up for the June Fun Shoot under clear skies and hot weather. This is the largest number of shooters for a fun shoot in several months. It's nice to see many new shooters at the June shoot. How about all of you "old" fun shooters?

Class 'A', HOA, was a tie between Jack Steele and Larry Libsack at 75x100. Clell Breining came in 3rd with a very nice score of 71x100.

Class 'B', 1st place was won by Bobby Petton with a score of 64x100; 2nd place was taken by Mike Lofy at 60x100; and Taylor Craft came in 3rd at 58x100.

Class 'C', 1st place was a tie between Keith Wilson and Dick Seaver at 47x100, and Ty Bloom came in 3rd at 46x100.

Note: Detailed scores for all shooters are available at the SDSSA web site. In addition: The web site now lists the shoot formats for upcoming fun shoots through December, 2003. Check it out!

Dodge City Shootout

by

Jim Englund



We had a great June shoot, with 56 shooters marching up to the line, including 3 juniors. The heavy overcast brought the scores down a bit with only three 25's at the 16-yard line. **Chip Enniss, Mike Howell and Taylor Craft** (not bad for someone whose abandoned the trap field!) all had 25's. No straights at handicap, but Annie Hoyle (with her brand new hip), De Savage(a junior), Mike Reese, Larry Panian, Bill Pye & Simon Cottriall all got 24's.

Only one 20 in the buddy shoots – **Jerry Dillard & Norm Rudolph** – go get 'um guys. At the Annie Oakley, FINALLY **Chip Enniss** takes first with **Preston Schiwitz** second and **Mike Howell** third. Everyone has lots of fun in this big long line! **Mir Safir**, a first time Dodge City shooter, who had never shot at the 27 yard line before, had the west end of the line working hard right down to the last. Good shooting Mir!

All of you who shoot the "City" know we take pride in the lunches we provide. They are getting bigger and better, and we like it, and hope you all do too. Because of the popularity of the shoot and the extended menu of the lunch, it takes one person to devote themselves to the preparation, cooking, & serving of the lunch. Our Prez, **Neil Vann**, has been doing this for many Saturdays wants to get in and show his skills as a trap shooter, therefore, I took his place this time. **Dan Fox**, is going to do it in July - so if we can get a few volunteers we can spread the fun around a little. Give it some thought and let me know which month you'd like to take. Hey, it's a lot of fun and you get to

meet all those hungry shooters and make them happy!

The July Shoot – A new record!

Well folks, we've established a new all time high this month with 59 shooters. What a terrific turnout for a lovely July morning. And by the scores the conditions were prime.

There were 14 hitting a perfect twenty-five and another 14 with twenty-four at 16 yards. I've told you people before, to lay low at 16 yd and bear down at handicap yardage. Out of the 14 with 25, only ONE went on to do it at handicap, and that was **Fred Corley**. The other two with perfect at handicap were **Jerry Dillard** and a new JUNIOR shooter, **Brett Mamer** from Imperial Valley. He also brought two of his pals to give us four junior shooters this month. Twenties at the buddy teams were also plentiful; 6 at the first and 8 at the second, which is pretty darn good. That back up shot can be tough.

Now with 59 people on one field can be a very long snaky line for the Annie Oakley. With five standing, three got knocked out with two misses and an over shoot. **Mike Howell** finally took first back at the fence over **Brett Mamer**, the junior. Good shooting Brett. I think we'll be seeing these Valley boys again.

Thanks to **Dan Fox** for taking on the culinary choir. Remember, we need others to help too. Let me know when you would like to play chef.

July Trap

News

by

Chip Enniss



Everyone who chose to spend their 4th of July weekend with us had a grand ole time. The Weather was just about San Diego perfect, Layne and His staff had everything set up and ready for good scores, good fun and good fellowship.

Our own Board of Director member and Web Master, **AUGIE DADDI**, was the big winner with Vet Trophies in all three events on Fri. Come on you Vets, Don't let Augie have all the wins. **Barry Sinkoff**, Trap Chairman of times

past was the Singles winner. **Jan Slough** shooting her Ljutic that I spent several months training won 4 events during the weekend with one being top Handicap score in Event 2. Good shooting Jan, keep up the hard work and your scores will continue to improve.

In event 3, **Ron Schwartz** was Doubles Champ over **Jim Ashley** in a shoot off after 96. This was only the second time Jim has shot Registered Doubles, and the first time with that Gun, Better get rid of it before there is too much pressure to shoot it well, that is what most Trap Shooters would do.

In event 4 Handicap. the **Mabery** boys, **Bob and Rob** both shot well and our resident sr. vet, **Mr. Jim Snow** nearly shot his age with a fine 91. **Jan and Mike Gebhardt** who have supported us like locals teamed up for long and Lady honors.

In event 5 Handicap, **Bill Pye** gave us all a lesson with a 96, **Terry Bilbey**, another out of townner who has been supporting us shot a 95 with a fifty straight from 27 yds. And Augie snuck in again for the Vet award.

On Sunday, **Chip Enniss** finally got on track and won the Doubles and Singles. **Ray Gutierrez**, a good friend and **Mike Gebhardt's** sidekick won the Vet Singles, **Brian Burrows**, one of our Jr shooters and a member of the S.C.T.P State Champion Team from our Club shot a fine score of 95 to win class C , **Breanna Heckenkamp**, another member of the S.C.T.P. Team and new Shooter won the Jr. Trophy with an 89. Thanks to the hard work of **Carla Sledge** and Don Wilkie we had 12 Jr. shooters participate in this event. These Kids practice on Thursday night at the Club, come on out and lend your support,. The Team is going to represent San Diego Shotgun Sports and California at the Grand American in August. They are a great group of kids and I am sure your support is important to them. Also, if you are interested in lending financial support or have any good ideas for fund raisers please let Carla or Don or any of the Board members know, These kids are doing something they will be proud of all their lives, lets get behind them.

All the results of the Shoot are posted on the Web sight if you want to check the rest of the winners. Thanks for your support, I look forward to seeing

you at the Aug. 1st and 2nd Shoot. Bring a friend and join us and you Vets get after Augie and you Girls get after Jan.

Our Web Site

Happenings

by

Augie Daddi



In case you overlooked this article last month, you can save your Association up to \$.75 a month by electing to get and read the Newsletter on the Internet.. In fact, you can view past issues of the Newsletter available on the Internet.

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.

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 has 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. So far 20 members have chosen to read the Newsletter on the Internet. That's a savings of \$15 a month to your Association. Since April 1, 2003 our Home page has logged over 7000 visits. Let me know if I can make your Internet experience with the Newsletter on the Internet or other info on the Association's web site more enjoyable for you

Building and Grounds Report

by

Malcum Campbell



As you can see, a lot of activity is going on at the range. The new bunker is almost complete, but is now operational. All of the trap fields are being made handicap compliant along with field #5 which will be handicap compliant for both skeet and trap. In preparation for a new handicap compliant and upgraded clubhouse, a ramp has been installed in front of the patio area. This will allow all to come up a gentle ramp from field 5 to the clubhouse. The steep ramp at the west end of the patio has been removed and replaced by new steps. Lots of other new ramps are being built throughout the range. The patio covers are all being painted. Come take a look at our spruced up range, & if you are willing to help, just give me (**Malcum Campbell**) a call at 619-460-6030 or e-mail at malcumdc@earthlink.net.

OUR WISH LIST CONTINUES

Someone reads our wish list. After last month's requests, we received a donation of a 12 gauge shotgun and a 28 gauge shotgun. We thank you and our new "small framed" learners thank you for that 28 gauge. We still could use some more. Search those closets & help us out! Our youth program is in full gear and continuing to grow – beginner shotgun training, hunter safety courses, Scholastic Clays program with it's 1st place team!, and the Boy Scout program. Keep the help coming!