



Newsletter

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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



This article, in the past few months, has centered on the growth of our Association as it pertains to the grounds, the shotgun sports and the membership. This month I would like to concentrate on a growth that I have neglected to emphasize. That is the growth in the attitude of our Association Staff.

Besides the full-time staff of General Manager (Layne Kuhlman), Assistant Manager James Reisig) and Office Manager (Nikolle Wertel), we employ about twenty young people as part-time employees. You see these folks wearing a bright yellow jacket carrying out various tasks directed by the GM. In that firm has employed the majority of us in the past, we expect a lot out of these young people and to that issue I address this message. Most of

them are paid a minimum wage as prescribed by law. Other may receive a dollar or two an hour above minimum wage. I can recall starting my Engineering background as a rivet-pounder for Convair in the summer of 1952 for \$1.05 an hour. As it was my first real job out of high school, and I was in hog heaven! I could even help my folks out a little by helping pay the rent on their small house in Normal Heights with my newfound gold mine! The point that I am attempting to make is, "How times have changed"; I think for the better!

We recently hired a firm to get us in the real world and up-to-date on Human Resources. We now have an Employees Handbook, which was given to each employee in the middle of September and the contents explained in detail by the HR representative to each employee. As we hire new employees, they too will get the handbook and an explanation as to its contents.

The handbook goes into detail about Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-harassment and Open Door Policy. In the General Information section, it describes Work Hours, Meal and Rest Periods, Time Worked and a host of other important issues that SDSSA wishes to stress to the staff. Other topics include, Benefits, Leaves of Absence and MOST important, Your Responsibilities As An Employee (standards of conduct, discipline, dress code) and Association Policies (safety, smoking).

This brings me to the meat of the message. We expect and demand total servitude, absolute respect and an undying love to keep busy, from our staff! Guess what? It ain't gonna happen unless we adults keep in mind

that we too were teen-agers!! Two things to keep in mind. These young people, in most cases, are experiencing their FIRST job and it is the FIRST time in dealing with the public. Most of us have had jobs that were not public orientated but worked in a closed loop system where you did the job you were hired to do, dealt with one or two personalities (the boss and the secretary) and basically were isolated from the wrath and multitude of personalities that the public displays. This can be a rude awakening to a young person. Some will cope and learn from the experience. Some are using this as a temporary relief from their schooling until they are enrolled in College. Others will move on to more to other endeavors. Again, the point is respect is a two way street. Young folks will learn to respect those who respect them. Work habits sometimes take a long time to develop. Self-starters are hard to find. Positive advice, if presented in that way, can do a lot to help these young people.

We on the Board of Directors, expect that every employee be the Range Safety Officer and if there is an unsafe practice observed, that the staff either diplomatically correct the situation or direct the incident to the Managers attention immediately. In that we have many shotgun games, the staff is expected to know the policy and procedures of each of the sports. Some are proficient at pulling/scoring at Trap, Skeet, 5-Stand, Bunker and working the computer for Trap. Others are in the learning process. At the beginning of the year, one of our Association members hit upon an idea to make those working Skeet Tournaments more proficient by taking the NSSA Associate Referee exam. There are presently six

field staff (Associate Referee) and two adults (Official Referee) who have taken the exam and passed it. NSSA has acknowledged the achievement and sent each a patch to signify their accomplishment. Starting in November, which is the start of the 2004 Registered Skeet Year, the program developed by Dewey "Duke" Wilber will take effect. Each Associate Referee will receive, in addition to their wage and tips, a penny-a-target when refereeing a registered Skeet event. This program is funded through donations of very generous and conscientious skeet shooters who wish to see our sport propagated. This is one way to say, "Thank you for caring", to our field staff. Does anyone out there in Association Land have any ideas how we can reward our field staff for the positive things that they do? If so, we have a suggestion box near the cashier's window (under the glass cleaning unit) that is in dire need of use.

I have come to know our field staff over the past year, some better than others, and find that they are a caring and conscientious group of people. They will produce when know what we want them to do. They will be respectful knowing that it will be returned. And lastly, they all have been told that they are the ambassadors of our great Association. Most times, they are the first and only contact that is made with the Association. They know that their attitude, appearance and work habits are a direct reflection of the Association.

Fun Shoot

by

Taylor Craft



The final fun shoot of 2003 was held in September. Fourteen shooters showed up on a gorgeous San Diego morning to shoot the last fund shoot of the year.

Class A was won by **Larry Libsack** with an excellent score of 83 x 100, with **Mike Howell** taking 2nd place at 80x100, and 3rd place was a tie between **Jack Steele & Bobby Petton** with 78x100.

Class B was won by **Richard Seaver** (63x100), coming in 2nd was **Doug Good** (57x100) and there was a four

way tie for 3rd place between **Dorsey Ek, Mike Glenn, Bill Debreau & Joe Caruso** (55x100).

News Flash – Randy Jones to be speaker at the annual meeting!

Annual meeting chairman, **Jim Englund** reports that he has been in touch with retired Padre player **Randy Jones** and that Randy has agreed to be the speaker at our annual meeting. We will have more information about this in the future – But in Jim's words "Randy was a Cy Young award winner – cool talker – great speaker!" Get your dinner table reservations in early – this year's dinner is going to have a full house.

Youth Programs

by

Don Wilkie



Introduction to shotgun sports

In the absence of Jim Englund, the "team" of **Jim Snow, Dawson Frank and Don Wilkie** conducted the monthly class. Five adults, one a drop-in, and 4 youths attended a lecture on range and field safety followed by a demonstration of shotgun handling and shooting practice. Each participant fired at 10 skeet targets and 15 trap targets. All came away with a feeling of accomplishment.

Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP)

The 2003 SCTP trapshooting season ended on August 9th with the Grand American World Trapshooting Championships at Vandalia, Ohio.

Twice monthly practices are now being held for the 2004 season along with participation in the SDSSA monthly Amateur Trapshooting Association competitions. Nine SCTP members participated in the October 4th singles event. **De Savage** came away with the ATA junior championship after a shoot-off, while **Judy Sledge** won the first place SCTP trophy followed by **Breanna Heckenkamp** in second place and **Ian Daube** in third. Congratulations

to all who competed. Participants and scores are listed below.



Judy Sledge – 1st place SCTP

De Savage 89, **Kurtis Sorchy** 81, **Judy Sledge** 89, **Dorsey Ek** 81, **Breanna Heckenkamp** 88, **Ian Daube** 84, **Jon Burrows** 71, **Cameron Anderson** 64, **Emily Heckenkamp** 83

Our thanks to **Robert Freed of Engraving Pros** who provided trophies for the winners. **Diane Savage** managed the team while **Bill Savage** handled coaching responsibilities.

Family and team members prepared and served lunch. Our thanks to Pamela Heckenkamp and daughter Emily, who headed the lunch team, supported by De Savage, Breanna Heckenkamp and Ian Daube. Proceeds will be used to finance travel to Las Vegas to compete in the Second Annual Las Vegas Scholastic Invitational. See below.

Practice during October will be held October 23 and 30. Group 1 will begin practice at 5 PM and group 2 at 6 PM. Each participant will shoot 2 rounds of 25. It is our goal to have each group complete its practice within one hour in order to minimize the time spent at the range on a school night or work night for parents.

Our goals for 2004 include having two competitive squads compete in the California State Shoot at Kingsburg in June. In addition we plan to participate in one or more regional shoots including a friendly match at Las Vegas, Sunday January 19, 2004. All team members who wish to compete will be included.

At least two of our members are now competing in International/Olympic

trapshooting competitions at the range.

Support for the Scholastic Program continues to grow. It is truly a team effort and involves students, parents, board members, other shooters at the range, range staff and members of the community.

Building and Grounds Report

by

Malcum Campbell



Thanks to the work of many volunteers and the Staff many improvements are continuing at the range. If you have not been out to the range for a while, come on out and you won't recognize the place!

One of the biggest changes is the enhanced lighting to enable increased activities on Wednesday and Thursday evening. The lights have been adjusted to ensure better lighting. Come out and take a look at it - and better yet try some shooting under the lights!

The program to trim, water and fertilize the trees is continuing. I sure you will notice that the trees are looking better and healthier as this program takes hold. We are still looking for volunteers to "adopt a field" which will involve giving a little loving care to trees, plants and area surrounding your adopted field. If we all pitch in, the whole range will continue to look better.

Your dedicated volunteers are continuing to clean, paint, patch and improve your range - why not join us in this project. If you can help, just see me at the range (I'm there about every day), give me a call, or leave you name at the range office and we will call you.

ENHANCED LIGHTING MAKES SHOOTING WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS ENJOYABLE

Thanks to a dedicated crew of volunteer workers led by Vice President Chip Ennis and Manager Layne Kuhlman the field lighting has been greatly improved.

Some shooters felt that the "back side" of the fields were not adequately lighted. The lights have now been adjusted to cure this problem. We have

fields for trap, skeet, and 5 stand lighted for your shooting pleasure.

If you have not been out in a while, come out on Wednesday and Thursday nights and try shooting under the lights. The range is open until 9 PM both days.

A lot of activity is going on at the range on these nights. It's starting to look like "family night" at the range. Every Wednesday night there is a "pot shoot" going on down at field one. What is a pot shoot you ask - well it's a bunch of shooters getting together and shooting buddy shoots, Annie Oakley's & any other game they can think of. Come out and watch and the next thing you know you will be out there with them having so much fun...

The evenings are also the time that our Juniors are able to shoot and get in their practice for the SCTP. The parents that bring them out are starting to get involved and have started shooting. You get the drift - it's a great place to spend some time on Wednesday and Thursday - get away from that boob tube at home and come out and have some fun. It's a whole different game shooting under the lights.

August Trap

News

by

Chip Ennis



We enjoyed another beautiful Southern California weekend. Scores were good, so was the hospitality provided by Layne and his staff and the food prepared by the Mom's Dad's and young folks involved in the S.C.T.P. (youth) program.

As for scores, we had a total of 9 shooters getting 100x100 scores on 16 yard line, 8 shooters with 99x100 and 16 with 98x100 - pretty good shooting, even on targets that come from the same place and always go away from you.

We had 27 category shooters on the Singles (Vets. Ladies, and Jr's) that is also pretty impressive, showing this to truly be a sport that everyone can participate in and enjoy.

In the Handicap we also had good scores with the high being 98x100's from 27 yards by Mike Gebhardt and from 21 yards by Mike Reese. Mike can wave goodbye to short yardage, I will make room for him on my squad if he keeps shooting like he has been.

Doubles saw a 197x200 by Jerry Parr, a State team member and always a threat in the Doubles. Other winners on the Doubles were Joe Roby AA, David Sachau A, John Lumn B and Jessica Anderson Lady.

Over all, we had a very good turnout and everyone commenting to me had a good time and most said they would return.

The two Mikes, Gebhardt and Reese took some of the perfect 50's Money but there is quite a bit left - so come out and give it a shot.

Any suggestions, problems or complaints should be directed to Chip Ennis or any other Board member who will pass it along. We are striving to improve the Club and the various programs and Events, but we need your input. See you on the Range.

Safety

by

Dan Fox



This short article is part of a continuing series to keep the concept of safety in everybody's mind. Our range has been safe in it's over 25 years of existence at this location and we all want to kept it safe. This is an "all hands evolution" as they say in Navy talk - so let's all work at it.

I have been shooting for quite a few years, and just a couple of weeks ago I had something happen to me that brought the safety issue to mind and answered the question "Why does the range require all shooters to wear eye protection and keep spectators on the other side of the fence?"

What happened to me that brought this concept home, was when I was shooting skeet with my son and several others. My son shot a skeet target, broke it nicely, but some of the pieces came back, one of them hitting my shooting glasses and bouncing

back, one of them hitting my shooting glasses and bouncing down and hitting my nose. Now some of you know that us old guys bleed much easier than we used to, so the next thing I knew my son pointed out that blood was running down my face from a small cut that the broken target had made on my nose. The damage to my nose was slight, and the bleeding quickly stopped, but just think what that sharp target piece could have done to my eye, had I not been wearing glasses!

So when a Staff person or your fellow shooters remind you that you cannot participate without eye protection, don't get mad, just be thankful that they are looking out for your safety. This is also one of the reasons that non-shooters are asked to view the shooting from the back of the fence.

Think safe, act safe, be safe, and enjoy a safe day of shooting at the range!

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



The San Diego Shotgun Sports Association located in "America's Finest City", San Diego, California hosted The **Grey Silva Memorial VI Open** on September 19-21, 2003 to 65 shooters. Grey was a dear friend, a trusted advisor and without a doubt the model of a true gentleman. His 100-straight in the .410 for Veteran on July 12, 1991 at 80 years of age was just one of many accomplishments that Grey achieved, but probably his most cherished. At the World Shoot, he was known as the "Hugologist" and spent considerable time before the events making sure that he got a hug from all the gals in the office. We have this shoot each September in honor of a man that we miss very much. Grey left us mortals behind on May 1, 1997 but will continue to inspire those us of who knew and loved him.

What an honor and privilege to have **Becky and Bob Myers** from Virginia as our guests for the **Grey Silva Memorial VI**. They made reservations in May indicating that they were traveling. They left Virginia, missed

hurricane Isabelle while in California and headed back in an easterly direction right after collecting all their winnings. Nice people and excellent shooters. Little did I know that they would be the celebrities featured in the one-on-one article by Morris Gresham in the September NSSA Skeet Review. Bob and I have the same goal to be the #1 registered target buster in the nation. At the last issue of the Records Annual, he was #4 and I am way back in 7th place. Time will tell! If you want to see another interesting web site, go to www.vaskeet.com and get some pointers on improving your skill.

Our skeet shooting family continues to grow with "new" shooters coming out to participate in our monthly shoots at our facility. **Dave Sandstrom** (California City), **John Barnes** (Bakersfield), **Andy Saenz** (Long Beach), **Steve York** (Cerritos) **Carl Booher** (Monrovia) and **Cliff Weaver** (Whittier) were welcomed with open arms to our great Association.

Second-year shooter in Class B, **Bill Borrelli** (Yorba Linda) shot his first 100-straight and it was in the 28ga. Another good hat shot to smithereens. And then Bill has the gall to outshoot our guest, **Bob Myers** (AA) and take the Runner Up spot in the 28ga. even. Of all the nerve! Great shooting, Bill. Now go after the other guys that have been bugging you!

I recently had a relatively new shooter tell me that he had hit a plateau of low 20's (out of 25) and couldn't seem to get any better and what should he do to improve. Not thinking out of the box, I suggested troublesome station practice and "shoot more". Then I read an article in the September 2003 Shotgun Sports magazine (p39-46) that turned on the light of brilliant deduction. The article written by Dave Holmes states, "Up pucker (I like that)! You must learn to think in a positive mode. You can fuss all you like, but you aren't going to make real progress until you shoot the "T" right off the end of can"T". "I can't hit that shot", has to be removed from your vocabulary and replaced with; I can learn and hit that shot"! I continue to say, "If you want something to bother you, it will". All it takes is a positive attitude, determination and practice.

On to the highlights of September's shoot. A crowd of 18 participating in the .410 Bore preliminary with **John**

Barnes whipping all comers with a nice 99. In fact, the only shoot-off was between **George Collins** (Redondo Beach) and future famous **Bill Borrelli**, both Class B shooters with 90's vying for B3. Bill did a whomp on George and took home the bacon.

The Doubles event attracted 39 two-bangers with **Steve Claunch** (San Diego) the top dawg shooting his second hundred in the Doubles this year. Two of our more mature shooters, **Gil Siu** (Corona) and **Roman Warren** (Riverside) brought in 99's and went eight stations before the veteran shooter bowed out to the senior shooter and Gil became Doubles Runner Up. Just before Roman dutched a pair at station #4, he told Gill so that the crowd could hear it, "I think I hear Kay (Gil's wife) calling you for dinner". Retribution is retroactive! The longest shoot off of the weekend was between **Bob Myers** and **Dave Broccoli** (La Costa) for AA2 and AA3. At the 16th station, Bob let the high at station #4 slip thereby giving Dave the award.

Saturday morning, the fog gave us a no-background sky. Also no wind and no jets to disturb the air for the 57-28ga. shooters. Three perfect scores came in from **Dave Broccoli** (famous), **Bill Borrelli** (now famous) and **Bob Myers** (also famous). Dave captured the Gun Champion after two stations and Bill and Bob continued on their quest for stardom. Then Bob squirts a high 5 and Bill smokes the pair giving Bill Gun Runner Up and Bob Class AA1. The next shoot off of consequence was between the five 99's that were shot. **Carl Booher** (Monrovia), **Russ Terry** (Irvine), **Gary Dittmar** (Fountain Valley), **Joe Falabrino** (La Verne), and **John Barnes**, all Class AA shooters, went toe-to-heel at station #3 with fire-in-the-belly. Russ goes out after the first pair, Gary follows Russ after two pair, and then Carl leaves after 4-pair leaving Falabrino and Barnes to duke it out. Two more stations and Joe falls victim to the accuracy of John's pair. John takes Class AA2 and Joe, Class AA3.

We had a lunch that the feeding of the 5000 would be put to shame. **Lee Dennis** (San Diego) delivered 7 or 8 six-foot Subway sandwiches, potato salad, macaroni salad, chip and drinks with enough left over to feed a small army. **Dan Fox** (San Diego) made sure

that all had enough to eat and there was still food left over. The food was great!

The 12ga. event pulled in 60 shooters. Here is where the heavy hitters come into full glory. We ended up with six 100-straight when all was said and done. Bob Myers (more famous than previous), **John Barnes** (first level famous), **Steve Claunch** (up a notch on the famous level), **Russ Terry** (overly famous), **Gil Siu** (been famous forever) and **Joe Falabrino** (only famous when he brings his wife, Mary, to a shoot) line up behind station #3 for the shoot off. Gil and Joe out too early but Joe takes Class A1. Then Russ (AA2) and Steve (AA1) bow out leaving the out-of-towners to do battle. This time, Bob Myers does a Virginia reel and breaks both at station #4 whereas Bakersfield Barnes' lead is on the wrong side. Myers becomes 12ga. Gun Champion and Barnes, Runner Up. The end of a great day.

Sunday morning opens with some velo (fog) clouds but it will brighten up by 9:30. The mighty and humbling .410 bore takes on 58 shooters. The top score is a 99 shot by non other than **John Barnes, Jay Carter** (Claremont) and **Joe Falabrino**. Jay dutches a pair ending up with Class A1. Joe drops one the next station and John doesn't leaving .410 Bore Gun Champion to **John Barnes** and Runner Up to **Joe Falabrino**.

Lunch again! More Subway sandwiches to go with the other goodies. Another 5 or 6 more six footers! This time **Dan Fox** is practically forcing people to eat. Some people who have never eaten before are hovering around Dan wondering where all this good food is going. Again, the food is great and plentiful.

The last shooting event of the weekend is the 20ga. The number of folks shooting is 57 and the number of 100-strights is 5. **Bob Myers, Carl Booher, Dave Broccoli, Jim Rhoden** (Long Beach) and **Steve Lee** (Pomona). Jim Rhoden is first to escape with loaded shells in his pouch, then **Bob Myers** shuffles to the sidelines with **Carl Booher** one station behind leaving **Dave Broccoli** (AA) and **Steve Lee** (A) in the contest. They go 10 stations before fate befalls Dave and misses a low four. Steve steps to the station and busts a pair. **Steve Lee** is the 20ga. Gun Champ with Dave as Runner Up.

We had some super good HOA scores come in. Three 397's topped the gaggle of 52 four-gun shooters. **Bob Myers, Dave Broccoli** and **Joe Falabrino** were in contention for HOA Champion, Runner Up and Class AA1. Both Dave and Joe dropped one on the second station leaving Bob HOA Champ. Dave and Joe continued until the 12th station and Dave dropped a high four. Joe crunched a pair and became HOA Runner Up with Dave, Class AA1. Thus ended the weekend of fun a frolic. **Lee Dennis** sponsored the prizes of .410 shells to Champ and first in class. Champ received four boxes and first in class, 2 boxes. In HOA, Champ received 8 boxes and first in class received 4 boxes. We thank **Lee Dennis** for his generosity and taking an active part in making this the best shoot of the year at SDSSA. See you all next month.

Many thanks go to a lot of people who participate in the events and those who don't. Thanks to **Dave Broccoli** for bringing the donuts Saturday morning. For those of you who don't know, we always have a 30-cup pot of coffee next to the sign-up table for you on Saturday and Sunday. Take advantage of it and of the donuts that sometimes show up. Thanks to our faithful working companions at the sign-up desk; **Barb Vann** (she can take your money in a heartbeat), **Don Deckman, Vern Gideon, Richard Seaver and Bill Page**.

Trap League

by

Gary Krueger



The Winter Trap league will start on January 21, 2004. The new format and rules are posted on the web site under league information.

I would encourage and request that teams organize and sign up with a designated team leader with contact information for all shooters on the team. This will facilitate good and efficient communication with the chairman(ME!) to answer questions and resolve any issues that may arise. This year the team sign up will be cut off one week prior to the start date to allow time for managerial organization. I look forward

to hosting a great league with a record setting number of teams!

Dodge City Shootout

by

Jim Englund



Another record setting day at the Dodge City!! We had 64 shooters working hard to come out on top – but at the end there was **Bill Pye** at the top of the heap with a great 87x90.

Chris Burrows, Lonnie Catania, Jerry Callaway, Chip Enniss & Bill Pye got them all at the 16 yd line. The handicap saw only two at the top with **Chip Enniss & Willie Turner** hitting them all. It was a tough day for buddy shoots – no team got a perfect 20 – however on buddy # 1 **Chip Enniss, Bill Pye, Rich McAdams, Barney Miller, Jerry Callaway & Lonnie Catania** came in with 19. On the second buddy **Bill Pye, Bryan Burrows, Jim Hernandez, Joe Keneally, Don Deckman, Greg Alexander, K Jossenberger, and Brandon Catania** broke 19.

And then there was that big ole Annie Oakley where **Chip Enniss** out shoot them all, with **Charlie (big boom) Bover**, hanging in there for 2nd place, followed closely by **Charlie Slough**.

I want to thank **Fred Hoyle** for taking over the signup & payoff in my absence & **Don Wilkie** for so ably cooking the dogs – and of course this great shoot could not take place without the able assistance of **Layne Kuhlman, James Reisig, Nikolle Wertel, & the rest of the dedicated Staff**.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

When that special person in your life asks you what you would like to Christmas – tell them that the perfect gift would be a life membership in the Association!

Just think – no more dues to pay and you will be helping the Association, because those monies that come in when you buy a life membership will help with all of the improvements that are going on around the range. There are lots more planned – so be a part of it and sign up for that life membership!!