



Newsletter

Volume 3

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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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Ray "Chip" Enniss	Vice President
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Taylor Craft	Treasurer

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Range Manager	Layne Kuhlman
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of Steve Hubbard and will culminate at the Annual Dinner on January 24, 2004 when the lucky winner is handed a beautiful Perazzi 12ga. shotgun or a check for \$5000.00.

Jim Englund, our 2004 Annual Dinner Chairman, has secured as a speaker Randy Jones of Padre baseball fame. You will see folks at the Annual Dinner that look so much different encapsulated without their shooting togs! I plan to reveal a report on the start of the new Clubhouse. I hope to see and talk to you on the evening of January 24th.

All of this leads up to wishing you and yours the best possible wishes during and after this Holiday season. Let's make a resolution to get active in your Association in 2004 by volunteering to help in our projects and shooting more and better than you did in 2003.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the annual meeting on January 24, 2004 & the lucky winner will win the Perazzi of their choice or \$5,000.00. Any amount above the cost of the prize will go to paying for our new Club House.

What a deal – the chance to win the gun of your dreams or \$5,000 and at the same time take a tax deduction for helping build the new Club House!!

CHARITY SHOOT AT LEMON GROVE

The Lemon Grove Rod 7 Gun Club is holding a series of shoots for the benefit of 6 of their members who lost their homes during the recent fires. All proceeds will go to this cause. They are asking that everyone come out and support these shoots – even if you don't shoot come out and support the cause!

Saturday, December 27th – 50-bird Sporting Clay event – cost \$15 per person. Lunch will be available.

Sunday, December 28th - 100-bird Sporting Clay event – cost \$25 per person – price includes lunch and 1 raffle ticket. 50 birds in the morning – 50 birds in the afternoon. Sign up starts at 6:15 AM both mornings – first come, first served. Shoot starts at 8 AM.

January 1st, 2nd & 3rd. 5-stand shoot in the pit on a not-to-interfere basis with the rifle range. Cost of the shoot is \$3 for a round of 15 birds. Food will be available. Hours of operation 9 AM to 3:30 PM daily.

Questions? Call Wilma at 619-469-6975

President's

Message

by

Neil Vann



According to the date on the newsletter that you are just reading, the 2003 Christmas season is behind us, the New Year and the new year resolutions that are carved in stone are in full bloom and we are in the 4th year of the millennium. Well, that is just on paper and it is called pre-planning. Our newsletter editor, Dan Fox, is persistent in his successful attempt to keep putting out a first-class newsletter, which takes much forethought and planning not to mention a considerable amount of his time. Little do most of us realize the amount of effort that it takes to make something worthwhile. I, personally, thank Dan for his dedication in making the San Diego Shotgun Sports Newsletter a noteworthy publication.

Our accomplishments have been many over the past 12 months and they would not have been possible without the cooperation and teamwork that we have generated and experienced within our Association membership. Our first fundraiser is in full swing under the direction

ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!!

The election committee counted the ballots and reported the results of the election. The new members of the Board will be sworn in at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2004.

The results were as follows: President – **Neil Vann** Board of Directors – **Augie Daddi, Jim Englund, Dan Fox, Fred Hoyle & Don Wilkie.**

RAFFLE ! RAFFLE! RAFFLE!

The Association is holding a raffle to help pay for the new Club House. Each member was sent 5 raffle tickets. (more are available at the Range Office)

Each member is being asked to purchase or sell at least those 5 tickets (hopefully you'll get more at the Range Office) The tickets go for a \$10 donation of each ticket. This is considered a donation to help toward the Club House & since we are a non-profit (501-c-3) corporation **the donation is tax deductible.**

Annual Dinner

by

Jim Englund



The Annual Dinner Meeting is fast approaching – Saturday January 24th. Please get your dinner tickets send in, or you can hand them in at the Range Office.

This is going to be a great evening of fun. We have an outstanding speaker – **Randy Jones** of baseball fame – and the food is going to be great. You will see one of your fellow shooters win the shotgun of their dreams – a brand new Perrazi –or- \$5000!

Sign up with some of your friends and take a whole table, but the important thing is to sign up. Do it today!

Safety

by

Chip Enniss



Safety has to be the most important part of Gun Handling, whether Hunting, shooting any of the many forms of Competition or just plinking for fun.

With the anti-gunners looking for any chance to make guns and gun owners look bad, we can not afford to give them anything to work with.

In the last Year there have been three shooting accidents that I know of on Trap Ranges. The first one last Sept in Montana was the first Death on a Trap Range in over 100 Years, The second in the South resulted in serious Injury and the third happened when a shooter looking at a gun for sale thought it had a snap cap in it and pointed it at a tent and pulled the trigger. Luckily, the tent was not occupied at the time but it is no longer much good in a rainstorm.

My point is that each of us as Association Members, Competitors, Husbands, Father, Mothers, Sons, Daughters, Instructors or even Observers must be the SAFETY POLICE. Please, if you see someone doing anything unsafe, point it out in a friendly way. Your future and the future of our ability to continue to enjoy the shooting sports may well rely on your actions.

Trap League

by

Gary Krueger



Come one, Come all, Young and Old , Beginner and Veteran. Don't miss your chance to shoot in the finest trap league!!!!!!

The cutoff date for sign up will be Wednesday January 14th. The league officially begins Wednesday the 21st of January.

Eight teams are already signed up and posted on the website. The new option

rules are also posted on the Website. Please make a note to read and review.

For all those currently signed up, and those about to, please give your vest size to Nikolle at the range office.

Youth Programs

by

Don Wilkie



Boy Scout Merit Badge Program:

The Boy Scout Merit badge Program for the month of November included two groups with a total of 24 scouts. For the year, a total of 86 scouts participated in range instruction at SDSSA under the leadership of **Robb Frank**.

Introduction to Shotgun Sports:

Jim Englund has been instructing this course which now includes adults as well as youths. Under Jim's instruction 59 new and novice shooters participated in the program during 2003. Several SDSSA members assisted with the program, most notably, **Duke Wilber**.

Scholastic Clays Target Program:

Once again in November SCTP members dominated the youth division at ATA with 11 team members competing. And, once again an up-and-coming shooter rose to a high level to win Class C. This time it was **Dustin Stewart** who said, "It's my turn" and shot 98x100 to win the Class and best his previous competition score of 88. Congratulations Dustin!



Dustin Stewart – 98x100

COMPETE SCTP RESULTS –11 ENTRIES

High Score	DUSTIN STEWART	98
1 st Place	DE SAVAGE	93

2 nd Place	JUDY SLEDGE	91
3 rd Place	DORSEY EK	89
	KURTIS SORCHY	88
	IAN DAUBE	84
	CAMERON ANDERSON	83
	BREANNA HECKENKAMP	81
	EMILY HECKENKAMP	75
	BRYANT CZECH	74
	JOSH SENN	67

Twenty-five Straights were shot by **Dustin Stewart**, who shot two, **De Savage**, **Judy Sledge**, and **Kurtis Sorchy**, each with one. Good work team – 100's are now in sight!



Sorchy – Savage – Sledge - Stewart

December 10th was the last SCTP practice for the 2003 calendar year and marked the completion of the SCTP 2004 preseason training. The 2004 Target Year gets underway with practice Thursday, January 8th followed by the monthly ATA shoot on Saturday, January 10th. Weekly practices will normally be held each Thursday evening with the exception of the conflicting events and August which will be a vacation month.

Schedules will be posted on the web site.

The team now includes 30 participants ranging from 6th grade through 8th grade (Juniors) and from 9th through 12th grade (Seniors). Newcomers will be placed on the waiting list until they can be accommodated. In the meantime, time and space permitting, they may shoot as guests. All SCTP students shoot for ½ price (\$2.50) at scheduled practices and SDSSA competitions.

We are dividing practices into two sessions 5 PM to 6 PM and 6PM to 7 PM or until completion. We also would like to stabilize squads as well as coaching responsibilities and will continue to work toward this goal. Parents can assist by seeing that their youngsters are on time and by notifying me if they will not be attending practice. I can be reached by phone or e-mail. I will check my email in the afternoon before leaving for practice. My number is 858-457-2673 & email address is donqua27@aol.com.

The first SCTP competition of the year will be the Las Vegas Invitational to be held on January 18, 2004 at the Las Vegas Trapshooting Park. The cost will be \$35 per

student – see **Carla Sledge** for additional information (619-447-9749)

Fund raising continues under Carla's management with parents and students assisting with lunches at the monthly ATA shoot and at the newly implemented "Fish Fries". In addition we will seek sponsors to provide squad shirts etc. as teams become stabilized.

At present we have two stabilized squads: Squad 1 – Senior Experienced, coached by **John McClure** and Squad 2 – Junior Experienced coached by **Don Wilkie**. More good news – **Susan Sledge** has agreed to coach the Junior Experienced squad with me. Susan, a member of the Junior Olympic team, is a valuable addition to our coaching staff.

Beginning January 10th we would like team members to wear their SCTP hats and shirts at all competitions. Name badges are being provided to all team members courtesy of **Nikolle Wertel** the Range Office Manager.

Further information, rules and forms can be obtained from www.nssf.org/sctp.

December

Trap News

by

Chip Enniss



Saturday was a Beautiful San Diego day. Our turnout for the Shoot was very good and everyone seemed to enjoy them selves.

Event # 1- Singles had 62 Participants with **Kristy Williams**, a visitor from Washington State the only one able to break them all. Tied for AA Class was **Mike Gebhardt**, **Chip Enniss** **Gerry Williams** (**Kristys Husband**) and **Freddie Corley**.

A Class was taken by **Ed Wood** who has been shooting Sporting the last few Years, with a fine 98. B Class champ was **Ron Schwartz** with another 98. Veteran was a tie between **Bill Bridges** and **Paul Busch**. And **Karla Sledge** took Lady with 97. **Aaron Thompson** secured Jr. with 98.

Event # 2- Handicap saw 48 shooters try their luck with the Champ being **Gerry Williams** with 96, followed by **Terry Bilbey** and **Aaron Thompson** with 94 each for Long and **John Lumn**, **Lonnie Catania**, and **Ken Datz** with 92 for Mid yds. Tied for Short with 92 was **Ed Wood** and **Greg Alexander**. **Jan Slough** won Lady with 92. **Jerry Dillard** took Vet Honors and **Brett Mamer**, a Young Shooter from the El Centro area took Jr.

Event # 3- Doubles was won by **Aaron Thompson** with 98, AA was taken by **Gerry Williams** with 97, **Kristy Williams** won A with 96 and **Ken Datz** secured B with 88. The Doubles were very hard to see as late as it was. Congratulations for the good scores in less than favorable conditions.

Sunday was very wet with no light on the Targets and only 15 die hard Trap Shooters tried there luck on the Singles. **Rich Davis** won Champ with 99, **John Lumn** took AA with 98, and **Jan Slough** won C with 90. There was no Lady, Vet or Jr. Class.

The Rain quit but so did more Shooters leaving only 13 to shoot the handicap. **Joe Roby** was Champ with 92 followed by **Rich Davis** for Long with 91, and **Ray Torres** with 91 for Short yard honors. Again, not enough shooters for the other Classes.

Bring your friends out next Mo. And join us for some good shooting and good times on the 10th and 11th. We will start at 8:30 to try to avoid shooting in bad light and will shoot 50 targets per Trap (2 rounds of 25 Targets) to speed things up. Thanks for supporting our club and spread the word about Trap Shooting so we can continue to grow and improve the Club and the Quality of the Shoots and the Prizes and Purses.

OLYMPIC TRAP

by

Ricardo Alcantara



The November B-125 was a great success with 24 shooters participating right after the Thanksgiving weekend – something previously unheard of!

Mr. Enrique Wehber from Tijuana donated the hot lunch consisting of Carne Asada

The HOA was our own **Roger Thorne**, followed by **J.C. Craft & Mike Howell**. The results of the shoot and the 2004 shooting schedule is posted on the web page.

The new Nasta targets are in Long Beach and I am working to clear them through customs. We should be able to get them to the range by mid December and our next B-300 will feature the international Nasta targets.

A business plan is going to be presented to the Association Board of Directors indicating how the construction over-runs will be paid off. We are hoping for more donations and for sponsors to help offset the over-runs. Armusa ammunition will be sponsoring three out of the ten matches scheduled for 2004.

I constructed 5 metal tables and delivered them to **Mr. Herman Sledge** for sandblasting and painting. These cartridge tables will go on Field # 12 to accommodate the shooters. The computer equipment is now secure and out of the weather. The metal cabinet has been installed and is in full operation. New signs are in place on both field #11 & #12. Many thanks to our member **Mr. Bill Bollinger**, as he donated one whole day at the old bunker servicing and cleaning the equipment.

If you can help financially, please do so, as our program is in need of financial support to finish paying for the new field. Remember, all donations are tax deductible since the Association is a 501-c-3 non-profit association.

There will be a 5-day International clinic by **Bret Erickson**, starting December 17th, 2003. For more information contact **Mr. Rick Matulich**.

Mark your calendar for the next B-300 match right after Christmas.

Building
and
Grounds Report
by

Malcum Campbell



There is still a lot of activity going on in upgrading our range. Some the improvements you will notice immediately and some are not so obvious. We could not do this without some hard working members that are devoting time to these projects. We do a lot of work on Monday and Tuesday when the range is closed. Anyone who would be willing to give a few hours of time – please just let me know – we would really appreciate your assistance.

You will notice that some trees and plants that were on the trap fields have been moved to other locations. This will allow better lighting conditions on field 4. Some of the dead trees around the range have been removed and new trees are being installed. **Nowell Wisch & his wife** donated the new trees on field 5.

The cement work in front of the new bunker has been completed – so we are now ready for the rainy season – if it ever gets here.

An electrical engineer is in the process of evaluating our electrical requirements prior to the installation of our new clubhouse. Once the evaluation process is complete, we will be able to upgrade our system to meet our estimated requirements.

The process is slow, but I hope you can see the results. Again, anyone that can spare a few hours on a Monday, Tuesday, or

Thursday morning – let me know – we sure could use your help.

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports (San Diego, California) hosted its first shoot of the 2004 Registered Skeet season on November 7-9, 2003. The shoot was entitled, “Thanks For The Memory Open” and was attended by 23 enthusiastic shooters. Thirteen of the twenty-three were 4-gun shooters. As has been the format since my involvement as Skeet Chairman in 1999, the program has consisted of 600 targets for the three-day weekend and this season is no exception. If you throw the targets, the shooters will come.

On Friday we had a .410 Preliminary in which 6 attended and all were winners! No-longer-Novice, **Eric Vandenhaute** (San Diego) took Gun Champion honors by posting a 91 with **Vern Gideon** (El Cajon) close on his heels with a 90. The little gun sure can be humbling!!

Our second event on Friday was the Doubles in which 8 self-employed/retired shooters participated. (How else can one shoot on Friday unless SE/R?) **Neil Vann** (San Diego) came through with a 98 to take the Gun Championship. I could go on and on and bore you with the two that I missed, but (Phew!); I won't. It feels good to get a good score occasionally. There were no lingering shoot-offs so all the SE/R got to go home early and get a good nights rest for the Saturday events.

Saturday morning started off with a slightly different version of the National Anthem before commencing the 28ga. event. With 17 28ga. shooters shooting at targets including some blasting holes in the sky, the Gun Champion was **Dave Broccoli** (La Costa) with a 98. There were no shoot-offs but a new shooter to SDSSA, **Gary Rich** (Glendale, AZ) entertained us with a nice 94 (Class B) and gave up his opportunity to be in a Class B3 shoot-off with **Lee Dennis** (San Diego) by leaving before the shoot-offs. **Vern Gideon** and **Doug Goad** (Olivehein) duked it out for Class B1 and B2 in a lone shoot-off. Both got past station #3. Vern missed one on station #4 and all but congratulated Doug on a job well done when Doug dutched a pair. The crowd went wild but both endured the applause as they cantered off the field.

Lunch on Saturday was sponsored by our erstwhile friend, **Bobby Williams** (Gardena). As an ardent volunteer, Bobby serves on the SoCal Board and the California State Board and is well known as a “jewel” in the skeet community. Bobby has a desire to help in anyway that he can. We had the usual hamburgers (free to shooters and their family) and condiments served by **Pat & Don Wilkie** (San Diego). Don will shoot occasionally but both are great supporters of our myriad of activities and are always available when a helping hand is needed. Thanks to both Pat and Don.

Saturday afternoon brings on the testosterone bodied individuals who delight in getting beat up by the mighty 12ga. Some shoot a smaller gauge but not all. Both **Lee Dennis** and **James Dewey** (Ramona) come in with 99's. This shoot-off has to be thought of as long range planning. Here are a couple of guys that could, can and do shoot Doubles with a passion. Both smoke a pair a station #3. James, going first, steps up to station #4 with all the confidence ever bestowed upon man and drops-a-pair. Meek and mild mannered, Lee Dennis gets half-a-pair but it is good enough to take 12ga. Gun Champion. Another standing ovation by the crowd. We had two Novice shooters with us in this event. **Charlie Geer** (Carlsbad) and **Nelson Jones** (Rancho Santa Fe). Charlie won the Novice prize with an excellent 98 and took Class AA1. Charlie's claim to fame is that he “taught **Dave Broccoli** everything he knows about skeet!” (Quote, unquote). It is a real pleasure starting out the 2004 season with a fresh batch of Novices. Thanks for coming out Charlie and Nelson. The handcrafted leather shell pouch was donated by Association member, **John Herkowitz** of Pacific Shooting Arms. Thanks, John, for your unselfish support to a great cause.

On to Sunday, where the sun is occasionally peeking behind the clouds with the threat of rain. It's cool, calm and a good start for the .410 bore and the 14 going for the gold. After the yesterday dropping-a-pair episode, the Ramona Rambo, **James Dewey**, snarls and gnashes his teeth while posting the lone high score of the event. A very nice 99. Now if you are going to win, do it outright and then one doesn't have to be in a shoot-off.

Lunch again with one of our favorite volunteers, **Dan Fox** (San Diego), at the spatula whipping out the burgers in a frenzy. I haven't figured out if Dan enjoys cooking or shooting skeet the best. Both seem to agree with him and us. Our Association is blessed with volunteers and that is what makes a program so viable and successful. It is the “WE” attitude that gets things done. **Mary Buompensiero** (San Diego) provided the two scrumptious deserts; one a Cherry Dump Cake and the other an Apple Dump Cake. What a delight! Thanks, Mary.

With fire-in-the-belly, the last shooting event of the weekend takes place with 15 registered to shoot the 20ga. We have a shoot-off for Gun Champion and Runner Up! None other than **James Dewey** (remember him; dropped-a-pair in the 12ga. shootoff then came back to hero status in the .410 bore?) and ex-Novice, **Eric Vandenhaute**. Here is where we have another case of “There you are.” James hits four-in-a-row and Eric is three for four. James is 20ga. Gun Champion with Eric Runner-Up.

HOA Champion went to a very deserving and much abused (by me) **James Dewey**.

We threw 8000 targets over the three days and managed to make some new friends, as well. Thanks to the volunteers, the staff, the shooters and those who wander by and partake breaking bread with us during lunch. Hope to see you next month when we host the Toys For Tots Open, December 12-14.

BITS & PIECES

Some folks have asked me how and why I chose the name for the November 2003 shoot; THANKS FOR THE MEMORY OPEN. To be perfectly honest, at the time I was groping to find appropriate names. THANKS is a verb that I try to use often to express my personal appreciation and gratitude to those who are a part of the SDSSA Registered Skeet Program. THANKS is also part of what we remember to do during this November season of THANKSgiving. But in addition to the above, the shoot name has taken on an even richer and valued name. As the calendar year comes to an end so has my tenure as SDSSA Skeet Chairman come to an end. And for any successes. I recall vividly seeking help from my friend, **Jennifer Mennetti**, who operates the Red Mountain Trap and Skeet Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, asking for guidance in running a skeet shoot. Jen took the time, mailing me scads of stuff showing examples on how to get going. The time has gone fast and so enjoyable. THANKS FOR THE MEMORY!

Beginning in January 2004, my erstwhile friend, shooting partner and pal, **Vern Gideon** will be taking over the reins as your SDSSA Registered Skeet Chairman. Vern has all of the qualifications to run the program and if you will give him the same support that you have afforded me over the last 5 years, we will continue to succeed. You will be calling Vern for pre-registration for the January 2004, The UFF-DA OPEN. Our monthly program that accompanies this newsletter will contain both Vern's phone number and e-mail address.

I am by no means bowing out of the skeet program. In October of 2002, I developed a Skeet Committee composed of four individuals. We have been meeting once a month to discuss what we could do and do

better to promote skeet at SDSSA. This is where I try to convince folks that it is WE, not I, who make this program work! Although some of the committee members have changed, the intent is still the same 14 months later. We have added two more to our committee and throughout the year you will experience the results of new thoughts and ideas. New blood leads to new ideas and a better program! I will chair that committee and work closely with Vern. But not so close as to step on his toes! Also I will continue to assume some of my previous duties. One, is to continue the SKEET NEWS with the able assistance of our SDSSA Newsletter editor, **Dan Fox** and two, submit the monthly scores in to our able and receptive Webmaster, **Augie Daddi**. New blood leads to new ideas and a better program!

Some have asked about the 2003 World Skeet Championships held in San Antonio, Texas this year. There were 1039 Total Participants in the October 10-18, 2003 shoot. Texas led the pack and was first with 266 and California came in second with 56 participating. Local first-timers were **Paul Busch** and **Eric Vandenhoute**. Paul was the Novice winner of the Ziegler Award, which was a free trip to the shoot. We have applications to the October 8-16, 2004 World Championship at the sign-up desk if anyone is so inclined to attend. If you have never been, talk to the two first-timers and you will be sure to go!

Our sponsor list of lunches and or prizes is rather meager at the moment. December, January and February are open for the asking. **Pete Buompensiero** has taken March. April and May shoots will be run by SoCal. Don't hesitate to volunteer.

Our 2003 Registered Skeet Season has been a successful one. We had a total of 599 participants over the past 12 months. The largest shoot was the SoCal Championships in May with 98 entries. We had 33 new shooters come to SDSSA with 17 of those in the Novice category. We threw over 277,000 targets, which surpassed 2002 by 100,000 targets. Thanks for your support.

For the Registered Skeet Year 2004, our fee for 100 targets is now at \$28.00. This increase by \$1.00 was predicated on the State fee going from \$0.50 to \$1.00 and the additional \$0.50 going in to the Skeet Referee Incentive Program. In addition to those nine mentioned in last months program who donated to get this program off to a great start are; **Matt Fort, Paul Busch, John Herkowitz, Wayland Morrison, Perry Jurancich and Ted Ingle**. We will actively train our field staff to be the best in refereeing.

Next month is our annual **TOYS FOR TOTS** Open shoot, which will be on December 12-13. The Friday preliminary

event will be the 28ga. with Doubles following. In 1947 Major Bill Hendricks founded the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots in Los Angeles, California. 5000 toys were collected before Christmas 1947. The first toy was a raggedy Ann doll. After 56 years, this program continues to grow in its popularity to assist needy children within the United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Bring a new toy unwrapped to the December shoot and know that it will go to a needy child. **Lee Dennis** got a jump start on the giving side and came in Saturday during our November shoot with two giant toy St. Bernard Dogs to start off the campaign. If you wish to learn more about Toys for Tots go to www.toysfortots.org.

Thanks are always in order for those who have worked tirelessly in making our program successful. **Layne Kuhlman**, our General Manager and his staff, those who volunteer to cook, those who volunteer to support the different programs that we offer, those who work behind the scenes such as **Barb Vann, Vern Gideon, Don Deckman** and **Richard Seaver**. They have made my job so much easier that now I can get back to shooting. I/We have so much to be THANKful for. Keep those things in mind when you decide complaining is the easy way out. I truly hope that you all have a very THANKful Thanksgiving. Until next month, **THANKS FOR THE MEMORY.**

**Hunter Safety
Program
by
Dan Fox**



The Hunter Education Program will be giving a class in January 2004 that will provide the student with a Hunter Safety Certificate, allowing the student to purchase a hunting license in California – or for that matter any other state, since all states honor our certificate.

A little history on this: A group of SDSSA members took the Hunter Education Instructors course during 2002 and in February 2003 these new instructors started offering the course at SDSSA. A new course was given each month through September 2003. The October course was cancelled because of the Air Show and the course was not offered during November and December. The course consists of 11 hours of class and study. 2 hours of home study on a workbook is part of the course. The rest of the course involves classroom lecture covering the subjects of safety, proper gun handling, environmental and conservation issues, personal preparedness, and the use of handguns, archery equipment and black

powder guns in hunting. We also include “live fire” which consists of ½ round of trap and ½ round of skeet. The live fire is to allow the instructors to see if the student is capable of safe gun handling – hitting the targets is not required, but only safe gun handling.

This course is done as a public service and the instructors volunteer their time. We do not charge for the course, but the students pay for 1 round of targets and furnish their own ammunition.

During this first year we processed 76 students through the course, awarding them Hunter Safety Certificates at the end of the course. Besides producing some safe hunters, I think that we created a lot of friends for our range. Many of our students were not aware of our range before they took the course and are now regular participants in activities at our range and several became members of the Association.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

All regular members of the Association recently received a dues notice for 2004. Give some thought to applying your 2004 dues to becoming a Life Member of the Association. This is the time of year to do so – the cost is \$1,000.00. But if you do it now, it really only costs you \$950. Also a great time to suggest that a life membership would make a great holiday gift – drop the hint and you might be surprised with a membership.

All monies received from the life memberships will go to help pay for the building and grounds improvements that are taking place at our facility. Give it a thought – It's a great way to help your Association and avoid those pesky dues letters!

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Remember – donations to your Association are tax deductible. SDSSA is a 501-c-3 non-profit association. A great deal of money has been spent in this last year improving the range – lots of cement work – a new bunker on Field #12 – making the range handicap compliant –AND- we need a new clubhouse (it's in the planning stages) You can specify what use you would like to see from your donation. The Treasurer will provide you with a letter detailing your donation for tax purposes.

We also need donated shotguns for use in our Junior programs, Boy Scout program, Hunter Safety Programs. Check that closet and donate that shotgun that has been sitting around – we will put it to good use – and you take the tax deduction!