



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



As we get older (more mature?) I think we tend to take on and harbor more pet peeves than we had when we were younger and more tolerant. Life seemed simpler but maybe that thought was just a sham. I hesitate in providing you with this exposure to my lack of tolerance and understanding but I have started so I may as well get on with it!

Being one of the long time members of our great Association, I take pride in being able to go to the range and meet and greet new and old friends. My pride is diminished, however, when I witness the multitude of cigarette butts, cigar logs, soft drink bottles/cans, water bottles and other unsightly paper littering the premises. I am reasonably certain that the grounds surrounding our home is in better condition and we would probably become "unglued" if someone littered the grounds of our prized possession. Well, that is precisely the way I feel about the grounds surrounding our Association! You may say this is really petty and sluff it off as one persons opinion, but I

don't think so. I had an interesting thought that I will share with you. What if...what if we had an anti-littering campaign that levied a fine when caught in the act? We are in need of funds to support the positive actions that we are taking to improve the grounds for the membership. This would be a way to achieve those funds. Not too many months ago, I witnessed one of our more industrious field staff take it upon himself to work the area surrounding the north side of the range office. In one hour he had picked up with a Pik Stick Reacher enough cigarette butts, cigar logs, gum wrappers and other small trash to fill a 5-gallon bucket! Big deal, you say? Yes, it is a big deal. As in any organization, the labor hours become an important issue. Labor hours are spent at the end of the day raking up spent hulls. Most shooters that use over-and-under shotguns could put the spent hulls in their shell pouch and deposit them in the trashcan at the end of a round but most don't. It is just an issue that has plagued our Association over the many years and as long as one doesn't mind looking at the litter...well, I still don't think it is right and proper.

It would be interesting to hear from you, the shooter, what you think of the above comments. One, I would know that you read the newsletter and two, maybe we could start making a difference in the way our grounds look. We could diplomatically suggest to those butt-flippers that they use one or more of the 15 or 20 stone receptacles that line the sidewalk and are specifically made for the cancer sticks and cigar logs or maybe even find a place in their shell pouch for the little sucker until they were finished shooting and could then empty their hulls and litter in the trash barrels. What a novel idea, huh? I apologize in advance to those smokers who are in the minority and have a desire to treat our Association grounds with respect. With most all the sarcasm now out of my system, I truly hope that we can start seeing more of our membership working toward a cleaner and neater environment. If you see a piece of trash, rather than stepping over it, pick it up

and appropriately dispose of it! Thank you. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated not only by me, but also by your fellow shooters. In next months article, I promise to be more positive.

Dodge City Shootout

by

Jim Englund



The December shoot turned out to be another big attendance with 74. That ties our record high of November. Again, we had a lot of new names and faces. I used to know almost everybody but with so many new people, please understand if I don't remember you're name right away. I'm pleased to know that word is getting out of this really fun event.

The nice weather made for good target visibility and high scores. We had ten straights at the sixteen, they were; **Michael Bates, Jerry Callaway, Taylor Craft, Bill Debreau, Dan Fox, Sonny Hale, Perry Jurancich, Benny Morales, Keith Rhinehart and Brian Wright.** No straights at Handicap but a few 24's; **Josh Catania, Rich Davis, Annie Hoyle, K. Jossenberger, Bobby Petton, Steve Pinkowski and Jim Snow.** Snow shoots poorly at the 16 to get better positioning? I don't think so.

Buddy #1: **Chip Enniss** FINALLY got the bright partner with **Sonny Hale** and they were the only team to get all twenty (nice payout). Buddy #2 had three teams to get them all. Those shooters were; **Lonnie Catania, Terry Filmore, Sonny Hale, Joe Matkovich, Steve Pinkowski and Jan Slough.** You can see who you want to shoot buddies with. A small bribe at registration will help but, be discrete.

The Annie Oakley, with a group this size, is unreal. If you happened to be on the east side of the line you were at station two on field three, about the 20 yard line. That's a wagonwheel shot! After quite a while, we

had **Taylor Craft** coming in third with **Bob Young** second and **Chip Ennis** first, with a LOT of luck I might add.

With sausages and hot dogs, salad, ice cream and Annie Hoyle's famous carrot cake topped off the event in great style. Next shoot, January 17th. I hope to see everybody there.

Paralyzed Veterans Shoot Coming

The Cal-Diego Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America will be running a trap shoot here for all interested shooters on Saturday, 18 July 2004. Let's all get involved and participate in this shoot and make it a big one!

Did you know that prior to World War II, Americans who suffered a spinal cord injury faced a bleak future and a life expectancy averaging about 18 months. But veterans who sustained a spinal cord injury during that war received the first ray of hope for a fuller life - the development of antibiotics, modern medicine, and new medical techniques which added significantly to their life span. Because of this medical progress, for the first time, spinal cord injured veterans could leave the confines of the VA or military hospital, return home, and work to rejoin society. Unfortunately, much of society proved to be unwilling, unable, or ill-prepared to accommodate the needs of paralyzed veterans.

In 1946, paralyzed veterans from across the country joined together to form an association to deal with the unique problems and challenges facing them. The organization they formed, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, is an organization of veterans who have served honorably in the armed forces and who have incurred an injury or disease affecting the spinal cord, causing paraplegia or quadriplegia. PVA is non-profit, non-sectarian, and interracial, and is concerned with the welfare of non-veterans paraplegics as well as veterans. PVA receives no government funds.

Plan to join in on the competition and camaraderie of a fun filled day of good eating and shooting.



Cal-Diego shooters at a PVA shoot in Greenbay, Wisconsin, June 2003.

Let's hope that our weather in July will be a little warmer and dryer!

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



San Diego Shotgun Sports hosted its Annual **Toys For Tots Open** in San Diego, California on December 12-14, 2003. We had 32 enthusiastic participants shooting a total of 10,600 targets for the weekend.

As usual, we start our registered shooting weekend on Friday shooting first the preliminary and then the Doubles. This month the prelim. was the 28ga. in which the top score posted was a perfect score brought in by none other than the Ramona Rambo, **James Dewey** (Ramona). All others also-shot.

The Doubles event attracted 8 shooters. Both **James Dewey** and **Jay Carter** (Claremont) came in tops with 97's. James led off and both punched the targets hard until the 8th target wherein leadoff Dewey smoked the pair and Jay missed the high four. James Gun Champion; Jay Gun Runner-up.

Saturday morning we start for real with 23 shooters braving the cool morning. Both **Eric Van Den Haute** (San Diego) and **Neil Vann** (San Diego) vied for the Gun Champion position. However, being the ultimate businessman, Eric had to vacate the premises prior to the shootoff so Neil took the prize by default. **Carl Best** (Spring Valley) and **Craig Potter** (Chula Vista) shot off for Class A2 and A3 with Carl "besting" Craig after three stations. **Paul Busch** (Solana Beach) and **Don Deckman** (Lakeside) had a shoot off for Class C3 but again the beckon of the highway called Paul and Don was the winner!

Saturday afternoon saw **Jim Rhoden** (Long Beach) venture out of the big city and come in tops with a nice 99. **Eric Van Den Haute** also only missed one but again Eric being the... well, you've already heard this song and Jim is crowned king-of-the-12 gauge. **Neil Vann** and **Jay Carter** (Claremont) went toe-to-toe but Jay was no match for Neil and succumbed after 4 shots to capture Class A2. The final shoot off was between Class E shooters, **Heath Hagens** (Huntington Beach) and **Mike Glenn** (Bonita). This contest went for 5 stations before Mike took charge and won Class E2. Good shooting to all!

Sunday morning was again cool (for San Diego) but beckoned the 19 .410 bore shooters to the stations. Two high rollers emerged from the gun smoke with 96's; **James Dewey** and **Lee Dennis** (San Diego). There was a lot of fire-in-the-belly

and jubilation now that we had heard that Suddam Hussein was captured this morning. Many have seen his face on a smoked target more than once! It was with this determination that James Dewey, going first, hit his pair of doubles at station #3. Lee tying his personal best score in the elusive .410 bore was not as successful but did take the Gun Runner-up spot with pride and dignity.

In the afternoon, the 20ga. event, and the last shooting event of the weekend, was topped by **Pete Buompensiero** (San Diego) and again, **Lee Dennis** with 98's. This shoot off went somewhat longer but unfortunate for Lee, Pete took 20ga. Gun Champion and Lee accepted the Gun Runner up spot. Class A2 and A3 was shot off between **Carl Best** and **Neil Vann**. This hit-and-miss contest could have gone on all evening except for the fact that Carl finally broke a pair and Neil missed another one of the pair after 8 stations and Carl is awarded Class A2 honors. Class B2 and B3 was decided between **Craig Potter** and **Steve Erbe** (Oceanside) at the first station. Steve became Class B2 winner. Class C shooters, **Don Deckman** and **Joe Zerr** (Banning) competed for C2 and C3. Joe was the winner after breaking a healthy pair at station #3.

Both **James Dewey** and **Lee Dennis** had a HOA of 386 so we now have our final shoot off of the weekend. The crowd is stilled by the awesome presence of these two Champions. With the .410 bore as the shoot off gun, James leads off shooting the pair at station #3 with his Rambo style. Lee, with determination and a commanding presence squirts the first bird and smokes the second. The HOA Champion is **James Dewey**. So ends the second shoot of the Skeet season and the last shoot of 2003.

Your Skeet Committee sponsored our perennial Saturday and Sunday lunches. We had Polish Sausage on a gourmet bun with sauerkraut and beans both days. Also chips, soft drinks and condiments were on the menu. The shooters eat free but the meal is open to all who frequent our range for a nominal donation of \$3.00. Thanks to our chefs, **Dan Fox** (San Diego) and **Malcolm Campbell** (San Diego) for their participation. It is the volunteers that make this program what it is!

BITS & PIECES

Our December **Toys For Tots Open** was a successful venture in that we had a great shoot and collected a lot of wonderful toys for the Toys For Tots program. I thank all of you for bringing your unwrapped toy. They will be distributed to worthy children this Christmas.

Vern Gideon is taking over as Skeet Chairman in January 2004. You will need to contact Vern for pre-registration for the January 23-25, THE UFF-DA II OPEN,

either at **619-579-8157** or Maryvern@aol.com. Vern will be out-of-town from January 2 through January 12, so if his mailbox is full, call or e-mail **Don Deckman** at 619-390-8819/skeetshooter@cox.net. I have no doubt but that you will afford Vern the same cooperation and courtesy that you have given me over the past 5 years and I thank each of you for your kindness and participation. It was a fun 5 years! Barb will continue to collect your money!!

On the Saturday of our January shoot, Saturday the 24th, SDSSA will be having its 2004 Annual Dinner at Tom Hamm's Lighthouse. Should you feel the urge to be with fellow shooters, enjoy a great meal and hear our guest speaker, **Randy Jones** of the San Diego Padres fame, you are invited. The cost is \$25 per person and it's best to sign up well in advance of the 24th to be assured a table and a meal selection. Last year we had some out-of-town shooting guests and they didn't get the food or table that they wanted, as we did not publicize the event properly. We have several out-of-towners that have already signed up so you won't be alone. The 24th is also the evening of the RAFFLE OF ALL RAFFLES. In exchange for each \$10 donation to SDSSA, you will receive a ticket for a free drawing. Your tax-deductible donations will be used to finish the interior of the new Association Center, which will hopefully be in place during the first half of 2004. The prize is your choice of a custom fitted Perazzi MX8 or MX2000 shotgun or \$5000 cash. You need not be present to win but to win you must have a ticket. Tickets will be available at the January registered skeet shoot as well as at the 2004 Annual Dinner prior to the drawing. You can call the range at 858-278-3173 and talk to **Nikolle** to arrange for seating and meal selection.

Our December 12ga. Novice award went to **Nelson Jones** (Rancho Santa Fe). Nelson was presented with a handcrafted leather shell pouch donated by **John Herkowitz** of Pacific Sport in Arms for shooting a nice 94. We now have three Novices this year with the addition of **John Magarrell** (Ramona).

We welcome **Joe Zerr** (Banning) to our shooting family. Joe shot his first registered skeet shoot in 2002 and is getting the hang of the game by shooting his first 25-straight in the third round of the 12ga. on Saturday. We took advantage of the next squad waiting to get on the field and invited them to participate in the shooting-of-the-hat. Joe now possesses a well-ventilated headpiece!

The February, the **Double Your Trouble Open**, was to be a 600-target Doubles event but after much consideration it was felt that we would not get much of a turnout. So, we changed the February shoot to shoot Doubles in the prelim and Doubles (200

total) on Friday, February 13 with the remaining schedule intact.

We started a signup list for those who wish to donate lunch on Saturday and/or Sunday. As you all know, we serve a free lunch to the signed up registered skeet shooters. We also offer this lunch (on a donation basis at \$3.00) to anyone at the range on those days. Each lunch runs in the neighborhood of \$70.00. Your donation is tax deductible. Also we are looking for volunteers to cook on any individual weekend. **Don Deckman** has signed up to sponsor Saturday June 12 and **Lee Dennis** has signed up to sponsor and cook for both days for the September, **Grey Silva VII Memorial Open**. Don't be bashful and step forward with your contribution.

I hope that all of you had a most joyous Christmas and brought in the New Year with enthusiasm. I look forward in the coming year in meeting and greeting each of you at SDSSA.

OLYMPIC TRAP

by

Ricardo Alcantara



We had a total of 23 shooters at our December match, with shooters coming from as far as Las Vegas and Mexico. The HOA was our own **Roger Thorne** followed by **J. C. Craft & Bill Bolinger**. For more results check our scoreboard at the bunker or the web page.

The new international Nasta targets performed as expected. At our match we had a total of six 25 straights, something never seen before here in San Diego.

During December we hosted a Bunker clinic, which was organized and run by **Rick Matulick**. The clinic was given by **Bret Erickson** from Fort Benning, GA. Rick had 30 shooters and a waiting list. Congratulations to Rick and his great idea to help and to maintain interest in the International Trap.

We are in the process of getting the roof of our new Bunker water proofed. The new Bunker is stillin need of donations, as the construction cost was higher than projected. If you have some extra dollars please make a check and you can be sue that the funds will go towards the new Bunker project.

During the month of January C.I.C.T.S.A. will be running the famous Maple Leaf match. During this match there will be shooters from around the United States and overseas. Mark you calendar and be sure you come and see the best International Olympic Shooters perform at our range. The match will be the 1st weekend in January.

Many thanks to **Herman Sledge** for putting the finishing touches on our new ammo tables at Field #12. He has definitely made a great impact on our program. Our own **Bill Bolinger** has also spent considerable time maintaining our new machines at Field #12 – thank you Mr. Bolinger, your help is appreciated.

SKEET LEAGUE

by

Craig Potter



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. My name is Craig Potter and I have volunteered to be the '04 Skeet League Chairman. Fortunately I will be following in the footsteps of very successful Chairmen, Neil Vann and Vern Gideon. Neil and Vern have laid down a very solid foundation that I hope to follow.

The next Skeet League is scheduled to start the week of March 15th. The league will run for 6 weeks and conclude with a Bar-B-Q at the club. We will be following the basic format we have used in the previous Skeet Leagues. More information will be available on the SDSSA web site. This will help me to get started on the right foot.

So start thinking about putting together a team, or if you do not have a team we can place you on a team. Watch for additional information and how to sign-up on the bulletin boards at the club and on the SDSSA web site. I can be reach at 619-427-8549 or at craig_potter@sbcglobal.net. I will make every attempt to answer any questions you might have about the up coming Skeet leagues for '04. I ask that you have a little patience with me as this is my first time out. Thanks.

Hunter Safety

Program

by

Dan Fox



The 2004 Hunter Safety Program starts off the year with the first class January 15th. We will have one class a month (A Thursday evening, a Sunday afternoon & a Thursday evening) through September. The successful completion of the class earns the student a Hunter Safety Certificate (required to get a hunting license). Students can sign up at the Range Office. Information is available on the web site.