



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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Range Tel	(858) 278-3173
Range Fax	(858) 278-0160

President's

Message

by

Neil Vann



GET INVOLVED - VOLUNTEER

Your association does not run itself – it takes you to be involved!

You will find that you will achieve a lot of satisfaction and hopefully have a lot of enjoyment by being an active participant in your sport and your Association. I guess this what they talk about in the working world as a "take charge" attitude.

We know that it's sometimes tough to walk up to the cashiers window and say, "I want to help". But, it's a lot easier if you have an idea where you're talents lie and can be put to best use. Also this is not a commitment to a required number of hours – just a desire to help when you have the time.

Here are some ideas on where your assistance can be utilized:

✓ Join the "Introduction to Shotgun Sports" committee. It's fun and rewarding to help new shooters understand our sports and give them a little technical guidance. **Jim Englund is head of this committee.** Give him a call or see him at the range – he will appreciate your help. We currently have a long waiting list for persons wanting to get first-time instruction. Want to be a part of saving our sport? Then get involved with this program that brings new shooters into the sport – every person who helps, makes a difference!

✓ Our new and highly successful **Scholastic Clay Target Program (Trap shooting)** can use your help in many ways. Instructors are needed – right now we have more youth wanting to get in the program than we can handle! Fund raising to help send these youth to meets is needed. They are doing many things to raise funds – fish fries and providing meals at the ATA shoots to name a couple. Maybe you would like to help cook the food or set up for the event. Get involved in our youth program – it's a rewarding experience. **Don Wilkie and Carla Sledge are the mainstay of this program.** Contact either one of them and they will make sure you get involved!

✓ We could be starting up a **Scholastic Clay Target Program** in the Skeet area – if we had some volunteers to run it. This would be a great addition to our youth programs. Come on – let's have some volunteers!

✓ **Building & Grounds** – As you can see we are actively improving our range. The footing has been dug in preparation to the adding of a garden type wall where the shrubs used to be. We will need volunteers to do the grunt labor of putting one block on top of the other until we have a wall that stretches from trap field #1 to the range office. This takes a lot of work.

Can you spare a little time on Monday or Tuesday when the range is closed? There is usually a work party doing some improvements on those days. If you have any handyman talents, just talk to **Neil Vann** or **Malcum Campbell** and they will use your talents. As you can see, our old clubhouse is gone and much dirt has been removed to make way for the new Sports Center. In about 2 months (or less) the new Sports Center will be on site and then the work begins! If you have a talent (even a latent talent) of assembling kitchen cabinets, building cabinetry for one of the open areas, we will need your help! Also we need help in the design of a unique trophy cabinet and its eventuality.

✓ **Trap program** – Our Trap program is growing every month. **Chip Enniss** needs some help. How about seeing Chip and offering to help with planning for trophies, helping sign up shooters on shoot day, make entries in the computer on shoot day? You get the picture – we need your help, so check in with Chip.

✓ **Trap League** – **Gary Krueger** has worked hard on this program and has the biggest group of shooters (119) in this latest trap league – putting on this program takes a lot of work – planning, going out and talking with shooters to get them to participate, selecting prizes, planning the final "get-together" to end the league – talk with Gary and give him a hand!

✓ **Skeet League** – **Craig Potter** has agreed to take over the Skeet League program. We can't expect one person to do all the work, so the rest of us can have fun – so get involved. Give Craig a call and get on this committee.

✓ **Skeet program** – **Vern Gideon** has a crew of helpers but can always use more. The skeet program has been a viable part of our Association since its inception. After a period of time at the helm, one starts to run out of ideas and that is where

new faces can provide new ideas. The program does not run itself.

✓ The **Olympic Trap program** is beginning to flourish with the addition of the second bunker. The last two shoots had a waiting list, which points to a successful program. The mainstays and leaders in promoting this exciting sport are **Ricardo Alcantara, Rick Matulich and Bill Bollinger**. This is a good opportunity to offer your services and learn to shoot a challenging game at the same time.

✓ **Dodge City shootout** – This event has been growing monthly. Recently about 75 shooters show up for the fun – but someone has to sign them up, set up the buddy shoots, purchase the food, cook the food, compute the payouts, payout the money, & keep things running. **Jim Englund** can always use a helping hand on a Saturday of the shoot – you can help out, shoot the event and earn Jim's undying and eternal gratitude all in one day! Get involved and give Jim a helping hand!

✓ **Bob Lazarus** chairs the 5-stand committee. Bob volunteered to be the spokesperson to represent this sport and report to your Board of Directors the progress and needs of the sport. It is due to Bob's interest in 5-stand shooting that the sport is developing into a winning combination of challenge and fun. Bob could use some assistance in getting this attractive sport more participation. We have talked about "designing" some attractive shooting positions. Innovative ideas are important but it takes volunteers to step forward and say, "What do you think of this idea."

✓ **Hunter Education program** – This highly successful program has been holding a class once a month. Part of the class is to shoot ½ a round of trap and ½ a round of skeet. This is done on a Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 4 pm. It helps to have an experience shooter standing behind each student coaching, encouraging and in general helping them to learn to shoot safely. **Dan Fox** could use some help – one Sunday afternoon a month for just 3 hours - & it's a rewarding experience.

✓ **Boy Scout Merit Badge Program** – this program is much like the Hunter Education Program – help is needed on the days we have Scouts Troops at the range for training. **Robb Frank** would love to have you contact him with an offer of help. These young men are the future of our nation. Teaching them the right way

and safe way to handle a shotgun will go a long way in their memory when they get their children involved.

✓ **INTERNATIONAL SKEET** – Here is a program that is just itching to get started. Just recently, **Gene Green** volunteered to chair this sport. He intends to have one field set up on a Sunday afternoon and initiate this sport into our program. As you probably already know, International Skeet is one of the shotgun sports shot in the Olympics. We have the ability and capability of inviting some of the nations top International Skeet shooters to our Association if and when Gene gets some help in this program. As mentioned earlier, this volunteering thing is not a full time commitment but a commitment to do what you can do when you have the time to do it.

These are just some of the exciting programs that we are working on, or have planned. We have a lot of retired persons in our Association. Your talents are valuable to the Association. All you have to do is volunteer.

How does one volunteer? First by going to our world class website which is found at the top of this newsletter. The pictures of all those mentioned in this article along with how to contact them is on the website. If that doesn't work for you, a call to the range office will get you the information that you need. We are not looking for full-time professionals. They are busy working while we are having fun! The willingness to help is all we ask. Nikolle, our Office Manager, will take your name, phone number and e-mail address if you take the time to give it to her.

You might note that every person whose name is in bold print is a VOLUNTEER. And, while I am belaboring the point, your Association needs volunteers to run for the election of the Board of Directors for 2005-2006. Toward the end of the year we will be seeking members to fill the vacancy that five of the ten members of the Board will leave. This is a real commitment for 2 years. However, the amount of time involved is optional. One meeting a month for about an hour is minimum and then whatever you want to put into it to make your Association the best that it can be. **Volunteers run your Association – be one.**

THINK ABOUT DONATIONS!

SDSSA is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization. Any donation made to

SDSSA is tax deductible! Our youth programs need shotguns to use in the programs. Dig into that dusty closet and bring out that old shotgun – the youth benefit and you get a tax deduction. Also keep in mind any monetary donation that you make to help send our youth to competition shoots is also tax deductible.

Youth Programs

By

Don Wilkie



Scholastic Clay Target Program:

We have registered 29 students with the Scholastic Clay Target Program for the year 2004. We anticipate entering three competitive trap squads: one Senior experienced, one Junior experienced and one Junior novice in the state shoot June 19 at Kingsburg, CA. Competition is expected to be tough this year especially at the experienced level. The winning Junior squad (grades 6, 7, and 8) is likely to post a score of 950/1000 or better while the top Senior Experienced squad (grades 9, 10, 11, and 12) could achieve a score of 970/1000 or better. Once again the top three squads in each category at the State shoot will qualify for the National Championships at Vandalia, Ohio August 12th and 13th. We are endeavoring to find sponsors to help cover the cost of three squads for the State Championships as well as for squads that qualify for the National Championships.

Up to 24 shooters are now showing up for weekly practices including one or two new shooters each week. Only two practices were completed in February as a result of helicopter maneuvers. The threat of interruption of practice by helicopters forces us to get squads out as quickly as possible and makes it difficult to schedule team and parent meetings. In addition shooters experienced visibility problems with the green targets for a 1/2-hour or so at dusk when the targets all but disappeared in the gloom. Practice scores have improved with the recent implementation of orange targets. The shooters and parents cope with these difficulties with patience and good humor and continue to enthusiastically support the program. Competition is stiff within our team for a position on the squads going to State competition. In addition to scores, participation at practice and cooperation are considered in selecting the

State squads. All members of the team may shoot as individuals at the State shoot.

Sixteen shooters signed up for the March SATA shoot; unfortunately, three shooters failed to show or alert us to their absence. In the future those who sign up and miss the event and fail to give us timely notice will be subject to dismissal from the team.

Brian Burrows, a senior, and **Ian Daube**, a junior tied with a score of 92. In an exciting shoot-off they were at their best as Ian won by one -- 23 to 22. **Dustin Stewart**, also a senior, took second place. Several shooters shot the second 100 to complete the 200-target event. In addition Brian was top ATA junior with a score of 184.



Ian Daube & Brian Burrows

Once again we thank Layne, Nikolle, James, the parents and coaches and the staff for their cooperation and assistance. It takes a great team effort to have a successful program. And, ours is very successful.

Be Safe

by

Fred Hoyle



This is a safety request for a very specific group of members. If you have a gun with release trigger, please put some form of easily recognized label on your gun.

We have recently seen accidental discharges by experienced shooters. So far the only victim has been the ground or trap houses and hopefully we will continue to be lucky.

The problem we could face, and the reason I suggest labeling, is accidental use of the wrong gun by mistake. Everyone knows someone who picked up a gun thinking it was his and started to shoot a round. If the wrong gun has a release trigger it will not fire when the trigger is pulled and will fire when it is released.

With no release trigger experience the gun may not be pointed in a safe direction when it fires.

In years past guns that had been altered to release triggers were labeled. That practice has fallen by the wayside. Perhaps it is time for our members to revive it by labeling their release trigger guns. Just a safety thought. Here's to safe and enjoyable shooting.

**Dodge City
Shootout**

by

Jim England



The February Dodge City did get under way, despite the threat of rain. We had 64 shooters who didn't care, rain or shine, they were there to shoot. And even under adverse conditions most did rather well.

Our top gun for the day was **Norm Rudolph** with an 83. A few 25's @ 16; **Taylor Craft, Dale Craig, Chip Enniss, Ross Gicacome, Lou Imbimbo, Roger Snipes and George Zink**. There was only one perfect handicap, which means winner-take-all, and that was **Dan "Dodge City" Fox**.

Tough day for the buddy shoots. #1 had payoffs for 18. **Joe Cargel, Norm Rudolph, Diane Savage, Carla Sledge, Jan Slough, Scott Staley, Mayer Tenenhaus and Joe Travis**. Note: Three of the best eight buddy shooters were Ladies. Buddy #2 had four 19s for a good payout; **Tom Magee, Woody O'Keefe, J.P. Patterson and Joe Roby**. The Annie Oakley shoot came down to **Chad Stone** in third **Pinky** second and (guess who) **Charlie Bover**, again the last to go. Of course, thanks to the staff for your help and to our Guest cook **Don Boyle** who grilled your dogs. We need more volunteers for the lunch. No one should do it all the time. If we all take turns, It's only once maybe every two or three years. Grab a buddy and do it together. It's a good way to meet EVERYBODY.

Trap League

By

Gary Krueger



The winter trap league concluded on March 14th and we are computing the

winners. This was an outstanding league with 19 teams participating – a new record for the range.

There is going to be a big steak cookout on Saturday, March 27th at 3 PM for participants in the league. It will be held at the range. Sign up now at the Range Office, if you are going to attend, so that we can buy the right number of steaks.

We have designed a custom made shooting vest for each participant in the league. These shooting vest will be distributed at the BBQ.

A very nice addition to our Web Site which normally lists the teams and the score, was publishing pictures of the team members. **Augie Daddi** spent a lot of time getting this up and running. We are missing a few pictures. If you are in the league – please stop by the Range Office and ask **Nikolle** to take your picture. She has a digital camera, it is painless, and takes just a few minutes. Once this is done, your picture will be available for future leagues.

Never to let down in the planning process, we are now planning the Summer League. Sign ups for this league will be available following the BBQ. Get involved – meet new friends – have a bunch of fun – sign up for the Summer League!

OLYMPIC TRAP

by

Ricardo Alcantara



Major events have been taking place at our facilities during the past 2 months. The top Olympic Shooters competed in our **Maple Leaf** and in the **Golden Bear** shoots which were held at our range.

Both bunkers are working very efficiently with the new International Nasta targets, thanks to our Manager, **Layne Kuhlman**, and his staff.

Our junior shooters, **Brian Burrows, Breanna Heckenkamp, & Susan Sledge** performed extraordinarily during the last three events.

During the month of March we will host the **Armusa Open**, which will pay moneys to all winners. We expect a large number of International shooters at this event. Sign up early, since the prior events were "sold out" and there was a waiting list to participate. Don't get caught short – sign up now!

We have formed a committee to efficiently coordinate the operations of the Olympic bunkers. The committee will consist of myself, **Ricardo Alcantara**, along with **Rick Matulich & Bill Bolinger**. If you have any suggestions or would like to help, just contact one of the members of this new committee. Any profits from the shoots are going to be applied to pay off the construction of the new bunker. We need your support and donations to pay off this debt are being gratefully accepted.

SKREET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



San Diego Shotgun Sports located in America's Finest City was the host to 37 Skeet shooters who included our Association in their "fun-in-the-sun" weekend. The shoot entitled, **DOUBLE YOUR FUN OPEN**, was held on February 13-14, which to those who didn't shoot that weekend probably celebrated Valentines Day buying candy and flowers for their loved ones. Although that is an important thing to do, we chose the smell of gunpowder and the chewing of fat for the weekend.

Originally our Skeet Committee had chosen this weekend to shoot 600 Doubles, therefore the name of the shoot. As time passed and we got a little smarter and we concluded that we might not get a very good turnout as not all are into the Doubles game (yet). So yielding to better judgment we limited the Doubles to the Preliminary and the normal scheduled Doubles for the Friday's events.

The Doubles Preliminary, which was shot at 12:30, had enough shooters in a variety of classes that all nine were in the winner's circle. With sixteen entering the Doubles event, the scores were better with **Roman Warren** (Riverside) taking the bacon home.

The main events now start. On Saturday morning the 28ga. opens with the National Anthem, which between the Anthem and the weather, gives chills to the 32 participants. **Steve Claunch** (San Diego) and **Ted Church** (Newport Beach) had fire-in-the-belly and came in with the top score of 99. The shoot off was short but not sweet for Ted as it lasted for two stations with Steve out gunning Ted for Champ honors.

Two other notable shoot offs took place. Not that the scores were all that good but a lot of shoot off targets were destroyed in the process of declaring the winners. For Class AA1 and AA2, **James Dewey** (Ramona) and **Russ "Professor" Terry** (Irvine) captured the hearts of the multitude watching with their display of talentry (don't look it up. It's not a word). James led off busting the clay birds with Russ watching how it's done. I say this as James misses a low 4 and Russ follows his lead! They continue for a total of seven doubles and Russ, for who knows for what reason must not have been watching or paying attention as James missed the second target and Russ didn't. Russ is crowned the Class AA1 winner. The other "long" shoot off was between **Steen Thomsen** (Covina) and **Neil Vann** (San Diego). Same scenario as above with the exception that this duo went one more station and the out-of-towner (Steen -Class A3) took pity on the local (Neil -Class A2). All is fair on Valentines Day.

Lunch is one of our favorite events at San Diego Shotgun Sports. The lunch is usually donated but when it isn't we find unique and inventive ways to make it happen. It is one of the best things that we have employed into our Skeet shoots as it brings a level of comradery that borders on mandatory. The shooters are provided the lunch at no cost. (It is not part of the entry fee.) Others not competing may participate, and do, at a nominal donation fee. Everybody in the Association and the shoot benefit from the lunch. Thanks go to **Dan McNaughton, Vern Gideon, Lou Riddle** and **George Magarrell** for helping cook this weekend. The burgers were great!

Saturday afternoon the 12ga. event brought out a crowd of 31 anxious to break 'em all. Most didn't but two did. We had three shoot offs to determine Classes A1, A2, A3, D1 and D2. However, these shoot offs were overshadowed by the likes of **Roman Warren** and **Russ Terry** posting the only two 100-straight. Roman led to slow down the fast moving Russ. Apparently it worked as at the fourth station Roman's long gun whammed a pair and Russ short-shot one. A good shoot off with great shooters!

On to Sunday, the third day for some, and working to achieve greatness with the .410 bore. Another nice showing with 28 shooters entering the gauge. High score was a nice 99 by **Ted Church** for Gun Champion. Only one shoot off ensued pitting **Jose Sandoval** (San Marcos) against

Lou Riddle (Bonsall) for Class C2 and C3. Jose out shot Lou after two stations. The high light of the day was **Joe Zerr** (Banning) shooting his FIRST 25-straight in the .410 bore. The ceremony of shooting-the-hat took place and placed on a much-pleased **Joe Zerr's** head. Congratulations, Joe and keep up the good work.

The last shooting event was the 20ga. Another good turnout with **Roman Warren** shooting the lone 100-straight for Gun Champion. **Jay Carter** (Claremont) was real close with a 99 for Gun Runner up. **Lou Riddle** and **Pete Buompensiero** (San Diego) shot off for Class A2 and A3 with Pete toping Lou for Class A2. A three-way tie with 94's for Class B3 with **Steve Erbe** (Oceanside), **Jose Sandoval** and **Caroline Church** (Newport Beach) took place with Caroline dropping one in the second pair. Jose and Steve went on for two more stations before Steve squirted a high four giving the award to Jose.

26 shooters entered the HOA event. Prizes went to Champion, Runner up and first, second and third in classes AA through D. The HOA class was determined by the 20ga. The prizes were Sportline Watches with the **San Diego Shotguns Sports** logo imprinted on the face sponsored by your SDSSA Skeet Committee. **Ted Church** was our HOA Champion with a nice 392. For other winners see listing under scores.

So ends a weekend of fun and frolic in San Diego, CA. See you next month.

BITS AND PIECES:

We collectively need to go out and beat the bushes to find new shooters. We have four Novice shooters so far this year competing at SDSSA. In 2003, by this time, we had 11 Novice shooters! I hope that we as supporters of a great sport haven't become complacent. Looking and capturing new shooters is not an easy task but essential to keep the sport going. I see several of last years SDSSA Novices shying away from Skeet and shooting Trap. For those of you that are listening, both sports need your participation to keep the Association going! The Trap League at SDSSA is up to an all time high of 117 shooters. We hope to see those 117 joining the Skeet League which starts mid-March. I think the League is a stepping-stone to getting the Novice shooter involved. Talk it up and get 'em out.

It was a pleasure to see **Jack Dockwiller** (Redlands) take some time off and shoot at SDSSA this past weekend.

So many people at SDSSA worked hard to make this fourth shoot of the 2004 Skeet year a success. **Vern Gideon**, our Skeet Chairman; **Richard Seaver**, our computer guru; our cooks mentioned earlier; **Barb Vann**, our cashier; the field referees especially those who have taken and passed the NSSA referee exam and have been awarded their patches. (Now if I can get them to wear the Associate Referee patch along with their name badge); **Duke Wilber** for his coaching and administering the referee exam; **Layne Kuhlman**, our General Manager; **James Reisig**, our Assistant Manager; **Nikolle Wertel**, Office Manager and the one who sells our merchandise. It wouldn't happen without these folks' participation along with and a few more.

Some thoughts to ponder. Someday maybe NSSA will have Doubles competition in the sub-gauges. 12ga. Doubles is a challenge but think about a registered Doubles event in the .410 bore!

About a year ago (February 4, 2003), I wrote to NSSA about considering changing the present Doubles event by eliminating the return trip. In other words shoot 2-4-4-4-4-2 the first round and 4-4-4-4-4-2 the second round and alternating the third and fourth round. The game would move along better and still provide a challenge. The suggestion was to be "put on the table". So far that is where the suggestion lies.

I get wind of some minor moaning and groaning that our monthly SDSSA shoots don't award buckles (or other pricey trophies) as often as we should. It has been my philosophy for as many years that I have been involved in the administration of a skeet shoot to keep the cost of the shooting low and the fellowship and fun, high. I suppose that without diminishing F&F, we could have buckle shoots once a month, once every other month, quarterly or whatever other timetable that can be dreamt up. What is it you want? Let's look at the extreme. A buckle for Champ, Runner up, and first through fourth in class plus HOA is 114 buckles? Whatever you, the shooter, want, you, the shooter, will pay. Step forward and give us a clue what you want to pay for.

We have our Skeet Family members who donate prizes at least once a year. The costs of these prizes are not included in your target fee. One must participate and place to win. I sincerely hope that the non-winners are as appreciative as are the winners for those who donate freely to the sport. We (CSSA,

SoCal, SDSSA) fight the cost to keep it attractively low. The shoot management is there to accommodate the shooter but they need your active help to keep the cost down.

Thus far, this year, the cupboard is bare for lunch sponsors and trophy sponsors except for a select few.

I seek your suggestions and advice on the above items so that we can collectively pursue your wishes and desires. If and when I get you comments, I will know that you have read some if not this entire newsletter. This is a test! My e-mail address is cnvann@cox.net.

Finally to end on a sad note - One of our long time friends and shooting buddy, Billie Richard Nightingale, passed away on Saturday, February 14, 2004, in Colorado. He and his wife, Janine, lived in Scripps Ranch for many years before moving. Billie was a retired Lieutenant Commander and worked for me in engineering as a Boeing Company employee after his Navy retirement; resident at Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical producing the airframe for the Apache AH-64 Army helicopter. We will all miss Billie's wit and wisdom.

Hunter Safety

Program

by

Dan Fox



We are just entering our second year for our Hunter Education Program. (We held our first class in February 2003) We have processed over 100 students through the class since we started!

Our class is unique, since we are able to offer "live fire" as part of the course. The State of California requires at least 10 hours of instructions and encourages "live fire" as part of the course. Most instructors don't have the facilities to do this.

We have found that the students in the course really enjoy the "live fire" (1/2 round of skeet & 1/2 round of trap) - in fact many of the students return to our range to have some more fun, once they have completed the course. It is a wonderful way to introduce students to the pleasure of shotgun sports and at the same time make sure they are safe gun handlers. We could use volunteers in this program

Olympic Skeet by Gene Green

Skeet on Steroids?

Effective immediately skeet field # 10 will be set up for Olympic Skeet on Sunday afternoons. This will be on a "not to interfere basis with NSSA tournaments". The cost will be \$6.00 per round.

This is a challenging sport and you might just like it! Come out and give this sport a try. For further information, contact **Gene Green** at 619-465-5866, between noon and 2 PM weekdays.

Trap News

by

Chip Enniss



We had a beautiful weekend for shooting. A total of 27,200 targets were shot.

I have a person who will be the cashier at the ATA shoots under Layne's supervision. We are going to raise the entrance fee by \$1 per 100 targets to offset the cost. This should go a long way toward freeing Layne up to do his regular duties on ATA weekends.

5 STAND FIELDS OPEN

Effective immediately 5 stand field # 7 will be open from 9 AM to noon on Wednesday & field # 6 will be open the rest of the day.

NEW CLUBHOUSE DUE SOON

The old clubhouse has been removed and a new one is being constructed by Modular Systems. The new clubhouse should be set in place within 60 days. It will be handicap compliance (level with the patio). Watch for the exciting developments taking place at the range!



The old clubhouse is torn down - new one to be in place in 60 days!