



Newsletter

Volume 3

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<http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com>

MAY 2004

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



Did you get the feeling that I was beating a dead horse last month while expounding on the attributes of volunteering? With now an all time high at SDSSA of 635 members we have the ability to pick and choose our volunteers. Now if you believe that I have a slightly used Mossberg bolt-action 12ga. shotgun I would sell you for a reasonable price to shoot our next skeet tournament. Doubles may be tough but the thrill of shooting an unusual gun among unusual people would be a challenge! Enough about the Mossberg. We did get a couple bites with our plea but not nearly enough to fill what we wish to complete this year.

Speaking of volunteers, are you aware that it takes about 80 hours of effort each month for one person to

keep our world class web site updated? Fortunately we have a volunteer who takes that in stride. That it takes about 12 contributors writing articles in the newsletter to give you all the information that you need to know each month. That about eight volunteers meet for a couple of hours every third Wednesday (put this on your calendar) at 9:00 am to fold, secure, address and stamp the highly anticipated Association newsletter. Some look and scat while others enjoy the camaraderie while busying themselves putting out about 700 newsletters for you ultimate reading pleasure.

Unfortunately, but a fact of volunteer life, most of these efforts are accomplished mostly by a few members. The Board of Directors are an important part of our volunteer organization. They not only make the rules and regulations of your Association but help in the guidance of the volunteerism. However, we have those who are frequent volunteers on a regular basis. Don't get me wrong, the Board of Directors have a function and it is their desire to fulfill other tasks as it is to your liking.

We have the ultimate of volunteerism coming up later in the Fall. Five members will be vacating their position on the Board of Directors and we will be looking for replacements to give us wisdom and new innovative ideas to make our Association better than it is. I mentioned earlier about our all time high membership. Only 37 chose not to renew their membership. Illness, family matters and other significant reasons were certainly understood. We hope that they will find time in the future to rejoin our ranks and excel in the sport of shooting clay targets. The new faces at the range are due to you talking to your friends,

neighbors with an enthusiastic attitude and encouraging them to join our Association. We thank you for your positive attitude.

Anybody like to cook? We have at least two functions a month that is looking for volunteers to "burn-a-burger or toast a hot dog". The Dodge City Shootout is held on a Saturday once a month and is looking for those who like to keep their mid-parts warm by working with our bar-b-que and heating the dogs or burgers. One gets to meet a lot of people especially during the Dodge City. The other cooking opportunity is during our registered skeet shoots once a month on Saturday and Sunday. The cooking is simple. The cooks are in demand. It takes about 2 hours of your appreciated time to let the folks participating know that the Association cares enough to supply a lunch for the shooters. Let Nikolle know your choice of month and day for an appreciated cooking experience.

As you know, we accept donations in both time/talent and monetary gifts. We have been an IRS approved 501 (c) 3 Association for some time and can give you a tax write-off if you fall within the approved guidelines. All of our programs are going well. The youth program is especially doing well. We cannot survive without our youth following our footsteps. Many of the monthly classes, which pertain to shotgun safety, are filled to capacity a couple of months in advance. International Skeet has a chairperson, which in the near future the sport will develop into an exciting event. It is an Olympic event and it might just be fun to try it to see what the "big boys" shoot. Look at the website that is displayed at the top of your newsletter for events past and present.

If you have been out to the range lately, you have seen a myriad of changes in progress. As you continue your support by attending the range and its activities, you will witness and become part of the future. Our new clubhouse is anticipated to be on site the first week of May; less than a month away. It is your dollars that has made this epic event possible! There are preliminary plans to celebrate this event so stay tuned to the spoken word as well as the written word as to what is going to happen. We want you to become part of the event. Our 300-foot block wall that the ditch is dug for between trap field #1 and #4 will need some serious volunteers to make that happen in a timely manner. Once the clubhouse is in place, the expertise of the trades will be in order. Don't be bashful in volunteering. We will make the hours convenient to your schedule.

Lastly, but very important to our Association, I would like to request your help in getting our membership database up-to-date. We have about 350 members who have not had their picture (image) taken to augment our Association database. We have an unbreakable digital camera (no face too bad) that will get you into immortality. Listed on the upper patio bulletin board is the list of names that require their image taken. Nikolle, our office manager is fully aware how to make you image the best that it can be (as long as the battery holds out) and is willing to assist in this vital effort. Look at the list, then contact Nikolle, you know the gal that is a Jenny Craig poster girl. And, you will have done your Association a big favor. Please help us out on this one (of many) important issues.

Until next month, thanks for reading. Oh, and before I forget; **Volunteer!**

Trap League

By

Gary Krueger



The winter trap league concluded its season with a superb steak BBQ on Saturday March 27th.

One hundred steaks were cooked on a grill provided by **Willie Turner**. Our fabulous chef, **Fred Hoyle**, worked his

magic at the grill doing the steaks to perfection. Baked beans and macaroni salad were homemade by Chef **Marcy Krueger** (soon to be a new shooter). The weather was perfect and all who attended had a good time.

This is the largest field of teams (19) in the history of SDSSA. The top three teams received trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Custom trap league shooting vests (Logo Experts) were provided as league favors to all shooters.



**The winning team in their new vests!
(Dan Fox, Essy Aharapour, Barry Sinkoff, Dan Fox, Jr. & Craig Potter – Willie Turner missing from photo)**

I would like to thank all who helped to make this the biggest and best league yet.

It is now time to regroup and prepare for the summer league which starts on July 7th. The summer league will be limited to 20 teams.

See you at **The Range**

PARALYZED VETS TRAP SHOOT

On Sunday July 18th we will be hosting the Cal Diego Paralyzed Veterans in their 16th Annual summer trapshoot. If you like to win awards, 28 in all including a new Beretta A391 shotgun, come on out and join in the festivities. Every one is welcome to attend and participate. Cal Diego will be serving breakfast starting at 8:00 AM, and a great steak lunch at noon for all of the participants. If you like options, they are offering eight different opportunities for you, a calcutta, a lewis class on each event, singles, handicap and doubles, a singles and doubles class purse, handicap 25's, plus a silent partner on all 150 targets. That should be enough to tempt anyone.

While it is a competitive event, their emphasis is on camaraderie and spreading the word that folks in wheelchairs don't need pity. They need ramps in place of stairs and the opportunity to prove their

worth. Including is a photo of one of their participants at a recent shoot to show you that they are indeed a relaxed bunch. Come on out and see for yourself.



A relaxed wheelchair shooter!

Why does Cal-Diego PVA sponsor Trapshoots?

- To show the "able" side of disabled to patients with a new spinal cord injury. Many of these individuals have been quite active throughout their lives and believe that with their injury their lives are no longer worth living. When they see photographs and read articles of our trapshoots with wheelchair shooters competing alongside able-bodied shooters many have found the reason to believe that they can have a rewarding future in our society.
- To show the "able" side of disabled to the business community. Many people have the thought that a person in a wheelchair is a diminished individual. After spending a day on the range competing with and talking to our members they come away with a much more positive attitude about an individual in a wheelchair.
- To raise funds for our many activities in support of paralyzed veterans.

We sincerely appreciate your participating and donating to this event. Your help will benefit those who have given a great deal for their country.

The application blank is included in this newsletter. The following explains the Options which are a form of wagering on the outcome of the shooting events and as the name implies, they are entirely optional. Cal-Diego will receive 25% of all option monies. On all options, ties divide using percentages.

Pre-Register by mail and save \$5.00	A Paralyzed Veterans of America STEP OUTSIDE® Event	Top Prize a Beretta A391
 <p>Cal-Diego Paralyzed Veterans Association presents their</p>		
<p>16th ANNUAL TRAPSHOOT -SUMMER- Sunday, 18 July 2004 at the San Diego Shotgun Sports Association San Diego, California</p> <p>A Cal-Diego PVA Fund Raiser BREAKFAST AT 08:00 CALCUTTA BIDDING BEGINS AT 08:15 SHOOTING STARTS AT 09:00 A STEAK LUNCH PROVIDED AT NOON</p> <p>Bring your favorite 12 Gauge shotgun, 200 rounds of ATA Legal ammunition, your competitive spirit, your appetite, and join us for a fun filled day.</p> <p>28 Awards plus a new Beretta A391 50 Singles, 50 Handicap, & 25 Pair of Doubles, plus fun shoots</p>		
Breakfast and a steak lunch provided	3350 La Jolla Village Drive Room #1A, 118, San Diego, California 92161 (858) 454-1443 FAX (858) 450-1882	\$ Many \$ \$ Great \$ Options Available

Lewis Class Purses

The participating shooters' scores will be lined up in descending sequence and then the shooters will be divided into equal groups (classes). The shooters at the beginning of each of those groups are the winners.

The Silent Partner Option

The names of the Silent Partner Participants will be drawn two at a time to make a partnership of two shooters. At the conclusion of shooting, total scores on the 150 targets in singles, handicap, and doubles by both members of each partnership will be used to determine the winner of the Silent Partner pot. We will pay four places, 50%, 25%, 15% and 10%.

The Calcutta

This option will be on the 50 handicap targets. Each Calcutta participant registers by paying \$10.00. Bidding will commence for those shooters at 08:15 at the Clubhouse. Anyone can bid, minimum bid is \$10.00, highest bidder wins the shooter. The \$10.00 the shooter pays and the total amount bid for each shooter will be the Calcutta pot. Cal-Diego will receive 25% of the pot. We will be paying four places, 50%, 25%, 15%, and 10%. 60% to the bidder and 40% to the shooter.

Class Purses

There is a class purse available for both singles and doubles. The entry fee is \$10.00. One money will be paid for every

seven participants in a class. Money will be refunded for all classes with less than three participants.

Awards

Cal-Diego will be presenting 28 awards. The Grand Champion (high all around on the 150 targets) will receive a Beretta A391 shotgun. Other awards will be Champion & Runner-up for each yardage group, short, mid and long, plus classes AA through D in both singles and doubles and High Wheelchair shooter. Winner takes all. Ties will be decided by long run from the front in the event, handicap, singles, doubles and coin toss.

Hunter Safety

Program

by

Dan Fox



Our Hunter Education Program is now in the second year. We are offering the program once a month here at the range. One of the real advantages to the SDSSA program is that we are able to hold "live fire" as part of the course. We do the "live fire" on a Sunday afternoon. The "live fire" consists of the students shooting ½ round of skeet and ½ round of trap. This gives them an opportunity to see how "clays" shooting relates to hunting and the advantage of practice before going hunting. It also gives us, as instructors, an opportunity to make sure every student is a safe gun handler and will be safe out in the field.

I have been totally amazed by the number of students (youth and adults) that come through the course and have never handled a firearm previously. Even though California Fish and Game recommends that the course include "live fire" most instructors do not have the facilities to conduct "live fire" and therefore many students get their certificate (which allows them to get a hunting license) without the benefit of "live fire".

We have had many students express appreciation for SDSSA offering the course and they have expressed the thought that they will be a much safer hunter having been instructed in the proper use of a firearm.

The instructors who work in this program have found the experience to be very rewarding one, in that they are helping insure that the new hunters going through the program will be safe and responsible

hunters in the field. Anyone interested in becoming a Hunter Education Instructor can contact Dan Fox for information about the program.

Olympic Skeet

by

Gene Green



We started shooting International (Olympic) Skeet on Sunday afternoons. Field 10 is modified to throw regulation Olympic targets for your shooting pleasure.

Our inaugural Sunday afternoon shoot had fourteen different shooters coming over to the "Darker Side" to give this "other" skeet a try.

FYI, this sport has been in the Olympics since 1968 and the current course of fire was adopted after the 1992 Olympic Game. Pigeon shooters use it to warm up and show off their skills to the fans. A round consists of 25 targets with NO option shot. A full squad is 6 shooters. A dead bird is one visible piece or powder, if flash targets are used. International targets are shaped differently, weigh more (3.7 oz vs 3.5 oz for regular ones), and are larger in outside diameter by .020. Targets travel 72 yards instead of the 60 yards in American Skeet. Shooting boundaries are the same. This sport is governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation.

Come out on Sunday afternoon and give it a try – you might like it!

International Trap

by

Rick Matulich



On March 31st 2004 **Ricardo Alcantara** resigned from the Olympic Trap Committee. We would all like to express our appreciation for all of his hard work.

The Olympic committee now consists of **Bill Bolinger, Rick Matulich** and **Keith Ansley**. Each of the committee members is eager to hear any questions or suggestions the club members may have regarding the bunker, the shoots or possible improvements. Please bend our ears!

The **ARMUSA 125** was a great success. We had 34 shooter participate in the one day event competing for over \$ 1,000.00 in cash and prizes. We would like to thank **ARMUSA** for their sponsorship of this event. This shoot also raised \$ **1,105.00**. This money went towards the Olympic Trap Fund Raising Goal, and will help pay off the bunker construction cost overrun on Field 12. This still leaves a balance of \$ 7,660.00. Donations are still being accepted and greatly appreciated (remember it is *tax-deductible!*).

We would like to congratulate **Brett Erickson** on winning not one, but two opportunities for Olympic Gold. He will be competing in both, Trap and Double Trap events in the 2004 Olympic Games in Greece. Brett will be at the club the first week of June to conduct an Olympic Trap clinic. If you get chance, come by the bunker fields and wish him good luck in Athens!

Youth Programs

By

Don Wilkie



Daylight Saving enlightens practices for the Scholastic Program.

We are happy that we now have daylight saving and that warmer evenings are approaching. The normally benign climate of San Diego spoils us and we want it to stay to stay spoiled.

Shooting is becoming more of a family sport at our range thanks in large part to the Scholastic Program. Eight Scholastic Program (SCTP) families now shoot together at San Diego Shotgun Sports and kids regularly beat their parents.

Weather and difficult light conditions at dusk notwithstanding we had a good month in March with good turnouts at practices and at the ATA shoot. A special award was made to Evan Marsch for his rapid improvement. Evan, a junior novice joined the team in November of last year following his initiation into shotgun shooting at our "Introduction to Shotgun Sports" class. With hard work and determination he has raised his average score to 83%. Evan shot a combined average of 84% at the March and April ATA shoots.

Once again we had a good turnout at the April ATA shoot with fourteen youngsters competing. Judy Sledge set a torrid pace and won High Junior ATA honors with a 190/200 on Saturday, leading all SCTP shootings including Brian Burrows who shot a 189. Judy went on to even greater accomplishments on Sunday by winning the High Lady ATA Award at handicap on Sunday. Tied at the end of the event, she beat Jan Slough in an exciting shoot-off.



Judy Sledge- Great shooting in the ATA

Brian took the SCTP first place trophy when Judy deferred and accepted instead the ATA trophy.



Brian Burrows- SCTP trophy

Kurtis Sorchy was second by a mere two points with a 187 while **De Savage** took third place SCTP honors with a 184 and is on the brink of a break through with his new prescription eyeglasses.

Good work team!

Safety is everyone's job
by

Fred Hoyle



We have a large number of new, inexperienced, shooters using our range. The Staff is assigned to help these shooters, when there is a Staff member available. At other times shooters are left to fend for themselves or are asked to wait because there is no one to assist them.

This should be an opportunity for all of us to welcome new shooters to our association and give them a few pointers on shooting and tips on SAFETY.

Most of us have been at the window when new shooters ask to shoot. Why not think of volunteering to assist for a round or two. What better way is there to assure safe gun handling and to keep potential new members interested.

We have all heard someone say "those people are not safe, someone should be supervising them". **Why not be that someone?** If enough of us make this a project we will have a safer and friendlier club for all.

Dodge City Shootout

by

Jim Englund



March 20th Dodge City Shootout

Another beautiful day in San Diego and another great Dodge City Shoot this March! We had 59 eager shooters turn out for this event. **Chip Enniss** claimed to have been sick this past week & said he was not feeling up to par – but he was top dog with a great 86 out of a 90 potential. Great shooting Chip!

Nine shooters stood up to the line and knocked down all 25 at the 16 yard line. **Chip Enniss, Rich Davis, Dale Craig, Robert Freed, Lonnie Catania, Jan Slough, Charlie Slough, Charlie Bover, & Jerry Callaway** were the sharpshooters at the 16 yard line.

No one could get them all at the handicap, so **Chip Enniss, Ken Williams, Taylor Craft, & Keith Reinhart** split the money, all with 24's.

Buddy Shoot #1 must have been easy because 4 shooters were able to get them all. **Ron Schwartz, Chip Enniss, Fred Corley, & Duke Wilber** whacked them all! However, the wind must have picked up for Buddy Shoot #2, because no one could get all 20 – However, **Don Brunt, Dale Craig, Robert Freed, Ken Williams, Dusty Craig, Frank Gallegos, Lonnie Catania, & Augi Daddi** were able to cash in with 19 each.

Then came the big Annie Oakley – what a crowd out there fighting for the right to be the “last shooter standing”! They all fought long and hard, but in the end there was **Keith Reinhart** alone on the field as **Joe Travis** shook hands and walked off the field with 2nd place. 3rd place was a tie between **Dusty Craig & Bruce Simpson** as they were both “knocked out” at the same time.

Thanks to our Staff for their great support and efficient running of the event. **Layne** our manager keeps things going smooth, **James** keeps the scores going into the computer, **Nikolle** keeps everything organized, and of course our excellent pullers keep those targets flying and the scores recorded – and also thanks to **Dan Fox** who gave up shooting today, to cook those juicy polish dogs for your eating pleasure. See you all next month.

April 10th Dodge City Shootout

Those of you who were out preparing for Easter missed a great shoot. The weather was great and the camaraderie even better. I guess some were up at Redlands competing in the ATA shoot there. Anyway, 51 eager shooters showed up to try for top gun here at the Dodge City.

We are still looking for someone to hit that perfect 90, but no one did today. However, **Lonnie Catania & Tom Field** tied for top gun at 85 out of a possible 90. Pretty good shooting!

Eight straight shooters notched their guns at 25 in the 16 yard event – **Tom Field, Dan Fox Jr, Rich Davis, Ken Williams, Preston Schiwitz, Lou Rosen, Jerry Callaway, & Todor Milkov.**

Nobody got them all in the handicap, but **Jerry Dillard, Joe Matkovich, Sonny Hale, & Jon Dales** were able to get 24 of them and split the money in this event.

In Buddy Shoot # 1 only **Jon Dales & Dave Johnson** were able to rack up a perfect 20. I guess Buddy Shoot # 2 got a little harder, because no one could get all 20, but **Lonnie Catania & Bob Dotierer** were able to get 19 of them and claim the money.

Then came the big Annie Oakley with no one showing any mercy. At the end, there was **Sonny Hale** standing alone with a big smile on his face as he knocked **Jim Snow** out. Jim had to settle for 2nd place – oh well, it seems Jim is in the top three more than his fare share! Taking third place was no other than **Taylor Craft** – Taylor seems to be adapting to that new gun that replaced the one he lost in the big fire!

If you haven't tried the Dodge City, grab your favorite shotgun and give it a try on May 15th. This is a real fun shoot and you'll meet a lot of shooters and make some great new friends! Come on out and give it a try.

Trap Doubles

by

Jerry Callaway



The Wednesday Trap Marathon Doubles is starting. This event is shot on one Wednesday each month, starting at 9:30 am. You can shoot registered ATA targets at practice prices (plus ATA fees). You shoot 100 targets, or if you like you can shoot up to 500 registered doubles. The idea is to offer a chance for registered doubles and have some fun.

Ron Schwartz & Jerry Callaway are coordinating this event. For more information see either Ron or Jerry – or better yet, just show up on April 21st and May 19th and shoot some registered doubles!

Trap News

by

Chip Enniss



Our Winter Chain this year was held on Fri, Sat and Sunday the first week in April and I feel it was a pretty good shoot with a lot of different winners. The Weather caused some minor problems with the threat of Rain and some not so dedicated Shooters pulled out on Friday but then the Weather was overcast but nice the rest of the Shoot.

On Friday our opening event saw 13 try the Doubles, the wind, threat of Rain and poor Light made it interesting. Money winners were Champ. Chip Enniss, AA, was a three way tie with Pat Jenks, Bob Slough,

and Joe (Ricochet) Roby all breaking 92. A was won by Ron Schwartz with 91 B winner was Jonathan Dales with 89 and C was Helen Lemich with 81.

Event #2 was Handicap with 16 hearty souls stepping to the line, Champion was John Spangler with a very fine 97, Long went to Harold Wasson for a 91, mid was Helen Lemich again with 94, short was Ray Torres with 94, Charlie Bover took Vet with 90 & Jan Slough won Lady honors with 85.

Event # 3- the Winter Chain Singles Championship went to Chip Enniss with 198x200 over Rich Davis 198x200 for AA, A class was Tim Donahue, 196, B winner was Bill Bridges with 191, C was Ray Torres with 190, Hi Lady was one of our most Loved and hard working Trapshooters, and our State Delegate, Eileen Williamson, who won the very nice Silver Necklace that was donated by Bill and Ruthie Hunter. Thanks Bill and Ruthie. Vet winner was Jerry Dillard who won the \$50,00 Bill and the Money Clip to put it in also donated by Bill and Ruthie. Jr winner was Judy Sledge with a fine 190 score. A total of 68 Shooters participated in this event.

Event 4- Doubles had 22 entrants, Champ was Ricochet Roby with a 96 followed by AA winner our friendly Manager Layne Kuhlman with 94. A class was a tie between Lonnie Catania and new A.T.A. Shooter Sonny Hale of Long range pot shoot Fame. B class winner was Jonathan Dales again with 90, C was Helen Lemich 83, Vet was Charlie Bover 92 and Lady winner was Eileen Williamson with 82.

Event 5 Handicap saw 50 Shooters with Jimmy Heller becoming Champ with 97, Terry Bilbey Long , 95, mid was Tom Field 93, Short was won by new Shooter Steve Pinky and Vet was Charlie Bover both with 95. Peggy Calloway took hi Lady with 90 and Jr. winner was Kurtis Sorchy with 89, Kurtis is coming on pretty strong and has his Dad Mike working hard to try to stay ahead of him.

Our final Event was the Chain Handicap, Joe Roby won the State sponsored Buckle with 95, long went to Jimmy Heller with 94, mid was Fred Corley with 91, short was Scott Brawner by shootoff over Ray Torres 94. Vet was Charlie Bover 93 High Jr. Kurtis Sorchy, and High Lady was Judy Sledge after a Shootoff with Jan Slough 88.

Get a Friend, Son, Daughter, Wife or new Shooter & come give Registered Trap a try.

5-Stand News

by

Bob Lazarus



5-Stand field # 7 will be closed April 16, 17, & 18 as it will be the designated skeet practice field during the upcoming skeet tournament. 5-Stand Field # 6 will be open all three days and the targets will be reset to allow for a mix of sub-gauge and 12 gauge shooters.

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



The **SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association** located in San Diego, California hosted the fifth shoot of the 2004 skeet season with a list of "firsts". The **Name Of The Game Open** held on the second weekend of March welcomed new shooter; **Tom Wang** (Carlsbad) to his "first" registered skeet shoot and an inductee into our shooting family. Tom was introduced to our much-enjoyed sport by ever progressing sponsor, **Matt Fort** (Chula Vista). This effort on Matt's part puts his name in the hat toward a drawing to be held at our California State Skeet Championships (Triple B, El Monte, July 4, 2004). The winner of the drawing will receive an all expense paid trip to the 2004 World Skeet Championships in San Antonio, Texas in October. The **Ziegler Plan** named after its creator, **Don Ziegler** (Diamond Bar) sponsors this award through donations given by dedicated and generous shooters. The purpose of the award is to encourage experienced shooters to bring to the fold new (Novice) shooters. Last year, the first year, there were in excess of 17 entrants of which 13 came from SDSSA. (Donations can be sent to **Bill Page**, 24439 Madison St., Torrance, Calif. 90505). Good luck to both Tom and Matt.

The next "first" was a first ever 25-straight shot in the 20ga. event by novice shooter **Heath Hagens** (Huntington Beach). Heath and his dad, Gary, are

frequent and valued visitors to our ever expanding program. Heath is sneaking his way into dad's scores so, dad, watch out! Congratulations, Heath.

Our third "first" was the entry of competitor **Steve Simpson** (San Marcos). This was his first introduction to **SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports** and it was a pleasurable introduction for both parties. Steve is a Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton. We let him shoot some really good scores so that he would return and shoot again. Steve shot the full 600-target program and didn't look worse for wear when finished. Thanks, Steve. We enjoyed shooting with you.

Another "first" was accomplished on Saturday during the 12ga. event in which **Phil Shinar** (Criswell, OR.) shot his first ever 100-straight in the 12ga. Just so that he confuses those at the registration desk, Phil is in the process of moving to Southern California but at this time claims his home club as the **Willamette Valley Sportsman's** located in Corvallis, Oregon. Their loss, our gain. Apparently Phil was saving this monumental event for his eventual stay in Southern California! Again, Congratulations on an awesome and memorable day. We hope you have many more and keep wearing the shot up hat!!

You may wonder why all the emphasis at the beginning of this article on "firsts". The explanation is noteworthy. Just recently we received an e-mail from NSSA (**Susie Fluckinger**, Editor, SSR) that they are beginning a "First Shots" page that will be close to the front of the magazine and in color. It will feature a photo and one or two sentences about a shooter's first... Thanks to Susie for coming up with this innovative idea. These kinds of ideas will generate untold appreciation to those who don't usually have much of a chance to gain individual much less national recognition.

On to the contest.

We had some serious competition from a shoot in a nearby state so our March attendance was less than stellar. Even so, we had 25 shooters, who with the "big dogs" shooting elsewhere, had a chance to win in their class. Our Friday preliminary event, the 12ga., had 9 shooters and nine winners. **Neil Vann** (San Diego) came out of the woodwork to post a 100-straight. (This was deemed a "first" by the individual shooting the 100 as it was the first 100 of the day but the vote was overwhelmingly discounted. I guess this is one time that the pen is not mightier than the sword). The only shootoff that ensued was between **Craig Potter**

(Chula Vista) and **Steve Simpson**. Both had nice 98's but when the smoke cleared, it was Steve who captured Class B1. The second event of the day was 12ga. Doubles. Again 9 shooters and nine winners. A shoot off was held to determine Class B1 and B2 between **Vern Gideon** (El Cajon) and **Russ Terry** (Irvine). Vern came on strong but Russ outlasted him to take the honor.

Saturday's beginning event, the 28ga. was attended by 20 enthusiastic souls. Top dawg was Class B shooter **Harold Jeffers** (Torrance) with a Class AAA score of 98! Great shooting, Harold for 28ga. Gun Champion. Only one shoot off took place with **Russ Terry** pitted against **David Hurzeler** (Chino Hills). No misses until coming back to station #4 and Russ shoots too far ahead of the high house and David put the shot at mid-target giving David Gun Runner up honors and Russ Class AA1.

Our lunches for both days were sponsored by **Pete Buompensiero** (San Diego). We had the giant polish sausage beef hot dogs with all the condiments and soft drinks. Thanks, Pete, for your dedication and continued support.

The 12ga. event attracts 20 shooters with the carrot of some nice prizes in the way of medallions sponsored by none other than **Pete Buompensiero**. Pete decided that he would like to see more shooters win prizes, especially the Class B through Class E shooter. There were 26 medallions going to Gun Champion, Gun Runner up and first through fourth in the six classes. Those who received their medallions were pleased with their award. Due to out-of-state competition, there were more awards than award winners. This is the gauge in which the previously mentioned "first" took place and **Phil Shinar** "shined". With the lone 100-straight in the big bore, Phil had to watch from the south side of the fence while others gnashed their teeth at each other from the shoot off side of the fence. We had the pleasure of two shoot offs. Class B2 and B3 with 95's were decided by first-timer, **Steve Simpson**, and fellow Marine (retired), **Jose Sandoval** (San Marcos). Steve took charge right from the start and never missed for Class B2 honors. The other shootoff was between Novice, **Charlie Geer** (Carlsbad) and Matt Fort. Matt never missed a beat for four stations leaving Charlie with dust in his eyes wherein he didn't see and missed his eighth shot. Probably shot too far in front! Anyway, Matt is crowned Class A1 and Charlie Class A2. Good shoot off. Novice shooter, **Tom Wang**, donated his once-fired Winchester AA 12ga. hulls to the Class B

winner. **Vern Gideon** is now the proud owner of those hulls. Thanks go to Tom. It is Sunday already and it seems that the weekend has just flown by. The .410 begins Sunday morning with some low clouds that make the target look as big as ash can lids. The inimitable **Russ Terry**, with fresh Oatmeal cookies (with nuts!) in hand, leaves the pack of 16 shooters with a Gun Champion score of 95 to beat all comers. He claims to have shot in front of all 5 misses. Anybody remember **Norm Hill**, the shooter who used to write for the Skeet Shooting Review (The Tail gunner) years ago and what he said about those who thought that they shot ahead of a target? I can't print it! Anyway, without the excuses, that was a great score. A shoot off for Class B2 and B3 was held between **Carl Best** (Spring Valley) and **Jose Sandoval**. Carl won the contest at station #3.

The final shooting event of the weekend is the 20ga. Class B shooter **David Hurzeler** comes into his own by shooting a Class AAA score of 99 to take Gun Champion. I don't understand how these Class B shooters do it!! They should bottle it and sell it. **Russ Terry** and **Neil Vann** go at it in a shoot off for Gun Runner up and Class A1. No contest. Neil shoots first and puts the lead on the wrong side allowing Russ to shoot ahead of the target enough to break it handedly. Russ is Gun Runner up.

Russ Terry wins the non-shooting event of High Over All, only missing 14 targets in the 400-target event. A shoot off tie with 372's for Class B2 and B3 ran **Vern Gideon** against **Jose Sandoval**. Vern won the contest on the first station. Jose was in a shoot off in every event. Way to go, Jose. Now that you are retired, you can come down on the Friday of the 600-target event and shoot the Doubles.

We had no Novice winner this month in the 12ga. event as the two eligible participants, Tom **Wang** and **Erik Hutchings** didn't shoot the 12ga. and all the other Novice shooters had already won the monthly Novice award.

Thanks to all the participants, to **Pete Buompensiero**, **Layne Kuhlman** and his staff and the continued dedication of the **Skeet Committee** and their help. It is the volunteers that make a shoot successful.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE NEW CLUBHOUSE

The old clubhouse is gone and a brand new one that is handicap accessible is

due to be installed during the first part of May. Once the new building is set in place we will then begin the process of completing the inside and getting it ready for use by our shooters. This will involve installing cabinets in the kitchen area, trophy display cases, and completing the merchandise display area.

Life Member **Willie Turner** is handling the site preparation for the new clubhouse. The site preparation should be complete very soon and then we will await Modular Systems to deliver our new building.



Preparing the site for the new clubhouse

Once the new clubhouse is in place and the interior has been completed, the next step will be to dedicate it. Board member **Steve Hubbard** has agreed to head the committee to plan this event. A time has not been set, but will be announced later. At the present time Steve is looking for ideas on how best to handle this important event. He has received a proposal from a member who owns a restaurant to cater the event. He is looking for any suggestions or help from members on how best to handle this event. If you have any idea, or would be willing to help, please contact Steve and share your ideas with him.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Neil Vann has appointed a nominating committee and the board of directors set the date election of president and board of directors as December 3, 2004.

The nominating committee will be seeking candidates for the office of Association President and 5 new members for the Board of Directors. Now is the time for all members of the Association to offer suggestions to the nominating committee on who they should consider for President and Board of Directors. If you have any ideas, or would be willing to be a candidate, please let Neil Vann know and he will get the information to the nominating committee. Neil is in his second term as President and has stated he will not seek a third term.

There are two ways to become a candidate for office. One is to be nominated by the nominating committee and the other is to file a petition to have your name placed on the ballot.

So whether you want to get on the ballot by nominating committee or by petition, now is the time to get your name (or the name of someone you know) to the nominating committee.

The committee will be considering candidates this summer, and will make their report (recommendations) to the Board of Directors in September.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Last year the Board of Directors started a new program to award a Life Membership to a member(s) at the annual meeting. This member(s) was to be selected for long term outstanding service to the Association. The Board hoped to establish a precedence of this practice of honoring outstanding service to the Association.

The first honoree was long time member **Pete Buompensiero** who has donated his time and talents to the association for many years.

To carry on this tradition, President Neil Vann has appointed a committee to search for a member(s) to honor at the January 2005 annual meeting. **Don Wilkie** has agreed to chair this committee. This committee would really appreciate suggestions from the membership on potential candidates for this honor. If you have any suggestions, please contact **Don Wilkie** and share them with him.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

This last note is not really an "upcoming event", but is something that bears mentioning. Several years ago the Board of Directors established the Life Membership program to help raise funds for range improvement (and at that time possibly fund a move of the range). Since the range has not had to move, this money has been and is being used to improve our facilities at the range. At the current time we have 140 Life Members. Why not consider helping your Association and become a Life Member. The cost of this membership is \$1,000.00 and the money will be used to improve the range. Once you become a Life Member, there will be no more pesky dues letters, and you will know that you are helping improve the range. Several members have recently converted to Life Membership – why not join them and proudly wear your new membership badge that says "Life Member"!!! **A great way to "volunteer"!!!**