



Newsletter

Volume 3

Issue 7

<http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com>

JULY 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



Just think! The year has flown by with only 7 months left.

Talking about the subject I am about to expound upon is always dangerous and something that none of us like to talk about due to the fact that some will get the wrong message about the intent of the message. Please remember and keep in the back of your mind while reading this message that I, as your President, and the Board of Directors, are in a position of volunteerism serving you, the Association member in your best interests.

Some time ago, your Association purchased target counters which use the "smart card". It was determined necessary to do so as we were actually losing anywhere from 50 to 100 cases of targets a month! If that becomes a surprise to you, it was a shock to us as this is revenue lost that can be used to enhance our facility to accommodate you and your families pleasure. After the target counters were installed, we noticed a significant difference. What does that tell you? It told the Board of Directors that there were some that felt that it was their right to shoot

as many targets as they could get away with when only paying for a round. Calling for another target when one didn't see it or maybe missed the target and would like to try again knowing that the second or third time would be a hit is just a couple of examples. Another example would be to use all the targets (now that we have programmed the counter to have "x" number available in case of breakage) until the counter zeros out. In April your Association threw 9268 rounds. Assuming (dangerous) that just 5% of the shooters that month called for 2 extra targets (and you and I know that this might be a bogus number but just for for-Instance sake) that is over 900 targets in which we didn't get our fair market value of revenue. You say, "no big deal!" Well, it is a big deal for those of us who abide by the rules set up to deter fraud at the range. This action is not only uncalled for, it is what I deem, abuse of trust.

Our unified action on the reduction of shooting price for juniors is a positive. However, this can be quickly turned into a negative if a Junior should decide that it would be smart to let an adult shoot using the 1/2 price Junior smart card. Your Board of Directors has been reluctant in granting 1/2 to all juniors visiting the range due to this loophole. When the junior activities are an organized event such as the Scholastic Clay Target Program, the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program and other youth oriented programs, the event is easily controlled. If left uncontrolled, your Association not only loses the price of shooting but also the non-dues paying daily membership fee that the adult would normally pay.

The bottom line is that we need your help! The basic issue is not only an issue of income but of pride in belonging to an Association that wants to do the best for its members. Integrity is a small word with a large meaning. The older generation complains that integrity is a dying quality but I believe we have that quality instilled in the membership of San Diego Shotgun Sports. All we have to do now is to exercise that quality and have the next several months as a timeline to prove it. To repeat myself, I know that I am treading on thin ice in bringing up this subject. I don't want anyone to think that I am picking on him or her as an individual as this is not just an individual issue.

No offence is intended. New shooters are not necessarily aware of the consequences of this issue and may need some thoughtful, diplomatic and courteous guidance.

As you can see without much trouble, we have a new clubhouse. It is clean and has the smell of a new facility. We need everybody's help in keeping it a clean and neat as possible. The old clubhouse was filthy and coffee soda spills were somewhat ignored. Although smoking was not permitted in the old structure, it was very loosely controlled. There will be no, I repeat, no smoking tolerated in the new clubhouse. We can't let what happened in the old clubhouse happen to this clubhouse. If we want families to be proud of our facility, we must strive to do our best to keep it clean. If you should spill, and we all will one time or another, and if you can't clean it up get help from the staff. They will be well stocked with cleaning supplies. We will do our best to keep the new clubhouse clean if you will do your part and assist in that goal.

Your help and conscientiousness are sorely needed and deeply appreciated. Next month I will get back on the track of positive thinking!

SKEET LEAGUE

by

Craig Potter



The '04 Pre-Summer Skeet League concluded on May 2nd followed by a Final Bash on May 12th. We had 61 participants divided in to 10 teams this year. At our Final Bash there was something for everyone. Everyone was treated to a delicious Brat, prepared by George Magarell, along with all of the goodies associated with a summertime Bar-B-Q. Each league member received a participant award of a windbreaker, and a cash prize based on the number of points their team scored during the league. In an addition we awarded certificates to the League High Overall Average Leader, Steve Claunch, and our Ladies High Overall Average Leader, Christina Bell. Also awarded was the High

Overall Average Leader for each team: Team 1 – Steve Claunch, Team 2- Layne Kuhlman , Team 4- Co-Leaders, Dan Fox Sr. and Dan Fox Jr., Team 5 – Charlie Bover, Team 6 – Doug Goad, Team 7 – Carl Best, Team 8 – Bruce Swiatlowski, Team 9 – Randy Blankenship, Team 10 – Robert Keefe, and Team 11 – Dave Broccoli.

Our next league, the '04 Fall Skeet League, is scheduled to start the week of September 15th. Start putting together a 4 to 6 person team and watch for sign-up information in the newsletter, on the web site, and on flyers at the range.



First Place Team: Front row, Steve Claunch, Doug Vann, Craig Potter. Back Row, Pete Buompensiero, Neil Vann, Vern Gideon.

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

The Board of Directors has appointed a nominating/elections committee. At this point the committee is seeking persons who would be willing to run for Association Office in 2005. The office of President will be open and several director positions will be open.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors has appointed a committee to propose candidates to be honored at the 2005 annual dinner as Honorary Life Members. This was first done in 2004, when **Pete Buompensiero** was selected to be honored with the award.

Introduction to Shotgun Shooting by

Jim Englund



Our Introduction to Shotgun Shooting program started out as a "Youth Program", but we soon found out that adults also were interest in the program – so we expanded it to include both youth and adults. This has been a very popular program. We run this program once a month and limit the class to 10 participants.

The class takes about 3 hours and usually is run from 1 pm to 4 pm on a weekend day. The first part of the class is in the "classroom"

where we cover firearm safety, general information about shotguns, and specific information on how to load, aim and fire a shotgun at a target. Also covered is a description of the various shotgun sports that we have available here at SDSSA.

After the classroom discussion the classroom is transferred to field 5 where the students are given instruction in shooting trap and skeet. Each student shoots ½ round of trap and ½ round of skeet. This is where those shotguns that have been donated by members really come in handy. Most of the students do not have a shotgun and need to borrow one to participate in the shooting.

And, now of this would be possible without the dedicated volunteers that show up to help out. For example, I was unable to participate on Saturday, May 22 – but thanks to the efforts of **Dan Fox, Gene Green, Dave Kruger, & Dewey Wilber** the course went off without a hitch and 9 eager students got a chance to try out the shotgun sports. On May 22nd the class consisted of 5 adults and 4 youths who were interested in learning about the shotgun sports.

If you would be willing to help with the important program, it would be greatly appreciated. I think you will find that it is a very rewarding experience to be able to share your shooting skills with persons who are interested in learning about shotgun sports. All you have to do is see me and indicate an interest and we will fit you into the program. It is only once a month and just for a few hours. Say yes, you will be glad you did!

Youth Programs

By

Don Wilkie



This has been a tremendous year for the Scholastic program at San Diego Shotgun Sports Association. Forty students have participated in the program; and eighteen will be competing in the State Championships June 19th at Kingsburg. In preparation, they are practicing twice a week during May and June,--Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Stop by--say hello and show the youngsters you support them.

Following the state shoot we will take a break until the fall, when pre-season training will begin. New shooters will be welcome. They will receive training and will be given an opportunity to qualify for the team. Unfortunately, we may only be able to support 30 shooters because of range time and space constraints.

We hope to introduce skeet into the program with a squad competing during the fall league. If this is successful we will endeavor to join the SCTP skeet program in January and send a squad to the state championships.

It has been a terrific team effort with a highly supportive group of parents, association

members, board of directors and range staff. Special thanks go the range staff led by Layne Kuhlman, Nikolle and James for doing such a generous job of accommodating us. Without our volunteer coaches **John McClure, Duke Wilbur, Scotty Brawner, Mike Sorchy, Bill Savage, Susan Sledge** there would be no program nor could we do it without a wonderful group of parents who act as chauffeurs, score keepers cheer leaders, fund raisers. Much credit goes to **Carla Sledge**, our team manager, chief fundraiser, accountant, mother of mothers, and her assistants **Diane Savage** and **Pam Heckenkamp**. Supporters include: **John Lumn, Harvey Isom, Willie Turner, Glen Gregory, Herman Sledge** and other friends, some previously acknowledged, and some anonymous, but all greatly appreciated.

Thanks go to **Kurt Sachau** who has acted as an advisor to the state SCTP program and to our coaches and has led the way to providing ammunition for all SCTP participants at the state shoot.

Our success has been the result of a broad team effort. Based on the past year's experience we are planning to include a qualifying period for new shooters before accepting them as full-fledged members of our team.

Our two newest member of SCTP are **Bryce Copp** and **Tyler Yonker**.



Bryce Copp



Tyler Yonker

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



The 76th Annual Southern California Skeet Championships were held at San Diego Shotgun Sports Association in San Diego, California on Friday, May 28 through Sunday, May 30, 2004. 93 shooters attended the 3-day event shooting 43,306 targets on the six fields. The fields were in pristine condition to welcome our visitors from the North and East. Many thanks go to our Association General Manager, **Layne Kuhlman**, Assistant Manager, **James Reisig** and **Nikolle Wertel**, our Office Manager (and birthday girl) who sold the practice tickets and the merchandise for their preparation and service to the shooters during this busy weekend. All ten of the Association Field Referees were certified as an Associate Referee by NSSA

through the mentorship of **Dewey “Duke” Wilber**.

In that three rotations were required to support the 90 plus shooters, not all shot the same gauge on the same day. The Friday Doubles event captured 68 shooters and they did shoot the event in the morning. Top dawg with a 100-straight was Gun Champion **Steve Claunch** (San Diego) with **Jason Parson** (Santa Monica) coming in runner-up with a nice 98. There were four shoot-offs to determine class AA, A and B winning spots with the longest run lasting three stations. That left time for two of the three 12 gauge banks to follow the Doubles event.

After the smoke cleared and 89 contestants had mastered their practice habits, the 12ga. event witnessed five lumbering off the fields with 100-straight. Class B shooter, **Bruce Johnson** (Whittier) strikes pay dirt shooting his first 100-straight in the 12ga. Class A shooter, **Steve York** (Cerritos) also shoots his first 100-straight in the 12ga. A shooter that we haven't seen in the SoCal family for some time, Class AA, **Herb Brooks** (La Vern), turned in 100-straight. The remaining two having perfect scores were Class AAA, **Larry Sifers** (Woodside) and Class AA, **Frank Bartucci** (Paso Robles) so, as you can see there are a lot of things that can happen with most of the classes represented in a 5-way shootoff. Long story short, Larry (Champion) goes 11 stations before outgunning **Bruce Johnson** (Runner-up). Our miss Brooks bows out after 7 stations for Runner-up Third with Mr. Bartucci taking AA1 and Steve York A1. Great shootoff! With all the top spots taken, six additional shootoff ensued, the longest being for Class B3. **Jose Sandoval** (San Marcos), **Vern Gideon** (El Cajon) and **David Hurzeler** (Chino Hills) all came in with 98's. Jose starts it off and with three stations; Vern drops out leaving Jose and David get the rhythm going. At the 10th station, Jose puts the lead on the wrong side of a low 3 and David smashed the pair taking the prize.

Seems as the shoot goes on, we have more shooters arriving. This time the 20ga. hosts 90 clay busters. Three perfect scores come in. Class A competitor; **Bill Borrelli** (Yorba Linda) arrives with a “smithereened” hat. This is Bill's first 100-straight in the 20ga. and everyone is as proud of him as he is of himself. Great day, Bill! Needless to say Bill is anticipating displaying his perfect form with **Jason Parson** and **Larry Sifers** in the shootoff. Bill takes a fall at the second station but has Gun Runner-up sewed up. Jason and Larry powder targets for another 4 stations. The target is just a fuzz too far ahead of Larry's shot stream and Jason becomes 20ga. Gun Champion with Larry Runner-up. Four more shoot offs take place, the best being those vying for the three places in Class AA with 99's. We now have the nutty professor, **Russ Terry** (Irvine) who has been known to show up at the skeet field in bedroom slippers and a coonskin hat, **Bruce Johnson** who just completed a 100-straight in the 12ga. and **George Manessis** (Pinole) our California State Skeet Association Vice President. Russ struts, kicks and sways his

way through four perfect stations while Bruce and George drop one. However, they continue undaunted with the loss of their leader for another seven stations. Here is a case where and if Bruce had had as much lead on the forward side (leading edge) of the target as he did on the aft side (trailing edge) he would have hit it as hard a George did. George takes Class AA2 with Bruce taking Class AA3.

The 28ga. competition increases by one over the 20ga. Now we have 91 contestants with seven Class AAA shooters. The single top score of 100-straight was posted by senior vet **Roman Warren** (Riverside). A shootoff took place to determine eight spots from Gun Runner –up to Class B1 with 99's. **Jason Parson** led off with **Ken White** (Monrovia), **Jessica Forbes** (Fremont), **Lee Morris** (Whittier), **Frank Bartucci**, **Harold Jeffers** (Torrance), **Lou Gaudenzi** (Simi Valley) and **Mimmo Femino** (Covina), following. Lou (ClassA3) was a no-show. Harold (Class A2) takes the lead in dropping out. Then Ken (Class AAA1) and Jessica (Class AA1) precede Mimmo (Class B1) and Frank (Class A1). One more station, station #3 returning, Lee (Runner-up) outguns Jason (Third) and so ends a great shoot off.

The last shooting event of the weekend is one dreaded by many but cherished by a few. In the “cherish” department was **Wayne Cagle** (Woody) with a fine one-and-only 99. In the “semi-cherish” department was a group of five with 98's. In the “dreaded” department were the remaining 81 shooters. The lineup for the shoot off consisted of **Jessica Forbes**, **Lee Morris**, **Frank Bartucci**, **Mimmo Femino** and **Dave Erwin** (Corona). Eighty percent of these fine shooters did super with the pencil-bore but found a defect when shooting doubles at three, four and five. Three stations and out was the norm except for .410 Gun Runner up, **Dave Erwin**. Locals, **Carl Best** (Spring Valley) and **Matt Fort** (Chula Vista) had a nice six-station shootoff for Class B2 and B3 with 92's. Carl came out Best with Matt capturing the Class B3 award.

High Over All (HOA) guru was **Frank Bartucci** with an excellent 395 X400 leading the crowd of 86 entries. High All Around (HAA) King of the Hill was **Jason Parson** with a 491 X 500 taking the prize from **Steve Claunch** in a shoot off (also with a 491 X 500), both whipping all of the other 64 entries.

Many thanks go to all those who participated and worked the various required functions that do not operate by themselves. Some out-of staters make our shoot more enjoyable and we welcome them back next year. We sustained no fatal injuries although **Jim Rhoden** (Long Beach) did a face-fall that even had the pup that wrapped his leash around Jim's legs in hysterics. Jim impersonated a horizontal Fred Astair! No mercy. No sympathy. **Mimmo Femino** had his usual fine gourmet food for the shooters and shooters family to partake and we thank Mimmo from the bottom of our belly! The SoCal staff worked as a team and the results reflected a well-oiled machine working the shoot. Until next year...the 77th Annual Southern California Skeet

Championships most likely to be held over the Memorial Day weekend. See you there.

Trap League

By

Gary Krueger



The sign up for the Summer league will be cut off on June 30th, one week prior to the start date of July 7th to allow for organizational setup. Please give Nikolle your contact information , phone or email when signing up. All league shooters will also need to see **Nikolle** at the range office as soon as possible to give her your jacket size for the league favor.

There are some rule changes this year. The option rounds have been dropped, but a one time team score can be banked to be used only one time when less than four shooters post scores in a week. The details of the rules are posted on the website and will be also posted at the range bulletin board.

SUPPORT OUR PARALYZED VETS!!!

The Paralyzed Veterans of America are holding a fund raising shoot at our range on July 18, 2004. Let's all get behind this and support them. This is the first time they have been able to hold the event at our range because of access problems. We now have one of the most handicap friendly ranges in California. This year our handicap shooters will be able to roll right in our new clubhouse to participate in the registration process. **We are so proud of our new facilities that we are also going to use the day of this PVA shoot (July 18th) to formally open our new handicap accessible clubhouse.** Every member will want to be present for that event.

July 18th – This is a one day event involving J shooting at 150 targets. The shoot starts off with breakfast at the range and includes a steak lunch. There are sign up forms at the range office and a sign up form is included with this newsletter.

If you can't participate in the event, consider a donation (tax deductible) to PVA to help support their organization. Remember, these veterans are in wheelchairs because of their service to our country making sure that we all keep our freedoms and the right to participate in the shooting sports.

You **DO NOT** have to be in a wheelchair to participate in this shoot! Everybody is welcome! I guarantee you that the paralyzed veterans who do shoot in the event will show you no mercy when it comes to competition on the shooting fields! We have wheelchair shooters competing in the Dodge City Shootout and they expect no special consideration. Come out and meet them – compete with them! and most of all come out and support them!