



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



This is my last hurrah! I get to hog the front page of the Association newsletter one more time and then off to retirement and shooting. It has indeed been a pleasure to serve and communicate with you, a valued member of San Diego Shotgun Sports. My two-year tenure as your Association President has been a good experience and I am grateful to the Board of Directors for their support. It also has been a pleasure of coordinating the daily efforts with our Association General Manager, Layne Kuhlman and his staff of energetic office and field staff

It is my pleasure and desire that Dr. Gary Krueger succeeds me as the 2005 President of the San Diego Shotgun Sports Association. In that he is in business for himself, he has a keen eye for continuing the business sense of the Association and a good ear for listening to the membership. Get to

know Gary by introducing yourself to him and letting him know that you are an active and interested member of SDSSA.

Introducing Dr. Gary Krueger, 2005 Association President



Dr. Gary D. Krueger is a 1980 graduate of the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, where he also completed his postgraduate program in the specialty of Prosthodontics. Gary received his training in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Gary is Board Certified in his specialty of Prosthodontics, and is also a Certified Dental Laboratory Technician. Gary's Work has been featured in numerous dental publications and he lectures nationally and internationally for professional symposia and seminars.

Gary was born in Buffalo NY, and grew up in Orchard Park the Snow Belt and the home of the Buffalo Bills. Gary grew up snow skiing in the southern tier of Western New York, and has been a level three certified ski instructor for 28 years. In addition to hunting and fishing, Gary is also an avid golfer.

After having been in private practice in Buffalo for 16 years, Gary decided to relocate to San Diego finally listening to the prodding of a good friend and classmate in La Mesa.

Soon after moving to San Diego in November 1999, and starting a new practice in Encinitas, Gary joined the SDSSA and became involved in the clay target shooting sports. Gary joined the SDSSA board of directors, and helped to run the Trap league these past two years.

Marcy, Gary's wife, and Gary met in Dental school. They went their separate ways for a few years and reconnected again in 1986 and married in 1994 (to help smooth out Gary's rough edges, he says). The Krueger's moved to SD in 1999 where Marcy is a part time Dental Hygienist. Marcy is mother to their two Wheaten Terriers full time. She enjoys cooking, revamping their new house, performing in outdoor activities such as cycling and hiking, and is becoming a new shooter. We heartily welcome Gary and Marcy as they take on the awesome responsibility of SDSSA President and First Lady! Get to know Gary and Marcy by introducing yourself to them and letting them know that you are an active and interested member of SDSSA.

You may get a bit tired of me harping about the Annual Dinner but it means a lot to those involved to see a substantial crowd of members and guests attending this one big function that we have each year. I won't belabor with verbiage on the volunteers who put in countless hours of preparation going into making this a worthwhile event for you to attend but I think I just did! This years Annual Dinner will again be held at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Shelter Island. January 29, 2005 (Saturday). That date is the week between the NFL playoffs and the NFL Super Bowl

so it should/will be a free weekend for you. You will be getting a notice in the mail along with your dues notice (which is due and payable on January 1). Mark it on your calendar!

One last plea before I ride off into the sunset. Our membership, which nears the 700 mark, has always been a diverse group of people who embrace almost every profession one can think of. If I had three wishes and all but the third one was left, my final wish would be that our Association contains more “givers” than “takers.” Not a lot of folks will come up to one of the Directors or the office staff, declare their expertise and ask, “What can I do to help MY Association in the next year?” There are a couple but not enough. I would challenge you to take a more active part in an Association that continues to grow. The word is getting out, not only locally but also nationally, that we (you) have the best shotgun shooting facility in the Southwest. I ask that you be a part of this message of acclaim with not only your shooting participation but also your positive input either by words or action. “Now is the time for all good persons to come to the aid of their party.”

HAVE A MOST WONDERFUL AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!!

Dodge City Shootout

By

Jim Englund



The change in the date for the October Dodge City apparently caught some of you off guard. We only had 51 shooters, down from an average of about 60. The closing due to the air show had us doing some shuffling of events. Note that **next year** (2005) the D.C. will be held on the **SECOND** Saturday of each month. Check your calendar on the newsletters. We did have some good scores for the October shoot. 25's @ 16: **Greg Alexander, Lonnie Catania, Chip Enniss, Fred Hoyle, Pinky** and **Bill Pye**. Only three went straight at handicap: **Charlie Bover, Jerry Callaway** and **Chip Enniss**. Good shooting Chip. The first buddy had some good match-ups, no twenties but five teams came up with ninteens: **Josh Catania and Taylor Craft, Gabe and Perry Jurancich, Pinky and Bill Pye, Keith Reinhart and Norm Rudolph, Mike Sorchy and Joe Travis**. Buddy #2 had only one team with a perfect 20. **Josh**

Catania and Augie Daddi. Josh seems to have this buddy thing figured out. The Annie Oakley was pared down to **Lonnie Catania** in third, with **Taylor Craft** second and *again* **Charlie Bover** taking first place. Top score of the day was **Bill Pye** with an 86 of 90. I'm still looking for help with the lunch grilling. See ya in November.

Trap News

By

Chip Enniss



The weather man was not as friendly as he has been in the past few couple of years but the ones that turned out had a pretty good shoot. The targets were very hard to get a definition on with the light and cloud conditions as they were so scores were generally down some from normal.

Event #1 Singles had 52 shooters and was won by **Fred Corley** with the only 100x100, AA winner was **Aaron Thompson** with 99x100. **Perry Hill** took A Class with 98x100, **Frank Bass** secured B with 96x100, C class winner was **Jim Keller** with 92x100, High Vet. was **Gene Baxter** with 98x100, Jr Champ was **Brian Burrows** with 95x100 and High Lady was **Sandie Kuhlman** with 90x100.

Event #2 Handicap saw 34 brave souls try their luck and the High Score of 95x100 was turned in By **Tim Jacobs** at 27 yards and **John Lumn** at 23 yards. Tim won the Shootoff and became Champ. Long yardage winner was **Mike Gebhardt** with 94x100 shooting his new Bowen Trap Gun for the first time. Mid was won by **John Lumn**, short winner was **Frank Bass** with 93x100 Vet was **Charlie Slough** with 91x100, **Aaron Thompson** again won Jr honors with 88x100, and **Sandie Kuhlman** secured her second win for the day with 91x100.

Event #3 Doubles had 18 participants with windy poor light conditions **Aaron Thompson** became the Champ for his third win if the Day with a very fine 98x100 He was followed closely by **Lonnie Catania, Chip Enniss** and **Tim Jacobs** all with 97x100 for the AA class tie. A was won by Jr. Coach **Mike Sorchy** with 96x100 **Ken Datz** took B with 94x100 and C was taken by **Jim Keller** with 94x100. **Charlie Bover** won Vet. With 94x100 and High Lady with 83x100 was **Jan Slough**.

After the Doubles a Shootoff for the Hunter donated Money Clip and \$50.00

was held, everyone who Shot the Handicap event on post 5 was eligible. **Chip Enniss** was the winner. Thanks Bill and Ruthie for your continuing support.

Event #4 on Sunday only drew 12 Shooters, The weather looked pretty threatening and I think most folks just stayed home to enjoy the time to relax and enjoy the storm. **Chip Enniss** had the only 100x100 for the day with **Layne Kuhlman** 1 Bird behind with a 99x100 for AA class, A was won by **John Lumn** with 97x100 B winner was **Pat Chowing** with 95x100, Our fine Cashier and Layne's all around “Right Hand Gal” **Nikolle Wertel** won C Class with 89x100 (Her very first A.T.A. Event) **Jerry Dillard** was High Vet and **Jan Slough** was again Lady winner with 91x100.

Event #5 Handicap on Sunday had only 11 Shooters with **Nikolle** becoming Champ with a fine 94x100 followed by short winner **Jan Slough** with 89x100, Long winner **Layne Kuhlman** also with 89x100 and **Jerry Dillard** mid winner with 86x100. The rain didn't start until after the event finished, so everyone was able to stay dry. The scores were pretty low but you just can't have ideal conditions all the time and if we did we would still find a way to shoot poorly some of the time.

Good Luck and Good Shooting have fun and enjoy our great sport.

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



Thirty-one skeet shooters came to **SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports** on October 29-31 to shoot the last registered 600-target tournament of the 2004 skeet year in San Diego, California. In that we had a record high of rainfall over a 14-day period, Lake Harvey was nearing the drying stage such as to make the walk around the skeet field semi circle non hazardous. It was cool and sunny and all participants anticipated a 100-straight going in to the three-day event. Aptly named, **The Post World Open**, we had several who had just completed their tour of the 2004 World Skeet Championships held in San Antonio, Texas on October 8-16 (BIG shoot). Association member **Keith Phelps** (Torrance) shot his 12ga. autoloader that he won at the BIG shoot. **Roman Warren** (Riverside) was

sporting an ear-to-ear smile for his stellar performance in winning the HOA Veteran at the BIG shoot. **Bill Page** (Torrance) experienced his first trip to the BIG shoot by winning the Ziegler Award at the 2004 California State shoot. Other Association members who ventured to the BIG shoot were, **Caroline and Ted Church** (Ventura), **Lee Dennis** (San Diego) and **John Herkowitz** (San Dimas). **Gil Siu** (Corona), **Gary Dittmar** (Fountain Valley) and **Max Rabe** (Blue Jay) who are frequent supporters of SDSSA also were heavy hitters at the BIG shoot. Friday SDSSA held the 12ga. Preliminary with **Fred Mathews** (Newhall) winning the event hands down with a 96.

The event following was the Doubles and with 95's **Bill Page** (Torrance) whipped **Neil Vann** (San Diego) into shape by taking the Champion spot in a one box shootout.

Saturday, the main events are the 28ga. and the 12ga. 28ga. gun Champion **Gil Siu** (Corona) slips in with the lone 100-straight and team partner and Veteran World Champ, **Roman Warren** (Riverside) taking the Runner up spot with a 99. What a team! The 12ga. brought in two 100-straight. **Carl Best** (Spring Valley) and **Phil Shinar** (Long Beach) take to the shoot off field.

This is Carl's first 100-straight in the big bore. After two pair, Phil "shines" and out "bests" Carl for 12ga. gun champion and Carl taking Runner up. There were five 99's which filled the slots for Class AA1, AA2 and A1 thru A3.

I'd like to take a moment of your reading time to tell you about the great lunch we had both Saturday and Sunday. We always have a lunch at our registered skeet tournaments that is part of the program to the shooter but available for a small donation to those not shooting in the skeet tournament. This month **Gary Dittmar** supplied the main dish of Elk burgers that were a special and appreciated treat. On Saturday Gary also had an ample supply of smoked white and red salmon. The hour break that we take between the two gauges is sufficient time to eat, relax and tell all why one missed those elusive targets. Thanks Gary!!

Saturday morning starts off with the .410 Bore and as mighty and humbling as it is, the description as to the difficulty does not faze **James Dewey** (Ramona). James posts the lone 100 in the .410!

The closest score to that perfect score is a 96, which brought out the shoot off

savagery between Novice **Mike Giese** (Moreno Valley) and **Carl Best**. Mike takes the shoot off for Runner up and Carl is first in Class A. **Dave Erwin** (Corona) and **Neil Vann** take part in a brief exhibition for second and third in Class A. Dave's shells wouldn't fit so Neil gave him a couple of his (good sport; bad decision on Dave's part) super duper loads. Turns out one of the loads had a pre-programmed miss which of course Dave wasn't aware and Neil underhandedly takes second place in Class.

There were no shoot offs in HOA with **James Dewey** taking the field as top dawg! **Fred Mathews** was our Novice winner this month and was presented a hand tooled leather pouch donated by Association member **John Herkowitz** of *Pacific Sporting Arms*.

Another successful final shoot and year under our belt and ready to rock and roll in 2005!



All over this great nation of ours, the Annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve *Toys for Tots* program is in full swing. In Chicago a Toys for Tots Motorcycle parade takes place in November. Sunday, November 21st the Seattle Seahawks sponsor the Toys for Tots in the Northwest. Southern California has an abundance of activity and we at San Diego Shotgun Sports Association plan to be part of that activity. We moved our Toys For Tots annual registered skeet shoot up from December to November so that we could get all the toys delivered to those kids well before Christmas! We are making this an Association activity so we expect not only that our skeet family participate by bringing a new unwrapped toy to the November shoot but that all members of SDSSA and visitors alike take part in the month of November activity. We have set up an area within the new clubhouse as a depository and hope to

see an abundance of toys overflowing into the area.

Over the 56 years of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Marines have distributed more than 313 million toys to 151 million children. This charitable endeavor has made the U.S. Marines the unchallenged leaders in looking after needy children at Christmas. Over its 13 year life, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has supplemented the collections of local campaigns with more than 47.3 million toys valued at \$243 million, plus has provided promotion and support materials valued at \$2.5 million. If you want more information on Toys for Tots you can go to their website, www.toyfortots.org. Thank you in advance for the part you play.

We had two Novice shooters join our Skeet family this weekend. Association member Esmail (Essy) Arahpour (La Jolla) owns and operates *Sadaf Restaurants* in the Gaslamp district located at 828 5th Ave. Essy has donated to us gift certificates for awards in the past even before he became a member of NSSA!

Association member **Dan R. Fox** (San Diego) joined not only our Skeet Family but joined NSSA as a Life Member! Dan is a middle school teacher and assists his dad, **Dan Fox**, in the Associations Hunter Safety Program.

SKEET LEAGUE

By

Craig Potter



The Skeet League will finish on November 14th and the closing "bash" will be held on November 18th in the Clubhouse at 6 PM.

International Trap

By

Rick Matulich



On a sad note, it is with regret that we inform you of the loss of Wayne Romanski, Jr. He was born on October 26th 1984, and he was killed in a car accident on October 29th 2004 in Lake Elsinore. Wayne was on the junior USA team and he was always at the SDSSA Bunker shooting and

joking around. He was a fun loving guy and everyone at the bunker will miss the excitement and joy of shooting with him.



Wayne Romanski, Jr.

The 2004 Fall Team Selection Match (by JC Craft)

The match was held in Colorado Springs October 13th through the 16th. This unusually late start (due to the World Cup Finals in September) translated into cold and blustery conditions for all shooters in the Trap event. Four shooters from our club participate in the event. All four deserve credit for holding their own in weather conditions that are seldom practiced in here in San Diego. Our very own bunker committee member Bill Bolinger made his first trip out to Colorado Springs and came back with 185 after making a strong finish in the last 50 targets of the event. Bill finished 55th. JC Craft was not able to reproduce his strong showing at the National Championships this summer. JC finished 15th with a score of 225. Our two hot junior shooters Brian Burrows and Susan Sledge both had an excellent match. Brian was coming off a well-deserved silver medal at this summer's Junior Olympics and had a lot of potential coming into this competition. Brian finished with a 225 match score and a 22 in the junior final. This put him in a close run for a medal finishing in 5th for junior men. Susan Sledge came out with a commanding score of 213 and a 21 in the junior women's final. This left her one place out of a medal in 4th for junior women. The national selection process is a two-part match and with the second leg coming up in the spring, San Diego has a good chance of sending some shooters to the World Championships in Italy this summer.

We are now raising money for the third bunker and we need your help. Any

size donation is greatly appreciated and is tax deductible. To make a donations contact Rick Matulich at 858 663-1324.

Olympic Skeet

by

Gene Green



Mark December 11 on your calendar!

There will be a USA Shooting sanctioned skeet tournament that day. It will be a 125 target match.

By the way, September's Top Gun match was the first ever Olympic Skeet Tournament to be sponsored by the San Diego Shotgun Sports Association. We have arrived!!!

Olympic skeet is now shot on field 11.

Clay targets have not been made of clay in more than 70 years. They are made of limestone and pitch. International targets have a greater amount of pitch to prevent breakage at the higher launch velocities.

“Ready position” (AKA low gun) is as follows. Starting at the navel, draw an imaginary, ultra-thin, horizontal line around to your side. That line will go across the top of the hipbone, under the armpit. The toe of the gun must visually be on or below that line when you call for your target. Also, some part of the aft stock must be touching the body.

To aid the referee in determining the correct “ready position” for all shooters there is this thing called marking tape. It can be some sort of tape, cloth material, nylon webbing, gross grain ribbon, etc. It is 7/8-1 1/8 inches wide, 10-11 1/2 inches long and is permanently attached to your outer garment. It is to be of contrasting color. The top horizontal edge of the tape goes on that imaginary line between the navel and hipbone. Tape position is checked with the shooter standing erect and straight.

Elongation of the aft stock is not allowed.

Once the target is launched, you **MUST** leave the ready position and attempt to shoulder the gun before firing.

The rule book mentions tape position relative to the hipbone only. So, where did the navel business come from? The answer is famous rifle shooter, Margaret Murdock.

The pending rule change for “ready position” in 2005 indicates that tape position will be relative to the tip of the elbow. The tape will be yellow in color with a black border.

Shoot safe and Share the Shotgun Sports.

Trap League

By

Gary Krueger



Attention Trap League Shooters:

It's that time again to organize those squads for great fun and camaraderie in league competition. The 2005 **Winter League will begin January 19th.**

Sign up for the 2005 Winter league is now available at the range office and will close on Jan. 16th. All shooters and especially team leaders are asked to provide contact information, phone or email when signing up.

New members are especially encouraged to sign up. League information, dates, rules, etc. and be found on our outstanding Website (sandiegoshotgunsports.com) If you have not shot in the Trap League previously, all you have to do is sign up at the Range Office.

The Range Office is ready to take your sign up now. If you have a team get the team registered. If you don't have a team, talk to some of your shooting friends and set up a team. If you are not on a team and your friends don't want to shoot on a team – put your name in to the Range Office and we will get you on to a team.

I think you get the point – **GET YOUR NAME IN TO THE RANGE OFFICE!** This is a fun league and if you want to participate and have some fun get involved and shoot in the League.

Youth Programs

By

Don Wilkie



We are nearing the end of our 2005 pre-season training period and have been joined by 14 trainees in addition to our 18 remaining regulars. Three of the trainees have already been added to the team and

shot in the November ATA shoot. For **Ryan Hueners** it was his first registered competition and he shot an impressive 91/100 to finish second behind veteran **Brian Burrows** who shot a 95/100.



Ryan Hueners

Solid work Ryan. You're in good company. **Matt Higgins**, well known at the range, also shot his first registered targets and finished with a very fine 88/100.



Matt Higgins

New team member **Robert Jones** was not far behind with a 79—sorry we don't have a picture to include but we'll take care of that. Three members of our state competition squads shot but were a bit rusty: **Ian Daube**, still getting used to his new gun and growing body, stayed in the 90's with a 90/100, **Emily Heckenkamp** and **Dustin Stewart** shot 88/100—just shows that you can't be on top of your game all the time! But with the regular 2005 season starting in January they'll soon be back in the groove.

Special thanks go to team manager **Carla Sledge** and her helpers for continuing to put on lunches at ATA. Ian and Emily pitched in and did most of the serving, which was greatly appreciated.

We had one of those bittersweet happenings at our last practice; **Tyler** and **Susan Yonker** sadly informed us that Tyler would not be able to continue with the team. They are missed already. The sweet part was the presentation made by Tyler to **Duke Wilber** on behalf of all those who Duke has helped, which realistically is the whole team. **Britton Yonker** made a beautiful plaque featuring those for whom Duke has been personal coach. It was a touching moment.

Some of our regulars have been taking some time off 'serious' shooting to pursue hunting including **Bryce Copp**, **Nick Meyer**, **Kurtis Sorchy**, **Dutin Stewart** and **Evan Marsch**.

Thanks to **Augie Daddi** we have a new web page complete with a schedule for the remainder of 2004 and which soon will include 2005. The page can be found at www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com.

ANNUAL DINNER – JAN 29TH

Mark your calendar! The annual meeting and dinner is coming up. The dinner will be Saturday night, January 29th. This is the week between the playoff and the super bowl, so it will be a free night for you. This year is going to be a special time when we are going to be highlighting our very special Youth Program and our expanding Olympic Program. (Both Trap and Skeet).

Olympic Trap Competitor **Bret Erickson** is going to be our special speaker at the dinner. Bret is going to talk about competing in the Olympics in the field of Trap. [Our Olympic Shoot, **The Maple Leaf**, is taking place that weekend, so Bret will be here as a competitor in that event].

The Board of Directors is dedicating all the money from a raffle at the dinner to the Youth Program. This gives our outstanding Youth Program a chance to start the year off with some available funds. There will be some of our great young shooters at the meeting selling raffle tickets and available for you to see what great youth shooters we have on our teams. Some of them will talk a little bit about the Youth Program and the experiences they have had getting to compete locally, at the State level and Nationally by getting to go to the Grand American Trap Shoot in Ohio.

Our Youth Program was started by Don Wilkie and Carla Sledge less than two years ago and has exceeded any of our expectations. When it started there were questions – would anyone be interested in it,

would we be able to compete on a State and National level – etc etc. Well, we found the answer – more Youth applied than could be accommodated – there is a waiting list to get in the program! In the first two years (2003 & 2004) some of our teams won at the State level and earned the privilege of going to the National Level! What a great start and a great program. Come to the meeting, and meet our Youth, hear about the program, and lend your support to the program by being there!

ANNUAL DUES LETTER COMING

It is that time of the year when the annual dues letter will be coming out. We would ask you to respond by sending in your dues when you get the letter. Remember, except for the Staff that operates the Range, your Association is operated by volunteers. It's no fun to spend time collecting money to operate the Range and it sure helps when members promptly send in their dues once the letter goes out.

Once you get the dues letter – **give some consideration to becoming a life member** instead of sending the dues in – just think you will never have to pay dues again – and you will be lending support to your Association by providing funds that can be used for continued improvement of the Range.

Why continue to be a member of this Association and pay dues? This is a growing and vibrant Association that is providing a recreational shotgun shooting range for Southern California. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, your Association is developing one of the outstanding Youth Programs in the Nation. Other educational programs are being expanded such as the Hunter Safety Program and the Introduction to Shotgun Sports Program. We have seen the old clubhouse replaced with a new modern facility. The Range is being made handicap compliant and this year we hosted the Paralyzed Veterans Trap Shoot and are going to again in 2005. We have developed one of the finest Olympic Trap and Skeet facilities in the United States and are continuing to improve it. The Range is continuing to host monthly registered Skeet Shoots, registered Trap Shoots, Olympic Trap Shoots, Olympic Skeet Shoots, fun shoots such as the Dodge City Shootout, and a continuing series of Trap Leagues, Skeet Leagues. By paying your dues and being a member you are continuing to support these activities and you can be a part of it all!