



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

Column

By

Gary Krueger



Under the leadership of Neil Vann and a very committed and hardworking Board, an unprecedented number of projects and programs have been initiated, and completed. The SDSSA owes the outgoing president a big hearty job well done for the past two years. The new association meeting facilities, the second Olympic bunker, the improved handicap accessibility throughout, and enhanced lighting with expanded evening hours just to name a few.

The hard working directors of our very successful programs such as the Scholastic Clays target program, the Hunter Education program, and the Boy Scout merit badge program are to be commended. The directors of the registered Trap, Skeet, and Olympic events are also not unnoticed as the commitment to these events is enormous. Our fun shoots such as the Dodge City, and the Wednesday night pot shoots have been quite successful, and those directors are also commended. We have one of the most up to date and all-inclusive Websites of any shooting association in the nation thanks

to one of the most dedicated members of your board.

It is a honor to have been considered for the office of president by the SDSSA Board of Directors. In the matters of Association management, I will rely on the cumulative years, knowledge, and experience of those who preceded me to guide me in the decisions required to direct the club forward in this coming year. I can only hope to do as competent a job as Neil has done.

My only agenda will be to adhere to the mission and goals stated at the top of our newsletter. To that end I will try to improve our existing competitive programs, and foster future development in the growing programs of 5 Stand and Olympic skeet competition. Fiscal responsibility (can we afford it) will be the main guide in any new projects contemplated by this new president and board.

I welcome the new members to the board along with those returning, and look forward to the challenges of the coming year. To our dedicated full and part time staff, I also look forward to a terrific year. I will try and do my very best for you, the membership of the SDSSA.

Sincerely, Gary D. Krueger D. D. S.

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 that 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!

SKEET

NEWS

by

Neil Vann



The first registered Skeet tournament of the 2005 Skeet year entitled, **Toys for Tots** was held at the **SAN DIEGO shotgun sports** range on November 12-15, 2004 in San Diego, California with the threat of a tropical storm brewing. The total attendance for the 3-day 600-target tournament was 24 shooters with 18 of those being local shooters. The BIG dawgs stay away until April when the weather becomes a zero factor! The enthusiasm in starting the New Year was prevalent. A bevy of questions were posed and answered concerning the new classification system. That is one of the advantages of having a small shoot when a major change takes affect. One has the time to sort out the questions. The NSSA staff was right on the ball when we had to make a 1-800 call on Friday to answer a

particular question. Also the www.myNSSA.com website was a tremendous help prior to the shoot in establishing classifications for those who pre-registered for the shoot.

The turnout for the Friday preliminary .410 bore event and the 12ga. Doubles event were lightly attended with the weather not a factor. With four shooters shooting the .410 bore prelim, the squad moved swiftly. **Neil Vann** (San Diego) took the Champion spot with a 98. There were seven that entered the Doubles event with **Neil Vann**, again with a 98, taking Champ.

Saturday morning the San Diego tropical storm hit hard and we received a total of 0.04 inches in two hours!! How's that for a cloudburst in San Diego? The first 28ga. bank out at 8:30 took the brunt of the deluge and then it was sunshine and flowers. **Dave Erwin** (Corona) was the tall weed (Champion) in the grass taking on 15 participants and winning the gauge with a 98. **Eric Vandenhaute** (San Diego) was the Runner up coming in with a 97. The 12ga event had 21 shooters competing in all six classes. Eric topped all comers with a 99. A shoot off ensued between Class D shooter, **Richard Seaver** (Lakeside) and Class A shooter **Dave Erwin** both with 98's for gun Runner up. After several stations of doubles at 3, 4 and 5, Dave's gun malfunctioned after missing the first target. In his proof double, Dave powdered the target. Richard powdered both to win the gun Runner up honor.

Sunday we are back to normal San Diego sunshine and ready to take on the mighty .410 bore. With 16 entrants, **Eric Vandenhaute** brings in the top score of 96 and **Jay Carter** (Claremont) is gun Runner up with a 95. The afternoon event is the 20ga. and 15 decide to become one of the top shooters. When the cordite clears, **Carl Best** takes all the marbles with a nice 99. **Eric Vandenhaute** and **Jay Carter** beat each other up with 98's - Eric taking the gun Runner up prize and Jay takes Class AA1

High Over All Champion with a 390 is **Eric Vandenhaute** and **Jay Carter** is HOA Runner up with a 386. Next year we may call this shoot the Vandenhaute-Carter Open. A great shoot with great shooters on a fine November weekend.

Many thanks to the "C" Team comprised of **Russ Terry, Jay Carter, Roger Christensen, Dave Erwin and Steen Thomsen** for the Italian Sausage for one lunch and Bratwurst for the other lunch. Condiments consisted of Oatmeal cookies with nuts, Oatmeal cookies with raisins, Elk Meatballs and Pumpkin bread. Also thanks to **Leah Pool, Miss Peninsula/Old Town** for assisting in serving lunch and helping with the shoot.

Trap League Starts 1/19/05

Don't be left out! Get together with a team - or - put your name in at the Range Office.

This a great time of year to get involved in the Trap League. This League is for everyone

(members and non-members). Get some shooters and set up a team - or - our Range Office will put you on a team. Get some new shooters involved. Remember, only the top 4 scores count each week, so a new shooter won't hurt the team and will help the team on the week they are "on"!

Registration for this League ends the week prior to the League start.

SKEET LEAGUE

by

Craig Potter



The Fall '04 Skeet League concluded on November 14th. This year we had 57 participants divided in to 10 teams. There was a Pizza and Beer Party held on November 18th with 30 people present. In addition to the beer and pizza, an outstanding dessert was provided by Marry Buompensiero.

During the party, participation gifts (a guncase with the SDSSA logo), prize money, and recognition certificates were handed out. This year's winning team was team 8 (**Charlie Geer, Dave Broccoli, Ken Lusher, Bill Higgins, Ken Bell and Nelson Jones**). Our league High Overall Average Leader was **Steve Claunch** with **Christina Bell** being our Ladies High Overall Average Leader.

The next Skeet league the Pre-summer Skeet League '05, is scheduled to start the week of April 6th.

Dodge City Shootout

by

Jim Englund



I had asked Layne to make an announcement for "grilling" recruits. I believe I heard about eight or so. It was heard by some of you. **Rene Van Horne** came up first to sign up for December. **Norm Rudolph** signed up for January with **Lou and Augie**. **Walter Foster** and **Tudor** for February. **Chuck Higgins** opted for April. We have March open. Check your calendars, see if that works for you and let me, Nikolle or Layne know. We still have the rest of the year so, choose a month and get involved. If you get together with a couple of your buddies, you won't have to miss out of the shooting - one cooks while the other shoots & visa versa.

We had 59 shooters for November with **Chip Enniss** coming in on top with an 86 total. He shot a perfect 16 and handicap and had a couple of good buddies for two 18's. Other 25's at 16; **Delano Hale, Tom Hickerson and John Lumn**. Only two 25's at handicap; **Chip and Peggy Callaway**. No 20's at buddies 1 or 2. Though we had 12 19's combined. The Annie Oakley was hard fought

with **John Lumn** coming in third **Brian Butson** second and **Preston Schwitz** the last standing.

Remember, we have a bunch of months that are open for the "grilling". Let's all help out.

Youth Programs

By

Don Wilkie



Ryan Hueners, shooting in only his second ATA competition and in spite of testy weather, shot 182/200 to win Class C honors and give him an ATA average of 91%. Ryan joined the team this fall. Our newest team member, **Ben Holm**, gave a remarkable demonstration of stamina and focus. Ben called me Friday night just before the shoot and said he wanted not only to join our program but also to shoot in the 200-target singles event. Although I was skeptical about accepting someone who had never shot with our team before, I gave him the benefit of the doubt. He showed his stuff by arriving at the range at 7:30 AM to sign up for ATA/SCTP and shooting both the 200-target doubles event as well as the 200-singles event—little doubt about his strength and enthusiasm! Other new team members **Ilija Cupurdija, Matt Higgins** and **Robert Jones** competed well and show promise of being top shooters.

Our team's leading scorer, 3-year veteran **De Savage**, showed plenty of grit and never let up during the rainstorm. He made it look easy as he won top SCTP shooter and ATA Junior Champion with a score of 190/200. He remains high-scorer on the team. (His mother Diane, an assistant SCTP manager, won the ATA Class A Championship). **Judy Sledge** was not far behind with a quiet but steady performance and shot 183/200 to win High Lady ATA honors.



**De Savage
Top Shooter**



**Judy Sledge-
High Lady**

Also competing well were: **Ian Daube**, and **Emily Heckenkamp**. Emily won a special shoot-off for a silver-dollar necklace contributed by long-time supporters **Bill and Ruthie Hunter**. Emily seems to have a special talent for shoot-offs, and showed it, as she outlasted four other ladies to win.



Emily Heckenkamp



Ryan Hueners

Some of our team are trying new guns. Our coaches suggest they not overlook semi-automatic trap models such as the Remington 1100 and Beretta 390 or 391 (some claim the Beretta 390 is the superior of the two Berettas). Semi-autos have the advantage of reduced recoil but require a little higher maintenance. A reality to be faced when making changes in equipment or technique is that the shooter usually finds his scores drop initially but the shooter should remember that with patience his or her old form will return but at a higher level. Coach **John McClure** is a top-notch advisor on gun-fit.

The 2005 Scholastic Clay Target Trapshooting Program begins in earnest on Thursday January 6th with pre-ATA practice. Practices will be weekly through June. The complete schedule will be posted at www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com. We don't know when new hats and shirts will be available but hope it will be soon as we would like all our shooters to be properly outfitted for competitions.

Final plans are being made for the Las Vegas SCTP Invitational Tournament to be held Sunday, January 16th. Call Carla regarding car-pooling. Bill Savage is arranging hotel accommodation, hopefully complementary. Those who wish to compete are asked to submit their requests by e-mail to Don Wilkie donagua31@aol.com and with a copy to Carla Sledge nspcps@aol.com. We need your sign-up as soon as possible in order to form squads.

Don't forget the annual dinner January 29th. All SCTP families are invited. Scholastic kids will sell the raffle tickets and be on the program. This year the proceeds of the raffle will go to our program.

Olympic Skeet

by

Gene Green



The annual Maple Leaf Shoot will be held here Jan. 28th, 29th, and 30th. The California International Clay Target Shooters' Association sponsors it. It is a 200-target event. Historically, some of the finest shooters in the Western Hemisphere shoot in this tournament. So, if you want to shoot with or watch these superb shooters, circle the above dates on your calendar.

Another change in the rules for 2005 is a separate course of fire for the "Final or Medal" round. The single low house station three and the single high house station five are removed and taken as a second pair on station four, shooting the low house first. It never gets easier!

On December 11th, the Toys For Tots Fun Shoot was held. It was a 125-target match, using the above course of fire for all five rounds. Unfortunately there were only 2 shooters. Mark Nicholson and I had a great

time and I edged him for a win. Our scores were 99 and 96.

I am currently doing research for an article on the history of Olympic Skeet. If you have any knowledge of the American/Olympic skeet rules between 1952 and 1976, please contact me at 619-465-5866.

Here is some food for thought for all parents out there. You can hunt with your children or you can hunt for them. It's your choice!

Shoot safe and share the shotgun sports.

International Trap

by

Rick Matulich



The Carlisle was held November 20th - 21st it was a 200 target event and we had 18 shooters. Once again **JC Craft** took the Gold Medal. **Susan Sledge** won the Silver and **Chuck Dieltl** the Bronze. I would like to thank **Carla Sledge** for organizing the food concession.

The Carlisle Results

JC Craft.....	Gold
Susan Sledge	Silver
Chuck Dieltl	Bronze
Scott Brawner	1st. A Class
Keith Ansley.....	1st. C Class
Jim Jacobson.....	2nd. C Class
Derek Patridge.....	1st D Class
Jake Wallace	2nd. D Class
Steve Lakatos.....	1st. E Class
Willis Cameron.....	2nd. E Class
John DeLotell.....	High Senior



Left to right back row Scott Brawner, Susan Sledge, JC Craft, Chuck Dieltl, Front row Jake Wallace, Steve Lakatos, Keith Ansley, Willis Cameron, Jim Jacobson

We raised over \$600.00 this will go to the construction over run on field 12 This brings the outstanding balance down to \$1011.00 We are still 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.**

TAX DEDUCTIONS – LAST CHANCE

San Diego Shotgun Sports Association is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, so your gifts to the Association are tax deductible. The end of the year is a great time to help out your Association and **get a tax deduction!** We have a great youth program that could really use your help. They are planning to go to Las Vegas in January 2005 and other shoots during the year, the State shoot and the Grand American to name a couple. Getting the youth shooters to the shoot, along with some parents to supervise is expensive and then when you add on entry fees and ammunition it gets real expensive. Any funds donated to the SDSA youth program will help in the support of the program and these very important shoots.

SDSSA has continued to improve the Range for your shooting pleasure. This past year much has been done to improve the area, including a new clubhouse. There is more to do and it all costs money. Donations can be designated to help your favorite cause or just be donated to help where needed. Perhaps you have a business that can donate some of the needed materials. All of this helps.

Another area that has a great need for funds is the Olympic Trap area. Fund raising is going on to help convert the field 10 American Trap to a full bunker. This would give SDSSA 3 active Olympic Bunkers and the ability to host qualification shoots for the Olympics! To do this we need money, and/or concrete, cement blocks, labor, and anything else that goes into building the bunker. We can use your help and commitment in this area.

See Manager **Layne Kuhlman**, President **Neil Vann**, or President elect **Gary Krueger** and let them know how you can help with your money, labor, products, or talent.

SUGGESTIONS – KEEP THEM COMING

Do you want the Range changed, improved, or do you have a suggestion that could help the Association. There is a suggestion box that is located outside the Range Office. All you have to do is write down your suggestion and place it in the box.

Each month the Board of Directors reviews the suggestions. This helps the Board stay informed as to what the members would like to see take place at the Range.

Don't complain to your fellow shooters about what should or shouldn't be done – put it in writing and put it in the suggestion box – get it off your chest and pass it on to the Board of Directors – let them worry with it!!!