



# 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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forward a modest increase participation in the Olympic and 5 stand programs. Our fun shoots, leagues, and special programs have been growing each year. Our membership is at an all time high and growing. Our community presence is increasing, due in large part to our outstanding website.

Your hard working board of directors has had two special meetings working out a budget for 2005 that operates within our historical estimated income and operating costs. The surplus of funds set aside for our anticipated move was the prime source to fuel our upgrades, and has been exhausted. There are no capital improvements planned, and no expenditures outside of normal maintenance and upkeep are foreseen. This is not to say, that in the event of a financial windfall,

new projects cannot be accomplished, but this will be the year to live within our budget. The board will conduct a monthly review of all income and expenditures in order to stay the course.

The Board and I approach the coming year with great enthusiasm!

To quote a phrase "The future is so bright I've got to wear Shades"

or go out the Range some Thursday evening and see 30 (Yes 30!) youngsters eagerly practicing and preparing for competition. (There is also a waiting list to get into the program!) When you see, meet, talk with, and then hear about the program from our youth, you are going to be very proud of our youth and the program!!!

**Second:** 6 members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Shotgun Team will be present at our dinner and will speak. [Where else can you go to meet with, talk to, and socialize with Olympic competitors!] This is another area of SDSSA you are going to be very proud of! Come out and hear from Olympic shooters – see what a great job your organization is doing in supporting Olympic Competition, and how this area of your SDSSA Range is excelling.

**Contact the Range Office for information about making reservations.** If you want to get together with friends and sign up for a full table – that can be done at the Range Office. If you don't have a full table – sign up and you will be placed at a table with fellow shooters and meet and make some new friends.

**Sign up now – come out and support your youth program with your presence. SDSSA needs YOU at the dinner!**

### TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Remember, SDSSA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, which means that when you donate property (such as shotguns – or any item the range can use), or money, it is tax deductible. However, also be aware that when you pay dues or buy raffle tickets, these items are not tax deductible, because you receive a benefit from that money. You can always check with your own tax advisor for their opinion.

President's

Message

by

Gary Krueger



Over the past two years the board of directors has overseen a much needed major upgrading of our facility in almost every aspect, and we now have a shooting complex that all can be proud of.

The first half of January 2005 sees the Association off to a rainy start. Nonetheless, an excellent year is anticipated. The schedules for registered shoots are in place, and we are looking

### DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!!!!

**If you have not yet signed up for the Annual Dinner – do it today!** This is going to be an exciting fun filled event. You can socialize with your friends – let your "significant other" meet all your fellow shooters and vice-a-versa.

This year – no political speeches – but two great parts to an exciting program.

**First:** A chance to see and hear from our youth program. We will have some of the youth at the dinner so you can meet them, talk with them, and then hear them stand up and tell the dinner what this great program has meant to them! [They are also going to be selling you raffle tickets before the dinner starts. We are going to raffle off flats of shotgun shells, gift certificates from local restaurants (donated by local shooters), loading components, etc etc. ALL money from the raffle will go to the youth program] You really can't believe our youth program until you hear about it

Dodge City  
Shootout

by

Jim Englund



I thought that the December Shoot out would have a less than average turnout. Not the case. We had 67 shooters come out to have some fun. I want to thank **Matt** and **Chuck Higgins** for doing the grilling and the prep for our lunch. We still have April and on open. Let me know what month you would like and I will lock you (and a friend) in the schedule.

A lot of 25's @ 16, 13 in all but, only one at handicap. **Rich Davis** got them all and took home all the winnings. We had three teams getting all 20 at the first buddy shoot. **Fred Corley** and **Bob Dotierer**, **Wayne Langvin** and

**Evan Marsch, Kurtis Scorchy and Mike Scorchy.** Two in the second. **Russ Giacalone and Evan Marsch, Dianne Savage and De Savage.** Seems like Evan the one to get teamed with.

The Annie Oakley was a lot of smoke and targets and came down to **Peggy Callaway** third, **Sonny Hale** second and **Dan Fox Jr.** taking first. **Rich Davis** and **Fred Corley** split high over all with an 87 of 90. See you January 15th. Remember.. April is open for volunteer cook(s)!

### Olympic Trap

by

**Rick Matulich**



The 2004 US Olympic Shotgun Team Coach **Lloyd Woodhouse** who was named the 2003 U.S. Olympic Committee's National Coach of the year, and 6 members of the 2004 US Olympic Shotgun Team will be speaking at our annual dinner, be sure to come it should be a good time.

The upcoming Maple Leaf and the Golden bear tournaments are expected to be sold out. If you haven't signed up yet contact **Steve Lakatos** at (626) 403-0723

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.**

### Olympic Skeet

by

**Gene Green**



Last month I described a new course of fire for the "final or medal" round. That has changed. As of Jan. 1,2005, that "final round" course of fire is THE course of fire. I think I'm going to have a nosebleed.

One of our finest American Skeet shooters, **Craig Potter**, has furnished me with the course of fire for American Skeet in 1951. With this knowledge, coupled with "low gun – delayed pull", we can now shoot "vintage" American Skeet as it was shot over one-half century ago. **Craig's father, CDR. Louis C. Potter**, was a WWII navy fighter pilot and shot skeet as part of his training. I'll cover vintage skeet in depth next month.

Here is a little more food for thought. American Skeet is to "round-d-round" racing as Olympic Skeet is to drag racing.

**Muzzle control, muzzle control, muzzle control. DO IT!!**

### Youth Programs

By

**Don Wilkie**



Our 2005 regular season SCTP got under way with a busy practice and a team meeting on January 6. Twenty-six youngsters along with a like number of parents showed up for practice, including two new families. **Nick Dekker** from San Pasqual High School and **Chris Hynes** from Carmel Valley Middle School will be given six weeks to try our program before deciding if it's their thing. **Nick Meyer** was welcomed back after taking a breather from SCTP to focus on hunting.

January is a busy month with ATA on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the Las Vegas SCTP Invitational scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup>. This is followed by the SDSSA annual dinner on the 29<sup>th</sup>. **Emily Heckenkamp, Ian Daube, Kurtis Sorchy and De Savage** will speak and reflect on their experience in our SCTP program – no telling what they'll say! Other youngsters will join them to sell raffle tickets with the proceeds going to the Scholastic Program where they will be used to help cover the costs of the State shoot in June and to provide team vests.

**Readers are asked to donate raffle gifts for the annual dinner drawing [Remember your donation is tax deductible and ALL of the raffle proceeds go to the youth program – step up and help our youth program!]**

Now that we have a "clubhouse" we will hold monthly team meetings on the third Thursday of each month commencing with January 20<sup>th</sup>. We are certainly thankful to have such a fine facility for these occasions. This month (January) we will review our coaching program and coaching assignments. We will also discuss range protocol and conduct. Meetings will normally take less than one hour. Future topics will include the mental game of shooting, gun and ammo selection.

Our monthly ATA/SCTP competition was hampered by wind and rain, but 12 youngsters faced the weather without complaint and with a little help from their parents, took the majority of honors in the singles. **Ian Daube**, undaunted by the weather or perhaps helped by it, shot an excellent 97/100 to tie veteran shooter and SCTP parent **Chris Burrows** and then beat him in a shoot off 25-24 to win overall champion honors. Ian ran 4 of the 5 fields – very impressive for a 13 year old but not unexpected since Ian is also a top-notch wrestler and judo champion and used to tough competition.



**Chris Burrows congratulates Ian Daube after the shootoff- Chris 24 – Ian 25**

Not far behind Ian was **Brian Burrows** with a 95/100. Brian led our 2003 Junior Novice squad to the State championship and will probably anchor our 2005 Senior Experienced squad at the California State shoot in June. Brian won high Junior honors in Saturday's meet.



**Brian Burrows**

**Robert Jones** followed with a very fine 93/100, his best ATA score to date. He won Class C honors. Parent **Chris Burrows** took Class A honors and parent **Diane Savage** took high lady. Good job team.



**Robert Jones**



**Diane Savage**

**Ben Holm**, from Fallbrook, our newest team member shot in all three of the day's events. He took Junior honors in both the Handicap and Doubles events.



**Ben Holm**

We have a really great Youth Program and hope that all of our members can come out and see us in action some Thursday evening at the Range. Also, please come to the annual dinner and meet some of our outstanding participants – they will make you proud!!!

### Skeet News

by

**Neil Vann**



**S**AN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association held its second registered Skeet tournament of the 2005 Skeet year on December 17-19, 2004 in San Diego, California. The tournament was entitled, SALUTE TO ARMED FORCES OPEN, and

attracted 31 participants shooting 11,800 targets over the 3-day event. Two first time SDSSA Novice shooters, **Steve Goto** (Sun Valley) and **Steve Bauer** (Lemoore) shot the full 600-target program. We also had two active duty military shooters; **Steve Bauer** and **Don Berry**. The best to both of you and your teammates. The 12ga. Novice award, donated by Association member **John Herkowitz** of Pacific Sporting Arms, was won by **Steve Goto** with a 98!



**Steve Goto**

Association member, **Pete Buompensiero** (San Diego) was our award sponsor this month. Pete donated (20) NSSA/NSCA Shooters Access Wallettm (advertised on [www.mynssa.com](http://www.mynssa.com)) to the winners of the 12ga. event. Thanks Pete and all sponsors for your continued generosity! On to the games.



**Pete Buompensiero**

**A**s has been our policy in the past, the Friday events are kind of warm-up events for the two days that follow. This month the 28ga. was the preliminary followed by the Doubles. The turnout on Fridays are small by the enthusiasm is great! Seven shooters shot the 28ga. with Class A shooter **Neil Vann** (San Diego) beating out Class B shooter **Fred Mathews** (Newhall) in a "go for the gold" shootoff. Both had 94's. One

thing nice about a small group of shooters with a lot of chance of winning, all are winners. The Doubles event followed and hosted eleven shooters. **Neil Vann** took the top spot with a 98. The only Doubles shootoff that ensued was between **Caroline Church** (Ventura) and repeat performer **Fred Mathews** both with 87's. Fred held steady over three stations and captured Class B3. So ends Friday's inauguration into the weekend of fun and frolic.

**S**aturday morning initiates the start of the main events and the 28ga. is first on the list to conquer. With 28 shooters ready and willing to post that 100-straight, only one takes advantage of the opportunity. **Eric Vandenhaute** (San Diego) shoots his perfect score with confidence and smoothness.



**Eric Van den Haute**

**H**e is elevated to hero status. **Brett McLaughlin** (La Mirada) has the lone 99 to take the Runner-up position. Shoot offs are prevalent in Class A and Class B. **Jay Carter** (Claremont) whumps **Neil Vann** in a 4-station exhibition and takes Class A1. **Fred Mathews** (again) puts one-station-and-out hurt on **Pete Buompensiero** (San Diego) to take Class B1.

**S**aturday afternoon's event is the 12ga. with 28 participants. Champ and Runner up are decided between **Ted Church** (Ventura) and **Eric Vandenhaute** both with 99's. Four shots later, Ted falls off with the top honor. The remaining shoot off pitted **Bruce Johnson** (Whittier) against **Brett McLaughlin** with 98's for first and second in Class AA. This contest lasted four stations before Brett squirted the high house and Bruce didn't. The competition for the three places in Class A assembled **Dave Erwin** (Corona), **Carl Best** (Spring Valley) and Novice, **Steve Goto** all with 98's. Dave takes first, Steve takes second and Carl, third. Class B3 with 94's was decided by **Jose Sandoval** (San Marcos) and **Dan R. Fox** (San Diego). After three stations, Jose was declared the winner.

**W**e now enter the third day of competition by introducing the .410 bore. With 24 small bore shooters anticipating nobility and possible hero status, **Brett McLaughlin** comes the closest with a 98 to take the Champion spot. **Jay Carter**

and **Eric Vandenhaute** come in with identical 97's to go to task in securing Runner up and first in Class AA or Class A. Eric is first in and first out! Jay breaks both and is .410 bore Runner up. This now leaves a shootoff between **Caroline Church** and **James "Rambo" Dewey** (Ramona), both in Class A. Caroline takes to station #3 and breaks both with authority. "Rambo" is less than spectacular and walks away smiling and mumbling. Class A3 goes to Caroline.

On to the last shooting event of the weekend; the 20ga. Again we have a nice turnout of 24 competitors. No fooling around "**Rambo**" Dewey emerges like the Phoenix with a 100-straight. Teammate **Carl Best** also has a 100-straight so we could anticipate a multi-box shoot off at the end of the day. Double wrong!! **James Dewey** must have had a veggie-burger reaction as he had a 50% on station #3. Carl, however, hit both targets. Eyebrows from the near capacity crowd rose to new heights when they witnessed the miss by Sir James. The noise of jaws dropping was almost unbearable! James also took a lot of heat for the miss. Thank goodness James has a good sense of humor! Bottom line, **Carl Best** is 20ga. Champion.



**Carl Best**

The last shoot off for first and second in Class A was between **Jay Carter** and **Caroline Church** with 98's. This shoot off tied the longest of the weekend. Jay showed no mercy and after the fourth station the score was Jay 8, Caroline 7.

Twenty-one four gunners participated in the HOA. Champion with a 394 was **Eric Vandenhaute** with Runner up, **Brett McLaughlin**, a 392.

Lunch was served both Saturday and Sunday by the Skeet Committee. Costco's Polish Sausage on a bun with chili, chips and condiments quieted the growling stomachs. A good time was had by all. Come visit SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports when you vacation in San Diego. Until we see you in person and can shoot with you, good shooting in 2005.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE



**Our old Clubhouse being torn down!**



**Our new Clubhouse being installed!**

What do the above pictures have to do with Life Membership? Well let's just explore the subject a little bit. Several years back SDSSA was told that a move from our current location would be required – however, fortunately for us, that ruling was later rescinded.

At the time we were under the order to prepare to move we were trying to determine the cost of the move and the building of a totally new facility at the west end of the base. We knew we needed money to do this and one of the first fund raising projects was to create and sell Life Memberships for \$1,000 to current members. A number of our members (approximately 130) stepped forward and purchased life memberships. This helped start a fund that could be used to work toward our projected move.

As you all know, the Marine Corps changed the requirement for us to move and allowed us to remain at our current location – with a new lease. After we got our new lease, a decision was made to replace our worn out Clubhouse with a new model. The funds that had been collected to fund the dreaded move could now be used to improve the Range.

In anticipation of moving the Range, no improvements or upkeep had taken place for several years. As all can see, much has been done to improve the Range. We do have a brand new Clubhouse – if you have not seen it, come out and check it out. We have made all of the restrooms handicap compliant – we have put in handicap compliant ramps throughout the range.

The trap spectator area has been made more attractive and useful with the addition of a wall and railing. We have improved our Olympic Trap/Skeet area and now have one of the finest in the U.S. We have improved our lighting system and are open 2 nights a week.

As you can imagine, all of this cost a lot of money, even though a lot of volunteer effort went into the projects. We need to do a little more work in some areas to continue to improve the Range for your shooting pleasure - but we are out of money!

What all of this leads up to is, **we need everyone to consider becoming a Life Member!!** When members become life members that money they pay enables SDSSA to have more available funds for Range improvement. It's been a number of years since those 130 dedicated members stepped forward and purchased Life Memberships. We are hoping that there now are some more dedicated members out there who will convert to Life Membership this year.

Right now is a great time to become a life member. You are going to be paying yours dues, so instead of paying dues, just pay a little more and you will never have to worry about those pesky dues letters again. If you have already paid your dues for 2005 – check in with the Range Office - they will give you credit for your dues payment against the Life Membership fee.

Give this concept of Life Membership some serious consideration. If we are going to continue improving the Range, we need your help! **Do it today! Become a Life Member!**

**Hunter Safety  
Program  
by  
Dan Fox**



Our 2005 Hunter Education program starts January 27<sup>th</sup> and is already full for January and February. The program is run monthly from January through September. The Range Office keeps a sign up sheet for the program. The program follows the guidelines set forth by the California Department of Fish and Game. The Hunters Safety Certificate that students received upon successful completion of the course is necessary to get a hunting license and is accepted in all 50 states. In order to teach the course an instructor has to be certified by the California Fish & Game.

The course involves 11 hours of instruction which includes "live fire" on the shotgun range (both trap & skeet). After the instruction and the "live fire" the students are tested and after they pass the test they get their hunter safety certificate.