



# Newsletter

Volume 4

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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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here again this year and are set to do so on July 10<sup>th</sup>. You will be reading more about this event in future newsletters. This is a fun shoot where any profits go to support this worthwhile organization of paralyzed veterans. Last year there was some confusion with many shooters thinking it was only for shooters in wheelchairs – please note that it is for everyone. They need your support – so show up and shoot in this one-day event – you will have fun and feel good about it!

Several of our members belong to the PVA and are regular shooters here at the range. **Bill Palmer** (a member and local PVA chapter Vice President) and **Keith Rheinhardt** (a member and frequent participant in our leagues and shoots) both say that SDSSA is the best handicap compliant range anywhere! It should make you proud when you see the wheelchair shooters able to compete and enjoy our range.

Another event that is taking place this month (April) is SDSSA is hosting a Scholastic Clays Target Program shoot on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. This is our outstanding Youth Program, that is sponsoring this event that will bring youth teams from all over southern California and as far away as Las Vegas. **Don Wilkie** and **Carla Sledge** along with many other volunteers have done an outstanding job developing our youth program into one of the finest anywhere! We are going to have 75 youth shooters here on April 24<sup>th</sup> competing in a 200-bird event. Come out and take a look at the future of our sport – it will make you proud!

Lots of good news, but unfortunately there is a little not so good news – inflation and rising costs have caught up with us and shooting prices will be increased. An article from the committee that investigated and made recommendations is following. The Board of Directors is making a special effort to work with the budget and keep costs as low as possible – but as everyone who goes to the grocery store or fills up the car with gas knows – items just cost more.

All in all – the good things outweigh the not so good – so let's all just have fun and enjoy the shooting sports!

In January of 2003 we obtained a 5 Year lease from MCAS Miramar. In the subsequent 2 years we underwent necessary improvements to our facility that had not been done for nearly 8 years because of the uncertainty of our future. The improvements we needed and have, coupled with lack of promised donations greatly diminished our reserves. Since our initial budget for 2005 indicated a greater than anticipated loss and our revised budget indicated a very small gain, with no contingency fund allowance, the Board requested a review of our shooting fee structure. Five Board members were appointed to a committee to perform that review. The members selected spanned the sports at our facility representing American Skeet, American Trap, International/Olympic Trap & Skeet, 5 Stand and our very popular fun shoot the Dodge City. The members are: **Fred Hoyle, Chair, Taylor Craft, Augie Daddi, Bob Keefe, Rick Matulich & Neil Vann**

The committee reviewed data regarding shooting income and expenses and found that we were spending more than we took in for a round of 25 clay targets. It further reviewed fees charged by other clay target facilities in Southern California and found that we were below those fees. The committee concluded that given that our last fee increase was 1 April 2002 and our cost of a round of shooting was more than the fee charged, fees associated with shooting must be increased. At the March 10 meeting the Board approved the committee's recommendation.

### Effective 1 April 2005 the shooting fees are:

Daily Use Fee.....	\$10.00
American Skeet & Trap.....	\$6.00
Olympic Skeet & Trap .....	\$7.00
5 Stand .....	\$7.00

Members of the Committee are encouraging members with questions regarding this matter to discuss it with any of the individuals listed above.

Fred Hoyle, Chair  
Shooting Fees Committee

### PARALYZED VETERANS SHOOT

Mark your calendars for July 10<sup>th</sup> and the big PVA shoot. This is your chance to come out and support our paralyzed Veterans!

### President's

### Message

by

Gary Krueger



We have started the year out with some very poor shooting weather with all of the rain – however, it's going to get better! There are a lot of exciting events happening at your range. If you have not been out for a while it's worth coming out and taking a look. We would like to have you do a little shooting, but it's still a great place to come out and just watch some shooters having fun and competing.

**Rick Matulich** has the Olympic Trap Program going full speed. SDSSA recently hosted the Maple Leaf and then immediately hosted the State Shoot (the Golden Bear). Lots of the top shooter in the United States were here to shoot in those and you got to meet and see some of them from the U.S. Team at our annual Dinner. I for one, am very excited about the national reputation we are developing as "the" place to shoot Olympic Trap and Olympic Skeet.

Last year SDSSA hosted a shoot for the PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America). It was such a great event that the PVA wants to hold it

### SHOOTING FEE COMMITTEE REPORT

The PVA shoot on July 10<sup>th</sup> will be a Fun Trap Shoot – detail to be announced later. There will be a steak lunch provided to all shooters in the event and the lunch will also be available to guests at a nominal charge. The wives of the PVA members will be putting on the lunch. The whole idea is to have some fun and also the PVA will make a little money off of the event. This money will be used to help support their organization.

**Remember – this event is for all shooters – not just wheelchair shooters.** There are going to be two shotguns available as prizes in shoot along with a lot of really great trophies.

Put July 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and let's show some great support for our vets.

## Olympic Skeet

by

Gene Green



Here is the new course of fire, by station, effective January 1, 2005

Station 1 – Single high, one pair

Station 2 – Single high, one pair

Station 3 – Single high, one pair

Station 4 – Single high, single low, two pair

Station 5 – Single low, one pair

Station 6 – Single low, one pair

Station 7 – One pair

Station 8 – Single high, single low

Like American Skeet, you shoot the house closest to you first on a pair. On station #4, the first pair is shot high house first. The second pair is shot low house first.

With the exception of station #4 you load ONE SHELL ONLY for singles. On station #4, you MUST load two for singles.

ISSF protocol dictates that you NEVER use the word DEAD, as in “dead and lost” or “dead a pair”. You use the word HIT.

**#7 shot is now allowed under ISSF rules.**

## Dodge City Shootout

by

Jim Englund



Yes it did rain (a little) and yes, we did have a Dodge City Shoot. But apparently the “fair weather” shooters decided to stay home. For those of you that did show up you got to witness the **Sledge Family Shooting Team with uniforms and style.** Of the 21 shooters 9 were Sledges.

Good grilling by Walter and **Tudor.** They didn't want to shoot in the rain anyway. Only two 25's @ the 16; **Chip Ennis and Mike Scott.** No one went straight at handicap but two 24's; **Chuck Thompson and Ken Williams.** **Lonnie Catania & Susan Sledge** took the first buddy with 18 & **Chip** with **Willie Turner** taking the second with a 19.

Top score of the day was shared by **Chip & Lonnie** with an 83. The Annie Oakley was quick with only 21. First place went to **Delano Hale** with **Lonnie** taking second and third to **Sonny Hale.** Hope to see more of you on the 12 of March. I'm sure the weather will be more cooperative.

Good news! Our lunch volunteers have found that if they join together and several participate in cooking a lunch, they all can still shoot in the Dodge City and have time to prepare the lunch – so come on guys and gals – We need volunteers for April & other months in the future. This is a joint fun event, where all of us can have fun. Those of us who do the sign ups, buy the food, and other paperwork, do it and also shoot – so get involved – volunteer!!!

## SKEET

### NEWS

by

Neil Vann



SAN DIEGO *Shotgun Sports Association*, San Diego, California, held the February 25 – 27, 600 target, BRING IT HOME OPEN competition in stable weather. I say stable as it has been raining cats and dogs long enough to cause some serious property damage. Southern California made national headlines! We are starting to name potholes after politicians. This phenomenon is highly unusual for this part of the country but our shotgun range survived and we treated 31 participants to a dry and cool weekend. Of course not all shot all four gauges but nevertheless we threw 12,900 targets, and no dust!

Our preliminary gauge on Friday was the 12ga. In which 7 participated. “Big Gun” **Eric Van den haute** (San Diego) was the top shooter with a 99 followed by **Craig Potter** (Chula Vista) with a 98.

**Bob Stockbridge** (Corona) came out of the woodwork to grace us with his presence. It was good to see Bob shooting again

The Doubles event brought out twice the number of the prelim. With Eric again topping the competitors with another 99. **Roger Christensen** (Parris) brought in a 95 for Runner up honors. The best shoot off of the week end was between Class B shooters **Pete Buompensiero** (San Diego) and **Harold Jeffers** (Torrance) coming in with 93's. Five stations

and Harold outguns Pete on the sixth station to take Class B1 honors.

A cool Saturday morning greets a gaggle of (25) 28ga. Contestants. No it is not Eric this time. It is Class B shooter **Matt Fort** (Chula Vista) who breaks the mold and secures the gun championship with a nice 99.

All of us at one time or another has trouble with low 6 doubles. Matt was no exception. Looks like Matt may get out of Class B yet. **Ted Church** (Ventura) also had a 99 but Matt whopped him in a 2-station 4 target shoot off. Look out all for this upcommmer as he is just warming up. Three more shoot offs occurred with the deciding factor evident after two stations of doubles miss-and-out.

Our lunch sponsor this month for both Saturday and Sunday was **Gary Dittmar** (Fountain Valley) who made plans to attend the Comstock (Las Vegas) but had to bail out due to illness. Our loss! In his honor we had polish sausage, chili with beans, four bean salad, pickles and chips. I can tell you that eating a fill of chili with beans along with four bean salad will pick up your day and work wonders with those environmentalist who favor clean air. We thank Gary for his generosity.

Saturday afternoon, 30 take on the 12ga. Guess who?? Yep, it's **Eric Van den haute** again with a well thought out and planned 100-straight. Coming close and missing his non-favorite target, low 5, Class B shooter **Craig Potter** takes on a couple of Class AA heavy hitters, **Steen Thomsen** (Covina) and **Dave Broccoli** (La Costa), all with 99's. The shoot off sees Steen bowing out on the first station and Dave only gets a half-pair on the second station. Craig hits them all and the crowd roars their approval. Class B seems to attract the shoot offs. Class B shooters **Hal Garb** (Pasadena) and **Matt Fort** go at it for B2 and B3 with 95's. Both are clean after the third pair. Hal is first and smokes a pair. Matt had the moves and the enthusiasm but falls short on the lead for the second target and Hal takes home the bacon.

Sunday morning after SDSSA General Manager, **Layne Kuhlman**, conducts the band for the National Anthem, 23 of us take to the fields to shoot the .410 bore. The “Great Dane” **Steen Thomsen** posts a nice 99 to take the top spot. Steen's presence is being noted as most of the time he has to w \_ \_ k and cannot enjoy the pleasures of retirement. Also being an Engineer (another 4 letter word) he is up to his nostrils in alligators with pending projects and therefore has limited time but superb talent as you will not in the scores posted! **Ted Church** takes the next spot with a nice 98. Class B again takes to the shoot off field to decipher who between **Matt Fort** and **Steve Erbe** (Oceanside) will take the Class B3 spot. Another nice shoot off and in the fourth station, Matt overpowers Steve with a solidly hit double.

The last gauge to be shot is the 20ga. We have 25 entrants all with the same desire. The top

score is a 98 posted by Class AA shooter Dave Broccoli and Class B shooter **George Magarrell** (San Diego).

**G**eorge is "missing in action" when the shoot offs are called and 20ga. Gun champion goes to Dave with George taking 20ga. Runner up. Shoot off contestants are hard to locate when Sunday afternoon rolls around and all the "crazies" are on the freeway headed for home. Most want to try and beat the traffic so the locals are in the majority.

**O**nly one shoot off took place and that was in, you probably guessed it, Class B between **Matt Fort** and **Caroline Church** (Ventura). Caroline took Matt in three stations and was Class B2 winner with Matt taking Class B3.

**T**here are never enough thanks that can be given out to the many folks that make our shoots not only possible but a lot of fun. Our lunch donors are many and willing. Our range staff, referees, skeet committee and other willing volunteers make the shoots enjoyable and worth having. I thank the shooters for your attendance and support. We will strive to consider any suggestion that you might have to make our great shoots even better. Until next month...

**O**ur Referee Incentive Program is working quite well. NSSA Life Member, **Dewey "Duke" Wilber** has now instructed and tested (9) Associate Referees and (3) Official Referees for 2005. The Associate Referees are **Chris Cole, James Craft, James Daube Jr., Corey Hightower, Thomas Jimnez, Chris Layog, Isaac Jones, Kevin Long and James Nielsen**. The Official Referees are **Duke Wilber, Don Deckman and George Magarrell**. We thank and congratulate these folks for taking the time to learn and judicate the rules that NSSA has established. Don't be shy about patting one of the Referees on the back after they have probably concentrated harder than the shooter to give good pulls. It should be a rule that all registered shooters pull at least a certain number of banks a year to understand the concentration and stamina that it takes!

**T**hanks to Association member, **Steve Wade**, and his donation of some once fired hulls. We sold those hulls in a matter or minutes and took in enough cash so that we can have a buckle shoot this year. More will be said on that subject in a future newsletter.

**N**eil Vann began his quest toward his present accumulation of 300,200 registered skeet targets in 1977 shooting 200, 12ga. targets at Miramar Gun Club in San Diego, California. In 1996, while a member of Red Mountain Trap & Skeet Club located in Scottsdale, Arizona, Neil shot his yearly record high of 25,100 registered skeet targets followed in 1997 with 23,850. The date of his 300K accomplishment was on February 26, 2005 while shooting the 20ga. event in the *BRING IT HOME OPEN* at the SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association in San Diego, California. His near term goal is to maintain his mental and physical health and shoot another 100,000, minimum!

## SKETE LEAGUE

by

**Craig Potter**



**A** reminder our next Skeet league, the '05 Pre-summer Skeet League is scheduled to start the week of April 6th. Sign-ups are going on right now. Start thinking of putting together a group of shooters (4 to 6) and sign-up for the '05 Pre-summer Skeet League. **The league will run from April 6th through May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. A Final Bash will be held at the conclusion of the league.

**T**he cost to participate is \$50.00 per shooter. We will be following the basic format we have used in the previous Skeet Leagues. Each shooter will receive a participation gift, an invite to a Bar-B-Q (the Final Bash) and a money award based on their teams overall points. Detailed information on the rules of the league and the schedule are available on the SDSSA web site and on flyers posted on the bulletin boards around the Range. To sign-up for the '05 Pre-summer Skeet league, please see Nikolle in the Range office.

Youth  
Programs

By

**Don Wilkie**



### Miramar Scholastic Invitational

**O**ur scholastic team will host its first inter-team competition, "**The Miramar Scholastic Invitational**." It will take place at our range on April 24, 2005. We anticipate this will become an annual event. Coach **Bill Savage** is chairing the event assisted by **Mike Sorchy, Jim Daube, Carla Sledge, Steve Marsch** and myself. You will see the range swarming with bright-eyed new young faces, hoping to take home a champion's trophy. Parents and members will work as volunteers doing everything from posting scores to monitoring fields, providing information and serving lunch. **Steve Marsch** is coordinating volunteer activities.

**S**ince this is a first-time event for us it will be learning experience although Bill and Carla have experience in planning similar events. The competition is limited to 15 squads or 75 participants. It will be a 200-target event.

**I**t should prove to be an exciting event with Oak Tree Gun Club of Castaic, CA sending a team whose Junior Novice Squad won the National title at Vandalia, Ohio last year. Our own **Ian Daube** won the state individual award for the class. Oak Tree will be gunning for him. It will be our pleasure to welcome Las Vegas to our range. They hosted us in January at a beautifully

run competition. They will also be sending a strong contingent. We will field four complete squads, two junior-grades 6,7, and 8 and two senior-grades 9,10,11, and 12, plus several participants who will compete exclusively for individual awards. We invite SDSSA members to join us in support of the home team!



**Brian Burrows will lead the SDSSA Scholastic Clays Target Program Team at invitational**

### March ATA Competition

**E**van Marsch led all 12 SCTP shooters at the March 5, 2005 ATA shoot with a fine score of 96/100; he accepted the ATA High Junior award in lieu of the SCTP top award, (It's the economy....!).



**Evan Marsch**

**De Savage** accepted the first place SCTP award with a 94/100. **Robert Jones** took the ATA class C award with a 92/100. At Thursday's SCTP practice **Ian Daube, Emily Heckenkamp, Nick Meyer** and **Kurtis Sorchy** shot off for second and third place SCTP honors; they all had 92/100 at ATA on Saturday. Emily tied Nick after the first 25 targets at the 16-yard line but she outshot him by a single target at the 22-yard line to win

second place while Nick reluctantly, but cheerfully settled for third place. But Kurtis and Ian went home bare.

### NSSF Report reveals personal growth

The National Shooting Sports Foundation survey of SCTP parents and participants, conducted at the Grand, revealed how successful the program is in promoting personal growth. Some of the key findings were:

- 78% of SCTP participants believe that the program has improved their leadership skills
- 89% believe that the program has improved their level of responsibility
- 94% of parents believe the program has had a positive influence on their child's development. For the complete report check the web at [www.nssf.org/sctp](http://www.nssf.org/sctp)

Our experience indicates similar results and also has resulted in improved academic performance for a number of students. For example, **one student presented a report card in which his grades went from "F" to "B."** Unbelievable but true. There is little doubt--from our observations, the SCTP program at our range is having a positive influence on the personal development of our student athletes.

### The proper hat!

Don Wilkie's picture has been appearing in the newsletter wearing a hat that did not contain the SCTP name and logo. This upset the SCTP faithful mascot, who decided to do something about that hat. You will notice Don's picture in this newsletter is with proper hat!



**Kona, making sure his master has the proper had to wear!**

### Editor's note:

Don Wilkie and his many volunteers have worked hard to develop one of the finest SCTP program anywhere!

This is our chance to support the program by coming out to cheer on the "home team". These fine young students/shooters would greatly appreciate your support. Let them know that we care about them and their program – come out and cheer them on! Beside, you will enjoy yourself.

PS: This program does not run itself – volunteers are needed. You will find that this is a very rewarding experience to work with some fine young shooters. Please consider volunteering – we need coaches, scorekeepers, fundraisers, etc. etc. – if you are willing – Don Wilkie will gladly put you to work. Give it a thought!

## **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

At the annual Dinner member **Harvey Fischer** was honored as the 2<sup>nd</sup> person selected to be awarded an honorary Life Membership.

A committee from the Board of Directors reviewed a number of candidates and selected Harvey for the award. This award was given for his many years of service to our organization and the shooting sports. Harvey has held every position in the organization including that as President and then for several years as the General Manager. Harvey continues to be an active member and is always ready to help when needed.

We all join in congratulating Harvey on being selected for this honor.



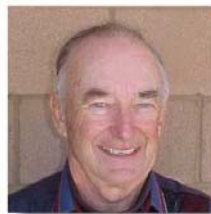
**Harvey Fischer**

### **Hunter Safety**

#### **Program**

by

**Dan Fox**



The Hunter Education program is continuing to attract a "full house" for each session. Each class is held once a month and is limited to 14 students. The classes are always filled up for two months in advance. We do not take reservations for more than two months in advance because we have found that if we do, some students will not show up for the class. We want full classes – but not overcrowded classes.

Region 5, which San Diego is in, is holding a training conference at the San Jacinto Wildlife area in Riverside County. The conference had been scheduled to be held at the

Prado shooting center, but due to the rains and the fact that Prado has been under water, it was moved to San Jacinto. This conference is being held on March 19, and will be attended by some of the instructors from our range.

If you know of any persons who needs to get the Hunter Safety Certificate in order to qualify for a hunting license, be sure to refer them to our web site for sign up instructions – or have them check in with the range office to determine availability.

### **International Trap**

by

**Rick Matulich**



Our next monthly competition is coming up on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be a one day 125 target competition. Come on out and join us in this event. A really great chance to hone your competition shooting skills. No better way to do this than to come out and shoot. It's totally different that practice and if you want to compete this is the way to learn to be a competitor!

**Bert Erickson** is coming to San Diego again to run a Olympic Trap Clinic April 13<sup>th</sup> - April 17<sup>th</sup>. Bret will be donating a portion of the proceeds to the construction of the new bunker. For information on the clinic go to [www.breterickson.com](http://www.breterickson.com) or contact Rick Matulich at 858-663-1324 [rickm@vossystems.com](mailto:rickm@vossystems.com).

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.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO SHOTGUN SPORTS**

**Jim Englund**, among the many other things he does for our Association, has been coordinating an Introduction to Shotgun Sports program to teach brand new shooters the basics of shotgun sports. Jim, and a core of dedicated volunteers help new shooters get started in the shotgun sports. This is the lifeblood of our sport – bringing in new shooters. We need volunteers – the more volunteers we have the more students that we can process through these courses. This is not a complex teaching assignment, but simply being present to help a new shooter progress through shooting a ½ round of trap and a ½ round of skeet, keeping out an eye for safety and proper gun handling and shooting techniques. This is something any shooter can do, and you will finish the day feeling a great sense of accomplishment.

Give it a thought – leave your name at the range office as a volunteer – or contact Jim Englund & tell him you would like to know more about helping in the program – but get involved!!!