



# 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 ROBERT KEEFE

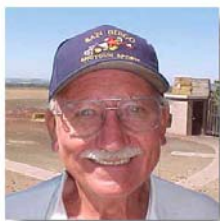


I often hear people ask what the benefits of being a member of SDSSA are. I started to think about an answer to that question. I guess it's not as clear as it once was. Well one easy answer is members don't have to pay the day use fee. As many of you know since we've become a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization, we've not been able to differentiate between member and non member shooting fees. You may also remember that we use to charge member and non member prices for shells. As with shooter fees, shells cost the same for members as well as non members. I will say that the cost of a box of shells purchased at the range is very reasonable. One benefit that we can and do offer members is lead. Every other year we have the fields mined for lead and make it available to members at a cost well below retail. Our fields will once again be mined in September. So, more lead will be on the way. Our 2007 Annual Dinner Meeting was January 27 for our members and their families.

There were a lot of familiar faces. With over 700 members I would like to see more members take advantage of this time to meet and socialize with there fellow members.

On a personal note I would like to tell you that when I became a member of Miramar Trap & Skeet Club it wasn't because I could shoot a round for less money than a non member. It was because I could become a member of an organization of people that have the same interest as me. I could come to the range and shoot with old friends and new friends. I'd come out after work and shoot skeet with Grey Silva and Pat Hemming. They were always there with shooting tips and friendship. They didn't really know who I was but they always asked me to join them.

Back then we didn't have the SCTP. New shooters relied on experienced shooters to teach them how to shoot. Today we have one of the best Scholastic Clay Target Programs in the State. Thanks go to Don Wilkie and his coaches as well as the parents that support the youngsters and the program. SDSSA is very proud of the SCTP and continues to support Don and the kids. Thank you and I'll see you at the Range.



## SKEET NEWS By Neil Vann

The SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association hosted the third annual **Hawaiian Holidays Open** registered skeet tournament in San Diego, California on January 19-21, 2007. In fitting with the theme, all 26 contestants were asked to wear their closeted Hawaiian attire. Some did; THANKS.

## HAWAIIAN HOLIDAY ATTIRE



L to R, Neil Vann, Dan McNaughton, Keith Phelps, Craig Potter and Dick Seaver

For those of us that did, we had a sweatshirt under the colorful shirt to ward off the chilly 50 degree air. Sorry if you folks in winter wonderland where snow is the norm at this time of the year think that this kind of weather is summer weather but to us in sunny Southern California, we have an aversion to any weather under 70 degrees and sunny!

Friday at noon was our time to start the 20ga. Preliminary. All six shooters were winners! **Eric Van den Haute** (San Diego) topped the group with a mighty fine 100-straight with the gun Runner up, **Keith Phelps** (Torrance) with a 95.

Our 2:00 bank for the Doubles event started about a half-hour early to get some folks on the road and to beat the cool weather that looked like it could rain (but didn't). Twelve shot the Doubles with again, **Eric Van den Haute** topping the bunch with a nice 96. **Jay Carter** (Claremont) captured the gun Runner up position with a 95. There were no shoot offs to entertain the multitude of fence leaners so we packed up and left to shoot another day.

"Another day" was Saturday wherein we shoot the 28ga. in the morning when it is calm and cool. We had 20 shooters ready and willing to become the Gun Champion. **David Hurzeler** (Chino Hills) came within a whisker of getting a perfect score. However, the score of 99 was sufficient to take 28ga. Gun Champion.

Gun Runner up was decided in a shoot off between Jay Carter and **Carl Best** (Spring Valley), both with 98's. The shoot off was short lived as Jay hit the pair at station 3 for Gun Runner up and Carl hit half-a-pair for Class A1. We had a bit longer shoot off in Class AA between **Brian Holt** (National City) and **James Dewey** (Ramona) with 97's. (Before I get into the particulars, I would like to say that it was a pleasure to see Brian attend our Association shoot. It has been a long and much awaited time for Brian to return. We hope to see Brian entering more Association shoots to give some of the SDSSA Top Dawgs a run for their money). Brian led off hitting both targets with authority as did James. Station 4 was a breeze for Brian and was not kind to James. Brian takes Class AA1 and James Class AA2. Class B shooters, **Dennis James** (Escondido) and **Eran Fuchs** (San Diego) went heel-to-toe vying for B2 and B3. Dennis smashed the pair with Eran skipping the second target. This ended the 28ga. shoot offs.

Our lunch sponsor was **James Dewey** who not only shoots well but feeds well! His donation provided Chicken Tenders over an open grill with Pineapple slices marinated to provide a tasty treat to the hungry group. In addition we had Potato Salad, Peperoncinis, sliced Dill Pickles, sliced onions and tomatoes, chips and water. All left the table satisfied and ready to take on the afternoon event, the 12ga.

With 21 entrants, the lone 100-straight and 12ga. Gun Champion was **Eric Van den Haute** who is getting rather proficient at these titles. Gun Runner up, with 98's, was determined in a shoot off between **Brian Holt**, **David Hurzeler** and **Dave Erwin** (Corona). Brian was perfect in the shoot off with Doubles through the fifth station for 12ga. Gun Champion honors. Both David (AA1) and Dave (A1) dropped one at the fifth station. A short but entertaining shoot off. Each month we give to the 12ga. Novice winner a hand crafted leather pouch donated by Association member, **John Herkowitz** of **Pacific Shooting Arms**. We had three Novices entered in the 12ga. **Mike Yavno** (Santee) (91), **Eran Fuchs** (89) had already won a pouch in a previous shoot so they were ineligible to win again.

**Loren Mauerhan** (Orange) was this month's fare-and-square winner with a 92. Congratulations to Loren. Another new Novice shooter was **Alex Tye** (San Diego) who shot the 28ga. but was not eligible for the prize as he didn't shoot the 12ga.

Sunday morning invites the .410 to all 20 shooters who enjoy the pencil bore. **Brian Holt** came in with a superb 98 to take Gun Champion and **Eric Van den Haute** right behind him with a 97 for Gun Runner up. Only one shoot off took place between **Carl Best** and **David Hurzeler**, both Class A shooters with 96's. Carl muffed a low three

and David broke both without hesitation giving David the Class A1 win. Again, a lunch duplicating yesterdays feast donated by **James Dewey** preceded the final shooting event of the weekend, the 20ga. All went fairly well for most of the shooters as all 20 shooters shot an 81 or above. Not all were in a happy mood when the smoke cleared but a few were delighted. **Eric Van den Haute** strikes pay dirt once more with his lone 100-straight and team mate, **James Dewey**, brings in the lone 99 for Gun Runner up.

We had a nice group of 4-gun shooters competing for the High-Over-All honors. Of the 26 shooters competing over the weekend, 18 were entered in HOA. **Eric Van den Haute** topped all comers with a 393 followed by **David Hurzeler** with a 391.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all you non snow-lovers to join us where the sun shines over the Pacific at one of our shoots in the future. We are in the "book" and would enjoy having you become part of our San Diego skeet family!

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD



**Past President Gary Krueger presenting Charlie Bover with his much deserving Honorary Life Member award for outstanding volunteer service to SDSSA.**

#### **Youth Programs**

**By  
Don Wilkie**



January opened with a successful trip to Las Vegas for 16 of our SCTP youngsters. We didn't expect cold weather two years in a row but we got it: a predicted high of 24F on Sunday. So we asked the youngsters to bring long johns. "Long johns! Said one of our Tomcats, whose name happened to be John, "What are they?" By the end of the day he was one of those happy he wore them. Saturday was cold and windy and Sunday was just cold; not as cold as predicted but by the end of the day everyone gratefully crowded into the cozy clubhouse. The highlight of our day was **Nick Meyer's** 150-straight to win the Top Gun award, edging out by one target Red Mountain (Arizona) shooter **Garret Cobbs**. Nick didn't sit on his success but went back out on the range and calmly finished off another 50-

straight to score a perfect run of 200. He is one of only three in the history of our team to do it, the others being Top Gun teammates **Brian Burrows** and **Ian Daube**. Nick's great shooting made our day! Our combined Varsity and Junior Varsity squad of **Nick Meyer**, **Robert Jones**, **Kurtis Sorchy**, **De Savage** and **Ilija Cupurdija** then went on to take the First Place Team JV/V award. In the High Overall team competition we placed fourth with 1353, while Oak Tree took top club by scoring 1387. (Classification of SCTP shooters has been changed this year—there is no longer a novice category; Varsity are shooters in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12, formerly Senior Experienced with more than 2 years of registered targets; Junior Varsity, the same grades but less experience, Intermediates are grades 6, 7, and 8, formerly Juniors while Rookies remain grades 5 and under.)

We now have 38 on our roster, two short of the maximum of 40 that can we can accommodate at practice. Nationwide, over 8,000 shooters in 41 states enjoy membership in SCTP. Over 1600 are expected to compete for national honors at the Grand this coming August. Anyone who shoots at the State Shoot in Kingsburg, June 16, can shoot at the Grand. We will sponsor squads that finish in the top three at the State Championship.

We welcomed three new shooters in January: **Reece Coulter** and **Nathan Duescher**, a pair of buddies in 7<sup>th</sup> grade who have previously shot at our range and **Brian Carlos** also in 7<sup>th</sup> grade who shot at his first practice this past Thursday (January 25). Welcome fellows!

NEEDED, a youth model semi-automatic Beretta trap gun or other low-recoil trap gun for youngsters to use before they purchase their own guns. It is not uncommon for new shooters to bring an unsuitable gun, such as a 20-gauge field gun, or no gun at all. Although a 20-gauge shotgun is smaller than a 12-gauge, it is usually lighter and has a greater felt-recoil or kick. This can turn a youngster's first experience at the range into a painful, unsuccessful experience especially smaller, younger shooters and can discourage them from shooting. We would like to be able to loan them a suitable 12-gauge gun and proper ammunition so that their first experience is a positive one. Choice of ammunition is very important and we restrict our shooters to 1-ounce light or extra-light ammunition, or to put it another way--"the lightest that will do the job," until they have considerable experience. For the smallest shooters I like to use one of the "featherlite" varieties of for their initial experience.

With the Las Vegas Invitational under our belt it is time to turn our attention to the upcoming invitational at Oak Tree at Newhall, CA, near Magic Mountain, on March 18 and to begin preparation for our invitational, the Miramar Scholastic Invitational, on April 29. The Oak Tree

Invitational is a one-day shoot on Sunday, preceded by a fun event on the previous day. Most of our families travel up and back on Sunday but a few will take advantage of both days to enjoy the full experience. The trip up is usually an easy one since you must leave early on Sunday when traffic is light but the trip home in afternoon will be in heavier traffic.

Our Invitational will have some added teams if early indications hold true. The Red Mountain Arizona team, which did well at Las Vegas, is expected to be represented, along with additional California teams and maybe even one from Utah. Our range size limits our shoot to 90 squads but we should have an interesting blend of participants with teams from Las Vegas, Project 2000, now growing, and Oak Tree returning again. We will need a full complement of volunteers for the event; any of our newer parents who have a special talent or interest will certainly be welcome!

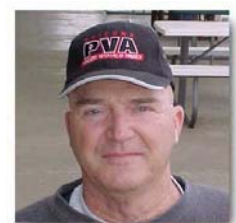
The SDSSA annual dinner was held at Mission Valley Town and Country Hotel on January 27 and SCTP was well represented with the **Sorchy, Jones, Greb and Sledge** families attending. The boys helped with the raffle and Mother,



**Denny Greb** happily walked away with a new gun.

**Elliott Greb** (pictured) spoke on behalf of our SCTP program and ended his presentation with a lament, "The only thing wrong with our program is "we don't have cheerleaders," adding thoughtfully "for my brother Alex!" Anyone have any ideas?

Interruption of our practices by helicopters has been more frequent this year—there is not much we can do about it but we will adjourn to the clubhouse when this occurs and take advantage of the opportunity to take care of awards and other SCTP business, perhaps even some additional instruction or discussion of issues that might improve our performance. Perhaps we can find some good shooting videos. You can make up any missed practices by shooting on your own and turning in your scores. Please use one of our score sheets and have your rounds initialed by whoever does the scoring.



**JIM RUSSELL**  
PVA  
COORDINATOR

Mark your calendars for tons of fun on 12 through 14 April. Those are the dates for the

Cal-Diego Paralyzed Veterans Association Annual trap shoot and everyone (able bodied and wheelchair) is invited to participate. Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> will see practice in the afternoon and a welcome reception at the range starting at 5 pm. All shoot participants are welcome. Friday and Saturday will see competition of 50 singles, 50 handicap, & 50 doubles plus a buddy shoot (we select your buddy) and an Annie Oakley.

Cal-Diego will provide breakfast and lunch each day plus there will be an Awards Banquet at the Courtyard by Marriott at 6:30 pm following Saturday's shooting. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. We will have wheelchair shooters here from all across the U.S. Plan to join in on the fun and camaraderie



**DICK SEAVER**

**SKEET LEAGUE CHAIRMAN**

The 2007 Spring Skeet League is off to a great start. There are 53 shooters on ten teams and we have had quite a few 25 straights. Evan Marsch, a SCTP shooter fairly new to skeet, very handily broke 50 straight. Welcome to the skeet world Evan!

The 2007 Spring Skeet League Awards "Bash" will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at Filippi's Pizza Grotto, 5353 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123 Phone 858-279-7240. The "Bash" is free to all league shooters. Price for guests is \$10.00, to be paid at the event.

Cash awards based on each teams accumulated points will be awarded. There will also be a shell raffle for shooters in attendance.

Flyers announcing the Bash will be posted at the range and a sign up sheet will be in the Range Office starting the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, contact Dick Seaver - Skeet League Chairman at riseaver@hotmail.com



**FRED HOYLE**

**ASSOCIATION SECRETARY & MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

**DUES – DUES – DUES – DUES – DUES**

Each year at the end of January, a count of dues paid leaves a number of unpaid members. We always contact non-paying members with a reminder. **THIS IS THE REMINDER!!** If you forgot to pay, we are extending the late dues date until February

28<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to support the Association. Thanks, Fred Hoyle.



**STEVE MARSCH**

**TRAP LEAGUE CO-CHAIRMAN**

This year's Spring 2007 Trap League is a 7 week league, with the first week dedicated to establishing an initial handicap. The league will commence on March 14th and end on May 20th with three Bye Weeks. For this league, other than the ordinary nominal costs associated with running the league, all entry fees will be returned to the participants in the form of cash awards based on team performance.

The purpose of the Trap League is to introduce and promote the sport of clay target shooting, to encourage competition, and at the same time have a lot of fun and enjoy the camaraderie that this sport provides. To further this goal, Team Captains are strongly encouraged to form teams composed of both experienced and new shooters. The Trap League is open to club members and non-members alike and there are no "day use fees" charged to non-members while shooting their league scores. Introducing new shooters is the very best way that a member can help to promote the sport and has proven to be a very rewarding experience for everyone involved. The league rules are also designed to promote the introduction of new shooters with an "80% Handicap" scoring system that adds handicap points for the lower scoring teams and considers only the top four scores from each team's weekly scores. This levels the playing field for those teams with inexperienced shooters.

There are no specific requirements to become a Team Captain other than a desire to get involved and perform the minimal duties outlined in the *Spring Trap League Rules* page on the SDSSA website. If you want to form a team and do not have enough shooters or if you just want to join the Trap League as an individual and be placed on a team, contact Mike or Steve by using the e-mail links located in the *Spring Trap League Rules* page and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

We have many sponsors to thank for their support of the 2007 Annual Dinner. **American Shooting Center; Cloud 9 Shuttle; Midway Museum; The Birch Aquarium; Filippi's Pizza Grotto, Kearny Mesa; Scripps-Poway Carwash, San Diego; John Lumn; Shooting Supplies SDSSA; Tom Hickerson; Taylor Craft ; Fred Hoyle; Gary Krueger; Dick Seaver ; Vern Gideon; Jim Englund; David & Gail Laird.** Remember them the next time you need a produce or service that they provide.