



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



San Diego Shotgun Sports Association is looking forward to 2008 with great anticipation. Your Board of Directors and staff have great plans to continue to offer our members the best possible targets at the most reasonable prices. 2007 was a challenging year for SDSSA. With the increase in operating costs the Board of Directors and staff looked for ways to cut costs without cutting service to our members. I think we succeeded on both counts. SDSSA ended 2007 on a positive note and

financially in the black. The 2008 budget committee has met and put together the Associations 2008 operating budget. Once again our payroll cost has increased due to the fifty cent increase in the minimum wage. Layne has done a great job at keeping a lid on overtime, there by keeping our payroll within budget. Our utility bills have increased and our cost per case for clay targets has gone up. Our costs have increased across the board for the second year in a row. The Board of Directors and staff will again seek ways to increase revenues cut costs and throw more targets.

I would like to welcome Mike Sorchy and Steve Marsch to the Board of Directors. Mike was elected by acclimation after Don Wilkie decided not to seek another term on the board. Steve was asked to join the Board of Directors to fill an opening left after Steve Claunch resigned. I would like to thank Don Wilkie and Steve Claunch for their service to our Association. Along with being Directors, Mike Sorchy has taken on the responsibility as head coach of our SCTP program and Steve runs the trap league. Both Mike and Steve have been involved in the SCTP program and have sons that are outstanding trap

shooters, as are all the kids in the SCTP program. I would like to thank all our members who volunteer their time and energy to our Association. We are always looking for more volunteers to step forward and offer their services to the Association. If you have the time and want to contribute contact me at rkeef@cox.net or contact Layne Kuhlman or any member of the Board of Directors.

Member's pets are welcome at the SDSSA, provided that the pet's behavior does not infringe on other members use and enjoyment of SDSSA facilities. The following are SDSSA's expectations from pet owners who want to bring their pets to the Range.

- 1. Owners will clean up after their pets. (Plastic bags are provided at the range)**
- 2. Pets will be leashed and owner will be in control of their pet at all times.**
- 3. Walkways are off limits to unattended pets.**
- 4. The eating areas are off limits to pets. (Eating areas include the upper patio)**
- 5. No pets are allowed within the confines of the Silva Center. (Exceptions to the rule are seeing-eye dogs and Service dogs).**

**RANGE
SAFETY**

**By
Association
Member**

**Jim
Tomsovic**



When Neil asked me to scramble my thoughts about shooting and range safety I had to stop and reassess all the knowledge I have gained over the years both through instruction and trial and error. Just so the reader can get a picture of from whence I come, here are my credentials.

I was initially taught gun safety and how to shoot by my Dad, an old Indiana farm boy who hunted for his family's table, when I was about seven years old. I was presented with my first rifle, a Winchester Model 62A .22 when I was twelve and I've had guns of all sorts ever since. I received a Boy Scout shooting merit badge, was on my high school ROTC shooting team for three years, and was an avid hunter as a young man. I regularly shot my legal limit of dove and quail with an old, single shot Montgomery Wards .410 that an uncle gave me. Since then I've taught my wife, son and daughter how to shoot safely.

I became a San Diego police officer in 1969 and served for over 34 years before retiring in 2004. I was a training officer for thirteen years and served on the SWAT team for eleven years, eight of those as a sniper with training courtesy of the United States Marine Corps sniper school at Camp Pendleton. With ten years on the Homicide Team I have intimate knowledge of what guns can do, by intention and by accident. OK, enough

tooting of my own horn. I just want to convey the message that I do know what shooting is about beyond book smarts.

Oddly, I didn't become involved in trap and skeet shooting until a little over a year ago, but it has become one of my favorite pastimes. As you might expect, I (like you I'm sure) have seen very little, if any, gross safety misbehavior at our range. I think that goes a long way towards crediting our range officers and their views on range safety. That being said, I think there is room for improvement.

Another range I shoot at has similar views on safety, and there you have to pass a written safety test and demonstrate your gun handling ability to a rangemaster to obtain a *range safety card* which you have to show *every time you shoot*, whether you're a first-time guest or old-time shootist. In addition, you are being observed, at least occasionally, by a *Range Safety Officer*. I kind of like that.

Now, I'm the last person to want to control private ownership of most guns, but I would like to think that those persons who do have guns are *knowledgeable* about their operation and *qualified* to shoot them. I mean, you have to have a license to drive, and you have to have a license to get married, and you have to have a license to hunt...shouldn't you maybe need a license to possess a potentially deadly weapon? I think the issuance of our membership cards should require more than payment of dues. There should be some kind of *proficiency requirement*.

Most of the people who come to this, or any other legitimate range to shoot are either experienced shooters or students

who come to learn. The students are like blank blackboards, and it's up to the instructors to inculcate them with all the basic safety rules; you know, like 'never point a gun at anything you aren't ready to shoot,' and 'all guns are always loaded,' and (let's see if you old-timers recall this one) 'always let a partner hold your gun while you climb over or through a fence.' There's dozens of these rules that new shooters have to learn from their teachers. There are more range-specific rules that they will pick up from other shooters as they are shooting particular venues. People who are casually teaching family or friends how to shoot cannot be trusted to teach safety. Ranges should have someone, in the form of Range Safety Officers, to make sure shooters are practicing safe techniques.

The more typical problem lies with the *experienced* shooters. We know all the rules, we've been there and done that so many times it's become second nature, and it's precisely because of that that we violate the rules. We've gotten to the point where we do things *without thinking*, and because we don't think we make mistakes. Most of the time it is not intentional, occasionally it is.

How many times have you walked from the gun rack to station one with your safety 'off?' Range safety rules say the safety should be 'on' until you're on station and ready to call "Pull," but heck, you know there's no shells chambered, the action or bolt is open, why bother with that annoying safety? Most range shooters prefer manual safeties, but hunting guns are made with automatic safeties for a reason. That's because most hunters carry their guns with a round

chambered and action closed. Have you ever forgotten which type of safety the gun has that you're currently shooting? I have. The error is usually manifested by calling "Pull" and have nothing happen when you slap the trigger. Better a 'lost' bird than an accidental discharge.

We have been very fortunate at SDSSA to have had very few accidental discharges. I know that the police range has not been quite that fortunate, and there you're talking about well-trained 'professional' shooters with qualified instructors and rangemasters present. It would not bother me to see *Range Safety Officers* patrolling the line to remind shooters of safety lapses.

I have seen shooters who are evidently not experienced with the gun (i.e.: weapon) they are shooting trying to clear a jam, stuck wad or a misfire, and that gun's muzzle is waving all over the place while they figure out what to do or where to go for help. Thankfully, there is usually someone nearby who can assist, but sometimes a roving Range Safety Officer might be of assistance.

I guess the point I'm trying to make in all this rambling is that range safety is not something that can be taken for granted, it will not just happen...**range safety has to be actively pursued.**



ATA TRAP

By

Chip
Enniss

The A.T.A. event on Sat. and Sunday Jan. 5th & 6th was rained

out. Even the most hardcore of our Trap shooters did not try their luck this time.

The program for January will be used for the February shoot. Then in March we will have a **Bill** and **Ruthie Hunter** appreciation shoot to show our love and appreciation for all they do, not only for California shooters but across the entire Nation. Any of you who have not had the pleasure of knowing Bill and being able to call him your friend have missed knowing a true gentleman and Trap shooter. The next time you are at a shoot and Bill is there, introduce yourself and you will soon understand that statement. I have known Bill for 25 or 30 Years; He is simply one of the best.

Any of you who can bring a friend out to try our sport should do so, we will do our best to make them feel welcome and help them with any and all questions they may have.

Thanks to **Jan, Lisa, Sonny** and **Mike** for your support and help, you were all there in case any one was foolish enough to try to shoot. We will be ready the 1st weekend in February, so come out and join us for some great times.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Were you, as a SDSSA member, aware that we/you have a set of 63 Policies and Procedures (P&P's) that were adopted by your Board of Directors in 2001? No? Well, what might they include, you ask, and how do they affect me as a member? Another question might be why do we need 63 P&P's? Read on and hopefully this is explained.

There are three categories of P&P's; Organizational, Operations and Personnel. All of

them are in accordance with our Association by-laws and land lease requirements.

The Organizational P&P's of which there are 22, consist of how SDSSA is to be run and managed in the overall scheme of the Association. It lists the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, our Mission Statement, various standing committees and their function and how our registered trap and skeet shoots are to be conducted.

The thirty-one Operations P&P's dictate the hours that we are open, membership policy in SDSSA, policy on gifts as we are a IRS approved 501(c)3 non-profit organization, policy on pets on the grounds, vendor policy, shooting fee policy, policy on violence and safety to name a few.

The Personnel category has ten P&P's which give guidelines for our General and Assistant Manager, employees and shooting venues.

Although we encourage a smoke-free environment, we have no specific rules to enforce as of this writing. The results of hundreds of cigarette butts lying on the Association grounds when there are more than sufficient receptacles to place the "cancer sticks", is appalling. We encourage families to visit our facility but garbage indiscriminately thrown on the grounds is not very attracting. Time and money are spent each week in an attempt to police the grounds. One wonders why the cost of shooting continues to rise. Look around for the answer! It costs the Association to police the grounds.

With policies and procedures, we have a consistent method of governing the Association. All

SDSSA Board of Directors have a copy of the P&P's and are aware of their importance. Should you as a SDSSA member wish to know what the policy is on a particular issue, we can tell you. If we see a member or a non-member violating a policy, it is incumbent upon the elected Board member and YOU as a responsible Association Member to point out the policy to the violator with an explanation and with dignity. For instance, some folks are not aware of our leash law for dogs to prevent them from roaming and dumping when the owner is busy shooting either the breeze or clay targets. We are not in the business of embarrassing anybody but the owner needs to be aware so as to comply. With each of the Board of Directors help, we can assist the General Manager/Range Safety Officer in his duties of enforcing consistent and fair rules to the members in the administration of the Association.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2008 DUES?

Would you believe that we have a P&P which address the issue? It is entitled, "**REINSTATEMENT OF REGULAR MEMBERSHIP OF INACTIVE MEMBERS.**"

Policy Statement

- The SDSSA will allow members to return to Active membership after transferring to Inactive status. This procedure outlines how to reinstate a Regular Membership.
- Membership is contingent upon paying each years dues and **terminates upon failure to pay the current dues on or before the last day of February.**

(Your 2008 Association dues are due and payable on

January 1, 2008! You become an "inactive" member if your dues are not paid by March 1)

If on February 1, 2008, the Board of Directors finds that there are 6% or more of last years membership not renewing, we make phone calls to seek the root of the non-payment. YOU can save us a bunch of time by renewing your 2008 membership before the last day of February and we will silently thank you for your thoughtful and welcomed consideration!

As of the writing of this newsletter, the list of those who have not yet paid their 2008 dues is 150! That's a lot of phone calls.

NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB

A continuous reminder. We are still continuing and looking for, "a few good women/men" who wish to assist the Association by notifying any one of the Board of Directors that you would like to receive your monthly newsletter via the internet and reduce the expense of mailing the newsletter to you. I know it sounds trivial but when there are over 600 mailings per month at today's present rate, that's money better spent toward the betterment of your Association rather than feeding the government postal service! You can email me, Neil Vann at cnvann@cox.net if you feel the urge to help.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2008



The image is that of our dining adventure in which we hope to see you seated at one of the attractive tables for our 2008 Annual Dinner extravaganza. All members received an invitation in the mail sent out December 1, 2007 by our President, Robert Keefe inviting you to attend this gala event.

The dinner will be held in the Regency Ballroom. The dining room will be set up with round tables of eight and ten. If you'd like to reserve a table, include all eight or ten responses with your remittance in one envelope.

We're planning on having a fun and informative evening. For our new members this will your first opportunity to attend our Annual Dinner Meeting. Guests will be informed about the State of our Association, our newly elected Directors will be installed and you will hear your Association's plans for continuing improvements for the future. There will be guest speakers and the fun raffle with lots of great prizes. So, plan on an enjoyable evening with your fellow Association Members and their families.

Check out the Association web site, @ www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com for the Town & Country site map and dining room table layout". At last count we were approaching a count of 50 attendees. I think we can do better than that!

**DODGE
CITY**

By

**Jim
Englund**



I was absent from the December shoot so if you want

all the details, go to our web site. But here are some highlights. 8 shooters got 25's @ 16. 2 25's @ handicap. 4 teams hit all 20 at buddy #1 and 2 teams at buddy #2. **Rich Davis** and **Pinky** tied for high gun with an 88, (very close to a perfect 90). **Delano Hale** took first in the Annie Oakley.



JIM SNOW
HAPPY 97TH BIRTHDAY

For those of you who were not at the November shoot we had a big cake and ice cream party for **Jim Snow's** 97th Birthday. Wish him a happy B'Day when you see him and let's hope he'll be shooting for years to come.



TRAP LEAGUE

By

Steve Marsch & Mike Sorchy

This might seem a little early to be announcing the Spring Trap League for mid March. But, we've already put the rules on the website, posted them at the

range and the sign-up sheets are ready to go at the office. Also, more importantly, Neil Vann, our Newsletter Editor, needed some filler material for this edition.

The Spring Trap League will be a singles only league with seven shooting weeks. For those of you that don't spend a lot of time on fields 1 thru 4, "singles" doesn't mean married people can't participate, and it's not a dating scheme concocted by Mike and me. It means both of your two weekly rounds will be shot from 16 yards.

This league will not be a blind drawing for teams as with the last league. Although we did get a surprisingly positive response from about half the shooters to the blind draw, we decided to switch back to the open team formation for this league.

We also received such a great response from last league's shoot-off for the silver belt buckles that we decided to do it again. There will be two silver belt buckles awarded to the Top Gun and DAL shooters. The shoot-offs will be held at the league-end barbeque between the top shooters from each team and the low shooters from each team. Additionally, we will be awarding League Champion jackets to the top scoring team.

This promises to be a very competitive league. We will be using only the top eight scores from each team for the weekly ranking and points. That combined with an 80% handicap should dramatically level the playing field.

Now is a great time to sign up. If you need any help finding a team to shoot with, just email us at stevemarsch@cox.net or Mike at m.sorchy1@hotmail.com and

we'll do our best to accommodate you.

EDITORS NOTE

I apologize to you, the reading member on our lack of images in this our February Association newsletter. It seems that at the beginning of the New Year our shooting venues are at a time of the month that doesn't catch the deadline for the Association newsletter. Not an excuse; just a fact. Next month you will no doubt be flooded with images of top people in our Association that have won an event, been placed in a position of responsibility, our youth and their accomplishments along with some surprises that I can't begin to predict!

The deadline for newsletter articles is the second Thursday of the month. Coincidentally, these ties in with the Board of Directors meeting in which case could be a chance to experience some action by the Board or even gossip. We don't print the gossip for good reason.

Articles from the membership promoting our youth, safety articles and other positive non-controversial subjects are always welcome. As you can see, after the President's message this month, new member **Jim Tomsovic**, submitted an article on safety based upon his professional experience. I am certain that there are others in the Association membership (706 as of January 10, 2008) that have had similar experiences and may be willing to share.

Three last pleas before I run out of space. One, pay your 2008 dues if you haven't yet done so. Two, make reservations at the range office and plan on going to the Annual Dinner. And three, sign up to receive your monthly newsletter on the web.