



# Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 10 <http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com> OCTOBER 2008

**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.

### OFFICERS

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Robert Keefe | President      |
| Mike Sorchy  | Vice President |
| Steve Marsch | Secretary      |
| Taylor Craft | Treasurer      |

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Taylor Craft  | Augie Daddi    |
| Jim Englund   | Vern Gideon    |
| Fred Hoyle    | Steve Marsch   |
| Rick Matulich | Richard Seaver |
| Mike Sorchy   | Neil Vann      |

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Range Manager     | Layne Kuhlman  |
| Newsletter Editor | Neil Vann      |
| Webmaster         | Augie Daddi    |
| Range Tel         | (858) 278-3173 |
| Range Fax         | (858) 278-0160 |

### PRESIDENT'S

### MESSAGE

By

Robert Keefe



Lease negotiations are static at this time with nothing new to report. SDSSA has met the milestones set for us and MCAS is in the process of compiling that and other information and sending it to Marine Headquarters in Washington D.C. There is another aspect of the lease not directly tied to our ongoing lease negotiations. This is the problem with lead shot leaving our lease boundaries. One consequence of this is that SDSSA has voluntarily shut down Fields 11 & 12. We took this

action as a show of good faith that we want to work with MCAS to correct the problem. There are environmental concerns that must be addressed. Soil samples have been taken on and off our lease hold. We have met with MCAS as well as environmental specialists to try and come up with a plan of action. We have also been in contact with other clubs that share these same concerns. Once we receive the report it should tell us the extent of the lead problem and what will need to be done to alleviate the problem. This is a serious problem. We are sorry for the inconvenience that the closure of fields 11 & 12 may cause, but, you can be sure SDSSA will do what is necessary to work with The Marines to correct the situation.

Total rounds thrown this year are down 2,000 from this time last year. We saw the drop off with targets thrown coincided with the rise in gasoline prices. Thanks to the dove hunters that come out for their pre hunt tune up and the new members of SDSSA, we are doing better and are on our way to making those 2,000 rounds up. Our Association membership is at an all time high with 715 members. Thank you to all our members for your support.

**SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association** is Southern California's finest shotgun facility.

Below is a comparison of the number of rounds thrown in August of 2007 compared to August 2008?

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 2007 Trap          | 3466         |
| 2008 Trap          | 3295 (171)   |
| 2007 Skeet         | 3042         |
| 2008 Skeet         | 2853 (189)   |
| 2007 5 Stand       | 1711         |
| 2008 5 Stand       | 1263 (448)   |
| 2007 International | 288          |
| 2008 International | 0 (shutdown) |
| August             |              |
| 2007 Total         | 8507         |
| 2008 Total         | 7411         |
| YTD                |              |
| 2007               | 64155        |
| 2008               | 61772        |

We have continued to have good participation in our trap and skeet leagues, as well as, the Dodge City. Two events that have seen a decline in the number of shooters are the monthly ATA and NSSA registered shoots. The more participation in these two events the better we are able to control our costs. Yes, SDSSA's cost of doing business has gone up (targets, shells, utilities) but, the only cost passed on to our membership has been an increase in the cost of shells.

Without shooter participation it becomes harder to break even on these shoots. As you know, SDSSA is a non-profit organization. We aren't necessarily looking to make a profit on our registered shoots, but, on the other hand we are not looking to take a loss on them either. **Chip Ennis** and the Trap Committee and **Neil Vann** and the Skeet Committee are working hard to make the ATA and NSSA registered shoots successful. They need your help. We need more shooters. We need more participation.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Ricardo Alcantara, Craig Clark, Bill Bolinger, Carla and Herman Sledge and John McClure** for their continued support of SDSSA. Thank you.

**SAFETY ON THE PAD**

By

**Mike Yavno**



As shooters, we have the responsibility to handle all firearms in a safe manner. This is especially true at our range, where we have shooters of all ages and experience levels shooting on all fields simultaneously.

One of the mistakes I see shooters make is, loading rounds in the shotgun while they are walking on to the shooting station (PAD). This can become an unconscious behavior which may result in an unintentional discharge of the shotgun. Many of us have seen fixed breech over / under shotguns and semi-

automatics fire when they are closed or the bolt released into battery. This can be devastating to the shooter and the bystanders.

Let's all concentrate on NOT reaching for shells until we are on the pad and the shotgun barrel (s) are pointed in a safe direction.

Let's keep our sport SAFE and Fun. See you at the range.

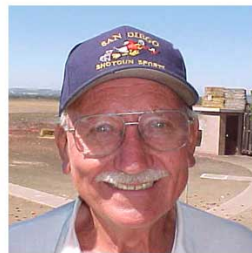
SDSSA Life Member **Mike Yavno** is a Safety Professional who is currently employed by Northrop Grumman Corporation. He has extensive experience in the Shipyard, General Construction and Aerospace Safety arenas. He is also a retired USAF officer with many years in traffic and air base safety programs. He is a Life Member of the NRA, the National Skeet Shooting Association, as well as, a member of the Amateur Trap Shooting Association.

**SKEET**

**NEWS**

By

**Neil Vann**



Our August monthly registered skeet shoot was again greeted by blue cloudless skies and mild low 70's temperature. **SAN DIEGO Shotguns Sports Association** hosted the tenth shoot of the 2008 skeet season on August 22-24. Twenty-one gathered to shoot the 600-target weekend and while most of the shooters were local, two shooters ventured away from Yuma, Arizona to spend two days in San

Diego; **John Gross** and **Mike Freimuth**.



**MIKE FREIMUTH**

Mike is a Novice and has found a niche in San Diego. We appreciate their patronage and welcome them back for more fun in the not-so-hot San Diego climate.

The filicide got under way on Friday with 9 shooting the 28ga. Preliminary. **Gary Snover** (San Bernardino) out shot the group and came in with a 96 to win Gun Champion followed by **Dave Robertson** (Valley Center) in Gun Runner up position with a 93. **Craig Potter** (Chula Vista) and **Mike Yavno** (Santee) were schedule to shoot off 92's for Class C1 and C2 honors but Mike had to leave due to a family emergency which gave Craig the honor.

Doubles was the second event of the day with 11 participants. **Dave Robertson** showed off his expertise in head-down, swing-through and a fire-in-the-belly attitude to bring in the top score of 96 for Gun Champion. **John Gross** (Yuma, AZ.) made his 3-hour one-way trip, one of worth, by busting 95 of those elusive clays for Gun Runner up.



**JOHN GROSS**

**Keith Phelps** (Torrance) and team mate, **Neil Vann** (San Diego) shot off brilliant 88's to vie for Class A1 and A2. Keith led off but station #3 was not kind to him (at all). Neil hit both and the silence of the crowd was deafening.

The 28ga. event started at 8:30 Saturday morning with 15 entrants all going for the gold. **James Dewey** (Ramona) bested the rest with a nice 98 and captured the Gun Champion position (Gold). **Gordie Johnson** (Mission Viejo) and **Neil Vann** tied for the next highest score and went to the mat to determine the Gun Runner up position (Silver). The agony of defeat settled on Neil at station #4 and Gordie stepped proudly to the podium to accept the prize. Neil settled for Class A1. **Gary Snover** and **Keith Phelps** duked it out to determine Class A2 and A3. Keith overwhelmed Gary with a clean double at station #3 to win the Class A2 honor. The final shoot off was between Novice **Brent Hanson** (San Dimas) and Novice **Buck Buchanan** (San Diego) with 91's. Both shot perfectly at station #3. Brent squirted the low house 4 and Buck hit them both. Buck took Class B1 and Brent B2.

Our most favorite event of the day, both Saturday and Sunday is the hour we take between

shooting gauges and partake in lunch.



**PAUL BUSCH**

Our sponsor this month was **Paul Busch** (Solana Beach) and we thank him for the feast of grilled Chicken Tenders, potato salad, dill pickle spears, chips and water for the thirsty.

After lunch we shoot the 12ga and with 17 shooters it's an all out contest to do one's best. **Gordie Johnson** dropped a high 2 double in the second box to bring in the high score of 99 and Gun Champion.



**GORDIE JOHNSON**

Right on Gordie's heels was **Dave Robertson** and **Gary Snover** with 98's. Dave didn't give Gary any slack and shot a perfect pair on station #3 in the shoot off to take the Gun Runner up position. Gary dropped one of the birds and took Class B1. **Brent Hanson** and **Pete Buompensiero** (San Diego) went to the shoot off field with 90's to vie for Class B3. After two stations, the score was 3 to 2

in favor of Brent and the Class B3 honor.

Each month we award a hand crafted leather shooting pouch to a Novice who has not previously won and has the high Novice score in the 12ga. event. This award is donated by **John Herkowitz** of **Pacific Sporting Arms** located in Azusa, California, leading the way in well known shotguns and we are grateful to have such a sponsor. This months winner was **Buck Buchanan** (San Diego) shooting a respectable 94. Congratulation Buck!



**BUCK BUCHANAN**

Sunday morning and the mighty 67 gauge is the scheduled event. **Dave Robertson** pulls if off again and posts a very nice 98 to lead all 14 contenders in this humbling event. **Gordie Johnson** and **Gary Snover** had 94's. However, both had to hit the chromium highway prior to the shoot offs and we long run the event. Gordie out ran Gary and captured Gun Runner up while Gary settled for Class A1. **Steve Erbe** (Oceanside) and **Carl Best** (Lemon Grove) battled it out for Class A2 and A3 with 92's. Steve was 100% successful at station #3 while Carl was 50% effective. Steve is Class A2 winner.

The last shooting event of the weekend is the 20ga. with 14 signed up. Two 99's are posted.

**Dave Robertson** and Novice **Brent Hanson** were shooting on the same team and must have been an inspiration to one another. Dave used his experience from the Friday Doubles event to whomp up on Brent on station #3, taking the Gun Champion position. This was a nice one-two punch for a couple of great guys!

The HOA event had 12 participants with none other than **Dave Robertson** taking the top spot with a 390 and **Gordie Johnson** right behind him with a 387.



**DAVE ROBERTSON**

No shoot offs ensued so we closed the day and the weekend with grateful thoughts of having come together again to enjoy this great sport that we call SKEET.

We are trying innovative ways to make our skeet program a bit more meaningful. The latest change to our program is the advent of the SCTP taking over the lunch duties on each Saturday that we have a shoot at SDSSA starting in November 2008. The exception to this will be the PSA shoot in April in which the SCTP will supply lunch for both Saturday and Sunday. **The lunch will not be free to the shooters or anyone else.** A donation fee will be asked for

such that the venture has a margin of profit. This is a way for all shooters to support our youth program and give some of you consistent lunch donors a bit of a break. However, we will be soliciting lunch donors for our Sunday lunch break so be prepared for a contact. A notice will be going out in the near future to all of those who have donated lunches in the past requesting that you volunteer your name to one of the months of 2009. Our 2009 schedule has been sent to CSSA for approval and our 2009 dues have been paid to NSSA. So, we are in a holding pattern until the dates are approved and firm before the letter can go out.



**The SDSSA  
Web Site  
By  
Augie Daddi**

Seems like only yesterday that I started a web site for our Association. Well its been almost 9 years when it started as Miramar Trap & Skeet Club in December, 1999. I was retired and decided to learn and try something new.

I started with actually writing html code until I took some classes and learned the wizardry of Macromedia's Dreamweaver software. More classes on the use of that software and off I went on a journey of passion.

Since our web site host; Earthlink, provides us with site statistics, it was interesting to watch the visitor count grow, observe the areas of interest and even see hits that were coming from around the world.

During the last year I've seen a dramatic increase in the email queries coming from a link on our home page. Often they come with questions that can be readily answered on our web site. Which raises the question "are you making it easy for visitors to get answers to their questions on our web site?" That's the continuing challenge; post info that's of interest and make it easy to find.

News of interest comes from different sources and I rely heavily on folks getting it to me. I apologize to all if I failed to post something of interest to our visitors. However a brief email to me with the info will get my attention.

Our current Newsletter Editor; **Neil Vann**, has done a great job in encouraging readers to discontinue getting the black & white Newsletter by mail and using the Internet to read it in vibrant colors. First and foremost it reduces the use of paper & ink. 2<sup>nd</sup> and very important, it saves your Association money. With the rising cost of everything, a single copy of the Newsletter is continually climbing towards \$1.

Now for some benefits to readers.

- Available several days before mailed copies
- In vibrant color
- Can be saved on your computer
- Zoom the text for easier reading

We think it's a win/win.

Here are some stats on Internet readers of the Newsletter over the past few months

In July, 2008, 363 visitors were recorded going to the August 2008 Newsletter. In August, an additional 433 hits were recorded for a total of 799 hits/visitors to the August 2008 Newsletter. We're guessing that many receiving the Newsletter by mail are also reading the issue posted on the Internet. Please take a moment to email Neil Vann and let him know that you're interested in

- saving paper and
- saving our Association money and want him to stop mailing you a paper copy.

Neil can be emailed @ [cnvann@cox.net](mailto:cnvann@cox.net)

Just one more stat regarding our web site. In August we saw a daily average of almost 150 visitors to our Home page and the numbers keep going up. Guess we're doing it right.

## TRAP LEAGUE



by

**Steve Marsch**  
**Mike Sorchy**

We're off and shooting. The league began on August 20<sup>th</sup> and we now have two weeks of shooting under our belts. Due to a flurry of last minute entries, we were able to cobble together a couple of additional teams, bringing the team count to

fourteen full teams with 84 shooters. That's really a tremendous turnout for a Fall Trap league.

While I can't say that Week 1 was entirely glitch free, all things considered, it worked out fine. The "progressive" round seemed to confound more than a few shooters and pullers. It's difficult to describe one squad that I saw without using the word "cluster", but I can say that it was eerily reminiscent of my daughter's third grade class performing the Hokey Pokey for the first time. Surprisingly though, that particular group of trap shooters came away from the field laughing and with a few good scores as well. It also didn't help that our league started at the precise time when all the Dove hunters showed up for their annual pilgrimage to the Trap fields. However, I do find some humor knowing that at least a few of them left SDSSA with the belief that proper trap etiquette requires you to move your speaker with you every time you change stations.

We had quite a number of 50's in our first two weeks including **Taylor Craft, Sonny Hale, Bob Nation, Larry Premo, and Kurtis Sorchy.** Congratulations! Despite the obvious difficulty of changing stations after each shot, overall, our league shooters averaged 86% for the first two weeks. That's an impressive average for this league format.

While it's way too early in the league to start making predictions on the outcome, we do have an early leader. **Team 8,** lead by **Greg Alexander,** put together 193/200 for Week 2 to take first

place and put 14 points on the board. Greg's team includes **Joe Matkovich, Augie Daddi, Jonathon Dales, Jerry Dillard,** and **Paul Busch.** All are well known veterans of past Trap leagues.

As always, thanks to all of you who joined this league. Remember to check your score sheets when you leave the field; keep it safe out there, and good luck.

**DODGE CITY**

By

**Jim Englund**



The August shoot was another great day in America's Finest City for knocking targets out of the skyscape. We had 44 with 3 juniors. Top scores at the 16; **Lonnie Catania, William DeBreau, Chip Enniss, Danny Godinho, Bill Hamilton, Wayne Langevin, Bill Pye, Butch Smallenberger and Mike Sorchy.** One and only one 25 @ handicap; **Michael Bates.** Buddy #1 had two teams with 18; **Chip Enniss and Kevin King, Ramond Nguyen and Willie Turner.** Buddy #2 had one pair to hit all 20; **Bill Pye and Curtis Smith.** The Annie Oakley came down to; **Kevin King** forth, **Tudor Milkov** third, **Bill Hamilton** second and **John Lumn** was the last standing. High score of the day was an 82 by four shooters. **Chip Enniss, Bill Hamilton, Mike Scott and Jan Slough.** The progressive pot was three ways, **Bill** did not bye in. The progressive pot is only a \$2.00 buy in and chances are good to pick up some extra cash. Thanks **Annie Hoyle** for the **always** tasty carrot cakes.