



Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 4 <http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com>

APRIL 2009

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Taylor Craft Augie Daddi
Jim Englund Fred Hoyle
Gary Krueger Steve Marsch
Rick Matulich Richard Seaver
Mike Sorchy Neil Vann

OTHER INFO

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



I continue to receive emails inquiring about the status of our negotiations with MCAS Miramar. The answer to this question and other questions members may have, along with a complete history and time line of negotiations can be found on our website under Presidents Posts, http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com/president_posts.htm and in SDSSA's newsletter which is also available along with archived newsletters on our website, <http://www.sandiegoshotgunsports.com/>.

The **SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association** has been dealing in good faith with Marine Corps Air Station Miramar since lease discussions started in May 2008. MCAS presented us with a set of milestones that needed to be met by both SDSSA and MCAS. SDSSA earnestly tried to meet the milestones. MCAS required SDSSA to remit a \$70,000.00 fee to cover their administrative costs and would not continue discussions with us until we sent them a check. We felt that they were being unreasonable and it was at that point we contacted Congressman **Duncan Hunter**. Little did we know that the \$70,000.00 would be the first in a series of roadblocks put up by MCAS that, in my opinion, were to make the process so challenging that we would be unable to meet all of their requirements. When Mr. Hunter was able to get the SECNAV to intercede on our behalf, MCAS changed tactics and came down heavy on the environmental issues. By this point in time SDSSA had voluntarily shut down fields 11 & 12, as a show of good faith. On October 3, 2008 MCAS Miramar ordered a cease fire and all shooting at SDSSA stopped. MCAS initiated an environmental study. The study concluded lead was leaving our lease boundaries and that another study was needed. After a meeting between SDSSA, Congressman Hunter, representatives from Congressman's **Brian Bilbray** and **Darrell Issa's** office and **Lt. Col. Koffel**, Executive Officer, MCAS Miramar and **Lt. Col. Manis**, Director , Installations & Logistics MCAS, Miramar we thought we were on the path to correcting the environmental issues. Mr. Hunter proposed a common sense plan that would enable SDSSA to reopen to shooting. MCAS seemed to be in agreement. When we started to move forward with that plan, MCAS acted as if they didn't know what we were talking about. SDSSA received a letter stating we were granted a license to continue operations except for shooting. In that same letter MCAS informed us that they were going to start another environmental

study. Initially we were told this study would take 3 to 4 months to complete. We are now told that realistically we should expect 12 months. We're now looking at mid December for a report.

Eventually the Associations money will run out and SDSSA will not be able to continue to operate. Membership renewal has been good. We extended the deadline until March 31, 2009 for dues payments. If you haven't renewed yet, please do. Time is running out. Donations have been outstanding. Thank you to all our members that have paid their dues and sent in a donation. **The SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association** would like to recognize and thank the **Carol & Henry F. Hunte Fund at The San Diego Foundation** for the \$2000.00 grant they awarded us. The letter accompanying the grant said in part, The San Diego Foundation is pleased to award the SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association a grant of \$2000.00 from the **Carol & Henry Hunte Fund**, at the request of **Henry and Carol Hunte**. Mr. Henry Hunte is a member of SDSSA. The grant is graciously appreciated and will be used to continue operations at SDSSA.

Lead is being mined, which will bring in some much needed revenue. We will continue to look at our options and take any action needed to insure continued operations.

As President of SDSSA I believe, and this is what I proposed at the March Board of Directors meeting, is that we need to be more proactive in dealing with MCAS Miramar. Up to this point we have allowed MCAS to set the agenda. By allowing them to do that SDSSA has lost valuable time. Congressman Hunter has sent the **Commandant of the Marine Corps** a letter requesting a stop to the latest MCAS Miramar's environmental study. If he is successful we need to have a plan ready to bring to the table. There will be a change of command on the air station in April. That means a new commanding officer and executive officer. Also, the Lt. Col. in charge of Installation and Logistics will be retiring in June. I have already discussed and agreed to a meet and greet with the new C.O. when he comes on board.

I want SDSSA to be able to present a plan that will offer a solution to the issues that are directly related to the environmental concerns facing us. I believe the new plan, when presented with our new Lead Management Plan will convey to the new command of MCAS our commitment to working in partnership with the marines to reopen SDSSA to shooting. To accomplish this SDSSA will be retaining a Biological Consultant to prepare a plan in much the same way that **Dick Peddicord** prepared our Lead Management Plan. We have started our search for a Biological Consultant and we expect to have a consultant on retainer in the very near future.

A person could reasonably conclude that MCAS Miramar's actions to this point have been to permanently close SDSSA. I don't necessarily believe that to be the case. I have learned that when dealing with the military and environmentalists, things usually are never easy. In the case of SDSSA the two may actually be working with different agendas.

SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Association has only one agenda. That agenda has always been and will continue to be, to do everything in our power to get the cease fire lifted and reopen SDSSA to shooting.



13th ANNUAL PVA NATIONAL TRAPSHOOT CIRCUIT by Jim Russell

The 13th Annual PVA National Trapshoot Circuit kicked-off with the 6 – 8 March Nevada Chapter event held at the Las Vegas Gun Club with our own **Hilda Fox** as the Tournament Director. Good job Hilda. One of the nice things about this shoot is that it is just a 6 hour (4 for some of our team members) drive from San Diego, so we don't need to go through all of the fun stuff that is required to sally-forth via airplane. And there is at least double the fun when traveling with a weapon.

The tournament hotel was the Santa Fe Station Casino, situated just a couple of miles from the trap range, but what a shock to us Californians. The entire hotel and casino absolutely reeked of cigarette smoke, even in our rooms. Fortunately, with a little serious tugging we were able to open the window in our rooms to clear some of the stench.

Friday saw practice at the range all afternoon and it was a lovely day, just a slight breeze and not a cloud in the sky, with the temperature in low seventies. A great day for an outdoor event. That was followed by a great welcome reception at the range.

Saturday morning saw a great hot breakfast prepared by the restaurant at the range followed by the beginning of competition with 100 singles followed by 50 pair of doubles, and we had a completely different set of weather conditions. The wind was blowing at 45 mph out of the north (right into our faces) and the temperature had dropped to the low 40's with a complete overcast. Not ideal conditions for shooting trap, but that is what we had so that is what we shot in and it definitely had an effect on the scores. **Doug Vann's** 99/100 in singles was the top score for the day as was his 96/100 in doubles followed by **Jerry Parr** with a 95/100 in singles and a 94/100 in doubles.

Sunday saw a return of much friendlier weather for the 100 handicap targets but the scores were still way off the mark. Top score for the day was **Jerry Parr** with 95/100 followed by **Phillip Santos** with 93/100 and **Doug Vann** with 92/100. Not a stellar performance by anyone. Perhaps it was something we ate, or maybe something we didn't eat, or something we drank, or perhaps something we didn't drink. Trap shooters can almost always attribute their less than outstanding performance to something beyond their own control.

Sunday evening saw the awards banquet in the office section of the Casino (different air circulation system so no smoke from the Casino) and the food was great. Possibly the best prime rib I have had in a very long time. Our team as a whole and as individual members did well (vis-à-vis the other shooters) during the shoot and it was evident as the awards were presented. First, our team won first place. Yea team! **Doug Vann** won High Overall with 287/300, **Bill Palmer** earning the High Wheelchair Award with 262/30, **Keith Rheinhardt** received Mid-yardage Champion with 90/100; **Mike Gureckas** garnered AA Class Doubles Champion with 76/100, while I eked out B Class Doubles Champion with 73/100. And all that was remaining was the six hour drive back across the desert. Great way to spend a weekend. Hope to see all of you at the upcoming Cal-Diego April 10-12 trap shoot in Redlands and perhaps even at the Cal-Diego pistol shoot on Monday 13 April in Highland, CA. Happy Shooting!



21st ANNUAL CAL-DIEGO PVA TRAPSHOOT by Neil Vann

In last months SDSSA newsletter (March), **Jim Russell**, SDSSA member, wheelchair shooter and a muckety-muck in the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Association, put forth a challenge to all SDSSA members who participate (one or both days) in the "**Cal-Diego 21st Annual Trapshoot**". **Cal-Diego will donate to SDSSA \$5.00 per SDSSA member shooting.** This shoot will be held at the Redlands Shooting Park in Redlands, California on April 10 - 12. Friday will be a practice day with a welcome reception from 5 to 6pm. Saturday starts the competition at 10:00am. Competition will consist of 50 singles, 50 handicap and 50 pair of doubles both days. There will be breakfast at 8:15 on Saturday and Sunday and lunch all three days. An awards banquet will take place on Sunday at the San Bernardino Hilton Hotel located at 285 East Hospitality Lane (off Waterman St.) starting at 6:30pm. Entry fee for the shoot is \$80 per day and if you pay prior to April 8, the fee is \$75 per day. Mail your check payable to **Cal-Diego PVA**, 3350 La Jolla Village Dr., Room #1A-119, San Diego, CA 92161.

The Redlands Shooting Park range is off Orange St. in a river bottom as you go north on Orange St. Redlands is about 100 miles from our SDSSA range and is a pleasant drive. Competition is open to all shooters sitting or standing. Any questions, call Cal-Diego PVA at 858-450-1443 or **Jim Russell** at 760-728-8081. There are flyers out at the range for your pick-up.

SHOTGUN RELOADERS SWAP MEET by Layne Kuhlman

It has been suggested by our SDSSA President that the members of the SDSSA Board of Director be creative in ways to entice our membership and their guests to visit the range during this inconvenient shutdown of our range. The thought behind the suggestion is for our range to be active enough to entice our membership to come to range thereby not losing sight of the fact that we are still an Association encouraging participation.



One thought is to have a “reloaders swap meet” where tables will be set up and all of us who had something to swap, sell or buy could have/share a table to display their items. This first, and if successful, every-other-month event will take place at the range on Saturday, April 4 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We are encouraging donations from the sales to SDSSA during this time of strife are encouraged.

This notice is going out in the March newsletter which should hit the website about March 23 and if you are on the mailing list, about March 25. You will be entertained (in your wildest dreams) by **Willie Turner** performing break dancing on station 8, field #5, **Jim Snow** playing the gut bucket, **Charlie Bover** doing a pole dance, **John Lumn** in charge of fireworks and **Layne Kuhlman** as the drum major leading the SDSSA accordion band. Come on out and join in the fun and bring your reloading discards. “One persons junk is another person treasure!” Autographs on request.

Mary Ellen Sieworth and her SCTP knights will be serving lunch. Proceeds from the lunch will go to the “alive-and-well” SCTP.

Should you have any other ideas that will attract people to the range, let me know your ideas. The more ideas we have the better for our mental attitude until we can get back to shooting again.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY MEMBERSHIP by Neil Vann

We at SAN DIEGO Shotguns Sports Association are in turmoil! We have been shut down by MCAS-Miramar for six months with no supporting evidence that they want us to reopen. Many of you have written our “leaders” both in the military and in Congress explaining our plight and frustration with MCAS-Miramar holding us hostage. Our pleas have no doubt fallen on deaf ears as there has been nothing written or verbalized that would give us hopes to reopen NOW. I hear folks defending MCAS-Miramar by saying that they (MCAS-Miramar) have bigger fish to fry and higher priorities. I say the squeaky wheel gets the grease and it is high time that we stop being a submissive tenant and become active in giving those who have the power to grease the skids to get out their bucket of grease and come to our rescue. I also say that we have about 700 constituent voters many of who are of military background and are as upset as I am about the inactive progress of MCAS-Miramar in solving our dilemma.



I had a phone call from an active duty Gunnery Sergeant in early March who is a Marine stationed at MCAS-Miramar. He was asking where he could shoot registered skeet as he wants to get in minimum targets in such that he can shoot on the Marine Skeet Team. I gave him an

abbreviated history of our shut-down by MCAS-Miramar and directed him to other ranges that shoot registered skeet. He was dumbfounded as to why weren't open even on a contingency basis. I explained to him that the MCAS-Miramar report deadlines were something that we had no control over and that the help that we have asked for by our "leaders" has not led us to believe that we do not have a real-time committed date for our reopen. I bid my good-bye to this disappointed and disillusioned active-duty Marine much to my chagrin. These are the people that we have extended our open arms with gratis practice shooting at SDSSA.

Now is the time to redouble our collective thoughts and requests of those in leadership; Generals, Colonels and politicians. As time continues, we become a less-and-less viable Association. We should let these people in power know that we are upset and why. We write them asking questions such that have to respond with an answer. If they don't satisfactorily respond to your pertinent question, write them again and again until they get the message. I don't suggest that we walk the grounds with protest signs but I do suggest that we put their feet to the fire with direct questions and positive action demanded on their part.

Listed below are those names which are due a letter from you, a concerned SDSSA member.

[U.S. Representative Duncan Hunter](#)

1870 Cordell Court, Suite 206
El Cajon, CA 92020
Phone: 619-448-5201
Fax: 619- 449-2251

[U.S. Representative Brian Bilbray](#)

462 Stevens Avenue, Suite 107
Solana Beach, CA 92075
Phone : 858-350-1150
Fax : 858-350-0750

[U.S. Representative Darrell Issa](#)

1800 Thibodo Road, #310
Vista, CA 92081
Phone: 760-599-5000
Fax: 760-599-1178

[CA State Assemblyman Martin Garrick](#)

1910 Palomar Point Way Suite 106
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Phone: 760-929-7998
Fax: 760-929-7999

[Colonel Christopher E. O'Connor](#)

Commanding Officer
PO Box 452001
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar
San Diego, CA 92145

APRIL**SAN DIEGO Shotgun Sports Events****2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	2 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	3 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	4 RELOADERS SWAP MEET 9 - 1
5 CLOSED	6 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	7 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	8 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	9 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm BOARD MTG	10 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	11 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm PVA @ REDLANDS
12 RANGE CLOSED PVA @ REDLANDS	13 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	14 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	15 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	6 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	17 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	18 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm
19 CLOSED	20 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	21 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	22 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	23 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	24 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	25 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm
26 CLOSED	27 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	28 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	29 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm	30 Visiting Hours Mon - Sat 9am-1pm		