



Peterborough Sportsmen's Club
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President's Column

by Rob Alexander

This month marks an important time in the life of our Club. The improvements on the lower clay targets facility will not only offer a substantial upgrade in the offerings of the club, they present the opportunity to generate substantial income in a relatively short time. This additional income will allow us to finance needed maintenance expenditures and facility improvements while helping to keep membership dues from skyrocketing. All members will benefit from these improvements whether shot gunner or not. We have received some substantial donations towards this project; we really need more. Anyone interested in donating any amount of money to help defray the cost of this project, please contact Jim Schmidt or myself. No amount is too small...or too large!

Some of the other projects we hope to address this year: painting of clubhouse and outbuildings, silhouette range improvements, long range rifle hut roof repair, clubhouse front door replacement, drainage in several locations, winter 2007 wood supply in addition to general mowing, cleaning and maintenance. Anyone interested in assisting with any of these projects is asked to contact a board member.

The Club lost a valued and appreciated member last week with the passing of Ron Rauer. Ron dedicated 32 years of service to the Club, joining in 1975. Ron loved all forms of shooting and spent much time at the Club he loved. His request that Memorial Gifts be made to our Club in his name is a testament to how he felt about it. We thank Ron for his donations and will remember him as an avid sportsman. Ron will be missed.

Activities Committee

A league organization meeting is schedule for July 7, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Club House. League teams will be randomly selected from the members who have signed up for the leagues.

Clay Target Field Upgrade

by Jim Schmidt

At the June 15th Club Business Meeting the members voted unanimously to upgrade the Clay Target Shooting facilities. The land in the lower skeet and trap field is low in the center producing a large puddle in the spring and during heavy summer rains. The field also slopes nearly a foot from left to right resulting in a swampy, crooked, shooting field. The landscaping is designed to correct both of these problems as well as the construction of a replacement trap house and concrete walkways. The current high and low skeet houses will be unaffected by the landscaping and every effort will be made to ensure that they are not out of operation for more than one weekend while the actual dirt movement is accomplished.

This is a substantial activity for the club and the club's budget will be significantly impacted. To reduce the budgetary burden, all club members are asked to seriously consider a gift of cash to the club. To date, the following club members have made donations ranging from \$50.00 to \$500.00 resulting in a total contribution of \$1,550.00: Rob Alexander, Thomas Bakewell, Jim Schmidt, Bernie Schneckenburger, Frank Smith, and Doug Whiton. Your contributions will help the club to get this facility up and running. Remember, your donations to the club may be tax deductible.

This clay targets shooting facility will provide the club with a badly needed income source. The income will allow the club to make the facility repairs and upgrades that are necessary for everyone's shooting enjoyment.

Trap Shooting Described

Trapshooting was first mentioned in 1793 in an old English magazine, Sporting Magazine. For many years, in Europe and America, live birds were used as targets, being released from under top hats by jerking the hats off with a string. These shooters were known as the "High Hats Club." Later, boxes were used much the same as top hats.

Toward the end of the 1800's public sentiment caused legislation to prevent live bird shoots. Over several years a progression of man-made targets was used. Many variations of glass balls, some filled with feathers, were tried. In 1880, a fat clay bird was used. With little change, this type target is still used today.

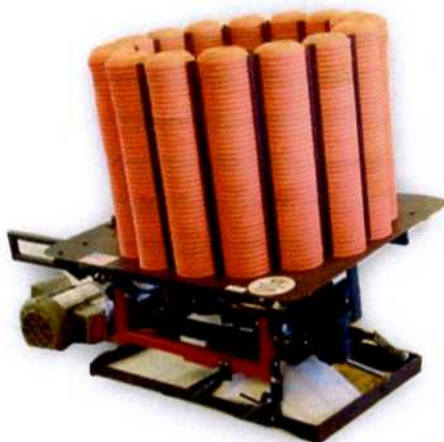
Cincinnati had trapshooting in 1831. In June 1900, 74 contestants competed in the first Grand American Handicap Trap Shoot. Since that year, the Grand American has become the largest trap shoot in the world. Every trapshooter wants to attend and win at the Grand. In 1996, approximately 5,000 shooters of all ages competed in the Grand American Handicap, shooting at 100 targets each during one day of shooting. The Grand lasts for some ten days.

There are three different disciplines in American trapshooting....

Singles: Each round consists of 25 targets shot from 5 different stations, 5 targets per station. All contestants shoot from 16 yards.

Handicap: Each round consists of 25 targets shot from 5 different stations, 5 targets per station. Each contestant shoots anywhere from 19 yards to 27 yards, depending on your ability and the shooting association's assigned yardage

Doubles: Each round consists of 25 pair of targets shot from 5 different stations, 5 pair of targets per station. All contestants shoot from 16 yards.



Today's state of the art trap machines are highly sophisticated and quite expensive. They are manufactured

to throw one target for singles and handicap and two targets for doubles. Pictured above is a Pat Trap made in Henniker, NH. It is completely automatic and no one is required to be in the trap house to set targets as has been required for over



100 years. The targets measure 4 5/16th inches in diameter and 1 1/8th inches high and comes in several color combinations for a wide variety of shooting conditions. Properly presented by a good trap machine, a target can be broken with as little as one shot pellet. However, unbroken targets may occasionally be found on the ground with chips from 2-5 pellets.



The trap field should be laid out with the shooter facing north to provide the best lighting conditions. There are 5 stations that you can see in the drawing. Shooters attempt to break 5 targets per station in singles and handicap and 10 targets per station for doubles. The shooters are standing at the 16 yard line and, depending on the shooter's ability, will be moved back in handicap along the walkway behind the shooters all the way back the 27 yard line. The target is released upon the shooter's command (pull) and will travel away from the shooter within a 44 degree arc and travel from 48 to 52 yards at about 45-50 MPH. The shooter must break the target before it hits the ground. Shooters are allowed only one shot in singles and handicap and of course, two shots in doubles

Registered Trap is a formal event with a set of comprehensive rules. Shooters at registered events must be members of a national trap shooting organization, such as the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA). Annual and life memberships are available to shooters. All registered shoots are sanctioned by the national organization and all scores are sent to the national organization for compilation and management. Shooting averages and handicap yardage assignments are controlled by the organization. The ATA worldwide membership is in excess of 50,000 shooters.

PSC Registered Trap Shoots have been scheduled for July 2, August 20, September 17, and October 22.

