

August - 2006



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President's Column

by Rob Alexander

As we roll into the latter half of summer we can take a look at our goals for the year and how close we have come to meeting them. Have we set the bar too high or could we have done more?

One goal we have not nearly reached is the formation of active committees to guide the direction and implementation of our various functions. These committees include Activities, Membership, Safety, Facilities, Budget and Communication. The Communication committee, chaired diligently by Jim Schmidt, has done great work; endeavoring to create a more efficient and timely means of spreading information throughout the membership. It has taken a fair amount of time and effort from the committee members, but I think they would all feel it has been worth it.

Unfortunately, few club members are interested in participating on any of these needed committees. The first step is to appoint a chairman to guide the group and keep it headed in a positive direction. Anyone interested in contributing to these committees is asked to contact myself or Jim Schmidt. Give some thought as to whether you would like to be part of the progressive growth of the Peterborough Sportsman's Club.

We have scheduled a work detail for Saturday, September 9, 2006. We will begin at 8:30 am with tasks such as collecting and stacking wood for the indoor and outdoor

ranges, replacing front door, painting, general cleanup and other projects. Your assistance is needed, for an hour or the day...anything helps and we'd really like to see some new faces from our 140+ membership help out with these tasks. Don't let the same 10% of the membership do the work for you.

The Shotgun Sports Facility work is progressing with the site work scheduled to begin any day. There is a need for some light labor, setting pad forms and pouring, finish grading and landscaping; however the timing is very spur of the moment as the site work contractor is fitting us in. If we can formulate a way to communicate the timing of our labor needs we will. Our email distribution list is a very viable means of accomplishing this task. Please consider putting your name on the list for this and other Club communications.

As we are all aware, none of our Club positions are paid...we are all volunteers... we have a serious lack of volunteers in our Club. The 10% doing the work will burn out if they continue to not get help. Where will that leave your Club?

Registered Trap Shoots by Jim Schmidt

Trap shoots have been scheduled for

- August 20,
- September 17, and
- October 22.

Support the club by participating in these events.

Winter Indoor .22 Caliber Bulls Eye Pistol League

by Jim Schmidt

For many years the club has had a team in the Winter Indoor Pistol League. This year, the club would like to expand the level of club participation in the league. A number of issues must be addressed to allow broader member participation. First and foremost, the Monday noon shooting time must be changed or augmented. In the past only retired or 2-3rd shift workers could shoot at noon on Mondays. An alternate shooting format of Monday noon or Monday evening would provide a broader opportunity for league shooters.

In addition to the league shooting, the club would like to provide pistol shooting training in the skills necessary for shooting improvement. A course of training will be developed and presented by club members who have demonstrated shooting skills and experience.

Contact league coordinator Karl Moeckel at Karl@bigtime.mv.com or Jim Schmidt at Granpy@gmail.com if you want more information about this recreational pistol league.

Skeet Shooting Described

by Bernie Schneckenburger

Skeet shooting is one of two major types of competitive shotgun shooting at clay targets. The other is Trap shooting, however Jim wrote about that sport last month so I will press on with a brief history and general principles of Skeet shooting.

This sport was invented in 1915 by Charles Davies and friends, all avid grouse hunters who wanted to practice bird hunting before the season opened. Originally live pigeons were used as targets but eventually the targets were changed to clay because they are cheaper, more reliable, and a little

more humane. That is the reason why today, the targets are sometimes called "Clay Pigeons". In 1926 a contest was held to name this new sport, and Gertrude Hurlbutt named it Skeet, which is derived from the Scandinavian word for "shoot"

Skeet is a recreational and competitive sport where participants attempt to break clay disks, launched into the air at a high rate of speed, while shooting from a variety of angles. The clay disk or target, shown below, is 4.3 inches in diameter and 1.125 inches high.



These targets are launched from a trap machine that is shown below.



The firearm of choice is a double barreled shotgun, however many shooters use semi-automatic or pump action shotguns with a great deal of success.

The diagram shown below depicts the general layout of a skeet field.

