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**USA Shooting News** is published six times a year, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. USA Shooting is the national governing body for Olympic Shooting sports in the United States. USA Shooting News is produced as a service to international shooters, coaches, officials, and media who cover Olympic-style shooting. Shooters featured in USA Shooting magazine may be photographed without eye protection. These are posed photographs using unloaded guns and do not represent actual competition. USA Shooting encourages all shooters to use proper eye and ear protection when shooting. Inclusion of advertisements in USA Shooting does not constitute endorsement of advertised products or services by USA Shooting, its staff, or its sponsors.
USA Shooting wishes to thank its supporting partners.
The USA Shooting website continues to make progress with the launch of our brand new web store on October 8!

Click on the “Store” tab at the top of the page of USA Shooting’s website, www.usashooting.org, or go directly to www.usashootingstore.com to check out the new store, which features a wide variety of USA Shooting merchandise.

We would like to extend a very sincere thank you to Kim Miller for designing and implementing our new online store. Kim is a former Marketing Coordinator for USA Shooting and began the process of building the web store before she left the organization last November. Kim volunteered her time the past few months to help rebuild the store and get it back up and running on USA Shooting’s website. She spent many hours of her free time working to make the store as user friendly as possible to ensure the easy purchase of USA Shooting merchandise. She did a fantastic job with the store and we are very appreciative of her hard work and effort in helping us get the store back online.

Be sure to check back to www.usashootingstore.com for weekly specials on select USA Shooting apparel and gifts, especially with Christmas right around the corner.

2008 USA Shooting Calendar

The 2008 USA Shooting calendars are now available! This year we took a different approach with our yearly calendars and decided to change up the look and feel by including unique photos exclusive to USA Shooting. The antique guns we have used in our calendar in the past have been very popular, but we wanted to showcase real USA Shooting athletes and guns to our supporters this year.

This year’s calendar was designed specifically to give you an inside look at USA Shooting; who we are and what we do. Inside the calendar, you will see some stunning photographs of our shooting team members who are taking aim at being the best in the world.

If you would like to give a donation and receive a copy or extra copies of the calendar, please contact the USA Shooting office at 719.866.4670.

Story Ideas & Photos

As always, I am looking for unique shooting story ideas and photos. Do you know of any fascinating human interest stories that may entice the media or that would make a great feature article for USA Shooting News? If so, please contact me in the USA Shooting Media and Public Relations office with your latest news stories. Whether you want to promote your favorite shooter or local event, have news clippings or exciting photos from your region or simply want to write a letter to the editor, send your information via email to me at media@usashooting.org or call (719) 866-4896 with details.
If you have been a USA Shooting member for any significant period of time, you have likely heard or read about the “Bunker Club.” The Bunker Club had its origin in 1998. At that time the trap machines at the International Shooting Park required constant repair and service. Coach Lloyd Woodhouse more often resembled a mechanic than the National Shotgun Coach. The replacement cost far exceeded the financial capacity of USAS at the time. As a member of the board of directors, an avid hunter and international trap shooter, Colonel Dennis Behrens not only recognized the need, but took action and committed to conducting a capital campaign to fund the replacement equipment at the Colorado Springs venue. Machines and gear were researched with a commitment and then finalized to purchase 60 Nasta target throwers, control boxes and microphones. The total obligation exceeded $180,000 which included a sponsorship as Nasta provided the equipment and installation at favorable pricing. The founding members of the capital campaign, which transitioned into the Bunker Club, were Colonel Behrens, Albert Menefee, Guy Avedesian and Dr. Steve Holtzclaw. Numerous gifts followed from the shotgun community to help support this project, but the heavy lifting was borne by supporters who became the Bunker Club.

Bunker Club membership initiation was, and remains, at $3,000, although most members have made additional gifts. Members were provided a life membership to USAS, a distinctive baseball cap and a “team” jacket. The full amount of the Bunker Club membership was earmarked to the “Capital Campaign.” The Bunker Club grew slowly as members promoted the cause and campaign to friends and associates. More members came on board through a hunting association with Colonel Behrens, who frequently takes exclusive groups bird hunting to Argentina and Europe and big game hunting to Africa. People identified with the U.S. Shooting Team, promoting the shooting sports and helping the United States get on the victory podiums at the Olympic Games and other high level international competitions. Through the group’s efforts, the financial commitment was met and our shooters have benefited from the excellent equipment at the International Shooting Park.

With the Capital Campaign completed, the Bunker Club did not dissolve, but rather recognized the ongoing need for funding USAS expenses and projects. Bunker Club member Paul Facchina has hosted very successful sporting clays fundraisers in Maryland to benefit our organization, with the most recent event last May netting $40,000. Others have continued to provide gifts and services.

USAS has long discussed the need to establish an endowment program. Such a program was initiated in 2002, however, USAS had to change its focus to preserving the 1996 Olympic Shooting Complex at Wolf Creek in Atlanta. As a result, the endowment effort was temporarily abandoned. The Wolf Creek efforts were not only frustrating, but fruitless as well, with Fulton County eventually converting the Olympic shooting venue into public safety administration offices.

The Bunker Club has again stepped forward in committing to raise the founding gift for an endowment program. To date the group has established a fund of $300,000 as a base for a $3,000,000 endowment dedicated to funding elite and developing athletes. An official endowment program and kick-off date are expected to be announced soon.
As recognition and “thanks” to the Bunker Club, USAS staff and resident athletes hosted the group for an enjoyable weekend in Colorado Springs September 21-23. Fourteen Bunker Club members and guests attended the activities that started with a VIP tour of the United States Air Force Academy and a reception Friday evening at the Hilton Antlers. Saturday included a VIP tour of the Olympic Complex, demonstrations and shooting at the Olympic Shooting Center, with lunch at the Athletes Center followed by the National Junior Olympic Shotgun Championship finals at the International Shooting Park and an afternoon of trap shooting. For those not electing to spend the afternoon at the shotgun range, a trip through the Garden of the Gods was offered that concluded at Old Colorado City’s annual art festival. The group experienced an excellent gourmet meal Saturday evening that was accompanied by a short business meeting. Trap and skeet shooting with coaching by USAS athletes was offered Sunday for those desiring to further hone their clay target skills.

The Bunker Club typically has one or two functions annually to enjoy each others’ friendship and discuss USA Shooting projects. While the group was initially oriented toward the shotgun discipline due to the nature of the original Capital Campaign, it is open to anyone with an interest in promoting and supporting the mission of USA Shooting. For more information and/or to join the Bunker Club please contact Colonel Dennis Behrens at 210-735-2373 or Bob Mitchell at 719-866-4899.

We would like to sincerely thank the Bunker Club for their support of USA Shooting! The Bunker Club members are as follows:

Guy Avedisian, Col. Dennis Behrens, Joe Bernolfo, Dr. Gene Bishop, Charlie Coble, Tom Dunkin, Paul Facchina, Michael Gallagher, Paul Googe, John Googe, John Groendyke, Robert Herold, Dr. Dabney Hofmann, Thomas Holland, Dr. Steve Holtzclaw, Steve Jeffress, Doug Jensen, Captain Carl Kilhoffer, Christopher Kinsey, Patrick Laux, Col. Gary Mahan, Tim McGill, Tom Nichols, W.C. Rasberry, Laura Revitz, Kinsey Robinson, Mona Robinson, Dr. Charles Rockwood, Lee Seeman, Calvin Sugg, Dr. Larry Trick, Judy Trick, Dr. Stephen Wilhite and Robert Ziegler.
This past September marked the 30th anniversary of the non-profit incorporation of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS). Headquartered in Cody, Wyo., FNAWS is committed to its mission to promote and enhance increasing populations of indigenous wild sheep, to safeguard against their decline or extinction and to fund programs for the professional management of wild sheep populations. Since its inception in 1977, FNAWS has raised over $60,000,000 toward this mission and goal of “Putting Sheep on the Mountain!” The main financial support for FNAWS comes from its membership, chapter activities and annual convention. Most of FNAWS’ funding goes toward on-the-ground habitat restoration efforts, reintroduction programs, habitat enhancements and research projects. It is an organization focused on the health and welfare of a very sensitive species. Healthy populations of wild sheep may indicate the future for animals like the deer, elk, antelope and sage grouse.

Disease prevention is a priority for FNAWS as disease is the number one limiting factor to wild sheep recovery in North America. Pneumonia, lung worm, sore mouth and pink eye are just some of the viral and parasitic diseases that bighorn sheep face. The main culprit in the spread of these diseases is the introduction of domestic sheep and goats to the natural habitats normally used by the wild herds. FNAWS works with land and game agencies to develop and implement regulations that stop contact between the wild and domestic species. FNAWS has been instrumental in preparing historic bighorn ranges to see wild sheep again. Their interest does not stop with the bighorn sheep; FNAWS works with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and state game and fish departments to ensure that all wildlife have a bright future.

In addition to contributing more than $60 million for various wildlife conservation projects, FNAWS is a leading voice for wildlife conservation in the political arena. For instance, FNAWS was one of the founding groups that started Ballot Issues Coalition. This coalition is a political watchdog group made up of the top conservation and pro-hunting groups or organizations. Ballot Issues aided the defeat of seven out of eight anti-hunting initiatives in the United States. FNAWS President Ray Lee is the current Chairman of the Ballot Issues Coalition.

FNAWS has also promoted the passage of many bills and programs. The Farm Bill now includes $3.8 million in conservation provisions under the Conservation Reserve, Wetlands Reserve and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Programs. FNAWS promoted the passage of the Transportation Equity Act that provides funding for sport fishing, boating safety, hunting and fishing access, control of invasive species, and refuge, recreational trail and forest roads maintenance. The $25 million Healthy Forest Reserve Program was also promoted by FNAWS.

In addition to its conservation commitments, FNAWS supported the passage of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. This act passed both the House and Senate with strong bipartisan votes, which was a historic event. This law prevents lawsuits against firearm manufacturers attempting to hold them liable for the criminal acts of third parties. The law was needed to protect lawful firearms manufacturers from frivolous and ill-intended lawsuits.

More at the state level, FNAWS has promoted and supported the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Act with its State Wildlife Grants Program. Since 2001, over $400 million has been authorized for this program which provides funding for fish and wildlife projects to each of the 50 state’s game and fish departments.

FNAWS aids conservation through education and international involvement as well. Grant-in-Aid programs help FNAWS to enhance educational opportunities for wildlife students seeking advanced degrees in the wildlife sciences. They also have established an endowed chair at the Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine to find cures for various wildlife diseases. Active in the professional wildlife management organizations, FNAWS works to educate wildlife professionals nationally and internationally.

Working internationally, FNAWS takes their efforts abroad to Canada and Mexico. It also represents international hunters and wildlife by being a representative in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It also oversees the International Sheep Hunters Association (ISHA) and their projects in China, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan.

To find out more about becoming involved with FNAWS, contact their headquarters at: 720 Allen Avenue, Cody, WY 82414 or (307) 527-6261 or by emailing fnaws@fnaws.org.

USA Shooting would like to extend a special thank you to Neil Thagard, FNAWS Director of Operations, for providing the information for this article.
USA Shooting’s Partnership with FNAWS

USA Shooting and FNAWS have enjoyed a partnership for more than five years, in which FNAWS has helped raised over $400,000 for USA Shooting programs through auctions and fundraisers at their annual convention. The relationship between USA Shooting and FNAWS provides benefits to both organizations beyond financial support. Attending the annual FNAWS Convention, USA Shooting receives great exposure to conservationists and hunting enthusiasts, while providing FNAWS members and convention attendees the opportunity to meet some of the world’s finest international and Olympic Shooters. USA Shooting has also worked with FNAWS to provide athletes for chapter events in addition to organizing special weekend events at the U.S. Olympic Training Center for one-on-one instruction with the athletes, coaches and staff.

During a recent “Weekend of Champions” event at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, attended by several members of FNAWS and board of directors, USA Shooting was presented a Bronze of the “Chadwick Ram” in recognition of our partnership. The Bronze statue pictured was created by FNAWS Life Member Doug Eck and depicts the record Stone’s Sheep that was taken in British Columbia in 1936 (also the ram that FNAWS uses as their logo). The statue has a plaque with an inscription that reads, “Since 1977 the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been ‘putting sheep on the mountain.’ Our efforts resulted in a four fold increase in wild sheep numbers in North America. It is our mission to enhance wild sheep populations, support professional wildlife management and promote the conservation of hunting. Our support of the U.S. Olympic Shooting team is part of our effort to encourage ethical hunting and protect sportsman’s rights.”

USA Shooting is appreciative of this gift from FNAWS and proud to display the Chadwick Ram in the lobby of the U.S. Olympic Shooting Center. It is our hope that by having this statue on display it will draw more attention to FNAWS, the mission of FNAWS and our partnership.
The points are in and two Olympic Team slots in rifle have been nominated. As a recap, the National Coaches for rifle and pistol proposed a different selection procedure to go in conjunction with the selection procedure that has been done in the past. The different selection procedure was first proposed to athletes and athlete representatives in late 2004, was updated several times and finally approved in February of 2005. This different selection consisted of an international match point system aggregating during the 2006 and 2007 shooting season. Matches used for this system were World Cups and the World Shooting Championships. In all, nine rifle athletes and three pistol athletes gathered points in this system toward the goal of being nominated to one quota slot (if earned) on the Olympic Team. If the maximum number of two quota slots were earned, the additional slot is to be competed in open competition at the selection matches held in the spring of 2008.

Per the official athlete selection procedure, Matt Emmons is now nominated to one Olympic Men’s Prone rifle slot based on his point total of 56. Tom Tamas was second in a phenomenally good battle for the slot with a point total of 51. Matt automatically receives an invitation to the Rio World Cup (the first in ’08) along with this leading point total. Additionally, Emmons is the only Men’s Three Position athlete to exceed the required 40 point minimum and is therefore now nominated to the Olympic Team in one Three Position quota slot. No other athletes have met the minimum required points total for nomination to the Olympic Team and the 2007 shooting season is officially over for rifle and pistol athletes.

Paralympic Shooting athletics are also making strides toward competing for the U.S. in Beijing. Danielle Fong and Joshua Olson are both MQS qualified for the shooting events for the Beijing Paralympics. The U.S. won’t know how many slots shooting will receive until the International Paralympic Committee hands down the slot allocation. Shooting slots will be determined by an equation based on the number of countries competing and athletes qualified per nation. Once the number of slots have been established, shooting athletes will enter the U.S. selection procedure. For more information on the shooting Paralympic selection process, go to www.usoc.org and click on the U.S. Paralympic tab on the left side of the page.

USA Shooting will be bringing more information on the U.S. Paralympic sport of shooting throughout the next year as we go through the process of incorporating these athletes into our overall program. USA Shooting and U.S. Paralympics are in the process of this incorporation with the finalization date on January 1, 2009.

Final selection dates for the Olympic Team will be:

- **Olympic Airgun Selection**
  - Colorado Springs, CO
  - Feb 29 – Mar 3

- **Olympic Shotgun Selection**
  - Kerrville, TX
  - Mar 8-16

- **Olympic Smallbore Rifle/Pistol**
  - Ft. Benning, GA
  - May 12 – 22

Programs and schedule information on these matches will be available on our website at www.usashooting.org.
Rod Jenneiahn is a well recognized name throughout the shooting world. His efforts and accomplishments have helped to grow the name of USA Shooting throughout the country as well as internationally. A unique volunteer to USA Shooting, Rod is actively involved in all international shooting disciplines.

Rod first became involved after answering an ad with the NRA for volunteers wanted. Rod was familiar with shooting, as he shot service rifle with the National Guard for several years. Rod’s involvement in USA Shooting and the ISSF has taken him all over the world. His fondest memories are as Chief Range Officer for Running Target at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and as a jury member for the 2006 World Shooting Championships in Croatia. Rod was also elected as a member of the ISSF Judges Committee in 2006.

A familiar face at the range, the ebullient Rod Jenneiahn is always keen to promote international style shooting. He actively engages parents on the benefits of volunteering and the growth of the sport. His happy-go-lucky nature has made Rod a favorite personality at any shooting event and we are pleased to recognize him as the 2007 USA Shooting Volunteer of the Fall.

**USA Shooting Volunteer of the Fall**

USA Shooting recognizes one outstanding volunteer each quarter for their dedication and service. If you would like to nominate an exceptional contributor to the growth and development of international style shooting, please contact Lindsay Brooke at Lindsay.Brooke@usashooting.org

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**Giving kids a sense of teamwork, competition, confidence. And the thrill of blowing little clay targets to smithereens.**

The Scholastic Clay Target Program is the fastest-growing youth shooting program.

For kids, it means the chance to be part of a team while enjoying trap, skeet and sporting clays competitions at the local, state and national levels. A great confidence builder and a fun way to make new friends.

For parents, it means peace of mind knowing that kids are learning important firearm safety lessons under adult supervision—while getting the chance to excel at a "grown-up" activity.

For coaches and potential coaches, it means giving back—sharing knowledge and enthusiasm in a constructive Little League way. Spending time with eager kids who appreciate your time and energy.

As just one of the many programs that prove we’re "always shooting for more", the Scholastic Clay Target Program is an important part of the National Shooting Sports Foundation and its efforts to promote the sports we’re all passionate about.

If you enjoy shooting, or have always wanted to learn, join us—new teams are forming every day. Call us at (203) 426-1320 or visit:

www.nssf.org/sctp
USA Shooting Spotlight Club:
Venture Crew 935

It’s here! The next installment of the USA Shooting Club Corner hits the press once again. This issue’s club not only meets the parameters we look at when choosing our Spotlight Club, but they also have an extraordinary story. This organization consistently hosts more competitions than any other USA Shooting club to date. Though their member base isn’t as large as it once was, this well known club director certainly has plans to grow the club membership base in the very near future.

Michel “Mickey” Brondum started Venture Crew 935 in New Orleans, La. in 1979. The name Venture Crew 935 can be attributed in part to the Boy Scouts and in part to an Artillery Battalion number from the Louisiana National Guard. Beginning primarily as a Running Target club, Mickey also held PTOs for Rifle and Pistol. In 1982 he gave up competing and quit the National Guard to coach full time. In addition to PTOs Venture Crew 935 has traditionally been the club that has hosted the Louisiana state JOs and has been an active participant in the grassroots programs for Progressive Position Pistol and 3P Air Rifle events.

On August 29, 2005, tragedy struck. Hurricane Katrina passed just east of New Orleans bringing with it Category 2 range winds and tidal waves equivalent to a Category 3 hurricane, flooding 80% of the city and its surrounding areas. One day prior to the storm hitting, Mickey and his wife evacuated the city. Traveling east to Mississippi, they took up residency in a FEMA trailer. On June 2nd of this year, they were finally able to move into their new home, which Mickey says is, “a work in progress.”

Not wanting his misfortune to hinder club participation, Mickey began transforming part of his 1600 square foot house into a shooting range. He has also started hosting programs at the Southwest Gun Club, which offered use of their indoor range. Truly an inspiration, Mickey Brondum dedicates one weekend of every month from September through May to host local PTOs for the surrounding area. He also allows kids to come to his range every Tuesday night and some weekends to

Continued on page 20

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After the Junior Olympic events in Bowling Green, Ky. concluded, USA Shooting Youth and Coach Programs hosted several events at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Three of the most notable were the State Games of America (SGOA), the American Legion Three Position Air Rifle Championships (3PAR) and the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Junior Olympic Development Camp and Coach Education Program.

The 2007 SGOA was run by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation. (www.thesportscorp.org). Over 10,000 athletes from 30+ sports enjoyed a great opening ceremony and several days of fun competition. We ran all 10 Olympic rifle and pistol events plus three position air rifle and progressive position air pistol packed into two very busy days. Over 70 athletes resulted in 125 event entries with a number of good performances. Charlie Reed and Tim Conrad headed up a fine group of volunteers and provided a great match as well as a unique opportunity to compete at the Olympic Training Center.

The following weekend, American Legion (www.legion.org) held their 3PAR Championships, bringing in 30 of the top young rifle shooters in the country. Dempster Christenson from South Dakota won the precision championship and one of the youngest competitors, Noel Maxwell from Kentucky, won the sporter event. Kaitlyn Martin from New Mexico won the coveted Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship award. Contact Mike Buss (mbuss@legion.org) for more information about their Jr. Shooting Sports programs.

The very next weekend marked the arrival of 10 shotgun coaches joining the Level 1 Coach School leading up to the SCTP Junior Olympic Development Camp (www.nssf.org/scctp/). Eighteen top SCTP athletes are selected for an opportunity to try the international version of the sport with coaching from the new Level 1 coaches and supervised by our National Shotgun Coach Lloyd Woodhouse and his Assistant N.T. Coach and super-volunteer B..J. McDaniel, along with several members of our National Coach Development Staff (NCDS).

Starting in late November, we will have several events that roll together. First, we will have a JODC for the top athletes from the National Junior Olympic 3PAR and Progressive Position Air Pistol Championships and their coaches. They will have the chance to stay on and shoot the 3xAir match Nov. 30 – Dec. 2. That event overlaps the first NCDS classes in our Coach College and Conference. New NCDS members will then teach Level 1 Coach Schools in all three disciplines. Concurrent with those, will be the Level 3 Advanced Coach Schools for rifle and pistol (note: we expect to have a Level 3 shotgun school available next year). The level 1 coach schools are followed by the optional American Sport Education Program Coaching Principles class.

The first day of the conference will be a day with the National Team Coaches and their assistants, then a day and a half of varied presentations and finally, the CMP State Directors meeting.

We are pleased to announce that the National Junior Olympic 3PAR and Progressive Position Air Pistol Championships are planned for July 11-19, 2008 in Kerrville, Texas at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center.

We hope to be able to offer a brand new, light weight, affordable junior air pistol from Air Arms for sale early in 2008. This pistol is compressed air and comes with an ambidextrous grip. It weighs in at about two pounds and is approximately the size and shape of current top-of-the-line models. An accessory weight on the rail helps the airgun to “grow with the athlete.”

USAS continues to offer subsidized coach schools for groups of pistol coaches interested in Progressive Position Air Pistol youth programs. Please contact me at bob.foth@usashooting.org or (719) 866-4881 for more information.

Two corrections from my last article: The Sporter Scholastic silver medal team, Ozark HS AJROTC is from Missouri, not Ohio. In the same match, the Central Crossing NJROTC team from Ohio edged out Buckhorn HS from Alabama in a tie breaker for the bronze medals.

2007 Coach College and Conference

The 2007 Coach College and Conference will be held at the USOTC on Dec. 1-9. Schools for National Coach Development Staff, ASEP Coaching Principles, Level 1 Coach Schools for all three disciplines and Level 3 Advanced Coach Schools for Rifle and Pistol are available before the conference. Please contact Bob Foth, bob.foth@usashooting.org, as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.
One of the questions I am frequently asked by shooters and parents alike is, “how does one go about making one of USA Shooting’s Shotgun Teams”? This is an important question, whether they are setting future goals or are just curious as to what is available in USA Shooting’s clay target programs. You can find the most complete answer by reading through USA Shooting Policies and Procedures. It describes in detail the various teams and their required eligibility. I will try to summarize those policies into a comprehensive form below.

**What are the teams that you can make?**

**United States Shooting Team (USST)** - This is the official U.S. Shooting Team for the elite male and female shooters who will represent the United States in international competition. It consists of the athletes who have earned their way onto the teams by their performance during qualifying matches. These matches are usually designated “SELECTION MATCHES” in advance of the international competition and are open to all shooters with U.S. citizenship. Juniors may also qualify for these teams based on their performance during these designated matches. The USST teams will represent the United States in the following competitions:

- **Olympic Team** – This team is chosen in the spring or early summer of the Olympic year and is based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection Matches, plus finals. The quota spots won by our country for the Olympic Games determine the number of athletes included on this team. These quota spots must be won in the two to three years preceding the Olympic Games.

- **Pan American Games** - The Pan American Games are held in the year prior to the Olympic year. This team in chosen as early as possible during that year and is based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection Matches, plus finals.

- **World Clay Target Championship Team and World Shooting Championships Team** – During the four-year Olympic cycle, the World Clay Target (Shotgun) Championships are held in the first and third years following the Olympic year. During the second year following the Olympic Games, the World Shooting Championships take place and include all of the shooting disciplines. Teams are chosen in the spring or early summer prior to the World Championships based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection Matches, plus finals. Each individual athlete must have shot a Performance Standard Score, Performance Score Individual (PSI) or Performance Score Average (PSA) by the time the final team is selected to be allowed to travel to these competitions.

- **Championship of the Americas Tiro (CAT)** - During the four-year Olympic cycle, the Championship of the Americas Tiro is held in the year after the Olympic year. This team is chosen in the spring or early summer prior to the CAT games and is based on the total score from the Fall and Spring Selection Matches, plus finals. Each individual athlete must have shot a PSI or PSA by the time the final team is selected to be allowed to travel to the CAT competition.

**National Team (NT)** - This is the National Training Team for the leading male and female shooters in the United States. It consists of athletes who have qualified for the team by their performance at the National Championships, the Fall Selection Match or as a member of the USST. In addition, the National Coach, with the approval of the Director of Operations, may select individuals based on their performance in the qualifying matches. Athletes will remain as members of the National Team until the beginning of the next National Championship.

**National Development Team (NDT)** - This is the National Development Training Team for the leading male and female (normally juniors) shooters in the country. It consists of athletes who have qualified for the team by their performance. Qualifying matches include the National Championship and the Junior Olympic Shotgun National Championships, as well as the Fall Selection Match. You can also qualify by being a member of the USST. Collegiate shooters may qualify for the NDT by their performance in the International portion of the ACUIUI Championships.

**ISSF World Cup Teams** - The National Coach selects athletes for World Cup teams with the approval of the Director of Operations from the current NT and/or NDT based on the athlete’s scores and Performance Standards achieved for overseas travel. There are four World Cups for men and women each year. There are no junior events at World Cups. Olympic quota spots are available to the winners of the World Cups held in the two years prior to the Olympic Games.

**Junior Olympic Shotgun Shooting Team (JOST)** - Every year this team is selected from those applications submitted to the National Coach after the Fall Selection Match, normally in November/December. To be eligible they...
must be 14 years old and NOT have reached the year of their twenty-first birthday. Applicants are selected by the National Coach and his staff based on the applicant’s past shooting performance, future potential, school grades and citizenship. The team usually consists of junior men and women for each of the trap and skeet events and junior men in the double trap event. Athletes are selected at the beginning of the calendar year and will remain as members of the Junior Olympic Shotgun Shooting Team until the end of the calendar year they are selected in.

I must point out that all International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) competitions are subject to team numbers and composition changes. For the most up-to-date information on the matches listed above, go to our website, www.usashooting.org.

I hope this brief explanation of USA Shooting Teams will answer many of the inquiries concerning the various shotgun event teams.

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MATCH PRESSURE

Kismaayo, Somalia 1993: I had a total of six months in the Army with three of the six spent in Basic Training. I found myself on a different planet. Within 10 days of arrival in Somalia, we started running missions. Always on the edge, it finally happened. We came under fire. The match pressure was on. I found myself taking actions without thinking. It was the training. I performed as I had been trained. In the military we stress training and repetitiveness, it gets old, but when the heat is on, you just react and perform. Repetitive training and overcoming pressure applies to our shooting world.

If you think match pressure only affects you, look around. All shooters experience it. The person who has never experienced match pressure has never been in a position to win a match. What is the dividing line between champion and runner-up? Both may shoot comparable scores in practice, yet one is invariably at the top of the list and the other always below. The dividing line is clear and obvious; the ability or lack of ability to control his/her thinking. Mental discipline is the key to overcoming match pressure. Some have learned to control emotions and anxieties, and then perform within their capabilities. Others, even with years of experience, pressure themselves out of the competition.

First, to combat match pressure, the shooter must find what causes it. Without knowing the underlying reasons, the shooter can never combat pressure. Match pressure is a condition created by apprehension and the uncertainty and anxiety that generally accompany apprehension. In laymen’s terms, the shooter suddenly comes to the realization that they are doing well and winning the match is now a real possibility. The shooter now starts to question their ability to maintain the performance level.

Experience is the key component in helping a shooter under these conditions. Long hours of practice and real world competition in tournaments against the best competitors will serve to gradually calm the emotions and anxieties under stress. The champions, in spite of their match nervousness, mobilize all their energies and resources and, on occasion, do even better in a match than in practice.

So, how can you control match pressure? First, realize that it can be controlled and actually used to your advantage. Individuals have learned to control their shooting to the extent that their match and practice scores don’t vary appreciably. Second, prior mental determination or a shot plan. This is the most helpful factor that is available to you. By thinking through the correct procedure for firing each shot, just before shooting, the shooter can virtually eliminate distraction. If the shooter fails to do this and approaches the shot without a preconceived plan of attack, the results at best will be erratic. Third, channel thinking to the more important fundamentals. The shooter must continually think fundamentals and mentally review them. Train yourself so that fundamentals are executed automatically, without conscious effort. This will enable the shooter to direct all mental and physical efforts toward keeping the eyes focused on the front sight and following through. This is where all that repetitive training comes in. You should eventually get to the point where you aren’t thinking about the little things. They are automatic. Fourth, work on each shot individually. Each shot must be treated as an individual task. There is no reason to believe that because the first shot was bad, the next one will be the same. Nor is it logical that if the first three shots were good, the shooter has a guarantee that those to follow will also be good. Each shot is a representation of the ability to apply the fundamentals. Performance will vary, if you let it. Remember, once a shot is out, it is out. It is in the books, so move on to the next one. Practice tranquility. Are you the person that loses his temper over a bad shot? With who are you angry? You are doing nothing more than admonishing yourself for your vacillation in the execution of a shot. Perhaps if you had worked a little harder on applying the control factors, the shot would have been better. On the other hand if you do everything within your power to produce a good shot and for some reason or another it does not happen, then there should be no cause for undue irritation. Although you must focus all your mental and physical skill

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ELEY Supports the USA Shooting Team

For each box purchased of the new USA Practice and USA Match EPS, ELEY donates to the USA Shooting Team.

Shoot the Ammo Our Athletes Fire and Assist Them in Their Quest for Gold

www.eleyusa.com
Welcome to the inaugural article of a running series in USA Shooting News. Through this forum, we hope to inform you – fellow competitors, parents, sponsors and friends – about your Air Force and discuss general topics of interest concerning international shooting sports from an Airman’s perspective. Join me as we take a closer look “inside the blue” at your Air Force’s Shooting Team.

Heritage to Horizon

The Air Force shooting team traces its lineage back to 1959 when General Curtis E. LeMay formed the U.S. Air Force Marksmanship Unit at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. For years, this unit was the face of competitive shooting within the Air Force and made significant advancements in research and development of firearms and ammunition. This commitment allowed numerous Airmen to win dozens of national and international medals. In fact, Thomas I. Garrigus, a member of the Air Force Shooting Team from 1965 to 1969, won a silver medal in trapshooting at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games.

Changing mission requirements and other priorities forced the unit to deactivate in 1969, but Airmen continued to compete with limited central funding from the Air Force. At present, Air Force participation in competitive shooting sports is managed as part of a larger Air Force Sports Program.

Air, Space and Cyberspace

When Airmen compete at local, regional and national shooting events, we are often compared to our U.S. Army comrades. Like the soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU), Airmen are uniformed service members of the Department of Defense. However, unlike the USAMU soldiers, the current Air Force Shooting Team is not a fulltime, co-located team and our members only travel to compete as their military duties – including deployments overseas – allow.

Shooting team Airmen represent a broad cross-section of a larger Air Force team and are highly trained in diverse areas such as leadership and command, communications, space operations, military law and flight operations. After each competition, Airmen integrate back into their units and continue to advance the Air Force mission. While shooting team Airmen are serious competitors, they are equally competent, dedicated professionals who bolster the efficiency and effectiveness of air, space and cyberspace operations everyday.

Like all Airmen, my teammates are also expeditionary airmen who are trained and equipped to perform their primary military duties wherever the Air Force needs them. Many shooting team airmen are veterans of Operations DESERT STORM, IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM and stand ready to deploy when needed. At the end of the day, each Airman’s primary responsibility is to their unit and its mission.

Mission Objectives

Marksmanship is an inherent military skill and the Air Force’s competitive shooting program demonstrates the Air Force’s commitment to the preservation and advancement of marksmanship. The presence of Air Force shooters in national and international competition enhances the image and prestige of the U.S. Air Force. As team members compete, they contribute to the Air Force recruiting effort through a public relations program.

The Air Force Shooting Program sets the standard for marksmanship within the Air Force. It provides an incentive for Air Force members to become more proficient with firearms in order to compete for selection to the Air Force team. Ultimate program goals are to place Air Force members on Air Force, Conseil International Du Sport Militaire (CISM), Pan American, Olympic and other teams representing the United States.

Making the Team

Airmen are competitively selected for the Air Force Shooting Team based on demonstrated performance in their respective discipline. Airmen train while off-duty and travel to represent the Air Force in Interservice, national, and international competitions. While individuals normally provide their own equipment and firearms; the Air Force provides support with training and match ammunition, entry fees, travel and other expenses.

Exceptional marksmen may apply for the Air Force World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) to train fulltime in their discipline. The WCAP is a two-year program that provides elite Air Force athletes -- who have already achieved world class status in their sport -- the opportunity to train and compete at national and international
One Final Shot

Although shooting team Airmen are supported shooters, they must acquire and polish their skills while balancing significant work and life commitments as a fulltime contributors to the Air Force mission and part-time competitors. When you see an Airman compete, remember he or she is an Airman first and passionate competitor second. We invite you to approach us to talk about the Air Force or other topics. Second only to our sport, Airmen enjoy talking about their career in the Air Force.

If you have questions about the Air Force in general, please visit www.airforce.com for more information. Until the next competition, the Air Force Shooting Team challenges each of you to focus on your target and pursue excellence in all you do.

Master Sgt. Julig is a member of the International Trap Team and is currently assigned to Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C. The views expressed in this article, unless otherwise indicated, are those of the individual author. They do not purport to express the views of the Department of the Air Force, or any other department or agency of the United States Government.

Maj. Michael W. Herman, Air Force International Trap Team Captain, won a bronze medal for the U.S. in 2006 at World Cup China. Herman (right) won his medal after finishing third behind Massimo Fabbrizi of Italy (center) and Manuel Silva of Portugal (left). Herman represented the U.S. at the 2007 Pan American Games and World Championships.

Lt. Col. Dominic Grazioli, a 20–year veteran of the Air Force Shooting Team, won his most recent World Cup medal in 2006 at Kerrville, Texas. Lt. Col. Grazioli (right) won the bronze medal for the U.S. finishing third behind Alexey Alipov of the Russian Federation (center) and Manavjit Singh Sandhu of India (left).
Intangibles

“There are no such things as intangibles. The so called intangibles are very real.”

Some time ago, a shooting coach and one of his student athletes had an opportunity to sit informally with a senior sport executive and discuss the topic of attributes that drive athletic success. We will call him “Bill” in this article since he spoke on condition of anonymity. His position is equivalent to a general manager or a vice-president of player personnel for one of the most successful teams in one of the major professional sports. He doesn’t want his competitors to know how he selects athletes! This article is based on that conversation and on a later presentation and discussion the executive held with a gathering of high level coaches from a variety of sports. All quotes are paraphrased from notes taken by the student athlete and the memory of the coach.

The topic of their informal discussion was the concept of talent and other attributes of successful athletes. Bill indicated that he and his team’s head coach do not look for “talent” nearly as much as they look for the so-called intangibles that coaches often refer to when looking for athletes. The saying at the opening of this article is a paraphrase of something Bill said in the conversation. The “intangibles” are real and he evaluates them. Why does he not look for talent and how then can he be successful?

Bill makes no secret of the fact that, years earlier, he and the same head coach failed miserably at another team. Why? “We talked about our core principles and the kind of people we wanted to hire for our team. However, we did not follow those principles and instead hired the biggest stars – the biggest talent – we could find. We said one thing and did another.” Big stars are flashy, but they often do not do anything for a team’s work ethic and improvement – critical factors in long-term success.

“We now look for people who constantly strive to improve themselves, people who want to work with others, who don’t sleep through meetings, who show up early and stay late, who go the extra mile, who learn how to learn, and who encourage those around them to do the same.” Instead of looking for the “best” athlete, they look for the “right” athlete. “We do evaluate the athletes in traditional ways (speed, agility, foundational skills, game statistics, etc.) and then do much more. We will spend three hours talking with a prospective athlete to learn all about them, both in and outside of the sport.”

“One’s lifestyle outside of competition really does count and good raising is a great foundation. Asking questions you already know the answers to helps to find out who people really are. Understand people, but don’t condone their bad habits.” It may seem odd to want to understand an athlete’s life story, yet this executive has found that doing so really helps give a sense of how successful the athlete can become. Athletes who come from a troubled past often have a troubled present and future. Those who come from such a background – often through no fault of their own – and who are among the few who take control of their life, turn out to be just as successful as those who had no such challenges. The implication is that, even when “life deals you a bad hand,” you are in control of how it turns out.

In talking about talent and superstars, Bill commented, “people are too focused on the trappings of being an athlete and not focused on really being an athlete. Everyone gets caught up in success. Don’t get caught up in everything, just do what is needed. What you were taught about sports, teammates, hard work and passion, when you were eight years old is what really needs to be taken seriously as an adult. Embrace the simplicity of it all.” Yes, this is how one very successful executive thinks his multi-million dollar athletes should operate.

Too many athletes just want to “make the team” so they can travel, wear an exclusive jacket and get their picture in a magazine or on a web site. Others care nothing of such trappings and remain focused on loftier and substantive goals. Guess who will achieve and sustain success!

Bill looks for far more than just upbringing and the athlete’s outlook. “You have to have a love and a passion for your sport. Preparation and passion are very important. Have a work ethic that matches your passion. Work ethic, work habits and being demanding of oneself are all very important. You have to be mentally and physically tough – be able to play through situations. Only the strong survive – not just physically strong but mentally strong. ‘Woe is me’ is a bad attitude to possess – you have to take control and take charge.”

He has advice based on years of experience that applies to any athlete at any level. “Positive and constructive self criticism helps keep things fresh and in check. Manage your expectations – understand where, who and what you
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“Winning a championship is much easier than maintaining success. Sustaining success is difficult. You have to understand and be realistic that you aren’t going to win every time. Create a team or individual athlete (depending on the sport) to be able to accomplish a goal or sustain success, whether or not that may or may not happen because of reality.”

In short, successful athletes and teams cut out all the “junk,” focus on learning and doing, understand what is really going, on and bring a clarity of thought to their training and competition. Success is about hard work, not raw talent. In fact, the “gifted” athletes with loads of raw talent have a handicap. Because they did not have to work long and hard to achieve a level of success, they have not developed the habits and mental toughness needed to endure long months and years of training required for ultimate success. Those with less talent and more heart have been forced to endure long months and years of training required for ultimate success. You have to have trust in your plans. No matter how much control you have over your variables, things can still happen.”

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a fit of depression because of a poor score, you will hurt your performance for the rest of the match. Preparing, planning, relaxing and care in delivering the shot with careful analysis and positive corrective measures is part of the system a shooter must conform to. Application of and faith in the system assures that the next shot will be delivered under more precise control.

With all of this emphasis on the positive approach, you are now going to get a big “don’t.” Don’t expect spectacular results the first time you try mental discipline. There is coordination of the fundamentals to be mastered. If you find that you exercise satisfactory control only for a short period of time, work on extending this period by practicing and perfecting your system. Remember that your returns are in proportion to your investment.

Bill continued, “Pay attention, work hard, be intelligent in your thinking and resist being easily distracted. Harness the same energy you had when you started the sport. Show willingness to work hard, don’t just talk about it. One has to have discipline! Development needs a lot of attention, especially at first. Sometimes you think you know everything about a subject, but you really don’t. Never stop learning.”

“Beware of overtraining. Breaks are necessary. Goals take patience. Expectations put more pressure on – manage them. You have to have trust in your plans. No matter how much control you have over your variables, things can still happen.”

USA Shooting would like to honor Venture Crew 935 for its extraordinary efforts in growing the international style of shooting and its contributions with their grassroots programs, hosting of local competitions and triumph in the face of adversity.

If you are interested in learning more about our Spotlight Club of the month, you can reach Mickey Brondum at:
3151 Chisholm Drive
Bogue Chitto, MS. 39629
or by email at mickbrondum@yahoo.com

USA Shooting News
November/December 2007
Competition Day Nutrition

In the previous two articles, we’ve covered the importance of building a nutrition base and strategies for recovering from the physical and mental stressors of training (and life). This brings us to the last article in this nutrition series—competition day nutrition.

One of the most frequent questions I’m asked by competitive athletes is what to eat the night before and the day of a competition. My usual response is “what have you been eating the night before and the day of training”? Just as you would never try a new aiming technique or firing stance in a competition, you should never try a new nutrition plan at a competition. Familiar is key! The “perfect” competition meal is always relative to the shooter’s usual diet and is not the same for everyone. Introducing an unfamiliar food or beverage during a high stress situation, no matter how text-book perfect it may be, usually results in some type of gastrointestinal discomfort.

In order to maintain that familiarity however, requires some advance planning. Foods and beverages offered at competitions are usually chosen by organizers based on customer taste satisfaction, not on performance enhancement. The steak and/or burgers and fries served may smell good and be a crowd pleaser (especially to spectators), but the saturated fats found in these foods won’t optimize a shooter’s performance. If your daily diet consists of burgers and fries, then having them on competition day will unlikely hurt your performance (but is likely keeping you from reaching your overall potential on a daily basis). What should you do if high saturated fat foods are not part of your daily diet?

Bring enough food to last the whole competition day. Just as in training, be sure to consume carbohydrate and protein at least one hour prior to competing. Hopefully you’ve gotten used to eating every three to four hours, so make sure you have enough snacks to cover the whole day. Equipment malfunctions, late officials and weather can all be factors in prolonging what should’ve been an eight hour into a 10-12 hour competition day, so plan for delays! Length of time between rounds will dictate when you’re able to eat, but use previous experience to guide you. If you’ve identified that it’s harder to focus during the third round or in the morning of the second day, be sure to fuel appropriately at those times. Peanut butter and jelly or lean meat sandwiches are quality meal choices. Nuts, trail mix, fig bars and fruits are excellent options to keep in your bag for snacking throughout the day.

In summary, competition day strategies should simply be an extension of your training nutrition routine. You’ll need to make slight adjustments for being at the range longer and bringing foods and beverages to last throughout the competition day(s). You have enough stress during a competition; make your nutrition plan one less thing to worry about!
Thirty shotgun shooters represented the U.S. at the 2007 World Clay Target Championships September 2-9. The event took place at the Nicosia Olympic Shooting Range in the area of Latsia, on the outskirts of Nicosia, Cyprus.

The U.S. team included eight Olympians as well as 13 returning 2005 World Clay Target Championship team members while the U.S. Junior team featured four returning shooters from the 2005 World Championships.

The first finals of the competition were held in the Double Trap event on September 3. U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) member Josh Richmond (Hills Grove, Pa.), the 2005 Jr. Men’s World Clay Target Champion in Double Trap, finished the competition with the bronze medal. Richmond had a qualification score of 143 and entered the finals in the third spot. He shot a 46 in the finals to take the bronze with a score of 189 after a shoot off with Great Britain’s Steven Scott.

Italy’s Francesco Daniello claimed the gold with a final score of 191, while China’s Binyuan Hu took the silver with 190.

Richmond’s USAMU teammates Glenn Eller (Katy, Texas) and Jeff Holguin (Fullerton, Calif.) took 17th and 29th places respectively with scores of 138 and 136.

Eller and Holguin were also members of the 2005 World Clay Target Championship Team. Holguin finished in fourth place for the Double Trap Men in 2005 and Eller, a two-time Olympian, finished 19th.

Richmond, Eller and Holguin have been dominating the podium in international Double Trap competition in 2007. Eller claimed the gold medal at the World Cup in Korea in April and Richmond took the gold at World Cup Italy in June. Richmond and Holguin also claimed the gold and silver in Men’s Double Trap at the 2007 Pan American Games in July.

In the Junior Double Trap Men’s team competition, the U.S. team of Justin Richmond (Hills Grove, Pa.), who is Josh Richmond’s younger brother, along with Jared Fodor (Centerburg, Ohio) and Bryce Gearhart (Freeburg, Pa.) claimed the silver medal with a final score of 383 targets. The team from Russia took first with a score of 393 targets, while the bronze went to Italy with a final score of 379.

Individually, Richmond, Fodor and Gearhart finished the competition in 13th, 14th and 15th places respectively with final scores of 128, 128 and 127.

The Women’s Skeet event was held on September 5 with Emily Blount (Tucson, Ariz.) claiming a gold medal for the junior women and both the junior and open women taking home silver in the team event.

Blount, who was the 2006 World Shooting Champion in Junior Women’s Skeet, captured the gold after finishing with a total score of 70 targets and a shoot off with Slovakia’s Monika Zemkova. Jaiden Grinnell (Port Angeles, Wash.) finished in 9th place for the Junior Skeet Women with 64 targets and Sally Coggins (Bogart, Ga.) took 11th place with 62 targets.

Three-time Olympic Medalist (1996 and 2004 gold, 2000 bronze) Kim Rhode...
(El Monte, Calif.) ended the qualification tied with three other competitors at 71 targets and won a shoot off to get into the finals. Haley Dunn (Eddyville, Iowa), a 2007 Pan American Games Gold Medalist, entered the finals in fourth place with a score of 72 targets and finished the competition in fourth place with a total of 95 targets. Rhode took sixth place with 94 targets. Two-time Olympian Connie Smotek (Bryan, Texas) finished in 21st place with a total of 67.

Germany’s Christine Brinkler won the gold in Women’s Skeet with a score of 98, while Ning Wei of China took the silver with 97 and Italy’s Chiara Cainero claimed the bronze with a final score of 96 targets.

In the team competition, Dunn, Rhode and Smotek grabbed the silver medal for the U.S. with a score of 210. China claimed the gold with 214 and Italy took the bronze with 204. Blount, Grinnell and Coggins took the silver for the Junior women with a score of 196, while Russia won the gold with 198 and the team from Cyprus took the bronze with 179.

B.J. Blanchard III (Vidor, Texas) claimed the bronze medal and the team brought home the silver medal in the Junior Men’s Skeet competition, which was held on September 6 at the 2007 World Clay Target Championships. The Men’s Trap Finals were also held on the 6th.

Blanchard took home the bronze with a total score of 120 targets, winning a shoot off against Germany’s Frank Dittmer. Blanchard and Dittmer were barely edged out by winner Anastasios Chapeshis of Cyprus and Marcus Svensson of Sweden who both shot a total score of 121, which led to a shoot off for the gold medal. Hunter Wise (Coleman, Texas) finished in 17th place with a score of 117 and Jon McGrath (Tulsa, Okla.) shot a 115 to finish in 22nd. The team of Blanchard, Wise and McGrath ended the day with a silver medal in the team event with their combined score of 352 targets.

In the Men’s Trap Finals, three-time Olympian Bret Erickson (Bennington, Neb.) finished the day with a score of 120 targets to place him in 19th. Lance Bade (Vancouver, Wash.), the 1996 Olympic Bronze medalist, finished 30th with a score of 119 and the United States Air Force’s Michael Herman (Dayton, Wyo.) finished in 66th with a score of 116. The winner of the Men’s Trap event was Australia’s Michael Diamond with a score of 148 targets.

Corey Cogdell (Eagle River, Alaska), Joetta Dement (Renton, Wash.) and Theresa DeWitt (Cincinnati, Ohio) faced harsh weather conditions during their finals rounds of competition in the Women’s Trap event on September 8. Severe wind conditions, almost creating a sand storm, made for a tough final day for Women’s Trap, leaving little room for error. Dement of the USAMU had the best finish for the U.S. in 27th place, with a final score of 63, out of a possible 75. Cogdell finished in 50th with a score of 59 and 1996 Olympian and USAMU member DeWitt rounded out the women’s team in 55th with a score of 57. Yui Lingzi won the
Women’s Trap title with a qualifying score of 66 and a final score of 20.

Vincent Hancock (Eatonton, Ga.) finished the World Clay Target Championships Men’s Skeet competition with a bronze medal on September 9. The Men’s Skeet Team also secured a bronze medal and the Junior Men’s Trap Team earned a silver medal, with two members finishing in the top five.

Hancock, a member of the USAMU and the 2005 World Clay Target Champion in Men’s Skeet, went into the final tied with gold medalist George Achilles of Cyprus and silver medalist Ioan Toman of Romania with a score of 123 targets. In the final, Achilles shot a perfect score of 25 to secure the win with a total of 148 targets. Both Hancock and Toman shot a 24, leading to a shoot off where Hancock was the first to miss, giving him the bronze medal with a final score of 147.

The rest of the Men’s Skeet team, USAMU’s James Graves (Laurel, Miss.), a four-time Olympian (2000 Olympic Bronze Medalist), finished the day in 39th, with a score of 118 targets, while 2004 Olympian and fellow USAMU member, Shawn Dulohery (Lee’s Summit, Mo.) finished right behind in 41st, also with a score of 118 targets. The team of Hancock, Graves and Dulohery followed Hancock’s lead, securing a bronze medal in the Men’s Skeet Team event with a score of 359 targets.

In the Junior Men’s Trap competition, the team of Max Jolliff (Fredericksburg, Texas), Richard Valdez (Canon City, Colo.) and Matthew Heck (Cimarron, N.M.) earned the silver medal in the team event with a score of 336. Jolliff finished fourth in the individual competition with a score of 116, while Valdez finished fifth with 115 targets and Heck finished 32nd with 105.


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World Clay Target Championships Team Roster:

- Glenn Eller (Katy, Texas), Double Trap
- Jeff Holguin (Fullerton, Calif.), Double Trap
- Josh Richmond (Hillsgrove, Pa.), Double Trap
- Shawn Dulohery (Lee’s Summit, Mo.), Men’s Skeet
- James Graves (Laurel, Miss.), Men’s Skeet
- Vincent Hancock (Eatonton, Ga.), Men’s Skeet
- Lance Bade (Vancouver, Wash.), Men’s Trap
- Bret Erickson (Bennington, Neb.), Men’s Trap
- Mike Herman (Dayton, Wyo.), Men’s Trap
- Haley Dunn (Eddyville, Iowa), Women’s Skeet
- Kim Rhode (El Monte, Calif.), Women’s Skeet
- Connie Smotek (Bryan, Texas), Women’s Skeet
- Corey Cogdell (Eagle River, Alaska), Women’s Trap
- Joetta DeWent (Renton, Wash.), Women’s Trap
- Theresa DeWitt (Cincinnati, Ohio), Women’s Trap

Junior

- Jared Fodor (Centerburg, Ohio), Jr. Double Trap
- Bryce Gearhart (Freeburg, Pa.), Jr. Double Trap
- Justin Richmond (Hillsgrove, Pa.), Jr. Double Trap
- BJ Blanchard (Vidor, Texas), Jr. Men’s Skeet
- Jon McGrath (Tulsa, Okla.), Jr. Men’s Skeet
- Hunter Wise (Coleman, Texas), Jr. Men’s Skeet
- Matt Heck (Cimarron, N.M.), Jr. Men’s Trap
- Max Jolliff (Fredericksburg, Texas), Jr. Men’s Trap
- Richard Valdez (Canon City, Colo.), Jr. Men’s Trap
- Emily Blount (Tucson, Ariz.), Jr. Women’s Skeet
- Sally Coggin (Bogart, Ga.), Jr. Women’s Skeet
- Jaiden Grinnell (Port Angeles, Wash.), Jr. Women’s Skeet
- Molly Bender (Montoursville, Pa.), Jr. Women’s Trap
- Breanna Heckenkamp (San Diego, Calif.), Jr. Women’s Trap
- Miranda Wilder (Longview, Texas), Jr. Women’s Trap
BANGKOK, Thailand (October 5-7, 2007) – Matt Emmons (Browns Mills, N.J./Fairbanks, Alaska), a 2004 Olympic Gold Medalist, captured the silver medal in the Men’s Prone Rifle Event, then claimed the gold the following day in Men’s 50m 3 Position Rifle at the 2007 ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup. With his second and first place finishes in these two events, Emmons also earned two nominations to the 2008 Olympic Team.

In the Men’s Prone Event, Sergei Martynov of Belarus was leading the competition with a score of 599 after the preliminary 60. Emmons was in second with 597 and Warren Potent of Australia was in the third spot with 596. Two-time Olympian Tom Tamas (Columbus, Ga.) of the U.S. was in fifth place with 593.

Emmons shot a final score of 105.7 and caught Martynov on the last shot to tie the game and force a sudden death shoot off. Martynov shot a 10.8, while Emmons shot a 10.2 to secure the silver medal.

Emmons earned a nomination to the U.S. Olympic Team for one of the Men’s Prone Rifle quota slots by earning points through selected international competitions. The second Men’s Prone Olympic team position will go to the winner of the Olympic Selection match in May at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Emmons shot a final score of 105.7 and caught Martynov on the last shot to tie the game and force a sudden death shoot off. Martynov shot a 10.8, while Emmons shot a 10.2 to secure the silver medal.

Emmons earned a nomination to the U.S. Olympic Team for one of the Men’s Prone Rifle quota slots by earning points through selected international competitions. The second Men’s Prone Olympic team position will go to the winner of the Olympic Selection match in May at Ft. Benning, Ga.

“Matt Emmons and Tom Tamas entered this competition neck and neck for the slot. Their results on the international match scene have truly been outstanding for the last two years and they have pushed each other to elite levels,” said Major Dave Johnson, National Rifle Coach. “The Olympic Selection procedure was designed both to select our top athletes for the Olympic Team and to better prepare our top athletes for international success. Both Tom and Matt have demonstrated the ability to succeed at the top of our sport and either could have earned this slot and contended for the Olympic podium next year.”

The following day, Emmons won the Men’s 50m 3 Position Rifle competition easily by a 15 point margin, finishing with a total score of 1279.8 points. Stevan Pletikosic of Serbia finished with a final score of 1264.1 to take the silver medal. Artur Aivazian of Ukraine took the bronze medal with a final score of 1264.0 after a shoot off with 2000 Olympic Champion Rajmond Debevec. Aivazian shot a 10.8 to Debevec’s 8.3 in the shoot off.

U.S. competitor Mike Anti (Winterville, N.C.), the 2004 Olympic Silver Medalist, finished the Men’s 3 Position competition in sixth place with a final score of 1261.7.

Keith Sanderson (San Antonio, Texas) qualified for the World Cup Final in the Men’s 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event and finished the competition in ninth place with a score of 569. Germany’s Ralf Schumann took the gold with a total score of 786.9, while Feng Ding of China claimed the silver with 783.6 and Russia’s Alexei Klimov took the bronze with 780.7.

The last day of competition included Emmons as well as Jamie Beyerle (Lebanon, Pa.), competing in Men’s and Women’s 10m Air Rifle. Both Emmons and Beyerle finished in 7th place with scores of 697.2 and 493.3 respectively.

Qinan Zhu of China took the gold for the men with 700.6, while Hungary’s Peter Sidi took the silver with 698.9 and Germany’s Tino Mohaupt claimed the bronze with a final score of 697.8, following a shoot off with Romania’s George Alin Moldoveanu.

For the women, China’s Li Du captured the gold with 502.2. Germany’s Barbara Lechner took the silver with 500.9 and Katerina Emmons of the Czech Republic, wife of Matt Emmons, claimed the bronze medal with a final score of 500.6.

Eighty-six athletes from 29 countries competed at the 2007 ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup Final, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand October 3-7.

The top shooters in the world were invited by the ISSF to attend the World Cup Final based on performances in the World Cup circuit throughout the year.

For complete Rifle/Pistol World Cup Final results, please visit the following link on the ISSF TV website:


Photos courtesy of Dave Johnson and Petr Kurka.
Approximately 200 junior shotgun shooters from across the country competed at the 2007 Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and USA Shooting Junior Olympic National Championships September 15-22 at the International Shooting Park at Fort Carson Military Reservation in Colorado Springs, Colo. The 14th annual Shotgun Junior Olympics were held this year for the first time in conjunction with the SCTP Championships.

“The addition of the SCTP proved to be a positive venture, increased the state participation by 60% and re-energized the Junior Olympic program,” said Match Director, Lindsay Brooke. “USA Shooting also saw a growth in membership by 250+ new junior members. This partnership has an enormous amount of potential and we look forward to working closely with the SCTP in the future to further develop this program.”

Participants were selected by invitation and the top shooters from each state competed for National Junior Olympic Titles in Men's and Women's Trap, Men's Double Trap and Men's and Women's Skeet.

The Trap finals took place on September 18 with Richard Valdez and Miranda Wilder taking home titles.

Valdez took first place for the Junior Trap Men with a score of 140 targets, following a shoot off with Matthew Gossett. Gossett finished second with 140, while Josh Cresswell finished right behind in third place with 139 targets.

For the Junior Trap Women, Miranda Wilder took the top spot with a final score of 134. Stephanie Martinago finished second with 125 and Kayle Browning took third with 124.

Jared Fodor took the title in the Men's Double Trap event on September 20 with a score of 179 targets, while Sam Lutz finished right behind him in second with 178. William Crawford took the third spot with a final score of 176 targets. The J2 Champion was Derek Halderman with 130 targets. Garrett Walters took second place in the J2 category with 126 and Ross Jarrett finished third with 116.

Ian Rupert took the J3 title with a final score of 115 targets, while Austin Thaggard finished second with 100 and Carl Collins took third with 100 targets.

The SCTP and USA Shooting Junior Olympic National Championships concluded on September 24 with Frank Thompson and Emily Blount taking titles in the Skeet event.

Thompson took first place in Men's Skeet with a total of 143 targets. Jon McGrath finished second with 140 and Thomas Bayer took third with a final score of 138 targets.

Blount, the 2007 World Clay Target Champion in Junior Women's Skeet, took first place at the Junior Olympics with a final score of 137 targets. Caitlin Connor finished second with 128, while Amber English finished right behind in third place with 127 targets.

Other top finishers at the 2007 SCTP and USA Shooting Junior Olympic National Championships include:

**TRAP**

**Junior Men**
- J2 First Place – Print Zutavern, 117
- J2 Second Place – Jake Wallace, 112
- J2 Third Place – William Slocumb, 112
- J3 First Place – Blake Carnell, 98
- J3 Second Place – Dalton Mitchell, 97
- J3 Third Place – Trey Hill, 97

**Junior Women**
- J2 First Place – Jaiden Grinnell, 100
- J2 Second Place – Hannah Lummus, 85
- J2 Third Place – Michelle Wampler, 83
- J3 First Place – Brandy Drozd, 78

**SCTP Individual**

**Intermediate**
- 1st – Blake Carnell, 118
- 2nd – Dalton Mitchell, 115
- 3rd – Michael Flores, 114

**Varsity**
- 1st – Print Zutavern, 137
- 2nd – Ethan Heiden, 134
- 3rd – Shane Slocumb, 133

**High Female** – Stacy Schroder
**Female Runner-up** – Janessa Beaman

**High Male** – Matthew Gossett, 140
**Male Runner-up** – Josh Cresswell, 139

**SKEET**

**Junior Men**
- J2 First Place – Nick Kimbrough, 112
- J2 Second Place – Thomas Coggins, 112
- J2 Third Place – Dillon McCartney, 107
- J3 First Place – Roy Chavalitlekha, 94
- J3 Second Place – Nash Porter, 88
- J3 Third Place – Luke Daffern, 72

**Junior Women**
- J2 First Place – Jaiden Grinnell, 100
- J2 Second Place – Hannah Lummus, 85
- J2 Third Place – Michelle Wampler, 83
- J3 First Place – Brandy Drozd, 78

**SCTP Individual**

**Varsity**
- 1st – Dillon McCartney, 129
- 2nd – Brisden Eaton, 126
- 3rd – Chris Haver, 126

**High Female** – Caitlin Connor, 106
**Female Runner-up** – Brielle Eaton, 81

**High Male** – Nick Kimbrough, 137
**Male Runner-up** – Thomas Coggins, 133

For complete SCTP and USA Shooting Junior Olympic National Championship results, please visit www.usashooting.org.
The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation’s third annual Oklahoma Wildlife Expo drew more than 40,000 people to the Lazy E Arena in Oklahoma City Sept. 28-30, 2007. “This was our most successful Expo yet,” said Greg Duffy, Director of the Wildlife Department. “But the success of this year’s Expo was huge on many levels. The people of Oklahoma came together for three days of enjoying our state’s outdoor heritage, and we did that in a big way.”

USA Shooters Jon Michael McGrath and Amber English, members of the National Development Shotgun Team were on hand to visit with attendees. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife has over 150 certified shotgun instructors. Many were on hand to introduce both young and old to enjoy the shotgun sports. More than 25,000 shotgun shells were shot at the Expo, and thousands of arrows were shot from bows at one of three archery ranges. In addition, visitors to the Expo’s popular Taste of the Wild booth consumed about 250 gallons of buffalo chili, 1,200 pounds of blue catfish fillets and 1,000 pounds of venison bacon.

The 2007 Oklahoma Wildlife Expo featured more than 150 activities and booths related to the outdoors, many of which allowed hands-on learning experiences for people of all ages and skill levels. Among the activities available at the Expo were shooting sports, ATV rides, mountain biking, kayaking, fly fishing, castnetting, bowfishing, rock climbing, bird watching, wild game tasting and booths and seminars related to hunting, fishing, backpacking, camping, mule and horse packing, taxidermy, wildlife and land management, nature trails, reptiles and amphibians, upland game birds and waterfowl, tree stand safety, Oklahoma history and more.

The event drew thousands to the grounds of the Lazy E Arena, just north of Oklahoma City, to celebrate what many Oklahomans know to be an enriching part of life in Oklahoma—the great outdoors. But perhaps Expo spokesperson and rising country
music star Blake Shelton explained the outdoor heritage best when he told the crowd at the Expo about his own introduction to the outdoors when his cousin took him hunting near Calvin, Okla., when he was only 14 years old. His cousin set him up near a creek and explained to him what to expect from his first hunt.

“About 30 minutes later a doe walked in to about 10 yards from me and changed my life, and I want all these kids out here to experience what that feels like,” Shelton said regarding how the hunting and outdoor heritage became a significant part of his life once he experienced it firsthand.

Experiencing the outdoors firsthand is what the Oklahoma Wildlife Expo is all about. The event is designed to promote and perpetuate appreciation of Oklahoma’s wildlife and natural resources and provide hands-on learning opportunities for all types of outdoor enthusiasts.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation partnered with a wide range of other state agencies, private individuals and outdoor-related companies to host the huge event.

Though the third annual Oklahoma Wildlife Expo may be hard to top, volunteers and Wildlife Department employees are already looking ahead to the 2008 Wildlife Expo, slated for Sept. 26-28.

USAS Participates in Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Expo

USA Shooting sent staff member and Olympic medalist Bob Foth, along with pistol shooter Heather Deppe, shotgun shooter Jake Turner and rifle shooter Matt Rawlings to the Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Expo in Casper, Wyo. September 7-9. Thousands of attendees had a chance to view booths and various interactive displays and demos, including the USAS booth where we handed out materials, answered questions and talked about our programs.

The athletes did great shooting demos each day, attended the banquets and shot in a fun media/celebrity “pentathlon” with basic equipment. Jake had some good chances to coach people on the shotgun field as well.

Photos courtesy of Stephen Webber and Mike Murphy

Recent News & Events

Dave Baskin to Retire from the National Rifle Association

On November 2, 2007, Dave Baskin will retire after close to 13 years as manager of the NRA’s Disabled Shooting Services. Under Baskin’s guidance, this unique department earned a worldwide reputation for its technical excellence and innovation, which resulted in many advancements for the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities.

Baskin came to the NRA after coaching the U.S. Wheelchair Shooting Team to an outstanding record of 253 medals, seven world and 16 Pan-American records in international competition. This record established him as the most successful coach of disabled marksmen in U.S. shooting sports history. At the time, Baskin was newly retired from working 33 years for an engineering firm that designed and built equipment for hospital critical care applications. Baskin helped to pioneer shooting programs inside of Veteran’s Hospitals, and in 1992, he conducted the first program at St. Albans V.A. Hospital in New York City.

In early 1994, Baskin began designing the NRA Rehabilitative Shooting Unit, which applies a precision air rifle as a tool for physical therapists to utilize in the rehabilitation of their post-injury patients. The unit provides healthcare professionals with a unique method of improving their patients’ refined motor control skills, trunk balance, concentration proficiency, breath control and self-esteem. The first unit was installed September 1994 at the Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Ala. International recognition for the groundbreaking unit came in September 2000, when one was placed in service at the National Rehabilitation Hospital of Ireland, in Dublin.

The NRA-Beeman Grand Prix Championship was developed by Baskin in 1996, as a precision air rifle and air pistol tour to promote awareness and respect for the achievements of marksmen with disabilities. The Grand Prix has seen 133 events in 27 different cities, located in 16 states and two Canadian provinces. Also in 1996, Baskin conducted the first NRA Shooting Sports Disability Awareness Seminar. The educational seminar covers such important topics as the early history of disabled sports and recreation, event planning, disabled sport classification systems, medical considerations, accessibility issues and the primary theory of adaptive sports equipment design.

Baskin was the first American elected to serve as chairman of shooting sports for the International Paralympic Committee (1996-2000), which is the world governing body of sport for the disabled. As both chairman and chief technical delegate, he presided over some of the largest disabled marksmanship events ever conducted, including the 1998 World Championships at Santander, Spain, and the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia.
Of all the NRA services provided to hunters, marksmen and gun owners, the opportunity to personally speak with Dave and receive confidential guidance on a disability related problem, would probably be considered the most important by many Americans. Over the course of thirteen years his calls have numbered more than 5,000 annually. The questions ranged from locating a specific type of adaptive equipment for the parent of a disabled youngster, to selecting recoil protection for a person with a recently installed pacemaker.

Many honors have been bestowed upon Baskin for his work with America’s disabled population. In 2000, Dave received the individual Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence Award, joining distinguished past winners such as Charlton Heston, William Ruger and Wayne LaPierre. Early this year, he became the first person from the shooting sports to ever be inducted into the Wheelchair Sports USA Hall of Fame.

For almost 13 years, Dave Baskin has been the voice of the NRA to the nation’s large disabled community. He leaves a legacy of successful adaptive programs and technological advancements for future generations to build upon.

As 2007 draws to a close, many people look for methods to reduce their annual tax burden. Taking action before December 31st can not only reduce one’s taxes, but also do much to assist their favored organizations. A few of the most common vehicles for year end giving are listed below. If we can be of assistance, please contact USA Shooting CEO, Bob Mitchell, at 719-866-4899 or by email at robert.mitchell@usashooting.org.

**Gifts of Real Estate**

If you have owned your home, a vacation home, acreage or a farm for several years, a charitable gift of that real estate can be especially tax advantageous.

The property may have so appreciated in value over the years that its sale would result in a sizeable capital gains tax. If given to USA Shooting instead, you avoid the tax and also realize a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the real estate. You may also consider a gift of your personal residence or farm, reserving the right to continue to live in the house or farm property for life (and, if applicable, for the lifetime of your surviving spouse). Through such an arrangement, you will be entitled to a current income tax deduction for a portion of the fair market value of the property.

**Gifts of Stock**

Now may be an excellent time to consider a gift of stock. Giving long-term appreciated stock to USA Shooting offers you a two-fold tax saving. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock. You also receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift. For income tax purposes, the value of such gifts may be deducted up to 30% of adjusted gross income, with an additional five-year carry forward.

**Bequests**

A charitable bequest in your will can provide significant estate tax savings while ensuring the long-term success of USA Shooting. We will be pleased to help develop proper language that includes USA Shooting in your estate plans.

**Gifts of Life Insurance**

If you own a life insurance policy that is no longer needed, consider donating it to USA Shooting. To receive a charitable deduction, name USA Shooting as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy. If the policy has a cash value, you can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift.

In addition, if the annual premiums are still to be made and you continue to pay them, those premiums will become tax deductible each year. Contact your life insurance agent for details on the simple process to complete a gift of a life insurance policy.
## Shotgun

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<td>Preliminary Tryout</td>
<td>Shotgun</td>
<td>KERRVILLE TX</td>
<td>11/10/07</td>
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<td>Club Rep: Deborah Barney Phone: (830) 995-5118 Fax: (830) 995-2169 <a href="mailto:redrose@shootingandhunting.net">redrose@shootingandhunting.net</a></td>
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<td>3088</td>
<td>2007 Florida State Trap and Double Trap Championships</td>
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<td>GAINESVILLE FL</td>
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<td>Club Rep: Thomas Baker Phone: (352) 372-0344</td>
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<td>TUCSON AZ</td>
<td>1/11/08</td>
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<td>Phone: (520) 144-8805 <a href="mailto:bobhicke@msn.com">bobhicke@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>Golden Bear Skeet Championships</td>
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## Pistol, Rifle

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<td>MORGANTOWN WV</td>
<td>11/2/07</td>
<td>11/4/07</td>
<td>Club Rep: W. Deal Phone: (304) 599-3902 <a href="mailto:u1b04062@mail.wvnet.edu">u1b04062@mail.wvnet.edu</a></td>
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<td>WCM Free Pistol Match</td>
<td>Wildlife Committee of Washington</td>
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<td>BOSENHURST WA</td>
<td>11/4/07</td>
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<td>Club Rep: Victor Alvarez Fax: (425) 481-6685 <a href="mailto:usa@wcmwic.org">usa@wcmwic.org</a></td>
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<td>SSA 2007 International Center Fire League</td>
<td>Shongum Sportsman's Association</td>
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<td>HACKENSACK NJ</td>
<td>11/6/07</td>
<td>11/8/07</td>
<td>Club Rep: Christine Forunato Phone: (908) 633-4453 <a href="mailto:tfstapleton@att.net">tfstapleton@att.net</a></td>
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<td>US INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY TRYOUT</td>
<td>Los Angeles Rifle &amp; Revolver Club</td>
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<td>SOUTH EL MONTE CA</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:la.r.smallbore@gmail.com">la.r.smallbore@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>USA Shooting Sanctioned Quarterly Preliminary Tryouts, Rifle and Pistol</td>
<td>Fort Bend County 4-H Shooting Sports</td>
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<td>Pistol, Rifle</td>
<td>ROSENBERG TX</td>
<td>11/10/07</td>
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<td>Club Rep: Dmitry Shityman Phone: (281) 499-0644 <a href="mailto:shityman.dmitry@corp.sysco.com">shityman.dmitry@corp.sysco.com</a></td>
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<td>Club Rep: David Pete Phone: (541) 504-4700 <a href="mailto:dwp5@iad.com">dwp5@iad.com</a></td>
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<td>Woburn Sportsman's Assoc.</td>
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<td>Phone: (781) 275-7233 <a href="mailto:wsa1333@aol.com">wsa1333@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>Western NY Air Gun PTO</td>
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<td>IL State Championships and PTO Open Pistol Match</td>
<td>Sandy Ford Junior Shooters</td>
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## 2008 Rifle & Pistol State JOs

Check www.usashooting.org for updated Rifle & Pistol State JOs dates and locations.

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