

Heber Valley Trap & Skeet Newsletter

August, 2017- 2-2

Members Meeting and Election

On July 8, 2017, the Heber Valley Trap and Skeet Club held an annual Meeting for the club membership. During the meeting George Martin and Dennis Olszewski presented information about the club business. George Martin welcomed the approximately 45 members present and accepted the 44 proxies. George continued with a discussion of the recent history of the club, the reasons for the annual meeting, future projects and how we plan to proceed in the future. The future projects include raising the trap field on the Practice trap approximately 8 inches. Realigning the Practice field to match the Practice house. This will bring the Practice trap in compliance with the ATA regulations. Future projects include rehabbing Trap Field 1 and 2 and relocation of the 5-Stand.

Dennis Olszewski then discussed our financial situation. A Financial Report was presented to each member covering the first six months of 2017. The meeting minutes have been sent to each member so we will not repeat the financial aspects of the club in this forum.

However, Dennis also discussed that it is the right of each member to have access to the Membership List, the Financial Report of the Club and any Meeting Minutes generated by the club. Speaking of members, there are now 130 members of the Heber Valley Trap and Skeet Club. We hope to have the total membership to 160 by year end.

After several people expressed concerns about holding the ATA Shoot and not making a profit, it was decided by a show of hands to hold the shoot in 2018 with greater promotion and sponsorship. We believe that this effort will yield more favorable results. After the meeting, Randy Thomson was asked to act as Tournament Director and he has accepted the challenge.



Following the ATA discussion, the election of Board of Directors took place. Because of the number of proxies, the tabulation of the vote took longer than was hoped. In the end, an accurate count was accomplished and the new Board of Directors is:

Board of Directors-

George Martin- President

630-842-0248 gbmartin50@gmail.com

Dennis Olszewski- Vice-President

435-729-0474 dennisol@comcast.net

George Gaumer

330-352-4712 gmgosu75@gmail.com

Corey Hardman

435-671-0706 coreyhardman71@yahoo.com

Dave Field

435-513-2144 field.davidr@gmail.com

Michael Lehner

435-671-6376 melehner@msn.com

Jeff Winterton

435-671-3945 deputy17@yahoo.com

If you have questions, concerns or comments about the club- contact one of the members of the Board and discuss what you think needs to be done. We would like to hear your thoughts. We know that we have some superbly talented people in our club who can contribute a great deal to the club. We hope you will help us by lending your expertise to move your club forward.

Very soon, although we do not have a firm date yet, we hope to begin rehabbing the Practice Trap. As I mentioned we must raise and realign the entire Practice Trap field. The field is 8 inches too low and the lanes are not centered and are askew.

Once the Practice Trap is complete, we will begin work on moving and rehabbing Trap 1 and 2. The trap

houses are being moved approximately 8 feet NE and the lanes are being realigned to fit the allotted area better.

We will send an email to the club email list when we have a better lock on the schedule. We will try to minimize the disruption as much as possible.

More News

Skeet Clinic

In July, the Heber Valley Trap and Skeet Club hosted a Skeet Clinic with Paul Giambrone as the instructor.

The following is from the Wasatch Wave article about the Clinic.

Heber Valley Trap and Skeet hosted a Giambrone Shooting Clinic on July 17 and 18 at the Big Hollow Shooting Complex. Paul Giambrone, a National Skeet Shooting Association Master Instructor, coached local shooter in skeet shooting over the two-day clinic. Paul, who hails from Louisiana, is currently ranked the #1 American Skeet Shooter, holds 19 World Titles and has been inducted into the National Skeet Shooting Association Hall of Fame. Heber Valley Trap and Skeet Club President, George Martin, commented "It is a tremendous honor for our local Heber Valley shotgun facility to attract a world renowned coach of Paul's caliber and to make this world-class level coaching available to the local shotgun enthusiast. Paul was extremely impressed with the beauty of our valley as well as our local club facilities. We hope a stop in Heber becomes a recurring part of Paul's clinic schedule for years to come." Local shooters participating in the clinic included: Greg Allen, Ed Brooks, Dave Field, George Gaumer, Corey Hardman, George Martin, Tony Mason, Tom Meyers, Chris Shearer and Jerry Strand. End Article.

It was great that we could get the best Skeet shooter in America and a World Title holder to come to our facility. We hope to have Paul back every year and we hope to present more events like this in the future.

Safety and Technique

Gun and Range Safety

Several of our members have attended RSO training classes and have been certified as HVGC Range Safety Officers. The RSO for the day will be the person wearing the yellow-green safety vest. The RSO will monitor range activity for any lapses in safety or errors in judgement by the shooters.

If you have concerns about any safety issues, please speak up. You can speak to the RSO or any Board member at the club. If you see a violation of a safety rule, as a good club member, please kindly but firmly speak up.

Loading Hazards

There are many hazards in and around the Trap range in addition to the firearms and shells. One of the biggest areas of concern should be loading the trap house with targets. If you have not been trained in how to load the trap machines get someone to train you before performing this operation. These machines are dangerous if not handled properly and can cause real harm. The things that should be covered are:

1. Use of Orange Safety/Warning Cone
2. Release of the Thrower Arm
3. Safe entry and exit to the House
4. Loading trap machine carousel
5. Rearming Thrower
6. Raising and Lowering the Traps
7. Changing the speed of the target
8. Changing from Singles to Doubles
9. Changing back from Doubles to Singles

Local safety rules

We remind everyone that snap cap usage is not allowed inside the clubhouse. In addition, we ask that you not clean your shotgun while in the clubhouse.

We continue to have new shooters show up at the club who want to shoot trap or skeet and who are first time shooters. An RSO or an experienced shooter designated by the RSO will watch over them until they feel the shooters are safe to be on their own. But it is also every member's responsibility to watch for any unsafe actions or movements.

Technique-

Ten Tips to Improve Your Clay Shooting - How to Hit More Clays! by Mike Yardley



Rule 1: KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BIRD - In the context of shot-gunning vision is a skill. We have to train our eyes to *sustain* fine focus on a moving object: it is not as natural an ability as you may think. It requires discipline and practice. As an aid to consistent visual contact look for the ridges on the target, or any reflected light that may be visible on its surface.

Rule 2: as Lord Walsingham famously noted: **DON'T CHECK** - In other words do not stop your swing. Many clay busters do not finish the shot well. They take the head off the stock too early and the result as the gun rises and stops is almost always a miss over the top and behind. This leads us directly to

Rule 3: KEEP YOUR WEIGHT WELL FORWARD AND YOUR HEAD ON THE STOCK - This will encourage a fluent, unchecked, swing. Don't bend forward or stick your bottom out. Keep the back straight and bring the weight on to the ball of the front foot.

Rule 4: BE POSITIVE - A confident mental attitude encourages a good stance, good vision and a good follow through as well as an expectation of success. Hesitation or anxiety, on the other hand, brings the weight and focus back and causes the gun to stop. You have far more to gain by maintaining a positive attitude when clay shooting than by worrying neurotically about choke/gun/cartridges.

Rule 5: therefore is **CUT THE CLUTTER** - Focus only on those simple things that will help you and forget all the distractions.



Rule 6: KEEP YOUR SHOULDER LEVEL AS YOU SWING - Many drop a shoulder because they are standing poorly in relation to the target. The upper body should move like a tank turret. This takes us to

Rule 7: USE YOUR FRONT ARM WELL AND MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO CONTROL

THE TIP OF THE GUN - Good shots always seem to shoot with a graceful economy of movement. They use the gun like a wand.

Rule 8: DEVELOP A ROUTINE AND STICK TO IT - Stand towards the spot where you want to kill the bird (so that one unwinds into the bird), bring the gun back to the place where you first see the target *clearly* (where you first achieve fine focus) and direct your eyes into the zone where you see it as a *blur*. Before calling for the bird, visualise a kill in your mind's eye.

Rule 9: CALL FOR THE BIRD AS YOU MEAN TO SHOOT IT - If you call for the bird in a hesitant manner you are likely to shoot it in the same way. Similarly, if you squawk 'PULL!!!!' you are unlikely to perform with finesse. The call should be smooth and confident.

Rule 10: (skeet and sporting): **SHOOT EVERY BIRD WITH GOOD TIMING** - For gun down shooting, one should always shoot to three beats - one:two: threeee - changing the tempo according to the target. Far too many sporting shots shoot to two beats, bringing the gun to the shoulder too fast and then slashing wildly at the target. **DON'T RUSH!**

Let us now briefly consider the different disciplines. **Sporting:** the variation in lead required from stand to stand can cause major problems. Most targets (including very slow birds) are usually missed behind, but quartering birds and rabbits may often be missed in front. If you are unsure about lead, consider the distance to the bird. If it is crossing 40 yards away you probably need to be something in the region of 8 feet in front, more if it is very fast (as midis and battues tend to be). I do not usually advise looking for lead deliberately inside 30-35 yards. It is better to rely on natural hand to eye co-ordination. Timing is always important, everything should be shot to three beats with your eyes riveted to the bird. Use the cage to maximum advantage and stand to favour the harder

bird if there is not time to move the feet. Never start with the gun muzzles above the line of the bird.

Skeet shooters can develop a very specific routine because they know that the birds will be presented within the rules. Do not hold the muzzles of the gun too low on High 1. Do not wind too far back on High 2 (the shot is best taken 'on the front edge' over the centre peg). The pair on 4 should always be taken smoothly. Brush the first bird out of the air then the other. On the pairs stand to favour the second bird. On Low 6, as with High 2, be careful not to take the gun too far back. Don't be hurried on any station. Set your own pace.

Trap shooters should pay particular attention to their gun fit. They should always relate their stance to the central marker (my simple system is to point the leading foot to the marker from every position on DTL) and they should experiment with different hold positions. If targets are coming out low, a low hold will make them much easier. Similarly, a high hold may make high rising birds easier. Again, do not rush. Always let your eyes - which should look about 6 feet in front of the trap house in anticipation of the target - dictate the speed of shooting. Focus, then move. I do not advise looking for lead deliberately on any trap bird, trust your eyes.

Shoot Often, Shoot Well