

## MINNESOTA TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION 2014 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

### JAMES (JIM) FETZIK



"I never imagined I would be inducted into the Hall of Fame. It is such an honor." Jim Fetzik started at the age of thirteen by loading, throwing, and scoring for the Hibbing Trapshooting Club. "Dr. Richard Moyer took me aside and let me shoot my Winchester model 21 side by side, in a 16 gauge. I was the only kid at our gun club that had to opportunity to shoot." Jim worked at the Hibbing Trapshooting Club from 1969-1974.

Jim's love for the shooting sports started as a young boy, and has continued throughout his life. He has been a member of Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association since 1985, and has helped with the "Youth Days" for the last twelve years. In 2005, during one of the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association Youth Days, Jim found out that his son, Nik, had a natural talent for trapshooting. This rekindled his memories of when he was a boy, and led him to become an active member once again at the Hibbing Trapshooting Club. Jim stated, "Having the opportunity to participate and share memories of trapshooting with my son is one of the best feelings a father can have." This experience with his son was why Jim

became the Hibbing Youth Trapshooting Coach.

Jim started the youth shooting program with just three kids. Trying to boost the young kids' confidence, Jim took the young shooter's picture and posted it up at the Hibbing Trapshooting Club with a caption saying, "Future State Trapshooting Champions." Five years later, all three of Jim's beginning shooters lived up to the caption, and are Minnesota State Trapshooting Champions. Jim has coached five Minnesota State Champions, and every year his "kids" have placed during the Minnesota AIM Team Championships. When asked what his favorite thing about being a trapshooting coach, Jim answers, "When the kids break their first target; to see that smile from ear to ear when they figure out they can do this." When asked what his highlight of his coaching career, Jim responds, "When all three of my shooters ran 100 straight in Monticello on the same day."

Jim is an incredible coach. He not only loves to share his knowledge of shooting and develops great shooters, but he also develops the athlete's shooting ethics. Jim knows his athletes personally, not just by their name. Jim calls his athletes his "kids", and does not squad them based strictly upon their scores. He squads his athletes based on if they would work well together as a whole. He provides positive words of encouragement and moral support. Jim's best known attribute coming from his athletes is his willingness to give up his personal time to help his shooters. Jim is always "only a phone call away."

Besides coaching, Jim would describe himself as an avid fisherman and deer hunter. He loves to spend time with his German Shorthaired Pointer, Belle ("Pookie"). Jim became a certified NRA and ATA Level 1 Shotgun Coach, and a Minnesota State Firearm Safety Instructor in 2008. Along with being the Hibbing Youth Trapshooting Coach, Jim continues to teach firearm safety every spring and fall.

*Written by Rachel & Pete Stoddards*

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### TROY HAVERLY



"I'm always trying to make myself a better shooter and that takes a lot of hard work and practice." This sentence sums up Troy Haverly's character—hard work, practice and, above all, dedication towards his goals—whether in his own shooting career or when coaching others.

Troy started his career at 12 years old as a puller at the Eagle Lake Gun Club (Willmar) and getting paid in rounds of trap. As a youngster he shot so much that he wore out two guns! In 1976, Pat Laib took Troy to his first ATA shoot at Le Suerr Gun Club and, while it was a miserably cold and windy day, he broke an 82 and was hooked!

Troy shot wherever his dad, Del, took him and by the age of 16 he started shooting a lot of targets and winning trophies. The 1978 State Shoot was very successful for Troy, winning several trophies including the MTA Singles Junior Championship, and he traveled to the Grand that year as well. After high school graduation there wasn't a lot of time or money to shoot but Troy found a way to participate in the Minnesota State Shoot each year. While he had always been around and involved in trapshooting he didn't become seriously about it until the early 1990's and began going to bigger shoots. In 1997 Troy started going to Iowa and in 1998 began attending the Grand, and has missed only one year since!

Highlights of Troy's shooting career include Grand American 2003, Class Championship AA Champion, 2004 Clay Target Championship AAA 3rd, upsetting South Dakota in the National Championship Team competition in 2011, being on the cover of Trap & Field magazine after winning the 2011 Heartland Grand Handicap Championship, and especially winning the Minnesota State Shoot HOF AAA Championships in 2012 & 2013. "That was a big deal for me," Troy stated. "I had won a lot at State but nothing big until then."

One of the biggest and most difficult accomplishments to achieve was, after 24 years of being a one-eyed shooter, committing to becoming two-eyed shooter. It took Troy until 2009 to do it—8 years of frustration and practice, hard work and dedication to succeed. Troy also states that he is not a natural shot, just a shooter, "who's been able to do okay because I work at it, I experiment. If I didn't practice a lot I wouldn't do as well."

Troy maintains that, while winning is good, the friendships he has made are the best thing about trapshooting. One of his gifts is making people become better shooters and, through his experience and years of shooting, is able to see what another shooter needs to do to make them better. Troy states, "I don't care if they beat me, if gives me such joy to help them do better!" Helping people get through issues, whether in shooting or in life, is Troy's goal.

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*Written by Sally Stevens with Troy Haverly*