

Around the ATA

January 2019

Greetings from the North Star State! It has been unseasonably cold in late November as I write this and hopefully when you read this column in the January issue it will at least be normal, even though early January in Minnesota is no walk on the beach. In my October column I promised to tell you the story of Chantelle Merchlewitz winning the \$40,000 Krieghoff at the Hall of Fame banquet. Jacque Snellenberg, writing for *Trapshooting USA* did such a good job of describing what happened that I contacted her about using her recollection of the events of Tuesday, August 7th at the end of the HOF banquet. As Jacque describes it, along with some of my embellishment:

The last thing on the docket for the night was to give away the Krieghoff K-80 Special Combo with commemorative engraving and wood upgrade to benefit the HOF Building Fund. Jerry Williams of the HOF Board of Trustees and the MC for the evening announced Chantelle Merchleitz. She wasn't present so Gerry called the number listed on the winning ticket and put her on speaker phone. The first time it was answered and Gerry asked for Chantelle, he was told (by Bernie) "she died in a horrible car accident. Don't call back." (Laughter erupted at this point.) Not to be deterred, he tried again and got Chantelle this time only to have her tell him that she couldn't believe someone from Arizona was calling her and said that she didn't enter in any raffle. At this point, our own Troy Haverly, who was shooting with Bernie during the Grand, came to the podium and asked Gerry if he could talk to her in an effort to convince Chantelle it was a legitimate call. Troy did convince her that it was all true. What none of us knew at that point was that Bernie and Chantelle had been receiving prank calls the previous week. The reason she didn't recognize the raffle is that Bernie had bought the ticket and put her name on the ticket, because she was luckier than he in the raffles. It definitely worked out well for both of them and the entertainment value for the audience was priceless!

Speaking of raffles, we received our supply of 2019 Gun Club Fund raffle tickets. The grand prize is a HT RS Trap Combo. Proceeds from the raffle go to benefit the ATA Gun Club Fund. This money is distributed to gun clubs in each zone (that apply and are selected) to benefit programs at the local clubs. Tickets are \$20. Please consider purchasing a ticket to support this worthwhile cause. Dean Walker, Pete Walker, Randy Jones, or I will have tickets available for purchase next summer.

Sad news was received that Ken Koester passed away on October 11th. Ken was a real outdoorsman and an avid trapshooter and was a positive influence on many young shooters in northeastern Minnesota.

Remember that even though it is winter time in this part of the world, jackpot shooting continues. Minneapolis Gun Club on Saturdays, Buffalo Gun Club on Sundays, Minnesota Sportsman's Club in Zimmerman on Sundays and Del-Tone Luth also on Sundays. Go to the Minnesota

Trapshooters Association web site for more information about the jackpots or contact information for the clubs.

Finally on a personal note, about the time you receive this issue of Trap and Field, I will be traveling to Anchorage and then flying 700 miles out in the Bering Sea on a sea duck hunt. If you believe some of my nay saying friends, this will be the last that you ever hear from me, but I plan on returning safe and sound with many tales of the trip. You can always contact me at 507-456-2000 or at ptcyr54@gmail.com.

Until next time, Paul T. Cyr for ATA Delegate Dean Walker