

ATA DELEGATE REPORT
APRIL 2014
Mark Stevens, Minnesota

Spring is here and with it has come spring fever. While winter is slow to release its grip on the north country, the sun is promising better days ahead. We have literally lost feet of snow so far and the geese and migrant birds are pouring northward every day. Rivers are opening slowly and lakes will be soon, hopefully in time for opener mid-May!

The trap guns are oiled, shells are being purchased by the hundreds and thousands of cases, and target deliveries are expected at local gun clubs soon. Brave clubs such as Minneapolis, Alexandria, Buffalo, Beaverbrook and Metro are still throwing Jackpot Shoots. Spring league signups are going on in clubs all across the state, with many leagues starting in 2 or 3 weeks. WINTER, you may as well give up! You tried to break us, but you have failed, so beat it!

Buffalo, Beaverbrook, Alexandria and Waseca all have early shoots in April, followed by what some of us call 'the shooting season' in the early weeks of May. Alexandria and Beaverbrook both host event shoots on April 26th and 27th. Alex calls theirs the "Spring Opener". I saw pictures of this club a few weeks ago and, unless a miracle happens, spring opener up there will be in August as they have snow over 8 to 10 feet high in their parking lots. Good luck Tom and Cindy Townsend and all your crew! May 3rd, Buffalo has the Stampede shoot followed by Marathons on the 4th. Deltone-Luth has the Victor Memorial Shoot on May 4th with a Piggyback Minnesota Youth Shotgun Association (mySA) youth chain shoot at the same location. This will be the first of five youth-only chain shoots with the others held at Waverly on May 10th, St. Michael (Crow River) May 17th, Park Gun Club May 24th and ending with Watertown on June 1st.

A call to Minnesota Youth Shooters!

Park Gun Club (Orono) has been gracious enough to allow the Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot to hold a registered youth-only shoot again at their location. The very first youth chain shoot was run at this club in 2007. Dave and Kristi Vice assisted in running the very first shoot, together with Mark Stevens, for youth only ATA registered shooting in Minnesota. Thus began the event which has been held in 5 or 6 locations every year since. Although Park Gun Club was no longer throwing registered targets, Dave and the board of directors agreed to allow Mark the opportunity to throw ATA targets for youth. Dave was an instrumental part and the shoot was a big success. Dave is currently fighting off a very serious illness. We want to remember his part in this endeavor and will honor him at this return shoot to their club, on the 24th of May at 8:00am. **If you have a youth shooter, we ask that you join us at our shoot at Park Gun Club.** It is an ATA registered shoot so you would have to join the ATA if you are not already a member. The membership is free to new youth members and discounted for adults in Minnesota as the Minnesota Trapshooting Association will pay or supplement your membership fee for the first year.

Our largest youth chain shoot has been 74 so far at a single event. We hope we can beat that number on this shoot by a few hundred more. The Minnesota Shotgun Association and the Minnesota Youth Chain shoot do not take revenue from these shoots. All revenue from these shoots stay with the club, with mySA doing all the administration, providing all trophies, and forwarding paperwork and daily fees for the MTA and ATA. We are our own ATA club but we travel to different locations, essentially renting a club for a day! Trophies are provided by the Minnesota Youth Shotgun Association and its very

gracious donors, including very generous financial support from past-ATA President Neil Winston. Please come celebrate youth registered shooting and help us, on this heart-warming day, in honoring David Vice and the Park Gun Club for their support of youth shooting. Dave has given many hundreds of hours to youth mentorship and instructions over the years. Let's pay him back with this appreciation shoot. For more information on ATA registered youth-only shoots in Minnesota visit www.minnesotaysa.org.

The Minnesota Youth Shotgun Association is also collecting silent and live auction items for this year's Minnesota State Shoot Youth Fundraiser. If you have any items to donate, please contact me. All cash and item donations will receive a tax-deductible donation form, with 100% of all funds raised supporting youth shooting in Minnesota! Thank you in advance for considering supporting this great fundraiser to keep youth registered shooting alive and growing in Minnesota.

Good luck and good shooting!

Mark Stevens
MN ATA Delegate