

ATA DELEGATE REPORT
FEBRUARY 2016
Mark Stevens, Minnesota

Minnesota is miserably cold this morning, with wind chills in the -40's in parts of the state. Normal temperatures will be more than welcome right now. Jackpot shoots are typically not held with wind chills below zero degrees although there are a few shooters who still want the show to go on!

Good news was received from the ATA concerning Sparta and the Grand American this coming summer--it seems the ATA has signed a tentative agreement with the State of Illinois, to host the Grand in Sparta! Details of the agreement should have been made by the time you read this. This must be a real sigh of relief for the Executive Committee. More details are forthcoming, stay tuned....

Sally and I attended the coaches meeting for the Minnesota High School Clay Target League last Saturday. It was attended by 300 coaches plus, which is about 1/10 of the coaches coaching high school trap shooting. The League is in the planning and (soon) sign up stages again with nearly 10,000 high school shooters expected to attend this year and 40 more schools adding to the rosters. Trapshooting is booming in our state!

Our NRA Level 1 Coach Schools are filling up fast with about 60 spots remaining in the original 180 spots offered. We are traveling to several out-state locations also besides the normal Buffalo, MN area. Each class is going to be about 30 participants with locations at Buffalo, Fairmont, Bemidji, and St. Cloud. We urge you to take these classes which are 16 hours (2 days) with 12 hours of class room and 4 hours of range time; you must pass a test and be recommended by the trainers to succeed to pass.

I want to remind everyone that the MN State Shoot, one of the best in the nation, will be July 5th-10th. It will be located in Alexandria, MN at the Alexandria Shooting Park. Make your reservations early as rooms in this area are traditionally hard to get due to the enormous outdoor activities this area has to offer. A great time is always had by the attendees. The ATA Central Zone Shoot will be hosted at Del-Tone/Luth Gun Club in St. Cloud, MN from July 29th-31st. Come and enjoy a few days of entertainment and meet Jeff and the hard-working staff at Del-Tone/Luth. They always put on a great shoot.

It is with great sadness that I must report to you that ATA shooter Ron Volrath passed away on January 9th, 2016. Ron was a long time trap shooter. He was also a big game hunter and traveled all over the world on quests for sheep. I was told he has nearly every species of sheep in the world, all mounted in his home. Ron was a long time friend and a member of Local 10 Sheet metal workers union in the Twin Cities. I knew him as a very talented stainless steel worker, working in kitchen hood installations--a good stainless man, are few and far between, and Ron was by far one of the finest. I shared a trap field with Ron this summer at the Buffalo Gun Club. He shot very well, as usual, and we talked about hunting and trips and such, but not once did he let on that he was sick. A few weeks later he was placed in hospice. What a shock. Ron will be buried at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery (Richmond, MN) with full military honors. He and his wide smile and confident aire will be missed.

Please remember to hug your family members, tell them how you feel about them, in words..... We are not promised tomorrow! Live and laugh for today, forgive, forget and move on. Life is so short. I am proud to be your ATA Delegate for Minnesota. I am more than happy to help you with a question or a concern and can be reached at my contact information below.

Mark Stevens
MN ATA Delegate
mark@airclimatecontrol.com
612-703-6155 (cell)