

ATA DELEGATE REPORT
JUNE 2014
Mark Stevens, Minnesota

Hello Spring!

The weather has not co-operated well this spring, with never-ending cold winds and rain, but shooting season is here nonetheless. Thank goodness, I have had enough of cabin fever! Many clubs are firing up the trap equipment and the next three months offer lots of choices in shooting. Remember, if you are making a run for the MN State Team, you must shoot a minimum number of targets to qualify and also four separate Minnesota clubs must be included in that total. For complete MN State Team requirements visit www.minnesotatrap.com.

The clubs are now full of youth shooters all across Minnesota shooting the High School program, something not seen too often five or so years ago. Please invite those students to ATA registered shoots. Many do not know about the ATA and registered shooting and, believe me, there are potential champions in that group! The opportunity for these young shooters to see and shoot more targets will help them to compete at higher levels. If you see young shooters at your club, don't be afraid to offer some shooting advice if they are struggling, and remember to use constructive comments and be a mentor. Let's all remember we were in their shoes once! Youth shooters can initially feel uncomfortable at our clubs and, frankly, some are intimidated to shoot with older and better shooters. I encourage everyone to offer the first olive branch. A warm smile, and handshake and a little encouragement may yield the next champion someday, and create many more lifelong shooters!

The Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot, run by the Minnesota Youth Shotgun Association (mySA), has most certainly taken a leap in registered youth shooters. It is great to see and has certainly been overwhelming for Sally & I as we organize and run the shoots. Our next two shoots promise to be even larger than the last three. So far several hundred youth shooters have competed in 2014, with the next at Park Gun Club (Orono) and the culmination of the five shoots at Watertown Gun Club on June 1st, 2014. This shoot promises to be a barn burner. Old friends, great memories and good times will be had with lots of smiling faces as we hand out trophies and four Shamrock Shooting Bags to Chain Shoot HOA winners in each category. There is a lot of hard work and climbing costs that go into running these shoots. We would love to expand this concept around Minnesota, and would be more than happy to run a shoot for individuals willing to start up another chain shoot series in Minnesota. We would give you all the needed information and our concept, which is simple. The more youth shooters we can bring to registered shooting, the better the quality of shooters we will have. The high school program is a wonderful avenue to get young shooters introduced to the sport involved, while the MN Youth Chain Shoot offers direct competition and fun, while shooting registered targets, with others of the same age and same skill level.

Please support your local clubs. Volunteer to pull a few rounds, or fill houses, or help classify, even empty the garbage--there are literally a hundred plus jobs to running a shoot, each one you help with gives the staff a breather. Please remember the MN Zone Shoots are coming up with Bemidji hosting

the Northern Zone, Beaverbrook the Central Zone and Owatonna the Southern Zone on June 21st and 22nd.

The Minnesota State Shoot is July 7th - 13th, 2014 and promises to be another exceptional shoot with plenty of entertainment to boot. Owatonna Gun Club is hosting the ATA Central Zone Shoot this year on August 1st – 3rd. Please remember to bring a youth, a friend, or someone with you to a shoot. Show them our way of life. After all, someone reached out to you at some point perhaps a long while ago, and you didn't turn out so bad, did you?

We are still looking for donations and Auction items for the Awards Banquet and Youth Auction at the State Shoot on Friday evening July 11th. Please contact Sally at 763-486-0853. These donations are tax deductible as allowed by the law and you will receive a receipt for your donation.

Personal note: Congratulations are in order for Buffalo Gun Club youth shooter, Maxwell Hartman (Buffalo, MN) and Minneapolis Gun Club youth shooter, David Singewald (Prior Lake). Both shooters competed in the USA Shooting/SCTP Junior Olympic Camp in Colorado Springs, CO from May 16th – 20th, 2014. On the last day a competition was held. Maxwell won the gold medal with David taking home bronze!. Their sights and goals are set higher for late June, when they will again compete in Colorado for a chance on the USA team. Good luck boys!

As always, I thank you for the honor of serving you as your ATA Delegate. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me, at your earliest convenience. May you have some great shooting this season!

Mark Stevens
MN ATA Delegate
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