

ATA DELEGATE REPORT
NOVEMBER 2013
Mark Stevens, Minnesota

Well, by the time you read this, shooting registered targets in Minnesota will have come to a screeching halt. The heavy frost on the pumpkin and the long V's of Canadian honkers signal colder times ahead. The best hunting is just days away and the trap guns are oiled and waiting for new adventures.

For me the focus is hunting right now, but occasionally I will visit gun clubs in Minnesota to shoot their Jackpot shoots. Three clubs are currently hosting Jackpot Shoots--Minneapolis Gun Club (Prior Lake), Del-Tone/Luth Gun Club (St Cloud) and Buffalo Gun Club (Buffalo). Minneapolis holds its shoots on Saturdays with Del-Tone/Luth and Buffalo on Sundays. In Minneapolis, Reney Langlois took both first and second place on October 19th. October 26th found Minneapolis shooter Dennis Kecker taking both first and second place and Dennis took first place again on Oct. 27th followed by Gerald Demulling of Wisconsin for second. Nice shooting guys.

In Buffalo, Ken Norman has been stirring the action again with a win on October 6th. Ron Baker took the top honors on October 13th followed closely by Chuck Eckstein for second place. October 20th Norman managed to gain the top spot again followed by Wally Shelstad. October 27 Claude Banyai broke the lone 50 of the year so far and wins a case of shells followed by Lonnie Henbricks with a 48. Nice Shooting Claude.

This fall has found some heavy practicing going on with youth shooting. It seems many schools do not have enough room for all the youths turning out, for the high school program, and need to hold shoot offs to see who will make the team or not. This is sad to see that our sport, that is open to anyone at any age and gender, is now restricted by location, number of traps available to shoot at, and only high scoring participants can be involved. I urge all gun clubs to reach out and give these kids a venue to shoot at with registered shooting. The ATA's AIM program is a perfect avenue to provide competition for all youth shooters, along with the registered Minnesota Youth Chain Shoots and gun club league shooting. Registered shoots begin in April again in Minnesota so let's work together to provide a spot for all kids. We all know gun clubs will be stretched to the limits, so perhaps it is time to talk expansions.

Sally and I are now part of the NRA's National Coach Development Staff (NCDS), which means we are certified to instruct the NRA Shotgun Coach Class, Level I. We are planning on holding a class in Buffalo, Minnesota (mid-January) as well as in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (February) in conjunction with Pheasants Forever's Pheasant Fest. If you are interested in attending either one of these classes please contact us at minnesotaysa@me.com. We have a limit of 20 persons per class.

We are saddened to hear of the loss of two fellow shooters. George Leisure of Cambridge and James "Jimmy" Rosenkrantz of Willmar, MN. George passed on October 1st which was his 75th birthday. He was a past gun club president for eight years at Beaverbrook Gun Club in East Bethel, MN. George was a volunteer, coach and mentor to Men, Women and Youth shooters for many years. James "Jimmy" Rosenkrantz was a shooter for over 50 years. He passed on October 6th as the result of a stroke in Willmar. More information on both these men is available on the minnesotatrap.com site. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of both of these gentlemen.

Minnesota's Alternate Delegates Dean Walker and Frank Redfield will begin working with me this month on both the 2013 Minnesota State Teams as well as the 2014 Minnesota Hall of Fame inductees. There's plenty of work to do. Someone said trapshooting was over for the year? I may have to run a power cord a few thousand yards to the deer stand! Safe hunting this season and Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Mark Stevens
ATA Delegate, Minnesota