

**ATA DELEGATE REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2014  
Mark Stevens, Minnesota**

Well the Zone Shoot and State Shoot are both complete, and all eyes are now set for the Grand. All Minnesota winners and standings can be found in our website [www.minnesotatrap.com](http://www.minnesotatrap.com).

Minnesota was fortunate to have an increase in shooters this year over the last few years, partially because of youth shooting which was up 68 shooters, but also up were non-resident shooters. I sat down with several of the well-known non-resident shooters and queried them on what they look for, when selecting a shoot. Many of them are about All-American points, s are just about location and friendliness of a shoot, and some choose because of a close proximity to another shoot, venue or business meeting. Surprisingly, not many are for the trophies although nearly all say we have one of the best trophy packages in the ATA. Some fly and taking a trophy back may mean extra luggage or hassle and most are just as happy with pins. We did offer gift cards as trophies and many were happy with that, but you always have some whom are not and want a "real trophy" which we offered to get and ship to them. Bottom line is that Minnesota is trying new things, some are well received and some are a failed attempt to do the right thing. I did receive several comments, from those in the know, that if we were to offer runner-up trophies for out of town shooters, that we may attract more non-resident shooters to our venue. When our Minnesota Trapshooting board meets again, it will be brought up and discussed under new business. Our trophy director, Scott Steffen, does a fantastic job of provided the best trophies and changing things up as need.

Minnesota shooters voted for a new President, Scott Steffen to take over for 2014-2016. We are confident that Scott will do a great job. We also welcome Tom Petty of Annandale, MN as our new ATA Alternate Delegate. The Minnesota shooters were also introduced to the new Zone Directors Vicky Townsend (Northern), Matt Bickell (Southern) and Jim Karels (Central). We said goodbye to Glen Lonneman as President, but Glen will remain on the board for one year as Past President. I am sorry to see Glen go. He did a great job for Minnesota trap shooters.

Minnesota also inducted Jim Fetzik and Troy Haverly to the Hall of Fame. Their acceptance speeches were exceptional and even had some in attendance weeping. Some blamed it on the heat and sweating, but we know. We all were rooting for the little Z-man, a youth shooter of Fetzik's!

We would be remiss if we did not thank the parents and grandparents of all the youth shooters for allowing the kids to attend our events. These youths shoot amazing targets. It only makes me happy to know I am not in their category, and will be out of their category, by the time they reach the next level. HA! A special Thank you to Alexandria Shooting Park and their staff for hosting a great shoot. The grounds were amazing as were the targets with very few problems throughout the week, and great help. Bravo!

Minnesota was greeted with some sad news on the first day of our State shoot. We were notified that a past MTA president and a good friend of mine, John Bacon, passed during the night. John had lost his battle with brain cancer. We remembered John and all the other shooters whom passed this year with a moment of silence during our Saturday annual meeting. John always had a big smile and a hearty laugh and a devilish grin each time he walked away from you. Please remember to hug your family, and friends, we are not ever promised tomorrow. Today is a gift. Cherish it and the ones around you.

As always, I am very grateful to be able to serve as your Delegate and will work hard to earn your trust for the good of all Minnesota shooters. Enjoy the Grand American, or a shoot near you, and please take a kid shooting, especially someone who will never experience it without you. Good shooting. If there is anything I can do for you please contact me.

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