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- 2018 Zone 7 shoot will be hosted by the Kern County Gun Club in Bakersfield, CA April 27 – 29. Registration will open January 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Research continues on the impact of recent California legislation regarding ammunition on non-resident shooters attending events.
  - The changes do not appear to impact shooters in 2018 due to appeals.
- 2018 Zone 7 teams based on 2017 shooting averages will be determined when the data becomes available.
- There are 3 spring chain shoots in Arizona and Nevada
  - Copper State Phoenix, AZ Feb 22 – 25.
  - Old Pueblo Tucson, AZ Mar 2 – 4
  - Comstock Las Vegas, NV Mar 9 – 11
- The 2018 Armed Forces shoot will be held in Tucson, AZ in May 2018.

Billy D Williams  
Zone 7 Executive Committeeman

## Zone 8

### January EC Meeting Zone 8 Report

While the season has wound down in the Northern Hemisphere, the season in New Zealand and Australia is in full swing. There is lots of posts on the Aussie / NZ Facebook pages. It is a great way to communicate if used positively, and it seems to be the case down there. Kudos to Lorraine Hughes and Dean Everett for their efforts to keep their members engaged and active.

Here is some feedback from Dean Everett from New Zealand; "We have just completed our NZ N SSA National Championships, with good entries in each of the 5 events (excluding HOA and HAA) averaging 40 entries per gun.

Andy Peter shot extremely well in good conditions winning both the HOA 393 and HAA 493 setting a NZ record for HAA in the process.

We have been pushing registered shoots in the South Island and for 2018 we hope to have our inaugural South Island Championships which will spur more interest. Waihora Clay Target Club have registered for monthly targets for 2018 and will host the Island event on their redeveloped grounds. Notably N SSA provided funding towards improving one of the skeet fields on the new grounds.

Record numbers of Kiwis attended the World Championships in 2017 which bodes well. All returning to NZ and raving about the experience.

One gun/league shooting could be a very positive addition to the NZ program as standard skeet is the same as shot on the domestic circuit through New Zealand Clay Target Association. One gun could be promoted as a unique N SSA product at could be competed around the country and administered easily. Very promising. It is difficult to encourage shooters when their initial response is 'why would I?'. One gun could be the point of difference"

Uwe Wandernoth of Germany has reported in that Germany still has 2 American Rod and Gun Clubs, holding N SSA shoots. Like every year they shoot a BDMP German championship with 3guns 12, 20 and Doubles. This year they have had more shooters than last year.

From Derek Wilson of the UK..."*There has been presented a new memorial award in the form of a silver*

*trophy with a replica for the eventual victor of a shoot off between all 100 straight shooters regardless of the gauge and memorial medals for all 100 straights shot at the four State shoots. The first winner has already been presented and will pass on the trophy at the next qualifying event where 100 straights are shot .The award has been presented in memory of the late Vall Fraser, founder and president of the One Hundred Straight club . A man whose dedication to the sport of clay pigeon shooting and his unswerving championship of skeet shooting stand as an example to all. Vall instigate, organised and funded the OSC at his own expense in time and coin for over thirty years”.*

*“The number of members is growing slowly and the number of registered targets shot increases slowly, another range has been registered and the future looks bright. Involvement in the Zone 8 satellite shoot has grown has as the interest in the event.”*

The Canadian Season has definitely crawled to a halt. Yes, we Canadians are a hardy lot but there is not a lot of registered events in the winter months. There will be lots of coffee consumed, tales of greatness and fires stoked in gun clubs across this great nation of ours, until about April!!! We have received a request from the Langley (British Columbia) Gun Club for a Field Grant. This has been put on the EC Meeting Agenda.

The Canadian Skeet Championships will be returning to the Waterford Gun Club at the end of June 2018. The club is near Hamilton, Ontario and we have held many successful events there in recent years. We invite our American friends to come over to try and take some of our colourful currency home. This club is about 2 hours from Detroit and two hours from Buffalo, NY as a point of reference.

In discussion with some of the Zone 8 shooters and suppliers to the European and Southern Hemisphere markets, the American Dollar is hurting trade. While supplies of ammo and reloading materials are readily available now, the cost is very high and certainly cutting into shooting budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Malcolm

Zone 8

## Zone 9

Zone 9 Report.

Zone 9 is happy to report the launch of the Armed Forces Skeet Association’s new website at <https://www.armedforcesskeet.com/>. The site was developed and published by our new Marketing and Communications officer, Katie Fichtner. As AFSA begins ramping up for the May 14-18 Armed Services Skeet Championships at the Tucson Trap and Skeet Club, we will be pushing hard through social media channels to attract first time attendees, especially our Zone 6 and 7 military veterans. Our old website will remain open through May to link interested shooters to the new site.

See you in Tucson!

Dave Wood

Zone 9

## NSSA-NSCA Communications

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### 2017 Report

Sherry Kerr, Director of Communications

#### ***Clay Target Nation***

- Increase of page count averaging approximately 13 pages per issue compared to 2016
- Addition of Youth Shooting Development page
- Addition of monthly “Member Communications” column
- Addition of monthly staff masthead
- Coverage of large events at the National Shooting Complex
- Increased coverage of local shoots with write-ups by members; created new section for NSSA write-ups
- Significant improvement in interior photography and cover photo options due to increased event coverage by Thaddius Bedford; NSSA covered events increased to four
- Increased use of “digital extras,” i.e., related content on the CTN website referenced in the print issue
- Established a practice of repurposing archived CTN content into blog posts, e-book content, newsletter items, etc.
- Produced all *From the NSSA*, *From the NSCA*, *From the NSSA-NSCA*, *How Bad Is It*, and *Sound Off* content in monthly issues and additional content in January “Reference Issue”
- Expansion of ClayTargetNation.com, with increased content, archived magazine issues, reorganization, and new navigational tools
- Addition of slider images in ClayTargetNation.com header, with animated frames for three most recent issues
- Produced and distributed monthly email with link to the upcoming issue of *Clay Target Nation*; established practice of distributing link to digital issue 2-3 days before print issue is in-home to encourage use of digital issue

#### ***Target Talk***

- Surpassed 50,000 subscriber mark soon after 5-year anniversary in August, and still growing; most recent issue went to 50,650
- Recognized those milestones by refreshing *Target Talk* with some design changes and a new header, resulting in a cleaner look
- Reworked some background code to allow more content and advertising
- Significant increase in *Target Talk* advertising, filling all available space with paid advertising in most issues

### NSSA-NSCA.Club

- Created new website for clubs, incorporating a discussion forum, blog, club news, and reference material for member clubs

### Newsletters

- **Target Talk CLUBS** – New monthly club newsletter, *Target Talk CLUBS*, to keep member clubs better informed and assist them with marketing, club management, club member benefits, and other information.
- **Clay Target Nation EXTRA (Members)** – New monthly newsletter with shooting tips and similar content, consisting primarily of repurposed CTN content.
- **Clay Target Nation EXTRA (Non-members)** – In development, a second version for non-members for use in promotional offers in conjunction with MCA

### Websites

- Numerous site improvements to provide more consistency within sections and improve the function of some of the database searches
- Updated web pages daily as needed
- Established process for staff to monitor pages for content in need of updating
- Contracted at discounted rate with web designer Collin Reynolds to assist with website projects
- Added new website analytics capabilities

### Scoreboard / Upcoming Shoots Emails

- Launched Scoreboard / Upcoming Shoots emails (separate for NSSA and NSCA) that deliver magazine-style files of those features; offered to both members and non-members and delivered on the 16th of each month. This has alleviated complaints about the lack of printed scores and upcoming shoots.

### Surveys

- Produced, distributed, and created reports for 33 surveys (18 for NSCA and 15 for NSSA)
- Produced survey reports as needed for advertisers/sponsors for evaluation and justification of sponsorship

### Email Blasts

- **Aside from newsletters, produced and distributed 238 email blasts:**
  - NSCA – 52
  - NSSA – 46
  - National Shooting Complex – 19
  - Clay Target Nation – 17
  - Elections – 88
  - Membership Renewals – 16

### Social Media

- Maintained 3 Facebook pages, 2 Twitter accounts, and 2 Instagram accounts – posting and responding to contacts
- Produced Facebook Live streams at World English, NSSA U.S. Open, World Shoot, and National Championship, resulting in the most activity to date on our social media feeds
- Distributed TV commercial developed for PSCA with excellent engagement and hundreds of email addresses collected for future promotions

### NSCA Election

- Conducted the NSCA election for National Delegates, Advisory Council, Regional Delegates, Executive Council, and replacement Delegates/AC member
- Prepared 67 ballots for distribution by email
- Vetted votes, prepared election report with results for each ballot

### Renewals

- For the first time, produced and distributed renewal materials by email
  - NSSA and NSCA members – Multiple emails distributed per MCA's plans, with links for renewal and incorporating A/B testing; further emails to come
  - NSSA and NSCA clubs – Three email blasts each, with reminders to renew and register shoots for publication in February CTN
  - NSCA Instructors – Four email blasts, with reminders to renew listing for publication in January CTN

### Other

- **Records Annual** – Staff produced the 2017 Records Annual
- **New Advertising Options** – Created several new advertising positions that are now being sold – CTN digital issue email, newsletters, NSSA-NSCA.Club, Scoreboard/Upcoming Shoots emails, etc.
- **Digital Asset Management** – Contracted with photo management platform, Libris by PhotoShelter, and have been moving and tagging photos for use by magazine and marketing
- **Continuing Education** – Sherry Kerr is taking a course, "Publishing for Associations," and has participated in 6 webinars conducted by PhotoShelter, SurveyMonkey, Bitly, and GrowthZone. Nicki Martin participated in a time-management seminar.
- **Support for MCA** – Assisted MCA with projects and provided support, materials, information, deployment of surveys and emails, and review of their work as needed
- **Support for Dini Spheris** – Providing support services for research, survey development and deployment, other assistance as needed
- **Training Tips E-Book** – Created an e-book, *Training Trips from Top Instructors*, compiled from CTN columns to be used as an offer in promotions by MCA
- **First-Timers' Email** – Created and distributed an email with materials and information for World Shoot and Nationals first-time participants



- **Email List Management** – Daily management of email lists in MailChimp to keep them clean, compliant, and purged
- **Obituary Policy** – Established and implemented an obituary policy for announcing and recognizing deaths of members
- **Field & Stream / Outdoor Life Trade** – Arranged a trade of advertising of their events in *CTN* and *Target Talk* for promotion of equal value to their subscribers; will offer a *CTN EXTRA* subscription/*Training Tips* e-book in an upcoming issue of their newsletter

**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**For Winter Meetings in SAN ANTONIO JANUARY 18, 2018**  
**& Minutes of Jan. 18. 2018 LRPC Meeting**

**Pre-meeting report:**

2017 was a busy year with regards to our San Antonio property.

In November, 2016 we retained the services of a specialty legal firm to represent the Association in matters with the City of San Antonio and Bexar County regarding permitting approvals and the possibility of annexation by the City, etc. Special focus at that time was to get permits and approvals for construction of the new Academy building and for the platting of the central core area of the property, both of which had been languishing in the bureaucracy downtown for over 2 years.

In May, 2017 resolution was received on two major aspects which resulted in a joint Finance & Long Range Planning Committee Meeting being held via conf. call on May 15. All projects were discussed in light of the information received, resulting in a project re-evaluation & re-prioritization:

The first news (positive) was receipt of the Certificate of Determination (COD) for the platted “central core” area of the property which allows us to proceed with project plans and to obtain building permits for any activity within the boundaries of that platted central area.

The second (not so positive) news was notification that any new building greater than 1500 sq.ft. would require fire protection which, for our plans on record, would require 2 new larger-capacity water taps into the Roft Rd. city water main to feed 2 new NSC fire hydrants to be installed – one in the area of the new Academy building and one in the front line area to service the central core area. Preliminary estimated cost of this two-pronged implementation was \$400+K.

Given the above information and with input from the NSC staff based on their business plan outlook, **all projects as listed below were either re-prioritized or recommended to be discontinued.**

1. The Academy – this building had been planned to be constructed on the east end of the middle skeet row to serve as an auxiliary clubhouse year-round for corporate events and in the Fall for our large Championship events. Given the additional cost of the new fire protection requirement, it was deemed this project was no longer affordable. It was recommended to **drop** this project with unanimous agreement from NSC staff and both Committees.
2. Fire Protection for the central core area – this is an infrastructure investment for our main buildings providing fire protection (unmetered water flow from the city water main to a hydrant on the property) where today we have no specific fire protection on site. After considerable discussion, a roll-call vote was taken as to whether to recommend this implementation. Vote was 6 YES and 5 NO, **motion passed to proceed.**
3. Clubhouse kitchen renovation/electrical update – **work began** immediately after the 2017 Nationals starting with the electrical upgrade, and then the kitchen renovation. Michael has latest status on progress to date.

4. New vendor building (min. of 3 new units) – progress here is now gated by the fire protection implementation in the central core area. There are several options for lease arrangements under consideration allowing these plans to be discussed with vendors who have expressed an interest.
5. Expansion of RV Park – Given the demand at two events during the year - the NSCA Nationals and the TX 4-H shoot - this was a new item for consideration, ie., is an expansion of the RV Park desirable? The Master Plan defined a projected third roadway above the current two park roadways which could add 35 more spaces. Extensive discussion about the cost of doing this for such limited use; after evaluation of the costs involved, this item was **tabled**.
6. Pavilion renovation – brief discussion of the possibility of a major renovation of the pavilion. This was dismissed because the anticipated cost would require us engaging in or hosting multiple other activities which are outside of our core business to make this project financially feasible. Unanimous agreement **not to proceed** further with this discussion.
7. Other - Given the recommendation to drop the plans for the Academy building, the question was asked whether any permanent restroom/event facilities were warranted on the lower areas of the property for our major annual Championship events. **Unanimous agreement that no permanent facilities** were warranted; the staff was directed to evaluate additional use of large tents and Royal Flush units to be placed where needed on the property during the World Shoot and the NSCA Nationals.
8. New front entrance - Plans continue for the relocation of our front entrance to alleviate access and visibility problems. The **schedule for this is dictated by the Roft Rd. widening project**, however, we are completing our plans (design of new entrance gate, lighting, secure access and security cameras, signage, landscaping) and engineering work (grading, curbing, drainage, power pole relocation, ingress and egress lanes, etc.) so we are ready when the road crews are ready to begin.
- 9.) The second (enclosed) member cart barn was **completed** in June and all 20 units fully rented out. Both cart barns are located behind the Maintenance Barns across from the middle skeet row.
- 10.) This summer, **new roofs were installed** on all buildings in the central core area (except the Museum/HOF) using proceeds from an insurance settlement received for hail damage to the roofs in late 2016. The HOF roof was painted to match the color of the new roofs.
- 11.) The Main **Clubhouse was painted** to match the color scheme of the Master Plan and attractive new wall signage installed by the front entrance. The parking lot and curbing was realigned in that area in front of the clubhouse, and between the clubhouse and the HDQ Offices, to improve handicap access, and to streamline traffic flow alleviating congestion problems in that high traffic area.
- 12) Regarding annexation of our property and the surrounding Alamo Ranch/Culebra area by the city of San Antonio, effective December 1, 2017, the TX Legislature passed new legislation which states that BEFORE they can annex neighborhoods or commercial areas, they are required to gain the approval of a *majority* of affected property owners. Given what we know about the surrounding residential communities who were also strongly against this annexation movement, this was very good news. The following is from our legal counsel who represented us in this annexation issue: **“The new law will make it very difficult for the City to annex areas over property owner and resident objections. I believe that the National Shooting Complex will remain outside of the City limits for many years to come. This means it will not be subject to City taxes or City zoning in the foreseeable future.”**
- 13.) We are working on a contract with the Bexar County Fire Dept. for them to build a temporary (1.5-

2.5 yr.) fire station on our property.... Location has been determined; **now in contract negotiations.**

Louise K. Terry

LRPC Chair

1-17-18

**Minutes of the 1/18/18 LRPC Meeting:**

Meeting was called to order on 1/18/18 by Chairman, Louise Terry at 11:00AM central time. Members present: Harvey Schwartz and Bob Lepor ( both by phone), John Haugh, Jack Tans, Don Kelly, Chris Naler, Tom Pavlack, Steve Malcolm, Michael Hampton, Jr., also staff members Steve Scales, Brett Moyes, Gary Burley, Nathan Boyd. Not present: Brett Seibert, Paula Benbow, Heyward Cunningham (excused for SHOT Show responsibilities).

In addition to recapping the above information, the following updates were discussed:

Fire protection installation: permit is approved; tree inspectors will be on-site next week to approve our trenching path for the new water line; following that, we will do the trenching from over on the church side of Roft Rd. and the new hydrant will be about 50' west of the shower house on the south side of the vendor buildings. This line is extendible in the future towards the main clubhouse and our office buildings. \$215K was budgeted; project \$250K including all fees when complete. Note that this water access will be limited to fire protection use which minimizes our impact fees payable. This will be a 6-7week project once work begins.

Kitchen renovation/upgrade: A major electrical upgrade has been completed except for hook-up of the new appliances. Demo work is done in the kitchen area, new walk-in cooler installed, A/C service has been relocated, new support beams replaced where old walls have been removed to facilitate traffic flow in the kitchen by the staff; 1<sup>st</sup> fire marshal inspection has been completed and more will be in process as work proceeds; no sprinklers are required. The new kitchen should be up and running before the BLASER Skeet Championships in March, 2018.

New 3<sup>rd</sup> Vendor Building/ Member Suites: This building will contain either 20' or 40' units and these will be 5-year leases, which can be paid up front or over 3 years. Tenant is responsible for all interior buildout; all units will be "storefront" windows, no roll-up doors. 3-5 prospects now. Once the fire hydrant project is complete, Michael will get firm pricing to meet with prospects.

Front entrance relocation: When we relocate our main gate to the south (up the hill) to align with the Rockmill intersection, we have reached agreement with Bexar County that they will be responsible for moving the necessary power poles and fire hydrant in conjunction with the Roft Rd. widening project. There are also old buried phone lines in this Roft Rd. section which will be abandoned and replaced by new fiber-optic service. County will give us a 70' entrance and all necessary curbing; these agreements are very positive, representing substantial savings to us.

Fire Station negotiations: Favorable progress on the contract for the interim fire station on our property located on the fence line behind the Beretta Pavilion, as well as the sale of 2 acres of land fronting on Roft Rd. in the southeast corner of our property at an attractive selling price. Question was asked about consideration of donating the land in interest of being a "good neighbor"? Yes, lease and donation options were investigated, however, the County wanted a "cleaner" transaction. This will still be viewed as a "good neighbor" action, as it will result in lower fire insurance premiums for us and our surrounding neighbors, plus on-site EMC support.

Cart Barn #3: Royce Graff joined the meeting to present a proposal to build a third NSC member cart barn based on the positive acceptance of our first 2 barns. The new 20-space enclosed barn will cost an estimated \$80K to complete and will have a 4-year payoff, but already has 14 customers interested, several who have agreed to prepay their lease in full.

**Motion by Jack Tans, seconded by Bob Lepor, to approve plans for this third cart barn with agreement**

**to cover the \$40K shortfall in the first year. Motion approved unanimously.**

RV Park Enhancements: We have poured two concrete slabs (one is 20'x20' and one is 30'x30') to add 2 roofed BBQ stations in the RV Park. 5 BBQs and picnic tables will be installed prior to the Feb. 1 Rodeo Shoot weekend. Also, a new concrete pathway with a handrail has been completed as a walkway from the RV Park down to the Shower/Laundry bathhouse building.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM central.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise K. Terry LRPC Chairman

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – YE2017**

The strong economy has benefitted us financially this year resulting in a very good year in several ways: we have recognized strong earnings and appreciation in our investment portfolio, we have seen increased shooting activity by our members, and we have realized an increase in proceeds from the scheduled activities at the NSC. Support for our sport has been strong and we, of course, hope to see this trend continue.

As of 12/4/17, our investment portfolio has a value of \$3,908,153, up from \$3,170,062 on 12/31/16. Our targets shot and membership numbers are up YTY, and our NSC activities are up. We also were able to outperform our Operating Budget for FY2017 with, among other things, unbudgeted help (\$190K) from NSC lead mining proceeds.....all in all, a very good year. Final numbers will be available for the winter executive meetings in San Antonio Jan. 18-20, 2018.

It is also noteworthy that we satisfied both of our long term debts in 2017: the Frost Bank note for construction of the second maintenance barn, and the retirement obligation to the prior Executive Director. These are both paid off in full and the Association is now debt-free!! This puts us in a very good position to be able to proceed on a major IT project to replace/ upgrade of our in-house member management software system (TEAMMS), as well as pursue development of a scoring system of the future taking advantage of new technologies, both hardware and software. We are also proceeding on the installation of a fire hydrant in the area at the east end of vendor row to provide fire protection to our central core buildings which does not exist today.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise K. Terry

Finance Committee, Chairman

*Report submitted 12/4/17*

Youth Shooting Development Committee

### **SCTP Tour Events:**

During 2017 we held seven SCTP Tour Events across the country. Some were discipline specific while two consisted of both skeet and sporting clays. While attendance could have been better at each event, I believe all were successful in their own way. Some of the events exposed competitive shooting to youth shooters for the first time while others revealed the friendships and camaraderie that shooting sports can create. This program will continue for 2018 and we had some clubs very interested in hosting in 2018. I have included a flyer with a list of all the events confirmed for 2018. I have a request for another sporting clays shoot in Texas which I am working on.

### **SCTP All American Team:**

The new SCTP All American Team seems to have had a successful first year. We had approximately 400 shooters who shot at least one major SCTP event who shot a minimum of 500 N SSA or NSCA registered

targets. As Headquarters along with SCTP continue to promote this program it should continue to grow and be a successful program for us to recognize more young shooters' achievements. In order to track the teams our IT department created a new page under the respective recognition tabs of our website for shooters to track their standings. I have been contacted by many parents and coaches seeking information on the program who are excited about the potential recognition. In the coming weeks, after the NSSA and NSCA All-American Teams are selected we will be able to announce the SCTP All-American Teams. We will send them a patch and certificate as we do for all of our All-American selections. For those interested in viewing the pages the respective websites are listed below.

NSSA page: <http://myNSSA.nssa-nsca.org/sctp-all-american-team/>

NSCA page: <http://nsca.nssa-nsca.org/sctp-all-american-team/>

#### Youth Camps:

We had a number of successful NSSA youth camps in 2017 and clubs are already contacting us to prepare for 2018. As we all know, Ralph Aaron will be stepping down this year from leading the Youth Camp Program and the administrative side is currently being done from Headquarters by myself. We are looking to create and publish all the criteria and information regarding youth camps and will continue to promote this program as it is a great way to introduce new youth shooters to shooting.

#### Youth Shoot Reimbursement Program:

In 2017 we created the youth camp reimbursement program in which NSSA would reimburse a club who hosted a camp and a registered shoot up to \$25 to support the camp attendee in shooting registered targets. We only had one club take advantage of this program (although a few were first timers), but I feel the way the program is setup it is restrictive. This is due to the 2-month window and the criteria that only the club that hosted the youth camp would be eligible. I have reached out to the youth shooting development committee for input on how to improve.

#### Marketing Videos:

We budgeted for a youth marketing video in 2017 but this never got off the ground this year. The main reason for this was fear of making a poor product that would not be useful to us. Also, during 2017, we began working with MCA who we are leaning on for promotional advice and input on how we should grow our organizations. As it currently stands, this project is on hold.

#### Miscellaneous:

Here are a few items related to youth shooting:

- The NSC hosted the San Antonio Junior Shoot Out in 2017 which is a large trap and sporting clays event with approximately 800 shooters. The NSC will host again in 2018.
- The 2017 Junior World was a great success in St. Joe Indiana. This year the shoot will be held at the National Shooting Complex. We are also looking to include a sporting clays event as well for this year.
- In 2017 I attended the SCTP National Championship. There were over 900 skeet shooters and over 1000 sporting clays shooters. NSSA/NSCA and SCTP work to have all the shooters who attend Nationals become members and also register the 200 targets that they shoot in each discipline.
- The ACUI Collegiate Championships is also hosted at NSC.

Submitted by Nathan Boyd  
1/10/18

**NSSA Rules Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am EST by the Committee Chairman, Trish Magyar (Zone 3). Members present: Woody Anderson (Zone 6), John Bratty (Zone 8), Dick Dietz (Chief Referee), Dan Lewis (Zone 7), Sid Miller (Zone 1), Debbi Perry (Zone 2), Andy Schusteff (Zone 5) & Jim Tiner (Zone 4).

**Motion by Debbi Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tiner, to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2017 meeting; motion passed all in favor.** It was noted the current on-line Rules Book is up to date with previous approved changes.

1. **II-A-5. Squadding Restrictions.** Request from Harold Smith to permit a pacer for the lone participant on a field in a shoot-off in light of the increased use of the I-Shoot format.

The Committee felt that the lone participant on a shoot-off field at an I-Shoot is no different than the lone participant on a shoot-off field when multiple fields are used, such as at the World Shoot. Also, who would decide who and how the pacer is selected? Allowing for a pacer could lead to unforeseen consequences. **No action taken.**

2. **II-B-1-f. No shot smaller than No. 9 (2mm) or larger than 7-1/2 shall be used in any load.**

Though factory loads aren't subject to challenge under I-B (Ammunition), if the weight indicated on the shell is heavier than that allowed, then the score will be disqualified for that event. In a similar vein, if the shot size indicated on the shell or box of a factory load isn't in conformance with II-B-1-f, then the score should be disqualified for the event. There is no need to confirm the shot size using a micrometer for a factory load, since it is manufactured in a "controlled" environment.

**Housekeeping. Add to the end of II-B-1-f:**

Any shooter found to be using factory/commercial loads not in conformance, as evidenced by the shot size indicated on the ammunition box or shotgun hull, will have his/her score disqualified for that event. This does not preclude the challenge of a reload for non-conforming shot size.

3. **II-C-4. Concurrent Events.** Proposal from Merideth Tunick, Fred Tschantz and Chris Naler to add a "First Responders" concurrent category. **Motion by Jim Tiner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Woody Anderson, to adopt a "First Responder" concurrent event, as proposed. Add III-C-4-r and renumber current III-C-4-r & s to III-C-4-s & t:**

A first responder (**FR**) is any sworn law enforcement officer, fire service and/or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel (including military police and fire/rescue personnel) employed full-time or part-time by, or retired from, a federal, state, county, municipal or township government.

**Motion passed all in favor for the Executive Committee to send to the Board of Directors for a vote.**

Shooters wishing to participate in the First Responder concurrent will be required to submit proof of eligibility to the NSSA Skeet Director for review and approval. Shooters will be required to demonstrate their credentials by providing:

1. An official department or agency ID; or
2. A letter from the shooter's home agency indicating his/her status with that agency, and
  - a. The letter must be presented on the agency's official letterhead, and
  - b. Be signed by a supervising officer.

Shooters who have been approved to participate in the First Responder Concurrent are also responsible

to notify the NSSA Skeet Director if he/she no longer meets the eligibility requirements.

Shooters that are unsure if they meet the eligibility requirements may also send a request to the NSSA Skeet Director for a review and determination of their specific credentials.

4. **III-A-5 & III-C-5. Irregular Target.** Email from Steve Johnstone and John Trant regarding irregular targets under windy conditions, and the inconsistent application of the definition of an irregular target.

The Committee agreed that the definition for an irregular being one that doesn't conform to a regular target can, and does lead, to different interpretations not only between the referee and shooter, but from referee to referee. However, trying to definitively define an irregular target is impossible given the wide variety of conditions under which targets are shot. What we can do is provide some "guidance" in the referee handbook with an aim towards improving consistency. **Action: Develop appropriate revisions/additions for Referee Handbook.**

5. **III-B-3. Shooter Right to Observe Targets.** Email recommending to not allowing the gun to be mounted when observing targets, as it gives the (lead-off) shooter an unfair advantage.

The Committee disagreed with the premise. **No action taken.**

6. **III-G. Safety Precautions.** Email from Gil Phetteplace concerning an individual who didn't have a trigger guard on his shotgun.

Though no one on the Committee had ever encountered such a situation, or had ever seen a shotgun without a trigger guard, all agreed that it could be a potential safety issue. **Motion by Woody**

**Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tiner, to add to III-G:**

**III-G-11. Trigger Guard.** All shotguns used in an NSSA sanctioned event must be equipped with a trigger guard.

**Renumber current III-G-11 thru III-G-18 to III-G-12 thru III-G-19, respectively.**

**Motion passed all in favor for the Executive Committee to send to the Board of Directors for a vote.**

7. **III-G-15. Unsafe Weather Conditions.** Email from Gay Smitha requesting more definitive guidance as to when to resume shooting after lightning has been observed.

There have been a number of instances where shoot management has continued shooting under clearly unsafe conditions (i.e., lightning). Such actions could lead to injury, or even death. The Committee agreed that more definitive guidelines are needed in the rules. **Motion by Jim Tiner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Schusteff, to strike from the first sentence of III-G-15, "with shoot management concurrence" and add to the end of III-G-15:**

**When lightning is observed by any shoot staff a cease fire will be called *immediately*. This can be done by an announcement over the PA system, a long blast on an air horn and/or cutting the power to all the fields. Shoot management will insure that all the fields are cleared of participants and staff, with all taking cover. Shoot management will continue to monitor lightning strikes, starting a new time clock with each observed strike. After a duration of 20 minutes with no strikes, shoot management will begin the process of returning the participants and staff to the field(s) to resume shooting.**

**Motion passed all in favor for the Executive Committee to send to the Board of Directors for a vote.**

8. **II-A-7-b-1 & V-B-1-g. Monthly Targets.** Request from NSSA to review the requirement for individual shoot certificates for monthly targets.

Though the targets are recorded on the shooter's classification card on the day shot, when would the club report them to HQ under a "single shoot number" scenario? If the reporting were still monthly, wouldn't the data be overwritten when using the same shoot number for subsequent month? Using the same shoot number for an entire year for monthly targets could be done but II-A-7-b-1, which states that the maximum length for a registered shoot is 31 days, would have to be changed. Additionally,

there might be some IT limitations to a "single shoot number" for monthly targets. One suggestion put forth would be to allow clubs to throw monthly targets without going through the official application process and use their club number plus a 4-digit number indicating the year and month. For example, Detroit Gun Club (#15586) throws some monthly targets in March 2018. The shoot number they would use would be 155861803. This way they would have a unique shoot number for any monthly targets and HQ wouldn't have to go through the process of cancelling shoot certificates when a club doesn't throw monthly targets.

**9. V-C. Universal Classification Tables.** Email from Neil Vann recommending adding Class E to Doubles.

The Committee reviewed 2017 shooter classification data. Though we agreed that shooting Doubles is more difficult than shooting the 12 Gauge, it doesn't justify adding another class, especially given the participation level in Doubles is less than half of that for the 12 Gauge. Even given the number of 12 Gauge shooters, we felt that eliminating Class E from the 12 Gauge was a more logical action. However, since most shooters start registered shooting with just a 12 gauge, having a Class E gives newer shooters an additional opportunity to compete against others of similar ability. **No action taken.**

**10. Referee Exam Review.** Given that rules for doubles events and doubles during a regular round have been the same for well over 25 years, T/F question #28 should be eliminated.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35pm EST.**

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Magyar  
Chairman, NSSA Rules & Classification Committee