

To: All Shooters of VT Sporting Clays

Well, the end of the 2011 VT sporting clay season has arrived. What a great year it was!!! The last time we shot that many clays in VT was 1992 when the World FITASC Championship shoot was held at Okemo Mountain Ski Area. Can you imagine getting on the chair lift with gun and bag, and going up the mountain to shoot the course? It was won by none other than 17 times World Champion George Digweed. If you google search on 1992 world Fitasc there is a video of the Shoot.

We saw a growth in registered targets in VT from the 18,900 in 2010 to 28,200 during 2011. I'm sure if I add in the fun shoots and all of our hunter class targets we shot over 50,000 clays last year.

Our season started at North Country Sportsman in Williston on Feb 26th with their Frozen 100 shoot. Peter Bates won the sporting side with 44/50 and Bob Scudero won the 5 stand with 41/50. The next shoot was Underhill's Cabin Fever. The targets were set on a sunny day with a north wind, and unfortunately shot on a rainy day with a west wind which turned a modest 15 station course into a real challenge. Mike Goetz won the shoot with a 77, and Dean King took Hunter honors with his 74. May 28th opened the season at North East Kingdom with George Ostrander and Brian Stearns both toting out at 88. On June 4th the first registered shoot in 11 years was held at Bulls Eye Sporting. Even though there were only 4 registered shooters there, this was a significant event in getting back into the registered game. Bulls Eye would go on to hold three more registered shoots ending with a Dlb gun, Pump and Small gauge blast in Oct. Pete Bates won the July shoot with an 88, with Doug Allen's 76 taking Hunter. Bob Scudero won the Aug event also shooting 88, and Pete came back with his 20gauge in Oct sharing the high gun with Matt Upton with 85. Hunter was won by Doug Allen with a 78.

Back up in the kingdom registered shoots were held June, July and then the State Shoot in August. Mike Goetz and Chip Myers shared the lead in the June shoot with 86, and Mike was champ

again in July with a 93. On the open side of the state shoot Chislain Pelletier took it with a 92, and Brent Allaire was crowned the 2011 State Champ with his fine 87.

The 3rd annual Todd Murphy Memorial Shoot was held at Underhill with 81 shooters attending on a perfect Sept blue bird day. Canadian National Champion Shawn Stitt took the honors with a 92, and Jay Robinson's 77 took high hunter. Tim Davis won the long bird contest breaking 3 out of 4 at the 70yrd peg. Over \$1500 was raised at this shoot for the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge in memory of Todd.

As your NSCA Delegate I feel one of my responsibilities is to do what ever I can do to grow the sport in VT. We started the year with 32 NSCA members and I set a goal to end the year with 50. The actual end of year membership was at 49, so we did not quite make it, but came close. Some shooters ask me, why would I want to shoot registered, when I can shoot the same shoots as hunter class? I guess my answer is mainly because it keeps me connected to the sporting clay shooting community, I like the magazine, and yes there is a streak of competitiveness about me. I also enjoy being your voice in the NSCA. The other goal I had this year, was to get Bulls Eye going again with registered shoots. As you can see from above, this was indeed a success.

So, what's up for 2012?

We will start the year again at North Country on Feb 25th with the frozen 100 shoot of 50 sporting and 50 five stand. Sometime in March, we will have a winter two club 5 stand championship which will start in the morning at North Country, shoot 50 birds there, then get in your car drive to Underhill, have lunch, warm up, and shoot another 50 there. That gives you 200 registered targets before the end of March. Bulls Eye will have 4 or 5 registered shoots, and will open the season with their first shoot on May 5th, and the Cabin Fever open will be at Underhill on May 12th. I'm sure NEK will be shooting in May as soon as the snow goes. Bob Durocher from the NEK has told me to expect a new sub gauge course, and possibly a two day state shoot with sub gauge and 5

stand on Saturday and the main event and make or break on Sunday. Expect a FITASC shoot at Underhill sometime in either July or August. This will be a 50 bird two parcours event limited to 36 shooters. And of course the fourth annual Todd Murphy Shoot will be Sept 8th.

Some forces to be reckoned with.

Christy Incerpi has a new gun that she got late in the year, Pete Bates is getting the hang of the high rib, Bob Scudero has just had a professional stock fitting, Burt McGowan and Mike Goetz are shooting new comp guns, Bob Durocher is beginning to smoke targets with the new o/u, and Doug Allen is going to work hard at staying top of the hunter class. Brent Allaire will also try hard to keep that rotating state trophy. Another group that is coming on strong, and will take their share of the winnings this next season are our junior shooters; Nick Durocher, Andy Kachmarik, Robbie Peeters, Bob Pelletier and Will Smith. They are all off to a strong start.

I would like to close with a few well deserved words of thanks. First, to Bob Durocher and his team at NEK for their continued hard work at improving sporting clays at their club. Bob just told me the other day that he and John Smedley are heading to Promatic Inc in Grover MO where they will become certified in maintaining Promatic trap machines. What a great asset to have in the state!! Thanks go to Tom Blair and team at North Country for the creative way they have developed shooting opportunities. Thanks go to Bob Scudero in his efforts to keep us all informed by email. I'd like also to thank all those hunter class shooters that come along and help make our events the success that they are. I encourage them to consider joining NSCA. Last but not least I would like to thank Mr. Vermont Clays, Burt McGowan for his continued enthusiasm in representing our sport. It doesn't matter if he is shooting well, or shooting not so well, he still has that smile on his face, and is always bringing new shooters to the game.

So, I'll see you on the course, and if I can ever help you, or answer any question you have about sporting clays and NSCA please feel free to either email me or call.

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