



THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE

February 2011

Welcome back into THE CLUBHOUSE! The anticipated "traditional winter" that was forecast for our Province has indeed buried many of us, so we hope to warm everyone up with this special, extended edition of our newsletter. So grab a mug of something hot and delicious, sit back and enjoy!

MEMBER UPDATES

Being a multi-disciplinary champion, Paul Shaw recently tried for a Gold Medal in aerial gymnastics - *the stairs descent event!* He fell down his office stairs and snapped the quadriceps muscle off the patella in his right leg. Surgery was performed to repair the damage and he's expected to heal fully. And hopefully soon, as he and son Drew are headed down to Chile in early March to represent Canada in another World Cup. Good luck, Shaws!

FROM OUR ATA DELEGATE, PAUL SHAW

"I am pleased to announce the winners of the Delegate Men's team and the Delegate Category team. Ordinarily, the Men's Delegate team would consist of 10 persons. However, this year there was a five way tie for the last three positions and I have added two additional members to that team, rather than arbitrarily break the tie by flipping a coin, etc.

Next year tie breaking will take place in a fashion that recognizes the purpose of these pins in the first place - and that is to celebrate great shooting by individuals who have won events at qualifying matches. And there is also hope, of course, that our ATA members will travel to other clubs in search of victories to qualify for these pins. As far as the Category Delegate team is concerned, all five categories (sub-junior, junior, ladies, veteran and senior veteran) are included for this team.

My congratulations go out to all of the event winners at our Ontario ATA Clubs. Based upon the records received from the Clubs (for which I thank them), there were approximately 111 individuals who won one or multiple delegate pins including the category delegate pins. Team recognition will be given during the AGM at the 2011 Ontario Championships. Keep in mind that you are part way through the 2010/2011 target year, so make sure that you resolve ties for pin contention so I don't have to do it in an arbitrary fashion like flipping a coin.

Good shooting to everyone!"

Paul Shaw

ATA Ontario Delegate (Paul can be reached at shaw@smilaw.ca or 705-445-1382 - office)

ONTARIO DELEGATE MEN'S TEAM

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Germain Spriet | 7. Paulo Sampaio |
| 2. Verne Higgs | 8. Frank Bonaiuto |
| 3. Bert Blackburn | 9. Dan Gris |
| 4. Joe DeFrancesco | 10. Giorgio Paniccia |
| 5. Ken Fellows | 11. Ed Wilmott |
| 6. Byron House | 12. Bill Zager |

ONTARIO DELEGATE CATEGORY TEAM

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Alex Papastamos | 4. Warren McLay |
| 2. George Jonckhere | 5. John Rowan |
| 3. Don Dolbear | |



THE 2011 FLORIDA HALL OF FAME TOURNAMENT

This ever popular 2-day tournament attracts a lot of snow-birds to the host club, The Silver Dollar Shooting Club in Odessa Florida – and Ontarians aren't immune to the allure of the 'possibility' of shooting in t-shirts!

Word has it, however, that this tournament may soon be renamed the JORDAN AND HIGGS Championships! Here's why: Terry earned the Open Singles Champion, Open Handicap Champion, Open A Doubles Winner and the Open HAA Champion; while Verne walked away with the Open Doubles Champion, Open Handicap Runner-Up Champion, and the Open HAA Runner-Up Champion.

That's some mighty fine shooting, boys!

THE 2011 DIXIE SATELLITE GRAND AMERICAN

The Dixie Grand was also staged at The Silver Dollar, hot on the heels of the Florida HOF tournament. In addition to the continuing presence of our dynamic duo of Terry Jordan (3 trophies plus a new gun!) and Verne Higgs (3 trophies), Ontario's ATA community was finely represented by Paul Shaw, Wayne Higgs, Bert Blackburn, Smokey Smith, Ray Cockburn, Ron Wallace, Jim Close, Bill Wylie, Brian Gabriel (2 trophies), Cyril Dixon (1 trophy), Graham Pilling, Dave Storing (1 trophy plus a new gun!), Walter Jordan and Lloyd Beecraft (7 trophies). As you can see from the trophy count, Ontario shooters are a force to be reckoned with - especially Mr. Beecraft!

Lloyd walked away from the Dixie (*Literally! He left the grounds for the long drive home before the event was finished.*) with the lone 98 in Sunday's Handicap Championship – anyone who has shot at The Dollar knows this is a fantastic feat from the 27-yard line at that club (let alone *any* 27-yd. line)! He also earned the crown for the HOA and HAA in AA Class. Congratulations Lloyd!

For complete tournament results and scores, please visit Bob Stuart's website at RJStuart.com.

THE 2011 CANADIAN TRAPSHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Update from Pam Muma, President of the St. Thomas Gun Club – hosts of the 2011 Canadian Trapshooting Championship:

"Well, despite the incredible cold and snow in St. Thomas, we've not stopped getting our grounds upgraded and ready for The 2011 Canadian Trapshooting Championships. The St. Thomas Gun Club now has 10 new trap houses installed complete with upgraded electrical. Tremendous thanks to Wayne and Verne Higgs, Eric McNeil, Bill Chilton, Steve Pettit, Jim Davis, Kevin White and Terry Jordan for their countless hours and hard work in the bitter cold!

Interest regarding The 2011 Canadian has been phenomenal – not the least of which is (and I've heard this from a very reliable source) that All American Captain Leo Harrison is hoping to compete! Leo will be holding a clinic at our club on the Monday and Tuesday prior to The Canadian and his plan at this time is to stay and shoot the Tournament. A few spots are still available for his clinic, so if any of you want to sign up, let me know quickly!

Please look for more news about The Canadian and the happenings at St. Thomas Gun Club in the upcoming editions of THE CLUBHOUSE! If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me – ppmuma@rogers.com.

(PS: The correct dates for the Championships are Wednesday June 29th thru to Sunday July 3^d, 2011!)"



****A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE TO EACH MEMBER OF
THE 2010 ONTARIO ALL STAR TEAMS**

We are working on a very special project and we need a digital photograph of each and every one of you! Please forward a favorite photo of yourself *as soon as possible* to Barbara Sheldon at sheldonshoots@rogers.com. It can be one of you shooting or any picture you really like, but you must be the only one in the photo and it clearly must be you.

If you have any questions or want to send a photograph to us by mail (sorry, but these cannot be returned), [please call Barbara \(toll-free\) 877-809-9995](tel:877-809-9995). *If you do not have a photo you like, please let us know and we'll arrange to shoot you – with a camera of course!*

IT'S TIME TO MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Every year, you entrust (by your vote) well-intentioned individuals to serve on the OPTA Board. Often times, these volunteers are known to you by name only – or perhaps by their reputation in our community – or maybe just from their shooting record.

Well, we think it's about time you all get to know each Director personally and what better place to meet them than here in THE CLUBHOUSE – and who better to start with then....

Your OPTA PRESIDENT, Neville Henderson.



When did you start trapshooting and how did you get into the sport?

NH: I started in about 1979 and became addicted shortly thereafter. At the time, I simply wanted to improve my shotgun handling for upland game bird hunting.

What is your home club?

NH: Galt Sportsmen's Club is my home club and I have been President there for over 15 years. I'm currently a member of Hamilton Gun Club, Toronto International Trap and Skeet, as well as Burlington Rifle and Revolver.

What is your current occupation – and how many years have you been at it?

NH: I'm an Actuary. I achieved my Fellowships in the mid 70's and have been practicing since then. There aren't a lot of actuaries so many people don't know what we do. Basically, we are financial mathematicians for insurance companies and pension funds specializing in financial risk management. I've spent about half my career as a senior executive in a couple of companies and the other half as a consultant. I was a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers and retired from consulting in 2008 but I am still working full time.

Will you share a bit of your personal life with our Members?

NH: I reside in Oakville with my wife. This May 14th will be our 40th anniversary. We have two sons, both of whom are on their own. They both enjoy shooting but neither of them has taken up the sport competitively. My youngest son is a classical guitarist and my eldest son is a computer expert with D-Link.



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What other interests do you have besides trapshooting?

NH: I work out daily though I'm not sure it's an interest as much as another addiction. I've had many addictions in the past! Gymnastics was one but I retired from the sport after a bad injury performing a dismount from the high bar. It's probably the one sport I miss most of all, especially the rings and the parallels. Now I enjoy all shooting: shotgun, pistols and rifle. I also enjoy digital photography. I still spend many hours per week solving all types of mathematical problems (a continuing addiction from having majored in applied mathematics and theoretical physics at university).

When did you join the OPTA Board?

NH: I was elected to the Board in August 2008.

Why did you decide to join the Board - and what do you hope to achieve by being a Director?

NH: I love shotgun shooting and had participated in the sport competitively for many years. Though I do a lot of volunteer work for my profession, my most significant contribution to the shooting sports has been as President of Galt Sportsmen's Club. I felt it was time to support the competitive side of the sport and believed I could make a positive contribution. I have been concerned about the shrinking number of participants in competitive target shooting and the negative public attitude about firearms in general. My hope is to raise the profile of the sport and educate the public about the mental and physical skills it teaches. I would also like to significantly increase the number of participants in OPTA events.

What would you like to see the OPTA achieve for its membership in the next 5 years? 10 years?

NH: A lot, though I don't expect to be President for that long!! In the immediate future I think we need to make the Ontario Championships and all other OPTA sponsored shoots into first class, professionally run events and significantly increase participation. I would also like to see some positive media exposure for major events over the next few years. Within 5 years, I'd like to see the participation in OPTA shoots double. I'd also like to see more printed articles about the positive aspects of trap shooting, and shooting in general, in the media. In the longer term, I would dearly love to see the OPTA have its own home grounds with first class facilities and a showroom for trapshooting memorabilia and member accomplishments.

If you were to brag about shooting in Ontario to non-residents, what would you say?

NH: I'd tell them what a wonderful place Ontario is for shooting sports. Ontario Clubs offer fun competition, nice facilities and great camaraderie regardless of where the competitor is from. The OPTA Board is currently increasing the number of awards for non-residents (and residents too), which should provide additional incentive to shoot in this Province and demonstrate that we are encouraging non-residents to participate.

Any final words for our Members today?

NH: I would really like to thank the people at the clubs across Ontario who make sure OPTA shoots are held at their clubs and run well. Many of them devote significant time and effort, often with little support, to make sure the shoots take place. I think it is important to acknowledge their efforts and let them know how much we all appreciate them. There are too many to name here, but the OPTA should recognize those volunteers and identify them so we all know who to thank.

The Board of the OPTA has high aspirations for the association but those aspirations will only be implemented if all OPTA members support the association, both by participating in and helping to manage its affairs. That support can be provided by donating time to help manage events or suggesting ideas that would help us to improve the quality and attraction of trapshooting in the province. The Board needs to hear from the membership about what they want from the Association so we can target our efforts to satisfy as many of those objectives as possible.



EXCITING NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On a particularly nasty Saturday morning in mid-January, your OPTA Directors risked the roads to the Galt Sportsmen's Club for a marathon work session on our new and exciting initiatives for the entire Membership, as well as for those participating in the 2011 Provincial Championships.

Unfortunately, the blizzard forced Pam to drive no further than Bill's house in Woodstock. The two of them remained hunkered down safely there and contributed fully to the meeting by phone. (Actually, we suspect Pam's home-baked cookies, which were destined for our meeting, triggered Billy to hold her hostage!) Our ATA Delegate Paul, who was unfortunately immobilized due to his recent injury, also joined us by conference call.

Many thanks to Galt for their clubhouse and endless supply of hot coffee to the brave souls who made it through the storm.

Our focus with these initiatives is two-fold: To better recognize, award and inspire our membership – *and* – to entice more shooters to join us. With this in mind, we are excited to announce the following:

In addition to the Ontario HOF inductions, there are currently two other Annual OPTA Awards: the Mike Fulop and the Mark Edmondson awards. At the 2011 AGM, (held at this year's Provincial Tournament), we will be bestowing 3 additional Awards on well-deserving recipients!

1) **The 2010 OPTA Gun Club of the Year award**

Executives from OPTA Gun clubs will be encouraged to submit, in writing, their club's candidacy based on suggested criteria and by the deadline, both of which will be announced shortly. Once all the submissions are received, the winning club will be determined by the OPTA Board.

2) **The 2010 OPTA Volunteer of the Year award**

Candidates must be nominated, in writing, by at least two OPTA members based on suggested criteria and the deadline for submissions, both of which will be released shortly. The OPTA Board will determine the winner. NO self-nominations will be considered.

3) **The 2010 OPTA Rookie of the Year award**

The winner of this award will be selected by the OPTA Board through the ATA official records of all the new OPTA shooters (those who shot their first registered targets in the ATA's 2010 shooting year). This is not a self-nominating award. The criteria for this award will be announced shortly.

Effective for 2012, based on the ATA's official 2011 records, we will be adding a 4th award to be presented at the 2012 AGM.

4) **The 2010 OPTA "Have Gun will Travel" award**

This will be a self-nominating award, not based on scores, averages or wins – but on shooting registered targets at a 'soon-to-be announced' minimum quota of OPTA clubs. The deadline for self-nominations will be set and announced in the near future.

Now, here comes even more good news....



Many changes will be implemented for the 2011 Ontario Provincial Trapshooting Championships to enhance, simplify and speed up the tournament. Your Board is working very closely with the Hamilton Gun Club to ensure the shoot is run as efficiently as possible, not the least of which is our current work on making HGC's computer system suitable and operable for the Provincials.

Mr. Ken George, HGC's president, has asked that we broadcast to the OPTA Membership that Florin Marinache is the Trap Director at his club, *not* Warren McLay as was previously indicated here in the October edition of THE CLUBHOUSE. We apologize for the mistake and wish Florin well in this very important role. *(Warren will be one of the OPTA's key contacts with the Hamilton Gun Club on all field operations issues for the 2011 Ontario Provincial Championships.)*

Amongst the many issues that have previously affected the smooth running of the Provincials, we have re-examined the schedule of events, and by doing so, we have determined that a positive change is required. *Accordingly, here is the new format for:*

THE 2011 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL TRAPSHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Day One (Saturday July 30th): The **CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP DAY**.

We have added an exciting, new race that will be running simultaneously to the individual quests for glory in the Singles, Handicap and Doubles events on this day. You are now going to have ***two chances to win in every event on this day*** as an individual as well as part of your Home-Club team. More details on this coming soon!

Day Two: (Sunday July 31st): The **SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP** day (200 targets).

Day Three: (Monday August 1st): First off, The **DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP**, followed by The **HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP** in the afternoon. And in between these two events will be the OPTA Annual General Meeting. That's right – ***the AGM is now on Monday, August 1st!***

As previously announced, we are employing the best on-line presquadding service available to serve you better! Check out www.presquad.com today and you will see our tournament is already listed and ready to launch on June 22nd.

You will still need to classify in person when you get to the grounds. To continue our pledge to serve you better we will be opening classification at **NOON ON FRIDAY, July 30th**. More details will follow on this soon.

There is so much more in the works, but for now, we want to leave you with this fantastic info:

THE 2011 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL TRAPSHOOTING TOURNAMENT

The Trophy slate has been expanded from 92 to ***more than 138 trophies*** – including additional Non-Resident trophies and new concurrent categories in which to win!

The Added Money for this year's competition will be ***increased by more than \$1700.00 over last year's purse***, with a substantial enhancement to each individual's cash prize!



As we hope you can see, your Board is actively working for you - and we'll have even more to reveal in the next edition of THE CLUBHOUSE. Please stay tuned!

In the meantime, we urge you to share your ideas and comments with us. Your input helps us to represent and serve your best interests, on and off the field – and your support fuels our efforts.

YOUR 2010-2011 OPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Neville Henderson: neville.s.henderson@cogeco.ca
Vice-President: Bert Blackburn: bertblackburn@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Gord Kerr: gord.kerr.opta@sympatico.ca
Director: Bill Malcolm: billmalcolm@rogers.com
Director: Basil Zmiyiwsky: zeezee_m@hotmail.com
Director: Barbara Sheldon: sheldonshoots@rogers.com
Director: Pam Muma: ppmuma@rogers.com
Director: Warren McLay: wmclay@cogeco.ca
(look everybody, Warren got a computer!)

It's never too early to start thinking about joining the Board. In about 150 days, the 2-year terms of 4 Directors will be coming to an end – and they will either stand for re-election at the AGM during the Provincials or vacate their positions. Either way, *there will be 4 positions open on the 2011-2012 OPTA Board of Directors* and we are encouraging active OPTA members, who are interested in contributing their time and experiences, to consider this tremendous way to give back to our community.

Your number of years shooting is not as relevant as your genuine willingness to serve our membership and grow trapshooting in our Province! If you would like more information about the Board and its activities, please contact any of the current Directors.

UPCOMING OPTA CLUBHOUSE EDITIONS

When interesting events happen at your club or to Ontario shooters, please be sure to let us know by writing the Editor at sheldonshoots@rogers.com. Our goal is to keep our community informed, connected and shooting!

Please display a copy of this edition of THE CLUBHOUSE at your home club - and remember to forward it to your shooting buddies as well. If they haven't done so already, please encourage them to sign up to receive their own copy – *they won't want to miss what's coming in the very next issue!* All they have to do is send their e-mail address along to sheldonshoots@rogers.com with their request. *The OPTA respects our members' privacy and does not share their information with any third parties.*

~ *Keep well and keep warm ... 'til we meet again in THE CLUBHOUSE* ~