

**National Skeet Shooting Association
Board of Directors Meeting
National Shooting Complex
October 4, 2009**

A. ROLL CALL – The annual Board of Directors' meeting was called to order by President Bill Batty at 8:09 PM. A quorum of 77 directors was present at 8:37PM.

B. MEETING MINUTES – Motion by Al Magyar, 2nd by Howie Altman, to accept the October 5, 2008 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Motion passed, all in favor.

C. MEETINGS - Winter Executive Committee meeting will be held at NSC February 5, 2010. The 2010 Board of Directors' meeting will be held at the Beretta Pavilion October 3, 2010.

D. OFFICERS' REPORTS

President Bill Batty – Contrary to rumors, Don Snyder's replacement has not been selected yet. We will discuss possible changes to the World Shoot format later this evening. The intent is to improve everyone's experience at NSC, and to attract those members who have been to a World Shoot, or have not been here in a number of years. Kudos to Andrea Lehr for a well run and successful U.S. Open at Rochester Brooks, and special thanks to White Flyer for the HOA trophies and continued support. Efforts have been ongoing with a "grassroots" program at the club level to increase shooting. We started a "Field Agent Program", and though the administrator did a very good job, it was not cost effective to keep her on. We are in the process of evaluating how to best administer the program. We need your (the Directors) help to reach out to clubs. Efforts in the past have been focused on registered shooting, but we first need to simply get people shooting. All of the Directors need to get involved with their local clubs. Headquarters is working on the development of video on how to run a shoot; revising the Gun Club Manual; and improving the website. We need to keep the channels of communication open; it's disappointing that there are some Directors who don't even take the time to vote. My door is always open; please don't hesitate to contact me with ideas. I want to do everything I can to improve the NSSA.

Vice President Jim Gast – A search committee was appointed to recommend a replacement for Don Snyder. Over 20 applications were received for the position, with more than ½ well qualified. Many have extensive shooting experience, business experience and financial management backgrounds. The Committee has narrowed the pool down to a handful of the best qualified, and plan to have a recommendation to the Executive Committee by the end of October for a decision.

Executive Director Don Snyder – Welcomed everyone to the 2009 World Shoot. Have been trying to get the power outage rectified; expect to have full power restored by midnight. Fortunately, it hasn't significantly impacted the shoot. We have not had any pressure from property development adjacent to NSC. Have been doing extensive community outreach and continue to develop and maintain stewardship programs (e.g., football and Little League events have been on the grounds; and the church continues to be one of our biggest supporters). Total entries in the Mini World were 605, with 509 four gun shooters. There were 748 shooters pre-registered for the World, and 666 have already gone through registration. We have planned a number of extracurricular activities for the shooters and their families. We have signed a five year contract with Blaser as our new sponsor for the spring shoot on the grounds (replacement for Toni Rogers shoot). We expect the program and added money to remain the same. A number of facility improvements have been completed; remodeled the shower house in the RV area, and it will include some coin-operated washers and dryers; there is a new dump station; the bottom bank of fields have had their fences reset; the museum patio has been covered. The Field Agent Program is an important initiative; we are trying to get a representative at the club level to work in concert with you, the Directors, to attract new shooters. For those who aren't aware, we now accept American Express. We are applying for an agricultural exemption for a portion of our property in 2010. If we are successful, it will reduce our taxes by ~ \$30,000.

E. BUDGET/FINANCE – Louise Terry, chair of the Finance Committee reported that the approval of a more conservative budget and efforts to control costs have paid off; we are ahead of budget. Though we are still debt free, there are still challenges ahead. Steve Scales, our Chief Financial Officer, continues to do a great job. Steve discussed the financials, pointing out the economy and memberships have both impacted our bottom line. Though membership numbers for both skeet and sporting clays have

rebounded, the number of targets thrown for both is down, as well as the participation in instructor certification programs. The same holds true for corporate events on the grounds. Our investments, however, are going very well; better than planned.

F. RULES & CLASSIFICATION – All three ballot items passed. There was a recent email meeting, in which the Rules & Classification Committee agreed to include as housekeeping adding the accepted abbreviations for the concurrent events with the definitions for the categories.

G. OLD BUSINESS – The reduction in the standard target requirements resulted in more shooters attaining standards, and thereby being eligible for All-American Teams.

H. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Ballot for bylaws change affecting how the Audit Committee is appointed was presented to the Directors. In lieu of the President appointing the Audit Committee, it is proposed the Executive Committee appoint the Audit Committee. Doing so would preclude any perception of collusion between the President and the Audit Committee. **Ballot approved; 79 for, 1 opposed.**

2. World Shoot Format Change – Louise Terry led the discussion on possibly changing the format of the World Shoot. There are two schools of thought: 1) World Shoot attendance is going to track with NSSA membership and targets shot, so if those are down, attendance will be down. 2) Need to make changes to attract those shooters who aren't attending. There was a survey on the website in the July/August timeframe, which indicated from those who haven't attended a World Shoot that time and money are the main factors. We don't want to make the World Shoot "just another weekend shoot" – it's special, and we want to keep it that way. However, can we make changes to improve on what we have and, thereby, attract more shooters? Points made/comments from Directors:

Shortening the World Shoot one day is not a significant cost savings.

Ending on Saturday is better than ending on Sunday (requires taking less time off of work).

Maybe we shouldn't be looking at cutting the Mini World; should be expanding it. Why weren't the practice fields used to accommodate the shooters in the waiting list?

There were short squads that went out in the Mini World because of no shows. Perhaps we should consider increasing the deposit to \$100. At least that way, the bottom line is less affected when some one decides not to come at the last minute.

How many shoot both the Mini and Main? This year, all but 167 of the 605 who shot the Mini are shooting the Main.

If the goal is to increase participation, then the number of days off an individual has to take is a factor. A 100 or 250 target event doesn't necessarily affect who is Champion. If we reduce the number of targets, we will increase attendance.

Overseas travelers prefer the format we currently have, since they are coming a long distance. If we lose the foreign shooters, we'll take the "World" out of the World Shoot.

Attendance is relative to the economy. We should wait a year before making any changes.

The Mini World is for those who can't take the time and/or money to shoot the World Shoot; they still get the "World Shoot experience".

This is a special shoot, and we need to keep it that way. Tinkering around the edges, when the economy is not at its best, isn't a good idea. We're dealing with people's discretionary money.

Why not try a change? It doesn't have to be permanent; we can always change back.

By a show of hands the Directors want:

- 1) To keep the 250 bird 12 gauge event
- 2) Have weekends for travel (i.e., don't end on Sunday)
- 3) To consider changing the Champion of Champions (not have a separate event)
- 4) Stay with Saturday/Sunday Mini World

The Executive Committee will discuss whether or not to make any format changes at the winter meeting.

I. NSSA TARGET & MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS – The Membership Committee recommendations continue to be implemented. An update on the status was included in the binder. One Director asked about the recommendation regarding having the SSR only on-line. Don Snyder responded that we have to balance cost savings with membership desires; people enjoy reading their (printed) magazine, and want to see the shoot results. Plan on expanding the on-line version, but will not go exclusively with an on-line magazine.

J. NSSA DIRECTOR REPORT – No verbal report was given as Rick was working the Mini World shoot-offs and awards presentations. Information that would have been presented is printed in section J of the meeting binders.

K. SSR – Have made some great strides in efforts to reduce production cost; received very competitive bids from both our current publisher and a new printer. Have contracted with a company to begin printing the SSR next (2010) year. Marty Frobel will again be doing the World Shoot article.

L. INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY – Member login requirements were completed and published June 1st, as planned. Continue to make additional design modifications to the websites, which will make it easier for our members to navigate the websites. Numerous programs have been created to enhance statistics and provide information to our members. "Target Talk" is another avenue to communicate with members. A Director asked if NSSA has a published privacy policy on the use of member information (i.e., email/address info). Though members can ask that their information not be released, there is no published policy. **Don Snyder will take for action.**

M. NATIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX – Fairly full schedule of events for 2009.

N. U. S. OPEN – Revised criteria were distributed to the Directors. The 2010 U. S. Open will be held at Ben Avery Clay Target Center in Arizona April 16-18th.

O. NSSA SHOOTS – The 2010 NSSA shoot schedule is:

World Shoot – National Shooting Complex, October 2-9
Masters – Ft. Bragg Clay Target Center, April 29 – May 2
Junior World – World Shooting & Recreation Complex, July 29 – August 1
Blaser Skeet Classic – National Shooting Complex, March 26-28
General Pletcher Open – Prelim to 50th Anniversary Armed Forces Skeet Championship

P. YOUTH SHOOTING & SCTP COMMITTEE REPORT – Several recommendations were included in the Committee's report. The Field Agent program is seen as a great opportunity to promote youth shooting.

Q. NSSA CLUB ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – Application guidelines were provided to the Directors. There are currently no applications on file for 2010; applications must be received at Headquarters by December 31st in order to be considered at the winter Executive Committee meeting.

R. LEAGUE & SWEEPSTAKES – Interest continues to decline, but it doesn't cost much to run the program, so will continue to have it available for those who want it.

S. HALL OF FAME – This year's inductees are Craig Kirkman and Holly Paul for shooting accomplishments and King Heiple for the Ray Boller award.

T. REFEREE HONOR ROLL – This year's inductees are Howard Terry from Tennessee and Norbert Maves (deceased).

U. MUSEUM – Mike Brazzell and Jim Harris continue to make improvements and add items of interest to the Museum. If you have not been to the museum, you must go.

V. AWARDS & RECOGNITION – This year's NSSA scholarship recipient was Zachary Albrecht from Tennessee. The great citizens that they are are reflected in their applications. Will gladly entertain donations to award additional scholarships, since NSSA doesn't have the funds to do so.

W. INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION – There is still a lot of interest from shooters to become certified instructors. We had 33 new Level 1 instructors in 2009. Also, there are three youth camps in the plans for next year.

X. NSCA – Michael Hampton, Jr. provided an update on NSCA. As pointed out earlier, membership is about even, but targets thrown have declined from last year. This is an election year; new delegates were elected in July and will take office January 2010. We have 1,233 shooters pre-registered for the Nationals; about 40 more than last year. Selection for the 2010 U.S. Open will take place at the Nationals; with four clubs bidding to host it. This is the first year ALL the points races are listed on the myNSCA website; continues to be a very successful and positive way to choose our teams.

There being further business to discuss, a motion was made by Al Magyar, end by Steve Meyers, to adjourn. The 2009 NSSA Board of Directors' meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert De Francesco, Secretary/Treasurer