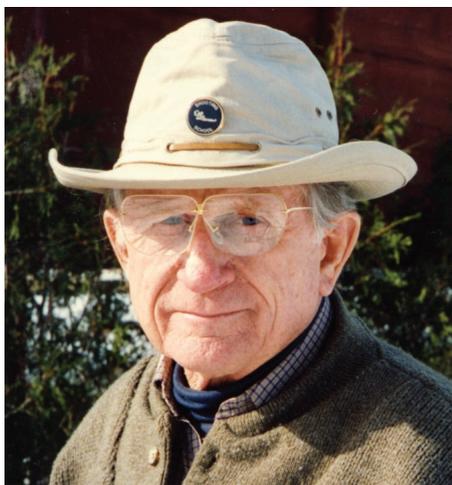


Station 6

By Ed Scherer



Ed Scherer was a popular columnist on instruction for Skeet Shooting Review during the 1980s and 1990s. He passed away in 1995. The following is a print from June 1991.

The first shot in all my training sessions is high 6. If any of you aspire to be skeet instructors, here's the place to start. Grant Ilseng, that Houston shotgunner and the namesake of son Jeffrey Grant, taught me the rudiments of skeet instructing way back in the 1970s and this is where he started all his skeet students. I had never wavered on that good piece of advice and after a decade of teaching, it's still high 6 as the first shot.

Face your navel toward the low house opening and crank your hips around to where the gun muzzle is pointing over the stack of targets near the high house. This stack is placed 18 ft. out from the face of the high skeet house toward the Station 8 crossing point and is referred to as the "hold point." Another way to describe the target placement for the hold point is to keep it directly under the target flight, 18 ft. out. The height of the muzzle

should be the same height as the bottom of the high house opening.

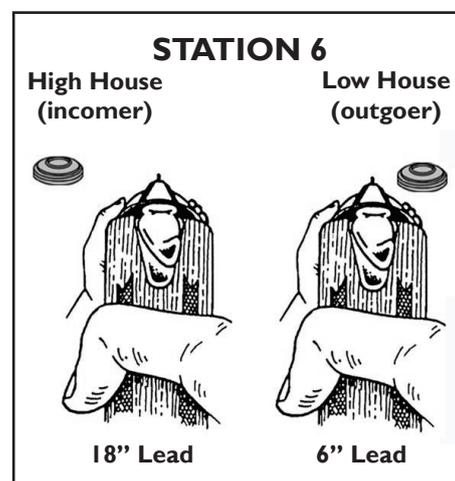
Cast your eyes toward the opening and when the bird emerges, start the muzzle moving immediately. Careful, now. Move only when you see the target. Some of you like to move the muzzle when calling, but my firm advice is to move when first seeing the target.

Set up an 18 in. lead and hold that lead until the bird is halfway between the crossing point at Station 8 and the low house opening. At this point, pull trigger and keep muzzle moving as trigger is pulled to insure a centered target.

If you are just starting the great game of skeet, put the gun aside for now and use only your pointed index finger at the end of your outstretched left arm to track the target. You might even get the right hand in the act too. It can simulate pulling the trigger so get it up there where it normally is when pulling the trigger and actually say BANG to yourself when trigger should be pulled. I have my students actually simulated the pulling of the trigger. It works! Here's what this little exercise accomplishes:

1) It teaches you to swing the arm (and later the gun) the same speed as the target; a prerequisite for learning the constant or maintained method of hitting a target.

2) More importantly, the simulated pulling of the trigger teaches you to keep the muzzle moving as trigger is pulled. I'd like to see you do this little exercise for a minimum of ten high house 6 targets. Each time the simulated trigger is pulled, maintain that swing. Later when actually shooting high 6, with a skeet gun, the



tendency is to get so engrossed with the trigger pulling that maintained swing is ignored and muzzle stops. The target merrily goes on its way, unscathed, all because you thought your work was done.

3) If arm stops swinging as you say BANG, you, as a new student, can see the error first hand and make the necessary corrections. Once the actual shooting starts, you won't pick up on this, so learn to maintain that lead with the dry firing and it will carry over on the actual shooting.

Some teach to break high 6 where it's broken on the double but I disagree. Carrying high 6 single in that far can lead to a heap of trouble, especially with a south wind. Remember, 18 in. of lead, keep head frozen on comb of stock as trigger is pulled and keep it moving. Have a friend stand to your right side and observe whether check remains on stock as trigger is pulled. Head lifting can cause a multitude of problems. See that 18 in. lead as trigger is pulled and freeze head on comb.

The low house takes negligible

lead and is hit with a lead so small it will astound one. My lead card shows a 6 in. lead and that's not very much. Remember to go up with the target as it's climbing. If you have a mysterious miss, cut back on the lead and point your muzzle higher as trigger is pulled.

The muzzle is pointed over the low house hold point, placed under the flight of the target and parallel with the face of the low house straight out from Station 6, about 18 ft. out from the face of the low house.

Look right into the low house opening and as a starter, repeat the outstretched arm and index finger pointing exercise we just completed on the

high house. This drill, with arm pointed over the hold point and eyes into the low house opening, will teach you to start gun moving as the target emerges. A dozen observed targets will head you in the right direction. Next, put an unloaded gun in your hands and practice fire more simulated shots, learning to start muzzle smoothly as target emerges. Have other squad members also watch that low house target emerge. It's surprising how clearly

one can see that low house target appear after it's observed a dozen times.

Foot position remains the same for the low and high house targets with navel pointed toward the low house opening. I stand as far back on the station pad as possible and move to the left side to give me a larger field of view, which helps. Standing in back of the station al-

A chronic problem in doubles at 6 is to rush the low house shot, stop muzzle as trigger is pulled, so that the shooter hurrying to shoot the second target shoots a foot behind the low house target.

lows you to crank your eyes back without lifting head from comb. Remember now, start easy with a loosened grip on the forend.

The left-handed skeeter points his navel at the high house and cranks his hips around toward the

low house opening, using the same hold point as the right-handers do. Eye placement, however, is slightly different. We right-handed shooters look halfway back toward the opening on high 2 and that's about how far the left-handed shooter looks back to pick up the low 6. Remember to cut back the lead and point muzzle higher as trigger is pulled.

A chronic problem in doubles at 6 is to rush the low house shot, stop muzzle as

trigger is pulled, so that the shooter hurrying to shoot the second target shoots a foot behind the low house target. The best advice is to see the target break before any attempt is made to go after the second target. This will take an extreme effort in concentration, but it can be done. A smooth start is important and the second to last thought as I call PULL, is to loosen up on the forend. No white knuckle grip please. Then, when I see a 6 in. lead on that fast outgoer, I pull the trigger and see a centered target. This, of course, is my last thought—to see the correct lead before firing.

As I move back to shoot the second shot at 6, I lead with my LEFT knee moving it to the right to prevent sway. I actually put my fists in the right rib of my student to prevent sway. With my fist firmly in place, the only way the second target is hit is with a beautifully executed turn. The swing will be better on the second shot as you have just enlisted the use of the entire body from the knee up. It works! Watch your friend on the double. If that person sways, gently plant your fist in the ribs and note the nice turn, and resulting smooth swing. the second shot is fired 10 ft. closer to the low house than the single with just slightly less lead. Freeze the head on the comb as second shot is fired and keep the muzzle moving.

Next month is Station 7 and it's a reall fun station for smoking targets.