

## NSSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

World Shooting & Recreational Complex

Sparta, Illinois

June 8, 2007

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- A. ROLL CALL** – President Louise Terry called the meeting to order at 8:50AM. Committee members present were, Bill Batty Vice President; Bob DeFrancesco, Zone 1; Warren Ruello, Zone 2; Trish Magyar for John Haugh, Zone 3; Bill Murrell, Zone 4; Jack Tans, Zone 5; Wayne Black, Zone 6; Billy D. Williams for Bill Wright, Zone 7; John Bratty, Zone 8; and Al Magyar, Immediate Past President. Also present were Don Snyder, Executive Director; Carl Hensch; Skeet Director; Steve Scales, Director for Finance; Phil Murray, NSCA Representative. Jim Gast, Secretary/Treasurer had to return home due to a family emergency; and Don Root, Zone 9, was absent.

President Terry continues to make adjustments to committee membership rosters. If you have anyone interested in being on the Membership Committee, contact Debbi Perry. Youth Shooting Committee chair, John Daubenschmidt, hasn't been able to do anything yet, but is still committed. We have a new IT Department Head; Julie Moreno is now Julie Houtman.

- B. MINUTES** – A motion was made by Warren Ruello, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Batty, to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2007 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed all in favor.

### C. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. Board of Directors meeting will be October 7, 2007 at NSC Beretta Pavilion.
2. Executive Committee will meet at the World Shoot on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 AM.
3. Winter Executive Committee meeting will be February 14-16, 2008 at NSC.
4. Summer 2008 meeting will be held at The Homestead in Virginia, May 17, 2008 with a reception and dinner Friday evening.

- D. BUDGET/FINANCE** – Steve Scales provided the April 2007 Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and previous year-to-date comparison. Strong cash position due to World English Sporting, which was up 25%, and Southwestern Grand. Our investments have been doing exceptionally well. We've added a new ammunition consignee, Game Bore, to our shell house. We are continuing to see a steady conversion of annual to six year and life memberships. Daily fees for skeet and sporting are both ahead of plan for the year. SSR advertising has increased over the same period last year. Though the entries for the Masters was less (due to facility limitations), the bottom line improved over Savannah. Our Human Resources manager is developing a personnel manual for the staff, and a new managers manual, which should be completed in the next few months.

### E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Monthly Targets – Question was raised by a member concerning posting of the (monthly target) 100 straights in the SSR. Previously, it was decided that targets only and monthly targets would not be used to count towards long run and World records. The SSR and Records Annual listings of 100 straights will now have a footnote that it includes targets shot in both tournaments and monthly target events.
2. Web Discussion Board – In lieu of the discussion board, and to provide an avenue for members to express their opinions on specific topics, President Terry has agreed to respond to "Letters to the President". In addition, the existing "Ask Headquarters" on myNSSA will be made more visible. Any answered questions will be incorporated into the FAQ section of myNSSA so all members can view them.
3. Updated Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation – Texas law has changed and now requires 100% response and 100% approval when a mail ballot is used. If votes are taken in person at the annual Board of Directors' meeting, they are based on the results of the votes of those physically present. We need to make sure our Directors understand the importance, now, of attending the annual meeting. The amendments to the bylaws and restated articles of incorporation will be voted on at the October 2007 annual board meeting. All necessary information (i.e., letter of explanation, summary of changes and revised documents) will be mailed out by September 1, 2007 to all of the directors.
4. Field Grant Program Criteria – The current criteria were discussed extensively, primarily due to the rejection of the grant application from Ft. Kearny, NE at the winter Executive Committee

meeting. What are the decision-factors the Executive Committee uses when deciding whether or not to approve a grant request? The heart of the issue is where will the Association get the biggest bang for the buck? It was agreed the Association should support a new club that doesn't have any fields, a club forced to relocate, and even larger clubs who wish to expand because their shoots are filled to capacity. Don Snyder will take the work completed by Jack Tans, incorporate the factors the Executive Committee has used in the past, and re-craft the criteria for Executive Committee review and approval at the World Shoot. In extenuating circumstances, the Executive Committee may decide not to award a grant to a club that may have met the letter of the program, but not the spirit.

5. Zone 9 Military Directors – Don Snyder will contact the new AFSA President and bring him up to speed on the current situation and history regarding the Zone 9 Executive Committee position and election of Military Directors.
6. Crossfire Program – Don Snyder presented an implementation plan for the joint NSSA/NSCA membership program. Headquarters will be ready for an August 1<sup>st</sup> execution when the NSSA renewal notices are mailed. In addition, an article will appear in both magazines explaining the program to our membership.
7. Sporting Clays Magazines – Will continue to work with the NSCA and our vendor to renegotiate the existing contract.
8. Instructional DVD for Running Small Shoots – Bob DeFrancesco and Bill Batty have the lead... the script is being written, and filming will be done at the Zone 1 shoot.
9. Referee Wall of Fame – Need to publish the criteria in the SSR and on myNSSA. This year's awardees will be C. W. Busby, "Big" Bob Wilkin and Denny Snyder (posthumously).
10. Long Range Planning Committee – Committee Chairman, Warren Ruello, reported that at the meeting in March they evaluated the San Antonio and Nashville areas based upon 16 different factors, resulting in the Nashville area being slightly more favorable. For the present we will maintain the status quo... We are not actively seeking a buyer for our property, nor are we considering relocation unless we receive an offer. We are, however, making sure we are prepared if and when we receive a viable offer.

#### **F. OFFICERS' AND ZONE REPORTS**

1. President – The first-ever Shooting Sports Summit was held at NSC in April with about 30 individuals representing the various organizations, industry and others with a vested interest in the shooting sports. Major issues discussed included recreational shooting; recruitment and retention of members; gun club and range development; and environmental issues. It was an excellent opportunity to network with others in the shooting industry. The plan is to establish a National Clay Target Advisory Council with three representatives from each of the organizations and industry. It was agreed that the three officers would represent NSSA, and Warren Ruello and Wayne Black agreed to serve as alternates.
2. Vice President – Bill Batty reiterated the importance of maintaining involvement with the Shooting Sports Summit.
3. Secretary/Treasurer – No report.
4. Executive Director – It has been a whirlwind year so far... "Kids & Clays" was the first time ever to hold registered skeet, sporting clays, trap and Cowboy Action concurrently; Southwestern Grand was well attended; record-breaking World Sporting Clays, with significant attendance from overseas; the Masters was in the "black" for the first time ever, and have committed to returning to Ft. Bragg in 2008, with the potential for future years; looking to upgrade the traps at NSC to automatic ones for the trap houses; currently have 105 events schedule for NSC in 2007, and still adding to the list; Dan Moseley was hired to replace Mo Parsons. With increased attendance at events on the grounds, there is a need to improve the (electrical) power on the grounds, since we can't afford to lose it during an event. Clays Cars, Exide, GMC, John Deere and LaPorte are still major sponsors. Everyone has received their GMC raffle tickets – need to be proactive; have sold 800+ tickets to date. Our Web Master resigned, so have contracted with an outside developer to improve and maintain our websites in lieu of continuing in-house support. Most of the World Shoot software updates have been delivered and we are testing them; Mike Valerio continues to be very responsive. Residential development surrounding the NSC continues at a

rapid rate. The 2007 National SCTP Skeet and Sporting Clays Championships will be held at NSC July 13-15<sup>th</sup>; White Flyer is donating the targets. ESPN and ESPN2 will be televising the ACUI Championships in June. A new wireless system has been set-up, thanks to Wayne Black. Though it hasn't helped with the speed, it has helped with connectivity. Wayne Black has offered to work further to improve the speed. The first three episodes of the reality-based TV show (Linden Productions), with voting on the Association websites, will be taped shortly; the Outdoor Channel is paying all of the cost and NSSF is going to use the it to promote the SCTP program.

5. Zone Reports

Zone 1 – The Minute Man Gun Club is holding this year's Zone Shoot, the weekend following the Junior World Shoot.

Zone 2 – Shennencoy will be this year's host for the Zone shoot.

Zone 3 – Detroit Gun Club is this year's site for the Zone shoot; Michigan has moved their state shoot back a week to the last weekend in August, where it had originally been held up until about five years ago. Hope to see better attendance at the Zone, since it won't be back-to-back with the Michigan and Ohio state shoots.

Zone 4 – The Zone shoot will be in Atlanta at the Tom Lowe Shooting Grounds; NC moved their state shoot to September

Zone 5 – This year's Zone shoot will be in Lincoln, NE. Three-I in Peoria was down slightly.

Zone 6 – Waco will hold this year's Zone shoot; the Zone Committee will run the shoot in lieu of the club. Are seeing ups and downs in the Zone attendance; Waco is removing some fields, but Dallas just added a new field.

Zone 7 – Bakersfield will host this year's Zone shoot; currently have 12 fields, with plans to expand and add RV spots. It is a great facility, and is very good for shooting. U.S Open will be in Albuquerque; still need some referees. Clark County Shooting Park in Las Vegas currently has an estimated opening day of early summer 2008.

Zone 8 – Six clubs are currently signed up for the satellite Zone shoot.

Zone 9 – No report available.

## G. NEW BUSINESS

1. All-American Teams – Robert Paxton presented a proposal to restructure the point system, removing the Masters and U.S. Open as a separate category, but adding a category for shoot difficulty factor of more than 60. This proposal also changed the category for shoot difficulty factor of 35 or more, to 35 - 60. In addition, "specialty" shoots, such as the Junior World, Ladies Charity Skeet Classic, Armed Services Skeet Championships and Senior Shoot, should report concurrent CH, RU and 3<sup>rd</sup> and Group 1 1-6. **Motion by Bill Murrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob DeFrancesco, to accept the revised All-American Point System beginning with the 2008 shooting year. Motion passed all in favor.**
2. U.S. Open – Discussed the possibility of holding a future U.S. Open at a "split club" venue, which would enable Zone 6 to submit a bid. The clubs being proposed are Blue Rock (7 fields) and Remington (5 fields), which is where the Alltel shoot is held. Issues that would need to be addressed include transportation between the two clubs, in particular, for individuals with motor homes.
3. NSSA League – The Association's efforts to help, for example by allowing individuals to shoot multiple gauges and register targets, seems to have hurt the league in the long run. A possible way to increase participation might be to court recreational shooters. There is a segment of shooters outside our existing pool of members who are shotgun enthusiasts, but don't shoot competitively. Similar to BASS, which has a very small group of fishermen that compete in the big tournaments, but has a large "subsidiary" of members that follow what the pros are doing, get a periodical with tips and equipment reviews. How do we get a list of names of "shotgun enthusiasts" to solicit? Hunter Safety organizations might be a possible source. It would behoove us, if we want to investigate the potential for increasing our membership through this avenue, to hire an outside entity to run a test and manage the recreational shooter "organization". It's very much like NSCA's "Hunter" class. The next step is the development of a tactical plan. In the past, we've always had some great ideas, but have relied on our clubs and members to

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execute and/or follow through. **Motion by Bob DeFrancesco, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Bratty, to authorize \$6,000 to develop a tactical plan for further consideration. Motion passed all in favor.**

4. Zone Shoots – Question concerning whether or not Zone shoots are open or closed. It's up to each Zone.
5. World Shoot Attendance – Pre-registration is currently at 792, which is about the same as in previous years. Is there the chance that the current economy will have a negative impact on attendance? It has been proposed that we consider reducing the number of targets required for All-American consideration. The Executive Committee reviewed some data that showed the possible affect of reducing the minimums for qualification and decided, at this time, to make no changes.
6. Potential Conflict of Interest of Officers and Executive Committee Members – As a follow-up to the January Audit Committee report, it was recommended that candidates for Officers and Executive Committee complete a questionnaire/disclosure statement to determine if there are any conflicts of interest. Jack Tans will work with Steve Scales and our auditors to develop the necessary questionnaire.

**H. INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT** – The developed data warehouse for our pre-2001 data is corrupted; as a result, the data is not useable at this point in time. Don't know yet if the conversion process or porting the data from the old machine is the source of the problem. Wayne Black has agreed to help our IT Department work on identifying where the problem lies.

**I. NATIONAL SKEET SHOOTING ASSOCIATION** – Corrected target statistics were provided; the number of registered targets for 2006 was only down slightly from the previous year, and membership was up slightly.

**J. NSSA SHOOTS**

1. 2007 U.S. Open – Everything is shaping-up nicely for this year's shoot at the High Desert Sportsmen's in Albuquerque, NM.
2. 2007 World Shoot – The World Shoot Committee met at the Masters in May and proposed the following changes:
  - a) Increase deposit by \$25 for Doubles starting with the 2008 World Shoot.
  - b) Require all team members to have cleared registration prior to entering team events; Team events will not be part of pre-registration.
  - c) Change the Two Man Family Team definition to exclude H/W.
  - d) State exact color of targets in the program; orange-domed for events and all-orange for shoot-offs.
  - e) Replace "Novice" with "Rookie" in the program.
  - f) Establish shoot-off board behind field 3.
  - g) Shoot-off Team event Championship concurrent with the main event when perfect scores are involved.

**Motion by Al Magyar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warren Ruelo, to approve the above recommendations with the exception of c) and g). Motion passed all in favor.**

Discussed the letter from Howard Confer to consider not switching targets to all-orange for the shoot-offs. The Executive Committee decided to still change to all-orange targets for shoot-offs.

3. 2007 Junior World Shoot – Minute Man Sportsman's Club, August 3-5<sup>th</sup>
4. 2007 Vintage World Skeet Championship/Event 6 – Was held at Northbrook, IL May 18-20<sup>th</sup>
5. 2007 International Skeet Championship – Will be held at Ft. Benning, GA (date TBD)
6. 2007 Krieghoff Masters – Recommended format changes will be reviewed at the October Executive Committee meeting.

**K. NATIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX** – Facility construction and maintenance projects include new benches; improving PA system in the Beretta Pavilion; soliciting bids for perimeter fencing, upgrade of electrical. (See, also, paragraph F, above.)

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- L. NEW FIELD GRANTS** – The Ft. Kearny Shooting Sports Association (NE) submitted a grant request, which was denied because they don't have any fields at present. They requested we re-evaluate their application. They are deserving of consideration, and are in the process of building two fields at present. **Motion by Jack Tans, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Magyar, to approve a grant for \$3,000 from next year's allocation. Motion failed, because of other clubs in similar circumstances who had also been denied grants.** Plattsburg Rod & Gun Club requested a grant to assist with their closure and relocation forced by EPA. As a result of the Ft. Kearny, and Plattsburg, situations the Field Grant Criteria are being rewritten – we do need to be able to consider new clubs and those forced to close. The new criteria will be used at the winter 2008 Executive Committee meeting when the decisions for the annual grants are made.
- M. NSSA HALL OF FAME** – This year's banquet will be held again at Pedrotti's. A copy of the menu was included in the binder.
- N. RULES AND CLASSIFICATIONS** – Rules Committee had a conference call Wednesday evening to address questions raised concerning eligibility of individuals to play concurrent HOA/HAA when they haven't entered the open/class HOA/HAA. The Rules Committee recommended, as housekeeping, to add to end of II-B-2:

**Shoot registrants who enter and pay the normal gun fees for each gun ARE eligible to enter the concurrent HOA and HAA and other concurrent events, even if there is not a separate entry fee for those concurrent events. Entry in the open/class HOA/HAA is not required for entry in a concurrent HOA/HAA. However, entry in all of the individual concurrent events comprising the concurrent HOA/HAA is required.**

And, to delete the words: “An” and “event” from the beginning of II-B-5-a & b.

**Motion by Wayne Black, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warren Ruello, to accept the Rules Committee proposed addition to the end of II-B-2 and deletions from II-B-5-a & b, and reword the beginning of II-B-2, to read (changes underlined):**

**Anyone that participates in an individual gauge event for a reduced entry fee (i.e., a new shooter or any shooter that shoots for targets only), *where allowed by shoot management*, shall not be eligible for tangible (i.e., purses, trophies) or intangible awards (i.e., event champion, sub-senior champion). Such shooter may not enter any concurrent events in those gauges where they entered for a reduced entry fee.**

**Motion passed all in favor.**

- O. NATIONAL SPORTING CLAYS ASSOCIATION** –The National Championships will be held after the World Shoot this year; October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- P. LEAGUE & SWEEPSTAKES** – Participation continues to decline. However, it is beneficial to our members and the Association. We will continue the program.

There being no further business to discuss, a **motion was made by Bill Batty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Murrell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.** The Executive Committee was in session from 8:50 AM until 5:45 PM, with a recess for lunch from 12:00-12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gast, Secretary/Treasurer

Trish Magyar, Assistant Secretary