

NSSA Executive Committee Meeting
June 18, 2009

Wyndham Hotel, Richmond, Va.

Meeting called to order by President Bill Batty at 8:30am.

Roll Call:

Present:

Jim Gast, Vice President
Bob DeFrancesco, Secretary/Treasurer
Louise Terry, Past President
Mike Ferchaw, Zone 1
Sam Armstrong, Zone 2
John Haugh, Zone 3
Ken Keth, Zone 4
Jack Tans, Zone 5
Wayne Black, Zone 6
Ron Wilson (for Bill Wright), Zone 7
John Bratty, Zone 8

Also present were:

Don Snyder, Executive Director
Rick Stockstill, NSSA Director
Steve Scales, Finance Director

Absent:

Newman Shufflebarger, Zone 9 due to military duties

Guests:

Jay Delphey, NSCA Executive Council member.

Shane Naylor from Remington Arms was also present at the beginning of the meeting. Shane made a special presentation of Remington knives commemorating the Executive Committee meeting in conjunction with the Remington sponsored Great Eastern Skeet Championships. The Executive Committee thanked Shane and Remington for the wonderful knives and their continued support of the Great Eastern Skeet Championships and our shotgun sports.

Minutes:

1. **Motion** by Jim Gast, **Second** by Jack Tans to approve January 30, 2009 EC minutes. Approved unanimously.
2. **Motion** by Jack Tans, **Second** by John Haugh to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2009 conference call. Approved unanimously.

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Upcoming meetings:

1. The Annual Board of Directors meeting will be held October 4, 2009 at the Beretta Pavilion at the NSSA Complex with dinner at 7:00pm, meeting at 8:00pm.
2. The Officers meeting will be October 2, 2009 at 1:30PM
3. EC Meetings will be held Oct. 2 @ 3PM, Oct. 6 @ 1:30PM, and Oct. 8 @ 9:30AM.
4. The EC Picture will be October 8, 2009 at 9:00am.
5. Better alternatives to distributing the binder to EC members prior to the scheduled meetings were discussed; since the process tried for this meeting wasn't too successful, it was agreed that the next method to try is to post the binder on a secure section of the web site with special access for EC members and Past Presidents, and use Groupware Software to keep changes to the documents synchronized. Target for implementation for the October EC meetings.

Officer and Zone Reports:

Officer Reports:

1. **Presidents Report:** Bill Batty discussed electronic shoot reports vs. manual entry. Some small clubs are still reporting manually which slows the process of getting everything into the system at HQ. Bill also reported that there have been some complaints about raising club dues for NSSA member clubs.
2. **Vice Presidents Report:** Jim Gast discussed the fifty-bird event shoots. They seem to be more successful when run four guns shot on one day. It's brought back some members who have not shot targets in a while.
3. **Secretary, Treasurer Report:** Bob De Francesco stated that most of the large shoots are filling up or are very close to full, but late, ie., filling up very close to the shoot date. Bob also has heard many complaints from shooters about the US Open moving to April for 2010, many in the colder parts of the country feel they will not be ready for a shoot of that importance so early in the season.

Zone Reports:

1. **Zone 1:** The small shoots are filling in upstate NY. Helping this is getting sponsors and having dinners for 1 or 2 nights.
2. **Zone 2:** Smaller shoots are not filling up, but 50-bird events are becoming more popular. The small clubs are complaining about the cost to belong to NSSA
3. **Zone 3:** Canton will hold the Zone Shoot. The Mid-America, Color Matrix and Detroit look like they will be well attended.

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4. **Zone 4:** There has been an increase in the Jr. shooting and the complimentary memberships are very popular, especially with Jr. shooters. The Ga. State shoot will have 100 scholastic shooters (SCTP) attending.
5. **Zone 5:** Northbrook IL. will host the Zone shoot. The poor weather this spring has impacted attendance at the small shoots. Recreational shooting is doing well; Registered shooting is not doing as well.
6. **Zone 6:** San Antonio (NSC) will host the Zone shoot. The big shoots are doing well but the smaller shoots are hit or miss. The medium size shoots are not doing well. The Jr. World will be in Mississippi at Whitetail Ridge.
7. **Zone 7:** Ben Avery in Arizona held the Zone shoot, with 190 shooters in attendance. The Clark County facility in Las Vegas looks to open this summer with 24 skeet fields. It is 14 miles west of Nellis AFB. The SCTP program is big in Arizona; there have been some complaints by SCTP shooters about the cost of NSSA registered events vs. their SCTP events.
8. **Zone 8:** Zone 8 will run a satellite shoot for its Zone shoot. 50-bird events are becoming more popular.

Executive Director Report:

1. The 2009 Toni Ann Rogers Shoot was very successful. Please thank Toni Rogers for a wonderful shoot that spanned 6-continuous years with her support.
2. Blaser USA has signed to be the new title sponsor for the next 5 years of this early major shoot, carrying on the tradition established by Toni over the last 6 years.
3. The National Shooting Complex hosted the World English Sporting Clays shoot with 630 participants, the Southwestern Grand (Trap Shoot) with 585 shooters and the Sportsmen's Team Challenge, with 93, 3-person teams. There are many other corporate events and the Texas 4-H State Shooting Championships is scheduled for July.
4. We are negotiating with two lead reclamation companies which will generate additional funds while also implementing an important aspect of our Environmental Stewardship Plan.
5. I have hired a new ad sales agency to seek additional ads for the SSR and pursue additional sponsorships for our associations. The company name is Synergy. They have hit the ground running already producing increased ad revenue and opening some sponsorship doors with Clenzoil, a company manufacturing high quality gun maintenance products. Target Talk, our e-news letter to both NSSA and NSCA members and clubs, has been very successful and we now have over 14,000 registered e-mail recipients. We have added more member benefits and continue to search out others which may be beneficial. We are in the process of updating member benefits in our advertisements both online and in hard copy.

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6. We have been working with South Eastern Illinois College to establish an internship for gun club managers which could be beneficial to our home grounds and member clubs. Our cardboard bailing machine is now fully operational which is saving us significant dollars in trash receptacles, but we have not been able to sell the bailed cardboard in the local area for very much money.
7. I have been working with the NRA to establish a Junior Coaches program the NSSA and NSCA may be able to endorse.
8. The number of corporate events has stayed consistent; however, participation levels are down due to the economy.
9. The NSC will be hosting the 50th Anniversary Armed Forces Skeet Championships and the General Ken Pletcher pre-shoot in May of 2010.
10. We are gaining membership through the use of the Bonus Buck Program but it is too early to evaluate the program's effectiveness.
11. Shotgun Life is now the Official NSSA/NSCA forum which is monitored and ID is required in order to post. The URL for Shotgun Life is: www.shotgunlife.com.
12. The NSC hosted a Cross-fire Cup which proved to be fun and enjoyable. As the first one attempted, much was learned about how to do one of this more effectively in the future.
13. New fences are being built to replace the old ones on the "dirty dozen" skeet fields.

Budget/Finance:

1. Steve Scales gave the financial report. Financials-to-date continue to meet or exceed budget due to a very successful World English Sporting Clays Championship and double-digit gains in the company's investment portfolio. However, membership numbers are down in both NSSA and NSCA, as are the number of registered targets being thrown.
2. An upgrade of the postage machinery at headquarters promises fewer errors and improved efficiency which management is confident will produce savings in dollars and time.
3. Property taxes and their effect on the company's bottom line continue to prove consistent with the projection made two and a half years earlier by the Finance Director.
4. The Executive Director spoke in support of a concentrated thrust by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Long Range Planning Committee to prepare for further increases in taxes in 2011 and 2012.

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Unfinished Business:

1. A draft of an Audit Committee Charter was submitted, reviewed and deferred for further investigation.
2. Louise Terry presented the Finance Committee recommendation to roll staggered CDs until the S&P benchmark was reached in the market signaling the time to get back into equities. The staggered CDs would provide safe harbor for association funds and allow for gradual reinvestment based on the benchmark as identified by our financial advisors, allowing a more conservative return to the equities market. **Motion: Wayne Black, Second Bob Defrancesco:** Re-invest in funds suggested by the Finance Committee. Passed unanimously. July 16, 2009 will be the next Finance Committee meeting.
3. Club Outreach program was discussed with no reports available from Zone Committeeman at this time.
4. A two-month progress report on the Official Field Agent Program (OFA) was presented in writing from Barbara Sheldon along with a grant request to the NSSF to help fund this program. A discussion regarding funding of this program was conducted and a decision made to defer further discussion until the outcome of the grant request was known. It was suggested that the funding issue would be reviewed by the Finance Committee for consideration prior to forwarding to the Executive Committee for approval. A grass roots program is being planned to get down to the gun club level.

Motion by Louise Terry, Second by John Haugh to:

- Establish a June 16 benchmark description to re-scope the project.
- Have a major check point in mid-July and report
- Review by both NSSA and N.S.C.A. of the final approved list of field agents

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Club Public Relations Program with Sherry Kerr at the helm has resulted in monthly events calendar submissions to the press, sample press release for writing your own releases, promotions seminars at major skeet and sporting clays shoots, individual consultation at major skeet and sporting clays shoots, individual public relations services from Outdoor Media Resources at 50% discount (only for member clubs) and participation in NSSA/NSCA web "Hive" program with deeply discounted website development and hosting from webdog outdoors.
6. World shoot event entry pricing was discussed. It was last changed in 2005. A **motion** for an increase to \$50.00/100 targets to cover increased referee fees. Passed.
7. U.S. Open: There was a discussion about the 2010 U.S. Open location, facility, shoot management and referees. **A motion by John Tans, Second by Wayne Black** to reconsider the US Open at Phoenix in April 2010 to return to a September date. Motion failed 4 to 3 with 3 abstentions.

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New Business:

1. The loss of the Ladies Charity Shoot was discussed. It was felt by many that it would be nice if this great shoot could continue. Louise Terry and Barry Rich, long-time supporters and hosters of this event, were no longer able to continue this labor of love due to business and other family-related responsibilities. Both Louise and Barry spent much time putting this shoot together, making it bigger and better each year, and are to be congratulated for their sacrifice and contribution of \$500,000.00 to St Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. Louise indicated that certainly another group may want to take up the cause to continue the shoot and that she would be happy to lend her expertise to help them get started.
2. Blaser USA has asked if it may be possible to build their corporate headquarters on the grounds of the NSC. The Executive Committee has requested a formal written proposal.
3. Proposed changes to the Class All-American Team selection based on an equitable points distribution system was approved unanimously. The allocation of points will be based on the number of shooters at a shoot in a given class: 100% of the computed points will be awarded if there are 50 or more shooters, 75% if there are between 39 and 49 shooters, 50% if there are between 10 and 29 shooters, and 25% if there are fewer than 10 shooters in a given class. The existing computation formulae will be updated with these percentages to compute Class All-American points for each event in each shoot.
4. Request for residence change was discussed. **A motion by John Tans, Second by Ken Keth** for a shooter to change residency from Florida to Alabama, with stipulation that if he did not shoot the Florida State shoot, he would be allowed to shoot the Alabama State shoot this year. This was passed unanimously.
5. Re: a suspended shooter: **Bob DeFrancesco made motion, Second by Jim Gast** to reinstate the shooter, effective June 18, 2009, with the condition that another incident related to the cause of his suspension would result in an indefinite suspension. This was passed with one abstention.
6. There was discussion of the definition of a Rookie shooter, due to confusion in the wording in the Rule Book concerning Rookie All-American vs. a shooter having shot in that concurrent event at a shoot. **Louise Terry made a motion, Second by Ron Wilson** that based on the wording of the Rule Book, the shooter in the specific situation in question was not eligible to shoot as a Rookie and must return all prizes from the Zone 7 championships held in April, 2009. This was passed unanimously
7. A discussion regarding the upgrading of LaPorte Traps was deferred for consideration during the upcoming budget cycle. Although the traps at the NSC get annual PM, it was felt that a replacement rotation schedule needs to be adopted to ensure over the long term NSC equipment is second to none.

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8. A Think Tank was discussed to re-evaluate the scheduling and the program offerings for the World shoot. Creating a questionnaire (maybe 5 questions) by member #, to put on the web, with responses by August so will have data in September was suggested. Also have questionnaire at the World Shoot for those attending. Louise Terry asked for folks who would like to participate in the Think Tank, please have them contact her. She is looking for new shooters who have never been there or those who have gone but no longer attend. Everyone has talked to some shooters to solicit input, but there is no hard data to assess.
9. Member club benefits were discussed. **A motion by Louise Terry, Second by Wayne Black** to accept a draft of what will appear on the website for club member benefits after NSCA AC reviews and approves. The motion passed unanimously.
10. There was a discussion about updating the U.S. Open criteria document. **A motion was made by Jack Tans, Second by Jim Gast** to accept these new criteria. This was passed unanimously. Changes included procedures for requesting a waiver of shoot date, requirements for referees, and advertizing considerations. The new criteria document can be viewed at: http://www.mynssa.com/image/downloads/US_Open_Criteria_2009-06-18_EC-Approved.pdf
11. There was a **motion by Jim Gast, Second by Mike Ferchaw** to go from 115 to 109 medals presented at the World shoot and Mini-World shoot. The motion passed unanimously.
12. There was a **motion by Louise Terry, Second by Ron Wilson** to approve the 2009 inductees to the Referee Honor Roll in the HOF. This was approved unanimously.
13. There was a **motion by Jack Tans, Second by Jim Gast** to send the Rules Committee recommendation to the Directors for ballot. This passed unanimously. The ballot has three items for the directors to vote on; Age Concurrent dates, World Record Requirements, and an updated definition of the Rookie concurrent. Ballot details can be viewed at the end of these minutes.

Technology Report:

Brad Jones (IT manager) presented a written report indicating that the members-only log in to retrieve data has successfully been completed. To date, 2800 members have logged into this section (across both web sites). The web-sites are continually being updated to make them more user friendly.

NSSA Director Report:

1. Rick Stockstill presented new weekly and monthly tracking reports that are created and posted on the NSSA web page such as 2009 Shoot Difficulty report.
2. The E-mail list for Target Talk is being updated weekly. New queries have been created to make this task repeatable and minimize the workload for the IT department.

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3. Monthly reports produced include:
 - Classification Issues report - letters are sent to members who show up on the classification exception report so that appropriate corrective action can be taken.
 - Members who shot targets on expired memberships report - letters are sent to members who shot and the clubs who hosted the shoot so that appropriate corrective action can be taken.
 - Shoot Difficulty Report - sorted by Club name
 - Late Shoot report - letters are sent to Clubs who are over 15 days late. A second letter is sent to Clubs whose shoot report is over 30 or more days late.
4. Data on the awards for large shoots was presented making it easier to track and adjust as necessary which could lead to dollar savings over the long haul.

National Shooting Complex:

1. A schedule of events planned on the property was presented. Updating the bath house with laundry facilities and the replacement of stadium bleachers are priority facility improvements.
2. A **Motion by Louise Terry, Second by Ron Wilson** to trade-off in 2009 budget, the perimeter fencing dollars to be used for remodeling of shower house/ laundry, to be completed by October 1. Prioritize the bleachers for next year's budget, and have a recommended schedule in October for replacing traps. The motion was passed.

Skeet Shooting Review:

1. Based on SSR surveys, Richard Owen's last article ran in June issue. We have also reduced the number of International articles from monthly to 4 a year, depending on their bigger shoot results. We are reprinting some of Norm Hill's articles and have added "**I am the NSSA**" to profile the wide variety of NSSA members. Members are randomly selected and asked to participate. Synergy Marketing and Advertising have taken over the advertising for SSR and the Association's shoot programs. Their first magazine was the May issue and they have already brought some new advertisers to the magazine. We look forward to working with Synergy and feel this is a positive move.
2. Columns from the magazine are displayed on the NSSA website after the magazine goes to press.

National Sporting Clays Association:

1. Membership is down slightly and the number of member clubs is down slightly as well. There have been 852 registered shoots to date. Interestingly, targets are up as compared to this time last year (a positive impact of hosting the World English Championships at NSC).

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2. This is an election year for National Delegates, Zone Delegates, Advisory Council and Executive Council.
3. The World English Sporting Clays Championship had 630 competitors from all over the world. We were pleased with the turn-out and received many compliments on the event.
4. At this time we have 474 pre-registered for the National Championships, up 50 shooters compared to this time last year.

Museum:

1. Mike Brazzell and Jim Harris continue to do a wonderful job maintaining and updating the NSSA/NSCA Hall of Fame and Museum. They continue to acquire new items of historical value for display.
2. The library is also expanding with new works regarding skeet and sporting clays. The Museum recently shade-covered the Hoff pavilion making it much more conducive to a gathering place for those who want a place to relax.

Instructor Certification:

Ralph Aaron continues to provide instruction certification courses in each zone and has two youth skeet camps scheduled this summer.

Adjournment:

At 6:50, there was a **motion** to adjourn by Ron Wilson, **Second** by everyone, passed unanimously.

Submitted;
Bob De Francesco
Sec. Treasurer NSSA

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Details of the Rules Ballot sent to the NSSA Board of Directors:

To: **THE NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF NSSA**
July 20, 2009

The Rules and Classification Committee met in San Antonio on Jan. 31, 2009 and again by conference call on May 20, 2009. Their recommendations for 2009 Rules Changes were presented to and approved by the Executive Committee in Richmond, VA at the June 18, 2009 meeting.

Therefore, the following items are being submitted to the National Directors for their vote. Explanations for the recommendations are included.

NOTE: Your **SIGNED** ballot must be returned to NSSA in the enclosed envelope not later than **August 10, 2009** and the changes will become effective as indicated for each item.

Item #1: . Age Concurrent Dates. The current rule is so stated, because we needed to make the transition from one age concurrent to the next consistent and uniform; hence, using a shooter's age as of the beginning of the shooting year. However, since we'd like to encourage people to keep shooting as long as they can, it has been suggested that we allow older-age shooters the option of selecting, at the beginning of the shooting year, if they want to move into the age concurrent based upon the age they *will be* during the shooting year; i.e., a shooter who turns 70 during the shooting year, who would normally remain a Senior shooter for the entire year, would have the option of declaring as a Veteran.

Proposed:

Add: **II-C-4.a.2.** - Any shooter turning 70, 80 or 90 years old during the NSSA shooting year has the option of declaring into the next older age-concurrent category. Such declaration must occur prior to the individual's first registered shoot of the year; must be so indicated on their classification card; and they must provide *written* notification to NSSA Headquarters of their selection. If a shooter elects to move up into the next age concurrent category, they cannot subsequently change back to their previous age concurrent. Such qualified individuals who do not so choose, will remain in their current age concurrent category until the end of that shooting year.

Add to II-H-6, "See exception under II-C-4.a.2. for Veteran, Senior Veteran and Super Veteran."

Approve: _____ Disapprove: _____ Abstain: _____

Effective: If approved by the Board of Directors, the current exception for Military Reserve Component will be renumbered 4.a.1. and the change will be effective November 1, 2009.

Item #2: World Record Requirements. At the January 30, 2009 Executive Committee meeting, it was recommended to allow the non-open (i.e., age, lady, military and retired military) team concurrent records to stand. After reviewing the rules, the Rules Committee felt the original intent to restrict open team competition was not intended to apply to concurrent teams. Further it was recommended that because of the very inconsistent application of the World Record rules over the past 25+ years in regard to concurrents, that records previously established will stand, i.e. they will be "grandfathered". Any subsequent applications for World record recognition received that could be affected by this will be held at NSSA Headquarters until these ballot results are known.

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Proposed:

Add to II-C-4 as r , and to II-D-4 as f: Concurrent teams have no club and/or domicile restrictions to establish official or world records.

Previously awarded World Records for concurrents will stand, i.e. will be "grandfathered".

Approve: _____ Disapprove: _____ Abstain: _____

Effective: Immediately if approved.

Item #3: There have been significant problems with varying interpretations of the Rookie rule. Upon discussion, it was clear to the Rules Committee that, as written, the rule was meant to apply to eligibility for Rookie All American recognition, and not to individual shoots. However, it has also become apparent that there is a need to clarify a reasonable definition of who is considered a Rookie for NSSA shooting purposes.

Proposed: As follows:**II-I-7-a. Rookie for All American honors is defined as an individual who shoots NSSA standards as required for concurrent categories, was not a "classified shooter" [see definition in V-A-7a] in any gauge with receipt of their current-year classification card, nor has ever held an "initial classification" or "regular classification" in 2006 or a regular classification in 2004 or prior years in any gauge in any prior shooting year. A shooter is only eligible to compete for Rookie All-American Honors for one shooting year during their lifetime. Such a shooter may shoot their initial registered targets on or after August 1 of a shoot year, and if they do not become a "classified shooter" in any gauge by October 31 of that year, will be eligible for Rookie All-American honors and may enter single-shoot Rookie concurrent events for the remainder of that year thru the following shoot year. In the spirit of this concurrent event, a shooter is eligible to compete in shoots as a Rookie and be eligible for Rookie All-American honors only once in a lifetime based on this 15 month period (in other words, considering this period of Aug.1 thru the next shooting year as their one-time eligibility period).**

Approve: _____ Disapproved: _____ Abstain: _____

Effective: Immediately if approved.

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NAME: _____ NSSA # _____
(Please Print)

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Must be mailed or faxed back by August 10, 2009.
Fax number: 210-688-9269 – Attn: Phyllis