



THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE April 2011 Edition

Finally, we're seeing true signs of Spring!! Our OPTA snowbirds are returning and we've got a lot more "boots on the ground" at our Clubs around the Province. Registered ATA shoots have begun and as the temperature rises, more shooters are coming out of winter hibernation to chase those rascally targets once again. In between rounds, we hope you'll take some time to catch-up with your friends here in **THE CLUBHOUSE!**

THE 2011 SOUTHERN GRAND AMERICAN

Thanks to our Satellite reporter, Helen Smith, who bunked with Smokey all winter at the Silver Dollar – and our Executive reporter, Bert Blackburn, VP of the OPTA, who bunked with the Dixie Grand champ Beecraft during the tournament - we are bursting with pride and news about this year's Southern.

We were strongly represented by 33 members of the OPTA tribe

Ron Alton	Ian Malcolm
Lloyd Beecraft	Brad Mann
Bert Blackburn	Bryce Mann
Charlie Boggis	Kyle Mann
Jim Close	Sheila O'Reilly
Jim Davis	Barney Ogilvie
Joe DiFrancesco	Alex Papastamos
Domenic Gitto	Harry Petrev
Marv Grossman	Graham Pilling
Heinz Gutmann	Keith Saunders
Vern Higgs	Fred Squire
Terry Jordan	Smokey Smith
Walter Jordan	Dave Storing
Fadi Khalil	Vic Tomlinson
Bob Lee	Jim Wood
Garret MacDonald	Bill Wylie
Philip MacDonald	

To quote Charlie Sheen, it would appear that several of them had "*duh, winning!*" in mind...check out the trophy count!

Keith Saunders (1); Dominic Gitto (1 plus a punch!); Phil MacDonald (2); Kyle Mann (1); Bill Wylie (1); Terry Jordan (2); Verne Higgs (2); Harry Petrev (1); Ron Alton (3 – he was smoking in doubles!); Jim Wood (2 plus an honorary punch!); Alex Papastamos (1 plus a punch!); Fadi Khalil (1-HOA C Class!).

The biggest winner of them all was Sub-Junior Bryce Mann: 6 trophies including HAA D Class – fantastic shooting Bryce!

But not to be outdone, Smokey Smith registered his 75,000 handicap target in the Championship event on Sunday. We have no doubt he ink-balled it – congratulations Smokey!

Our reporters tell us the March weather in Odessa, Florida was chamber-of-commerce perfect and the camaraderie generated by the Ontario shooters was certainly enjoyed by all in attendance. For complete results of this tournament, as well as the Florida State Shoot at which some of our Members won even more trophies, please drop into Bob Stuart's website: rjstuart.com.



A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE
FROM YOUR NEW SECRETARY TREASURER, PAM MUMA

"Due to the recent evolution of roles as well as up-graded processes on the OPTA Board, some of your recent correspondence and reports to the Association may have been lost. If you are concerned your communication to us may be missing, or you are waiting for a response still, would you kindly resend it to me – either by e-mail ppmuma@rogers.com or by post to 239 Erie St., St. Thomas, ON N5R-2N8. Or please call me at 519-633-2680. Thanks!"

THE 2011 OPTA SUMMER BLAST – Sunday May 15th

Important information from "Uncle Warren"

"This year's OPTA SUMMER BLAST is being held on the second day of Hamilton Gun Club's 2-day shoot. The first day, May 14th is "targets only" – 100 of Singles, Caps and Doubles. There's no prizes, no money. Therefore, there will be no classifying required for that day.

However, there **WILL** be classifying for Sunday's SUMMER BLAST and it will begin on Saturday, May 14th after the handicap event has started. So – make sure your ATA Averages Card is up-to-date! The Summer Blast will consist of 100 singles, 100 handicap and 100 doubles (50 pr.) There may be penalty yardage and penalty Classes, as per ATA rules, assigned to any shooters with less than 500 targets from the past 2 years or unknown ability in any of the events they want to enter.

It is the shooter's responsibility to make certain that he or she is classified properly! Don't risk being disqualified from winning an award or money at the SUMMER BLAST - make sure you are shooting from the right yardage on Sunday and in the correct Class and Category, if you wish to declare a Category.

If you are planning to shoot just Sunday's SUMMER BLAST, you will be classified when you arrive at the tournament. Again, your ATA averages card must be **CURRENT AND COMPLETE**.

We are expecting a fantastic turn-out for this shoot, so shooters will be requested to take 50 shells with them to the line – with no break between 25's. Squads will be allowed to wait only two (2) minutes for late squadmates. Shooters should also avoid signing up late for Singles and early for handicap, because HGC will try to start the Handicap event before the Singles event is completed.

See you there – *it's gonna be a blast!*"
Warren McLay

OPTA ANNUAL AWARDS – DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS IN 30 DAYS!!

The deadline for the following Awards is June 1st.
PLEASE GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN NOW! E-mail them to Pam Muma: ppmuma@rogers.com

« THE 2010 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD »

« THE 2010 OPTA CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD »

« THE 2010 MIKE FULOP AWARD »

For a detailed explanation of these awards, please refer to the March 2011 edition of THE CLUBHOUSE – or contact the Editor at sheldonshoots@rogers.com and this edition will be sent to you.



MEMBER UPDATES

We regret to report that long-time OPTA member, **Vince Bonaiuto**, passed away recently. Vince had an ATA life-time total of 42,000 registered singles; 29,050 handicap and just over 15,050 doubles. We'll truly miss you, Vince.

Congratulations are certainly in order to the following OPTA'ers who have reached significant highlights in their shooting careers. Well-done, gentlemen!

Wayne Higgs – 50,000 singles targets
(as of April 2011)

David Storring – 50,000 handicap targets
(as of April 2011)

Jim Pollack – 1st hundred straight in singles
(February 5th, 2011 - at the Casa Grande Club in Arizona)

Lloyd Beecraft – the AA-27-AA pin for 2010

We'd like to extend a really warm greeting to the newest members of our OPTA village: Dave Martin and his sons William (Sub-Jr) and Andrew (Sub-Jr) from Woodstock; Greg Ramsay from Ailsa Craig; Kristian Houle (Sub-Jr) from Dresden; Shane Rogers from London; Pat Maguire from London; Larry Morley from Lucan; and new in the OPTA's Lady Category, Leona Pavlinak from Blenheim.

Welcome all – *group hug!!*

A REPORT FROM YOUR OPTA PRESIDENT, NEVILLE HENDERSON

With great sadness that I inform you of the untimely passing of Vince Bonaiuto on March 23, 2011. He would have been 59 on July 13. Vince was an avid trap shooter who shot competitively for many decades and was a close personal friend.

Most OPTA members and many ATA members know Vince for his shooting skills and his warm personality. He was often present at shoots with his son Frank, his brother Lucio, his nephew Frankie Jr., as well as other family members. On behalf of the entire membership, the OPTA Board sent flowers to express the sorrow felt throughout our community. The family felt the loss terribly and sent a note to the OPTA extending their appreciation for our thoughts and support. Many OPTA members attended the service, attesting to the loss we all feel.

On an Association's business matter, I report that Gord Kerr resigned as a Director of the OPTA. I am pleased to announce that Phil MacDonald has accepted our invitation to join the Board for the balance of Gord's term. Phil is enthusiastic about the sport and shares our vision of increasing its profile and attracting new and younger shooters to ensure it thrives for many years into the future. We are excited to welcome Phil and look forward to his positive contributions. To learn more about Phil, check out the **INNERVIEW** of his family in the January 2011 issue of Trap and Field – and look for a future chat with him here in **THE CLUBHOUSE!**

Regards,
Nev.



A REPORT FROM YOUR ATA DELEGATE, PAUL SHAW

"Greetings shooters. With the rise of our loonie, relative to the greenback, adjustments in ATA fees are now warranted.

I have talked to Judy Harden of the ATA who tries to adjust fees every three months or so and often looks at average exchange rates. She was quite receptive to revising the fee rates and in fact has sent me the (current) revised rates for use by our clubs. If our Canadian dollar remains strong, it should continue to keep our ATA fees in check.

Here are the new rates, effective immediately:

	<u>U.S. Funds</u>	<u>Canadian Equivalent</u>
Annual Dues	\$20.00	\$19.60
3 Year Dues	\$50.00	\$49.00
Jr. & Sub Jr. Dues	\$12.00	\$11.75
AIM Registration Fee	\$13.00	\$12.75
Daily Fees	\$2.00	\$1.95
Life Membership	\$500.00	\$490.00
Senior Life Membership	\$250.00	\$245.00

(As always, you have the option of collecting/submitted in U.S. funds. However, in order to assist in your shoot entry, the ATA will accept the noted Canadian equivalents.)

For the first time ever that I can remember, Ontario is the host of two National Canadian Trapshooting Championships in the same year! You already know about the Canadian ATA Championships to be hosted by the St. Thomas Club, June 29th to July 2nd inclusively. What you may not have been aware of is that Toronto International Trap & Skeet is the host of the 2011 Canadian Championships for International style trap and double trap (the "Olympic" events).

Trap official practice is Sunday, June 4th followed by four days of trap (June 6 to June 9) and two days of double trap (June 10 and 11). Six squads of six persons each will likely be the maximum participation numbers for the range and if any ATA shooters would like to fill one of those places I would suggest that you first try your hand at shooting this discipline at a practice session.

The club is open for practice almost every Saturday and Sunday and the Ontario (Olympic style) Championships are May 7th (double trap) and May 14th + 15th for Olympic trench. If we can fit you in we'll certainly try. I also want to remind you that some of the very best ATA shooters started their careers as Olympic trapshooters (such as Ray Stafford and Frank Little) and some of the very best Olympic style shooters in the USA right now started their careers in the ATA circuit.

If you would like more details, please call or email me."

Paul Shaw

shaw@smilaw.ca

705-445-1382 (office) or 705-445-6230 (home)



****AN URGENT REMINDER****
TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE 2010 ONTARIO ALL STAR TEAMS

A few Team members have NOT yet submitted a photo for the very special project that will be honoring each of you - and our deadline is fast approaching!

Come on – you worked so hard to make the Team,
it would be a serious shame for you not to be included in this project.

Please forward a favorite digital photo (300 dpi minimum) of yourself *as soon as possible* to Barbara Sheldon at sheldonshoots@rogers.com. It can be a shot of you shooting or any casual picture you really like, but you must be the only one in the photo (pets are allowed!)
and it clearly must be you.

If you have any questions or want to send a photograph by mail (sorry, but these cannot be returned), please call Barbara at (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!

THE NEW OPTA GUN CLUB DIRECTORY IS IN THE MAIL!

If you haven't already, you will be getting one shortly! The 2011 Board of Directors has undertaken several new initiatives to grow trapshooting across the Province – and this book is one of them. We believe making shooters fully aware of our Member Club facilities is an important step in this process.

Every OPTA member is entitled to a free Directory – and your personal copy has been mailed to you! Additional books are available upon request for only \$3.00 each. Any non-member/friend of the OPTA may request a book for the same low price – and we'll get it right out to them!

The book will undoubtedly come in handy for those chasing the new HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL AWARD – giddy-up and go get 'em!

A BRAND NEW WEBSITE FOR THE OPTA!

Another progressive initiative in the works is a great new location and profile for your Association on the world-wide web! Very shortly, the Board of Directors will be launching

www.ontariotrap.com

Go ahead and take a peek at it now! It's still under construction but at the very least you'll get a sense of the much improved and attractive design that's coming at you soon!

And be sure to bookmark this new website into your "favorites" list now, because once it's launched, this site will be updated every time relevant and timely news and information becomes available.



REGISTERED TRAP SHOOTING IS BACK AT THE WATERFORD GUN CLUB!

"In August 2010, after a very long absence from hosting ATA /OPTA registered shoots, the Waterford Gun Club held an ATA Registered Shoot to evaluate if the Club should consider hosting future registered events. Based upon that evaluation, shooter feedback and in support of the OPTA's vision of increasing the participation of trapshooting in the Province, the Club Executive approved close to \$40,000 for the much needed upgrades to the Trap section.

These upgrades included the replacement of two trap machines with new Pat-Traps[®] and the replacement of three bunkers with custom made all Steel Trap Houses along with the associated infrastructure costs. Installation of the new equipment is underway and will be ready for the two upcoming ATA shoots scheduled for August 28, 2011 and September 25, 2011. All shoots will be held on four program fields with one field available for practice.

We believe these upgrades will not only increase trap shooting participation at the club but will also support the OPTA's desire of making OPTA shoots into first class professionally run events.

We invite all shooters to support the Waterford Gun Club - <http://www.waterfordgunclub.webs.com> - and hope you plan to attend this year's shoots."

Gary Seitz, Trap Chairman
Randy Wenzel, Co-Chairman

THE 2011 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

A report from Pam Muma, President of the St. Thomas Gun Club

"Well, it is hard to believe that the Canadian Championships will start in about 60 days! Many club members have been working very hard on various projects throughout the winter in preparation for this prestigious event. The washrooms in the club house have been completely renovated and our kitchen has been upgraded as well. Feedback from our members and visitors has been fantastic and so worth the effort!

We are currently working on renovating our website, www.stthomasgunclub.com, which now includes a link that will take you to the "CANADIAN" page. From there you can get to the website of our host hotel, Four Points Sheraton - and we will be adding the program shortly, so keep checking back! Of course once the event starts, we will have winners posted on the site daily. And get ready to start pre-squadding the most convenient way possible! Our on-line service opens to you at www.presquad.com on May 25th.

Member Erin Collins is working on the trophy package and I know everyone will be anxious to see what she has come up with. Member Keith Arkley is working on making sure you all have a place to spend your money on the great vendor's row he's got planned.

Speaking of plans, Leo Harrison III will be holding a clinic at our club on the Monday and Tuesday prior to the Canadians. A few spots are still available for his clinic, so if you want to sign up let me know, A.S.A.P.!

Please look for more news about The 2011 Canadian at the 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 at ppmuma@rogers.com. Hope to see you soon!"



IT'S TIME TO MEET MORE OF YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

So far, we've had the pleasure to introduce you to Neville Henderson, Bert Blackburn and Billy Malcolm. Now, we thought...with all that's been recently assigned to our new Secretary Treasurer, Pam Muma, why not add some burning interview questions to her "to-do" list? After all, inquiring minds want to know!



Pam Muma

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

Well, my ATA # starts with "85" but I became a member before I actually started shooting registered targets. I only did a little practice and fun shoots for the first few years. I started registering targets in 1992 and shot whenever I had time at local shoots. That stopped around 2003, when running my business for the clubs became more important and time-consuming. I have just recently started shooting again.

What is your home club?

My home club is the St. Thomas Gun Club where I am President again for the 2nd time. As many may be aware, St. Thomas is the host club for the 2011 Canadian Championships and we are looking forward to providing the shooters from across Canada and the US with a memorable shoot. I have also been a member at Otter Valley Rod & Gun Club as well at East Elgin Sportsmen's Association.

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

For the past 3 years, I have been working part-time as an instructor at Fanshawe College in St. Thomas where I teach adult education for the Food Service Worker program. Prior to that I worked 29 years as a Manager of Nutrition in various Nursing Homes.

Most OPTA members know me from my work of the last 15 years as owner/operator of "Dead-a-Pair Computer Services", an on-site, back-end computer operations company for registered shoots at several Ontario Clubs.

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

I have lived in St. Thomas for 40 years, but was born and lived in Woodstock, Ontario before the family moved to St Thomas. I am the 4th child of 6 siblings in my family and the first girl after 3 boys, who I might add were very protective of me – sometimes too protective! Then again, so is my dog Jasper – but he can be easily won-over with cookies when you see him with me at the shoots!



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What other interests do you have besides trapshooting?

With all the work involved in the St. Thomas Gun Club, the OPTA, Dead-A-Pair, Fanshawe College, as well as my responsibilities as the Treasurer for the Ontario Society of Nutrition Management (my professional association), I really do not have much time for anything else – except of course for Jasper!

When did you join the OPTA Board?

I was voted onto the Board in August 2010 and became the Secretary/Treasurer in March of 2011.

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

I was asked if I would consider being part of the Board, at which time I had to give it some thought. I had some ideas and thoughts about what I wanted to see happen with shooting in Ontario - and rather than just tell someone else what I felt needed to be done, I decided the best way was to work with the Board to try and get the changes I thought would help grow our sport implemented.

As our new Secretary/Treasurer, what should our members expect from you and what do you hope to achieve?

I want the members to feel they can ask me anything about the OPTA and if I don't know the answer I will do all I can to find out. I will be working very hard to deliver honest and timely service to our members and member clubs. We are now a transparent Board, dedicated to making positive changes and improvements for the membership and shooting across Ontario.

When I looked at the new OPTA Member Club Directory that was just developed, I realized that I have been to 12 of the 20 clubs that shoot registered targets. Some day, I would like to be able to say that I have been to all clubs that shoot registered targets. Just a personal goal of mine and a way to support all our clubs.

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

I would like to see the membership increase, especially the younger generation. This is a fabulous sport and all involved are a wonderful group. I would like to see our sport more recognized and appreciated by the general population instead of people cringing when they hear the word "gun".

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

I would have to say that Ontario shooters are the friendliest group of people. They are all willing to help out others in whatever way is needed.

Is there anything you would like the membership to know about you that they don't already?

Nope, everyone already knows enough about me because of being around so long. I do need to keep some things private!!

Any final words for our Members today?

This is such a great sport and wonderful group of shooters. I am honored to be part of it.



ATTENTION ALL ATA REGISTERED TOURNAMENT SHOOTERS



Be sure your ATA AVERAGES CARD is up-dated after each of your events.

You may not be classified correctly without it!



NOW MORE TROPHIES TO WIN AT THE 2011 ONTARIO PROVINCIALS!

We are excited to announce the Provincial Championships' improved and expanded trophy package which includes some new winning opportunities for Residents and Non-Residents. Here's a list of the extra incentives being offered to increase your interest and participation in this year's tournament.

NEW OPTA TROPHIES

These are on top of last year's offering – increasing our trophy package from 92 to 122!!!

Saturday, July 30th

Preliminary Singles: CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONS
Preliminary Handicap: CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONS
Preliminary Doubles: CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONS

(see more information on the CLUB TEAM RACE on next page)

Sunday, July 31st

200 Singles Championship: OPEN TROPHIES FOR ALL 5 CATEGORIES

Monday, August 1st

Doubles Championship: RESIDENT NEW SHOOTER
RESIDENT RETURNING DOUBLES SHOOTER
OPEN TROPHIES FOR ALL 5 CATEGORIES

Handicap Championship: RESIDENT NEW SHOOTER

HIGH ALL AROUND (400 TARGETS)

RESIDENT NEXT GENERATION
OPEN ALL 5 CATEGORIES
NON-RESIDENT RUNNER-UP CHAMPION

HIGH OVER ALL (700 TARGETS)

NON-RESIDENT RUNNER-UP CHAMPION

The complete program for THE 2011 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL TRAPSHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS will be mailed in June and available on-line as soon as possible after the launch of the new OPTA website: ontariotrap.com. In next month's edition of THE CLUBHOUSE, the new strategy for the increased added money, (over \$1500.00 more than last year) will be revealed!



THE 2011 ONTARIO PROVINCIALS CLUB TEAM RACES ARE ON SATURDAY JULY 30TH!

These races are OPEN TO ANY CLUB from Ontario or from other Provinces and States – and there is no limit to the number of Teams a Club can enter. The Club Team Race will run concurrently with the individual competitions in each of the three events (Singles, Handicap & Doubles) on Saturday July 30th only.

There is **NO FEE** to enter any of the races, but your Team must be registered before the first shot is fired in the event you want to enter. The criteria for the Teams are as follows:

THE SINGLES & DOUBLES EVENTS

- A) Each member of a Club team must be a paid-up, member in good standing at that Club.
- B) Team members do not have to squad together.
- C) There must be a least one member of the Team in each of the 3 lowest classes – B, C, D.

Some Examples of possible Team Formations:

2 team members can be from AA and then 1 member each from B, C, D.
- OR -

2 team members can be from B and then 1 member each from AA, C, D.
- OR -

2 team members can be from C and then 1 member each from A, B, D.
- OR -

3 team members can be from D and then 1 member each from B, C.

It's simple! You can use any combination you like as long as there is at least one member of the Team in each of the 3 lowest classes!

THE HANDICAP EVENT

- A) Each member of a Club team must be a paid-up, member in good standing at that Club.
- B) Team members do not have to squad together.
- C) Each team must consist of at least one shooter from each yardage group – short, medium and long - but not more than 2 team members from any one yardage group as follows:

Short yardage group: 18-21 • Medium yardage group: 22/23 and 24/25 • Long yardage group: 26/27

Some Examples of possible Team Formations

A team could have 2 from short yardage, 2 from medium yardage, 1 from long yardage
- OR -

2 from long yardage, 2 from short yardage, 1 from medium yardage
- OR -

2 from medium yardage, 2 from long yardage, 1 from short yardage

You can use any combination you like as long as there is at least one member of the Team from each yardage group, but no more than 2 members from any one yardage group!

The winning Club Team in each Event will be rewarded with a beautiful trophy for their clubhouse and each Team member will receive \$50.00!



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FROM YOUR OPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As you can see, there's a lot to look forward to in our community these days – not the least of which are the 13 ATA tournaments coming up in May being held around the Province. We're doing our best to keep you enticed and excited about shooting in Ontario – and there's going to be more great news to share with you shortly. But enough reading for now, get out there, have fun and shoot trap!

HERE'S YOUR ENTIRE OPTA BOARD FOR YOUR EASIER REFERENCE.
REACH OUT AND GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS ANYTIME. WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU!

YOUR 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Neville Henderson: neville.s.henderson@cogeco.ca

Vice-President: Bert Blackburn: bertblackburn@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Pam Muma: ppmuma@rogers.com

Director: Bill Malcolm: billmalcolm@rogers.com

Director: Basil Zmiyivsky: zeezee_m@hotmail.com

Director: Barbara Sheldon: sheldonshoots@rogers.com

Director: Warren McLay: wmclay@cogeco.ca

Director: Phil MacDonald: philipmacdonald@sympatico.ca

THIS CLUBHOUSE IS YOUR CLUBHOUSE

Our goal is to keep everyone informed, engaged, connected and shooting!

THE CLUBHOUSE is generating wonderful emails and phone calls from our membership, as well as from our trapshooting friends across Canada and the USA – your interest and support of the OPTA means the world to us, thank-you!

Remember, 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. And please correct us if we've made a mistake or omission.

Please post a copy of this edition of THE CLUBHOUSE at your Home Club - and don't forget to forward it to your shooting buddies as well. And tell them it's so simple to get their own personal edition! All they have to do is send their e-mail address to sheldonshoots@rogers.com with their request. (Past issues are available – just ask!). As always, the OPTA respects your privacy and does not share this information with any third parties.

*~ See you again real soon in **THE CLUBHOUSE!** ~*