



THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE **June 2011 Edition**

Hard to believe, but Environment Canada has been bang-on twice in a row! This Federal Agency predicted a "traditional" Winter for Ontario (got it!) and a wetter than normal Spring (correct again!). Now its forecast is for a hotter and drier Summer than usual.

Not to be outdone, your OPTA Board of Directors is predicting some tremendous personal achievements by our Members this season – and already they are right! You'll find confirmation of several of these here right now in THE CLUBHOUSE!

THE 2011 EMPIRE GRAND AMERICAN

Some traditions are hard to break and the weather at the 7th annual Empire in Cicero, NY is holding on to one! After a few torrential rains during the week, one scorekeeper aptly put a "lifeguard on duty" sign behind his chair. At least half of the trap fields (from 16-27 yards) were more than ankle deep in water.

But most shooters who attend the NYSATA homegrounds are prepared for shooting in the Cicero swamp, so the rubber boots were as plentiful as the appreciative smiles for the Tournament management who did their best to keep the shoot running as smoothly as possible. The temperatures were quite mild, ranging from mid 70's to low 80's and the winds and light conditions were occasionally challenging. The sun made its appearance throughout the week – as did some Ontario shooters.

This tournament conflicts most years with the popular shell shoot in St. Thomas, so that plus the price of gas kept a lot of our Members from attending this year. But the following shooters did their best to spread some Ontario cheer amongst our Yankee cousins, many of whom were happy to have received a Canadian Flag pin that one of our OPTA'ers was handing out! Congratulations go to everyone for giving it their best shots in less than ideal conditions!

John Copeman
Sonny Ducette
Ernie Freitag (D-R/U Singles Championship + D-HOA!)
Abboud Jarbough
Adnan Kassiss
Fadi Khalil
Chloe MacDonald
Philip MacDonald (C-R/U Singles Championship!)

Ian Malcolm
Andy Murdock (A-R/U Class Doubles!)
Harry Richards
John Ruttan
Paul Shaw
Barbara Sheldon
Dave Storrington

THE 2011 ST. THOMAS GUN CLUB FEDERAL SHELL SHOOT

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

"It would appear that the May long weekend bad weather curse has been lifted from St Thomas - we actually had great weather all weekend!

The attendance for Saturday's singles event was up significantly from last year with 165 shooters. Sunday morning looked like it was going to rain so some shooters stayed away, but we still had 134 competing! Monday's attendance was down from last year. With the morning rain, it seemed many people did not want to take the chance of shooting in it. What a shame, because the sun came out right after the Doubles event!

We had several significant accomplishments by competitors during this tournament: Bill Bircham shot at his 25,000th Singles target on Saturday; Garry Benko, Richard Igercich, Shane Rogers and Ulisses Casimiro all shot their first registered 25 straight. Richard Igercich and Larry Morley shot their first registered 50 straight. Congratulations to these shooters and thanks to all for supporting our tournament."

For a list of all the winners, please visit St. Thomas Gun Club's website at: www.stthomasgunclub.com



THE 2011 GREAT LAKES GRAND AMERICAN

This year's competitors at the GLG were plagued with bad weather – and then some. The first three days of the tournament saw nothing but rain, wind and chilly temperatures. After decent days on Saturday and Sunday, a violent tornado (estimated F1) tore through the Michigan Trapshooting Association's homegrounds in Mason just after the first call for shoot-offs was made late Sunday afternoon. Extensive damage was caused to several trailers and several large trees and power lines were ripped down in its path. Thankfully, personal injuries were minor.

We were informed that the Doubles and Handicap Championships were cancelled on Monday, but the Tournament Director was hoping to run the shoot-offs from Sunday with the aid of a generator. A complete list of the trophy winners was not available in time for our publication deadline. We hope to acquire this, as well as more information regarding the status of the MTA grounds, for our next edition of THE CLUBHOUSE.

THE 2011 OPTA SUMMER BLAST – rescheduled for Sunday June 26th

Another important news bulletin from "Uncle Warren"

"Due to some nasty weather on Sunday May 15th, the 2011 OPTA Summer Blast was postponed. It has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 26th at Hamilton Gun Club. The program starts at 9 am. sharp and will consist of 100 singles, 100 caps and 50 pairs of doubles. We are expecting a large turn-out for this tournament - and because you must be classified for this tournament, I urge you to please come early to do this, as well as to pull your squads. And please be sure your ATA averages card is up-to-date!

Not only is this a great tournament for the prizes and cash donated by the OPTA, it's going to be a terrific warm-up for the 2011 Canadian, which starts at the St. Thomas Gun Club 3 days later. Hope to see everyone back at HGC this month for this fun and rewarding OPTA sponsored shoot."

Warren McLay

(Editor's note: please see March and April editions of THE CLUBHOUSE for complete information about this tournament. If you want these issues re-sent, please email sheldonshoots@rogers.com)

THE 2011 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: June 29 – July 3rd

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

"It is hard to believe that the 2011 Canadian is only 3 weeks away! Many of you saw the improvements we've made to our Club when you attended the Federal Shell Shoot – and thanks so much for all your compliments.

By the time you read this, unless there's a national postal strike, your copy of the program should be in the mail. If you did not attend last year's tournament, or aren't a member of the OPTA, email me at ppmuma@rogers.com and I will send you a program. You can also view the program on-line at www.stthomasgunclub.com

Priority presquadding has opened now on www.presquad.com and I see some of you have already taken advantage of this great service. The closing date is June 22nd so don't delay: choose your squad now and save yourself from standing in line!

We have confirmation that the **Trapshooting Hall of Fame Director Kenny Ray Estes** will be coming to this year's Canadian and he will be bringing some amazing, historical memorabilia of Canadian trapshooting. Be sure you stop into the clubhouse between events and check out his display. When he's not shooting, Kenny Ray will be available to answer your questions – and if you have any Canadian memorabilia to show him, he'd be absolutely thrilled to see it!

The trophies have started to arrive and all I can say is WOW! I believe you will all be impressed with the package that member Erin Collins has put together. Don't forget to bring extra money with you for the great vendors row that member Keith Arkley has been organizing. We've ordered wonderful weather for the tournament – so we're looking forward to seeing all of you here!"



MEMBER UPDATES

The following members have reached significant registered target milestones in their shooting careers:

Heinz Gutmann: 50,000 Handicap; James Wood: 25,000 Doubles; Bill Bircham: 25,000 Singles.

May you all have many more great ATA achievements!

Greetings go out to the following new Members – welcome to the OPTA family!

Adam Almeida, West Lorne

Augusta Silva, West Lorne

Andrew Somerset, London

Roman Kaczkowski, Etobicoke

Peter Marshall, Newmarket

Graham Marshall (Sub-Jr), Newmarket

Lawrence Beckett (Sr. Vet), Ingersoll

Adam D'Agostino, North Bay

Richard Igercich, Delhi

Garry Benko, Tillsonburg

Brian Garratt, Tweed

Jamie Cox, Bowmanville

Steve Beckerman, Paris

Nelson South (Sr. Vet), Eastwood

Ken Allen, Tillsonburg

And after a 15-year absence, we're delighted to announce Sr. Vet Bill Morris from Belleville has rejoined and returned to the trapline. Wonderful to have you back, Bill!

Congratulations to Terry Jordan who recently sold his 1000th (Sparta-style) Wall Chart! This milestone tops the more than 600 unit sales of his former Vandalia version.

Best of luck to Paul and Drew Shaw who will be competing in the 2011 Canadian International Trap Championships (June 6-11th) being staged at Toronto Int'l Trap & Skeet Club. Everyone is invited out to cheer them on!

If you have a milestone or personal accomplishment that you'd like to share here in THE CLUBHOUSE, please send your info to the Editor at sheldonshoots@rogers.com. Bragging rights are free!

REPORTING FROM THE DOGHOUSE

From your Editor, Barbara Sheldon

"Due to a few errors in last month's edition of THE CLUBHOUSE, I feel it's only appropriate that I write this report from a location more appropriate than my office, hence the name of this report!

Ron Alton wrote to say that Brad Mann came back from the 2011 Southern Grand with a trophy for winning his Class in the Doubles Championship. He ran 20x20 in the shoot-off over two other strong competitors to claim this victory. Nicely done Brad and sorry this news was absent in last month's report!

Also missing from the Southern Grand summary was that Frank Kapasi was part of the OPTA contingent competing in it. My apologies, Frank – and while I understand you didn't win a trophy, I agree that topping Wylie's score in a couple of handicap events is certainly something to smile about! (*Did you borrow his infamous can of "whoop-something" for those occasions?*)

John Whiting emailed to advise me that Jim Pollock has not changed the spelling of his last name to Pollack, as I erroneously wrote it. And Jim informed me directly that he's had several 100 straights - the one I mistakenly reported as his first was actually his first one at the Casa Grande Trap Club. (*He also wrote that he's got several 199's under his belt, but his first 200 straight is still eluding him...so here's wishing that this is your year to make that happen, Jim!*)

Thanks to the caring members who took the time to make sure we get it right in THE CLUBHOUSE. You can bet I'll try hard not to make this a frequent column!"

Keep well,

Barbara



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[WWW.ONTARIOTRAP.COM](http://www.ontariotrap.com)

The OPTA's new website was launched on May 16th - please take a look and bookmark it in your favorites! It will be updated regularly as timely news and important information are received. Barbara Sheldon will remain responsible for updating the content and copywriting, while Phil MacDonald will use his technical prowess to keep the site current, functional and your frequent destination on the world-wide web!

Your OPTA Board of Directors welcomes your comments on the new site – as well as any other OPTA matters that matter to you. You can reach them easily and anytime through the site: <http://www.ontariotrap.com>

[TED SABINE – THE 2011 ONTARIO TRAPSHOOTING HOF INDUCTEE](#)

The OPTA Directors are excited to announce that Mr. Ted Sabine of Brantford, Ontario will be inducted into the Ontario Trapshooting Hall of Fame at the 2011 Ontario Provincial Trapshooting Championships.

Nominated by Charlie Montgomery, the Directors unanimously agreed that Ted deserves this important recognition from his peers in the Association. Charlie has graciously agreed to make the presentation to Ted at the Annual General Meeting, Monday August 1st (immediately following the Doubles Championship Event). We hope you will be there to honor and celebrate Ted's achievement.

[UPCOMING TRAPSHOOTING CLINICS IN ONTARIO](#)

NORA ROSS will be conducting a two-day clinic at the Bridgeport Rod & Gun Club on June 18th and 19th. For the details and to reserve your spot, please contact Jim Close, by e-mail at jclosen224@rogers.com or by phone at 519-884-9392.

LEO HARRISON III will be conducting a two-day clinic on June 27th and 28th at the St. Thomas GC. There are a few spots still available. Please contact Pam Muma for more information and to reserve your spot, by e-mail at ppmuma@rogers.com or by phone at 519- 633-2680.

Both of these clinics are just days before the 2011 Canadian – talk about perfect timing to get a tune-up!

[WHY SHOULD YOU USE WWW.PRESQUAD.COM ??](#)

This popular service has been extremely beneficial to Competitors since 2005. Its inaugural use in Canada was here in Ontario at the 2008 Canadian. It proved to be a huge convenience for the shooters. Thankfully, it's being deployed again for the 2011 Canadian, as well as for the 2011 Ontario Provincial Championships!

[WWW.PRESQUAD.COM](http://www.presquad.com) is a real-time, on-line reservation system specifically designed for ATA/PITA Trap Shooting. *It's easy, fast and economical!* You can select the events, squads, and posts you want – *and your confirmation is instantaneous!* No more wasted time standing in line at the Tournament only to find out you can't get what you want!

Presquad.com is now open for The 2011 Canadian.

Presquad.com will open on June 20th for The 2011 ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIPS.

We urge you to take advantage of this modern and hassle-free way to presquad. Shooters have successfully booked more than 400,000 posts at hundreds of tournaments with complete satisfaction.

So, why shouldn't you use www.presquad.com??



THE 2011 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: JULY 30 – AUGUST 1

With less than 60 days before the first shot is fired at this year's Championships, the excitement is mounting and the generosity of our Members is escalating.

Depending on whether or not Canada Post is on strike, your programs will be in the mail within the next 8 days. We hope you like the new format. It's been completely redesigned to make it easier to find all the information you need – and it's been re-sized to make it handier for you to carry it wherever you go!

We're pretty certain you'll like the new added money concept – the OPTA Bonus Bucks – *designed to reward as many folks as possible for shooting this Tournament, regardless of their scores!* Your program has the complete details on this new feature.

We're also confident you'll enjoy the new opportunities we've designed for you to win trophies, not the least of which are THREE New OPTA Shooter awards – one is in each of the Championship Events. We'd like to thank OPTA member **RAY KASSMANIAN** for his outstanding sponsorship of these 3 awards – and we hope you will too, next time you see him. Thanks also to Terry Jordan for further subsidizing these 3 awards, by providing the OPTA with a generous discount for his Wall Charts.

OPTA Member **DIANNE WOOD** has also demonstrated tremendous support for growing our sport in Ontario, by declining her well-deserved HAA award at last year's Provincials and directing us to use the funds for her trophy towards something special for all Juniors and Sub-Juniors who compete in this year's tournament. We've happily fulfilled her request – and we're confident that the youth will like what's coming their way!

Priority pre-squadding will open on June 20th – be sure to use the fantastic service we've arranged with www.presquad.com and get the squads and positions you want!! You can squad up as an individual, choosing who you want to shoot with and on what post – or you can sign up your whole squad. *It's fast, it's easy and it's cheap!* And it will help you avoid those awful squadding line-ups and disappointment when you get to the Tournament.

If you can't wait until your program arrives at your door, the complete details about the new trophies, the new Club Team Races, the OPTA Bonus Bucks, as well as the additional added money in this year in the Handicap Championship, are NOW on your new website, www.ontariotrap.com. Click on the "PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS" page and you'll find the link waiting for you!

(Please be advised, should we experience a strike by Canada Post, the program will be emailed to THE CLUBHOUSE distribution list. Hard copies of the program will be available only at the Tournament.)

ATTENTION ALL GUN CLUBS!

Have you begun to put together your teams for the Provincial Championships?

You can enter as many teams as you want for the CLUB TEAM RACES being held on Saturday July 30th in the Singles, Caps and Doubles events! (You don't need to squad together.)

Singles Team: must have at least one member from each of the three lower classes: B, C & D.

Doubles Team: must have at least one member from each of the three lower classes: B, C & D.

Handicap Team: must have at least one member, but no more than 2 from each yardage group.

(short yardage grp. =18-21; medium yardage grp. = 22-23 or 24-25; long yardage grp. = 26-27)

**The winning Team in each event gets a beautiful clubhouse trophy
+ each team member gets \$50 bucks!!**



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UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH ANOTHER OPTA DIRECTOR!

Not only are you about to get better acquainted with Director Basil Zmiyiwsky, we're offering a free and easy pronunciation lesson for his last name. After all these years of having his name butchered over the loud speaker when being called for his shoot-offs (of which there've been many!), we think it's finally time that at least our own community gets it right!

So here you go...say this aloud: Za – mew – ski. Simple, right? ZA-MEW-SKI!

But as so many of his friends around the Province already know, Basil will answer to just about any friendly, well-intentioned greeting you give him, because he's a true gentleman, a great sport and really quite humble...as you are about to find out. Enjoy the interview!



Basil and his wife Zenovia

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

I started with handgun shooting and archery where I competed locally (Thunder Bay). When some friends kept pressuring and inviting me to shoot more challenging (moving) targets, it didn't take long for me to visit the Thunder Bay Trap and Skeet Club where I became dedicated or as many trapshooters would admit, "addicted" to the sport. I've been an ATA member since 1992, but not seriously focused on registered competitions until 1994.

What is your home club?

I was a member of the Thunder Bay Trap and Skeet Club for many years until moving to Southern Ontario. Once I settled here, I originally became a member of HAHA. Now I consider Hamilton Gun Club as my home club, solely because of their more convenient shooting times.

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

I practiced dentistry in Thunder Bay for almost 30 years and am now retired.

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

I live in Mississauga with my wife Zenovia. We have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Our two sons have participated in trapshooting and our daughter even started in Thunder Bay. All love the sport and are very supportive of my shooting, but none are actively involved currently.



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What other interests do you have besides trapshooting?

I sing in our church choir and I am a member of a Canadian male choir based in Toronto, as well as an American male choir based in Detroit. The choirs do concert tours across North America and have a South American tour on schedule as well. Our family is very involved in our church where my father was an active priest for over 50 years.

When and why did you join the OPTA Board - and what do you hope to achieve by being a Director??

I joined in 2007. My second 2-year term is coming to end at this year's Provincials.

I have some close friends that are highly respected in the trapshooting community who were also members of the OPTA Board of Directors, so I was honored and humbled when I was asked by them to stand for nomination. It's been very exciting being an active participant in the administrative mechanics of the Association.

I must say that there have been no dull moments serving on the OPTA Board. All the members of the Board get to see the good as well as the "testy" sides of people that are involved in our sport. One thing that always impresses me the most is the intense passion that shooters have for the on-going existence and future success of trapshooting and established clubs. Personally, I've strived to make trapshooting a friendly and as welcoming an experience as possible to all the new and the established members of the OPTA.

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

There is always room to improve the delivery of services and efficiencies and the current Board, under the leadership of our new President Neville Henderson, is working very hard to progress in this area. With all the new ideas instigated recently by our Directors (the new Member Club directory, the Association's new website, THE CLUBHOUSE, more/new trophies and added money at The Provincials, new annual awards, etc.), I'm sure that our Ontario organization will become an outstanding model for others to follow.

I would also love to see the continuance of the friendly camaraderie that has developed amongst all our shooters.

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

Ontario shooters are some of the most passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable people in the sport. This is obviously reflected in the long list of past achievements and the on-going top placements in the tournaments across Canada and the USA. Ontario shooters are tough to beat !

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

I'm always very proud when Ontario shooters, my friends, do well in Canadian and American tournaments and are constantly appearing on the leader boards as champions.

As trapshooters, we are constantly striving for perfection...the perfect score, the perfect combination of equipment and ammunition, the perfect clubs at which to shoot, etc. I believe that in this pursuit of perfection, we have all become better people.

***NOW HERE'S YOUR ENTIRE 2011 OPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
PLEASE REACH OUT AND GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS ANYTIME. WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU!***

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



NEWS FROM OUR ATA DELEGATE, PAUL SHAW

Just a few days ago, Paul sent an email to the OPTA Board of Directors, advising it of the following ATA updates:

1) Eastern Zone VP Wayne Morris advises that the 10 year extension of the Sparta lease taking us through 2026 is now complete.

2) There is currently no AIM Director. Mike Hampton (Grand American Tournament Director) will serve as AIM Director for the duration of 2011. Tara Short has been promoted to the new position of AIM Coordinator. She can be reached at the ATA office with respect to any issues or problems associated with the AIM program.

3) There is a new "Membership Development Committee" established (Wayne Morris is the Chair). The object of this Committee is to have more or new or better programs to try to attract more adult shooters who have more discretionary dollars to pursue our sport. Many trapshooters shoot leagues, but don't register targets. Ideas are requested. For example - why does a non-registered "league" attract shooters in the first place? Perhaps the "team" hype and peer pressure? Perhaps the reduced cost? Perhaps the trophies or recognition? That is one of the reasons I initiated the Delegate team pin and team concept - because there was nothing to "win" at a regular registered shoot.

Before I present the Delegate pin and team concept to the ATA I need feedback. Is it working to help make small shoots a little more worthwhile at our Ontario Clubs? Comments please.

4) There is also a new committee "Gun Club Support and Communication Committee". You can find application forms on-line at www.shootata.com - a limited amount of money is available for gun club projects.

As always, Paul will be pleased to receive your questions, comments and suggestions:
(705) 445-1382 (office) or (705) 445-6230 (home) or shaw@smilaw.ca

ATA HANDICAP SQUADDING RULE: effective September 1, 2010

When squadding 18, 19, & 20 yard shooters, there shall be no more than one yard difference between adjacent shooters in the squad and no more than a total difference of two yards in a squad.

UPCOMING EDITIONS OF THE CLUBHOUSE

The next edition of THE CLUBHOUSE will be released in early July and will be the last one before the 2011 Ontario Provincial Trapshooting Championships. In addition to reporting the community news, we'll have a VERY important announcement that you won't want to miss!

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. Our goal is to keep our community and friends informed, connected and shooting!

Please post a copy of this edition of THE CLUBHOUSE at your Home Club - and remember to forward it to your shooting buddies as well. Anyone wishing their own edition can have it by sending his or her e-mail address to sheldonshoots@rogers.com with this request. (Past issues available) As always, the OPTA respects our members' privacy and will not share your contact information with any third parties.

~ See you again next month in THE CLUBHOUSE! ~