

ATA article for November 2019

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

The results have been released and Ontario has five shooters that were named to the 2020 All-American team(s) based upon their accomplishments during the 2019 shooting season.

Dan Giris and Lloyd Beecraft made the Sub Veteran first team. Paul Shaw made the Veteran second team and Keith Saunders and Terry Jordan both made the Senior Veteran second team. Congratulations.

There are many more Ontario shooters who earned a lot of AA points and will probably make one of the ATA AA teams down the line.

On October 21, 2019 Canada will have its federal election. When you read this article you will know what party assumes power and what may be in store for law abiding gun owners. What firearms may be banned? This could impact on trapshooters along with other firearm owners. Hold on – could be another rocky road for all of us.

As many of you know, in Ontario we recognize shooters who have won ATA registered events. Depending on modest minimum event participation numbers there is an “open” champion and if there are at least five category shooters (of any of the categories combined), there is also a category champion. At the end of the target year all event “victories” are tabulated and a delegate “open” team is declared as well as a category delegate team.

When we first started this initiative in 2011/12 there were only five ATA categories. We now have eight ATA categories and the participation demographics have changed. Now, there are more category shooters at the majority of our competitions than “open”. We have recognized this trend so that in the target year starting September 1, 2019 we will have a 10 category delegate team and a 5 “open” delegate team. OPTA director Dominic Gitto will be assisting me in tabulating the results. As always, thanks to our Ontario ATA clubs who record and submit this shoot results. Our shooters appreciate this recognition. Averages don’t matter. Only Ontario competitions count. It is challenging, competitive and, above all, fun.

On a lighter note, NASA was interviewing prospects for a mission to Mars. Only one person could go – and could never return to Earth.

The first applicant was an engineer. When asked how much he wanted to be paid for going, “One million dollars” he answered. “Because I want to donate it to M.I.T.”

The next applicant, a proficient trapshooter was asked the same question. He asked for two million dollars. “I want to give one million to my family and donate one million to the ATA for promoting intergalactic trapshooting.”

The last applicant was – you guessed it, a member of my own profession – a lawyer. He wanted three million dollars. “Why so much more than the others?” asked the interviewer. The lawyer leaned over and whispered in the interviewer’s ear, “If you give me three million dollars, I’ll give you one million, I’ll keep a million and we’ll send the engineer to Mars.”

Like many of you I must constantly multi-task. As I am finishing the draft of this article I am sitting in criminal court waiting for the Judge to deal with my client's matter on the Court docket. Suddenly a loud female voice could be heard emanating from the "in custody" holding cells next door. The shrieking and screaming was disruptive. A new lawyer from out of the area sitting beside me looked at me in a quizzical way. That puzzled look was replaced with a look of horror when I calmly said to him, "Don't be concerned – that is just routine police work – they're obtaining a confession."

Have a good fall.

Paul Shaw,
Ontario Delegate