

ATA article for October 2018

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

At the time I write this article in late August, the Grand, and for that matter the target year, is in the rearview mirror.

There have been some remarkable accomplishments by ATA shooters including many from Ontario. Congratulations to not just the winners but also to the participants and volunteers without whom the competitions could never materialize.

For those that may not know, there were 70 to 80 Brazilian shooters at the Grand and many of them shot very, very well. I overheard a conversation where a shooter was (apparently) complaining about the unfair advantage that the Brazilian shooters had over the rest of the field. Why? – because according to that shooter, back home in Brazil many shooters practice on clays using 28 gauge and 7/8oz loads so when they attend the Grand and use 12 gauge and 1-1/8oz, breaking targets is much easier. I know of no rule they are violating should this, in fact, be the case. In fact, I applaud them. ATA shooters during practice sessions are free to experiment with greater target speeds, more extreme angles, etc. Lots of people in other sports do exactly the same. Runners often practice while bearing weight systems, and the list goes on.

When this article gets published (in the October edition), the new trapshooting year will be underway. All the best to everyone.

For those who know me, I always caution young shooters that it is important to get their priorities straight. Trapshooting, while a fantastic life-long sport, does not pay your bills with very few exceptions. It is important to complete your education and get a job that will pay the expenses of the sport. It doesn't matter what the job is – one of the professions, one of the trades, an employee of some business or a business that you yourself operate. There are many fine opportunities out there. A job also supports a family, a house and pays bills with hopefully enough residual to fund trapshooting. I happen to be a lawyer but in spite of the myth that some people have about high paid professionals like lawyers, doctors, accountants, etc., believe me – many people in the trades make excellent livings and have disposable cash for this sport.

It's like the electrician that repaired some faulty wiring in a lawyer's office and submitted his bill. "\$600.00 for one hour of work is outrageous" ... griped the lawyer. "I'm a lawyer and even I don't make that much!" The electrician looked at him sympathetically and responded, "I know. When I was a lawyer, I didn't either."

Good luck with your fall shooting.

Paul Shaw,
Ontario Delegate