



Danny Talbot. ATA Nevada Delegate.

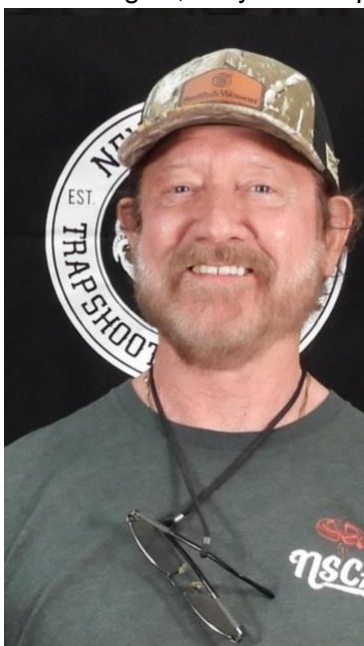
March provided two ATA tournaments for Nevada shooters.

The First Sunday Social shoot, March 2nd, drew 20 shooters.

Many of the usual suspects were still shooting at the Spring Grand, or were just returning, including me, for the First Sunday shoot. Those in attendance had a great time!

Sub-vet Ken Clark won the windy handicap with 43, and was punched to the 23 yard line.

In the singles, Clayton Philipp overcame the weather to post a winning 48.



Always tough shooter Clayton Philipp won the singles event with 48.

In the final doubles event, two senior veterans, Don Houston and Stephen Bell, tied with 43s to win it.

The Big 50 on March 8th was contested with cold north winds bouncing targets around.

Michael J. Petrisko bested the singles field by five targets with a commendable 49.

In the handicap, Kenneth J. Clark won with 42.

Ken James and Joe Atkin prevailed in the windy doubles with 42 each.

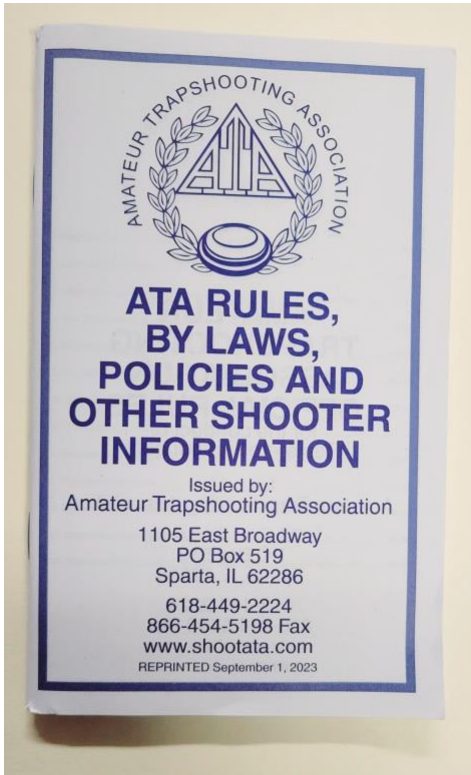
Congratulations and well done to everyone who battled the Spring winds in the Big 50.

- Also, a big shout out to the scorers who make the shoot possible!



People we couldn't get along without. Left around the table: Scorers Bev VanWie, Kim Burns, Robin Kamitono, Range Officer Jim Borchers, Archie Jones, Debra deCosta.

This month let's look at the proposed rule changes and issues that are being proposed by the ATA.



ATA rule book. Shooters should be familiar with its contents.

Recently, I attended the Western Zone Delegate meeting, February 25th, at the Spring Grand in Tucson.

Two areas of proposed rule changes that could affect Nevada shooters were discussed.

One proposed ATA rule change discussed at the Zone meeting is to change the age requirements for the veteran category and the senior veteran category.

In a nutshell, the proposal would make a veteran someone who is 65 and not yet 75. Senior veterans would be 75 years old and older.

I personally believe this is a good idea. Full disclosure, I would be affected by the change, in that I am now a senior veteran.

However, that has nothing to do with my viewpoint on this proposed change. I'm happy to compete in either class. I just like to shoot.

Many who support this change feel that we need to find ways to both honor and support our oldest shooters and keep them active in the game.

One perspective recognizes that many times the 75-year-old and up shooters are the folks that have supported trap shooting for 20, 30, even 40 years.

Further, it is well documented that age limitations increase more rapidly as we get older.

For instance, the physicality of a 78-year-old is often radically different than that of a 70-year-old, making equal competition more difficult.

Perhaps a category with higher age limits would address some of those issues.

In addition, this rule change would allow more equitable opportunities for senior veteran category shooters to compete for trophies, by percentage of entries.

This is because the senior veteran category is almost always the largest category at shoots, hence fewer individuals in the senior veteran category will win trophies, by percentage of participants.

For example, at the recently completed Spring Grand American, there were 193 senior veterans competing.

The veteran category, by comparison, had less than half that number at 78 shooters.

That ratio holds true at many shoots, large or small.

To increase the number of shooters in the veteran category, and decrease the size of the senior veteran category, would, by percentage, create a more equal playing field for veterans and senior veterans, alike.

Another facet of this category change is that it would help facilitate the ongoing efforts by the Amateur Trapshooting Association and Pacific International Trapshooting Association (PITA) to further synchronize the two organization's rules.

The PITA currently recognizes a separate category for those shooters 75 years old and older.

Finally, it is worth noting that the proposed change would not add a layer of new trophies.

No additional costs would be incurred by clubs and ATA state organizations for additional trophies due to the proposed change.

If the category system can be improved, and at no additional cost, it should probably be given serious consideration.

The above issues and perspectives are just a few ideas that may bring to light other discussions and opinions around the proposed rule change.

Moreover, there will be details to be worked out regarding implementation.

Hopefully, shooters will analyze this proposal and perhaps view it in ways that best allow all of our shooters optimum opportunities for competition.

Secondly, the need to better coordinate the rules of the Pacific International Trapshooting Association and the Amateur Trapshooting Association was discussed at the Zone meeting.

It is critical that we do this so that shooters can continue to cross register targets between the ATA and the PITA, and vice versa.

Sometimes, the rule differences between the two organizations are problematic for shooters.

For example, a PITA shooter in one of the PITA multiplex shoots may have to wait 30 days to find out whether their score qualifies them for a yardage increase.

In the meantime, the shooter's ATA yardage may be incorrectly reflected.

These kinds of differences have caused problems for some of our local Nevada shooters.

Sometimes trophies have been in jeopardy because yardages were not coordinated in a timely manner between PITA and ATA.

Other issues such as when age categories become applicable are also sometimes at odds between the two organizations.

Shooters are the ones who most benefit by being able to cross register targets. The organizations themselves garner relatively little income from cross registration fees.

My hope is that the organizations can solve whatever differences there are so that shooters can continue to compete in both organizations and count targets in both organizations.

Finally, the Western Zone sites for Nevada were approved and finalized at the Tucson meeting.

Mason Valley Gun Club in Yerington will host one of the Western Zone shoots, July 18-20.

Also hosting a Western Zone site will be Lincoln County Trap Club in Pioche, also July 18-20.

Thanks to these two clubs, and the strong support from the Nevada State Trapshooting Association, for the first time in recent memory Nevada shooters in the northern part of the state, and shooters in southern Nevada will have Zone sites within reasonable driving distances.

Again, this year, the Nevada State Trapshooting Association will fund very substantial trophy packages and added money for each club.

In addition, Russ Roberts, Joe Hanley, and Danny Talbot will provide \$1000 added money for the Zone shoot, to be divided equally between the two clubs.

Please plan to attend one location or the other. Both will be great three day shoots!

If you have thoughts on any of these issues, or others, and would like to communicate them to me, I will make sure that they are passed on.

Until next time, then, let's get out there and remember it's a game! Have some fun!