

May Trap and Field article and newsletter from Nevada



Danny Talbot ATA Delegate Nevada

Lots of targets were flying this spring in Nevada!

In addition to the in-state events, several Nevada shooters headed to the Arizona State Shoot in Tucson the last week of March.

Nevada shooters brought home many out of state trophies from Tucson.

At the Arizona State Shoot, in Event 6, Ken James won class C doubles with 93. Ken prevailed again in Event 11, winning veteran singles with a perfect century.



Ken James won trophies in two events in Tucson, doubles and singles. (File)

Don Huston won 22 to 24 yard honors at Tucson in the Event 12 handicap with 93. Don also won out of state Class D HOA!

Jack Wang tied for class A honors in the Arizona State championship singles with 196. In addition, Jack won Class A out of state HAA!



Jack Wang, far right, and squad mates, at the Arizona State Shoot, Tucson.

Congratulations to these Nevada shooters and way to represent Nevada trapshooting!

Meanwhile, back in Nevada, the First Sunday Social shoot, the NSTA Race for the Buckle Big 50, and the Spring Doubles Marathon all took place within an eight day period, April 5th through 12th, at Clark County Shooting Complex.

800 registered targets challenged ATA shooters during that week

The Spring Doubles Marathon was contested in 20 mph winds for most of the five events. Shooters still posted some great scores.

The winners were:

Event 1. James Schooler 89; Event 2. James Schooler 95; Event 3. Michael J. Petrisko and James Schooler, 94; Event 4. Jack Wang, 84; Event 5. Jon Slinker, 96.

During the Doubles Marathon, Jon Slinker was honored as having reached 100,000 combined registered targets.



Leticia Slinker and Jon Slinker eye up the 100k target cake provided by Jack Wang for Jon's achievement.



Accomplished Nevada shooter Jon Slinker is congratulated by ATA Delegate Danny Talbot on Jon's 100,000 target attainment.

The following day,
Jasmine Hicks prevailed in the First Sunday Social handicap with a 44, receiving a punch to the 21 yard line.



Jasmine Hicks won the First Sunday Handicap with 44.

Jon Slinker left no questions while winning the First Sunday singles race with a perfect 50.

Jack Wang won the doubles event with a solid 46.

The Nevada State Trapshooting Association Race for the Buckle Big 50 was the final Nevada ATA shoot in April.



L to R. Corky Peters, Chuck Baringer, and Larry Gearheart getready for the first Big 50 event April 12 at Clark County Shooting Complex.

In the NSTA Race for the Buckle shoot, Jack Wang and Clayton Philipp captured the singles with 48.

Brayden Okubo nailed down the handicap with 47.

Jack Wang prevailed in the doubles with 47.

A big shout out to Linda Hand and son David Burns who manage many of the NSTA shoots. Always helpful and encouraging to shooters, these folks do a great job!



Managing the Race for the Buckle shoot, Linda Hand and son David Burns make a great team!

Trapshooting has had a rich and colorful past in Nevada.

To honor that tradition, intermittently over the next few months I will take a brief look at a few of the famous Nevada gun clubs that were major Nevada trapshooting destinations over the years, but sadly, are no longer in existence.

These clubs created the foundation and traditions on which Nevada trapshooting now flourishes.

There have been many great Nevada gun clubs over the years.

Lets start this month with Harolds Trapshooting Club, which was located just a few miles north of Reno, Nevada.



Vest patch from Harold's Gun Club. (net photo)

Harold's Club (not to be confused with the gun club, which came a few years later) was a casino built by Harold Smith in 1935 as a Reno gambling establishment. It thrived as a gambling business for 60 years, closing in 1995.

However, Smith was a major gun collector and enthusiastic trapshooter, along with being a successful casino operator.

This led Smith to acquire the Jabberwock Gun Club outside of Reno in 1950.

His idea was that the gun club could help promote the casino.

Smith renamed the Jabberwock Harold's Trapshooting Club.

The club catered to locals and the rich and famous who frequented nearby Lake Tahoe.

In addition to shooting, the gun club featured legalized poker, blackjack, and a fully stocked bar. Reportedly, many high stakes poker games took place after the day's shooting concluded.

Harold's hosted many great ATA shoots over the years, and many offered added money that would equate to \$50,000 or more in today's dollars.

Trophies were first class. For example, Harold's gun club hosted the original Golden West Grand in 1952.

The early Golden West Grand handicap trophy was a hand engraved silver buckle with a \$20 gold piece mounted on it. Nice.

Big name shooters were associated with the club such as Dan Orlich and Joe Devers. Even the late Al Ljutic, who developed the famous Ljutic line of shotguns, worked at Harold's in the early years.

Interestingly, in addition to clay target shooting, live flyers were a big part of the action at Harold's and other Nevada locations in the early days.



Live flyer program from 1958 at Harold's Gun Club in Reno. (net photo)

Harold's Trapshooting Club closed in 1979 when Howard Hughes Corp. acquired the casino operations from the Smith family.

Many great shoots were held at Harold's, the birthplace of the Golden West Grand.

Harold's helped bring national attention to trapshooting in Nevada that continues to this day with our Nevada State Shoot!

We'll look at other legendary Nevada gun clubs in the coming months.

Before we go, here's an update on the new construction at Lincoln County Trap Club in Pioche.

Larry Gearheart and others are busy adding a fourth trap field and additional parking!

More to come on Lincoln County Trap Club in future issues.



New construction at Lincoln County Trap Club. A new trap and more parking are underway.

In the meantime, let's remember that trapshooting is a game. Have fun!

