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Around the ATA Article
Nevada



Danny Talbot ATA Delegate Nevada

The long awaited preeminent trapshooting event in the state, the 77th 2026 Nevada State Shoot is completed.

This spectacular tournament was the biggest state shoot in Nevada history, and perhaps the largest state shoot west of the Mississippi River this year.

It appears that the state shoot will have an All American points competition factor of 5, based on over 1100 combined shooters in the Championship events.

A competition level of 5 is indicative of the number of shooters from Nevada and across the country who view the Nevada State Shoot as a must attend destination.

I'll report more about the State Shoot results in future issues, but here I would like to illuminate how much preparation goes into a shoot of this magnitude, and who the drivers are that make it all happen.

Nevada trapshooting leaders have been working tirelessly for months to bring this fantastic happening to reality.

The responsibility for conceptualizing, preparing, funding and managing the state shoot rests with the officers and directors of the Nevada State Trapshooting Association.

I have never seen a state board of directors for a trapshooting association that worked more creatively nor more arduously to produce a phenomenon like the Nevada State Shoot.

Here are the Nevada trapshooting leaders who guide the NSTA shoots throughout the year, and who create and manage the biggest state shoot in the entire Western Zone, the 77th Nevada State Shoot.



Greg Pink, NSTA president.



Linda Hand, NSTA vice president.



Jon Slinker, Director, and marketing creator.



Jeff White, Secretary.



Corky Peters, Director.



Melvin Tabion, Treasurer.



Gary Rusch, Director

Supporting the Board of Directors and chairing the handicap and shootoff committees at the State Shoot are ATA Delegate, Danny Talbot, and Alternate Delegate, Sam Boatman.



Danny Talbot ATA Delegate



Sam Boatman Alternate Delegate

Just a few things that the NSTA Board of Directors do, for the State Shoot, and throughout the year:

President **Greg Pink** spends countless days managing the organization, and promoting NSTA and the State Shoot, across the country.

Greg brings to the table many skills.

He has created and managed several businesses and continues to do so. Organizational management is not new to him.

However, by his own description, the most important role that he plays in the NSTA, and by extension, in the State Shoot, is that of team builder.

Greg indicates that he values being a team builder highly.

His attitude is exemplified in the way so many people come together to make this spectacular event possible.

No one works harder than Greg Pink.

Fortunately, Nevada shooters are the beneficiaries of that hard work, both throughout the year, and at the State Shoot.

It is not an exaggeration to say that trapshooting in the Silver State would not be where it is today without the leadership of Greg Pink.

Vice President **Linda Hand** does so many things, it's hard to keep track of them all.

Many refer to Linda as the Queen of Nevada Trapshooting. That very fitting title certainly describes how central she is to the success of the state shoot, and Nevada shooting in general.

For example, for the State Shoot, Linda has ordered and received delivery on 344 individual trophies.

It doesn't stop there. Linda unpackages and inspects each of the 344 trophies. She will then repackage them, take them to the gun club, and with the help of others, display and distribute them to winners at the shoot.

In addition, Linda has taken 154 RV reservations. She works with each individual RV applicant to be certain that they have the kind of space they need and are as close to their traveling friends as possible.

Further, Linda organizes and trains 35 scorekeepers and keeps track of over 1700 hours that they will put in during the shoot.

After the day's shooting is complete, Linda will work with Bob McClendon, Greg Pink, and Danny Talbot to manage the shoot offs.

The shoot-offs often go into the late-night hours, but Linda is there to make sure all runs smoothly.

During the target year, Linda directs the many NSTA shoots, and, with Jeff White and Corky Peters, runs the Wednesday night leagues.

To say that we don't know what we would do without her, is a huge understatement.

Director **Jon Slinker** is what president Greg Pink describes as a marketing juggernaut.

The description fits him perfectly. Somehow, throughout the year, and more intensely around the shoot, Jon creates a myriad of relationships that support and benefit the shoot in the form of sponsors and partners from across the country.

Further, Jon helps create some of the exciting and unique elements of the shoot including poker nights, bingo tournaments, and a variety of special activities such as the 27-yard Challenge and others.

Along with Greg Pink, Jon presents the morning announcements and orientation for shooters in the famous, (or is it infamous?), Jon and Greg Morning Show. Everyone anxiously awaits it.

It is safe to say that the 77th Nevada state shoot would not be what it is without, in many ways, the creativity and hard work of Jon Slinker.

I also want to say that throughout all that he does, Jon has the unfailing support, and much supportive work, of his lovely wife Leticia. Many thanks to Leticia, also.

Secretary **Jeff White** is a person who is there for whoever needs his help.

Besides holding the office of State Secretary, Jeff is responsible for much of the widely appreciated hospitality elements of the shoot.

Jeff develops partnerships and organizes many of the food vendors that provide the free meals throughout the week.

In addition, Jeff creates an amazing photographic record of the shoot.

Jeff takes action shots of hundreds of people during the week.

He takes each day's photos home after the shoot, edits them, and puts them into a slideshow.

He then runs these photos of shooters on a giant tv screen in the clubhouse, every day, throughout the shoot.

The slideshows are hugely popular among everyone at the event.

Jeff is a very talented photographer and captures the essence of the shoot and shooters in a very special way.

Moreover, Jeff developed the Nevada State Trapshooting Association membership expansion program. He personally guides new members through their first registered event.

Jeff develops and coordinates the NSTA shoot calendar and reports the results to the ATA. He further promotes the shoots through strategic videos that he creates himself.

We're lucky to have Jeff and his artistic abilities and management skills working on behalf of shooters.

Director **Corky Peters** manages a very important and difficult job, every day of the state shoot.

Corky oversees the sale and distribution of the various state shoot merchandise.

This includes hats, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and many more items.

It requires long hours and keen organizational skills. Corky's affable demeanor and positive social skills create many lasting positive experiences for state shoot participants and their families.

Corky, with his deep shooting experience and long-time residence in Southern Nevada, is a great ambassador for the NSTA and Nevada shooting.

During the year, Corky helps coordinate the NSTA Wednesday night trap league.

Treasurer **Melvin Tabion** and Director **Gary Rusch** are the newest NSTA board members.

These two gentlemen are ever ready to help wherever necessary.

For instance, Melvin will be helping Jack Wang with Cosmic trap night on Friday of championship week. He will also be transitioning into his role as State Treasurer assuming those duties from Greg Pink.

Both he and Gary have generously agreed to be on the very important shoot-off committee and have committed several nights to running shoot-offs.

This is a very demanding role that requires long hours after the day shooting is complete. While everyone else is off going home, Melvin and Gary are still on the grounds helping shooters with the very important shoot-off events.

Kudos to Melvin and Gary for their significant contributions to the functioning of the state shoot.

Further, a few of the other key people helping with the shoot include Bill Daniels, Larry Gearheart, Patrick O'Neill, and Jack Wang. Many thanks to these Nevada shooters.

In addition to NSTA board members, others associated with Clark County Shooting Complex play an integral role in the success of the state shoot, and other events throughout the year.

For example, Clark County Shooting Complex (CCSC) director Steve Carmichael has ordered almost a half million shells to accommodate shooters.





Shooting Complex Director Steve Carmichael stands by part of the 474,000 shells ordered for state shoot participants.

Given the fact that trapshooters are very particular about what brand of shell, size of shot, how much recoil, pellet speed, etc., putting together a half million shell order is no easy task.

Similarly, CCSC manager, Doug Miles, has been organizing full and part time workers to cover everything from machine maintenance, ammunition sales, target setting, target loading, and more.



CCSC manager Doug Miles

Doug reports that the Shooting Complex crew of full and part time employees will put in over 2000 hours to prepare, support, and conclude the State Shoot.

Starting with the front counter crew, who are responsible for ammunition sales, practice tickets, gun rentals, gun locker storage, the hourly and full time crew is critical to the function of the gun club.

We're very fortunate to have the Shooting Complex as a venue, but more importantly, the skills and support of the Clark County Shooting Complex people are critical to the success of the state shoot.

As we see, it takes enormous skill, dedication, and time commitments from many important people to bring a shoot of this magnitude and complexity to shooters.

I confidently speak for many when I say thank you all!

Note from President Pink:

Danny will shy away from attention focused on him, but a couple of words need to be said. Danny brings a world of shooting experience and sage advice to our NSTA organization. His service as ATA State Delegate has continued to move Nevada State trapshooting forward. And as evidenced by this edition of his monthly newsletter, he fills a critical role of communication out to the Nevada Trapshooting community of news and accomplishments across the state.