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## WELCOME!

Congratulations to the newly selected U.S. Helice Team. The recent U.S. Championship at Dallas Gun Club brought the selection process for the 2014 Team to a close.

The World Helice Championships are set for September 4-7 in Bologna, Italy, so USHA had planned all along to have the Team selected by the end of April to allow for travel planning and so on. The selection process was grueling and we've emerged with very strong teams. Please join us in congratulating...

### **Men's Team**

Jerry Steadham, Weldon Nichols, Sam Shiller.  
Alternates: Mike Sellers, Kyle Oliver

### **Women's Team**

Mimi Wilfong, Shea Self, Jennifer Paul.  
Alternates: Karen Archer, Amy Dement

### **Veteran's Team**

Kyle Oliver, Mike Higgins, George Gregory.  
Alternates: Don Adams, Alan Shelfer, James Teat, Chuck Traylor (yes, all four tied)

### **Junior**

Jacob Freudenthal

As information about the World Championship program becomes available, we will share it on the USHA web site.

As you know, the Championships are open to all and only the "Match of Nations" is restricted to the Teams. If you're looking for an excuse to go to Italy and enjoy the food and wine, this is a great shoot to attend.

*One notice from FITASC, the International Governing Body: They have changed the names of some categories of shooters. None of the age brackets change, just the names...*

- What was "Senior" is now: **Man or Male**
- What was "Lady" is now: **Lady, Woman or Female**
- What was "Junior" is still: **Junior**
- What was "Veteran" is now: **Senior**
- What was "Super Veteran" is now: **Veteran**



## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBER REFEREES

We owe a debt of gratitude to the members who take time during our competitions to help referee the matches.

As many of you have noted, the vast majority of rings incorporate a rotating volunteer referee system at our sanctioned matches. We are excited about this development and the positive impact these volunteers have had upon our great sport.

Recognized for their integrity, decisiveness, and sound judgment, these referees guide trappers and shooters alike on the rules of the game and how to apply them. This, in turn, generates long-term continuity for all involved while fostering consistency from shoot to shoot.

While volunteer referees may not relish the idea of being placed in difficult and potentially stressful situations, we appreciate that they do so on behalf of us all.

Accordingly, we'd like to offer a heart-felt "Thank you" to these referees and acknowledge their important contributions to our sport.

The next time you see one sitting in the ref's chair, we hope that you'll thank them, too.



## RING OPERATORS & REFEREES: SPECIAL SITUATIONS AT SANCTIONED MATCHES

Over the course of the season, a few situations in the ring come up regularly for the trappers and referees. While most of these situations are addressed within the current Rule Book, others are not.

At a recent USHA Board meeting, we discussed some of these unique situations and agreed that the following is how we will request ring operators and referees deal with these events at Sanctioned Matches for consistency...

1. It is the shooter's responsibility to check and initial their scorecard before leaving the ring. If they wish to protest/question their score, it must be done before leaving the ring. The trapper and referee do their best to get it right, but ultimately, the shooter must be responsible for their scorecard.
2. If the shooter experiences a 2nd barrel malfunction (cartridge or gun mechanical malfunction) they will be allowed a new target. In this situation, the current Rule (Article 11) directs that shooters will discharge their first barrel into the ground/air (safely) prior to attempting to break the target with the second barrel. A less well-known aspect of this rule is that a total of 3 such malfunctions (either first or second barrel) are allowed in any match. After the 3rd malfunction, all subsequent



malfunctions will be scored as lost. Ring operators please advise your trappers that malfunctions should be noted on the scorecard so we can keep track for scoring purposes. (Additionally, see Article 11 of the Rules: "upon occurrence of a misfire, the shooter is required to immediately point the barrel upward and request inspection by the referee")

3. In the ring, the trapper is responsible for making the initial "call" on all issues (hit/miss, malfunction, no bird, etc). The referee is there to back up the trapper and may over-rule him if the referee thinks it appropriate. Any disagreement is to be elevated to the shoot director/chief referee. No other spectators, participants or "off duty" referees should intervene with what is going on in an active ring.
4. It is the responsibility of the shooter to try and break any target thrown. Don't "hope" for a "no bird" call from the trapper or referee. If a bird immediately terminates into the ground and the shooter is quick enough to hit it prior to impact, the referee may call the bird dead. In this instance, the "tie" goes to the shooter. If the shooter did not have a reasonable opportunity to shoot the target, it will be a no bird with nothing established. If a thrown target makes contact with the ground (ground strike) but its course and speed is not altered, it will be considered a live bird and fair game. Conversely, if the trapper/referee detects a noticeable change in the bird's course after contact

with the ground (regardless of its continuing speed), the correct call should be a "no bird" or "one bird — one shot" depending on circumstance. Again, don't assume the trapper or referee is going to call a no bird. Treat every bird as fair game until advised otherwise.



## NEW UNIVERSAL TRENCH (BUNKER) ORGANIZATION

A new Universal Trench (Bunker) organization for the U.S. has been organized under the auspices of the USHA.

Dr. Gino Bortone of Dallas Gun Club has received authority from FITASC to initiate sanctioned Universal Trench tournaments in the United States.

The USHA will be the umbrella organization under which the Universal Trench matches will be conducted. More information will be forthcoming and on the USHA web site.



## THANK YOU FROM THE USHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Participation in the 2013-2014 season was outstanding and the competition was world class with multiple 30 straights being posted.

Be sure to check the USHA web site for upcoming scheduled matches.

We are aware of a couple new rings being installed in Texas, Mississippi, and Kansas and we've had inquiries from gun clubs in Hartford, Connecticut, and Florida regarding the possibility of new rings. In addition, Helice shooting is still going on in California at Stockton and Martinez.

The selection season for the 2015 US Team will begin in July at Cotton Land — Monroe, Louisiana; Dallas in September; and New Braunfels in October.

Thanks for your ongoing support, participation and enthusiasm.

P.S.: Dallas Gun Club, Cottonland in Louisiana and New Braunfels all host periodic "fun" shoots for Helice in addition to the Team Selection Matches. Please check their respective web sites or contact the Board through the USHA web site if you are interested in shooting more often.

The USHA Board of Directors

- Mike Bogetti
- Glenn Crum
- Jack East
- Mike Higgins

- Theodore Wells
- Mimi Wilfong



**Helice USA** is the official electronic newsletter of the United States Helice Association.

The mission of the USHA is to promote the growth of Helice, an exciting form of artificial target shooting which is rapidly becoming more and more popular, especially in Europe and the United States.

You are invited to visit the USHA web site at [www.USHelice.com](http://www.USHelice.com). We welcome input from members and associates, as well as individuals new to helice.

You can contact our offices directly via e-mail at [Feedback@USHelice.com](mailto:Feedback@USHelice.com).

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