



2007 WSSA Advisory Board Meeting Sun Valley Shooting Park September 29, 2007



President Bob Miller opened the meeting at 9:11 AM.

Those present were: President – Bob Miller, Secretary/Treasurer – Norm Andersen, Past President – RV Bob Miller, Bremerton – Erv Hume, Lynden – Jim Zevely, McChord – Larry Clark, Seattle – Mike Musga and Bill Fisher, Spokane – Brian Martin and John Westerman, Sun Valley – Joe Stuhley, Director at Large – Cliff Smith, Guest – Barbara Clark.

Not Present – Vice President Jerry Smith.

Motion by Jim Zevely with a second by Joe Stuhley to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 30, 2006 advisory board meeting. Motion carried, all in favor.

Presidents Report - President Miller gave a short report regarding the declining membership WSSA is currently experiencing. Its not just the entry fees that are going up but all components that it takes to shoot skeet: entry fees, shells either new or reloaded, gas, motels, food and so on. Bob emphasized the importance of promoting the sport of skeet to league and other social shooters at your local club.

Vice President Position - President Miller read a letter from Vice President Jerry Smith. Jerry was resigning his position as Vice president. In his letter Jerry recommended John Westerman to take his place for the remaining 10 months of his term as Vice President. John is involved with all aspects of the skeet tournaments at the Spokane club and was instrumental in putting together the 2007 state shoot program mailed to shooters. With little further discussion, **motion by Norm Andersen with a second by Mike Musga to appoint John Westerman to fill out the current term as vice-president for Jerry Smith. Motion carried, all in favor.**

Secretary/Treasurers Report – Norm Andersen reported the following:

- ☉ Checkbook balance is \$1,407.50 greater then at this time last year.
 - ☉ Sweaters still need to be paid for at approximately \$975.00.
- ☉ WSSA currently has 92 members (annual paid and active life)
 - ☉ Of the 62 annual, only 53 have shot targets to date in Washington State.
- ☉ Current WSSA membership by club was shown.
- ☉ WSSA currently has 217 NSSA members in Washington State.
 - ☉ 125 are non shooters, are retired, with about 80% life NSSA members.
 - ☉ Almost all are not WSSA members.
- ☉ WSSA daily fee income is down by \$406.00 for the year over 2006.
- ☉ 5 shooters became life members of WSSA since the meeting in 2006.
- ☉ State shoot had 40 less gun entries then 2006.
 - ☉ Total prize expenses were less then 2006.
 - ☉ 2007 state shoot was very successful hosted by the Spokane Gun Club.

NSSA Report – Norm outlined and reiterated his remarks from the general membership meeting. Smaller shoots are declining in participation while the large, major, shoots are holding their own. These large major shoots are usually sponsored by a company or many sponsors and have significant return to the shooter. Most of these shoots run between \$45. to over \$50. per 100 targets entry fee. It was noted that the recent U S open in Albuquerque was \$49. per 100 and had over 250 shooters. Targets shot nationally are down slightly. Washington's decline in membership is about the same as other states with the same number of members. From Louise Terry our national NSSA president she outlined that NSSA has no current nibbles on the San Antonio property. The offer of 60 million fell through. The long range planning committee continues to look for a site for a new national gun club. Louise emphasized that NSSA will not move to Sparta Illinois. Taxes are becoming a problem, not to pay, but with their escalation. Homes are being built all around the San Antonio property. Louise mentioned the largest shoot ever held on the San Antonio grounds just concluded. The national 4-H event. In addition they just had another youth event with over 400 in attendance. The shooting sports for youth are encouraged on all levels in Texas.

Zone 7 Report – Barbara Clark reported that the recently concluded Zone 7 shoot in Bakersfield California had 182 shooters with 4 from Washington, the Clarks, Cliff Smith and Chip Cosgrove. The weather was warm. The 2008 Zone 7 shoot has been awarded to Salem Oregon. This shoot will be held on August 7-10, 2008. The 2009 Zone 7 shoot has been tentatively been awarded to Ben Avery located north of Phoenix Arizona. The dates have not been set yet, but the Zone directors have approved the shoot to be in April. Arizona requested this because of the heat in August when the traditional Zone weekend is. It was mentioned that our Washington State Zone 7 directors need to protect the traditional weekend for the Weaver and Pacific Northwest Championships the last weekend of April.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes of the general membership meeting held at the Spokane Gun Club on July 27th, 2007 were reviewed. Items to discuss from that meeting were listed under new business.

There was no old business from previous meetings.

WSSA/Referees/Payment – Discussion regarding the one year trial of WSSA paying the \$5.00 fee to NSSA if WSSA clubs would license their referees. Only Sun Valley and Spokane took advantage of this offer. Spokane licensed all of their referees for the 2007 state shoot. After discussion: **motion by Joe Stuhley with a second by Erv Hume that all referees for the state shoot be licensed or fully experienced by known ability. Shoot management and/or the chief referee will determine experienced and known ability. Motion carried, all in favor.** The offer from WSSA to pay for the licensing of referees will only be available to the club holding the state shoot.

WSSA Web Site – The WSSA web site is on the Seattle Skeet and Trap Club web site. Seattle hosts the site at no charge to WSSA. Mike Musga, Seattles and WSSAs web master, mentioned that the WSSA web site is only as good as the information he is provided. Items that would be good to have on the web site were discussed. Norm will provide Mike with many of the items. The Seattle web site is www.sstclub.com and click on the “Washington Skeet” link on the left side of the page.

NEW BUSINESS

Move The Date Of The State Shoot – RV Bob Miller made a proposal to change the date of the state shoot. Summer is an extremely busy time of the year. Most summer dates have many scheduled activities that shooters want to attend. Many are listed on the traditional dates of the state shoot on the last weekend of July. Other weekends were looked at as possibilities. Many looked at had other activities scheduled. RV will look at proposed weekends and make a presentation at the advisory board meeting in 2008 showing conflicts by weekend.

Proposed Sponsored Shoot – A California company (Pacific Sporting Arms) is proposing to sponsor a shoot in Washington. The Spokane club will host. A date of the second weekend in June is being proposed. Dates, as always, are hard to come by during the time period of the good weather months. Bob Miller will check with those proposing this shoot before it is put on the calendar.

Life Memberships – Proposal to put life membership dues in a special rainy day account CD. After discussion and many thoughts, **motion by Larry Clark with a second by John Westerman to establish a rainy day CD starting at \$1,000.00. Motion carried, one opposed.**

Participant Pins – 2007 was the last year of the previous 5 year order. The cost of the next 5 year order will be \$1,080.00 plus tax. After discussion, **motion by Larry Clark with a second by RV Miller to purchase the next 5 years of participant pins. Motion carried, all in favor.**

Club Counts – After discussion of various methods of how to count members, annual and life, in the essence of time the subject was tabled.

1999 Minutes – The minutes of the 1999 advisory board meeting are still missing. Many board members had searched their files and none found. If any member has a copy of the 1999 advisory board meeting minutes, please make a copy and send to the secretary/treasurer (Norm).

40th Anniversary – The 2008 state shoot in Lynden will be the 40th sponsored and managed by WSSA. Many items were discussed to mark this occasion. A special pin was thought to be the most cost effective item to purchase. **Motion by Joe Stuhley with a second by Jim Zevely to authorize \$250.00 for this special 40th anniversary pin. Motion carried, all in favor.**

75th Anniversary – 2014 will be the 75th state shoot held in Washington State. This was mentioned to get people thinking of this most significant milestone and what can be done to celebrate this event.

2008 Schedule – The shoot schedule for 2008 was established. A copy is included with these minutes.

Review – Before setting the budgets for 2008, various graphs were reviewed that showed membership trends in Washington State over the last 61 years and state shoot entry trends over the last 30 years.

Establish the 2008 State Shoot

- ⊙ **Club** - Confirmed Lynden as the host club.
- ⊙ **Dates** – July 25-27, 2007 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
- ⊙ **Target Fees** - \$21.00 per 100 targets paid to the club. Shootoff targets are included in the basic entry fee of \$21.00 per 100.
- ⊙ **Jackpot Targets** - Jackpot targets will be paid at the rate of \$.07 per target.
- ⊙ **RV Space Rental** - \$10.00 per night to a maximum of \$30.00 for no more than 5 nights.
- ⊙ **Referees** – To be licensed as per minutes of this meeting under old business.
- ⊙ **Practice Rounds** – Will be \$4.00 per round.
- ⊙ **State Shoot Banquet** – Will be held at Shuksan Golf Course. Meal cost and menu will be set later and approved by the president.
- ⊙ **Friday BBQ** – Club will host a Friday evening dinner of their choosing.

- ☺ **State Shoot Budget** – Set as last year with an increase of 100 dollars for the 12 gauge to reflect the same per prize monies as the other events.
- ☺ **Entry Fee** – Same as the last two years. \$37.00 per 100 targets. All other fees remain the same, teams, C of C, HAA, HOA.

Awards

- ☺ 12 Gauge \$1,050.00 John Westerman
- ☺ 20 Gauge \$900.00 Cliff Smith
- ☺ 28 Gauge \$900.00 Bill Fisher
- ☺ 410 Bore \$900.00 Barb and Larry Clark
- ☺ Doubles \$900.00 John Molsberry
- ☺ HOA \$750.00 Bob Miller
- ☺ Concurrents/East West Barb and Larry Clark, Jim Zevely, WSSA, others as donated.

Appointments From The President

- ☺ **Director at Large** – Cliff Smith reappointed.
- ☺ **State Chief Referee** – Jim Zevely
- ☺ **State Shoot Program** – Norm Andersen and Jim Zevely
- ☺ **Program Advertising** – Jim Zevely
- ☺ **State Shoot Banquet** – Doug Miller
- ☺ **Friday Jackpot** – Jon Westerman
- ☺ **Friday Night Activities/BBQ** – Jim Zevely

Sun Valley – Joe Stuhley outlined that tomorrow will be the last American style shoot held at the Sun Valley club for many reasons, mainly politics and lack of help. Sun Valley will host two international shoots in 2008.

Membership – Before the meeting adjourned there was a long discussion regarding membership. Costs of shooting the game was discussed. Are the clubs charging too much. Two clubs outlined their costs which were almost in line with each other. Other than the cost per target out of the box, you have insurance, utilities, maintenance, lease payments, outstanding loans and possibly the employment of a manager, book-keeper and trap help. The clubs are not in the business to lose money. The cost per 100 was thought to be in line with money returned, prizes and all the other items, NSSA-WSSA daily fees, mailing, printing, scoreboards and so forth need to be included in what it takes to run a shoot. Also as president Miller mentioned in his opening remarks, the cost of shells either reloads or new continue to go up, motels go up, food costs go up and of course gas.

Being friendly to prospective new members. Don't badger them into joining NSSA/WSSA. Make them feel welcome and give them the chance to sample the game and make the decision on their own. If you see someone at your club that obviously is new or looks like they are at your club for their first time, make them feel welcome. Outline the venues offered, explain the unknown and so on.

Attracting more youth to the game was discussed. Get them involved at a young age and maybe they will carry that to their later years. Most youth experience college, marriage, kids, working and then possibly may come back at a later time. The cost to parents was usually the main drawback. How to pay for their entry fees, support them at the junior world and or the state shoot.

It was noted that almost 70% of the shooters in Washington State are Sub-Senior (age 50) or greater. This is close to the national average.

Many other good ideas were discussed with no real resolution or quick fix that could be readily instituted. All present thought a good discussion.

Next Years Meeting – Although there will not be a shoot the next day, Sun Valley Shooting Park was thought to be a good meeting place. The 2008 advisory/scheduling meeting of WSSA will be held at Sun Valley starting at 9 AM on September 27, 2008.

There being no further business before the board, **motion by RV Bob Miller with a second by Joe Stuhley to adjourn. Motion carried, all in favor.**

The 2007 advisory/scheduling meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.