

**TEXAS SKEET SHOOTERS**  
**ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MARCH**  
**2009**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- JIM COOPER**

Happy Holiday Season to All, and welcome to 2009!! Goodbye to 2008! There has been lots of excitement over the past four months. We have elected a new president in an historic election, lost trillions of dollars in our retirement accounts, printed trillions of bailout dollars, and no end in sight.

I am certain we all have economic concerns, but it is time to pull our and dust off the skeet guns and make plans to join your friends and competitors in Waco for the State Shoot in June. As he did so well last year Mike Schmitt has planned a fabulous Event in Waco. He will provide a great experience for all shooters from Rookie to AAA! Please, register early for the best squadding and rotations.

The preliminary all-state teams are posted on the website and are a part of this newsletter. I hope all you shooters have achieved your goals in 2008 and will continue to work toward them in 2009. The team selections will be finalized at the spring Directors meeting to be held in Waco Feb 20-22. Plan to come and shoot at the Director's Shoot and get a feel for the Waco club before the State Shoot.

This year there are a few projects that you may want to know about. First, there is a new bylaws and Association rules revision project to get our Association current with what we do. Second, TSSA has partnered with the Waco Skeet and Trap Club to apply to NSSA for the US Open, to be put on in Waco, September 2010. At this time, we do not know if the TSSA will be awarded the shoot but we are optimistic. Should the event be held in Waco, what a great opportunity for our Texas shooters to attend and to have more and better shoots at Waco.

My closing message for all of us is to support our local gun clubs! Times are hard for all clubs and they need whatever we can give them. Texas Skeet is also looking for the continued support of our shooters and sponsors. Have a great shooting season and I'll see you on the fields.

**Jim Cooper**  
**President**

## **VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-MIKE SCHMITT**

**It's hard to believe that 2009 has rolled around so quickly and the shooting season is rapidly approaching. My tenure as your State Shoot Chairman is in its final year and I must say that I have learned a lot about what it takes to stage such an event as our State Shoot. With that said, let me provide an overview of what we have planned for this year's shoot.**

**This year's shoot will be in Waco, June 25-28 and will start with a 5:00 pm Doubles flight on Thursday evening. The Referee's Event is scheduled for Friday morning at 9:00 and then we will resume the Doubles event with the remaining two flights scheduled at 10:30 and 12:00 with the 20ga. Event to follow.**

**Saturday, we'll start off shooting the 12ga. Event then follow up with the first two flights of 28ga. This should allow plenty of time to complete the 12ga. Shoot-offs and allow plenty of time to get ready for the banquet. Sunday will shoot the last flight of 28ga. And then finish out with the .410. Shoot off order Sunday will be HOA Champion, 28ga., .410, HOA, and HAA events.**

**The 5-man team competition for the eagles has really sustained itself as a very popular event so please plan to form a team to represent your club and please sign up for all events. Registration for the 5-man team events will be taken at the time of registration and Ann Hill will be handling the entry forms. The events are handicapped based on individual classes, so every team has an equal chance of winning.**

**This year's pre-registration form is just like the previous year's form, so please fill them out as soon as possible and mail them along with your deposit's to Woody Anderson who will be doing the squadding for this year's shoot. Pre-registration deposit fees are \$25 for the Doubles event and \$50 for the 4-guns. We are limited to 240 shooters at Waco and it is critical that you send your deposits early to reserve your shooting times. I strongly encourage everyone to pre-register if at all possible. If you've ever had the opportunity to work on the administration side of a registered shoot, especially a large shoot, then you can appreciate the early registrations when trying to staff referees and the other necessary support personnel for a shoot of this size.**

**The TSSA has more than 1000 active members, many of which have never attended our State Shoot. The Texas State Shoot is an open invitation to all TSSA members to participate and I hope that many of you will consider attending this year's event. The 12ga. Event is typically shot on Saturday and provides an opportunity for TSSA members to shoot a single event and attend the banquet. Very few have taken advantage of this option but we will encourage single gun entries to participate. It's your state shoot and we would love to have you join us.**

**This shoot is always one of the top shoots in the country, and we are hoping this will again be the case. Our Texas shooters are among the best in the country, so the competition is always great! Rewards are also great with over \$20,000.00 in prizes and awards and a significant portion of the added money is spread into the lower classes.**

**There is also a request for sponsorships as a part of the newsletter package. If you feel you can be a part of supporting the State Shoot in this manner, please send you**

checks or your advertising to me as soon as you are able. The shoot registration materials are now posted on the website for your use if needed, as well! Last year's support exceeded my expectations and this year, I ask for your continued support to help make this shoot a real success.

This year's banquet will be held at the Brazos Room at the Convention Center starting at 7:30. The cost of a ticket will be \$25 and there will be a form available to reserve your tickets at the time you pre-register. We encourage everyone to consider ordering your ticket through the pre-registration process as that helps us to determine headcounts ahead of the banquet. Big Daddy's will be providing our dinner and as in the past, it's sure to be an excellent meal. There will also be a cash bar and we should have plenty of room and nice air conditioning. Once again, we will be blessed with the fine entertainment of Robert Paxton and his ensemble for the All State Team honorees.

This year we are also providing an order form to order caps and t-shirts as well as polo shirts. The caps will be \$15, t-shirts \$12 and polo shirts \$30. Please list the quantities and sizes of shirts on the form and include the order form with your pre-registration entry. Last year, we did manage to sell out the shirts but had plenty of caps leftover. This year, I plan to cut back the number of shirts and caps but will honor all orders that we receive through pre-registration.

Hotel accommodations should be plentiful on the state shoot weekend. We have a block of rooms at the Hotel Waco, which is where the staff members and referees will be housed. There is also a block of room's setup at the Courtyard by Marriott, which is right across the street from the Convention Center. There is a new Holiday Inn that has just recently opened and plans are to setup a block of rooms there as well. It is located just behind Home Depot on the east side of I-35 at the Lake Shore exit.

Look forward to seeing everyone throughout the shooting season and do hope that your 2009 shoot schedule will bring you to Waco to participate in this year's State Shoot.

**ELECTIONS:** Elections for the zone directors is coming up shortly. Be looking for your ballots in the mail and be sure to vote and mail back in a timely manner.

**TEAMS:** The state teams are now official. A copy of the teams can be found on the TSSA website ([mytssa.com](http://mytssa.com)). Gregg

**Paillex, chairman of the All-State Team Selection has included a brief explanation of team selection process.**

**Dear Texas State Shooters- As you know by now, I have been working diligently on this project for the pass couple of weeks. Congratulations to you all! Many of you have been keeping personal records and comparing your data with the TSSA and NSSA web sites. Many of you have not, at least not until the Preliminary All State Team results came out. Let me help you through this process and see if I can give some insight as to what you can do to help both you and me. First of all, you go to a shoot, compete and go home. Insure your entry data is correct and the final scores and wins are properly recorded. For example, I had one shooter whose shoot data at the State Shoot for 2008 did not show up in his NSSA shoot history. Upon investigation, we discovered that his NSSA number had been incorrectly reported in the shoot report. Once this was corrected, he was included on a state team and, quite possibly, an All American Team. Second, keep an eye on the NSSA and TSSA web sites. If a month goes by and your shoot history does not include your data for a particular shoot, or it's incorrect, start trying to find out why. Navigate through the NSSA web site, starting with the Member Look-up page, until you get to your shoot history page. If the shoot is not there, start making phone calls. Please don't wait until you see the Preliminary State Team results and then call me for a fix. My instruction letter is very clear as to what you can do to find out what happened and fix it. I get about a half dozen calls and messages a year wanting to know "why am I not included" or "my points are wrong". That's no big deal, I can handle that and it's about average for the year. It would be so much easier for you and me if you kept an eye on your data throughout the year. That's about it. Again, congratulations to all of you for a great year.**

**Gregg Paillex**  
**Chairman, All State Team Selection Committee**

**MENTOR PROGRAM-At the last meeting a discussion on mentoring younger shooters was brought up and Mike Schmitt and Gregg Paillex will be working together to implement this program. It is hoped that open team members will step forward and help implement this idea. Below is a letter submitted to the directors explaining the purpose of the program.**

**During the last TSSA Director's meeting a concern was raised about the lack of attendance at the banquet by our Sub-Juniors and Junior shooters. What could we do to improve this situation? I talked about how we military folks had a program that helped new unit members become integrated into the military unit in an effective way. It is called the Sponsorship Program. After some discussion, guess who was enlisted to develop such a program for us? Here's my idea—**

**Each Sub-Junior and Junior will have a Mentor-Guide at the banquet who will be responsible for ensuring they first, attend and second explain just what is going on. I envision using the members of the Open 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams as Mentor-Guides or any other team member if they want to volunteer. They should be able to explain everything shooters and parents would want to know or don't understand.**

**We have 22 members on the Open Teams. We have 10 Sub-Juniors and Juniors who have made the preliminary teams. How do we match them up? One junior suggested that I just pick names out of a hat. This could work. We may or may not get good matches. How about I ask the Open Team members to select a young shooter? I have already matched up with Josh Poole from Crawford. He and his parents will sit with me**

**at my table. My table mates and I will attempt to answer any questions and explain what's going on.**

**If any of you do not want to participate, let me know. If you would like to participate, select a shooter and let me know who it is so I can make the final notifications. I can be contacted by phone at 210-679-6718 or email at [skeetlo5@earthlink.net](mailto:skeetlo5@earthlink.net)**

**Gregg Paillex  
Zone 3 Executive Director**

**STATE SHOOT-Attached to this email is the entry form and shirt and cap order form. You may also go on-line to register. This method allows you to use a credit card if you so desire. This is new for us and we hope it works well. Go to [www.skeet-reg.com](http://www.skeet-reg.com)**

**Follow the instructions.**

**Also attached is the sponsorship form. If you are able please fill out and send in with your donation.**

**REFERREE CLINICS- Chief referee Alan Cline will be holding a referee clinic at the Ft. Worth Skeet club soon. Contact Alan for date and times.**

**MINUTES-The minutes from the last directors meeting is attached.**