

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EDWARDIAN GUNNER

SUNSHINE VINTAGERS OUTING JANUARY 11, 2014

*Down-The-Line Trap Shoot
compliments of Bob Hill*

A new era began on this date, one which we hope will be the beginning of a series of memorable events to be hosted by our Club. Once again, through the above and beyond the normal call of duty to two of our Club members, Loye Barnhill, and new member Hal Hare we were able to successfully field this event.

The mission of this not-for-profit organization, the **Order of Edwardian Gunners**, is to provide an opportunity for the use, appreciation and collection of side-by-side shotguns and rifles through a shooting experience for Gentlemen and Gentlewomen who appreciate the guns, the attire and habits of the Vintage Years (1890-1914).

A safe side-by-side cartridge gun of good quality is required that reflects the Vintage period in its nature. However, for this shoot the following criteria for entry were observed—12 gauge entries must use SxS shotguns; small bores may use pump guns; but no autos or O&Us are permitted. The event consists of 50 targets from the 16 yard line with two shots per target, if needed. Scoring is conducted in this manner—1st barrel breaks = 3 points, 2nd barrel breaks = 1 point.

Handicaps (additional points) are given for each .410 bore, 28, 20 and 16 Ga. Guns.

At the completion of the shooting a fine plaque was awarded to the Champion and Runner-up. The Champion award was presented to Bob Hill with the Runner-up award going to Jim Garrett. A fine box lunch, through Loye's arrangements, was provided and enjoyed by the participants for a nominal fee.

If you have any interest in participating in future events, and there will be further events at our club and at other clubs across Florida, please contact Hal Hare at hal.hare@sbcglobal.net or www.vintagers.org.

We hope you will join us for our next event!



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A ROCKY MOUNTAIN VINTAGER VISITS OAK CREEK SPORTING CLUB FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

By Michael G. Sabbeth

During the past few years I had shot clay targets on the Oak Creek Sporting Club's skeet and trap fields, its challenging five-stand and on its two sporting clays courses. Today would be my first hunt on the property, a third-generation farm in Brainard, Nebraska. The perfect Nebraska morning for a pheasant hunt—overcast sky of gunmetal clouds, slight wind and a cool temperature—was enhanced by the vintage shotguns I brought. My 12 bore Watson & Hancock live pigeon gun, boasting sculpted external hammers and an absolute masterpiece of a hand-filed broad rib, is among the most dynamic field guns I've shot and my beautifully restored 12 bore Cogswell & Harrington moves with the agility of a conductor's baton.

I handed the Watson to my nephew, Jeremy. Sunlight glinting off the hammers, I recalled King George V's comment, "A gun without hammers looks like a spaniel without ears." Justin Neal, our guide, freed his energetic Labrador from its cage. I uncased my Cogswell and gave Justin a thumbs-up, indicating we were ready to trundle off into the fields. Jeremy's unreasonably cute seven-year-old son, William, followed close to his dad as a bear cub attaches to its mother. With gun actions open, we walked the hundred yards or so to the first corn field.

Leaping through the corn husks like a porpoise over the sea, the three German Shorthair Pointers quickly flushed a magnificent rooster. As it quartered away and gained altitude, Jeremy fluidly shouldered the Watson and made a stunning shot of about thirty-five yards. Feathers flew like fireworks and the Labrador enthusiastically retrieved the bird. I thought of the words of Steve Comus, my colleague at Safari Magazine: "When you make a perfect shot with a beautiful gun, then, for that moment, all is right with the world."

Another rooster flushed and presented a classic crossing shot of about twenty yards. I shouldered the Cogswell and pressed the forward trigger. I missed. The bird throttled off without a feather being displaced. I muttered some words which did not include "How

unfortunate!" Stoic equanimity is not my strong suit. One Shorthair looked at me with eyes that said he'd rather be chasing cars on the Interstate than waste his time with me. Indeed it seemed an historical slur to miss with such a fine firearm. Dark thoughts descended like a shroud. I don't get many shots at pheasant and I don't know that I will get many more, life's whimsicality being what it is. Fate, I sensed, had put lead in my hunting boots.

I stopped walking for a moment to absorb the solitude of the place, the beauty of the sumac leaves that had turned blood red and the oak trees draped in gold and orange. I pondered my good fortune that enabled me to have this day. I allowed my mind to wander. I wondered if my elegant Watson had brought down pheasant at the great English estates; Sandringham, Elveden, Holkham, perhaps. I thought of the craftsmanship employed on the Watson and the Cogswell—no computers, no CNC machinery, no lasers; just men and their files and their pride. I wondered whether the folks at Watson & Hancock or at Cogswell and Harrington ever imagined that the offspring of their skills

would be used joyously a hundred and thirty years later in a Nebraska corn field, their art spanning across the centuries, linked as if by a violin string resonating from common values and respect.

A highly knowledgeable man and experienced dog handler, Justin worked his magic with the Labrador for a few more hours. Jeremy and I got a few birds; more than enough for my purposes. Little William, a safety-conscious student, asked his dad when he, too, could participate in a hunt. We returned to the club house in time for the last serving of lunch, comprised of a buttery brisket, garlic mashed potatoes and home-baked brownies. Not quite, perhaps, the chilled lobster bisque, roasted quail, lemon squash and bottles of Roederer Crystal Champagne served to King George and the Duke of York at the great estates, but delicious and satisfying.

I was visiting Oak Creek to participate in the Club's "Shoot for Hope," held on October 4 and 5. The reason for the event is as inspiring as its cause is sad. The "Shoot



Jeremy, Michael and Will

FOR A NOBLE CAUSE, CONTINUED



foster care system and had been foster parents for a dozen more children. Shelly was also a dedicated volunteer for the American Cancer Society. The Shelly Vyhlidal Kriz Suite at the Lodge, to be enriched by a custom stained glass window, will honor Shelly and refract light into eternal beauty. Although some of the clay targets and pheasant flew high, our purposes and spirits were even higher.

For more information:
Oak Creek Sporting Clays Club
oakcreektrk@hotmail.com • www.oak-creek-club.com
402-545-3111 • Guide: Justin Neal
jneal@rendezvousmarketinggroup.com

for Hope” was a fundraising sporting clays event to raise money for thirty-six private rooms at a Hope Lodge being built at a hospital in Omaha where cancer patients and their families can stay without cost.

The shoot was in honor of Shelly Kriz, the remarkable and loving wife of Terry, one of the owners, who succumbed to ovarian cancer this past December. I met Shelly several times and had been immediately impressed by her boundless loving spirit. She and Terry had adopted three children through the Nebraska



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MEASUREMENTS: LOOKING AT THE DETAILS

By Ken Davies, formerly a Director and Chief Instructor of Holland & Holland (retired)

In this second article I would like to enlarge upon the three main sets of shotgun stock measurements defined in the September issue of "Hammers Back" and talk a little more on their reason for being.

For most shotgun users, that is those who take part in the pursuit of live quarry or the shooting of sporting clay pigeons, as opposed to the dedicated trap and skeet shooters, stock fitting must of necessity be something of a compromise. This may seem a rather odd statement to make but when we take into consideration all the differing conditions we may find ourselves shooting under, it is not hard to understand why. This compromise applies, perhaps, more to the length of the stock than the drop or cast.

LENGTH

The live quarry shooter may be out in all weathers and at different times of the year so that the weight and thickness of clothing worn can vary considerably. He or she may be walking up birds over steep, rough ground in warm, humid weather, perhaps trying to keep up with an eager young dog, while at the other extreme, perhaps

waiting patiently for driven or flying birds in a biting cold wind, standing at a peg or crouching or even sitting down to shoot from cover or a hide. In theory the ideal stock length could be different for each situation, clearly not practical even if two or three different guns are used through the seasons.

Many people will have a favourite gun and may wish to use it throughout the year come what may and there is nothing wrong with that, remember the old maxim: "Beware the man with one gun." We need therefore, to make a compromise between the two extremes and cater for the average thickness of clothing worn, the favourite old shooting coat, knowing that on occasion we may be shooting in shirt sleeves and a light vest whilst, at other times, bundling on a thicker sweater or a waterproof coat. So, fit the stock for the average clothing thickness worn and remember you can extend the front hand grip a little on the gun or use a thin recoil pad when shooting in light clothing, or drop your front grip back a little when wearing the heavier layers. When mounting the gun correctly to your cheek and shoulder remember that ideally, the bump of the sole of the stock should remain in light brushing contact with your clothing throughout the action.

As mentioned in the September issue, stock length is measured at three points, the heel, the centre and toe, all three measurements being taken from the mid point on

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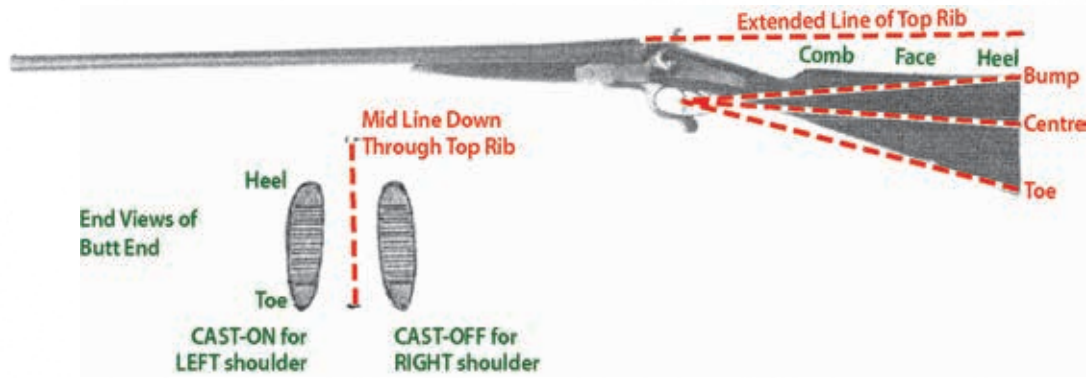
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the first or single trigger. The main measurement is that at centre with normally 1/8 of an inch added at heel and an additional 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch at toe, depending on a person's build. For instance, a stocky, barrel-chested man will require less toe than a tall, lean one in order to allow the sole plate of the stock to nestle comfortably into the shoulder pocket, so helping prevent any bruising or possible high shooting. Also these days, with an ever growing number of women shooting, this reduction in length measurement at the toe of the stock has become increasingly important. The last thing any woman shooter will want is to constantly bruise the upper part of the breast by having the toe dig in each time a shot is fired, something considerate husbands, partners and boyfriends should be conscious of when trying to persuade someone to take her first few shots. So unless you wish to put her off shooting for life, try to use a smaller gauge gun to begin with, preferably one

with a shortish stock and recoil pad or use a padded shooting vest and do not use heavy loads. For the ladies who take up a shooting sport, if possible have a good recoil pad fitted to your stock, get some advice from someone who knows as to how long the stock ought to be including the recoil pad. Have the toe rounded off and perhaps slacken the bra straps a little, make sure that the strap adjuster does not lie underneath the butt of your gun when it is mounted properly into your shoulder pocket.

Editor's note: this is the first half of part 2 in this series. Our next issue will include the second half, dealing with "Drop/Bend" and "Cast On/Off."

Special Thanks to Ken Davies of the Vintagers Australian Chapter for permission to share this article with our readers here in the U.S.



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"A lady is never so well dressed as when you cannot remember what she wears."

No truer remark than the above was ever made. Such an effect can only be produced where every part of the dress harmonizes entirely with the other parts, where each color or shade suits the wearer's style completely, and where there is perfect neatness in each detail.

It is, unfortunately, too much the custom in America to wear any article, or shape in make, that is fashionable, without any regard to the style of the person purchasing goods. If it is the fashion it must be worn, though it may greatly exaggerate a slight personal defect. It requires the exercise of some judgment to decide how far an individual may follow the dictates of fashion, in order to avoid the appearance of eccentricity, and yet wear what is peculiarly becoming to her own face or figure. Another fault of our fair countrywomen is their extravagance in dress. No better advice can be given to a young person than to dress always according to her circumstances. She will be

more respected with a simple wardrobe, if it is known either that she is dependent upon her own exertions for support, or is saving a husband or father from unnecessary outlay, than if she wore the most costly fabrics, and by so doing incurred debt or burdened her relatives with heavy, unwarrantable expense. If neatness, consistency, and good taste, preside over the wardrobe of a lady, expensive fabrics will not be needed; for with the simplest materials, harmony of color, accurate fitting to the figure, and perfect neatness, she will always appear well dressed.

Look for the Alexandra's Auxiliary insert in the March/April issue of the Vintager's Newsletter.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY EVERYONE!
Don't be a cad — be sure to bring something sweet to your sweetie on that special day...

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hi-sport@sbcglobal.net

ALABAMA CHAPTER

Contact: John Johnson President
205-980-4890 • JOHNJ@mortgageamerica.com

February 15-Pheasant Continental and Dinner, Selwood Farm, Alpine, AL.

Call today and sign up for the Vintagers Pheasant Continental and Dinner, February 15th at Selwood Farm! 350 birds for \$335. Includes shooting, cocktails, wine, hors d'oeuvre and dinner.

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February 16—Oneonta Sportsmen's Club, Oneonta, NY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Contact: Robert Nikkel, President
970-214-1605 • renikkel@q.com

CAROLINA CHAPTER

Contact: Bill Curry, President
704-523-2293 • jwwcurry@yahoo.com

February 21-22, 2014—Backwoods Quail, Georgetown, SC.
Chairman: Chris Teigland

April 25-27, 2014—Southern Side-by-Side

June TBD, 2014—The Fork

August TBD, 2014—Primland Weekend. Chairman: Bob Nay
704-796-6364 or rmay@carolina.rr.com

Oct. 24-26, 2014—Fall Southern Side-by-Side. Backwoods Quail, Georgetown, SC. Chairman: Bob Nay

SUNSHINE CHAPTER

Contact: Hal M. Hare, President
863-583-4858 • hal.hare@sbcglobal.net

Mar. 6-9, 2014—World Vintage Shotgun Championships, Gainesville, Florida. Programs available upon request.



SUNSHINE VINTAGERS 1ST OUTING

November 30th marked the date of the newest Vintager Chapter's 1st shooting event. It was a 100 target Sporting Clays Handicap event held in Central Florida near Lithia at the Fishhawk Sporting Clays ranges.

While much of the country was enduring a chilly dip of the jet stream, we coped with clouds and 72' temperatures. Eighteen side by fans joined Chapter organizers James Garrett and Hal Hare for the inaugural shoot.

You will note that this was a Handicap Event—meaning we allowed additional targets for those shooters enamored with the small bores with 11 shunning the 12

gauge. Handicaps ranged from 3 additional targets for 16 the gauge to 12 additional targets for the 2 ½ inch .410 bore. Our first Champion was noted gun scribe Bruce Buck who posted a convincing 90x100 while Runner-up honors went to Sunshine Chapter VP Jim Garrett with an 89x100.

The Sunshine Chapter plans monthly SxS shooting events across Florida, as well as co-hosting the World Vintage Shotgun Championships in Gainesville March 6-9th. Visiting Vintagers are welcome at any of our events.

For information regarding future shoots contact Hal Hare at hal.hare@sbcglobal.net.



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- 1 Mike Jewett, MA
- 1 Ron York, NC
- 6 Mark Baumgarten, WI
- 6 Carl Hein, CT
- 6 Ronald Ligon, TN
- 9 Annette Marie Burke, RI
- 10 David Basten, VA
- 12 Brian Fawcett, WA
- 18 Betty Jacob, NH
- 18 Mike Jarina, NC
- 18 Peggy Taylor, VA
- 21 George Keith, NJ
- 22 Hamlin Pakradooni, MA
- 24 Randell Beck, NY
- 25 Chuck DeVinne, NH
- 25 Jon W. Leuth, VA
- 25 Nick Lowie, NC
- 27 J. William Curry, NC
- 31 Edward F. Vena, MA

February

- 3 Jim Carmichel, TN
- 3 Richard M. Livingston, VA
- 3 Bob Nay, NC
- 4 Bernard C. Baldwin, VA
- 4 Liz Brook, ME
- 5 Alan Smith, NC
- 6 Keith Lembo, NC
- 11 L. Charles Long, Jr., VA
- 13 Lee Brown, NJ
- 19 Timothy L. Stuart, OH
- 20 Allen H. Newell, MA
- 20 Bob Pettus, NC
- 21 Judge David Barood, SC
- 26 Louise Moose, NC
- 27 Harry Goetz, SC
- 27 John Lee, OH

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What have YOU been doing lately? We'd love to hear about what's going on in your chapter. (Unless it's a secret and you don't want anyone to know about it.)
Stay up to date at www.vintagers.org.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Mountain (CO) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine Chapter (Florida) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherstocking (Central/Eastern NY) | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaffiliated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downeast (ME, Northern NH, Eastern VT) | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm interested in starting my own chapter;
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