

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Rapid City, South Dakota.**

Yep, we are still at **Hart Ranch** in Rapid City, South Dakota. But not for much longer. Most of the activities in our RV park are now shut down for winter and we can no longer put on our retirement seminars. This week we are working at cleaning up old business commitments. We are paid up until Sunday morning, September 25. After that, we may buy another week or we may head south. It all depends on weather.

But, hey, that's not the story. There is an old saw that goes like this: "**When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.**" Chuck has always believed and taught this exact quote. Why? Because it's true. Is it magic? Does it have something to do with the forces of nature? Is it metaphysical? Is it a universal law? None of those possible causes make sense to Chuck. He believes there is always an abundance of opportunity around us at all times, but that most people don't look for it nor do they recognize it when they see it. Others dismiss the opportunity as "too good to be true" and hence, don't investigate further.

Well, we just found an unbelievable trap shooting opportunity. How about free lessons from a pair of brothers who happen to be world class shooters, as well as additional help from their father who is a gifted coach. Let us repeat, "**world class**" shooters.



Foster, Donna, Chuck, and Matt - 2011 Rapid City Trap Club



Foster, Bud, and Matt Bartholow - 2011 Rapid City Trap Club

What a family the **Bartholows** are. **Bud**, the father, was a professional baseball player and taught the boys baseball. But a youth shooting program in Rapid City caught their attention and the boys were hooked on shotgun trap shooting. **Foster**, the oldest boy, was already a club champion and more by the time he was 18.

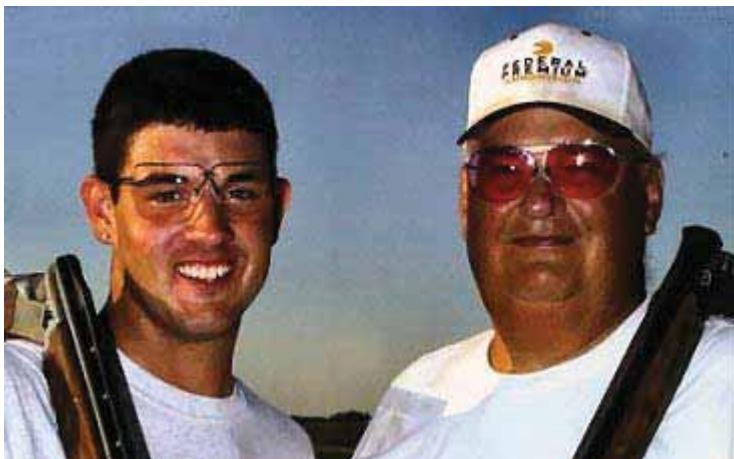
Now we are going to share with you a story of the most epic competition ever held in the trap shooting world. We doubt that these records will ever be broken. The big daddy of trap competition is called, "**The Grand American World Trapshooting Competition.**" In August of 2008, Foster competed at the Grand and this is how it went.

Approximately 2500 shooters competed in the Clay Target Singles Championship. Sixty of these shooters shot a perfect 200 out of 200 targets. The rest were eliminated on the spot. Clearly hitting 200 in a row is a very difficult achievement and only the best of the best have ever accomplished it. These 60 shooters shot another 200 targets and five shooters still had a perfect score. The rest were eliminated. Unbelievably, young Foster Bartholow was one of the five. So at this point, Foster has hit 400 targets in a row.

The next day the five finalists had to shoot another 200 targets and Foster and two others still had perfect scores, i.e., 600 clay pigeons in a row.

On the third day, the judges called for another 200 targets and that eliminated one more competitor who had only missed one.

Now we are down to Foster Bartholow and **Leo Harrison III**, who was and is, one of the greatest clay pigeon shooters of all time. Are you following this? After three days of shooting and 800 targets, Bartholow and Harrison have perfect scores. This is unheard of.



Foster Bartholow and Leo Harrison III (2008)

On the fourth day, the judges call for another 300 clay targets. Once again, Bartholow and Harrison both shot perfect scores. Now we are talking 1100 straight clay pigeons in a row! A feat never before accomplished and one that may never be duplicated again. At this point, the American Trap Association president, Mr. Neil Winston, asked the two shooters if they would consider being declared as co-champions in the event and they both agreed. **There never have been co-champions in the singles event and no one has ever shot 1100 targets in a row.** Absolutely unbelievable, particularly for a young college boy from Rapid City. When we spoke of world class, it was no exaggeration.



Harrison and Bartholow, co-champions at the 2008 Grand

Well guess who just won the 2011 Grand American Doubles Championship? (In doubles, the trap house throws two birds at one time. One goes to your right, the other goes to your left and they are both flying at over 40 miles per hour. You have to be mighty quick and mighty good to get them both.)

And the winner was Foster's little brother, **Matthew Bartholow**. Oh my gosh, what a family. We don't have the details of Matt's win, but if you win at the Grand, you are a world champion.



Matthew Bartholow, 2011 Grand American Doubles Champion

We had already received a couple of singles lessons from Bud when he asked if we would like to try shooting doubles with his world champion son, Matt. Our answer was absolutely, yes. Donna was ready on the spot as her Benelli auto-loader could easily shoot two shots in a row. Chuck, however, had a single shot Browning trap gun and could not shoot two birds in a row. Well, this was too big an opportunity to pass and Chuck ran out and bought a Caesar Guerini over and under double barreled trap gun.

The next day, we had the extreme pleasure of shooting our first doubles event under the guidance of the doubles world champion, Matt Bartholow.

We have also had the pleasure of some coaching from **George**, a fine shooter and a traveling RVer, as well as from our friend, **Jim**, from Rapid City, another fine shooter.

When the student is ready, the teacher will appear!

ATTENTION: All issues of this newsletter have now been indexed and archived. Feel free to look around our website and read old issues to learn about an area of the country in which you are interested. Are you getting our free newsletter? If not, drop us a note and we'll put you on the list.

Until next time, home is where we park it.

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